

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

1990

JULY - ~~REPORT~~ ~~OF~~ DEC,

Zululand farmers asked to sell

Own Correspondent

3 General

MARITZBURG — At least a dozen farms near Mkuzi Game Reserve in northern Zululand are being bought out by an international company apparently for a "wilderness concession" in the area. *5/10/79 4:11*

Chairman of the Biala and Northern Zululand Farmers' Association, Gert Gauche, said the company had taken options on farming land totalling about 30 000 ha.

He said his association was worried about the number of farmers who would leave the area and the employment prospects of labourers. At least one farmer had already turned down an offer for his land.

Locals said the price being offered was about R3 000 a hectare and one farm in the Mkuze area had sold for R3m.

Farmers' vote revealed

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

Transvaal farmers have voted overwhelmingly to maintain white preservation of agricultural land.

Results of a referendum held last Friday were released yesterday.

The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) said 94,5 percent of farmers who voted decided to maintain the status quo.

A TAU spokesman said 12 584 farmers voted and 599 said "no" to the proposal. Ninety spoilt papers were received.

The organisation's executive committee is meeting today to discuss the result and will place recommendations before the union's council which

meets in Pretoria tomorrow. The results and any recommendations will then be forwarded to the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The referendum was held after the SAAU asked provincial agricultural unions to gauge the view of organised agriculture on the question of land reforms in order to guide the Government in any proposed amendments to the Land Act.

The TAU caused a row in some farming circles by asking only one question: "Do you want white preservation of land to continue?" (It) was claimed the question was political and would not be a true reflection of farmers' views.

(3) Star 4/7/90

Land possession will become fierce issue in new SA

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Land — or more accurately its inequitable division between whites and blacks — lies at the heart of the South African conflict.

The determination of white farmers to defend their lion's share of agricultural land is reflected in the result of a recent referendum: nearly 95 percent voted for retention of the status quo.

In what many observers consider a loaded question, farmers were asked by the Transvaal Agricultural Union if they favoured "white preservation of the land".

The skewered question, as much the answer, reflects how strongly white farmers feel about land.

But feelings run as deep on the opposite side of the racial divide, as the black majority, sensing that a new dispensation is in the offing, prepare to stake their claim to a bigger share of the land.

The origins of the land dispute date back in large measure to the frontier wars of the 18th and 19th centuries. Those wars, known to black historians as wars of dispossession, or wars of conquest, saw the black share of land shrink dramatically.

In 1913 the results of the wars were enshrined in law: the Land Act restricted the black share of the land to hardly more than 6 percent of

The history of South Africa can best be described as a struggle over land. It goes back to the frontier wars of the 18th and 19th centuries. With the dawn of the 21st century barely a decade away, land is still a major issue among white farmers and landless black people, foreshadowing vigorous discussion when the subject reaches the negotiating table. **PATRICK LAURENCE** reports.

South Africa.

It was one of the first causes taken up by the ANC after its formation in 1912.

Professor Julius Lewin's remark, made more than 30 years ago, remains apposite today: "Parliament thus presented the congress (ANC) with a grievance as deep and wide in its incidence as any that could have been imagined."

Later, in 1936, South Africa's white rulers, recognising the inequity of the 1913 Act, agreed to bring the black share of land up to about 14 percent.

But the then Prime Minister, J B M Hertzog, demanded his pound of political flesh: allocation of additional land was made conditional on removal of the small number of blacks who qualified to register as voters on the common voters roll in the Cape.

Later still, during the heyday of apartheid in the 1960s, Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd demanded an even heavier price: the loss of their

claim to all political rights in the 86 percent of South Africa which was designated white.

Under the apartheid order, black political rights and ownership of agricultural land were confined to their "own areas" or "tribal homelands", which, after the final delivery of the extra quota of land promised in 1936, would amount to only 14 percent of South Africa.

It is a reflection of white reluctance to part with land — even under those favourable conditions — that the full quota of land promised in 1936 has still not been delivered.

The ANC and its offshoot, the Pan-Africanist Congress, refused to countenance Verwoerd's policies, insisting on an equitable share of the land for blacks, and on their inalienable right to full citizenship in the whole of South Africa.

When the ANC and the PAC were outlawed in 1960, even the perceived collaborators who rose to power,

briefly, under Verwoerd's apartheid empire, maintained a constant clamour for more land.

They were met by the stern reply of Verwoerd's successor, Prime Minister John Vorster: he would, he said sombrely, fulfil the promise made in 1936, but he would not concede a square centimetre beyond that.

The historical wheel has now turned 180 degrees if not full cycle: President de Klerk has abandoned Verwoerd's policies, signalling his willingness to grant equal citizenship to all South Africans and to scrap the discriminatory Land Acts of 1913 and 1936. Hence the nervousness of most white farmers.

But the scrapping of the Land Acts is unlikely to resolve the problem or satisfy the demand of indigenous black people for a just share of the land. The free sale of land under a market economy is likely to work in favour of wealthy whites, not impoverished blacks.

Maldistribution

The major beneficiaries on the free sale of land will be the large landholders and giant corporations, accentuating rather than rectifying the maldistribution of land.

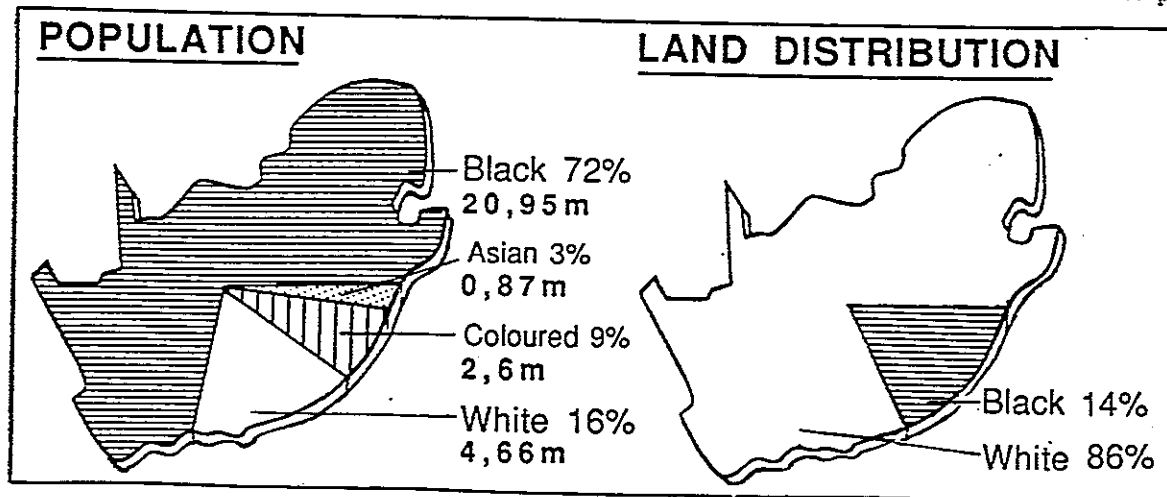
These predictions — made by a wide range of observers of, and participants in, South Africa's political dispute — form the background to increasingly shrill cries for State intervention to redress the imbalance.

Land remains a major point of contention even within organisations seeking a radical redistribution of land.

The ANC proclaims: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white."

The PAC, asserting the claims of indigenous blacks, the "rightful owners" as it calls them, accuses the ANC of betraying the black majority by giving parity to whites who "usurped" the land in the first place.

The land conflict is still a long way from resolution.



'Farmer employed refugees, refused to pay'

MALELANE — An eastern Transvaal farmer has been accused by a relief committee worker of hiring illegal Mozambican refugees to work on his farm and then reporting them to the police to avoid paying wages.

Sally McKibbin, of the Hlangani Refugee Relief Committee in KaNgwane, directed the accusation at a farmer after four Mozambican refugees were arrested by police on his farm.

The refugees were being held in

the Malalane police station cells on Monday night awaiting deportation today.

Malelane police station commander W/O Andre Nel confirmed the incident, saying the farmer accused the refugees of theft and asked that they be removed from his farm.

Miss McKibbin said the four refugees had been employed by the farmer for three weeks.

She said they had returned on his instructions to the farm on

Friday for their R130 pay, but the farmer had refused to pay them and had accused the refugees of stealing.

When Sapa contacted the farmer on Monday he denied all knowledge of the incident.

"I have never employed refugee labour. I don't know what the police are talking about and certainly we have had no thefts on this farm for at least a year. You must have the wrong man," he said. — Sapa.

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Whites vote 'no' to farm land sharing

3 General
Sowetan
5/7/90

TRANSVAAL farmers have voted overwhelmingly to maintain white preservation of agricultural land.

In a referendum held last Friday - the results of which were released this week - Transvaal Agricultural Union said that 94.5 percent of farmers who had taken part had decided to maintain the status quo.

A TAU spokesman said 12 584 farmers had voted. There were 599 who said "no" to the proposal. Spoilt papers totalled 90.

The organisation's executive committee met yesterday to discuss the result and will place recommendations before the union's council which meets in Pretoria today.

The results and any recommendations will then be forwarded to the South African Agricultural Union.

The referendum was the result of an SAAU request to provincial agricultural unions to gauge the viewpoint of organised agriculture on the question of land reforms and to guide the Government in any proposed amendments to the Land Act.

The TAU caused a row in some farming circles by asking only one question: "Do you want white preservation of land to continue?"

It was claimed that the question was "political" and would not be a true reflection of farmers' views.

It would also not provide guidelines for the SAAU. - *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Sta. 7/7/90

Police raid enrages Van Tonder

THE Randburg farm of Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder was raided by 35 policemen in the early hours of yesterday morning.

An angry Mr van Tonder said he could not understand the reason for the search, as he was not the leader of an underground organisation, but of a registered political party.

Mr van Tonder described the police contingent as "larger than the commando in which my father served during the Anglo-Boer War".

PAT DEVEREAUX 3
and SAPA

He said the police filmed the whole search with a video camera. "This was an additional indignity, as we were still in our pyjamas," he said.

"All the police confiscated were a number of newsletters and pamphlets which were available to the public," he said.

He said the police action further confirmed that democracy in South Africa was dying and po-

litical parties were now becoming victims of the Government's persecution-mania against Boers, Afrikaners and rightists.

Mr van Tonder warned that the Government was creating a precedent, and could suffer the same fate once they lost power.

He denied he knew the whereabouts of Boerestaat Party leader Mr Piet "Skiet" Rudolph.

"The Boers will not again make the mistake of forgiving their enemies after they gain control of the country," he added.

Police confirmed the raid and that they had removed documents.

The raid had been carried out for very good reasons and officers had acted within the law, a spokesman said. There could be no suggestion that the action was calculated to intimidate.

"The SAP is apolitical and has a duty to do," said the spokesman. "We will execute this responsibility no matter who is involved. Nobody can be seen to be above the law."

I'm to blame for worker's death, says farmer Flip

By ELIAS MALULEKE

DELMAS farmer Flip van der Walt, named by *City Press* as one of four farmers and two policemen who allegedly tortured and murdered a black farmworker for stealing wheat a fortnight ago, admitted this week he was responsible for the assault, and said he was "sorry".



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In his dramatic revelation, and despite being gagged by police "not to speak to the Press", Van der Walt said it was "my fault" that Samuel Ngwenya was killed.

Although statements have been made by three surviving victims of the torture, none of the six whites allegedly involved have been charged with the assault or the murder of Ngwenya, 24.

Van der Walt went a little further than apologising, saying the murdered man, who worked for him, "was a good man".

He said: "I feel very sorry about what happened, but I had to act."

Ngwenya was allegedly killed, his body thrown into a well and covered with stones and soil after he was brutally assaulted with four friends by the farmers on June 18.

A trench-digger was used to dig Ngwenya's body from the well after police launched an investigation following a tip-off from a local doctor.

One of those assaulted with Ngwenya, Stephens Vilakazi, 17, has since disappeared and his family fears he is dead.

However, Van der Walt said Vilakazi escaped, and "is not dead".

Van der Walt said Vilakazi escaped from a motor garage on a Wolvenfontein farm owned by Martiens Oosthuizen and his son Jaco, where the farmworkers "were being held" in connection with bags of wheat in a field.

Aaron Mkwayi, who worked for Van der Walt and whose son was also allegedly tortured by the farmers, said that a day after Ngwenya died, Van der Walt had told him Ngwenya had escaped

from police in Kwaggafontein, KwaNdebele.

Mkwayi said: "The farmer said Vilakazi escaped from the Wolvenfontein farm during questioning by the police, but he lied to me about Ngwenya, knowing he had been killed and buried."

Van der Walt said he wished to meet with Ngwenya's family "to sort out the matter".

He confirmed that the whole thing started after Ngwenya allowed two youths to operate his harvesting machine without his permission.

Van der Walt said the idea had been to discipline the youths who fled from the machine, which led to the discovery of bags of wheat in a field.

He said: "It appeared as if this was a racial attack, but it was not. It was a mistake and I believe it was an accident. We should be careful because other people are trying to drive a wedge between communities."

Van der Walt said he was not trying to portray himself as "good", but the trust and the relationship he had built with his workers since he went into farming almost 10 years ago was ruined in one day by the "unfortunate" incident.

He also revealed that he is a former policeman who resigned 10 years ago.

Van der Walt told our reporter: "I just want to tell you and all other people that I feel very bad about what happened and I will have to face the consequences."

Of the other attackers, he said: "I also do not want to put the others in a bad light. We must remember that they are also human and, at the time, we thought we were doing the right thing."

"What I have learnt out of this whole experience is that we must never use force to achieve an end, because we also have our faults."

The other five allegedly involved are Martiens "Makapi" Oosthuizen, a farmer, his son

■ To Page 2

P.T.O.

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Frightened cry from Paton's country

Transvaal also faces mounting wave of rural violence

By JULIENNE DU TOIT

"I remember him putting the cord around my neck to finish me off. I shouted 'Jesus' and passed out," said a woman who cannot shake off her memories of being attacked on her smallholding in Muldersdrif.

Police have no statistics on whether attacks on smallholdings and plots are on the increase in the PWV area.

But police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said yesterday that attacks on vulnerable targets were definitely increasing.

Captain Piet van Deventer, media liaison officer for the Vaal Triangle which has a high percentage of smallholdings, said old people were particularly vulnerable and often took no safety precautions.

"They open the door too easily," he said.

Threatened

Marie Hartard answered the door to an attacker who said he was looking for a job. He then forced his way in.

He was interrupted in his assault by two tenants on the property and fled without taking anything.

Mrs Hartard had every bone in her face broken by her attacker's punches, and could not



Unbridled brutality ... an intruder broke every bone in Marie Hartard's face.

properly identify him in a police line-up because she felt threatened by his look.

Willie van Tonder, an 86-year-old man from a smallholding in Walkerville was attacked last Friday, but his nephew, Naas le Roux, drove the two intruders away with a revolver.

Mr van Tonder was taken to Vereeniging Hospital where he is recovering from a rifle bullet wound.

Maria Cesare (76), an arthritic woman living on her own in Upper Orchards, was punched by two intruders on Saturday, then tied up while they carried away as much property and

money as they could.

"I prayed, then I wriggled like a snake to the window and shouted for help," she said.

Terrified

Mrs Cesare and Mrs Hartard said they both thought it would never happen to them and are now terrified. "I haven't slept since Saturday," confided Mrs Cesare.

She now, like Mr van Tonder who was first attacked a year ago, locks every bedroom, bathroom and passage door in the house.

"I trusted people before. But now I never will," said Mrs Hartard.

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — In the wake of a series of murders on isolated farms in the Natal Midlands, an appeal has been made for Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok to visit the area to see for himself how law and order has broken down.

The plea has been made by the town management board of Richmond, a once-quiet town that is now badly frightened by the murders and attacks by armed bands.

Many of those responsible for the violence are said to be between the ages of 12 and 18.

The beautiful rolling hills of the area were made internationally famous in Alan Paton's classic novel "Cry, the Beloved Country".

Intimidation

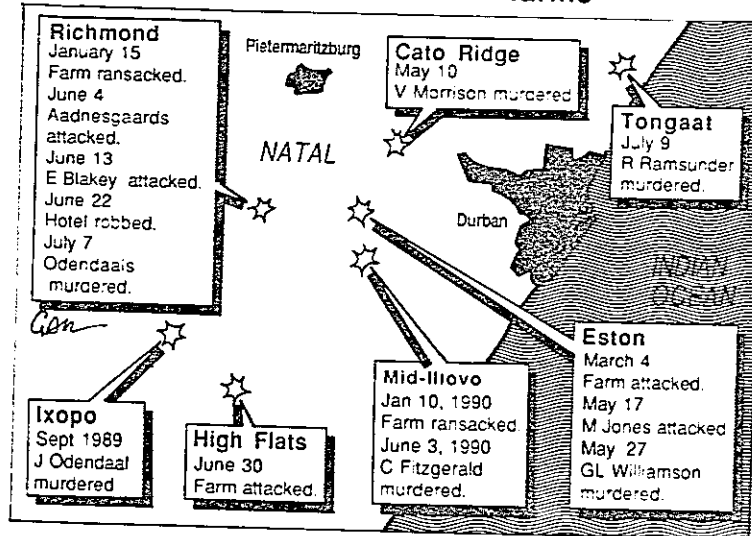
Richmond management board chairman Ravenor Nicholson said yesterday there were two aspects to the security breakdown.

One was a spate of killings and assaults on members of the white community, mostly on farms. The other was the plight of many thousands of blacks living in nearby locations amid wholesale intimidation, "barbarism" and destruction.

Two days before the horror killing of an elderly white farming couple in the Richmond district on Saturday, the town board passed a resolution expressing great concern at the "barbarism, loss of life, destruction of property and intimidation" which has been taking place largely in local black rural areas since 1987 and which has more recently been evident in raids on whites.

The resolution has been forwarded to the Administrator of Natal and his executive committee to seek their backing for demands for action to combat the lawlessness.

Slayings and attacks on Natal farms



List of victims

- September 1989, Ixopo — Johan Willem Odendaal (42) died after being axed and gun-whipped on his farm.
- January 10 1990, Mid-Illovo — Lilly van Wyke, Bernadine Ryan and four children barricaded themselves in when men ransacked their farmhouse.
- January 15, Richmond — Labourers locked Marjorie Nimmo in a shed on her farm and stole cash and firearms.
- March 4, Eston — Robert Erickson-Miller and his girlfriend, Anne Lilje, were shot at while leaving their farm.
- May 10, Cato Ridge — Veronica Morrison (47) was found dead in a forest after being abducted from a farm.
- May 17, Eston — Maurice Jones (57) underwent emergency surgery after being shot in the stomach on his farm.
- May 27, Eston — Gerald Louis Williamson (83) was trussed up, stabbed and beaten to death on his farm.
- June 3, Mid-Illovo — Connie Fitzgerald (62) was killed while her husband was away.
- June 4, Richmond — Five men attacked Olaf Aadnesgaard (74) and his wife Jeap (56) on their farm.
- June 13, Richmond — Two men wielding bricks attacked Ernest Blakey (73), who lives alone in a caravan.
- June 22, Richmond — Four armed robbers held staff and customers captive at Richmond's Central Hotel.
- June 30, Highflats — Edward Walker (64) and his wife Pat (61) were shot at and assaulted by a gang in their farmhouse.
- July 7, Richmond — Johan Odendaal (77) and his wife Dorothy (64) were battered to death on their farm. Their son is the first victim on this list.
- July 9, Tongaat — Gunmen using a home-made gun and a 9mm pistol shot farmer Roy Ramsunder (38) dead while he was driving his tractor.

some assistance for them from the authorities.

"What we want in particular is that a police station should be established in the Ndoleni complex and we have asked for an army presence there until the police station is set up.

Feuds

"It is about 7 km from Richmond and communication with the town is only by phone. By the time police get out there, the criminals are gone."

Mr Nicholson said that apart from the political violence between opposing ANC and Inkatha factions, there were many private feuds between families.

In addition, criminals were climbing on the bandwagon and taking advantage of the

turbulent situation.

He said large-scale police raids were needed to search for unlicensed weapons.

"So many of these people are armed. One person had a shotgun, a pistol and an FN rifle. According to local blacks, he had killed 16 people over the years and was a hired assassin. He was eventually shot.

"We know the chap who led the attack on the chief's home, but he is still free."

Meanwhile in Richmond, during the recent one-day stayaway, members of the ANC went to a supermarket and made the owner close the store. They threatened to break the place up if the owner did not do so.

They also went to a doctor's consulting rooms and tried to get all the black assistants to leave. All the Indian-owned stores were closed.

Mr Nicholson said yesterday he hoped Mr Vlok and Deputy Minister of Justice Dannie Schutte would visit the district soon.

He said the situation among the 40 000 blacks living in the Ndoleni, Magoda and Esimozmeni locations close to Richmond was very bad.

On one day, 60 huts had been burnt. There was wholesale intimidation, Mr Nicholson said, and much of the crime went unreported.

The main trouble-makers were youths of 12 to 18, many of whom were armed.

The local chief had to have three armed bodyguards, and his home had been destroyed. The chief also had to leave his location at night.

Mr Nicholson said: "Lots of farmers are not very well armed and their homes are not very secure. We want to get

Slovo advocates radical redistribution of land

THERE will have to be radical redistribution of land in a post-apartheid South Africa, the general secretary of the Communist Party, Mr Joe Slovo said in a wide ranging interview with *Sowetan*.

The redistribution of land was one of the most vital objectives of the South African Communist Party (SACP) and the whole liberation movement is the land issue. ^{3 General}

Slovo said redistribution does not necessarily mean collective farming. In certain instances perhaps some form of collectivism will be appropriate while elsewhere it would not be.

"We face a situation where we've got about five million people unemployed, and there's no way - however effective the economy is run in a post-apartheid society - that within 10 or 15

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

years you would be able to completely, through urban development, solve that unemployment problem."

A form of collective farming could possibly absorb people to work the land productively. The land question, he said, was clear... it must be given to the people. *Sowetan* 11/7/90

Slovo said that it was an historic fact that the land was taken from the indigenous people. The rural policy of the SACP was very fundamental in relation not only to the unemployment problem or productivity, but what is a very emotional and fundamental aspiration of the majority of the people based on the fact that their land was stolen.

"Putting it broadly - the land has to be returned to the people," he said.

Last crop ... but it's heartbreak for farmer Chris Potgieter of Roedtan district on the Springbok Flats, who has had to leave his cotton farm due to mounting debt caused by drought. ● Picture by Sarel van den Berg.

Plight of farmers in Springbok Flats desperate

By Norman Chandler

ROEDTAN — The plight of drought-hit farmers on the Springbok Flats, in the northern Transvaal, has reached crisis proportions with up to 20 farmers a month being sequestered and their equipment auctioned to repay huge debts.

It is estimated that at least 200 of the 360 farmers in the area, 150 km from Pretoria, will have left by the end of next year unless Government help is forthcoming and good rains fall.

Hundreds of black farm labourers are out of work and their dependants, who rely on the industry for schooling, food,

medical attention and other services, are trying to survive in neighbouring Lebowa.

The Star was told at the weekend that in the cattle, cotton and citrus area between Crecy and Zebediela, about 40 km east of Naboomspruit, the money owed to the Land Bank, pharmacists, doctors and general dealers totalled at least R135 million. The national farming debt is estimated at R14,9 billion.

Moratorium

Farmers, at three meetings held in the Roedtan area, have called on the State to freeze in-

terest rates applicable to farming for at least two years and arrange a moratorium on payments so the industry can get back on its feet after a drought that has gripped the northern and western Transvaal, the northern Cape and parts of Natal and the Free State for 10 years.

They have also asked for an emergency aid scheme to help with production costs, and a reduction in the cost of electricity.

The South African Agricultural Union is conducting a nationwide survey of the plight of farmers.

Hotelier and farmer Derick

McLellan, of the Roedtan district, said that in the last month there had been 20 auctions on the Springbok Flats. No one was buying the farms.

"It is not viable to farm here any longer," Mr McLellan said. "I have bought a hotel so that I can work and get money back.

Other work

Many farmers who are able to afford to do so are keeping their properties while working in neighbouring towns. Some travel 150 km a day to work in Potgietersrus.

Many, however, have sold cattle, tractors and implements to

meet mounting debts. Their wives are working for more prosperous landowners while others have started cottage industries.

Chris Potgieter (54), sequestered by the Land Bank because he could not repay R625 000, told The Star that the last "good year" for Springbok Flats farmers was 1981.

Mr Potgieter, who reaped his last cotton crop at the weekend, said he had bought his farm for R250 000 in 1981 and it was sold on auction 16 days ago for R180 000.

● Farmers desert dying Springbok Flats — Page 11.

Farmers' poll rejects land reforms

PRETORIA — In a referendum yesterday Transvaal farmers voted overwhelmingly to keep blacks off white-owned or white-leased agricultural land.

Government had disassociated itself from the referendum, which was initiated by the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU). The results showed 95% support — 11 895 respondents — for opposing the sharing of farm lands with blacks.

Only 599 respondents (4.76%) were in favour of sharing land with no reservations about blacks being given access to white-owned farm land.

A TAU spokesman said the union's general council would meet tomorrow to review the referendum results.

The results would be passed on to the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Whatever the SAAU's reaction, govern-

GERALD REILLY

ment would be made aware of the referendum's results.

The TAU has backed the SAAU's opposition to any further alienation or expropriation of farming land for use by other races and in May it decided to poll the white farmers in the province.

The TAU reacted with concern after President F W de Klerk's opening address to Parliament in February, when he unveiled government's constitutional intentions.

De Klerk said the Land Act would be scrapped next year, but this did not mean white-owned land would be expropriated.

Home Affairs Minister Gene Louw said a referendum could be called only in terms of the Referendum Act.

White backlash feared in Natal

Staff Reporter

3 General

Further incidents of violence against farmers in the southern Natal midlands could spark a white backlash, said the Democratic Party MP for Moorriver, Wessel Nel, last night.

"The farmers are angry and insecure. All we need are another couple of incidents and people will start taking the law into their own hands," he said.

This weekend police reinforcements and troops were moved into the Eston-Richmond district after the murder of an elderly couple. On Monday another farmer was shot while ploughing his fields in Tongaat. These murders bring the toll in the area to seven, most of the victims being elderly farmers.

Farmers have resorted to elaborate security measures, including two-way radios, electrified fences, steel shuttered windows and shot-guns in a bid to secure themselves.

While he applauded the deployment of troops, Mr Nel said this was a temporary measure and more police were needed on a permanent basis.

He has requested a meeting with the Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, to discuss the critical situation.

The Conservative Party spokesman on Law and Order, Moolman Mentz, last night put the blame squarely at the door of the National Party and State President F W de Klerk.

Political power

The increase in violent attacks on whites in the rural areas of Natal was a direct result of the unbanning of the ANC, he said.

"These events show the stupidity of the State President's unbanning of the ANC. What is happening now is a direct result of the unbanning of Umkhonto we Sizwe.

"It is baffling to think that the government is now prepared to place political power in the hands of organisations whose political power base rests on people whose standard of living had not yet grown above the level of barbarism," he said.

Residents to help in decisions

By DON SEOKANE

Gauteng 17/7/90

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration will not make any decisions about Orange Farm without consulting the committee in the area, Mr John Mavuso, MEC for Housing, said yesterday.

Mavuso was speaking at a ceremony held to present the regulations for control and management of Orange Farm to Mr Lawrence Mvelase, chairman of the Informal Committee. (3) General

"An important aspect of the regulations is that provision is now being made for a committee from the inhabitants to act as advisory body to the TPA, which will function as an interim local government," he said.

Farmers desert dying Spring

An area once the vegetable garden of the Rand is destined to be a desert unless good rains fall for the first time in a decade. **NORMAN CHANDLER** and photographer **SAREL VAN DEN BERG** found nothing but misery among the farmers on the Springbok Flats, north of Pretoria.

The tears welled in Oom Chris Potgieter's eyes.

We were looking at a handful of workers picking, under a scorching sun, a forlorn cotton crop on his once-prosperous farm in the Roedtan area of the northern Springbok Flats.

It was his last crop before leaving the farm which had been his home for nine of the 34 years he has been in the area. The Land Bank had arranged for it to be sold because, as 54-year-old Oom Chris said, he couldn't meet the repayments.

Oom Chris fought hard to stem the tears in that cotton field up north.

They had come after I had asked a question all reporters hate to ask: "There must have been tears flowing, and anger in your home, the day the Land Bank told you the farm had been lost?"

He took a long time. Then he stared at me. The "ja" came out like the sigh of the winds which have blown away the riches of the Springbok Flats.

Vegetable garden

The Springbok Flats was once the great vegetable garden of the PWV area. It was ideal because of the proximity to the marketplace and soil which did not need fertilisation.

Motorists on the old Great North Road for years used to stop at roadside stalls to buy the area's produce. The produce is not sold any longer because the farmers are leaving.

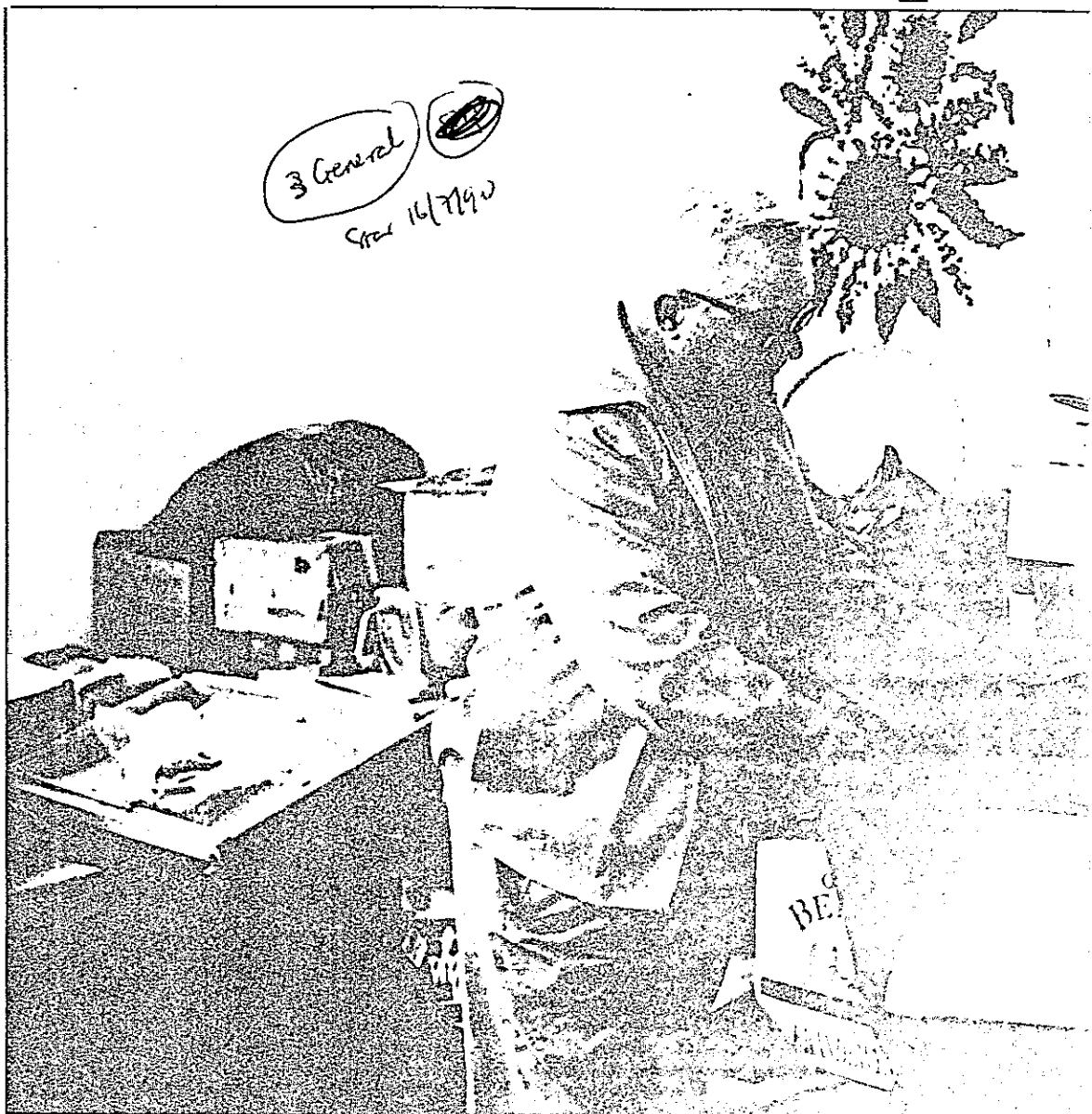
Cotton, which many thought in earlier years would be the saviour of this area, is stunted.

At one time there were 361 farmers making a living on the Springbok Flats. Today it is estimated by the survivors that by the end of next year there will be just a handful.

There are, farmers said, 20 auctions a month. In January this year, 32 farmers had already agreed to liquidation sales. The pace quickened substantially as the rains stayed away, the cotton, tobacco, maize and sorghum crops withered and the money ran out.

Local farmers' associations have been holding meetings at which resolutions have been passed calling on the Government to help the industry. These include a moratorium on debt for a period of up to two years, a freezing of the interest rates applicable to farming, and help with production costs in the short-term.

Mr Potgieter and his wife Antoinette say farmers make mistakes but he objects to the manner in which he and his fel-



Leaving the land... farmer Chris Potgieter and his wife, Antoinette, who have been forced off the land

lows have been treated.

He calls the decision of the Land Bank "political".

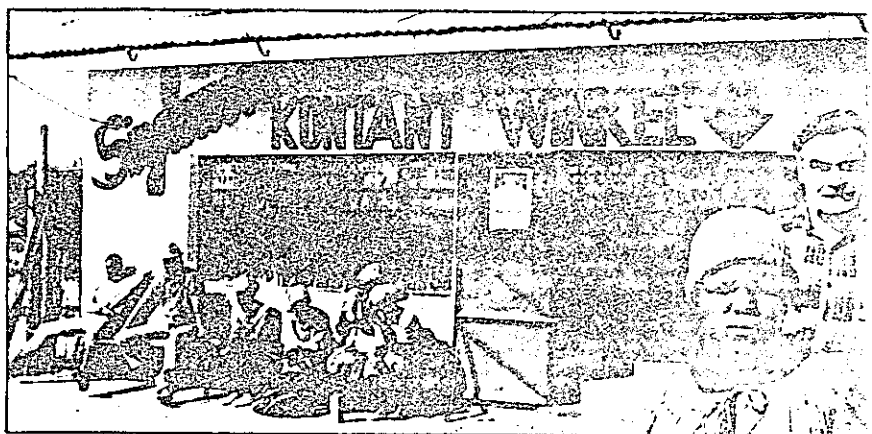
The political aspect comes in because Mr Potgieter and his family are members of the Herstigte Nasionale Party and the Land Bank is a National Party government organ.

"They (the Land Bank) wouldn't even listen to me. They (the Government) will sit down and talk to people like Nelson Mandela but not to Chris Potgieter," he said.

It was on March 3 this year that Mr Potgieter received the bank's letter giving him 14 days to meet his R625 000 obligation.

"I telephoned their offices in Potgietersrus to ask for a meeting. 'Oh, they said, 'you've already lost it. The farm's ours and will be sold by auction.'

"I was dumbfounded. In February there is nothing with which to pay. The crops hadn't been harvested by that time. I worried and worried. On March 6 I visited the bank. But it was all over," he said.



Shopping blues... shopkeeper Pieter le Roux and his assistant Flora Sabele at the shop which this year lost 75 percent of its turnover because of the drought.

Mr Potgieter, staring at his cotton crop, turned his back as he asked: "I'm 54-years-old. What work am I going to do?"

There's no answer to that — and it's the same story all over the Springbok Flats.

Farmer Derick McLellan, of "Mooipan," about 10 km from Roedtan, says the viability of farming has gone.

"You don't even feel like farming. You have to do something, though, to pay that

money back.

"You can't sit on a farm. hope it is going to rain because next year you are out. R50 000 in the mire," he said.

The tragedy of the Spring Flats can be measured in

ert dying Springbok Flats



Chris Potgieter and his wife, Antoinette, who have been forced off the land as the drought tightens its grip on the Springbok Flats.



Shopkeeper Pieter le Roux and his assistant Flora Sabele at the shop which has this year lost 75 percent of its turnover because of the drought.

Potgieter, staring at his crop, turned his back as he said: "I'm 54-years-old. How am I going to do? There's no answer to that — the same story all over Springbok Flats.

Farmer Derick McLellan, of "Moolpan," about 10 km from Roedtan, says the viability of farming has gone. "You don't even feel like farming. You have to do something, though, to pay that

money back. "You can't sit on a farm and hope it is going to rain because next year you are another R50 000 in the mire," he said. The tragedy of the Springbok Flats can be measured in so-

cial terms as well. Farm families have been split up — farmers travelling many kilometres to find work and their wives taking up former occupations such as nursing, teaching and suchlike. But the human tragedy is not just among the whites. Hundreds of black people — each farm has about 50 labourers and with their families that could mean up to 200 dependents — are being affected by what's happening. They are pulling up roots and trekking to Lebowa or to the big cities further south, contributing to the thousands of squatters surrounding the urban areas. Mr Potgieter and Mr McLellan between them support 66 labourers and their families. On some farms more than 100 labourers are employed, each with a family. Kobus van Heerden has already sold his tractors, numerous farm implements and other equipment and is now working at Potgietersrus. The only ac-

tivity on his lands is the cotton harvest and the little business that the farm shop is able to get. His labourers are apprehensive of the future. "We've heard that things are being sold, that the farm may have to be sold. But what's going to happen to us? There are no jobs," said one. The farmers all say the same: "We have been keeping their children at school, feeding them, giving them medical treatment. I don't know what's going to happen." It is not only the farms which have been hard hit by the drought and the exodus. Business has suffered as well. Pieter le Roux, whose farm shop relies almost exclusively on black custom, says he is not desperate yet. "But give it time." Store sales have plummeted 75 percent this year alone. From his shop door, Mr le Roux looked across the road at stunted cotton and sunflower crops: "This will be a desert in a year," he predicts.

Police arrive
for Natal duty

Stc-17740
DURBAN — A contingent of 463 police volunteers arrived in Durban yesterday to serve for six months in the strife-torn townships and farming areas of Natal — the scene of an increasing number of attacks in recent months.

Some of the men will be deployed to perform additional patrols on farms in the Natal Midlands, where several brutal attacks have taken place.

Welcoming the men, Regional Commissioner Major General Johann van Niekerk said there were plans to deploy 1 000 more men in the province to counter violence. — Sapa.

CAPL Trufs 19/7/90

~~3 General~~ 3 General

Black land claims set poser for FW

JOHANNESBURG. — South African blacks want political reforms to yield them a bigger share of commercial farming but change is likely to be slow because of white opposition to land redistribution, political analysts say.

President FW de Klerk says land management will be negotiated with blacks as part of reforms aimed at ending apartheid, but his talks with the African National Congress (ANC) have not yet touched on this sensitive subject.

The issue is central for voteless blacks, who say apartheid has legalised the theft of their land.

Many of the 60 000 full-time white farmers who control agriculture, the country's biggest employer, fiercely oppose calls by some black groups for compulsory redistribution of white farms but could back other

proposals, according to economists.

"Forced redistribution would be a disaster," said Professor Philip Spies of Stellenbosch University. "We would lose 30% of agricultural output and become a net importer of food within two years."

Mr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union, said: "Nationalisation is unacceptable to almost 100% of our white farmers but change through market forces is a different story."

White farms contribute 6% of national wealth and employ 1,4 million people, the vast majority of them blacks.

The ANC wants a land claims commission to transfer some white farms to blacks. The radical Pan Africanist Congress says black farm labourers should themselves organise land redistribution of land to blacks.

The government opposes compulsory re-

distribution while the Conservative Party, which has strong support among farmers, rules out any redistribution.

Mr Johan van Rooyen, a Development Bank of SA manager, said the DBSA favoured land redistribution through a mixture of market forces and affirmative action for blacks including beneficial land rentals.

Mr Dries Bruwer, agriculture spokesman of the Conservative Party, said the DBSA plan was misguided. "Whites go for optimum production. The blacks are going for a sort of lifestyle."

But Prof Julius Jeppe of Stellenbosch's Department of Development Administration said a survey he conducted showed that many whites would accept blacks as commercial farmers as long as this occurred through market forces. Sapa-
Reuter

CAPT Truif 19/7/90 (3) (3) (3) 3 General

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Reuter

Removal only way — CP

Staff Reporters and Sapa

There were only two things one could do with squatters: one could sit down with them or move them, Conservative Party MP for Losberg Fanie Jacobz said in Midrand last night.

Dr Jacobz addressed a meeting of more than 150 people organised by the CP and held in the Peri Urban Hall. All Midrand residents concerned about the establishment of a squatter camp on the farm Kaalfontein were invited.

Dr Jacobz said he believed there was only one real solution to squatters, and that was to remove them.

"I'll be frank with you — it's not a nice thing. But somewhere in this country, order and stability is necessary. If you give people two months' notice to move, what more can one do?"

"You either sit down with them or you move them. If you sit down with them, soon you will not be able to see the wood for the trees.

"Have you ever seen a real squatter camp? Come with me and I will take you under police guidance to a real squatter camp. If you allow this, your women will not be safe, your property in your house will not be safe, and what will happen to the value of your property?"

Shouted

Dr Jacobz said that according to Urban Foundation figures, there were between 7 million and 8 million squatters.

Initially, Dr Jacobz launched into a party political speech but members of the audience shouted at him to talk about squatters.

● According to statistics just released by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the total number of shacks in the Johannesburg, West Rand and Vereeniging areas amount to 149 599.

The figure is for the month of May and indicates an increase of more than 1 000 structures over the previous month.

Statistics compiled by the TPA indicated there were more than 81 000 structures in municipal areas of Greater Soweto and black towns on the West Rand such as Kagiso, Mohlakeng, Bekkersdal and Khutsong.

Last year's Urban Foundation report estimated there were 7 million metropolitan squatters in South Africa.

According to the Foundation, the "inner" PWV area, usually referred to as the Reef, had a population of between 1,5 to 2,4 million squatters.

The squatter population of the outer PWV area, which includes the Winterveld and KwaNdebele, was about 1 million.

Survey shows black optimism

Black people are more optimistic about the future of South Africa than whites following recent changes made by President F W de Klerk, including the release of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, a recent study says.

A poll conducted in May by Markinor research group also indicates that more blacks than whites believe the relationship between the two race groups is improving.

Pollsters interviewed 1 500 black men and

women in metropolitan areas and 800 white women in urban and rural areas.

"The optimistic attitude among blacks can be attributed to the confidence they have in President de Klerk and his recent political changes," commented a Markinor director.

White pessimism was most prevalent in the platteland, Orange Free State and the Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vaal area.

The study found that

43 percent of blacks believed Mr de Klerk was leading the country well, as opposed to 27 percent of whites.

Only four percent of blacks polled voted no confidence in Mr de Klerk. This view was shared by 14 percent of whites.

More than 50 percent of black people as compared to 31 percent of whites see the relationship between black and whites improving.


Markinor said the survey had a high degree of accuracy. — Sapa.

General
Star
20/7/80

Boy, 14, shot dead on farm

*clp/m
22/7/90*

By DAN DHLAMINI

(3) 

WESTERN Transvaal police have opened a murder docket following the fatal shooting of a 14-year-old boy at Driefontein Farm, near Groot Marico, on Monday.

Western Transvaal police liaison officer Lt J Ackerman said a farmer, HF Mathee, 56, and his wife, were sitting on their stoep testing their .22 rifle. Mathee fired a shot into the bush. He fired a second shot which failed to go off. Mathee allegedly reloaded his rifle and fired into the bush again.

As the youngster Jan Thlooe - who lived on the farm - was playing out in the bush, the bullet allegedly hit him on the forehead, police said.

The farmer took him to Zeerust Hospital in his vehicle, but Thlooe died the next day.

No arrests have been made. Police say they are investigating.

The shooting is the second within a year involving a farmer and a black person in the Western Transvaal.

Late last year, a farm labourer at Kafferskraal was shot while working in his garden and was seriously injured. Police said they were investigating. No one has been charged.

Western Transvaal organiser of Lawyers for Human Rights, Sam Present, said his organisation would thoroughly investigate the shootings.



C/Press 22/7/90



Farmer found guilty of worker's death

By DAN DHLAMINI

A BURLY Odendaalsrus farmer ruptured the spleen of one of his workers by jumping twice on his stomach because he let cattle stray into a mealie field.

This was the conclusion of Welkom Regional Court magistrate AJ Visser this week when he convicted farmer Jan Bezuidenhout, 37, who is well known in rightwing circles.

Bezuidenhout's conviction on culpable homicide charges follows the death of farm labourer Abraham Lekone after he was assaulted on February 18 last year.

Sentence will be handed down on August 3. Bezuidenhout's bail was extended.

Events of the fateful day unfolded at the trial, which was attended only by Bezuidenhout's parents, the dead man's widow Micky Lekone, his sister Elizabeth Lekone and his grandchildren.

In a judgment that lasted almost four hours the magistrate accepted the version of the State through the evidence led by Elizabeth Lekone, medical doctor CRB Aitton, Detective Sergeant C Buys and Lekone's grand-



Stompana Lekone ... told to say a cow kicked Abraham.

daughters, Stompana Lekone, Naomi Lekone, 9, and Malefu Molefe, 12.

He rejected Bezuidenhout's evidence as vague.

Naomi and Malefu, who witnessed the attack on their grandfather, told the court Bezuidenhout had accused Lekone of neglecting his job by allowing cattle to stray into the mealie fields



Micky Lekone ... allegedly offered bribes to keep quiet.

and cause damage.

They told the court Bezuidenhout hit Lekone across the face and, when he fell to the ground, jumped on his stomach. The two then ran home to seek help.

Stompana told the court she and a woman who worked for Bezuidenhout had to help her grandfather home because he could only crawl.

Stompana said Bezuidenhout had threatened to shoot her and the woman if they told the truth about the assault. She said Bezuidenhout ordered them to say the old man was kicked by a cow.

Odendaalsrus district surgeon Aitton, who conducted the post mortem examination, said Lekone's spleen was ruptured and all the head and body injuries were consistent with an assault.

Former detective Buys, who investigated the case, told the court Bezuidenhout had told him he knew nothing of the assault and that Lekone was kicked by a cow in addition to being assaulted by someone else.

Earlier Elizabeth Lekone said Bezuidenhout had promised to buy the dead man's wife, Micky, a house and a taxi if the family did not lay charges against him. She said he gave them R50 to buy food for the funeral.

Bezuidenhout denied he assaulted Lekone or promised his widow a taxi and a house.

He told the court he was very angry with Lekone, who was drunk and had allowed the cows to invade the mealie field on two occasions.

He also denied he had made suggestions that Lekone was kicked by a cow.

Agricultural income soars to R19,5bn

Cap Trt 23/7/90 (3 Agnc)

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — The gross income of the country's agricultural industry soared to R19,554bn in the 12 months to end-June this year, according to Department of Agriculture preliminary calculations.

This was R3,096bn greater than the figure for the previous 12 months of R16,458bn.

However, mainly because of inflation, input costs rose sharply during the 12 months from R6,775bn in 1988-89 to R8,009bn in 1989-90.

Although the value of exports for the period was not available, in the 1989 calendar year the figure was R5,8bn greater by R1,9bn than the foreign earnings for 1988.

And according to departmental calculations, the industry's contribution to the GDP in 1989-90 amounted to R11,911bn compared with R10,6bn for the previous year.

The huge total income, however, had to be seen against a background of farmers total debt which by the end of this year could reach R15bn.

The claimed lack of profitability of farming had forced hundreds of farm-

ers off their lands in the past three or four years.

The industry, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) said, was caught in a vice between highly inflated input costs and depressed prices, particularly for crops.

Farmers claimed there was far too wide a gap between what they earned for their products and what the consumer ultimately had to pay. Farm labour costs were also rising.

In the 12 months to June this year, the industry paid its million workers R2,283bn — R273m more than in the previous 12 months.

Interest on debt was the next highest cost, an SAAU spokesman said.

In the 12 months to June interest amounted to nearly R1,9bn.

Commercial banks were the biggest lenders followed by the Land Bank and other financial institutions.

Big gross earners included maize at R3,057bn, wheat R1,217bn, wool R786,1m, horticulture R3,853bn and deciduous fruit R932,3m.

The total for field crops amounted to R6,491bn — R1,738bn up on the figure for June 1988 to June in 1989.

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GERALD REILLY

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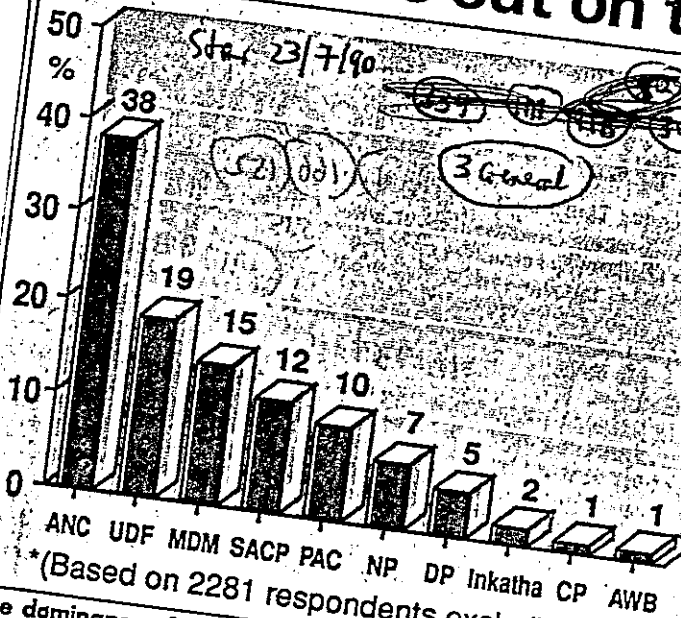
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25/7/90
S 10 27

3 general

ANC comes out on top



ANC UDF MDM SACP PAC NP DP Inkatha CP AWB
 *(Based on 2281 respondents excluding Natal.)

The dominance of the African National Congress in the black community, as disclosed in a comprehensive survey conducted by Market Research Africa, is strikingly illustrated in the graph above. The ANC towers over its rivals, the Pan-Africanist Congress and Inkatha. Its closest challenger, the United Democratic Front, is not really a challenger, it is an ally. The graph reflects the proportion of blacks outside Natal and KwaZulu, where civil war is raging in the black community, who feel "very close" to the organisations vying for their support.

● Most blacks support ANC, claims survey — Page 17.

Chalk-trace 25/7/90

(36over)

FW signs Mier bill

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk has signed the controversial House of Representatives legislation to privatise the ownership of land in the Mier area in the North-Western Cape.

The measure, now called the Mier Rural Area Act, has also been published in the Government Gazette, which means it is now officially law.

However, lawyers acting for Mier residents have given notice of an application in the Supreme Court in Kimberley for the measure to be invalidated, although this matter still has to be heard.

The move to sell the communally occupied land, a so-called coloured reserve in the Gordonia district which was first settled in 1865, was strongly opposed by the ANC deputy president, Mr Nelson Mandela, the ANC itself, the Namaqualand Citizens' Association, the Surplus Peoples' Project (SPP) and other organisations.

About 900 of the estimated 1 400 adult residents of Mier also signed a petition opposing the measure.

The law gives the Minister of Hous-

ing and Local Government in the House of Representatives, Mr Andrew Julius, the power to sell the land, which until now has been held in trust for the residents.

It also validates, with retrospective effect, past actions of the Mier Management Board and the House of Representatives, Administration.

The SPP said the gazetting of the law would dispossess residents of Mier of their land and birthright.

"The privatisation of trust land means that communal land will be permanently alienated from the communities which have lived there for generations."

Residents of the other 22 reserves feared that similar laws would be made in their areas and this would have the effect of dispossessing thousands of people of their land.

"In this time of negotiations, the Labour Party is changing the system of land tenure without consulting the people they purport to represent.

"At a time when a new constitution is about to be written the Labour Party is preparing to privatise large tracts of land that will constrain the future land policy of a government that wants to serve the needs of the people," the SPP said.

Sta 26/7/90

3 General

WS

Angry parents ask 'why?'

By Denise van der Merwe

BLOEMFONTEIN — The parents of a black pupil who died on Monday when he was struck on the side of his head by a rock thrown by a white child are bewildered by the senseless tragedy.

"My son is dead. They say white children threw stones at him and his friend. Why?" said a distraught Johannes Nkala, father of 13-year-old Andries, who died in Senekal shortly after being hit on his head by a rock.

His 11-year-old friend, Elias Boh-

lale, said he and Andries were walking home from school when a bakkie travelling at high speed came from behind. He said he heard children screaming and saw someone with light hair throwing something towards them.

The next moment he saw Andries lying on the ground with a huge hole in the side of his head.

"There was blood everywhere."

Letitia Ferreira, wife of Theo Ferreira, who owns the farm Holland where Andries lived, said Andries was brought to the farm by

teachers from the farm school he attended.

"He was still alive but his head was split open on the side."

She said when her husband saw the gaping wound he told the teachers to take him to hospital. He then notified the police.

Andries was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Police yesterday confirmed that at least four more people had been victims of stone-throwing in the area. It is believed that the same light coloured bakkie was involved in these incidents.

It is reported that one of the victims had his collar bone broken by a stone thrown at him and had to receive treatment for the injury.

A Senekal police spokesman has said the latest information is that the occupants on the back of the bakkie were two young white men and not necessarily schoolchildren.

Police are still looking for a biscuit-coloured Ford Courier bakkie and have asked the public to contact them if they have any information.

White shot 2 boys, says Maokeng witness

By Abel Mushi

A witness to last Thursday's shooting at Maokeng near Kroonstad, where a black schoolboy was killed and another injured when two white men opened fire on them, said he saw the man point the gun out of the window.

Taylor Ntsuka (17) was killed and Tote Malakoane (16) injured when the two men shot at a group of pupils who were playing soccer during a short break in the schoolyard at the Dr Cingo Secondary School. No other pupils were injured.

A pupil, who wanted to remain anonymous, told The Star the khakhi-clad men had approached the school slowly in a white Toyota minibus.

"One of the men pointed a gun out of the window and started shooting at us as they drove past," he said.

Continued firing

"Taylor fell to the ground and they continued shooting at him as we scattered in different directions," he said.

Resident Thembile Motsamai, who claims to have witnessed the incident, told The Star: "Those boers just stopped and shot at the kids and drove away. No one provoked them."

The publicity secretary of the Maokeng Democratic Crisis Committee, Valentine Senkhane, said the body of Ntsuka was found with six bullet wounds.

Mr Senkhane said Malakoane, who was still at Botshabelo Hospital, had been shot in the stomach, leg and hand.

"We've read in the press that the pupils are said to have surrounded the men, threatening to kill them. There was no such thing. Those white men intended to kill and did not act in self defence," he said.

A Bloemfontein police spokesman said the children had allegedly thrown stones at the two men.

The police are still investigating.

Massive farming summit planned

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Wide-ranging talks on farming — possibly resulting in long-sought financial and other relief for the industry — are to take place at a major summit in Pretoria next month.

It is regarded by agricultural experts in Pretoria as the most important conference of its kind to be held in South Africa.

The meeting is to be opened by President de Klerk and he is expected to spell out the Government's view on proposed amendments to the Land Act — which would enable black people to farm in previously white areas — and what farmers may expect from their pleas for help to overcome crippling debts.

Four other Cabinet Ministers are to participate as well. They are Kent Durr (Trade, Industry and Tourism), Barend du Plessis (Finance), Dr "Kraai" van Niekerk (Agricultural Development) and Henus Kriel (Planning and Provincial Affairs).

The Minister of Agriculture, Jacob de Villiers, will be the meeting's chairman.

Main discussions at what the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) calls the "agricultural summit" are to centre around marketing, agricultural financing, production and the socio-economic functions of agriculture in general.

Security

Included will be questions on trade policy, market accessibility, interest rates, taxation, extension and research services, national security, and the preservation of the rural infrastructure.

The one-day conference, at the Presidential Guest House, is being held after the industry has been battered by 10 years of drought in some areas, and by farmers leaving the lands for urban centres.

Farmers have for several years protested about high interest rates on agricultural equipment, high electricity costs and taxation which, together with other factors, has resulted in a massive R14.9 billion agricultural debt.

One of the key discussion points at the summit is also expected to be the referendum which is being held by the SAAU into the question of whether or not people of other races should be allowed to buy or lease farms previously operated by white farmers.

Group Areas Act may go, says Org Marais

CAP Timp 31/7/90

DURBAN. — The government is likely to repeal the Group Areas Act early next year, Deputy Minister of Finance Dr Org Marais said yesterday.

Speaking at the 26th annual conference of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce, Dr Marais said there were no specific restrictions barring the Land Bank from making land available to black people. One of the long-term solutions to South Africa's problems was greater black participation in the economy.

He said the role of the police and the courts needed to be redefined.

Socio-economic problems had resulted in political upheavals and unemployment was a major contributor. He said 900 jobs a day would have to be created to solve the black unemployment situation.

— Sapa

Union rejects ^{Agbus} ^{2/8/90} nationalisation of agricultural land

Labour Reporter

3 Great

SQUATTING on agricultural land and the "artificial reallocation" of such land through nationalisation, confiscation or expropriation have been unanimously rejected by the general council of the South African Agricultural Union.

At a meeting in Pretoria the council stated its unanimous opposition to squatting and agreed it should be "effectively prevented" while private land ownership by "free entrepreneurs" should form the basis of a sound agricultural industry.

In a statement union president and council chairman Mr Nico Kotze said the meeting followed a resolution to obtain the viewpoints of affiliates concerning the use and ownership of agricultural land.

CONSENSUS "NOT REACHED"

Mr Kotze said consensus could not be reached on whether the status quo regarding land ownership and utilisation should be maintained or not, and whether changes to the current system should be considered.

He said only the Transvaal Agricultural Union had voted in favour of maintaining the status quo.

"Although decisions regarding the land ownership/utilisation system fall largely in the political arena, it is necessary for organised agriculture to adopt viewpoints to serve the interests of members effectively," he said.

In the event of a change in agricultural land ownership dispensation, the council also agreed that:

- Natural resources and land must be conserved, pests, pollution and plagues must be controlled and the commercial production potential of land must be maintained;
- The financing of land purchases must take place on the basis of uniform conditions; and
- The importance of sound agriculture in the light of development and feeding and clothing a growing population must ensure that nothing is done to damage the production potential of agriculture.



Row, protest halt trade at Epping market

*1766's
3/8/70
36and*

By DON HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

THE hurly-burly of trading at the Epping fresh produce market ground to a halt when farmers' agents accused buyers of stealing and losing pallets and bins used to transfer bulk loads of produce.

The buyers responded with a picket outside the gates of the market in protest against alleged inflationary and unfair tactics by the agents and the introduction of a system for controlling pallets and bins.

The demonstration stopped trading for several hours yesterday.

Deposit system

The introduction by the agents of a new deposit system for use of pallets and bins sparked off the confrontation.

Agents said the system was necessary to curb theft and loss of pallets and bins.

After talks between both parties it was decided to return to the old system until a satisfactory alternative could be found.

The pallets and bins are owned by a company directed by the agents and hired out to buyers and farmers.

Instead of paying the deposit and a small hire charge at the exit gate for pallets and bins leaving the market premises, the new system would have required the deposit and hire charge to be paid at the exit of the market hall.

Gate security could not control the movement of the pallets and bins which were often hidden on the backs of trucks, agents said.

Between 70 and 80 percent of the buyers handle small volumes and many complained that they could not afford the R130 bin deposit required merely to move goods from the market hall to the trucks parked within the market premises.

Small traders account for about 30 percent of the volume bought.

Agent Mr Ben Volschenk said the company owning the bins and pallets had lost R250 000 in the last year through theft.

"Monopolies"

Buyer Mr Saliem Ismail accused the agents of creating monopolies which grossly inflated prices, bringing greater commissions for agents at the expense of buyers.

Mr Ismail said he knew four of the 10 agencies were working together.

He said agents bought up or withheld a percentage of the produce to create a scarcity and then released them when demand pushed the price up.

An agent denied this: "Agents use market tactics but there are no monopolies — there is a law against it."

The grass is singing

Dagga is very profitable. Researcher Alan van Zuydam-Reynolds estimates the annual crop in Natal and KwaZulu is worth about R12bn (The sugar industry is worth R1,3bn.) It is seldom considered in economic surveys but the illegal growing and selling of dagga helps to support thousands of rural Natal people. F 14 318190

In a paper to be published in *Indicator*, of the University of Natal's Centre for Social Development Studies, Van Zuydam-Reynolds says the centre of dagga production is Natal's Tugela Valley, an extremely poor and violence-prone area.

Using information compiled by the late Neil Alcock, who initiated several self-help projects in the Msinga area, Van Zuydam-Reynolds found that not only did police activity have little effect on the illicit industry but it added value to the end price. Alcock estimated in the early Eighties that police confiscated about only 10% of the annual crop. This makes little impact on the total production of dagga and, in fact, increases its street value. So growers are happy that dagga is illegal despite the risk of prosecution.

Farmers get about R30/kg (resold on the street for R1 000-R1 500). Its production entails hardly any overheads and it is a hardy plant that flourishes in the most inhospitable terrain and soil conditions.

Some dagga in the Transkei is apparently being cultivated specifically for export. ■

Ownership of land a big issue

for ANC

N/E
Argus
4/17/70
By FRANS ESTERHUYSE
Weekend Argus
Political Correspondent

BATTLE lines are being drawn for a huge political and constitutional wrangle over the explosive issue of land-ownership rights.

A research project completed at the University of Stellenbosch shows this will be one of the crunch issues in government reform moves and future constitutional negotiations.

A top African National Congress source said the land question is the main issue for the ANC in future constitutional negotiations. The ANC's minimum requirement before land ownership reform can start is the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

The central issue on which organisations across the political spectrum are now preparing their positions is that of land re-distribution and growing demands for the scrapping of apartheid laws designed largely for white ownership and control of land in both rural and urban areas.

Meanwhile resistance to land reform is rapidly building up among conservative groupings, especially in the Transvaal, while black political organisations like the ANC and its allies are demanding the opening of land ownership and occupation — in effect, the entire property market — to everybody.

Farmers divided

Moves by organised agriculture this week showed that white farmers are deeply divided on the issue.

The Stellenbosch investigation, conducted by Professor Julius Jeppe, head of the university's department of development administration, shows that the land issue has high political priority among all groups, including white farmers and black political organisations.

Professor Jeppe's findings also include:

- With the exception of white conservative groupings, there is general consensus that all legislation controlling land ownership and occupation on a racial basis must be scrapped;
- Land ownership reform should be subject to continuing agricultural production for food provision and exports;
- The main argument among blacks for land ownership reform is that the government has an obligation to rectify past injustices;
- There is a strong difference of opinion between the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) on the land issue. One of the PAC's main arguments is that white settlers robbed Africans of their land.
- Viewpoints of coloureds and Indians are largely the same as those of blacks;
- White conservative groupings, including the Conservative Party, are adamant that land must continue to be distributed on a racial basis "as the basis of a future white fatherland".

The concern of white farmers over the issue is reflected in a move by the South African Agricultural Union to request a "summit meeting" in Pretoria later this month with the Minister of Agriculture.

SAPOA to tackle land issue in a 'new' SA

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Business Staff

A MAJOR convention of property developers is to be held in Cape Town this month to "tackle head on" the looming land issues of the "new" South Africa.

The South African Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) — on which all leading property owners, developers and professional people in the industry are represented — plans to use its 1990 annual convention to air traditional as well as crucial property issues, such as urbanisation and the Group Areas Act, in the light of recent political reforms.

Rapid changes

Mr Nick Harris, chairman of Sapoa, said that like many others Sapoa had been caught up by the rapid changes in South Africa.

"To overtake them we had to look forward and introduce speakers who would look to the future South Africa and how it would impinge on property. We have focused on many issues that have been sidelined in the past."

The convention agenda includes an address by Dr Ervin Galantay, professor of urban planning at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne who is an international authority on urbanisation and world metropolitan trends.

A post Group Areas debate will be staged and included on the panel will be Ermelo Conservative Party MP Advocate M Mentz and Professor Brian Kantor, director of UCT's School of Economics.

Also on the agenda are comprehensive sessions on residential development for black communities and marketing free enterprise in the face of widespread belief that "capitalism equals apartheid", said Mr Harris.

Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis will address the convention on the property developer's role in the development of a new South Africa.

Broader social-political issues will be covered by selected high profile speakers including Dr Beyers Naude, John Kane-Berman of the Institute of Race Relations and Advocate L Pienaar, former administrator of South West Africa/Namibia.

The convention will be held at the Cape Sun Hotel from August 21 to 23. For further details contact Brian Kirchmann, executive director of Sapoa at (011) 8804703.

Mier land issue puts talks in jeopardy

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6/8/90

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

3 General

FUTURE talks between the ANC and the Labour Party will be jeopardised if the sale of land in Mier is not halted and a referendum held among residents.

After last week's discussions between the two organisations, the LP is to consider an ANC request for a moratorium on the implementation of the controversial House of Representative law to privatise land in Mier, in the Gordonia district of the North-Western Cape.

The LP will also consider an ANC request for a referendum of residents of the area, its public relations officer, Mr Peter Hendrickse, confirmed yesterday.

Dissatisfied Mier residents have also instituted a Supreme Court action in Kimberley to have the Mier law set aside.

The ANC has threatened to reverse the sale of land in Mier if the law is implemented.

3 General

Farmers call for better weapons

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Natal farmers who are concerned about the use of semi-automatic and automatic assault weapons in farm attacks want to be allowed to use more sophisticated weapons to deter attackers.

The Natal Agricultural Union (NAU) says 11 people have died, numerous people have been injured and several attempted murders have been reported due to these attacks.

Farmers are also concerned about the safety of their property which increasingly is being destroyed.

In parts of Camperdown and Richmond, farmers have formed vigilante groups to patrol farms at night to prevent their stock from being stolen.

At a recent meeting of police, farmers and the NAU, Natal's Commission-

er of Police Major General J C van Niekerk said more police and vehicles would be sent to the area.

Policemen had been instructed to visit farms regularly and maintain a high profile.

During the meeting it emerged that weapons used in attacks on farmers were sophisticated semi-automatic and automatic assault weapons and the weapons owned by farmers were inadequate defence.

Farmers felt that in certain areas they should be permitted to own and use more sophisticated weapons to counter attacks.

The matter is being investigated by the police.

The NAU said it was not surprising that the civil unrest in parts of Maritzburg and Durban was beginning to be felt in the rural areas.

By DAVE MARRS

EPPING Fresh Produce Market buyers want the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Gordon Oliver, to help settle their dispute with market agents over a new deposit system on pallets and bins.

The buyers have been promised a response from the mayor today, according to their spokesman, Mr Saliem Ismail.

They also await a response from Mr Oliver on the issue of the "victimisation" of some Market Buyers' Association (MBA) executive members, who had apparently been told they could no longer buy on credit.

Mr Ismail said the agent-owned company Cape Market Containers

Produce dispute: ^{CMC} ^{Time} Mayor called in ^{8/8/70} ⁵⁶

(CMC) had broken an agreement to continue with the old deposit system for two more weeks.

The agreement followed a disruptive picket a week ago when buyers protested at having to pay a deposit and hire charge when leaving the trading hall, instead of at the market gates as in the past.

Market Agents' Association chairman Mr D M Neethling told the Cape

Times the withdrawal of the credit "privilege" came in response to a boycott of one of the agents, organised by MBA executive members.

"They have threatened us and this is our counter-threat."

He said CMC had tried to stick to the two-week agreement, but had discovered that buyers were trying to take bins and pallets worth some R2 000 out of the premises without paying.

The company had also lost R250 000 of a R2-million investment in pallets and bins because security could not be maintained with the old deposit system, according to Mr Neethling.

Absent farm landlords under attack

CAPE TOWN — Farms which were not being used optimally by their present owners should be expropriated and resold through a state-assisted scheme to those who would use them, Peter Marais of the Labour Party said yesterday.

He said in the President's Council's special debate on the economy that the right to own property

could at present only be exercised by those who had enough money.

"Property should be made available to those who can optimally utilise this resource.

"It should never be allowed to be owned by absent landlords who acquired it for speculation," said Mr Marais. — Sapa.

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**Agricultural union
president re-elected**

BLOEMFONTEIN — Izak Cronje was re-elected president of the Free State Agricultural Union by an outright majority after a rightwing challenge from Dr Piet Gous at the union's congress in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Mr Cronje told the congress he knew that at times some members had accused him of being a government spokesman. — Sapa.

Agrarian reform is needed for future SA



Mere land reform is not enough if South Africa is to tackle the myriad constraints on black farming.

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THERE can scarcely be a democrat who does not believe that the exploitative Land Act of 1913 should be abolished. But some fear little would result other than the loss of land by the poor in the bantustans.

Fortunately, there is another scenario, often given lurid expression by conservative farmers. This is the "verswartering van die platteland" — the title of a tendentious government commission of 1959. In some areas, black farmers are raising their output, challenging the predominance of white farming, despite the forces ranged against them.

Reduce apartheid
In Bophuthatswana some entirely self-made farmers harvest 1 000 t of maize a year. White farmers, at least, are under no illusions about the potential for black farming to expand. Recently white farmers used their collective powers to torpedo a Development Bank plan to enable black farmers to participate on an equal footing in the grain marketing system.

One thing is clear: no-one knows what eventual result the scrapping of the Land Act will bring. What can be done to ensure that its scrapping reduces apartheid, rather than expands it?

After the Group Areas Act, the abolition of the Land Act is a major priority of reform. P G MOLL, a specialist student of the subject, argues that land reform will not be enough. It will be necessary to remove the myriad other constraints on black farming.

A critical step is to abolish the Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act No. 70 of 1970, which forbids the fragmentation of land into units which, in the opinion of the Department of Agriculture, are "uneconomical". This paternalistically prevents farmers from starting small and growing large, and would hold back the progress of energetic but capital-poor black farmers.

'20s' methods
Another barrier to black empowerment is the pattern of government spending. Black people pay sales and income taxes, but these sums almost entirely bypass the hundreds of thousands of black farmers and end up as subsidies in the pockets of the 60 000 white farmers.

State resources should rather be concentrated on achieving distributional goals — viz facilitating the expansion of the black farming sector. It should not be forgotten that the present pattern of agricultural spending is both inefficient and inequitable. By reorienting the pro-

grammes both efficiency and equity gains can be made. At one and the same time, our food could become cheaper, more black people could enter farming, and the market could weed out inefficient white farmers who are better suited for assembly-line work.

Black economic empowerment could be accelerated by using some of the methods employed in the '20s to aid the "poor whites". Of these, one of the most successful was the Contributory Purchase Scheme. Settlers who could show they possessed working capital could buy land with a government subsidy of 80%. The scheme avoided adverse selection of fly-by-night operators by requiring evidence of financial capability.

an insult to the new South Africa's national sovereignty. The present government acknowledges no such rein on its powers (especially apartheid) — it appropriates and pays the market price plus a percentage to assure government to retain a favourable investment environment.

Recoup fears
After all, the land costs are only a part of an agrarian reform programme. In well-organised programmes, the land costs are perhaps a third of total costs. The costs of infrastructure, training, working capital, equipment and housing are substantial. It is not land, but these development costs, that limit agrarian reform.

Indeed, it will be essential to retain the productive core of "white" agriculture. With only half-a-dozen other countries in the world, South Africa shares the distinction of being a net food exporter. If farmers came to expect widespread or arbitrary expropriation, they would fear their annual investments in fertiliser, insecticide and seed could not be recouped, and they would therefore not make them. After one missed season the country would have to import millions of tons of maize or wheat. If the government assured farmers that its direct redistribution schemes would extend only to certain sectors and regions, these harmful disinvestment effects would not follow.

Targeted help
In any case, substantial expropriation would be unnecessary if the government took away white farming's financial swaddling clothes. Inefficient white farmers would leave the industry at a sufficient pace to keep the state well supplied with rela-

tively cheap land for some time to come.

To get an idea of the orders of magnitude involved, I consulted financial data on a large number of settlement programmes: assorted World Bank projects, the Italian and Zimbabwean land reforms, Israeli settlement (1950s), and the USA New Deal settlement. The costs per family ranged from US\$500 (Zimbabwe) to \$40 000 (World Bank). If the government spent the entire 1989/90 Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing budget of R300 m on a relatively inexpensive Zimbabwe-type scheme, only 15 000 families would be helped.

Despite the crudity of these figures, they illustrate the potential for direct settlement by government agencies is limited — not because of high land costs but because of high infrastructural, training and capital costs. In South Africa, as has been the case in Zimbabwe, the major avenue for redistribution within agriculture will probably be through judicious and targeted help to individuals and cooperatives who will lead agricultural renewal through their own efforts.

The Land Act must go. But mere land reform is not enough. Agrarian reform is needed. The programme outlined above is radical because it strikes at the root of the problem: the myriad constraints on black farming. It would transfigure the agricultural landscape by reshaping state spending, revising land ownership laws and, culturally, by converting the orientation of government from inefficient mollycoddling of a 60 000 minority to efficient and equitable growth for the majority. Dr Moll, formerly of UCT, is currently a visiting scholar at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. His D.Phil thesis at Oxford dealt with land reform.]



belongs to a Higher Authority."

Lancaster House

If this institutional barrier could be swept away, and if the new farmers could be supplied with some minimal infrastructural and marketing arrangements, the black farming sector may well flourish, as it did in Kenya and Zimbabwe after independence. In fact, most economists now agree that the major agricultural improvement in Zimbabwe came from economic renewal in the areas already occupied by black smallholders.

The future government will also be under pressure to provide directly for land settlement. The most crying need will be for reparations for farmers who have recently been dispossessed and forcibly removed. In view of these urgent needs, it is crucial that the future government should not be hobbled by "willing buyer, willing seller" restrictions. At Zimbabwe's Lancaster House it was agreed that the new government could buy land only if white farmers were willing to sell, or if compensation was paid in foreign currency. Such a requirement would be

Court action after farm shacks razed

THE Legal Resources Centre will apply for a spoliation order in an attempt to force a Piet Retief farmer to re-erect the 30 homes he bulldozed on Friday.

As far as the centre can ascertain, no court order was obtained prior to the demolition. (3) General

If the spoliation order is granted, the farmer will be liable to re-erect all the structures demolished by him and return the site to its prior condition. The estimated cost is R65 000. (S)

The demolition of the 30 dwellings, which took place on Friday, left 62 people homeless.

Mr Ken Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee said the farmer, Mr H A A Klingenberg, had been trying to evict Mr Mapagamisa Mavimbela (65) and his "household" of 62 for more than a year. Sowetan 14/8/90

Mavimbela is a labour tenant and apparently had an agreement with the previous owner of the farm. - Sapa.

3 General

Tempers flare at Free State farm congress

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Tempers flared at the Free State Agricultural Union's congress here yesterday in argument about the politicisation of the congress.

Immediately after Mr Izak Cronje delivered his presidential address, Mr Faan Malherbe of Dealesville, a member of the oil seeds committee, tried to introduce a motion expressing the congress's dissatisfaction with a questionnaire that the union had sent to members about land ownership and its use by all races.

He was supported by Mr Izak Minnaar, chairman of Dealesville Farmers' Union, sporting a large firearm on his left hip. Mr Minnaar demanded an immediate debate on the motion.

Mr Cronje, with the support of the congress, ruled that the matter could be raised during the afternoon when a motion for resolution on the subject of land ownership was discussed.

In the afternoon Mr Minnaar said the questionnaire that was sent to farmers had resulted in "the greatest scandal in the Free State Agricultural Union". Only about one-third had been returned, and the remainder of the farmers did not "want to waste 21 cents on a stamp".

Mr Minnaar said there should be a referendum. Mr Cronje had earlier explained that the questionnaire had been drawn up in such a way that the respondents would indicate whether the status quo should be retained, whether, if it was not maintained, they would still be able to live with it, or whether there was total rejection of the proposed opening up of land for possession by all races.

He suggested that as the responses had already been conveyed to the South African Agricultural Union, which had responded, the matter of the questionnaire should be considered finalised.

This was eventually accepted by the delegates. — Sapa

**Agriboost** ③ General.

The second quarter saw a deceleration in the economic slowdown. Central Statistical Service reports a 0,8% decline in GDP (following declines of 1,3% in the first quarter and 1,7% in the last quarter of 1989) at market prices. The figures record quarterly changes, in constant 1985 prices, at seasonally adjusted annual rates.

Biggest boost came from agriculture, which showed a 15% rise (opposed to -7,5% first quarter, -42,7% fourth quarter 1989), measured by factor incomes. Improvements over a broad front include: field crops, viticulture, subtropical fruit, deciduous fruit, wool, ostrich feathers, cattle slaughtered, dry beans, sunflower seeds, vegetables and poultry products. Maize was also up but this was because last year wet weather delayed harvesting until July.

At factor incomes, non-agricultural sector GDP fell 1,9% (-0,9%, +2,5%). Mining was down 3,4% (-11,8%, +10,6%) and manufacturing 3% (+0,7%, +0,9%). Tertiary industries were down 0,9% (+1,2%, +1,4%). ■

Safex geared for price-setting

From DAVID CUMMING
JOHANNESBURG. — The controversial price-setting functions of South Africa's 12 agricultural control boards will soon be scrapped if moves to set up a commodities futures market are successful.

The ubiquitous control boards are responsible for the bulk of the products which make up the industry's R11 billion contribution to the country's gross domestic product.

And Safex chief Stuart Rees says the futures exchange is fully geared up for such a move, which could be put into practice virtually overnight.

As a result, food (and other agricultural) prices would be determined solely by market

forces, rather than by arbitrary industry consensus.

A possible outcome is that food prices would come down in the long term. And producers would get better prices during periods of shortage.

The new move follows an initiative in which at least one control board is understood to have called in consultants in the field with a view to making recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture.

If a commodities futures market was established, it would obviate the need for control boards to fulfil their oft-criticised price-setting functions, leaving them free to pay full attention to the sole function of marketing their products.

Farmers who wished to

guarantee themselves a given price on harvest or sending their produce to market would do so simply by entering a futures contract at the desired price.

Alternatively, they could elect to spurn such "cover" and take their chances in a free market.

Futures markets experts said this week the move would involve a campaign to educate the country's farmers on the workings of such a scheme, which would allow them not only to cover themselves but to become active players in a sophisticated financial market, enlarging South Africa's investment community significantly in the process.

Mr Rees said the establishment of such a market was en-

visaged in the documents Safex had to submit when it was granted its licence.

"We submitted a three-year plan at the time and I am confident we will see such a market operating within three years.

"We could set it up in a very short space of time. We have all the structures and computer systems in place and would probably opt immediately for a screen trading system rather than open outcry."

He said the commodities market would function independently of the financial futures market with different members occupying different seats.

There would probably be a problem in educating the potential participants but that

they could rely on the advice of brokers in the initial stages.

"This move would remove the need for control boards to set prices and put the business decisions back where they should be. The boards could then concentrate solely on their marketing function."

Holcom Futures' Rod Holness confirmed this week that a number of control boards and other agricultural organisations had shown an interest in a commodities futures market and the suitability or otherwise of their products being quoted on such a market.

"The bottom line in any futures market is that there are big players who wish to offset their risk."

He pointed out that commodities futures trading was not

alien to the entire agricultural industry. Sugar producers and the Maize Board were already active in such markets overseas.

However, Mr Holness felt about 80 percent of South Africa's farmers were not likely to be sophisticated enough to participate immediately and would require education in the workings of futures markets.

"But there is no doubt some of them will do very well in such a market."

Progressive Systems College's Nic Oldert, whose organisation runs courses on financial futures, pointed out that the futures market in the United States got under way as a mechanism to control price risk in agricultural commodities.

● See page 5.

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3 C...
Land a burning issue - NLC

By ZB MOLEFE

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk has often said private property and free enterprise should be the cornerstone of a new South Africa, says the National Land Committee.

"Yet no one has answered the question of how black people who lost their land, their livestock, their capital and their homes through forced removal and eviction will be able to compete in a free market," it adds.

The extent of black impoverishment through apartheid "means they (blacks) will not afford to buy land or farm it effectively unless there is a programme of redressing historical wrongs and compensating people for these losses", says the NLC in its latest publication *Land Update*.

The publication said to open a free market in land, before questions of its affordability are answered, would cause wide-scale property speculation - and increase land prices.

It said the government remained silent on what it intended in place of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, adding a free

market approach "applied blandly" to the land question would have devastating consequences for the rural poor.

But, it said, future government policy would probably do away with the racial character of land ownership.

The NLC - formerly the National Committee Against Removals - predicted a bleak future for blacks should land fall under the government's free market plans.

"Unless the new policy addresses the dispossession which apartheid has brought about, landlessness and poverty will continue to plague the poorest of our country . . . and the land question will remain a burning, unresolved issue."

People who needed land most - or depended on it for their livelihood - did not have the substantial capital needed to buy land at current market rates, it said, citing the "Coloured" reserves of Namaqualand and the northern Cape where the House of Representatives has adopted a policy of privatising communal land.

This has been fiercely resisted by the predominantly semi-nomadic farming communities in the area.

"Privatisation means surveyed plots are to be sold to individual owners who will acquire exclusive holding to a portion of the land.

"For the poor majority of farmers in the area, privatisation brings the prospect of losing access not only to residential land, but also to grazing land.

"Towards the end of May this year the government was preparing to sell a number of state-held farms in the western Transvaal - some of which previously belonged to black freehold communities who were forcibly moved to the bantustans.

The government planned to sell the farms to white farmers before it could abolish the Land Acts, the NLC claimed.

On May 20 this year Transvaal representatives from 28 rural areas called for "a moratorium on the sale of all state-owned land until a process of negotiation between the government, local communities and their political representatives can work out a way in which historical wrongs can be redressed - and landless people supported in their attempt to gain land", said the NLC.

The hunger for land

3 General
19/8/90

AZAPO sees land as a commodity available to all Azanians. It belongs to all the people and not to individuals.

Personal ownership is only acceptable where it is used for building homes, not for profiteering.

Land distribution as an economic strategy must be given new meaning and placed in the right context.

This "meaning" lies outside the capitalist notion of land being an exploitable commodity at the expense of human needs and life itself.

If it is used for exploitative purposes, it shall be expropriated and returned to the State.

People who contribute to the economy of the country must be allowed to build their homes without having to pay for land.

When it is used for the creation of wealth, certain conditions will have to be met. For instance, persons may have access to a site for business reasons, but will have to pay rent to a national treasury.

It is clear that because land is the primary means of production, it belongs to the people and cannot become the property of individuals.

The obvious question is: what happens to land which is presently occupied? Leadership will have to work out a mechanism by which redistribution and appropriation can be executed in an orderly fashion.

Above all, black people have become alienated from the land. For black people, land is no more than a hovel in which you sleep or a place at which you work for starvation wages.

Many people have argued that blacks did not use their initiative and that wealth created in this society was a result of white efforts.

The argument is fallacious. Whites used the labour of black people to earn their security, privilege and power. They convinced themselves blacks were inferior, lazy and came to this country at the same time as they did.

But whites realise that if they confront historical reality, they will have no legitimate claim to the land.

Legislation on the statute books today is testimony to the notion of racism, or apartheid.

Some people argue about democracy. White society has no right to talk about democracy. It has never understood or respected democracy. It practices racism with a fervour akin to the Nazis under Hitler.

Today no person can debate democracy without calling for the total redistribution of the land and wealth of this country.

White society controls 87 percent of

Black political organisations have made it abundantly clear that land will be the central issue in post-apartheid South Africa. The National Land Committee has fired the debate's first salvo at the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce's annual conference in Durban recently by stating blacks will not have enough money to buy land unless there is a programme to redress historical wrongs which have led to this state of affairs. At the meeting, Azanian People's Organisation publicity secretary STRINI MOODLEY pointed to the anomaly of white control over a massive 87 percent of the land in this hard-hitting speech.

the land. If we are to talk about its redistribution as an economic strategy for the future, then we must first come to terms with the reality that 87 percent of South Africa must be included in this redistribution.

Racism has led blacks to believe they have an inferior claim to the land. They see themselves as searching for unoccupied areas while, in their heart of hearts, they desire to occupy the land on which white people live and work.

In other words, they see the mansions and secretly believe they have a right to them.

Consequently, racism has distorted the value of land. It has made it a private thing - a thing which can be exploited for profit. This country bears all the scars of colonialism.

Black people are landless and have been forced to accept a culture of labour - producing the wealth of this

country.

Land did not bear wealth automatically. Somebody had to work it and white people needed to create reasons to turn blacks into a faceless labour force.

The process of colonisation came in three phases. First, the defeat of black people and therefore conquest of the land.

Second, the creation of justifications for exploiting blacks as cheap labour. Third, the introduction of legislation which made blacks landless.

The blood, sweat and tears of black people labouring on their own land for the profit of white society over the last 320 years is a vital factor in appreciating the struggle.

A major element of the struggle is the fight to free land from the clutches of white society and place it back in the hands of the oppressed and exploited majority.

We are not only talking about returning land to an indigenous people. We are talking about freeing it from a society that has taken it illegally. We are talking about ensuring it does not become the basis for exploitation.

Land must become what it is - a resource which ensures the equal development of the whole society.

What centuries of oppression and exploitation have done to black people is to deny them the ability to see themselves as complete human beings. They have been dehumanised violently and psychologically.

Black people are made to feel like foreigners in the land of their birth. Politically, economically, socially and culturally they have been turned into slaves through racist policies.

There are certain realities we have to come to terms with. Land distribution will have to be radical if it is to constructively and adequately address the problems facing the vast majority.

We regard the liberation of black people as a priority. In that context, the liberation of land is a primary objective.

Technical details of how the distribution of land shall be implemented will have to be worked out in finer detail by the government in power at the time.

Land must be returned to its original function. It must provide shelter and a base for productivity.

Abattoir 'back on track' after strike

By SHARON SOROUR
Labour Reporter

SLAUGHTERING at the Maitland Abattoir has almost returned to normal and meat prices have stabilised after 300 slaughterers on a work stoppage were dismissed.

The workers, members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), were fired from Cape Slaughtering, Flaying and Dressing (Pty) Ltd after a one-day work stoppage last month which seriously affected operations at the abattoir.

A company spokesman said yesterday the emergency back-up team of 25 expert slaughterers — flown to Cape Town from the Transvaal by the company last month — were still hard at work. The company was training temporary staff.

"We are training people at the moment and taking them in on a daily basis. Obviously they are all temporary staff pending the outcome of a court action."

BEEF FROM NAMIBIA

Fawu had brought an application against the company which would be heard in the Industrial Court on August 28, he said.

The union was not available for comment.

Meat Board regional manager Mr Bertie Ackhurst said about 4 000 sheep, 400 cattle and 450 pigs were slaughtered yesterday.

Normally between 600 and 700 cattle and between 5 000 and 6 000 sheep are slaughtered at the abattoir, which is owned and run by the Cape Town City Council.

Mr Ackhurst said: "We are also bringing in 400 beef carcasses from Namibia every week."

Meat prices were not higher than usual at the moment, he said.

At the abattoir, super beef was selling at R5,18 a kg, prime beef at R4,99 a kg and Top C beef at R4,58 a kg, he confirmed.

Super lamb was selling at R6,13 a kg, prime mutton at R6,13 a kg and Top C mutton at R4,39 a kg while pork super was selling at R3,56 a kg.

Nov 24/8/90 (3 General)

NEWS

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

Govt has no plans to take away white farms - FW

President de Klerk today assured the country's 60 000 farmers that the Government had no plans to take over their land when the Land Act is amended.

Mr de Klerk told the agricultural summit - called to discuss the industry's complaints - that the Government believed in a free economic system and that farmers were the backbone of the country.

Speaking in Pretoria, he said the private use of land by all

South Africans was a necessity, but this did not mean that farmers would have to give up their properties.

His comments came in the wake of widespread anger, particularly in the Transvaal, over a South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) referendum which asked whether whites

should retain land and if other races should also have the opportunity to own farms.

Ninety-four percent of 16 000 white farmers in the Transvaal voted for white preservation of land.

"The Government believes that the land is a national asset. This means that it belongs to

all the people of the country and the situation requires improvement," Mr de Klerk said.

In respect of the general restructuring of the economy, of which agriculture is an integral part, the Government had accepted a programme "geared to the production side of the economy", Mr de Klerk said.

The most important aim of the programme was to increase growth and employment "which will ensure the greatest possible advantages of growth in all individuals".

The battle for land: Hopeful Mogopa tribe back in court

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

THE protracted struggle of the people of Mogopa to return to the Ventersdorp farm from which they were unlawfully and forcibly removed in February 1984 shifts into focus in the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein today.

The court will be asked to rule whether the government has a right to evict members of the Bakwena ba Mogopa tribe who began re-occupying their land from late 1988.

The appeal is against a decision of the Pretoria Supreme Court in May last year, where it was ruled that the arguments raised by the people of Mogopa were inappropriate to eviction.

The government's right to evict was therefore held to be valid. But, in the face of government opposition, implementation of the eviction was delayed pending the outcome of today's appeal.

Mogopa people approach the Appellate Division with optimism — it was this court which ruled nearly five years ago that their initial removal was unlawful.

Section 5 of the Black Administration Act — under which they were removed — has been scrapped. The Transvaal Rural Action Committee said: "If the state does not return the land to the people who clearly deserve to return, what hope is there of a resolution of complex

land issues in a new South Africa?"

Trac observes: "The state is hypocritical in protecting its own ownership rights and those of white people, because when it comes to the property rights of black people who have owned and worked the land for decades, those rights are completely ignored."

The Mogopa defence against eviction rests on the argument that the government's expropriation of the land is invalid and is attacked because:

- It does not fulfil the requirement in the Expropriation Act that it is carried out for a "public purpose". The land has been leased to whites for grazing.

- It was executed in bad faith and for the ulterior purpose of circumventing the decision that the removal was unlawful.

- The Minister of Co-operation and Development, as trustee of the Mogopa land, transgressed his legal obligation to act in the best interests of the Mogopa by authorising the forced removal while proceedings were in the balance; ordering the expropriation of the land.

- The actions of the government are in bad faith, because section 5 of the Black Administration Act has now been repealed and other "black spots" — including Mathopestad and Motlala in the Western Transvaal — have been re-prieved.

w/Manit 24/8 - 26/8/90

3 general

Govt intends to be more tight-fisted on farming aid

Monday 27/8/90

3 General

PRETORIA — A more tight-fisted aid policy for agriculture was indicated by Finance Minister Bar-end du Plessis at Friday's agricultural summit conference in Pretoria.

The conference was also addressed by President F W de Kerk, who assured farmers their farms would be "safe" in the new SA.

Du Plessis addressed the conference after SA Agricultural Union president Nico Kotze had warned that the industry was being throttled by a host of problems — mainly financial.

Du Plessis said a case could be made out for government aid where disasters caused massive damage.

"But it is difficult for me to commit government to

GERALD REILLY

future aid to agriculture in general; the issue will have to be considered on merit."

The increase in state spending had to be strongly controlled and spending priorities laid down. Agricultural aid programme would, therefore, have to be accommodated in this framework.

Debt

Help would be given on a merit basis. This meant that all farmers in a drought-troubled area would not necessarily qualify for help. Du Plessis said the phasing in of a system of market related interest rates for the industry was necessary.

Interest subsidies would eventually be phased out, preferably as interest rates fell.

Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said it was alarming that, despite more favourable production years since 1987 and subsidised interest rates, very few farmers had been able to significantly reduce their debt burden.

However, he stressed

that the industry was trapped in a vice between relatively small increases in product prices and big increases in input costs. Inflation-eroded buying power was another major problem facing farmers.

President De Klerk said government's reconstruction programme was geared to the promotion of private initiative and at eliminating factors which hampered the effective operation of the market system.

He said the most important aim was to increase growth and employment potential in the economy. The programme was designed to increase the local availability of scarce production factors.

Agriculture was vitally important as a provider of raw materials for industry and employment in the industry and in other sectors. Any interruption or disruption of these activities or their growth and development would be catastrophic for the platteland.

On the issue of farmland ownership, he said:

"I give you an assurance that we are not planning to negotiate over your land. Your farms are safe."

BACKGROUND

Farming supports 6 million people and provides work for 15 percent of the population, but it cannot keep itself alive because of crippling debts and a crumbling infrastructure brought about by the high cost of services.

In a classic Catch 22 situation developing as a result of debt and a desire by the Government for land utilisation in the interests of reform, the nation's 78 000 farmers may also soon find themselves facing the unthinkable: letting someone else (perhaps of a different colour) try his luck at tilling the land.

That was the gist of messages given to the agricultural summit in Pretoria on Friday when the stark realities of an industry R14.7 billion in the red pleaded: "We need Government help."

President de Klerk used a reverse of the stick-and-carrot approach when he told 220 representatives of organised agriculture that the Government did not want "a catastrophe on the platteland" but at the same time the country was moving with the times — and the land, in effect, belonged to all.

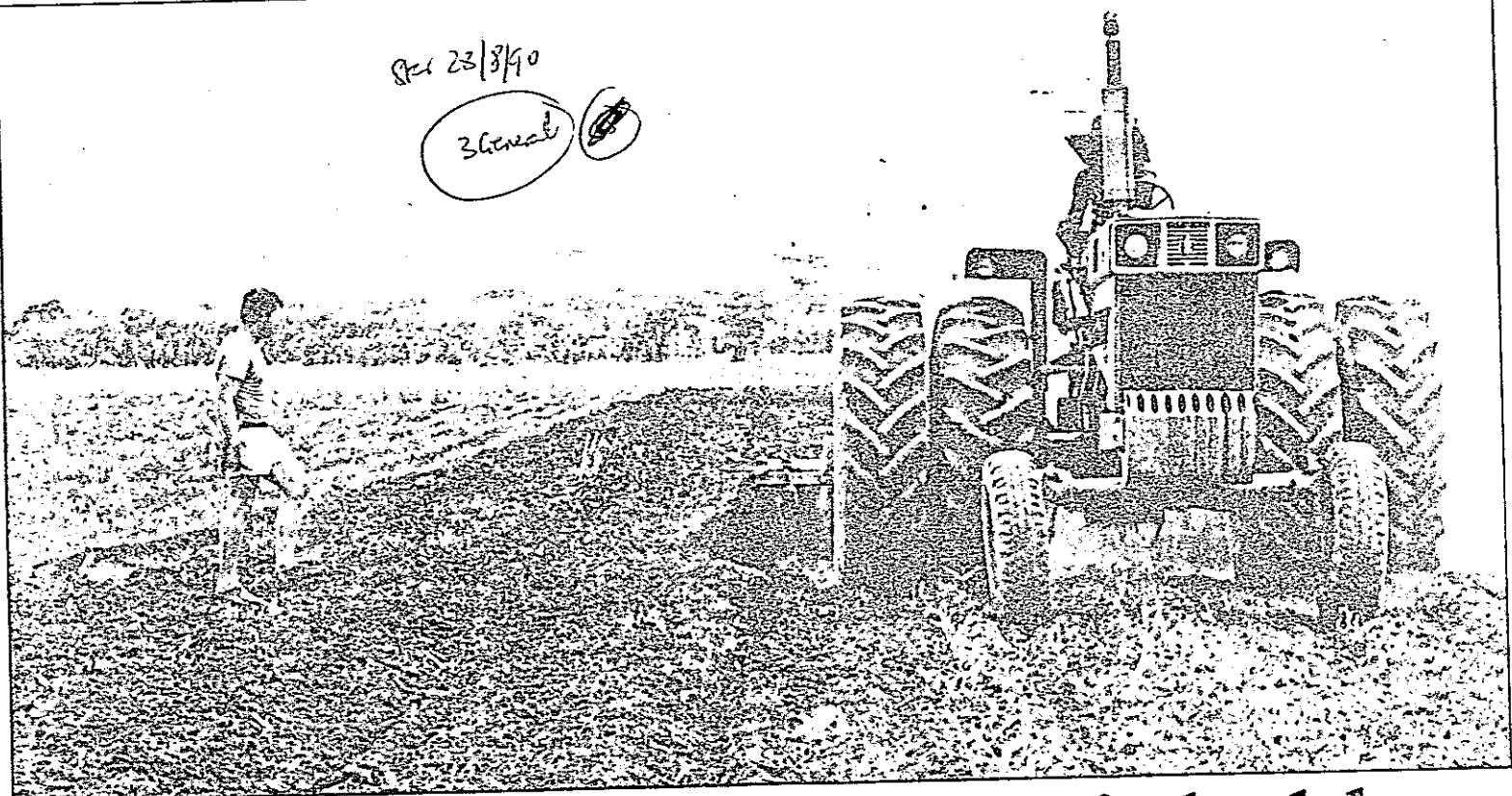
Farming was the lifeblood of the nation but at the same time revitalisation and reconstruction of the economy was the name of the game.

"The most important aim is to increase the growth and employment-creation potential of the economy in a way which will ensure the greatest possible advantages of growth to all individuals," Mr de Klerk said.

He added that, traditionally, ownership of land had been pegged to political, economic and social stability.

"It was an anchor of stability and a bulwark against communism," the President said. The Government had no intention "to hand over your land" (to black people). He said that although property rights had to be protected, it had to be ensured that there were opportunities for private use of land by all South Africans without prejudice to existing legal rights.

Delegates, most from conservative Transvaal and Free State farming communities and organisations, listened in silence in the grandeur of the for-



Farmers facing the unthinkable

mer Government House. Their attitude was summed up by the desultory applause given to Mr de Klerk.

It was not, however, an altogether unexpected speech.

Farmers have been saying for years that the industry needs assistance in the form of moratoriums being declared on interest rates, debt and input costs, and then, this year, Transvaal land owners gave a massive thumbs-down to a suggestion that white preservation of land should be prized from them. Just more than 94 per-

cent of 15 000 who voted said "no".

But despite long years of pleas, little had been done to improve the lot of farmers, particularly in irrigation areas and in the arid northern parts of the Transvaal and northern Cape.

President de Klerk then left it to a phalanx of Cabinet colleagues to give more bad news — some dressed in flowery language, others put more bluntly.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis was at his verbal best when summarising a prepared speech he had been scheduled

Farmers realise they have problems — there's no money to get them out of debt and, reading between the lines of speeches by Government spokesmen at last week's agricultural summit, blacks could soon own farms as well. By **NORMAN CHANDLER** of The Star's Pretoria Bureau.

to give at the Presidency guest house.

He urged farmers to realise that high interest rates could not be brought down especially for them, even though they were "a special case".

"But if you voted today that 100 percent too little was being

done for you, I wouldn't argue," he said.

Mr du Plessis, in the process of giving delegates a lesson in the hard realities of economic management of the country's coffers, threw in some last words: "South Africa woke up on the morning on September 1

1985 without a banker. We (the State) had to move to a cash basis."

The inference about what had happened when international finance dried up five years ago was not lost on organised agriculture's representatives. They have to join the queue for Government hand-outs, and then only at times of drought or floods.

Even the debt consolidation programme established by the State three years ago was being reviewed, which was news to farmers who have been able to

obtain assistance.

Kraai van Niekerk, the Minister of Agricultural Development, pointed out that very few farmers had been able to achieve any significant reduction in their debt load.

"The financial position of a large group continued to deteriorate. An increasing percentage of farmers can no longer meet their commitments."

Saying a strategy had to be devised, Mr van Niekerk said the planned restructuring of the industry was overdue. He blamed farmers for their pre-

dicament through too small economic farm units, incorrect use of resources, low level of efficiency and inadequate, or lack of, management expertise.

Mr van Niekerk said private land ownership, in the hands of competent farmers, was essential for agricultural production.

Hernus Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, told delegates it was time that agriculture looked at the development of black farmers, even if they were still in what he called "their tribal areas".

"Black farmers can, through correct methods and training, make a positive contribution to the socio-economic development in their own areas (but) the awaited amendments to the Land Act in 'white' South Africa and the entry of farmers of other colours can play an important role in such amendments," Mr Kriel said.

Rank-and-file delegates, while mainly concerned with debt, urged the Government to come to the industry's assistance in other areas as well. They asked for more State help for socio-economic concerns, such as improved housing, health and school facilities.

It was argued by Chris du Toit, president of the Western Cape Agricultural Union, that a large proportion of the country's 30 million population — one delegate said 23 percent and another 40 percent — lived on the platteland but only R25 million had been made available for "decent housing". Six million people worked on farms, and housing was a desperate need.

Thibus Hartman, president of the Eastern Cape union, said rural services, such as telephones, Post Office facilities and transport, were being eroded and electricity costs had escalated. The high costs were contributing to isolating rural areas.

"R80 million was owing to Eskom from the agricultural sector in 1987. Methods need to be found to supply power in a more economical manner to certain areas," Mr Hartman said.

There was also a plea for the "user-charge" policy — the State's rigid policy that the consumer pays in full — to be changed as it was making services to agriculture expensive.

ANC sees 'state farms as vital'

CAN TRAF 31/8/90 36

Own Correspondent

EAST LONDON. — The ANC believed state-owned farms could best ensure a radical redistribution of land among the people of a post-apartheid South Africa.

This was said by the organisation's convener in the Border, the Rev Makhenkhesi Stofile, in his address to a conference on agricultural and rural development at a Ciskei coastal resort yesterday.

Mr Stofile said parastatals would be vital in providing farm workers with skills, but added that these farms might have to be delayed.

Of three other possible models — individual land-ownership and production, co-operatives and company owned farms — the last was undesirable because it was inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining rural communities and redistributing land.

A future government would have to take account of the de-

sire of individuals to own land.

"Victims of forced removals will want rapid return as soon as possible to their land," Mr Stofile said.

Labour tenants would demand ownership deeds, and other farm workers saw wages, working conditions and security as the most immediate issues.

Mr Stofile said while ANC policy statements on agrarian issues were limited to the Freedom Charter and draft constitutional guidelines, the ANC had recently begun working towards a more detailed elaboration of its agrarian policy.

He said expectations would have been heightened after liberation and, above all, some form of land distribution would be expected to be a priority.

"Without a clear, long-term economic policy of a decisive socialist orientation there is no hope of redressing the economic injustices of apartheid capitalism."

Tropical wonderland's uncertain future

Star 26/2/91 (3) General

In the heart of Maputaland, a pristine stretch of tropical bush beneath the southern Mozambique border, a conflict is brewing — a conflict with no easy solutions.

The region is a conservationist's dream, boasting 75 percent of the world's swamp forests and a priceless treasure of huge pans, crocodiles, hippos and birdlife, as well as southern Africa's last free-roaming elephant.

But efforts to conserve six ecological zones, making up Maputaland, have proved highly controversial because of the impact on the rural population living there.

The Tonge Tembe people, who have subsistence-farmed peacefully in the area for centuries, have been caught up in a political quagmire over whether they should remain, or move from areas earmarked for conservation reserves.

L-shaped

To date, the conservation authority involved, the KwaZulu Bureau for Natural Resources, has managed to have three chunks of Maputaland proclaimed reserves. They are the Ndumo Game Reserve, Tembe Elephant Park and Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (including a long strip of coast).

They further intend having these areas consolidated into one huge L-shaped reserve, which would encapsulate all six ecological zones, ranging from coastal dunes to inland sand forest.

But the bureau, primarily concerned with conservation, has found itself pitted against rural organisations championing the cause of the farmers, who wish to stay in the reserves at any cost.

And while the respective organisations battle over their in-

In what is potentially one of South Africa's most beautiful tourist spots, conservationists have come up against a wall of resistance which could destroy their dream. **HELEN GRANGE** reports.

terests, the rural people of the reserves remain uncertain over their future.

The Star, in interviews with many of the Kosi Bay farmers, has found a firm commitment to stay on the land, despite monetary compensation offered by the bureau for moving.

The bureau's case is simply that, should the Tonge population continue farming and allow increasing numbers of cattle to graze on the land, the beauty of Maputaland's coastal forests will soon become a memory.

The bureau, in its effort to limit grazing, has offered incentives to people to move off the land, an option already taken by a number of farmers.

Alternatively, the bureau has given the proviso that should farmers wish to stay, their plantations will be restricted and their cattle will have to graze elsewhere.

However, farmers who take the option to stay will undoubtedly face difficulties in coping with such restrictions, not to mention having to contend with the free movement of wild game should consolidation of the reserves come about.

The bureau's approach has been strongly criticised by the Association of Rural Advancement (Afra), an organisation representing farmers in the region. Afra claims some 2 000 people are threatened with removal from within the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve alone, a situa-

tion it deems immoral and insensitive.

"We support conservation of Maputaland's unique resources but not at the expense of the already impoverished local people," says fieldworker Richard Clacey.

One suggestion is that the local people may be prepared to accept priority conservation areas if their traditional rights of tenure are respected, and if they had access to game meat, plant resources, honey, water and grazing land.

But, according to the bureau, present agricultural gains in the swamp forest will only be of short-term benefit — because the sponges will not sustain long-term agriculture.

Tourism

The bureau has said it is prepared to negotiate the cultivation of peripheral strips of swamp forest, while conserving the central core of the forests — but claims this valuable compromise has also been bedevilled by political groups "wanting the entire swamp forest for agriculture".

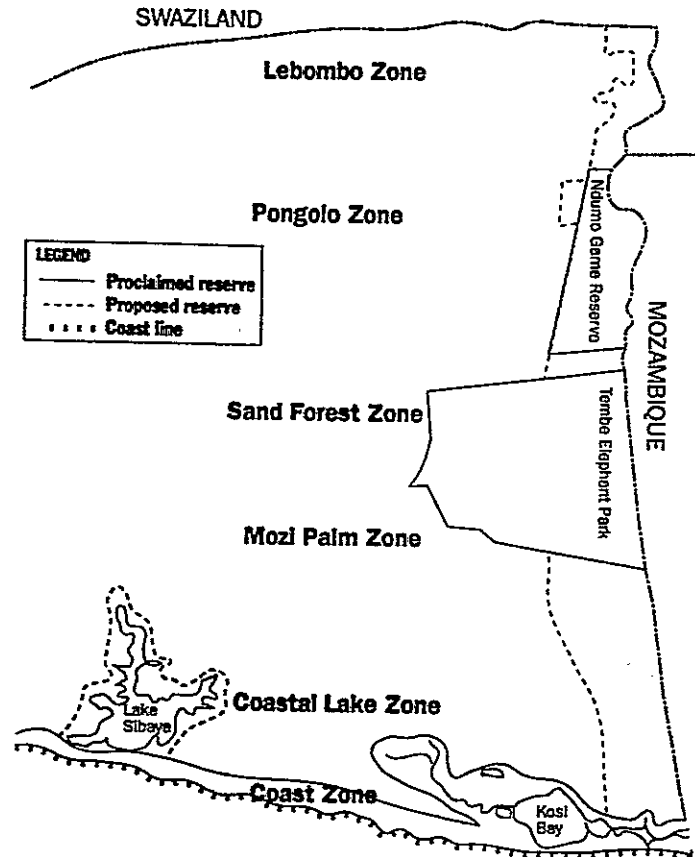
Ironically, the Tembe people are living on a potential tourist gold mine — easily more ecologically valuable and beautiful than the Kruger National Park.

The bureau has stated that the Tembe Tribal Authority, which presides over the community, would get 25 percent of all future tourist income.

But as long as the area is plagued with conflict, and negotiations continue to fail, consolidation of Maputaland reserves will remain a dream, and the region's potential for tourist growth will be stunted.

● Another tragedy of the Maputaland paradise is the spillover of the war raging in Mozambique.

Elephants in the Tembe Elephant Park have taken the



brunt of Renamo/Frelimo skirmishes, and many are walking around riddled with bullets.

When the northern boundary of the park was closed in 1989, 25 percent of the elephant bulls had visible wounds, and eight percent of the population was lost in one year.

The bureau says it is important to the elephants that the L-

shaped consolidated reserve comes about so they can once again gain access to flood plains and vegetation outside the boundaries of the park.

Consolidation between the Tembe Elephant Park and Ndumo Game Reserve would also cut off the Mbangweni Corridor, a gateway for gun and drug traffic from Mozambique.

Stock feed industry ³ General is warned

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Forecasts of increasing protein shortages demanded the urgent attention of all involved in the stock feed industry. Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said in Durban at the weekend. 6/02/90 3/9/90

Speaking at the Association of Animal Feeds' Representatives, he said projections indicated an expected shortage of 160 000 tons of fish meal and 505 000 tons of oil cake by the end of the century.

However, should the current rate of inflation, locally and abroad, be maintained fish meal would cost R3 750 a ton and oil cake R2 100 a ton. This meant a cost to SA of R1,7bn in foreign exchange.

Van Niekerk said an estimated world demand for feed protein by 2000 was 235-million tons. This could result in a global shortage of 60-million tons. There was a very real danger, therefore apart from the cost factor, it would be difficult if not impossible to acquire protein rich feeds abroad.

About 6-million tons of animal feeds manufactured each year represented consumer spending of about R3bn.



Proteas wilting before cruel cut

By DIRK TIEMANN

THE PROTEA, SA's national flower, which earned R25-million in exports last year, is wilting in international markets after transport subsidy cuts. (3) ~~Covered~~

The value of State subsidies last year was R7,6-million — R3,2-million for domestic transport and R4,4-million for the international legs. They have been cut to R3-million — and next April they will be abolished.

About 2 500 tons of fresh flowers were exported by air last year. Western Cape producers' contribution was large, but they face a problem. ~~Since 1970~~

They need subsidised transport from Cape Town to Johannesburg to compete with producers in the Transvaal who are near Jan Smuts Airport.

The domestic transport subsidy, based on a rating system for all feeder airports to Jan Smuts, has been halved this year. The subsidy differs according to distance.

Barry Gibson, director of Mountain Range Flora, a protea and Cape greens exporter, says he now pays 38c a kg extra for transport from Cape Town to Johannesburg.

Abolition of the airfreight subsidy to Europe adds to producer costs. Mr Gibson says the 14c a kg subsidy his company received served as a cushion. ~~It is~~

Delays (3)

"It partly covered our damage claims against international carriers which accept no liability for product damage through flight delays and other problems."

SA flower and fruit exporters face an EEC import tariff of 24% in the European summer and 17% in winter.

Mr Gibson says this winter's exports were the lowest on record because of resistance by importers faced with higher freight costs.

"We would like Cape Town to be a fully international airport because it offers a more direct route to Europe."

Cape Town and Durban also offer international flights, but only to London. Jan Smuts offers flights to other European and Far East destinations.

Fruit exporters face a similar dilemma. Most fruit can be shipped, but some cannot survive two weeks at sea. Air exports are also important early in the season, when it is vital that produce arrives in top condition.

This allows exporters to set a price for the rest of the season's crop which is carried by ship.

Black needs could derail white farmers' gravy train

(3) General

8/10am 11/9/70

THE mielie patch is only so big, and the demands of black farmers are going to place enormous strain on existing resources.

If the aspirations of black farmers are to be catered for, the gravy train for many white farmers has to be derailed.

White farmers have access at present to a number of institutions for loans and subsidies.

Commercial banks supply 28% of loans to Category 1 farmers who have unmortgaged assets and good credit.

At the end of last year, total debt owed to commercial institutions was R4bn.

The Land Bank supplies 21% of loans to Category 2 farmers who don't qualify for a loan from a commercial institution at 17,75% interest.

Farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for R3bn at the end of last year.

The agricultural co-operatives provide 25% of the loans and were owed R3,6bn at the end of last year.

The Agricultural Credit Board (ACB), which falls under the department of Agricultural Development,

The scrapping of the Land Acts, which have prevented blacks from owning title deeds to farming land in SA, is expected to take place next year, and spells radical change to government's agricultural policy. **EDYTH BULBRING** reports from Pretoria.

the white own affairs department, supplies 6% of all loans to those farmers that other institutions don't want to know.

The ACB, which provides loans at 8% interest to these Category 3 farmers was owed R1bn at the end of last year.

At the end of last year, total debt owed by white farmers was R14,7bn.

Once black farmers are able to own title deeds to property, they will be able to get loans at the Land Bank and the financial institutions, if they qualify and if they can afford the interest repayable on them.

Agricultural co-operatives are private institutions consisting of individual white farmers.

The decision as to whether the co-operatives will open their doors to black farmers will depend on these white farmers and it

is unlikely that the co-operatives in CP territory will do so.

However, the co-operatives are financed by farmers' levies and loans from the Land Bank at lower interest rates than the commercial institutions.

Subsidies and loans are then made available by the co-operatives to farmers at a higher interest and it will be up to the Land Bank to exert their influence on the co-operatives when providing finance.

The Land Bank provided R6,5bn in loans to co-operatives last year, and R3bn in loans to individual farmers.

Besides loans to buy land and finance production, black farmers will also need access to research and education facilities, low interest loans provided for by the ACB and the advantages of other support services facilitated by the Land Bank and the Department of Agricultural Development.

Some of the functions of the ACB, like its loan function, will be merged with the Land Bank. However, the ACB will still have to carry the burden of past financial commitments to white farmers.

From April 1 next year it will take no more responsibility for new loans.

The ACB provided over R292m in subsidies and R181m in loans covering 27 different kinds of schemes this financial year.

It provides assistance for more than 16 000 of the 78 000 white farmers and has 35 000 existing current accounts.

It also provides loans to farmers in designated areas (on the borders) at 4% interest.

The farmers can also get Land Bank loans at 17% of the ACB subsidises down to 4%.

While the ACB has entertained no new loans at 4% interest since March this year, to those farmers in the "territories" it will still have to honour existing loans.

The needs and demands of black farmers on existing resources is not only going to result in a radical reassessment of the distribution of these resources, it is also going to result in a reassessment of existing schemes.

Government has recently warned a number of times that subsidies were bad for the economy and would be cut back in all sectors.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis recently told the Transvaal Agricultural Union's annual meeting that farmers should be prepared to tighten their belts as financial assistance was not going to be doled out as easily as before.

LEGAL NOTICES

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Farmers warned they could lose statutory financing

2/10/90
6/9/90

GERALD REILLY (3) *copy*

PRETORIA — Statutory funding of industry, including the SA Agricultural Union and its affiliates, could disappear in a new SA, Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Bruwer warned yesterday.

At the TAU's annual conference Bruwer said it was vital that organised agriculture function in a more financially independent environment.

Agriculture could not ignore constitutional developments. A new constitutional structure which could accommodate all was being investigated. This had caused powerful division among whites, coloureds and blacks.

He stressed that political stability was needed.

The unrest and instability of the past few years had a dampening effect on the economy and had led to stagnation or decline economically and financially. SA could become the economic giant of the continent, provided constitutional and economic stability was achieved.

Bruwer said farmers had to look urgently at providing the consumer with the most affordable products.

However, it was vital they retained control of their products until they reached the consumer.

Bruwer warned that the communist yoke was being shrugged off in many countries and greater competition for farm products could be expected internationally.

Land Acts must go, says researcher

THE Land Acts restricted economic development in SA and their abolition should lay the ground for a R3bn action programme to promote rural development, the Urban Foundation said yesterday.

8 12 27 12/9/90
BY MATTHEW CURTIN

als for rural development were based on the premise that race was not an indicator of potential farming performance but access to land, skills and resources were.

A balance between economic efficiency and equity was essential for successful rural development.

The abolition of apartheid laws should be accompanied by a new legal mechanism to resolve land conflicts.

She said rural development was important because those South Africans with the lowest quality of life lived in rural areas.

In 1985, 37% of the population, 12-million people lived in rural areas, and while by the year 2000 only 30% would be rural dwellers, they would then number about 14-million.

It was not feasible to expect so many people to continue to survive on only 13% of the land.

Bernstein said the Urban Foundation proposed the funding of a development programme should be shared by the state and the private sector which the Foundation envisaged could raise R1,7bn on the private capital market.

Maasdorp said government's decentralisation policy was a failure and should be abandoned.

He said the policy was guided by ideological considerations — the promotion of homelands in SA — and marked by the abuse of government incentives, inefficiency and high opportunity costs.

About half of firms benefiting from government subsidies did not need incentives to ensure profitability, while the others were not profitable even with the subsidies.

See Page 10

Urban Foundation executive director for urbanisation Ann Bernstein said the repeal of the Group Areas Act and the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act as well as the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts was a vital step towards a new rural development policy for a future SA. Bernstein and Natal University economic research unit director Prof Gavin Maasdorp yesterday presented the two latest research and policy documents released by the Foundation and the Private Sector Council on Urbanisation (PSC) at a news conference in Johannesburg.

Bernstein said the PSC propos-

3 General

Share the land, says UF report

Sowetan 12/4/90

General
3

THE Urban Foundation has designed a multi-million rand rural land-redistribution plan for the repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts and the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

The plan, entitled "Rural development: towards a new framework", proposes the immediate removal of the last vestiges of apartheid to provide blacks, coloureds and Indians access to white-owned rural land.

An annual R330 million financial injection from the State and R1,7 billion from the private sector, spread over four years and earmarked for rural upliftment and the deracialisation of rural areas, has been recommended to the Government.

The foundation has also proposed interim laws to exclude whites from purchasing land in black and coloured areas.

The plan, if imple-

mented by the Government, will have a major impact on the future ownership of rural property.

Also involved in the project are business and civic leaders.

The report says millions of blacks have been denied access to land in the greater part of the country.

An estimated 50 000 white farmers own 70 percent of the rural land and produce three-quarters of the total agricultural output.

Thirteen percent of the rural land is worked by 700 000 black South Africans who produce six percent of the country's agricultural output.

Only 16 percent of black homeland farmers are able to feed their own populations, says the report.

Most homeland residents with agricultural land are only able to feed themselves and their families.

New legislation, says the report, should be introduced to provide equal

rights for rural farmworkers and offer equal opportunities to own or lease white-owned land.

A major step proposed is for rural towns, schools, local government and the infrastructure to be deracialised.

Small towns could play an important role as secondary educational centres for rural families of all races, the report recommends. - Sapa.

Urban Foundation unveils rural plan

Cap. Times 12/9/90 (36) 36 General

By BARRY STREEK

A R3-BILLION rural land redistribution plan, with the immediate repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Land Act and the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, was released yesterday by the Urban Foundation.

It said the racially divided system of rural development could not continue into the future and rural towns and facilities would have to be "de-racialised".

The plan, "Rural development: Towards a New Framework", which was published yesterday, calls for the immediate removal of the last vestiges of apartheid legislation to provide black, coloured and Asian South Africans access to white-owned rural land.

The foundation proposed this re-allocation of land be financed from an annual R330-million financial injection from the state and R1,7bn from private funding, spread over four years.

However, to protect black and coloured-owned land tracts, it said interim laws should be introduced to exclude whites from buying land in black and coloured regions.

The foundation's research was undertaken by the Private Sector Council on Urbanisation, and was based on more than 30 research papers.

It warned that "many people who have been dispossessed of their land or land rights due to racial laws believe they still have rightful claims to such lands in terms of more universal legal principles".

"These are claims that will have to be seriously ad-

dressed in a post-apartheid rural development policy."

The report outlined "land hunger" among black communities, both for communal grazing land and residential needs for millions of people "who have been denied access to land in the greater part of South Africa".

Both equity and efficiency required equal access to resources and opportunities in terms of the law.

Rural towns would have to be "deracialised", including schools, local government and infrastructures alike.

"Underutilised resources left by the net outflow of whites from many towns create ready opportunities for others to take residence and to expand their activities.

"In particular, small towns could play an important role as secondary educational cen-

tres for rural households of all races."

The need to enhance access to quality schooling in rural areas was a priority for legislative change, as was the repeal of the Group Areas Act.

The vast majority of blacks in rural regions lived at subsistence level.

New legislation should therefore be introduced to provide equal rights to the rural farm workers, with legal and labour rights similar to those of urban workers, equal opportunities to own or lease land, equal access to integrated educational facilities and equal access to the entire infrastructure, the report said.

● The government's decentralisation policies, which are costing taxpayers more than R800m a year, should be terminated as a matter of urgency, the Foundation said.

Stench, squalor - way of life in Zebediela

Sowetan 17/9/90

3 General

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE scene is at Zebediela, Africa's largest citrus estate. It is also a residential compound to many black workers.

About 10 women queue in a row to relieve themselves in a trench. Rain drops filter through the roofless structure.

Behind the trench, people fill their water containers from the only tap available. Flies and mosquitoes buzz from the trench.

The workers have been on strike since August 8, demanding higher wages and improvement in their living and working conditions.

They have also been striving for a recognition of their trade union.

Today they are set to march on President FW de Klerk's office in Pretoria to present a memorandum about their work place.

Zebediela nestles under small koppies about 60km north east of Potgietersrust. From the vantage point on the main road linking Lebowaqomo with the town, the view below is quiet inviting.

In spring, the green vegetation of the orange trees contrast with the last harvest of ripe oranges and the blossoming crop, to create a scene, good enough to evoke a poetic reaction.

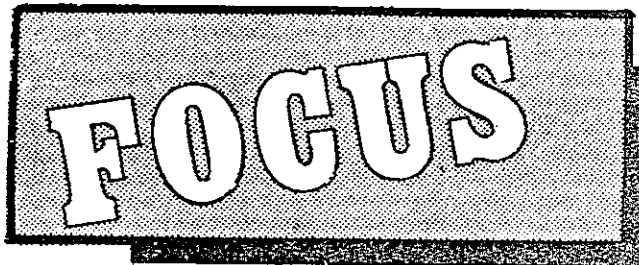
Conditions

But, as you move in to be confronted by the squalor, to the poverty and the dilapidated houses for the workers, coupled with the cry from the heart by workers who say they cannot survive on R120 per month, the poetry changes from the *Daffodils* of William Wordsworth to the lament of Ingoapele Madingoane.

Here are conditions that are reminiscent of the medieval times.

More than 15 000 workers are housed in rondavels whose roofs are easily penetrated by the drops of rain.

A study of the conditions at the estate, commissioned by the Black Lawyers Association (BLA), and



carried out by the Pretoria-based industrial relations expert Mr Louis Khumalo, claimed that management had refused to meet even the most basic worker demands over a long period.

Repeated appeals by workers, as documented in minutes of several meetings, for the installation of a communal tap have been turned down by the management, who instead suggested that "employees get their water for domestic use from a tap which was being used to flush the trench toilets, where there are large green flies", the reports states.

Khumalo found that "critical matters such as the renovation of houses was postponed at every meeting for over six months and finally disappeared from the agenda".

He also found that the system of employment and wage determination was "totally mixed up, and combined factors which were divorced from each other". These include:

- * Payment for days worked per month, leading to what is known as the long month - with 23 days - and the short month - with 21 days.

- * Quotas of orange bags to be sealed which are determined by the variety and age of the trees.

- * Probation periods which are not monitored, leading to workers remaining at a probation wage scale of R7.13 per day for over a year.

- * Discrimination based on race and sex, with whites living in unbelievable luxury, only a stone's throw away from the black squalor.

- * Although the official working hours are from 6am to

4.30pm, most workers work up to 9pm on a regular basis.

Khumalo also found that a wage increase, implemented unilaterally in April had been unanimously rejected by the workers. But their protests were ignored by management.

After describing the conditions of houses, where men, women and their children sleep on bare floors in huts highly-infested with cockroaches, Khumalo said he took a walk to orchards.

Increases

"They are 90 percent cleaner than the black residential areas".

The estate is run by the South African Development Trust, a division of the Department of Development Aid. The State President is the trustee of the SADT.

The workers went on strike last year demanding wage increases and union recognition.

After a month of bitter war, which left many injured after police and their dogs were called in, and after a successful Supreme Court application by the workers, management agreed to a R30 increase for all.

The Supreme Court also ordered that a new contract of employment be negotiated between management and the worker representatives.

The management has, however, refused to deal with the workers union, the Nactu-affiliated National Union of Farm Workers.

This has meant that all negotiations had to be done through lawyers, paid by the BLA.

The new contract of employment was to have been concluded

before the end of October last year but management did not respond to requests for meetings, according to BLA litigation officer and instructing attorney, Mrs Dolly Mokgatle.

Workers saw this as a result of the fact that picking season was still far and a strike at the time was not only out of question but would have been ineffective.

After a strike this year, Mrs Mokgatle sent a memo to De Klerk asking him to intervene or meet the worker representatives, to discuss the matter.

So far no response has been forthcoming from the state president's office.

De Klerk's Press secretary told Sowetan last Friday that he was not aware of the memo.

The workers are demanding a minimum wage increase of 60 percent across the board, R500 per month, a new contract of employment and the recognition of their union.

The strike has received international support from the Anti-Apartheid Movement in London, which has mounted pickets outside the South African Embassy.

Union official, Mr Moss Mphahlele, said the union was today also launching a campaign against oranges.

Support

"We want people to ask themselves whether eating oranges, produced under such conditions when the workers are on strike is support for the workers or for management.

"Naturally we want people to support our workers and we are marching to de Klerk to say to him 'show us your reform at Zebediela,'" he added.

Whether this will result in any significant change to the conditions of the workers is a matter for discussion.

But what is beyond question, is the fact that history will be made today when this large group of workers, will confront the Head of State to demand what is rightfully theirs.

(3) General
**Farmers on
clash course
with govt**

Business Day Reporter

PRETORIA — Transvaal farmers are on course for a clash with government on the issue of land security in any new dispensation negotiated with the ANC and other black groups.

This and other major grievances would be raised at a mass meeting of Transvaal farmers organised by the Transvaal Agricultural Union in the Pretoria City Hall on October 5, a TAU member said. 10 am 14/9/90

TAU president Dries Bruwer indicated at last week's annual conference of his organisation that they had come away from last month's agricultural summit convinced government either had little understanding of the massive problem facing farmers, or was ignoring them.

What angered farmers at the summit was government's tough new approach to aid for the distressed agricultural industry.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis indicated there that indiscriminate aid was out and that in future aid applications would be assessed strictly on merit.

On the land issue, the TAU is opposed to blacks taking over or buying into white farm lands, and the repeal of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 which would make this possible.

B 10 am 14/9/90
**Capacity grows to
process cotton crop**

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The SA textile industry's spinning capacity expanded to cope with the expected potential crop, Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers said yesterday.

Speaking to cotton producers at Potgietersrus, he said local textile industrialists were hesitant to enlarge existing capacity because of the low return on capital and costly equipment needed to achieve capital expansion.

To install a net plant R415m would be needed. At the tempo of expansion SA would soon reach a stage of self-sufficiency.

De Villiers said to cope with additional production an investment of about R180m in local industries would be necessary. The Cotton Board's policy would have to stimulate further investment by industrialists to cater for longer term interests.

Increased protection for the industry and the new export incentive measures could create a better climate for expansion.

Since 1985, world production of cotton went up in four successive years. Due to a sharp increase in world use, international stocks began to decline from 1986 which resulted in a stiffening of prices. The expectation was that stocks should go up and prices would again decline.

De Villiers said the quality of SA cotton was generally higher than world standards, because most local production was picked by hand.

The entire cotton production was processed locally. Last year a record crop of 388 300 bales was produced; 1990's crop amounted to about 300 000 bales, he added.

B 10 am 14/9/90
Union seeks meeting on sailors

CAPE TOWN — The Food and Allied Workers' Union wants to meet Taiwan's local representatives over Taiwan's offer to compensate frostbitten sailors.

Fawu spokesman Nosey Pieterse said yesterday it also wanted to meet SA government officials to discuss legal protection for offshore workers, the "crisis in the fishing industry" and "future Taiwanese investments".

Taiwan's consulate-general in Cape Town, Tom Chou, said on Wednesday his government would "remunerate" families of SA sailors disabled by frostbite.

Pieterse said: "It would be naive to believe the Taiwanese government is committed to ending the human misery on their trawlers and stopping the plundering of our seas." The union wanted to discuss proper compensation for the injured workers, insurance, and safe working conditions. — Sapa. 13/9/90

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THE WEEKLY MAIL, September 14 to September 20 1990 9

By JO-ARNE COLLINGE

A RURAL development proposal which fails to grasp the stinging nettle of land reform is a curiosity in this age of political transition. But the Urban Foundation — in collaboration with the Private Sector Council — has created just such a curiosity. In a 72-page document which argues that racial land law from 1913 onward destroyed the black farming class, reduced many people to landlessness, formed the basis of the policy of forced population removals and contributed to the deterioration of the homelands, the Urban Foundation makes an informed argument for the repeal of the land Acts and the Group Areas Act. But the report, "Rural Development: Towards a New Framework", stops abruptly short of creating this legal vacuum and entrusting to the newly opened land market the initial tasks of non-racial land allocation.

Urban Foundation fails to grasp land reform nettle

The break in the reform logic is made all the more curious in the light of the foundation's own primary (and probably unequalled) research on the poverty of black farmers, suggesting that access to the "free" land market is well beyond the reach of all but a very few. "The removal of existing legislative constraints on access to the key resource (in rural development), land, is the necessary first step," the UF report argues. "The abolition of all discriminatory legislation is therefore an urgent prerequisite. However, this should be undertaken in such a way as to retain, as an interim measure, the aspects of defining land tenure in the homelands and the 'coloured reserve areas'." The idea of this latter provision is to prevent the wealthy — either black or white — from gobbling up land accessi-

ble in a limited way to the poorer sections of the community by means of "traditional" land tenure. The UF acknowledges that "there is, for example, no 'unoccupied' land in South Africa and as rural development and change progresses there will be conflicting land claims". In line with more trenchant land reformers, it concedes the need for a mechanism to adjudicate conflicting land claims. "Such a procedure would ensure a fair judicial process accessible to the poor, capable of handing down legally binding judgments in respect of conflicting claims in relation to settlement and ownership issues," the report states. But it ventures no views on the nature of conflicting claims; their historical basis and their status in terms of legal

codes less blinkered than those developed under apartheid. Likewise, the Foundation, which is noted as a champion of private property rights, goes no further than calling for a moratorium on "black spot" removals and for the threat of such removals to be lifted. "Care should be taken that the basis on which the reprieve is granted is not arbitrary in the sense that it could be capriciously withdrawn." Similarly, tenant farming in the form of cash rental, share-cropping and labour tenancy, is acknowledged as "fairly widespread" despite attempts by the state to put an end to it. The report observes that although tenancy acquired a negative image among many black South Africans "it nevertheless allowed some to obtain a foothold on the land and they have vigorously resist-

ed attempts to put an end to this system and to evict them from the farms". Tenant farmers are, in the UF report, regarded not primarily in the light of claimants to land title but as tenants in perpetuity whose grievances would be addressed in terms of "a specific body of tenants' rights legislation". The UF considers that rural development cannot be pursued in isolation from the process of political negotiation and states that the "widest possible consultation with rural interest groups" is necessary. Nevertheless it views rural and land reform in phases rather than as a comprehensive package, bound by a single overarching set of principles. As it presently stands there is little in the Foundation's position on land reform to distinguish it from the National Party policy. The government has made it clear that the land Acts will go in the near future. President FW de Klerk said so in almost as many words to an agricultural summit late last month. "Naturally we must also ensure that opportunities for private ownership of land are extended to all South Africans without prejudice to established rights," said De Klerk. But he also stated: "I have committed myself to the position that land ownership in South Africa will be organised on the basis of 'kaart en transport' ('map and transport' — implying full title deed) and private possession. It is an important principle that we dare not depart from. "I want to assure you as the farming community that we have no intention to negotiate about your land. Your 'kaart en transport' are safe."

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⑤ your

Nationalise the laws not the land

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(3) casual

AND reform? "Nationalise!" urges African National Congress constitutional expert Albie Sachs. Nationalise not the land itself but the law that governs land occupation and use, and strip this law of the notions of race privilege and sovereignty.

"For those who quake and shake merely at seeing the word nationalisation, let it be stated firmly that nationalising the land law does not presuppose either nationalising the land or nationalising the legal profession but simply ensuring that South Africa has a single, or national law governing the question of land rights, so that issues are looked at not in terms of race but in terms of interests and values of importance to the country as a whole," he explains in a recently published paper, "Rights to the land: a fresh look at the property question".

Sachs points out that South Africa presently has two completely different and unequal sets of land law. "Land law for whites was based on private property, registration of transactions in relation to land ownership proved by certificate of title and demarcated plots. Land could be leased or used as security for loans by means of mortgages. The owner as property-owner was sovereign, a little king or queen over such land as was registered in his or her name.

In fact, this control over land also meant control of people on the land, granting to white landowners a "double sovereignty".

In contrast, black land "was state-owned and controlled. Access to such land was governed by a system of grants, rigid laws of succession and supervision by government-appointed or recognised chiefs. Occupiers could grow food there, erect houses and, subject to controls, keep livestock on it."

Black people on white land remain there at the precarious goodwill of the owner, at whose whim a black farmer born on the land (as his parents before him) can be turned into a squatter or trespasser.

Argues Sachs, if the "issue of sove-

Existing land Acts should be replaced with a 'property law' which embraces human rights principles, argues ANC constitutional expert Albie Sachs.

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

reignty is to be got out of the way and the real question of how the land should be owned and worked reached", nationalisation of land law is necessary.

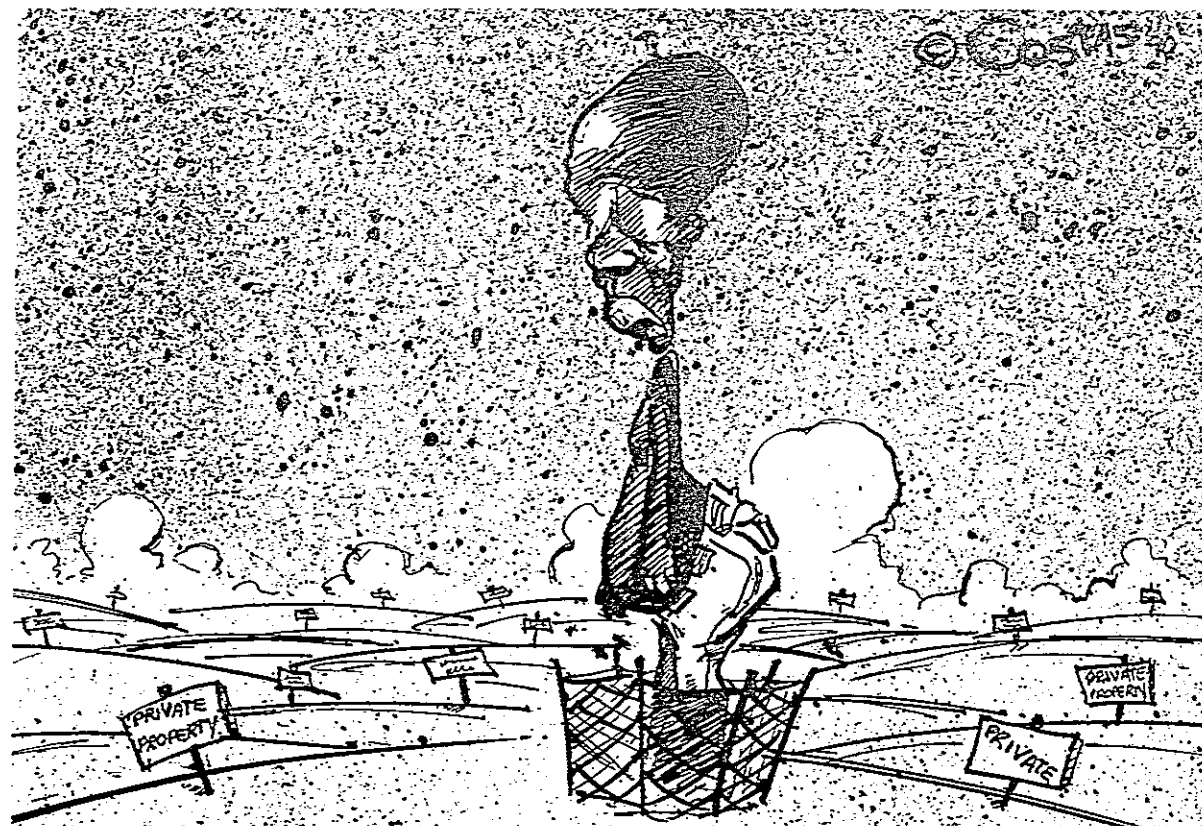
What he refers to is a law which goes infinitely further than abolishing racial land restrictions, such as the Land Act and the Group Areas Act. It is a code of law which reaches beyond the "hard legalism" of English law and embraces a humane concept of rights, embraced in a Bill of Rights.

"The whole question of property as a human right has been turned inside out in South Africa. The issue is presented as though the one fundamental human right in relation to property is the right not to have your title deed impugned. All other aspects, your right to a home, to security, to independence, are ignored if you do not possess the title deed."

In sum, says Sachs, "In South Africa, property law is completely out of tune with human rights principles. In fact, far from property law being one of the foundations of human rights, it is one of the bastions of rightlessness".

He pleads that "all those most directly connected with the land should be given the chance to participate actively in the processes so that those who are seriously committed to maintaining good farming, whatever their background, have the chance to make their contribution".

Of the enduring social values enshrined in the notion of property, Sachs



singles out for special examination the notion of freedom to contract in relation to property — and demonstrates how apartheid has perverted this.

"The principal objective of the Land Act was to prevent blacks from entering into contracts of sale or lease. Contracts which blacks have solemnly made with white landowners, such as sharecropping arrangements or agreements for labour tenancy — tenacious attempts under conditions of unequal bargaining power to establish continuing legal connection with the land — were later deliberately and directly undermined by successive apartheid statutes."

The same government which did all this, now seeing a possible threat to white-owned property, invoked the virtues of respecting vested property rights and the "neutral" processes of the "free" market.

This paradox is but one aspect of the illegitimacy of the present land-holding pattern — and the basic challenge at this time, argues Sachs, is legitimisation of

land-holding, not one of collectivisation or parcelisation.

"Security, independence, the binding nature of contracts and continuity of rights — this is what black farmers are demanding. The issue they are raising is not whether to have large traditionally organised communal farms, or modern-type co-operatives, or small family farms, but whether to acknowledge their concrete and usurped rights to property."

The issue is to delve beyond the title deeds and to look at the historical and present claims people have to the land in terms of abiding values, in terms of contracts ruptured by apartheid.

"Where shared values exist and a shared commitment to and involvement with a particular piece of land exists, there is no reason in principle why the law should not be adapted so as to cater for and protect such shared interests."

Share-cropping and labour tenancy were in the past examples of such shared

arrangements — albeit a very unequal sharing.

The mechanism which Sachs — along with others — advocates, is the establishment of a Land Court which would mediate contending rights for ownership and occupancy, make awards in these terms and rule on compensation for parties with lesser claims.

The fundamental question, Sachs observes, will be to set up criteria which the Land Court will use when adjudicating claims. And although self-interest might blur the vision of farmers in attempts to elicit criteria from them, "it is not impossible to conceive of farmers agreeing to a kind of compact which corresponds to the realities of a country in transition, seeks to minimise unnecessary disruption, gives everybody something and is consistent with widely accepted values in relation to property."

Factors such as birthright, occupation, productive use of the land, inheritance and title — both ancient and current — could be weighed in the balance.

"Thus, in a case where a white farmer, born and bred on the farm and dedicated to its development, is awarded full title, black claimants would receive compensation which could take the form of other land or of financial support for the acquisition of land."

Where black farmers — perhaps labour tenants for generations — were awarded a farm over the claim of the white title holder, the latter would be compensated.

The finiteness of land (which unlike votes cannot be extended in accordance with demand) and the intensity of feeling (in many cases) that both the owners and the dispossessed feel for the land makes imperative an answer which avoids the recreation of a cycle of dispossession.

"True sharing of the land," observes Sachs, "as in the case of true sharing of the country or of power, is not essentially a spatial or quantitative matter, an issue of quotas, but a question of values and interests."

Let mines and farms use land, says study

BIPUM 19/9/90

(3) general

EDYTH BULBRING

PRETORIA — A report on the long-term effects of high-recovery coal mining on agriculture in the Transvaal's eastern Highveld has concluded that the resources cannot be reserved for the exclusive use of either agriculture or mining.

The report, by a committee under the chairmanship of Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk, has been accepted in principle by the Cabinet.

It recommended that resources in the area be jointly utilised, administered and protected for the benefit of the country as a whole.

It was understandable that mining activities taking place in the region were regarded by the established farming community as a growing threat, the committee found.

Problems

But given the right management and good understanding, the greatest economic benefits for the country could be obtained from co-existence, said the report.

The mining industry, the generation of electricity and the petrochemical industry played an important role in the economic upliftment of the area, the creation of jobs and the application of decentralisation.

In general, the mining industry displayed great responsibility regarding the environment, especially as far as the rehabilitation of mined areas was concerned, the committee found.

Problems that had to receive immediate attention were the effects of mining on the production potential of land.

The production capacity of agricultural land that was disturbed because of mining activities was affected because important characteristics, such as effective depth, water-holding capacity, fertility and stability, were involved.

Under certain conditions conventional farming was no longer possible and alternative methods had to be considered.

Other problems were the salination and water-logging of agricultural land, control of water run-off and soil erosion.

An important reason for the confrontation between landowners and mining companies was the lack of proper communication between the two parties.

Another problem was the rehabilitation of land disturbed by open-cast mining. But it was found that the direct detrimental effect of coal mining on agriculture in the eastern Highveld was not as extensive and destructive as expected.

Various proposals on the rehabilitation and further utilisation of mined agricultural land were made in the report. The committee felt conflict between miners and farmers would have been reduced by an information programme.

The committee recommended establishing an agricultural development centre at Ermelo to deal with agricultural problems in the area.

Black traders threaten to boycott abusive farmers

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

BLACK traders have threatened to boycott white farmers who give them a raw deal by selling live chickens with broken wings and legs at high prices and without any discount.

Business people claim that some of the farmers use abusive language and threaten to shoot them whenever they return the poultry and demand refunds.

A trader, who is a member of the Soweto Poultry Association, Mr Johannes Mphuthi, told *Sowetan Business* this week that most white farmers took advantage of black traders by selling them inferior stock, knowing full well that

some of them would not complain for fear of reprisals.

They experienced difficulties when buying in bulk - 1 800 - 2 000 chickens every week - because the farmers made them to wait in long queues before selling to them.

Poor

The service was poor and traders carrying huge amounts of money were at risk.

On many occasions, he added, they found the chickens had broken wings and legs. Some were not fit for human consumption.

When the buyers complained about the condition of the birds, the farmers threatened to assault them and often referred to them as "stubborn kaf-firs".

"On one occasion a farmer set his dogs on to me, but I escaped by running to my car that was parked near the selling point," Mphuthi said.

"I never went back to that farmer again because I was disgusted with his behaviour," he said.

The situation has not changed with many of the farmers regarding themselves as "the gods of business", through their

intolerable behaviour.

"We have talked to some of them about their attitude, but our complaints have fallen on deaf ears. We are left with no option but to boycott their businesses."

A member of the Poultry Association, Mr Rynders Marais, said that they had received complaints from black traders and were investigating them.

Careless

He said that wings and legs were often broken when transferred from batteries to crates and then to the various destinations.

It was often not the farmers fault, he said, but carelessness caused by workers.

Marais was not away of threats of assaults on black traders by farmers. He said if there were any they should be forwarded to the association.

Many of their members had different attitudes and business skills also differed.

He will submit a report to the executive of the association at their next meeting, soon and then report to the black traders.

The talk down on the farm . . .

3 Grand Nov 22/9/90

THE irreversible march towards a new South Africa is producing a profound effect on the thinking of South Africa's farmers.

The views on the future of farming under a possible black government vary between farmers who are appalled by the prospect, claiming it would finally destroy the already-battered viability of commercial farming, and others who predict a new era of prosperity as the world's markets open once again to all the foodstuffs and raw materials that can be produced on South African farms.

Both their concern and their optimism came to light in a random opinion survey.

Future

"I will welcome such a government as it will get the world off our backs and give our products free access to all the markets now denied to us," says the most confident among those interviewed, Villiers de Villiers, of Nantes Farm, Paarl, in the south-western Cape.

"I am convinced that farming in this country will have a tremendous future under the democratic government now envisaged in the new South Africa. Everyone, both black and white, fully realises that people will always have to eat and clothe themselves. This means simply that the farmer is an indispensable component of the population.

"Even President Mugahe of Zimbabwe, who is a dedicated Marxist, realised this since he came to power and wisely retrained from interfering with the farmer's task of producing food and raw materials."

Mr de Villiers bases his conclusion on his own experience. For many years before South Africa's international isolation his farm exported between 50 and 60 pedigree bulls a year to countries such as Kenya and Mozambique.

"Under a democratic black

How will the new SA affect agriculture?

GEORGE NICHOLAS

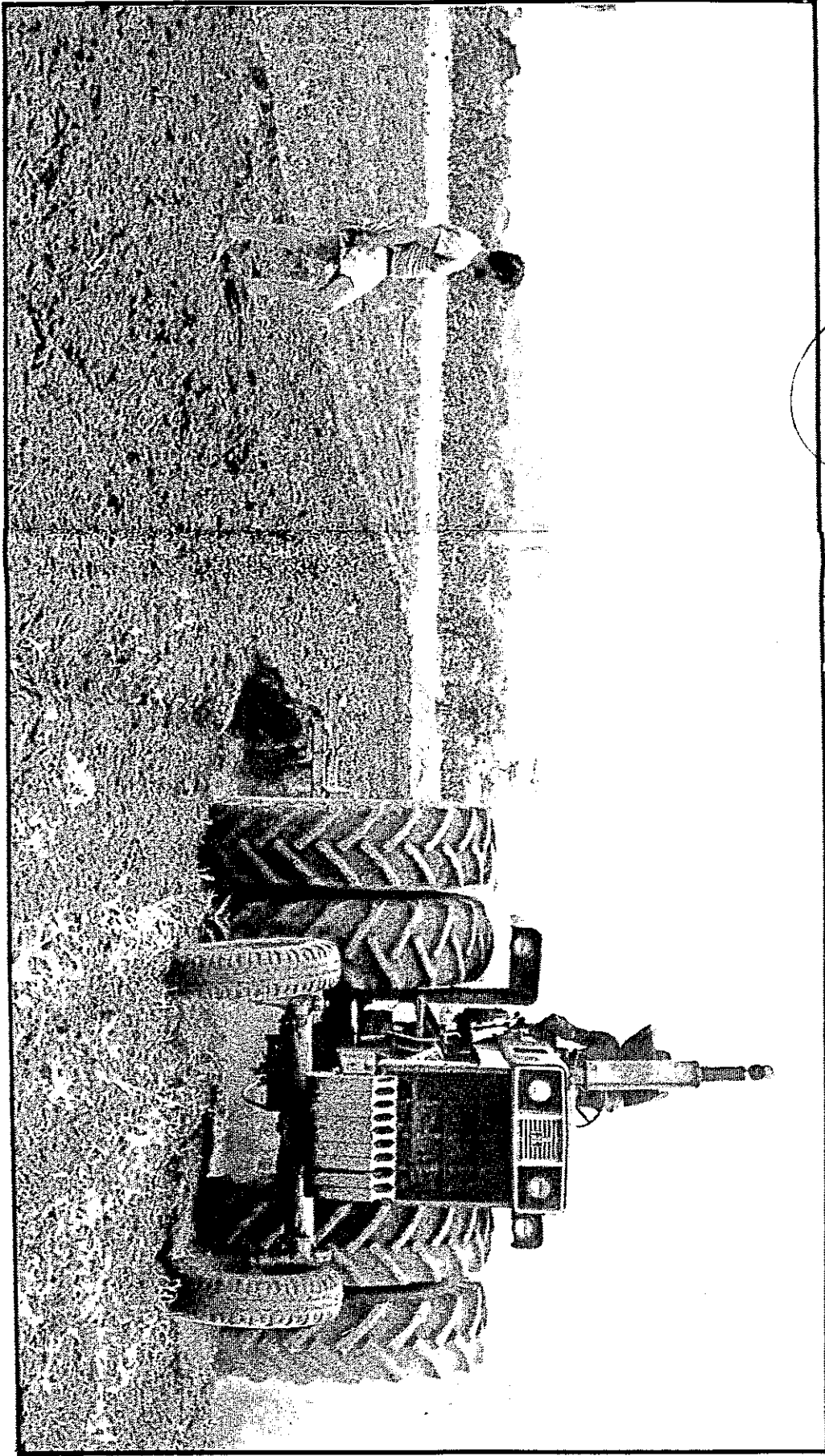
government we will regain our traditional markets and enter new ones and in consequence our commercial farmers will again begin to prosper", he says.

Mr de Villiers says some farmers fear their land may be taken away for allocation to tribal farmers. This, he maintains, is a fallacy. If there were one subject fully understood by Africans, he says, it is farming and its significance to the well-being of everyone.

"But I will fully support any measures that may be taken by a black government to acquire the large expanses of land bought by land farmers simply to escape taxation. The black population needs more land and will have the moral right to take over unproductive farms and ranches", he adds.

But Wilco Beukes, of Rietpan farm, Lichtenburg, in the western Transvaal, is less confident. "I am deeply troubled about our future," he says. "Throughout Africa tribal farmers through the ages applied the socialist concept to agriculture and they are unlikely to make a sudden change.

"In their communal farming system a dozen or more tribesmen occupy a farm and no single person will accept the responsibility of running the land sensibly and productively. As a result no attention is paid to conservation principles and inevitably land deterioration takes place.



WORKABLE LAND? As the new South Africa gets nearer, farmers' views of the future seem divided between great optimism and great pessimism.

ment of small farming units for tribal farmers and they would obviously have to be given access to the infrastructures, such as grain silos and co-operatives, already established by the white farming communities with their own capital.

"This could only lead to economic chaos, with everyone losing out in the end. The agricultural history of the Ivory Coast and other African countries confirm my view. The pattern has repeated itself to such an extent that even in Zimbabwe and Botswana calls are already being made for the abolition of the communal system in favour of private ownership of land. . . . I appreciate that more land

will have to be made available to blacks, but this should be done in such a way to ensure that they will not threaten the viability of established commercial farms or the agricultural economy as a whole."

A more moderate view is taken by Llewellyn Labuschagne, of Rio Farm, Tzaneen, in the northern Transvaal.

Lesson

"My impression is that I will be able to continue to compete with my products in an unregulated free-market system, in which case I will have nothing to fear," he says.

"I think the world, and espe-

cially Africa, has learnt the lesson of a purely socialist system. The emphasis placed nowadays on the importance of democracy in South Africa inspires me with confidence that our traditional free enterprise system will continue, and that we will be able to carry on unhindered with our task of producing for both the internal and overseas market."

Mr Labuschagne has one reservation, however, and that is that on no account should land be nationalised or fragmented into small uneconomic units.

Less optimistic about his future as a farmer is Andre Pretorius, of Grinton Beck Farm, Nottingham Road, in Natal.

"The troubles experienced in Natal in recent times have clearly indicated a lack of stability reasoning among the tribes and even among factions within the tribes. This instability has already had a most harmful effect on agriculture."

"People find that the friction among their leaders has caused their earnings to drop or, in the case of strikes and boycotts, to disappear totally, and this has had a most detrimental effect on their buying power.

"The first to feel the effect has been the farmer. Because of the disturbances, tens of thousands of Africans have little or no money to buy basic foodstuffs and the resultant sharp drop in

the demand for agricultural products, such as meat, has caused a severe setback to farming. Since last year, for instance, the depleted demand for mutton has forced the price to drop by about 20 percent, with disastrous consequences to the economy of sheep production.

"I cannot see the tribes and factions resolving their differences within the next five to 10 years. The opinion chasm among them is too wide. Nor can I see them able to administer law and order with firmness and responsibility. And all this presents a bleak scenario for the future of the farmer and his industry."

Anthony Evans, of Hunters-

lei, Bothaville, in the heart of the northern Free State maize belt, confirms there is general concern among farmers about their future but he says this concern is not due to political developments.

Prosperity

"Their concern has relevance only to fundamental economic issues. They are deeply worried about their escalating input costs, inflation, high interest rates and other factors militating against the viability of their enterprises.

"Although in the new dispensation fresh export markets may open for South African agriculture, such a development will not necessarily bring about instant prosperity or solve our economic problems. We will have to compete with the products marketed by farmers in other countries and hence rivalry is inevitable," he says.

"I am not worried about the introduction of a democratic constitution resulting in a black government, but I am deeply concerned about the agricultural policy such a government will decide upon and implement."

The last word on the subject comes from north-eastern Cape farmer Andries Pienaar, of Klipplaatfontein, Colesberg.

"The crux of any good government is efficiency and integrity. At the moment South Africa needs statesmen, not politicians, people with vision who think with their brains and not with their hearts. It does not matter what government is in power, so long as the free enterprise system in a fair democracy is upheld," he says.

Mr Pienaar says the only word that really causes worry to white farmers is nationalisation, which he rejects as a totally unacceptable system.

"The time for pettiness and grievances is past. We must all appreciate each other's qualities and move forward in a disciplined South Africa that could become a world leader, catering for the needs of all countries."

Nov 24 1970

'Hand over control boards'

By Michelle Maliepaard

DURBAN — Hand over the agricultural control boards to their current managers and let them run as profit-making organisations, says Leon Louw, director of the Free Market Foundation.

He told an Agricultural Economists Association of South Africa conference in Durban recently that the only way to make farming profitable was to deregulate the whole industry.

"The control boards should be changed into marketing and promotions consultancies, and the farmers should have freedom of association," he said.

To do this the people now working in these organisations should be given the option to buy preferential shares at low

prices.

General
"It has been proved in many countries that socialism and government control inhibits economic success, and the less an industry is regulated the more likely it is to succeed."

Referring to ownership of land he said it was not true that blacks owned only 13 percent of the land in South Africa.

"In fact, they own no land at all — their respective Governments own the land, and this is one of the reasons why they have not been very successful farmers.

"There is enough land owned by the Government which can be sold off without interfering with the current white land ownership or worrying about redistribution," he said.

Time to reap a new harvest

5/11/90
16/9/90
THE cities, it is true, are the crucibles of change in South Africa.

But this focus on the cities has tended to divert attention away from our countryside. This is a great pity because these areas ensure South Africa's food self-sufficiency and help earn desperately needed foreign revenue. More than 11-million South Africans live and work in rural areas.

The stereotypical picture of South African agriculture is of big, mechanised and efficient farms — competing with the best in the world in terms of productivity per unit capital and labour.

That picture is not completely or even nearly correct and the Urban Foundation's Rural Development paper, released this week, goes a long way to proving the urgent need for a completely new approach to agriculture.

There are two central myths that need to be dispelled.

The first myth is that bigger is better. It may be of some pride that 36 percent of all the tractors on the continent and 64 percent of the combine harvesters are in South Africa.

Debt

Yet we should not be dazzled by machines and chemicals. Mechanisation is expensive and in an inflation-susceptible country like South Africa input costs are soaring.

The consequence, compounded by drought, floods, a weak agricultural financing policy and fluctuating world commodity prices, is a spiralling debt burden on the commercial — read "white" — farming sector.

White farmers are poorer now in real terms than they were 10 years ago. They owe R14-billion and the Government has made it quite clear that it can no longer afford massive bail-outs.

Conversely, extensive experience in other countries indicates that small-scale farming using appropriate technology can in fact be highly produc-

Brian Pottinger looks at prospects for a silent farming revolution in the wake of a seminal Urban Foundation report

tive. The small peasant farmer, far from being a clod-hopping ignoramus, is revealed as a shrewed operator making continuous judgments on expenditure of capital and labour.

Does this mean that all big South African farms should suddenly be converted to small units?

Not at all. Some sectors, the sugar industry for example, are models of good housekeeping and viability. Besides, commercial agriculture is vital for feeding our people and is one of the largest sectoral contributors to exports.

Nationalisation, expropriation and state enterprises sound grand in policy proposals by groups such as the ANC and PAC, but all over the world they have proved only successful, as the saying goes, in creating an equality of misery — not opportunity.

The answer is rather to carve a niche in South African agriculture for small farmers to begin taking up the slack created by ailing, over-capitalised commercial farming.

Where are these small, or emergent, farmers to come from?

That raises the question of the second great myth: that black South Africans are not natural farmers. The reality is that small, and even commercial, black farmers thrived in various parts of the country from the middle of the 19th century onwards. It was mainly discriminatory laws that converted them into wage-earners.

The Urban Foundation's Rural Development policy paper suggests a number of measures to help this sec-

tor get on its feet. The first, obvious, step is to scrap the laws which prevent black ownership of "white" farmland. That in itself is not enough given the enormous backlog in opportunity.

What is needed is an extension of existing farmer support programmes, the creation of "special agricultural areas" where emergent farmers can be settled and assisted to viability, educational resources, lease of state-owned land to graziers, improvements in infrastructure, the growth of small towns.

The major question, as always, is where does the money come from?

Surveys by the foundation have suggested a total amount of nearly R3-billion — of which R1,2-billion would come from the state — over a four-year period. This would settle 2 500 farmers on substantial farms and support 200 000 small farmers.

Although not discussed in detail in the foundation report, recent international research indicates there is considerable opportunity for deposit mobilisation among rural poor (even more so in the informal urban sector in South Africa).

Sudden

Great success has also been achieved through co-operative buying schemes for emergent farmers — provided the right checks against loan defaults are instituted.

More to the point — the multiplier effect in agriculture is higher than in any other enterprise. For every one farmer that is established there are many more provided with job opportunities. All of this adds up to more opportunities for small black entrepreneurship.

There can be no sudden leap to a new farming system.

But it is very clear that we must right now start planning the farming system that must serve our country into the next century.

Land Act's demise will do little to help black farmers

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The demise of the racially discriminatory Land Acts and new Government support for land ownership within a free market is likely to do little toward halting the eviction of black tenant farmers from the Natal countryside.

Furthermore, many people feel that even if the new South Africa helps blacks buy their own land, the Government's urbanisation policy is dedicated to sweeping most rural blacks into urban areas where they cannot farm.

"The black people will have to understand that 90 percent of them will have to be urbanised, leaving 10 percent on the land," says Mr Jurie Mentz, the Nationalist MP for Vryheid and chairman of the Consolidation Commission.

"In another few years they will be urbanised, and that process must go on and will go on and cannot be stopped."

A three-day visit

across Northern Natal last week found scores of tenants facing eviction from white farms: Hundreds were already displaced and living in shacks or Red Cross tents in impoverished resettlement camps near Ladysmith, Colenso and Vryheid.

Some traced their evictions to white farmers' switching from crops and cattle to game preserves or forestry, a switch often coinciding with purchase of the farm by a new owner.

Blame

Others said their landlords blamed them for erosion by overgrazing.

Most of the displacements appeared to have occurred after the statutory three months' notice and few seemed illegal under laws that favour white property-owners.

"Nobody evicts them; it's the magistrate who decides," said Mr Mentz.

Those laws will not change and it is difficult to see how tenants' eviction from the land will

be eased under President de Klerk's embrace last month of a colour-blind, "willing-seller, willing-buyer" system that will replace the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

The Acts reserved 86 percent of South Africa's land for whites only.

Mr Mentz said he expected the Land Acts to be scrapped by Parliament next year and replaced by the free market system.

But northern Natal black farmers have worked under a land tenancy system (no longer sanctioned by the State) that leaves them without any capital, the staple of free markets.

The tenants own next to nothing. Few evictees at the camp at Weenen, for example, had more than the clothes on their back and some cooking utensils.

Those still on farms had goats and cattle — one man called cattle "the people's walking bank".

But if they suffer the standard displacement tale, they will be forced to sell the livestock at

rock-bottom prices in preparation for their new home, a crowded resettlement camp without grazing land.

Thus, the freedom to buy land will mean nothing to them, said Mr Richard Clacey of the Association for Rural Advancement, an advocacy group for rural blacks.

"How many of the people you've seen could afford a R200 000 farm?" Mr Clacey asked.

He said the Government knew "full well that the economy has been shaped in such a way that the imbalances in the economic system will perpetuate the inequity we have now.

"Without an affirmative land policy, they won't go anywhere in addressing the land problem of the poor".

Mr Mentz emphasised that the vast number of black rural folk would be whittled down severely under Government policy that would channel blacks to cities.

If the blacks were not contented with the rural resettlement areas and could not buy other land

they preferred, they would be given a stand and shelter in an urban area.

"The reason people stay on the land is to produce food for you," he said. "In South Africa, as in other countries, no more than 90 percent of the population need stay on the farms."

Last word from Zwenibi Mvelase, who is under threat of eviction by new farm owners at Gannahoek, an area near Colenso.

"It would be better if these people who say they bought the land come with guns and tell us, so we can bring our children home from school early so they can queue us up and shoot us."

Urbanisation policy negates Land Act changes

3 General
Sowetan
25/9/90

Evictions will go on despite land reforms

THE demise of the racially discriminatory Land Acts and new Government support for land ownership within a free market is likely to do little toward halting the eviction of black tenant farmers from the Natal countryside.

Furthermore, many people feel that even if the new South Africa helps blacks buy their own land, the Government's urbanisation policy is dedicated to sweeping most rural blacks into urban areas where they cannot farm.

"The black people will have to understand that 90 percent of the black people will have to be urbanised and leave 10 percent on the land," Mr Jurie Mentz, the Nationalist MP for Vryheid and chairman of the Consolidation Commission, said at the weekend.

"In another few years' time, they will be urbanised and that process must go on and will go on and cannot be stopped," he said.

Landlords

A three-day visit by this Sowetan correspondent across Northern Natal last week found scores of tenants facing eviction from white farms: hundreds were already displaced and living in shacks or Red Cross tents in impoverished resettlement camps near Ladysmith, Colenso and Vryheid.

Some traced their evictions to white farmers' switching from crops and cattle to game preserves or forestry, a switch often coinciding with purchase of the farm by a new owner.

Others said their landlords blamed them for erosion by overgrazing cattle.



Most of the displacements appeared to have occurred after the statutory three months' notice and few seemed illegal under laws that favour white property-owners.

"Nobody evicts them; it's the magistrate who decides," said Mentz.

Those laws will not change and it is difficult to see how tenants' ejection from the land will be eased under President FW de Klerk's embrace last month of a colour-blind, "willing-seller, willing-buyer" system that will replace the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

The Acts reserved 86 percent of South Africa's land for whites only.

Scrapped

Mentz said he expected the Land Acts to be scrapped by Parliament next year and replaced by the free market system.

But Northern Natal black farmers have worked under a land tenancy system (no longer sanctioned by the State) that leaves them without any capital, the staple of free markets.

All reported low wages from white farmers, some as little as R1 a month, with the heart of their remuneration coming in grazing and ploughing rights on the white farms.

"Their experience is of working just for nothing," said induna Mr Aaron Zungu, whose people have lived on the Mondlo tribal trust land

near Vryheid since their eviction in 1985.

The tenants own next to nothing. Few evictees at the camp at Weenen, for example, had more than the clothes on their back and some cooking utensils.

Those still on farms had goats and cattle - one man called cattle "the people's walking bank." But if they suffer the standard displacement tale, they will be forced to sell the livestock at rock-bottom prices in preparation for their new home, a crowded resettlement camp without grazing land.

Freedom

Thus, the freedom to buy land will mean nothing to them, said Mr Richard Clacey of the Association for Rural Advancement, an advocacy group for rural blacks.

"How many of these people could afford a R200 000 farm?" Clacey said.

He said the Government knew "full well that the economy has been shaped in such a way that the imbalances in the economic system will perpetuate the inequity we have now. Without an affirmative land policy, they won't go anywhere in addressing the land problem of the poor."

That policy is as yet un-announced. Said Mentz: "The person of colour in the new South Africa must be aided by various institutions to be financed like a white farmer is now, by a credit board or whatever. The assistance for acquiring land must be extended to people of colour."

But he emphasised that great sums of taxpayers' money had al-

ready been spent on tribal land and homelands, such as KwaZulu, specifically for black people. The extent to which the Government would help poor blacks buy land was a question for the negotiating table, Mentz said.

The question may almost be moot for blacks who want to continue small-scale farming in the countryside.

Vast

Mentz emphasised that the vast number of black rural folk would be whittled down severely under Government policy that would channel blacks to towns and cities.

If the blacks were not contented with the rural resettlement areas and could not buy other land they preferred, they would be given a stand and shelter in an urban area.

"The reason people stay on the land is to produce food for you," he said. In South Africa, as in other countries, no more than 90 percent of the population need stay on the farms, he said.

"You mustn't be alarmed at the urbanisation. It's just that people will be moving into cities and metropolises, because that is the way it is around the world. That process must not be stopped; it must be promoted."

The process will not find promotion from within those it seeks to move.

Evictees from several areas said they soon might re-occupy the land they had lived on for generations. For many, the urge was fuelled by the land's almost sacred status as the site of their ancestors' graves.

Said Mr Zwenibi Mvelase, who is under threat of eviction by new farm owners at Gannahock near Colenso: "It would be better if these people who say they bought the land come with guns and tell us so we can bring our children home from school early so they can queue us up and shoot us." - Sowetan Correspondent

3 General
6/26/90

Farmers to get less govt aid, warns Minister

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry was warned last night that government financial aid to the industry would have to be gradually phased out.

Agricultural Minister Kraai van Niekerk told an SA Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns symposium that farmers as private entrepreneurs and independent landowners would now have to stand on their own feet as far as possible.

Direct state assistance could only be granted on an individual basis and strictly on merit, he said.

Van Niekerk said soil loss caused by erosion had reached about 300-million tons a year in SA.

Worldwide, the loss through erosion was half-a-ton per person. In SA it was an alarming 10 tons.

On farmland encroachment, Van Niekerk said it was estimated that more than 30 000ha had been taken over annually for town and city expansion and for roads.

He said agricultural production would increasingly take place on less available land.

The risk factor in economic terms was even greater as farming became commercialised, capital more costly and as agriculture was exposed to free market forces.



Eviction fears with land reforms

Argus

27/9/80

36 para

Urban policy kicks tenants off farms

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN. — The demise of the racially discriminatory Land Acts and new government support for land ownership within a free market is likely to do little towards halting the eviction of black tenant farmers from the Natal countryside.

And many people feel that even if the new South Africa helps blacks buy their own land, the government's urbanisation policy is dedicated to sweeping most rural blacks into urban areas where they cannot farm.

Mr Jurie Mentz, Nationalist MP for Vryheid and chairman of the Consolidation Commission, said at the weekend:

"The black people will have to understand that 90 percent of blacks will have to be urbanised and 10 percent will be left on the land.

"In another few years' time they will be urbanised and that process cannot be stopped."

Overgrazing

A three-day visit by a reporter of the Daily News, Durban, sister newspaper of The Argus, across Northern Natal last week found scores of tenants facing eviction from white farms.

Hundreds were already displaced and living in shacks or Red Cross tents in impoverished resettlement camps near Ladysmith, Colenso and Vryheid.

Some traced their evictions to white farmers switching from crops and cattle to game preserves or forestry, a switch often coinciding with the sale of the farm. Others said their landlords blamed them for erosion by overgrazing cattle.

Most of the displacements seemed to have happened after the statutory three months' notice.

Few seemed illegal under laws that favour white property-owners.

"Nobody evicts them. It's the magistrate who decides," said Mr Mentz.

Mr Mentz said he expected the Land Acts to be scrapped by Parliament next year and replaced by the free market system.

AGRICULTURE — 2 3 General
SPARE A TRACTOR?

Any hope that the agricultural implement market will recover some of its lustre this year is being dashed. Farmers are delaying purchases because they are still deeply in debt from a succession of bad years and their returns, particularly from maize, are falling sharply in real terms.

Meanwhile, the price of implements, particularly tractors, has been rising at a much faster rate than inflation since the 1981-1982 season. Large, self-propelled combine harvesters are now so expensive that only those who farm on a grand scale, or contractors who go from district to district and use them for most of the year, can afford to buy them. They are no longer cost-effective for most farmers.

Aubrey Gouws, chairman of the SA Agricultural Machinery Association, dare not even dream of 1981 when farmers went on a spending spree and bought 25 000 tractors because they feared, and were proved wrong, that the ADE engines which tractors would subsequently be fitted with, would be lacking in quality.

FINANCIAL MAIL • SEPTEMBER • 28 • 1990 • 75

He predicts farmers will buy slightly more than 4 000 tractors this year, compared with 5 647 last year. As of August 31, they had bought 2 741, compared with 3 754 in the same period last year.

August von Eckardstein snr, who keeps an eye on sales of other types of agricultural equipment for the association, says 125 combines have been sold so far this year, compared with 170 in the same period last year. They range in price from R200 000 to R470 000, which is slightly less than the advertised price for a developed 500 ha farm in the Transvaal's Middelburg district.

He says sales of most other implements have fallen this year, tillage equipment (ploughs, disc-harrows and planters) by 20% and hay-making equipment (mowers and rakes) by 25%. The sale of balers that make square bales has dropped by 30% and sales of those that make round bales, by 37%.

He attributes the drop in hay-making equipment to the drop in the price of red meat — to the farmer, not to the consumer.

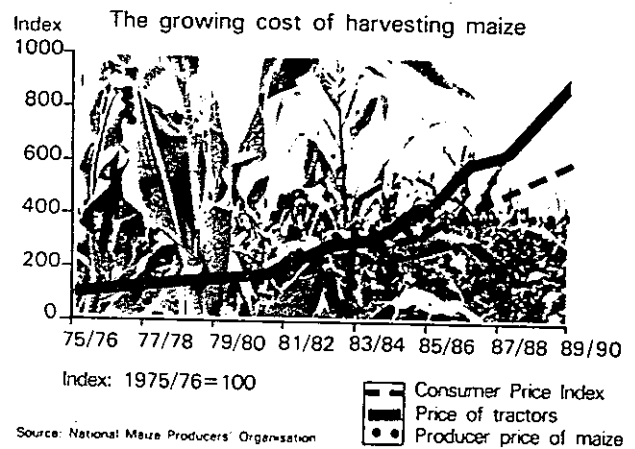
Gouws says a disappointing wheat crop at the beginning of the year was the first sign that this would not be a good year for agricultural implement manufacturers and merchants.

However, he believes there is a great demand for tractors among farmers. Fleets are very old, but, he says, high interest rates and uncertainty among farmers over the coun-

try's political future are hurting sales. He blames the high price of tractors on the rand's low value relative to other currencies (60%-65% of a tractor, by value, is imported) and being hooked into the ADE programme since 1982. "Farmers are fixing, rather than buying," he says.

Fanie Brink, a National Maize Producers' Organisation economist, agrees that SA's farmers are working with aged tractors. The organisation's figures show that 20,7% of farm tractors are over 12 years old, 25,1% are nine to 12 years old and only 9,3% are less than two years old.

In traction



Brink says the reason for the poor tractor and implement sales is more basic than the rand's low value. Farmers cannot afford to buy them because the increases in implement prices have far outstripped the increases farmers get for their produce (see graph).

"The price of maize has remained virtually static in the last two seasons, but the price of tractors has rocketed," he says.

"In the 1988-1989 season, the price for white maize was R260/t and R255/t for yellow maize.

"The delivery price for the maize crop just being planted is R265/t for both white and yellow maize. That means that in two seasons, white maize rose by only R5/t (less than 2%) and yellow maize by R10/t (less than 4%)."

A letter to the editor of the *FM*, published on September 21, explained what this means to the farmer. The reader, W R Groenewald of Herold, wrote that in 1975, 106 t of maize or 47 756 l of milk bought a 45 kW tractor. Last year, 330 t of maize or 130 756 l of milk were needed to buy a tractor. *David Pincus*



FARM CO-OPS

REFORMING THE LAW

Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers says government will consider recommendations made in the Competition Board's report on the Oostelike Transvaal Ko-op (*Business* September 14) in rewriting the Co-operative Act.

The Act, which governs SA's R22bn-a-year agricultural co-operative movement, has been sharply criticised for allowing co-op managements too much power, thus limiting competition and inhibiting the free market.

"The Department of Agriculture is now investigating the drafting of a new Co-operative Act," De Villiers says. "In the light of government's striving for increased deregulation, unnecessarily restrictive measures in the existing Act will be taken out."

The board pointed out that many such practices exist but the Act ratifies them.

In drafting the new Act, government will look at "the competitive situation between the co-operative and non-co-operative sectors and will also consider the competitive abilities of both sectors," De Villiers adds. This answers criticism that some co-ops have used their legislative clout to block private-sector competition.

He also counters criticism that the recommendations of the 1967 Steenkamp investigation into the co-op movement were ignored. "Among the changes effected was that co-ops became taxable in 1977. In addition, Land Bank interest rates became market-related in 1988." But while Land Bank rates are now related to market rates, they're still below market rates, so this reform doesn't satisfy critics who say co-ops can use cheap Land Bank funds for their operations.

Says De Villiers: "The Land Bank's ability to provide loan funds at levels below the commercial bank rate is made possible by the method of financing the Land Bank, which is partly through obtaining funds on the open money and capital markets and partly out of its own sources."

The Land Bank's substantial reserves and accumulated profits are used in cushioning the effects of applying market interest rates.

"Subsidisation of interest rates for the purpose of financing the drought relief schemes via the Land Bank and the co-ops was a response to the financial dilemma facing farmers following the six-year drought of the Eighties."

Clearly, government is taking seriously the non-competitive situation created by the existing Act. Despite this, De Villiers says a new Act will not materialise before 1994.

The dilemma facing government is clear: with national farm debt standing at R14,7bn, of which the co-ops account for more than 20%, any precipitate moves could lead to a collapse in farm values pulling large sectors of the agricultural economy into a black hole of debt. This could have a disastrous impact on the commercial banking sector because massive debt write-offs would

have to follow.

Such a policy could also have serious social consequences because farm insolvencies could lead to mass lay-offs of black farm-workers.

As in the case of phasing out import tariffs (*Business* September 21), the gradual approach is clearly the answer — as long as the commitment to deregulate expressed by De Villiers is not watered down over time. ■

Land acts to be scrapped next year

CAF 7/1/15 3/10/90

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Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Rural land apartheid will definitely be scrapped early next year, but homeland leaders have extracted a concession from the government which will ensure that tribal ownership of land is phased out over a period.

A meeting between homeland leaders and the government yesterday unanimously agreed that the removal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts during the next sitting of Parliament should be coupled with immediate non-discriminatory access to financing sources as the Land Bank and agricultural credit. The acts restrict black ownership of land in SA to less than 14%. President F W de Klerk said

at a press conference that the government had consulted those directly affected by the decision, taken earlier this year, to scrap the Land Acts.

In future land ownership would be open to all, subject to certain provisions, Mr De Klerk said. These provisions were necessary to take into account deep-rooted customs and sensitivities regarding tribal land.

Asked if extra money would be made available to help aspirant landowners, Mr De Klerk said there was no extra funding in this year's budget for any cause.

The government was in the process of preparing next year's budget and priorities would be decided on. He said existing title-holders would not be affected by

the decision. This was in response to the question whether people dispossessed of land previously would be given first option to acquire land which became available.

The meeting also instructed a working group to study local government arrangements in rural and traditional areas in conjunction with the position of tribal authorities.

The Minister of Constitutional Development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, told journalists that the meeting had strongly urged the government to make transitional arrangements to protect specific community interests, especially those regarding land tenure for traditional communities and agricultural settlements.

He said the ultimate removal

of all racial legislation, including that which restricted ownership of tribal land to certain blacks only, could take "years".

The fourth meeting between the central government, leaders of self-governing territories, ministers' council chairmen and provincial administrators instructed its working group to help the government develop a broad land reform policy.

The working group was instructed to report on matters such as financing, squatting, training, maintenance of productivity and agricultural extension work.

During yesterday's meeting, Mr De Klerk said, some parties had expressed the belief that certain political parties were continuing

with inflammatory statements which went against their promises of peace.

The meeting called on all political parties and movements to fully honour their undertakings and refrain from using violence, intimidation and destabilisation and to desist from inflammatory public statements.

They recognised the democratic right of all political organisations to freely state their point of view within the context of law and to oppose each other peacefully and legally.

Delegations present were urged to state their points of view on constitutional matters openly and consistently, even when participating in other forums.

Star 3/10/90

Land Act to go in '91: farmers' protest expected

By Peter Fabricius, ^{3 General}
Political Correspondent

A strong protest from white farmers is expected to follow the Government's announcement yesterday that the Land Act — which has underpinned rural apartheid for decades — is to be abolished during the coming parliamentary session.

At the same time, the Government has agreed to investigate temporary safeguards to prevent tribally-owned land in the homelands from being snapped up by white entrepreneurs when the Land Acts are scrapped next year.

It has also agreed that the abolition of the Acts — which restrict black ownership of land largely to the homelands — should be coupled with immediate non-discriminatory access by blacks to sources of financing such as the Land Bank and agricultural credit.

This was announced after the fourth meeting yesterday between the central Government, the leaders of the six self-governing territories and the Ministers' Councils of Parliament.

"The meeting strongly urged the Government to make acceptable transitional arrangements with a view to the protection of specific community interests in connection with land tenure," a joint statement said.

Squatting

A working group was assigned to advise the Government urgently on a broad land reform policy including matters such as financing, training, squatting, maintenance of productivity, types of land ownership, agricultural extension work and nature conservation.

One prominent member of a homeland government said after the meeting that the homelands

feared that after the restrictions on racial ownership of land under the Land Acts were gone, white money interests would snap up all the best land in their territories.

Before yesterday's meeting the Government was saying that if the Land Act restrictions on blacks owning land in "white" South Africa were scrapped, then equally the restrictions on whites owning land in the homelands should fall away.

Not to do so would be to practise reverse discrimination. However, the Government seems now to have made concessions in response to strong urgings from the homelands.

President de Klerk said at a press conference after the meeting that the issue of tribal and communal land ownership was "a problem of great sensitivity" which would require very careful investigation.

Mr de Klerk said the possibility of increasing the funds in the Land Bank to accommodate the increased demand from black farmers would be considered for next year's budget.

The joint statement urged all political movements and parties to honour their undertakings to refrain from violence, intimidation and destabilisation and from making inflammatory statements.

The meeting recognised the democratic rights of all political organisations to freely state their views and to oppose each other peacefully.

Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen said that some "new entries into the political arena" failed to understand one of the fundamental democratic groundrules — the right of political opponents to criticise even if it caused embarrassment.

Reform gathers pace as Acts bite the dust

Star 4/10/90



3 General

One of the country's most emotive pieces of legislation is destined for the scrap-heap, accompanied on its journey to oblivion by the angry cries of farmers, some politicians and hard-line right-wingers.

The death knell for the Black Land Act of 1913 and the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936 — known collectively as the "Land Act" — was sounded in Pretoria this week when President FW de Klerk, leaders of the self-governing homelands and the Administrators of the country's four provinces agreed that ownership of land should be open to all and not only to whites.

They said the Acts should be repealed "as part of a comprehensive programme to remove all racially discriminatory restrictions on the acquisition of land."

It was also decided that, simultaneously, credit facilities would be opened to allow non-discriminatory access to the Land Bank and agricultural credit.

Hopping mad

It is, without doubt, one of the most far-reaching decisions yet taken by the Government in its drive to reform South Africa politically.

It means that farmers of another colour would, once the Acts have been repealed, be able to buy land anywhere.

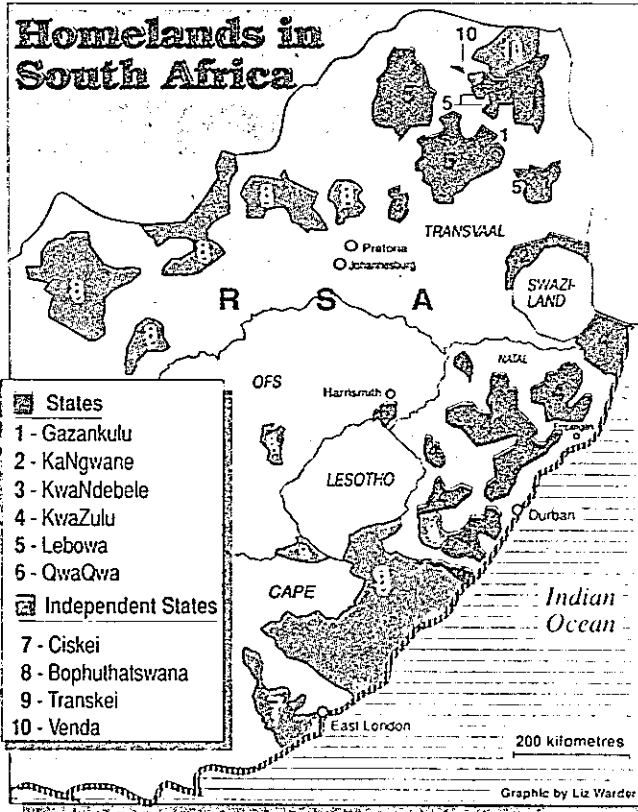
This is the one particularly emotive decision which has got farmers, particularly in conservative Transvaal, hopping mad. They see their once-powerful grip on who can and who cannot farm the land being broken once and for all.

The extent of their rage will be shown tomorrow when they hold a major protest meeting in Pretoria.

They are protesting even though the Government meeting this week also pledged to protect specific community interests in regard to land tenure. A special working group is looking into this aspect.

But farmers cannot say they were not warned.

A highly contentious piece of South African legislation is headed for the scrap-heap. **NORMAN CHANDLER** of The Star's Pretoria Bureau reports on the implications resulting from the repeal of the land Acts.



The State President paved the way at the Pretoria agricultural summit in August when he told farmers their interests would be looked after in a new South Africa but that they had to be prepared to share the land.

Then he said more or less the same thing in an American newspaper interview and to United States government officials while visiting President Bush last month.

Democratic Party finance spokesman Harry Schwarz said this year that the land issue had to be addressed by taking over unused farming lands, against compensation, for settling farmers and aiding new (that is,

black) farmers with know-how and finance to ensure adequate use of the land.

The Urban Foundation backs the viewpoints, suggesting that R3 billion be invested over a four-year period for extensive land-redistribution and farmer-education schemes.

It ran into fierce opposition from the Transvaal Agricultural Union, which said the Urban Foundation did not "apparently understand the implications this would have for the production of food for a growing population... Organisations which had been in favour of an end to influx control now want to transfer the present chaos of squatter towns around

cities to the white platteland."

The African National Congress has made land ownership a key part of the negotiating process, saying there was extreme prejudice against black people at the time the two Acts came into being.

That blacks were prejudiced against is without question.

It took just three years after Union in 1910 for blacks to realise that whites would be deciding who could live or farm in certain areas.

The Black Land Act, No 27 of 1913, made it abundantly clear that acquisition of land by blacks was forbidden except in certain defined areas — now known as "scheduled black areas".

The Institute for Race Relations, in a 1987 paper entitled "Land and Race: South Africa's Group Areas and Land Acts", said both the Black Land Act and the Development Trust and Land Act — which to an extent modified the earlier legislation — restricted acquisition.

Fallen away

The Acts expressly prohibited the purchase, hire or other acquisition of land or interest in land — meaning no black person could even have a share in a farm (although in some areas this has largely fallen away) — outside "scheduled black areas."

And if a white person bought land in a prescribed area at a sale in execution, for instance, he had to sell it to a black person within a year.

The 1936 Act went further: no black-owned company could acquire or own land unless they owned it before that year. The restriction did not apply to "a legally recognised tribe".

Soon all of this will be history as land ownership is thrown open to all races — apparently irrespective of what white farmers in far-flung corners of the Transvaal may have to say.

The problem is that the resulting upheaval in the country's farming communities may take time to settle down.

Farmers plan mass protest in Pretoria

15 Day 4/10/90
FARMERS will converge on Pretoria tomorrow to register their dismay at government's decision to scrap the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts during the next sitting of Parliament.

The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) has organised the mass meeting at the Pretoria City Hall and has accused President F W de Klerk of reneging on a promise to consult farmers before changing laws protecting white land ownership.

De Klerk announced after meeting homeland leaders and provincial administrators on Tuesday that government intended repealing the Acts.

In a statement yesterday, union general manager J C R Hartman said the union demanded an urgent meeting between De Klerk and organised agriculture — by next week at the latest.

In a referendum in June, white Transvaal farm owners voted to maintain the status quo and retain the Acts.

Hartman said the union could not accept the scrapping of the Acts without the views of farmers being taken into account.

He said De Klerk had agreed at the

3 General
GERALD REILLY

beginning of the year that organised agriculture would be consulted in any negotiations affecting ownership of white land.

CP MP Dries Bruwer — who is also the union's president — accused government of bowing to pressure from black leaders despite opposition from white farmers, Sapa reports.

In contrast to the Transvaal union's reaction, Free State Agricultural Union president Izak Cronje said he believed landowners' historical rights would not be affected by the scrapping of the Acts.

THEO RAWANA reports that black business organisation Nafcoc executive director Mofasi Lekota said he believed repealing the Acts should be accompanied by a protective mechanism to ensure that white farmers or speculators did not immediately buy all the available land.

Our political staff reports from Cape Town that the DP yesterday hailed the planned scrapping of the Land Acts as an important step which could help reduce conflict in SA.

Land anger

CNA: Frits 4/10/90

(S) 36

Farmers plan big protest against Land Acts move

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Angry Transvaal farmers are organising a mass meeting here tomorrow to protest against the government's decision to scrap the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

The meeting is being organised by the Transvaal Agricultural Union, which yesterday accused President F W de Klerk of reneging on a promise to consult farmers before changing laws protecting white land ownership. The union has also demanded an urgent meeting with Mr De Klerk.

Mr De Klerk, homeland leaders and provincial administrators discussed the implications of scrapping the Acts when they met on Tuesday.

The general manager of the agricultural union, Mr J C R Hartman, said yesterday that the union wanted a meeting between Mr De Klerk and organised agriculture next week at the latest.

In June, 95% of white land-owners voted to maintain the status quo and the retention of the two Acts.

Mr Hartman said the union could not accept the removal of the Acts without the views of organised agriculture being taken into account.

TAU president Mr Dries Bruwer accused the government of bowing to pressure from black leaders despite strong opposition from farmers in the Transvaal and other parts of the country.

Mr Bruwer, who is also a Conservative Party MP, also issued a statement to register the CP's "strongest objection" to the proposed scrapping of the acts.

"The implication for the free market system with regard to purchase of property by any race anywhere carries the germ for serious conflict," the CP statement said.

'Reduce conflict'

In contrast to the Transvaal farmers' reaction, the president of the Free State Agricultural Union, Mr Izak Cronje, said landowners' rights would not be affected by the scrapping of the Acts.

ANTHONY JOHNSON reports that the Democratic Party yesterday hailed the scrapping of the acts as an important step which could help to reduce conflict in South Africa.

The DP spokesman on agriculture, Mr Errol Moor-

croft, said: "The reservation of land along racial lines in which whites have claimed for themselves most of South Africa's land surface creates the most dangerous situation for the continued existence for whites on the land.

"No Act has created more anger, bitterness and animosity since the turn of the century than the Land Act."

However, Mr Moorcroft said the scrapping of the Land Act in itself was insufficient and would make no material difference to land ownership.

The Group Areas Act, which had an equally restrictive effect on land ownership, would also have to go, he said.

Mr Moorcroft said the DP proposed the creation of a land board which would make "every effort" to pursue the interests of potential black land-owners, including the provision of financial facilities.

Black business organisation Nafcoc said it believed repealing the Acts should be accompanied by a protective mechanism to ensure that white farmers or speculators did not immediately buy all the available land.

Nafcoc executive director Mr Mofasi Lekota said: "We need to caution that unless legal restrictions to land are repealed in conjunction with the repeal of other restrictive laws like the Group Areas Act, we will not achieve a fair distribution in the ownership of land."

Scrapping of Land Acts removes 'prejudice'

MGW 4/10/90

36

ONE of the country's most emotive pieces of legislation is destined for the scrap heap, accompanied on its journey to oblivion by the angry cries of farmers, some politicians and hard-line right-wingers.

REFORM

The death knell for the Black Land Act of 1913 and the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936 both are correct titles — known collectively as the "Land Act" — was sounded in Pretoria this week when President De Klerk, leaders of the self-governing homelands, and the administrators of the country's four provinces agreed ownership of land should be open to all and not only to whites.

They said the Acts should be repealed "as part of a comprehensive programme to remove all racially discriminatory restrictions on the acquisition of land."

It was also decided that, simultaneously, credit facilities would be opened to allow non-discriminatory access to the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit.

It is, without doubt, one of the most far reaching decisions yet taken by the government in its drive to reform South Africa politically.

Protests

It means that farmers of another colour will, once the Acts have been repealed, be able to purchase land anywhere.

This is the one particularly emotive decision which has got farmers, particularly in conservative Transvaal, hopping mad. The extent of their rage will be shown tomorrow when they hold a major protest meeting in Pretoria because they see their once-powerful grip on who can and who cannot farm the land being broken once and for all.

They are protesting even though the government meeting this week also pledged to protect specific community interests in regard to land tenure. A special working group is looking into this aspect.

But farmers cannot say they were not warned.

The president paved the way at the Pretoria agricultural summit in August when he told farmers their interests would be looked after in a new South Africa but that

An emotive piece of South African legislation is headed for the scrapheap. NORMAN CHANDLER, Argus Correspondent in Pretoria, reports on the implications resulting from the repealing of the Land Acts.



President De Klerk

they had to be prepared to share the land. It was this particular statement which has resulted in tomorrow's protest.

Then he said more or less the same thing in an American newspaper interview and to United States government officials while visiting President George Bush last month.

Democratic Party finance spokesman Harry Schwarz said this year that the land issue had to be addressed by taking over unused farming lands, against compensation, for settling farmers and aiding new farmers (ie black) with know-how and finance to ensure adequate use of the land.

The Urban Foundation backs the viewpoints, suggesting that R3-billion be invested over a four-year period for extensive land redistribution and farmer education schemes.

It ran into fierce opposition from the Transvaal Agricultural Union, which said the Foundation did not "apparently understand the implications this would have for the production of food for a growing population ... organisations which had been in favour of an end to influx control now want to transfer the present chaos of squatter towns around cities to the white 'platteland'."

The African National Congress (ANC) has made land ownership a key part of the negotiating process, saying that there was "extreme prejudice" against black-people

at the time the two Acts came into being.

That blacks were prejudiced against is without question.

It took just three years after Union in 1910 for blacks to realise whites would be deciding who could live or farm in certain areas.

The Black Land Act, No 27 of 1913, made it abundantly clear that acquisition of land by blacks was verboten except in certain defined areas — now known as "scheduled black areas." Blacks could do nothing about property rights unless they had the approval of "the relevant (Cabinet) Minister" and there's nothing on record to show that in broad terms a cabinet minister ever gave approval for a black person to acquire land outside their own areas.

Restricted

The Institute for Race Relations, in a 1987 paper entitled "Land and Race: South Africa's Group Areas and Land Acts", said both the Black Land Act and the Development Trust and Land Act — which to an extent modified the earlier legislation — restricted acquisition.

The Acts expressly prohibited the purchase, hire or other acquisition of land or interest in land — meaning no black person could even have a share in a farm (although in some areas this has largely fallen away) — outside "scheduled black areas." And if a white person bought land in a prescribed area at a sale in execution, for instance, he had to sell it to a black person within a year.

The 1936 Act went further: no black-owned company could acquire or own land unless they owned it prior to that year. The restriction did not apply to "a legally recognised tribe."

Soon all this will be history as land ownership is thrown open to all races — apparently irrespective of what white farmers in far-flung corners of the Transvaal may have to say.

The problem however is that the resulting upheaval in the country's farming communities may take time to settle down.

October 4 1990

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3 General

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Farmers to stage massive city protest

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

The biggest protest ever mounted by South African farmers is to take place in Pretoria tomorrow.

Militant farmers are to tell the Government they do not agree with plans to scrap two land Acts, thereby opening the way for black ownership of land. It is, according to sources, likely to be one of the most dramatic protests against President de Klerk's reform policies.

Spearheading the protest — to take place at Pretoria City Hall — are members of the conservative-leaning Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU).

One farmer, who declined to be identified, said there had already been talk of "tractors and ploughs clogging the streets of major cities" as one way in which to bring home to the Government the anxieties felt by farmers.

TAU president Dries Bruwer last night said the union had decided that no further land owned by whites would be let or sold to people of colour.

This decision had been taken earlier this year after more than 95 percent of the province's 15 000 white farmers had voted in a referendum on the issue. There are more than 70 000 farmers in South Africa.

Denied

The referendum had followed a call by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) for farmers to give their views on proposed amendments to legislation governing white ownership of farm lands. Blacks are, in terms of the 1913 Black Land Act and the 1936 Development Trust and Land Act, specifically denied ownership of land which is not in a prescribed black area.

Farmers were asked by the SAAU to complete a questionnaire on the issue. The Cape, Natal and Free State provincial agricultural unions agreed to do so, but the TAU decided on a simple "yes or no" being sufficient to gauge farmers' feelings on the matter.

Mr Bruwer said the TAU could not accept that the two Acts were to be repealed without organised agriculture being officially informed.

The union regarded the announcement in a serious light. The announcement came after a meeting between the State President, leaders of self-governing homelands and the Administrators of the four provinces.

President de Klerk said in August that the interests of white farmers would be maintained and that their land would not be sold about their ears.

SMALL FARMING

Restructuring the agricultural sector

Smallholder black farmers need to be included in the restructuring of the agricultural sector

By HELOISE HENNING

Editor of Corporate Publications, Development Bank of Southern Africa

WHY is it, one may ask, that small black farmers have not yet emerged with the muscle to tackle the subsidised "commercial" farmers in the manner that combi-taxi operators have won ground from subsidised bus companies.

Apart from the more direct access to urban economic growth, an important difference is that taxi operators have organised themselves rather differently. Their strong lobbying power can hardly be compared with farmers who do not even have the freedom to settle outside of remote homelands.

Another important difference is that wherever the farming sector has taken off, it has done so with supportive government intervention and policies and not merely through deregulation or withdrawing control.

For farmers to take off, international and southern African experience has shown, they need well structured government support systems, especially in training, extension and research. Moreover, the skewed access to resources apparently needs government intervention to straighten out the bias, (although many will argue the market can do so). The degree and manner of government support is, however, a moot point in South Africa.

The past policies towards white farmers explains why South Africa has skewed socio-political access to resources in food and agriculture. But, along with the economic and ecological inefficiencies in white farming, these agricultural practices are no longer sustainable.

Dr Johan van Rooyen, manager of the Rural and Agricultural Group of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) says South Africa's agricultural sector's efficiency should be measured in terms of its food security (that is the production of food and access to it through income and wages) and its economic and ecological sustainability.

"Although South Africa is a surplus food producer with a high degree of self-sufficiency, it has serious problems in balancing the food equation. In short this means that many people still go hungry.

"The agricultural sector — as one element in the 'food equation' — needs to be restructured to become economically more efficient, equitable and to improve ecological sustainability to ensure long-term productivity.

"Restructuring involves economic efficiency and the inclusion of commercial and smallholder black farmers through improved access to markets, resources and land, and through affirmative action, like soft loans, to emerging farmers. And these loans can come from DBSA — but the private sector, through the Financial Aid Fund for smallholder sugar cane farmers, has also created such facilities."

Statistics show that most farmers in South Africa are small producers. Professor Tim Bembridge of Fort Hare University established that of the total 1.3-million small-scale farmers, only about 3 000 (less than 0.002 percent) are making a reasonable living, while there are about 60 000 white or commercial farmers. As democracy draws nearer, so too must the eventual agricultural policies be-



The most politically sensitive issue that needs to be resolved is the question of land redistribution, but this has to be addressed in the context of a package of supporting institutions and services to farmers

come part of negotiations.

Empirical evidence from various DBSA projects in soya, maize and cotton indicate that smallholder farmers operate economically efficient in respect of resource allocation.

Mark Lyster, a divisional manager in DBSA, involved in support to projects in kwaZulu, Natal, kaNgwane, Eastern Transvaal and Mozambique, says large estate schemes and betterment planning, introduced in developing areas and particularly on Trust Land, are now broadly rejected by most development specialists.

Estate farms tried to emulate commercial production, and kept the divide between the corporation running it and the people working on the farm looking like a farmer and his labourers. Because of the involvement of homeland governments and parastatals these projects have suffered institutionally and lacked credibility.

Betterment planning, which resulted in dense village settlements where villagers were given plots outside the village to optimise land use, were discredited because the social engineering resulted in disrupted social patterns.

These models were followed by the farmer settlement schemes, in which the farm land was divided into units based on target income sufficient to support a family. The corporation would establish centres for extension, training and production credit. There have been some excellent examples of these farmers making good use of existing agro-economic linkages, as is the case in the Ngololos sugar project in kaNgwane, where farmers deliver to commercial mills.

The problem with these settlements has been that the capital intensive investments have not been accessible and the knowledge not transferred to surrounding established farmers. Some of the settlements have been seen to be reverting back to estate farming management style whereas others have ousted the corporations and elected their own management.

"The mission of trying to settle farmers in some instances has been contradictory resulting in unfair competition with surrounding local farmers. In extreme cases estate farms have excluded the participation of local farmers altogether."

Fortunately, along with apartheid, most of these expensive estate projects have seen their day and in their

place small farmer support projects to assist emerging farmers have been gaining grassroots confidence.

Small farmer support systems are almost 10 times more cost-effective and have a broader impact than large scale settlement projects. Irrigation settlement projects supported by the Bank presently accommodate about 4 400 farmers at a fixed cost of R200 000 per farmer and an annual recurrent cost of R4 500.

Whereas the Bank's small farmer support programme (FSP) initiated in 1987 is a far more decentralised project leaving individuals to make their own choices, now serving about 25 000 farmers at an average fixed investment cost of R5 000 per irrigation farmer and R350 per dry-land farmer. Annual variable costs are R2 000 and R780 per farmer.

Each smallholder farmer on average employs two labourers (full-time or part-time), resulting in a total employment of about 100 000 on DBSA supported projects, with about 600 000 people benefiting directly from this investment, says Van Rooyen. The emphasis on small farmer support therefore seems more equitable and economically sustainable and therefore an acceptable development strategy.

In the six years since the Bank's inception it has been monitoring the implementation of the agricultural projects it supports, but official project evaluation is only due now. In the interim, though, Bank investment has already shifted from the large-scale capital intensive, high-tech irrigation and dry-land settlements to small farmer support programmes.

"The investment made on the government-run estate farms and farmer settlement schemes should, however, be turned outwards to benefit existing small-scale farmers in the surrounding areas to afford individual farmers the opportunity to become entrepreneurs in their own right. That is where we are focusing our support now," says Lyster.

For instance, the Bank got involved in the irrigation scheme, initiated by the Department of Development Aid in the Makatini Flats along the Pongolo River. The capital loan for just one section of the scheme cost R18-million and only benefits 80 farmers directly. With additional loans of R7-million the Bank has supported smallholder farmers in the surround-



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ing areas, creating access to the service and credit facilities.

This investment has benefited about 940 families and a further 40 small mechanisation contractors who would sell their services to plough other farmers' land, while maintaining their own farms.

Where support has been given to small-scale farmers for capital equipment and access to existing service centres, the different behaviour patterns of these small-scale farmers can only be described as belonging to people who are becoming economically empowered, says Lyster. "People start gaining control over their decision-making."

FSPs, by virtue of the greater choice given to individuals, also have a far greater multiplying effect on the economy. The farmers tend to keep their farming businesses diversified. They not only produce cash crops, but also food for the family or for sale in the area. Where farmers have taken up capital loans to buy equipment they have, alongside running their own farms, sold their services to

plough other farms and transport goods and people.

One aspect about estate farms and farm settlement schemes that must not be overlooked, says Lyster, is that those on Trust Land represent readily available consolidated land for the first land redistribution transactions to take place on.

The most politically sensitive issue that needs to be resolved is the question of land redistribution, but this has to be addressed in the context of a package of supporting institutions and services to farmers. Land distribution on its own is no panacea.

Given the legislative constraints in which parastatal institutions have had to practise, their capabilities should not simply be shed in a new South Africa. The discontinuity of support services that they are capable of delivering to small-scale farmers will cause irreparable damage to the emerging agricultural sector, warns Lyster.

Existing corporations, who have the capability, need to be reorientated throughout the transition to maintain the support to small farmers.

Differing views over Land Act

A SHARP difference of opinion has emerged between the ANC and the Government on the issue of returning land to blacks in "white" South Africa when the Land Acts are repealed next year.

The ANC's latest draft economic policy document makes it clear that it believes priority should be given to "immediately

Sowetan
returning to the land those removed from black freehold land or from plots held under labour tenancy agreements" (S)

But the Government has made it equally clear that it does not envisage a re-distribution of land when the Acts go.

The Government confirmed on Tuesday that the two laws which pre-

4/10/90
vent blacks owning rural land in "white" South Africa would be repealed next year. (S)

However, Constitutional Development Minister Mr Gerrit Viljoen made it clear that the Government was against returning land which had been owned by blacks before the Land Acts were introduced.

General

At a Press conference after a meeting with homeland leaders to discuss the repeal of the Land Acts, he and President de Klerk were asked if those who had lost land under the Acts would be entitled to first option in re-acquiring it when they were scrapped.

- *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Govt 'too timid
on Land Acts

WILSON ZWANE

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk's announcement that the Land Acts would be scrapped during next year's session of Parliament was a "timid" measure that would secure de facto white domination and monopoly of land control, the ANC said yesterday.

It said in a statement the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts had been the "building blocks on which the minority rule has constructed the privilege, power and monopoly whites enjoy today.

"Repealing the Land Acts is a timid measure taken in the full knowledge that de facto white domination and monopoly control of land will be secure." Government's intention to scrap the Land Acts was announced by De Klerk on Tuesday after a meeting with homeland leaders and provincial administrators in Pretoria.

The ANC said the abolition of land apartheid legislation should not be limited to the two Acts but should also include the removal of the "notorious Group Areas Act, the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act and what is termed trespass legislation which would otherwise perpetuate the racial division of land ownership."

The ANC warned the repealing of the Land Act had to be accompanied by land reform provisions.

Death knell sounds for SA's Land Acts

Sowetan 5/10/90

General
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The death knell for the Black Land Act of 1913 and the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936 - known collectively as the "Land Act" - was sounded in Pretoria this week.

President F W de Klerk, leaders of the self-governing homelands, and the administrators of the country's four provinces agreed ownership of land should be open to all and not only to whites.

They said the Acts should be repealed "as part of a comprehensive programme to remove all racially discriminatory restrictions on the acquisition of land."

It was also decided that, simultaneously, credit facilities would be opened to allow non-discriminatory access to the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit.

It is, without doubt, one of the most far reaching decisions yet taken by the Government in its drive to reform South Africa politically.

It means that farmers of another colour will, once the Acts have been repealed, be able to purchase land anywhere.

This is the one particularly emotive decision that has maddened farmers.

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when they hold a major protest meeting in Pretoria.

They are protesting even though the Government meeting this week also pledged to protect specific community interests in regard to land tenure.

A special working group is looking into this aspect.

But farmers cannot say they were not warned.

The State President paved the way at the Pretoria agricultural summit in August when he told farmers their interests would be looked after in a new South Africa but that they had to be prepared to share the land.

It was this particular statement which has resulted in today's protest.

Then he said more or less the same thing in an American newspaper interview and to United States government officials while visiting President George Bush last month.

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Page 1:

Friday October 5 1990

An emotive piece of South African legislation is headed for the scrapheap. *Sowetan* Correspondent Norman Chandler reports on the implications from the repealing of the Land Acts.

THE fight to define the terms of land reform began in earnest this week with the government's announcement that the racial Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 will be repealed next year.

Battered from left and right for its failure to consult with anyone beyond homeland leaders and a handful of parliamentarians, the government is likely to be pushed to talk to interested parties rather than foist change on them.

If Pretoria's announcement of the repeal of the Land Acts in conjunction with homeland leaders was intended to boost these leaders in relation to national negotiations, the plan seems to have failed.

The measure has won little applause. The Conservative Party has rejected it out-of-hand for its integrationist implications. The African National Congress has adopted a "too-little-too-late" stance. Land rights organisations have echoed the ANC's view, while elements within organised agriculture see it as a threat to white farmers.

When the Land Acts go, subject to the Group Areas Act, black South Africans will be entitled to purchase farm land throughout the country, instead of in a mere 14 percent.

The ANC's response asserted: "We believe that meaningful land reform, which will redress the historic wrongs inflicted on the black majority, requires an affirmative action programme created in consultation with and by the people.

"Short of a climate of democracy and respect for the views and rights of the dispossessed and least-empowered, this reform is likely to be fatefully empty for

Repeal of Land Acts wins little applause

W/Star 5/10 - 11/10/90

The government's announced land reform has met with a stiff response. White farmers are insecure and forces to the left say the legacy of dispossession must be redressed.

JO-ANNE COLLINGE reports **3** *General*

those who have been condemned to the poverty and social dislocation of South Africa's dumping grounds."

From the National Land Committee (NLC), whose constituent organisations spearheaded the fight against forced removals, came the response that "removing apartheid legislation is not enough. The apartheid legacy must be addressed".

The NLC registered a demand for significant affirmative action, reasoning: "A free market in land brings no real upliftment to the rural poor who have no money to buy land. It is one thing to ensure rights to buy land; it is quite another to give people the ability to buy land and to use it productively."

It is precisely the fear that government resources may be generously available to black farmers to enable them to participate in a deracialised land market that concerns the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU).

The TAU — one of the more conservative affiliates of the South African Agri-

cultural Union — has renewed its 1987 pledge of ensuring that "no further white agricultural land will be transferred, sold, rented or alienated in any manner whatever to people of 'other colours'."

TAU president and Conservative Party parliamentarian Dries Bruwer has pledged to protect the interests of white Transvaal farmers.

TAU chief executive Johan Hartman insisted it was not just a matter of principle. "It's the implications that worry us — the value of land; the possibility of squatter camps; and the capability of continuing agricultural development."

The TAU's views are not shared by all affiliates of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). According to SAAU director Piet Swart, his organisation has delayed adopting a stance on the repeal of the Land Acts until its national congress later this month.

"There are differences of opinion within organised agriculture. Some affiliates are in favour of scrapping the laws."

Swart reckoned that few black people would be able to afford land on the open market, but that Indian South Africans might seek to expand their agricultural holdings in certain regions.

Based on present farm sizes and interest rates, the "average" capital investment needed to start a farm was in the region of R1-million, he estimated. And no more than 15 to 20 percent of this should be raised in loans "or else you're in trouble trying to service that debt".

The NLC has also criticised:

● Constitutional Affairs Minister Gerit Viljoen for saying that restoring land to former black freehold owners would "lead to a revolution".

"For over 40 years black landowners were forcibly removed, inadequately compensated and abandoned to barren, unproductive resettlement camps. Now, they are expected to buy back land — and if they do not have ready cash they will lose their ancestral land to the highest bidder," said the NLC.

● The government's intention to phase out communal tenure.

The NLC commented: "In the homelands, the biggest land owners are the homeland governments themselves and the South African Development Trust.

"The title to much tribally-owned land is in the name of government ministers. The majority of bantustan residents are tenants."

While the existing land owners would have a vested interest in sale, tenants would not have the means to purchase and a fresh cycle of dispossession was likely, said the NLC.

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Land Act 6/10/90 (3 lines) repeal farmers petition President

PRETORIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Transvaal Agriculture Union yesterday delivered a petition to the State President's office here calling for a written undertaking by the Government guaranteeing land ownership by white farmers.

The petition, delivered to the Union Buildings, further requested that organised agriculture should not be subjected to proposed labour legislation and recognise the distinct character of agriculture.

In his address to a protest meeting in the Pretoria city hall, Transvaal Agriculture Union president Mr AAB Bruwer said one of the reasons the meeting was called was because "we are tired of talking and nothing worth mentioning happens".

Insist

He continued: "The time has come for us to join our colleagues all over the world in telling the government of the day some home truths and to insist on our rights as farmers of this country."

It was fair and reasonable to request clarity from the Government regarding the future of agriculture.

"They have no right to take decisions against the will of the farmers, but only in conjunction with farmers," Mr Bruwer said.

Referring to the repeal of the Land Acts, Mr Bruwer said they were created for a specific purpose: "Whites and specially blacks, attach different values to land and have different patterns in the utilisation of land".

Non-negotiable

The Government should respect the result of a referendum of Transvaal farmers regarding land ownership, in which 95 percent voted against the repeal of the Acts. Mr Bruwer said white farmer land ownership was not negotiable.

He said an impression was being created that a new South Africa would be created at all costs, also at the cost of the farmer and agriculture.

Mr Bruwer called for fair treatment for agriculture on the economic field as subsidies in agriculture and rebates on agricultural exports have been phased out, but were still in force in other sectors.

He also requested the Government to curb the high interest rate and to curb unlawful squatting.

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Take it if you dare! Farmers were not in a smiling mood at a Pretoria protest meeting at which they demanded that President De Klerk drop plans to scrap the Land Act, long regarded as one of the pillars of apartheid.

ARGUS 6/10/90 (3620)

Farmers want guarantee of white land-ownership

Weekend Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Transvaal Agriculture Union has petitioned the State President's office in Pretoria calling for a written guarantee of land ownership by white farmers.

The petition, delivered yesterday at the Union Buildings, also urged that proposed labour legislation should not be applied to organised agriculture.

In his address to a protest meeting in the Pretoria City Hall, Transvaal Agriculture Union president Mr A A B Bruwer said one of the reasons the meeting was called was "we are tired

of talking while nothing worth mentioning happens".

He said: "The time has come for us to join our colleagues all over the world in telling the government of the day some home truths and to insist on our rights as farmers of this country."

It was fair and reasonable to ask for clarity from the government on the future of agriculture.

Mr Bruwer said white farm land ownership was not negotiable.

He said an impression was being given that a new South Africa would be created at the cost of the farmer and agriculture.

Land Acts may go, but Apartheid problems will stay

By SEKOLA SELLO and SAPA

THE government's decision to repeal the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 in the next Parliamentary session has been rejected by the ANC, the PAC and Azapo.

The ANC described the decision as "too little, too late" while a PAC spokesman said the new measures amounted to dressing land apartheid in new clothes. Azapo said the latest initiatives by State President FW De Klerk "make no difference".

The decision to repeal the interlinked Acts next year was taken at a meeting this week between De Klerk, five Cabinet Ministers, leaders from the self-governing homelands, the four provincial administrations and the Houses of Assembly, Representatives and Delegates.

The two Acts, which black political organisations regard as constituting one of the pillars of apartheid, are largely responsible for confining blacks to 13 percent of the country's land.

The ANC says the two Acts have been used as "building blocks on which minority rule has constructed the privilege, power and economic monopoly whites enjoy in the country today".

The ANC statement further charged that unless the scrapping of the Acts was accompanied by land reform provisions which enabled disadvantaged rural communities to improve their access to land and other agricultural resources, the net effect would be to further impoverish these people.

According to Azapo publicity secretary Strini Moodley, repealing the Acts would not "alter the circumstances of blacks" in any material way. He said repealing these Acts could lead to "big capitalist corporations" buying the remaining little pieces of land blacks have.

Moodley said if any drastic land reform measures had to be undertaken, this would require "expropriating land currently owned by whites in favour of blacks". The Azapo spokesman said it was not possible for De Klerk or any white government to implement such land reforms.

According to Azapo, any effective agrarian reforms that would benefit blacks could only be brought about by a black government. "There is nothing for our comfort in these measures," said Moodley.

PAC publicity secretary Benny Ntoele said the organisation had not yet met to discuss the issue. But he reiterated the positions taken by both Azapo and the ANC.

He said it was not enough to repeal the Acts. "The basis of these Acts was totally wrong from the start. Therefore, to redress the situation realistically they must be abolished."

The PAC spokesman went on to say: "Repealing the Land Acts does not alter the Afrikaner's economic advantage."

Ntoele said although the two Acts might be repealed tomorrow, their "force and effect will remain the same". He said the PAC would only consider changes that would improve and develop the lot of blacks.

Executive director of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc), Mofasi Lekota, recently told an Institute of Directors conference in Johannesburg that land was important in entering sectors of the economy.

Lekota argued that "there is no way we can adequately address the question of the economic upliftment of the majority without sorting out the problems of access to land ownership and usage".

Giving reasons for the repeal of the two Acts, Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers said this would enable anybody with the ability and the need to purchase agricultural land to do so. He said he expected the private sector to become involved in programmes to promote private land ownership.

These explanations by De Villiers are likely to confirm the fears of the three liberation movements that there is nothing to rejoice about in the new measures.

The first efforts in South Africa to legislatively enforce territorial segregation came with the introduction of the Natives Land Act of 1913. In terms of the provisions of this Act, the so-called reserves, or present-day homelands, were to be retained for black ownership and occupation. However, blacks were to be denied rights to buy land outside these reserves.

There were several reasons for the introduction of this Act and the revised Natives Trust and Land Act of 1936. The primary aim was to deny blacks the limited franchise they had at the time.

At the turn of the century, many blacks, particularly in the Transvaal, were buying freehold land. The feeling in the white community was that if more blacks in the "northern provinces" - the Transvaal and Orange Free State - continued to buy land, they would soon agitate to have qualified franchise, just like blacks in the Cape.

The issue of blacks with a vote did not go down well with many white politicians. They contended that if more blacks had the vote, they would soon dictate government policies.

And the white community was determined to prevent this.

Apart from the Land Acts, the white community had other measures to prevent blacks from buying land. The Natives Land Act of 1913, for example, provided that only a limited number of blacks could buy land in certain areas.

Many blacks, however, were forced to work as cheap labourers on the mines and on white-owned farms.

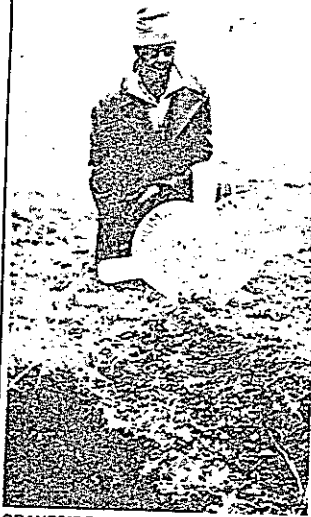


A mother and her son work in the fields - but will their lot be improved by the repeal of the Land Acts?

Fingoes could regain paradise

(3) General
S Times 21/10/90

By BILL KRIGE



GRAVESIDE VIGIL ... Hosos Hlela at the grave of a Fingo child

THE promised repeal of the Land Act has kindled hope in a small uprooted Fingo community, many of whom yearn to return to farms granted in perpetuity by Queen Victoria.

And their attempts to go home may create one of the first major rows over the explosive issue of land reform in a future South Africa.

Things have changed in the 12 years since the last of 510 families in a "black spot" on the beautiful Tsitsikamma coast were loaded at gunpoint into buses and relocated to the Ciskei.

The area they occupied for 140 years — between Storms River and Humansdorp in the East Cape — was sold to white farmers who now nervously await political developments.

They know they stand in the path of a dream which many Fingo leaders believe may at last come true.

This weekend, a delegation left for talks in the Transvaal with another dispossessed group, the Mogopa clan of the Bakwena tribe in the Western Transvaal, to investigate a joint strategy.

The Fingoes hope to stoke fires which burnt fiercely as late as 1982 — four years after armed police dismantled the last homes and loaded the furniture and livestock of black bitterenders.

In 1982, Parliament debated the issue — just before dawn after an all-night sitting in the very last business of the session. It saw the PFP accuse the Government of insensitivity, cruelty and foolishness.

And it heard an explanation for the Minister of Cooperation and Development, Dr Piet Koorhof's refusal to meet a Fingo delegation. They were Ciskeians and had not gone through the right channels.

Today, the once tight-knit Fingo community has fractured.

The unity forged by bitter resistance has been eroded by time and poverty. It has driven hundreds off to find work in the cities and even to the Tsitsikamma farms which once were theirs.

Graves

Others have settled bapppily at Elukhanywen near Keiskammahook, 400km away. They look with pride on their accomplishments and have little enthusiasm for a crusade to recover a paradise lost.

Some see the graves of those who have died in Ciskei as a reason to stay. There are about 350 on the slopes of the Amatola foothills, almost half are for children.

"When we arrived here the children died like flies, mostly of dysentery," said Mr Hosos Hlela, 63, a retired provincial roads labourer. "In the first months when there was nothing for us there was one, sometimes two funerals a week."

Some whites on the land he left are sympathetic to the Fingoes' plight but dubious that bringing them back will serve anyone's interests.

Wars

"My hope is that something is sorted out," said Mr Peter Korkie who, in 1982, became the first of 19 whites to work land allocated in trust by Sir George Grey under the seal of Queen Victoria.

"These people were given land in gratitude for their contribution in the Frontier Wars, for fighting their own people. It was taken away and they were fed back into the jaws of the lion — to the Xhosas they had fought."

In common with many Fingoes he believes they had a "raw deal".

"I have farm workers who are Fingoes and they bear me no grudge. I wouldn't like to move. I have worked hard and the farm cannot be compared to what it was seven years ago. If the Fingoes want it back — well I don't know. I will have to wait and see," he said.

Tech probe

A COMMITTEE appointed to investigate alleged problems affecting the administration of the M L Sultan Technikon in Durban will sit from November 1 to 30.

Muslims get own political party

By NORMAN WEST: Political Reporter

THE first national Islamic political party in South Africa is to be launched later this month. It is the brainchild of the principal of a Cape Town private college, 36-year-old Mr Naushad Omar, a quantity surveyor.

The three main aims of the Islamic Party of South Africa will be to promote the ideology of Islam in the social, political and economic fields in a post-apartheid South Africa; to protect the interests of Islam and Muslims; and to make contact with political parties in other countries to strengthen the Pan-Islam Movement.

Mr Omar said that in the past the Muslim community and Muslim civic bodies have aligned themselves with other groupings who fought for a nonracial and anti-apartheid South Africa. The new party will offer them a new "political home".

CAN YOUR SON SING?

The Drakensberg Boys Choir School has vacancies for boys who will be in Standards 2 to 5 in 1991, if your son has a good voice (not necessarily trained), and maintains a good academic standard, give him the opportunity to become a member of this world renowned choir.

Write to:
THE RECTOR, DBCS, PRIVATE BAG X20, WINTERTON, 3340,
OR TELEPHONE (0364) 38-1012.



UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

AUDITIONS

Applications are invited from students who wish to enrol for music studies at the University of Durban-Westville in 1991. Auditions for music courses will be held on Friday, 26 October from 10 am. The Department offers a 4-year BMus degree and a 3-year music course leading to the BA or BPaed degree. The latter course can be taken by non-music specialists, and students with no previous formal qualifications in music are welcome to apply. It is advisable, where possible, to bring one or two prepared pieces to perform at the audition.

Fields of study include:
Practical tuition on all instruments including Voice, Indian Music and Jazz.
Music education
Specialisations in African, Indian or Western music, including theory and compositional techniques.
Musicology
Ethnomusicology

The University of Durban-Westville, Department of Music is already implementing a progressive educational policy. For further inquiries please telephone (031) 8202138/8202374 or visit the department.



NOS 8

Land reform not the cure-all

B/D 9/10/90

(3) General

MIKE MULLER



□ CALITZ ... 'a structural problem'

Makhanya reiterated the decades-old knowledge that the homelands cannot possibly sustain their populations; even KwaZulu, blessed with water and land, could at best provide an agricultural living for only one sixth of its people.

Calitz outlined the three-pronged strategy which government was considering to deal with unemployment and poverty.

First, the formal sector has to be restructured to improve its competitiveness. Higher economic growth is indispensable and this sector remains the key to a healthy economy.

Secondly, "inward industrialisation" will be promoted. This is not, as is usually understood, the erection of trade barriers and promotion of import substitution. Rather, it is code for a vast programme of black urbanisation.

Accelerate

By providing housing and services in urban areas, it is hoped that industrial growth will be generated together with many jobs.

The third thrust will be towards rural development, where attention will be given to "the proper utilisation of the resource endowments of these areas". The repeal of the Land Act is one step in this process.

"A poverty oriented development strategy can accelerate rather than retard growth," says Calitz.

Government appears ready to transfer funds from the white community.

"Increased demand for services will have to be met by rearranging

existing policy and expenditure."

Such strategies, which aim to meet the basic needs of the black population within a sound macro-economic context, contain the seeds of political consensus.

The problem lies in the geography of these efforts.

It is not clear where all this urbanisation and rural development is to be focused. The present physical structure of poverty is that of separate development.

Black taxis succeed by meeting the needs of both the black commuter and urban whites who want him to live somewhere else. But as Hernus Kriel says, the cost is crippling.

Despite massive unemployment, our wages are too high to be internationally competitive.

Many SA workers have been priced out of the international job market. It costs more than R3 000 a year in subsidies and fares for KwaNdebele-based commuters to get to work. That is equivalent to a wage of about R300 a month.

Last year, squatters were moved from Soweto's Mshenguville to Orange Farm, 45km away — three times the maximum distance that CSIR transport researcher Andries Naude believes a low-income worker should be expected to travel to work. Many later returned to Soweto, unable to afford R10 a day to commute to their workplaces.

Unfortunately, a clear alliance of interests exists to maintain this irra-

tivity — and with it, opportunity. They are not chance agglomerations of people who happen to find themselves together.

Poor homeland residents survive on meagre social pensions and remittances, not by trading with each other. In the future, however, they will demand the services to support a reasonable quality of life.

Calitz recognises that there will have to be "a safety net of social assistance targeted to the needy — within the limitations of the budget".

World Bank experts support this, saying that the only cure for structural poverty is to help the victims until they can integrate productively into society.

That cannot happen while they remain stuck in areas with no productive employment opportunities.

The movement of black farmers onto white owned land would be one step in the right direction.

But it is unlikely that more than a small minority of homeland residents will be able to benefit.

The rest will have to seek opportunities elsewhere.

This is why the location of future urbanisation programmes is crucial. It would be pointless to fund labour intensive projects, housing, and services in areas where the only base for the economy is welfare receipts. This will only perpetuate dependence on welfare.

SA simply cannot afford to carry on building "structural poverty" into the national fabric. We cannot afford to invest further in locations so remote that workers cannot compete internationally.

Nor can we afford to maintain forever a dependent population with no prospect of contributing to the economy.

□ Muller is a senior infrastructure specialist with the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

LETTERS

Land reform not the cure-all

B109 9/10/90

3 General

THE proposed repeal of the Land Act will be widely welcomed. But allowing all South Africans to purchase land will not in itself alter the structure of SA's poverty. While poverty might be most acute in the so-called rural areas, it is unlikely to be alleviated there.

Unfortunately, a belief still persists that this most pressing of SA's economic problems can be dealt with "out there".

The geography of reform might mean that poverty and a costly long term dependence on welfare is created rather than ended.

The danger has already been implicitly recognised by Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel. He told a Western Transvaal meeting of the NP earlier this year that "the time is past that black residential areas can be situated as far as possible away from existing residential areas. SA can simply no longer afford such outdated luxuries..."

The World Bank's 1990 Development Report brought the issue into clearer focus. It highlighted the problem of the "structural poverty" faced by people with no access to productive resources — landless rural dwellers in India, Latin American street children and the millions of black South Africans with neither jobs nor land.

The structural nature of SA's poverty is clear.

At last month's Development Society conference on employment, Finance deputy director general Estian Calitz said "job scarcity is a structural problem".

The inability of SA's economy to employ its growing population is now deep rooted.

One obvious root is the physical exclusion of black South Africans from the economy.

Zululand University's Prof EM

Makhanya reiterated the decades-old knowledge that the homelands cannot possibly sustain their populations; even KwaZulu, blessed with water and land, could at best provide an agricultural living for only one sixth of its people.

Calitz outlined the three-pronged strategy which government was considering to deal with unemployment and poverty.

First, the formal sector has to be restructured to improve its competitiveness. Higher economic growth is indispensable and this sector remains the key to a healthy economy.

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MIKE MULLER

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Unfortunately, a clear alliance of interests exists to maintain this irra-



□ CALITZ ... 'a structural problem'

tional situation. Many white politicians still want to keep blacks "over the hill".

Some black politicians believe their constituency would best be served by giving all a plot on the platteland.

The least scrupulous of all hues recognise that in welfare-dependent rural communities a minimum of patronage can generate maximum leverage.

Cities work because economic activity and wealth beget more ac-

tivity — and with it, opportunity. They are not chance agglomerations of people who happen to find themselves together.

Poor homeland residents survive on meagre social pensions and remittances, not by trading with each other. In the future, however, they will demand the services to support a reasonable quality of life.

Calitz recognises that there will have to be "a safety net of social assistance targeted to the needy — within the limitations of the budget".

World Bank experts support this, saying that the only cure for structural poverty is to help the victims until they can integrate productively into society.

That cannot happen while they remain stuck in areas with no productive employment opportunities.

The movement of black farmers onto white owned land would be one step in the right direction.

But it is unlikely that more than a small minority of homeland residents will be able to benefit.

The rest will have to seek opportunities elsewhere.

This is why the location of future urbanisation programmes is crucial. It would be pointless to fund labour intensive projects, housing, and services in areas where the only base for the economy is welfare receipts. This will only perpetuate dependence on welfare.

SA simply cannot afford to carry on building "structural poverty" into the national fabric. We cannot afford to invest further in locations so remote that workers cannot compete internationally.

Nor can we afford to maintain forever a dependent population with no prospect of contributing to the economy.

□ Muller is a senior infrastructure specialist with the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Can black farmers survive?

Star 9/10/90 (3 General)

The goals of a future land and agriculture policy as I would see them are:

- To redress the imbalance created by apartheid in terms of land use and ownership by enabling substantial numbers of blacks to acquire land for farming or for residential purposes.

- At the same time conserve the country's scarce land and soil resources, and ensure the economic production of adequate food and other agricultural commodities.

But what is the actual situation with commercial farming today?

It is well known that the number of white farmers has declined steadily over the past three decades. According to one estimate, the number has halved in that time.

Even more disturbing perhaps is the fact that the number of people employed in agriculture has declined by more than 40 percent over the past 20 years. This is, of course, a well-established trend in developed countries throughout the world, but has serious implications in a developing country such as this one.

Debt burden

The debt burden carried by farmers has also received a lot of publicity during recent years. The difficulty is not the amount of debt, although R14 billion is an impressive figure. It represents less than 25 percent of total farming assets, which in any normal business would not be considered an excessive gearing ratio.

There are, however, two major problems. First, the global figure hides enormous disparities in debt levels between different groups and/or individual farmers. The second is perhaps even more serious: high interest rates combined with low returns in agriculture (and this is a worsening trend) mean farmers cannot even cope with this low level of debt.

Many things can be blamed for the state of South African agriculture. But in the final analysis, two major contributors to its declining

ANTHONY EVANS, a Rhodes Scholar and prominent Free State farmer and businessman, discusses South Africa's options for land and agriculture.



One of the goals of a future land policy . . . enable substantial numbers of blacks to acquire land for farming.

competitiveness cannot be wished away.

The first is the declining terms of trade due largely to high internal inflation rates, and, secondly, farmers cannot compete with the Government subsidies paid to their fellow farmers in other countries.

The conclusion is clear: it is critically important that the government of the day considers its broad agricultural policy before engaging on any large-scale redistribution or resettlement programme. It would be a tragedy to thrust many thousands of new farmers into a situation where there might be little hope of their earning a reasonable livelihood.

It is hardly necessary to enlarge on the paucity of natural resources available to agriculture in South Africa. Only a small proportion of the total area of the country is suitable for arable farming; rainfall is generally low and erratic; and underground water resources and other water resources suitable for irrigation are, as we all know, extremely scarce. Even in the best of economic conditions, farming is not an easy way of making a living.

In spite of this unpromising environment, the commercial farming

sector has managed to survive and to ensure self-sufficiency in a wide range of food and other agricultural products. Any suggestion that involves nationalisation of land, or forced transfer of land, will place this country's food production under immediate threat.

It is my contention that the objective of redressing the wrongs of the past can be accomplished without destroying existing property rights. And the issue that must, therefore, be dealt with is the practical matter of establishing large numbers of new, independent, black farmers on their own land.

In the hostile environment referred to, the new black commercial farmer will not only need reasonable product prices, but will need knowledge and skills to be able to deal with the full spectrum of decisions and tasks that make up a commercial farming operation. He will also need access to a proper infrastructure: credit; supply and repair facilities; markets; storage facilities; and good roads.

Universities, technikons and training institutions should be involved in implementing a massive education and training programme

for prospective new farmers and extension officers.

This is also an area where white farmers could play an important role by providing trainee farmers with practical on-farm experience.

The following is a list of four broad categories for establishing small farmers on the land.

- Group farming — comprising individual ownership of small farms with each farmer responsible for farming his own land.

Larger scale

- Communal farming — individual property rights would still apply, but each property would have access to communal grazing lands.

- Individual large-scale farmers — there would be nothing to prevent those who have sufficient resources from acquiring larger scale commercial farms.

- Corporate farms — similarly, very large operations might be acquired by companies with black shareholders.

What would be the impact of an affirmative action programme of this sort on white farmers?

If the programme were to consist of heavy-handed expropriation or simply confiscation, there would be a danger of the withdrawal of white farmers and of the skilled manpower attached to agriculture. This might have a catastrophic effect on production.

Although it is a myth that there are large tracts of unoccupied or under-farmed land in this country, there are certainly large areas of land for sale at reasonable prices as a result of the current depressed agricultural conditions. Provided the resources are made available, therefore, it might be surprisingly easy to buy the land required for the new farmers.

While white agriculture is engaging in some fairly aggressive posturing at the moment, a programme based on some of the ideas mentioned should allow a negotiated settlement to be achieved.



Ex-white land set for black ownership

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

The Government plans to make available to blacks about 9 500 ha of previously white-owned farms in several Transvaal and Natal areas, it was announced yesterday.

Some of the land will be added to KwaZulu and KaNgwane while in other instances, tribal areas will benefit.

A portion of the affected land is in the Ngotshe area, near Vryheid, and the remainder at Wakkerstroom, Amersfoort and Nelspruit.

The proposal is the first on the sensitive issue of land ownership since a meeting of self-governing territories, the Government and the four provincial Administrators decided in Pretoria earlier this month to recommend the repealing of the 1913 Black Land Act and the 1936 Development Trust and Land Act, known collectively as the Land Act.

The repealmments would, essentially, allow people of another colour to farm or live on land previously reserved for whites.

The meeting's recommendation has been vigorously opposed by the Transvaal Agricultural Union, which last Friday held a protest meeting in

Pretoria after 95 percent of the province's 16 000 white farmers voted in a referendum to preserve sole control of the land for whites only.

Delegates have given the Government until November to come up with new proposals.

According to J H W Mentz, chairman of the Commission for Co-operation and Development, it is proposed that the parcel of land under consideration be made available for black occupation.

Portioned off

At Ngotshe, portions of farms known as Frischgewaagd, Lisbon, Waterval, Doornplaats, Dwarsrand and Magut are proposed for blacks while at Wakkerstroom, the 1 000 ha farm Doornfontein could be added to the existing black residential area known as Driefontein/Kaffir Locatie.

Portions of the farm Vlakpoort are scheduled to be added to Daggakraal in the Amersfoort district while Broedersvrede, in the Nelspruit district, is planned to be acquired by the SA Development Trust and then added to KaNgwane.

The commission has decided to meet at Wakkerstroom on November 5, at Louwsburg on November 6 and at Nelspruit on November 7 to hear objections to their proposals.

NOTICE 851 OF 1990

COMMISSION FOR CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING OF EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE IDENTIFYING OF LAND FOR BLACK OCCUPATION IN THE DISTRICT OF NGOTSHE, WAKKERSTROOM, AMERSFOORT AND NELSPRUIT

Take notice that the Commission for Co-operation and Development will meet on the undermentioned dates and places to hear evidence and representations from persons affected by the proposals of the Commission with regard to the identification of land for Black occupation in the Districts of Ngotshe, Wakkerstroom, Amersfoort and Nelspruit as announced by the Chairman of the Commission for Co-operation and Development on 5 October 1990:

Date	Venue	Time
1990-11-05.....	City Hall, Wakkerstroom	10:00-13:00
1990-11-06.....	Farmers Association, Town Hall, Louwsburg	09:00-14:00
1990-11-07.....	Committee-room, Civic-Centre, Nelspruit	09:00-13:00

Persons affected by the proposals as announced and who wish to present evidence and representations to the Commission must please submit supporting memoranda to the undermentioned address on or before 31 October 1990:

The Secretary
Commission for Co-operation and Development
P.O. Box 384
Pretoria
0001.

The evidence will be heard "in camera" unless otherwise determined by the Chairman of the Commission for Co-operation and Development.

C. F. R. SWART,
Secretary: Commission for Co-operation and Development.

October 1990.
(12 October 1990)

NOTICE 852 OF 1990

COMMISSION FOR ADMINISTRATION
COMPETITION BOARD

INVESTIGATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 6 OF THE MAINTENANCE AND PROMOTION OF COMPETITION ACT, 1979 (ACT No. 96 OF 1979)

The Competition Board hereby makes known for general information that they are undertaking an investigation in terms of section 6 of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act, 1979 (Act No. 96 of 1979), into the supply and distribution of foodstuffs, including non-alcoholic beverages (but excluding fresh fruit and vegetables) that as a rule are obtainable at retail outlets of various kinds.

KENNISGEWING 851 VAN 1990

KOMMISSIE VIR SAMEWERKING EN ONTWIKKELING

KENNISGEWING VAN 'N VERGADERING VAN DIE KOMMISSIE VIR SAMEWERKING EN ONTWIKKELING VIR DIE DOEL VAN DIE AANHOOR VAN GETUIENIS IN VERBAND MET DIE IDENTIFISERING VAN GROND VIR SWART BEWONING IN DIE DISTRIKTE NGOTSHE, WAKKERSTROOM, AMERSFOORT, EN NELSPRUIT

Neem kennis dat die Kommissie vir Samewerking en Ontwikkeling op die onderstaande datums en plekke sal vergader om getuienis en verhoë aan te hoor van diegene wat geaffekteer word deur die Kommissie se voorstelle ten opsigte van die identifisering van grond vir Swart bewoning in die distrikte Ngotshe, Wakkerstroom, Amersfoort en Nelspruit soos aangekondig deur die Voorsitter van die Kommissie vir Samewerking en Ontwikkeling op 5 Oktober 1990:

Datum	Plek	Tyd
1990-11-05.....	Stadsaal, Wakkerstroom	10:00-13:00
1990-11-06.....	Boerevereniging, Dorpsaal, Louwsburg	09:00-14:00
1990-11-07.....	Bestuurskomiteekamers, Burger-sentrum, Nelspruit	09:00-13:00

Diegene wat deur die voorstelle soos bekendgemaak geaffekteer word en wat getuienis en verhoë aan die Kommissie wil voorlê, moet asseblief ondersteunende memoranda by die onderstaande adres voor of op 31 Oktober 1990, indien:

Die Sekretaris
Kommissie vir Samewerking en Ontwikkeling
Posbus 384
PRETORIA
0001

Die getuienis sal "in camera" aangehoor word tensy die Voorsitter van die Kommissie vir Samewerking en Ontwikkeling anders bepaal.

C. F. R. SWART,
Sekretaris: Kommissie vir Samewerking en Ontwikkeling.

Oktober 1990.
(12 Oktober 1990)

KENNISGEWING 852 VAN 1990

KOMMISSIE VIR ADMINISTRASIE
RAAD OP MEDEDINGING

ONDERSOEK INGEVOLGE ARTIKEL 6 VAN DIE WET OP DIE HANDAWING EN BEVORDERING VAN MEDEDINGING, 1979 (WET No. 96 VAN 1979)

Die Raad op Mededinging maak hiermee vir algemene inligting bekend dat hy kragtens artikel 6 van die Wet op die Handhawing en Bevordering van Mededinging, 1979 (Wet No. 96 van 1979), ondersoek instel na die aanbod en distribusie van voedsel, insluitende nie-alkoholiese drank (maar uitgesonder vars groente en vrugte) wat gewoonlik by verskillende kleinhandelsafsetpunte beskikbaar is.

THE government's announcement that the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 are to be repealed can only be welcomed. These laws have had devastating consequences for millions of black South Africans, dispossessing them of their land and birthright.

They have created a situation where Africans may own land only in the bantustans and whites own 87 percent of South Africa.

Clearly they are terrible laws and must go, but what will be the effect of their abolition? In announcing the imminent repeal of these laws, President FW de Klerk has assured whites that their property rights will be protected. The Land Acts have played their role — they have destroyed black property rights and have entrenched white privilege. To drop them now will have only a minimal effect on the racial distribution of the land; only a tiny portion of blacks have the capital necessary to buy land at current prices.

The timing of the repeal is significant. White ownership of most of South Africa needs to be legitimised before a majority government comes to power. Laws which prohibit one section of the population from land ownership on the basis of race do not bode well for the prospects of white land owners under a black government. In this context, the fundamental ideological shift in government policy is a matter more of expediency than true reform.

Whatever the motivation, the abolition of the Land Acts will have immediate and immense effects in the rural areas. There is potential for both positive results and terrible destruction. If not done carefully, the abolition may lead to dispossession on a far worse scale than that caused by the policy of forced removal.

In most instances black property rights are not reflected in legal documents like title deeds. This does not mean that blacks have no property rights, it means that the state prohibited them from having such documents. Neither are legal restrictions on black ownership of land limited to white areas. There are restrictions in the homelands as well. These are complicated, but most stem from the policy that blacks should not own land, but that their land be held in trust by the state on their behalf.

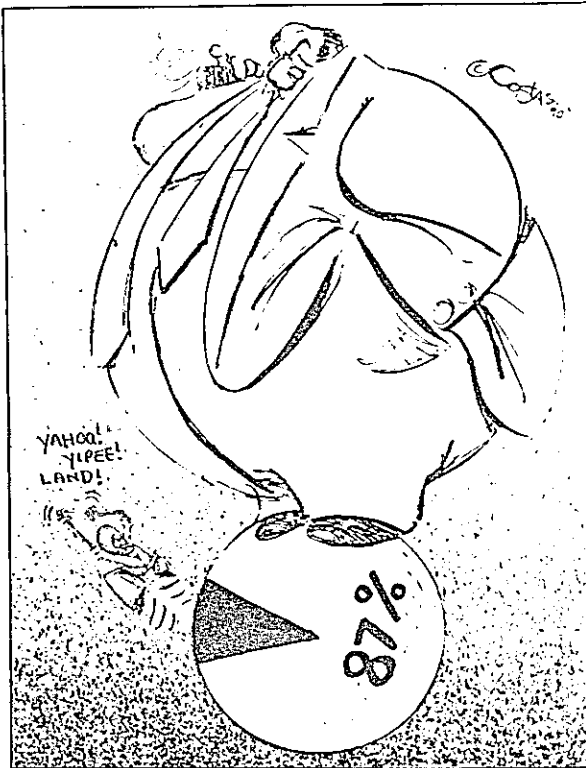
While the land in these areas may be nominally owned by the South African Development Trust, or a homeland government, or a chief, it is in fact occupied by millions of individual families and communities. In many cases these people have rights to particular pieces of land — whether by grants, certificates of occupation, purchase or inheritance. The fact that these rights are not registered on title deeds is a result of the bizarre and complicated maze of regulations, reservations and overlapping trusts that the state has imposed on black areas.

If these areas are simply opened up to the "free market", many people who have owned and occupied land for generations may find it sold from under them

Reform and the tragic legacy of racial land laws

The Land Acts cannot be undone simply by their repeal at this late stage. They must be carefully untangled to prevent even greater dispossession than forced removals.

BY ANINKA CLAASSENS



by the nominal owners of the land. If this happens, there will be as much resistance as there was to the policies of "betterment", forced removal and incorporation into bantustans.

Rural people have suffered terrible and irretrievable losses through the impleme-

ntation of these policies. Now the state is introducing reform. It would be bitterly ironic if this "reform" finally dispossesses people of their real rights to land in the name of "private property" and the "free market".

We cannot wish away the legacy of ra-

cial land laws; it has to be carefully undone in a way which confirms the rights to land which exist in practice and not in documentation. For there to be stability and equity, the legal system must reflect the reality on the ground, and occupants and owners must be given documents that secure their status.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Gerrit Viljoen has commented on the need for transitional arrangements to protect specific community interests, especially those regarding land tenure for traditional communities and agricultural settlements. We hope this means protection for existing rights. But we can do no more than hope. The process of consultation is a closed one and the people whose destinies it shapes are not included. Instead, the matter is negotiated between the government and the homeland leaders — the nominal owners of most of the land in the 13 percent of South Africa set aside for black occupation. They are the very people who stand to gain from the sale of land — land which is densely populated by people who inherited it from their great-grandparents, land full of resettlement camps.

The occupants of this land have not been consulted about the proposed reforms; the government cannot claim that it does not know who they are. Viljoen himself has met some of them. There are rural communities all over South Africa who have petitioned the government about their land rights, whether in the context of removal, incorporation into homelands, secession from homelands, or security where they are.

There are also academics and lawyers who have done work on how the repeal of the Land Acts could be done in such a way as to confirm existing rights rather than destroy them. They have not been consulted or included in the working group which the state has set up with the homeland leaders.

It is a matter of great urgency that the process of developing a new legal framework be opened up to those with a direct interest and that the state draw on the expertise and knowledge of practitioners who have worked in the minefield area of black land rights for years. This is necessary to minimise the potential damage to existing rights and settlements of people should the Acts simply be repealed in a vacuum.

Beyond the defensive position of protecting existing rights is the issue of undoing the legacy of rural apartheid law and policy. When Viljoen was asked whether the reforms meant that people previously dispossessed of their land would be given first option to acquire land, he told *The Citizen* this process would lead to a complete revolution throughout the world, beginning in the United States and Australia.

It is cynical to compare the situation of indigenous people who lost their land centuries ago in wars of conquest with that of the victims of forced removals in our country. Here we are talking of communities like the Moringoetlas, the Mfengu, and the Bakwena, baMogopa, whose land was expropriated in the last few decades, sometimes less than five years ago. They live in impoverished resettlement camps, and in many cases their land lies fallow, still registered in the name of the government.

If the present government does not have the grace to return such land to its rightful owners, it will find itself faced with innumerable court cases challenging the legality of its expropriations, with land re-occupations and with disillusionment and bitterness. When it tries to sell this land it will completely discredit its new non-racial land market — and rightly so.

Care and consultation are necessary to minimise the possible damage should the Land Acts be repealed in a vacuum and to undo positively the damage caused by this terrible piece of legislation.

Aninka Claassens is a senior research officer at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies.

Farm teachers shared Sofe's honour

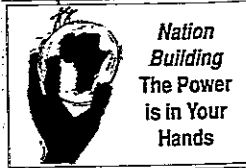


Miriam Sofe

By SIZA KOOMA

SOWETAN Woman of the Year award was not a personal recognition for Miriam Sofe but a shared honour for all farm teachers.

Sofe, reigning Woman of the Year and a farm school principal, said the award for her tireless services to Ruslood Primary



School - where she taught Sub A to Standard 5 single-handedly - was a morale booster for farm teaching staff as a whole.

"We teach large classes and often have to

15/10/90
 bubble, the classes are usually held in the open or in dilapidated barns and we take orders from farm managers who, in most cases, treat us like their labourers.

"But nobody seems to appreciate the sacrifices we make. Our counterparts in township schools, instead look down upon us and treat us like their inferiors," Sofe said.



3 General Course

The recognition she was given by *Sowetan*, she said, had encouraged her and her colleagues to work even harder and made them feel that their course in farm communities was worthwhile.

Sofe said the award had also convinced farmworkers and their children that farm education was not a bluff.

They now know that the curriculum used in urban schools is the same one used in theirs and the trend to take children to township schools has been discouraged.

Motivation

The 33-year-old Sebokeng mother of two also got an added motivation in her new school, which she moved into at the beginning of the year.

The roll, in the five-classroom school with a bookstore and kitchen,

shot up to 330 from last year's 109.

She acquired the assistance of five new teachers and added an extra class, Standard 6.

"The teaching load has been lessened but administration work has increased.

Dream

"I have had to adjust to working under a new farm manager as our new school is on a different farm, and liaise with the department more frequently on behalf of my staff."

Her dream, she said, was to build more classrooms and increase the number of classes offered at the school.

CP policy shifts under discussion

After 16/10/90

3 General

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party's (CP) national congress starts here today amid indications that the party may use the occasion to reconsider its strong opposition to negotiations.

Much of the two-day congress will be held behind closed doors, fuelling speculation that important policy shifts will come under discussion.

Although the party is officially opposed to negotiations involving the ANC and SA Communist Party, it has recently begun to show signs of acknowledging the pressure to enter the process.

CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht has on several occasions stated his willingness to accept the Government's invitation to come to the negotiation table — if President De Klerk clarifies certain reform statements.

At the party's four provincial congresses over the last two months, the rank-and-file have frequently expressed uncertainty about the party's role in negotiations.

The ambivalence in the CP about negotiations is also reflected in resolutions on the party's policy of partition.

One resolution from the Cape confirms the official party line that white South Africa comprises all the land outside the independent and self-governing territories and the envisaged

coloured and Indian states.

But much greater flexibility about the boundaries of the white state is expressed in a resolution from the Transvaal which confirms the policy of a white fatherland "without being prescriptive with regard to the occupation and control of the rest of the territory by other population groups".

Scepticism about the workability of partition is clear in a resolution from the Cape Province which asks the party to give guidance to party workers to help them answer questions from the public.

It is clear that the CP is beginning to struggle in theory with the Verwoerdian policy of grand apartheid.

But most of the many resolutions consist of hostile attacks on almost every aspect of NP policy, from the unbanning of the ANC through to the Aids problem supposedly posed by mixed hospitals.

The only real item of interest during the open debate today will be when congress discusses the NP's "so-called new South Africa".

The real meat is likely to be chewed on during tomorrow's debates, all of which will be held in camera.

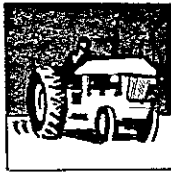
Dr Treurnicht will officially open the congress with a public meeting in the Durban City Hall tonight.

The congress takes place at the Natalia holiday resort in Illovo, south of Durban.

LAND TENURE

PAST INJUSTICE, PRESENT FEARS

BLACK FARMERS WERE ONCE PROSPEROUS — AND COULD BE AGAIN



With the latest announcements on land reform, the stage is being set for blacks to regain the position they once held as efficient farmers. But tremors of uncertainty, particularly among whites, suggest that

the issue needs to be thoroughly thought through — and explained.

The proposed repeal of the two cornerstones of rural apartheid, the 1913 Land Act and the 1936 Development Trust & Land Act, follows publication of two major policy documents dealing with land tenure and agricultural issues. These are the Urban Foundation (UF)'s *Rural Development* (part 4 of *Policies for a New Urban Future*) and SA Chamber of Business (Sacob)'s more generic *Economic Options for SA*.

The effect of the changes will be to open all agricultural land within the country to acquisition by blacks. (The rights of coloureds and Indians to land will be rectified, the UF points out, by repeal of the Group Areas Act.) The problem remains how to make significant areas available to blacks while concurrently maintaining respect for white property rights. The proposals also leave on the table the equally important question of how land tenure and agriculture in the homelands (the self-governing states) are to be rationalised.

All the agonies and desires of the SA political conflict are mirrored in the land issue. Statistics reported by the UF for 1985 show that the "white" rural areas accommodated nearly 4,3m people (of whom 78% were black, 12% coloured and 9% white). The homeland rural areas contained 8,1m, almost all black. The chart illustrates the population densities in the "white" platteland and in the homelands.

At one extreme of the political spectrum, conservative white farmers have reacted with shock and horror to the prospect of having black farmers as neighbours on a basis of equality of ownership — even though the white platteland is already around 90% black, and many farms owned by absentee landlords have for decades been operated by black managers.

A map, published in volume 2 of *The Oxford History of SA*, and dated as long ago as 1971, shows an astonishingly high proportion of farms in the

southern OFS even then unoccupied by whites. They fell into the categories "abandoned or unoccupied," occupied only by blacks, or occupied by a foreman or share-cropper.

At the other extreme, the Pan-Africanists openly repudiate all white title to land, proposing to turn back the pages of history to 1652! This is impractical because it could only be imposed at the end of a savage civil war lost by the whites; and inequitable because the line of final prescription has to be drawn somewhere.

In any case, not all white title to land derives from conquest: some land was bought freely from black owners over time.

The position of the ANC on land is not in all respects clear, but the latest policy statement explicitly calls for reinstatement of the freehold and labour tenancy rights of rural blacks relocated from so-called "black spots" during the Nationalists' tenure of office. The issue of forced removals aside, there is room for strong suspicion that the ANC still hankers for a collectivist approach to land.

The UF urges the setting up of a tribunal to adjudicate the rights of relocated rural blacks. Sacob too proposes a "new legal mechanism to resolve land conflicts."

The idea of a tribunal to rectify abuses of natural justice over land is a good one, subject to certain conditions. Firstly, it should be presided over by judges assisted by assessors with knowledge of the relevant issues; secondly, it should operate within a cut-off point, and 1948 makes good sense here; and lastly, it should not be empowered to take away rights from the current owner who acquired them in good faith.

Where a case is made out, the dispossessed black owner or labour tenant should be entitled to compensation, not from the good-

faith owner, but from a fund financed by the Treasury and set up for this purpose. Perhaps there might even be compensation for non-material losses (pain and suffering) endured during forced removals.

The remainder of Sacob's policy statement on land ownership makes excellent economic sense. We should remove all legal restrictions on land ownership by blacks (which government has accepted); reform the different land Acts to accommodate ownership by small-scale farming entrepreneurs; reform financial intermediaries, including the Land Bank, so that they will provide financial assistance to small-scale black farmers in those areas where they can operate effectively; establish a total institutional framework to sustain the programme for potential black farmers to return to independent farming; and provide more land for low-income housing in urban areas.

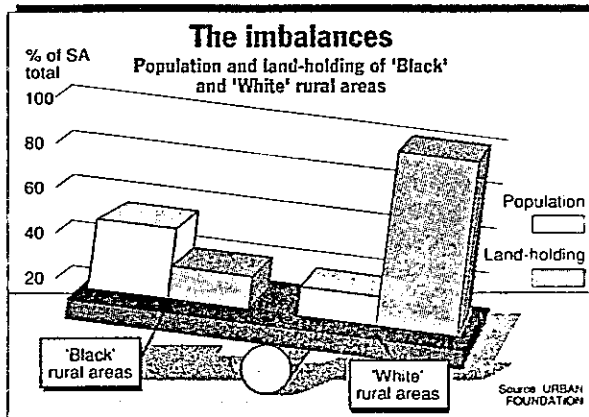
The nucleus of a bank of land for sale or lease to convincingly qualified potential black farmers already exists in the hands of the SA Development Trust — the 2m ha of "released areas" land derived from the 1936 provisions for black land acquisition and seemingly not yet disposed of but leased to white farmers.

If the process of rationalising white agriculture through establishing market-related pricing is carried through, this stock of land could be augmented. There could be purchases on reasonably generous terms of the land of farmers rendered sub marginal by the cut in output prices from too-high administered levels. (A pension scheme for elderly displaced farmers would not come amiss.)

The rationalisation of agricultural prices seems necessary anyway if additional output by a new wave of effective independent black farmers is to find a market.

Taking account of the indebtedness of white farmers to the Land Bank (some R2,7bn at the end of 1988), there might even be scope for deals for part purchase of land at good prices in exchange for a farmer's mortgage obligation — to augment the stock of land for resale still further.

Sacob warns that there is an overall limit to this policy: the potential of the agricultural sector to feed the population of SA should not be impaired by a programme to re-establish black land ownership. The goal must be achieving the more efficient use of resources in the agricultural sector, given the need to feed a fast-growing ur-



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ban population.

This sound approach implies that it is not the land of efficient farming corporations or of large efficient farmers that should be looked to, contrary to UF hints.

The question of rationalising land use in the homelands remains as an independent and pressing concern. UF statistics show that a mere 10% of the income of the "black" rural areas is derived from agriculture. Evidently, these areas are today little more than wretched dormitories unnaturally dislocated from their main source of income in the cities because of apartheid.

The first step to remedying the ills of these areas is to permit urbanisation to proceed. There is little doubt that this process is now vigorously under way with the repeal of influx control — hence the proliferation of urban squatter camps.

The process of urbanisation makes it

cheaper to provide essential services to concentrated populations: cities are efficient economic mechanisms. The free-market thinker, therefore, rejects the idea that rural poverty should be subsidised where it is currently located. Reducing rural population densities in this way is how all industrial countries have solved the problem of rural poverty.

But the engine of the whole process is rapid industrial growth — which we need anyway to finance the pressing needs of the agricultural reform programme. To this extent, the solution to rural problems is urban, as it always has been.

The UF favours special treatment for the black rural areas, but there is a case to be made even here for a free-market solution. Let the archaic forms of land occupation, including "permission to occupy," deed of grant and quitrent, be converted to freehold.

Those families wishing to move to the cities (surely a high proportion) would then be able to realise cash to help their relocation. Other blacks could then buy the land for farming operations. Indeed, some sources say an informal process of "lease" of land in the homelands to blacks keen to farm is already under way. This natural process would benefit by becoming legal.

There are those who question whether blacks can make efficient agriculturalists. Yet it was the very success of blacks as independent farmers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries which provoked an earlier wave of measures to drive them off the land — to destroy fierce competition and to provide labour for mining and industry.

By reinstating a strong class of individual black proprietor farmers, we will deal both bigoted white supremacists and lurking collectivist a mortal ideological blow.

3 General Star 16/10/90

Farmers accused of abuse

Farm workers in South Africa are frequently the victims of extreme psychological, physical and structural violence and are sometimes treated with little or no human dignity.

This is the conclusion of Lauren Segal of the Project for the Study of Violence at the University of the Witwatersrand, after an extensive investigation into violence against farm workers.

In a paper entitled "A Brutal Harvest: The Roots and Legitimation of Violence on Farms in South Africa", she said extensive violence was often reported from more isolated, poorer, farming communities, where farmers were threatened economically and politically.

Miss Segal's claims have been rejected "with contempt" by Kobus Kleynhans, deputy director, general services, of the South African Agricultural Union.

Mr Kleynhans said: "According to my observations, the situation is quite different. I reject these findings with contempt; they are nothing near the real situation.

Prove

"I will not deny that some farmers do not treat the workers as they should, but this sort of information is not representative.

"It appears Ms Segal decided beforehand that farmers were brutal and set out to prove this. It is absolutely not the case on most of the farms and definitely not our official policy to abuse workers."

Mr Kleynhans said he had travelled throughout South Africa meeting farmers and looking into labour matters. He had some contact with workers.

While Miss Segal's investigation was conducted primarily in the south-eastern Transvaal, she said it reflected circumstances that occurred throughout the country.

It was in the south-eastern Transvaal, an area notorious for the extent of violence on farms, that she found two dead dogs hanging from

While South Africa has set its course down the road of change, there remains a group left largely behind — farm workers. For many of these poor, uneducated people life continues to be one long sequence of abuse, says Witwatersrand University academic Lauren Segal. **DAWN BARKHUIZEN** reports.

poles at a farm gate. The farmer regularly shot dogs belonging to workers and displayed them in this way, she said.

Many farm workers suffered psychosomatic diseases resulting from excessive stress, exhaustion and monotony. Wages were uniformly low, averaging R103 a month in 1986. Wages as low as R5 had been found.

With little or no legal standing or protection, farm labourers were the victims of assault and eviction (often occurring when they became too old or infirm to care for themselves). Assaults could be so brutal they could lead to death.

Studies on South Africa's 1,3 million farm workers and their dependents on white-owned farms were littered with references to violence, she said. The violence took place in different forms:

● Assaults were part and parcel of their lives. A wrong word by a worker could unleash a brutal assault, often followed by the worker being evicted. Some farmers resorted to violence at the slightest provocation and showed little or no restraint, she said.

She cited a case in which a farmer put a labourer into the back of a van, drove him into a forest, chained him to a tree by the neck, accused him of stealing and pistol-whipped him, demanding to know the whereabouts of pieces of missing zinc. The labourer, who was freed after 11 hours, later instituted a civil claim and the farmer agreed to pay R7 500.

● Eviction notices were commonly issued to farm labourers or black

"tenant" farmers. Many of these were people who had lived and worked on farms all their lives.

The onus was then placed on them to prove the eviction was unlawful or the time given to vacate was too short. Up to 90 percent of the eviction cases were unrepresented.

Often ill-educated, they had few alternatives to farming work as a source of livelihood. Loss of a job not only meant loss of income, but of shelter and access to land where some had lived for generations.

Evictions were sometimes violent and houses were sometimes bulldozed. In some instances police, believed to be on intimate terms with farmers, helped round up members of households.

● Violence was often inflicted against the children of farm labourers, some of whom were made to work on farms without any regard for their age or schooling.

Paralysed

● Workers also suffered as a result of farmer negligence where farmers had failed to reduce occupational hazards.

Miss Segal cited one case in which a farmer obstructed a worker, paralysed from the neck down, from obtaining a disability pension. The worker had been in the back of a tractor that overturned en route to a plantation.

She said there appeared to be an alarming degree of co-operation between some authorities and farmers. Farmers were seldom charged for breaking the law and when

found guilty were treated very leniently.

Many farm labourers perceived the police as violent oppressors. This put them off laying charges against their employers.

In addition South Africa's farm workers had little legal protection. They were excluded from statutory legislation. Trade unions were under-developed. Although farm workers were not prevented from forming trade unions, they were unable to register unions under the Labour Relations Act. They were also barred from labour courts and conciliation boards.

Farmers were in a position to make rules unilaterally. Contracts were verbal rather than written, she said.

"Violence on farms clearly does not occur in isolation from the broader trends within the country. Land has always been a contested issue and with the prospect of a new government the question of land ownership has gained a new urgency. Just below the surface of farmer aggression is the growing fear that their land will be taken away," she said.

She viewed the relationship between farmers and workers as one of "white master and black serf". It was the embodiment of apartheid society.

"A farmer expects obedience, loyalty and subservience to his will. If these are not met he believes he has the right to punish. An assault may well be described as the farmer evoking a paternal right over the body of his worker."

Black workers were referred to by farmers as "it", not he or she, or "Hey Kaffir" or "Kaffir kom hier".

Miss Segal said she had found a high level of paranoia among the farmers she had interviewed. Many clearly regarded their labourers as "the enemy within".

"A priest told me that if something happens, a farmer's first thought is that it must be an inside job and one of the workers is involved. Everyone is suspected."

Farming costs expected to rocket 20%

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Total farming input costs this year could escalate to nearly R10bn — an increase of about 20% compared with the 12 months to end-June this year, agricultural authorities say. (3) General

Summer crop farmers — whose planting season is about to start — will invest up to R3bn in their crops.

About 70% of production funds needed will be borrowed through agricultural co-ops.

Escalating fuel prices are cited as a major factor behind soaring farming costs. B.P.M. 25/9/70

And a further price rise is expected within three or four weeks.

Another major cost cited was fertiliser, on which farmers spent R1,005bn last year. Prices were raised in March, and another upward adjustment was expected.

REILLY

Screamer, 'Birds' battle in camera

Sowetan 16/10/90

Sowetan Reporter

THE press was yesterday barred by the Industrial Court in Johannesburg from publishing evidence led in the legal battle between Moroka Swallows Limited Football Club and its former coach, Mr Stanley "Screamer" Tshabalala.

represented by Mr Henk Havenga, has brought an application before court seeking an order forcing Swallows to pay him R75 000 in salaries from July 1 1989 to September 30 this year.

The presiding officer, Mr MA Bulbulia, made the ruling following a successful application by Mr Herman Kocks, who represented Swallows.

Tshabalala alleges that his summary dismissal last year, before the expiry of his contract, constituted a breach of contract and an unfair labour practice.

Bulbulia made the ruling in terms of Section 67 (2)(A) of the Labour Relations Act which states that "evidence and arguments led during the hearing may not be disclosed in the media prior to the determination or award having been made available by the court".

Sowetan reporter Monk Nkomo, who was subpoenaed to give evidence in court, was not called to the witness stand after he had cleared certain issues with Swallow's lawyer.

Tshabalala, who was

The first witness to be called yesterday morning was Swallows director Mr David Chabeli.

Land issue will be focus

THE commotion among farmers about land ownership in South Africa is expected to come to a head in Pretoria next week when their organisation, the South African Agricultural Union, holds its annual congress.

A mild motion on the issue appears on the agenda, which is unlikely to placate the firebrands in the farming community. Sowetan 16/10/90 3

These are mainly Transvaal and Free State diehards who insist that white ownership of land outside the homelands should remain in white hands. - Sowetan Correspondent.

South African

Stow 17/10/90 (3 General)

Land reform a prickly issue

The announced scrapping of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 raises some prickly issues. It will have to be done in a very careful and systematic way.

There is the predictable resistance of conservative white farmers, as expressed by the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

There are the just as predictable reservations of the ANC, which points out that so long as whites retain title to farm land nothing will have changed.

And if the ANC feels this way about it, how much more so the PAC? One of the PAC's fundamental principles is a commitment to returning the land to "the people".

But there are more serious problems. Also some near-myths.

One near-myth is that 87 percent of South Africa's land area is reserved for white occupation. If a reasonable portion of it were handed over to black occupation, justice would prevail.

Fine — except that much of that

GRAHAM LINSOTT discusses serious problems relating to the repeal of South Africa's Land Acts, which have entrenched race discrimination in land ownership for decades.

87 percent consists of the vast, arid stretches of the Karoo and the north-west Cape. "The people" don't live there in the first place and would starve if settled there.

Another near-myth is that white farmers would cling tenaciously to their land at all costs. That is debatable. Farming is a precarious occupation today and in parts of the country bankruptcies are rife. Many might be only too glad to be bought out.

But the sad truth is that there just is not enough land for redistribution to "the people".

The country has about 60 000 white commercial farmers today. Replace them with black commercial farmers and all you have done is return the land to 60 000 out of some 35 million of "the people".

Turn these farms over to small-scale peasant agriculture and very soon South Africa will be importing food instead of exporting.

Then there is the question of communally owned "tribal" land, reserved in terms of the two Acts. Will this be unfrozen? Will it be available for purchase by outsiders?

Could there be any surer way of finally impoverishing an already disadvantaged person than to allow him to be dazzled by money into selling off his one worthwhile asset — his parcel of land?

The Land Acts obviously have to go if South Africa is to move away from discrimination. But the transition positively bristles with difficulties.

The Land Act of 1913 was the

first in a series of chapters in heart-ache.

Relatively prosperous black farmers and sharecroppers were driven from the land.

Black commercial agriculture (which in certain regions such as the eastern Cape had begun to challenge white agriculture) was killed stone dead. Blacks became subsistence farmers in the reserves and migrant labourers on the mines.

Forced removals and the uprooting of settled rural communities began, creating a store of anger and starting South Africa's decline to international pariah status.

The ANC, founded in 1912, was given a driving force.

And now we return to the status quo of 1912. If you put the clock far enough back, it registers as an advance.

□ □ □

If Natal is given to the Zulus and the eastern Cape to the Xhosas, who gets the Free State? The Land Bank.

Response to
Sept 1945
TAU Land
300000
Act petition

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

President de Klerk announced last night that he had replied to a petition from the Transvaal Agricultural Union and would release his reply to the public today.

The petition protested against the proposed repeal of the Land Acts.

Opening the Transvaal National Party congress in the Pretoria city hall, Mr de Klerk said the core of his answer was that all the matters dealt with in the union's representations had already received incisive attention within the recognized and proven discussion forums and in the established channels between the SA Agricultural Union and the Government.

He said he had no wish to politicise agriculture but made the announcement because so many farmers were present.

Farmers to meet tonight

23/10/90
Own Correspondent

The State President's reply to the petition of the Transvaal Agricultural Union for early talks on the plight of farmers is one of the issues on the agenda of the annual congress of the SA Agricultural Union opening in Pretoria tonight.

Rocketing fuel costs, the ownership of agricultural land and the partial failure of the wheat crop in the Free State are expected to feature prominently in the discussions.

The congress will be opened by Minister of Agriculture Jacob de Villiers.

It is known that many Transvaal farmers are not happy with the President's reply which stated that the financial problems mentioned had already been identified earlier this year and had been considered by the Agricultural-Economic Liaison Committee. The TAU representations largely coincided with those received by the Department of Agriculture and the SAAU, and were already being addressed at the highest level, said the reply.

Decisions would be made known in due course.

Mr F W de Klerk pointed out that some matters raised in the TAU petition were of a general nature, and not applicable to

Transvaal farmers only. Possible solutions, he said, could be suggested at the monthly meeting between the SAAU and the two responsible Ministers.

President De Klerk added he would not like to do anything that would undermine the established channel of communication between the Government and the SAAU. And this is believed to be a point that has irked some Transvaal farmers who had hoped to have direct talks with the Government.

Of major concern to farmers is the increase of 25c a litre in the agricultural diesel price. This, it is calculated, will add a bill of R370 million a year to production costs.

SAAU president Nico Kotze says fuel prices for agriculture have now increased by 88 per cent in two years, and the industry simply cannot absorb them.

Producer prices will now have to move upwards, he says. This means consumers will have to pay more for products such as bread, milk, fruit, meat and vegetables.

Land ownership is another sore point and farmers have demanded a written undertaking from the Government that white-owned land will remain in the hands of whites except in cases approved by organised agriculture.

Govt will buy white farmland

By Peter Fabricius ^{24/10/90}
Political Correspondent

The Government is to buy out white farmers who claim they have been ruined by plundering squatters from Orange Farm near Vereeniging.

Acting Transvaal Administrator Willie Hoods said yesterday that R24 million had been earmarked to buy white land in "scheduled" black areas to prevent white farmers being surrounded by black urban areas.

He said smallholders were on land earmarked for black development under the Land Act.

The TPA would first buy properties south of the Lenasia development area, north of the old Golden Highway and west of the Johannesburg-Vereeniging railway.

Next, it would buy the land belonging to whites on the northern, western and south-western sides of the present Orange Farm.

Then it would buy out white landowners on West Rand Agricultural Holdings (Zuurbekom) whose land had not yet been sold to blacks or to developers.

● Owners welcome buyout

— Page 9.

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28
29

Vice...

Page 24/10/90
3 General

Plundered plot owners welcome proposed buyout

By Melody McDougall

VEREENIGING — Most of the approximately 20 white families who occupied smallholdings in the Orange Farm area have already packed up and moved away after apparently enduring spates of burglaries and constant victimisation, allegedly from residents of nearby squatter camps.

It is understood that only one white family is still living in the area.

Several plot owners interviewed by The Star yesterday said they had been forced to move after their properties were repeatedly ransacked and their livestock and pets stolen or slain.

According to a young mother, Susan van Dyk, — who now lives in Vereeniging — life on the plot eventually became "sheer hell".

She alleged that squatters had killed or were stealing their livestock

and pets and then ransacked their homes, systematically breaking down the house.

The final straw for the family came last week when her mother's mobile home, car and other personal property were set alight and gutted.

Another former resident, Harry Annandale (42) — whose house has been reduced to a "mere shell" — put the losses he had suffered at approximately R2,5 million.

"I was once a wealthy farmer but now I'm worse off than the squatters who have destroyed everything I owned and taken my future out of my hands."

All of the families interviewed yesterday welcomed the proposed purchasing of their land by the TPA.

● In a statement released in Pretoria last night, the Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, assured residents in the area that everything was being done to protect landowners and their properties.

The SAP had already started deploying special units.

B/day 24/10/90

TPA to buy farms raided by squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) swiftly announced yesterday that it would buy many smallholdings allegedly pillaged recently by Orange Farm squatters.

Former farmers told an SABC TV news team that squatters from the fast-growing resettlement area near Vereeniging had stolen their cattle and then ransacked their homes, sometimes removing window frames while residents were at home.

Urbanisation

Interviewed in front of the ruins of their homes on Monday, former residents, complaining bitterly, said squatters had swarmed over their homes, removing bricks, doors and even underground wiring.

During the interview, one squatter was shown removing bricks from a demolished farmhouse.

The squatter said building materials were expensive and he intended building his own home with the bricks.

Transvaal Acting Administrator Willie Hoods said yesterday that areas south of Johannesburg and north of Vereeniging would be bought with R24m set aside last week to purchase white-owned land for black urbanisation.

Properties south of the Lenasia Development Area, north of the old Golden Highway and west of the Johannesburg-Vereeniging railway line would be acquired.

Properties of white landowners on the northern, western and south-western sides of the existing Orange Farm would also be bought, he said.

TIM COHEN

The TPA would also buy the land of white landowners of the West Rand Agricultural Holdings (Zuurbekom), whose land had not yet been sold, Hoods said.

The CP called yesterday for the deployment of the SADF to deal with the "squatter threat" in the Orange Farm area.

CP defence spokesman Koos van der Merwe said in a statement it was clear that the squatter problem had become unmanageable in some areas.

He said the lives of many whites were now in danger.

He said he had contacted Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok weeks ago and asked him to increase the number of police at the De Duur police station so the squatter problem could be handled effectively.

Concerned

Sapa reports that Commissioner of Police Gen Johan van der Merwe has asked the District Commissioner of the Vaal Triangle area to furnish a report on allegations that squatters have robbed and driven farmers off their land in the area.

A police spokesman said yesterday that both the commissioner and Vlok were disturbed by and concerned over reports that Orange Farm squatters had pillaged surrounding farms and smallholdings.

According to the police, the commissioner's request for a report is aimed primarily at verifying the allegations and then establishing how such a situation could have developed.

Midrand seeks land for 4 000

TANIA LEVY

THE Midrand Town Council was negotiating to buy land to settle an estimated 4 000 squatters permanently in the municipality, town clerk Henry Lubbe said yesterday.

The TPA would be approached to help with funding if the negotiations with three private landowners were completed successfully.

Lubbe said the council's hands had largely been tied by the TPA, which had refused to allocate more land to accommodate Midrand's homeless people.

The 300 erven of alternative land made available by the TPA earlier this year were completely used up by resettlement of a squatter camp at Second Road next to the Ben Schoeman Highway, he said.

At a meeting in September, the TPA had said Tembisa's homeless took preference since they had been without homes for years compared with Midrand's "new" squatters.

The TPA had not offered a solution to Midrand's squatter situation, leaving the council to act against illegal squatters in accordance with the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, said Lubbe.

Elegant.
Solid.
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Violence erupts

Rebel farmers petition SAAU

Mr Tinas 25/10/90 36224

PRETORIA. — Two hundred sunburnt, khaki-clad farmers invaded the South African Agricultural Union congress here yesterday to demand replies from the government by tomorrow on questions relating to the repeal of the Land Acts and financial assistance.

Apparent National Party-supporting farmers successfully moved that the congress be adjourned and meekly fled the venue at the Pretoria Holiday Inn when the rebels invaded the congress.

The rebels, who travelled from the searing Springbok Flats and Western Transvaal, encircled the

hall while Mr Leonard Venter, chairman of the Immerspan Farmers' Association, near Potgietersrus, addressed the remaining delegates.

He told them some farmers were in such dire financial straits that they could not proceed with production this season.

Mr Venter demanded an undertaking from government that "white" land remain in white hands and that government extend financial assistance to farmers.

SAAU president Mr Nico Kotze, who appealed to delegates to listen to Mr Venter, replied that the SAAU would process the petition as quickly as possible, but said it

would be practically impossible to extract a reply from government by tomorrow.

When the invading group left the hall, the delegates who had walked out returned to calls of "pappbroeke!"

Mr Kotze told the congress that he did not expect the financial pressures on farmers to ease during the next year.

He also warned that the farming community's infrastructure was collapsing.

Mr Kotze urged farmers, while differing over important issues, to maintain unity within the SAAU. — Sapa

Squatters deny looting white farms

3 General
Sowetan
25/10/90

Orange Farm Squatters on Tuesday denied any involvement in a concerted looting campaign against white farmers.

SOWETAN Correspondent

White farmers this week alleged their houses were being stripped beneath them by Orange Farm squatters.

"How do they know that the squatters who are looting their farms are from here? There are other squatter settlements in the area," Godfrey Vilakazi who has been a squatter in Orange Farm for over a year said.

Mr Paulus Molozi said if people were stealing building materials they were stealing from the contractors in the area.

Begging

"I have been unemployed for about a year and I have a wife and three children to support. Heaven knows how we survive. I know what it is like to go without food and I am forced to make a living by begging, borrowing and whatever it takes to feed my children," he said.

He did not believe the looting of white farms was being carried out by Orange Farm squatters.

All the squatters inter-

viewed had been unemployed from between six months to two-and-a-half years.

Living conditions for the squatters are squalid, one roomed shacks. There is no sanitation. The area is dusty, poverty stricken and barren with not a shop in sight.

In a one-room shack - about twice the size of the average bathroom - Felicia Sibeko lives with three adults and two children, none of whom are employed.

Opening a clinic in the area on Tuesday Fanie Ferreira, executive committee member for health services said Orange Farm was rapidly developing with more than 1 500 formal homes already built.

Residents were provided with septic toilets and receive daily water supplies, he said.

The "formal houses" comprised one large room which residents have to partition themselves. They cost R8 500 to build. The land, 220 square metres, is R500.

Squatters said they could barely survive let alone afford to buy houses.

youngest player to win the event, but the first coloured player. Her sister Letitia (

Stricken Transvaal farmers want drastic SAAU action

Star 25/10/90
3 lines
E

Own Correspondent
and George Nicholas

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is heading for a showdown with disaffected Transvaal farmers who are threatening "drastic action" if their demands are not met.

About 200 khaki-clad farmers from the Springbok Flats and western Transvaal disrupted the union's annual congress in Pretoria yesterday when they invaded the conference hall and demanded to be able to present a memorandum.

SAAU president Nico Kotze adjourned the proceedings at 2.30 pm, but agreed to listen to the farmers' grievances.

They were led by Leonard Venter, chairman of the Pot-

gietersrus area Immerspan Farmers' Association.

A number of SAAU delegates walked out before Mr Venter started talking, but most, including Minister of Agriculture Kraai van Niekerk, stayed. The farmers are demanding:

- A written SAAU undertaking that white-owned agricultural land will remain in white hands.

Subsidising

- Direct State subsidising of interest on agricultural loans.
- The writing-off of farmers' debts.
- That the Land Bank cease all pending sequestrations of farmers.

Mr Venter said 700 stricken farmers, who had been refused production credit, had reached the end of the road

and would not survive another season without financial help.

"This is our last chance to survive. We are in a dead-end street. We want the SAAU to give us an answer whether funds will be made available and we want a firm answer by Friday, otherwise we will be forced to take drastic action. We are not prepared to go under," he said.

Asked what he meant by "drastic action", Mr Venter said: "Wait until Friday and you'll see."

Mr Kotze told the farmers that the matter would receive attention at the next general meeting of the SAAU on November 21 — an answer Mr Venter did not accept.

"We want action sooner," he said.

Cops to report on squatters

Sowetan 25/10/90

General
3

THE Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, has asked the district commissioner for the Vaal area to provide a report on allegations that squatters had robbed and driven farmers off their land near Vereeniging.

A police spokesman said on Tuesday that both the Van der Merwe and Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok were concerned about reports that squatters at Orange Farm had pillaged surrounding farms and smallholdings.

Several farmers were interviewed by SABC-TV on Monday while stand-

ing near the ruins of their former homes and some within sight of the burnt out wrecks of their vehicles and farm machinery.

In one scene, a squatter was shown loading bricks from a demolished farmhouse.

He said he was going to use them, as other squatters were doing, to

build himself a home.

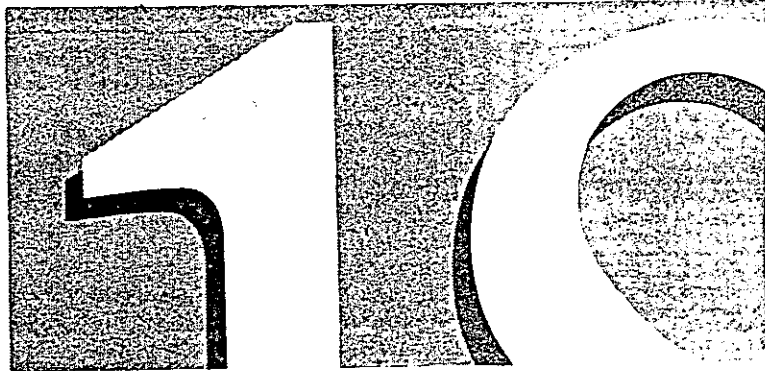
The farmers claim they had first been robbed of their livestock, had tractors and machinery burnt and smashed and then had their homes emptied of furniture and finally dismantled for window frames, doors, fittings and bricks.

In one case the house was torched to drive the

occupants out after hand-to-hand fighting: Even the underground power cable to one house had been dug up.

According to police, Van der Merwe's request for a report was aimed primarily at verifying the allegations and then to establish how such a situation could have developed. - Sapa.

SILVY & MATHER, RIGHTFORD, SEARLE-TRIPP & MAKIN 32951



New clinic opens at Orange Farm

Housing a rapidly-urbanising population was the biggest challenge facing South Africa, Transvaal MEC Fanie Ferreira said this week.

Opening the Stretford community primary health clinic - part of the Soweto community health centres project - at the newly-proclaimed town of Orange Farm, a former squatter

Sowetan 25/10/90
settlement south of Johannesburg, Ferreira said it was necessary to be "fair and just" and in that connection, the centre was an example. Ferreira said the challenge facing the country involved finding land for housing, developing social and

supportative infrastructures, and enabling the community to become self-sufficient.

"The community of Orange Farm and all the organisations and individuals playing a role in the development of this new town are pioneers breaking new

ground. The rest of South Africa will benefit from the success being made here and will learn from mistakes made," he added.

Orange Farm needed a clinic as it is growing by 90 families a day, and so far 45

000 people live in the town, according to Ferreira.

He described the establishment of the clinic as "a miracle of goodwill, co-ordination and caring, involving people from all spheres of life" and praised people and organisations who had donated building materials and services to complete the project. - *Sowetan Correspondent*

PROCLAMATION

3 General
by the
State President
of the Republic of South Africa

No. R. 185, 1990

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ACT, 1990
(ACT No. 86 OF 1990)

COMMENCEMENT

Under section 30 of the Agricultural Research Act, 1990 (Act No. 86 of 1990), I hereby determine 1 December 1990 as the date on which all the provisions of the said Act, excluding section 29 thereof, shall come into operation.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Pretoria this Tenth day of October, One thousand Nine hundred and Ninety.

F. W. DE KLERK,

State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet:

J. DE VILLIERS,

Minister of the Cabinet.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

No. R. 2474

26 October 1990

MARKETING ACT, 1968 (ACT No. 59 OF 1968)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE GRADING,
PACKING AND MARKING OF AVOCADOS IN-
TENDED FOR SALE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.—AMENDMENT

The Minister of Agriculture has under section 89 of the Marketing Act, 1968 (Act No. 59 of 1968), made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

174—A

PROKLAMASIE

van die
Staatspresident
van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika
No. R. 185, 1990

WET OP LANDBOONAVORSING, 1990
(WET No. 86 VAN 1990)

INWERKINGTREDING

Kragtens artikel 30 van die Wet op Landbounavorsing, 1990 (Wet No. 86 van 1990), bepaal ek 1 Desember 1990 as die datum waarop al die bepalings van genoemde Wet, uitgesonderd artikel 29 daarvan, in werking tree.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seël van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Pretoria, op hede die Tiende dag van Oktober Eenduisend Negehonderd-en-negentig.

F. W. DE KLERK,

Staatspresident.

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

J. DE VILLIERS,

Minister van die Kabinet.

GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU**

No. R. 2474

26 Oktober 1990

BEMARKINGSWET, 1968 (WET No. 59 VAN 1968)

REGULASIES MET BETREKKING TOT DIE GRADE-
RING, VERPAKKING EN MERK VAN AVOKADO'S
BESTEM VIR VERKOOP IN SEKERE GEBIEDE VAN
DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA.—WYSIGING

Die Minister van Landbou het kragtens artikel 89 van die Bemarkingswet, 1968 (Wet No. 59 van 1968), die regulasies in die Bylae uiteengesit, uitgevaardig.

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Sentrachem suffers along with the rest

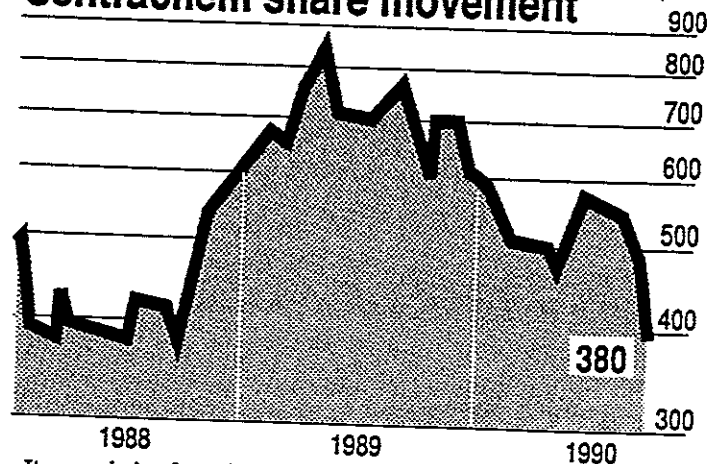
By Ann Crotty

More evidence of the steady deterioration in the economy comes in the form of Sentrachem's 12 percent decline in earnings per share in the 17 months to end-August.

From earnings of 96,7c a share (110,3c for the comparative period to August '89) a dividend of 36,5c is being paid — 46 percent up on the comparative period's 25c.

A break-down of the reporting periods that make up the 17 months shows the sharpness of the deterioration in trading conditions. In the 6 months to end-September '89, earnings were up 13 percent. Figures for the 12 months to end-March showed an earnings improvement of only 7 percent. But conditions in the five months to end-August deteriorated sufficiently to turn this 12 month increase into a 17 month loss.

Sentrachem share movement



It was obviously a disappointing time for management as each reporting period turned out to be worse than had been forecast at the end of the previous period. (In this regard Sentrachem management is no different from just about all other industrial groups.)

The fact that the 17-month figures includes two winter periods

has aggravated the situation for Sentrachem. This is because the contribution from its agricultural interests is always relatively low in the winter months. In addition the Sanachem deal (with Farm-Ag) which is effective since February '90 means that the group's exposure to weak farming conditions is that much greater.

CE Mr Johan van der Walt

believes that in the medium and longer-term this deal will derive significant benefits for Sentrachem particularly on the export front.

The very poor performance from the agricultural division combined with the fall off in demand across all industry sectors. Mr Van der Walt attributes the drop in demand to the destocking undertaken by customers who were being squeezed by high interest rates.

In addition the disruption of customer offtake resulting from strike activity put a dampner on demand — Sentrachem's Mega operation was particularly affected by the prolonged strike activity at Mercedes.

Looking to the other divisions Safripol, which got off to a bad start in the six months to end-September '89, suffered throughout the 17-month period chiefly because of the squeeze on margins that resulted from buying expensive imported inputs and selling the final product into a

depressed local market.

Mr Van der Walt says that as the costly imported stocks are run down and replaced by Sentrachem's own production, profit prospects are improving.

Mega was knocked by the Mercedes strike and also by the weak demand from the mining industry. But its other operations (accounting for about 50 percent of sales) did well.

Specialities did reasonably well with the review 17 months beating the previous 17 month period. Resolution of stock problems, tight working capital management and intensive marketing efforts helped to produce the goods in this division.

The NCP division put in a mixed performance

Seasonal influences on stock levels (at the agricultural division); capex; and the write offs associated with the mothballing of the isoprene plant combined to increase gearing to 67 percent from 50 percent at end-March.



Walter, Mr Aziz Pahad

Sites racket uncovered

By SONTI MASEKO

A SOWETO councillor and a council employee have been collecting hundreds of rands from illegally unsuspecting residents for the purchase of sites at Orange Farm near Vereeniging, a document leaked to *Sowetan* has revealed. (2) (3) General

The Soweto Council's auditors have recommended that the alleged illegal collection of money by the two be investigated by the council's legal department and be referred to an inquiry.

A report by the council said the council employee was collecting the money at the instruction of an Orlando East councillor. Another councillor has also been implicated in the matter.

Shack dwellers were made to pay sums between R500 to R1 000 for sites at Orange Farm and given receipts bearing the council's stamp.

Sowetan is in possession of documents, including an affidavit by the

to Page 2

Council racket

From Page 1

council employee, explaining her involvement in the matter.

Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi said the sale of stands at Orange Farm to Orlando East residents was never authorised by council. He said there were no new stands available at the new settlement area.

The sites at Orange Farm were set aside only for Mshenguville residents and deposits were paid only at the council's Zondi offices.

In an affidavit handed to the council, the council employee said she had collected money from Soweto residents on behalf of the councillor and another, "who had decided upon themselves to arrange sites for their own people at Orange Farm".

The three could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The council's investigations have revealed that at least R6 060 had been collected.

Mkhwanazi said a few weeks ago there were people who confronted one of the councillors demanding their money back. Some were refunded their money.

He urged residents who paid money money in similar circumstances to report to the council.

Sowetan 27/10/90

Farmers' union to stay white

6/10/90

30/10/90

GERALD REILLY

(3) General

PRETORIA — The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) is to stay white in spite of the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) decision to open its doors to blacks.

TAU president and CP MP Dries Bruwer said yesterday a majority of the TAU's general council decided membership of the farmers' associations and agricultural bodies would be limited to whites.

Bruwer said the TAU's delegation to last week's SA Agricultural Congress had no mandate to vote in favour of open SAAU membership.

He said the TAU had assured the self-governing and independent black states of aid in the establishment of agriculture organisations for black farmers.

The TAU had also announced its readiness to assist with secretarial work for such organisations. The TAU would continue with its policy of assisting black farmers to set up their own farm groups.

The TAU would arrange a meeting with President F W de Klerk to tell him of members' opposition to the repeal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

Star 30/10/90 ~~Orange Farm~~ 3 General

Orange Farm buy-out begins soon

By Melody McDougall
Vereeniging Bureau

Evaluators appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration will soon start negotiating with white landowners at Orange Farm and certain surrounding areas to buy out their properties for scheduled black settlement.

This was confirmed yesterday by the TPA's director of liaison services in Pretoria, Piet Wilken, after a meeting attended by local landowners, the police and TPA officials near Apple Orchards on Monday night.

The Government has allocated R24 million to

buy out white-owned properties in the area after complaints by residents that they had been ruined by plundering inhabitants of nearby squatter camps.

The squatters have denied these allegations.

One of the residents, who attended the meeting but asked to have her name withheld, said various matters had been discussed at the function, including the safeguarding of the area.

She said local landowners were grateful for the establishment of a satellite police station at Orange Farm, which she hoped would help combat the spate of burglaries and plundering

residents have suffered recently.

The woman said the TPA's assessment of damage on smallholdings and the possibility of compensation for landowners was also discussed.

However, no decision about the matter was reached.

She said the TPA had undertaken on Monday night to start sending out evaluators to the area to negotiate individually with landowners about the purchase of their smallholdings.

The TPA apparently indicated that property owners to the west of the Vereeniging/Johannesburg railway line would

be paid out within the next two months.

Mr Wilken told The Star that the amount of land purchased would depend on how far the R24 million allocated for the project for this financial year could be stretched.

The land of those who were still living on their properties would be bought out first.

He said the TPA was having difficulty in tracing plot owners who had already moved off their land.

In the second phase of the project the TPA would buy property in the West Rand agricultural holdings (Zuurbeekom).

Star 30/10/90

3 General

Farmers take Minister to task

Own Correspondent

Minister of Agriculture in the House of Assembly Kraai van Niekerk has been taken to task for denouncing the group of khaki-clad Northern Transvaal farmers who gatecrashed the South African Agricultural Union congress last

week.

He said their action was "politically inspired and the result of escalating political motives within organised agriculture".

A statement signed by the leader of the group, Leonard Venter, said the group was composed of

people of different political persuasions and included members of the National Party.

The statement said the SAAU made representations to Dr van Niekerk in September on the need for emergency aid but no announcement had been made in this regard.

Ann Bernstein puts the case for a new development strategy to replace rural apartheid

Scrapping Land Acts only the first step

Ste. 30/10/90

3 General

ONE of the many myths that apartheid has nurtured is the notion of "white" rural areas.

In fact, whites comprise less than 12 percent of the total rural population living outside homelands. Blacks make up about 75 percent and "coloureds" 14 percent.

A second equally corrosive myth is the idea that race is a reliable indicator of agricultural performance. Historical evidence reveals otherwise. For example, in the 1870s Sotho farmers produced 100 000 bags of grain a year for the white market, while Pondo farmers in the Transkei sold thousands of head of cattle. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed deliberate State intervention to undermine relatively efficient black farmers.

Why do we know so little about South Africa's divided rural areas and how do we start to change this?

The Urban Foundation and PSC research have highlighted the inevitability of black urbanisation and in particular the growing concentration of population in and around the country's existing cities and towns. This urban emphasis should not be misunderstood. Over 12 million people live in South Africa's rural areas and although urbanisation will reduce this proportion, the absolute numbers will continue to increase.

The lowest levels of social, economic and human welfare are found in our rural areas, and the poverty and deterioration in rural conditions are major causes of migration to cities. Conversely, effective rural development re-

quires fewer people on the land and thus greater urbanisation. Rural development is therefore a critically important component of a new national development strategy. Its aim should be to build on all South Africa's resources and provide millions of people with viable alternative chances and opportunities for a decent quality of life — if they so choose — in the rural areas.

The historic effect of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts was to prevent African ownership or occupation of land outside the homelands (or land scheduled for incorporation into homelands) in any capacity other than employee (and dependants). Many black South Africans owned land in the white platteland prior to the application of the Land Acts.

Forced

According to one estimate, in Natal alone, between 1984 and the present, over 100 000 people were forced to move from more than a 100 black freehold areas — "black spots" — as a result of the segregation policy.

An estimated 475 000 people were removed from "black spots" nationwide between 1960 and 1983. There are still today black communities which live under threat of forced removal.

Coloured and Asian South Africans were not affected by the Land Acts but their access to rural land has been severely restricted by a range of separate legislation culminating in the Group Areas Act of 1950.

In addition to effectively de-

stroying a once successful black farming class, rural segregation deepened the overcrowding in homeland areas and thereby contributed to the erosion of natural resources and poor agriculture. In the meantime farms in the white rural areas have been growing larger, employing fewer people but more machinery, and there has been a decline in the number of white people living in these areas.

There are under-utilised facilities and infrastructure in the racially segregated smaller towns in white rural areas. In essence, enforced segregation of divided rural areas has led to an inefficient racial allocation of rural resources rather than a national (and rational) approach to rural development.

The current situation in rural South Africa can be likened inadequately to the position in the urban areas prior to the reversal of the "temporary sojourner" policy well over a decade ago. Consider for a moment the enormous changes in attitudes, policies, life-chances, knowledge about and interest in township life that followed upon the acceptance of black permanence in the hitherto "white" cities. This process of far-reaching urban change is an indication of the fundamental transformation that is long overdue and urgently required in rural areas.

What is needed now is not just the long overdue repeal of the Land Acts but an energetic commitment to a programme of rural reconstruction.

The PSC has called for a com-



Race no guide to agricultural performance . . . Ann Bernstein, an executive director of the Urban Foundation.

prehensive package of measures in order to start the process of rural reconstruction. The proposals are based on certain principles:

- The present system cannot continue.
 - Access to land, skills and resources — and not race — are the key determinants of potential farming performance.
 - Efficiency and equity are both important considerations for future policy.
 - Conservation of our natural resources is very important.
 - Rural development is part of a broader national development process and, as with urban and regional strategies, success will depend on the application of these critical guidelines:
- 1 Existing resources should be used to the maximum.
 - 2 The strength of South Africa's

business and non-profit sector should be capitalised upon.

3 There should be a special focus on the poor.

4 Community participation is absolutely essential.

5 A new rural development framework must be negotiated with all affected parties, and must gain widespread "grassroots" consent.

The essence of the PSC proposals includes:

● The repeal of the Land Acts, the Group Areas Act and the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

● The halt to arbitrary intervention in present black tenure patterns in the homelands. For example, now that people are crowded into homelands, it will be important not to unilaterally and undemocratically impose new land tenure systems in these areas which could have disastrous effects on the poor and drastically increase the rate of migration to the cities.

● An urgent assessment of existing agricultural legislation and policies to ensure the removal of any racially discriminatory provisions or any other unfair barriers to the development of small-scale farmers.

● The introduction of a new legal mechanism to resolve land conflicts in rural areas. This "rural land court" would ensure a fair judicial process, accessible to the poor, capable of handing down legally binding judgments in respect of conflicting claims in relation to settlement and ownership issues arising out of South Africa's history of land expropriation, black spot and other forced

removals and dispossession. ● A bold new rural development action programme designed to expand opportunities and choices to help people where they are, which would include:

1 The extension of farmer support programmes to all, irrespective of race.

2 The establishment of special agricultural areas for small-scale farming.

3 The expansion of State-owned communal grazing land subject to controls on overcrowding and natural resource depletion.

4 Provision of opportunities for non-agricultural rural development.

5 The opening of rural towns to all.

6 More finance to rural development, with a focus on the rural poor with some State funds drawn from the money currently allocated to the regional industrial development programme and further funds made available through private capital markets.

Improve

Effective rural development in any country requires firm political and financial commitment by the central government to improve the quality of life in rural areas. This will only occur if that government has and is dependent for electoral support on a large and organised rural constituency.

Democracy — organisation, debate and party formation — must apply to both urban and rural South Africa and the new "social contract" must incorporate the poor. □

Urbanisation urged to ease rural pressure

 GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The implementation of government urbanisation policy had to be speeded up to relieve over-population pressure in rural areas, Council of the Environment chairman Roelf Botha said yesterday.

In a keynote address at a National Veld Trust conference, Botha warned the process must not lead to the establishment of large informal settlements in high potential agricultural land.

Botha said the question of land access touched on major political issues and was often avoided.

He stressed the need for a rational approach.

Botha said the threat to rural ecological systems was a critical environmental problem.

He said 65% of SA had less than 500mm of rain a year and only 12% was available for grain production. 8 10 0 1 3 1 1 0 1 7 0

The land available per person for all uses had dropped from 5,5ha in 1970 to 4,2ha in 1980. By the end of the century it would be a meagre 2,4ha, with only 0,3ha of workable agricultural land per person.

Threats to living resources included deterioration of natural veld, erosion, silting and pollution of wetlands, riverine and estuarine ecosystems.

Opening the conference, Agricultural Minister Jacob de Villiers said the supply of food for a population growing uncontrollably, no matter how wisely agricultural resources were used, would adversely affect on the environment.

Attention would have to be focused on law enforcement and on environmental ethics.

State's plan on land is rejected

REPRESENTATIVES of 18 Transvaal rural communities have rejected the Government's plan to make individual private ownership the only legal basis on which land could be acquired when the Land and Group Areas Acts are abolished next year.

The Black Sash's Transvaal Rural Action Committee said there was unanimity on the issue at a meeting of representatives of the communities in Soweto on Sunday.

The meeting agreed that community consultation at a real democratic

level was the only way in which questions of land allocation and use should be decided.

"Rights to land and houses should be based on the principle that all people have a right to a place to stay and this should not be dependent on their ability to pay for it," Trac said in a statement yesterday.

Resolutions

Among resolutions taken were that:

* "When talking about the land, we must remember that the land was taken away from the

black people.

"This started in 1652 with wars of conquest, continued with the expansion of mining companies and was made legal by the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936. Three-hundred years of dispossession have left us without land.

* "We need land. We need land for our cattle. We need land to plough. We need land to build houses, affordable houses.

"We need land close to town and places of work. We need water for the land. We need land that is part of one South Africa. - Sapa.

② General Sowetan 28/11/90

12 000 farmers get R500-million aid

(3) General
ADDITIONAL State aid amounting to more than R500 million is to be extended between now and 1996 to about 12 000 farmers in a distressed financial situation but still solvent and capable of recovery.

The aid is confined to farmers in the summer-rainfall cropping regions of South Africa, including northern Transvaal farmers who gate-crashed the recent South African Agricultural Union congress.

The financial aid, announced by Minister of Agricul-

Sowetan 7/11/70
tural Development Dr Kraai van Niekerk in Pretoria on Monday, has been welcomed by the SAAU as a generous Government gesture indicating understanding of the serious plight in which so many farmers found themselves, mainly as a result of climatic setbacks.

Van Niekerk said the relevant areas included the service areas of the 28 major co-operatives now participating in the existing five-year and 10-year carry-over debt schemes.

"The affected farmers will now be able to plant a crop again and to continue farming," he added. -
Sowetan Correspondent.

Police rescue six captive boys from farm

SIX boys who were allegedly brutally assaulted by a white farmer and kept for four days without medical attention have been admitted to hospital in serious conditions.

The boys were rescued by police from the farm in Messina on Monday.

Far Northern Transvaal police spokesman Captain Cas Jones on Tuesday confirmed the assault and the rescue of the boys.

He said police were investigating a charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. No arrest has been made.

By **RUSSEL MOLEFE**

Jones said police rushed to the farm after they had received a complaint and took the boys to hospital.

According to an official of the Messina Advice Office, Mr Jacob Matakanye, the boys were confronted by the farmer, who demanded to be shown people who allegedly stole his water pipes.

When they told him they did not know the

Sowetan 29/11/90
 thieves, he ordered them into a bakkie and drove to his house where they were brutally assaulted with sjamboks until two of them lost consciousness, Matakanye said.

The boys' parents reported the matter to him four days later after the farmer had allegedly refused the boys to be taken to hospital.

The boys, Philemon Tobani (9), Rephos Molea (10), Manuel Kobe (13), Alpheus Munzhelele (11), Tsapane Makokoropa (14) and Alfred Manenzhe (16), all of Wapie Farm, are

being treated at the Limpopo Hospital. *(3) Genef*

A hospital spokesman yesterday described their conditions as very serious and said four of them cannot walk.

Another three boys Mbudzeni Mabaso (12), Henry Tshivhambo (9) and Samson Tshivhambo (16), who were also assaulted by the farmer, were treated and discharged.

Last week a farmworker who was acquitted on a charge of theft had his belongings confiscated by his employer.

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Registered at the Post Office
as a Newspaper
As 'n Nuusblad by die
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Vol. 305

PRETORIA, 9 NOVEMBER 1990

No. 12829

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

ADMINISTRATION: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

No. R. 2581 9 November 1990
CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES
ACT, 1983 (ACT No. 43 OF 1983)

FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME FOR FLOOD DISASTER AREAS.—AMENDMENT

In terms of the powers, duties and work referred to in sections 8 and 9 of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983), assigned to me by the State President under section 6 of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983 (Act No. 110 of 1983), I, Andre Isak van Niekerk, Minister of Agricultural Development, Administration: House of Assembly, hereby amend the Table of the Flood Relief Scheme for Flood Disaster Areas published by Government Notice No. R. 47 of 15 January 1988, as specified in the Schedule.

A. I. VAN NIEKERK,

Minister of Agricultural Development.

SCHEDULE

The following insertion is hereby made at the end of the Table, in the columns as specified:

Area in which scheme is applicable	Date or dates on which flood damage to soil conservation works occurred	Date of inception
1	2	3
"8. The Magisterial Districts of— Piet Retief Ngotshe Ubombo Hlabisa Lower Umfolozi Richmond (Natal) Camperdown	November/December 1989	1 October 1990"

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWINGS

ADMINISTRASIE: VOLKSRAAD

DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU- ONTWIKKELING

No. R. 2581 9 November 1990
WET OP DIE BEWARING VAN LANDBOUHULP-
BRONNE, 1983 (WET No. 43 VAN 1983)

VLOEDHULPSKEMA VIR VLOEDRAMPGEBIEDE.— WYSIGING

Kragtens die bevoegdheid, pligte en werksaamhede bedoel in artikels 8 en 9 van die Wet op die Bewaring van Landbouhulpbronne, 1983 (Wet No. 43 van 1983), my opgedra deur die Staatspresident onder artikel 6 van die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1983 (Wet No. 110 van 1983), wysig ek, Andre Isak van Niekerk, Minister van Landbou-ontwikkeling, Administrasie: Volksraad, hiermee die Tabel van die Vloedhulpskema vir Vloedrampgebiede afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing No. R. 47 van 15 Januarie 1988, soos in die Bylae uiteengesit.

A. I. VAN NIEKERK,

Minister van Landbou-ontwikkeling.

BYLAE

Die volgende inskrywing word hierby aan die einde van die Tabel, in die kolomme soos aangedui, ingevoeg:

Gebied waarin skema van toepassing is	Datum of datums waarop vloedskade aan grondbewaringswerke voorgekom het	Instellingsdatum
1	2	3
"8. Die landdrosdistrikte— Piet Retief Ngotshe Ubombo Hlabisa Lower Umfolozi Richmond (Natal) Camperdown	November/Desember 1989	1 Oktober 1990"

Russians on visit to forge trade links

THE first official Russian trade delegation to visit South Africa in many years is expected to arrive today for meetings with trade officials and businessmen.

The visit, which is being regarded as a breakthrough in contact between two former arch-enemies, will be headed by Russian Republic Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Yastrenko, informed

Sources said yesterday.

But they believe officials of the central Soviet government will also be in the delegation.

The Russians are scheduled to hold talks with South African trade officials and businessmen tomorrow.

They are being hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry and the visit follows that of Trade and Industry Minister Kent Durr's to Russia a few months ago.

The visit is being seen as another milestone in relations between the Soviet Union and South Africa which have been slowly thawing over the past 18 months.

A few months ago Director-General of Foreign Affairs Mr Neil van Heerden visited Moscow to discuss establishing relations and last week Foreign Minister Pik Botha predicted that relations would be established in six months. - *Sowetan Correspondent.*

4 youths in court for allegedly killing an Inkatha supporter

FOUR Soweto youths appeared in the Johannesburg Regional Court yesterday in connection with the killing last month of an alleged Inkatha supporter at Naledi railway station.

The case was postponed to Thursday at the request of the defence team.

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE

The youths, all from Naledi, were not asked to plead. Applications for bail will be heard when the case resumes.

The youths are Andrew Xaba (21), Mr Thabiso Jacob Mofokeng (19) and two minors, who cannot be named.

ESKOM power for Orange Farm

ESKOM has for the first time started with providing electricity to an informal settlement in the PWV area. *Sowetan 27/11/90*

According to Eskom spokesman Mr Johan du Plessis about 25 structures at Orange Farm, near Evaton in the Vaal area, have been provided with electricity through an overhead distribution system which made it affordable for low income households. (3) *General*

Unrest area

A pre-paid metering system is used to enable households to budget for electricity consumption and cards, in units of R10 to activate delivery, is being sold locally by Eskom.

Du Plessis said Eskom had the ability to provide similar cheap distribution systems to other communities but the provision of pre-paid metering systems was at present inhibited by the limited local production of the system. - *Sapa.*

ANC plea for sharing of South Africa

Smelcer 15/11/90

3 General
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THE ANC, in a report just released, has made an urgent plea for a major redistribution of land in South Africa as part of a State-run affirmative action programme, using nationalisation selectively.

The report is a detailed summary of last month's African National Congress Land Commission workshop, which was closed to the media.

It is the first in a line of comprehensive ANC documents which will form the basis for discussions towards a definitive ANC land policy, officials said.

Mr Derek Hanekom, administrator of the ANC Land Commission, said

what was notable about the workshop was that it highlighted the complexity of the South African land issue.

Discussions raised more questions than answers, he added.

Report

The ANC expects its report will contribute to the growing debate on the emotive issue of land in the country - 87 percent owned by whites and the remaining 13 percent by blacks.

There was also an urgent need for a programme of affirmative action regarding the acquisition of land for black people and in support of aspirant black producers.

Importantly though,

the ANC said, the majority opinion was that nationalisation of land was not necessarily the only instrument for land redistribution.

The ANC said an example of the thoroughness of the workshop was that delegates went so far as to give detailed proposals on exactly how to compensate land owners whose land was acquired by the state. - Sapa.

Mangena advocates seizures for redistribution

Repeal of Land Act is insufficient: BC

General
3

THE intended repeal of the Land Acts was not a sufficient attempt by the regime to placate the land hunger of the dispossessed black people in this country.

And as blacks were dispossessed of their land by deceit, plunder, force and seizure, it was utterly unacceptable that black people were now expected to pay for the return of their land.

This is the standpoint of the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania (BCMA) on the thorny issue of black land ownership.

BCMA chairman Mr Mosibudi Mangena told *Sowetan* in an exclusive interview in Harare, Zimbabwe, that his organisation believed that land seizure and "other methods" were the only way to redress the present imbalance in land ownership.

Formula

"Land will have to be seized from private owners and distributed among the people in a formula still to be worked out.

"Whites who presently own it or to be even more precise, possess it, got the land in a non-democratic and non-economic buying scheme.

"They seized it from our people and we will seize it back," Mangena said.

Turning to the BCMA's standpoint on negotiations, Mangena said his organisation had agreed with Azapo that a constituent assembly, elected on a one-man-one-vote system with no colour bar, was the only body that could formulate the future constitution of this country:

While his organisation was not willing to enter into negotiations with the De Klerk regime over the constitutional dispensation for South Africa, it was, however, willing to meet the Government and negotiate the mechanisms of setting up the constituent assembly.

These negotiations would have to take place outside South Africa and not "under the threats of the regime's forces with temporary

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

indemnities that are withdrawn at the whim of the regime," he said.

The constituent assembly negotiations must be chaired by an independent and impartial mediator.

These talks would not deal with anything except the "modality to bring about the constituent assembly", he added.

If the Government was to reject this demand, the struggle would intensify in all its forms - economic sanctions, armed struggle, mass mobilisation and disruptions of economic activity to bring down the regime.

Mangena said it was "absurd" for the De Klerk regime to claim that it was a legitimate government that should be left in charge of the running of the State with no need for the creation of a constituent assembly.

Talks

"De Klerk's regime is illegitimate as it oppresses the people and was not democratically elected. It only represents whites and cannot claim legitimacy.

"It is the main party in the conflict and cannot claim the right to convene, chair and decide the outcome of the process of liberation," Mangena said.

He said the struggle has always been waged to liberate the oppressed. It will continue for as long as this objective has not been realised.

Turning to the involvement and inclusion of bantustan leaders in the process, Mangena said this group of "Government puppets" had always been part and parcel of the State machinery of oppression and exploitation.

"They belong with De Klerk and should attend as part of De Klerk's delegation. They are frauds and the liberation move-

Sowetan 5/11/90



MOSIBUDI MANGENA

ment should continue to shun them," he added.

Asked whether his organisation had also been pressurised by Frontline states to enter into negotiations with the regime, Mangena said this had not happened.

Although Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda had urged the PAC to enter talks, the BCMA, which is not recognised by the OAU, had "received no message from any government urging us to go and negotiate.

"Our interactions with parties and governments in Africa have revealed instead an appreciation of our stand and it is found to be reasonable.

Military

"For those parties like ZANU (PF) that actually waged war, they do not understand how military commanders of a people's army can rush home now when all we have is new words from the regime," he added.

Mangena said the BCM, as a political family, believed in a "fully-fledged democracy in Azania with one man, one vote on a single voters' roll and in a unitary state, the repossession and redistribution of land and the redistribution of wealth."

The BCM also wanted these aspects to be enshrined in a new constitution to ensure that the new economic system, which has to be

socialistic, grants workers ownership, control and full participation in wealth creation and distribution.

Although the organisation was committed to participating in peaceful processes that have the potential to achieve genuine freedom, "De Klerk's refusal to negotiate on land redistribution, a radical alteration of the economic system, one person one vote in a unitary state, and his insistence on group rights, closes the door to real negotiations.

"For the BCM to negotiate under these circumstances would be a betrayal of the confidence and trust our people have placed in the movement", he added.

It was for this reason that the main BCM formation inside the country, Azapo, was instead calling for a consultative conference of all liberation movements and workers organisations to solidify and unite the efforts of the oppressed.

The Government's selective and individual invitations to black organisations is intended to be divisive and reveals De Klerk's continuing efforts to drive deeper wedges between people's organisations.

"He can therefore never be seen as a liberator of black people as only the oppressed have the capacity to free themselves," Mangena said.

Appeal to white owners

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has made an urgent appeal to white landowners in certain areas to contact its offices because their land was needed for urban development.

③ General
The TPA said valuers were experiencing problems in tracing white landowners in areas such as Orange Farm, Drieziek and the West Rand Agricultural Holdings (Zuurbekom), which had been declared Section 33 development areas.

"Owing to the fact that the owners are not all living on their properties anymore, the TPA is making an urgent appeal to such owners to contact Mr Thys Massyn at (012) 201-4298."

The statement said owners' co-operation would speed up the buying of land. - Sapa

TPA warns council on breaking rules

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has warned councillors that they faced prosecution if they acted contrary to regulations governing black local authorities.

It said in a circular tabled before the Atteridgeville Council's monthly meeting last night that when it came to its notice that a councillor had an interest in a contract with the council - contrary to the regulations and without prior permission of the Director of Local Authorities - a charge will be laid with the police against him.

The circular was recommended for information and strict compliance by the council.

It also stated that private purchases of councillors or employees may under no circumstances be funded from council

funds, not even as a temporary arrangement.

The payment of salary advances or personal loans to councillors or employees was also prohibited.

Vehicle loans and other liabilities due to the council should be redeemed on resignation.

The use of council vehicles for private purposes was prohibited and may result in a councillor losing his seat or an official losing his post.

The TPA said it was frequently receiving applications from local authorities for the approval of transactions between councillors and local authorities. The number of such transactions was alarming.

Such transactions generally put councillors and the local government system in a very poor light.

"The public is dissatisfied and come to the conclusion that councillors only look after their own interests."

The TPA said approval of a transaction with a councillor or an employee would in future not be considered unless formal tenders were called for and that the tender submitted by the councillor or employee was the most advantageous or only tender. - *Sowetan Correspondent.*

Hoseka

Mrs Rebecca Mmatshidi Hoseka (66) of Kromkuil near Winterveldt will be buried at the local cemetery tomorrow.

The service will be held at the Dutch Reformed Church at 9am and the cortege leaves for the cemetery at 10am.

Anger over council...

This is the end, say farmers

By Norman Patterson

"This is the end of the western Transvaal" is the grim view of a number of farmers canvassed this week about the drought in the region.

The bright view, held by a couple of farmers playing pool in the Elgin Hotel in Delareyville, was: "Why are we playing pool?"

"Our tractors are greased, the fertiliser is ready, our hedges spun, and our workers are watching us with big eyes.

"You want us to work — you pray for rain."

Pray for rain they did in the western Transvaal.

Thousands of farmers drove to church in Sunday suits on Monday.

Twisting

Dominees told them: "Pray like you never prayed before, because this time, God help us."

Outside the churches lay tens of thousands of square kilometres of arid farmland, with clouds twisting and turning above — but no rain came down.

Many farmers have ploughed their lands, in case of rain, and were sitting on their stoeps, watching the horizon.

At Kameel (population: zero) "Hennie and Bennie" aren't a comedy show.

They've suspended their attempts at farming, and have put a board with their names above a cash store, but don't attract many customers.

"Maybe farms should be nationalised, with farmers put on a payroll," they said.

Chris du Toit of the farm Corsica in the Delareyville district said: "We definitely have a problem.

"The planting season for several types of plants has passed, and we've not had rain yet.

Falling

"There are farmers here who won't make it if it does not rain this year.

"There definitely are farmers who will be bought out after this season. Others will run up more debt.

"The Weather Bureau said it would be 35 degrees today, but I think it will be more."

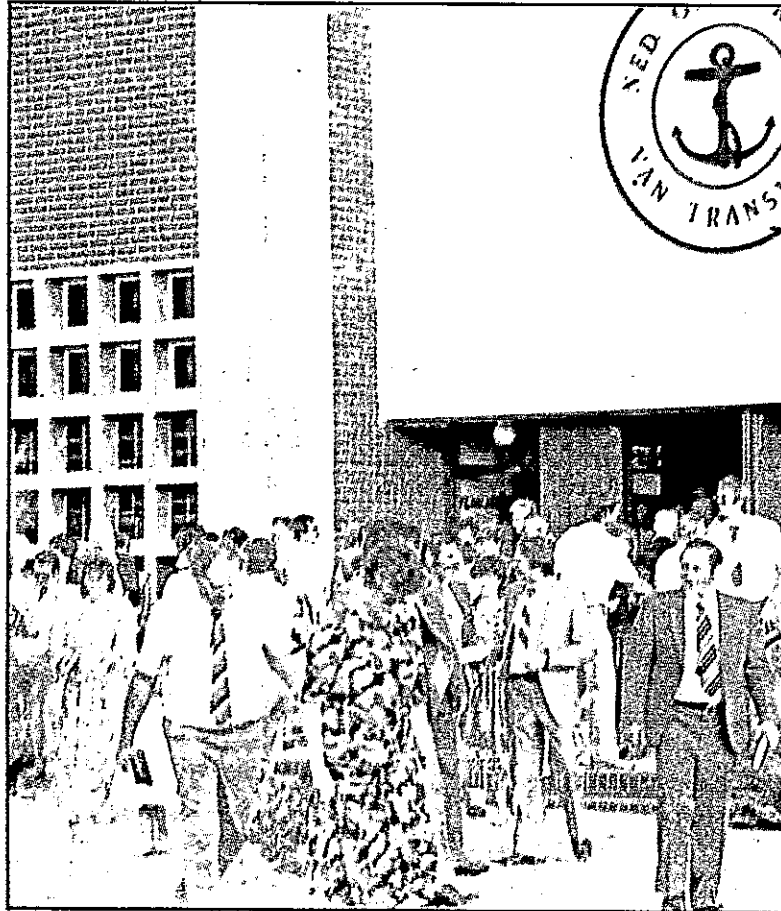
South African Agricultural Union president Nico Kotze said the situation in summer-crop areas was becoming extremely critical.

Grazing and feeding conditions, and the water supply, were deteriorating rapidly, he said.

The financial position of Transvaal farmers was poor.

Mr Kotze said that in northern and western Transvaal, the underground water level was falling.

Because of this, many boreholes had dried up. — Sapa.



Plea for rain . . . Delareyville farmers outside church. Picture: Sarel van den Berg

SKW 15/11/90
3/11/90

Brutal

drought saps the farms

By Joe Openshaw
Norman Chandler and
Dirk Nel

Dam levels are plummeting as soaring temperatures and the drought tighten their grip on much of the country.

Withering heat, debt and drought have plunged many of the country's farmers deeper into crisis.

Opening an emergency meeting of the Free State Agricultural Union in Kroonstad yesterday, the Reverend Eben Fourie prayed: "Lord, we have our backs to the wall and are down-and-out. Let it rain."

Dam levels mirror the growing crisis.

Desperate

The once mighty Vaal Dam is down from being 88 percent full at this time last year to 75 percent and has dropped 2 percent in the last week alone.

According to the Department of Water Affairs, dams in the western Transvaal are down seven percentage points from last year (55 percent to 48 percent), in the eastern Transvaal by 2 percent (70 to 68), and in the Vaal River catchment area (79 to 73).

Hartbeespoort is down from 85 percent to 76, in the north, Ebenezer from 91 percent to 85; Joskop in the east, 84 percent full at this time last year, is down to 78 percent of capacity.

Yesterday's Kroonstad meeting, attended by about 350 farmers, was called to

discuss the desperate financial straits of some farmers. Increasing production costs, low profit margins, the drought, high temperatures and freak windstorms could be the last straw for many.

The Free State countryside is brown and withered. Very little ploughing has taken place as farmers live in hope of relief.

Farmers in the drought-stricken north-western Transvaal have taken to doing most of their strenuous work between 4 and 8 am to avoid the heat.

In the northern Transvaal, work came to a halt in some towns and on many farms yesterday as temperatures soared over 40 deg C.

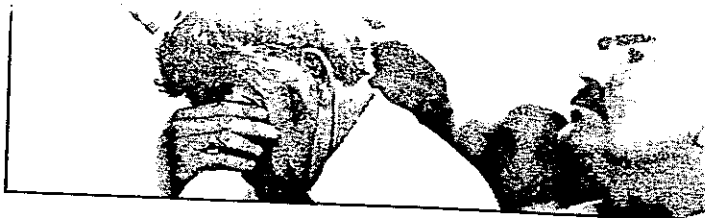
Messina, Marnitz and Hoedspruit registered 41 deg C, Thohoyandou 40, and Ellisras, Phalaborwa and Dendron 39.

Even wild animals, able to withstand drought better than domestic stock, are desperate and have taken to invading farmlands in search of water and food.

A Bushveld farmer near Koedoesrand has suffered damage of R90 000 after hippos and tsesebe broke down fences.

Trompie Cronje, of the farm Spekulatie in the north-western Bushveld near the Botswana border, said the animals had invaded his irrigation lands.

Mr Cronje said a group of hippo leave their pool in the Limpopo River every evening and walk up to 20 km along the bank, grazing and trampling crops. Tsesebe had raided his vegetable crops, and animals had trampled down fences.



Bleak outlook ... Free State farmers hold an emergency meeting to discuss their plight. Picture: Sean Woods.



Double damage ... Farmer Trompie Cronje of the north-western bushveld surveys the remains of his mealie crop after thirsty hippos invaded his irrigation lands in search of scarce water. Picture: Dirk Nel.

Started three months

Drought

● FROM PAGE 1.

wet summer season.

"It is estimated that the maize crop will be well below expectations and the situation could well arise that maize will have to be imported to meet domestic needs."

The wheat harvest, meanwhile, has already been estimated at a low 1.9 million tons which is half a million tons short of domestic needs.

Organised agriculture fears that the drought will mean many farmers, some of whom have been on their properties for decades, will choose to quit their lands.

The industry has already lost hundreds of farmers because of a 10-year drought which officially was thought to have come to an end

last year.

That drought resulted in heavy financial burdens being placed on farmers through debts built up as a result of high production costs, wages, high interest rates, purchasing of feed and other costs.

In addition, many small towns have virtually become "ghost towns" as the drought tightens its grip on district after district. Shopkeepers in many towns and hamlets have closed their once-prosperous businesses.

One of the biggest problems now being faced in rural areas is that of unemployment — and not only among whites who have left the farms. Hundreds of black farm labourers, with their families, face an uncertain future and many are flocking to towns seeking work.

SARB endorses tour

Searing

Weathermen last night offered little hope of relief for farmers who fear thousands of hectares of wheat and maize will be lost under a searing sun.

Already farmers in the northern Free State are feeding animals because the veld is in a "desperately poor" condition, says the SA Agricultural Union. The estimated cost of purchasing feed for sheep in the area is more than R500 000 a day.

Temperatures have reached 38 to 40 deg C, and during this past week, some districts have had continuous temperatures in excess of 36 deg C.

Passing showers of rain have had no effect on sun-baked lands. Grain lands in many areas have not been planted this season.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist for the SA Agricultural Union who has just returned to Pretoria from a fact-finding tour of the affected areas, says "one last hope remains — a late,

● TO PAGE 2.

Hunger threat

looms as drought worsens

NORMAN CHANDLER
Pretoria Bureau

HUNDREDS of farmers could be driven from the land and there could be widescale unemployment and hunger for thousands of people, both black and white, unless the drought crippling the country — the worst in 60 years — ends in the next few weeks.

Worst hit are the north-west Free State, the Western Transvaal, most of the central and northern Transvaal, and Natal.

Farmers near Edenburg in the Free State say they will have to start slaughtering thirsty, emaciated livestock unless there is rain within the week.

Throughout the country millions of head of livestock, particularly cattle and sheep, face death through starvation and lack of water.

Desperate

Natal Agricultural Association director, Steve Schone, yesterday said Natal farmers had started sowing in the parched soil desperately hoping for late rains. If the dry spell lasted more than two weeks they could lose everything.

In the eastern Transvaal highveld, it is estimated that 55 per cent of farmers have already given up "for lost" any hopes of a worthwhile crop, while in the western Transvaal/Free State maize belt — from where most of the country's maize comes — the situation is being viewed as desperate.

The National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) says there are only 10 days left for good rains to fall before farmers have to plant next season's crop.

"If rain doesn't come soon, and lots of it, there is little hope of a good harvest," an official said.

The Department of Water Affairs yesterday said it would open boreholes to save from certain death 23 drought-stricken hippos on a farm near the Limpopo River.

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Star 13/11/90 (3 General)

Farmers face ruin with new drought

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

The country's 70 000 farmers are facing disaster as a result of new drought threatening the industry, says the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Farmers in the eastern Cape, Transvaal and Free State are battling with falling production levels, poor grazing and an inability to recover financially in the medium term.

SAAU chief economist Koos du Toit told The Star yesterday: "We are staring disaster in the face. The best we can hope for is a wet late-summer season."

Searing heat and lack of rain since the end of winter are behind the resurgence of the drought.

Last year South Africa appeared to have come out of a 10-year drought which saw many farmers brought to financial ruin.

The Government recently

announced financial aid to those farmers who "stood a realistic chance of financial recovery".

The worst affected areas are those in a 300 km radius of Port Elizabeth (virtually all of the wool-producing Midlands and Border areas); northern, eastern, central and western Transvaal; and the western Free State.

Dr du Toit said the situation was aggravated by the fact that grazing conditions were deteriorating and that farmers were rapidly running out of feed as a result of the non-arrival of early summer rains.

● Drought has led to death on a large scale of kudu, impala and warthog in the Koe-doesrand area of northern Transvaal. Floors Moolman of Jakkalsfontein farm said farmers were finding three to four dead animals on average each day.

● Farmers' nightmare

— Page 17

3 General (initials)

Land of dust an

Star 28/11/90

Desperation is reflected in the eyes of farmers throughout the western Transvaal as the drought continues to hold the country in its merciless grip. **NORMAN CHANDLER** and photographer **SAREL VAN DEN BERG** visited the stricken farmlands.

AS far as the eye can see, there is nothing to break the monotony of the fields of despair.

In the good years, men worked those fields. They grew crops and reaped bountiful harvests of maize and wheat as well as other grains.

Today, in the face of the worst drought in 60 years, most of the fields of the western Transvaal lie fallow.

But it is not only the fields that tell the story. The once-bustling towns and villages of Lichtenburg, Sannieshof, Stella and Delareyville, to name only a few, tell it as well ... it shows on the main streets where tired shop frontages beckon to passers-by.

The problem is that passers-by are few and far between. Hand-in-hand with the drought has come hardship. Penury for some. Heavy drinking for others.

Despair has also set in among black people who could, for generations, count on their farm jobs. As the noose has tightened around the necks of white farmers, so have the chances of employment lessened, and in some cases, gone completely.

Men and women — the ancestors of the first trekkers who tamed the land — have deserted the small settlements or left their farms in the hands of black foremen to find their fortunes, if there are any to be found, in bigger centres such as Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom or Welkom.

Many have turned to mining, others have taken jobs as insurance salesmen or else work for the roads department of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Wives have returned to their former professions — nursing, teaching and the like — in a bid to help their husbands rebuild lost fortunes.

Hennie Conradie, at a dusty crossroads called Kameel, took to working on the mines and is now thinking of going back if the situation doesn't improve. His small son, Frikkie, played in the dust as we talked — "I'll do it for him," said Mr Conradie

with a shrug of his shoulders. Others, like his friend Bennie Oosthuizen, have sent wives and children to stay with better-off grandparents or other relatives until the worst is over.

"It's tough, hey. But it will come right," said Mr Conradie with a touch of faith as he recalled the days when an average of 109 mm of rain fell every November to assure a good maize harvest.

This November has seen no rain fall. The last rain to wet the fields of the western Transvaal was on October 6 and 7 when a total of 30 mm fell. In January this year 41 mm was registered in the Delareyville district; in February it was 42 mm, in March 70.5 mm, and in April 66 mm. There was nothing in May, June, July, August and September — not even what the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) chief economist Dr Koos du Toit calls "the bonus of a shower during winter to help grazing."

For Mr Conradie, the opening of a small trading store has been a saviour of sorts, but even then the overheads are such that more turnover needs to be generated if the business is to make ends meet.

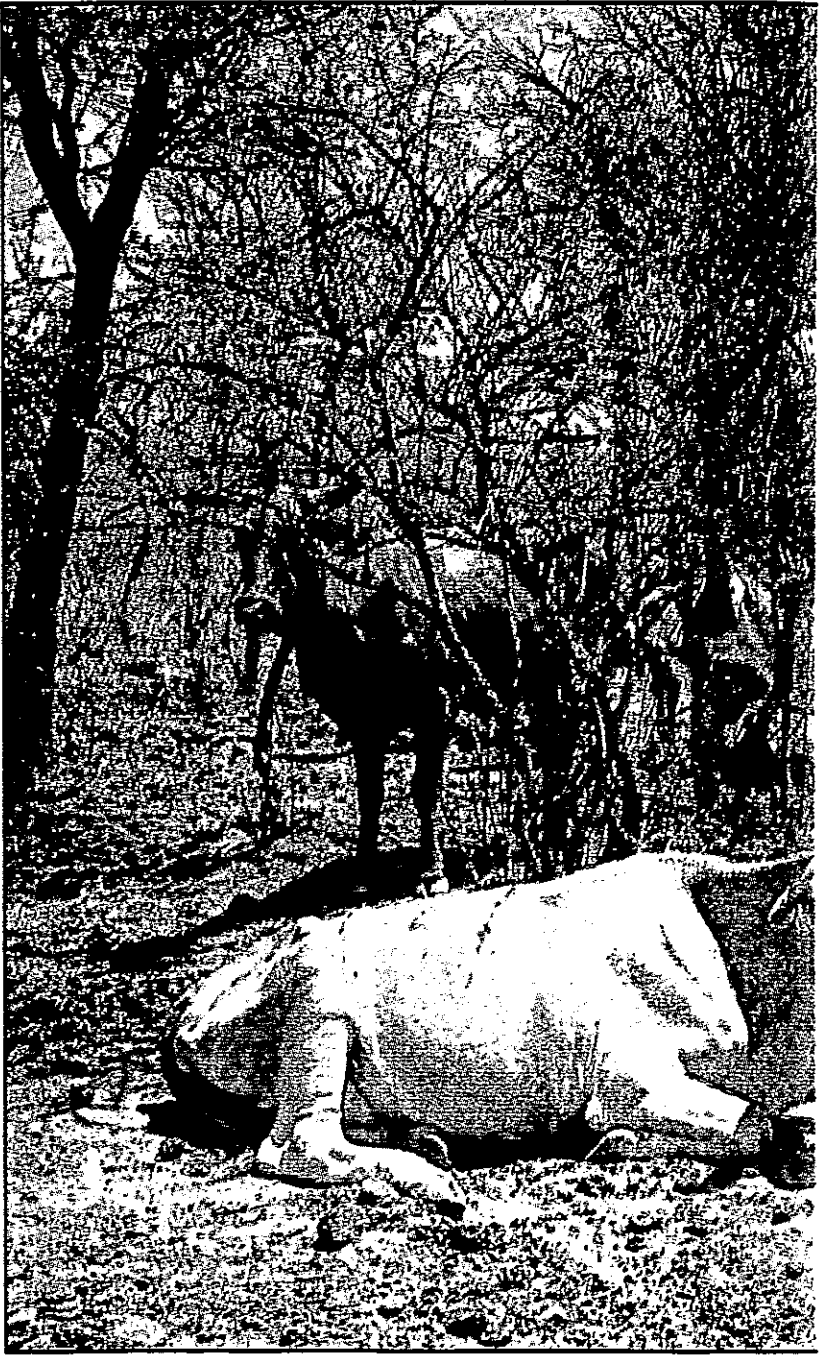
"At least we can eat," is the attitude.

Travelling through the far western Transvaal, motorists cannot help but be struck by the lack of activity. Certainly, in one or two areas, farmers are out ploughing the lands — but that is, as was explained by an agricultural co-operative official, in the hope that rain will fall.

That hope has been a forlorn one for hundreds of farmers from Vryburg and Stella in the far west, to Thabazimbi and beyond in the north-west.

At Silent Valley, close to the Marico River, there is an uncanny silence. The area once saw better days ... now it is much like other districts in fighting off the elements.

The Groot Marico district of Herman Charles Bosman and Oom Schaik Lourens fame is unlike what it was once. It has always been tough in that dis-



Bare earth . . . In the Groot Marico, cattle have grazed the veld bare.

trict, but now . . .

The huge Lindley's Poort dam is 45 percent full — and the jetty at which boats of the Marico Boating and Recreation Club once tied up is 130 m from the water's edge!

Around the dam, lands also lie fallow, cattle are having to be fed on the farms between Groot Marico and Straatsdrif and Skuinsdrif, while the Marico irrigation system which wends its way through the desolate countryside adjoining Bo-

phuthatswana is almost useless.

In desperation, townspeople all over the region have joined farmers in praying for rain. Churches have been packed, and grim-faced people invited by dominees to tell their stories of hardship have cried with emotion in the pews ... and still the sun scorches the earth.

Their faith, though, is unshakable. The message from everyone spoken to out there has been the same: "We will persevere. We have beaten the

weather

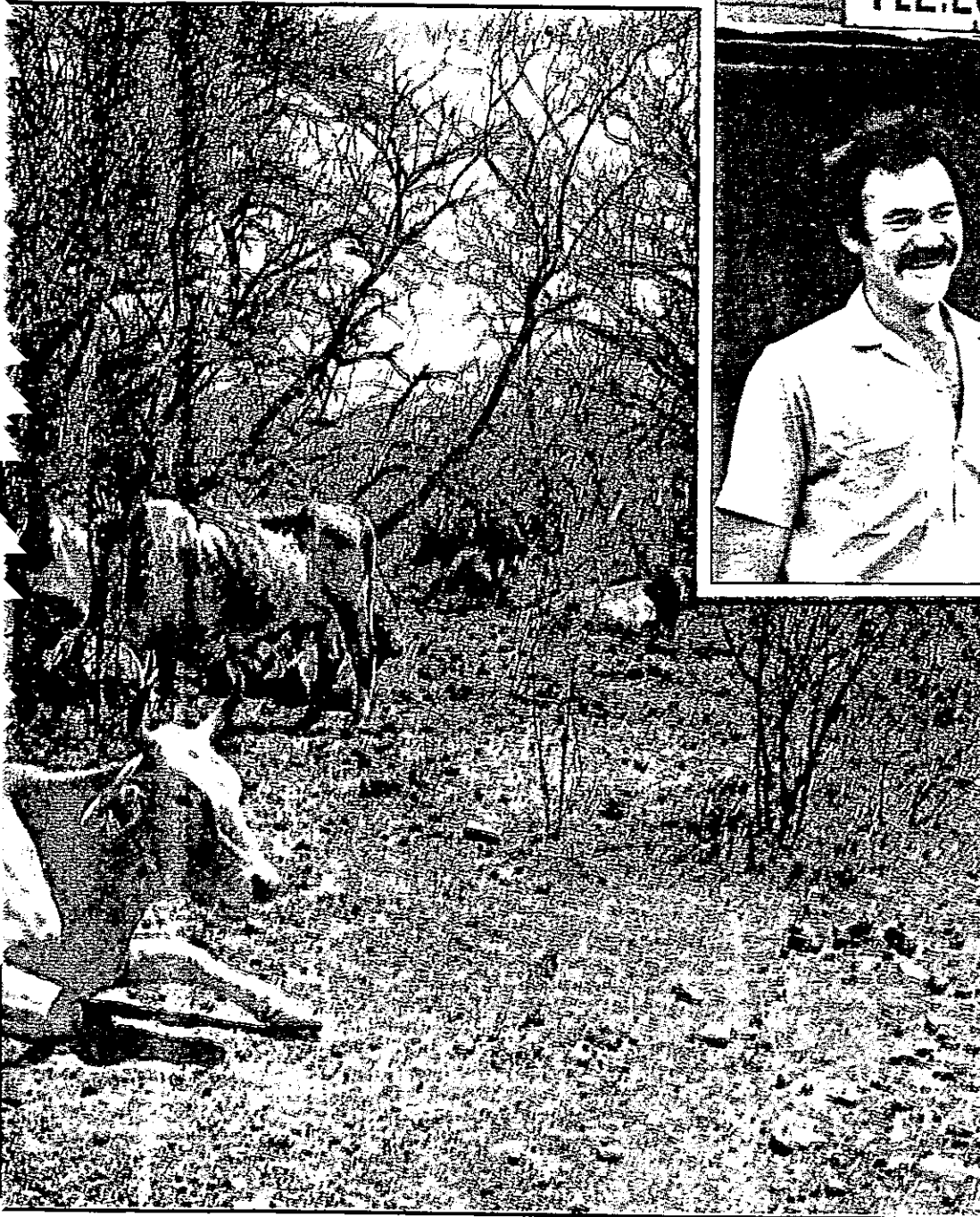
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weather before, and we will do so again."

This time, though, it has been tougher. After 10 years of drought, one year's good harvest and now this.

Some farmers have been fortunate in building up feed for their livestock, and hope this will see them through the summer or at least until good rains.

Some have become "regulars" at bars with names like "Mielieblaar" — a barman in one town summed up the situa-

tion: "There are four churches here. There's this bar. And there are four bottle stores ... that tells a lot, doesn't it?"

As the farmers down their brandy-and-cokes (seldom a beer) the mood changes from exasperation to light-heartedness, and then back to reality. Tongues start to wag, the names of political figures are bandied about, and the political reforms come in for some harsh criticism. It is as if the farmers believe politics and not the lack

of rain has sunk their hopes.

It is not only the drought which has caused hardship.

High input costs — seeds, fertiliser, diesel for tractors and bakkies, Eskom electricity, paraffin and wages — have played a major part in the overall hardship picture.

Production costs a hectare on western Transvaal farms run at about R60, but with the situation farmers are now facing, some have cut these costs to about R35 a hectare in order to



Farmers turned traders ... Bennie Oosthuizen and Hennie Conradie.

make ends meet.

The cutback has, inevitably, meant a drop in the labour force — and many of these people have trekked to other centres to find work or joined the influx to squatter camps around the big cities.

Farmers admitted that they weren't happy with what they have had to do because they fear the consequences.

Some farmers in the Stella district — where farms average about 600 ha in size — have run up R10 000 debts on petrol alone, and do not know how to pay back the oil companies or their co-operatives. With the country going through tough financial times, it could mean them having to leave the lands or having banks foreclose on them — even though organised agriculture has asked the Land Bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank and commercial banks not to do so if the farms are viable.

The national farming debt stands at just under R15 billion. There are fears that forthcoming Government aid will be too little, too late, for many of the country's 70 000 farmers.

The Government has said it would help the industry "but only the solvent farmers". Travelling through the country districts doesn't leave much to the imagination — there cannot be too many solvent farmers. □

Richtersveld contract signing to go ahead

CME Times 21/11/90 Staff Reporter (36)

THE signing of a contract ratifying the Richtersveld National Park will now go ahead following an about-turn by Labour Party minister the Rev Andrew Julies.

Arrangements for the signing were ditched at the 11th hour 10 days ago when Mr Julies, Minister of Local Government and Agriculture in the Ministers' Council, House of Representatives, refused LP ratification for the park.

The contract is the result of 17 years of negotiations between government and local residents and the 162 000ha park will be jointly managed by residents and the National Parks Board.

Mr Julies said the Ministers' Council had decided not to go ahead with the signing because of "unsatisfactory arrangements for the signing ceremony".

He said the signing would now probably go ahead before the end of the year.

Eastern market prospects 'good'

61021 16/11/90

PRETORIA — Prospects were good that SA would find new markets for its agricultural exports in Eastern Europe, Agricultural Development Minister Jacob de Villiers said in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

However, the economies of the most important industrial countries were in a downward phase, which could mean a decline in demand for farm products, De Villiers told an Eastern Cape Agricultural Union meeting yesterday.

The government's economic restructuring programme had important implications for agriculture, he said.

The programme included reducing government's share in the economy, combating inflation, tax reform with the aim of encouraging savings and investment and a more critical atti-

GERALD REILLY

tude to the protection of industry and the encouragement of a more export-orientated industry.

Inflation was still the farmer's greatest enemy and success in reducing it would blow new life and hope into the farming industry, he said.

Government's aims also included gradually phasing out import surcharges and a more stable rand exchange rate. (3) *cause*

He also said that since the raising of the bank rate in May last year, the Land Bank's short term loans to co-operatives — intended for farmers' production needs — was subsidised by two percentage points.

However, the interest subsidy would sooner or later phased out.

The most devastating law of them all

W/C AGW 3/11/90 36w/4

The 1913 Native Land Act changed overnight the course of South African history. Although contrived to solve the so-called "native problem" it also went a long way to ensuring that sufficient labour would be available for white-owned farms and the burgeoning gold mining industry. Weekend Argus Reporter GRAHAM LIZAMORE looks at the background and implications of the Act.

THE 1913 Natives Land Act was possibly the most socially devastating legislation ever passed by the South African parliament — yet very few South Africans are aware of the Act, let alone its far-reaching implications.

Ignorance of the Act can be measured by the howls of anger that erupted after the government announced it was going to repeal it next year. White farmers in the Transvaal voted overwhelmingly in July to stop blacks from buying white land.

The most common reason for keeping ownership of agricultural land advanced by white farmers is that blacks are "unable to achieve maximum productivity" from the land.

This attitude, when viewed against a backdrop of the R14.7-billion owed by about 60 000 white farmers to various credit facilities begs the question whether white farmers without subsidies and credit facilities are that much better than black farmers.

The question is academic because black farmers have not had the access to agricultural training colleges, nor have they been allowed access to credit facilities, nor have they had equal access to land.

But it is interesting to note that the number of cattle owned by Shaka and Dingaan must have been almost incredible — and it helps to explain Shaka's wars.

The grazing area required for the Zulu cattle was immense and neighbouring tribes must have been driven off simply to secure pasture.

THE fine the Voortrekkers imposed on Panda on behalf of Dingaan amounted to 38 000 cattle, many of which were plundered by white farmers before they crossed the Tugela into the Boer Republic of Natal.

A further 15 000 cattle were demanded of Panda and paid. Other minor chieftains paid anything from 3 000 to 8 000 cattle in fines often for trumped up charges.

In Bophuthatswana some entirely self-made black farmers harvest over 1 000 tons of maize a year.

Historians claim that until the 1913 Land Act blacks contributed effectively to agriculture — so much so that there was little need for many peasant farmers to work for white farmers.

Most Africans preferred to either share a farm with a white or to farm his own land wherever possible.

Increasing labour shortages on white farms were also a motivation for the introduction of the Natives Land Act.

Although it had the legal right to veto the Act, historians believe Britain connived with General Louis Botha's government by rubber-stamping the Land Act to reconcile Britain and Boer.

The Land Act was not simply a recent piece of Dutch inspired legislation but, according to historian Brian Willan, the Act had respectable British ancestry and was in the best tradition of colonial policy.

Britain also wanted to ensure that there was a regular supply of labour for the burgeoning gold industry. Black political aspirations became a casualty of this policy.

WILLAN observes that after the Peace of Vereeniging in 1902 that ended the Boer War 1899-1902 it became increasingly clear that the essential function of the black population was to provide their labour.

Whites hoped to solve the so-called "native problem" by restricting black land holding to less than eight percent of the land mass within which local political and administrative structure could be erected to contain black political aspirations.

But the Act also tried to meet the insistent demands of white farmers in the Free State and the Transvaal to have sharecroppers living on their land changed into farm labourers or servants.

UCT historian Colin Bundy says: "By 1913 white food producers in all four provinces were aware of a growing and potentially even greater economic challenge from African producers. The desire to reduce competition by peasant producers was one of the motives behind the Natives Land Act."

The Act was passed in spite of vociferous opposition from black leaders, who in 1912 created the South African Native Congress, which later became the African National Congress.

Black attitudes to the Act were summed up by Chief Tombela from Natal, who hated even the mention of the Natives Land Act.

He said he could not understand why the released areas in Natal were so small when the Native population was so great. Natives should have broad lands, as small plots meant quarrels and fights.

Sol Plaatje, an arch-opponent of the Land Act, wrote: "The South African Native found himself not actually a slave but a pariah in the land of his birth."

HISTORIAN Bessie Head says of the Act: "Overnight it created a floating landless proletariat whose labour could be used and manipulated at will, and ensured that ownership of the land had finally and securely passed into the hands of the ruling white race."

The 1913 Land Act was preceded in February that year by the Pass Laws which prevented black people from wandering around without a proper pass, from squatting on farms and from sowing on the sharecrop system. The population

then was estimated at about 1.25 million whites to about five million blacks.

According to Head there were two specific reasons for introducing the Land Act. These were that black farming was competing too successfully with white farming and that there was a demand for a flow of cheap labour to the gold mines.

"As long as black men were engaged in farming and were independent owners of livestock, their labour was hard to acquire."

In 1904 an attempt had been made to solve the labour crisis in the mines by importing 43 000 Chinese to do unskilled work. But conditions on the mines were bad and because only men had been brought to South Africa sodomy,

strikes, robbery and murder escalated to such an extent that the Chinese were deported in 1910.

The need for labour was now even more acute. By 1913 the Act was quickly passed through parliament and authorised by the governor-general.

According to Head the Act demanded the eviction of a million tenants on farms, together with their livestock and all they might own.

"It was unlawful to have black tenants but lawful to have black servants. Once a servant, the black man's cattle worked henceforth for the white landlord, free of charge."

ANY white landowner who failed to comply with the law faced a fine of £100 or six months imprisonment.

Edward Dower, Secretary of Native Affairs, advised blacks to do one of three things in response to the act — become servants, move into the reserves or sell their stock for cash.

Rather than lose their last shred of independence thousands of black people, tenants on the land, took to the road with their stock.

On no part of South African soil except within the small demarcated "scheduled areas" could they graze or water their stock. They were



barred from buying land except from other Africans and were excluded from "white areas" where they could remain only as labourers.

It did not take that many years before work on the mines or farms was the only alternative to starvation.

But the "native problem" had not been solved and it is clear that any talk about redistribution of land or denying blacks equal access to land is bound to be emotive, if not downright explosive.

Special

Cape Times, Friday, November 23 1990 5

'This is the end of the W Transvaal'

JOHANNESBURG. — "This is the end of the Western Transvaal" is the grim view of a number of farmers canvassed this week about the drought in the region.

The question asked by a couple of farmers playing pool in the Elgin Hotel in Delareyville, was: "Why are we playing pool?"

"Our tractors are greased, the fertiliser is ready, our fences are spanned, and our workers are watching us with big eyes.

"You want us to work — you pray for rain."

And pray for rain they did in the Western Transvaal.

Thousands of farmers drove to church in their Sunday best on Monday, where dominees told them: "Pray like you never prayed before because this time, God help us."

Outside the churches lay tens of thousands of square kilometres of arid farmland, with clouds twisting and turning above — but no rain coming down.

Many farmers have ploughed their lands, in case of rain, and were sitting on their stoeps, watching the horizon.

At Kameel (population zero), "Hennie and Bennie" aren't a comedy show. They've suspended their attempts at farming and have put a board bearing their names above a cash store, but don't attract many customers.

"Maybe farms should be nationalised with farmers put on a payroll," they said.

Mr Chris du Toit of the farm Corsica in the Delareyville district said: "We definite-

ly have a problem. The planting season for several types of plants has passed, and we've not had rain yet.

"There are farmers here who won't make it if it does not rain this year. There definitely are farmers who will be bought out after this season.

"Others will run up more debt.

"The Weather Bureau said it would be 35°C today, but I think it will be more."

The president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, said the situation in summer crop areas was becoming critical and that grazing and feeding conditions, as well as the water supply, were deteriorating rapidly.

The financial position of Transvaal farmers was poor, he said. — Sapa

ANC, Azapo agree to land transfer plans

By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

The ANC and Azapo yesterday cautiously agreed to the Development Bank of Southern Africa's proposals for the transfer of land to black farmers.

The administrator of the ANC's Land Commission, Derek Hanekom, said "many good ideas" were contained in the

study, which proposed that land earmarked for incorporation into the homelands and land farmed unproductively by whites be made available to blacks.

Mr Hanekom stressed that the issue should not be sensationalised and that the ANC was not insensitive to drought-stricken white farmers.

Azapo president Dr Itume-

leng Mosala responded positively, but cautioned that land should be viewed economically rather than simply as space.

As the controversy grew, Development Bank chairman Dr Simon Brand yesterday said it had neither been suggested that land be taken from present owners and handed over to blacks, nor that land be nationalised or transferred.

Star 12/11/90

Special (A)

'We were robbed of our land'

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

An SADF training area is part of land north of Middelburg which is being demanded back by a large community of black people who were forcibly removed in the mid-1970s.

Other parts of the disputed land — about 20 km north of the town — are now owned by the Conservative Party-controlled Middelburg municipality.

Abe Maloma, spokesman for the newly launched Middelburg, Doornkop and Botshabelo Homecoming Organisation, said the movement was formed after the Government's recent announcement of its intention to repeal the land Acts.

Shocking

"Our people want to return home. It was shocking what happened back then to thousands of our people.

"It happened at a time when, if you talked out, you would be locked up," Mr Maloma said.

"We were robbed of our land by the Nationalist Government and we now demand it back."

The land in question now comprises an SADF training area, farms and the former Botshabelo mission station, which is now owned by the CP-controlled town council.

The old mission has been restored in recent years and is open to visitors.

Mr Maloma said his organisation was made up of former residents of the area who had been scattered throughout Lebowa.

The Star had received no response from the SADF at the time of going to press.

Worst drought in 60 years

threatens SA farmers

From NORMAN CHANDLER
Argus Correspondent
on Pretoria

SOME South African farmers stand to lose their entire livelihood unless the drought crippling large parts of the country does not end within 14 days.

And others, in the Edenburg area in the Free State, will have to start slaughtering thirsty, emaciated livestock unless there is rain within the week. Throughout the country millions of head of livestock, particularly cattle and sheep face death through starvation and lack of water.

DROUGHT

Natal Agricultural Association director, Steve Schone, yesterday said Natal farmers had started sowing in the parched soil desperately hoping for late rains. If the dry spell lasted more than two weeks they could lose everything.

In the eastern Transvaal highveld, it is estimated that 55 percent of farmers have already given up "for lost" any hopes of a worthwhile crop while in the western Transvaal/Free State maize belt — from where most of the country's maize comes from — the situation is being viewed as desperate.

The National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) says there are only 10 days left for good rains to fall before farmers have to plant next season's crop.

"If rain doesn't come soon, and lots of it, there is little hope of a good harvest," an official said. The drought crippling the country.

Worst hit are the north-west Free State, the Western Transvaal and most of the central and northern Transvaal.

Certain death

The Department of Water Affairs yesterday said it would open boreholes to save 23 drought-stricken hippos on a farm near the Limpopo River from certain death.

Weathermen last night offered little hope of relief for farmers who fear thousands of hectares of wheat and maize will be lost under a searing sun.

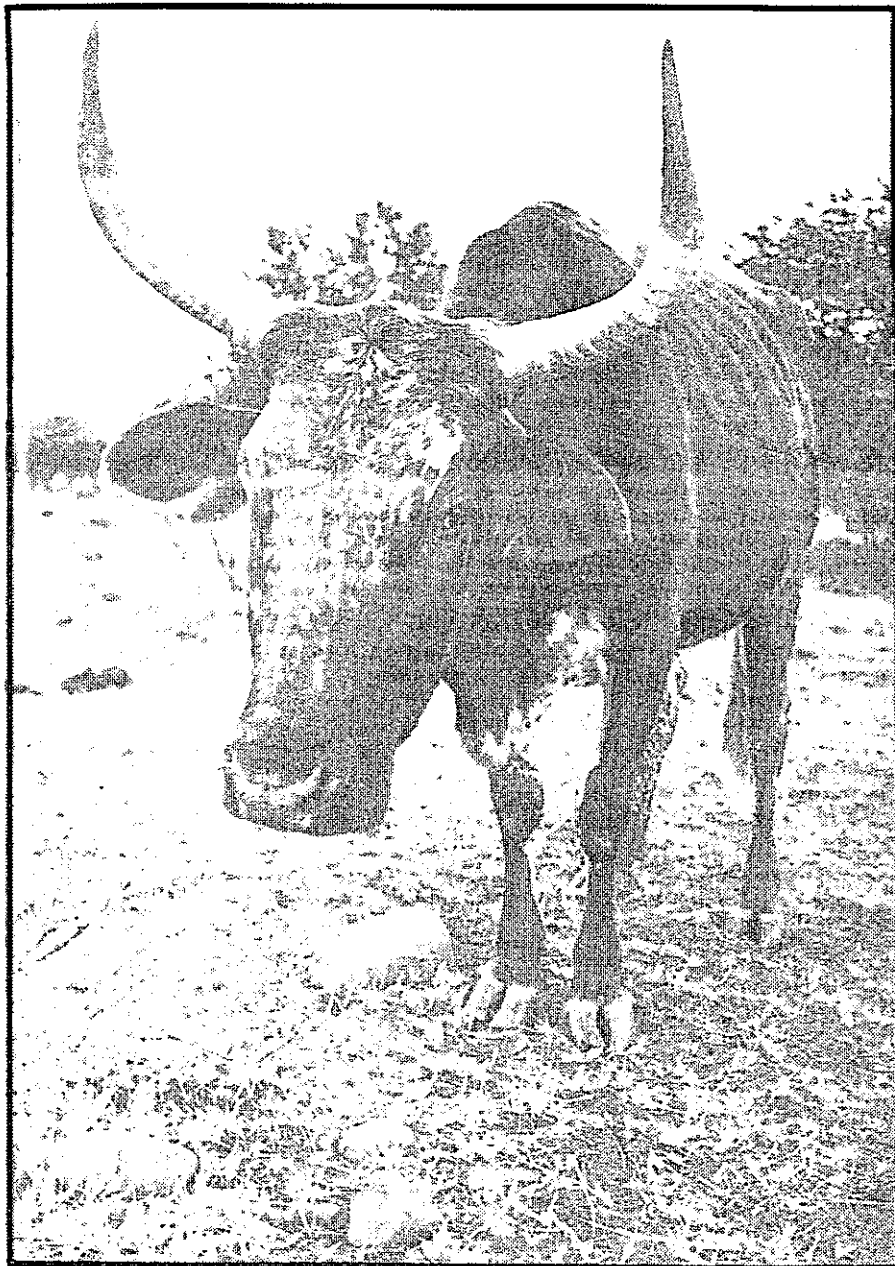
Already farmers in the northern Free State are feeding animals because the veld is in a "desperately poor" condition, says the SA Agricultural Union. The estimated cost of purchasing feed for sheep in the area is more than R500 000 a day.

Temperatures have reached 38 to 40 deg C, and during last week, some districts have had continuous temperatures in excess of 36 deg C.

Passing showers of rain have had no effect on sun-baked lands. Grain lands in many areas have not been planted this season.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist for the SA Agricultural Union who has just returned to Pretoria from a fact-finding tour of the affected areas, says "one last hope remains — a late, wet summer season.

"It is estimated that the maize crop



The crippling drought — the worst in 60 years — is certain to drive hundreds of farmers from the land resulting in widescale unemployment.

lion tons which is half a million tons too little short of domestic needs.

Organised agriculture fears that the drought will mean many farmers, some of whom have been on their properties for decades, electing to quit their lands.

The industry has already lost hundreds of farmers because of a 10-year drought which officially was thought to have come to an end last year.

That drought resulted in heavy financial burdens being placed on farmers through debts built up as a result of high production costs, wages, high interest rates, purchasing of feed and other costs.

will be well below expectations and the situation could well arise that maize will have to be imported to meet domestic needs."

The wheat harvest, meanwhile, has already been estimated at a low 1,9mil-

In addition, many small towns have virtually become 'ghost towns' as the drought tightens its grip on district after district.

Shopkeepers in many towns and hamlets have closed their once-prosperous businesses because of the financial problems besetting many districts.

One of the biggest problems now being faced in rural areas, say agriculture sources, is that of unemployment — and not only among whites who have left the farms. Hundreds of black farm labourers, with their families, face an uncertain future because jobs are getting scarcer.

Many have lived for generations on farms in the western Transvaal, for instance, but with the drought resulting in farming becoming an uncertain industry, they are flocking to the small towns which dot the region in efforts to find work.

NEWS

Land reform: Response 'positive'

By CHRIS MOERDYK
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — In spite of howls of protest from rightwing political parties and the Transvaal Agricultural Union, the Development Bank of SA's proposals for the transfer of 8 million hectares of land, including debt-ridden white farms, to blacks has met with a generally positive response.

The bank's corporate communications manager, Mr Frans van Rensburg, said yesterday that the proposals and the media coverage they had received "certainly brought the emotive issue of land ownership to the fore".

He said judging from responses it was clear that some of the proposals "were brought to the attention of those who take part in the policy debate on the future of South Africa".

"Apart from the positive responses from various interest groups, we can also understand and sympathise with the number of negative comments from organisations and individuals, especially against the early misunderstanding on the content of the paper."

'Force white farmers off'

Earlier this week the Transvaal Agricultural Union strongly condemned the proposals with union president Mr Dries Bruwer claiming: "It seems as if an orchestrated action has been launched to force white farmers off their land."

The public was also quick to become involved in the debate and on a Radio 702 late night phone-in programme callers of all races hotly debated the issue of land ownership.

While many accepted that a more equitable apportioning of land was inevitable if a new South Africa was to come about, many white callers insisted that land "should not just be handed over to blacks" while a number of black callers suggested that was precisely what should happen.

One white caller suggested that the land earmarked in the bank's proposals should not only be made available to black farmers who qualified but to anyone of any race who passed the qualification test.

The Development Bank has confirmed that the proposals do not suggest that land be taken from present white owners and handed over to black farmers.

"On the contrary, it is suggested that the approach be based on a market mechanism to provide options for black ownership of land. All the proposals are clearly articulated in the context of the sale of land to black farmers. The nationalisation and the transfer of land is not proposed but is argued to be neither practical nor desirable."

State may move on transfer of land plan

ARGUS 21/11/80 (36 lines)

From PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

THE government is expected to react favourably to some aspects of a bold Development Bank plan to transfer almost eight million hectares of farmland to blacks.

The government is studying the plan which aims to put half a million extra black farmers on about 25 percent of the country's arable farmland.

Part of the plan is that about two million hectares of land — already bought by the state for incorporation into the homelands but not yet transferred — be handed over first.

Official sources said last night that although the figure might not be as high as two million hectares, the government could probably agree with this part of the plan.

But they foresaw difficulties with the proposal for the bulk of the land — that about 1 000 white farms which are badly indebted to the state should be transferred to black ownership.

Development Bank of Southern Africa general manager Nic Christodolou, who helped draw up the plan, stressed that this land would not be nationalised in any way.

The plan was that where the debt on the farm was greater than its real value, the state should offer to write

off the excess debt if the farmer agreed to sell the farm to black owners.

The cost to the state of writing off the debt would be between R1 and R2-billion.

Official sources said this proposal was unlikely to find favour with the government as it conflicted with the new land policy laid down by President de Klerk that normal market forces should rule when the Land Acts were scrapped.

The Development Bank report proposes also that black farmers be allowed to buy expropriated "black spots" not yet handed over to whites, church property, peri-urban property and also land recently expropriated from blacks.

Blueprint

Mr Christodolou said that although it was not possible to rectify all land injustices done to blacks over the years, a Land Court could try to establish the rightful owners of land recently expropriated.

He stressed that the plan had not been presented to the government as a blueprint.

It was a paper presented at a London conference on land reform but he believed at least some aspects of it could be usefully applied.

Apart from writing off farm debt, the report suggests other affirmative actions such as support programmes and credit facilities for black farmers and a land tax to induce unproductive farmers to sell their land.

Mr Christodolou said the

government would have to consider substantial affirmative action if it intended to create the perception that blacks had equal access to the land.

He saw the proposal as a market-based land reform policy counter to nationalisation, which should be capable of receiving the approval of both the government and the ANC.

The plan would satisfy the need to equalise farmland ownership while also maintaining productivity — a major concern of the conservative farmers who oppose the scrapping of the Land Acts.

However the plan is likely to encounter stiff resistance from these white farmers, especially the affirmative measures.

Farms in the plan would average about 50 hectares each but not all would be smallholdings — although recent experience had shown these could be as productive as big farms.

Minister of Agriculture Jacob de Villiers declined to comment on the report. He said it was premature to speculate on such an emotional issue until it had been thoroughly considered.

A spokesman said that the government was considering many proposals for farm land use after the Land Acts were scrapped.

Roughly 65 percent of the two-million trust land which the report wants transferred to black farmers is in the Eastern Transvaal and Natal.

PLANS

Farmers disaster looms

NORMAN CHANDLER and DIRK NEL

3 Circled
Rfor 24/11/90

NEWS

THE drought disaster facing South Africa could be greater than originally feared, as time runs out for summer rainfall area farmers to plant their crops.

The drought conditions have already been described by experts as the worst in 60 years.

And the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) late this week expressed its "deepest concern" about the deteriorating conditions.

Desperate farmers across a wide section of the Transvaal, Free State and Eastern Cape are now assessing their chances of survival as heatwaves continue to pound the countryside and promising banks of rain clouds float away.

An SAAU area assessment gives this picture:

- Free State: 35 to 77 percent of the normal harvest is expected, depending on district involved.
- Northern Cape: Critical in some areas.
- Transvaal: 50 percent of planting undertaken in the south. Financial position of farmers remains poor.
- Western Cape: Fruit production is generally good, although some damage has been caused by hail.
- Natal: Grazing is in poor condition. The overall farming situation varies greatly.
- Eastern Cape: Very poor in the Karoo areas. Financial situation also "very poor."

Farmlands in the western Transvaal and northern Free State have not been ploughed, grazing is severely

Drought is now even worse than first feared

depleted, and livestock is being provided with food at a cost of over R500 000 a month. Farm dams are drying up while major dams are also down on capacity.

Some of the bigger dams are half their normal capacity, and depleting further. Western

Transvaal dams are standing at 48 percent of their capacity — some 7 percent less than last year.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau said yesterday that heatwave conditions were likely to continue "until at least Monday", but the chances of rain would continue to be classified as "remote".

The plight of drought-stricken Northern Transvaal farmers remains serious, despite scattered rain this week. Some have decided to leave the land before Christmas if it does not rain.

Many farmers on the Springbok Flats, particularly in the Marble Hall, Roedtan, Settlers and Crecy districts, had heavy downpours this week, which enabled them to start ploughing.

"But the rain came too late for maize farmers to consider planting — they will have to go for sunflowers," said Freek Wagner, chairman of the Potgietersrus District Agricultural Union.

Other farmers on the flats, normally major suppliers of fresh produce to Pretoria and the Reef, will have to rely on other products this year.

The cattle ranchers of the north-western bushveld have been hardest hit by the drought. Many of them have started selling or slaughtering livestock.

Boreholes in the Soutpansberg region have begun drying up, and water restrictions are in force in many towns in the far north. The Department of Water Affairs has sunk boreholes along the Limpopo, which will pump water into a pool where 24 hippos have gathered.

Stock farmers get drought aid

Star 29/11/90

3 General

Emergency drought relief measures for stock farmers have been introduced in the Potgietersrus area of the northern Transvaal and the Jansenville and Steytlerville areas of the eastern Cape.

Minister of Agricultural Development Dr Kraai van Niekerk said drought schemes would be introduced on Saturday, after a decision by the National Drought Committee that the drought should be declared a disaster.

"Disaster relief aid will not only

assist farmers, but also the community, including town dwellers and labourers," Dr van Niekerk said.

● South Africa is on the verge of importing maize and wheat because of the drought. The Maize Board yesterday said exports of wheat and maize had been halted.

Only half the 1,3 million hectares available for maize production has been planted, while wheat is expected to be about 500 000 tons short of the 2,5 million required locally.

Stg 7/11/90

Farmers in dark over aid

3 (circled)

Staff Reporter

Farmers in the western Transvaal yesterday withheld comment on the announcement of R60 million in Government aid for the region.

They said they first needed to know precisely how the aid would be applied.

Leonard Venter, a Springboklaagte farmer and leader of the group, demanded action from the Government to assist stricken farmers. He would not comment on the announcement.

Minister of Agricultural Development Kraai van Niekirk said on Monday that State aid of more than R500 million was to be extended to about 12 000 farmers in a distressed financial situation but still capable of recovery. The aid is confined to farmers in the summer rainfall cropping regions.

Koos Steenkamp, who farms near Potgietersrus, said farmers were still not sure how the aid package would affect them and whether they would qualify for financial help.

RECEIVED

Farmers face ruin with new drought

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

The country's 70 000 farmers are facing disaster as a result of new drought threatening the industry, says the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Farmers in the eastern Cape, Transvaal and Free State are battling with falling production levels, poor grazing and an inability to recover financially in the medium term.

SAAU chief economist Koos du Toit told The Star yesterday: "We are staring disaster in the face. The best we can hope for is a wet late-summer season."

Searing heat and lack of rain since the end of winter are behind the resurgence of the drought.

Last year South Africa appeared to have come out of a 10-year drought which saw many farmers brought to financial ruin.

The Government recently

announced financial aid to those farmers who "stood a realistic chance of financial recovery".

The worst affected areas are those in a 300 km radius of Port Elizabeth (virtually all of the wool-producing Midlands and Border areas); northern, eastern, central and western Transvaal; and the western Free State.

Dr du Toit said the situation was aggravated by the fact that grazing conditions were deteriorating and that farmers were rapidly running out of feed as a result of the non-arrival of early summer rains.

● Drought has led to death on a large scale of kudu, impala and warthog in the Koe-doesrand area of northern Transvaal. Floors Moolman of Jakkalsfontein farm said farmers were finding three to four dead animals on average each day.

● Farmers' nightmare
— Page 17

Star 19/11/90

(3 General)

Land for blacks is bank plan

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

The Government is expected to react favourably to some aspects of a bold Development Bank plan to transfer nearly 8 million hectares of farmland to black people.

The plan, which aims to put 500 000 extra black farmers on about 25 percent of the country's arable farmland, is being studied by the Government.

Part of the plan is that about 2 million hectares bought by the State for incorporation into homelands and not transferred be handed over first.

Official sources said the Government could probably agree with this part of the plan.

But they foresaw difficulties with the proposal that about 1 000 white farms badly indebted to the State be transferred to black ownership.

Development Bank general manager Nic Christodolou, who helped draw up the plan, stressed that this land would not be nationalised in any way.

The plan was that where the debt on the farm was greater than its real value, the State should offer to write off the excess if the farmer agreed to sell to black owners.

The cost to the State of writing off the debts would be between R1 billion and R2 billion.

However, sources said this proposal was unlikely to find favour with the Government as it conflicted with the new policy laid down by President de Klerk that normal market forces should prevail when the land Acts were scrapped.

The plan was in a paper presented at a London conference.

The heroine of Orange Farm

OLGA Lutu is an unsung heroine of the shack-dwelling community that she has unselfishly dedicated her life to.

Since 1982 when she moved into Weiler's Farm, Lutu has been harassed, arrested and appeared in court more than she can remember - all for the benefit of squatters.

She was harassed by the police after she had urged farm labourers there not to pay rent, arrested for opening an advice centre which was meant to help the squatters obtain ID books and pension funds, among others, and appeared in court and fined R800 for

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

refusing to pay service charges for a house that had no electricity and water supply, which she also had no permit to live in.

Members

There was a time when she and other community members were arrested every day.

They would appear in court even on Saturdays, so that they could be charged, fined and released. Despite all this Lutu did not wilt under the pressure.

Her experiences became a challenge that propelled her to form a

Harassed, arrested, Olga fights back

strong and united Weiler's Farm community.

"Our unity was displayed in 1985, when we were told to leave the farm after the owner had sold it.

"Our electricity and water supplies were cut off. We were harassed by police every night, but we would not budge," Lutu said.

"I led a committee to Pretoria to ask for the reinstallation of electricity

and water supplies. The Government later granted us permission to touch the borehole.

"We got a donation of a water pumping equipment from one firm and our problem was solved."

By then they had already started a residential committee of which she was chairperson. They had also acquired legal assistance from the Legal Resources Centre.

They held monthly meetings with the

authorities negotiating for alternative accommodation. They identified Orange Farm as a possible living area and the Government granted it to them last year.

This daughter of a "cruel policeman" who was reared by a "poor mother" in the Cape does not get credit for the allocation of Orange Farm to Weiler's Farm and township squatters.

She was instrumental in the formation of com-

munity projects that included a school, a self-help sewing scheme for unemployed women and a pre-school.

The projects and all her services, which she offers voluntarily, are still provided at Orange Farm.

Her extensive yard is always full of people who come to her for advice on acquisitions of permits, ID books and pension funds.

Rounds

She does rounds with the Black Sash every Thursday which enables her to keep tabs on 11 000 families that live in the Farm's four wards.

She also handles day-to-day problems from residents that include

fighting with local farmers.

Lutu is very bitter, she said, with the one-sided media reports she reads in the Press about Orange Farm residents stealing from the farmers.

"Our people are harassed and beaten up by the local farmers almost every day but I never see that in the Press."

Her wish is to see politics being left out of the desperate community's problems to facilitate progress and development of services and projects that would benefit the people in Orange Farm. Allocation of more sites and construction of proper roads are in the agenda of the next problems she wants to tackle.

WOMAN



OLGA LUTU

Mogopa land dispute taken off roll

THE postponed appeal on the Mogopa land dispute has been removed from the roll of the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein for November 20.

The appeal was postponed by the court on August 24 this year to allow the parties to negotiate a possible settlement.

It is understood that the negotiations are progressing well, but that no settlement has so far been reached.

The appeal is against the confirmation of a "rule nisi" of February

24, 1989, whereby all members of the Bakwena ba Mogopa tribe - except those with written permission from the Minister of Education and Development Aid - had to vacate the farm Zwartrand and remove all residential structures.

Mr Justice W J van der Merwe, in the Transvaal Supreme Court on May 2, 1989, ordered that, if the members of the tribe did

not comply with the order within seven days of its issue, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Affairs and the Minister of Education and Development Aid were authorised to have the people and structures removed.

The Commander of the SA Police at Ventersdorp was authorised, with members of the SAP, to assist.

When the appeal of Mr

Daniel Molefe, of Zwartrand, and Mr Matthew Mphse, of Mimosa section of the Onderstepoort Group Farms, who is chairman of the Mogopa committee, was called on August 24 Acting Chief Justice Mr Justice Joubert raised the question of a possible settlement.

After several hours of negotiation about a possible settlement, the

parties agreed to a postponement of the appeal to allow them to negotiate.

The appeal was postponed "sine die", with November 20 being suggested as a possible date for the appeal to continue if negotiations were unsuccessful.

The appeal has now been removed from the roll to allow more time for the negotiations.

The Mogopa tribe was moved from Zwartrand in 1983. The farm was later expropriated by the Government.

SA land should be for all, clerics indaba told

Sowetan 6/11/90

SOUTH African Council of Churches president Dr Khoza Mgogo yesterday urged the National Conference of Churches in Rustenburg to adopt strategies to facilitate the re-distribution of wealth in South Africa.

Not to do so may retard the process of reconciliation, Mgogo said during the opening session.

"This conference must at least address one specific area. This is the question of land. We cannot avoid it," he said.

Sowetan Correspondent

"The land must be returned to the people. The land cannot be owned by the few and worked by the many. The land is the future for the people and without it, the majority of the people will be lost."

Issue 3

Mgogo said the issue of land could not be overlooked and would have to be at the forefront at every available op-

portunity during the five-day conference.

Leader of the Maritzburg-based Africa Enterprise Mr Michael Cassidy said the key question for the conference was whether it could confess, acknowledge and repent its "national sins", both before God and before those sinned against and to find a way to point and show the way to the future.

More than 250 delegates from 85 denominations are meeting at the Hunter's Rest Hotel near Rustenburg for the historic conference. - Sowetan Correspondent.

Address land issue church told

③ General ② ②
JOHANNESBURG. — South African churches attending an historic conference near Rustenburg have been urged to adopt strategies to facilitate the redistribution of wealth. ② ②

The president of the South African Council of Churches, Dr Khoza Mgojo, told delegates attending the five-day National Conference of Churches that the process of reconciliation in South Africa would be retarded if these strategies were not adopted.

He urged the conference to address at least the question of land.

"The land must be returned to the people. The land cannot be owned by the few and worked by the many."

One of the aims of the conference, according to the Rev Barney Pityana, is to produce a joint document or a declaration setting out a set of Christian principles to be adhered to by a future South African government.

Pityana was the director of the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches in Geneva. He was an executive member of the SA Students Organisation (Saso) and a confidante of Black Consciousness leader, Mr Steve Biko.

Pityana recently returned to South Africa after being in exile since 1977.



BARNEY PITIANA at the national conference of churches in Rustenburg this week

The good life at Zebediela estate

Sowetan 10/11/90

3
General

THE seven or so women who were standing behind their sewing machines at Zebediela Citrus Estate had been very subdued. They had answered all our questions but had volunteered no additional information.

We were about to leave, having said our bye-byes when they looked at each other and one of them said: "Wait, let us pray". What followed was one of the shortest but also most moving renditions of Nkosi Sikelele iAfrika that I have ever heard.

I struggled to hold back emotions as thoughts welled up in my mind and I was taken back to the union meetings of Zebediela workers who have now been on strike for three months, demanding more money and union recognition.

But this was a different singing: the general manager's wife, Mrs AE Minaar, was also in attendance and stood stoically by as the women, joined by the black pressmen around, called on God to end the black suffering in the country.

Concern

We were at Zebediela by invitation of the estate management, who were concerned at the negative publicity surrounding the company since the strike started on August 8.

FOCUS

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Management, in the person of general manager Mr Marius Minaar, was also concerned at the wrong or incomplete statistics that were being bandied about in the media as fact. And so we found ourselves at the estate, to see and hear the "facts" as Minaar saw them.

Minaar, a robust Afrikaans man who says most of the information in the media, especially *Sowetan*, has been nothing but nonsense, admits to the shortcomings of the estate in its housing and salary bills for the black employees.

But, and he insists on this, credit has to be given where it is due.

The company has built 15 "villages" for its black employees, who stay in them for free. These are spread around the estate. The houses, one of the major focus of the media in its reports on the estate, are in two varieties.

The "traditional" thatched-roofed huts and "modern" brick houses with water and toilets in-

side. There are presently about 700 huts, with each family allocated three rondavels. The estate is responsible for their maintenance. Dilapidated rondavels are the ones not in use. They are the most popular with the workers and more often the "modern" ones stand empty.

Upgrade

The estate is aware that the houses are not up to standard and have in August this year approved more than R1-million to upgrade housing. This will be used to build new houses and renovate the existing ones. An additional sum of R234 000 is to be spent on building new toilets to replace the "primitive" ones that are not partitioned, have no seats and are simply a row of holes on the ground that cannot be used when it rains. We were shown one of the new blocks that had just been completed, with locking doors for the toilets as well as seats. It was indeed a far cry from the hole in ground.

The estate also runs a creche for which parents pay only R6 a month while the company chips in between R9 and R13,49, Mrs Minaar explains as we tour the estate.

Her husband gets very agitated when the discussion turns to wages. He is livid with anger that

newspapers have been stating that the average pay at Zebediela was R120 because "this is simply not so", but just another "nonsense".

The true state of affairs is that an unskilled labourer's starting wage is R7,13 a shift or R156,86 a month. That the media has been undercutting the amount by R36,86 is totally unfair and unacceptable and is proof of a bias in the media, Minaar says.

Lessons

Minaar says both his estate and the union have learnt some lessons from the strike and that is why Zebediela has now agreed to meet the union to discuss ways of ending the strike. It is everyone's hope, he says, that a solution acceptable to all will be found to stop the estate bleeding to death which, he says, has lost millions of rands since the strike started.

The prayer by the sewing women, in the form of the national anthem, was particularly poignant; for while Minaar may be saying the obvious for a man in his position, the strike has been traumatic in many ways. There have been evictions and people had to sleep in the open. There are food shortages after three months of strike. There are unpaid hire purchase accounts, etc.

The voices of the singing women echoed in my mind throughout the return journey from Zebediela. Will God indeed end the suffering as asked by the women? It is a moot question as a meeting held three days later between management and NUF ended in a virtual deadlock, with management refusing to budge on wages. And so, as the workers would say, the struggle continues.

Orange Farm water strange

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

ORANGE Farm dwellers were last week baffled by stinking tap water and feared contamination.

An irate resident told *Sowetan* that the water stank and tasted foul for two days when it was reopened after being switched off for a day on Wednesday.

"The water stank so much that it difficult to drink or wash with it," the resident said.

The chief executive of Orange Farm, Mr Johann Simon said he was not aware that the residents had problems with their water.

Surprise

"We closed water off on Wednesday because we were working on the electricity and, therefore, we could not operate the pumps," he said.

"It is surprising that the residents had problems because our water is supplied by the Rand Water Board which also supplies other neighbouring towns."

Mrs Evelyn Nilashe said: "The water stank badly and when we made tea it tasted very foul as if it were something else and not tea. At first we thought that they had done something to purify the water but the smell was too terrible."

Man killed: farmer gets 18 months

STG 28/11/90
CAPE TOWN — A Stellenbosch farm manager was yesterday sentenced in the Paarl Regional Court to 18 months' jail and a R250 fine for beating to death a labourer and assaulting another with a pick-axe handle.

Rudolf Rix (25) was released on R500 bail pending the outcome of an appeal.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges, saying he had hit out at workers with a light stick in self-defence when going to their

cottages to make inquiries.

Regional magistrate Mr D Cronje sentenced Rix to three years — half suspended for five years — on the charge of culpable homicide and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, saying the death of Charlie Thompson (36) had been the result of multiple injuries.

Rix was fined R250 (or six months) for assaulting Johannes Beukes (78), who has cancer and tuberculosis. — Sapa.

30-11/90
Land appeal

off court roll

BLOEMFONTEIN —
The postponed appeal on the Magopa land dispute has been removed from the roll of the Appeal Court for November 20.

The appeal was postponed on August 24 to allow the parties to negotiate a settlement.

The appeal is against the confirmation of a rule nisi in 1989, whereby all members of the Bakwena ba Magopa tribe — except those with written permission from the Minister of Education and Development Aid — had to vacate Zwartrand farm.

The Magopa tribe was moved from Zwartrand in 1983 and the farm was expropriated by the Government.

The Magopa contend that the expropriation was invalid. — Sapa.

3 General

Nationalisation of farm land impractical - bank

The Development Bank of Southern Africa does not support the taking of land from present white owners and handing it over to black farmers, the DBSA said yesterday, following statements accredited to the bank.

The DBSA said it did not support nationalisation and transfer of land, which it found "neither practical nor desirable".

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) yesterday again entered the debate on a land policy in a new South Africa with a call for urgent discussions with the DBSA.

The SAAU also made an "urgent appeal to parties outside agriculture to desist from issuing statements on the ownership and utilisation of farming land which may create confusion and uncertainty".

Last week the SAAU severely criticised a summary report of last month's African National Congress Land Commission Workshop, which made an urgent appeal for a major redistribution of land in South Africa as part of a State-run affirma-

tive action programme, using nationalisation selectively.

Yesterday's Development Bank statement, issued by its chairman, Dr Simon Brand, follows prominent media reports quoting a recent DBSA study on possible options for land transfer to black farmers.

According to the reports, the DBSA suggested that nearly 8 million hectares of farmland be transferred to blacks - "in line with one of the basic negotiation demands of the African National Congress".

Ongoing

In an apparent attempt to clarify the bank's position yesterday, Dr Brand said:

"While the Development Bank has no mandate to determine policy, it is its normal practice to bring to the attention of those who take part in the ongoing policy debate insights gained from its research and operational experience in activities such as rural and agricultural development.

"The (DBSA) proposals are therefore not a blueprint for fu-

ture agricultural land policy.

"Some of the issues highlighted by the media need to be put in perspective: the proposals do not suggest that land be taken from present owners and handed over to black farmers.

"On the contrary, it is suggested that the approach be based on a market mechanism to provide options for black ownership of land.

"The nationalisation and the transfer of land is not proposed, but is argued to be neither practical nor desirable.

"It is also not argued that all farmers in debt should relinquish their land to black farmers, but rather that some such land could become available for purchase by blacks who can obtain the financing to do so.

"The extent of this land is a guesstimate," Dr Brand said.

According to SAAU president Nico Kotze, "various organisations and individuals have recently posed as self-appointed 'spokesmen' on the ownership and utilisation of farming land, which is totally unacceptable to the SAAU". - Sapa.

ANC issues land rights blueprint

More land must be made available free of charge to people in rural areas who stay together in one place and want communal ownership, according to the African National Congress (ANC) report on its workshop on land, released in Johannesburg this week.

The ANC report also issued a call for banking systems to provide financial loans on the basis of future production, the establishment of "progressive" farmers' unions, and the scrapping of all payments and legal privileges for chiefs and headmen.

All those in South Africa who had been dispossessed had a claim to land, the ANC said.

"Through nationalisation, land will become the property of all the people (and) all people in dispute over land should submit their claims to the Land Claims Commission for arbitration."

The workshop group responsible for discussing communal land acknowledged, though, that "complexities" existed in different areas of the country concerning the legal protection of communal land. It proposed that:

Mines

- In urban areas, a land trust must be created where people agree that South Africa's shores, the sea and water resources belong to all South Africans.

- In terms of mining land: mineworkers must have residential rights; mines must make land available for residential purposes; and minerals should be controlled by the State.

- In rural areas where people stay together in one place and want communal ownership, more land must be made available without cost.

- The title deed must be for the community as a whole.

- Individual rights of use and control must be recognised for

residential land, a plot for crops, and communal grazing.

On the role of chiefs, it was decided there was a need to:

- Scrap all legislation pertaining to chieftainship, including the Black Local Authorities Act.

- Scrap all the allegedly corrupt practices pertaining to chieftainship that had arisen in the course of "our colonial history".

- Acknowledge the right of communities to elect democratically their own leaders and representatives.

- Acknowledge the right of communities to recognise someone as their chief and to continue traditional practices of their own free will.

On the question of financing and communities, the ANC workshop called for:

- Alterations to the banking system, permitting loans on the basis of future production; an active policy of State assistance; the formation of credit unions; the establishment of a rotating-credit fund, by which farmers on communal land are assisted on a step-by-step basis; and the establishment of progressive farmers' unions.

Delegates also proposed investigating the possibility of using communal lands and livestock as collateral.

On the issue of economic rights of individuals in a community, the report said:

- Communities must be allowed to decide democratically about newcomers from outside.

Individuals in the community should be given freehold title to a piece of land, and both the residence and the plot of land should be marketable.

- There should be a right to sell one's house/structure on the residential plot, with community consent; there should be no right to sell communal land; there should be no right to sell or alienate residential land.

- There should be no right to sell a farming plot. — Sapa.

Opposition to land redistribution

B 13 21 16/11/90
PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union is totally opposed to any redistribution of land through nationalisation, confiscation or expropriation, as well as farming on a communal basis.

SAAU president Nico Kotze was reacting to the release of an ANC report this week which claimed more land should be made available free of charge to people in rural areas wanting communal ownership.

Through nationalisation, the land would become the property of all the people, the report suggested.

Kotze said should the legal dispensation of land ownership be altered by

(3) General
GERALD REILLY

parliament, the interest of present owners had to be protected.

It was clear, he said, there was no consensus within the ANC on land ownership. However, points of departure and objectives the ANC had adopted were totally unacceptable to organised agriculture and prejudiced economic growth.

Private ownership of land must continue to be the basis of a sound agricultural.

He said the union had submitted its policy on the issue to government.

Trading in commodities

BIP am 3/11/90
ACHMED KARIEM

THE current agricultural marketing structure is a major hindrance to the establishment of a commodity futures market in SA, the latest Standard Bank AgriReview reports.

It says that SA futures market mechanisms, already in place, could be used for commodity trading at short notice.

At present the marketing boards set prices, determine production levels and fulfil marketing functions on behalf of producers.

"Prices must be able to reach their natural levels under the free market system for a futures market to function," says the report.

The shouldering of risk would move from the boards to the producer, who would use hedging mechanisms to reduce risk. Boards could then focus on marketing rather than setting prices. (3) General

A system of brokers, to conduct transactions on behalf of hedgers and investors, was also necessary.

Market liquidity was crucial for futures markets to operate. "Speculators play a vital role here, and without them, hedgers would not be able to place and lift hedge transactions without affecting prices."

The education of market participants such as producers and processors would be necessary.

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visiting US Professor Walter Williams (author of SA's War Against Capitalism), Free Market Foundation executive director Leon Louw, DP leader Zach de

ment spokesman Tito Mboweni was the only speaker to emphasise the key role of the state in the new SA.
Williams said that SA's

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TAU calls for urgent conservation strategy

B1024
1/11/90
GERALD REILLY (3) General

PRETORIA — The development of a comprehensive conservation strategy had become urgent, the National Veld Trust conference was told yesterday.

Transvaal Agricultural Union executive member Charles Baber said much of the damage over the past few decades was irreversible. If the deterioration was to be stopped, effective action could not be delayed.

He said among the reasons for the critical conservation situation in some areas were:

- The disproportionate political clout of the rural areas over many decades.
- The misuse of financial assistance by farmers.
- Subsidised interest rates and financial assistance to workable land in marginal areas.

Options

Other reasons were the subdivision of farms into un-economic units, damage done by mining industry and urbanisation, and the adoption of political policies which resulted in concentrations of people in areas where the land could not take the pressure.

Baber said some farmers had pursued the wrong options and had been unrealistically optimistic about the land's potential.

They were repeatedly bailed out of financial disaster at great cost to the taxpayer.

There was a new awareness of the threat of a possible collapse of the SA environment. But, he added, conservation had another dilemma — the population explosion.

It would not be possible, he said, to accommodate and employ all the future millions in the rural areas.

There was only one solution — urbanisation and industrialisation. However, both of these posed problems of worsening pollution.

Baber warned that SA farmers would have to shake off their lethargy, or they would find themselves dictated to by "a possibly unenlightened pressure group".

R600m drop in farming exports expected

PRETORIA — The value of agricultural exports this year will decline by more than R600m compared with the sector's record foreign exchange earnings last year.

Official Agriculture Department estimates put the value of this year's exports at R5,1bn.

The main reason for last year's record R5,7bn foreign earnings was the high level of wool prices internationally and a huge maize crop of 11,5-million tons which left a surplus

General
GERALD REILLY

of nearly five-million tons for export.

Wool prices have dropped by more than 15% this year because of world oversupply. Foreign earnings in the January-October period totalled R449,6m. *β 1p am 8/11/90*

The 1989/90 maize crop was down by nearly 3,5m tons, leaving a small export surplus expected to earn about R340m.

This compares with foreign earnings of R1,4bn the previous year.

Sugar earnings are also down. An SA Sugar Association spokesman says exports are expected to earn R559m in the current trading year compared with R698m in 1989.

However, total foreign exchange earnings have been strongly boosted by a big increase in the value of fresh deciduous fruit shipped abroad — up by more than 40% from R920m 1989 to an estimated R1,337bn this year.

Land Bank to expand lending to blacks

THE Land Bank is expected to begin granting loans to black farmers for the first time on a widespread basis next year.

Land Bank MD Fanie Hugo confirmed yesterday that the Land Bank Act did not discriminate against black farmers. He said the bank did make loans to Indians and coloureds and some blacks, "but not many".

This is expected to change next year when the racially discriminatory Land Acts are abolished. Black farmers will be able to buy farms in what is now "white" SA.

So long as the bank was

21/11/90
KEVIN DAVIE

convinced the farm was good security, it would make loans to black farmers, Hugo said. The bank had the resources to make loans to these farmers.

Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) chairman Simon Brand said yesterday programmes had shown that black farmers could farm successfully where they had the same access to finance and support structures as white farmers.

As a contribution to the debate on land reform the DBSA had considered a number of options includ-

ing land confiscation, and had proposed in a recent report a market-based system which would make vacant land available to black farmers.

Publication of the report produced a storm of protest from some white farmers who were concerned that their farms would be given to blacks.

Brand stressed that the intention was not to hand land over — black farmers would use finance facilities such as those provided by the Land Bank to buy land. Support financing arrangements currently available to white farmers would also be necessary.

The DBSA report identified two key types of land which might be made available for purchase by black farmers — 2-million hectares appropriated by government, but not yet allocated for use, and land owned by 1 000 white farmers who were in financial difficulty and might want to sell.

Land Bank loans might be used to finance the former, while the government might consider writing off some of the debt in the latter case to be able to sell the farm at a marketable price.

The report said this affirmative action approach

could immediately make at least 8-million hectares available at a cost to the state of between R1bn and R2bn. At least 50% of the land should be arable, implying that between 15% and 25% of the arable land could be transferred to black farmers.

This could give 500 000 blacks land rights.

"If all proposed models are implemented it is conservatively estimated that 25% to 40% of all arable land could be transferred to black farmers in a relatively short period and at comparatively affordable levels to the fiscus," the report stated.

Industry faced with rising import costs and tighter control

B 10 a 16/11/90
3 General



PAT PULLINGER

LOCAL users of pesticides and herbicides face rising prices and tighter control measures in the use of agrochemicals.

Domestic and agricultural pest control costs will continue to rise.

Agriculture, Veterinary Chemical Association of SA (Avcasa) president Dr Pat Pullinger says this is the result of SA's pesticide and veterinary products manufacturers being dependent on ingredients from overseas suppliers.

Imported chemical prices vary depending on country of origin and are influenced by fluctuating forex rates and the impact of inflation in the country of origin.

Some active and non-active compounds come from the US and France, where dollar exchange rates apply, but many are sourced in the UK.

Reports by
LYNN CARLISLE

UK exchange rates and rising inflation have impacted on the local landed price.

Flick Pest Control MD Michael Hackner says the prices of some chemicals were hiked nine times last year.

"With some pesticides being oil-based, the high oil and petrol prices did not augur well for pesticides."

Influence

Pullinger says there is no escaping cost escalations as the overseas suppliers also influence the pace at which local agriculture, veterinary and pesticide producers are able to move away from less environmental friendly substances.

"South Africa depends on overseas research and development for environmental friendly substitutes for

chemicals that are not so bio-degradable."

Pullinger says while almost all players are trying to move towards greater biological control, the ideal situation is many years away.

Overseas companies have been reducing expenditure for the development of new compounds, which has resulted in a reduction in environmental friendly chemical breakthroughs.

While some new chemicals are being developed, many of these tend to be of limited application.

He says the example of tick control, where a new pesticide may control one type of tick but is ineffective on the many other varieties, is an example.

The Department of Agriculture is looking at amending legislation to make it an offense for anyone to use chemicals not in

accordance with labelling instructions.

Registrar of Act 36, 1947, Max Orban says such amendments will be far reaching and will affect most users, including the homeowner.

"We will be looking for an increase in penalties for offenders, especially those home-brewers who obtain chemicals from the farms and apply them in urban areas."

Reduce

The purpose behind tighter controls is to reduce the damage caused to the environment, humans and animals by pesticide and agrochemical abusers.

Avcasa says its members adhere to a strict code of conduct which, among others, calls on local manufacturers to look after the environment.

The code is respected by those Avcasa members who are drawn from the pest control services industry and who also fall under the control of strict legislation.

Pullinger says those companies and individuals that try to cut costs should not do so through the use of the services of fly-by-night pest control operators.

Many less reputable operators seriously undercut the better quality pest control companies and operators, but only do so by using inadequate pesticide compounds, he says.

Invariably they mix heavily diluted solutions which do not kill the pests and therefore encourage resistance to properly prepared pesticide solutions.

Farmers may seek probe into industry

Star 3/12/90
By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Organised agriculture is considering calling for a Government commission of inquiry to probe all aspects of the industry.

It is understood the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) would support such an inquiry, particularly in view of the devastating effects of the current drought and financial hardships faced by the country's 70 000 farmers.

The SAAU is next month to begin its own probe through its drought and emergency aid committee.

Support for change has come from Dr Frans van der Merwe, acting superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, who told a recent symposium it would be to the advantage of agriculture in general for only one agricultural department to operate instead of the 14 currently operating in South Africa, the TBVC states and the national states. (3) General

Interference

Dr van der Merwe said the department would have to develop "a policy framework conducive to the long-term viability of agriculture with as little Government interference as possible".

Policy would "be attuned to making agriculture an independent and financially sound industry, thereby restricting to a minimum ad hoc measures for the financial support of farmers".

Farming has been hard hit over the past 12 years. This has resulted in farmers over-stretching their financial position and not meeting financial obligations.

CHA Times 19/11/80

Drought threat ³⁶

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The drought gripping huge areas of the country could have a serious effect on South Africa's foreign earnings and balance of payments next year, agricultural economists say.

While there will be no forex earnings from grain exports next year, the cost of importing wheat — and probably maize — is expected to be about R500m.

The export surpluses from big maize and wheat crops in 1988/89 earned the country more than R1,5bn last year.

The Agriculture Department says farm exports this calendar year are expected to earn R5,1bn.

At the end of last week it was estimated that the wheat crop had fallen below 1,9m tons and was likely to go lower. About 4m tons were needed for local consumption.

The Wheat Board, which meets in Pretoria this week to plan an import programme, will have to get cabinet authority to ship in more than 500 000 tons.

A board spokesman said that wheat landed at Durban would cost about R450 a ton.

Economists estimate that Free State wheat farmers' losses will amount to more than R150m. If rains hold off for another two weeks, the maize crop could be heading for disaster, particularly if the limited plantings now possible are followed by dry conditions during January and February.

● Sapa reports that the drought in the Bothaville area of the Free State has already dried out the land in some parts to such an extent that the wheat crop is completely scorched.

Farmers at Bothaville, which celebrates its centenary next year, have spent large amounts of money trying to save their crops.

Plan for huge land transfer to black farmers

By BRIAN POTTINGER

THE Government is studying a plan by the Development Bank to turn over millions of hectares of agricultural land to black farmers.

At the heart of the proposal is a suggestion that 2-million ha of land — already bought by the state for incorporation in homelands but not yet transferred — be handed over immediately.

Another more politically sensitive proposal is that about 1 000 white farms that are hopelessly indebted to the government be taken over and used for black small-scale farms. *STimes 18/11/90*

Other sources of land identified in a vital document drawn up by Development Bank officials are: church property, expropriated "black spots" which have not yet been handed over to whites and the use of peri-urban holdings. *General*

Cost

The Development Bank report has earmarked nearly 8-million ha — about 25 percent of the country's arable land — which could be used to settle half-a-million small farmers. The cost of transfer would be between R1-billion and R2-billion.

Roughly 65 percent of the land held by the Trust Land Consolidation programme, which could be made available for small-scale farm development, lies in Northern Natal and 28 percent in the Transvaal.

The plan was drawn up by a team under Development Bank general manager Nick Christodoulou. Elements of it were presented at a recent high-powered conference in Britain on land reform.

The architects of the proposal also suggest a series of affirmative actions to help small farmers once they are settled on the land. The Development Bank's proposals are in line with international development theory which is moving away from large-scale estate-type agricultural projects to supporting the far more productive and effective small-scale farmer on his own

□ To Page 2

Farmland transfer to blacks

□ From Page 1
plot of land. *General*

"We are hoping to achieve two things," Mr Christodoulou told the Sunday Times this week.

"First, settle a substantial number of black farmers on the land and, second, maintain agricultural productivity."

Mr Christodoulou said some political groups liked to emphasise the settlement of black farmers while others stressed productivity.

"This plan shows that both are achievable."

Minister of Agriculture Jacob de Villiers yesterday declined to indicate government thinking on the report.

He said it was premature to comment on matters affecting an important and emotional issue which still had to be discussed with a wide range of people and instances.

It is understood, however, that the government is working on a plan for land settlement in anticipation

STimes 18/11/90
of the scrapping of the Land Acts early next year.

The Development Bank scheme is likely to encounter resistance from conservative white farming groups — particularly a suggestion that indebted farms should be acquired for the purpose of black small-scale farming and that a possible land tax should be introduced which would bear more heavily on unproductive users of agricultural land.

This week the Orange Free State Agricultural Union joined the Transvaal Agricultural Union in condemning government moves to scrap the laws which reserve most farming land for whites.

They also criticised the South African Agricultural Union for endorsing the opening of white farmland to occupation by all.

The Development Bank plan also suggests a farmer-support programme aimed at giving assistance to emergent farmers in acquiring credit, extension

help, training and access to marketing and transport facilities.

The ANC has reacted cautiously to the Development Bank proposals.

One source said there were "progressive" elements in the plan but the organisation was not in a position to respond fully.

The ANC this week revealed its own thinking on land reform in a report on a recent workshop. Central to much of the thinking is a tight control on the land market, progressive taxation for unused farms, expropriation with compensation, the principle of one-person-one-farm, a move towards family as opposed to corporate farms and the view that black victims of previous expropriations and removals should enjoy preferential treatment.

A member of the ANC's Land Commission this week emphasised that the proposals did not amount to policy — merely an expression of opinion on possible options for land reform.

3,5 million raise voices in protest

displaced Doornkop community in the eastern Transvaal. David De-belle, said they were going to step up the fight to get their land back.

■ Responding with "disbelief" to the government's White Paper on Land Reform, the National Land Committee (NLC) called for the scrapping of the clause which rejected land restoration, and for consultation with those making land claims.

The NLC, formerly the National Committee Against Removals is represented in Natal by the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra); in the Border region by the Grahamstown Rural Committee (GRC); in the Southern Cape by Southern Cape Against Removals (Scar); in the Western Cape by Surplus Peoples Project (SPP); and by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

■ The White Paper was not a land reform document, the ANC argued, but an attempt to codify the present state of land dispossession under cover of free market proposals. ANC publicity head Pallo Jordan said the White Paper would, however, not jeopardise the negotiation process although it would definitely lead to greater resistance from dispossessed communities.

"Our suspicion is that the government wants to present the people of South Africa with a number of faits accomplis which will then have to be undone later," Jordan said.

■ At a press conference preceding the tabling of the White Paper, Education and Training Minister Dr Stoffel Van der Merwe said it was the government's answer to set straight the question of

land inequalities. ^{(3) removed} It was the government's view that setting right historical wrongs would lead back much further than the 40 years of National Party apartheid rule and this would present an impossible situation, Van der Merwe said.

Both black and white people were dispossessed during the social engineering attempted by apartheid. In fact, he claimed, more white land was alienated than black land.

The Minister insisted people had been compensated in one form or another but where this had not happened, particular instances could be taken up. However, the general rule incorporated in the White Paper was "no redress".

Any attempt to restore land to those who had been removed under apartheid measures would open up a quagmire, he said.

"Certain groups have been disadvantaged with regard to occupation of land. This has been addressed in a positive form by empowering them to get access to land, rather than in a destructive way by trying to restore it to the original owners," he said.

The government rejected the idea of land claims courts "because we are not going to enter into the question of reparations".

Present titles would be recognised, and any adjustment necessary could be done through normal legal procedures.

Van der Merwe also said the government would not attempt to regulate land prices.



In vain ... a child looks on as an bulldozer rides roughshod over the homes and dreams of his community.



Barend du Plessis ... how far will he go?

Land reforms could open up homes markets

Parliamentary Correspondent

THE government's new proposals on land reform will open new property markets and could boost the economy as more blacks acquire property.

All attention will now be focussed on this week's budget speech by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis to see how far he is prepared to go to eliminate inequalities and make property accessible to all.

Both cabinet ministers involved with land reform indicated that financial aid schemes have been part of their planning. Neither indicated what the aid entails for fear of preempting this week's budget speech.

Hermus Kriel, Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, in his briefing to parliamentary and foreign correspondents, referred to a subsidy for first-time

home buyers. Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Agriculture and Development Aid, spoke about foreign aid and private sector involvement in black farming. The government will also assist black farmers. More details will be given in the next two months.

Financial aid will be viewed against the background of the reparation debate which is now warming up. Government spokesmen have so far avoided getting involved in the debate, saying all groups were affected by expropriation and that due compensation was given in each case.

The government did, however, recognise that black people were disadvantaged. The approach now seems to be that the issue must be addressed in a new constitution and in some form of black economic empowerment.

If the government aid is substantial, it

could be an important injection for the economy. More than one million plots will be transferred to full ownership immediately after implementation of the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill, one of five bills that form part of the land reform programme.

Another one million stands will become available for full ownership soon.

It is expected the envisaged subsidy will enable 250 000 people to buy or build homes. Altogether, 254 000 ha of farming land will also become available after the tabling of the Rural Development Bill. Another 220 000 ha will become available in the short term.

Most of this land is spread around the so-called self-governing territories.

Assistance programmes that have so far only been open to whites will become available to blacks with immediate effect.

Attack on CP editor was unfair

THE ANC Youth League's response (City Press, March 3) to an article by the editor also needs some clarification of certain points. It was quite an unfair attack on Khulu Sibiyana.

I want to first point out that the Harare Declaration we refer to was drafted by the OAU and was adopted by the ANC in toto. The Harare Declaration states clearly that the South African government must scrap apartheid legislation unilaterally.

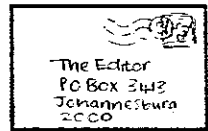
It does not need assistance from the liberation movement to do that. We need not mention again that Alfred Nzo had to tell the members of Umkhonto weSizwe, who are opposed to negotiations, that since its formation the guerrilla movement has not made a "dent" in the South African government. As for the talks about talks, the editor had a valid point, whether true or false.

It is common knowledge that certain ANC members did not want Nelson Mandela to meet Mangosuthu Buthelezi. This was not a secret. It was openly said that such a meeting would boost Buthelezi's image. Even when it was realised that consultation was needed between IFP and the ANC, attempts were made to leave Mandela out of those meetings. Here again, there is validity in the argument. - L Saki, TB Davie Res, University of Cape Town

PEOPLE'S PRESS

Where City Press readers speak out

Preference will be given to short, neatly written or typed letters. While pen names will be used on request, all letters must include the writer's full name and address.



Kids should load their brains

I AM deeply concerned about the future of our children who are busy loading guns instead of loading their brains with knowledge, education and skills.

Children, you belong at school. Politics without sufficient education can be as dangerous as a minefield. Education is the only weapon which can make seasoned politicians out of you. If you want to be a leader, start where our leaders started - at school.

Education is a prerequisite. The crisis in our schools should concern anyone who cares about the welfare of our society.

Pupils intimidate teachers and even demand that certain teachers should leave certain schools because of their political beliefs.

The dangerous thing is that these pupils know nothing. They are being used by irresponsible people to promote what is known only to themselves - and that is manipulation. - AS Tshabalala, Bethal

ANC appeal on Richtersveld

THE Labour Party's decision to torpedo the planned signing of the landmark Richtersveld national park contract today represented a major setback to the development of the whole Richtersveld area, the ANC said yesterday.

The ANC's publicity secretary in the Western Cape, Mr Trevor Manuel, urged Minister of Environment Mr Gert Kotze to proceed with the signing of the contract as originally planned.

Mr Kotze has indicated that he is keen to sign the historic agree-

ANC 2nd 10/11/90
ment for the promulgation of the 162 000 hectare park which has been hailed by environmentalists as model for future conservation planning in South Africa.

Mr Kotze said he hoped the issue would not become politicised and damage conservation efforts in the region.

Mr Manuel said the annual payment of R80 000 to the Richtersveld Community Trust would "vastly economically empower the community" and that the joint management of the park by the Parks Board and the Kuboes community boded well for the future.

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The LP's Mr Andrew Julies said yesterday the decision should be viewed as a suspension and not cancellation of the document.

Asked why the decision had been taken, he said: "We weren't happy with the way arrangements were made."

Participation in the ceremony by a representative of the Surplus Peoples Project was not a factor in the decision, he said.

Mr Julies confirmed President F W de Klerk had approached him to ask him to reconsider the matter. — Political Correspondent, Sapa

Land question: State intervention favoured

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A report on an ANC workshop on the land question, made public yesterday by the organisation's land commission, reveals widespread support for intensive state intervention in post-apartheid programmes to redistribute land.

Land commission administrator Mr Derek Hanekom yesterday cautioned that the workshop held last month had not been a policy-making exercise. He said the report should be seen as merely "the beginning of a process of consultation — it was the first time some of these concepts have been critically discussed".

However, points raised at the workshop would be taken into account in the formulation of a discussion paper on rural policy due to be completed before the end of the year.

"It gave us a good understanding of people's aspirations. But the main thing to emerge from the workshop was the complexity of the issues," Mr Hanekom said.

Participants included ANC regional delegates, rural community leaders and local and foreign specialists in various land-related issues.

A simulation exercise carried out during the week-long workshop suggested that a future government was going to find itself squeezed between people's aspirations and the power of the banks, he added.

The report said that while nationalisation of land was seen as a means of acquiring land for redistribution, the dominant view was that the land should not remain in state hands, it should be "given back to the people".

Arguments against full-scale land nationalisation included that it may cause economic

collapse, increase state power and therefore potential for its abuse, and act as a disincentive against people carrying out improvements to the land.

The report argued that the initial priority for acquisition by the state should be unused, abused or under-utilised land. A second set of criteria would be those based on social considerations, where there had been human-rights violations such as forced removals.

Although initial discussions proposed the targeting of company-owned farms for acquisition, this view fell away in favour of a system where taxation and other aspects of agricultural policy should be geared to benefit individually and community-owned farms above company farms.

The tax system could also be used to discourage the holding of land for purely speculative purposes. However, there could also be

tax incentives offered to corporate farms which introduced worker participation schemes.

All forms of land tenure should be permitted in a mixed economy, the report said.

Except in cases of unused and abandoned land, and cases of human-rights abuses, the workshop adopted the view that compensation be paid for any land acquired by the state. Twenty-five per cent of the compensation should be paid in cash and the remainder in industrial and 10-year government bonds.

The workshop examined the question of land claims, for example by relocated individuals and communities to their original land, and the numerous areas of dispute that could arise.

It proposed the establishment of a Land Claims Commission charged with arbitrating on conflicting claims. — Sapa



MARCH . . . Some 40 former members of the small rural community of Elandskloof, near Citrusdal, march to the Ned Geref Kerk's headquarters to hand over a petition demanding restoration of residence rights. **INSET:** Members of the delegation shake hands with NGK members after handing over their petition.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

CAM. Trip 20/11/90 36mm

'Give our land back' plea to NGK

ABOUT 40 members of a small Western Cape rural community who claim they were forced off their land by the NGK, marched to the church's synodal headquarters in Orange Street yesterday and handed over a petition demanding their land back.

They say Queen Victoria granted the land to freed slaves about 1899 on the condition that the residents paid for the surveying costs.

Mr Deon Cloete of the Surplus Peoples Project said yesterday that in 1961 the NGK sold Elandskloof Farm, near Citrus-

dal, to two brothers for R34 000 without the consent of the 70 families living there.

After the sale the families were forced to leave. Their houses were allegedly burnt down and pigs shot in their sties.

About 40 families settled on nearby Allandale Farm, where they still live today.

Their attempt to get restitution follows the high-profile confession and apology by Professor Willie Jonker of the NGK for the church's role in apartheid. It has the backing of the African National Congress.

The petition, handed to a delegation headed by the NGK's Western Cape Scribe, Dr Fritz Gaum, set out the historical basis of the grievances and asked the church to "right its wrongs".

It read: "We, the descendants of the old-Elandskloofers, are marching today to demand our land back.

"With the sale of Elandskloof, we sustained much damage because our rights were not protected."

Dr Gaum said the church would react to the memorandum once it had been studied. — Own Correspondent and Sapa

Business Report

Loans for black farmers?

SOMERSET WEST. — There was nothing in the present Land Bank Act that prevented it from lending to black farmers, the chairman of the Development Bank of SA, Simon Brand, said in Somerset West yesterday.

Speaking at the University of the Western Cape, he said the myths that white agriculture was an efficient system and that black people were incapable of effective farming had to be eradicated first before discussing land distribution.

There were two key aspects of land reform — ensuring people's legal rights to own land and secondly, empowering them, possibly through affirmative action, to enable disadvantaged groups to use their rights.

Brand said SA was almost suffi-

cient in agricultural production and, therefore, it could afford some sacrifices in the process of addressing the needs of redistribution.

In principle, land should be available on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis.

Two million hectares of trust land held by the government had not yet been transferred to the homelands and this could form part of the initial move to allow black farmers onto the land.

Brand said it was also important a range of support services should be made available to people moving back to the land.

"As far as I am aware, there is nothing in the present Land Bank Act that prevents it from lending to black farmers," he said. — Sapa

Drought a scourge for forex earnings

3 general

GERALD REILLY

10

THE drought gripping huge areas of SA could have a serious effect on the country's foreign earnings and balance of payments next year, agricultural economists say.

While there will be no forex earnings from grain exports next year, the cost of importing wheat — and probably maize — is expected to be about R500m.

The export surpluses from big maize and wheat crops in 1988/89 earned the country more than R1,5bn last year.

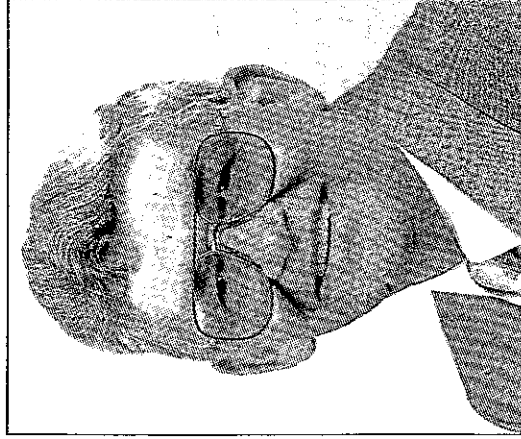
The Agriculture Department says farm exports this calendar year are expected to earn R5,1bn. *Bloway 19/11/90*

At the end of last week it was estimated that the wheat crop had fallen below 1,9-million tons and was likely to go lower. About 2,4-million tons were needed for local consumption.

The Wheat Board, which meets in Pretoria this week to plan an import programme, will have to get Cabinet authority to ship in more than 500 000 tons.

A board spokesman said wheat landed at Durban would cost about R450 a ton.

Economists estimate that Free State wheat farmers' losses will amount to more than R150m. If rains hold off for another two weeks, the maize crop could be heading for disaster, particularly if the limited plantings now possible are followed by dry conditions during January and February.



De Villiers ... guidance and credit
 FM 30/11/90 3 General

some other economists).

Hanekom made it clear that the rights of one sector of the population would not have precedence over another. For example, a farmer on land that blacks could show ancestral or title deed rights to would not necessarily lose the land — the issue would go through complex arbitration. Considerations taken into account would include "land sharing, compensatory land grants, respect for grave-sites, regional differences, production and farming, and security of tenure."

In considering land that could be targeted for acquisition, the focus would be on unused land and under-used — including portions of farms. Social considerations would include human rights violations, violations of labour laws, part-time farmers and company-owned farms. Compensation would be paid in most cases in the form of 25% cash, 25% in 10-year government bonds and 50% in industrial bonds.

The report gives one of the clearest indicators yet of the multiplicity of views in the ANC — and their remarkable degree of malleability at this stage. Ideological dogma, the demands of constituencies and human rights ethics are tussling with agricultural practicalities, one of which is that company-owned farms are often more efficient than smaller privately owned ones.

The bulk of the large crops are produced by corporate enterprises capitalised and equipped for the purpose. ■

LAND REFORM FM 30/11/90

ONE MAN, ONE FARM?

^{3 General}
 The ANC is moving toward some nationalisation of land — to return it to those who have been dispossessed, on the principle of "one person, one farm." It has indicated that the growth of corporate farms could be curbed.

The issue of land, along with education, is perhaps the most complex facing the architects of a new SA. While the ANC is working hard on the issue, government remains vague on what processes will occur after the Land Act is scrapped. A Development Bank plan to transfer nearly 8m hectares of farmland to black people was met with strong denials: "We haven't seen the plan at all. Where will they get the 8m hectares from?" Department of Agriculture spokesman, Manuel da Silva, wanted to know.

However, Agriculture Minister Jacob de

^{3 General} FM 30/11/90
 Villiers has told the FM that the SA Development Trust presently has more than 1m hectares under its control, "part of which can be used imaginatively to promote agricultural settlement of small farmers and to enable them to earn an income, while the level of nutrition of the rural population in self-governing territories will be improved."

He said that during the past five years the trust spent more than R500m buying land for consolidation, but "at present the self-governing territories clearly do not intend requesting independence and the question arises whether it is still ethical to purchase land at the expense of the State for agriculture and to transfer some to farmers in those territories. It is clearly sensible rather to promote private ownership of land."

De Villiers says the removal of discrimination will not be sufficient, but it had to be coupled with "suitable support programmes, including guidance and access to credit."

However, blacks have been stripped of land since the 1913 Land Act was introduced and the issue is far more complex. Not only has this forced massive urbanisation and a consequent loss of farming skills, but few black farmers still on the land have the means to buy more land.

One solution that neither government nor ANC has addressed is extensive agricultural training, coupled with support to small farmers. The ANC has extensive experience of

^{3 General}
 this in Zambia and Tanzania, and is working on some development projects. But the ANC and government should co-operate, with the private sector, in setting up agricultural development programmes tailored toward the new needs.

A summary of the recent ANC Land Commission workshop, released last week, highlights some issues. Commission administrator Derek Hanekom makes it clear that the document is not ANC policy — which has still to be formulated.

Hanekom says it was felt the disadvantages of nationalisation exceeded the advantages. Nonetheless, the issue was a primary topic and it seems that this aspect of the report could be adopted: "In the context of a mixed economy, there would be selective nationalisation and that the distribution of this land would be based on land-use needs."

However, it was noted that nationalisation could cause land insecurity "or even a general economic collapse," and that it increased the potential for the abuse of State power. Land would no longer provide collateral for banks, and insecure land tenure could lead to "the abuse of the land."

The report suggested that in terms of mining land, "mineworkers must have communal residential rights; mines must make land available for residential purposes and minerals should be controlled by the State" (an increasingly popular view among ANC and

Education in rural areas to get high priority

Sowetan 13/11/90
By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE Department of Education and Training is giving a high priority to education in rural areas, Mr Sam De Beer, Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing, said at the weekend.

He was speaking at the official opening of Fortuna Valley School near Balfour. The farm school has three teachers and 98 pupils. Next year it will have 120 teachers, whose salaries will be paid by the Government.

De Beer said the extent and importance of the programme of farm schools could be emphasised by DET statistics.

At the end of 1989, there were 5 672 farm schools under the control of the DET. In addition, education was provided to 467 869 pupils by 12 334 teachers.

3 centres

Centres

With regard to the department's concern with farm schools, De Beer listed - among other things - the following examples:

* The bridging period classes would be extended to rural areas as from January 1991;

* Teachers' centres were now also established in rural areas;

* The building of teachers' dwellings was now subsidised;

* Inspector's circuits had been reduced to enable inspectors to visit farm schools on a more regular basis; and

* A private consultant was offering management training courses to all

farm school principals. This course enabled them to manage their schools more effectively.

"The Fortuna School has, since the beginning of any school was its the extensive education programme to provide education for farm school pupils," he said.

De Beer said the heart of a any school was its teachers, who held in their hands the future of pupils. For this reason, to be a successful teachers did not depend only on the imparting of the knowledge of the subject they taught.



Young girls performing a traditional dance during the official opening of Fortuna Valley Farm School. Pics by VELI NHLAPO

Govt to aid farmers' recovery

8/Day 6/11/90
PRETORIA — Government yesterday announced substantial additional financial aid for cash-strapped farmers whose creditworthiness had been destroyed by drought during the past decade.

Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk told a media conference the additional aid would cost his department R25m for the 1990/91 season and R35m for 1991/92.

The interest subsidy on farmers' borrowings would amount to R526m until 1996.

He said the additional aid was proof government was aware of the important role played by agriculture in the economy of rural areas. The aim was to help as many farmers as possible recover financially.

An investigation by the Department of Agriculture and the SA Agricultural Union had shown many farmers' crops had been severely

(3) General
GERALD REILLY

damaged in the past season.

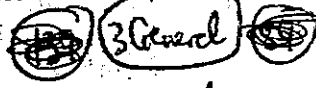
They were unable to meet their commitments to the co-operatives, with the result that the co-ops would be unable to renew financial aid for 2 388 farmers for the approaching planting season. The additional aid was intended to assist farmers who had accumulated debts but were able to recover financially.

Due to serious short-term cash flow problems they could no longer be helped by their co-ops or other financial institutions.

Improved creditworthiness was made possible by incorporating unredeemed production credit of the previous season with the 10-year carryover debt scheme, and subsidising Land Bank interest rates on carryover debt down still further to 8% until the scheme expired in 1996.

Franz Auerbach discusses who owns what in South Africa

Star 6/11/90



The few who hold most of the land

FARMERS of the Transvaal Agricultural Union have threatened various kinds of militant action if the Government proceeds with its plans to scrap the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts. Black political organisations, on the other hand, demand various forms of land redistribution because their ancestors were dispossessed of much of their land.

It would therefore help to know what areas and populations are involved. About 70 000 white farmers own 77 million ha out of our total 122 million ha land area, or 63 percent of the total.

As we know, some of this land was once owned by freehold black farmers who were removed from their land because it had suddenly become a "black spot".

And we also know that not all the 77 million ha are in fact being farmed at present. Drought, debt and the lure of the cities have reduced the number of active farmers by about a quarter during the last two decades; some farms have been abandoned — even though one has also heard of one farmer owning 14 farms.

Now compare the land owned by white farmers with the area of the homelands, remembering that the main effect of the 1913 Land Act was to prohibit people who were not white from owning or buying land outside what were then called "native reserves". The total land area of all the 10 homelands is now 17 million ha, or just under 14 percent of our total land area. And the homelands now

carry a population of 14 million people.

Thus the rest of the country — all our main urban and peri-urban areas — make up the remaining 28 million ha, or 23 percent of the total.

White farmland houses the 70 000 farmers and their families, plus 1,2 million farm labourers, who can be evicted at the whim of the farmer. If we call this 1,5 million people altogether, it leaves 20,5 million of our 36 million 1988 population living in the rest of the country.

This gives us a density of one person per 51 ha on white farmland as against one person per 1,2 ha in the homelands, which are often designated "rural" in spite of the fact that this density (1,2 ha

per person) is greater than that of the urban areas, which have 1 per 1,37 ha. So the homeland density is more than 40 times greater than that of the white farming areas.

Such gross inequality must surely be redressed. There seems ample scope for a wide variety of strategies to encourage the settlement of more black South Africans on South Africa's farmland. The matter is discussed in depth by David Cooper in "Claiming the Land", in the new magazine "New Ground".

There will be much debate about it in the future. My purpose has been to highlight that 70 000 people own 63 percent of our surface area — and some of them, it seems, absolutely refuse to share any of it... □

LRA provisions irk farmers

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry's opposition to being included in the controversial Labour Relations Act (LRA) was stressed at the annual conference of the SA Agricultural Union yesterday.

Western Cape Agricultural Union president Chris du Toit warned that farmers were not prepared to be integrated into a formal labour relations framework yet. Neither were farm workers ready for such a sophisticated system of bargaining.

It was clear the proposal to include farm workers in the legislation was rooted in pressure from certain sources, apparently with political motivation, he said.

There were serious reservations about whether a system of industrial councils and industrial courts where every farmer and his workers could bargain on service conditions could ever work in practice.

Du Toit said unemployment was SA's greatest problem — not negotiations or constitutional reforms or any other problem politicians liked to talk about.

All factors, including legislation that

GERALD REILLY

could work against the creation of employment, had to be handled with kid gloves.

The farmer's production process was dependent on a reliable work force.

They had no other choice "but to do the right thing at the right time" because of weather and growth cycles, Du Toit said.

The wage legislation collided with all the principles of a free economic system.

"And I cannot see how imposing it on agriculture can be considered."

Du Toit said the LRA was clearly tailored for the needs of the industrial and commercial sectors.

It had little relevance against a background of the complexities and different needs of the primary agricultural sector.

Massive stayaway actions and unrealistic wage demands had taken on political dimensions. What trade unions failed to appreciate was that employers were also fighting for survival.

Agriculture 'stymied by interest rates'

PRETORIA — Sustained high interest rates are among the major stumbling blocks preventing a significant recovery in the agricultural industry.

This point was made yesterday at the SA Agricultural Union conference.

Free State Agricultural Union president Izak Cronje said the industry was worried about government planners' reliance on interest rate mechanisms in the fight against inflation.

Cronje said the interest rate policy should form part of a comprehensive strategy with a balanced fiscal and monetary policy package in which interest rates did

GERALD REILLY

not play a dominant and distorting role.

He stressed a purposeful fiscal policy should include a shrinking of government's demand on scarce capital and manpower resources and a reduction in government's part in the economy.

Speakers complained about the widening gap between producer and consumer prices.

In the previous 12 months, it was stated, production costs rose by nearly 18% against producer price rises of 5,4%.

25/10/90
B/DeW

25/10/90
B/DeW

General

31/04 29/10/90
**'Breather' for
farmers in debt**

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Public sector financial institutions have agreed to suspend sequestration action against debt-ridden farmers pending a decision by Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk on extra aid.

SA Agricultural Union president Nico Kotze said he had appealed to the Land Bank and the Directorate of Financial Institutions, and they had responded positively. (S) General

"As far as private financial institutions are concerned, Dr van Niekerk and I have called on them to avoid sequestration until there is clarity on the aid asked for."

Kotze was commenting after a meeting on Friday between his committee for disaster and emergency aid and spokesmen for Transvaal farmers who burst into the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) annual congress last week with a petition for aid.

Kotze told the meeting pleas had been made to government largely for extensive aid for summer rainfall crop farmers.

The aid asked for included an extended interest subsidy on farmers' carry-over debt at co-operatives.

The farmer group stressed the need for a swift decision as the planting season had started.

On the preservation of white agricultural land and the repeal of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, he said this would be taken up directly with government and the TAU.

Drought pushes economy deeper into recession

Star
15/11/90

3 General

By Duma Gqubule

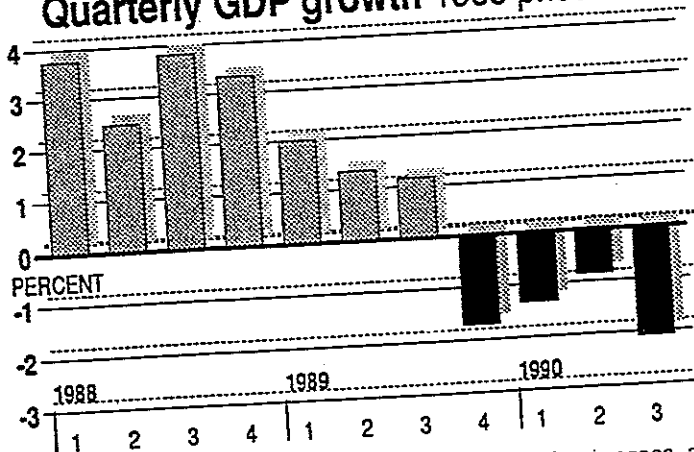
Any hopes of an early upturn in economic growth have been dashed by news that the gross domestic product (GDP) declined by a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2,1 percent in the third quarter of the year — the fourth successive quarterly decline, the Central Statistical Services (CSS) reported yesterday.

Economists are now forecasting a decline of just over one percent in the GDP this year and a small increase of perhaps one percent next year, given that the economy is coming off a low base.

Earlier this week Dr Chris Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank, said in London that no upturn was likely before the beginning of 1992.

This view is reinforced by senior bankers who expect the country to be in a serious recession

Quarterly GDP growth 1985 prices



for most of 1992, with little relief in the form of a reduction in interest rates.

"At best interest rates can be expected to decline by 2 percent during the course of 1991," the chief executive of the one of the country's largest banks said yesterday.

With growth prospects receding almost on a daily basis,

bankers and businesses are bracing themselves for a sharp upturn in bankruptcies and insolvencies next year.

The main reason for the fall was a 33 percent decline in output by the drought-stricken agricultural sector. Excluding the agricultural sector which is given to wide seasonal variations, there seems to be evi-

dence there is still some life left in the rest of the economy.

The non-agricultural sector showed a small increase of 0,1 percent in GDP compared with a decline of 1,9 percent in the second quarter. In addition, the mining industry showed a growth of 4,3 percent in the second quarter while the tertiary sector increased by 0,7 percent.

The consensus among economists is that any meaningful recovery in the economy before late next year is highly unlikely. Economist Louis Geldenhuys at stockbroking firm George Huyssamer Inc says it is still too early to talk about when the next upswing will begin.

"Although we may reach the low point of the downturn late next year, I would be surprised if we enter any noticeable upswing before 1992," he says.

However, Fergusson Brothers chief economist and investment strategist, Dr Gad Ariovich believes there is a good chance of a somewhat pedestrian recovery beginning in the second quarter of next year.

He says inventories are at very low levels and the replenishment of inventories could boost demand next year.

In addition he cites the higher levels of black consumer spending, the possibility of the Gulf crisis being resolved, and the beginning of a trend to lower interest rates next year as factors that could trigger a recovery in the economy.

Econometrix economist Tony Twine says the changing attitudes of foreign investors could remove the squeeze on the balance of payments.

"With more debt roll-overs we could afford to have a much lower current account surplus next year."

Although the government does not have much room to manoeuvre, there is a possibility of direct tax cuts in the budget next year, providing a much needed stimulus to the economy, Mr Twine says.

Farmers' nightmare returns

3 General

13/11/90

Star

The spectre of drought again haunts South Africa, with hardship first for the farmer, but eventually for all consumers. NORMAN CHANDLER reports.



A hot, dry wind blows through the stubble of a ruined maize field.

DROUGHT is staring South Africa in the face again as November — usually a reasonably wet month — rolls on, accompanied by searing heat and cloudless skies.

This time, however, the drought is more unusual than those that went before.

From the far northern Transvaal, through the heartlands of the Free State and into the eastern Cape, the agricultural industry is looking on in disbelief as crops fail, and wool, mohair and meat production levels fall.

Drought is not only the bane of farmers. It affects everyone because if crops fail and live-stock die, the cost hits the back pockets of every consumer.

Thousands of cattle, wool, mohair, maize, wheat and barley farmers are affected, says the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The story for the industry has been the same since the end of winter: on most days it has been a case of searing heat, blue skies, scudding clouds. A thunderous storm bringing temporary relief before the scorched earth swallows up the water and the cycle starts all over again.

Temperatures across a vast area of the country have, since the beginning of this month, continued to be in the high twenties.

Messina's maximums have ranged between 17 deg C and 31 deg C, Pietersburg 18 to 30, Rustenburg 22 to 33, Bloemfontein 18 to 31, and Kimberley 26 to 32. In some rural areas there have been highs of 35.

The drought is not unique to South Africa.

Australian farmers are destroying millions of sheep because of a lack of grazing. Europeans are just recovering from a three-year drought — the worst in 300 years.

American farmers also cannot believe they have been so badly affected.

The story is the same all over Africa.

In Sudan, Mozambique, Angola and Ethiopia, millions are starving because of crop failures. Experts say Africa will have to put up with another 50 years of drought.

South African farmers have just come through a decade of drought. Last year, the Depart-

ment of Agriculture, perhaps prematurely, declared the drought over in almost all districts.

Now farmers are saying that it won't be long before the latest weather patterns are again recognised for what they are: drought.

This belief is backed by studies undertaken by SAAU staff during a nationwide tour.

They say farmers, particularly those in the summer rainfall areas — the grain-producing districts — are getting desperate.

Already the Government has announced a much smaller wheat crop is expected this season. Latest estimates are that 1.9 million tons of wheat will be harvested — not even enough for internal consumption, which takes up 2.5 million tons a year. It was only three months ago that the Wheat Board was considering exporting to Russia.

If the heat continues, maize farmers could be next in line for a battering.

The Government has thrown a five-year, R526 million lifeline to grain farmers: R60 million will be going directly to farmers in the drought-stricken summer rainfall area.

The rub, though, is that only farmers who stand a realistic chance of financial recovery will benefit. Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agricultural Development, stressed that farmers who stood no chance of recovery would not receive aid.

The SAAU's chief economist, Koos du Toit, says the picture throughout the country (except for the western Cape, which experienced good rains) is "a very bleak one."

Dr du Toit says the dilemma being faced by eastern Cape farmers, for instance, is that the drought has been aggravated by reduced wool, mohair and meat prices.

"Even though they diversified in order to stave off problems should one product fail, no one expected all three to fail at the same time. It translates into a 25 percent decrease in income for every farmer in a 300 km radius of Port Elizabeth."

And that is not the end of the story.

"At this time, farmers are supposed to build up their stock for the future, but the low

prices and the drought have forced many to get rid of stock, so their short-term prospects now look very gloomy."

Wool and mohair producers will almost certainly be looking for a supporting hand from the wool and mohair boards next season as they may not find a ready export market due to the Australians having what Dr du Toit calls "a mountain of wool."

The eastern Transvaal is one of the hardest hit among the crop areas.

At least 45 percent of farmers in the area have not been able to plant maize or other crops this season — and they are already a month past the ideal planting date.

The Sekhukhuleni district of southern Lebowa is as desperate as is its next-door neighbour, the Springbok Flats. Wells have dried up, cattle can't find

decent grazing, and crops have failed in every village.

But it is the northern and central Transvaal that is really causing concern.

Usually it rains at some stage during the winter months — "a sort of bonus," said Dr du Toit — but this year "there wasn't even a shower."

Nor have summer rains fallen.

The story in the western Transvaal and western Free State is the same. "But they have more time left as they will be able to plant until the first week of December. But if rain doesn't fall, well . . ."

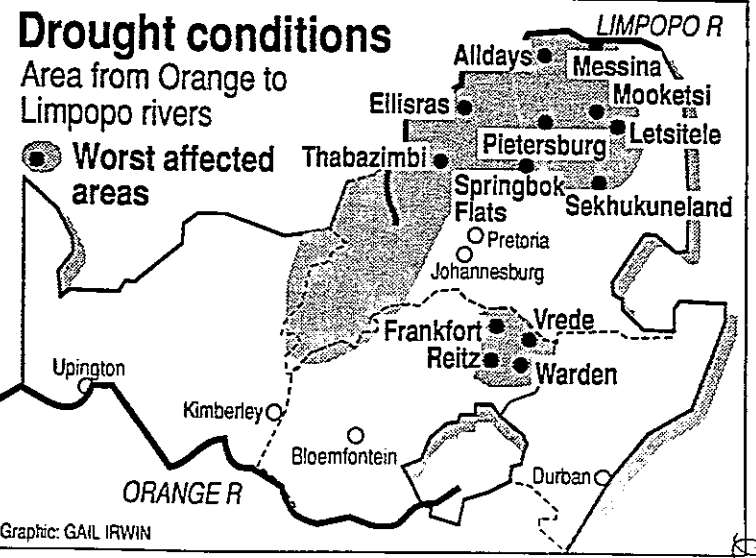
Desperate farmers — many facing financial ruin — staged a protest during last month's SAAU annual conference in Pretoria. They argued that the Government had to recognise

their plight and provide financial assistance.

Many Springbok Flats farmers have been sequestered, their farms sold, and they themselves have had to seek employment in towns and villages. For many, their personal circumstances have resulted in broken marriages, split families and the spectre of debtors' courts.

Since the farmers revolted, commercial banks, the Land Bank and the Directorate of Financial Aid have been asked by organised agriculture to suspend sequestrations of hard-hit farmers. The two Government bodies have agreed; the banks are still debating the matter.

Another move was a recommendation, since accepted, to the Government from the SAAU, to increase and extend interest subsidies on carry-over debts. □



'Lord, let it rain'

5/11/90
3/11/90
Brutal

drought saps the farms

By Joe Openshaw
Norman Chandler and
Dirk Nel

Dam levels are plummeting as soaring temperatures and the drought tighten their grip on much of the country.

Withering heat, debt and drought have plunged many of the country's farmers deeper into crisis.

Opening an emergency meeting of the Free State Agricultural Union in Kroonstad yesterday, the Reverend Eben Fourie prayed: "Lord, we have our backs to the wall and are down-and-out. Let it rain."

Dam levels mirror the growing crisis.

Desperate

The once mighty Vaal Dam is down from being 88 percent full at this time last year to 75 percent and has dropped 2 percent in the last week alone.

According to the Department of Water Affairs, dams in the western Transvaal are down seven percentage points from last year (55 percent to 48 percent), in the eastern Transvaal by 2 percent (70 to 68); and in the Vaal River catchment area (79 to 73).

Hartbeespoort is down from 86 percent to 76; in the north, Ebenezer from 91 percent to 85; Boskop in the east, 84 percent full at this time last year, is down to 78 percent of capacity.

Yesterday's Kroonstad meeting, attended by about 350 farmers, was called to

discuss the desperate financial straits of some farmers. Increasing production costs, low profit margins, the drought, high temperatures and freak windstorms could be the last straw for many.

The Free State countryside is brown and withered. Very little ploughing has taken place as farmers live in hope of relief.

Farmers in the drought-stricken north-western Transvaal have taken to doing most of their strenuous work between 4 and 8 am to avoid the heat.

In the northern Transvaal, work came to a halt in some towns and on many farms yesterday as temperatures soared over 40 deg C.

Messina, Marnitz and Hoedspruit registered 41 deg C, Thohoyandou 40, and Ellisras, Phalaborwa and Dendron 39.

Even wild animals, able to withstand drought better than domestic stock, are desperate and have taken to invading farmlands in search of water and food.

A Bushveld farmer near Koedoesrand has suffered damage of R90 000 after hippos and tsesebe broke down fences.

Trompie Cronje, of the farm Spekulate in the north-western Bushveld near the Botswana border, said the animals had invaded his irrigation lands.

Mr Cronje said a group of hippo leave their pool in the Limpopo River every evening and walk up to 20 km along the bank, grazing and trampling crops. Tsesebe had raided his vegetable, crops, and animals had trampled down fences.



Bleak outlook... Free State farmers hold an emergency meeting to discuss their plight. Picture: Sean Woods.



Double damage... Farmer Trompie Cronje of the north-western bushveld surveys the remains of his maize crop after thirsty hippos invaded his irrigation lands in search of scarce water. Picture: Dirk Nel.

AGRICULTURE FIM 23/11/90 (3) General

NERVOUSLY WATCHING FOR RAIN

The absence of this year's spring planting rains has brought the spectre of severe drought to northern farming areas. If the rains stay away for the next few weeks agriculture — and the economy — could be placed under severe strain.

Apart from rising farm debt and increased insolvencies, SA's GDP and balance of payments next year would be severely damaged by a disastrous farm crop.

Last year, farm exports were estimated at R5,8bn — almost 50% higher than the R3,9bn earned in 1988. This year, the original guesstimate was R5,1bn but if maize exports are shelved, the final figure could be about R4,7bn.

On current provisional projections, the drought (and other negative factors) may have already cost the economy about R1bn on next year's balance of payments surplus. This includes a projected R300m wheat import bill to supplement the drought-ravaged crop, cotton (or textile) imports worth about R130m, a R350m fall in wool exports and a possible R350m drop in maize exports. Should SA be forced to import maize and other crops, such as groundnuts and soya, the cost of the drought could zoom.

Fortunately, the outlook for citrus (export earnings of more than R1bn this year) and deciduous fruit (R1,3bn) is very good.

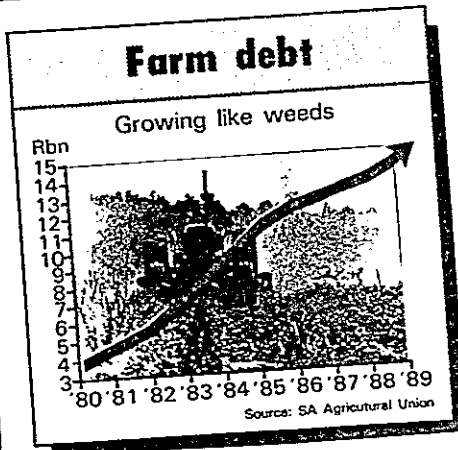
Vested interest

But, coming on top of high interest rates, a stubbornly high inflation rate, the possibility of a Middle East war and even higher oil prices, as well as low gold and faltering commodity prices, the drought could substantially intensify the recession.

Government recently announced a R526m, six-year bail-out package for so-called deserving farmers. But, with the total farm debt standing at R14,7bn at the end of last year (see graph), the promised pay-out of about R60m over the next two years would barely cover 1,5% of annualised interest on the debt alone.

Like the banks, government now has a vested interest in keeping farmers on the land — should they allow too many to fail the subsequent drop in farm values could lead to an economic collapse in vast areas. And, with the possible mass migration of black farmworkers and their families to squatter cities, the social cost of this forced urbanisation could far exceed the bail-out costs to farmers.

Taxpayers have already dug deep. Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Nickerk says interest subsidies paid by the State on farmers' unpaid production credits have totalled R914m since 1982. Apart from this sum, and the new bail-out package,



government also provided R542m in crop production finance and a special R800m State guarantee was issued to cover farming co-ops against unpaid production loans.

Should the drought worsen further, State bail-outs would be inevitable — unless government allows the looming farm finance calamity to follow its natural course. But, as this would also involve the R4bn-plus exposure of the commercial banks, government clearly believes that the cost of such a laissez-faire policy would far exceed that of continuing the bail-outs.

Meanwhile, the drought takes its toll:

- The maize crop could be a disaster after exports worth R1,4bn in 1989-1990 and about R340m in the current season. So far just over a third of the usual acreage has been planted;
- The wheat crop could fall to 1,7 Mt, necessitating imports of about 700 000 t, as well as about 600 000 t for buffer stocks, depending on next year's crop;
- Livestock farmers could face forced sell-offs. Consumers would benefit from lower red meat prices but farmers would suffer;
- Only 33% of the cotton crop is in the ground and the planting season is over;
- Sunflower, soya and sorghum can be planted until late December but the groundnut crop is a disaster; and
- Wool exports have suffered from the 19% fall in export prices. Low global demand has forced the Wool Board to buy up 57,7% of wool offered this season. Last year's R787m export earnings could be halved.

Arnold van Huyssteen

TEXTILE INDUSTRY FIM 23/11/90

CRYING FOR HELP

The textile industry, which has shed 8 000 of its 52 000 jobs this year, wants government protection from cheap imports. Critics

charge, however, that manufacturers just aren't producing the kind of products garment-makers want to buy.

The high price and indifferent quality of much locally manufactured clothing has turned off customers at retail and wholesale levels. So clothing sales have stagnated. Not surprisingly, clothing manufacturers are taking advantage of government trade policies that let them import raw materials duty-free.

The Textile Federation blames the high level of imports for its problems. In the first half of the year imports of cotton fabrics were up 13% by volume and man-made fibres by 21%. Even more dramatically, cotton yarn imports were up 394% in volume. Since July, local production volumes have been running 35% lower than last year and order books are only half full. Among knitted textile manufacturers, orders are sometimes a third of capacity.

Harry Pearce, CE of East London-based Da Gama, says fabric imports now equal the production capacity of two Da Gamas. "It is just incredible that the Board of Trade & Industry and the State are still rejecting our appeals for protection. Neither Taiwan nor communist China are members of the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade and don't play by the same rules. Communist China, in fact, subsidises exports of textile fabric by discounting their exchange rate by between 40% and 50%."

Pearce says the industry can prove that Chinese fabric has been dumped and that much of it was brought in for infant-wear manufacture, for which tariff rebates were available, but not necessarily used for that purpose.

But Hennic van Zyl, the executive director of the National Clothing Federation, says efficient textile producers have nothing to fear from overseas competition. He describes the calls for protection as "a deliberate ploy by big business to derail the long overdue government initiatives aimed at a less-protected and a less-regulated domestic economy." He says the Textile Federation is using statistics selectively and claims that overall fabric imports have decreased by 5% since last year.

Joop de Voest, of Marketing & Planning Consulting Services, says the surge in imports is a direct result of the structural adjustment programme, which allows clothing companies that export 2,5% of their turnover to import a large amount of fabric duty free. "It's not surprising that many companies are exporting on a marginal basis to reach the 2,5% of turnover target."

Frame Group executive chairman Mervyn King says his textile group has been hit hard.

FIM 23/11/90 (3) *General*

modity prices but, when farmers look at figures like this, they feel they're up against a wall.

An obvious reason for the high tractor prices — the same reason that many things are very expensive in SA — is the heavy duties slapped on imports. Customs & Excise imposes a 20% or 40% duty on all imported tractors, depending on the size.

Duties are refunded if the tractors are imported without engines and then fitted with Atlantis Diesel Engines (ADE) units. But these engines are dearer than foreign models.

Nampo and ADE conducted an investigation into how much ADE engines contribute to the high price of tractors. Results of the study have not been released but ADE financial director Gerhard Visser says that "should our engine be 30% more expensive than a similar imported engine — and we don't believe the price difference is anywhere near that figure — the cost premium would, at most, be 6%."

On top of these government-imposed costs, retailers are probably marking up tractors enormously to counter reduced sales, Le Clus says. Sales have fallen steadily. Last month only 381 units were sold, 33,5% down on October 1989. Sales for the whole year are forecast at 4 000, the lowest on record.

In March government scrapped the 10% surcharge on imported tractors, retroactive to the previous May. But even with the high duties that remain, and the high mark-up, some fully assembled imported tractors still can be sold in SA at a lower price than locally made tractors, critics claim.

But don't look for this situation to change very soon. A year ago, Nampo asked the SA Agricultural Machinery Association to join in analysing the high tractor prices. Shortly after the investigation started, the association asked the Department of Trade & Industry to take it over because some of its members wouldn't reveal their costs. Le Clus agreed and was then surprised to learn that the department had handed the investigation to the IDC, which owns ADE.

Department director general Stef Naude says they decided to turn the investigation over because the IDC was already examining ADE and the reasons for high duties on imported tractors.

IDC senior GM Malcolm MacDonald says its probe started two months ago but, like the machinery association, it's having trouble getting hard information.

"We want to get to the bottom of this and find out if there is a substantial price premium, where it originates and why," MacDonald says. "We are trying to establish the cost of tractors at the wholesale and retail levels to compare them with the price of imported tractors."

The IDC also is analysing duties and other constraints to see how much they add to tractor prices. "If we find something that is desperately wrong," MacDonald says, "we'll give the information to the department to correct it."

TRACTOR PRICES *(3) General* **WHY SO HIGH?** *(3) General*

FIM 23/11/90

After a year of research by several private and government organisations, there's still no answer to the question: why do tractors cost so much? Now the Industrial Development Corp (IDC) hopes to have a report ready by early next year.

The investigation was prompted by concern that farmers will not be able to replace aged tractors because of the high and rising price of new ones (*Business* September 28), says Kit le Clus, head of R&D for the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo).

Farmers argue that they had to produce 320 t of maize in the 1988-1989 season to buy a 65 kW-71 kW tractor while in 1979-1980 only 144 t was sufficient. There's no connection between input prices and com-

Agriculture changes await constitution

PRETORIA — A single agriculture department which would eliminate overlapping and duplication of functions would hopefully result from a new constitutional dispensation, Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday. B 1024 15/11/90

Addressing agricultural directors and senior staff, Van Niekerk said the existing agriculture departments and the present constitution with its own affairs administrations would remain in place until a new constitution was implemented.

Greater demands would be made on staff who would have to move away from an old established dispensation towards new perceptions and visions.

GERALD REILLY

The 1983 dispensation of own affairs and general affairs, Van Niekerk said, had meant agriculture in its totality could not be accommodated within a single department. (3) General

"A department for each of the three Houses of Parliament, the homelands, the independent states had obviously led to overlapping and duplication."

This was a situation for which SA did not have the necessary manpower, Van Niekerk said.

This did not mean that what had been built up to now had to fall by the wayside.

It meant that an effort had to be made to form a realistic vision for the future.

Farm workers march for wages

(General)
THE National Union of Farmworkers tomorrow march to State President FW de Klerk office at the Union Buildings to demand wage increases.

The march will be in support of the Zebediela Citrus Farm workers, currently involved in a labour dispute with management. De Klerk is a patron of the citrus farm. *Press 18/11/90*

Farmers 'must supply what consumers want'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Farmers would have to supply what consumers wanted and were willing to pay for, if they wanted to stay in business, Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said, in Stellenbosch yesterday. *Biday 23/11/90*

Speaking at the Nietvoorbij experimental station, he said the consumer wanted environment friendly products and "we will have to supply them".

The burden of financing agricultural research, had been borne almost completely by government, he said.

Important contributions had been made by several organisations, but the long-term security of agricultural research had been guaranteed by government.

He said innovations, rethinking of "solved" problems and adaptations of techniques previously thought of as impractical in agriculture were needed.

"And this clearly spells just one thing — research. And research is expensive," he said.

SA technology policy: govt invites comment

ZILLA EFRAT

TRADE and Industry Minister Kent Durr yesterday announced the release of a discussion document on technology policy. It aims to stimulate comments from the private sector which will be used in formulating government policy on technology early in 1991. *Biday 23/11/90*

The document reviews the role of technology in industrial and economic growth and the desirable level of government involvement.

The objective of technology policy was seen as moving the output of industry up the ladder of value-added towards more technology-intensive products in order to create more employment and to raise the level of remuneration of labour.

The discussion document was prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at Durr's request.

It can be obtained from the DTI's Directorate of Technology Promotion. Comment must be submitted by December 31.



AUDIOBUILD HOLDINGS LIMITED ABACUS INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS LIMITED

(formerly BUILDING MATERIAL MANUFACTURERS LIMITED)
(Registration No. 82/08520/06)
("Adbuild")

(formerly INTERBOARD LIMITED)
(Registration No. 05/23582/06)
("Abacus")

Extension of last day to register for the renounceable rights offer by Adbuild

Further to the announcement on 19 November 1990, shareholders are advised that, owing to unforeseen delays, the last day for shareholders of both Adbuild and Abacus to register for the renounceable rights offer by Adbuild has been postponed to Friday, 30 November 1990. The salient dates of the rights offer are accordingly expected to be announced in the press on Wednesday, 28 November 1990.

Johannesburg
23 November 1990

Merchant Banker

Sponsoring Brokers

Davis Borkum Hare

WOULD NEVER SEE ME HERE AGAIN ...?

waiting for clouds to gather



HOPEFUL: Tuesday morning and Hoffman is out ploughing ... but his salvation depends on far more rain in the next few weeks



ARS OF JOY: Monday evening, and rain drenches an ecstatic Hoffman

'We always have tin roofs. You can't hear rain on tiles'

JOHAN HOFFMAN, aged 30, is a long way from the stereotype of the anachronistic farmer relying on old methods and leaving subsidies to pick up the shortfall. ^{6112/90} ^{6112/90} people to say I looked after my things. Then they will know that it was not my fault."

His office computer chatters out 20 years of rainfall statistics to illustrate a point — his farm, Vlaklaagte, gets an average of 670mm of rain a year; this year he's had 330. He introduced tomato farming to the area and turned it into a six-figure turnover. Last year he devised a scheme to import fertiliser at 40 percent lower than the local price.

Hoffman has rebuilt his ploughing machinery, reduced his trips across the land and cut deep into his diesel bill. His wall is full of certificates, including one for an agriculture degree from Free State university. "All those degrees and I am still poor," he says.

Hoffman, who took over the farm from his father-in-law, says he has not built up massive debts. "We can't run things any better," he says. But he too is perched on a knife edge of inflation and interest rates. "It will cost me between R250 000 and R300 000 to plant a crop. And if the mielies fail, I could have a R600 000 debt, plus interest when I plant again. Most profits go just to paying the interest," he says.

"I went to an auction in Wolmaranstad and the tractors there were all broken. If I go bankrupt I at least want

Hoffman had 10mm of rain last Friday and decided to plant 112 hectares — about R65 000 gambled on a hope of more rain. "There was nothing after that, nothing," he says. A dry west wind whipped sand across the furrows, blasting to shreds whatever buds had surfaced. A scorching sun did the rest.

Staring at the furrows, now blown over, Hoffman said: "My fertiliser, my seeds, everything is in there. And I have nothing."

Hoffman always watches the weather forecast on TV. "It isn't always right but it's something to hold onto." On Sunday night, the Free State was given a 20 percent chance of rain. Late on Monday afternoon, dark clouds began banking on the horizon and a north wind whipped them over Vlaklaagte. And then the rain began to fall — 12mm and Hoffman went to sleep hoping for more. "That is why a farmer always has a tin roof," he said. "You can't hear rain on tile."

There were no more sounds on the tin roof that night, but at dawn the next day ploughing and planting began. "If this is going to work I must have another 100 millimetres in the next two months," Hoffman says.

A FREE STATE FARMER TALKS ABOUT THE DROUGHT: TO GO BANKRUPT FEELS LIKE SHAME. IF IT HAPPENED TO ME, I WOULD FLEE. THEY

Gamblers of the parched farmlands,

W/Mail 30/11 - 6/12/90 (3) General

The more a farmer slides into debt, the more he must gamble. A large mielie crop can cost him R250 000. And if it doesn't rain, that money will turn to parched dust. Which is exactly what is happening now, in the Free State community of Bothaville

Reports: JOHN PERLMAN
Photos: KEVIN CARTER

LYING at the door of the old building which houses the National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) in Bothaville, was a scuffed little pile of jackpot forms.

These were not dropped by Free State maize farmers down on their luck, says Giel van Zyl, Nampo's administration manager. It is mostly the residents of Bothaville's Kgotsong township who play the horses, he says. The mielieboere are too busy gambling for much higher stakes.

"Once a year the farmer has to make a decision — to plant or not," says Van Zyl. "Once he has decided that he is, he is totally committed. It's like ploughing a furrow, filling it with R50 notes and praying for rain."

By late November, the farmlands around Bothaville are usually carpeted in green. The optimum planting time in the north-west Free State, some 740 000 hectares of mielie lands, is from October 15 to November 25. But this week the earth stood parched and bare as farmers waited for rain so they could put ploughs to the ground.

"By now the mielies should be waist high," says Van Zyl. "We have had a little rain but five millimetres is nothing when the ground is so dry. If there isn't more rain soon after, the sun and the wind can turn a small mielie stem to powder. We can plant up until Christmas, but then an early frost next year could wipe out a field of mielies."

Van Zyl says the drought is hitting the mielie farmers hard, especially as the years from 1983 to 1988 were also dry ones. "But the drought is just exacerbating the underlying problems in mielie farming," he says. "The 1981 harvest was the biggest in the country's history, but even then a long-term crisis was already evident."

The farmers' biggest problems, Van Zyl says, are inflation and interest rates.

"The combination of those two means a farmer's debt burden can double over one harvest. The drought years have left farmers with huge debts. The real price to producers of mielies has dropped, while costs have risen. The trouble is, when a guy is in



HOPELESS: Monday morning at Johan Hoffman's farm, and there's not a blade of green to be seen in the parched earth ...

debt he has to plant. He has to gamble." With the government steadily putting a squeeze on agricultural credit, most farmers are paying at least 17 percent in interest — some as high as 28 — but virtually everyone needs a large loan to put a crop in the ground.

Nampo estimates that last year's mielie crop cost farmers in the north-west Free State an average of R714 a hectare to plant. At that year's price of R265 per ton — it was R243 in 1986 — farmers were making a loss of R66.50 for every hectare they planted. Van Zyl points out that while South African farmers bought an average of 14 000 tractors annually over the past years, just 4 000 have been sold in 1990. And whereas you could buy a Mercedes on 134 tons of mielies in 1972, it now takes closer to 470.

The only Mercedes sold in Bothaville this year was bought by the butcher. "Bothaville is still one of the better places," says Van Zyl. "This has been a very stable farming community. But even here there are top farmers in trouble."

Basie Rossouw has owned the farm Soetleegte for 30 years. It is where he grew up, leaving only to work for a spell on the mines. "This is the first



Basie Rossouw ... Interest rates kill time in 30 years that I haven't planted by the end of November," he says.

Rossouw's wheat crop has already been hit by a late frost and then by the drought. "I will get half a harvest and I've done better than most." Rossouw had six millimetres of rain on Monday night. "I need to get 2.5 tons per hectare to break even," he says. "If I can plant now I might just get two tons."

But his problems began long before

this. "I started out with a very small plot, but in the 1970s I was one of those farmers who expanded," he says. Rossouw paid for his spanking new farmhouse in cash, but for more land he took out loans. Interest rates then were under 10 percent, held in check by a government willing and able to repay its political base.

Not any more. "The interest rates now are what kills a man. You pay about 20 percent but who makes 20 percent profit?" His son Johann has joined him on the farm, the only one of his 1988 matric class who has gone back to the land. But Basie Rossouw talks with little optimism.

"Ninety percent of the farmers around here are just postponing their sentences," he says. "I am getting old now. I love farming, but sometimes I wonder why have I worked all these years," he says.

Rossouw (56) speaks with sadness of the friends who have had to sell up and leave. He never goes to the auctions that take place in the district with increasing frequency. "You can't get a bargain out of a friend's problems," he says.

He seems to have even less sympathy with himself. He would get R1 500 a

morgen for land he paid R2 500 for in 1977, he says. But there is a deeper wound. "To go insolvent feels like a shame. If that happens to me I would flee. They would never see me here again."

On another farm nearby, the farmer sat in his lounge — like most farmhouses, it was a room with seating for about 25 people — and explained that he would not be planting even if it rained, because his application for a production loan had been turned down.

The farm had belonged to his father, who had worked the land as a bywoner before saving enough to make it his own. "I remember when I was a boy, there were 13 of us from around here. We used to play together and we all knew that one day we would farm too. I am now the only one left."

His big problems began, he says, when "I had to start getting money from the commercial banks. *Nou is almal in die kak*. The only difference is in how deep."

He prefaced his final remark by saying, as did everyone else in the area, that he "didn't want to talk about politics". But, he said, "this government has begun to kill us like flies".

Farmland proposal irks Transvaal union

8/pans
21/11/90 GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) yesterday questioned the Development Bank's motives for its proposal to transfer 8-million hectares of farmlands to blacks.

TAU president Dries Bruwer said in a statement it appeared there was an orchestrated campaign to get white farmers off their land.

Bruwer said the TAU strongly objected to organisations outside organised agriculture making statements about land ownership. (3) General

The bank's plan came shortly after similar statements by the Urban Foundation and ANC on white land ownership, he said.

The land ownership plan would demand enormous amounts of cash and the TAU would like to know where the money would come from.

The fact that plans for white-owned land were made without organised agriculture being consulted was "deplored".

Plan to give land to blacks will harm production, says Nampo

PRETORIA — Economic growth and commercial farming would be prejudiced by any strategy to establish black farmers on large tracts of productive land, National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) chairman Cerneels Claassen said yesterday.

He was reacting to reports of a Development Bank plan to transfer nearly 8-million hectares to black farmers.

Claassen said it would be a sad day for SA should such a strategy become

B/D on 20/11/90
GERALD REILLY

official government policy. *(3) General*
It could lead to a situation in which basic food production fell short of SA's needs.

The Development Bank should have consulted organised agriculture before making proposals threatening commercial farmers and their production.

The bank claimed the report had been taken out of context. "Now we wait for a

clear statement on the issue from the bank," he said.

Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers had also been asked to take a stand on the issue.

Claassen described as "unacceptable" a key proposal that white farmers in serious financial difficulties due to repeated poor crops, high inflation and interest rates lose their land to black farmers.

There were reservations, too, about

whether the Development Bank had concrete evidence that the Small Farmers' Establishment Scheme in black areas had produced productive farmers.

Valuable agricultural land in the areas in question was underutilised and poorly managed, Claassen said.

Evidence gathered by the Development Bank was incomplete and scientifically inadequate.

Demand for farm credit soaring

6/20/70 20/11/70
PRETORIA — Applications from cash-strapped farmers for production credit are pouring into the Agricultural Credit Board at a rate of about 300 a week.

The board is the farmers' "bank of last resort" and the applications mostly come from farmers whose creditworthiness has been destroyed by successive droughts and crop failures, and who cannot get loans from the commercial banks or other financial institutions.

A board spokesman said yesterday that to date 1 548 applications for loans had been received this season for a total of R91m. So far, 1 239 loans totalling R89m had been approved.

Last year a total of 2 500 applications for assistance were received. It is not

(3) General
GERALD REILLY

known how many of those farmers have since left the land, or to what extent this year's figure will increase.

The rate of applications is expected to increase as soon as good rains fall in the summer crop areas and the lands are ready for ploughing and planting.

The loans are made at a heavily subsidised rate of 8% and are recovered with the co-operation of the agricultural co-operatives after harvesting.

Unless good, soaking and persistent rains fell in the next 10 days, maize crop expectations would plunge, agriculture sources said.

Drought threat to country's farmers

Sowetan 14/11/90. (3) General

DROUGHT is staring South Africa in the face again as November - usually a reasonably wet month - rolls on, accompanied by searing heat and cloudless skies. This time, however, the drought is more unusual than those that went before.

From the far northern Transvaal, through the heartlands of the Free State and into the eastern Cape, the agricultural industry is looking on in disbelief as crops fail, wool, mohair and meat production levels fall, and what summer rainfall area farmers regard as "bonus rains" during winter to help with grazing simply failed to arrive.

And drought is not only the bane of farmers. It affects everyone because if crops fail and livestock die, the cost hits the back pockets of every consumer.

Thousands of cattle, wool, mohair, maize, wheat and barley farmers throughout the country are affected, says the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The story for the industry has been the same since the end of winter: on most days it has been a case of searing heat, blue skies, scudding clouds. A thunderous summer storm bringing temporary relief before the scorched earth swallows up the water and then the cycle starts all over again.

Temperatures across a vast area of the country have, since the beginning of this month, continued to be in the high twenties.

Messina's maximums have ranged between 17 and 31 deg C, Pietersburg 18 to 30, Rustenburg 22 to 33, Bloemfontein 18 to 31, and Kimberley 26 to 32. In some rural areas there have been highs of 35.

The drought is, however, not unique to South Africa.

Australian farmers are destroying millions of sheep because of a lack of grazing, Europeans are just recovering from a three-year drought - the worst in 300 years - but in the meanwhile have been warned by climatologists they could have another disaster during the northern hemisphere's next summer.

The spectre of drought is revisiting South Africa - again. Crops are failing, wool and mohair markets are poor, livestock is being sold off to help pay debts, farmers are protesting about lack of Government help... and the rains stay away. Sowetan Correspondent **NORNAN CHANDLER** reports that all is not well down on the farm.



American farmers also cannot believe they have been so badly affected.

The story's the same all over Africa.

In the Sudan, Mozambique, Angola and Ethiopia, millions are starving because of crop failures. Experts say Africa will have to put up with another 50 years' of drought...

Desperate

South African farmers have just come through a decade of drought. Last year, the Department of Agriculture - perhaps prematurely - declared the drought over in almost all districts.

Now farmers are saying that it won't be long before the latest weather patterns are again recognised for what they are: drought. This belief is backed by studies undertaken by SAAU staff during a recent nationwide tour.

They say farmers, particularly those in the summer rainfall areas - the grainproducing districts of South Africa - are getting desperate.

Already the Government has announced a much smaller wheat crop is expected this season. Latest estimates are that 1,9 million tons of wheat will be harvested - not even enough for internal consumption, which takes up 2,5 million tons annually. It was only three months ago that the Wheat Board was considering exporting to Russia...

If the heat continues, maize farmers could be next in line for a battering.

The Government has thrown a five-year R526-million lifeline to grain farmers - R60-million will be going directly to farmers in the drought-stricken summer rainfall area in a bid to get them back on their feet.

The rub, though, is that only farmers who stand a realistic chance of financial recovery will benefit. Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agricultural Development, stressed that farmers who stood no chance of recovery would not receive aid.

The SAAU's chief economist, Dr Koos du Toit, says the picture throughout the country (except for the Western Cape, which experienced good rains) is "a very bleak one".

Du Toit says the dilemma being faced by Eastern Cape farmers, for instance, is that the drought has been aggravated by reduced wool, mohair and meat prices.

"Even though they diversified in order to stave off problems should one product fail, no one expected all three to fail at the same time. It translates into a 25 percent decrease in income for every farmer in a 300km radius of Port Elizabeth," Du Toit said. And that is not the end of the story.

"Farmers were supposed to at this time build up their stock for the future, but the low prices and the drought has forced many to get rid of stock, so their short-term prospects now look very gloomy."

Wool and mohair producers will almost certainly be looking for a supporting hand from the Wool and Mohair boards next season as they may not find a ready export market due to the Australians having what Du Toit calls "a mountain of wool".

The Eastern Transvaal is one of the hardest hit among the cropping areas. At least 45 percent of

farmers in that area have not been able to plant maize or other crops this season - and they are already a month past the optimum planting date.

The Sekhukhuneland district of southern Lebowa is as desperate as is its next door neighbour, the Springbok Flats. Wells have dried up, cattle can't find decent grazing, and crops have failed in every village. It is the northern and central Transvaal which are really causing concern.

Protest

Usually it rains at some stage during the winter months - "a sort of bonus," says Du Toit - but this year "there wasn't even a shower."

Those unseasonal showers are welcomed by farmers because it helps the veld to recover, thereby providing reasonable grazing lands for the early summer before the first rains of the summer fall. The difference this time is that the showers didn't arrive and neither have the first rains.

The story in the western Transvaal and western Free State is the same "but they have more time left as they will be able to plant until the first week of December. But if rain doesn't fall, well ..."

Desperate farmers - many of whom face financial ruin - staged a protest during last month's SAAU annual conference in Pretoria. They argued that the Government had to recognise their plight and urged financial assistance.

Many Springbok Flats farmers have been sequestered, their farms sold, and they themselves have had to seek employment in towns and villages. For many their personal circumstances have resulted in broken marriages, split families and the spectre of debtors' courts.

Since the farmers revolted, commercial banks, the Land Bank and the Directorate of Financial Aid have been asked by organised agriculture to suspend sequestrations of hard-hit farmers. The two government bodies have agreed while the banks are still debating the question.

Assault on boys charges

General
30/11/90

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

A WHITE farmer who allegedly sjambokked six boys until they lost consciousness and later kept them for four days at his farm near Messina has been warned to appear in court today.

Far Northern Transvaal acting police spokesman General DJ Viljoen said the farmer, Mr Wynand Erasmus, of Wapie Farm, will appear in the Messina Magistrate's Court to face charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Erasmus allegedly assaulted the boys because they did not know who had stolen his water pipes. *Sawden 30/11/90*

They were kept at the farm with serious injuries before being rescued by police on Monday.

The boys are still being treated at the Limpompo Hospital in Messina.

A hospital spokesman refused to divulge what their conditions were yesterday.

Imagine a new SA free of all taxes

w/E ARGUS 1/12/90

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Weekend Argus Reporter
IMAGINE a Utopia where there are no taxes and where the Minister of Finance's annual budget speech is reduced to one simple sentence that everyone can understand.

A pipe dream? Cloud cuckoo land? Not so. It's a serious and perfectly feasible proposition and it could be the ideal economic scenario for the new South Africa. So says Johannesburg investment manager Mr Stephen Mentjies, a Stellenbosch University graduate and former Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

To prove the point, he and long-time friend, Michael Jacques, have published a book, *The Trial of Chaka Dlamini*, that tells in basic terms how this "tax free" society would work.

The cornerstone of their philosophy is that the natural way of raising revenue for the State is for people to contribute in direct proportion to the value of the land or natural resources they own. In other words Mentjies and Jacques advocate the replacement of taxation with a user charge on natural resources.

Reinforcing this concept are more subtle changes that will "level the economic playing field for every person willing to create wealth for their families and the community at large".

If their proposals were put into practice, Mentjies and Jacques contend, there would be no need for income tax, GST, the tax on petrol (about 25 percent of the total cost) or any other taxes.

Doomsday book

They advocate a "Doomsday" book value of all land in South Africa on which the owners would pay a user charge. But the man or company with a plot in the central business district of Johannesburg, for example, would be asked to pay something like a million times more than the man with the same sized plot in a remote area of Namaqualand.

Stephen Mentjies contends that most of the economic woes of the world can be traced to people who acquire land and then "sit on it".

Mark Twain it was who said: "Buy land, son, they ain't making any more of it." And for centuries before he made this memorable observation, people had been doing just that — safe in the knowledge that, even if they did not utilise or develop the land, they would still gain in wealth.

The land user charge proposed by Mentjies and Jacques is designed to encourage owners of natural resources to "get off their assets" and use those natural resources or get off the land.

'Could be
the ideal
economic
scenario'
for our
country



Stephen Mentjies ...
proposes a land-use tax.

"What we are proposing is far more 'nationalisation' than the ANC envisages without, in fact, nationalising one hectare of ground.

"On the other hand we would be freeing up the most important market of all, which is natural resources.

"The result would be that the average chap ... freed of GST, tax on petrol, etc ... would be a lot better off."

The principle of a national user charge on land owners is not a new one. It has been propounded by economists as far back as the time of Louis XVI. If adopted then, it might even have saved his head, says Stephen Mentjies.

But has the system ever worked in practice? Yes, he contends. In the 1870s the land of the Japanese land barons was re-distributed to the peasants who had to pay a two percent levy on the value. The innovation gave Japan a "kick start" into the 20th century.

More recently similar measures were adopted on Formosa (now Taiwan) when Chiang Kai-shek and his followers fled there in 1948 after the revolution in China. The results on the Taiwanese economy were also electrifying.

Save skins

What's in this for Messrs Mentjies and Jacques? "Nothing," says Stephen Mentjies. "We're just a couple of concerned South Africans, wanting to save our skins ... and everyone else's.

"In my case, I was very active politically from my student days until some years ago. Then I came to the realisation that when the time came for the dismantling of apartheid, the underlying causes of injustices and poverty would remain and would have to be addressed."

W/L 11/12/90 2 General

Black drift to farming won't work, says MP

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE notion that thousands of people can be resettled on the land to enjoy the rest of their lives in blissful contentment as peasants is a fallacy — and if implemented could have drastic effects on South Africa's economy.

This is the view of Eastern Cape MP and farmer Mr Errol Moorcroft, who believes any future government will have to confront the question of what use the land will serve.

Mr Moorcroft says that while romantic political scientists or demagogues paint a picture of men and women nobly reaping the reward of their labour from a bountiful earth — the reality is that most peasants would rather be doing something else, somewhere else — if only for the money.

The trend internationally is that farming units are becoming bigger rather than smaller because the effort involved in making a living from a small unit is simply not worth the sweat.

Why should any person, except a few "back to nature" people, be prepared to work long hours under difficult conditions for a few (if they are lucky) rands a month, he asks.

The working conditions and earnings of a tea server in a factory or office would appeal to almost any peasant, regardless of race or creed.

Socio-political function

He says politicians will have to decide whether they want the land to clothe and feed the people or if they want the land to provide some socio-political function.

"Unfortunately the two are not compatible in South Africa. The reality is that while it is possible to give every peasant a plot, the land would then be unable to feed and clothe the people."

Contrary to general opinion, South Africa is not a good agricultural country, according to Mr Moorcroft. While a small percentage of the land is arable and can be farmed intensively, for the most part climate and soils make agriculture extremely difficult.

He points out that while at the turn of the century there were black farmers, who successfully tilled virgin soil with oxen and plough, it is unlikely that people will go back to that kind of farming style.

"People nowadays want tractors, fuel, threshing machines and combine harvesters, if they are going to farm productively," he says.

In 1960 there were 120 000 white farmers, he says. The number has dropped to about 55 000 simply because people cannot make a living on the smaller units.

'Scratching the soil'

"This is occurring internationally and not just here. Farmers are going bigger to stay in business. Those who see their standard of living going down, move to town," he says.

The same principle will apply to black farmers who might initially be prepared to take over a property which a white may have found undesirable in terms of potential income.

"But the peasant will eventually ask himself why he should remain scratching the soil when tea servers are being paid a R1 000 at Mercedes and SAB and working reasonable hours."

He believes these economic forces will continue to work strongly in agriculture regardless of the colour of the skin.

"There has been too much unrealistic talk about getting people back to the land. The land simply can't support those people if you want to retain your resource base in an undamaged state so it can continue producing," says Mr Moorcroft.

"By opening up land to people of all groups and by taking affirmative action one can build a significant black farming component but I doubt whether there will be a drift back to the land."

Researchers at the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) say, however, that their figures indicate that the number of farmers in the white farming sector is increasing.

In contrast to the 79 000 white commercial farmers, there are about 800 000 black small-holder farmers, usually operating at subsistence or sub-subsistence levels, they say.



Children whipped!



These primary school children were viciously assaulted.

■ Pics: EVANS MBOWENI

By CHARLES MOGALE

C/P News 2/11/90 (3) General

THREE families have removed their children from the northern Transvaal's Messina area after a white farmer allegedly collected nine youths from a primary school and viciously assaulted them on a farm.

One of the boys, Alfred Manendzhe, is still in hospital and cannot walk after being whipped on the farm Weipa on the Mozambique border.

Five of the boys - Manuelk Kobe, 13; Alpheus Mumzhelele, 11; Ruphus Molea, 10; Philemon Dorane, 10; and Thabang Makokoropo, 14 - were discharged from hospital this week. A teacher at the school, who asked not to be named, said the farmer arrived at the Skutwater Primary School and gave her a list of names of

children he wanted to take away. "He said he had permission from the owner of the farm. I rang the bell and the children assembled.

"I read out the names and the children came forward. The farmer then took them away in his van, assuring me that nothing was wrong," she said.

The farmer then drove the children to a garage on a farm. He allegedly got two farm workers to pin them down while he whipped them.

Outraged farm residents said the boys were dripping with blood when they left the garage.

Manendzhe, who works as a herdboyc, fell after the beating. The irate farmer stormed up to him and allegedly said: "Why are you not working? If you won't work, I will sort you out again!"

Eight of the boys are still walking with obvious difficulty after the farmer allegedly applied his kangaroo-court justice because he believed they

Blood flows after farmer takes kids from junior school

had a hand in the theft of waterpipes from the farm. The boys and their parents deny knowledge of the pipe theft.

When *City Press* visited the boys this week, their buttocks were still lacerated and skin was literally blistering away from open wounds.

Esther Makokoropo, Thabang's mother, said her son could not wear his trousers after the assault.

"His whole body was sore. I am deeply hurt that my son should be assaulted like this for something I know he did not do. He is always home after school, studying for his Std 5 examinations."

Another parent who asked not to be identified said she "could get thrown off the farm" if

the farmer knew she had spoken to the Press.

She said: "We have been told that some men were arrested for the theft of the waterpipes. These boys are just children. Why didn't he treat them as such, whether he believed they had erred or not? He would not have meted out this sort of viciousness on his own son."



Esther Makokoropo: "My son is innocent."

Farmers may seek probe into industry

Star 3/12/90
By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Organised agriculture is considering calling for a Government commission of inquiry to probe all aspects of the industry.

It is understood the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) would support such an inquiry, particularly in view of the devastating effects of the current drought and financial hardships faced by the country's 70 000 farmers.

The SAAU is next month to begin its own probe through its drought and emergency aid committee.

Support for change has come from Dr Frans van der Merwe, acting superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, who told a recent symposium it would be to the advantage of agriculture in general for only one agricultural department to operate instead of the 14 currently operating in South Africa, the TBVC states and the national states. (3) General

Interference

Dr van der Merwe said the department would have to develop "a policy framework conducive to the long-term viability of agriculture with as little Government interference as possible".

Policy would "be attuned to making agriculture an independent and financially sound industry, thereby restricting to a minimum ad hoc measures for the financial support of farmers".

Farming has been hard hit over the past 12 years. This has resulted in farmers over-stretching their financial position and not meeting financial obligations.

SOUTH Africa is now a long way down the political road to letting bygones be bygones. Those across the spectrum who have committed acts of violence in the name of a political cause can expect to be indemnified from prosecution.

The same maturity has yet to be found on the land issue where the ANC land commission would want to embark on a large-scale programme (one person, one farm) of nationalising productive land in the name of retribution and fairness.

There is an interesting contrast in the approaches of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the ANC land commission on the question of land utilisation in a restructured SA.

Both begin from the point of view that gross inequalities in land allocation need to be addressed.

The Development Bank's point of departure, though, is that this should be done without disrupting productive farming units. Its model attempts to create a market for farmland which will bring the black farmer onto the land, but also attempts to ensure that the economy does not lose farmers who are successful food producers.

The ANC, on the other hand, attempts to right the wrongs of the past by suggesting land be bought by the state (25% cash, the rest in government stock) and allocated to black farmers.

A Land Court would presumably attempt to bring some equity to proceedings, to decide which unfortunate white farmers would be made to sell their land, and which fortunate black farmers would benefit.

Development Bank chairman Simon Brand says that in its discussions with the ANC land commission, the bank emphasised that dislodging productive farmers would harm the economy. He says a policy which

ANC's slow march to a marketable land programme

3 General
Bloday 7/12/90
KEVIN DAVIE

would result in large-scale confiscation of land from whites may not necessarily produce sufficient blacks who want to farm. "We are saying there is already land available. Let's first see who wants to buy this land."

He says the Development Bank model began from the point of view that it was not enough just to scrap the Land Acts; the required financial support had to be considered, and it was essential not to disrupt agricultural production. The cost of the confiscatory approach would be astronomical, Brand says.

Hence the Development Bank plan. Land such as the 2-million hectares acquired by the state for apartheid land consolidation reasons, but not yet allocated, should be sold to black farmers, with Land Bank finance and supported by agricultural extension programmes. The bank believes that such affirmative action programmes could immediately release a sizeable proportion of arable land, and that the cost to the state could be as little as between R1bn and R2bn.

This suggestion has not impressed

the ANC land commission. Its document responding to the Development Bank position says the present government might welcome the black commercial takeover of about 40 000 less profitable white farming units.

"It would cure one of the regime's major political and economic headaches, the pressure to support white farming incomes. The proposals carry minimum state costs."

The ANC goes on: "It is even cheaper than the implementation of the Lancaster House agreement in which the state incurred heavy costs buying out whites on a willing buyer/willing seller basis to make land available for resettlement."

Rural dwellers would become second-class "discarded people" in an urban industrially biased economy. The agrarian economy would probably be dominated by "agribusiness."

The ANC's own position is best explained in a summary report of a

land commission workshop. The workshop, which met over six days in Harare, released its initial findings last month. Delegates addressed themselves to a range of issues, including the need to satisfy land hunger and redress discriminatory land occupation, and the need for mechanisms for the return of land to victims of forced removals, for a land claims commission to adjudicate claims, and for an investigation to restructure agriculture to make it more equitable, economically viable and sustainable.

There was general agreement among participants that land should be nationalised, and then given back to the people. "It was strongly felt that there should be a principle of one person, one farm. This should be worked towards if it is not feasible to implement immediately," the workshop document states.

The workshop argued that the advantages of nationalisation included providing easy access to land without people needing money or taking heavy loans, increased state power enabling it to intervene more effec-

tively in land issues, and making land a nationally held resource, not a commodity to be bought and sold.

It is easy to condemn the views of the workshop, particularly as societies which have tried this approach are now actively discarding non-market methods and embracing free enterprise, but some positive points can be discerned.

The first is that the ANC has emphasised that these are preliminary positions for further debate.

A second point is that the workshop noted a string of disadvantages which land nationalisation could bring. These include that nationalisation could create insecurity, even a general economic collapse, that state power would be increased which "may not be a good thing" because of the potential for the abuse of power, that producers would no longer be able to use land as collateral with commercial banks, that loss of land by some producers might lead to recriminatory action, that insecure tenure might lead to land abuse where farmers could take a short-term exploitative view of land and soil use, and that tenants might be reluctant to improve their land.

A final serious disadvantage is identified by the ANC: land nationalisation would have an impact on the financial system, "leading to its partial collapse, which would require a financial strategy to prevent the worst effects of this collapse." This would be because nationalisation would abolish property values. "The farmers stop paying bond payments and the Land Bank could collapse," it said.

The problem defined, a two-fold challenge now exists: to convince the ANC that a market system will not carry the disastrous risks of nationalisation, and that, as with politically inspired crime, the approach should be to put the past behind, and to concentrate on building on what is already productive.

WEEKEND ARGUS EXCLUSIVE! REPORT

Weekend FOCUS 3

The African National Congress is on the verge of a decision about its operations in exile, about whether to close them down or maintain them until the situation in South Africa becomes clearer. JOHN RYAN of the Argus Africa News Service, reporting from Morogoro in Tanzania, was the first foreign journalist in several years to be allowed to visit ANC settlements there.

Tanzanian school for SA exiles looks to the future

ON the outskirts of this poverty-eroded centre, beneath foreign mountains and beyond an international checkpoint, lies a slice of South Africa about which most South Africans have never heard.

Locals know the place as Mazimbu and wonder as they pass at the trim fields and ordered buildings. But to the exiles who live there it is the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College.

College is something of a misnomer, for the complex dwarfs such description. It is much more like a town, with three schools and ring roads of ranch-type houses and a population of 2 500.

There is also a comprehensive farm at the fringe, producing gammon from 1 500 pigs, maize and rice and sundry other crops and enough milk from a dairy herd to feed the pupils.

And a furniture factory, purveying on order its excess capability to the Tanzanian nation. And even a 20-bed hospital which is used 80 percent of the time by residents of Morogoro, 200km west of Dar es Salaam, though they have a district hospital of their own.

THE availability of drugs and the quality of care persuade them to cross into the odd, outlandish enclave.

Mr Solomon Mahlangu, some South Africans may remember, was one of three African National Congress insurgents involved in the Goch Street shooting in Johannesburg on June 13 1977 in which two white men died.

Although the court conceded that one of the others actually fired the machine pistol which killed Mr Rupert Kassner and Mr Kenneth Wolfendale, Mahlangu was found guilty of complicity and sentenced to death.

The 22-year-old ANC man was hanged on April 6 1979 — the year the organisation was given this tract of land by the Tanzanian administration on which to build a secondary school. Thus, with a ready martyr to name it after, the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College came into being.

Mr Martin Dombo, now the assistant farm manager at Mazimbu, was one of the original students. He fled South Africa in 1976 at the height of the protests against Bantu education.

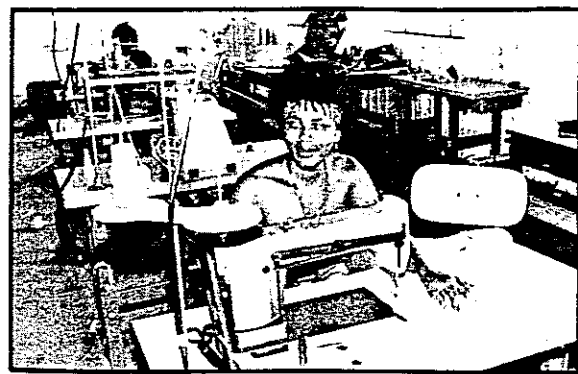
"A number of us ended up near Morogoro, but on the other side of the valley," Martin says. "We were totally bored with exile, with doing nothing, so we had started teaching one another. Some were good in certain subjects and some in others and we swapped knowledge."

So the idea of a school was born. The land given to the ANC by Mr Julius Nyerere's government was an abandoned sisal farm with several buildings which are still here. The complex has been designed around them.

Since some of the Class of '75 had not...



The nursery school at Mazimbu. Some children are orphans of the armed struggle.



Workers, above, in the garment factory at Dakawa, the other ANC settlement to the west of Mazimbu. Will the centre develop as originally planned, or will it close?

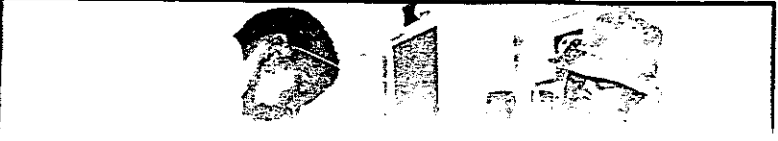


Rose Madiba and Michael Sachs, right. They say a problem at the ANC schools is the teacher shortage.

Pictures: JOHN RYAN, Argus Africa News Service:

by the Tanzanian Government. Ironically, although nobody could have foreseen the events of the past year in South Africa, Mazimbu faces a decision over its future just as it is nearing completion. Among the last American...

has grown considerably through the violence in Natal and young refugees — mainly males — continue to arrive almost weekly. As a result, the principal function of the centre is learning and re-orientation. Many of the...



...students had
 been in agriculture, it seemed logical to
 put an area of the former plantation under
 crops to help feed the community.

THE college inherited three pigs from a
 squatter. With time, the piggery came to be
 expanded through purchases of local stock and,
 later, Danish-donated imports. Pigs are now
 slaughtered fortnightly, so the community has a
 regular supply of pork.

Consultants from East Germany and the Nordic
 countries were brought in to advise the ANC
 on the fine planning of the centre. But the physical
 work — from the building of classrooms,
 dormitories and houses down to the making of
 tables and chairs — was done by the members
 themselves, assisted by local labour.

Although the original intention was to have a
 secondary school to meet the needs of dislocated
 pupils from the 1976 era and after, it soon
 became obvious that Mazimbu should have a
 wider function.

Eleven years on, there are almost 500 pupils
 at the secondary school and more than 400 at a
 primary school. In addition, there are adult
 education facilities for the support group of
 members and a nursery school.

Most of the pupils are boarders whose par-
 ents are either in South Africa or in other Front
 Line states. Some have been orphaned in the
 struggle.

Funds for the running of the college come
 mainly from the Nordic countries but UNESCO
 (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organisation) supplies 40 of the teachers
 and the UNDP (United Nations Develop-
 ment Programme) pays them.

The adult community of Mazimbu is cosmo-
 politan. Apart from the foreign teachers, there
 are two Cuban doctors at the hospital and a
 number of Nigerian and Swedish nurses. Swed-
 ish agricultural officers have helped expand the
 farm, which now has 400ha of arable land.

MR Alphus Manghezi, director of the ANC
 schools, says, "We have learned to live
 with many different people. Some of our mem-
 bers have married Tanzanians and will eventu-
 ally be returning home with them. Last month,
 one married an Australian woman teacher."

There is an official Tanzanian presence in the
 settlement, a sort of consulate-barrier at the
 entrance, for all visitors have to be approved



The dairy herd provides enough
 milk for the pupils.

its own have been a maternity home, a commu-
 nity centre, a civic library and a sports com-
 plex.

While the work here is almost over, another
 ANC project in Tanzania is only beginning to
 take proper shape. This is Dakawa, 60km fur-
 ther away to the west.

Dakawa is a much bigger piece of real estate,
 28km square. It was offered to the ANC in 1982,
 when it appeared that Mazimbu might eventu-
 ally split at the seams.

The timing was fortunate. Two years later,
 with the signing of the Nkomati Accord be-
 tween the South African and Mozambican Gov-
 ernments, hundreds of ANC members were
 forced to find another place of refuge.

Dakawa's population is now about 1200. It

youngsters have had their schooling disrupted
 for some time and need to be prepared again
 for formal education.

HOWEVER, there is a vocational training
 centre at Dakawa, a cobbler which teach-
 es shoe-making, and a garment factory produc-
 ing — among other things — uniforms for the
 ANC schools.

Building is going on apace on several residen-
 tial units and the plan is to expand the existing
 schools and develop the farming operation. Al-
 ready, a beef herd has been moved to Dakawa
 from Mazimbu and 600 goats are to follow.

That is the plan. Unless limbo sets in and sa-
 nity prevails. And these two communities of
 South Africans, most of them so tired of exile,
 are allowed by their superiors to go home.



An ANC doctor dressing a student's injury at Mazimbu hospital. The hospital
 is used more by Tanzanians than the ANC.



The furniture factory at Mazimbu sells its excess prod-
 ucts to the Tanzanians.

Argus 18/12/70

Kwazulu threat to Natal farming

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN — The stability and viability of white farms in Natal/Kwazulu were threatened by the progressive deterioration and instability of rural Kwazulu, Professor Peter Booysen, principal of the University of Natal, has warned.

It was inconceivable that the white-owned 60 percent of the Natal/Kwazulu region could be stable agriculturally while the black-owned 40 percent deteriorated to agricultural barrenness.

The stability, productivity and economic viability of white agriculture in Natal/Kwazulu depended on the stability and productivity of black agriculture in the region.

There were two distinct agricultural systems in the Natal/Kwazulu region.

The first was commercial agriculture (large-farm, single ownership, capital rich, high

technology, market-driven, white-owned).

The second was subsistence agriculture (communal ownership, small-farm, capital poor, low technology, subsistence-driven, black-owned).

The universities, colleges and research stations had done little to promote the stability and productivity of black agriculture and it was high time this situation changed.

One of the reasons for the imbalance was the perception that all education, research and extension aimed at white agriculture also applied to black agriculture, that black, subsistence agriculture was simply white commercial agriculture in the making.

He said that attitudes and resources had to change to enable black agriculture to develop toward white agriculture.

He said that the university of Natal has addressed the issue.

*Cape
Town
12/12/70
36 and*

Farmers to owe R15bn?

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Massive crop damage in the major summer grain-producing areas would raise farmers' total debt to over R15bn next year.

Volkas economist Mr Chris Mostert said total debt was R14,7bn, but an increase seemed unavoidable because of the drought.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis has warned farmers to be wary of sharp operators claiming to have access to cheap overseas money. The SA Reserve Bank informed him these people were active around Nelspruit, in the Eastern Cape and Natal, mainly among farmers hard hit by drought.

Govt to aid areas stricken by drought

36
CMT-7075 13/12/90

THE drought in the Karoo and Eastern Cape have been so "devastating" that the government has decided to assist not only farmers but whole communities, including town dwellers and labourers.

The Minister of Agricultural Development in the House of Assembly, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, said yesterday that the National Drought Committee had determined a number of "disaster drought areas".

He said the areas included:

- Twenty-two farms in the Prince Albert district;
- "RAB 6036" in the Bultfontein district;
- The entire Graaff-Reinet district, with the exception of 23 farms;
- The north-eastern part of the Aberdeen district, with the exception of four farms;
- The southern part of the Pearston district, consisting of 46 farms and 27 owners; and
- Part of the Steytlerville district not declared a drought-stricken area on December 1.

Owing to the extended and devastating nature of the drought, it was decided that disaster assistance would not be only in the interests of agriculture but of the community as a whole.

- Prospects for this season's wheat crop are poor, and it is feared farmers will not be able to pay their debts from the returns on the crop.

Court costs may cripple farmers

3 General
13/12/90
MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

SEVEN Natal Midlands farmers might have to sell their farms to pay about R1,5m in legal costs incurred by losing a protracted court battle against 17 chemical companies, Natal Fresh Produce Association chairman Roger Evans said yesterday.

The Tala Valley farmers claimed they had suffered millions of rands in damage to their vegetable harvests caused by vapour drifting from the hormone herbicides used by sugar farmers in the area.

Vapour drift arose from the evaporation and subsequent condensation of herbicides which deformed crops and, in cases of extreme exposure, could kill entire harvests.

Evans alleged the use of hormone herbicides manufactured and produced by the companies had over the past five years resulted in the percentage yield of the farmers' first-grade tomatoes declining from 70% to 15% a year.

The average lettuce yield had dropped from 85% to 32% and that of cabbages from 80% to 45%.

Last month the farmers were refused leave by the Natal division of the Supreme Court to revive their legal case, with costs being awarded in favour of the chemical companies.

The court ruled that the farmers had failed to show they could adequately amend their particulars of

the claim alleging that the hormone herbicides were in fact responsible for damage to their crops and that their use was wrongful.

The companies, among others Sen-trachem, Staalchem Chemicals, FBC Holdings and Starke Ayres, did offer to cover the legal costs which the farmers were ordered to pay, on condition the farmers forfeited their right to take legal action, refrained from public campaigns and apologised for any inconvenience caused in 17 national newspapers.

Evans, also one of the plaintiffs in the case, said the farmers had refused to apologise for something which they could substantiate with scientific evidence.

He said the case was rejected on legal technicalities before the evidence could even be tested in court.

Evans said the farmers were convinced that investigations into the matter by themselves, the University of Natal, the Department of Agriculture and the Sugar Association could still turn events in their favour.

Government had since declared a wide "cordon sanitaire" around the Tala Valley in which the use of any phenoxies was forbidden and in addition had enforced a ban on all applications of such products by aeroplane for the whole of Natal.

Drop in policies reflects the squeeze

PRETORIA — Financially stressed farmers have taken out substantially less insurance this year compared with last year, according to Sentraoes GM Lorenz Schutte.

Sentraoes's number of policies had dropped by more than 7 000 to 12 700.

Agricultural economists said that in addition to farmers not having the funds to insure their operations comprehensively, government had also withdrawn the subsidy previously paid on insurance premiums.

Cover granted by Sentraoes this year was R260m less than last year's R1,210bn. ⁵ General ~~General~~

Premiums paid totalled R66m —

13/2/90
GERALD REILLY

R3m less than last year. However, the value of claims decreased sharply from R57m to R13m. This, Schutte explained, was because this year hail had not been a serious problem.

Had it not been for the increased maximum insured value per ton and the increase in fruit and vegetable insurance, Sentraoes would have had far less in premium income than the current R63m.

Schutte said demands for compensation so far this year amounted to about R12m, compared with R50m at the same time last year.

12/12/90

Farmers told check first

Moneylenders claiming to have easy access to substantial and cheap overseas funds, have become active in the plateau, particularly among farmers hard hit by the drought and battling to hold on to their farms.

Yesterday the Minister of Finance Barend du Plessis warned farmers to check the bona fides of money lenders or their agents and to demand written proof that they had permission from the SA Reserve Bank to deal in overseas funds.

Raising fees or administrative charges are usually demanded up front but investigations have shown that the promised loans never materialise. (3) General

In such cases, said Mr Du Plessis, the advance payments are being obtained by fraudulent means.

D-Day for

CH 11/75
20/12/90

Group Areas

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — February 1 has been set as D-Day for the announcement of the removal of all but one of the last remaining pillars of apartheid.

Preliminary drafts of a single bill scrapping the Group Areas, Free Settlement Areas and Land Acts have been completed and President F W de Klerk is expected to announce the demise of the old laws at the opening of Parliament.

The final nail in the coffin of apartheid will be the repeal of the Population Registration Act which will be axed only once a new constitution has been formulated.

According to government sources, preliminary drafts of the bill will be presented to the cabinet in mid-January.

The drafts were drawn up by a technical committee handling the Group Areas and Free Settlement legislation and a technical committee dealing with the repeal of the Land Acts.

They combined several weeks ago to formulate draft legislation repealing all the acts.

Officials said yesterday that hundreds of provincial and local government ordinances which were based on these apartheid acts would have to be scrapped or amended in the coming year.

The repeal package would provide for the scrapping of the acts, amendments to existing central government legislation and interim provisions to accommodate a smooth transition to a new dispensation.

However, the repeal of the Free Settlement Areas Act and its "twin", the Local Government in Free Settlement Areas Act, presented no problems and would be scrapped without any adjustments to other existing legislation, they said.

Scrapping the Group Areas Act would present certain problems for own affairs administrations and bridging provisions would be introduced.

Group areas boundaries would remain in place for the purposes of local government, and community development services would remain an own affair for administrative purposes.

It's raining beer cans at Newlands



Standard Bank LEWIS FURNISHERS LEWIS Pickering & Co
BEER WAVE . . . A curtain of beer cans above the fans at Newlands' Castle Corner last night during the first session of the Mexican wave.



Cricket show do the

NEWLANDS' Mexican Wave . . . beer cans into match between. Scuffles had tors in the so ground and a

Rainfall may be too late to help farmers supply the food industry

(3) General
MARCIA KLEIN

RAIN has partly eased the drought in the summer rainfall areas, but might have come too late for some farmers who produce raw materials for the food industry.

SA Agricultural Union manager Rudi Malan said yesterday the biggest problem was a smaller than usual crop being planted by maize and wheat producers.

Many farmers were planting other crops such as soya and sorghum to save themselves from the effects of the drought.

Fedfood MD Jan du Toit said yesterday he did not foresee any serious shortage in supply after the drought. He said the raw materials used by Fedfood which could be affected included potatoes, vegetables, sorghum, maize and wheat.

However, Fedfood contracted for the bulk of its potato requirements at predetermined prices, and the areas which provided its vegetable requirements were not experiencing drought conditions.

He said the drought had given Fedfood cause for concern with regard to the sorghum market and the group was looking to contract for sorghum on the same basis as it did for potatoes.

Rain had improved the situation as regards maize, and negotiations with Zimbabwe for the importation of maize had also progressed. If there was not enough white maize, white and yellow maize might have to be mixed — which was not very popular with the consumer.

Du Toit said the wheat situation was serious, and while 600 000 tons of wheat were to be imported initially, more than a million tons were needed.

If wheat imports were made available at a cheaper rate than SA wheat, as had happened in the past, he said government should pass the benefits on to the millers and bakers to keep the bread price down.

A Premier Group spokesman said the drought did not usually affect food companies, as replacement of various raw materials on the world market was often at a lower price than local prices.

However, he said the food industry might have a problem if there was not sufficient white maize.

ALL subsidies are bribes. All taxes are disincentives. The sticks and carrots go hand in hand. Since bribes cost money, governments that opt to use them are obliged to increase taxes.

Contrary to popular urban belief, farmers are not all subsidised. Neither do they all escape taxation. Governments pick and choose. To qualify for a subsidy you have to behave in a particular way. To escape taxation you must either lose money or invest your profits in the way government thinks you should.

By nature, the interventionist abhors a level playing field. He believes in handicaps and bribes. For almost 90 years in the Transvaal and Free State, and 80 years in the other two provinces, successive governments have "subsidised farm debt" which is a polite way of saying that they have subsidised farmers who use debt and favoured creditors who encouraged them to do so.

The Land Bank was established for that reason. Its purpose was to swell the farm population by bribing people to farm on borrowed money. Not all farmers, mind you. Its brief was to seek out the high risk characters to whom the commercial banks were reluctant to lend while shunning any proven citizen prudent enough to have developed (or be developing) a second source of income. Part-timers did not qualify because they were not (said government) bona fide farmers.

Seventy years ago the Land Bank spread its wings and began subsidising debt to businesses upstream and downstream of the said bona fide farmers too.

Not just any old businesses, mind you. It picked and chose again.

This time the qualification for a debt bribe was that the business couldn't be a bona fide one owned by full-timers expert in the functions involved. Only the co-operatives would qualify. They had to be owned

Blame the myopic politicians for the farm debt crisis

③ General Bida 20/12/90

SYMOND FISKE

and directed by part-timers snatching a few hours off farming.

And they were forbidden to compete with one another.

Thus were the least prudent financial managers among our farmers lured into debt. Thus were they encouraged to buy their inputs from, and market their produce through, uncompetitive businesses run by amateurs. Thus was overproduction encouraged in an industry with dismal market prospects.

The predictable gluts of indebted farmers and of most farm commodities that materialised in the 1930s would have cleansed the system and sunk the offending Land Bank, had it not been for the novel invention of "Agricultural Control Boards".

These were set up partly to ensure that indebted farmers need not be bankrupted when they produced crops uneconomically for non-existent markets (that was the overt excuse), but principally to prevent the said uncompetitive co-ops and Land Bank from floundering.

Thus were SA and its gullible farmers saddled with two more liabilities: the cost of maintaining super-

fluous layers of bureaucratic middlemen; and the inconvenience of restricted competition which was bound to foster inefficiencies and economic concentration in the farm produce marketing chain.

The Land Bank is not the only debt-bribing culprit. We also have an Agricultural Credit Board which subsidises the debt of cases too risky even for the Land Bank to stomach. Plus a plethora of drought relief and debt consolidation schemes to subsidise further the debt of whole communities of farmers who have spent themselves sillier, growing what they oughtn't, at a cost they mightn't, where they shouldn't.

While the Ministry of Agriculture has been abetting those farmers who are eager to get into debt, the Ministry of Finance has been equally keen to penalise those who wanted to stay out. Profits not reinvested are heavily taxed. And when the taxed portion is banked, the prudent farmer is

taxed on the proceeds of that as well.

Ploughing money into additional land, livestock, farm buildings and machinery (even if there is a glut of the things they will produce) is encouraged by generous "concessions" which virtually exempt farmers from income tax on condition that they can offset the interest too. . . .

Don't blame short-sighted farmers for the current farm debt crisis. Blame the myopic politicians who have bribed them into debt and penalised their fellows who have dared to resist the bribe.

Blame the blinkered Jacobs Committee which spent more than a decade studying agricultural finance without seeing beyond its nose. Blame the agricultural unions which have consistently put the co-ops' interest ahead of that of the farmers — arguing for extended cheap credit and control instead of opportunity.

By agreeing to "help" their victims yet again, the bribers and the taxers have just sown the seeds of the next debt crisis on the pretext of curing this one.

The R526m six-year bailout for "deserving farmers" will disappear

down the same spout as the rest of the (estimated) more than R14bn already owed.

That spout leads into the coffers of a bunch of irresponsible creditors who have been rewarded too handsomely already for lending money when it shouldn't be borrowed.

The drought-stricken and duped farmers deserve sympathy, but bribery at public expense is not the way to express it.

There are six reasons why SA farmers find it difficult to service and repay their debts.

The first is that capital and labour have been chronically overinvested in their industry. Economic "incentives" were rigged to ensure that such overinvestment would occur.

The second is that those farmers who use their own capital or money borrowed at commercial rates are perpetually obliged to compete with others who are favoured with artificially cheap money.

The third is that SA has exchange controls. By preventing the rand from floating at fair market levels, this denies farmers the full value they deserve for the third of their produce which they export, and for that portion of the other two-thirds which has its prices linked to export and import parities.

The fourth is that control boards and obtrusive legislation prevent our farmers from marketing imaginatively and from negotiating sensible deals with all potential buyers.

The fifth is that they are denied access to many inputs, especially imported ones, at world market prices. This puts them at a competitive disadvantage.

The sixth is that they are forced by law to finance and support "recognised" unions which have been singularly ineffectual at addressing the other five reasons.

So, if you see tractors in Pretoria, you will know why.

□ Fiske is editor and a director of Effective Farming Publications.

Levy shock

S Times 23/11/90

3 General

by BRIAN POTTINGER

THE government is considering a proposal by the Development Bank for the imposition of a special levy on vacant land which is suitable for residential development.

Owners of such land would be expected to pay an "availability charge" for bulk services like electricity, water, roads and sewerage disposal — even if they do not intend developing their land for residential purposes.

The aim would be to put pressure on owners of suitable land in urban and peri-urban areas to make way for residential development — particularly for the urban poor.

If accepted by the gov-

Bid to pressure owners to release land for housing

ernment, the proposal is likely to hit the mining companies the hardest as they own tens of thousands of hectares of vacant and undermined areas in peri-urban areas.

Major property and construction companies also have considerable land holdings in the urban areas.

The levy is part of a much wider package which the Development Bank has submitted to the govern-

ment aimed at dealing with the country's housing crisis — which now includes five to seven million squatters.

A new government housing strategy is expected to be announced next year.

The Development Bank package comprises "sticks", such as the availability charge, and some "carrots" such as a capital subsidy for site and service schemes.

Proposals have also

been made for consultations with the private sector in identifying suitable land and changing zoning regulations.

Other suggestions — already reported — include "one-off" subsidies for serviced sites. The bank is also suggesting that a percentage of GDP be devoted to housing every year — ideally 4,5 percent.

Johan Kruger, general manager (urban development) at the bank, said this week that the finer details and costs of the availability charge scheme had not yet been worked out — but conceded it was likely to be "contentious".

Suited

The proposals had been drawn with international experience in mind. He said the proposals for an availability charge for residential bulk services was not new in South Africa — it was used by 50 percent of municipalities on vacant erven. The Development Bank plan, however, went further in that it did not apply merely to individual plots but to extended areas of land.

"There are a lot of distortions in our land system. There is a lot of land that is ideally suited for residential development near places of work but which, for a variety of reasons, does not come onto the market.

"We need a carrot and stick approach. The stick which we recommend is the availability charge on land which is capable of being developed. It is not in anybody's interest that it be held as low-cost agricultural land. Pressure must be put on an owner to develop."

Rational

Mr Kruger said he believed the bank's proposals were more rational than the land tax proposals of, for example, the ANC.

"We do not want to tax land for the sake of taxing land. Our proposal says that where there is government expenditure to increase the value of the land, the owner should be expected to make a contribution to cover that."

Comment from mining houses was unavailable.

John Hitge, director in the Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs, confirmed various proposals were under consideration.

Cost of diesel could add to farmers' woes

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS ³ General

FARMERS, already hit by drought conditions, are set to be affected further in the short term because the price falls in agricultural diesel have not been in line with the reduction in petrol costs.

SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) vice-president Boet Fourie said most farmers would not benefit from the latest 4c/l drop in the diesel price because crop planting had already been completed or was nearing completion. But their financial position might improve in the long term. *blm 24/12/90*

He was concerned about the ever increasing gap between adjustments in the petrol and diesel prices when agricultural diesel expenditure already amounted to about R1bn annually.

Fourie questioned government's understanding of the economic situation of agriculture against the background of rising input costs in general.

"It was the second price decrease in less than two months, from which the diesel consumer did not benefit to the same extent to which the petrol consumer did."

Since July 1989, increases in the price of agricultural diesel in the PWV area were four percentage points higher and decreases five percentage points lower than that of petrol.

While petrol prices in the PWV rose by 35% to 160c/l in October 1990 from 118c/l in July 1989, agricultural diesel prices increased by 33% to 114c/l (82,8c/l) during the same period.

But Friday's 10c/l drop and the decrease announced in mid-November saw petrol prices declining by 16% to 135c/l, while diesel prices fell by only 10,7% to 102,5c/l in the PWV.

An economist said the effects of the September and October fuel rises would be felt by farmers well into the second half of 1991.

Farmers face major changes

6 Nov 28/12/90
FARMERS faced major adjustments as state aid for agriculture shrank and they were compelled to accept greater responsibility for production and resource use, Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said in his New Year's message.

In addition, the farmer would have to play a more important role in the marketing of his product.

"This will inevitably result in a chain reaction which will drastically change the essence of agricultural practice," Van Niekerk said.

These changes would allow for greater flexibility of options, better understanding of agriculture and greater mobility of the farmer, he said.

Reviewing the past year, Van Niekerk said changes within SA's boundaries, which marked 1990 as a watershed year, were also reflected in agriculture. This was characterised by the phasing out of government's financial support measures and rationalisation and market orientation of

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

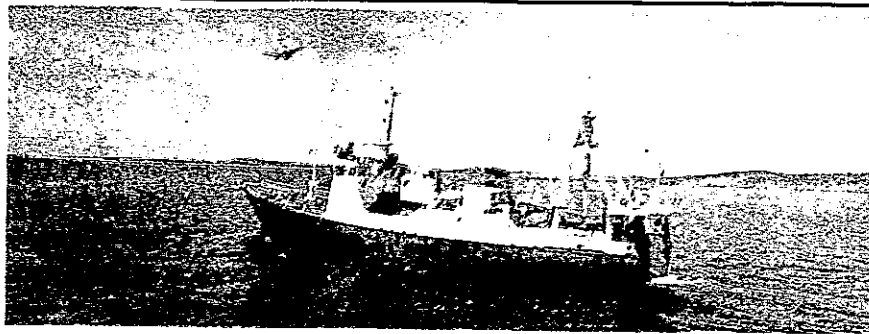
agricultural industries. *3 General*

In addition, the passing by Parliament of the Agricultural Research Bill also made the foundation of the Agricultural Council possible, he said.

"The searchlight therefore falls not only on agriculture in a changing SA, but also on agriculture in a shrinking and changing world — a world in which SA's knowledge of agriculture in Africa will become increasingly important," Van Niekerk said.

Agriculture and Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers said in his New Year's message that all South Africans should, with the same dedication as the farmer, work towards the ultimate goal — a better country for everyone.

De Villiers described 1990 as a momentous year in the history of SA and encouraged the farmers to meet the challenges and opportunities of a new and better tomorrow.



A Dakota flies over a "suspicious" trawler during an exercise.



The SAS Windhoek in hot pursuit of a "suspicious" trawler.

Preparing for 'gill net battle'

UNTIL last month, the maximum penalty facing a foreign trawler found fishing illegally in South African waters was R100 000 — the value of a few days' catch and hardly a deterrent to big-time poachers.

"We'll pay the fine and we'll be back in operation somewhere else in a few days' time" has increasingly been the attitude of offending trawling masters.

In 1988 and 1989, investigations by the Cape Sea Fisheries Inspectorate led to more than 2 500 prosecutions but the total value of fines imposed was less than R700 000.

In June, the skipper of a Taiwanese trawler was fined a mere R500 after it was discovered he had a gill net aboard. The net, worth R100 000, was returned to the skipper.

Severe shortages of policing staff and patrol boats and aircraft to help in tracking down and apprehending offenders have contributed to what environment and water affairs minister Mr Gert Kotze has described as the increasingly serious plundering of South Africa's waters, particularly by foreign fishermen.

Inadequate

The use of disastrous gill nets, fishing without a permit or in contravention of the permit conditions, discarding by foreigner of unwanted species of fish such as snoek or maasbanker, or the discarding of under-sized fish to keep

Drastically increased fines and greater co-operation between government departments in tracking and apprehending illegal commercial fishing vessels have given much-needed power to law enforcement agencies to help them in their fight against poaching of the marine resources. Staff reporter DON HOLLIDAY reports on the new measures.



Conservation and the navy and air force.

Although the use of navy vessels and air force aircraft for marine conservation operations is not new, direct channels of communication have now been set up between the departments after negotiation with defence minister General Magnus Malan and nature conservation's chief director, Dr Johan Neethling.

First action

With the "peacetime" roles of the armed forces evolving, more vessels and aircraft are also set to become available to assist in these operations.

In July, off the East London coast, a navy strike craft fired shots across the bows of a Sierra Leone-registered trawler, the Petros One, when it refused an order to halt. Its Korean skipper was fined R1 000 for carrying gill nets in South African waters.

The first action in the sharp-

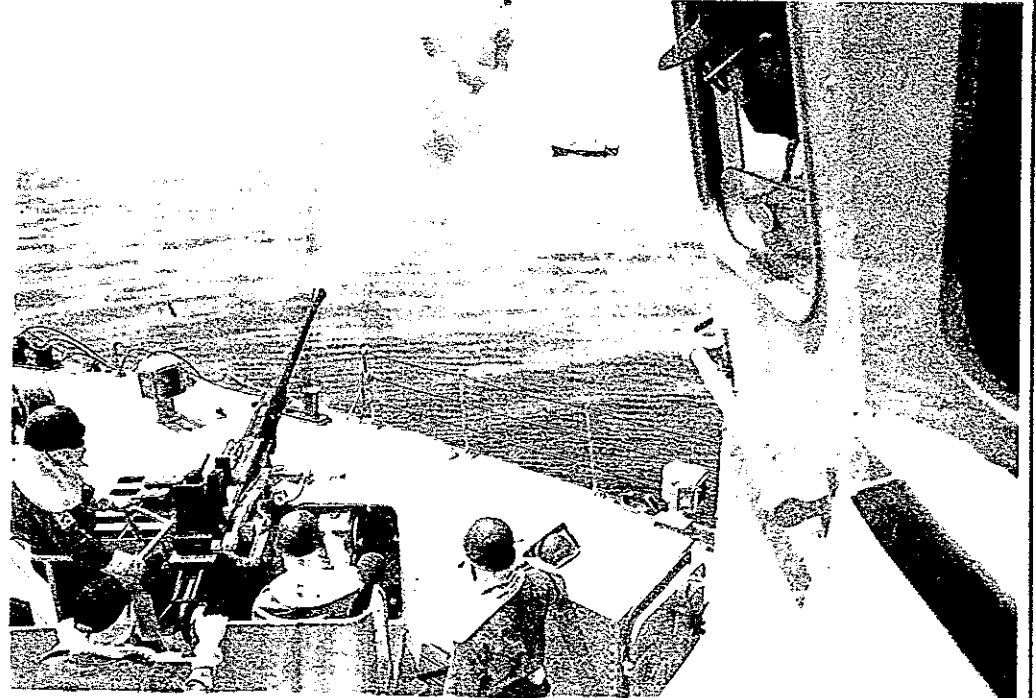
About 27 000 people are directly involved in the catching and processing of fish and fish products.

Fish produce with a wholesale value of about R900 million was gained from the sea last year, earning about R350 million in foreign exchange.

The largest single contribution to the industry was by the deepwater fishing industry, which earned about R440 million last year. The second largest was the pelagic fishing sector with earnings totalling R215 million. The line-fish industry brought in just over R100 million.

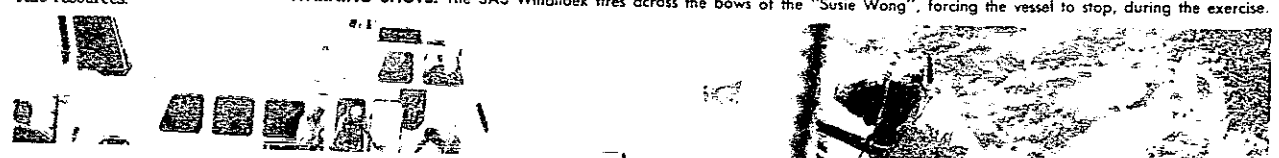
"The sea is generous and its harvest bountiful, but it is not unlimited," said Mr Kotze.

Apart from the people involved in the different fisheries, there are almost 330 000 rock and beach anglers, some 170 000 boat anglers and about 58 000 private divers and fish hunters, all of which intensify the pressure on marine resources.



WARNING SHOTS: The SAS Windhoek fires across the bows of the "Susie Wong", forcing the vessel to stop, during the exercise.

Picture: DANA LE ROUX, The Argus



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The use of disastrous gill nets, fishing without a permit or in contravention of the permit conditions, discarding by foreigner of unwanted species of fish such as snoek or maasbanker, or the discarding of under-sized fish to keep only larger, more valuable specimens are only some of the illegal practices which are on the increase.

It was obvious that the fines were hopelessly inadequate.

Accordingly, following up on statements made in Parliament in June, legislation was promulgated last month in which fines and penalties are dramatically increased.

Appropriately, the measures have become law before the celebration of National Marine Day on December 7.

Instead of just the R100 000 fine, a foreign captain now faces a maximum fine of R1 million and six years in prison and the loss of his vessel, his cargo and his equipment. The minimum fine is R250 000.

Local offenders can be fined R50 000 and also be jailed for six years, with a further fine of up to three times the value of the cargo. The previous maximum penalty was a fine of R6 000 and five years imprisonment.

Hand-in-hand with the tougher penalties comes greater co-ordination between Mr Kotze's department, the Cape Provincial Administration's Department of Nature and Environmental



Conservation and the navy and air force.

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The first action in the sharpened co-ordinated clamp-down occurred in June when the navy and the air force were called in to search for about 10 trawlers reported by local fishermen to be operating illegally about 200km west of Saldanha Bay.

A military aircraft equipped with radar and other tracking devices was sent under cover of darkness to trace the vessels.

Eleven were observed from a distance considered safe enough to avoid detection.

Two navy strike craft as well as the CPA's deep-sea patrol ship, the Custos, were also despatched to the scene. Unfortunately, by the time the ships reached the rendezvous, the trawlers had disappeared, and despite a second air patrol the next day, no trace of the trawlers in South African waters was found.

Since this incident, channels of communication and methods of deployment have been improved with the help of combined exercises, one of which occurred off the west coast last week.

The developments are a positive sign that Mr Kotze's statement is to be taken seriously. "We simply shall not tolerate the plundering of our fish resources by foreign fishing fleets".

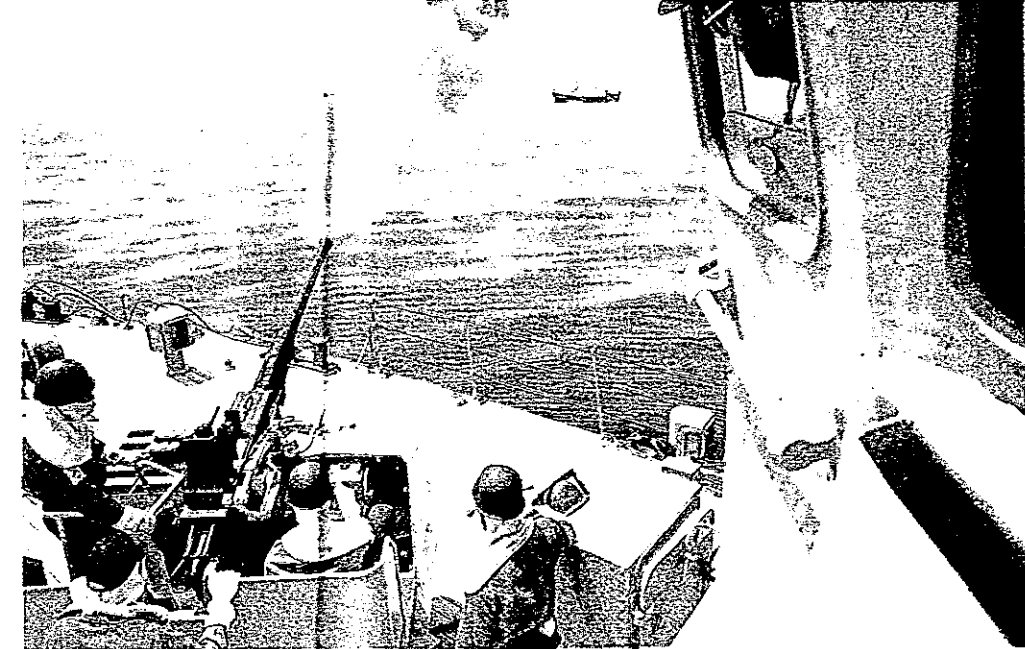
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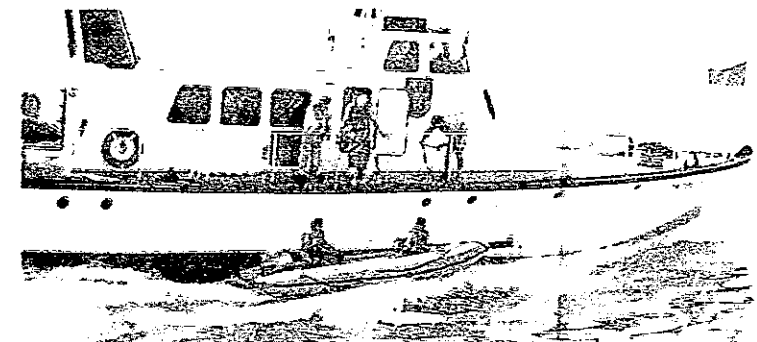
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WARNING SHOTS: The SAS Windhoek fires across the bows of the "Susie Wong", forcing the vessel to stop, during the exercise.



BOARDING PARTY: Members of the department of nature conservation leave the department's vessel, and then (below) inspect the trawler "suspected" of illegal trawling.



UP THE LADDER: Members of the department of nature conservation climb up the ladder and prepare to board the "suspicious" trawler.

PHOTOS: DANA LE ROUX, The Argus

AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

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1990 dry year for most of country

3 General
4/1/91

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa had one of its driest years in 1990, with some areas having the lowest rainfall in 87 years, the Weather Bureau said.

Mr Mike Lang, the bureau's deputy director for climate said the entire Transvaal had recorded a rainfall figure far below normal. From 5 percent in the Lowveld to as low as 50 percent in Potgietersrus, Northern Transvaal.

In December the entire Transvaal was still well below normal in spite of good rains in the Lowveld and parts of the Highveld.

Mr Lang said the north-western, west and south-western Transvaal were the worst hit regions.

Thabazimbi, in the northern Transvaal has had 89mm rain since July. The normal is 295mm. The whole Transvaal received from as little as 21mm in Ellisras to 176mm at Phalaborwa.

Mr Lang said the downpours in December had done nothing to alleviate the situation and a couple of areas were still in trouble last month.

The eastern Highveld town of Carolina had only 44mm rainfall against the normal 123mm, Potchestroom had 58mm against the usual 99mm.

OFS SUFFERS

The OFS also suffered a lot during the season. Wepenaar recorded 106mm, which is only 43percent of the normal 246mm, Frankfurt had 119mm, 33 percent below the normal 355mm, Bloemfontein had 99mm, 48 percent of the normal 206mm. The lowest was 26,1mm in 1948.

However, conditions improved in December in some areas. A total 14mm was received in Fourismith and 69mm in Bloemfontein. Temperatures were close to average.

The Eastern Cape also fell well below the normal. Middelburg had 232mm against the normal 362mm. Queenstown, with a normal 551mm, had only 336mm rain. Aliwal North had 361mm against 536mm — the lowest since 1982 which had 201,8mm.

Natal, West and Northern Cape were not problem areas, Mr Lang said.

Eastern Cape and Karoo had 41mm against 49mm, Queenstown had 38mm against 73mm after several bad months. The area has had 106mm rain from July to December. The normal figure for the area being 226mm.

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Fight by nuns for *Times 6/1/91* farmers' *3 General* survival

By DAVID MacGREGOR

THE survival of thousands of rural subsistence farmers hangs by a thread as a group of nuns frantically attempts to replace the community's tractor.

For 25 years the Holy Family Sisters have been helping the Elandskop community near Maritzburg from their humble Langsyde Mission.

Mission resident Sister Mary told the Sunday Times that the tractor was used for transporting labour and building materials to inaccessible areas.

Repairs

The tractor is also used for ploughing fields and transporting produce.

Last year, according to Sister Mary, more than R5 000 was spent on repairs to the tractor.

"It has spent more time in the garage than it has in the field," she said.

"We have been using the mission bakkie to transport workers, but we don't know how we'll cope with ploughing."

Scrap Act to fight hunger - Perlman

Star 8/1/91
By Shirley Woodgate

The scrapping of the Land Act is the key to combating the major problem of chronic persistent hunger in South Africa while helping blacks to play a part in a capital-intensive economy, says Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

Speaking ahead of the possible repeal of the 1913 law in the coming parliamentary session, she said this single move would enable thousands of people to return to the land, heralding a partial return to the subsistence economy of the 19th century.

Vulnerable

Mrs Perlman said Operation Hunger planned to push the concept that of those who died of hunger and hunger-related causes, only 10 percent of deaths were due to famine. The rest were due to chronic persistent hunger.

"The vital move is getting that law off the statute books if we are to have a realistic chance of getting people back on to the land."

Condemning the blanket acceptance of urbanisation as a norm of the '90s, she stressed: "About 80 percent of the rural population is totally vulnerable - depending on income from outside, from men and women who work in the cities."

"We find with thousands of unmarketable people streaming into these urban camps, 70 to

80 percent of them are functionally illiterate with no role in a capital-intensive economy, except at the lowest level.

"According to surveys in Vlakkfontein, Botshabelo and Khayelitsha, 58 percent of the people said they would return to the land if provided with funds to re-establish themselves. The only exceptions were former labourer-tenants on white farms who existed in the 'ja-baas/slave' situation."

Mrs Perlman insisted that moving the focus from urban squatting to resettlement on the land should not be implemented as imposed programmes but as schemes done in consultation with the people concerned.

"With 12 sq m we can get a man to survival level. Nobody pretends this will be enough, but with 24 sq m he can treble his income with money over for education."

"If this bold back-to-the-land plan is carried out properly it could herald the beginning of the end of hunger, which could be largely wiped out within 10 years. But if this is not introduced, the next couple of years could become a horror story."

She had no doubt money was available for the new focus.

"There is currently enough land available in white areas without expropriation to get a lot of people going fast."

"I believe there is about 6 million ha lying unused at this moment, not all of it prime land, but usable agricultural property. The type of ownership is irrelevant; whether it be leasehold or freehold, that is for the politicians to decide."

Slump in farm output may cut growth by 1%

③ General GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) predicted yesterday the drought-related slump in farm output could slow economic growth by more than 1%.

The union said it had convened a special meeting of its disaster and emergency aid committee for January 16 to discuss aid appeals to government.

An SAAU statement said conditions in large areas of the country, particularly in the summer rainfall areas, had become critical and weather and economic conditions had brought financial ruin to many farmers.

SAAU director Piet Swart said the union had already informed government of the distressing situation which had worsened since the start of the summer season and had stressed the need for further aid.

Swart said recent unfavourable weather conditions constituted a serious agricultural setback.

"The situation is further complicated by the backlog caused by poor economic and financial conditions since the early 80s," he said. A stage had been reached where the impact on the general economy was extremely adverse.

31 Day 10/1/91

New bid to ease plight of farmers

3 General

Star 10/11/91

By Monica Nicolson

The financial plight of farmers battling to survive through the most serious drought in 60 years has become so alarming that the South African Agricultural Union has convened an emergency meeting on January 16 to discuss possible measures and assistance schemes.

Good rains

The Disaster and Emergency Aid Committee, made up of representatives from various areas and the main commodity branches, plans to formulate new aid schemes for farmers to help them in the battle against liquidation.

In spite of good rains in the Northern and Western Transvaal over the last few days, farmers are in a serious financial position as a result of the severe drought during the first half of summer which set back production significantly.

SAAU chief economist Dr Koos du Toit said the drought in the first half of the summer had severely set back agricultural production, putting farmers in a serious financial position.

He said the present government subsidies and financial aid schemes for farmers were no

longer sufficient and more government assistance was needed.

The expected decline in agricultural production could have at least a 1 percent negative influence on the general economic growth rate for the year, Dr du Toit said.

The drought, which had been particularly severe throughout the Transvaal, north-western Free State and Eastern Cape, had devastated maize crops, groundnuts, dry beans and grain sorghum.

Searing heat in the maize triangle, which accounts for 40 percent of the country's yield, had continued since April with little rainfall.

Instead of exporting maize this year, South Africa would be forced to import more than 2 million tons of maize to meet local demand, Dr du Toit said.

The situation had been made worse because of last year's poor wheat crop and the barren and dry grazing for livestock.

Moved out

Many farmers had sold their farms and moved to the towns to look for work. A large number of farmers were expected to follow as the year progressed. Despite the gloomy prospects, some farmers had decided to lower their living standards. Many wives had taken jobs in nearby towns in an attempt to save their farms.

TAX IS TAX

THE TRIAL OF CHAKA DLAMINI by Stephen Meintjes & M Jacques (164pp, R29,95).

A convenient summary of the real basis of this book may be found in a recent leader-page article in *Business Day* by senior author Stephen Meintjes. There he distinguishes capitalism as it now is from private enterprise as it would be if land and capital gains from land ownership were made subject to what he calls "user charges." In the first instance, a register of site values, based on current prices, would be compiled.

Meintjes assumes that initially a user charge of, say, 5% levied on these site values would produce an equivalent of the yield from existing taxation.

In *The Trial*, Meintjes's scheme is linked with the resettlement of Africans on the land; this is also a concern of the ANC and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. The main issues between the ANC and the bank are stated in an article by Kevin Davie ("The ANC's Slow March to a Marketable Land Programme," *Business Day*, December 7), in the following terms:

- The Development Bank argues that a large-scale confiscation of land from whites may not necessarily produce sufficient blacks who want to farm. Land is already available, so let's first see who wants it; and
- The ANC would implement a programme of government-assisted transfers of land to blacks through a Land Commission which, presumably, would be charged with identifying the whites who are to be forced to sell their farms to blacks, and the blacks who would be entitled to buy these. Significantly, the ANC appears to have rejected, at least provisionally, the programme of land nationalisation recommended by one of its workshops: this wanted land to be held as a national resource, not a commodity to be bought and sold.

The Trial is in basic agreement with the ANC workshop recommendation: land, it says, should belong to the community, and should be subject to a user charge which is said to be not a tax. As has been explained in the *FM* by others before me, a user charge is in economic terms indistinguishable from the "single tax" devised by Henry George (1839-1897) to deprive a landowner of the true rental value of his land, regardless of how far this flows from his own efforts.

In his article, Meintjes mentions land taxes that have been imposed at various times in Japan, China and Denmark but does not say whether these were based on Henry George's ideas. In his *Study of Public Finance*, A C Pigou deals with land taxes in Australia and New Zealand. He shows how value added to land by the work and outlay of the owner may be kept out of the tax net. As long as the tax rate is not so high as to involve gross discrimination against holders of other assets, Pigou, while lending no countenance to

Henry George, concludes that "in any tax system which relies on a number of imposts, there is a strong case for including among the rest a moderate tax assessed at a moderate percentage upon the (annual) value of land."

From the point of view of the authors of *The Trial* this does not help, because what they want is to provide a disincentive to hold agricultural land sufficient to facilitate its acquisition by black farmers. For advocates of a single quasi-tax, a further difficulty arises: there is a trade-off between the policy objectives at which a tax is primarily aimed and the revenue derived from it. If, for example, the primary aim of an import duty imposed on a commodity is to check its importation, the duty will fail to produce revenue to the extent that it achieves this aim. This dilemma applies to all taxes.

In SA there may be a case for disregarding Pigou's caution on the subjection of what elsewhere might seem gross fiscal discrimination between landowners and holders of assets other than land. It is not only against blacks that white farmers in the past have enjoyed the benefit of prolonged discriminatory treatment. Simon Fiske has dealt in *Business Day* with the way in which farmers have been encouraged to borrow money from the Land Bank on terms easier than those available to other asset-holders. The proceeds of many of these loans have been used, notoriously, for purposes of tax avoidance. In other cases, loans have been made which at least have been genuinely productive and have enabled white farmers to produce crops for export that are internationally competitive. This will remain of importance to our economy.

It is suggested that a once-over land tax be devised which would:

- Be made expressly deductible for purposes of income tax, and capable of being spread over a number of years, so that its incidence would be reduced or even nullified in the case of farmers who have at least made productive use of their loans from the Land Bank and thereby incurred tax liabilities; and
- Bring about the forced sale of farms by owners whose loans from the Land Bank have not been spent, so as to generate taxable income against which the new tax can be set off.

Radford Jordan

Zimbabwe judge in threat to land law

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Chief Justice has publicly criticised new legislation aimed at removing safeguards against the nationalisation of land, and threatened that the courts might declare the law invalid.

Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay's open challenge to President Robert Mugabe's government seems likely to draw Zimbabwe's judges into a constitutional crisis.

Speaking on Monday at the opening of the Supreme Court term, the judge warned that although Lancaster House constitutional guarantees had elapsed, the government did not have unquestionable power to enact laws "destroying the very foundation or structure of the constitution".

He predicted the judiciary would pronounce invalid any law to that effect. He said removing the right of appeal to the courts over compensation payments, reduced constitutional pledges of "fair treatment to an empty handed gesture".

At the heart of the crisis are Mugabe's plans to settle 110 000 peasant families on 5-million hectares in the highly productive maize and tobacco farming belt, which is largely in the hands of 4 500 white farmers.

The farms were worth R3bn at market prices, but only R540m has reportedly been set aside for compensation.

If Mugabe signs the Bill into law, as expected, a constitutional crisis appears inevitable, as judges cannot be sacked.

Chief Justice Gubbay said he had to allay citizens' fears "that the judiciary's power to enforce the basic rights and freedoms of the individual is now in jeopardy".

The judge also condemned a constitutional attempt to reinstate whipping as a legal punishment. *Day 16/1/91*

in the coming months.

1990 car sales down by 5%

MOTOR manufacturers ended a dismal 1990 with new passenger vehicle sales for December plummeting to the lowest monthly level in four years, figures released yesterday by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa) showed.

MARC HASENFUSS

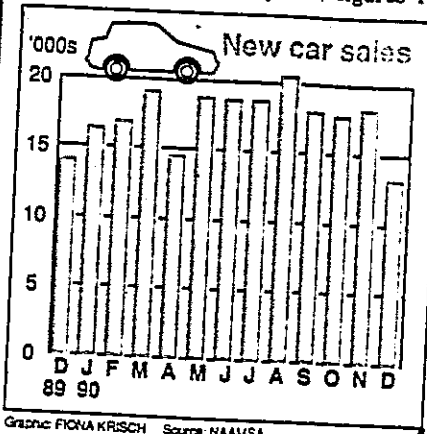
Confirming the downturn in the economy, December car sales decreased 5% to 13 198 units compared with 13 875 in the corresponding month last year.

The monthly and yearly sales figures were adversely affected by the serious industrial unrest and work stoppages at Volkswagen and Mercedes Benz during the second half of the year and the fewer trading days in December.

Total passenger vehicle sales for last year showed a drop of 5% to 209 603 units against the 221 342 units recorded in 1989, according to Naamsa figures.

Only medium commercial vehicles (MCV) managed a marginal improvement

□ To Page 2



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: NAAMSa

GFSA interim profits slide nearly 30%

ROBERT GENTLE

REDUCED income from its major gold mines saw Gold Fields of SA's interim attributable profits for the half-year ending December slide 29,5% to R134m (R190m). *Day 16/1/91*

This translated into an equivalent fall in interim earnings a share to 140c (198c), though the interim dividend was maintained at 70c. Dividend cover accordingly dropped from 2,8 to 2 times.

Instrumental in the less than satisfactory mid-year showing was the fall in investment income — the mainstay of GFSA's revenue — to R136m (R159m).

GFSA corporate finance executive director Alan Wright attributed this largely

to reduced gold earnings — illustrated recently by reduced interim dividends from Kloof and Deelkraal, two major producers.

Overall revenue was further reduced by an absence of profit on realisation of investments (R31m profit last time around).

With surplus cash and a low stock market, GFSA had not felt the necessity to deal, Wright said. *Day 16/1/91*

He said that with adverse developments in the world economy and continuing strain on gold, the trend was likely to persist for the remainder of the year.

San family finds new home on game farm

CAPE TOWN — Members of a destitute tribe of Khoi San people were resettled yesterday on a game farm in the north-western Cape — an area where their ancestors lived 200 years ago. *Day 16/1/91*

The plight of the family of about 30 men, women and children was seen on television by the owners of the farm Kagga Kamma, who decided to offer the San a more secure environment.

Kagga Kamma, in the Ceres-Karoo region, near the Koue Bokkeveld, was home to San people until 200 years ago.

"We hope to create a symbiotic and not an exploitative relationship with them,"

LESLEY LAMBERT

said Hester Alberts, who markets the farm. "The men will work as trackers and the women will make their traditional bead and artwork for sale. They will have a secure environment which is not too different from the one they are used to," she said.

The San seemed delighted with their new home when they arrived in traditional skins and beads yesterday.

Tribe leader Dawid Kruijer immediately suggested that the old, faded rock paintings be touched up by one of his sons. "There are a lot of matters we still need to

discuss and negotiate," said Alberts.

One of these was hunting, said Kagga Kamma manager Jopie du Preez. "They use bows and arrows and poison to hunt animals. We will allow them to kill a certain number of buck each year but, because this is a commercial game farm, we will obviously have to have some rules."

Kruijer described the long journey from their previous home in Vanzylsrus, near Uppington, as "a short, cold winter", referring to the air-conditioning in the minibus.

His family would build traditional reed homes and had already discovered edible plants in the region, Kruijer said.

Govt faces B10am 16/11/91 urgent plea on drought

B10am 16/11/91
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union is expected to make an urgent plea to the Cabinet today for immediate aid to drought-stricken farmers, particularly grain farmers.

The SAAU has convened a meeting of its disaster and emergency committee today to review the havoc caused by one of the most destructive droughts of the past 25 years.

Today's meeting will be attended by representatives of all provincial agricultural unions and of the SAAU's commodity committees. *General*

Agricultural authorities said many farmers had borrowed to the hilt at the start of the season to prepare their lands for maize and other summer crops.

The amount involved, they said, could be counted in hundreds of millions of rands.

The fact that a large percentage of producers would be unable to repay loans would send farmers' total debt soaring above R15bn by the year's end.

SAAU director Piet Swart said government had been made aware of farmers' worsening plight and the need for additional support would be stressed.

And Sapa reports supplementary payments are to be paid to wheat producers for the 1990/91 season because the crop is expected to be smaller owing to the drought.

Wheat Board chairman W E Pienaar said in a statement yesterday that the Minister of Agriculture had approved supplementary payments of R190 a ton of utility grade one wheat and R160 a ton for utility grade two.

All-day debate on drought

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Star 1/11/41
The drought, and how farmers will manage financially as a result of it, was yesterday debated at an all-day meeting of top agricultural officials in Pretoria.

The meeting, convened by the Disaster and Emergency Aid Committee of the SA Agricul-

General
tural Union, follows the failure of the wheat, maize, sorghum, bean and groundnut crops.

The committee includes representatives from provincial agricultural unions and commodity branches such as maize producers.

Results of the meeting will be debated by the SAAU council before a statement is issued.

Obstacles for black farmers

SEVERAL obstacles will have to be removed before the Land Bank can begin granting loans to prospective black farmers this year, says a bank spokesman.

Land Bank MD Fanie Hugo declined to comment on loans to black first-time farmers once the Land Act was abolished.

The Jacobs Committee's report on Financing of the Agricultural Sector, which dealt with these issues, was not yet available, he said.

There were problem areas in the existing Land Bank Act.

For instance, the majority of potential black farmers would fall in the category of young and beginner farmers and, according to the bank's 1989 annual report, loans to

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

these beginners were approved only if the property was an economically viable farming unit.

This prerequisite might prove a more difficult issue if the Development Bank's proposal — to make vacant land available to blacks in the form of smallholdings — was to be implemented.

Furthermore, the Land Bank required an applicant to make a cash contribution from his own funds to ensure the debt on the property would be within his repayment capability. (3) General

If that was not possible, an alternative would be to offer additional security in the form of existing farming property.

18/11/19

News in Brief

Old Times 19/1/91 3
E Cape farmers ruined *Gen*

PORT ELIZABETH. — Conditions on farms in the drought-stricken Eastern Cape, Cape Midlands and Karoo are critical. At least 50 farms in the Somerset East area will be auctioned soon as several farmers face bankruptcy. Some have had credit facilities withdrawn by the East Cape Agricultural Co-operative.

...ing on Thursday.

Agriculture

not so gloomy,
Star 21/1/91
says report

Own Correspondent

Gloomy reports of hardship experienced by farmers in specific areas of South Africa have unwittingly given the false impression that the whole agricultural industry is in the doldrums.

But, according to a review by the Standard Bank, in real terms the industry has entered the 1990s in a stronger financial position than it has felt for several years.

Since the difficult mid-1980s, the financial position of farmers in general has improved significantly, and there has been a steady decline of the agricultural debt.

Farm profitability, according to the review, has improved by 168 percent in the past five years, and net farm income has more than doubled. *(3) Ceres*

The value of agricultural exports has increased sharply from R3,5 billion two years ago to R5,8 billion last year.

The report said one should not lose sight of the price costs squeeze that remains a tormenting reality.

Many farmers are experiencing uncertainty and instability, which is caused by the difference in prices they pay for production essentials and what they earn.

Farmers are particularly worried about input price increases that in recent years exceeded the inflation rate.

The review says some experts see monopolies of industries supplying agriculture inputs an important factor in the cost squeeze.

● Farmers' backs to the wall — Page 13.

THE scenario is a familiar one down on the farm ... farmers battling the elements, watching livestock die, watching crops wither. And praying for rain. It's an old story which has been reported a thousand times, but this time there appears to be a difference that can be summed up in one word: desperation.

In a desperate bid to avert additional financial losses as a result of what is said to be the country's worst drought in 60 years, farmers are travelling long distances, transporting livestock to reasonably well-watered grazing grounds, or going from town to town buying up bales of lucerne to last out until the hoped-for rains come one day.

The cost to cash-strapped farmers has been enormous. It is estimated that up to R500 000 a week is being spent in some districts in the desperate search

Farmers' backs to the wall in parched Karoo

for food.

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) has once again formally asked the Government for additional financial aid. Acting on the advice of its Disaster and Emergency Aid Committee, the SAAU has told the State that subsidies and existing financial aid schemes were no longer efficient and that further aid was required.

Their reasoning was clear: failed crops had driven huge holes through an industry already reeling from a R15-billion financial burden caused by an 11-year drought which ended only last year, and no one had foreseen a new drought which has, in 10 months, wreaked unbelievable havoc.

Crops which have failed include maize, wheat, groundnut,

barley, sorghum and dry beans — all staple commodities on which farmers rely for much of their income.

Hand-in-hand with the failures has been a lowering of livestock standards and many farmers, particularly in the Eastern Cape, have sold off livestock to survive.

The evidence, therefore, indicates that the agricultural industry has its back to the wall.

Away from the main roads of the Cape, Transvaal and Free State, the desperation is patently evident.

The Great Karoo — which straddles the central regions of the Cape Province — has an unseasonally grey look.

At this time of the year, the Karoo is usually a blaze of colour with lots of grazing for the

3) General

A new bank survey says South Africa's farming industry is in better shape overall than it has been for some years. But in the worst drought-stricken areas, desperation is the word. **NORMAN CHANDLER** looks at what the drought is doing to farmers in the Karoo.

millions of sheep and goats — the lifeblood of the area.

But now, around Graaff-Reinet, Middelburg, Jansenville, Colesberg and Noupoort, there are thousands of hectares on which not a sheep can be seen.

The reason is evident: there is no grass and, as farmers say, "sheep and cattle cannot eat stones".

The land appears to be slowly turning into a desert, echoing the fearsome warning made

over the years by experts who have watched the Kalahari Desert claim huge portions of the northern Cape.

Homesteads, many built in the Cape Dutch style, look deserted.

Around Graaff-Reinet and in the once beautiful valley at the foot of the Lootsberg, part of the majestic Sneenberg range, there is absolute desperation.

Some Karoo farmers — in much the same way as their

counterparts in the other provinces — have had to resort to selling their properties to banks and other financial houses in order to prevent being sequestered and forced off the land. They have rented back the properties at nominal figures so that once "the good days" return, the opportunity will be there to buy back their farms.

This has seen some properties, in the same family for generations, being retained — but only temporarily and at the mercy of the elements.

The area's towns, which rely greatly on custom from farmers, are being strangled by the desperate economic position created by the drought.

Picturesque Graaff-Reinet, fortunate because it has to a large extent been taken over by

the Rembrandt Foundation and turned into a very pretty restoration project, finds itself in a situation from which there does not appear to be much hope of further development because of the climatic disaster.

Tourists brave the searing heat to throng the streets and help to keep alive a thriving commercial sector but for many other towns and hamlets, it is simply a matter of survival of the fittest. It is hoped that an injection of State projects, such as the new Police Academy at Graaff-Reinet, will go a long way to helping this part of the platteland overcome its problems.

The problems include all those connected with the vision of a new South Africa.

Many Karoo and Free State

towns and villages are surrounded by squatter camps, inhabited by men and women who have had to leave their workplaces on the farms to seek jobs elsewhere. But, because the farming industry is in such dire straits, there is no work anyway.

A new problem has also arisen. Some farmers have reported finding dead sheep and other livestock. They suspect squatters of doing the butchering. According to a source, at least 14 sheep were found dead on a farm on one day.

In the Free State and Transvaal, the situation is not much different. Squatter camps surround many towns.

It is estimated by townspeople throughout the region that the squatter camps are likely to grow during the winter if the agricultural industry doesn't show some improvement during the next few months. □

Committee completes its report on a food strategy

③ General
BIDAN 21/1/91
A GOVERNMENT committee studying a comprehensive food and nutrition strategy for southern Africa has completed its report and will hand it to government later this month.

PATRICK BULGER

The Committee for the Development of a Food and Nutrition Strategy for Southern Africa was commissioned two years ago by the former ministers of National Health and Population Development and Agriculture.

The present ministers, Rina Venter and Jacob de Villiers, will be handed the report on January 23.

The aim of the study was to develop a dynamic food and nutrition strategy for government.

The ministers said in a statement: "Such a strategy must be aimed at assisting and influencing the food producing, processing and distribution sub-systems to such an extent that an adequate nutrition level of an acceptable quality can be maintained within reach of the most vulnerable consumers."

The need for the strategy resulted from increasing demand for food in

southern Africa, nutritional problems experienced by groups within the community and the rising cost of protein supply.

The four-man committee was headed by Dirk Smith, formerly Agricultural Economics professor at Pretoria University and later, before his retirement, Free State University's Institute for Social and Economic Research director.

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS reports that Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman has warned that SA could be on the threshold of a major tragedy in terms of rural poverty because of the recession, higher unemployment and the drought. The organisation helps between 1,5-million and 1,6-million people.

An Institute for Race Relations spokesman quoted Medunsa Community Service professor P W Coetzer as saying that about 61% of deaths among African children were due to malnutrition, prematurity and related infections.

Tough times, but farmers pulling through — bank

Argus, 2/1/91 (3 General)
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Gloomy reports of hardship in specific areas have given the false impression that the whole agricultural industry is in the doldrums, says a review by the Standard Bank.

In real terms the industry is in a stronger financial position than for several years, the review says.

Since the difficult mid-80s the financial position of farmers in general has improved significantly and there has been a steady decline in agricultural debt.

QUIET OPTIMISM FOR FUTURE

Farm profitability has improved by 168 percent in the past five years, and net farm income in this period has more than doubled.

The value of agricultural exports increased sharply from R3,5 billion two years ago to R5,8 billion last year.

Although there is quiet optimism about the future of the industry, sight should not be lost of the price cost-squeeze that remains a tormenting reality for all farmers, the review says.

Individual farmers have no bargaining power and cannot control prices in any way. They are therefore unable to pass on input costs, which cause their terms of trade to worsen steadily.

60 PERCENT INCREASES

Farmers are particularly worried about input price increases that in recent years exceeded the inflation rate. Last year the increases exceeded the inflation rate by an estimated 60 percent.

The review emphasises that possibly the biggest challenge facing farmers in the 90s will be to maintain a positive attitude, to be as adaptable as possible and to capitalise on change.

Greater involvement on the part of commercial banks can play an important role in developing a financially healthier agricultural sector, the Standard Bank review says.

Drought hits forex income

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The 1990/91 drought will cost SA at least R1,5bn in lost foreign exchange, informed calculations show.

It is understood government originally estimated that agriculture would earn R5,1bn in foreign exchange last year.

However this has had to be revised down to an optimistic R4,5bn.

The figure of R1,5bn is calculated on the basis of lost export opportunities and the cost of importing crops.

Because of drought and the threat to the 1990/91 maize crop, exports of surplus maize had to be suspended by the Maize Board in the second half of last year.

The total available for export last year amounted to just over 1-million tons — the surplus from a crop of 8,7-million tons. At the time of the export suspension more than 300 000 tons still had to be exported.

This would have earned about R120m in forex. Added to this and other losses will be the expected costs of importing nearly 2-million tons of maize this year at around R700m to supplement the local crop which

is not expected to be much more than 5-million tons.

The wheat crop, at 1,6-million tons has fallen far short of the local need and 700 000 tons will have to be imported at a cost of about R200m, estimates show.

According to Maize Board GM Hennie Davel, almost 3-million hectares less had been planted up to January 15 than in the 1989/90 season.

Meanwhile Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk said at the weekend the drought had imposed crippling financial burdens on farmers.

Van Niekerk said in a statement after visiting drought-stricken areas of the Free State that the deterioration of grazing had reached alarming proportions. It might be necessary, he said, to make special marketing arrangements to cope with greater selling pressure.

He assured farmers government had "great understanding" for their deteriorating financial position.

SP 21/1/91

General

January 22, 1991

'Crisis winter' on cards for farmers

Star 22/1/91 (3) General

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

The Government expects a "crisis winter" for farmers as a result of the worst drought in 60 years, according to the departments of Agriculture and Agricultural Development.

In their official weekly analysis of the industry — published three days before the SA Agricultural Union is to finalise its request to the Government for financial aid for hard-hit farmers — the departments say the drought is most severe in the Transvaal and Highveld agricultural regions.

The districts from Messina to Marico and

the Springbok Flats and Sterkrivier areas are the most seriously affected.

Good rains which fell over the Highveld region between January 6 and 8 were too late to save the maize crop. Districts such as Wesselsbron, Bultfontein, Hoopstad, Lichtenburg, Ventersdorp and Hoëvelddrif remain as badly off as they were previously.

Due to crops being, in general, planted very late, it is expected that harvests will be far less than normal.

Director of the Government's Free State agricultural region J E Volschenk says morale is low among farmers in the southern districts of the province.

Breakaway farmers want FW meeting

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

A group of angry Transvaal farmers want to present President de Klerk with their demands for help needed by their industry. They have been rebuffed by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) which says it is unable to arrange such a meeting.

Piet Swart, director of the

Star 22/11/91
SAAU, said yesterday the union was aware of the group, known as Farmers Crisis Action (FCA) but that it did not form part of organised agriculture.

He revealed FCA had telefaxed a message to SAAU president Nico Kotze last week in which they asked him to forward a request for the De Klerk meeting but this had been refused because the SAAU reacted only to requests from affiliates.

The request appears to run counter to efforts by the SAAU to negotiate improved

(3) General
Government financial aid in the wake of the worst drought to have struck the country in 60 years.

The drought has resulted in the failure of maize, wheat and other crops and the importation of millions of tons of grain to be imported at a cost of billions of rand.

The SAAU's series of meetings to discuss the industry and what can be done to help has included an agricultural summit, addressed by President de Klerk, a later general meeting of farmers as well as a meeting of its Emergency

and Drought Relief committee last week.

FCA, based in Potgietersrus, told The Star yesterday it wanted to meet President de Klerk at the Union Buildings on January 29 to tell him about what it terms "intolerable farming conditions in general".

Stressing that the action was not inspired by party political motives, the FCA said it was a call to farmers within and outside of organised agriculture "to support those leaders in agriculture who

have really contributed their share in restoring agriculture".

FCA adds that the Government's agricultural policy had frustrated farmers because it consisted of "cosmetic assistance in the short term," they said.

Urgent attention had to be given to high interest rates, poor product prices, election and functions of control boards, application of statutory provisions regarding labour and the suspension of sequestration actions against farmers.

No arbitrary land grab, says FW

Political Staff

③ General

5100
23/1/91

CAPE TOWN — President de Klerk has assured white farmers that the Government will not arbitrarily deprive them of their land.

He said after meeting a Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) delegation at Tuynhuys yesterday that this was not Government policy. There was no plan to take ground from large numbers of farmers.

The main issue yesterday was the Government's intended abolition of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 in the coming parliamentary session. The laws prescribe land ownership on racial grounds in rural areas.

Mr de Klerk, who met Free State farmers last week, said protection of private land possession was a cornerstone of the government's economic policy.

"This will be properly taken into account in the legislation the Government is considering to get rid of discrimination in relation to the possession of land," he said.

Debated

Dries Bruwer, president of the TAU and Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg, said that the delegation had not received satisfactory assurances from Mr de Klerk on the issue.

There was more clarity on why Government wanted to scrap the Land Acts, but the TAU would definitely make contributions to the parliamentary standing committees when they debated the proposed legislation.

He said Mr de Klerk was basing the transfer of ownership on the free market. This would not work.

"I don't think we can discuss Transvaal farmers' problems regarding this sensitive aspect with the State President in one day," he noted. Mr de Klerk had indicated that he was willing to have further talks.

The TAU apparently relied strongly in the talks on a survey it took last year showing that 94 percent of the province's farmers did not want the Land Acts scrapped.

Opponents have challenged the reliability of the poll.

Farmers want to put their case to FW

(3) General
Star 24/1/91

By Norman Chandler

POTGIETERSRUS — Farmers throughout the country are poised to protest to President de Klerk about the many hardships in agriculture.

They believe that only direct talks with Mr de Klerk will solve the crisis facing agriculture, now reeling under a debt burden of R15 billion (R2 million more than previously reported).

Spokesmen for Farmers' Crisis Action (FCA) — a group of concerned farmers representing the industry in all provinces — confirmed to The Star they had asked to see Mr de Klerk on January 29.

There has been no response from Mr de Klerk's office and earlier requests sent through the South Africa Agricultural Union (SAAU) had been rebuffed on the grounds that the FCA was not recognised as a union affiliate.

It is understood that on Tuesday, the FCA delegation will be joined by peaceful protesters from many districts, at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, where the talks are scheduled to take place.

The FCA, whose exist-

tence was first revealed this week by The Star, was described last night by a spokesman as "a loose grouping of farmers who all had the same viewpoint".

It was stressed that there were no political objectives or interests on its agenda, and that any attempt by other organisations to label it "political" would be strenuously opposed.

"We are a grouping which is concerned about the situation being faced, and hardships being experienced, by farmers throughout the country," a spokesman said.

It was emphasised that the FCA was not affiliated to a group of farmers who disrupted an SAAU meeting in Pretoria last October.

The FCA has said it was not only the drought which had devastated the industry, but also high interest rates, input costs, high producer prices which were not being passed on to farmers, sequestrations, and talk of possible changes in the Land Act which was seen as a death knell for the industry.

Farmers have said a moratorium on interest rates would be the best antidote to the industry's problems.

Farmers hit the streets

By DE WET POTGIETER

ANGRY farmers have threatened to jam the streets of Pretoria with hundreds of vehicles on Tuesday when they converge on the Union Buildings to present demands to President FW de Klerk.

The protesting farmers said they would move into the city from four different directions on Monday night, blocking streets with huge farm trucks, bakkies and caravans to create havoc and disrupt traffic.

Vegetables and other fresh farm produce would be handed out to motorists and passersby.

Said one farmer: "We may as well give it away because we don't get anything for it anyway."

A Western Transvaal farmer said: "In our ultimatum, we will give the state president 12 hours to answer grievances such as

SI Times 27/1/91. (3) General

Huge protest could bring Pretoria to a standstill

the heavy debt burden, the land ownership issue and other problems."

The farmers will wait in the streets for Mr De Klerk's reply before the convoys get the order to move out of the city.

"We are prepared to

wait for a week for an acceptable reply from the government," he said.

"That is why we are bringing in caravans and enough food to stay over."

Describing the protest by the disgruntled farmers as "an enormous action",

prominent right-wing Brits farmer Chris Bester said it was only the beginning.

"It's going to become a countrywide protest."

Last week, members of a breakaway group, called Farmers' Crisis Action

(FCA), asked South African Agricultural Union president Nico Kotze to forward a request to Mr De Klerk for a meeting with the group at the Union Buildings on Tuesday. The SAAU refused the request.

The group's organisers stressed that their action was not inspired by party political motives. But it did appear to be aimed at disrupting negotiations between the SAAU and the government.

Another farmer said the rally should be seen as a cry for mercy aimed at gaining sympathy from the public.

Farmers will start gathering at assembly points near Brits and Bronkhorstspuit from 2pm tomorrow. They will be travelling from as far afield as Louis Trichardt, Rustenburg and Thabazimbi.

The convoys will start moving towards Pretoria at 10pm tomorrow and the

city's streets are expected to be blocked off by 2am on Tuesday.

The march to the steps of the Union Buildings starts at 2pm on Tuesday.

A farmer vowed that Pretoria would "belong to the farmers" on Monday night.

He warned that "all hell will break loose" if any vehicles blocking the streets were towed away.

"If a soldier or policeman dares to touch a farmer's vehicle, he will be in trouble," he added.

Violence

In a clear show of solidarity with the breakaway group, the right-wing Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) said on Wednesday that its executive committee had warned on numerous occasions that farmers would take stronger action to draw attention to their plight.

TAU's executive committee sided with the FCA after a meeting with Mr De Klerk in Cape Town on Tuesday.

"The Transvaal Agricultural Union envoy told the state president that land ownership is an extremely emotional issue for white farmers and may lead to conflict and violence."

The TAU and FCA are demanding urgent action on high interest rates, low product prices, the election and functions of control boards, application of statutory provisions regarding labour and the suspension of sequestration actions against farmers.

meets

Black trekkers claim their promised land

STimes 27/11/91.

By BILL KRIGE

A DESPERATELY poor refugee community has taken the law into its own hands and occupied "white" farms they were promised 15 years ago by the government.

Some 411 families from Thornhill in Ciskei have driven their flocks across a wasteland of dongas to occupy vacant farms bought by the SA Development Trust.

In a hardline response to the trek, which began over a week ago, the director-general of Development Aid, Mr L van Gass, said "the illegal occupation of land can in no circumstances be tolerated".

He also insisted that the government had fulfilled its obligations to the community over the provision of land.

Dustbowl

Last year the refugees occupied the same farms, only to be driven off South African soil at gunpoint — by Ciskei defence force troops.

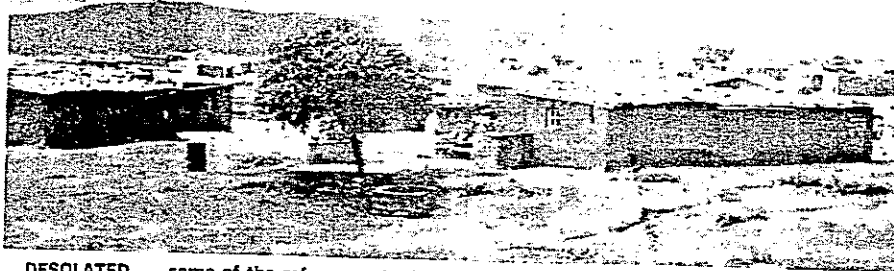
This time they have vowed never to return to the dustbowl around the Thornhill transit camp, 20km away.

"This is our land. This is as it was meant to be," said Hagai Sabisa, 67, as he strolled along a shady avenue at the farm Lower Merino Walk on the banks of the Swart Kei River.

Deputy Minister of Development Aid Piet Marais met the community a week ago and was given an undertaking that no more families would trek to the farms while the government considered the situation.

Meanwhile, hundreds of refugees in a community near Sada, further south — similarly driven by desperation — have also occupied vacant farms in defiance of the authorities.

The present crisis is the



DESOLATED ... some of the refugees, who have vowed never to return to Thornhill transit camp

manifestation of a unique apartheid tragedy which saw 50 000 people trek to South Africa 15 years ago rather than accept Transkei independence.

The districts they left — Herschel and Glen Grey — were excised from Ciskei and given to Transkei, despite a referendum in Glen Grey a few years earlier in which union with Transkei was overwhelmingly rejected.

Herschel and Glen Grey were among the carrots which persuaded Transkei to accept independence.

The people trekked after receiving explicit assurances from the government at a meeting in 1975, addressed by the deputy secretary of the Department of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr P Uys.

Tours

The minutes of the meeting show that four South African departmental deputy secretaries, magistrates as well as Transkei and Ciskei cabinet ministers were present when it was stated that a change in citizenship would not be forced on anyone.

If people chose to leave, compensatory land would be provided.

Community leaders from Herschel were taken on bus tours to the promised land some 100km away — including the farms Lower Merino Walk

and Bothashoek, which they have now occupied.

On the eve of Transkei's independence in October 1976, a heartbreaking trek got underway — not to the promised land but to nearby Thornhill, which was designated a transit camp.

Within days tens of thou-

sands of Xhosa and Sotho refugees had flooded on to the fragile land near Queenstown.

Within a few years the transit camp was incorporated into an independent Ciskei — to which Pretoria referred refugees whenever they raised com-

plaints or queries about land.

The Herschel refugees split between those who accepted Ciskei tribal authority — and all the perks that went with it — and those who clung stubbornly to their South African heritage.

The 18 000 refugees who refused to accept tribal authority suffered neglect and poverty on an even more depressing scale than their colleagues. Hundreds died of starvation and diseases related to malnutrition.

Last July, they occupied Lower Merino Walk and Bothashoek and were driven off at gunpoint by Ciskei soldiers.

According to Mr Van Gass, the land (which still forms part of South Africa) is scheduled for incorporation in Ciskei.

Sampson Mbongo, a community leader, said: "Enough is enough. It is time for us to get a place where we can build permanent houses and secure a place for our children."

THE notorious Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 and the Group Areas Act are going to be repealed during this parliamentary session.

But the crucial question remains — what is going to replace these laws.

The removal of apartheid laws will not, on its own, bring about any structural change to the existing inequitable distribution of land ownership and agricultural production.

Mr De Klerk continually makes firm assurances to the white community that despite the change their legal title will be protected. Land is an emotive issue in South Africa and because of the impact apartheid legislation has had on it, it is not enough for a parliamentary session to repeal Acts and believe the issue has been fairly dealt with.

A consultative process through which people's demands would be tabled and discussed is one step towards reaching a just rectification of the apartheid legacy. Is it incidental that government reform takes place on the eve of the negotiation deliberations?

The Land Acts have had devastating distortions on the lives of millions of black South Africans, the economy and society as a whole. This has been in the service of grand apartheid plans and ideology. They set aside 87 percent of land for white use and only 13 percent for black people.

The former is held in terms of private property while the latter is, ironically, almost entirely nationalised land for black occupation and use.

It is important to understand this, given the government's present emphasis on the sanctity of private property and the free market in land. What it supposedly means is that anyone, black or white, can buy land anywhere on a "willing buyer — willing seller" basis.

Struggle

This ignores the existing racial distribution and ownership of land, which has given control and protection to a white minority. The inability of the impoverished black majority to buy land on the free market is overlooked.

On the other hand, it assumes the willingness of the present white landowners to readily avail land for sale to meet the acute land hunger among blacks.

Many a struggle has been courageously waged over the land, be it by urban homeless in "squatter camps" or rural communities defending themselves from eviction and taking occupation of land.

These have not only challenged the historical dispossession of and

Repeal of Acts alone is not enough

^{(3) General}
SITimes 27/1/91
**BONGIWE NJOBE
puts the ANC's view
on land reform**

the effect of apartheid on black communities, but have asserted the right to land as a primary source of income and subsistence.

This is the reality which must be taken into cognisance and within which any restructuring of the land must be built on.

Arising out of the negotiations can be the provision for the settlement of historical land claims and the immediate redress of the effects of apartheid.

Policy

A new system of law should be based on *de facto* land rights which go beyond current legal title. These should be vested in terms of values recognised by all South Africans, including birth rights, inheritance rights, occupation and productive use of the land.

As the legislature repeals the Land Acts, it must adopt a policy which will at the very least allow for a process out of which a representative investigation for future land dispensation can be established.

The policy should create opportunity for land acquisition and access to production resources on the basis of an affirmative action programme to establish viable black farming communities.

Finally, any legislation or transaction which take place in this interim period before we have a non-racial and democratically elected government in place should be subject to review. If these laws or the outcome thereof are not judged to be in the interest of a just redistributive land reform process there will be pressure not only to review but possibly revoke them.

● *Bongiwe Njobe is a member of the ANC land commission.*

Farmers plan to block roads in protest against Govt

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

③ general

Farmers from all over the country plan to block off Pretoria streets tonight and tomorrow in protest against the Government's agricultural policies.

The protest, spearheaded by Farmers' Crisis Action (FCA), a group which claims to be represented in all four provinces, will be the first major action taken by disgruntled farmers.

Star 28/11/91
At least 700 trucks, some loaded with vegetables which the farmers will distribute to passers-by as a symbol of their protest, are expected to head for the city tonight and tomorrow. They will begin assembling from 3 pm today on farms at Brits and Bronkhorstspuit.

The FCA, which is based in Potgietersrus, has formally applied to the chief magistrate of Pretoria and the police for permission to hold the protest in

support of a delegation which intends to hand a memorandum listing grievances to the Office of the State President at the Union Buildings.

Initially, the farmers wanted to meet President de Klerk at 3 pm tomorrow but until yesterday had not received an answer to their request.

It is understood a decision on permission for the protest will be made later today.

Farmers say interest rates,

threats of sequestration, high production costs, a low share of the cost of produce and uncertainty about proposed Land Act amendments are among issues they wish to discuss.

The FCA says the Government's policies affecting agriculture are not helping the industry, which has been battered by years of drought as well as increasing financial costs.

● Small is beautiful — Page 12

When small can be beautiful

SKW 28/1/91.

③ General

THE Land Acts are due for repeal over the next few months, making it possible — in theory at least — for blacks to own and occupy farmland from which they have been excluded since 1913.

This has caused a predictable rumpus in right-wing circles, especially in the Transvaal.

Elsewhere there has been a concern that either nothing will happen, because of the cost of agricultural land today, or that something in fact will happen and large tracts of productive farmland will be turned over to subsistence peasant agriculture.

If nothing happens, the frustrations will build up.

All the major black political organisations are committed in some degree to a redistribution of land, the most extreme and doctrinaire being the Pan Africanist Congress.

If individual blacks find the funds to buy up white farms, or if some sort of agency should assist them to do so (and in today's economic conditions many white farmers might only too happily sell up for a fair price), there would surely be pressure for these farms to be split into smaller units until the pattern of occupation eventually resembled that of the homelands.

And that would mean the end of South Africa's agricultural pro-

ductivity.

There would be insufficient surpluses to feed the cities and very soon we would be a food-importing country.

Or would it be disaster?

Scientists, who have been working on the question for almost a decade, believe not.

They believe that not only could small black farmers on currently white-owned land make a very good go of it but the present homelands could be turned around.

They base their belief on practical experiment.

The Institute of Natural Resources (INR) is attached to Natal University but funded almost entirely by the private sector.

Almost 10 years ago it established a small farm which replicates conditions in KwaZulu (and most other homelands).

It was bought as wasteland — sloping, eroded and infested with bugweed.

Today Nantsindlela (literally: "This is the way") has profitable dairy, pig, poultry and crop-growing operations.

Each is on a hectareage no greater than would be available to the homeland farmer and uses uncomplicated Third World technology.

There is no reason why Nantsindlela's financial success should not be repeated elsewhere — and the INR propagates its methods.

Students are accepted for courses of varying duration.

It is very much hands-on training: they discover how to run a broiler chicken operation or a dairy or piggery and they actually keep the records (where the need for meticulous accuracy and costing is stressed).

They handle the cash and experience for themselves the generation of profits. (In the case of broilers, outstanding students are even given a cut of the profits).

I spent a few days with the INR recently and the results of their philosophy can be quite startling.

At Biyela (a part of rural KwaZulu) a herd of five Jersey cows grazed in the planted and fenced

pastures of an individual plot-holder. Each can produce as much as 24 litres a day of milk (against the two litres of "traditional" cows grazing on the hillsides).

The owner sours the milk into maas and sells it at R1 a litre.

Also at Biyela, I spoke to a man who raises about 500 chickens every four or five weeks from day-old stage. His net profit (confirmed by the INR) is between R1,75 and R2 a bird.

In a Third World context, these are significant amounts of money, especially as most plot-holders have more than one operation and very often a formal job as well.

Small is beautiful — or it can be. □

SA agricultural colleges now open to all races

CAR-TMB 29/1/91 Political Staff (2) 35000

THE six white agricultural colleges in South Africa have been opened to all races, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agricultural Development, announced yesterday.

He said the selection of candidates for full admission to the six agricultural colleges under the control of his department had been on a non-discriminatory basis since the start of the new academic year.

"This policy of selection on merit and on a non-discriminatory basis for full admission will also be followed in future."

Dr Van Niekerk did not indicate how many of the successful applicants this year were not white.

PRETORIA. — Chaos reigned in Pretoria today as fighting broke out between police and farmers after thousands of disgruntled farmers brought the city to standstill by blocking roads.

Fighting started on the corner of Andries and Church streets in the middle of the city just after 8.40am. Police declared the area an unrest area and ordered everyone to leave.

The farmers stood their ground. Police moved in and arrested at least 50 farmers, bundling them into vans and cars, as fighting continued. Police brought in reinforcements and threatened to tear-gas farmers.

Major roads blocked

Using tractors, harvesters and other agricultural machinery, bakkies and large vehicles, the farmers today blocked off major roads as well as the Union Buildings and the city centre.

In pouring rain, motorists found their way in to town blocked from all sides by the biggest demonstration yet seen in Pretoria.

The farmers are protesting about their parlous financial state, brought about, they say, as a result of government agricultural policies.

The agricultural debt stands at more than R18 billion and the farmers maintain that high interest rates, a poor return on production costs, soaring input costs, and disquiet over land reform have contributed to their becoming "the nation's beggars."

Hundreds of cars were stranded in a huge traffic jam on the Ben Schoeman Highway from Johannesburg while rail and bus connections ran late as well.

Ms Alta Oberholzer, a Pretoria City Council spokesman, said: "The whole city centre has been barricaded. People are having to park outside the CBD and walk to their offices."

Municipal tow trucks fought in vain to get through to tow away hundreds of vehicles that had been parked across main thoroughfares.

Services paralysed

Services were paralysed. A dismayed ambulance driver, stuck in the traffic with a casualty, said he had been there for more than an hour.

People resorted to driving on pavements while others abandoned their cars.

One Bets farmer commented: "Can the city exist without agriculture? Can you people live without food? The farmers can't take this anymore. We have been trying to reach the Minister for years and today he will talk to us."

The Pretoria City Council was today trying to contact the organisers of the demonstration, Farmers' Crisis Action (FCA), to get them to withdraw their supporters and their vehicles from the City.

Farmers, who had earlier swamped the city with illegal placards reading "Farmers in Crisis", began gathering on main arterial roads into Pretoria from yesterday.

At Rooihuiskraai, just off the N1 freeway, and at Wag 'n Blesje, near Brits, hundreds parked their vehicles to meet over braais and discuss tactics. Media representatives were not made welcome.

Shortly before midnight the vehicles began to move towards the city.

They parked strategically in the city centre and before dawn were in position across the main roads leading to the central business district. Chaos then ensued.

Memorandum

The FCA is hoping to later today present a memorandum to President De Klerk, or his representative, in which the farmers' grievances will be listed. They had earlier asked for a meeting with the President but by late yesterday no reply had been received.

The Office of the State President says the request was received only on Thursday, but this is disputed by the FCA which says it asked the South African Agricultural Union to request the meeting. The SAAU however declined to do so and the FCA then sent their own request on January 21.

All council's rules for mass action broken

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Farmers taking part in the protest action against the government's agricultural policies have broken virtually all the conditions set when the Pretoria City Council granted permission for the action.

A council spokesman said it was stipulated that the farmers might not disrupt traffic with heavy vehicles, that normal road and pedestrian traffic might not be disrupted, that there might be no obstructions in city streets, that all stipulations of the Road Traffic Ordinance be adhered to and that orders from traffic officers be strictly obeyed at all times.

The city council called on residents not to go to the city centre. Church Street was blocked by heavy vehicles from as far east as Eastwood Street and residents of eastern suburbs had no access to the city centre. No municipal buses ran to and from the eastern areas.

WARNING AGAINST MASS ACTION.

In Cape Town, the minister in charge of white agriculture, Dr Kraal van Niekerk, has warned against the type of mass action causing chaos in Pretoria today, the Argus Political staff reports.

He said after meeting a South African Agricultural Union delegation last night that illicit actions could undermine the farmers' bargaining power.

Dr Van Niekerk urged farmers to co-operate with his department and the SAAU and its affiliates in the search for solutions to problems with which agriculture was wrestling.

He said he would study as soon as possible an SAAU memorandum appealing for extra aid.

Farmers battle a police in Pretoria

REBUS

29/1/91

36



Farmers on tractors head for Pretoria

GERALD REILLY

(3) General

PRETORIA — Thousands of protesting farmers in trucks and on tractors are expected in the Pretoria city centre today.

The Pretoria City Council yesterday granted permission for the mass demonstration: *BLOM 29/1/91*

The protest, organised by a group called Farmers Crisis Action, has been called to highlight farmers' concerns over the expected repeal of the Land Acts and what the organisation claims is government indifference to the financial plight of thousands of farmers.

A spokesman for Farmers' Crisis Action said yesterday large numbers of tractors and heavy trucks were expected to take part in a procession to the Union Buildings where a petition addressed to President F W de Klerk will be handed over.

Vegetables would be handed to passers-by from some trucks as a demonstration of uneconomic producer prices.

Sapa reports Pretoria's traffic department was on the alert last night after reports that farmers planned to block city streets with trucks and tractors. The farmers were expected to gather near Brits and Bronkhorstspuit from 3pm yesterday and move into the city from 10pm.

The SA Agricultural Union and the Transvaal Agricultural Union yesterday distanced them from the demonstration. The SAAU said it maintained a continuous liaison with government on the grievances and plight of farmers.

SCRAMBLING eggs is easier than unscrambling them. Meddlesome folk who take the law into their own hands — which is what political market-interventionists do — should remember that and ponder the Law of Unintended Consequences: "Human action gives rise to consequences not foreseen by the actors."

I am indebted to Marc Swanepoel (the With Justice for All man) for telling me how long ago that law was discovered. Mandeville wrote about it in his Fable of the Bees (1714) but the Chinese philosophers from whom he learned it had beaten him to it by a thousand years. Adam Smith picked up the thread in the 18th century and although the majority of dismal economists who followed him stupidly put it down again, it was kept aloft by Carl Menger and the Austrian school of economists, whose Friedrich Hayek has helped restore it to its proper place in the fabric of economic and political debate.

The unforeseen and unintended consequences of any action may be good or bad, but everyone who has taken time to study them has come to a similar conclusion: that the unintended consequences which flow from moral actions are full of pleasant surprises, while those that flow from immoral ones are bad.

"Can a bad tree bear good fruit?" asked an even earlier philosopher to whom this country pays constitutional lip service.

Morality is much more than a polite system of manners that can be laid aside lightly when it seems to obstruct earnest men in their pursuit of noble, political, charitable and economic goals. It is, in fact, the encapsulated wisdom of myriad generations who have learned from long-forgotten mistakes.

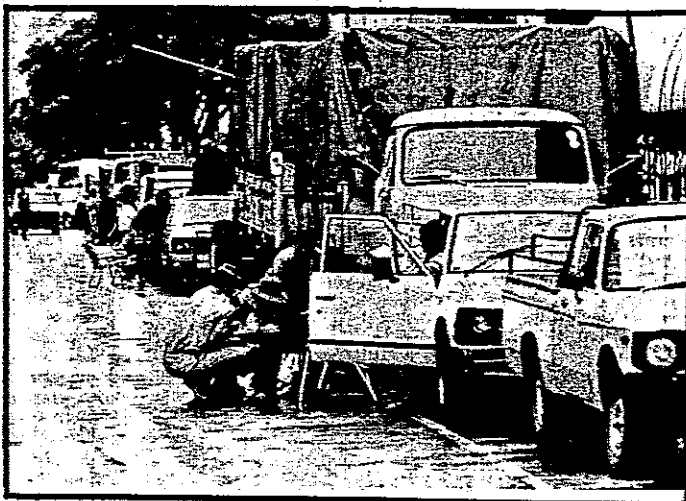
That the moral lessons learned by different tribes and clans are not identical is hardly surprising. They didn't all encounter identical hazards and opportunities. Even so, there is a remarkable consistency in moral codes over issues like theft, and lying, the honouring of contracts voluntarily entered into and the abhorrence of coercion in trade. Why? Because experience has shown that the creation, preservation and equitable distribution of wealth are all disrupted, distorted and hampered when people are allowed or encour-

How the farmers can again reap the harvest they deserve

(3) General

Bl/day 30/1/91.

As struggling farmers clog the streets of Pretoria, SYMOND FISKE argues there is no painless solution to their debt crisis.



Farmers picketing in Pretoria yesterday.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

aged to take things from each other by force or fraud.

Some weeks ago (Business Day, December 20) I traced the saga of misguided policies which have precipitated, as one of their unintended consequences, the present "debt crisis" in SA agriculture.

As a result, I received numerous requests to prescribe a remedy. Some have been snide ("Okay, Clever Dick, if you know how the egg was scrambled, unscramble it yourself"), others reverent ("Since your under-

standing of the scrambling is so perceptive, we trust you can recommend a painless unscrambling").

I'm sorry. There is no painless solution. The meal is ruined, precious ingredients have been irretrievably lost. History cannot be undone.

In the original article I noted six reasons for the debt crisis. First, economic "incentives" ensured that capital and labour would overinvest. Secondly, those farmers who used their own capital, or money bor-

rowed at commercial rates, have to compete with others favoured with artificially cheap money.

The third reason is the exchange control system which prevents the rand floating at fair market level and therefore denies farmers the full value they deserve for the third of their produce they export.

Fourthly, control boards and obstructive legislation prevent our farmers from marketing imaginatively. Fifth, they are denied access to many inputs, especially imported ones, at market prices and, finally, they are forced by law to finance and support "recognised" unions which have been singularly ineffectual at addressing the other five reasons.

I could, indeed, suggest a number of apparently pain-free solutions for the indebted farmers, for the overblown co-ops, for the Land Bank which has lent so unwisely to them. But all of these apparently painless options for them would distort markets further and involve taking money or business from someone else by force (taxation, additional privileges) or by fraud (inflation). Applying the Law of Unintended Consequences, I can therefore predict (a) that there will be other consequences that I cannot at this stage foresee and (b) that the harmful effects of those will far exceed any beneficial results which I may have planned.

This does not mean that I have no advice to give. I will confront the issue instead with a moral answer. First, all governmental assistance

to indebted farmers and farm co-ops must be curtailed — the sooner the better. There is no basis in morality for any policy which involves theft — the taking of money by force from one person to bestow favours on yourself or another.

Second, the Agricultural Marketing Act and all other statutory impediments to the free marketing of farm produce should be repealed immediately. Under common law there would be no more privileges for middlemen and the farmers would at last receive a fair price for the produce they market locally.

Third, exchange control should be abolished forthwith so that our farmers can earn what they really deserve for that portion of their produce they export and that which has to compete with foreign supplies.

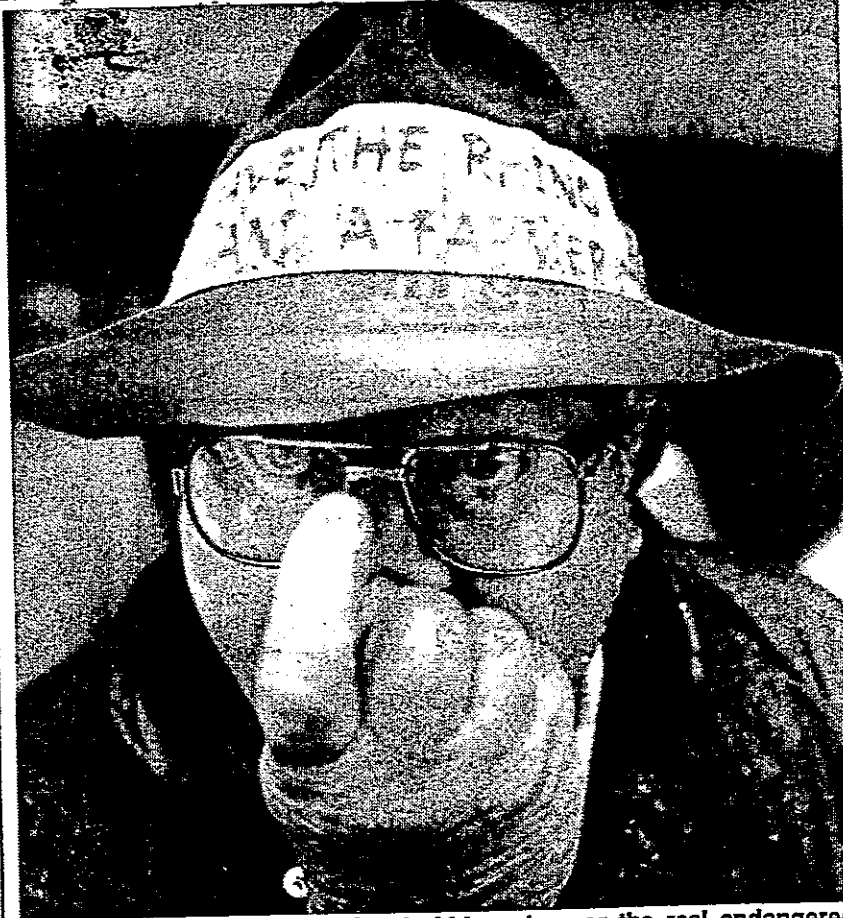
Fourth, all laws, tariffs and import controls which prevent our farmers from having free access to inputs at competitive prices must be scrapped. Our farmers have a right not to be victimised.

Fifth, all the levies which are currently forced upon farmers to finance services should be made voluntary instead of compulsory in order to ensure that the farmers actually get value for money from the people and organisations that claim to act on their behalf.

I cannot, of course, foresee all of the consequences. But I have faith in morality. And I have faith in the ability of the upright SA farmer to adapt, rise and prosper in a free market under common law. I know those farmers. Despite all the damage that has been done by meddling governments, a remarkable number of them has managed to preserve the codes and qualities to see them right. Some beggars, parasites and unfortunates will doubtless subsist before learning to live without subsidy. But those unfortunates with ability — the deserving poor — will soon find new niches for their talents in a land of proper opportunity.

Prophets of doom should note that no land or tractors, buildings, orchards, animals or talents are lost when bankruptcies occur. The title deeds are merely redeployed — from the imprudent to the prudent. So the honest policy I commend is not only moral, but economic.

□ Fiske is editor of *Effective Farming* and an agricultural business management consultant with *Agri-Africa*.



Who faces extinction: the South African boer or the real endangered species of the four-legged kind? The message from this farmer, one of the thousands who took part in yesterday's protest in Pretoria, is loud and clear. Pic: STEPHEN DAVIMES

Farmers ^{General} cause

havoc in ^{Soweto 30/1/91} Pretoria

THOUSANDS of farmers who blocked Pretoria's streets yesterday decided to continue their "park in" that wreaked havoc in the city.

A large number of farmers at the heavily guarded Union Buildings laughed derisively when a Supreme Court order that they remove their vehicles was read to them over a loudhailer.

When they discovered that President FW de Klerk was not there to receive their petition, Farmers Crisis Action leader Mr Leonard Venter declared: "We are going to our bakkies. Stay there."

There was chaos earlier in the day when fighting broke out between police and the disgruntled farmers.

Fighting started on the corner of Andries and Church streets in the city centre about 8.40am.

The farmers said they had enough food to last them a week. Several of their trucks carried portable toilets.

Municipal spokeswoman Alta Oberholzer said while tow trucks had managed to clear some streets, many areas were still logjammed.

In Church Street vehicles parked four abreast, stretching from the city to distant Duncan Street.

Pretoria streets choked as farmers defy attempts to budge them

B. van 30/1/91
PRETORIA — Thousands of farmers continued to blockade Pretoria's streets last night, despite reports that the city council had negotiated the removal of the vehicles from the city.

Council officials confirmed a number of roads were still sealed. Reports had reached them that farmers' trucks, caravans and tractors were once again blocking intersections that had been cleared by towtrucks earlier in the day.

Sapa reports that a municipal spokesman said although it appeared a number of farmers had left the city, "the militant ones are now digging in their heels".

(3) General
The disaffected farmers turned sections of the city into a Rio-like carnival, braaiing meat and wolf-whistling at girls.

They had arrived in Pretoria during Monday night and parked vehicles in positions in the streets which ensured a massive disruption of traffic. The demonstration is over the impending removal of the Land Acts, labour legislation and general government policy regarding farming.

During the morning about 120 protesters were bundled into police vans after scuffles broke out between some farmers and members of the large police contingent. Police said all the men were later re-

leased, but could face charges.

One victim of the chaos was the Supreme Court judge who presided over the city council's application to have the farmers evicted. He had to be ferried from his home to the court on a motorcycle.

A large gathering of farmers at the heavily guarded Union Buildings laughed derisively when the Supreme Court order that they remove their vehicles was read to them over a megaphone.

When they discovered President F W de Klerk was not at the Union Buildings to receive their petition, Leonard Venter, a leader of Farmers' Crisis Action which or-

ganised the demonstration, declared: "We are going to our bakkies. Stay there."

Farmers said they had enough food to last a week. Several trucks sported portable toilets.

A police helicopter pilot estimated the number of vehicles at 1 500.

GERALD REILLY reports the protesters' strategy of parking their vehicles bumper-to-bumper along the busy Andries and Van der Walt streets effectively blocked the normal morning traffic flow.

Bus, fire and ambulance services were severely disrupted.

The demonstration was roundly con-

demned by several Cabinet members.

BILLY PADDOCK reports that De Klerk said the protest was not in keeping with the dignity and responsibility typical of SA's farming community.

CP leader Andries Treurnicht and 18 MPs flew to Pretoria to show solidarity with the farmers.

Although the SA Agricultural Union earlier dissociated itself from the demonstration, a union statement yesterday urged government to address the farmers' grievances.

● Picture: Page 3
● See Page 6

Control of land use central to reforms

CAPE TOWN — President F W de Klerk would on Friday unveil far-reaching changes to the system of land tenure and the control of land usage, Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers said last night.

This was in addition to the repeal of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

Speaking at the UCT Summer School, he also gave a veiled warning to absentee farmers/landowners, saying: "Land ownership is not only a right, it also carries certain responsibilities.

"One such responsibility is to ensure that land is put to its best use. Land which is not productively used is a liability both to its owner and to the community," he said.

De Villiers said government had committed itself to abolishing the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

"It is important to point out that dealing with these Acts entails more than the mere repeal of discriminatory legislation.

"It also implies far-reaching changes in our systems of land tenure and the control of land usage."

In view of pending policy announcements during the coming parliamentary session, he could not go into details.

Land reform would require a change in values and the aim was to ensure land was put to its most productive use to support sustained improvement in the quality of life of all South Africans.

There was a need to promote economic growth and maintain an effective market economy, as well as address the problems of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment in order to achieve equality

in opportunities for development.

Without a concerted effort to improve the socio-economic conditions of poor black and rural communities, growth and a broadening of the economic base for development could not be achieved, he said.

People without the technical skills and ability to develop land could not randomly be allocated land because ownership itself would not necessarily contribute towards improving their quality of life, he said.

Development had less to do with how much one had than with how much was done with it, and ownership had to be supplemented with managerial skills.

Government had to ensure the accessibility of its development support structures and programmes, such as extension officers, to all.

Participation was the key to development and government could facilitate this by removing obstacles inhibiting self-help initiatives, such as high rates of inflation, discriminatory restrictions, social insecurity and exclusion from the decision-making process.

The process could also be facilitated by providing minimum conditions, such as access to water, energy, adequate health services and education facilities.

Various policy options existed to improve employment creation in rural areas. These were small farmer systems, tenant farming and part-time farming, De Villiers said.

However, the greatest employment and growth potential existed in the urban areas.

BILLY PADDOCK

15/04/91 3 of 11 91

3 General

Protest:

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Political Staff

THE Commissioner of Police, General Johan van der Merwe, has denied that policemen in Pretoria refused to act against the protesting farmers.

"I am aware that rumours are circulating that members of the force were supposed to have refused to carry out orders, but I have been able to find no evidence whatsoever to substantiate this," he said yesterday.

General Van der Merwe explained that the police were forced to act against the farmers when they "deliberately flouted and broke the laws of the land, including forcing traffic to a standstill".

He said the farmers had undertaken to participate in a peaceful protest and had given an assurance that no laws would be broken.

The chief magistrate of Pretoria had given permission for a march to go ahead, but the conditions were "not honoured at all and the peak-hour traffic in the city centre was disrupted in a deliberate and well-planned manner".

He said police helicopters had been forced to ferry emergency supplies of blood to hospitals "in several cases", including two of open-heart surgery.

He said farmers had formed human chains and tried to prevent the police from reaching their vehicles.

Policemen and traffic authorities were also prevented from cutting the chains binding the farmers' vehicles together

"Arrests were made," he said.

Pretoria under siege

Cape Times 30/11/91

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PRETORIA. — Defiant farmers last night continued their siege of Pretoria — despite earlier clashes with police and negotiations with the City Council here.

The estimated 1 500 farmers are protesting against agricultural conditions and demanded a meeting with President FW de Klerk.

Police moved in when farmers refused to remove their vehicles, and 120 protesters were arrested.

Last night there was an uneasy calm in the city as farmers turned large sections of the city into a Rio-like carnival, braaiing meat and wolf-whistling at girls.

Speaking from Brits last night, right-wing stalwart and AWB member Mr Manie Maritz vowed to bring in reinforcements from the Western Transvaal during the course of the night to "take up positions".

Mr Maritz, 66, was arrested early yesterday in Pretoria and released later in the day. A former wrestler, Mr Maritz put up a spirited fight against seven policemen trying to arrest him.

The son of a Boer general, Mr Maritz

INSIDE

- Big changes in land — Page 5
- Police chief denies rumours — Page 5
- Three cops restrain farmer — Page 5

rolled underneath a police van to evade arrest, but was subdued when police sprayed teargas in his face.

The Pretoria siege began before dawn yesterday when the protest column roared into the city centre to block off all main thoroughfares with trucks, tractors, caravans and bakkies which were then chained together.

The protests brought all traffic in the city centre to halt, stranding commuters and disrupting emergency services.

Farmers yesterday gave notice of a long park-in, with some saying they had enough food to last them a week, and numerous trucks sported porta-toilets on the back.

Early last night the council said the farmers had been persuaded to move.

But later municipal spokeswoman Mrs Alta Oberholzer said that though some

farmers had left, "the militant ones are now digging in their heels".

By late evening vast numbers of farmers were still barricading important thoroughfares, and municipal officials confirmed that a number of roads were still sealed.

Yesterday afternoon Mr De Klerk insisted that he would not go to Pretoria to receive the petition, as this would legitimise the protest.

"Protests and mass-mobilisation are counter-productive, particularly in the present climate," he said.

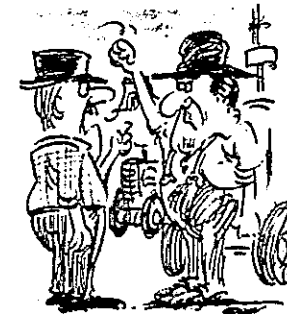
"It is also my conviction that people who have parliamentary representation and are invested with full democratic rights have a particular responsibility in this regard."

Meanwhile, Conservative Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht and a delegation of 18 MPs hastily ended a Cape Town caucus meeting and headed for Pretoria yesterday afternoon.

"The CP stands by the farmers," said CP

To Page 5

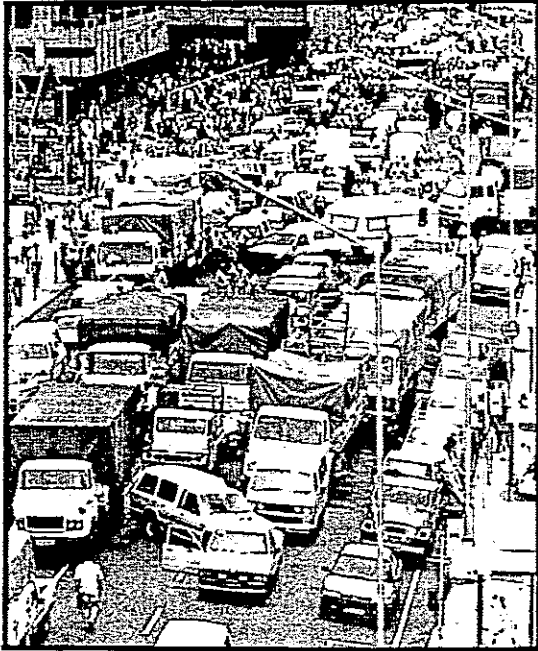
crack of dawn



No, no, Koos you don't stick
you clenched fist in the air.
Nor do you shout Amandla!

P.T.O.

Pretoria will long remember the day the farmers invaded.



Farmers block Church Street, Pretoria, from the city centre to the Union Buildings

ARGW 30/11/91 36ced

The day the farmers invaded Pretoria will not be easily forgotten by the city, which ground to a halt yesterday as a result of the mass action.

NORMAN CHANDLER watched the battle between police and farmers.

THE smell of a braai is nothing new. But when boerewors is cooked on dozens of skottelbraais in the centre of Pretoria's main thoroughfare, Church Street, then it becomes something very unusual indeed.

And that's what happened along four kilometres of the famous street yesterday as 10 000 farmers in thousands of vehicles (as well as heavy rain) brought the city to a halt in the biggest demonstration of its kind seen in South Africa.

It was the ultimate in making a point and make it, they did.

The townies could hardly believe it. The farmer had come to town in a big way — so big that tens of thousands

of Pretorians couldn't get to work on time because key roads into the central business district were blocked by harvesters, tractors, bakkies, huge trucks, caravans and other agricultural equipment and machinery.

It was a nightmare for the City Council, which only the day before had agreed to a request from the Potgietersrus-based Farmers' Crisis Action organisation that the demonstration could take place, provided the laws of the land and municipal by-laws were respected, and that special demarcated areas only would be utilised.

The agreement, in the end, wasn't worth the paper it was written on.

There were tractors on centre white lines, heavy trucks parked diagonally across streets, and caravans — some with canopies under which families were braaing — were across two lanes of Church, Andries, Van der Walt and other streets.

The farmers came to town to tell the government they were unhappy with, and frustrated by, years of drought,

financial problems and lack of income because they believe they are not getting a fair share of the price consumers pay for their produce.

It didn't take long before ordinary citizens got the message and began to sign a petition circulated by the invaders — they listened carefully to what the predominantly Afrikaans-speaking farmers had to say, and then put their names down in support.

Some, one got the impression, were only too keen to sign — perhaps in order to get rid of the unfamiliar khaki-clad, brawny farmers who had invaded their town.

It was a show of strength which was not without drama.

Farmer versus policeman is not the sort of scenario familiar to South Africans. Usually it is the police pitting their strengths against organisations — this time though the police, to a man they were all-white, had to match their strength against the very people they had always supported.

The farmer didn't like it either. He was pushed about,

arrested, teargassed and threatened with a baton charge and faced with four massive police dogs only too keen to have a go. This was a far cry from the policemen he had come to know on the remote platteland.

Blacks standing on the pavements watched in fascination as white battled white on the streets on Pretoria. It was certainly a different situation to what they have become used to over the years.

Not since political hotheads met the police head-on in Church Square during the heady days of the AWP has Pretoria witnessed such scenes.

Baton-wielding policemen belted white farmers as they were arrested en masse and bundled into vans which were drawn up as if in a parking lot, back doors swinging open in readiness for the boys in khaki.

When right-wing leader Manie Maritz, former world champion wrestler, was manhandled by seven policemen and then thrown into a police van after being teargassed there were some very nasty scenes just waiting to break

out. But the hotheads were cooled by a fast-talking police media officer, Colonel Johan Mostert, and operations commander Brigadier Jumbo van de Wall.

The two officers, respectively, had to control a huge media contingent and a massive crowd of farmers and on-lookers. Thousands of Pretoria's citizens descended on the central business district to join in the excitement — they, like the farmers and the press, got soaked time and again as heavy rain fell over the city.

"The farmers have been praying for rain for years and now when it's raining, they're in town," was the wry comment of one woman. It brought bursts of laughter from everyone — but neatly summed up the irony of it all.

Some had come well-prepared for a long siege of the city and the Union Buildings. The back of one truck, covered by an orange sail, had been converted into a bedroom, kitchen and lounge area, another had easy chairs placed on it, with a television and fridge installed as well.

CABG Trick 30/1/91 (36) (36)

Big changes in land usage seen

Political Correspondent

FAR-REACHING changes to the South Africa's systems of land tenure and control of land usage would flow from the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts, the Minister of Agriculture and Development Aid, Mr Jakob de Villiers, said last night.

President F W de Klerk is widely expected to announce the repeal of the Land Acts and spell out the policy implications of such a move when he opens the next session of Parliament on Friday.

Speaking at the University of Cape Town's Summer School, Mr De Villiers said that President De Klerk's stated commitment to "deal with" the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act would entail more than the mere repeal of discriminatory legislation.

However, he emphasised that land reform, with all its ramifications, was an evolutionary process which could not simply be concluded by a stroke of a pen.

"It will require a learning pro-

cess and changes in values and perceptions amongst all individuals and communities involved. What we must certainly aim at is to ensure that land is put to its most productive use."

Mr De Villiers noted that it was argued that the dismantling of discriminatory legislation and race-based restrictions on the use of land would help create wealth, economic growth and greater equity.

Productive

However, many people were unable to afford the cost of obtaining access to land or title to land and development support would be essential to assist these people to gain access to land.

"Land ownership is not only a right, it also carries certain responsibilities to ensure it is put to best use. Land which is not productively used is a liability to both its owner and to the community," he said.

"If people do not possess the technical skills and ability to develop and utilise land to its optimal potential, ownership itself would not necessarily contribute

towards improving their quality of life.

"It is against this background that land ownership must be supplemented with managerial skills to enable people to identify market opportunities, use appropriate techniques to work the land and utilise the available support infrastructure.

Mr De Villiers said it was also important that government should ensure the accessibility of its development support structures and programmes to all.

"Only then will land reform become a rational step in support of the development process."

Mr De Villiers said that in view of the increasingly dominant role that urban areas were expected to play in the new SA, the rural areas ran the risk of becoming further marginalised relative to the mainstream of socio-economic and political development of the country.

"These areas will therefore have to become the subject of special strategies and programmes to ensure that their residents will have equitable access to development resources."

City retailers 'pay' for farmers' protest

By Day 31/1/91

3 General
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The disruptive protest by thousands of farmers which ended here yesterday cost the city's retailers dearly, the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce said.

Chamber executive director Alex de Beer said it was impossible to put an exact figure on the lost trade but it could exceed R1m.

The protesting farmers started moving out of the city early yesterday and by mid-morning Pretoria's central streets were clear of the estimated 3 000 tractors, caravans and other vehicles which on Tuesday brought local business to a standstill.

Police spokesmen said yesterday investigations against the 120 protesters arrested on Tuesday after scuffles with police were continuing.

However, an informed source said it was unlikely any would be charged because of the logistical difficulties involved in assembling evidence.

This was despite the fact that they "broke practically every bylaw in the book".

SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit said all relevant grievances outlined by the protesters were being intensively negotiated by the union and government.

Thus, he said, the disruption caused by the protesters was unfortunate

and unnecessary.

A Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) statement yesterday said the protest action was a successful effort to bring farmers' plight to the attention of government and the public.

Sapa reports that the TAU's offices had been flooded with calls of support for the protest action.

Consumers and other farmers called from all over the country and the general feeling was that the action successfully publicised the farmers' plight, the TAU statement said.

Prayer messages were received from consumer and women's groups, and support poured in from Pretoria residents.

The statement said the general feeling was that both consumers and farmers would benefit if they worked together.

Callers indicated the inconvenience of blocked streets and traffic jams was a small sacrifice.

Farmers who participated in the protest had asked that the SA Police, with the exception of a few officers, be thanked, the TAU said.

Pedestrians and central Pretoria residents praised the police for their handling of the situation. — Sapa.

'could collapse'

day 31/1/91

tained soon, in order for planning to proceed credibly."

A MILLION FRIVOLOUS
BUBBLES FLIRTING WITH
YOUR TASTE-BUDS

squatting in District Six and

From Mono Badela
Johannesburg

THE repeal of the Land Act in itself is not only "insufficient", but "endangers" the land blacks presently occupy, Mr Zola Skweyiya, head of the ANC's Legal and Constitutional Department, said this week.

"It endangers the land we have at present because, if no steps are taken to ensure that the 13 percent remains directly in the hands of Africans, the big corporations can buy the land," he said.

Negotiation

Land and resources to buy it should be made available to blacks. Mechanisms to do this could be part of the negotiation process.

Skweyiya said he anticipated that the property rights section of the ANC Bill of Rights would be "most contentious" to the government. "We hope to call a conference on the proposed Bill of Rights by April."

He said the ANC and the government agreed on the need for a Bill of Rights, an independent judiciary and the concept of one person, one vote.

On federalism, Skweyiya said: "We have rejected federalism completely. We

foresee the reincorporation of the bantustans.

"But that does not mean we will not allow the devolution of power. While we believe people at local level should be involved in second-tier government, a central government should play a coordinating role as South Africa is unevenly developed.

Skweyiya said the ANC insisted on an interim government "because the government cannot arbitrate and participate.

"Their performance at Groote Schuur and Pretoria has not been reassuring. The exiles are not back,

political prisoners are still in jail, the security forces are still acting in the same way."

The ANC demanded an all-party conference, but remained committed to a constituent assembly, he said.

"The ANC cannot say at present that it represents 80 percent of the people of South Africa. Only elections will fairly reflect the different groupings' real support. That is the only democratic way."

Skweyiya said a constituent assembly a way to make everyone part of the constitution-making process —

including the government and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The language question was "politically sensitive", he said.

Under the ANC, the development of all languages would be ensured.

"But we also see a need for a business (common) language. We feel English would play a prominent role."

There had been "quite a resistance" to Afrikaans, specially from the youth. But Afrikaans would be made equal to all other languages, he said.

Repeal of Land Act is not enough

3 General
~~HAZARD~~
South
31/11 - 6/2/91

FARM DEBT

RATTLING THE TIN CUP

③ General
FIM 1/2/91

Disgruntled farmers, hammered by the drought that has caused much of this season's crops to fail, brought downtown Pretoria to a standstill this week. The rain that hadn't fallen on their fields fell on their heads instead and the protest was drowned by a steady downpour.

As usual, the farmers want more State aid. This week an SA Agricultural Union delegation, in a meeting with Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk, asked that, in some cases, government pay the first 17,75 percentage points on the interest rates that farmers are charged.

The delegation also pleaded for additional government guarantees for the repayment of production credits extended by farm co-ops. Government has already guaranteed up to R800m in credits the farmers won't be able to repay but the union says this won't be enough.

Van Niekerk says his department will take a serious look at the union's proposals but adds that they "deviate from accepted norms for aid to agriculture, as developed over the past few years" and would require extraordinary, unbudgeted funding. Government policy is to phase out agricultural subsidies (the bread subsidy will disappear at the end of March) and to encourage market-related in-

"Farmers' problems relate more to a lack of liquidity than to a lack of solvency," says Rudie Wilsenach, Standard Bank's senior manager, agriculture. "Cash flow is the major stumbling block and this is aggravated by droughts and delayed rains."

The drought has now broken but it was too late for government to avoid authorising last week the importation of 775 000 t of wheat and a first batch of 200 000 t of yellow maize. The volume of maize imports could increase to more than 1 Mt before the season is over.

However, last month's excellent rains may improve the crop and grazing outlook dramatically. For example, late-planted western Transvaal maize could produce a good crop, while the forecast for winter and spring wheat plantings on the Springbok Flats and in the Free State is also far brighter.

Nevertheless, the heat is on government to meet farmers' demands. But, with rightwing lobbies playing a leading role — the Pretoria demonstration was partly aimed at pressuring government to retain the Land Acts and not allow black unionisation on the farms — it is doubtful whether farmers will get their way.

Government is clearly no longer hostage to farm lobbies and, under the leadership of two reformist ministers (Van Niekerk and Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers, a F W de Klerk confidant) the hands on the till of agricultural policy are much firmer.

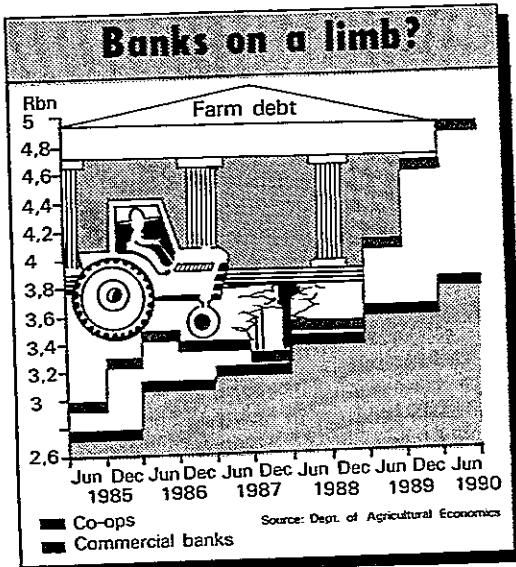
Meanwhile, commercial banks have now become the largest single group of creditors in agriculture, with a total exposure estimated at R4,9bn last June (see graph). A reason for the banks' sudden surge in exposure is that farming co-ops are making increasing use of their automatic lien on crops to recover debts.

"Apart from the lien to recover their production and crop finance, co-ops are also protected by the State guarantee scheme, as well as by various carry-over debt subsidy schemes," says Pine Pienaar, TrustBank's senior agricultural economist. "This means that banks often cannot recover their dues — even when they had granted farmers an extension due to cash-flow problems."

Neil Garden, First National Bank's GM, credit, agrees that the co-ops' lien facility is a major hurdle for the banks. "Nevertheless, we still see farm financing as a safe risk — though liquidity is a problem. Asset values are of lesser importance than the perceived future income stream."

But Standard Bank's Wilsenach says agriculture is not as bad a risk as it's often perceived to be. "In real terms, farm debt has decreased from R180 000 a unit in 1984 to about R125 000 a unit in 1989. Since

1985, the position of farmers has improved, in real terms. The percentage of our bad debt provisions has come down, while asset values have increased. But liquidity remains the major problem." ■



terest rates.

Since 1981, State assistance to agriculture, in the form of debt subsidies and direct aid packages, has totalled more than R3,5bn — and there seems to be no end in sight. Total farm debt looks set to mushroom to more than R16bn this year; the late rains have aggravated the already tight finances of many summer-rainfall farmers.

Farmers must also help themselves

Star 11/2/91

(3) General

THE agricultural industry, which catapulted itself into the news this week as farmers fought with police in Pretoria, is in difficulties.

And it is not only because of drought or high interest rates.

Farmers are responsible for some of their own problems.

Government departments, commercial banks and economists take policy decisions on the industry by using incomplete and, in some cases, outdated statistics.

And the reason is that the farmer is proving tardy in providing data which could help form policy to pull the industry out of the doldrums.

This has emerged following the remarkable demonstration by thousands of farmers who brought Pretoria to a halt.

The farmers demonstrated over a number of issues.

These included high interest rates, the debt burden, employment unionisation difficulties, high input costs, a low return on their produce, the overall effect of 11 years of drought, and land tenure.

The latter question took this week's protest into the realm of politics. It was, said the Conservative Party, Herstigte Nasionale Party and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, the most important issue which brought farmers to the streets of the capital.

Overall, economists and top

Government experts approached in Pretoria and other cities all said there were no truly rich farmers.

Most of the country's 70 000 farmers struggle to make a living from land which has taken a severe battering as a result of what the experts termed "climatic conditions" — drought which has wrecked crops and grazing and caused the water table to drop alarmingly.

But any possible changes in Government policy towards farmers shouldn't be seen as favouring the agricultural sector.

One Pretoria economist said: "In essence we cannot change the whole (agricultural) system to suit the individual farmer."

However, the message left by the thousands of farmers who went to Pretoria is being debated in the corridors of power this week.

That the protesters left the Government scratching its head over what to do is evident, even though the industry's financial position has apparently improved significantly since the mid-1980s.

This has been highlighted by the Standard Bank's recent overview of the industry, which it says has shown a decline in debt.

It says the debt ratio is 24 percent, profitability has in-

Are farmers pulling the wool over the consumer's eyes by pleading poverty? **NORMAN CHANDLER, of The Star's Pretoria Bureau, looks at the industry.**

creased in seven years by 168 percent, the ability of being able to repay debt is 150 percent better than before and net farm income has more than doubled.

The bank's view on debt is in contrast to that of the South African Agricultural Union.

The union says in its overview of the 1990 agricultural year that it was alarming that farmers' debt burden had steadily increased, despite relatively favourable production conditions in 1989.

It adds that the dilemma faced by those in the important summer rainfall cropping areas was characterised by an inability to repay debt.

The Government was forced to step in and formulate additional measures of financial assistance for some districts at the end of October.

The farmers in Pretoria this week were adamant that something had to be done about the price-cost squeeze in which they find themselves.

They made the point that they were not getting value for money and the consumer, as end-user, was paying through the nose for produce. This was illustrated by the handing out to passersby of bags of mealie meal with the message that the farmer only received a minimal amount for the product. They claimed the farmer received 26,5c per kg while the same product was costing consumers more than R1 per kg.

The official magazine for organised agriculture, "The Farmer", says the issue of high-input price increases is being addressed. These increases, it has found, cover plant and pest control agents and fertilisers; building, fencing, packaging and irrigation equipment; stock feeds and licks; and steel products.

The Standard Bank says the price cost squeeze reflects the country's inflation trends over the past two years.

Many farmers believe industry suppliers use a surcharge method of pricing and that this passes on higher prices to the next link in the chain — the farmer. Farmers have no bargaining power, cannot control prices and cannot, as a result, pass on costs.

The opinion in Government circles is that the farmers have a case in regard to input costs: "It is only a question in what sense and in what way Government could assist."

To cap it all, corresponding high interest rates has added to their woes. Latest statistics show that repayments between 1980 and 1989 increased by 16,4 percent annually.

The formation of monopolies is seen as one of the factors contributing to the price cost squeeze, which translates into constant pressure on the industry's profitability.

Government and private economists agree that the survival of the fittest appears to be the order of the day at present.

While Government would, it was privately stated by one economist, like to find ways of helping farmers, the economic situation at present may not allow it to do so.

But there is some hope.

The Government, sources said, was looking at a scheme which could link relief on high interest rates with unfavourable climatic conditions.

To work out the correct formula for farmers, the State needs help. An agricultural census, which has been on the go since early last year, has been largely ignored by the farmer, and it is to this lack of data that many of the problems can be traced back.

Without information, it was stressed, vital assistance programmes go off half-cocked — to the chagrin of farmers, agricultural co-operatives, agricultural unions and, ultimately, the consumer. □

It's the Great Trek-tor

at Max 112-712191

There was something tragic about the day of the Groot Trekker as farmers drove their vehicles into Pretoria's streets in protest.

By CHARLES LEONARD

It was the "Boere" versus the boere: white policemen against white farmers. And the battlefield was within shooting distance from the statue of Paul Kruger on Church Square in Pretoria.

When several thousand farmers moved into a rainy Pretoria they thought that they might be arrested by men who could be their brothers or sons must have been very remote.

"How can you do this to people who put food in your mouths," an old farmer, on the verge of tears, shouted at the police when they roughly bundled a farmer into a police van.

With the streets of Pretoria blocked off and the capital in chaos, the two forces squared up for the first time on Tuesday morning in Church Street. The farmers refused to heed the police call to remove their vehicles.

The seven-minute period — in which they had to get into their vehicles — expired and the police stormed them. For a few seconds the farmers were stupefied when they saw their men being arrested.

"Fokken Mandela se lot mag maar betoog, hoekom nie ons nie?" (Mandela's bunch are allowed to protest, why not us?) a young farmer asked. Soon afterwards he disappeared into the back of a waiting pick-up with other molesmakers (troublemakers).

There were a few brief scuffles between the two groups and more than 200 farmers, including prominent rightwinger Manie Maritz, were arrested.

Police and army tow-trucks then started removing the farmers' trucks, bakkies, caravans and tractors to clear the way for emergency vehicles.

Slowly the policemen's enthusiasm waned and the farmers were asked to *asseblief* remove their vehicles otherwise they would be arrested, "*baie dankie*".

Some batons were swung and the odd whiff of teargas had farmers and curious by-standers scurrying for shelter, but there was none of the venom one associates with marches where batons fly, blood flows and people get killed.

By late morning, after the last arrest, the farmers either headed for the watering holes or made braais in Church Street.

The policemen walked down the street with their dogs and chatted to farmers as they moved their vehicles. Then a few uniformed members of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging appeared on the scene.

At one o'clock the revolution went on lunch. Three policemen in riot gear went into The Navigator pub to use the toilet. The roles were already changing. An elderly farmer, sitting at one of the tables, shouted at the three: "When you come into a place like this you take your hat off!" Guiltily they all replied "Sorry oom!" and wiped their blue hats from their heads.



State theatre ... Unlikely scenes in Pretoria as Boere faced boere

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK



Hang them ... A display of farmers' anger in Pretoria's streets

By three o'clock the farmers — at least those who were not entrenched in the pubs — were assembled en masse in front of the Union Building to hand their demands to President FW de Klerk.

He did not show up and farmers vowed if FW did not arrive and listen to their grievances they would remain in the city for "at least a week".

People milled around after it was

heard that the Conservative Party leader, Andries Treurnicht, and 16 of his caucus members would fly from Cape Town to listen to the angry farmers.

The hard feelings between the farmers and the police had disappeared. One smiling farmer thanked the police for their patience and added: "So by the way, have you got a speedcop we can braai?"

Some farmers started getting restless.

"I wonder what my farmhands are doing," one said to his neighbour.

As the sun set, Pretoria's residents came to witness the "carnival" in the city centre — and were treated to traditional farmers' hospitality in the darkening city. The scene was reminiscent of Herman Charles Bosman's *ngamaals in Zeerust*.

Between a row of trucks a crowd clustered around a familiar bearded face. AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche was in a jovial mood. He promised a barefoot boy that he would teach him how to ride a horse.

He turned around and saw a friend whom he embraced boisterously: "*Jou bliksem!*" Then he recognised the second man and embraced him too: "*My Here, wat maak jy hier?*" (Lord, what are you doing here?)

He grimaced and said: "I am the only politician who still farms as well."

Then it was our turn to greet "The Leader" as he is affectionately known. TerreBlanche at first could not hear where we were from.

"*Weekly Mail*, Mr TerreBlanche, we met in Louis Trichardt."

His "blow torch" blue scorched: "I know you! I am not talking to you! You wrote that nasty article about Commandant Sannie van der Merwe (*WM* January 25 1991)! You are as rotten as *Beeld!* Tell your editor I am going to close down that little newspaper of yours! I don't want to talk to you! Scram now!"

A glaring and jeering crowd formed a half moon around "The Leader".

We left the AWB braai.

Five hundred metres down Church Street a *tiekiebraai* trio strummed their banjo and two guitars while farmers and their wives did a nifty *langarm* dance.

By CHARLES LEONARD
STATE PRESIDENT FW de Klerk has lost a constituency — and it seems it does not really bother him.

On Tuesday more than 10 000 farmers waited in vain at the Union Buildings in Pretoria for De Klerk to address them on their grievances.

In a statement released by his office in Cape Town he said he had already relayed his personal viewpoint to the organisers that marches and mass mobilisation are counter-productive.

He said he believed that people who had parliamentary representation and full democratic rights had a special responsibility in relation to this kind of protest.

And their parliamentary representatives were there in full strength. Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht and 18 members of his caucus left a meeting in Cape Town on Wed-

Farmers are angry, but FW doesn't seem to care

w/mail 11/21-7/29
nesday afternoon and flew up to mingle with the angry farmers camping in Pretoria's Church Street.

The far right, in the form of Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) leader Jaap Marais and Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) leader Eugene Terre-Blanche, also did their rounds and needless to say scored some political points with the aggravated farmers.

The farmers' grievances centre around economic factors but the political dimensions cannot be ignored. For many, political factors dominate their protest against the government.

Primarily, this involves the proposed

~~extension~~ extension of labour-related Acts to agriculture. One of the demands they planned to present to the state president was that labour legislation should not be applied to this sector.

A Free State farmer told *The Weekly Mail* on Tuesday that union involvement on the farms would ruin even more farmers, especially if minimum wages were introduced. "We treat our people well," he said. "Why do they (the unions) want to come and meddle in our affairs?"

The rightwing is clearly honing in on this discontent, concentrating even more strongly on the issue of land re-

form. They are getting a lot of political mileage from farmers up to their necks in debt and losing their land.

Right-wing propaganda zooms in and adds a racist dimension by telling farmers that the government is dumping them so that black farmers can get their land at ridiculously low prices.

So, another demand the farmers presented this week was that the status quo in relation to the ownership and usage of land should be retained so that "white land stays white land".

It appears the government has decided to ditch the farmers, a constituency its predecessors always nurtured through substantial subsidies

There are, however, still several farmers behind the National Party. The situation is likely to come to a head when real land reforms are introduced. And this has to happen sooner than later.

By CHARLES LEONARD.

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W/Mail 11/21-7/291 ~~3~~ 3 General

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New plan to end rural poverty

3 General
ster 2/2/91

AGRICULTURAL scientists believe they have discovered a practical model to revitalise South Africa's impoverished black rural areas and slow down the flow of migrants to the urban squatter camps.

The answer may be to persuade rural communities to convert from subsistence peasant farming — where they use traditional methods and consume what they produce — to small-scale commercial farming, where innovative programmes and methods can produce significant cash profits.

The model is based on experimentation over a nine-year period, using the small land units blacks are allocated in the homelands. It would be equally applicable if present white farmland were sub-divided into smaller units for blacks after repeal of the Land Acts.

Eroded

Nine years ago the Institute of Natural Resources (attached to Natal University) established a 16-ha experimental farm at Cato Ridge, midway between Maritzburg and Durban.

Called Nansindlela ("This is the way"), the farm replicated conditions in KwaZulu. It sloped steeply and was badly eroded. Today it has pastures, a dairy unit, a pig unit, broiler chicken

Project points way to profits for black subsistence farmers

GRAHAM LINSKOTT

units, an egg unit, crops, vegetable gardens and timber.

Each unit operates at a profit with meticulous attention to costing. Each is on the same sort of hectareage which would be available to a black farmer in the homelands. The technology is essentially Third World.

The difference between this and traditional peasant farming is the approach. Basic soil conservation is practised, pastures are planted instead of grazing on the open veld, basic hygiene and veterinary principles are observed in handling livestock, innovative crops are chosen, and the enterprise is market-orientated.

Nansindlela makes profits. It also takes in a regular flow of trainees from the rural areas who wish to learn "hands-on" how to run a broiler unit, a small dairy or one of the other operations. They handle the cash themselves, record the costs and

experience what it is to make a profit.

About the same time Nansindlela was established, the INR began preliminary work on a pilot project at Biyela, a 23 000-ha region covering three northern KwaZulu tribal authorities. (More recently another project has been set up at Nhlangwini, far to the south).

Biyela (much of which slopes steeply) was closely studied for natural resources and land capability. The INR established which sectors are best suited to crop production, timber or other uses.

The principles established at Nansindlela are applied at Biyela. Today 19 different interest groups co-operate, their activities ranging from poultry, livestock, forestry, dryland cropping and community gardening through to sewing and crafts.

Produce — mainly fruit — is sold at roadside markets and 29 individuals are involved in broiler chicken production, each raising between 200 and 500 birds every four weeks and sell-

ing them at a net profit of between R1,75 and R2 a bird.

One plotholder has established pastures and a herd of five Jerseys which can produce as much as 24 litres of milk a day each (against two litres from traditional cows grazing on the veld). He sells the milk and maas to the surrounding community at R1 a litre.

However, perhaps the most spectacular advance at Biyela is in forestry. Farmers are planting their steep hillsides to gum, assisted by Mondi Forests who buy the timber at the normal commercial rate.

To create an incentive, Mondi makes interim payments year by year — subject to satisfactory performance by the grower — and pays him the balance when the trees are eventually felled for milling, usually after six or seven years.

Unproductive

Afforestation has a twin effect. It prevents hillside erosion caused by cattle grazing. And it generates a cash income from land which was previously unproductive, the quality of grazing above the timber line being very poor.

Biyela is no more than a pilot project sponsored by a non-government organisation. INR staff believe, however, that it is a model for application throughout South Africa's densely populated homelands, and not just in the high-rainfall regions.

Are farmers pulling the wool over the consumer's ears by claiming that they are unable to manage, as has been the message given on the streets of Pretoria this week? Weekend Argus Correspondent, NORMAN CHANDLER, looks at the industry.

Farmers battle all the elements

THE South African agricultural industry, which catapulted itself on to international television screens this week as protesting farmers fought with police on the streets of Pretoria, is in difficulties.

And it is not only because of drought or high interest rates, two of the favourite bogeys presented by farmers. They are responsible for some of their own problems.

Government departments, commercial banks and economists make judgments and take policy decisions on the industry by using incomplete and, in some cases, outdated statistics.

And the reason is that the farmer — the person they are trying to help — is proving remarkably tardy in providing data which could in fact help in the formation of policy which may pull the industry out of the doldrums.

This has emerged following the remarkable demonstration by thousands of farmers who brought Pretoria to a halt on Tuesday. The farmers demonstrated over a number of issues.

THESSE included high interest rates, the debt burden, employment unionisation difficulties, high input costs, a low return on their produce, the overall effect of 11 years of drought on the industry, and land tenure.

The latter question took this week's protest into the realm of politics.

It was eagerly snapped up by the CP, the HNP and the AWB as the single most important issue which had brought together khaki-clad farmers from the Free State, Transvaal and Natal on to the streets of the capital.

Overall, economists and top government experts approached in Pretoria and other cities were all of the opinion that there are no truly rich farmers.

Most of the country's 70 000 struggle to make

W/ BARBERS 2/2/91

DEBATE OVER TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS

36 cent

a living from land which has taken a severe battering as a result of what the experts termed "climatic conditions" — severe drought which has wrecked crops and grazing.

That the protesters left the government scratching its head over what to do is evident even though the financial position of the industry has apparently improved significantly since the mid-1980s.

THIS has been highlighted by the Standard Bank's recent overview of the industry, which it says has shown a decline in debt and therefore has "obviously strengthened."

It says the debt ratio is 24 percent, profitability has increased in seven years by 168 percent, the ability of being able to repay debt is 150 percent better than before and net farm income has more than doubled.

The bank's view on debt is in stark contrast to that of the South African Agricultural Union.

The union says in its overview of the 1990 agricultural year that "the fact that the farmers debt burden steadily increased despite relatively favourable production conditions which were experienced in 1989, was however alarming".

And it adds that the dilemma faced by those in the important summer rainfall cropping areas was characterised by an inability to repay debt according to the scheme available.

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late additional measures of financial help for some districts at the end of last October.

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The general opinion in government circles is that the farmers have a case in regard to input costs: "It is only a question in what sense and in what way government could assist."

While government would, it was privately stated by one economist, like to find ways and means of helping farmers, the country's economic situation at present may not allow it to do so in the immediate future. But there is some hope.

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To work out the correct formula for farmers, the State needs help. An agricultural census, which has been on the go since early last year, has been largely ignored by the farmer, and it is to this lack of data that many of the problems can be traced back.

Without information, it was stressed, vital assistance programmes will not come through to the chagrin of farmers, agricultural co-operatives, agricultural unions and the consumer.

The government's moves towards land reforms, if not handled carefully, could erupt into a storm that would overshadow some of the major political crises of past decades. Weekend Argus Political Correspondent, FRANS ESTERHUYSE, looks at the looming clash between long-established white privilege and black demands for a fair deal in land distribution and ownership rights.

SOUTH Africa's hidden political volcano is beginning to rumble. It threatens to be activated by government moves towards land reform.

The potentially explosive issue arises from the tragic legacy of apartheid in land ownership and the dispossession of millions of people through forced removals. If not handled carefully, this emotive issue could erupt into a storm that would overshadow some of the major political crises of past decades.

In essence the looming clash is between long-established white privilege and black demands for a fair deal in land distribution and ownership rights.

White fears were echoed once again this week during the "siege of Pretoria" by protesting rightwing farmers. And among black organisations fears are expressed that rightwing pressures will prevent the government from fully undoing the legacy of the Land Acts and grand apartheid.

Ironically the spark that could set off an eruption is the long-awaited repeal of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

SPECIALISTS in land reform have warned that the promised abolition of the Land Acts, if not done carefully, may lead to dispossession on a far worse scale than that caused by the apartheid policy of forced removals.

Even at a time — until now — when the government has been silent about its intentions for handling land reform, demands have been building up for a fair distribution of land and removal of restrictions on ownership. The issue is being studied by various land reform bodies that have sprung up in recent years.

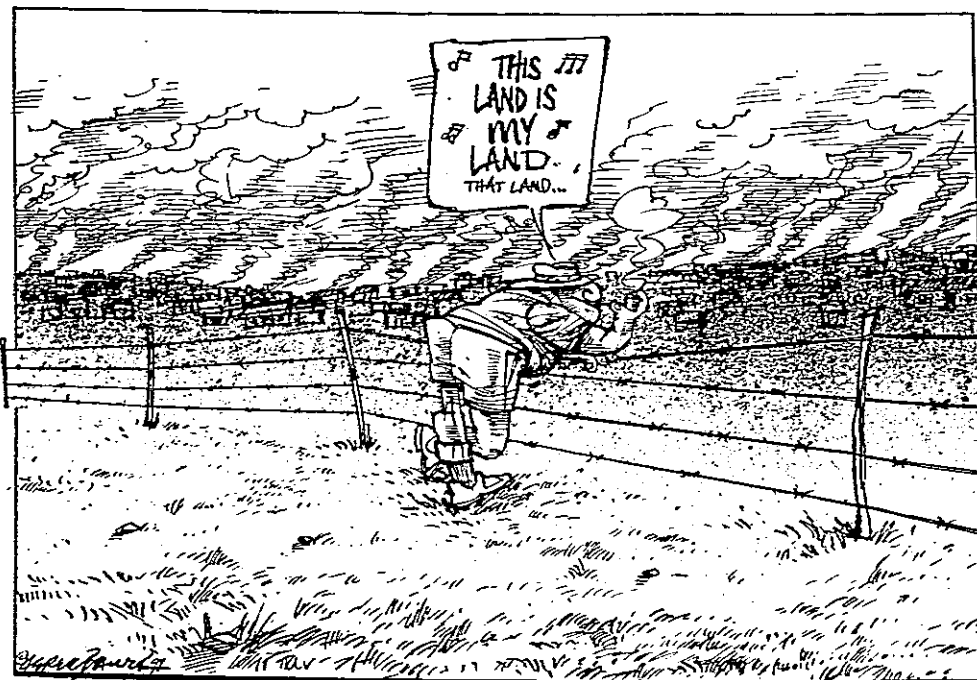
On all sides it has been claimed that the removal of the apartheid laws will not remove the awesome legacy of apartheid. The unequal distribution of land will remain, and so will the effects of injustices suffered by millions of people who were dispossessed under the system. Among them are 3.5 million people forcibly removed under apartheid legislation over four decades.

SENIOR research officer Miss Aninka Claassens, of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, has described the consequences of such dispossession for black South Africans as "devastating". The Land Acts, she says, created the situation where Africans may own land only in the Bantustans, while whites own 87 percent of the country.

"The Land Acts have played their role — they have destroyed black property rights and they have entrenched white privilege. To drop them now will have only a minimal effect on the racial distribution of land. Only a tiny proportion of blacks have the necessary capital to buy land at its current price."

Miss Claassens warns there could be potential disaster for many people if the Land Acts were to be repealed "in a vacuum" without special measures to protect and restore the rights of black people.

She explains that in most instances property rights are not reflected in legal documents like title deeds. This does not mean blacks have no property rights; it means the State prohibited them from having such documents.



W/E ARGUS 2/2/91
36cm

Land: SA's hidden political volcano

LEGAL restrictions on black ownership of land are not limited to the white areas. There are restrictions in the homelands as well. While the land in these areas may be nominally owned by the SA Development Trust, or a homeland government, or a chief, it is in fact occupied by millions of individual families and communities, whose rights are not registered on the title deeds.

If these areas are simply opened up to the "free market", many people who have owned and occupied land for generations may find their land sold from underneath them by the nominal owners of the land.

"Rural people have suffered terrible and irretrievable losses through the implementation of these policies. Now, having put these policies behind it, the State is introducing a reform. It would be bitterly ironic if this 'reform' finally dispossesses people of their real rights to land in the name of 'private property' and the 'free market!'"

According to the National Land Committee (NLC), the critical questions are: What reform measures will be legislated to replace these Acts? And what mechanisms will be introduced to redress the history of dispossession in South Africa?

The government's present approach to these questions is regarded by the committee as a matter of "grave concern".

It accuses the government of having planned its reforms on this complex and politically sensitive issue behind closed doors.

WHY don't the policy-makers open up the debate and consult widely, the

committee asks. "Reforms don't work if they don't have support from the people affected by them. The government must surely know this by now."

Ominous signs of a looming showdown over the land issue emerge from a clash of opinion between Minister Gerrit Viljoen and members of land reform bodies. The NLC, for example, says Dr Viljoen's dogmatic refusal to consider ways of restoring land to its former black freehold owners is unacceptable.

The Minister argues that such a step would "lead to a revolution" and that the same would happen if land ownership patterns were changed thus in countries like the US and Australia.

To this the NLC replies that the Minister ignores the fact that "we are not talking about dispossession in the dim and distant past, but about government policy which has robbed people of their land as recently as the 1980s".

"For more than 40 years black landowners were systematically deprived of their ownership and rights to land. They were forcibly removed, wholly inadequately compensated, and abandoned to barren, unproductive resettlement camps. Now they are expected to buy back land, and if they don't have ready cash they will lose their ancestral lands forever to the highest bidder."

THE committee then poses this question: "President De Klerk has assured white farmers that their title deeds are safe. What about the title which people held in the past? Does this count for nothing now?"

One of the committee's key conclusions is that the credibility of a programme of land reform will rest on the extent to which it is seen to be an honest and fair attempt to both redress the historical wrongs of apartheid as well as improve rural black access to land and resources.

"Removing apartheid legislation is not enough. The apartheid legacy, too, must be redressed."

Warnings about the depth and magnitude of the land problem have also come from the African National Congress. A member of the ANC's land commission, Miss Bonqwe Njobe, says the removal of apartheid laws will not, on its own, bring about any structural change to the existing inequitable distribution of land ownership and agricultural production.

THE thinking behind some of the rumblings over the land issue is reflected in a resolution passed at a recent conference in Soweto of representatives of 18 Transvaal rural communities. The conference rejected a government plan to make individual private ownership the only legal basis on which land can be held when the Land and Group Areas Acts are abolished.

The resolution says among other things: "The Land Acts took away our land, and we are happy they are going. But just removing them will not give us back our land. Mr De Klerk says we should have a free market, that we have to buy the land. Why should we buy the land which was stolen from us in the first place? Apartheid has made us poor and we cannot afford to buy the land. The government must give us back the land."

W/EARLUS 2/2/91 (36 send) (circled)

Left, a roadside fruit market at Biyela.

The bull calf, below right, looks like an indigenous Nguni but is half Jersey. At Nansindilela the Institute of Natural Resources is trying to breed a cross which would combine the tick-resistant hardiness of the Nguni with the milk and cream production of the Jersey.



Learning to farm for a profit

JOHANNESBURG. — A group of scientists believe they have discovered a practical model to revitalise South Africa's impoverished black rural areas and to slow down the flow of migrants to the urban squatter camps.

The answer is to persuade rural communities to convert from subsistence peasant farming — where they use traditional methods and consume what they produce — to small-scale commercial farming, where innovative programmes and methods can produce significant cash profits.

The model is based on experimentation over a nine-year period, using the small land units blacks are allocated in the homelands. It would be equally applicable if present white farmland were to be sub-divided into smaller units for blacks after the repeal of the Land Acts.

Badly eroded

Nine years ago the Institute of Natural Resources (attached to Natal University) established a 16ha experimental farm at Cato Ridge, midway between Maritzburg and Durban.

Nansindilela ("This is the way") duplicated conditions in Kwazulu. It sloped steeply and was badly eroded. Today it has pastures, a dairy unit, a pig unit, broiler chicken units, an egg unit, crops, vegetable gardens and timber.

Each unit operates at a profit, with meticulous attention to costing. Each is on the same sort of hectareage which would be available to a black farmer in the homelands. The technology is essentially Third World.

The difference between this and traditional peasant farming is in approach. Basic soil conservation is practised. Pastures are planted and animals do not graze on the open veld. Basic hygiene and veterinary principles are observed in handling livestock. Innovative crops are chosen. The enterprise is market-oriented.

Nansindilela makes profits. It also takes in a regular flow of trainees from the rural areas who wish to learn "hands-on" how to run a broiler

HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR NATAL'S PEASANT FARMERS

unit, a small dairy or one of the other operations. They handle the cash themselves, record the costs and experience what it is to make a profit.

About the same time Nansindilela was established, the INR began preliminary work on a pilot project at Biyela, a 23 000ha region covering three northern Kwazulu tribal authorities. (More recently another project has been set up at Nhlanguini, far to the south).

Biyela (much of which slopes steeply) was closely studied for natural resources and land capability. The INR established which sectors were best suited to crop production, timber or other uses.

Interest groups and local development committees were encouraged among the community. In 1988 the pilot project moved into second phase with the Biyela Integrated Rural Development Programme, community-based but with the INR's Facilitation Group playing a key role, with various government agencies.

In 1989 the Ndundulu Service Centre was built to serve as a focal point for communal activity and provide premises for the INR, government departments and a private sector timber company, as well as a clinic and training facilities.

Staff housing is being built at

Ndundulu and population is beginning to converge on the complex. It is expected to become the nucleus of a spontaneously established village, where small industry and services will complement agricultural activity.

The principles established at Nansindilela are applied at Biyela. Today 19 different interest groups co-operate, their activities ranging from poultry, livestock, forestry, dryland cropping and community gardening through to sewing and crafts.

Produce — mainly fruit — is sold at roadside markets and 29 people are involved in broiler chicken production, each raising between 200 and 500 birds every four weeks and selling them at a net profit of between R1,75 and R2 a bird.

One plotholder has established pastures and a herd of five Jerseys which can produce as much as 24 litres of milk a day each (against 2 litres from traditional cows grazing on the veld). He sells the milk to the surrounding community at R1 a litre.

Forestry

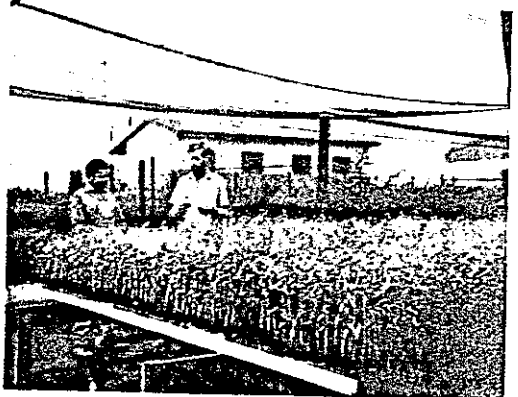
But perhaps the most spectacular advance at Biyela is in forestry. Farmers are planting their steep hillsides with gum, assisted by Mondi Forests who buy the timber at the normal commercial rate.

To create an incentive, Mondi makes interim payments year by year — subject to satisfactory performance by the grower — and pays him the balance when the trees are eventually felled for milling, usually after six or seven years.

Afforestation has a twin effect. It prevents hillside erosion caused by cattle grazing. And it generates a cash income from land which was previously unproductive, the quality of grazing above the timber line being very poor.

Biyela is, of course, no more than a pilot project sponsored by a non-government organisation. INR staff believe, however, that it is a model for application throughout South Africa's densely populated homelands.

Report: GRAHAM LINSKOTT
Special Correspondent



Mr John Khoza and Mr Gavin Pote, of the INR Facilitation Group at Biyela, in a nursery of gum seedlings.



Nansindilela farm manager Mr James Rankin with an egg production student.

SA gapes at boereseuns trading blows



DELICIOUS IRONY: A Pretoria resident hands out bags of free maize to farmers. Another irony was that good rains fell . . . but farmers weren't at home to take advantage of them.

Star 2/2/91
 NORMALLY mild-mannered South African farmers flexed their muscle for the first time this week — and won a victory of sorts by paralysing the country's capital in a dramatic show of force.

Protesting against high prices, interest rates and the possible abolition of white land tenure, 10 000 white farmers — some accompanied by their families, including babes-in-arms — defied the Government, their agricultural unions, and the people of Pretoria by barricading themselves across 14 blocks in the city centre.

Rude shock

Everyone who woke up on Tuesday morning was in for a rude shock . . .

They found streets out-of-bounds, intersections clogged with vehicles, militant farmers fighting the police. Church Street, said to be one of the longest main streets in the world, was a shambles with farmers braai-ing their food, dancing, drinking and generally turning it into a giant playground.

It was the biggest such demonstration in the city's history and showed

3 General
NORMAN CHANDLER
 Pretoria Bureau

how easy it was — if you are white — to wreak havoc on everyday lives by simply parking trucks, bakkies, combine harvesters, caravans and tractors across intersections of many roads. And it was effective.

Traffic jams ruined the chances of getting into the central business district and businesses say they have lost millions of rands as a result.

Tens of thousands of civil servants found their way to work blocked by khaki-clad demonstrators . . . and black workers and pedestrians, after an initial hesitancy, stood open-mouthed on the pavements to see something they had never thought would happen in their lifetime.

What they saw will live in folklore — white man fighting white man, boereseun versus boereseun on the streets of Pretoria.

The farmers came from all over the Transvaal, Free State and Natal to tell the Government that its agricultural policies were not helping them clear a R15 billion debt built up largely as a result of drought and interest rates.

They demanded, but failed to get, the presence of President de Klerk to accept a petition listing their grievances.

As, with delicious irony, the rain poured down, police clashed with the demonstrators on two street corners and arrested 200. Apart from one or two farmers, the arrested people clambered without fuss aboard police vans and were ferried to local stations.

All were released later, but may face charges.

There were teargas cannisters sprayed in the faces of some farmers, others were victims of blows from batons. Others, still, fought back with a vigour reserved perhaps only for the wrestling ring.

Nightmare

As a spectacle, Pretoria was appalled. The city had tolerated African National Congress, Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging, Conservative Party and general right wing demonstrations over the past year or so, but it was not prepared for this week's events.

For many it was a nightmare come true. Never in South African history had the farming community taken on the police . . . and they had learned their lessons well. There were scuffles

and bloodied heads, but in the main the farmers learned from their colleagues in Europe that to protest also meant meekly accepting arrest.

Being arrested was a bull point. They were taken away in police vans to the cheers of hundreds of supporters — as well as bemused passersby, some of whom got a little too vocal and were arrested as well.

Farmers told Saturday Star at the height of the demonstration: "We have a plan. We are not here to be beaten back by the police or the city council."

But whatever plan was in the offing appeared to fall by the wayside on Wednesday when, with precise timing, thousands climbed into their vehicles and made their way home. They felt their point had been made.

Politics hijacked the proceedings to such an extent that even the AWB felt comfortable in coming out of the closet, but the real irony was that it rained for most of the time the farmers were in town.

At a time when they should have been hard at work on the lands, they were in a town far away from the platteland . . .

As one said before leaving for home: "Hell, man, we should be home. The rain is blurry lekker."

The day the boere came to town

A harvest of burdens for agriculture

DAVID CARTE looks at the grievances of farmers after this week's protest in Pretoria

Over 42 years the National Party subsidised farmers, one of its most important constituencies.

Now blacks are increasingly being taken into account in national budgets, market forces are being allowed to prevail throughout the economy and attempts are being made to constrain state spending.

Farmers, in debt to the tune of R15-billion and facing poor crops again this year, are feeling desperately neglected.

Suspicious

Farmers' Crisis Action, the organisers of this week's protest which paralysed Pretoria, stressed that party politics were not a factor. But with VB uniforms conspicuous and Andries Treurnicht at hand to express solidarity, there is little doubt as to the farmers' sympathies.

The government's indignant response confirmed farmers' suspicions that they have been written off as a constituency by the National Party. While the Transvaal Agricultural Union has been supportive, SA Agricultural Union distanced itself from Crisis Action.

A particularly sore point is the imminent abolition of the Group Areas and the Group Areas Act, permitting blacks to acquire land in "white" areas.

Dr AS "Japie" Jacobs, director in the Department of Finance, who is completing an inquiry into agricultural finance, says the government is well aware of the plight of farmers.

He says state subsidies and loan assistance to farmers are due to rise 14 per cent to R588-million this year.

According to Dr Jacobs, state loan assistance this year will be R336-million — up from R195-million last year. Direct subsidies are due to fall to R160-million from R318-million.

In addition, Land Bank short-term interest rates are being subsidised by two percentage points and subsidies on carryover debt have been extended to 1996.

Farmers are unplaced. Loans are up and subsidies down. Loans have to be repaid and subsidies don't.

Rolling

In the past, local prices of agricultural goods were often set well above world prices to protect farmers. Now producers' prices, and the cost of funding are market-determined. Losses on exports accrue to farmers, not to consumers and taxpayers.

Not all farmers are in penny. Thanks to the fall of the rand, wool, fruit and sugar farmers were rolling in rands — at least until 1989. In fact, there were



fairly copious rains last year and even maize, wheat and cattle farmers did reasonably well.

This year farmers have been hit not only by drought, but by a more stable rand, weaker world prices, high inflation and interest rates.

While farmers may blame the government for their discomfort, they are mainly the victims of:

- Low international food prices caused by American and European surplus production and government export subsidies.
- Exchange control, which artificially supports the rand and reduces export realisations.
- High costs of inputs such as tractors and fertilisers due to the fall of the rand and possibly to reduced competition in those industries.
- Another year of drought in the wheat and

PARTY WITHOUT PARTIES

maize producing areas, coinciding with high interest rates.

● Cumbersome marketing arrangements that ensure farmers get far less than consumer prices for food.

In circumstances such as these in the past, the government reached for its cheque book. Now, in accordance with its disciplined monetary and fiscal policy, it is trying to curb its spending.

Dr Jacobs says: "The best thing we can do for farmers, indeed for the whole country, is to get inflation down."

He concedes that the government has a bigger constituency these days. Ten years ago, NP budgets paid less heed to black

organisers claimed party politics 'were not a factor' in the demonstration

constituencies such as the unemployed, the unschooled, the homeless and the hungry.

Nearly every government subsidises its farmers with a view to independence in food. The result has been world glut and prices that are often lower than production costs.

Lobby

These low prices have devastated output in countries like SA, where agricultural productivity is low.

Attempts are being made to bring all nations' agricultural products into the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and some countries are paying farmers not to produce.

But farmers are resisting and everywhere they constitute a strong lobby.

Advocates of subsidies contend they have helped SA not only to feed itself but to be among one of the top six agricultural exporting countries in the world. They have protected farmers from the vagaries of nature and of markets that are not free internationally.

While agriculture accounts for only six per cent of gross domestic product, nearly 30 per cent of the population depends on it for subsistence or employment. Even when it is not profitable, agriculture earns foreign exchange for the country.

But market forces and growth patterns. They come from the pockets of taxpayers and consumers, many of whom are on the headline.

Views

They encourage farming in uneconomic areas and keep inefficient farmers in business. By encouraging farming in unsuitable areas, they aggravate soil erosion. They inflate land prices and render industries dependent on agriculture less competitive.

The government will have to steer between these two views in devising a new agricultural policy — one that will keep the farmers' tractors out of Church Square.

After the day's traffic chaos, the atmosphere and mood in Pretoria on Tuesday night was more befitting a Tukkies rag procession than serious protest by upset farmers fighting for survival.

Throughout the night the beer and brandy and Col flowed as rowdy revellers roamed the streets to the sound of boeremusiek.

Farmers roared up and down the street on the expensive motorbikes brandishing firearms on their hips.

Others lit up their skotel-braais and danced in the streets.

Several upset residents, who earlier in the day had to walk to work as a result of the traffic jam caused by the boere invasion, phoned the Sunday Times with their own protest.

"Judging by the way they're behaving, it doesn't look to me as if the farmers are starving," said one.

Pretoria woke up on Tuesday morning to find itself a city in chaos.

Under the noses of the authorities, hundreds of farmers in bakkies, tractors, trucks and caravans had driven in convoys into the city centre during the night.

Precision

The traffic department and the police were aware of the planned protest, but were caught hopelessly off-guard by its size, precision and organisation.

When they opened their eyes on Tuesday morning, the city was paralysed.

Although farmers had gone out of their way to stress that the protest march was not a political move, it was obvious which political leaders sided with them.

Afrikaner Weerstandbeweging leader Eugene Terre Blanche, who appeared on TV's Agenda on Tuesday night, hurried from Auckland Park after the programme to his men in Pretoria's Church Street.

"He even declined the usual drinks we offer after the programme," said an SABC spokesman.

Outside the New Union Hotel in Pretoria, scene of a pop band massacre last year, Mr Terre Blanche joined his uniformed men in the protest festivities. In the early hours of

By DE WET POTGIETER and HERMAN JANSEN

Wednesday morning, barefoot young mothers who apparently had spent the night somewhere in Church Street in a caravan or in the back of a bakkie was driven home by police with her two sleeping children.

In an ugly scene at the foot of the Union Building in Church Street at dusk on Wednesday, a cripple man walking his Maites poodle was attacked by farmer's roaming bull terrier.

The lap dog was badly savaged before fleeing.

A Sunday Times photographer was pushed around by a drunken farmer in Eastwood Street. Several policemen intervened to prevent him being assaulted.

But as the sun came up on Wednesday morning the unity of the farmer began to crack and, as police tow-trucks remove their vehicles, they reluctantly dispersed.

The president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Lydenburg's Conservative MP Drie Bruwer, defended his union's involvement in the protest organised by the Boerkrissaksaks.

"We liaised with them to make sure things would be peaceful."

Most members of the BEA also belong to the TAU. We agree with their grievances — that nothing has been achieved through official channels."

Referring to criticism of the protest by the South African Agricultural Union and the Natal Agricultural Union, he said:

"Any union who distances itself from its people, is stupid. And Mr FW de Klerk was the only man who could have defused the situation by coming to Pretoria."

Farm subsidies need a rethink

THE demonstration by several thousand white farmers in Pretoria has certainly highlighted the plight of this vital sector of the South African economy.

In plain language, they are demanding more from the government's coffers after their debt levels hit unprecedented levels in recent years.

Their costs are rising (a large imported tractor can cost up to R300 000 and a truck R200 000), while severe droughts are once again devastating crops and grazing in large areas of the country. At the

MONEY TALK

At the same time, produce prices are relatively stable.

One can, to an extent, sympathise with the farmers when they demand help from the government, especially as they produce the bulk of the food consumed in South Africa. But a few important points should be considered.

Firstly, the government is short of money. The economy is in recession, which means tax receipts are not growing sufficiently to meet increasing demands from many sectors of society, the most urgent being the need for housing and the social upliftment of millions of people.

Secondly, the white farmer has been spoiled by too many government handouts and subsidies.

Why on earth should taxpayers assist in financing inefficient farmers?

The impression is that the De Klerk government is far less sympathetic towards the farmers than its predecessors. The problems of homelessness and unemployment among the masses are moving into positions of priority.

What is needed in agriculture is a comprehensive rethink of the entire situation. With their demonstration, the farmers have, unwittingly, emphasised the extent to which they have become used to being subsidised by taxpayers.

We are faced with a complex problem which is going to require much wisdom to solve.

But we have to rid the country of a subsidy system which has gone awry.

Why our farmers do badly

Star 5/29/91.

JUST about everyone is aware of the fact. No-one except some die-hard farmers will deny it.

Yet to mention it is by no means superfluous at a time when the country is once again facing crop shortages that can be alleviated only at immense cost.

The truth is that the production capabilities of South African crop farmers are quite shocking by Western standards in general, and even more so when compared with those of their compatriots north of the Limpopo.

There is very little difference between the physical and climatic conditions found both in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Yet on average the crop yields obtained by our northern neighbours are reaching heights as much as nearly treble those achieved by our own farmers.

Take dryland maize for example: 30 years ago the average yield recorded by our commercial growers, concentrated mainly in the north-western Free State, the western Transvaal and the Transvaal highveld, just about topped 1,5 tons a hectare. Today they battle to maintain an average of 2 tons.

In the same period the average yield obtained by Zimbabwe commercial growers, practically all of them white, shot up from 2 tons/ha to nearly 6 tons, with some of the members of the renowned Ten Ton Club producing up to 13 tons.

The production of other important dryland crops shows a similar pattern.

The average yields, in rounded figures and in tons per hectare, harvested today by Zimbabwe's white farmers,

GEORGE NICHOLAS,
The Star's Agricultural Correspondent, reports on the huge gap between Zimbabwean and South African farming production.

with the South African averages in brackets, are:

- Wheat 5,5 tons per hectare (RSA 1,4 tons);
- cotton 1,85 (0,9);
- groundnuts 4 (0,76);
- soybeans 2,4 (1,2);
- sorghum 2 (1,5);
- sunflowerseed 2,2 (1);
- and virginia tobacco 2,5 (1,2).

South Africa's national cattle herd numbers about nine million head and its annual beef output is not enough to meet the needs of the country's population of about 28,5 million, so meat has to be imported.

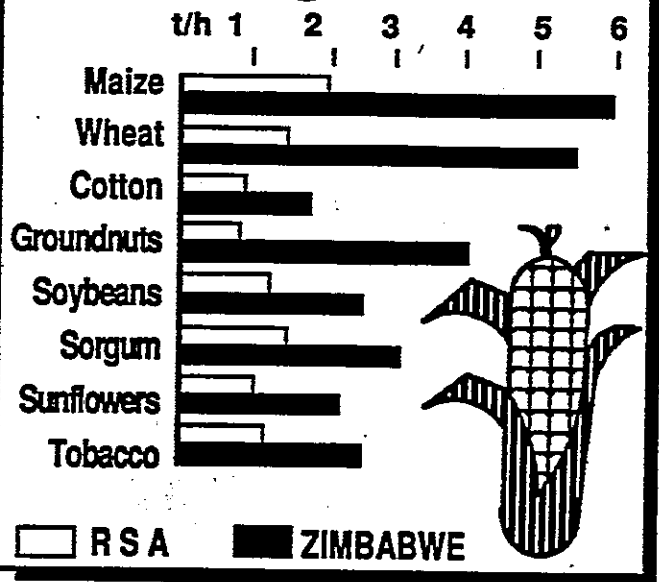
Zimbabwe's national herd numbers 1,5 million head which, in spite of periodic temporary shortages, not only supplies the meat needs of its 8,5-million population but also produces about 10 million tons of beef a year for export (mainly to Europe, where it earns on average R75 million a year in foreign exchange.)

Understandably, there are many outstanding individual farmers in both countries whose crops regularly return yields well above the averages mentioned.

The superior field husbandry of Zimbabwe growers, however, is self-evident.

Like their South African colleagues, they also face the realities and uncertainties occasioned by market prices, production cost increases, high interest rates, droughts and so on.

RSA v Zimbabwe The growing difference



But in the face of these adverse factors they have demonstrated their resilience and their ability to overcome, with a reasonable degree of success, even the most unfavourable seasons.

They do not make threats or organise crisis protest actions when they suffer hard times.

They make representations to their government, calmly and through organised agriculture, and are big enough to see and accept the other point of view or the other's limitations.

Throughout my many years of association with farmers in both countries I have come to know the Zimbabweans not only as outstanding professional farmers but also as clear-thinking businessmen,

willing to take normal risks so long as these are reasonable.

And in business they seek to make profits and avoid losses.

Few, for instance, will tolerate a situation involving the production of unprofitable crops.

They will not hesitate to discard a doubtful line in favour of one that is more lucrative.

They think positively and believe in saying "my glass is half full" rather than "my glass is half empty".

And it is this attitude that has made their industry the very basis of their country's economy.

It would be nice to say the same for South African farmers, but unfortunately this is not possible.

So many of them run a hit-

or-miss business year after year, seemingly incapable of changing to other lines of limited but certain profitability.

Their management, especially of their financial affairs, is generally far below the level that other sectors of the economy will regard as acceptable.

No wonder they have to run to the State so often to ask for more.

There are about 4 000 white farmers in Zimbabwe (compared with about 60 000 in South Africa).

This relatively small number of Zimbabwe farmers, a great many of whom boast agricultural diplomas or university degrees, produce some 80 percent of the country's total marketed agricultural output.

Their exports, in particular tobacco, maize, cotton, beef, tea, coffee and fruit, earn on average more than a billion rands a year in foreign exchange -- an indication of the high international recognition accorded to the quality of their products.

With more than 75 percent of the country subject to conditions that make dryland cropping a risky undertaking, one cannot but marvel at their outstanding achievements.

There is no reason why South African farmers should not strive to reach the same heights.

Not only experience, but particularly knowledge and an ability to make the right decisions, are needed to overcome the major challenge of stepped-up production that face the industry.

This means operational flexibility and self-discipline, and the production of only those lines which hold a clear prospect of profit. □

3 General

Land Act repeal: start of obstacle course

Sowetan 5/2/91.

3 General

SOUTH Africa's hidden political volcano is beginning to rumble. It threatens to be activated by Government moves towards land reform.

The potentially explosive issue arises from the tragic legacy of apartheid in land ownership and the dispossession of millions of people through forced removals.

If not handled carefully, this emotive issue could erupt into a storm that would overshadow some of the major political crises of past decades.

In essence the looming clash is between long-established white privilege and black demands for a fair deal in land distribution and ownership rights.

White fears were echoed once again this week during the "siege of Pretoria" by protesting rightwing farmers.

And among black organisations fears are expressed that rightwing pressures will prevent the Government from fully undoing the legacy of the Land Acts and grand apartheid.

Ironically, the spark that could set off an eruption is the long-awaited repeal of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

Specialists in land reform have warned that the promised abolition of the Land Acts, if not done carefully, may lead to dispossession on a far worse scale than that caused by the apartheid policy of forced removals.

Even at a time - until now - when the Government has been tight-lipped about its intentions for handling land reform, demands have been building up for a fair distribution of land and removal of restrictions on ownership. The issue is being studied by various land reform bodies that have sprung up in recent years.

On all sides it has been claimed that the removal of the apartheid laws will not remove the awesome legacy of apartheid. The unequal distribution of land will remain; and so will the effects of injustices suffered by millions of people who were dispossessed under the system. Among them are 3.5 million people forcibly

Experts have warned that the scrapping of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act will not be enough to remove the tragic legacy of these apartheid measures. Removals of these laws, some say, will merely set the scene for the real battle for a just distribution of land.

FOCUS

- removed under apartheid legislation over four decades.

Senior research officer Ms Aninka Claassens, of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, has described the consequences of such dispossession for black South Africans as "devastating". The Land Acts, she says, created the situation where Africans may own land only in the Bantustans, while whites own 87 percent of the country.

"The Land Acts have played their role - they have destroyed black property rights, and they have entrenched white privilege. To drop them now will have only a minimal effect on the racial distribution of land. Only a tiny proportion of blacks have the necessary capital to buy land at its current price."

Disaster

Claassens warns there could be potential disaster for many people if the Land Acts were to be repealed "in a vacuum" without special measures to protect and restore the rights of black people.

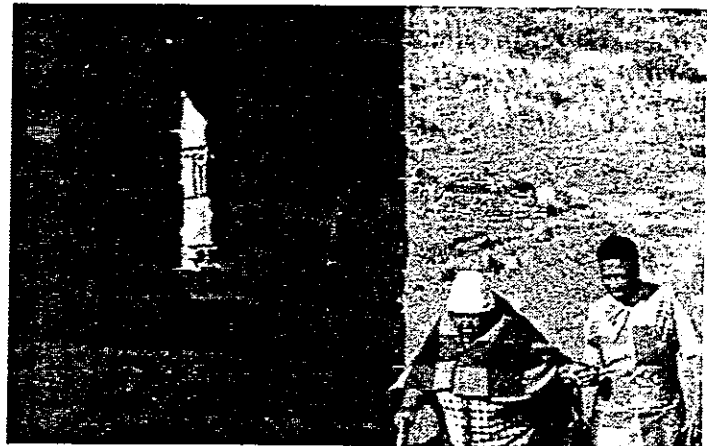
She explains that in most instances property rights are not reflected in legal documents like title deeds. This does not mean blacks have no property rights; it means the state prohibited them from having such documents.

Legal restrictions on black ownership of land are not limited to the white areas.

There are restrictions in the homelands as well. While the land in these areas may be nominally owned by the SA Development Trust, or a homeland government, or a chief, it is in fact occupied by millions of individual families and communities, whose rights are not registered on the title deeds.

If these areas are simply opened up to the "free market", many people who have owned and occupied land for generations may find their land sold from underneath them by the nominal owners of the land.

"Rural people have suffered terrible and irretrievable losses through the implementation of these policies. Now, having put these policies behind it, the state is introducing a reform. It would be



Mrs Ellen Kuzwayo escorting her Aunt Blanche to her former home which was declared a black spot in 1984. Will such land be given back to its people?

bitterly ironic if this 'reform' finally dispossesses people of their real rights to land in the name of 'private property' and the 'free market'."

According to the National Land Committee, the critical question is: What reform measures will be legislated to replace these Acts? And what mechanisms will be introduced to redress the history of dispossession in South Africa? The government's present approach to these questions is regarded by the committee as a matter of "grave concern".

It accuses the Government of having planned its reforms on this complex and politically sensitive issue behind closed doors.

Why don't the policy-makers open up the debate and consult

widely? the committee asks.

"Reforms don't work if they don't have support from the people affected by them. The Government must surely know this by now."

Ominous signs of a looming showdown over the land issue emerge from a clash of opinion between Minister Gerrit Viljoen and members of land reform bodies. The NLC, for example, says Viljoen's dogmatic refusal to consider ways of restoring land to its former black freehold owners is unacceptable.

The Minister argues that such a step would "lead to a revolution" and that the same would

happen if land ownership patterns were changed thus in countries like the US and Australia.

To this the NLC replies that the Minister ignores the fact that "we are not talking about dispossession in the dim and distant past, but about Government policy which has robbed people of their land as recently as the 1980s".

"For over 40 years black land-owners were systematically deprived of their ownership and rights to land. They were forcibly removed, wholly inadequately compensated, and abandoned to barren, unproductive resettlement camps. Now they are expected to buy back land, and if they don't have ready cash they will lose their ancestral lands forever to the highest bidder."



CP 'is ready to fight for its land'

Sta 6/2/91.
The Conservative Party was ready to fight for its land, Moolman Mentz (CP Ermelo) said yesterday.

Referring to the repeal of the Land Acts and Group Areas Act, Mr Mentz said the Zulus were not being asked to give up their land, but the Afrikaners were.

The reaction to the repeal of the Acts would make the recent demonstration in Pretoria look like a Sunday-school picnic.

"The Conservative Party is ready to fight," he said.

They would not give up, and the State President and the world had been warned to take note of the CP's standpoint.

The Internal Security Act was being flouted daily and South Africa needed laws to guard the State's safety if chaos were to be prevented.

"Where is the proof of the

③ General
State President's undertaking that terrorism will be fought?"

The soaring crime rate was a further indication of the collapse of law and order.

"We should be talking about restoring law and order, because there isn't any."

Mr de Klerk's speech had heralded the advent of anarchy in South Africa and the Government did not know what system would emerge from the negotiating table.

"It could be communism."

Mr Mentz wanted to know who the enemy would be in a new South Africa.

"Is it us? Will we be the new enemies?"

Andrew Gerber (CP Brits) said his party believed the Government's education models were merely a transitional phase to a single education system for all. — Sapa.

3 cases

Homeless workers vow to stay

THE homeless families of contract workers in Villiersdorp have vowed they are "not going to run again" after people believed to be white farmers destroyed their shacks on Tuesday.

The wives and children of workers at the Villiersdorp Co-op have moved back into the factory compounds where they have been staying as they have "no alternative accommodation", according to advice office worker and local priest, Rev Stanley Williams.

But on Wednesday, Co-op manager Mr Raubie Raubenheimer, said he would take action against those living "illegally" in the compounds.

Raubenheimer said the compounds could accommodate only about 60 people. *Scutl 7/2-13/2/71*

He said the "illegal" occupants had to leave so that workers who would arrive for the opening of the grape season next week could be accommodated.

The workers claimed their plight began last week when they were allegedly forced out of the compounds by the Co-op management.

The families had erected shacks on nearby municipal grounds. The shacks were destroyed — allegedly by white farmers.

On Monday, about 200 people occupied the municipal offices for five hours, demanding that they be given adequate housing and the return of their material.

They returned to the same site to rebuild their shacks when their demands were not met, Williams said.

"The plight of the worker's families cannot be separated from that of the housing crisis in the area," said a member of the Villiersdorp Civic Association, Mr Thomas Jansen.

He said about 600 people needed housing desperately in the area.

Land reform must redress apartheid's distortions

THE National Land Committee says any resolution to the land question must have popular legitimacy and support for it to work.

In a statement reacting to President FW de Klerk's announcement last Friday of the scrapping of the Land Acts, the Johannesburg-based committee said it welcomed the news that the government would produce a white paper on land reform. *South 3/2-13/2/91*

"Until now, the government has formulated its plans in secret," the Committee said.

"We have always believed that any resolution to the land question must have popular legitimacy and support for it to be workable. In particular it would have to recognise and be able to redress the wrongs and distortions that apartheid has meant for black South Africans and society as a whole. *3 Geneva*

Aspirations

"Such a lasting solution which meets the needs and aspirations of South Africans can only be found through a representative and consultative process," the Committee said.

It reiterated demands of many communities for a new system of land ownership. These included:

- Land lost by black people as a result of forced removals be restored immediately;

- The government must ensure that legislative reform does not deprive black people of existing rights to land; and

- The government must commit itself to a programme of affirmative action that would make land and resources available for blacks, particularly for the landless and women who constitute the bulk of the farming population in the homelands.

The repeal of the Land Acts could make farms a new battlefield as the government becomes increasingly caught between white fears and black demands. FAROUK CHOTHIA reports:

Fighting for a fair share of land

3 General

South 7/2 - 13/2/91.

STATE President FW de Klerk announced at the opening of parliament last Friday that the Land Acts would be scrapped in this year's parliamentary session.

This opens a new battlefield in South Africa — one in which the government will find itself sandwiched between the white right wing and the liberation movements.

The right-wing fears that the scrapping of the Land Acts will mean they will lose "their" land.

Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) leader Eugene Terreblanche has said: "My ancestors paid their instalments in blood and tears (for the land) ... it cannot be the property of an Indian or Tswana."

Right-wing

To little avail, De Klerk has attempted to placate the right wing by insisting that, despite the changes, the legal titles of white farmers will remain protected. Africans could buy the land on a "willing buyer-willing seller" basis.

However, a member of the African National Congress (ANC) Land Commission, Ms Bongive Njobe, points out that this will not change the status quo, as whites already own 87 percent of the land.

According to Njobe, Africans could buy the land only if whites wanted to sell it and most will not have the money to do so.

Njobe said that after the repeal of the Land Acts, "a representative investigation for a future land dispensation can be established".

She added: "The policy should create opportunity for land acquisition and access to production resources on the basis of an affirmative action programme to establish viable black farming communities."

Giving rural land to Africans for commercial purposes — and at the same time supplementing this with the development of skills and financial support — could be beneficial to the



UNAFFECTED: The bad living and working conditions of farmworkers will remain largely unaffected by the scrapping of the Land Act

economy.

In a paper titled "Land Policy: Towards Sustainable Development" published in *The Indicator* magazine, Raymond Auerbach of the Institute of Natural Resources at the University of Natal spoke at length about the country's 50000 white commercial farmers.

Of these, the top 3000 (or six percent) produce 40 percent of commercial agricultural production, while the middle 10000 (or 20 percent) reasonably productive farmers produce 40 percent.

The remaining 37000 (or 74 percent) produce only 20 percent of commercial agricultural production.

These statistics show that only 13000 farmers in the commercial sector are highly productive.

"In other words, the most limited resource as far as agriculture is concerned is not land nor capital, but the farmers themselves," Auerbach said.

Thus, "any rational land policy must take this fact as the starting point, and address the critical issues of:

- Attracting competent and young people to practical farming;
- Training them in the basic principles of sustainable agriculture; and

- Making it possible for them to contribute productively towards the feeding of the nation."

Auerbach added: "A pragmatic and innovative approach to farmer education will be one of the cornerstones of a constructive agricultural reconstruction of South Africa."

He argued that the distribution of the land itself "has to be considered separately with regard to the different categories of land bequeathed to us".

The five major categories to be considered are:

- Black rural land;

- Privately-owned white farmland;
- Company-owned white farmland;
- Urban and peri-urban land; and
- South African Development Trust (SADT) land.

"Any changes in the present tribal areas should be locally controlled and built only according to traditional tribal values," he said.

"The acquisition of land adjacent to tribal areas where possible may prove a workable strategy which could relieve the pressure of growing numbers to some extent," said Auerbach.

People and the land

w/mal 8/2-14/2/91 (3) General

No cheap, easy answers

w/mal 8/2-14/2/91 (3) General

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk's speech at the opening of parliament went further than simply an intention to repeal the Land Acts, hinting strongly that the government has accepted the need for affirmative action for black farmers.

The Land Acts have historically created massive inequalities between white and black in the rural areas, a situation compounded by a government long-sympathetic to the needs of white farmers.

However, the debate on future land reform is just beginning, handicapped not least — with the exception of a few politicised communities — by the low level of organisation of rural blacks.

The emotions that threaten to cloud the debate result from the deep historical significance that both Afrikaners and black political groups attach to the land.

De Klerk acknowledged that "no-one dare underestimate the emotions and even the conflict

potential relating to land rights". He said that everybody has a natural need for access to land and its utilisation as living space and source of livelihood.

"Therefore," he said, "much more is necessary than the mere repeal of discriminatory legislation."

The detail of this policy is to be set out in a government White Paper, which it is suspected will borrow heavily from the Southern African Development Bank and Urban Foundation proposals.

Both have looked into the practicalities of establishing farmer support programmes to speed the creation of a new, small farming class. There seems general acceptance that, after years of actively discriminating against blacks, just leaving things to the free market will not be enough.

The Development Bank's farmer support programme sets out to make as many essential inputs as possible — access to seeds, fertilizer,

credits and markets — available to black farmers. And there is an acknowledged need to protect land in the homelands from being taken by whites.

Ann Bernstein, executive director (urbanisation) of the Urban Foundation, says the central problem of land reform is to maintain, even expand, production while at the same dealing with the inequities and injustices of the past.

But what of the thorny question of redistribution of land? A Development Bank official, Nicholas Christodolou, caused consternation to white farmers last year by suggesting that bank and agricultural assistance agencies foreclose on the 3 000 white farmers who are most heavily in debt, and use that land to settle black farmers.

However, Bernstein believes that finding land to redistribute may be easier than it first appears. She says that in 1989, 11 000 of 70 000 white farms changed hands, and that it could be possible for the state to acquire land, which it

Everyone, including the government, agrees: The land question is an emotional issue that could spark off conflict — and the solutions go way beyond simply repealing legislation.

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

could specially demarcate for small black farmers, simply through the market.

Failing that, the state has the power of expropriation — a power that it has not been shy to use, for instance, for homelands consolidation in the past few decades.

Bernstein says the idea is that the state would provide backup to the new farmers. "The state would provide, for instance, credit. If the farmer wants to buy, he can. If he wants to rent, he can," she says. "The state will supply support services to enable black farmers to get into the market in a protected way."

One problem could be finding black farmers willing and able to participate in this scheme. One of the legacies of the Land Acts is that only a tiny percentage of blacks living in the rural areas have ever produced for the market.

South Africa is a much more industrialised society than other more peasant-based African societies, and most people want security for their families and a better life, which are more easily achieved with a job in the city. The perils and uncertainties of farming might not be to everyone's taste.

There is not just a lack of research and knowledge of the rural areas, but a lack of rural organisation. The Urban Foundation acknowledges that there will have to be community participation so that "there is wide involvement in, debate about, and acceptance of the programme".

In the homelands, Bernstein says the Foundation is urging the government to hold the present situation "until we can empower people

and figure out what they want".

Another question is how to establish a link between occupancy of the land and ownership — a notion that touches on the political demand in the Freedom Charter that the land should belong to all those who work it. Though this has been rejected by the think tanks as impractical, there is an historic precedent.

Perhaps those involved in the debate could start to look at a local variation of the American Homesteads Act of the 19th Century that settled the west. In terms of the law, if you could farm land productively for, say, five years, you got to own the land.

The National Land Committee has called for the establishment of a land claims commission and other mechanisms to facilitate land redistribution and registration of land rights — and this could be used to administer such a system.

The Foundation itself is advocating a land court to deal with conflicts over land ownership

with the power, for instance, to restore land rights to communities which were forcibly removed in the past. This court, says Bernstein, would operate as a court of equity on the same lines as the industrial court.

However, this does not address the formerly removed communities such as those from Doornkop and Mogopa who want to get back to their land urgently and immediately.

Bernstein dismisses the calls for reparations for the past injustices of government land policy. "That is looking back," she says. "We need to look forward and provide opportunities for the greatest number of people, and to structure things so you're benefiting the poor."

The scrapping of the Land Acts, she says, has to go hand in hand with the repeal of the Group Areas Act, and the opening of rural towns to the use of all; the improvement of farm workers' rights under the law; and the development of education, health and welfare in the rural areas.

Doomkop's spring will flow again when its people return

RE is a hidden map of South Africa that in the memories of hundreds of thousands of people. It shows schools and churches, kraals and orchards which were destroyed by the policy of forced removal of black populations.

The determination of victims to rebuild their communities — making these recollections a reality at last — is bound to be a challenge to the government in its formulation of a transitional policy.

"There by the dark trees was my father's place and there was a football field."

And the school principal used to live under that tree. The recollections flow from David Debeile and Maloma as they return to survey the Midburg district farm, Doomkop, from which they and their families were removed 16 years

ago as a brutal removal. Contemporary records show 20 police vehicles at the scene, 60 trucks from the Bantu Administration Department and a helicopter hovering overhead.

The farm had been bought in 1905 by about 100 landowners. By the time of the removal title was shared among some 600 owners. The families of the landowners and their tenants formed a community of some 20 000 people. The removal scattered them far and wide.

Over a weekend more than 1 000 gathered in the village hall in Middelburg to plan their return to Doomkop — a move they regard as their unquestionable right.

"You've got a jacket — like this — and someone takes it from you, it's theft. They just take a key, they say put your fingerprint — you do, you are moved. I didn't see any (compensation) money," said Debeile, who is one of the amitees of Seven that has always managed Doomkop.

His planned return to Doomkop has set dreams in the 53-year-old Soweto used tyre dealer, who was working in Soweto at the time of the removal (but was summoned home to witness the destruction of his community). His

14/2/91 3 General
Sixteen years ago 20 000 people were forced off their land. Now thousands plan to return to Doomkop.

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

mother and children left Doomkop and moved to the Jane Furse area in Lebowa.

Now he hopes the family will live together at Doomkop. He already has peach trees growing in tubs in the yard of his Soweto home — ready for transplanting in Doomkop soil. "And this time I'm going to buy a tractor and farm meaties. I've got a friend near Komatipoort. He's doing very well with meaties," Debeile says.

Not many of Doomkop's people have the resources of the ebullient Debeile. A large number were moved some 250km north to the Sekhukhune village of Bothashoek where they reside on a stony hillside under their chief, Seth Ramaube. Each is entitled to a plot of one-eighth of a morgen.

Many are destitute, according to Maloma who, as a freelance journalist, investigated the conditions of his former neighbours. Scores of families still live in the tin prefabs with which they were provided at the time of removal. And water — or rather the lack of clean drinking water — is a killer, says Maloma.

Above all others, the Bothashoek people are desperate to return to Doomkop but have the least potential to do so — to secure transport, to construct new homes, to plough and to plant.

The other major concentration of Doomkop people is to be found at Monsterlus or Hlogotlou in Lebowa. It is one of the better serviced rural ghettos that were created by resettlement — a fancy stadium, street lighting, tapped water, some tarred streets. Nobody has land for ploughing.

Even here residents of Doomkop origin can be identified by the tin huts still in use. Although they are within commuting distance of Groblersdal and, possibly, Middelburg (80km away), unemployment remains high.

Ruth Moganedi, estimated to be at least 95



'There by the dark trees was my father's place' ... David Debeile dreams of returning to Doomkop with his family. Perhaps they will come true

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

years old, fled from Bothashoek to Monsterlus.

Crouching on a step, her two walking sticks resting beside her, Moganedi recalls how the chief informed them of the removal years ago. "I refused. I told the chief and these seven white of-

ficials and their black interpreter that it is because of apartheid that the title deed of a black person expires whereas the title deed of a white person is safe for ever." (S General)

Able only to sniffle around, Moganedi is planning to go back to Doomkop and to the rough living implied in reclaiming that land. She is willing to risk the old age pension that brings in R175 a month.

Rose Ramaube, of Monsterlus, is positive that a return will mean a guaranteed income. "We are going to plough. We are going to get some peaches and sell them — and then we are living."

She says her family got R5 in compensation for their house and their 91 peach trees. "When I go back will I pay anything? No. No, we don't owe the government for that land."

The Doomkop people are not alone in their struggle. They are linked to an organisation known as the Middelburg, Doomkop and Bothashoek Homecoming Organisation.

Boishabelo was a Lutheran mission farm near Doomkop from which residents were removed to Motetema, south of Monsterlus. Residents expect it will be an uphill battle to reclaim Boishabelo as the Middelburg council has an airstrip and a tourist facility on the farm.

In contrast, a large portion of Doomkop has

been left unoccupied and uncultivated for the last 16 years. It appears to have been used as a shooting range by soldiers from the nearby military base. (4/1 May 8/2 - 14/2/91)

The derelict community school is littered with spent shells, the odd target — and the walls and blackboards badly pocked with bullet holes. The nearby graveyard has never ceased to take the bodies of those born at Doomkop. Even from Bothashoek people return "home" to bury their dead — and have never been hindered by officials.

Another portion of Doomkop is being cultivated by a white farmer.

The implications of the return to Doomkop have only begun to be discussed. The challenges are finding ways to deal with the social and economic schisms in a once-cohesive community and how the land can best bear and support a population of at least 10 000.

But the passions unleashed by the promised repeal of the Land Acts should not be underestimated. It is said of Doomkop that a natural spring or fountain on the property dried up abruptly with the removal. People expect the water will be restored when they return.

"Black spot" removals, in which entire rural communities were uprooted from land to which

they held title, were highly visible events. If they accounted for only one out of six victims' removals. The unseen removal of small groups of farm tenants affected at least twice as many people.

To what extent these anonymous victims share the newly aroused expectations of the Doomkop people is an open question. None has the certainty of a title deed to back their claim to return but many were thrown off farms where their forefathers had lived for generations, well before white farmers gained ownership.

According to the Surplus People Project farm evictions accounted for the removal of no fewer than 1,13-million people between 1960 and 1980. While "black spot" removals ceased years ago farm evictions have continued throughout the last decade.

Evicted farm tenants do not receive compensatory land in the homelands.

Even as tenants/workers on white farms, many of these families were partly dependent on the income of members of their families who had migrated to work in the urban areas. With removal the degree of this dependency increased.

Poorer and more isolated than the former landowners, the farm tenants are much less likely to make an organised bid for land.

Govt stops farmers selling land of ³ General dispossessed tribe

Star 9/2/91.
CAPE TOWN — Farmers in the Tsitsikamma district have been refused permission to sell a section of land they purchased in 1983 and which was previously inhabited by the Mfengu people.

The office of the Minister of Agricultural Development stated in a media release that the farmers were not entitled to sell the land before 10 years had lapsed from the day of purchase.

The Mfengu people were removed in 1977 from the land which they regarded as ancestral. They were relocated.

Farmers in the Tsitsikamma area then purchased the land from the State.

Recently, the farmers, however, approached the Minister for permission to sell the land.

The Tsitsikamma Exile Association, which represents the relocated Mfengu community, approached the Minister's office and drew attention to the 10-year clause stipulated by the Credit Board. — Sapa.

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Help on the way for black farmers

By *Tim Cohen* 8/2/91.

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa was preparing programmes to assist needy black farmers inside SA, a bank official said yesterday.

The bank recently proposed that 8-million hectares of farmland could be transferred to black farmers immediately.

Official Julian Thomas, who assisted with a bank study into land reform and agricultural development, said the imminent scrapping of the Land Acts would make it possible for black farmers to buy land where previously only white farmers could do so. Many of these could be in line for bank assistance. *(3) general*

But because the bank was a "wholesaler of public development funds", it would need to assess the beneficiaries' "legal capacity" and the beneficiary's ability to create employment and repay the loan.

Whereas individual farmers would not be able to get assistance from the bank, legally constituted co-operatives would be able to apply for loans, Thomas said.

The study said the bank had initiated a small farmer support scheme in 1986 and since then had committed itself to over R60m in loans to 23 farmer support programmes (FSPs). These serve about 25 000 homeland farmers who the bank has found to be not less efficient than commercial white farmers.

The scheme is also substantially more cost-effective than large-scale irrigation settlement projects which currently accommodate about 440 farmers at an initial cost of R195 000 and an annual cost of R46 000 per farmer.

The 23 FSPs have an average fixed investment cost of R4 900 per irrigation farmer and annual costs of R2 100.

It has been estimated that each farmer served by an FSP employs on average two full-time or part-time labourers, resulting in the employment of about 75 000 people.

Suspension of sanctions expected to bring agricultural exports boom

PRETORIA — SA agricultural exports will get a multimillion-rand boost after the lifting of sanctions and the opening of markets closed to SA for nearly a decade, informed sources say.

The vast markets in the US, Canada, Northern Ireland and in the Scandinavian countries had been lost since anti-apartheid measures were imposed.

Sectors of the industry which would benefit included the citrus, deciduous fruit and sugar industries, and there would be spin-off advantages for the growing ostrich industry and possibly the grain industries.

Sugar Association of SA international marketing director David Hardy said the industry had been sanctioned out of the US and Canadian markets.

"The long-term benefits for the sugar industry could be considerable because of the wide potential market."

Volkscas assistant GM (business) Andre Louw said the potential for bigger agricultural exports would be significantly boosted after sanctions.

He said despite sanctions the industry had succeeded in maintaining export levels which made a significant contribution to foreign exchange earnings.

A Deciduous Fruit Board spokesman

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(3) General
GERALD REILLY

said new opportunities would open up after sanctions.

Although EC markets had always been open to deciduous fruit exports, agricultural sanctions were rigidly applied against SA by the US, Canada and the Scandinavian countries.

The value of deciduous fruit exports last year amounted to a record R1,3bn.

Citrus Exchange GM (operations and finance) Arend Venter said the suspension of sanctions could also boost the citrus industry. However, it was impossible to put a figure on any possible increase in foreign exchange earnings.

The board, he said, was operating in a fierce and highly competitive marketing environment in which supply and demand varied from season to season.

Venter said during the past few years all citrus available for export had been exported.

Suspension of sanctions would obviously facilitate the sale abroad of any future production growth.

Last year's citrus foreign exchange earnings amounted to R600m, he said.

Peasant black farmers are easily better than whites

3 general

9/2/91-

THE imminent repeal of the Land Act has triggered an argument: who are the best farmers? Is it the lowly peasant farmer or the khaki-clad fellow who marched on Pretoria a couple of weeks ago?

Answer: the lowly black peasant farmer produces two to three times more food than the average white commercial farmer.

A large number of commercial farmers are more suitable for labouring than farming.

They gamble with their land and weep copiously when, inevitably, things go wrong. They owe R14 billion.

South Africa, with more and more people to feed every year, and less and less soil, can no longer afford to carry bad farmers.

Give an uneducated black farmer a hectare and he will make every corner of his plot produce something: mealies over there, sorghum here, sunflower in the borderline land.

He has no choice but to make his land produce.

He? In fact the typical subsistence farmer is a woman with a baby on her back.

Remember the Biafra famine? Oxfam found itself shipping food to a region which was *exporting* three million tons of crops! But the crops were cotton, tobacco and so on — in-edibles — grown on land bought off the peasant farmers. Thus had agribiz turned thousands of small-time farmers from being producers into being consumers — and they had to

Greenpiece

JAMES
CLARKE



buy food at world prices.

Following the SA Land Act hundreds of small but thriving plots were bought out and put under monocultures, regardless of whether all of the soil was suitable.

George Nicholas, our agricultural correspondent, says Zimbabwean commercial dryland farmers are way ahead of ours.

While our's produce 1,9 tons of maize a hectare, Zimbabwe achieves six. We grow 1,4 tons of wheat a hectare — Zimbabwe grows 5,5. On every crop they achieve at least double our yields.

Commercial farming is vital, but the peasant farmer must become part of the future equation.

It's a matter of attitudes.

A friend who grew mealies in Middelburg had a neighbour on one side who was the best producer in the district. "He always cleaned his machinery at the end of the day, his staff were happy, he kept up with the journals.

"On my other side my neighbour was too lazy to clean his equipment, he never read, his staff lived in squalor — and his mealie yield was a third of mine."

Stop the farmers from selling our soil — Mfengu

② General
W/Mand 8/2-14 2/91

THE Tsitsikamma land from which the Mfengu were removed at gunpoint in 1977 may soon be on the market again — and each of the 19 white landowners who bought the expropriated land stands to make R1,2-million on the resale deal.

This is the calculation of the Tsitsikamma Exile Association (TEA), which represents a community that physically resisted removal to Ciskei and still refuses to accept that settlement there is their ultimate fate.

Says TEA secretary Thobile Makamba, this new turn of events regarding the Tsitsikamma land — which the white farmers acquired with 100 percent state loans — starkly highlights the contrast between “the incredible affirmative action that the white farmers are currently benefiting from” and the “brutal manner in which our community was robbed of our land”.

He notes that although President FW de Klerk has acknowledged that “much more” than the simple repeal of the Land Act will have to take place to ensure black people access to land ownership, the president has not gone so far as to indicate “steps that are to be taken to rectify the gross injustices perpetrated against people such as the Mfengu”.

He points out that, as things stand, “the effect of the intended repeal of the Land Acts will be that we will be granted the opportunity to lawfully buy back our birth land which was unlawfully taken from us at gunpoint and for which we received no compensation, at some R30-million from white farmers who bought it at R1,3-million”.

When they were removed, the 4 000 Mfengu (or Fingo) people of Humansdorp received a total of R200 000 in compensation for improvements to their land. In return for the land itself they had foisted on them a slice of Ciskei, known as Elukhanyweni.

The 19 white farmers who purchased portions of the Mfengu land as dairy farms in 1982 paid a total of R1,3-million for the land. Records reveal that they received from the state loans amounting to 100 percent of the purchase price. They also received Land Bank loans — sometimes amounting to three or four times the value of the price of the land.

According to the TEA a condition of the sale of the land to the farmers was that no resale could take place for 10 years.

But, the Mfengu say, they have learnt that the land owners recently met the minister of agriculture in a bid to have the 10-year resale ban lifted before its due date in 1992.

If this were allowed the land could be sold at a going rate of R5 000 a hectare for developed property and R3 500 a hectare for semi-developed land, giving each land owner a profit of some R1,28-million in just eight years.

The TEA has written to the minister asking for an undertaking that he will not allow the resale before meeting the Mfengu or — if the meeting should not yield a mutually satisfactory result — before allowing the TEA “to institute supreme court proceedings to determine the rights of the parties”.

Britain gives R3-m

BRITAIN will allocate an additional R3 million over three years for rural development projects in South Africa.

British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker announced the planned donation at a meeting with officials of

Operation Hunger yesterday. *General*

The assistance is designed to help Operation Hunger support small-scale black farms on newly available land and self-help projects in the rural areas. - Sapa.

*10/2/91
Bowe Jan*

Forced removals lead to new front in land battle

10/04/1991 Own Correspondent (3) General

DURBAN — The Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) says many freehold communities forcibly removed from their land over the years have expressed their desire to return in view of government reforms.

Afra, a watchdog over forced removals in rural Natal, called on government urgently to address the issue of restoring land to its rightful owners, providing public services, land use and productivity.

Afra, which is affiliated to the National Land Committee, claimed government had shown "scant interest" in the plight of affected rural communities.

It warned a bitter land struggle was in the offing.

An example of a freehold community removed by "apartheid legislators" was that of Charlestown, Afra said. Afra said that in 1948 the town had a population of 6 000 blacks, 300 whites and 100 Indians, but between 1963 and 1979 the forced removal of almost all black people had left it a ghost town.

Many of the removed blacks owned their land under freehold title and had recently declared their intention to go back to Charlestown on April 30.

Asra said the Charlestown Association had twice approached local government to negotiate the community's return, but had been told not to go back yet as there were no water or sanitation services.

Farmers threaten new protest today

Star 19/2/91
By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau (3) General

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) and the organisers of a major farming conference in Pretoria have been warned of a possible disruption by farmers.

In telephone calls to The Star, people identifying themselves as farmers warned that the second stage of their protest against Government agricultural policies would be launched at the one-day Agrocon '91 conference today.

The SAAU said yesterday it was aware of the threat. It is understood that special security arrangements have been made at the CSIR conference venue.

The first stage of the protest by farmers took the form of a blockade of central Pretoria last month. After the blockade, farmers warned that further action would be taken.

Minister of Agriculture Jacob de Villiers is scheduled to open today's conference, which will be attended by about 250 delegates from agricultural control boards, co-operatives, financial institutions and the private sector. It is held annually to review the industry's production capability.

Mugabe adamant on annexure of farms

Star 19/2/91
By Robin Drew
Star Africa Service

HARARE — Disregarding warnings from the Chief Justice and widespread concern in the business community and diplomatic circles, the Zimbabwean government is pressing ahead with its proposals to acquire land from white farmers for resettlement, with the courts barred from inquiring into the amount of compensation to be paid.

The amendments to the constitution barring the courts from adjudicating on compensation have been given President Mugabe's assent and the Act was published in the last Government Gazette.

The way is now cleared for the introduction in parliament, which begins a new sitting next week, of a Bill aimed at enabling the government to pursue a revolutionary new land policy under which half the land

currently owned by whites will be taken for resettlement or for allocation to black farmers.

President Mugabe accused some white farmers of trying to impede resettlement and said: "The government's commitment to the land question is unwavering and it expects full co-operation from all concerned."

Argued

The opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement leader, Edgar Tekere, has accused the government of racism and said that what had happened 100 years ago when the first white settlers arrived was irrelevant as everybody was now a Zimbabwean citizen.

He said those who argued that the whites had come into the country and taken the land should apply the same argument to the Ndebele, the Ndaus and other tribes.

He also pointed out that some farms which had been bought

with British aid money for resettlement were now occupied by senior ruling-party officials.

The Commercial Farmers Union, which organised a mass meeting of white farmers in Harare last month, says it understands and accepts the need for land reform but it maintains that a great deal could be achieved by improving facilities and services in communal areas and by acquiring derelict and under-utilised land before considering the question of taking productive land for resettlement.

When the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Gubbay, commented on the change to the constitution, he said legislation which damaged the structural pillars on which a constitution was built would be pronounced invalid by the Supreme Court.

President Mugabe said later it was not the job of the judges to make laws and if they did not like them, they should quit.

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**RETAIL
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JOHANNESBURG'S DEALER FOR
LINO AND MASERATI EXCLUSIVELY

Control quarrying, urge angry residents

Staff Reporter

Angry farmers and residents crammed the hall of the Muldersdrif Farmers and Residents Association (MFRA) last night to protest against the "uncontrolled and illegal" escalation of industries and sand quarries in the area.

About 300 people complained about the loss of top soil and the

increase in noise and water pollution.

A motion was passed to urge authorities to recognise uncontrolled quarrying as being detrimental to the environment and to include it in the Environment Conservation Act. *stew 20/1/91*

MFRA chairman David Frykberg said stone crushing plants, sand quarries, cement and brick factories, construction com-

panies, scaffolding storage and scrap yards were becoming difficult to control.

He said illegal and uncontrolled quarrying was probably the biggest threat to the area.

"Whilst the MFRA is obviously not opposed to mining or industry per se, it is opposed to the ad hoc and uncontrolled nature of some of these undertakings," he said.

Offer for Orania Star 28/2/71 refused - Curry

3 General

The House of Representatives Administration had negotiated with the Department of Public Works in June on the acquisition of Orania, the "boerestaat" farm in the northern Cape, the Minister of Housing, David Curry, said yesterday.

Replying to a question by C B Herandien (DRP Macassar), Mr Curry said the department had informed him on August 21 that another offer for the area had been accepted.

Mr Herandien said: "Never did I think that once apartheid was scrapped, we'd have to deal with economic apartheid."

Dr Ismail Essop (Ind Griqualand West) said the fact that the tender for Orania put in by the House of Representatives was too low showed an inability of the Minister.

Mr Curry said in reply that Orania was never meant to be a whites-only area. It was intended to be farmed and job opportunities would be created for non-whites by the farmers.

But on January 31 Orania was bought by the Orania Management Services, of which the chairman of the Afrikaner Volkswag, Professor Carel Boshoff to be developed along the lines of a boerestaat. — Sapa.

Whole crop of questions need to be answered

Step 20/2/91 (3. General)

HOW MUCH is farming costing the country? This is a question that has preoccupied the minds of many people since the two recent dramatic demonstrations by disgruntled sections of the farming community in Pretoria.

On both occasions — the gate-crashing incident at the South African Agricultural Union congress in October and the crisis protest action that brought Pretoria to a standstill last month — the militant farmers demanded more financial aid from the Government. Still worse, there were threats of dire consequences if the aid was not forthcoming.

Last year alone, outright State cash grants in the form of subsidies to farmers amounted to nearly R155 million, while loans at interest rates ranging from nil to a maximum of 8 percent came to R135 million.

To top all this the Government has undertaken to extend additional aid amounting to nearly R600 million between now and 1996 to about 12 000 farmers in the summer-rainfall region who are in a distressed financial situation.

And additional measures are expected to be announced soon in response to the latest representations by the agricultural industry for more financial aid.

The reverses suffered by farmers in the past decade through natural disasters such as floods and droughts might justify State support. But there are murmurs about the extent of the drain on public funds.

In the past decade alone South Africa's farming commu-

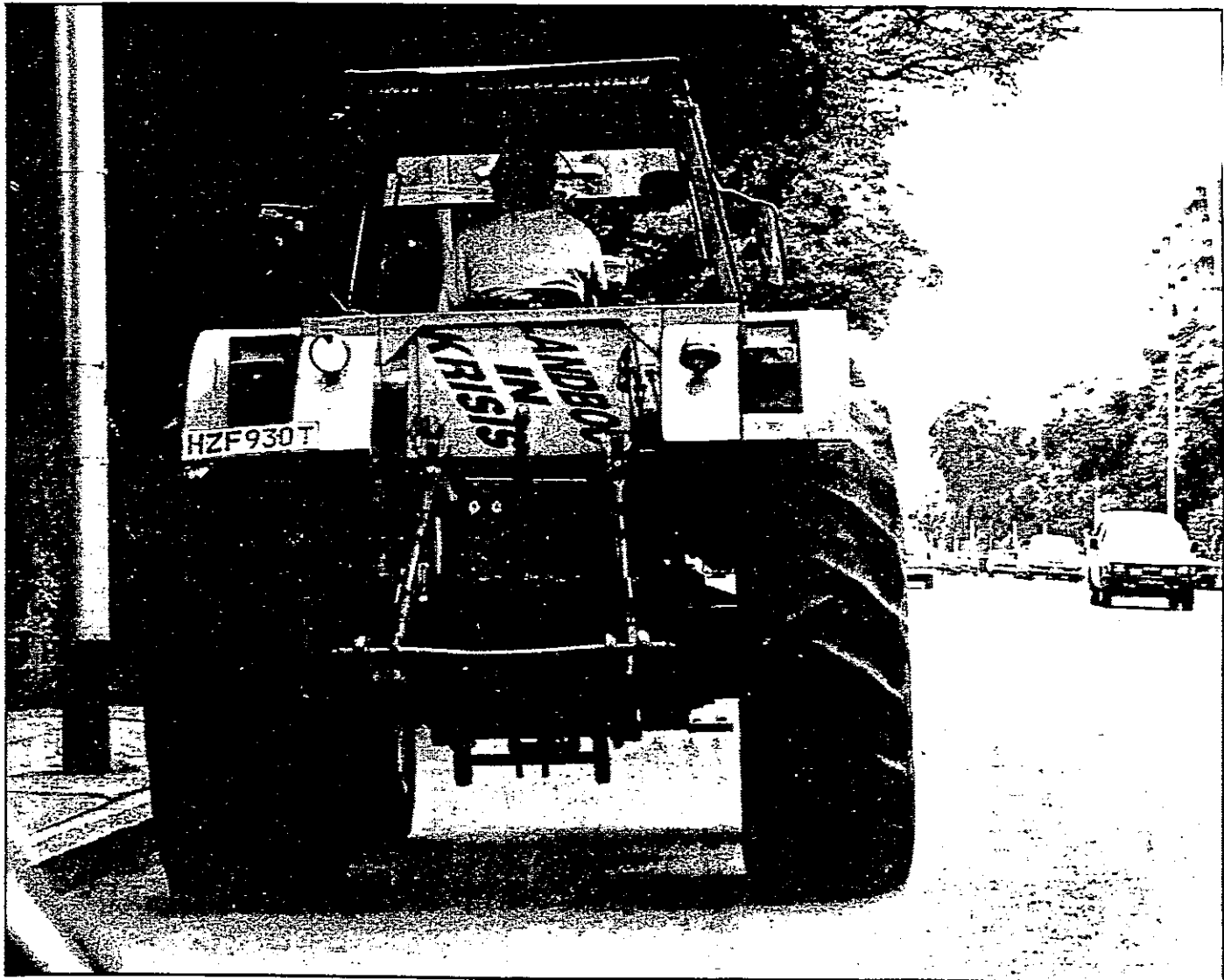
Although farmers are crying out for ever-increasing amounts of aid, they have already received billions of rands from the State's coffers, reports **GEORGE NICHOLAS**.

nity of about 60 000 received, in round figures, a massive R2 billion at exceptionally low interest rates. This means that on average each farmer benefited by about R58 330.

In this period, the biggest subsidy of about R493 million in one year was paid to them in 1988/89 when, among other grants, they were in arrears with the payment of interest (R199 million) as carry-over debts, stockfeed purchases (R73 million), flood-damage compensation (R87 million), land conversion (R13 million) and emergency crop-production costs (R104 million).

In the same 10-year period the biggest amount borrowed by farmers from the State in one year was also in 1988/89 when R262 million was lent to them at the maximum 8 percent interest, nearly half of the amount going for the payment of debts.

Farmers living in the 50 km demarcated border areas received special additional State aid in the past eight years. The amounts involved included about R70 million in subsidies and about R112 million in loans at nil to 4 percent interest.



Disgruntled . . . A farmer heads back to the fields after taking part in a massive protest in Pretoria's city centre last month against the Government's agricultural policy.
Picture: Stephen Davimes.

A number of pertinent questions come to mind that need candid answers:

- Are farmers inclined to extend themselves needlessly to a point at which they are no longer capable of coping with their financial affairs?
- Is adequate control exercised

over the use put to approved grants and loans?

- Why do droughts and similar adversities affect some farmers so drastically while they have only limited effect on others in the same area?
- Do farmers fail to make provision in good years for possible

hardships in bad years?

- Are their farming systems and financial management of a satisfactory standard?
- Do they take chances with the production of tempting lines that may not be suited to their local climate and environment?
- And finally, do the country's

farming community expect the State to continue year after year to bale them out of their troubles?

In the light of the figures mentioned, the current farming scenario in South Africa reflects a somewhat grim prospect for the future. □

Handouts for farmers no longer viable ^{3 General} Minister

Bl/day 20/2/91

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Agriculture and Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers warned farmers yesterday the days of subsidy handouts and unjustified financial aid were ending.

Opening the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) in Pretoria yesterday, De Villiers said farmer subsidies since 1982 amounted to more than R2bn.

This had gone towards consolidated debt, stock feed and stock transportation, flood disaster relief, input subsidies and other relief measures.

Emphasising government's commitment to a free market economy, De Villiers said it was unthinkable that individual far-

mers should be compensated for their risks and uncertainties.

They would only receive assistance when this was in the national interest. It was government policy, however, to grant relief in disaster or emergency conditions such as floods.

De Villiers said the deterioration in agriculture could be put down to unfavourable production and marketing conditions, drought, high interest and inflation rates and producer prices rising more slowly than input costs.

He assured farmers that although there were shortcomings in agricultural policy, there still was a policy. But available funds

had to be more efficiently and selectively allocated.

Also speaking at the conference, Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Theo Alant said government was reviewing its tariff protection policy after a study by the IDC and recommendations from a number of government bodies.

He said quantitative import control as a protection policy had been inefficient.

Because of this government had decided if protection were needed it had to be through tariffs.

Before this could happen, however, effective measures against dumping would have to be instituted.

Alant said it was government's intention to institute wide-ranging measures to lower the overall cost structure.

This would improve SA's competitiveness and encourage greater investment in industry from local

and foreign sources.

The basic aim was to increase industrial output and employment substantially and to create more competitive conditions in the local market.

SA was entering a new era of internationalisation of the economy through export-led industrial development. He stressed the need to lure overseas capital to support this development.

The European Community would by 1992 encompass many of the country's larger traditional markets and it was important that bridgeheads should be established into the vast market of 320-million people.

He stressed the monetary, fiscal, educational and labour policies had to be tailored to industrial growth and the need for a greater beneficiation of raw materials for overseas and local markets.

N I T T R U S T S

S A A in out price



Doornkop community and police claim land

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

purely of religious nature but will have a political undertone".

The Doornkop community, which was uprooted in the early '70s, says it has the title deeds to the farm which its forbears bought from a white farmer in 1920 for £3 500.

The police say the land has been State property since 1967 and was handed over to the SAP by the Department of Public Works in 1987.

Yesterday, Transvaal Rural Advice Committee spokesman Janet Small called on the Government to intervene in the growing tension between the parties.

"In the light of the current reforms around the Land Acts it is an urgent matter now, and the Government cannot turn its back on the Doornkop people who have a legitimate right to their land," she said.

The recently erected "unexploded bombs" signs were not there on January 27 when members of the Doornkop Homecoming Committee took a Star reporter on a tour. Neither were there any gates and in many cases the fences were broken.

A community leader living on a farm near the SAP shooting range said the nearby primary school had not been warned of this danger.

A major confrontation is looming between the Government and the forcibly removed Doornkop people over land 20 km north of Middelburg which the police maintain is now their property.

Only weeks before some Doornkop residents planned to return, the police have erected huge boards on the previously unsignposted, easily accessed land, prohibiting entry and warning of "unexploded bombs, shells and cartridges".

The sign says the "dangerous" land is an SAP shooting range.

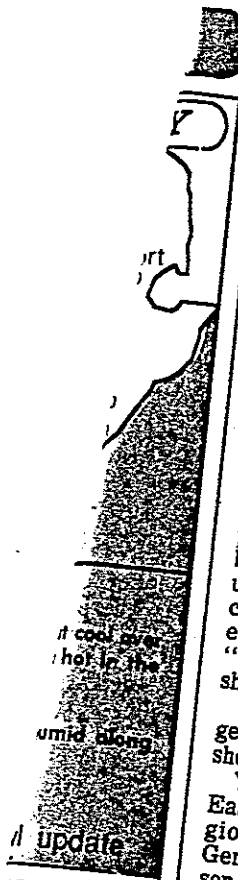
Yesterday, the SAP's Eastern Transvaal Regional Commissioner, General Robbie Robinson, warned former residents planning to resettle in the area that they would face prosecution.

He said any dispute over the ownership of the land "should be settled by means of the existing legal framework".

On Sunday, thousands of Doornkop people from throughout the Transvaal are expected to attend a mass prayer and rededication service at the community cemetery.

But it is not known whether this service will now be allowed to take place.

According to police, the service "will not be



update

	Max	Min
.....	24	18
.....	20	9
.....	2	0
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.....	22	32
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.....	26	19
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.....	10	1
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row, 5.56 am; sunset to-

Parents of 'Gift' baby



Flashback . . . an effigy used to indicate the plight of white agriculture during the recent protest in Pretoria by angry farmers.

NP sets up new farmers' bodies

(3) General
Nov 21/2/91
Own Correspondent

The National Party in Transvaal is using so-called rural committees to counter organised agriculture in the province as it feels the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) can no longer serve as "a mouthpiece for National Party-minded farmers".

The committees are designed to give farmers who are members of the NP direct access to Cabinet Ministers so that their problems can be addressed effectively "by the government of the day", according to a memorandum by the Minister of Agriculture, Jacob de Villiers.

The memorandum — which also urges NP farmers to start a "farmers' action" supportive of the NP — was submitted to the Transvaal National Party caucus before the party's Transvaal congress in October last year. A copy of the document is in the possession of The Pretoria News.

The disclosure follows an allegation by TAU president Dries Bruwer that Transvaal farmers disaffected with the TAU were planning to estab-

lish an alternative agricultural union in the province — a move he says is linked to the rural committees.

The memorandum states that, following the Conservative Party's electoral success in rural constituencies in the Transvaal, "the TAU itself has been politicised to such an extent that it can no longer serve as mouthpiece for National Party-minded farmers".

As the Government recognised the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), the provincial and district unions and farmers' associations as the official mouthpiece of the farmer, it would not be possible to build the rural committees as a "credible" alternative.

"For that reason, the task and object of the rural committees is give Nationalist farmers direct access to ministries in order to put their case."

The document states that "the NP has to remain of service to all its members. NP members must experience that their complaints, problems and proposals receive effective attention by the government of the day".

SADF to pay allowance to farmers in border areas

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

~~3~~ General

The South African Defence Force is to play a greater role in agriculture in border areas, Minister of Agricultural Development Kraai van Niekerk disclosed last night.

This was part of a Government move to "stabilise agriculture" in the areas, he said.

The districts involved had been hard hit by years of drought and by farmers leaving the lands because of an inability to finance their operations.

The SADF would be paying a "territory allowance" to farmers in the areas — which include the north-western Transvaal, northern Cape, eastern Free State, parts of the eastern Transvaal and the far northern Transvaal.

Members of Citizen Force commandos would also qualify for the allowance.

Dr van Niekerk said the changes to be introduced from today included the deproclama-

tion of border areas and the ending of specialised financial assistance schemes administered by his department.

These included assistance with the buying of land and security measures for farmers and their families. Farmers were until recently paid R500 a month for their role in maintaining security in border areas.

Farmers would also no longer be able to obtain help in buying network radios and special anti-landmine vehicles.

Projects

According to Dr van Niekerk, it had been decided to maintain existing rent subsidies on loans approved by the department but at the same time there would be control of payments on a monthly territory allowance to farmers and commando members by the SADF.

Farmers in the areas would still be eligible for help in terms of existing financial and other assistance projects applicable to all farmers in South Africa.

Don't forget

The forgotten black farmer

AST year, cotton farmer James Mlopo made a R24 200 profit. Though he is one of the more successful of a homeland farmers' settlement scheme, he can't increase his productivity without owning the land he tills.

Mlopo yearns for a title deed so he can present it to a bank as security for credit.

Elias Magale, another Northern Transvaal farmer, takes to the bank a monthly average profit of over R2 000. He awaits the day he can take his produce to the nearby white Burgersfort, where the law denies him the right to compete in the marketplace.

Job Montshana farms on 40ha — a piece of land nearly 20 times the size of that of his neighbours at Phokoane. Yet he complains that his has become too small for him. He is prepared, and says he can afford — to buy larger farms anywhere in the country, should the opportunity avail itself, now that the Land Acts are being erased from the South African law books. These three farmers make up just a small percentage of the hundreds operating under farmer settlement schemes spread throughout the bastards. For them, President FW de Klerk's speech opening the 1991 parliamentary session — in which he promised to scrap the Land Acts, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act — brings a glimmer of new hope.

Approaching the farmer settlement schemes in Lebowa through the Northern Transvaal, one is overwhelmed by the rolling tracts of fertile farmlands that are said to be a Conservative Party stronghold. It is this land — with dorp names like Naboomspruit, Nylstroom, Boekenhmit and otgietersus flashing by — that the Eugene Terre-Blanches and Jaap Marais say they will "fight with bullets before they give it to blacks". In this area, the land does not belong to those who work it. Blacks seen ploughing these fields on the farm hands. There are no black townships — where blacks can at least "own" houses via a 9-year leasehold — in this "great plateland of the volk".

The area Mlopo, Magale and Montshana and their people farm is in not-so-fertile Lebowa, situated at the foot of the panoramic Drakensberg range.

Eight years ago, Mlopo, then 48, was a bus driver for Lebowa Transport. His life changed following his decision to "go back to the land" — to become a cotton farmer on the Tswelopele Northern Sotho for "progress" farm in Praktiseer. Since then Mlopo has developed his farming ability and his self-confidence. He now feels capable of competing equally with his white counterparts, whose main advantage has been using title deeds for credit facilities.

"The main problem we face is banks require title and as security for loans. If I could be allowed at the end of the season to put the profits of my harvest into buying this land I'll do so immediately.

"The colour of my skin is not an issue when it comes to farming. I have shown that I'm a better farmer than many in Praktiseer, black or white," says Mlopo, looking over the cotton fields that cover 450ha.

Mlopo is one of 30 farmers who share the farm in a support programme set up by the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation, backed by the leading wholesaler — the Development Bank



Success story Elias Magale has tripled his earnings on his chicken farm. But he is still thwarted by the residue of apartheid laws

of South Africa (DBSA).

The project gives the small black farmers access to seeds, fertilizer and credits, where possible.

The land Mlopo farms is a portion of more than two million hectares of land bought by the government from white farmers to be transferred to the homeland governments. This land has not yet been transferred to the homeland authorities, and it has been suggested by land experts that, with the scrapping of the Land Acts, such trust land should be the first to sold to black farmers.

"You wouldn't know how much I want to buy this land," comments Mlopo, his shabby workman's clothing belying the new-found prosperity. "I often ask when we can begin to buy the land, but have never received a clear answer from the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation." The corporation acts as a go-between for the Tswelopele farmers to sell their produce.

As Mlopo speaks, the air is filled with the per-

sistent drone of a small plane spraying the crops. It is yet another step forward for the Tswelopele farmers: they have decided to share costs of hiring the plane, as their harvest is plagued by a parasitical plant lice.

Mlopo explains this as he nervously glances at the blackening clouds. While rain is always welcome, right now Mlopo is worried that it will wash the herbicide off the cotton plants.

For these farmers the Tswelopele settlement scheme has been an elixir of life. They say they do not believe land should be taken from anyone, black or white, as called for by some political movements.

"We are prepared to buy land, not take someone else's," says another Tswelopele farmer, Bennet Mdluli, to the approval of his colleagues.

About 50km away, near Lebowakgomo, Elias Magale speaks with the same kind of confi-

dence of his farming exploits.

Nearly two years ago Magale (37) relinquished his position of chief clerk with a Northern Transvaal chrome mine. He obtained a R125 000 loan from DBSA, and turned a part-time chicken-farming pursuit into a highly professional operation.

"After 12 years of service to the Lavino Mine I realised my earnings were poor and decided to become self-employed," says the diminutive, shy Magale, standing not far from his new bakkie. "I now make over three times what I used to earn with Lavino."

Magale's Bahwaduba Poultry Farm — named after his clan — is situated at the bottom of the Drakensberg, facing two chrome mines on the face of the mountain. The small farm has just over 40 000 chickens at various growth stages spread in the four chicken houses.

This is a giant step from his early beginnings.



From clerk to farmer, Elias Magale now employs eight people

He points out a distant chicken house he ran while working at the mine, now being used as a selling point for the Driekop community.

He has eight employees — including his father Joseph, in charge of maintenance, and his younger brother, Klaas, the farm's bookkeeper.

His immediate priority is to electrify his farm. Magale and a number of businessmen in the

community — among a wholesaler and a motorist — jointly approached Eskom for their business, projected cost of R54 000, attempting to raise.

For these rural farmers, apartheid inequalities has

but what irks Magale most is his inability to take his produce to the nearby white town.

Burgersfort — which, like so many other white towns, the homeland boundaries have managed to skirt round — is legally out of bounds for Magale's produce, though competing white farmers are allowed to market their produce in black areas.

Furthermore, he pays a fee to a farmers union to keep other poultry farmers out of his area. Magale grows angry as he explains how he still faces unfair competition, not only from the whites, but also from black farmers from faraway areas.

But now he has reason to be hopeful.

"Yes, I heard about De Klerk's announcements, and I'm very excited about the news," he says, and his often dour face bursts into a rare smile. "I can now compete equally with white farmers. I can also own this farm, and who knows, I may look into expanding."

Farmers "own" the land through permission from local tribal authorities who allocate it at their own discretion, and some farmers have to pay an additional license fee to the homeland government. For the use of the land, Magale has to pay an annual tax of R160.

Expansion for Magale means buying the land on which he works; electrifying the farm, and building an abattoir. But this farmer has a cautious streak in him which does not allow him to consider this. He intends to settle his loan — repayable in 15 years at 15 percent interest — within six years.

On a monthly average he comes home with just under R6 000 profit; a third of it going into savings. Besides that, Magale often pays double the required repayment.

"It is rare that a loanee pays in excess of his monthly requirement. Many of them are building a backlog," comments DBSA official Shadrack Masehana.

On the other side of the Drakensberg, over a hundred kilometres from Driekop, lives Bob Montshana of the Phokoane Farmers Co-operation.

Montshana, in his denim jacket and new bakkie, stands out among the Phokoane farmers; unlike the others, who work on an average of three-hectare plots, he works on over 40ha. His explanation of how he has managed to occupy so much land is a proud smile and a modest reply: "It's a privilege from the chief."

His youthfulness, compared to other aged cooperative farmers, equals his enthusiasm for the new South African society. For Montshana, who ranches cattle, as well as growing maize, his dream is to be able to feed people all over the country.

"If I buy land I'd not buy a small plot. I'd be happy with a 400-hectare farm at the least. I'm also prepared to move for the new land. Not only would I buy land, but I would be a success, especially with the help of the kind of bank loans that white farmers get."

Some of the farmer support programmes have not been much of a success, as many farmers lack financial expertise. However, restructuring of the programmes over the years, as with Tswelopele, has brought some positive results, changing the whole attitude among farmers, corporations and development agencies.

These three men, from varied lifestyles and backgrounds, provide positive indications for farming in the "new South Africa".



From clerk to farmer, Elias Magale now employs eight people Photo: PAUL ALEXANDER

He points out a distant chicken house he ran while working at the mine, now being used as a selling point for the Driekop community.

He has eight employees — including his father Joseph, in charge of maintenance, and his younger brother, Klaas, the farm's bookkeeper.

His immediate priority is to electrify his farm. Magale and a number of businessmen in the

community — among them a mortician, a wholesaler and a motor spares owner — have jointly approached Eskom for an electrical connection for their businesses. They will share the projected cost of R54 000, which they are now attempting to raise.

For these rural farmers, living with the many apartheid inequalities has become a way of life.

Police keep eye on service at graveyard

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

MIDDELBURG -- As police watched through binoculars from behind trees and a plane buzzed overhead, about 200 members of the dispossessed Doornkop community went ahead with a rededication service at their graveyard yesterday.

Police imposed 13 conditions on the service.

These included specifying who could speak and restricting the service to one hour and not allowing more than 1 000 people to attend.

Police banned the meeting which the Doornkop Homecoming Committee had planned to follow the service and would not allow former residents to walk over the old farm.

The committee had planned to discuss the resettling of the Doornkop farm, from which up to 25 000 people were uprooted during the early 1970s.

The former residents had always believed the land had been abandoned after the evictions.

However, the SAP has since put up boards on the disputed land saying the area is a police shooting range and warning of unexploded bombs, shells and cartridges.

Last week the police issued a statement saying the farm had been State property since 1967 and had been handed over to the police by the Department of Public Works in 1987.

After the service, Homecoming Committee organiser Abe Maloma said the organisation's legal team would meet top Government officials to get permission for a meeting.

Mr Maloma said many had stayed away after Radio Lebowa broadcast that police had prohibited the service as well.

**No reforms,
say farmers**

bipart 29/3/19
(3) General
PRETORIA — Right-wing farmers' organisation Boere Krisisaksie said yesterday it would not accept the proposed amendments to the Land Acts.

Boere Krisisaksie mobilised up to 7 000 farmers for January's Pretoria "park-in" to demonstrate its dissatisfaction with government's approach to agricultural problems.

It said yesterday farmers would maintain their established rights regarding the ownership and use of land.

It added it would deal with transactions entered into in terms of the proposed new legislation in accordance with these standpoints.

The statement said the White Paper on land reform had been tabled without the majority of farmers being consulted, and that this was seen as hostile to the established rights of white farmers. — Sapa.

Tropical wonderland's uncertain future

Star 26/2/91 (3) General

In the heart of Maputaland, a pristine stretch of tropical bush beneath the southern Mozambique border, a conflict is brewing — a conflict with no easy solutions.

The region is a conservationist's dream, boasting 75 percent of the world's swamp forests and a priceless treasure of huge pans, crocodiles, hippos and birdlife, as well as southern Africa's last free-roaming elephant.

But efforts to conserve six ecological zones, making up Maputaland, have proved highly controversial because of the impact on the rural population living there.

The Tonge Tembe people, who have subsistence-farmed peacefully in the area for centuries, have been caught up in a political quagmire over whether they should remain, or move from areas earmarked for conservation reserves.

L-shaped

To date, the conservation authority involved, the KwaZulu Bureau for Natural Resources, has managed to have three chunks of Maputaland proclaimed reserves. They are the Ndumo Game Reserve, Tembe Elephant Park and Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (including a long strip of coast).

They further intend having these areas consolidated into one huge L-shaped reserve, which would encapsulate all six ecological zones, ranging from coastal dunes to inland sand forest.

But the bureau, primarily concerned with conservation, has found itself pitted against rural organisations championing the cause of the farmers, who wish to stay in the reserves at any cost.

And while the respective organisations battle over their in-

In what is potentially one of South Africa's most beautiful tourist spots, conservationists have come up against a wall of resistance which could destroy their dream. **HELEN GRANGE** reports.

terests, the rural people of the reserves remain uncertain over their future.

The Star, in interviews with many of the Kosi Bay farmers, has found a firm commitment to stay on the land, despite monetary compensation offered by the bureau for moving.

The bureau's case is simply that, should the Tonge population continue farming and allow increasing numbers of cattle to graze on the land, the beauty of Maputaland's coastal forests will soon become a memory.

The bureau, in its effort to limit grazing, has offered incentives to people to move off the land, an option already taken by a number of farmers.

Alternatively, the bureau has given the proviso that should farmers wish to stay, their plantations will be restricted and their cattle will have to graze elsewhere.

However, farmers who take the option to stay will undoubtedly face difficulties in coping with such restrictions, not to mention having to contend with the free movement of wild game should consolidation of the reserves come about.

The bureau's approach has been strongly criticised by the Association of Rural Advancement (Afra), an organisation representing farmers in the region. Afra claims some 2 000 people are threatened with removal from within the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve alone, a situa-

tion it deems immoral and insensitive.

"We support conservation of Maputaland's unique resources but not at the expense of the already impoverished local people," says fieldworker Richard Clacey.

One suggestion is that the local people may be prepared to accept priority conservation areas if their traditional rights of tenure are respected, and if they had access to game meat, plant resources, honey, water and grazing land.

But, according to the bureau, present agricultural gains in the swamp forest will only be of short-term benefit — because the sponges will not sustain long-term agriculture.

Tourism

The bureau has said it is prepared to negotiate the cultivation of peripheral strips of swamp forest, while conserving the central core of the forests — but claims this valuable compromise has also been bedevilled by political groups "wanting the entire swamp forest for agriculture".

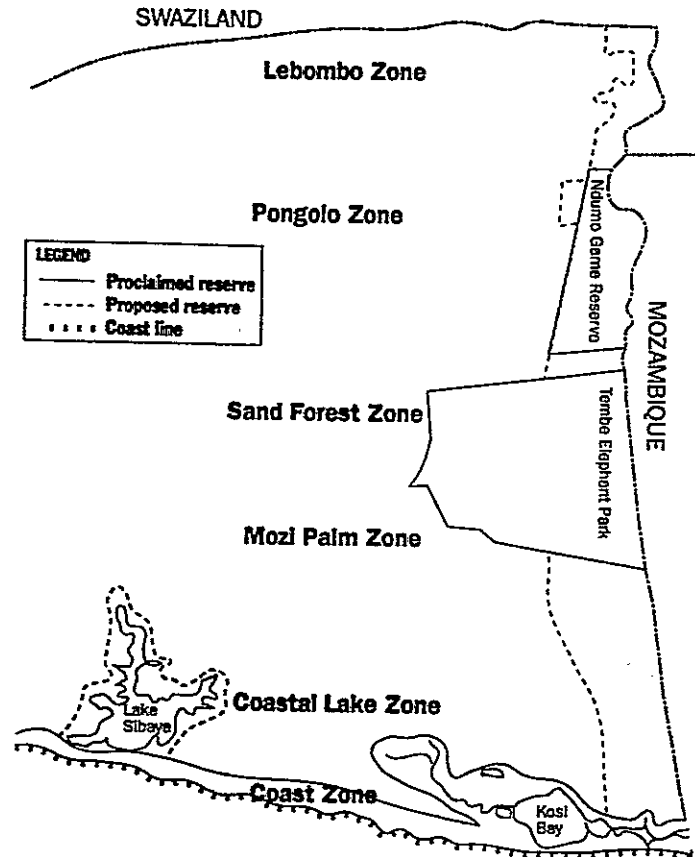
Ironically, the Tembe people are living on a potential tourist gold mine — easily more ecologically valuable and beautiful than the Kruger National Park.

The bureau has stated that the Tembe Tribal Authority, which presides over the community, would get 25 percent of all future tourist income.

But as long as the area is plagued with conflict, and negotiations continue to fail, consolidation of Maputaland reserves will remain a dream, and the region's potential for tourist growth will be stunted.

● Another tragedy of the Maputaland paradise is the spillover of the war raging in Mozambique.

Elephants in the Tembe Elephant Park have taken the



brunt of Renamo/Frelimo skirmishes, and many are walking around riddled with bullets.

When the northern boundary of the park was closed in 1989, 25 percent of the elephant bulls had visible wounds, and eight percent of the population was lost in one year.

The bureau says it is important to the elephants that the L-

shaped consolidated reserve comes about so they can once again gain access to flood plains and vegetation outside the boundaries of the park.

Consolidation between the Tembe Elephant Park and Ndumo Game Reserve would also cut off the Mbangweni Corridor, a gateway for gun and drug traffic from Mozambique.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Hansard 26/2/91

- (1) No, information is not available at this stage. It is not as yet possible to determine the number of posts;
- (2) given the tendency of decreasing numbers in the school population in my Department it is probable that teaching posts will be abolished;
 - (a) see (1);
 - (b) efforts will be made to appoint the teachers concerned to suitable vacant posts in other areas;
- (3) no.

School/tuition fees

*3. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether his Department is taking steps to make the collection of school and/or tuition fees compulsory; if so, what steps; if not, why not;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

Hansard 26/2/91

B205E

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- (1) No, although the necessary preparatory steps have been taken the collection of compulsory tuition fees is not being considered for the near future. The financing of education is one of the aspects which is presently being investigated as part of the Education Renewal Strategy and the findings are awaited;
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However, it creates a very large problem within the teaching profession because there are large problems surrounding this issue. The most important thereof is that a particular community can offer teachers better benefits than other schools can as a result of its economically directed composition, and this can really be a problem. Hansard 26/2/91

I am aware that teachers are assisted in various ways to teach at a particular school without a specific amount of money increasing the salary. The whole issue of differentiated salaries is a difficult matter that constantly demands the attention of my department as well as that of the organised profession. It can be that we will really have to pay attention in future to possibly allowing it, but I do not want to commit myself to that at this moment in time.

Certain White areas: permits

*4. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Welfare, Housing and Works:

- (1) How many permits to live in the White residential areas of Erasmia and Christoburg in the Pretoria West constituency have been granted in terms of the Group Areas Act to Indians to date;
- (2) whether his Department obtains comment from the relevant city council, member of Parliament and neighbours before permits in terms of the above-mentioned Act are granted; if not,
- (3) whether his Department gave the member of Parliament for Umhlatuzana the opportunity to make such comment in respect of Indians who wished to settle in Queensburgh, a suburb of Durban; if so, (a) what was the nature of this member's comment and (b) why was this procedure not followed in respect of Erasmia and Christoburg?

Hansard 26/2/91

B254E

The MINISTER OF WELFARE, HOUSING AND WORKS:

- (1) 140;
- (2) Yes; my predecessor at the request of the relevant City Council had discussions with the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Pretoria City Council and

the City Councillor for Erasmia/Christoburg on 24 September 1990. Thereafter they orally indicated, on behalf of the City Council, that there would be no objections to the granting of permits.

On 25 September 1990 officials had discussions with the City Councillor, the Chairman of the Ratepayers Association and others. During a residents meeting on 29 September 1990 it was indicated, on a *pro forma* letter, that most of the residents are prepared to sell properties to Indians. This fact was conveyed to the Department by the City Councillor on 1 October 1990.

On 9 November 1990 my predecessor had discussions with the hon member on his request during which the hon member again clearly stated his viewpoint against the possible issue of permits.

Applications for permits were accompanied by forms of consent or otherwise from the adjacent neighbours. The information was verified during the consideration of the applications.

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Mr S S VAN DER MERWE: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, in respect of the suburbs in the constituency of Pretoria West, were any of the applications received by the Department turned down and, if so, how many?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not have that information readily at hand. If the hon member wishes to put that question on the Question Paper I will reply to it.

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State/private schools: amount per child

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Whether there is any difference in respect of the average amounts spent by the State per child on ordinary State schools as compared to private schools under the control of his Department; if so, (a) what average amount was spent per child in each case during the latest specified financial year for which information is available and (b) what are the reasons for

the difference?

Hansard 26/2/91 B257E
The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes, for the 1990/91 financial year

- (a) *State schools*: Approximately R3 600 per pupil per year,
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Gr 1 to Std 7: R760 or R253 per pupil per year,
Stds 8 to 10: R1 140 or R380 per pupil per year,
- (b) Regulation 5 of the Regulations regarding the Registration of and Financial Grants to Private Schools (No R2281 of 31 October 1986) stipulates inter alia as follows:

"(1) A registered private school may apply to be considered for one or two categories of financial grants.

- (2) The categories referred to in subregulation (1) are either 15% or 45% of an amount calculated in accordance with a standard formula of the Department."

The state accepts greater responsibility for the financing of State schools than for private schools, which have greater autonomy.

Land Tenure Acts: abolition

*6. Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

Whether after the abolition of the so-called Land Tenure Acts of 1913 and 1936 the Directorate: Financial Aid of his Department will render financial assistance to non-Whites for the purchase of agricultural land; if not, why not; if so, what steps are contemplated in this connection?

Hansard 26/2/91

B287E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

The Directorate: Financial Assistance may in accordance with the Republic of South African Constitution Act, 1983, render a service to any population group provided the funds are available for that purpose. The conditions for financial assistance for the purchase of agricultural land will be the same for everyone.

Border farmers (3) *general* *Star* 26/2/91 'forced off land'

By Stan Hlophe

Burgershall farmers near Sand River in the Eastern Transvaal have abandoned their farms after they were allegedly intimidated by KaNgwane homeland residents.

Hennie du Piessis told The Star his parents and in-laws were forced to leave the farm after receiving death threats.

Mr du Piessis said this was the fault of the Department of Co-operation and Development Aid which reneged on its promise to buy the farm after a decree that the farm would be incorporated into KaNgwane.

"Things were never the same after the proclamation. The black population vandalised our farms and homes. The Government has promised us several thousands of rands. However, after the decree we could not find buyers as they were intimidated by local blacks," Mr du Piessis said.

His mother-in-law, A E S Labuschagne, recently appealed to Deputy Minister of Co-opera-

tion and Development Aid P G Marais to come to their rescue.

Among other things, Mrs Labuschagne said in her letter:

"Before the proclamation by Minister J C Heunis, on June 9 1987, we had lived peacefully on the border. Then our businesses were boycotted. Our telephone lines were sabotaged. Water pumps were broken and motor parts stolen.

"...Please Minister Marais if we do not get an immediate confirmation that the State will buy our farms ... (they) will be seized."

In his reply Mr Marais said he understood the situation that Mrs Labuschagne found herself in and was looking into it.

He said he was awaiting a final report on the area from the Commissioner of Co-operation and Development Aid.

After receiving the report the recommendations would be referred to the Cabinet for approval in Parliament.

The land would thereafter be bought, depending on the availability of funds.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Hansard 26/2/91

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Hansard 26/2/91

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'No new land laws'

South
28/2 -
6/3/91

SPRINGBOK. — No new laws about land ownership should be made after the scrapping of the Land Acts until all South Africans could elect a democratic government, residents associations of 10 Namaqualand communities said in a joint statement this week. (3) General

Communal ownership and farming had to be protected against private ownership and had to be encouraged, with communal trust lands protected by a special clause.

"We welcome the scrapping of apartheid laws such as the Land and Group Areas Acts, but if nothing more is done to justly redistribute land, then this is another form of economic apartheid."

"Our land claims must be considered on the basis of usage, birthright, inheritance, title deed, justice and productivity," the communities said.

It is that time of year again when workers' strike action costs employers millions of rands in revenue and the talk in the boardroom shifts to mechanisation. But are people really being replaced by high-tech machinery or are employers just blowing off steam? Waghied Misbach investigates:

MACHINES do not go on strike, take time off or need good working conditions to keep them working happily.

It is the ideal situation to increase productivity while keeping staff wage costs at a minimum, employers maintain.

But the above scenario is an employer's utopia. The reality is that South Africa has an extremely fragile economy which discounts the possibility of widespread mechanisation, experts argue.

Massive retrenchments, a natural consequence of mechanisation, would mean workers would have no income and would thus be unable to buy the products made by the machines that replaced them — a vicious cycle, experts say.

Employers reply that situation can be solved by increasing training. But the sad state of black education and the low wages of parents will ensure their children remain unskilled.

Recession

Figures from the Manpower Minister Mr Pietie du Plessis in 1989 indicated that by the year 2 000, there would be a shortage of 200 000 skilled workers if the two percent annual growth rate continues.

But the current recession in the economy has meant industry as a whole has cut spending on training.

On top of all that, skills training is not taking place in the crucial technical fields. Reports indicate that 10 percent of South Africa's manpower is being trained in a technical field, while 75 percent would be required to meet future manpower requirements.

The manufacturing sector, which experts consider will take over from the shrinking mining industry, has shown little growth in productivity or provided the expected jobs. This is despite capital intensity in the manufacturing industry growing steadily for more than three decades.

Mechanisation: Bosses' utopia



UNWANTED? Farmworkers such as these must fear for their jobs with the increasing mechanisation of their industry

PIC: PAUL WEINBERG

Experts maintain that the government has been encouraging capital-intensive, rather than labour-intensive growth.

Capital-intensive investments like Iscor (iron and steel), Sasol (synthetic fuels) and Armscor (armaments) were established by the government from 1924 onwards. Foreign investors also played their part. By 1975 there were almost 700 subsidiaries of American and European companies.

"The bottom line is that manufacturing has not generated growth in output or productivity, despite the increase in capital intensity, and has not created new jobs," says a report from Interfund, an influential London-based fundraising consortium.

At Iscor, 1 800 jobs will be lost at the steel giant's Pretoria works due to its

rationalisation and modernisation programme, according to reports. The modernisation programme aims to change "technologically-obsolete processes".

According to the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa), the metal industry is expected to cut 37 000 jobs from a total of 387 000.

Strikes over wages have exacerbated the situation. In the first half of 1990, strike actions resulted in the loss of almost 1,2m workdays.

But while strike action is usually the spark, it is not the sole reason for the increasing boardroom talk of mechanisation.

Mr Colin McCarthy, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, says strikes are not the reason for employers' increasing talk of capital-intensive production.

He argues there is a myriad of factors involved, competition with cheaper overseas markets being one of the major reasons.

McCarthy says labour unrest merely accelerates unproductivity.

Inflation rises because people are asking too much in wages for the same level of production. That is why South Africa's inflationary rate is 14 percent, compared to that of Europe's average of three percent, McCarthy maintains.

To counter businesses closing down, McCarthy believes trade unions and employers have to work together to increase production and thus worker's wages.

"It does not mean working harder, but working smarter."

A researcher for the South African Labour Development Research Unit

(Saldru) at UCT disputes McCarthy's assumptions.

"All this is being blamed on the poor worker again. Studies that have been undertaken in the informal sector of the clothing industry in parts of Cape Town have shown workers get much higher wages because the management layer of the equation has been cut out."

He argues, however, that mechanisation is part of the broader problem of unemployment in the country, where the total level of employment has risen by only six percent in the period 1980-1988.

"The growth in overall employment can be contrasted with the estimated annual increase in the number of jobseekers of over three percent.

"That means it makes it extra difficult for new job seekers to get jobs. The political implications of the problem is enormous," he said.

In industries where mechanisation seems most likely to happen, it is not financially viable.

In the motor industry, for example, mechanisation will be profitable only if at least 2 000 cars are produced daily. The entire motor manufacturing industry, which consist of seven major companies, produce between 1 300 and 1 500 cars daily, according to 1988 figures.

Viable

The clothing industry is in a similar position. McCarthy says the clothing industry is still very labour intensive; mechanisation would not be viable.

The agricultural sector seems to be the most hard hit of all industries in terms of loss of jobs, according to Interfund.

It reports that the Central Statistical Services (CSS) estimate that employment fell by 9.5 percent in 1988.

This sector employs the most people — 600 000 on 65 000 farms — with another 600 000 employed as casual labour.

"The employment implications of the shift to mechanised, large-scale agricultural production have been drastic," reports Interfund.

"On highly-mechanised farms, wages increased 250 percent, but the number of workers permanently employed fell."

On the Anglo American Corporation's Soetveld farms, for example, labour usage fell from 34,1 to 1,8 workers for each 100 hectares.

Everyone seems to agree that mechanisation is important for the development of the South African economy, but the government's resources are strained.

The backlog in investments and technology will require billions for a competitive economy.

Already, social spending to correct the imbalances of apartheid will amount to about R75bn

Capital productivity on farms 'could slow down' ^{General} ⁽³⁾

SHARON WOOD

THE growth in the productivity of agricultural capital over the past five years may not be maintained, because it came from a relatively low base, says Volkskas's latest Economic Spotlight.

Essential capital replenishment, too, would slow productivity growth, it said.

Capital productivity grew at an average annual rate of increase of 11,5% from 1984 to 1989, an exceptional achievement in relation to other sectors of the economy.

But investment in the agricultural sector had been insufficient to maintain real production capacity. Real capital stock declined every year from 1983 to 1989.

Labour substitution for capital came to an end in 1985, but time would determine

whether this was a permanent or temporary phenomenon, said the report.

A higher debt burden intensified the financial risk in agricultural production during the '80s. In the 1989-90 agricultural year, total agricultural debt rose by 5,4% to R14,6bn. *B100m 28/2/91*

A one percentage point change in interest rates meant a difference of about R140m in agriculture's annual interest burden.

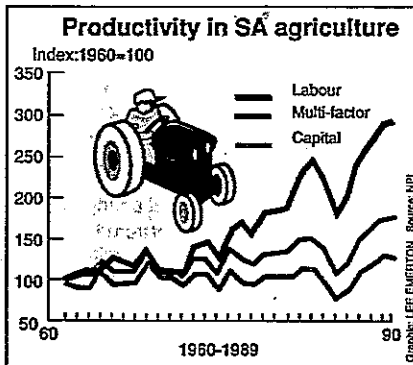
In 1990, interest charges absorbed 38% of net farming income, Volkskas said.

As a result creditors were becoming increasingly instrumental in promoting capital effectiveness in agriculture.

High interest rates might prompt lower capital formation. That could lead to an increase in capital efficiency. But it could also result in the inadequate replacement of assets and a situation where new technology could not be used.

Producer prices for grain and meat began dropping during 1990 and there were indications that land prices had begun to decline.

The report said lower land prices could contribute to the more efficient employment of land as a capital asset in agriculture. But the drought during the 1990-91 agricultural season might place greater pressure on the sector's profitability.



ANC proposes land redistribution

Call Times
1/3/91
36 general
180

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC yesterday released a document on land reform, which calls for the state to implement a radical programme of land redistribution.

The document, drawn up by the ANC's land commission, will be sent to the organisation's regions for debate.

"If radical reform does not take place, we can expect an outburst of uncontrollable political anger," said Mr Derek Hanekom, a member of the commission.

"Without state intervention, it will be economically impossible to carry out the land reform we need to create jobs, improve productivity and satisfy political demands," the document says.

On the issue of nationalisation of land, the commission said: "This is not the easy solution that we used to think it was".

Mr Hanekom called for "a strategy in which land is redistributed without too much disruption of production and which does not cost too much".

The commission proposed that a new constitution should accord the state powers for intervention in the land market, called for "flexible" ownership of land and stressed that

the process of land redistribution be carried out at a careful pace.

It called for a land tax and recommended that collective land ownership be encouraged rather than imposed.

Powers of intervention would allow the state to pass a Comprehensive Land Reform Act. The act would "allow the state to implement affirmative action programmes, to get land where it is needed, according to an economic formula based on productive value rather than speculative free market principles", the document said.

Such powers would also allow the state to establish a Land Claims Commission to "set up fair procedures and criteria for the adjudication of land claims".

On compensation for white farmers, the commission ruled out payment of foreign exchange.

"Our suggestion would be that compensation should be paid out in part immediately and the rest over a 10-year period."

The commission said redressing injustices in land distribution would be a long process.

"We need to sort out the confusion caused by centuries of dispossession. This may take some years," Mr Hanekom said. — Sapa

ANC paper grapples with land distribution

NATIONALISATION of land to right past wrongs is the main thread that runs through the ANC Land Commission discussion document released yesterday, although it points out some almost overwhelming defects in such a course of action.

The document is to be distributed among ANC branches countrywide in order to encourage discussion and debate with a view to formulating ANC policy at the organisation's mid-year conference.

The document does not constitute ANC policy, although it quotes both the Freedom Charter, which calls for the land to be "redivided" among those who work it, and the ANC's draft constitutional proposals which propose help for those who have been dispossessed.

The discussion document follows the same format as the report from an ANC workshop on agrarian restructuring held last August, mentioning the pros and cons of nationalising land,

without adopting an equivocal stance on either course.

The discussion document begins with an account of the gradual dispossession of black land by white settlers, until 80% of SA's land was reserved for white ownership.

It says the ANC is angered by President F W de Klerk who, the document says, has assured white farmers their title deeds are safe.

"We remember with pain the time when the title deeds of black South Africans did not safeguard their property rights."

Anger

It also states that the ANC must satisfy the strong desire for land as this is "one of the most important national demands".

"If a radical land reform does not take place, we can expect an outburst of uncontrollable political anger."

State action and the development of a system of land rights law are seen as the main methods of achieving a more

6/Day 1/3/91

TIM COHEN

just distribution of land.

The document says government felt until recently that removing racial restrictions on land ownership and allowing people to buy land on the free market would be the method through which blacks would get land.

The document rejects this approach because moneyless people would not gain access to land.

"For this reason we believe that a carefully planned state intervention is required."

The report does not estimate how much land is required, or how much this land would cost the state.

In order to achieve redistribution, the document says the ANC has been discussing a Land Claims Court, which would have certain guidelines to judge who has the best claim to a piece of land.

The guidelines would take into account title deeds, birthrights, inheritance over generations, forced relocations, historical rights and occupation-

al rights and the need to have a place to live.

The state would have to intervene if a change in ownership was required.

As to how the state should achieve this, the document proposes several possibilities, including the banning of private ownership of land and the expropriation of land.

Categories

On the banning of private land ownership, the report says: "This is not the easy solution that we used to think it was", and points to the examples of Mozambique and the Soviet Union where collective farming land is being redistributed to individuals.

Expropriated land could be given to particular categories of people, or it could be rented or sold — possibly using special terms of credit.

But the document calls for discussion on security of tenure and possible sanctions which could result if this were done.

"Some people think that there is no guarantee that state ownership of land offers long-term security," it says, adding that even in East European countries people are now trying to get their own plots of land.

Overseas countries might also refuse to lend the state money and foreign investors might be scared off, the document points out.

The document rules out as "totally unacceptable" compensation in foreign exchange, and says there is a debate about whether all white farmers ought to be compensated at all.

"Prompt cash payment will burden our state budget, limit the speed at which land can be redistributed and contribute to inflation."

The discussion document suggests that compensation should be paid out in part immediately and the rest over 10 years.

It suggests that possibly 25% should be given in cash, 25% in bonds to be paid in 10 years' time, and half in bonds to be invested in SA industry.

ANC reveals plans for land reform

Star 1/3/91. 3 General

By Esmaré van der Merwe
Political Reporter

The ANC has proposed a comprehensive Land Reform Act and the establishment of a Land Claims Court to handle the emotive demand for the redistribution of land in such a way that farming productivity is not disrupted.

Imaginative proposals on land reform are contained in a discussion document, released yesterday by the organisation's Land Commission.

At a press conference, spokesmen Derek Hanekom and David Cooper said the document would be widely distributed for debate by the ANC's 14 regions. A final policy document would then be drawn up and presented for adoption at the ANC's national conference in June.

Imbalance

The document stated that carefully planned state intervention was needed to ensure equal access to land and to address the current imbalance whereby 80 percent of the population occupied 13 percent of the land.

However, land nationalisation would be expensive, would scare off foreign investment and was "not the easy solution that we used to think it was".

The ANC's publicity director, Pallo Jordan, said that land nationalisation had never been ANC policy.

"The ANC never spoke of the nationalisation of land, only the nationalisation of industry. There is a strong demand for



Pallo Jordan . . . 'Land nationalisation has never been ANC policy.'

the nationalisation of land, but what people usually mean by that is that the State should intervene to get back their land and then give it to them in the form of private plots."

The document carefully argued the thorny issue of compensation for white farmers, and offers some controversial solutions:

- Certain landowners, such as Anglo American, could afford, and might be willing, to donate their land for redistribution or accept modest compensation.

- Some farmers might disqualify themselves from compensation by refusing to abide by labour laws, being guilty of human rights violations or abandoning their land.

- Cash compensation would

burden the state budget, limit the speed of redistribution and contribute to compensation. Instead, owners could be partly paid in cash and partly in bonds to be cashed over a 10-year period. Payment in foreign currency would not be considered.

Another controversial suggestion contained in the document was to introduce a land tax "to ensure productivity".

It said: "A progressive land tax means that those who own more land pay more and should encourage large landholders to give up or sell land."

Other suggestions included were that:

- A Land Claims Court be set up to devise fair procedures and criteria for the adjudication of land claims. These guidelines would take into account birth-right, historical claims, ancestral graves, present occupation rights, inheritance and people's need to have a place to live and farm.

Grants

- To ensure fast redistribution, the state could nationalise all land, with or without compensation. Thereafter, it could give land grants to people, rent out the land to tenants or sell land to individuals and co-operatives.

- Some form of reparation should be given to people who had been unfairly removed from their land.

- Land reform should ensure better use of natural resources, increased productivity and create job opportunities. Rural and agricultural productivity must be stimulated through government-sponsored programmes of affirmative action to ensure equal access to resources, credit, infrastructure and training.

Doubt cast Star 1/3/91 on growth in farming productivity

By Sven Lunsche

It is doubtful whether farmers will be able to maintain the past five years' growth in productivity, Volkskas says in its Economic Spotlight.

The bank says it is essential that productivity be increased in order to improve profitability of the farming sector.

In an analysis of the sector, economists at Volkskas say productivity increases over the last five years took place from a relatively low base.

In addition, capital goods, especially machinery, will have to be replaced and will further slow productivity gains.

The commercial agricultural industry has only been able to exploit capital more effectively since 1984, Volkskas says, whereas labour productivity has recorded good growth over the past 30 years.

Despite this trend, the practice of replacing labour with capital came to a halt in 1985, which was a reflection of the relative cost of various production factors.

Volkskas says it is essential for farmers to raise the productivity of their capital.

It says there is a direct link between the profitability of farms and land prices.

Producer prices for grain and meat began dropping in 1990, and there were indications that land prices, which were still climbing in 1988, had since begun to decline, Volkskas says.

It seems, too, that the role of inflation hedging as a determinant of rising land prices has diminished, which could place increasing pressure on management capabilities and creditworthiness of farmers and prejudice their credit rating.

The debt burden had already risen by R800 million to R14,6 billion in the 1989/90 agricultural season which, in terms of a debt-to-asset ratio of 26,7 percent, was not too excessive, Volkskas says.

However, the short-term component of this debt swelled from 35 percent 15 years ago to 55,3 percent last year, which has been one of the primary causes of farmers' liquidity problems over the last few years.

The higher debt burden is exacerbated by the high level of interest rates in real terms.

A one percentage point rise in prime rate lifts the total agricultural burden by an annual R140 million.

Rate hikes over the last three years have added about R2 billion per annum to the industry's interest charges.

"This has not only threatened interest rate subsidies intended to stabilise the cash-flow positions of farmers with high debt burdens, but has also intensified the overall financial risk in agriculture," Volkskas says.

Relief plan for burdened farmers

TO EASE the administrative and cash flow burdens of farmers, Vatcom has recommended that those with supplies worth a taxable value of not more than R1m need only submit six monthly returns.

Certain supplies have also been zero-rated.

Ernst & Young tax partner Ian MacKenzie said for the big farmers the zero rating was a major concession as they would receive the regular input tax credits as well as benefiting from the cash flow advantage of zero-rated supplies. Importers and exporters had not been granted such

GILLIAN HAYNE

concessions. (3) *Cereal* ~~(2)~~

A tax consultant argued the six monthly returns amounted to subsidisation for the farmers, as they would have received the tax but would only have to pay it later. The question was whether the farmers would be able to pay the tax after six months.

Arthur Andersen tax manager Shane Ferguson said a further benefit for the small farmer was that he could choose to pay VAT on the payments basis and not the invoice basis.

18/10/91

ANC report calls for 'land claim courts'

6/Day 11/3/91 TIM COHEN

THE ANC's Land Commission yesterday released a document strongly stressing the need to redistribute land with special courts ruling on individual land disputes.

The document also raises several problems associated with nationalisation — the second ANC paper to do so within weeks.

The generally cautious document envisages a demand-led land policy with "land claims courts" deciding individual claims.

It warns of an "uncontrollable political anger" if radical land reform does not occur and questions whether some farmers should be compensated at all. (2)

But the document also raises the examples of East European countries, the Soviet Union and Mozambique, where land nationalisation failed. (3) General

It warns that international sanctions are possible if land is nationalised and raises the possibility that state ownership would not offer farmers long term security.

Land commission member Dave Cooper said yesterday the ANC envisaged a "demand-led" approach to land reform.

Government would not start off by buying up vast tracts of land for redistribution, but would rather respond to specific demands and legitimate claims ruled on by the land claim courts.

The possibility of large-scale redistribution arising from court decisions could not, however, be ruled out.

The document proposes the land claim courts would work according to guidelines which would take account of title deeds, but would not be absolutely bound by them.

The court would take account of birthrights, inheritance over generations, forced relocations, historical claims, present occupation rights and the claimant's need to have a place to live and farm.

Cooper said at a Press conference yesterday the decision of the court would to a great extent depend on how the land was being used at that particular time.

The state would intervene once the court had made its decision, possibly by expropriation and granting compensation.

The ANC was proposing a process whereby people could make claims according to certain criteria. For example,

To Page 2

Land 6/Day 11/3/91

people who lost their land through forced removals would get priority over people making historical claims on the same piece of land dating back 150 years.

The document also says that there should be flexible forms of land ownership, land should be affordable and land reform should take place at a "careful" speed.

Cooper said while there was a need to redistribute land, this would have to be

(NA) (3) General From Page 1

balanced against SA's economic needs. He said there was a role for the market in this process, but that this might not be the free market as it currently existed.

There was a role for people to exchange land on terms they themselves agreed on. Mediation would be necessary only if people were unable to enter the market.

● See Page 11

(Continued from page 28)

Brummer: One of stability, responsibility, soundness, innovation and one that provides cost-effective services which will meet our customers' needs.

Lumsden: Service is extremely important. To be the leading bank in SA, we have to provide excellent service.

Schutte: We would like to be perceived as a bank that really takes care of its customers.

Grobler: We have traditionally focused on service, warmth and the personal touch. We must also have technology that works.

Will the number of bank employees shrink?

Schutte: They will grow at a slower rate. Technology will take care of the mass market where labour intensity has been in the past. Personalised service will continue at the

upper end of the market.

Should SA banks regard themselves as part of the global market or should they confine themselves to seeing their role as SA institutions?

Lumsden: Hopefully we will be part of the global market again. Banks need to be in a position where they can fit in immediately.

Brummer: It is critical that we participate in the process of globalisation.

Schutte: It depends how we define globalisation. American banks, for example, globalised with extensive worldwide branch networks. I don't see the need for SA banks to do that. SA banks must have established correspondent bank relationships and branches in places like London and New York. **Why is it necessary to do that?**

Schutte: We are at a disadvantage being so far away from the Western world. We need the direct exposure to a sophisticated market.

Would you increase your network into less sophisticated countries?

Schutte: Given the potential for increased trade within southern Africa and the potential role which SA will play, it will follow naturally that we will extend our banking operations into neighbouring countries at the appropriate time.

Grobler: We would go where our clients go. We are a member of the global community, but I don't think SA banks will compete with the top 10 worldwide in terms of size or branch networks. But we cannot afford to be left out. ■

AGRICULTURE

FM 1/3/91

GROWING PAINS

③ General

INDUSTRY RESHAPING HAS A POLITICAL AS WELL AS MARKET DIRECTIVE

Two relevant facts are forcing SA agriculture to mend its ways. The annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Pretoria took a hard look at them.

First, there is the wrenching change in the political climate — meaning the scrapping of the Land Acts with their historic bias towards whites. Second, the impact of a successful Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT) was spelt out to the farmers. The meeting was attended and addressed by spokesmen for government, organised agriculture, diplomats, politicians, businessmen and economists.

In greater detail, the inescapable issues facing farmers include:

□ The impact of post-apartheid policies — including black membership of farming bodies — and the highly charged question of land apportionment.

□ Reductions in State aid and producer subsidies. Farmers will in future have to accept the individual risk of their investment decisions, except in deserving cases where disaster has struck;

□ Allowing the market greater freedom to determine prices and accepting the consequences;

□ A reduced role for control boards and farming co-operatives and the deregulation of the excessive State role in areas like marketing, pricing and hygiene;

□ Accepting competitive imports: import controls are already on the way out;

□ The added cost of VAT on fresh food prices from October 1. These products are still exempt from

GST;

□ Facing the fact that farming is no longer "special" or "strategic" in government eyes and must fit in with the general restructuring of the economy; and

□ Accepting that the developmental sector of the economy will increasingly form the focus of State policy (under a Nat or ANC government). The growing role of the Development Bank of Southern Africa highlights this.

There will be further changes: the opening of membership in all farming bodies will provide financial, training and extension services to all races; a better deal for farm workers will mean management and profit

participation, better housing, health, training and education.

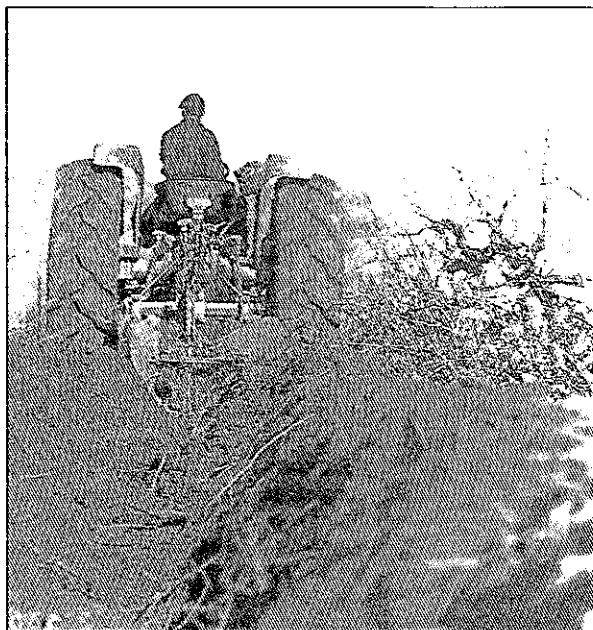
At another Pretoria conference, ANC Land Commission member David Cooper found himself in agreement on many issues with provincial farming union spokesmen. Delegates remarked on the fact that the ANC is moving closer to market orientation.

Cooper said the ANC views inequality, poverty and "land hunger" as three of the major issues which have to be addressed in the new SA. Land ownership is bound to remain a thorny issue between white farmers and the ANC lobby, but nationalisation and expropriation of farmland no longer seems to be a major focus of ANC policy. Cooper

does, however, say the ANC would recognise "tribal land use" and that individual land ownership need not be the sole basis of land use. The environmental and recreational use of land could also play an important part in ANC policy formulation.

Farmers' "traditional" privileges are all under siege. The maize lobby complained that protection of expensive local industries (like ADE) has pushed up input costs; but Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry Theo Alant had a short answer: "We are now out of the era of 'strategic' industries and into the era of balanced economic development." But, he added, it would take a while to phase out protectionism and allow price-competitive imports which would benefit farmers.

Agriculture Development Minister Kraai van Niekirk also cut short complaints about State hand-



Tougher going now ... but a better outlook in the end

Dries, Harties, Kinross, Beatrix and Knights. The scrapping of ring-fencing would have been a much greater stimulus to new gold mining developments.

The further reduction in surcharge for non-gold mines will have broader effects, but was generally expected.

Economists describe the Budget as expansionary — but with qualifications.

Says Old Mutual's Dave Mohr: "A Budget can never be neutral. I doubt that this one is contractionary, so by default it must be expansionary. Spending in real terms will show some increase. The amount for improving conditions of service for public-sector employees implies there will be reasonable increases in remuneration. In addition there is the emphasis on social spending.

"So this represents a turning point in the continuous tightening of economic policy we have had for three years — especially if you view it in conjunction with the 1% drop in the Bank rate."

But he adds the expected rise of 27% in direct personal taxes will check these stimulatory increases.

Standard Bank group economist Nico Cypionka also sees the Budget as having long-term expansionary impact. "Apart from the modest shift to social expenditure, the most striking feature is the attempt to improve the supply side of the economy. Gainers from this Budget in the long term will be industry, especially exporters."

But he too points to the increase in tax revenue as holding back consumption demand: "They have tried to conform to their self-imposed guidelines of keeping the deficit to 3% and have achieved this with some ingenuity. Nevertheless it is kept within reason and on technical grounds you can't fault

REVENUE COMPARISONS

	1990-91 Budgeted Rm	1990-91 Revised estimate Rm	1991-92 Budgeted at exist- ing rates Rm	1991-92 Budgeted at new rates Rm	% Change on 1990/91 revised
Inland Revenue					
Income tax on:					
Individuals	23 500	22 900	29 840	29 139	27.2
Non-mining companies	12 950	12 401	13 651	13 713	10.6
Gold mines	1 000	631	505	490	-22.3
Diamond and other mines	1 210	1 619	1 259	1 225	-24.3
Sales tax †	18 500	18 207	20 354	19 444	6.8
Gold mine leases	300	181	140	140	-22.7
Stamp duties	—	700	735	655	-6.4
Transfer duties	—	755	815	675	-10.6
Other	3 410	1 574	1 240	1 155	-10.8
Total	60 870	58 968	68 539	66 636	13.0
Customs and Excise					
Customs duty	2 100	2 490	2 635	2 635	5.8
Import surcharge	2 700	2 085	2 165	1 409	-32.4
Excise duty	2 750	3 060	3 215	3 555	16.2
Fuel levy	4 200	3 928	3 987	4 520	15.1
Ordinary levy	100	106	111	111	4.7
Miscellaneous	196	206	233	233	12.7
Total	12 046	11 876	12 346	12 463	4.9
Less: Customs Union payments..	3 448	3 448	4 233	4 233	22.8
Total	8 598	8 428	8 113	8 230	-2.3
Total Revenue	69 468	67 396	76 652	74 866	11.1

† Includes VAT from September 30 1991.

this Budget. If you consider the social expenditure on the platter, this deficit is a deliberate decision not to choose the easy way out. "But I don't agree it will reinforce the

downward move. After all, government spending is likely to overshoot and, in that event unless they have significantly underestimated revenues, the deficit will be higher."

THE LAND ISSUE

A FATAL FORGETTING

3 General

A STATUTORY MECHANISM IS NEEDED TO REDRESS GRIEVANCES

FM 22/3/91

Welcome as government's proposed land law reforms may be, some aspects need urgent reconsideration. Two in particular could well hamper rather than ease the broader reform process:

□ The lack of provision for any kind of reparations for forced removals which affected possibly 3.5m people over the years of draconian implementation of racial land laws; and

□ How the procedure for setting and enforcing "norms and standards" for residential areas will actually work. Critics see current suggestions as a means of entrenching white privilege gained at the expense of blacks previously subject to brutal laws of dispossession and segregated residential inequality.

In essence the suggested reforms published in a White Paper and five Bills last

week scrap all racial provisions in the ownership and occupation of all land except in the homelands, where tribal ownership will continue unless changed voluntarily by the tribal authorities themselves. In this sense they are as important a reform as the abolition of influx control, since they remove legal impediments to settlement.

The measures provide for far-reaching financial and technical assistance to prospective homeowners and farmers. Capital subsidies through the Independent Development Trust for low-income earners and the State for middle- to higher-income groups will pump more than R1bn into housing in the short term. Squatter camps will make way for "less formal townships" and more than 1m people holding 99-year leases over land in townships will be given freehold. Black

farmers will for the first time have access to the same credit and technical aid as their white counterparts. The Group Areas Act will go and people will be able to buy and rent property wherever they can afford.

But there can be no talk of government having levelled the playing field. The current racially skewed land ownership and occupation pattern is effectively entrenched, and is a measure of the extent to which apartheid actually succeeded in doing what it set out to do. Blacks who want to buy or rent property in areas bought up by whites over the years under the protection of apartheid laws must simply compete on the open market at prevailing prices and rents. This applies equally to areas from which blacks may have been forcibly removed — with or without compensation — and which were subsequently de-

Intimidation: town councillors

24. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

- (1) (a) How many (i) Whites, (ii) Indians, (iii) Coloureds and (iv) Blacks have since 2 February 1990 resigned as town councillors as a result of intimidation and (b) how many town councillors of each race group have been (i) murdered and (ii) injured since that date as a result of actions that can be attributed to intimidation;
- (2) whether the Government took any steps to try to prevent the above-mentioned resignations, murders and injuries; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether the Government has been informed of alleged threats by a support organisation of the ANC that an intimidation campaign is to be initiated against White town councillors to cause them to resign; if so, what steps are envisaged in this regard?

B69E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) (a) (i) None
(ii) 6
(iii) 8
(iv) 404
- (b) (i) Whites None
Indians None
Coloureds None
Blacks 6
- (ii) Whites None
Indians None
Coloureds None
Blacks 2

- (2) Yes. Consultations with councillors take place on a regular basis on which occasions they are encouraged and morally supported by the provincial administrations to remain in office. During personal contact the councillors are encouraged not to resign, and the preservation of local authorities, until such time as a new system has been established, is put to them as a fact and promoted. Support is also given to councillors during their

negotiations with residents' associations and concerned citizen groups in their areas, to air grievances and to remedy shortcomings in both administrative systems as well as the provision of infrastructure and essential services, before township residents become frustrated and resolve to violence as a solution to problems.

Specific arrangements have been made with the security forces to protect the lives and property of councillors and members of Coloured and Indian Management Committees.

- (3) Yes. The fact has already been brought to the attention of the security forces. If the threat is carried out, most of the White local authorities have protection services to protect their council members and if these services should not be adequate, the SA Police can be requested to provide the necessary assistance.

The Government has also recently indicated that steps will be taken to combat intimidation.

Black social pensions

44. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

- (1) (a) What are the current levels of Black social pensions and disability grants and (b) from what date have these levels applied;
- (2) what percentage of Black social pensions was paid directly into bank or savings accounts in each province as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (3) whether improved methods of payment are under consideration; if so, (a) what methods and (b) when are they likely to be implemented?

B163E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) (a) Old age pension — R175 per month
War veteran pension — R276 + R15 allowance

- per month
- Disability grant — R175 per month
- Pension for the blind — R175 per month
- Maintenance grant — R175 per month
- Foster care allowance — R120 per month per child
- Child allowance — R49 per month

- (b) Levels are applicable as from 1 April 1990.

- (2) Transvaal 12%, Cape 22%, Orange Free State 16%, Natal 12% on 31 December 1990.
- (3) Yes.

- (a) Improved methods are already applied in some areas whilst other methods are being investigated. The position in each province is elucidated briefly.

Natal

Pay-outs are so programmed that a maximum of 500 beneficiaries are paid daily. They no longer stand in queues for long hours and payments are completed by 12:00. The method of payment is being investigated to streamline the payment of pensions.

Orange Free State

Additional paying centres have been established to reduce the number of beneficiaries at certain centres. Thus long queues and waiting hours are avoided. An investigation for the mechanisation of payments has been completed.

Cape

In order to safe guard payments, motor vehicles are being safe guarded. Manual pay-outs are made, but will be mechanised in due course. Pay-outs will be expedited and beneficiaries will suffer less hardship.

Transvaal

The number of paying teams at paying-centres has been increased and

pay-outs are spread over a number of days. Each paying centre is computerised, but manual pay-outs are still being done.

General

The pay-out system under consideration is based on the auto-cashier principle from which a beneficiary will receive his/her pension or allowance.

- (b) Some of the interim improved methods will be introduced during the 1991/92 financial year. It is expected that the auto-cashier method will be introduced on a pilot basis in specific areas by December 1991.

Land: Black community development

61. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

Whether the State or private developers have purchased portions 10 and 12 of the farm Rietvallei 172-IR (Transvaal) for Black community development; if so, (a) who was the previous owner or owners, (b) what was the purchase price and (c) what is the size of each of the two portions?

B173E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING, PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

The State did not purchase portions 10 and 12 of the farm Rietvallei 172-IR (Transvaal). The land transactions of the private sector are unknown.

- (a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Free Settlement Areas Board: members

80. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:

- (1) (a) How many persons have been appointed to the Free Settlement Areas Board and (b) how many meetings of this board have taken place;
- (2) (a) what total amount has been paid by the State to each member of this board since its inception and (b) what is the name of each such member;

Forced removals:

The Bakwena ba Magopa

New Nation (Learn Nation)

113- 7/3/91

General

"We are not prepared to move from our land. We want to live here. If the government wants to remove us, they must rather shoot us and move our corpses - we are not going anywhere again."

These words by Daniel Molefe, a Magopa community elder, sum up the underlying will of the Magopa people to hold on to their land. Despite the desperate attempts of the government to remove the Magopa people from their land, they have failed to crush their love for their land.

The Magopa Community

The Magopa people purchased their first farm, Zwartrand, in 1911, before the Land Act was passed. In 1931, they collected money by selling cattle to buy another farm, Hartebeeslaagte. The tribe was organised along communal lines and decisions were made by the whole community. The headman had no rights to appropriate land and resources.

By the 1980s, the prosperous community boasted two schools, a clinic, many shops, a reservoir and a thriving farming section which sold cash crops to the local agricultural co-operative.

A typical "black spot" removal

From October 1981, it became clear that the government had decided to move the Magopa people in the interests of grand apartheid. Magopa was considered a "black spot". "Black spots" came into existence through the Land Act, which divided South Africa into white land (87 percent) and black land (13 percent). A "black spot" is an area occupied by African people in white South Africa, like a black spot in a white field.

To achieve the removal, the government used its common tactic of working with a corrupt leader to try to divide the community. They worked with the headman, Jacob More, even though the tribe had deposed him because of corruption. Ignoring the will of the people, the government continued negotiating with More. He agreed to move to Pachsdraai, the resettlement area allocated by the government. In 1983, he left Magopa with 10 families.

Resistance and removal at gunpoint

The majority of the tribe resisted, and the government applied more and more pressure to force them off their land. It knocked down the school and withdrew the teachers. It bulldozed three churches and the clinic. Pension payments to the old people were stopped. The bus service to Ventersdorp, the closest town, was stopped and the water pumps removed. These conditions made another 170 families leave and go to Pachsdraai, but 350 families still resisted.

Then the government passed a law especially to remove the people of Magopa. It issued a removal order and set a date for removal. On that day, November 24 1983, many people including Bishop Desmond Tutu, Allan Boesak and members of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and Black Sash attended a vigil at Magopa. When the government officials and police arrived the next day and saw the crowd, they turned around and left.

The community rebuilt the school and managed to have the bus services and their pension payments reinstated. However, the peace they enjoyed was short-lived. The police just waited until the community was not prepared.

Without warning, on February 14 1984, Magopa was cordoned off and the police moved in. People were loaded onto trucks at gunpoint and taken to Pachsdraai.

The people refused to stay there. They remained determined to return to Magopa. They challenged the removal in court, and in 1985, the highest court in South Africa found that the removal was illegal.

The land stolen - again

This victory was empty, though, because the government had in the meantime expropriated their land. Expropriation meant that the Magopa people were no longer the owners of the land. If they returned, they would be trespassing.

The Magopa people attempted to buy another farm, Holgat, with church money in 1987. Just before the arrangements were ready, the government expropriated that land too. Suddenly, they claimed that it was needed for a black agricultural college.

The Magopa people negotiated with the government, insisting that they would



Pic: Paul Weinberg - Southlight

accept no place other than Magopa. In 1987, the government gave them a temporary place at Onderstepoort near Sun City. This was the third place the Magopa people had moved to in their exile from Magopa.

The return to the land

Convinced that they had tried all the means to get their land back openly, the Magopa people decided to simply return. They got permission for some of the old people to clean the graves of their ancestors at Magopa. Gradually more and more people drifted back to Magopa, without getting "permission" to return to their own land.

Today there are more than a thousand people at Magopa. The village of Magopa looks like a battlefield with tin shacks scattered among broken-down stone houses. Amidst the ruins life goes on with children playing soccer, mothers hanging up the washing, people repairing their houses and fences and watering their gardens. Their love for their land has brought them back to the only place they know.

But people have not returned to the life they knew before. The school they rebuilt was demolished as were the shops and even the churches. The cattle of neighbouring white farms are grazing among the ruins. The land of Magopa has been leased to the local agricultural unions for additional grazing. Now the people of Magopa must compete with the cattle for space and water.

Hopes for the future

But such hardships barely dampen the spirit of these people who have endured so much, driven by their determination that Magopa is their land. They have started negotiating with the government for their land again. Will their negotiations with the government finally bear fruit, now that it is an era of negotiating and building a "new" South Africa?

The Magopa people are full of hope. Already they have begun building the basic requirements of a stable community. They have started rebuilding the school which was demolished twice. They have established a clinic, and trained health workers to look after everyone's health, especially the malnourished children.

But they still wait to rebuild properly and to farm as they did before. They want to bring their cattle and live-stock back and are itching to plough the fields that once brought them good yields of mielies and beans and sunflowers.

Conclusion

The Magopa people are right to assert their ownership of the land. Their determined love for their land has brought them back to the land, and within sight of having it returned to them fully, legally. Before the Land Acts are lifted, all communities which, like Magopa were removed, should be allowed to return.

This article was written by Trac. If you know of any stories of removals similar to this one, write to Trac about them. Their address is: Trac, PO Box 2827 Johannesburg 2000.

TRYING TO MAKE UP

In what will be the most fundamental reform of land tenure in SA's history, government is considering giving blacks full ownership of land they occupy in tribal areas.

It is also considering selling more than 2m ha owned by the SA Development Trust.

Draft legislation to provide for the reforms has been prepared by the Law Review Project. FIM 113191.

If it is approved by Cabinet it could be tabled in parliament within weeks. Land reform was discussed earlier this week during the meeting in Cape Town between government and homeland leaders.

Land ownership in tribal areas has long been one of the most sensitive and controversial issues facing National Party reformists. The vested interests of tribal leaders have effectively blocked progress towards freehold title in rural areas of the homelands.

But it is reliably understood that government is now ready to push ahead with what amounts to radical changes to the traditional system of land allocation and occupation. It is apparently satisfied that it will be able to persuade homeland and tribal leaders that they have more to gain by the changes than they will lose.

It is likely that the legislation will provide for title to property to be registered with local magistrates in terms of common law. De facto boundaries to properties will be accepted; stands will not be surveyed unless the new owner asks for it or if surveying is needed when the property is bonded.

The sale of Development Trust land has been pending for some time (*Current Affairs* May 4). Initially, it was envisaged that a black commercial farming sector would be established on land originally earmarked for homeland consolidation.

Government has been reassessing the future of more than 2m ha of trust land after the official abandoning of the aim of consolidating homelands as part of the grand apartheid scheme.

A lobby within the NP wants some of the land allocated to black farmers as part of an "affirmative action" programme to help to establish farmers who were prevented over the years from obtaining farm land.

At least 1m ha of trust land is now leased to white farmers or used by the State Trust Corporation. Much of it is regarded as "high potential area."

But with State legal advisers now combing the statute books to trace and delete all

CURRENT AFFAIRS ~~274~~ (3) ~~3~~ ~~3~~

references to race, "affirmative action" involving only black farmers seems unlikely — though blacks do seem set to benefit most from the availability of land close to existing homelands. FIM 113191

It is generally accepted that 87% of land in SA is reserved for ownership and occupation by whites and only 13% for blacks. The pending reforms are in line with the proposed scrapping this year of the Group Areas Act and the Land Acts. ■

Until a good Samaritan comes

New Nation (heavy nation)
Two unqualified teachers, 367 pupils, one communal tap, a ramshackle cardboard-built room and no principal completes the Weiler Farm's school. 1/3-7/3/91

This is what NEW NATION found on a visit to the Masakhane Community School at Weiler's Farm outside Johannesburg.

This uncomely state of affairs confronts the tiny community daily as they grapple with education.

All this can be gleaned through the noise coming from the make-shift windows, which, due to the unequal sizes of the cardboards, resembled noise from a public pub on a Friday afternoon.

Aside from the pitiful conditions, staff and pupils at the school have to cope with stationery problems. And when these occur, studies cease until a good Samaritan comes to the rescue.



3 cement

Donations

People who have made it their business to enable the school to run are Operation Masakhane for the Homeless, the community and various individuals from Lenasia.

The donations vary from blackboards, tiles and money. Sadly, all these fall short of providing conducive conditions for proper learning.

For teaching staff, the school has to make do with Standard 10 drop-out Randell Mjempu, who teaches 80 standard one pupils while matriculated Ntombi Maseko is busy with the sub-standards A and B.

The principal, Wilson Bangisa is in detention.

Demolished

Mjempu told SCHOOL WATCH that they have voluntarily offered to teach the pupils after the local school was demolished by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) last year.

He told SCHOOL WATCH that despite all hardships they were determined to fight illiteracy in the area.

The problems at Weiler's Farm began when the TPA allocated land for informal housing in nearby Orange Farm.

When a section of the community decided to leave for Orange Farm, the TPA decided to dismantle everything, including material from the school and the local clinic.

But, according to Mjempu and Maseko, education has to go on in spite of all the hardships.



Weiler's Farm, where the need to learn supercedes all luxury on earth. A teacher hard at work with some of her pupils.

CAK
Temp
2/3/91
AAA
BBB
360

PAC: Land issue crucial

GRAHAMSTOWN. — The PAC would negotiate with the government only if the land issue was firmly placed on the agenda, PAC national organiser Mr Mpolose Manqongwana told a meeting at Rhodes University here on Thursday night.

"We will meet the government at a neutral venue with a neutral chairperson to discuss one issue — that Africans want their land."

● The ANC's "ill-considered demands and claims" over land distribution were unacceptable for organised agriculture, SA Agricultural Union president Mr Nico Kotze said in Pretoria yesterday.

He said the SAAU was opposed to artificial redistribution. — Sapa

period 1 January to 31 December 1990 and (b) how many of these applications were approved; *(3) General*

(2) (a) for what total amount of financial assistance did farmers apply to the Financial Assistance Directorate of his Department during the above-mentioned period and (b) what total amount was approved?
Answer 4/3/91 B288E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

(1)(a) and (b) Particulars of applications received from farmers and approved during the period 1 January to 31 December 1990, are reflected in the table hereunder.

Scheme	Applications received/approved	
Purchase of agricultural land	251	55
Consolidation of debt	1 416	486
Improvements	1	—
Impliments and vehicles	11	9
Livestock	132	39
Means of crop production	2 500	2 062
Farm labourers housing	2	2
Waterworks	47	32
Sinking of boreholes	2	2
Conservation works	128	65
Flood disasters	47	47
Stockfeed	1	1
Allocation of land	100	100
Compromise/Postponement	160	84
Total	4 798	2 984

(2)(a) and (b) The total amounts of financial assistance applied for by farmers and approved during the afore-mentioned period, are reflected in the table hereunder.

Scheme	Amount requested	Amount allocated
	R	R
Purchase of agricultural land	74 730 000	8 985 000
Consolidation of debt	442 009 500	42 491 000
Improvements	102 000	—
Impliments and vehicles	712 500	453 000
Livestock	11 196 900	2 199 100

FAD: applications

24. Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Agricultural Development: *(3) General*

Answer 4/3/91 (1) (a) How many applications were received from farmers by the Financial Assistance Directorate of his Department during the

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Total	
Means of crop production	2 500
Farm labourers housing	2
Waterworks	47
Sinking of boreholes	2
Conservation works	128
Flood disasters	47
Stockfeed	1
Allocation of land	100
Compromise/Postponement	160
Total	4 798

MONDAY, 4

Farms debts 'close to annual earnings'

GERALD REILLY ³ General

PRETORIA — The increasing debt of SA's farmers is approaching the industry's total annual earnings, the latest Agriculture Department estimates show.

Department economists estimate gross producers' income last year at R18,7bn — 2% up on the previous year's R18,29bn.

But their debt escalated during the year by R900m to a record level of R15,97bn.

Their assets were estimated at R69bn.

The figures, authorities say, indicate the extent of the industry's financial distress, which they predict will force many farmers off their farms this year.

The industry's contribution to the GDP last year fell by 8% — from R11,7bn to R10,4bn, while the value of agricultural exports also declined — from R5,7bn in 1989 to R5,1bn last year.

Total earnings from wool fell by 17% to R702m and field crop earnings dropped by 8% to R5,8bn from R6,39bn.

Producers' income from maize plunged by 27% to R2bn from R2,8bn the previous year. ^{61p} 4/3/91

However, gross income from horticultural products increased by a solid 17%, from R3,4bn to R4bn.

Meat producers earned R8,7bn, up 2% on the previous year, and poultry and egg farmers increased their earnings from R2,6bn to R2,8bn.

Spending on intermediate goods and services increased by 11% to R8,1bn from R7,3bn.

Report on SA beats drum for UK help

LONDON — A House of Commons foreign affairs committee report is understood to recommend that Britain assist any well-constructed land redistribution programme in a post-apartheid SA in the same way it helped Zimbabwe.

The report on UK policy towards SA is due to be released in London today.

Sapa reports that the document is likely to recommend that the UK be prepared to assist in such a redistribution programme because this may demand considerable resources in the future. *B.D. 4/3/91*

Britain matched Zimbabwe on a pound-for-pound basis in contributing money for the purchase of white commercial farmland for resettlement purposes. A total of 52 000 families were resettled on 3.3-million hectares, for which the British government provided R90m on current exchange rates. The land was bought on a "willing buyer, willing seller" basis. *(3) reveal*

However, the report is said to frown on the recent introduction in Zimbabwe of compulsory land purchase laws, offering no right of appeal to the mostly white farmers who would be affected.

The report warns that demands for excessive redistribution of wealth in SA might well encourage businesses to disinvest from the country far more effectively than the sanctions movement ever did.

The committee criticises some black leaders for fanning expectations among the black population of improved economic standards, when it is clear these would not rapidly materialise even if all inequalities were removed.

The committee finds it is SA's "tragedy" that even if inequalities were removed, its people would still be in a Third World economy.

KIN BENTLEY reports that the committee also recommends that Britain lift all sanctions against SA, excluding the arms embargo, as soon as legislation for the repeal of the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts and the Population Registration Act has been enacted in Parliament.

The report adds that the British government should enter into discussions with the US to achieve access for SA to the IMF.

To Page 2

Report on SA *B.D. 4/3/91*

Important recommendations on renewing sporting links with non-racial sports, ending the cultural and academic boycotts, and inviting a non-racial SA to rejoin the Commonwealth are also made.

Should the British government adopt the recommendations, it will be well placed later this year to lead the way for the practical removal of sanctions in forums such as the EC and the Commonwealth.

Today's report is said to call for the removal of all restrictions on links with SA sports "conducted on genuinely non-racial lines" at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare in October.

It also recommends the provision of political aid to recently unbanned political

parties in SA, as well as to opposition parties and politicians oppressed for many years in Zambia and Malawi.

It suggests the Department of Overseas Development Aid and the Foreign Office, in conjunction with Britain's Pretoria embassy, give urgent attention to the possibility of assisting with the rehabilitation and integration of returning exiles and former political prisoners.

Among prominent leaders to whom the 11-man committee with its Conservative Party majority spoke were President F W de Klerk, official Opposition Leader Andries Treurnicht and ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela.

From Page 1



Dr Kraai van Niekerk . . .
More than 31 000 farmers
received financial aid.

Farmers received R178-m in 1990

From January 1 to December 31 1990, farmers received R178 272 200 in financial aid from the Government, the Minister of Agricultural Development, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, said in the House of Assembly yesterday. *S. General*

In a written reply to a question from A.P. Oosthuisen (CP Smithfield), he said a total of 4 798 farmers had applied for aid totalling R700 503 200 from the Financial Assistance Directorate of his department in this period. *Star 5-3-91*

Only 2 984 applications totalling R178 272 200 had been approved. — Sapa

Province	Area	Extent in ha
1	Mtunzini	5 400
	Nqutu	8 400
2	Ladysmith (Driefontein Block)	22 000
	Lower Tugela (Groutville)	3 700
(1)(a)(iii) Cape	Total	400 106
	Stutterheim	465
	Indwe	323
	Elliot	966
	Cathcart	5 245
	Queenstown	4 972
	East London	12 000
	Whittlesea	
	North	13 867
	Maclear	1 101
	Tarkastad	2 500
	Kuruman	16 507
	Taung	5 090
	Vryburg	12 301
	Queenstown (Lesseyton)	7 629
	Cathcart (Goshen)	1 607
	Stutterheim (Mgwali/Heckle/Wartburg)	8 181
	East London (Newlands)	4 366
	East London (Kwelera)	3 547
	East London (Mooiplaats)	7 674
	Kokstad (Waterval)	2 905
Total	111 246	
(i)(a)(iv) OFS	Bethlehem	8 881
	Harrismith	35 871
	Thaba Nchu	525
	Botshabelo	23 000
	Total	68 277
Transvaal	647 854	
Natal	400 106	
Cape	111 246	
OFS	68 277	
Grand Total	1 227 483HA	

(b) 31 January 1991.

(2) The land is for the present retained by the South African Development Trust. Arrangements for the disposal thereof will appear in a White Paper which will be Tabled in this session.

Livestock inspectors

122. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

- (1) Whether he intends phasing out livestock inspectors employed by the Veterinary Services Directorate; if so, (a) when and (b) why; *Hansard 6/3/91*
- (2) (a) how many livestock inspectors are employed by the said directorate, (b) what salary scales apply to them and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (3) (a) when last did these livestock inspectors receive salary increases and (b) by what amount or percentage were their salaries increased?

(3) General

B351E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) No. It is not the intention to phase out any serving livestock inspector.

(a) and (b) fall away.

(Although serving officers in the occupational class Livestock Inspector will not be phased out, the occupational class as such has been phased out. As and when the number of serving officers reduces in a natural manner as a result of resignations, retirement or death, no new appointments will be made. The relevant duties will in future be performed by better qualified and technically trained Animal Health Technicians. They will take over various low-level technical duties which of necessity are presently carried out by highly qualified State Veterinarians. It will enable the Veterinarians to concentrate more effectively on professional high-level duties. However the Commission for Administration is presently being approached with the request that serving Livestock Inspectors who are not suitably trained to translate forthwith to the occupational class Animal Health Technician,

be given an opportunity for a limited period to translate to the said occupational class through informal training and examining and under supervision of selected State Veterinarians.)

- (2) (a) 245.

(b) Livestock Inspector/Senior Livestock Inspector: R9 123 × 438 – 10 437 × 498 – 11 931/11 931 × 498 – 13 425 × 663 – 17 403 × 909 – 20 130.

Principal Livestock Inspector: R18 312 × 909 – 23 766.

- (c) 28 February 1991.

(3) (a) 1 April 1990.

- (b) 10% non-pensionable allowance. Livestock inspectors who have not reached the maximum of their salary scales are annually considered for the granting of a notch increase on their salary scales.

Farmers 8 for 713191 'enriched by subsidies'

By Julianne du Toit (3) General

POTCHEFSTROOM — The good life being led by some farmers was responsible for about a third of the national agricultural debt of R17 billion, Agricultural Development Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

They had gambled R5 billion on the horses and bought beach houses, flats and cars, he told the annual National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) conference yesterday.

The 300 farmers listened to him with folded arms, then angrily distanced themselves from the figures.

"Only priests and teachers can afford to do those things," said one of the enraged farmers, Jasper van Zyl.

Another farmer demanded that Dr van Niekerk's speech be destroyed and that the press be refused access to it.

Dr van Niekerk admitted the figures he had given were what he termed "ballpark" figures.

Then he said the Government was no longer willing to help farmers who ran into difficulty because of bad decisions regarding the buying of over-expensive property, or overstretching financial limits.

"Subsidies will kill us. Subsidies are making farmers rich. That is why they disapprove of scrapping them," he bluntly told delegates.

Since 1981, R12 billion had been given by the State to the agricultural sector.

The agricultural sector faced many challenges, among them changes on the labour front.

"We must not be afraid," he said.

Unions had never succeeded in agriculture, and would be limited, in his opinion, to factory farms and co-operatives.

Govt 'must return land immediately'

(3) General
THE National African Federated Chamber of Commerce and Industries (Nafcoc) has called on government to immediately return recently seized land to the legitimate owners, whether they be communities or individuals, rural or urban.

The government would have to do this as an act of good faith, Nafcoc said.

810am 713191
Presenting its controversial land policy document in Johannesburg yesterday, Nafcoc called for an immediate nullification of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936. This should be followed up by the enactment of legislation that would provide for transfer of land to the landless.

The mere repeal of these Acts would not result in land being transferred to the majority, the document said.

Nafcoc argued that a free market system could not redistribute land equitably, hence the importance of government intervention.

It called for the immediate freezing of the land market and all land speculation while government began a process of land redistribution.

Nafcoc also called for the redistribution of unused and under-utilised land to the landless and those who could productively use it.

The document is intended for Nafcoc members and other interested parties for discussion and debate and is not the final blueprint. — Sapa.

Nafcoc wants halt to land deals

By Michael Chester

Black business leaders launched into the land controversy yesterday, with demands that the Government intervene with an immediate freeze on buying and selling deals by speculators until new rules on land policy have been ironed out. Star 7/3/91

The National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) argued that the free market system was unable to guarantee an equitable redistribution of land between blacks and whites and that State intervention was crucial.

Nafcoc also pressed the Government to identify and acquire all un-

used or under-utilised urban and rural land and redistribute it to the landless to put to productive use.

A full package of recommendations proposed that "as an act of good faith" the Government should take immediate action to list all of the land seized in enforced black removals in recent years and ensure it was returned to the legitimate owners.

"The 87 percent or more of land currently under white control must be transferred for business and other productive use to the 84 percent or more of the population who are unable to productively use it," said a statement.

Economic research unit director Vincent Phaahla said: "That does not mean the expulsion of white landowners."

The official Nafcoc statement added that all so-called Trust Land must be transferred to landless communities, with consensus on proper allocations in rural areas.

Chiefs who had been rewarded with Trust Land farms "for co-operation with the racist apartheid regime" must be forced to share their land. Trust Land that had been allocated to homeland governments should be sub-divided into private farms and sold or leased to individual black farmers.

3600ed

Farmers warned on land reform

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — South Africa had to take a more realistic approach to land reform or face the threat of nationalisation of farms, the chief executive of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Dr Simon Brand, said in Potchefstroom this week.

He was speaking at the annual conference of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo), where delegates voted unanimously to oppose the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

Dr Brand said the lesson to be learnt from Zimbabwe was the need to develop a realistic attitude so that ideological solutions with serious consequences could be avoided.

The government there had become active in buying white farms and allocating them to blacks, he said.

The danger was that it would not be possible to supply adequate agricultural support ser-

vices to ensure efficient use of the land. It could mean a serious deterioration in productivity, he said.

The Nampo resolution on the Land Acts is in line with the tough stand taken by the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) on the same issue. The Acts are to be repealed during the current parliamentary session.

Demands 'absurd'

The SA Agricultural Union, according to a spokesman, has taken a "neutral" stand.

However, there would be a detailed response after the tabling of the white paper on land reform in Parliament next week, a spokesman said yesterday.

Earlier this week, SAAU president Mr Nico Kotze said the ANC's ill-considered demands on land distribution were absurd and totally unacceptable to organised agriculture.

They conflicted directly with market economy principles.

Maize Board general manager Mr Hennie Davel told the confer-

ence that the maize industry hoped for some form of food aid programme or a government maize subsidy after the introduction of VAT.

He said the white maize market was still the most important for producers and the influence of VAT on this market could not be ignored.

Aid would be greatly welcomed because the phasing out of the government's R38m subsidy, and normal cost increases, had already put upward pressure on the selling prices of maize and maize meal.

The government's subsidy to the industry in the 1989/90 season would not be repeated. This emphasised the important role the market, market prices and marketing costs would play in future.

On shrinking maize production, Mr Davel said the planting of 4,3m hectares in 1981/82 and 3,5m ha in 1990/91 showed a decrease of 840 000 hectares, or 19%, over 10 years.

This season's plantings had decreased further to 3m hectares because of drought.

Major reforms to settle black farmers due soon

Star 7/3/91 *(3) general*

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

The Government is expected to announce an important plan next week to settle small private black farmers on up to 1,2 million hectares of land in "white" South Africa.

This is likely to be the kernel of the long-awaited White Paper on land reform and legislation to scrap the Land Acts and Group Areas Act.

It is understood that several Bills will be published, not only to remove the laws entrenching discrimination in rural and urban land, but also for positive measures to settle more blacks on farm land.

The White Paper will make it clear that once the legislation is passed there will be no legal restriction on blacks owning urban or rural land.

However, it is not yet clear how the White Paper will affect

tribally-owned land in the self-governing territories.

Homeland governments have expressed concern that if land is opened completely to private ownership it will be snapped up by white big business.

The Government knows already that the plan will fall short of the ANC's demands for land redistribution — and enrage the Conservative Party.

Reject

It is expected that most, if not all of the 1,2 million hectares of South African Development Trust Land earmarked for incorporation into the homelands will be used to settle blacks on small plots — mostly for farming.

Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers said in reply to questions in Parliament yesterday that there were 1 227 483 hectares of SADT land and arrangements for the disposal will appear in the White Paper.

The Government will probably reject recommendations

from development agencies and political organisations that the land reform programme also include other rural land, such as that owned by farmers hopelessly in debt.

The land will not simply be given away. Farmers will have to buy it, but the Government is expected to announce highly-favourable credit terms.

There has been some resistance from the self-governing homelands, which have argued that the SADT land should be theirs.

This may be finalised at a meeting tomorrow of the working group on land reform set up at a meeting of the Government, the self-governing territories, and parliamentary administrations.

There is also concern that much of the SADT land has already been occupied by squatters.

One of the big questions being asked in political circles is whether the Government plan will constitute "affirmative action", and what the political

consequences of this will be.

Official sources say this is a matter of definition. Settling black farmers on favourable terms could be construed as affirmative action.

But the officials point out that the land already belongs to the black population and so there is no real question of distribution.

The White Paper is almost certain to reaffirm in strong terms the Government's frequently-repeated view that no one should lose his title deeds in the land reform programme.

Another concern, loudly voiced in recent weeks by conservative white farmer groups, is that blacks will not farm the land productively.

Government sources have countered this by pointing out that most of the SADT land has been lying fallow for many years.

But the Government has also been studying intensive farming methods in places like Taiwan, and hopes these can be applied successfully in South Africa.

Brand calls for realistic approach to land reform

16/04 7/3/91

SA had to take a more realistic approach to land reform or face the threat of nationalisation of farms, Development Bank of Southern Africa CE Simon Brand said in Potchefstroom this week.

He was speaking at the annual conference of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo), where delegates voted unanimously to oppose the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts.

Brand said the lesson which had to be learned from Zimbabwe was the need to develop a realistic attitude so that ideological solutions with serious consequences could be avoided.

Government there had become active in buying white farms and allocating them to blacks, he said.

The danger was that it would not be possible to supply adequate supportive agricultural services to ensure efficient use of the land. It could mean a serious deterioration in productivity, he said.

The Nampo resolution on the Land Acts is in line with the tough stand taken by the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) on the same issue. The Acts are to be repealed during the current Parliamentary session.

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③ General

GERALD REILLY

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They conflicted directly with market economy principles.

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Government's subsidy to the industry in the 1989/90 season would not be repeated. This emphasised the important role the market, market prices and marketing costs would play in future.

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This season's plantings had decreased further to 3-million hectares because of drought.

REPARATIONS FOR APARTHEID

③ General

OUT OF THE CONFESSIONAL FM 8/3/91.

WHERE THERE HAS BEEN DISPOSSESSION, THE CLAIMS SHOULD BE HEARD

How seriously should we take the "confession" of apartheid? The avidity of Archbishop Tutu, for one, to receive such confessions in church is worrying — as if the significance of the issue is being embarrassed by an atmosphere of street-corner revivalism. But now politicians like Leon Wessels speak boldly and frankly in public of the "mistakes" of the past, and once you put it like that you have to think of making amends. That means reparations.

Reparations are usually imposed by the victors in a war on those they have defeated — the compensation demanded of the Germans after both world wars, for example, or by the Allies of Iraq today. In addition, after World War 2, the Nazi leadership was made to stand trial for war crimes. The issue of reparations in this country cannot be divorced from the question of whether those who carried out the policies of apartheid in their most brutal and extreme form should not, equally, be put on trial.

It must therefore be asked: was apartheid a crime against humanity, or a misguided attempt at social engineering?

In its purest form (enforced by law) apartheid involved the disruption of millions of lives. The total of those arrested in terms of influx control was 17m. A 1983 estimate put forced removals at 3,7m. And there were many deaths flowing from the effects of apartheid — people who died in detention under security laws designed to protect the white State, and an uncountable number who perished in remote and desolate areas to which they had been forcibly removed.

To make the Group Areas Act work required the destruction of entire communities such as Sophiatown and District Six; and "black spot" removals of rural settlements from white areas required the utmost use of force. One factor in preparing the ground for sanctions in the Eighties was the repeated assault of Bantu Administration police on squatters at Crossroads, generally in mid-winter and at night.

The effects of all this destruction cannot be quantified: the ramifications of rigidly imposed segregation in all aspects of our life are too broad for that. The cost to GDP, for example, of the forgone education of the million-odd black schoolchildren who have lost out since 1976 is unknowable. And from their ranks most probably come those responsible for the current wave of crime

which, like war, is purely destructive.

There is also the broader economic loss symbolised by the creation of apartheid cities with racially separate hospitals, schools and transport. Richard Tomlinson — who did research on urbanisation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — notes that planning for a future based on apartheid has been immensely costly in terms of decentralisation and the subsidisation of commuter bus services alone. By 1983-1984 (on the eve of the unrest which was to shatter the ideological framework of separate development) these primary costs of segregationist industrial policy came to R1,743 bn a year. In 1985 the travelling costs of a worker from KwaNdebele were subsidised by R1 600 a year — almost three times per capita homeland income.

All this money has been completely wasted. Partly because of that, we do not have adequate schooling, health or housing. Operation Hunger, a charity, feeds almost 2m people. Many of the people who were locked into the homelands by coercion have in any case come to the cities because of desperation, overburdening areas designed

for a far smaller number of people on the premise that by 1978 the flow of blacks from the bantustans would reverse itself.

These facts suggest that a more appropriate comparison for apartheid than Nazism is Stalinism. Stalin's attempts to collectivise agriculture in the Soviet Union — Lenin had been less successful before him — led to the deaths of millions of *kulaks*. Both Verwoerd and Stalin started out with a central impelling idea of how society should be structured, and proceeded to enforce it. It is true, however, that there has been no episode comparable to the Great Terror in SA.

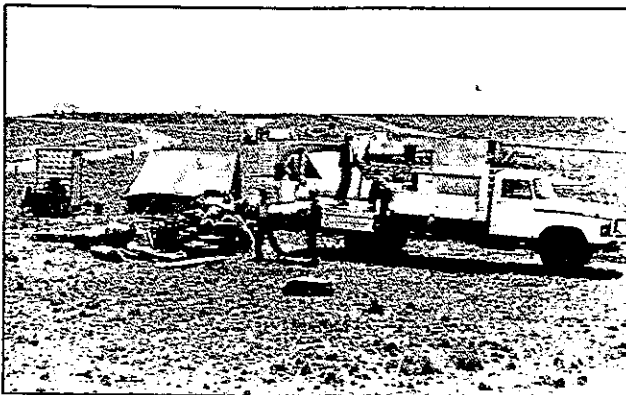
This point relates to the fact that reparations are generally imposed by the victors in a war. Stalin's successors — while they, too, have come to the abyss of admitting that their social religion was a "mistake" — may succeed in their reforms, or they may be overthrown and there could be a return to autocracy. Whichever it is, there will be no going back to communism as it existed in the Twenties and Thirties; and because there is no question of one stratum of society having defeated another, and all might be said to be the losers, reparations are not an issue. Stalin's crimes become a horrible episode of history about which nothing can be done — except not to repeat them.

This is in some ways SA's situation today. It is unlikely that the many officials who presided over the millions of influx control arrests and forced removals will either be named — in relation to known excesses — or brought to account. For many years Piet Koornhof — as minister of co-operation and development — was a virtual czar of black affairs; he was called "Piet Promises" because he kept promising that things would improve, though they never really did — and the government with which he was associated was replaced by a more genuinely reformist one. But he has had a happy later career as ambassador to Washington, and his golden years are likely to be peaceful.

In fact, judging from his public statements, Koornhof — like President F W de Klerk — has outgrown apartheid. In church and in the press — everywhere, in fact, except in rightwing circles — Afrikaners indicate that they have had just such a conversion from the bad old ways. The English-speaking community can continue to keep its head down and claim that it never had anything to do with apartheid anyway.



Forced removal ... brutal social engineering



Relocation camp ... millions were victims



Queuing for the pass . . . inhumane system

personnel and perks, to underpin what would otherwise be an inflationary spiral of ultimately destructive remedial social handouts.

Nonetheless, the point is that the equalisation of those services furnished by the State is necessary because the moral argument for such a process is unanswerable. Simply unravelling the immense bureaucracies responsible for the day-to-day running of apartheid — from group areas inspectors to overzealous security police — will release more funds into the social sector. The logic of reform now is that those who have dedicated their lives to administering separate development will simply have no function in the years to come. That should be considered punishment enough; there

is no utility, other than to satisfy retributive instincts, in looting their savings.

The restoration of — or compensation for — property stolen or expropriated under the Group Areas Act and the racial land laws is more controversial. If we are to give any primacy to justice, it must be done. *How* it is to be done is the difficult part. Even where title deeds exist — and this could be a problem in rural communities — one difficulty would be finding adequate measures of valuation in current law.

Melville Festenstein and Claire Pickard-Cambridge, writing in *Land and Race* —

taken away, or bought up to be added to the geographical boundaries of the homelands, are complicated by claims going back to the last century. Where once there were black spots there are now white spots. If the rule of law is to hold, there should be no contemporary dispossession — including unfair expropriation — of the owners or occupiers of land and property once held by blacks.

A judicial mechanism will be needed to sift *all* claims. It might be necessary to have more than one, since different laws operated in the primary dispossession. The question of where a claim diminishes in the mists of history would have to be addressed.

The ANC has made the suggestion — in a document released for discussion last week — that a “carefully planned State intervention” is necessary on the issue of land redistribution. “There are two kinds of needs,” it says. “One is to deal with historical dispossession and the other to respond to people’s need to have a place to live and farm.”

It suggests the setting up of Land Claims Courts whose task would be “to listen to people’s history (black or white) about their claim for land. The court would have certain guidelines to judge who has the best claim to a piece of land.” These guidelines would not only look at title deeds, but consider questions of inheritance, forced relocations, historical claims, ancestral grave sites and present occupation rights.

Clearly there would need to be very careful

consideration of the structure of such courts — the guidelines should have a basis in law, the more precise the better. And the case for a new legal entity is strengthened by the overburdening of the courts as they stand, and the specialist knowledge needed in property matters when it comes to, say, determining if a Pageview trader was paid a fair price for his enterprise decades ago.

Overall, in one form or another, Land Claims Courts — perhaps established as part of the new constitution — would be one way of making reparations for apartheid. As statutory bodies they should be free of that element of retribution which

elements of the ANC appear to desire. Of course, if in the course of their hearings, patent wrongdoing is exposed, the option of criminal prosecution should be available. A broadly based Land Commission could signal the preparatory phase of a solution.

A solution along these lines would almost certainly depend on the maintenance of a free-market economy — if the community at large is to meet the obligation.

In general, white South Africans might come to welcome such an opportunity of redressing wrongs — repaying in quantifiable terms the costs of a political aberration, rather than witnessing the full confiscatory force of that “land hunger” the ANC speaks of among the millions of blacks emerging from the rubble of apartheid. Confessions of sin have nothing to do with it. ■

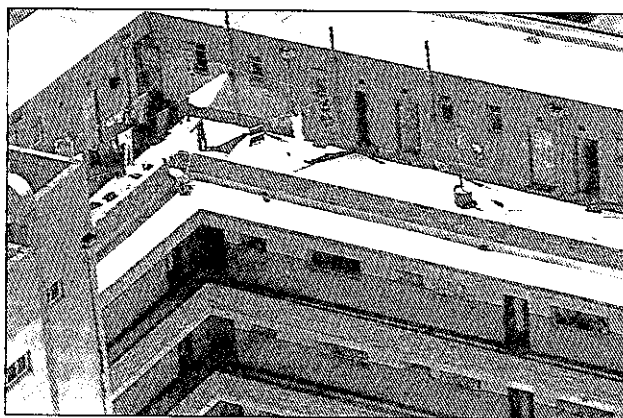
You don’t have to be overly cynical to sense that behind all this recantation lies the familiar refrain that *Alles sal regkom*. A little thought suggests that it will not — that the new SA will not be born in a flurry of goodwill and nonracial beer drinking. The divisions within society — between black and white, black and black, rich and poor — are too great for that. Nor is the ANC living up to expectations and elements within it talk not of reparations but of retribution.

What is surely important is that the new SA should be created under the rule of law. While the consequences of apartheid were evil, they were not uniquely so — not in this century. But that is why it is important that where wrongs have been committed, which can in some measure be put right, it should be done. De Klerk points out that we all want to live in a society which respects such values as the sanctity of family life and the right to own property — yet it was of these precise values that apartheid was, in fact, uniquely destructive.

The sorry effects of that endure, and in this respect the case for reparations is overwhelming.

Families that have been ripped apart by labour policies cannot be put back together — except symbolically, by an increase in social spending. If this increase were to be financed through naked expropriation or further taxes on the relatively wealthy, it would be counterproductive and the generation would lose through forgone growth, demoralisation and, of course, emigration. Nor could the world be counted upon to finance current social spending through grants or loans to an increasingly unstable society.

The principle of a balanced budget has to be followed through. It may well be true (as the *Sunday Times* reported last weekend) that Finance Minister Barend du Plessis intends increasing social spending for 1991-1992 from 38% to 42% of the Budget in a few weeks’ time. But that money will not come from thin air — and taxpayers will want to see cuts in the civil service and defence, of



Rooftop ‘location’ . . . the tide never reversed

SA’s Group Areas and Land Acts, an Institute of Race Relations’ publication, note that: “The Group Areas Act substantially reshaped the country’s urban landscape. In its attempt to unscramble racially mixed residential areas, it had effected the creation of 918 group areas by December 1985 . . . By the end of August 1984, 2 771 traders had been moved from their premises and 126 000 families, comprising 630 000 people, relocated in terms of the Act.”

The market distortions are everywhere — in overcrowding and inflated rents in certain areas, to the intangible harvest of psychological bitterness. Yet those 630 000 people may well have an advantage over their rural counterparts — the victims of forced removals — since they are likely to be able to prove their claims in a court of law. Rights to land

Fm 8/3/91

other measures may improve things in the short term, but bitter land struggles will continue." (3) General

Last week, the ANC Land Commission issued a 15-page discussion document on land issues for branches to discuss before the organisation's National Consultative Conference in June. Hanekom says all 14 ANC regions have already launched investigations into land problems.

The document argues that "land was forcibly taken from us by the colonial powers. The return of our land is a necessary part of the return of our political power."

But the document discourages nationalisation, noting that it was not successful in either Mozambique or the Soviet Union.

It argues that a national land commission should "set up fair procedures and criteria for the adjudication of land claims." The commission says such claims could be made by anyone, including Boer separatist parties.

Also proposed is a land claims court "to deal with historical dispossession and to respond to people's need to have a place to live and farm . . . Once the right to land is established for an individual or a group of people, the State will have to inform the person who has title deeds that they do not have the right to remain on that piece of land. Perhaps another piece of land can be offered as compensation. It may be that the State must get the land to give it to the successful claim-

LAND REFORM (3) General
SALVAGE OPERATION

The ANC wants government to set up a land commission to enable major political groupings to work out suitable reparation and to encourage the best use of land — including a tax to penalise non-productive farmers.

Derek Hanekom, of the ANC Land Commission, says there is little point in "people giving money to social upliftment without addressing the land issue. Labour law and

Fm 8/3/91

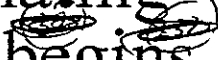
ants."

Hanekom says the ANC is already educating its membership that money paid out in reparations will, in fact, be money diverted from other State responsibilities, such as schools and hospitals. "For the first time it will be our money. It will be a new way of thinking for people to realise a future government is theirs and that the way money is spent is dependent on them too."

The document notes that "how we get the land back needs a strategy in which land is redistributed without too much disruption of production and which does not cost too much." It cautions that land reform must be introduced carefully, "not only to meet demand for land by rural people, but also to allow the government to give the proper support services and training so that the land can be used most productively." ■

Process of deregulating building industry begins

8/Day 8/3/91



CAPE TOWN — Major deregulation has started in the building industry which could eventually remove the need for local authority approval of building plans.

The first stage of the process is the introduction of a newly rationalised, less prescriptive set of national building regulations, published in today's Government Gazette.

The rationalisation streamlines the regulations substantially, reducing the space they occupy in the gazette from 700 pages to 38.

The amended regulations will standardise the fragmented system of separate municipal regulations and ease formerly prescriptive building requirements without compromising safety and health standards, Trade and Industry Minister Kent Durr said in a statement issued yesterday.

They are aimed at allowing developers and their designers more freedom to introduce innovative building methods and alternative materials in

LESLEY LAMBERT

order to contain costs.

Further down the line is the possible introduction of a system of self-certification of building plans by architects and engineers. Durr said the matter was under consideration.

The SA Bureau of Standards would conduct an opinion survey among local authorities, the Institute of Architects, the Institute of Civil Engineers and the Association of Consulting Engineers before any system of self-certification was adopted.

Durr said the amended building regulations were universally applicable. Further guidelines for users were provided by SABS codes of practice.

He said special rules could be developed by the SABS to accommodate different building materials.

Special provision was made in the amended regulations for disabled people, who made up more than 12% of the population.

Land reform paper is ready for tabling

8/Day 8/3/91
Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Government's White Paper on land reform is to be tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

The paper will outline government's approach to land reform following the scrapping of the Land and Group Areas Acts. *(3) Jewel*

Government is expected to provide protection for communally owned land in rural areas and to pave the way for peasant occupation of the 1,2-million hectares of land owned by the SA Development Trust.

This land, bought in terms of the 1936 Development Land and Trust Act, was originally intended for transfer into the homelands.

Government is expected to give a green light to plans drawn up for black farmers' development on this land by the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers said arrangements for the disposal of this land would appear in the White Paper.

Settlement board 'a waste'

Political Staff



CAPE TOWN — The DP has criticised government for the "grotesque waste of money" resulting from the formation and operation of the two-year-old Free Settlement Board. *8/Day 8/3/91*

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel has disclosed board chairman Hein Kruger was paid R243 671, while the cost of the board's formation, functioning and hearings was R739 541. More than R150 000 was paid to other members of the board.

Lester Fuchs (DP Hillbrow) said yesterday that, even after President F W de Klerk's speech on February 2 last year, government "continues merrily to spend taxpayers' money on a process which is clearly on the way out".

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05 OCT

500 000 ^{(3) cleared} fish die in ⁽⁴⁸⁾ Venda river

By Dirk Nel *Stw 8/3/91,*
Northern Transvaal Bureau

THOHOYANDOU — More dead fish were removed yesterday from nets in the polluted Levubu river in Venda, while clinics reported they were treating scores of villagers for stomach ailments.

Though no indisputable evidence was available, it is thought many of the patients unwittingly drank water from the river and ate fish before warnings about the situation had reached them.

The Venda Department of Nature Conservation has estimated the number of dead fish at about half a million.

No action appears to have been taken yet against the alleged culprit, a fruit farmer whose negligence apparently caused poison used for citrus trees to land in the river.

Reprimand

No statement has been issued by the Transvaal Nature Conservation division, who are conducting an in-depth investigation into the cause and source of the pollution.

Yesterday there were rumours that the Minister of Environmental Affairs had sternly reprimanded officials of his department for not informing him of the situation's gravity.

It seems likely that both Venda and National Parks Board officials will push for a prosecution in terms of nature conservation legislation.

The threat to fish life in the Kruger National Park has apparently been averted by the rapid dilution of the poison as it was carried downstream. Yesterday no dead fish were found at the furthestmost nets erected by Venda conservationists about 40 km from the park.

Land, freedom go together - Nafcoc

Sowetan 8/3/91

③ General

ONE of the most important resolutions ever taken by Nafcoc was one that urged the organisation to call an conference to draw up an economic policy for a post-apartheid era.

The resolution, taken at last year's national annual conference, was aimed at enabling the organisation to participate fully in the current economic debate.

In accordance with that resolution, Nafcoc decided to establish an Economic Commission whose responsibilities entailed, among other things, commissioning of specific studies into economic and socio-political issues.

The commission was responsible for organising an important workshop on the controversial land issue towards the end of 1990.

Document

Participants in the workshop included the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian Peoples Organisation, business and community organisations.

The organisation has now released a detailed 19-page discussion document on land policy which it intends distributing to its members, the public and even the Government.

Much of the material covered in the document emanated from views expressed by participants at the workshop.

It also comes in the wake of almost a similar policy document disseminated by the ANC on the land issue.

In the document, released at a Press conference attended by representatives of the ANC, PAC and Azapo this week, Nafcoc detailed options which the black business community envisaged pertaining

FOCUS



THE National African Federated Chamber of Commerce this week argued that the struggle for freedom would not be complete unless the land issue had been resolved.
Sowetan Business reporter JOSHUA RABOROKO looks at the background.

to the question of land in the post-apartheid South Africa.

It said the process of land disempowerment led to the economic disempowerment of the indigenous people of this country and therefore recognised that the struggle for freedom of Africans would not be complete until the land issue had been resolved.

It was Nafcoc's contention that any political solution which was not accompanied by land redistribution would result in continued economic underdevelopment of most of the population.

Nafcoc's economist, Mr Vincent Phaahla, said: "We recognise that land is a basis of wealth creation and therefore without land we cannot economically compete fair-

ly with those who were unduly enriched at our expense.

"Due to the shortage of land, the indigenous people neither have land as a basis for collateral to secure loans for development of new business ventures nor are they in possession of liquid cash to buy such land even if the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, their amendments, and related legislation, were to be repealed.

"Unless Africans are in possession of land, their ability to create wealth will be severely limited, and they will forever remain squatters and refugees in their own country.

"Nafcoc favours the creation of a democratically elected constituent assembly drafting a constitution that will guarantee democratic rights and full economic empowerment of the dispossessed through various methods, including an equitable land redistribution process," he said.

19 points

Nafcoc has made 19 recommendations to the Government regarding the land issue. These include:

- * The Government must immediately return the land seized, through forced removals, to the legitimate owners whether they be communities or individuals, rural or urban.

- * The 87 percent or more of the land which is currently under white control must be transferred for business and other productive use to the majority of the population who are presently unable to productively use it.

- * The so-called Trust Land must be transferred to the landless communities.

- * All Trust Land allocated to homeland governments for agricultural purposes must be subdivided into private farms and sold or leased to black farmers,

companies or co-operatives.

- * Black farmers must be free to purchase and farm land all over South Africa.

- * All Land Acts must be repealed.

- * The Government recognised that the free market system cannot redistribute land equitably.

- * The land allocated to blacks in the cities is grossly inadequate and additional land needs to be allocated immediately.

- * Agricultural extension agencies be established to serve the needs of small farmers returning to the land.

- * The Government must provide essential infra-structure, including roads, electricity, sewerage, clean water and irrigation.

Phaahla said in terms of apartheid policy and, in particular legislations such as the Group Areas Act, indigenous Africans were not allowed to own land and operate in the prime business sites of the country.

"We must consider the fact that it is our responsibility to develop ideas that will not only liberate us politically but will economically empower our people," he said.

Belief

He said it was Nafcoc's belief that the apartheid system could not be reformed, but should be dismantled in its entirety.

The dismantling of the system must be accompanied by the development of new economic ideas and pragmatic solutions that will replace those which have kept the majority of the population impoverished.

"Therefore our recommendations are not directed towards modifying the discredited apartheid land policy, but laying a general basis for an equitable post apartheid land policy," he said.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Deon du Plessis. Newsbills by Sydney Mathaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Appl. Trusts 8/3/91 (104) (3 General)

Land reform buries race restrictions

Political Staff

THE government's long-awaited white paper on land reform is to be tabled in Parliament next Tuesday.

The white paper will outline the government's approach to land reform following the scrapping of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

These measures will remove all racial restrictions on the ownership and occupation of land.

However, the government is expected to provide some protection for communally owned land in the rural areas, particularly that in the homelands.

It is also expected to pave the way for peasant occupation and farming in the 1,2 million hectares of land at present owned by the South African Development

Trust.

This land, originally bought in terms of the 1936 Development Land and Trust Act, was intended for transfer into the homelands, but with the gradual process towards the dismantling of the homeland system this transfer will no longer take place.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has drawn up plans for the development of black farmers by making use of the SA Development Trust land.

The government is expected to give an effective green light to the Development Bank plan.

The SA Development Trust land includes one of the biggest citrus estates in the world, the 30 111ha Zebediela Estate in the Northern Transvaal.

The Minister of Development

Aid, Mr Jacob de Villiers, said in Parliament this week, in reply to a question tabled by Mr Mike Tarr (DP, Maritzburg), that the Trust controlled 647 854ha in the Transvaal, 400 106ha in Natal, 111 246ha in the Cape and 68 277ha in the Free State.

He added that arrangements for the disposal of this land would appear in the white paper.

President F W de Klerk said in Maitland on Monday that the government would ensure that rights to "own" community life and schools for those who wanted it would be protected, and existing property rights would not be threatened in the new order.

The white paper is expected to contain the government's proposals on how these rights will be protected in the wake of the scrapping of the Group Areas Act.

R5 billion ^{Star 9/13/91} farmers' bill ^{3 general} for 'luxuries'

THE farming chickens are coming home to roost after decades of misguided Government policies.

Now Government attempts to undo the wrongs of the past are meeting with increasing resistance from organised agriculture, already angered by the political reform process.

In an interview this week, however, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk, adamantly stuck to his guns:

"The days of blanket subsidies and generous Government aid to help unproductive white farmers are over," he said. "These policies do not help them. It only postpones the day of reckoning."

Luxury

Dr van Niekerk this week faced the wrath of conservative farmers when he told the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) in Potchefstroom that about a third of the country's agricultural debt of R17 billion was caused by factors "not related to farming".

He said at least R5 billion was caused by farmers buying beach houses, luxury flats, or new cars "or gambling it on the horses". No Government aid would be forthcoming to finance these debts, he warned.

Interviewed later, Dr van Niekerk said he did not imply that farmers were "living the good life" or wasting money. "All I tried to say is that one should examine the debt position closely and determine what percentage of it could have been avoided through prudent financial management.

DRIES VAN HEERDEN

Suffer

"We cannot expect the taxpayer to subsidise private debts and money spent on luxuries. It is also not fair to the majority of farmers who budget wisely and try to spend their money prudently."

Dr van Niekerk said he had given his department strict instructions to examine each and every application for financial assistance from farmers very closely, "to separate the wheat from the chaff".

"We have no problems giving assistance to farmers who suffer because of crop failures, drought or natural disasters, or to subsidise the interest on direct inputs. But we will not help where expenditure could have been avoided through better planning or higher productivity."

According to Dr van Niekerk the country's "thousands of good, productive farmers" resent the "begging bowl

image" the industry has acquired over the years.

"They don't want us to continue subsidising irresponsible farmers who give the profession a bad name.

"But they also want some sympathy from the public because we are presently experiencing a crisis phase in agriculture."

Barlow Rand economist Dr Piet Haasbroek says decades of bad agriculture policies are causing the present farming blues.

"The Government is now trying to wean the farmers from the previous inexhaustible flow of subsidies ... and it is proving to be a difficult and painful process," he said.

Dr Haasbroek says the "sad result" of the subsidy policy was that it did not benefit the small farmer it was intended to help.

A "vicious circle" developed. "Big farmers qualified more easily for subsidies ... and grew bigger. Small farmers could not get assistance and left the profession ... and their farms were in turn bought out by the farming tycoons."

Traumatic

He described as a "myth" the suggestion that large-scale farming is necessarily better and more productive.

Or that small farmers — especially small-scale black farmers — are unproductive.

Dr Haasbroek warned the white farmers should expect "another traumatic period" when a new Government takes over in South Africa.

They should expect that any black-led government will concentrate on small-scale farming and will take long and hard looks at large tracts of unproductive land.

"For me it is obvious that they will have to implement some policy or re-distribution of agricultural land.

"Small-scale farming has got a vast potential that should be tapped by a future government."

High risk

Dr van Niekerk and Dr Haasbroek agree that South Africa is in fact a "very poor agriculture country". Compared with most other countries — including neighbouring Zimbabwe — South Africa is a high-risk agricultural area.

In spite of the unfavourable climate, says Dr van Niekerk, the low rainfall, the semi-desert conditions, the droughts and the dearth of perennial rivers, the country's farmers are doing "an excellent job in feeding and clothing a fast-growing population".

The wheat and the chaff

'Chiefs have to share the land'

By ZB MOLEFE

(1) (2) (3) General
C/P res 10/3/71

CHIEFS who were rewarded with Trust farms in rural black South Africa for co-operating with apartheid in the past must be forced to share that land with other communities, the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) urged this week.

South Africa's biggest black business chamber also added that "all Trust land allocated to homeland governments for agricultural purposes, (must) be subdivided into private farms and sold or leased long-term to black farmers, companies or co-operatives".

The statement comes in the wake of this week's announcement that the government will on Wednesday table a White Paper on the implications facing South Africa following the scrapping of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act.

Nafcoc also recommended that the Land Bank, the SA Agricultural Union and farmers' co-operatives be empowered to serve all races.

Nafcoc also called for an immediate "freeze" on all land speculation, saying the free-market system could not redistribute land equitably, hence the importance of government intervention.

■ A parliamentary committee of the British House of Commons has recommended that Britain should be prepared to assist any "well-constructed" land distribution programme in a post-apartheid South Africa, as it had done in Zimbabwe.

Axe for race curbs on land

5/11/91

A FAR-REACHING package of farm and urban land reforms is contained in a white paper to be tabled in parliament on Tuesday. Five bills which will bring about profound changes in land tenure and control of land usage will follow the next day.

At the heart of the proposals is an effort to extend private ownership of land. All racial restrictions on ownership will be removed but the government will also insist that no one should lose title deeds in the land reform programme.

The white paper and bills will contain proposals aimed at boosting black peasant farming and speeding up the provision of informal housing in metropolitan areas. But the proposals fall far short of demands from parties like the ANC and PAC for a major land redistribution programme.

The rural land reform programme is expected to include the following key elements:

- Offering 1.2 million hectares of land presently owned by the SA Development Trust for purchase, at low cost, by black farmers.

Loans

- The creation of a new land bank (or trust) for financing the activities of the existing Land Bank to extend loans to such farmers for buying land.

- Allowing black farmers access to financial assistance schemes such as those operated by the white "own affairs" Department of Agricultural Development.

These include extending loans at an eight percent interest rate to enable farmers to buy livestock and cultivate crops.

- Opening access to agricultural extension services provided by the Department of Agricultural Development to all races.

By MIKE ROBERTSON: Political Correspondent

Agricultural Development Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has already announced that whites-only agricultural colleges will in future be open to all races.

These changes will effectively signal an end to the "own affairs" department.

Despite the government's preference for the private ownership of land, the white paper and five bills are not expected to introduce changes affecting tribal ownership.

This issue is being addressed by a working group set up after a recent meeting between government and homeland leaders and own affairs ministers.

Key elements of the urban land reform programme are expected to include:

- Approval in principle for a one-off capital subsidy for serviced sites.

Finance Minister Harend du Plessis is expected to announce in the budget that R6 000 subsidies, most likely in the form of a site, will be made available.

- Giving freehold rights to those people who have 99-year leaseholds on their property.

- Cutting all red tape involved in establishing informal housing settlements.

In terms of new provisions developers will be

able to roughly demarcate sites and then service them, with final surveying done only at a much later stage.

The government has apparently identified 27 suburbs in metropolitan areas which will be developed as informal housing settlements in the next year.

- The introduction of the City and Town Environments Bill, which will allow local authorities to set varying norms and standards for different areas.

- The establishment of a land development agency with powers to enforce "proper usage" of land.

Levy

The government has stopped short of introducing a levy on unutilised land as suggested by the Development Bank.

This proposal has instead been passed on for consideration by the National Housing Policy Task Force under the chairmanship of Dr Joop de Loor.

Nat MPs, who have been briefed on the contents of the white paper, said the government believed the redistribution of land on the basis of historic claims would be chaotic.

Instead it was proposing that the SA Development Trust land be made available to the disadvantaged as a first step towards redressing imbalances.

land

Debate over basic land and housing rights gains momentum

Star 11/3/91

IT IS easy to assert that access to land and housing is a fundamental human right. And reasonable, in a sense, since the internationally acknowledged right to life itself cannot be fulfilled without people occupying their own space and having some shelter.

But how objectively enforceable is the right to land and housing? Unlike the right to freedom of association or conscience, access to land and a home is dependent on financial considerations — on the capacity of the individual to afford a home or the State to assist in providing it.

Questions of morality, economics and vested interests twist and twine as experts try to envisage a constitution and a

The Government White Paper dealing with policy measures to follow the scrapping of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act goes before Parliament tomorrow. It is released as the debate about land and housing as a fundamental human right gains ground and substance. JO-ANNE COLLINGE examines this debate.

body of legislation guaranteeing land and homes for all.

Wits University researcher Aninka Claassens observes that South Africa is not alone in having to manage the tension between the right to private property and the need of the population to have land for survival.

"Some countries have decided not to entrench property rights in their constitutions, others

have decided to balance the right of property by including the opposing material rights of shelter, life and adequate nutrition for everyone," she writes in a pamphlet, *Who Owns South Africa?*, released last week by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies.

Even political figures remote from the Left — such as Sir Winston Churchill, Abraham

Lincoln and John Stuart Mill — have acknowledged that land cannot be equated with less finite, manufactured forms of property, Ms Claassens argues.

"They stress that security of tenure, which provides the owner of the land with the confidence to develop and improve the land, is vital to economic growth and political stability."

She suggests there are specific policy and legislative measures which could underpin these principles. For instance, land ownership could be limited to areas which are settled and productively used. Or limits could be placed on the amount of land owned by a single person. Speculative holding of land could be outlawed. Ownership of rural land could be subject to

proper use and care of the soil.

She concludes that this would assist in achieving land redistribution in a post-apartheid South Africa "not by largesse, decree or bureaucratic favour, but within a regulated legal system under which all parties can invoke protection of their rights".

In a more particular examination of the pressures for urban housing, Legal Resources Centre attorney Geoff Budlender argues that housing can be elevated from a mere "social goal" to a fundamental right.

In a paper entitled "Towards a right to housing" delivered at a Unisa conference in November, Mr Budlender acknowledged it was difficult to envisage that a constitutional right to housing could oblige Parlia-

ment to make laws guaranteeing housing to all.

He argues there should be a constitutional presumption against homelessness against which acts taken by officials could be judged.

In addition, notes Mr Budlender, a constitution should be an "aspirational document, which binds the nation together by its highest ideals".

It might embrace something similar to article 11 of the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which recognises the "right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living condi-

tions" ³ ~~general~~ ~~general~~ ~~general~~ which international housing experts discern as present in international housing law. They are: security of tenure; affordability; accessibility; habitability; control and participation; choice; equal access and non-discrimination; and legal remedy when denied housing.

The ANC's bill of rights enjoins the State to refrain from actions which would create homelessness, and it subjects the actions of the State to the scrutiny of the courts. It provides, in the most general terms for redistribution of land, which Ms Claassens argues to be essential if access to land is in any way to be enjoyed as a right. But the "aspirational" note on land and housing to which Mr Budlender refers is clearly lacking.

Whether such a gap will continue to exist in a bill of rights adopted by a future government remains to be seen.

The Witwatersrand Network for the Homeless is campaigning on eight "entitlements"

It is self-evident that the National Party has travelled some distance since 1980 when Minister of Community Development Marais Steyn asserted that those whom the Group Areas Act had made homeless should "go back to where they came from" and stay clear of "white" South Africa. Tomorrow's White Paper will tell how far the NP is prepared to go in meeting demands for land and housing. □

New cars and old farm debts

Stew 11/3/91.

3 General

FARMERS gambling on horses and buying beach houses, townhouses, flats and cars accounted for about a third of the R17 billion agricultural debt. Agricultural Development Minister Dr Kraai van Niekirk told shocked mealie farmers at a conference in Potchefstroom last week.

Farmers instantly distanced themselves from the Minister's figures. Dr van Niekirk called his diagram, showing how the debt was split up, a "spider".

Farmers spat the word "gogga" out when referring to it, with one delegate asking for the diagram to be destroyed and the press refused access to it. However, they remained worried about their image with the public, and were visibly defensive about their luxury cars.

One farmer stood up and said city dwellers did not understand their Mercedes-Benzes were old, and hardly worth anything.

But the majority of the vehicles parked outside the conference hall were either Mercedes-Benzes, BMWs or bakkies. Almost all were new.

A young Free State farmer, Jan Bothma, speaking privately to The Star, hesitated when this was pointed out, then asked: "Well, you don't want us to break down, do you?"

Agriculture has its back against the wall, say farmers. But city dwellers saw farmers braaling choice meat while pleading poverty at the recent Pretoria protest march. Are farmers really getting poorer, or are they just complaining at having to do with less, like everyone else? JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

But there are urgent agricultural issues the public does not know about or consider when they blame farmers for wanting to live in luxury. They include:

- The drought has wiped out many farmers financially. With widespread crop failures, farmers could not service debts incurred by soaring interest rates and production costs.

Productivity

Seeing the Government as being to blame for overspending and causing leaps in inflation which curbed productivity, farmers turned to their Ministers for help.

Dr van Niekirk told angry farmers on Wednesday that subsidies were killing entrepreneurship and that those who could not make it should go.

One angry farmer said agriculture had never received any subsidies.

- The deteriorating economy.

Hennie Davel, managing director of the Maize Board, confirmed at the conference that the consumption of all staple foods was going down or, at best, stagnating.

Consumption was not growing with the population, he said.

- Rocketing production costs have wiped out farmers' profit margins. Many farmers are running their farms at a substantial loss.

Mealie farmers this year are facing an average production cost of R301,22 a hectare.

Their average income per hectare is estimated by the National Maize Producers Organisation to be R707,20. This means a loss of R34,02 a hectare.

In order to survive, they must eat away at their capital base, said Nampo chief economist Dr Kit LeClus.

Because the crops were planted abnormally late, the exact delivery tonnage to the Maize Board is still uncertain.

It will be about 5,6 million tons, said Dr Davel. This is almost 2 million tons down on last year's crop delivery.

The exact price for a ton of mealies will be determined by the Maize Board on harvest day at the end of April, but is expected to be about R320.

- Another factor peeving farmers is the low import price for overseas maize.

It costs the same to import as it does to provide locally because of the huge subsidies farmers in the United States and the European Community receive, a fact often harped on by South African farmers.

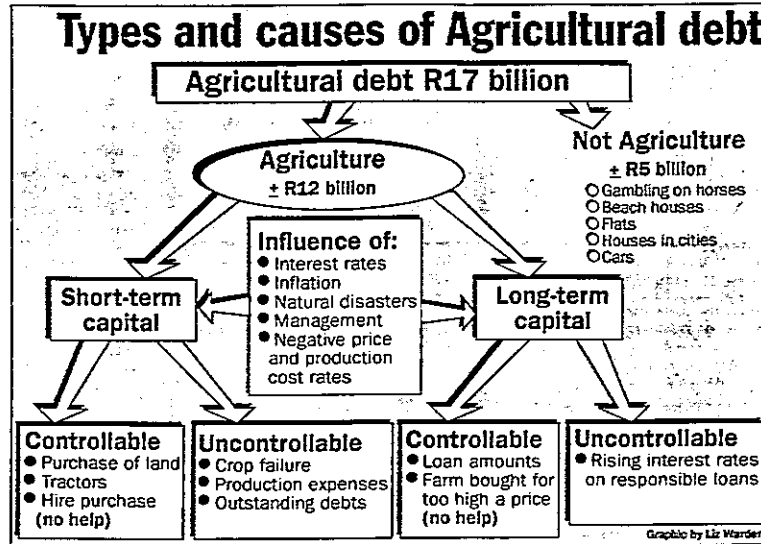
Redistribution

Because the US and EC are engaged in a price war, local farmers cannot sell their wheat at a good price, either nationally or internationally.

- Farmers, many of them right wing, fear that their land will be taken away from them through confiscation and redistribution of land.

At last year's conference, one farmer said he did not want someone "who stinks and steals farming next door".

The Government has assured farmers that distribution will occur according to free-market



been made public, called for 25 percent of white land to be handed over to blacks.

- Farmers are fearful about the new labour legislation about to be implemented in the agricultural sector. Labour relations are an alien thing to farmers, said Dr LeClus.

However, Dr van Niekirk reassured farmers by saying unions had never been really successful on farms and would probably be limited only to factory farms.

Farmers were advised not to form an employers' organisation as this would mean labourers would negotiate with only one body and not with individual farmers.

Legislation

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act have already been published and will soon be studied by the Department of Manpower.

The Acts will be drafted next month and, depending on the standing committees' workloads, the Act will be signed into legislation early next year.

The Wages and Labour Relations Acts will probably come into being for farmers at the end of next year □

principles and that laws regarding squatters, pollution and land utilisation will be passed and enforced.

Many farmers are fearful of an ANC takeover, with mass

confiscation of land, or the Government taxing them off their farms.

Farmers attacked Development Bank chief Dr Simon Brand at the conference for a

speech made late last year by a Development Bank executive, Nick Christodolou.

The speech, which Dr Brand dismissed as a working document which should never have

VAT on basic foods ^{(3) general} may cause price surge

Star 11/3/91
By George Nicholas
Agricultural
Correspondent

The inclusion of basic foods in the value added tax (VAT) system may cause their retail prices to rise by 30 percent in a single year.

This is the conclusion of the farming community following the rejection by the Government's VAT Committee (Vatcom) of its pressing calls for the exclusion of all basic foodstuffs from the tax.

Farmers also believe the poorest will be hardest hit and that the State would benefit by well over R1 billion.

Concerned

Vatcom has recommended that only a few foodstuffs — such as maize products, rice, bread and milk powder — be exempted from the tax. This is of grave concern to farmers.

At present all basic foods are exempted from general sales tax.

Farmers argue that VAT, added to normal input costs, could push up retail prices by as much as 30 percent in a year. They feel that the resultant consumer resistance would cause a further drop in farmers' incomes.

The phasing out of production subsidies — such

as that enjoyed by the wheat industry — meant VAT could have a further serious effect.

"There is little doubt that VAT on basic foodstuffs is going to cause the market for farm products to shrink," said SA Agricultural Union senior economist Johan Pienaar.

He warned that agriculture would be exposed to considerable financial losses. This was so because of the economic slump and the fact that more than 50 percent of the market for foodstuffs was targeted at the less privileged sector.

Mr Pienaar said the Bureau of Market Research had calculated that the exclusion of basic foods from the existing GST represented a loss of R2,4 billion a year to the State.

The inclusion of these foods in the VAT system meant the State would now recover about R1 billion of this amount from meat products alone, and vegetables would be responsible for about R407 million.

He also felt many SA farmers would find it difficult to comply with the administrative obligations of VAT.

Of the 47 countries already implementing the system, few were without a specific dispensation for farmers, he added.

White Paper on land ownership for poor to be tabled

CAPE TOWN — Widespread land ownership for the poor, through the provision of land at low cost and the conversion of black land tenure into full ownership, is likely to be proposed in a White Paper tabled in Parliament tomorrow.

It is expected to propose wide-ranging reforms of urban and rural land ownership to follow the repeal of the Group Areas Act.

The process of wider urban ownership has been initiated by Jan Steyn's

15/10/91 11/3/91
LESLEY LAMBERT

R2bn Independent Development Trust, which put aside R600m to provide almost a million poor people with their own land and basic shelter.

Details of the IDT's initiative are likely to be released after the White Paper has been tabled (3) General

Weekend reports say government has apparently identified 27 suburbs in metropolitan areas which will be

developed as informal housing settlements in the next year.

Reports cite IDT officials as saying local authorities will purchase urban land close to the job market.

But ANC demands for massive redistribution through expropriation of land on the basis of historic claims are unlikely to be addressed.

The proposal for a one-off R6 000 capital subsidy is expected to be approved in principle and implemented in the Budget next week.

Farm machinery sector in trouble

③ General
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural machinery industry was in dire trouble and could "fall apart", SA Agricultural Machinery Association (Saama) chairman Corwyn Botha said at the weekend.

Botha said in an interview he expected demand for farm machinery and equipment to decline by a further 30% this year.

It was possible that tractor sales could fall to a new low of 2 500.

That figure was just 10% of the number sold a decade ago.

And, said Botha, it compared with more than 3 900 tractors sold last year.

Various factors, he said, had combined to produce a "disastrous" decline in demand for farm machinery.

Those included successive droughts, mounting debt, high interest rates, political uncertainty and uncertainty surrounding the controversial land ownership issue.

Botha said farmers' ability to buy had been reduced by continually rising input costs and relatively low product prices.

Until that trend was reversed and farmers were helped to overcome their financial problems, the industry would remain in the doldrums.

Asked whether there was any unexploited potential for exports to southern African countries, Botha said: "None." *6/04/11/3/91*

That, said agricultural economists, could have serious production consequences at a time when it was vital for the industry to keep up with the growing demand for food.

In 1981, 24 862 tractors were sold.

Farmers attending last week's congress of the National Maize Producers' Organisation complained that tractor prices were far too high.

They said a further steep drop in sales was inevitable this year.

Agriculture faces rationalisation

③ General
b1 pay
12/3/91.

KEVIN DAVIE

AGRICULTURE is in line for massive rationalisation in terms of government's new agricultural policy which is expected to be unveiled in a White Paper today.

The paper sets out the policy government will follow once the Land Acts are repealed this year, and recommends new structures for tackling rural development, Pretoria sources say.

A single Department of Agriculture is likely to replace the present 14 in SA and the homelands, while a new rural development institution is expected to replace existing government-funded agricultural agencies.

"All racial connotations will disappear," a Pretoria source said.

The Department of Development Aid, responsible for social spending in self-governing and independent homelands, is expected to be scrapped or restructured, as could be the SA Development Trust (SADT) — set up to acquire land for incorporation into homelands — and its management operating arm, the SA Development Trust Corporation (STK).

A new rural development institution was envisaged to replace these and other bodies, the sources said.

The SADT controls about 1,2-million hectares of land which will be made available for smallscale farm-

ing. Pretoria sources suggest that the Independent Development Trust (IDT) might make some of its unallocated R2bn available to settle people on this land, and provide financial assistance for new farmers.

A government source said yesterday that the 1,2-million hectares was in urban and rural areas. Much of it was settled, and residents would probably be the beneficiaries of government's new policy to facilitate land ownership by providing finance and title deeds.

It is understood that the White Paper draws on the work of the De Looz committee, whose investigation of development proposed single departments in such areas as health, education, welfare and agriculture.

The STK has been prominent at Makhathini Flats in northern Natal, where on a trial basis it has begun to bring smallscale farmers onto the land on plots of about 10ha.

Training in the financing and growing of cotton and rice has been given.

"The level of knowledge is considerably higher than before the STK became involved, contributing to the upliftment of the whole community," the STK said in its annual report released yesterday.

Move to scrap Land Act begins

Sowetan 12/3/91 *3 General*

GOVERNMENT will today table a white paper scrapping the Land Acts.

Expected at the same time are a handful of Bills which will repeal the Group Areas Act and Development of Black Communities Act of 1984.

When these Bills are passed through Parliament and voted into law, black people will be able to buy land wherever they are able to afford in rural or urban areas.

It is expected that protection of black traditional land will be written into the legislation to prevent whites from snapping up such areas.

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

Also in the expected legislation will be a plan, by Government, to assist potential black land owners, particularly aimed at helping aspirant black farmers.

Homelands

Strong emphasis will be laid on using the almost 1,5 million hectares of land it had earlier earmarked for the inclusion into the homelands.

This is land which has since been placed under the control of the South Africa Development Trust, more than half of which is situated in the Transvaal.

In his February 1 speech President FW de Klerk gave a detailed outline of the imminent white paper and proposed Bills.

"Much more is necessary than the mere repeal of discriminatory legislation.

"At the same time, provision will have to be made for the protection of rights and of making land ownership accessible to all in a

non-discriminatory manner," De Klerk said.

The SADT land in the Transvaal includes: Zebediela, Moutse, Lethlabile, Daggakraal and 102 000 hectares in the Paul Pietersburg/Piet Retief area.

In Natal the areas of Ingwavuma, Babanango and Umzinto (Ifafa) are some of the more than 20 areas which have been placed under the control of the SADT.

In the Orange Free State, land in Bethlehem, Harrismith, Thaba Nchu and Botshabelo will be affected by the white paper expected today.

Residents ③ General want their land back

ster 13/3/91.
By Helen Grange

Residents of three rural communities plan to reoccupy land they were forcibly moved off — despite the Government's rejection of this proposal in its White Paper on Land Reform, published yesterday.

About 39 000 former residents of Roosboom, near Ladysmith, Charlestown near Volksrust and Criemen near Elandsplaagte were moved off their freehold land in the late 1970s.

A number of former Roosboom residents were prosecuted for attempting to return to the land last year.

Legal action was suspended pending negotiations with the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs.

People from Charlestown and Criemen say they will begin reoccupying their land on April 30 and May 31.

Spokesmen from the three communities said there were rumours that the Government was considering selling the land. "This we totally reject," they said.

White Paper lauded, slated

Star 13/3/91
By Jo-Anne Collinge

Reaction to the Government's land reform proposals took the pattern of sharp rebuke from organisations representing the homeless and the Right — and a warm welcome from most bodies speaking for those who own property. (3) General

Heading the critics were the African National Congress and the Conservative Party. Those adding their praise included the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), the Democratic Party and the South African Chamber of Business (Sacob).

The ANC — stressing that the Government had not consulted it or any of the communities subjected to forced removal under apartheid —



Playing with fire ... Andries Treurnicht.

said the White Paper presented a view of land ownership "that absolves the white population of all responsibility for the existing unequal land dispensation".

It added: "The Government takes the geography of apartheid as its starting point and explicitly refuses to deal with the landlessness

and dispossession that is the direct legacy of apartheid's policy of forced removal and bantustan consolidation."

The ANC condemned the Government's refusal to restore land to the victims of forced removal.

Dr Andries Treurnicht said the Government was "playing with fire".

He said the CP found it inexplicable that the Government was turning white South Africa into everyman's land before negotiations on a new constitution had begun.

What made these proposals even more drastic was that black people retained their land in the independent states and self-governing territories while whites did not have this right.

● To Page 2

White Paper
Star 13/3/91
both lauded

and criticised

(3) General
● From Page 1

It appeared that the Government had given in to most of the ANC's land demands. The so-called guarantee of private land ownership was no long-term assurance for anyone against the ANC's final claims to land.

SAAU president Nico Kotze welcomed the support expressed in the White Paper for the retention of an overwhelmingly commercial form of agriculture.

"Private ownership of agricultural land, and the utilisation thereof by free entrepreneurs, forms the basis for a sound agricultural industry," he said.

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), which campaigned tirelessly against forced removals, said the policy "does not address the grave property inequities in our society".

Trac added: "A free-market system as advocated will only entrench the privileged position of whites."

The White Paper was the final death-blow to the Verwoerdian dream of grand apartheid, DP land affairs spokesman Peter Soal said.

Stable

It represented a great step forward inasmuch as it totally de-racialised the question of land ownership.

Sacob said the planned land reform would open economic opportunities for everyone and further promote the development of a stable black middle class.

Mohamed Dangor, chairman of Actstop, which spearheaded the campaign against the Group Areas Act in Johannesburg, said he feared the policy would lead to "economic apartheid instead of racial apartheid".

The Labour Party welcomed the fact that all racially based restrictions on land ownership were going to be abolished.

Gerald Morkel, spokesman on land affairs, said the White Paper gave expression to what the party had been working for — the right of anyone to buy land.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

McArthur pool: incident

*1. Mr W J DIETRICH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) With reference to an incident which allegedly took place near the McArthur pool in Humewood, Port Elizabeth, on or about 24 February 1991 (particulars of which have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply), (a)(i) how long did it take the Police to reach the scene of the incident and (ii) why did it take so long and (b) what is the distance from the nearest police station to the McArthur pool;
- (2) whether any persons have been arrested in connection with this incident; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

C32E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) (a) (i) 3 minutes.
(ii) The reaction by the South African Police was expeditious and extremely prompt.
- (b) 4 kilometres.
- (2) Yes, two persons on a charge of murder.
- (3) The two persons have already made a confession before a magistrate and will again appear in court shortly.

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I would like to appeal to hon members to be present when the questions they placed on the Question Paper, are being answered. [Interjections.] Order!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Kareedouw: farms for housing purposes

4. Mr W J DIETRICH asked the Minister of Housing:†

- (1) Whether farms or portions of farms in Kareedouw and vicinity have been purchased or expropriated for housing purposes by the Administration: House of Representatives; if so, (a) from whom (b) which farms or portions have been purchased and (c) what is the size of each farm or portion;
- (2) whether objections by the community concerned and other persons to the purchase of the land have been received; if so, what was his and the relevant State Department's reaction thereto;
- (3) (a) what percentage of each farm or portion is suitable for housing purposes and (b)(i) what percentage of each farm or portion is not suitable for housing purposes, (ii) what is the monetary value of each such farm or portion and (iii) on what basis is this monetary value calculated; *Hansard 13/3/91*.
- (4) whether services have been provided on the land concerned; if so, (a) what services and (b) what was the cost involved therein as at 31 January 1991;
- (5) whether alternative land that could have been purchased was available in the Kareedouw area; if so, what are the relevant details?

C25E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

- (1) Yes, expropriated and purchased.
 - (a) J A du Plessis, R H Aube and SA Transport Services.
 - (b) Remainder of the farm Assegaai Bosch no. 386; remaining portion 15 (Groot Laagte); portion of Portion 1 of the farm Melkhoute Kraal no 254;

- (c) 8,5 ha, 24 ha and 1,04 ha respectively.
- (2) Yes, the MP concerned. It was pointed out to him that preference was given to this land because infrastructure and community facilities were readily available and that proclamation of another area would have delayed development.

- (3) (a) 20%, 70% and 100% suitable for housing respectively.

- (b) (i) 80%, 30% and Nil% unsuitable respectively.

- (ii) R51 000, R144 000 and R15 000 respectively.

- (iii) Market value.

- (4) Yes.

- (a) Sewerage, water, roads, stormwater drainage and electricity.

- (b) R777 061.

- (5) No.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Transvaal farmers' wishes 'ignored'

3 General

B/Dun 13/3/91

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Government has been warned that its disregard for the wishes of thousands of Transvaal farmers could have serious consequences.

The warning was issued by Transvaal Agricultural Union president and CP MP for Lydenburg Dries Bruwer in a statement last night after the tabling in Parliament of the White Paper on land reform.

He accused government of being naive in accepting the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts which, over the years, had ensured good order would lead to progress and prosperity.

Bruwer said in spite of the fact that 95% of Transvaal farmers last year voted for the retention of the two Acts, and that at Nampopo's congress last week there was unanimous support for retaining the legislation, government had gone forward with preparations to scrap them.

Government had undertaken to consult organised agriculture before further steps were taken on the issue. This had not happened.

The White Paper repre-

sented a total disregard of Transvaal farmers' wishes.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) welcomed the content of the paper but was adamant that existing and future land ownership rights should be adequately protected.

SAAU president Nico Kotze said the selling of land had to be on a basis of voluntary sellers and buyers.

The SAAU fully supported establishment of a national rural development corporation.

An issue not addressed clearly in the White Paper was the maintenance of the rural infrastructure which had already deteriorated greatly. He welcomed the upgrading of rural areas as a move against urbanisation.

Government was cautioned to act with extreme care when withdrawing high-potential agricultural land, identified for development, as such land was already extremely limited.

Govt 'is playing with fire'

ANC reacts with 'outrage and deep disappointment'

b/paw
13/3/91

3 general

102 103

THE ANC responded with "outrage and deep disappointment" to government's White Paper on land reform tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The organisation said in a statement neither it nor dispossessed rural communities had been consulted on the document.

Land reform, it said, meant land redistribution. "This document explicitly rejects land redistribution."

The statement said the paper was not a land reform document, as it claimed.

"Its effect is to codify the present state of dispossession under the cover of free market proposals. All this emphasises the need for speedy progress in negotiations for a constitution that will be democratic and serves the interests of all the people."

Its attempts to provide ownership rights to blacks who were tenants now would normally be seen as a positive move.

"For the ANC, the restoration of land to the victims of forced removal must form the underpinning of any credible land policy.

The statement said the ANC be-

PETER DELMAR

lieved that to rectify the "gross imbalances" in land ownership, redistribution could not be left simply to the market.

It charged that references to the protection of standards after the abolition of the Group Areas Act was a "thinly veiled protection of white privilege".

Procedures

"The approach to communal tenure also worries us deeply. The government maintains it will allow the system to continue to exist, but has also constrained it by a high level of administrative intervention which will make it very difficult for communities to maintain this system.

"Yet nowhere is there any suggestion that white farmers be subject to similar state control procedures to ensure that they farm within the carrying capacity of the land and do not build their houses on high-potential land."

The ANC criticised the paper for not dealing with the need to restruc-

ture the commercial agricultural sector. Land reform, it said, had to address the challenges of one agricultural system.

The PAC welcomed the paper but said it was not enough.

In a preliminary comment, foreign secretary Patricia de Lille said while it was consistent with the abolition of the Land Acts, it was "not enough".

"The PAC stands for redistribution of the land. Much land is held by the government.

"Provincial and tribal land must be available free of charge.

"Our people were dispossessed by force of arms. It is illogical and insensitive to expect us to buy the land of which we were dispossessed."

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) said the new legislation did not address economic inequalities and the free market system advocated would only entrench whites' privileged position.

One of the most glaring omissions, a Trac statement said, was that land would not be restored to people dispossessed or the subject of forced removals.

BY stressing that access to land will in future be based on human need, private enterprise and private ownership, government's White Paper on land reform, tabled in Parliament yesterday, represents a turning point in SA history.

Government's intentions are stated in the White Paper and the five Bills that will turn its intentions into law. There should be no discrimination on the basis of race, sex or creed; there will be equal opportunities to acquire land; there will be security of title; provision will be made for development aid to the needy; and training for conserving and effecting maximum productivity of land should be available to all.

In endeavouring to achieve these goals, government has devised a three-point policy which appears practical and workable, though dependent to a large extent on funds allocated for its implementation.

The plan is comprehensive; it starts the highly emotional process of land reform, acknowledging the wrongs of the past and trying to set them right with minimum disruption to development, while unleashing potential for growth and job creation.

Firstly, the paper's proposals aim at encouraging wider land ownership on the part of the black population by abolishing all racially based restrictions on land rights and by providing assistance, including financial assistance, to promote access to these rights.

Secondly, to upgrade the quality of land tenure and security of title, the plan is to upgrade land rights and rationalise registration systems; accommodating tribal land systems with an evolutionary conversion to a system of individual ownership and the "protection of the integrity of the title in land".

The third prong of the policy is to encourage land use as a national asset. This is to be done by maintaining the commercial production capacity of agricultural land, accompanied by open access to agricultural assistance; by active promotion of rural development; by accelerating the provision of land for urbanisation;

As land apartheid goes, finance and help are open to all

(3) General (Handwritten)
B/day 13/3/91.
BILLY PADDOCK in Cape Town

and by conserving the land for future generations.

Throughout the White Paper there is a cautious sensitivity to retention of existing land rights.

"Every person has certain basic needs with regard to land, access to it and the use of it. The need for land must, however, be met within the bounds of reality. . . . The new policy has the definite objective of ensuring that the existing security and existing patterns of community order will be maintained."

The guidelines reject out of hand the ANC's demand for reparations to "the thousands of people who were wronged . . . removed from their land or forced to sell it against their will because of apartheid laws".

The ANC land document said if there was no reparation "we can expect an outburst of uncontrollable political anger".

The report says government "is of the opinion that a programme for the restoration of land to individuals and communities who were forced to give up their land on account of past policies or other historical reasons would not be feasible.

"Apart from the vast potential for conflict inherent in such a programme, overlapping and contradictory claims to such land as well as other practical problems would

make its implementation extremely difficult, if not impossible."

Education and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe made a point at a media briefing yesterday that more land was expropriated from whites than blacks during the social engineering of the apartheid years. The intention now was to look forward and write off the past.

While the paper offers strong argument for productivity of land and its conservation, it is silent on the question of absentee owners and the unproductive use of land. Some land policies, including that of the ANC, proposed punitive taxes on such land so as to encourage its productive use.

Government differs from the ANC's latest land policy document in its emphasis on private enterprise and private ownership while acknowledging the existence of communal land patterns. In contrast, the ANC emphasises communal ownership with an acceptance of private ownership.

Another area of potential conflict is that the White Paper does not criminalise racial discrimination. Its proposals would, implicitly, allow

private individuals to practise racial discrimination in the sale or rental of property or land.

Government's sensitivity to its own constituency, and its efforts to calm the rightwing, come through very strongly in the paper's comments on reform in the urban areas.

It argues that "communities set the norms and standards by which members of that residential area can protect their lifestyle and maintain a certain level of norms and standards relevant to various environments".

Putting the argument in these terms, which can only raise suspicions of a move back to a "group rights" regime, is evidence of a verbal sop to the right.

The White Paper recognises that rural development was the one sphere in which co-ordinated planning and action on a national basis has been lacking, both within and outside the homelands.

It acknowledges the serious problems of land use and the socio-economic backlogs which are widespread in the rural areas.

These areas lack development, have suffered widespread ecological deterioration which have contributed to conditions of poverty, unemployment, landlessness and a diminishing capacity of communities to satisfy their basic needs.

The White Paper says it is therefore necessary to promote socio-economic upliftment of the rural communities and the creation of opportunities to participate in the development process.

"It is necessary to ensure that rural development takes its rightful place alongside urbanisation. Rural development must be undertaken on an integrated basis and for this purpose a national rural development strategy is necessary," the White Paper recommends.

It suggests that existing rural development programmes and structures be rationalised to achieve a more purposeful and co-ordinated action.

The Bill to accompany this policy makes provision for the establishment of a National Rural Development Corporation; agricultural settlement schemes; and the communal use of land for agricultural settlement.

Government states that this commitment means adjustments have to be made to increase food production and generate job opportunities.

In terms of its proposals for providing financial assistance and other support such as agricultural extension services to the whole population, the White Paper is in close agreement with the proposals put forward by the ANC.

Other areas of agreement are:

- Abolition of all racial restrictions on ownership and use of land;
- The use of certain types of affirmative action programmes as part of the implementation of land reform;
- Agricultural reform offering more jobs and self-employment; and
- Security for those whose access to land is through communal tenure.

Overall the policy of land reform envisaged by government is innovative, attainable and bears evidence of widespread consultation, deliberation and negotiation.

It also shows that politicians and officials are willing to be flexible in an attempt to create an end-product that, with very few shortcomings, must be acceptable to the majority of South Africans.

Restitution issue sparks broadside

Star 13/3/91.

(3) General

JO-ANNE COLLINGE, PETER FABRICIUS and members of The Star's Political Staff examine the White Paper on land reforms, tabled yesterday in Parliament.

THE Government's outright denial of special restitution for more than 3.5 million victims of forced population removals has drawn fire from political organisations and land rights groups.

It has also set the Government on a collision course with half a dozen communities in the Transvaal and Natal who have begun to reoccupy the land from which they were removed — or have advanced plans to do so.

The White Paper on land reform states explicitly: "The Government is of the opinion that a programme for the restoration of the land to individuals and communities who were forced to give up their land on

account of past policies or other historical reasons would not be feasible.

"Apart from the vast potential for conflict inherent in such a programme, overlapping and contradictory claims to such land as well as other practical problems would make its implementation extremely difficult, if not impossible.

"The Government believes it is in the interest of peace and progress that the present position should be accepted and that the opportunities afforded by the new land policy should be exploited to bring about a more equitable dispensation. An attempt to return to the previous order will only disrupt the country's pace of development to the detriment of all."

Joanne Yawitch of the National Land Committee commented: "We believe that until the Government deals with the question of land restoration and accepts the fact that injustices were committed, its land reform policy will lack legitimacy."

Aninka Claassens of Wits University's Centre for Applied Legal Studies said the situation of many black communities trapped in unresolved actions for restoration of their land was prejudiced by the new policy.

"This (White Paper) exacerbates the uncertainty of these people," she said.

A typical example was that of the Mfengu of the Tsitsikam-

ma. White farmers who bought their farms (with 100 percent Government loans) after the removal are set to resell — apparently prompted by fears that the Government might bow to demands from the Mfengu for the return of their land. The Mfengu plan to take court action to halt the resale.

Ms Claassens said the Government had to make fundamental political choices. "The choice is whether to acknowledge the past and develop

terms which address it, or to pretend the past can be wished away," she said.

The immediate response of Pan Africanist Congress spokesman Patricia de Lille was: "Our people were dispossessed by force of arms. It is illogical and insensitive to expect us to buy the same land we were dispossessed of."

Between 1960 and 1983 alone, according to the Surplus People Project, at least 3.5 million persons were forced off their land.

The largest category of removed people were labourers and tenants on white farm-land and their families, who accounted for about 1.13 million.

A further 860 000-odd removals took place during that time in terms of the Group Areas Act, and about 730 000 were forced out of black townships.

Another substantial category was constituted by the 614 000 people removed from "black spots" — farm land which they owned by virtue of freehold title or some form of historic land grant and which was "inconveniently" situated because it was amid white farm-land, rather than in a homeland.

It is the "black spot" communities who have been most vociferous in their claim for

the land to be restored to them. Many regard it as flagrant double-speak for the Government to promise white farmers that title deeds will be held sacred, when titles held by blacks provided no protection against removal.

In terms of the land White Paper, all that victims of forced removal can hope for is:

● In the case of rural removals, consideration for inclusion in an agricultural settlement scheme planned by the Rural Development Bill. The legislation envisages that units for small farmers will be established on some 374 000 ha of land currently belonging to the South African Development Trust and such other land as the State may eventually buy

for agricultural settlement.

The landless will have to compete for allocation of this limited land on a nonracial basis.

● Upgrading of title to the land to which they were removed, most often located in one of the self-governing homelands which are to be included in the land reform programme.

● Greater freedom to move from the rural areas to the urban areas in terms of a policy of positive urbanisation, which includes speedier acquisition of well-located urban land for housing, quicker establishment of settlements — and, hopefully, a corresponding reduction of virtually enforced squatting/trespass on land not intended for housing. □

Major laws on way out: UK tells EC to lift sanctions

Sweeping land reform

Star 13/3/91

3 General

By Peter Fabricius
Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday unveiled a far-reaching land reform policy to sweep aside generations of discrimination in land ownership and put more blacks on the land.

In the first overseas reaction, Britain welcomed the move and called for the European Community (EC) to act swiftly to lift sanctions against Pretoria.

The Foreign Office said:

"These are very significant steps on the road to the complete abolition of apartheid.

"We expect the European Commission (the EC executive) to act swiftly."

In a White Paper on Land Reform, announced in five major bills being tabled in Parliament, the Government will repeal the Group Areas Act, the two Land Acts and all legislation preventing land purchase on racial grounds.

The discriminatory Acts are to be replaced with measures enabling neighbourhoods to maintain physical

standards — but not to discriminate on racial grounds.

The White Paper rejects demands for redistribution of land, and for land to be restored to owners who lost it because of apartheid. But it accepts that the historic imbalance in land ownership "cannot be solved merely by the repeal of the discriminatory laws involved".

Support measures to enable people to acquire land for occupation will have to be extended, it says.

One of the main measures will be to convert black

urban leasehold rights to freehold with no charge — establishing a million blacks as home owners almost immediately — and another million soon.

In an introduction to the White Paper, President de Klerk describes the new policy as "an historic turning point" which will "drastically change the land legislation of the past 78 years".

The White Paper and the legislation:

● Repeals the three major Acts which discriminate against black land ownership — the Group Areas Act, the

1913 and 1936 Land Acts and the Black Communities Development Act, as well as discriminatory clauses in a further 185 laws.

This will allow anyone to buy any property in South Africa including self-governing territories — although measures will be introduced to prevent tribal land being snapped up by whites.

● Establishes an agricultural settlement scheme which will put black farmers on about 500 000 ha of "black" land in "white" South Africa.

● Gives the Government powers to slash red tape to establish informal settlements and townships for blacks at short notice.

● Will give neighbourhoods the right to decide what physical standards they wish to maintain in their areas — but not the right to exclude anyone on the basis of race.

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel said no one would be prevented from buying land anywhere in the country on grounds of race.

● More reports — Page 11

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Govt 'is playing with fire'

CAPE TOWN — Government was playing with fire in its proposals on land reform, CP leader Andries Treurnicht said yesterday. (3) General (2)

The CP found it inexplicable that government was turning white SA into "everyman's land" before talks for a new constitution had begun, he said.

What made these proposals worse was that black people kept their land in the independent states and self-governing territories while whites did not have this right.

NP study group on planning chairman Paul Farrell said the paper succeeded in addressing the importance of land as a basis for peace, stability and economic progress. 6/04 13/3/91

DP land affairs spokesman Peter Soal said the paper was the final death blow to the Verwoerdian dream of grand apartheid.

In a statement issued in Parliament, he said it represented a great step forward by deracialising land ownership and tenure. — Sapa.

Sacob enthusiastic, but AHI issues a warning

8/04 13/3/91
THE SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) yesterday hailed the release of government's White Paper on Land Reform as "probably the most significant event in the process of normalising socio-economic relationships in SA". (3) General (2)

Sacob said in a statement that implementing the paper's provisions would open economic opportunities for all and promote the development of a stable black middle class.

"Sacob endorses the view that, in addition to the eventual removal of racially based restrictions on land ownership, support measures designed to facilitate acquisition of land be made accessible to all," the statement said.

PETER DELMAR

It would also improve SA's international standing.

GERALD REILLY reports that the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI) said yesterday its membership would be divided on the merits of the policies spelt out in the White Paper.

Director Martin van der Berg cautioned that care would have to be taken to ensure that SA's economic growth potential was not inhibited.

He said the AHI recognised the need for land ownership and development in SA and welcomed the fact that high-level attention was being focused on the issue.

Land apartheid on way out

CAPE TOWN — Government has introduced new legislation to remove all racial restrictions on land tenure and to underpin fundamental land reforms proposed in a White Paper released yesterday.

Five Bills, four of which were tabled in Parliament immediately after the release of the White Paper, replace land apartheid with a process of massive reform aimed at adjusting the uneven distribution of rural and urban land.

Cabinet Ministers expect the Bills to be passed during the current parliamentary session.

The Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill repeals the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 and the Black Communities Development Act. It also removes racial restrictions on land tenure from all other legislation governing SA and the self-governing territories and empowers the State President to amend racially restrictive proclamations. But, while a commitment is made to phase out grand apartheid, legislation underpinning it is not affected by the White Paper's proposed changes.

The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill, which will be tabled at a later stage, converts various forms of urban and rural black land tenure into full ownership. It is estimated that existing leasehold rights on one-million township dwellings will be converted immediately

6/10am 13/3/91 (3) General

LESLEY LAMBERT

after the Bill is passed. Rights on a further one-million units will be converted once registers are opened in the townships in which the homes exist, Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hennis Kriel said yesterday.

Black tribes will be granted ownership of state land they occupy in rural areas. Decisions on the transfer of ownership to individual tribe members will be made by tribal leaders, but, to avoid exploitation, they will have to have the permission of a court to lease or sell the land to outsiders. It is estimated that rights on up to 3-million rural allotments could be upgraded to full ownership.

Black farmers

Various land registration offices will be rationalised into the central deeds registration system governed by the Deeds Registries Act.

The Less Formal Township Establishment Bill proposes interim measures to speed up the establishment of informal housing settlements as urbanisation pressures grow. Informal housing developments will not be subject to the provisions of formal township development and procedures will be shortened to such an extent that, in cases where the need for housing is critical, provincial authorities will be empowered to expropriate land and provide living

space with basic infrastructure within days.

The Rural Development Bill facilitates a co-ordinated national strategy for rural development. It provides for the establishment of a National Rural Development Corporation to replace the SA Development Trust, and the supply of land and financial assistance to black farmers.

The Bill proposes the allocation of farming units on the basis of a probationary lease. Furthermore, it proposes that after three years leasees should be entitled to buy the land.

Agriculture and Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers said 254 000ha of SA Development Trust land would immediately be made available to black farmers, while an additional 220 000ha would be freed in the future.

Finally, a Residential Environment Bill provides for the protection of cities and towns against physical deterioration, and the maintenance of norms and standards in residential environments. It also provides for the settlement of neighbourhood disputes and the establishment of an Urban Environment Board to assist with the renewal of deteriorated areas.

Cabinet Ministers stressed yesterday that discriminatory provincial by-laws would not be tolerated, but they confirmed that there would be no anti-discriminatory legislation to prevent residential communities or landlords from maintaining apartheid restrictions.

Ownership of communal areas transferred to tribes

CAPE TOWN — Government has decided to protect communal tenure of land by tribes in the rural areas for 10 years, and to transfer ownership of this land directly to the tribes.

But it said it believed "tribal communities should seriously consider the advantages of individual tenure". Nor was it in favour of the expansion of the traditional system of land tenure.

The decision to vest control of tribally held land under existing "tribes" and chiefs is likely to vest

Political Staff

control in the very groups that controlled the homeland structures.

The government decision on tribal land could, in the circumstances, expose it to criticism of protecting the power bases of those chiefs over land.

Government said in its White Paper that large tracts of land in black areas were occupied and used by members of the tribe in accordance with the traditional communal system of land tenure.

These rights "cannot be typified under common law and converted into rights recognised in South African law", it said.

Ownership therefore was granted to tribes to give them full right to dispose of their land. To safeguard the interests of individual members of a tribe, the proposed law prohibited the tribe from selling its land to people who were not tribal members for 10 years after the land had been transferred to the tribe unless a court order authorising the sale was obtained.

5/12/71

CAPE TOWN — Millions of urban blacks will be housed and granted full ownership of their homes, while black farmers will be settled on thousands of hectares of agricultural land freed up by new land reforms.

Cabinet Ministers told the Press yesterday that the new land policy, proposed in a White Paper on Land Reform, would remove restrictions to land ownership and allow wider ownership through the provision of state land and financial assistance, and the conversion of land tenure into full ownership.

Agriculture and Development Aid Minister Jacob de Villiers said 254 000ha of SA Development Trust farmland had been made available for black farmers in terms of the new policy. Another 220 000ha would soon be made available.

De Villiers said government would extend to black farmers all assistance programmes available to white farmers, including Land Bank loans, agricultural credit loans and advi-

Millions of urban blacks get new deal

3 General
B/10/13/3/91
LESLEY LAMBERT

sory services.

Assistance would also be sought from the private and foreign sectors. He said they wanted to produce a situation where food production and employment opportunities abounded.

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel said government hoped to fund new home ownership for 250 000 families this year. Another 80 000 plots would be made available by the Independent Development Trust's allocation of R600m for the provision of land and basic shelter.

Kriel said government had already allocated R390m for the purchase of residential property in urban areas, while an additional R450m had been allocated for the servicing of

this property.

Financial assistance in the form of one-off state subsidies for first-time homeowners had been approved in principle and would be introduced in the Budget, Kriel said. "We are opening up all opportunities available to help urbanised people become homeowners," he said.

New legislation underpinning proposals contained in the White Paper would upgrade land tenure on a million township properties from leasehold into full ownership with immediate effect. Rights on an additional million properties would be converted into full ownership once the properties had been surveyed, Kriel said.

Provision would also be made for the rapid development of informal housing settlements.

3 General

Blacks to gain from major land reforms

8/04 13/3/91

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CAPE TOWN — A sweeping package of land reforms scrapping, wholly or in part, 189 laws and over 15 000 regulations that have segregated housing and enforced land apartheid, was unveiled by government yesterday.

Five Bills accompanying the White Paper on land reform will bring about the most profound changes in land tenure and control since the implementation of the 1913 Land Act.

The proposals, with private enterprise and private ownership as the central thrust, abolish all racial restrictions on ownership and use of land. But government insists no one should lose title deeds.

The White Paper implicitly rejects ANC and PAC demands for major land redistribution and reparations.

● Reports: Pages 4, 5 & 10
● Comment: Page 10

It states: "The restoration of land to individuals and communities who were forced to give up their land on account of past policies or other historical reasons would not be feasible."

At a Press conference yesterday, Cabinet Ministers said there was no law to forbid racial discrimination by private owners although this could not be written into contracts or registered with the deeds office in terms of the General Law Amendment Bill tabled earlier this session.

"If anyone in the private sector should decide that he does not want to let property to a certain person on the basis of his race, he can do that," Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel said.

Government proposed measures to protect established standards, but not white

BILLY PADDOCK

exclusivity, in white areas, boosting black peasant farming and speeding up the creation of new informal housing for the very poor in metropolitan areas.

The measures are the first evidence of President F W de Klerk's promise to Parliament on February 1 to repeal all remaining racial laws.

Education and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said he hoped the Bills would become law by the end of June.

The five Bills consist of one Bill which repeals all existing racially discriminatory and restricting laws while the other four are all enabling legislation allowing for the implementation of the proposals.

The Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill repeals the Black Land Act of 1913, the Development Trust and Land Act of 1936, the Group Areas Act and the Black Communities Development Act. It also deletes racial restrictions on land tenure in all other laws, including laws relating to rural areas for coloureds and laws of the self-governing territories.

Combined with this is a provision to empower the President to repeal a further 15 000 regulations by proclamation.

The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill provides for rationalising land registration and upgrading leasehold and other lower-order tenure to full ownership.

The Residential Environment Bill provides for prevention of the physical decline of cities and towns as well as the maintenance of standards in residential areas.

The Less Formal Township Establishment Bill gives government power to create informal settlement sites for squatters

□ To Page 2

Land policy

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3 General

□ From Page 1

without having to go through formal procedures.

The Rural Development Bill makes provision for developing rural areas and communities, for agricultural settlement schemes and for regulating land for communal farming.

The following key elements are included in the proposals:

- Of the 1,2-million hectares of land owned by the SA Development Trust, 254 000ha has been released for settlement and later purchase and a further 220 000ha will be released at a later stage;
- All channels of financial and agricultural aid, including Land Bank facilities,

- will be opened to black farmers;
- Tribal trust land will be allowed to be sold to tribes who may sell it to members of the tribe or, after the 10-year sunset clause has expired, on the open market;
- The creation of an extra 2-million black homeowners by upgrading their leasehold tenure to full ownership. All further registration of sites would be on a freehold basis; and
- About 250 000 black families will be helped to gain access to the property market through a capital subsidy for first-time home buyers. A further 80 000 plots from R600m Independent Development Trust funding will also be made available.

Township residents will get full property rights

Sowetan 12/3/41
AN extra 1.3 million blacks in South African townships could soon become full property owners after the Government's White Paper on Land Reform is implemented.

The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill - one of five major bills aimed at effecting the reform policy - will automatically convert thousands of existing leasehold and deed rights to full ownership in already-proclaimed black townships.

The bill will also confer extraordinary powers on the authorities to cut through red tape and open township registers in several townships where this has been delayed by technicalities.

Subsequently all leasehold rights in those townships will automatically become freehold also.

Together these measures will convert 300 000 leasehold rights to freehold.

And all further registration of residential sites in these townships will automatically be freehold - adding another one million property owners to the market.

The White Paper expresses the confidence that the proposed measures to upgrade title deeds to full ownership will benefit not only those directly concerned but also the whole economy.

"In effect this will create a new property market with a substantial growth potential."

The White Paper stresses that the conversion of inferior titles to full ownership will be done free of charge.

Because full ownership rights cannot be granted in townships which have not been properly surveyed and established, the Government will undertake the "mass surveying of numerous un-surveyed townships and the updating of obsolete registers."

Sowing seeds for a white state

Sowetan 13/3/91

~~South~~ ~~Africa~~ ~~3~~ cereal.

AFRIKANERS with a whites-only vision of the future are settling in the small north-western Cape rural town of Orania, sowing the seeds of an independent white state and turning their back on the emerging non-racial South Africa.

Unlike their forefathers who moved inland from the southern tip of Africa to escape British rule last century, the new

breed of Afrikaner "trekkers" are not bringing black or Coloured servants.

They dream of an all-white Afrikaner homeland which would not tolerate the presence of other races and would depend entirely on white finance, industry and labour.

They have taken the first steps by buying Orania, a deserted farming town, which they hope will become the capital of a white homeland called Orandia.

Orania and Orandia are the brainchild of Carel Boshoff, an avuncular former theology professor and son-in-law of Hendrik Verwoerd, one of the principal architects of hardline apartheid when it was introduced in 1948.

"Time is running out for Afrikaner identity and self-determination in this new South Africa," Boshoff said, referring to President FW de Klerk's reforms to abandon race segregation and give the vote to the black majority.

"An independent Afrikaner state would accommodate those who fear whites would have as uncertain a future under a black majority government as other whites have had in the rest of Africa," Boshoff said.

Future

Orania is situated on the banks of the Orange River about 150km south of the diamond mining town of Kimberley.

It was founded in 1968 when the Government's

Department of Water Affairs began building dams and developing canal systems from the Orange into adjacent farming areas.

When the project was completed in January 1989, the white workers and their families left behind 90 pre-fabricated houses, a primary school, a church, post office and other facilities.

Most of the town's structures are falling apart, paint is peeling from buildings and the gardens are overgrown.

Boshoff and his conservative Afrikaner Volkswag (Afrikaner Nation Watch) movement bought the town recently at an auction.

They have already prepared for the future by giving about 400 Coloureds living in the neighbouring Grootewag township until the end of this month to pack up and go.

Families

"This is the first Afrikaner town in the world. We bought the land, not the people. We have given them (Coloureds) until March 31 to get out. If they are not out by then, we will take steps," said Orania caretaker Tyys Fick.

Restrictions are already in force, preventing non-whites from entering or moving around in the small town.

Six white families have already settled and more than 30 of the houses have already been sold to supporters of an independent Afrikaner homeland.

"I do not miss their (black) labour or their faces. We are very excited about our town," said one of the town's first occupants, who declined to be identified.

Study

Last year, Boshoff completed a study to prove the viability of the homeland. A question and answer sheet he produced asks rhetorically why blacks could not work here.

The answer: "Once you allow a small number of foreign workers it will create enormous political and social problems. Through the years, they will acquire certain vested rights and as their numbers grow, it will become more difficult to withhold those rights by way of legislation."

Orandia would stretch from the southern edge of the vast Karoo desert to South Africa's border with Namibia, and from just west of the diamond mining town of Kimberley through to the Western Cape coastline, incorporating several established towns.

The area has three of the country's biggest dams, ample farming, a power grid, roads, railways and an airport at Upington.

Although part of the potential homeland is desert, Boshoff believes it could be turned into a lush paradise and could eventually accommodate more than three million people.

Vision

But non-white inhabitants of the proposed Orandia currently outnumber whites by four to one. At least 300 000 would have to be moved to keep the area white.

Boshoff insists that non-whites will not be forcibly removed but "they will be encouraged to go and live where their labour will be required."

His vision of Orandia is not only that of an economically viable white state, but of an ecological paradise.

Among the crops expected to be grown are cereals, potatoes, vines, peaches and apricots.

The latter-day trekkers are ridiculed by their more liberal Afrikaner brethren, who believe that the future lies in multi-racialism and an undivided South Africa.

But Boshoff's supporters are unmoved. "We are not going back in time. We are not practicing rigid apartheid. We are just fighting for what our ancestors left us, our culture, language and religion," Fick said. - Sapa-Renner

One million

homeowners!

Sowetan 13/3/91

3 General

~~13/3/91~~

ALMOST a million black leaseholders will own their homes and the ground they stand on within the next three months.

In terms of the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill, to be brought before Parliament soon and expected to be passed by the end of June, all holders of 99-year-leasehold properties will have their leases converted to freehold.

Effectively, they will own their homes, Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing Mr Hernus Kriel said in Cape Town yesterday.

"It does not mean that they are getting these properties for free. They have - in most of these instances - already paid for them.

"If they are a registered leaseholder, then

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

they have paid for the property," Kriel said.

He said that in the past black people were seen as illegal aliens in so-called white South Africa.

"But that was a dream," Kriel said.

The reality was that blacks were very much part of South Africa, he said.

The Government had undertaken to extend full political and land rights to them, the Minister said.

In the final analysis, all it will take is a stamp, which will convert a leasehold contract to a freehold contract, and the leaseholder will become a home and property owner.

Kriel was commenting in an interview with *Sowetan* on proposals in the Government's

policy document - White Paper on Land Reform.

Once this document is signed, the Group Areas Act, the Land Acts and the Black Communities Development Act would be consigned to the scrapheap.

On squatters, Kriel said the creation of townships was under detailed scrutiny and people squatting on private property would be moved lawfully.

Proposals

However, not all reaction to the Government's full set of proposals was favourable.

Initial reaction to the White Paper from the ANC was that of astonishment and disappointment at the absence of an attempt to redress historical injustices, particularly in respect of forced removals, reports Sapa.

The Government has made it clear that there would be no going back into historical claims, or any attempt made to return ancestral land to any of the 3,5 million people removed forcibly under the homelands policy.

A member of the ANC's Land Commission, Mrs Aninka Claassens, said her initial reaction was that the Government's final proposals were a long way off earlier drafts she had seen.

She said the situation of many black communities now trapped in unresolved removal actions was worsened by it.

The Democratic Party agreed. "There are serious shortcomings," DP spokesman on land affairs Mr Peter Soal said.

"Land, like that of the Magopas, has to be returned to the people from whom it was stolen," he said.

* More details on Page 7

White Paper on Restoration will lead to conflict

3 General
Sowetan
13/3/91

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN
Political Correspondent

THERE will be no restoration of land, Government said in its policy paper, White Paper on Land Reform, which was presented to Parliament yesterday.

In terms of the White Paper - which spells out what Government thinks will and should happen in terms of land distribution - a programme for the restoration of land to individuals and communities who were forced to give up their land on account of past policies or other historical reasons, would not be feasible.

Implementation of such a programme was a recipe for conflict and contradictory claims for land.

And anyway, according to the Minister of National Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, more land was taken from white farmers to make room for black settlement than from black people.

The WPLR states clearly that: "The Government believes that it is in the interest of peace and progress that the present programme should be accepted and that the opportunities afforded by the new land policy should be exploited to bring about a more equitable dispensation."

Future

"We should look to the future rather than to the past," Van der Merwe said.

Government will however assist people in attaining land on an equitable basis.

Indications are that Government will in some form assist black people who wish to farm through existing aid programmes and later through a type of assistance unique to the disparities in South African society.

The Minister of Agri-

FIVE far-reaching Bills underpin the historic land reforms dealt with in yesterday's White Paper.

They are:

* The Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill which repeals all laws regulating the acquisition and exercise of rights in land according to race and rationalises other laws that directly or indirectly restrict access to these rights.

* The Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill which provides for the rationalisation of land registration systems and the upgrading of lower-order land tenure rights to full ownership.

* The Residential Environment Bill which provides for preventing, combating and restoring physical decline in cities and towns, for maintaining "appropriate" norms and standards in residential areas and for suitable mediation mechanisms for settling disputes that disturb neighbourhood and community relations.

* The Less Formal Township Establishment Bill which provides for the urgent provision of suitable land for settling homeless people in a less formal, but orderly and upgradable manner, for shortened procedures for establishing less formal towns and for measures in connection with land which tribal communities intend to use for communal forms of residential settlement.

* The Rural Development Bill which provides for the development needs of rural areas and communities, particularly those that have lagged behind, for agricultural settlement schemes and for measures in connection with land which tribal communities intend to use for communal forms of agricultural settlement.

culture, Mr Jacob de Villiers said yesterday that more would be revealed about specific aid.

However, much more necessary than simply removing racial restrictions is making land more accessible.

This should be seen in terms of existing disparities and control of the land as well as the "potential for conflict" which can emanate from such disparities.

"The Government believes that the financing of existing support measures will have to be increased to provide for accumulated needs, but within the country's means.

"In the process urgent attention will have to be

given to the development needs of underdeveloped areas and the pressing problems of socio-economic upliftment," the paper explains.

While the future of the self-governing territories will be negotiated in the context of the sub-continent and with a view to a new dispensation in South Africa, the land in these territories will be made accessible to all.

Measures preventing "other population groups" from gaining access to land in the self-governing territories will fall in line with the policies as explained in the White Paper.

"Since most of the land in the self-governing territories is used communally, these adjust-

ments will initially not lead to any significant changes in the present ethnic character of these territories.

"Doors will, however, have to be opened to allow for private ownership and for ownership by persons of other population groups, as in the rest of the country," according to the White Paper.

Government has decided that tribal land would remain in the hands of whomever it has been over the years and that interfering with the existing tribal ownership would lead to the destruction of communities on such land.

However, Government believes that tribal communities "should seriously" consider the advantages of individual tenure.

While tribal communities exercised full physical control over their land, ownership of such land was vested in a Minister in trust for the tribe or else in the South African Development Trust (SADT) or the government of a self-governing territory.

About 354 000 ha of land outside the territories is held by tribes in trust in terms of existing laws.

According to the White Paper, Government has no intention of perpetuating this type of paternalism and has decided that full ownership of land that is held in trust for tribal communities, or which has been allocated to these communities by the SADT, should be transferred direct to the tribes.

As regards the SADT, Government has decided that it should be abolished.

The SADT represents a form of "white paternalism" and should be replaced by measures suited to a new dispensation.

When all of this is accepted and passed by Parliament and promulgated into law - and it is expected to happen before the end of June - the Commission for Co-operation and Development which advises Government on the administration of black affairs and the purchase of land for black people will also become history.

Land for all

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
and BARRY STREEK

THE government yesterday began rolling back almost 80 years of racist land legislation — but its reforms immediately drew fire from the ANC and the PAC and from farmers.

According to the White Paper on Land Reforms released yesterday, all racial restrictions on the ownership and occupation of land — one of the cornerstones of apartheid — are to go by the end of June.

Millions of urban blacks will be housed and granted full ownership of their homes, while black farmers will be settled on thousands of hectares of agricultural land freed by the new land reforms.

Black farmers will receive all the assistance available to white farmers, including Land Bank loans, agricultural credit loans and advisory services.

The British government last night "warmly welcomed" the steps and urged the European Community to act swiftly in easing sanctions.

Won't restore land

Both the ANC and the PAC said the land reforms failed to go far enough in restoring land and paying reparations to those who were dispossessed, and would leave many white privileges intact.

In expressing its "outrage and deep disappointment" at the reform package unveiled in Parliament, the ANC said that its effect would be "to codify the current state of the dispossessed under the cover of free market principles".

The PAC, while offering qualified support to the reforms, said: "Our people were dispossessed by force of arms — it's illogical and insensitive to expect us to buy the same land we were dispossessed of."

While the Democratic Party described the moves as "the final death blow to the Verwoerdian dream of grand apartheid", the Conservative Party accused the government of capitulating to most of the ANC's demands before negotiations had even begun.

In Pretoria the Transvaal Agricultural Union warned the government that its disregard for the wishes of

Govt didn't consult ANC

Political Correspondent

THE government did not consult the ANC or the PAC about its wide-ranging land reform proposals tabled in Parliament yesterday, the Minister of Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said.

Questioned at a press conference about whether the two organisations had been briefed on the white paper and the five bills containing the reforms, Dr Van der Merwe said the government had had wide consultations with a large number of organisations. However, it had not "specifically" consulted the ANC or the PAC.

He said the ANC had not consulted the government before it brought out

its proposals for land reform recently so it was a "mutual business".

Asked how the government's proposals related to ANC and PAC demands for redistribution of land, Dr Van der Merwe said the two sides had "different philosophies" on the issue.

He emphasised that the white paper was an attempt to put the government's view on the matter straight.

"A future system still needs to be negotiated," he said.

President FW de Klerk said in the preface to the white paper that the document was "the result of extensive consultation, deliberation and negotiation".

have serious consequences.

The warning was issued by TAU president Mr Dries Bruwer, the CP MP for Lydenburg, who accused the government of being naive in accepting the scrapping of the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts which, over the years, had ensured good order would lead to progress and prosperity.

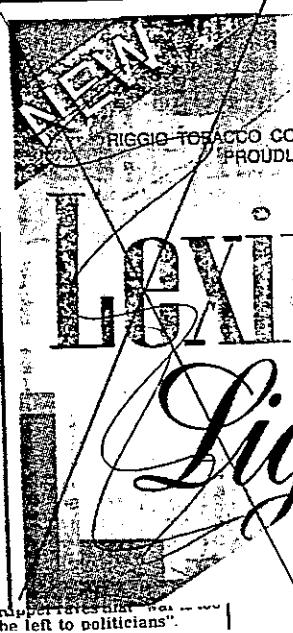
Mr Bruwer said that although 95% of Transvaal farmers last year voted for the retention of the two acts, and that at Nampo's congress last week there was unanimous support for retaining the legislation, the government had gone forward with preparations to scrap them.

While the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) welcomed the content of the paper last night, president Mr Nico Kotze cautioned the government to act with extreme care when withdrawing high-potential agricultural land, identified for development, as such land was already extremely limited.

The SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) hailed the White Paper as "probably the most significant event in the process of normalising socio-economic relationships in South Africa".

Sacob said in a statement that implementing the paper's provisions would open economic opportunities for all and promote the development of a stable black middle class.

But the Afrikaanse Handelinstuut (AHI) said its membership would



From page 1

be divided on the merits of the policies spelled out in the White Paper.

AHI director Mr Martin van der Berg cautioned that care would have to be taken to ensure that South Africa's economic growth potential was not inhibited.

The land reforms will lead to the scrapping of the Group Areas Act and the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts. A total of 189 laws that enforced various aspects of racial discrimination will be repealed wholly or in part, and at least 15 000 other proclamations instituted in terms of the various laws since 1913 will be scrapped.

The government has ruled out making reparations or returning the land to the roughly 3.5 million blacks forcibly removed as a result of social engineering in the name of apartheid.

One of key architects of the government's reforms, Minister of Education and Training Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said any moves towards compensation and restitution would "open up a quagmire".

He said that both whites and blacks had been dispossessed in the name of apartheid and claimed that more white land had been alienated than black land.

Neither does the government plan to introduce an anti-discrimination act to outlaw racist practices, and private property owners will still be able to rent and sell to members of a particular race group — as long as they do not explicitly make this a condition of a transaction.

Under the new dispensation, local authorities will be empowered to promulgate by-laws to control over-occupation and appropriate use of residential premises and the maintenance of "tidy and hygienic" conditions.

At a press conference yesterday, Dr Van der Merwe said the changes were of far-reaching and historical dimensions.

"When these laws come into effect, South Africa will be a vastly different place," he added.

The government is investigating a capital subsidy for black first-time buyers which should assist a further 250 000 prospective home-owners.

In addition, the Independent Development Trust will make about R600 million available for first-time home buyers which would bring about 80 000 additional plots on to the market.

Bill will provide more land for black farmers

Star 13/3/91.

③ Cereal

THE Government has firmly rejected demands to redistribute farm land — but has announced a scheme to settle black farmers on some of the 1,2 million ha of existing “black” land in “white” South Africa.

This is part of a major programme to try to normalise land ownership in South Africa, spelt out in the White Paper on Land Reform tabled in Parliament today.

Black farmers will get equal access to official agricultural financing schemes and new financing measures for small farmers are to be considered.

A national rural development strategy will be contained in new legislation to be known as the Rural Development Bill which will be tabled this week.

The Bill will provide for a National Rural De-

velopment Corporation, for agricultural settlement schemes and for the communal use of land for agricultural settlement.

The new corporation will draw heavily for staff on the South African Development Trust Corporation which will be phased out along with the trust itself.

The White Paper is adamant that there will be “no redistribution of farm land by confiscation, nationalisation or expropriation”.

But, as with urban land, the historical imbalance in the ownership of farm land cannot be addressed “merely by the repeal of the discriminatory laws concerned and by making it lawful for everybody to own land within his means”.

The White Paper does not make clear exactly how much land will be set aside for the small

farmer scheme.

It says that of the 1,25 million ha of “black” land outside the homelands — mostly held by the SADT for incorporation into homelands — more than half is already occupied and used by tribal communities and individual blacks, or for black townships.

Of the rest, 254 000 ha has already been set aside for settlement schemes and 220 000 ha is being let to white farmers.

The Government plans to use those parts of the 254 000 ha that have been set aside for settlement schemes and those parts of the 220 000 ha that are suitable for settlement, for developing settlement schemes under the Rural Development Bill.

Farming units will be allocated on the advice of a committee of experts with farms allocated on probationary lease

for not longer than three years.

If at the end of this period, the farmer is found suitable, the lease can be extended for not longer than 15 years.

During the second period the farmer will have the option of buying at a price to be determined by regulation.

The Minister of Agriculture and Development Aid will lay down regulations for the operation of the scheme including financial and other assistance.

The Government has also undertaken to improve access to finance by part-time and tenant farmers.

Existing credit under the Agricultural Credit Act and the Land and Agricultural Bank will be opened to all on merit. Supporting agro-industries and agriculture-related services and amenities will have to be established. □

Govt rules out payment for dispossessed people

LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — Government has rejected ANC demands for compensation to black South Africans dispossessed of their land. *6/Day 13/3/91*

The White Paper on land reform, released weeks after the ANC's land policy document which demanded reparations, stated that the restoration of land to those dispossessed by apartheid would not be feasible.

The ANC warned government that failure to address the matter would result in an outburst of "uncontrollable political anger" from the thousands of people removed from their land or forced to sell it.

But, government argues, "apart from the vast potential for conflict inherent in such a programme, overlapping and contradictory claims to such land, and other practical problems, would make its implementation extremely difficult, if not impossible.

"The government believes that it is in the interest of peace and progress that the present position be accepted and that the opportunities afforded by the new land policy should be exploited to bring about a more equitable dispensation."

It says an attempt to return to the "previous order" would disrupt the country's pace of development.

Government also takes a firm stand on private land, reiterating its opposition to "any form of redistribution of agricultural land, whether by confiscation, nationalisation or expropriation."

"Private ownership of land, including agricultural land, is a cornerstone of the government's land policy," it states.

Scheme to settle small farmers ^{(3) covered.}

THE Government has firmly rejected demands to re-distribute farmland - but has announced a scheme to settle small black farmers on some of the 1,2 million hectares of existing "black" land in "white" South Africa.

This is part of a major programme to try to normalise land ownership in South Africa.

Black farmers will get equal access to official agricultural financing schemes and new financing measures for small

farmers are to be considered. *Source: 13/3/71*

A national rural development strategy will be contained in new legislation to be known as the Rural Development Bill which will be tabled this week.



ANC land commission spokesman Aninka Claassens and ANC head of information Pallo Jordan reacting yesterday to government's land reform proposals. Picture: CATHERINE ROSS

Communities move to regain land

REPRESENTATIVES of at least 15 of SA's dispossessed rural communities plan to meet soon to discuss strategies to reclaim their land. *3 General*

ANC land commission spokesman Aninka Claassens said yesterday that representatives of 3,5-million people forcibly removed from their land during the heyday of apartheid supported the ANC's proposal for Land Courts to adjudicate conflicting land claims. *Bloom 14/3/11*

She said there was a largescale move by dispossessed communities like those at Mogopa, Doornkop and the Mfengu to return to their former homes. This would be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

In some cases they were being threatened by local farmers and intimidated by signboards claiming their former land had been landmined. *(S)*

The National Land Committee (NLC) said government's White Paper on land was not a proposal for serious land reform.

The NLC said the White Paper was based on extending the existing system of land rights.

PATRICK BULGER

"The White Paper explicitly refuses to consider the restoration of land to communities who were forcibly removed. It says this is not feasible and demands that these communities should accept their present position.

"We believe this to be an unreasonable and unfair demand," the NLC said.

"The starting point of any programme of land reform has to be the willingness to acknowledge and rectify the wrongs of the past. Unless this is done no attempt to change the system of land rights will have any legitimacy or credibility."

In early reaction to the paper, the ANC said its effect was to codify dispossession under the cover of free market proposals.

"All this emphasises is the need for speedy progress in negotiations for a constitution that will be democratic and serves the interests of all the people."

● See Page 4

● Comment: Page 8

Blacks to get farm land on trial basis

2/Day

KEVIN DAVIE

14/3/91

THE first blacks to benefit from government's new land policy will get their property on a three-year trial basis, will farm mostly in the eastern part of the country, and will be on their land by mid-year.

Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers said in an interview yesterday that 254 000 ha of trust land would be available as soon as the five new Bills, which will radically reshape land usage, became law.

He said this land, which was unoccupied, had already been surveyed. Sizes varied depending on the quality of soil, irrigation, rainfall and other factors, but was sufficient for small-scale farming.

"I don't want subsistence farming," De Villiers said. "Farmers must be able to produce enough for themselves and show a profit at the end of the year which can be put away for years when there are crop losses."

De Villiers said the intention was to upgrade subsistence farmers to small-scale farmers, and small-scale farmers to medium-sized and commercial farmers.

The prices of plots would be determined by how profitable they were. (3) General

Farmers who were successful in the trial period would be allowed to buy the land over a 15-year period.

De Villiers rejected the demand for a land claims court. He said the judiciary was firmly established and people who believed they had justifiable claims could seek redress through the courts.

He said government would apply the new policy flexibly, and was prepared to discuss claims by communities which had been dispossessed in the past.

"A programme for restoration is not feasible, but there is a spirit of co-operation and a willingness to speak. I have large ears and they are open."

DP wants land claims court

CAPE TOWN — The DP yesterday called for a properly constituted land claims court, to address the grievances of those dispossessed of their land under apartheid laws. (3) General

MP for Albany and DP agriculture spokesman Errol Moorcroft said a "glaring omission" from the White Paper on land reform was the failure to address these grievances. (2) Day 14/3/91

The paper rejected any idea of a programme aimed at the restoration of land to people forced to give it up.

Political Staff

Moorcroft said the DP felt a properly constituted court, acting "independently and objectively" could go a long way to meeting the needs of the situation.

The DP agricultural study group had welcomed the proposals regarding the rest of the paper.

The most important development, he said, was the deracialisation of land ownership and the opening up of agricultural land to all aspirant farmers.

Land Reform Acts — the shockwaves

Property industry is for reforms

(3) General
Sowetan 14/3/91

THE Pretoria property industry has welcomed the proposed Land Reform Acts and the White Paper tabled in Parliament but believes they will not cause any dramatic changes in the status quo.

Industry representatives said fears of a degeneration of Sunnyside and Arcadia into a second Hillbrow were unfounded because these two Pretoria suburbs had the highest flat ownership rates in the country.

Northern Transvaal Institute of Estate Agents president Mr Rob Ketjen said he believed there may be a gradual change in the type of tenants buying in certain areas in the city.

However, he did not believe these Bills would cause a sudden surge in demand by black people wanting to buy in areas previously reserved for whites.

He welcomed the

Residential Environment Bill, which is aimed at preserving cities and towns and maintaining norms and standards.

This, he said was a very good and necessary measure, because it would ensure that most areas would operate effectively.

"Most buildings are designed around specific needs and their ancillary services work most effectively when used by the correct number of people and this will now be ensured by this Bill," he said.

Gradual

Mr Varrick von Broembsen, director of Pretor, who has been involved in research on the implementation of such measures in other countries, said he believed this would work best where the degradation of a suburb was gradual.

He said he recommended quicker court action against unruly tenants.

Von Broembsen did not believe that there would be a sudden flood of people to formerly white towns and cities.

Because of shortages of houses, both in the rental and sales markets, he believed there could be an upward pressure on prices.

Chairman of Aida Real Estate Franchises Association said the news of these reforms was wonderful and would only help to increase the potential property market.

Natural

"It is a natural phenomena that people want to live close to their community centres and religious buildings.

"This (proposed land reforms) was a very important step in the country's history because democracy can't work unless people have a stake in the country," Blignaut said.



Govt's intentions commendable - Soal

(3) General

CRITICISM of the historic White Paper on land reform focused sharply yesterday on Government's refusal to restore land back to those people deprived of it by apartheid.

"The Government's good intentions in this commendable White Paper could be overshadowed by the dissatisfaction of people on this issue," Mr Peter Soal (DP Johannesburg North), warned yesterday.

It was a burning issue which would fester, he said.

Restoration

Sowetan 14/3/91

"Restoration is not being satisfactorily addressed. Government should think in terms of a land court to remove the issue from the area of emotion and conflict," he said.

Deliberations could then take place in a calm, impartial atmosphere.

In cases where restoration was impossible because the land had since been developed, there should be compensation, he said.

The Government's rejection of restoration was prominent among the African National Congress' criticisms of the land reforms announced yesterday.

"For the ANC restoration of land to the victims of forced removal must form the underpinning of any credible land policy," the organisation said in a statement.

No land reform could hope to win legitimacy among the majority of people unless Government recognised the reasons for the present situation and committed itself to rectifying past wrongs, it said.

The Labour Party said strategies would have to be worked out for "some sort of fair distribution". Communities which have been forcibly removed believed their land had been stolen from them, it said.

Land proposals slated

CLAIMS that proposed land reforms would empower the country's majority were no more than Alice-in-Wonderland economics, the president of the New Unity Movement said yesterday.

According to a White Paper released on Tuesday, all racial restrictions on the ownership and occupation of land are to go

by the end of June.

A statement by NUM president Mr Richard Dudley said of the proposals: "Even a preliminary study of the White Paper and the proposed five laws to regulate reforms shows that the State has failed on all counts to provide a solution to land, hunger, poverty and unemploy-

ment."

Nothing short of a revolution in land use, occupation and holding was called for, Dudley said.

"On the published proposals, there is no way in which millions of desperately poor rural people can be established on the land.

"Lack of basic

resources leaves them helpless in a system that is both capital and labour intensive."

Dudley said the reforms ignored the problems of the homelands. The rational reorganisation of agriculture and urban development must take account of the whole of South Africa and all its people, he said. - Sapa.

Small elite to benefit - Trac

THE Government's land reform policy will only benefit a small economic elite in South Africa, according to the Transvaal Rural Action Committee which has championed the plight of dispossessed communities for years. (3) General

Reacting to President FW de Klerk's White Paper on Land Reform, which he tabled in Parliament on Tuesday, Trac says: "We do not believe that the new legislation will bring about 'peace, security and human dignity' to any but a small economic elite. Sowetan 14/3/91

"We do not think it will do justice to all citizens of our country because it does not address the grave economic inequalities in land in our society which were caused by the present Government and its predecessors. A free market system as advocated will only entrench the privileged position of whites."

Trac highlights some points which it says will directly affect the communities it represents. "One of the most glaring omissions in the Government's White Paper is the provision that there will be 'no restoration of land to individuals or communities who were forced to give up their land on account of

By THEMBA MOLEFE

past policies or other historical reasons'.

"We feel it is outrageous that the brutal legacies of the forced removals policy which dispossessed and impoverished over three million people of their land over the past 30 years is being entrenched in this legislation.

"Many communities which had title were removed, often without adequate compensation, or to inferior land in bantustans. They were expecting to have their legitimate land claims recognised under the new dispensation.

"This land in many cases remains in Government hands. Will the new legislation mean that their land will now be sold privately or given over to 'settlement schemes'?"

Trac argues that the new legislation takes no account of the land rights of millions of South Africans dispossessed of their citizenship by the creation of "independent bantustans". They argue no provision has been made to house people living in these overcrowded areas.

Government's land reform plan will enrage political extremists, both Left and Right, but it is undoubtedly the most fundamental change so far in Nationalist policy. It will do as much to shape the new SA as the Tomlinson Commission report in 1955 shaped apartheid by providing the framework for separate development.

In essence, the White Paper and five Bills tabled in parliament this week will:

- Remove all racial discrimination from land ownership;
- Automatically convert about 2m leasehold properties in black townships to freehold; *3 General*
- Immediately release 254 000 ha of SA Development Trust land originally earmarked for incorporation into the homelands for sale (by implication to black farmers) with a further 220 000 ha to follow soon;
- Allow communities on a nonracial basis to determine "norms and standards" for their areas; and
- Greatly speed up the acquisition and ser-

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Continue

vice by the State of land for "less formal towns" and provide for the establishment of a financial and technical support structure to help low-income earners and farmers to acquire land.

The measures affect 189 laws and an estimated 15 000 proclamations which have regulated land ownership on a racial basis for nearly 40 years. Government hopes to have the Bills passed by parliament by mid-June.

The Black Land Acts of 1913 and 1936, the Group Areas Act, the Black Communities Development Act and all other provisions regulating land ownership on a racial basis will be repealed "finally and unconditionally," according to the White Paper.

But the final rooting out of all race-based measures will be the task of a special Advisory Committee on Non-Racial Area Measures under the minister of justice. This will liaise with all State departments that could be affected by the reforms.

The white Right will accuse government yet again of caving in to black demands, while the radical Left will no doubt condemn the failure to propose either large-scale land redistribution or compensation for loss of land and property rights due to apartheid.

Government's spokesman on the issue, Stoffel van der Merwe, agrees that land was lost owing to apartheid's social engineering but argues that more white land was given to blacks for homeland consolidation. Any attempt to restore land to its original owners would be a nightmare. "We must look to the future rather than the past."

Local Government and Planning Minister Hernus Kriel says while no specific anti-discriminatory clauses are contained in the Bills, once race-based laws are scrapped, common law will prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, creed or gender. However, individuals will be free to decide to whom they wish to sell or lease their property and he concedes that this could be based on race — just as it could be based on religion, gender or cultural group. Government will not interfere in this process.

The reform measures don't affect the legal status of the homelands, their geographical definitions or their self-governing status. Government says the future of the homelands is under negotiation and can't be finalised in terms of the land reforms.

The system of tribal ownership in the homelands will also remain almost unchanged unless the tribal authorities themselves wish to change it, and even then a 10-year "sunset clause" in one of the Bills provides for judicial review of land transactions to ensure that the tribe is not prejudiced.

The White Paper says the "norms and standards" measures are needed to allay fears in "certain communities" that the repeal of the Group Areas Act will threaten "established community life."

The White Paper repeats government's view that "own affairs" will stay until a new constitution is implemented. Interim provision is made in one of the Bills to provide for

the continued administration of certain areas and functions as "own affairs" even though the principle is repudiated by the reforms.

3 General

This week's land reform paper was a step forward ... but it ignored millions who were forcibly removed

3 1/2 million
people the state forgot

Blame it on the CIA

The angry response of white farmers to the scrapping of the land act: It's all a CIA plot



Land ho, come what may

Three 'removed' communities that are going home — come what may

PAGE 21



All packed up with nowhere to go ... a victim of forced removals ponders the future

u/mad 15/3 - 21/3/91

RACIAL controls over land were swept away this week, but the government ignored the biggest problem of all: the 3.5-million people who have been forcibly removed from their land during the last 40 years.

The government wants them to accept what happened, to forget about their claims to the land taken from them and make do with what little they have been left with.

The White Paper on land reform announced the wholesale scrapping of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act, creating for the first time a property market without racial constraints. It also granted freehold ownership to 1.3-million township households that previously only had 99-year leasehold.

But the White Paper argued that it would be too costly and cause too much conflict to deal with people who had fallen victim to these laws.

"It is in the interests of peace and progress that the present position should be accepted ... any attempt to return to the previous or-

der will only disrupt the country's pace of development," the government said.

Neither the people forcibly removed nor their claims to the land are going to disappear. Many of them were taken from their homes at the point of a gun and had to watch as their churches, schools and houses were bulldozed before they were dumped in the veld many kilometres away to lead a life of enforced poverty.



Some have already signalled that they are ready to fight to get back what they believe was stolen from them.

By trying to forget these 3.5-million people, the government is setting the scene for an ongoing fight over land.

Their demands are going to have to be dealt with, not for the sake of retribution or punitive reparation, but to avoid further conflict. The African National Congress has suggested a land claims court. Whatever final form it takes, the only way to avoid continual conflict over land is to create a mechanism to accommodate victims of forced removals.

*See PAGES 20 & 21

ENVIRONMENT

Threatened: The dunes of Transkei

WIMBOLDI 1513 - 2113191

is valued by armaments manufacturers as a durable and lightweight material that can be used to make aircraft skins and warhead coatings.

The size of the reserves at Wavecrest is not yet known as Rand Mines' project proposal has not been made public.

However, it is believed they are at least as large as the St Lucia deposits, which are said to be worth R5-billion and capable of supporting a large mine for 30 years.

Sonwabo Mzizeli, co-ordinator of a co-operative project run by the National Union of Mineworkers in Transkei, says any attempt to conserve the Wavecrest forest would have to be ultra-sensitive to the needs of local people in order to succeed.

"I can say at this stage that those who are against the mine and want to keep the forest will have to carefully look at two questions: what is the use of the forest to the people and what is the use of the mine to the people? That is the place to start with protect-

ing nature."

Exploration work in the forests has already entailed the construction of a large access road that is littered on each side with the remains of trees and shrubs that were uprooted to make way for this.

"The movement of exploration teams into the forests has also encouraged local people to take trees for firewood," says Cooper. "Their attitude is 'Why should we be barred from the area when these white people are able to go in and take out so many trees?'"

Wells told *The Weekly Mail* that the Endangered Wildlife Trust had been commissioned by Rand Mines to conduct a preliminary survey to identify rare or vulnerable species of plants, birds and animals in the forests with a view to determine whether the forests were vital for the continued existence of the species.

He confirmed that this preliminary survey found no endangered species but that there were unique combinations of vulnerable animal and bird species.

The company was committed to a full-scale environment impact assessment that would take at least a year to complete before mining will go ahead, he said.

If the company then proceeded to mine, it would establish a scheme to rehabilitate the dunes according to the wishes of local residents.

He acknowledged it would take at least a hundred years for some of the hardwoods and other species to re-establish themselves in the forests.

He added that Rand Mines' feasibility studies had been held up as the Development Bank of Southern Africa was still working on a scheme to provide Transkei with funds to build infrastructure — roads and communication systems — for the mine and because "there are still some legal t's to cross and it's to dot".



Mining these dunes will create jobs

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK

Farming iguanas is cheaper than cattle

By Howard Youth

HUNDREDS of years ago, South-east Asian hunters avidly pursued the elusive red jungle fowl, which was prized as exceptional table fare. Its popularity nearly proved to be its undoing, as hunting and habitat loss whittled away at this bird's numbers.

Once caught and domesticated, however, the species multiplied, eventually yielding a plumper specimen known today as the chicken.

"Hardly anyone hunts jungle fowl for food anymore because chickens are easier to get," says Illar Muul, president of Integrated Conservative Research, an international research and conservation group. Muul's group is one of several that is domesticating endangered species to take pressure off their wild numbers and the ecosystems in which they live.

Iguanas are declining in Central America due to deforestation and overhunting, which is one reason why biologist Dagmar Verner started the Green Iguana Foundation and began a test farm in Costa Rica. Local farmers are beginning to see that raising this reptile is more profitable than tending cattle.

Iguana is considered a delicacy in Central America, and more iguana meat can be raised per hectare than beef, because the reptiles occupy a three-dimensional forest habitat rather than two-dimensional pastures. Small iguana farms will help local people see economic value in preserving a local species, while leaving tropical forests standing instead of cutting them down to make room for cattle pasture. Projects in other parts of the world involve replacing open-range cattle with endangered forest-dwelling cattle and mouse deer, raising butterflies and farming crocodiles.

With millions of hungry settlers putting pressure on wildlife populations either through habitat destruction or hunting, there's an urgency behind finding creative solutions that prevent species extinction. Wildlife farming and its companion, wildlife ranching (the careful harvesting of species from the wild) may seem exploitative of life, but in a world that usually finds little value in wild things and wild places, incorporating them into the local economy may be their best hope for survival.

ICR is using farming and ranching techniques to protect endangered mammal species as part of reforestation efforts on degraded land in Malaysia and tropical China. The plan calls for ranching gaur, a type of wild cattle, and domesticating foot-long mouse deer to restore species and habitat by replacing single-crop agriculture with varied crops of plants and animals found in native forests.

"We want a mix of species," says Muul, "so that each year there's something to harvest." These projects assure the future of the forest by making it a sustainable commodity for people.

Gaur and mouse deer are ideal replacements for domestic cattle in their native South-east Asian ranges. Whereas cattle carcasses yield only 35 percent usable meat, gaur yield 65 percent and mouse deer 82 percent. These wild species favour native plants over grasses which don't grow well in tropical Asia.

In Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica, butterfly farms, preserving species whose numbers fell because of deforestation and overcollection, provide specimens to scientific institutions and collectors. Since butterfly farms don't require vast pastures or cropland, they combine well with other small endeavours, such as crocodile farming. — World Watch Magazine

"We do not have generations... only years to turn things around."

Lester Brown.
Worldwatch Institute.

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Sustainable growth through diversification

Land Acts scrapped ...

White Paper cold comfort for blacks

By REG RUMNEY *Wimbo 15/3 - 21/3/91*

THERE is little comfort for would-be black farmers in the White Paper on land reform.

By the same token there is little reason for existing white farmers to be concerned. While the right-wing Transvaal Agricultural Union has warned of dire consequences, the SA Agricultural Union has cautiously welcomed the White Paper.

Since there will be little resettlement, the short-term effect on agricultural production will be minimal. The facts are:

● Little land is identified for settlement of black farmers.

The White Paper identifies only a portion of the 1 250 000 ha of black land held by the SA Development Trust for agricultural settlement — less than 500 000 ha. By contrast, South Africa's 60 000 white farmers have 85-million ha of land.

● The cost of farm-land prices will prohibit most black farmers from buying land.

Agriculture Minister Jacob de Villiers has admitted that the average price of a farm in South Africa of R600 000 to R700 000 will make it difficult for new entrants. Such a farm must have an annual net income of R40 000 for it to be viable.

New farmers can get land through a subsidised loan from the Land Bank if they own enough land to serve as security for the loan and the land has proved to be economically viable. This rules out conventional and in-buying land for most black farmers.

De Villiers has said alternative financial aid measures will be expanded for "smallholders and subsistence farmers". The nature and extent of the aid remains to be seen.

Communal land tenure will in theory be allowed but the African National Congress has pointed out there are administrative controls which will put pressure on black farmers to choose individual tenure.

The ANC also says the White Paper does not deal with the need to restructure the commercial agricultural sector. It says the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), among others, has pointed out the crisis in this sector.

That there are problems there is no doubt.

The farm debt is around R15-billion. The debt burden ratio, according to the Volkskas economic department, is not excessive in relation to assets at around 26.7 percent. But it is unevenly spread, and more than half of it is short-term.

Many problems of agriculture have been caused by state intervention in agriculture through subsidies of one sort or another. For instance, artificially high maize prices meant it paid farmers to grow maize in relatively unsuitable bushveld areas. In drought years, this has led to disaster.

However, according to DBSA policy analyst Nick Vink, since around 1983 the government has steadily moved to a more flexible, more market-related agricultural policy.

Quite simply, government policy on agriculture has steadily changed to the detriment of the farmer but, arguably, the economic benefit of the country as a whole.

THE White Paper on Land Reform published this week misses a God-given opportunity to make a goodwill gesture to South Africa's dispossessed.

It seriously detracts from what is in some respects a valiant move forward towards non-racialism.

The government has ignored the African National Congress's demand for a land claims court and dismissed any claims for redistribution of land or reparation for land taken away from black people.

Minister of Education and Training Stoffel van der Merwe has pointedly ruled out the return of the land to any of the 3.5-million people forcibly removed in terms of the Nationalist grand apartheid plan that made the world liken South Africa to Nazi Germany.

Black people in South Africa, as can be seen from two documents on land reform published this month by the ANC and the National African Federation of Commerce and Industry (Nafco), feel that whites acquired land by force and fraud right from the early days of colonialism. The disparity between white ownership of 87 percent of the land and black ownership of 13 percent is also

Land ho! But re

well known.

Forgetting colonial history and broader claims to land redistribution, restoring land to those who were dispossessed in living memory would go some way to righting the wrongs of the past. This the White Paper fails to recognise.

The ANC's view is that the government wants to present the country with a number of *fais accomplis* which will have to be undone when any new government comes to power.

This particular aspect of the White Paper came as a surprise to the National Land Committee (NLC), a group of anti-removals organisations. At an ANC press conference this week NLC member Aninka Claassens said the committee had been shown an earlier draft that did consider reparation for forced removal. The disappearance from the published document of that clause indicates a difference of opinion on the matter at cabinet level.

That the matter has been taken off the govern-

ment's political agenda means that in those well documented cases of people who have been dispossessed, the people will have to break the law to get their land back.

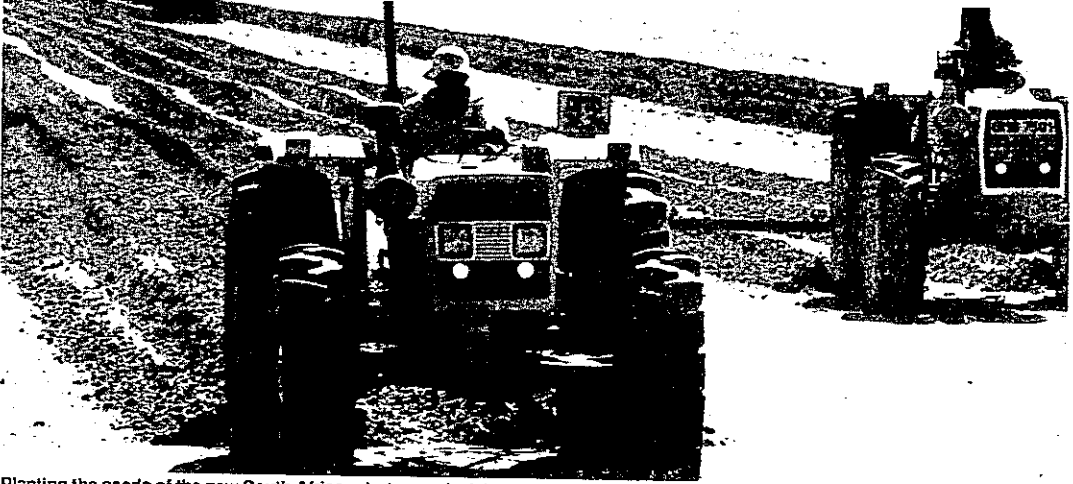
Some of those dispossessed communities have already taken steps to get their land back, according to Claassens, with varying success.

In some instances the government has agreed she said, in others they have encountered violent pre-emptive tactics.

On the land taken from the Doornkop community signs have been erected saying that the area has been mined.

Claassens dismissed Van der Merwe's statement that communities had been compensated. In some cases communities have had no compensation, in others they are clearly not happy with the compensation.

The Transvaal Rural Action Committee says many communities which had no title were re-



Planting the seeds of the new South Africa ... but many feel that the White Paper on Land Reform has missed the boat

The dispossessed are going back home

By GARMEL PICKARD: Durban *Wimbo 15/3 - 21/3/91*

THREE Natal communities, removed from their ancestral homes 15 years ago under apartheid laws, have given notice they will be going back to their land, come what may.

Speaking just hours before the publication of the White Paper dealing with the land question, representatives of the three communities said they were determined to re-occupy their original land if the government did not restore it to them.

There are also indications that the mood of the people — from Roosboom, Charlestown and Cremin in northern Natal — is shared by many of the more than 100 Natal communities which were uprooted under the law although they held title deeds to the land, and that there is a growing demand for restitution.

Speaking after a weekend conference in Pietermaritzburg, representatives of the three communities said at the time of their removal, their title deeds were ignored. People whose families had held the land for generations were piled into trucks and taken to specially created resettlement townships in kwaZulu.

In this way the government aimed to remove all black people from white South Africa.

However over the years the people longed to return to their homes to tend their family graves.

When the government began making promises about scrapping apartheid and the Land Act, the dispossessed families took heart and started planning more seriously to go back to their land, which the government had in the meantime leased to white stock farmers.

At Roosboom in northern Natal, for example, 45 families have moved back and are already living on their original land. The state began legal proceedings to throw them off again, but evictions are on ice pending a meeting between both sides next month.

Speaking at the end of their workshop, representatives of Roosboom, Charlestown and Cremin said they had a right to return to their own land.

They were willing to negotiate with the authorities over the issue, but if the government tried to block them, they would go back regardless of whether the government agreed or not.

The three communities were given strong backing by church leaders including Catholic Archbishop Denis Hurley, Anglican Bishop Michael Nuttall and the president of the South African

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form has missed the boat

The White Paper on Land Reform is a valiant move forward — but it has missed a valuable opportunity to redress the very real grievances of the dispossessed.

REG RUMNEY reports

moved, often without adequate compensation, or to inferior land in the bantustans. "They were expecting to have their legitimate land claims recognised under the new dispensation. This land in many cases remains in government hands. Will the new legislation mean that their land will now be sold privately or given over to 'settlement schemes'?"

"The government feels that if it addresses these claims it will cause 'vast, potential conflict'. We feel that by not recognising the validity of these

claims, inevitable conflict will result as people will continue to try to return to land that is rightfully theirs."

Claessens has doubts even about what seems, she says, the positive provisions of the White Paper. For instance, the proposal that various forms of black rights be upgraded may only apply to black land rights which are documented. But in many cases black people do have strong rights but no documents.

The White Paper rules out any redistribution of agricultural land, leaving the matter to the free market, completely contrary to recent land policy documents by both the ANC and Nafoc.

Claessens notes the government has stated it intends to push through by April the five Bills that accompany the White Paper. These are: the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill, the Residential Environment Bill, and the Less Formal

Townships Establishment Bill.

It is clear from the reaction of both right and left that the government did not, as it states, consult widely. The White Paper has been criticised by the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Transvaal Agricultural Union, and in a muted way by the Democratic Party.

The Group Areas Act is to be abolished, and this clearly has to be applauded.

Moreover, local authority by-laws that differentiate on the basis of race will not be permitted. But the White Paper talks of different "norms and standards" and protecting "shared values and lifestyles". To many blacks this will suggest "standards" are a form of protecting white privilege and in effect if not intent racist.

Arthur Maimane writes from Cape Town that to hasten the reforms, the White Paper proposes granting the state president authority to dismantle apartheid by proclamation. There are too many of

the laws imposed over 40 years for them to be repealed by individual Acts of parliament, and so De Klerk will be empowered to rid us of them by proclamation, on the advice of a committee. One of the five proposed Bills will be equally arbitrary in providing a solution to wipe out the helter-skelter of squatter camps that besiege urban areas.

At present it requires the co-operation of 27 government departments to sanction the official recognition of this "informal housing". Once the Less Formal Townships Establishment Bill is passed, there will be "zero consultation" to buy or expropriate land for squatters. Without consultation the process will take only days: a drastic measure, but necessary to prevent squatters swamping land suitable for farming or other less unsightly purposes.

With these drastic procedures the proclamations could spread into other areas and make the legislature redundant. But come the New South Africa and a different government, these new Acts could be repealed or amended. As Stoffel van der Merwe told the media at a press briefing on the White Paper, they had been no specific consultations with the ANC on the Whip Paper.

Of course, the CIA is behind the whole thing

THE scrapping of the land Acts is simply the culmination of a grand CIA-backed plan designed to slash the number of white farmers to a paltry few so the farming business can be handed over to "the blacks".

This is the view of wealthy Waterberg farmer and Boerestaar Vryheids Beweging (BVB) member, Henmie van der Walt.

Unlike many of his farming colleagues he couldn't care less about the land reforms which threaten to drive sectors of the white farming community into a far more ominous display of opposition than the "Pretoria siege".

For Van der Walt, who farms cattle and maize and owns a weed-killer operation, a persistent fly buzzing around his head would give him greater cause for concern.

"The scrapping of the land Acts (like other apartheid legislation) is all part of it. It must happen to force the boerevolk into the laager. You have to take away all their privileges before they realise that to survive as a boerevolk they can't have all of South Africa. We don't intend to lose everything of course, we want the universities and those things that we've built."

Van der Walt employs only whites. To do otherwise would be to violate his ideal of a whites-only world, uncontaminated by blacks. He has 68 whites working for him, most of whom are farm labourers or factory workers. While he pays his whites more than he would blacks, it all works out cheaper in the end. "We don't have the risk of Aids, theft, unreliability and breakages... we have less problems with white workers."

Not for him and his followers the "normal fears" of other farmers: "We will negotiate with the government for our land, not with the ANC, PAC etc who we don't recognise, and if this fails we will claim it. We don't believe in shouting for interests and higher prices. This is all so much smaller than

Reaction from some white farmers to the scrapping of the land Acts has not been exactly ecstatic.

PHILLIPA GARSON reports

to have our own country."

Far more perturbed by the immediate plight of white farmers and the proposed land reforms is another farmer, Piet Prinsloo, chairman of the Vaalwater Agricultural District Union, director of the Northern Transvaal Ko-operasie and member of the Hertsogte Nasionale Party (HNP).

With a vast farm and luxurious home the influential Prinsloo is undoubtedly a successful farmer. His enterprises, labelled "Prinstand", are proud symbols of the white conquest here to stay, and perhaps of the wealthy farmer less threatened by the land reforms than some of his debt-ridden colleagues.

Nevertheless, Prinsloo is deeply concerned about the "possibly dangerous" effects of repealing the Acts. A small spark could trigger a wave of protest action far stronger than the Pretoria march, because the farmers have been pushed too far, he says. "The farmers are uncertain of their future, they are so frustrated anything could happen. It's a very volatile situation," he warns.

Surrounded by the prize game specimens of his many hunting conquests, including an elephant trunk, mounted on his office wall, Prinsloo tells how the government has for years made false promises to farmers about land. "They promised us Port St Johns, Mafeking... they are not to be Prinsloo says the new policies introduced by the government to impact the economy will only lead to further deterioration and a more unstable and lawless environment, which will impact badly on agricultural production.

We must avoid sowing the seeds of disaster

If we continue to be emotional about land ownership and neglect the issues of productivity and conservation of the land we will soon find ourselves in serious trouble, says prominent cattle and tobacco farmer, Charles Baber, who chairs the Transvaal Agricultural Union's soil, yield and nature conservation committee.

Pausing from the arduous task of counting cattle in the midday sun Baber rests for a short time under a shady tree to tell *The Weekly Mail* his greatest fears about the future of agriculture here.

The country is being eroded away at a horrific rate because of misuse by everyone concerned. "We are losing valuable top soil at the annual rate of seven rows of 7-ton tip trucks nose-to-tail around the equator, which is 30 times the rate it takes to form again." To replace lost plant nutrients with artificial ones would cost R1-billion a year.

When it comes to agriculture, South Africa is one of the least endowed countries in Africa. Only 14.4 percent of the land is arable and water resources are severely limited. To add to this, the population is mushrooming at a rapid rate.

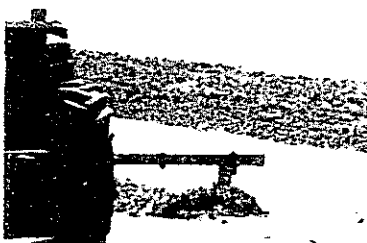
By the year 2020 the country will just manage to sustain a population of 80-million, after which time, severe problems will arise.

"This means we have to be as pragmatic as possible about land. Water and land are fixed resources and it would be extremely difficult to reverse the population growth."

In Baber's view, land ownership is negotiable to the point that those who can afford land should be able to buy it. "But what is not negotiable is the productivity of the land. Whoever owns it must look after it. It does not help to look over the fence and say 'I want that piece of land'. It is not the amount of land that is so important, but what one does with it."

"My fear is that ground will be carved up to please whoever, but the vital consideration that the land must be used productively will be forgotten."

While agreeing with the principle that the smaller the piece of land, the cleverer one is about using it, Baber fears that to carve up existing farmland would fragment the infrastructure and be a waste of valuable resources.



Photograph: KEVIN CARTER

Some what may

Council of Churches, Khoza Mgojo. Other community leaders also pledged their support, saying the government would have to right the wrong they had done in "stealing" the land from these communities 15 years ago.

This determined challenge comes as pressure is growing for the government to clarify its stand on compensation and restitution for land taken from people under apartheid laws.

Whichever way the government decides on the question of restitution, there will be difficulties.

White farmers who have leased the land will be angry if it is handed back to its original black owners.

The black owners on the other hand have made it quite clear they will not accept anything less than the return of their land.

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UNDERLYING the surface skirmishes in SA is The Great Battle. This country has known great battles. Between settlers and Xhosas, Zulus and the rest, Brits and Zulus, Boer and Brit, black and white and black and black. But The Great Battle has little to do with ethnicity. It is about economics; about which system is the most effective for SA.

Strip the evolving positions of the NP-led and ANC-led factions to their essentials, and there appears little left to negotiate. Both want one man, one vote, both want a bill of rights, both want an independent judiciary.

So why not scrap the idea of negotiations, assign a task force to write a new constitution, and set a date for the first election?

Because The Great Battle, that over property rights, is still to be concluded. In most societies this would simply be an ideological fight about whether capitalism or socialism was the more effective system. The argument could be decided in a minute — while capitalism has produced some failures, socialism has failed everywhere.

But in SA the battle for property rights takes on additional overtones. Protect property rights, many would say, and white privilege is protected. Years and years of discrimination and dispossession will be entrenched. Hardly an attractive proposition for the disenfranchised who know they will soon have their say. Nor for a liberation movement intent on redistribution.

Put to the vote, the property rights faction would lose. Tomorrow. So it is in this lobby's interests not to vote on the matter, but rather to ensure that property rights are non-negotiable; that when negotiations end this right is graven in stone.

But the faction hostile to property rights will not even want to write these rights on paper. So battle lines are drawn.

Lines are drawn in the great battle over property rights

3 General
0/000 15/3/91
KEVIN DAVIE

Battles are a question of power and strategy. Both parties are undoubtedly powerful. The NP-led faction controls the organs of state, but the ability to draw on brute force arguably counts for very little. A switch in strategy would have disastrous consequences, as gains painstakingly won since February last year would be undone overnight, and sanctions would be renewed even more vigorously.

Strategy is more important than power. The weapons are argument and debate rather than the use of force. Here we see that The Great Battle has already started and that important victories have been won in early exchanges. The first was more than a year ago on the day ANC leader Nelson Mandela was freed from jail. The world waited for his first words in nearly 30 years, and was horrified to hear nationalisation among them.

A year later when the ANC mentions nationalisation, as it does in its latest document on the land issue, it says it is not the easy solution it once thought it to be, and warns that the world may impose sanctions if a

future government tried to nationalise.

In the 12 months it took the ANC to soften its position from Mandela's initial hard line to the more recent nationalisation with a friendly face, President F W de Klerk was busy manoeuvring. He convinced the leaders of the industrialised world that the reform process was both irreversible and that he was committed to keeping private property as the cornerstone of the new system.

Sanctions began to roll back, capital began to flow in rather than out, trade finance increased by leaps and bounds, and government and business delegations began arriving by the planeload to check out investment possibilities.

The importance of this improved relationship cannot be underestimated. De Klerk's strategy has won the high moral ground and taken pressure off his government to get into negotiations early and settle for whatever was going. He can now

rather play for time, implement new policies to the applause of the world — and, perhaps, even domestically, should the new approach be shown to work.

There is the added bonus that, in the meantime, the ANC is slowly but surely abandoning the rhetoric of a revolutionary movement as grand ideologies have to be converted into practical policy.

But the ANC retains nationalisation as the cornerstone of its land policy. Its bill of rights says the state may take legislative steps to overcome the effects of past statutory discrimination in property rights.

Likewise, one of the ANC's chief constitutional architects, Albie Sachs, says in his book *Protecting Human Rights in a New South Africa* that just as land was taken from blacks because they were black, so in future must land be taken from whites because they are white.

The opposing view is that while this may make moral sense, it is economic nonsense. Capital and skilled people would take off on a scale which would dwarf former President P W Botha's Rubicon disaster. The ANC has acknowledged

this. A list of disadvantages which go with nationalisation are included in its "one man, one farm" document released late last year. These include that nationalisation may create land insecurity leading to the partial failure of the financial system, or even a general economic collapse.

Government's position on property rights is set out in its White Paper on land reform which was unveiled earlier this week. It undertakes to protect existing rights and says it is totally opposed to any form of redistribution of land, whether by means of nationalisation, confiscation or expropriation.

It admits the wrongs of the past, but wants market solutions to be used to facilitate land ownership by blacks on a massive scale. Vast tracts of rural land will be made available for small-scale farming, blacks will have equal access to Land Bank and agricultural extension finance, and tens of thousands of site and service plots will be made available annually for urban settlement.

The policy rests on private ownership and enterprise. Title deeds allow markets to be created, for landowners to raise loans with their properties as surety, creating new finance for development as considerable private resources can move into these markets.

The paper should be seen in the context of The Great Battle. An army cannot go to war with a soft underbelly. The new policy gets rid of 189 laws and 15 000 regulations which discriminated on the basis of race.

The two great armies have the same goal. Both want to redress the wrongs of the past. But the one wants to do this over time and on the back of economic growth, while the other wants more immediate and widespread action even at the risk of economic collapse.

A mighty battle can be expected. May the best side win.

'Volk' to resist land reforms - CP

Star (5/3/77).
CAPE TOWN — The Conservative Party has called on the "volk" to totally resist the Government's land reforms.

"It will be the greatest resistance ever against any legislation," a CP

③ General
spokesman said.

"This will be putting the Third Freedom Struggle we announced at the Voortrekker Monument on May 26 into first gear." — Political Staff.

Soviets oppose ANC on land reforms

Star 16/3/91

AFRICA NEWS SERVICE

LUSAKA — Soviet Africanists do not support the negative reaction to President de Klerk's land reform policy by the African National Congress and representatives of the black community in South Africa.

The Soviet news agency, Novosti, canvassed the Africa specialists in Moscow on the land reform moves and found qualified support, according to a report released in Lusaka by the agency.

Novosti found no consensus among researchers in the Southern African section of the Africa Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, "who have been keenly following the development of the political situation in (South Africa)".

The head of the section, Dr An-

drei Pokrovsky, said there was unanimity on one point: that at last President de Klerk had started implementing the declared programme of reforms.

Studied (3) ~~see~~

He said a fuller assessment could not be made until the land reform proposals had been studied, he said. "But it is beyond doubt that the dismantling of apartheid has started."

Novosti says that when its representative had private conversations with Soviet experts on Africa "they did not make it a secret that they do not support the

ANC's negative stand on this question".

At the same time they opposed Britain's call for the immediate lifting of sanctions, saying the draft land legislation should first be studied.

Novosti says that "the people working in the Soviet Centre of African Studies believe that a successful dialogue between the white and black communities is possible only if the sides are prepared to make a reasonable compromise."

"Regrettably, the representatives of the black community have not displayed such preparedness so far. This suits the ultras in both communities who are making efforts to torpedo the dialogue which is under way."

● See Page 11

SA for briefing

Forex: man in court



PAST WRONGS: The Government's policy that dispossessed communities should not be allowed to return to their former lands is little comfort for many. Here young residents of Mogopa, their homes cleared by the removals squad, wait with their police escort for the journey to their new home at Pachsdraai.

Naught for their c

Gov't's new land policy is a bitter pill for d

ARTHUR Monnakgotle rubbed the scar on the inside of his right wrist.

He got it, he says, as the result of the bursting of a blood vessel as he hung, suspended by his wrists, during security police interrogation in Pretoria after a forced removal.

And as he rubbed, he reflected on the Government's view that "peace and progress" would be served by abandoning the idea that victims of forced removal were entitled to return to their land.

Dumped

The 62-year-old chairman of the Bakubung-ba-Ratheo tribe recalled his experience 22 years ago when his community was forced off prime farming land near Magaliesburg — land they had acquired 78 years earlier — and dumped in the bushveld of Ledig, near Sun City.

Mr Monnakgotle, brother of Lukas Monnakgotle who led the 180-odd resisting Bakubung families, was one of 10 residents arrested and charged with terrorism at the time of the removal.

Says Mr Monnakgotle, the police "treated him" and told him "Mandela was here and Fischer was here, so you better talk straight". Fellow community leader Solly Moloko elaborates: "They had him hanging between heaven and earth."

JO-ANNE COLLINGE

One of the accused, Jacob Monnakgotle, died in custody. The official verdict was that he died of natural causes. Arthur Monnakgotle laughs doubtfully: "He was being 'treated' too. He got frightened that they would come back and do the same thing they did. So he died."

At the time of the arrests, one of the accused obtained an interim interdict prohibiting the police from further interrogation. He alleged that he was beaten and subjected to electric shocks until he lost consciousness.

Arthur Monnakgotle, refused bail, spent nine months in jail awaiting trial. He was one of three who were acquitted. The others received an effective one-year sentence for assault.

He walked from jail a free but homeless man. During his time in jail the authorities completed the forced removal they had been working on relentlessly for nearly four years.

According to reports at the time, the removal took the following course: The order for the tribe to quit their land was given in 1965. In 1966 the community school was de-

molished in a bid to induce people to go. Towards the end of that year a major section of the community — described as "tenants" rather than landowners — left along with the wife of the former chief, Catherina Monnakgotle. A minority of about 180 families, comprising titleholders, remained.

The land was expropriated in May 1967 and twice thereafter scores of residents were arrested and convicted of trespass on State land. A condition of the suspension of their sentence was that they leave the land by December 31 1968.

Duress

When, in January 1969, they were found to be defying the order, about 190 heads of households were arrested and the removal took place, in the presence of the military, under duress.

The land near Magaliesburg remains an almost tender memory to those who lost it. "We were posh there, I must say," recalls Mr Monnakgotle. "We didn't have to buy anything from the shops. Mealies, beans, fruit — we grew it. We had water..."

That this is not a romanticised memory is attested by the quiet self-



ARTHUR MONNAKGOTLE: He says he was 'treated' by police.

sufficiency of another sector of the Bakubung tribe who live on adjoining land at Mathopestad and who successfully resisted removal.

In 1988 Mathopestad — known among other things as the place where United States Senator Teddy Kennedy's helicopter broke down during his whirlwind tour of South Africa some years ago — became one

of the few "black spots" to win official reprieve.

Mathopestad produces an annual crop surplus, which it markets through the local agricultural extension. Relationships with white neighbouring farmers are cordial.

To Mr Monnakgotle the Government's flexibility in the case of Mathopeste Bakubung only makes its intransigence over the Monnakgotle land all the more perverse.

Safeguard

The Government has never retracted the land. When it seemed ready to do so last year, the community's lawyers made immediate representations to stop the sale, stating that removal was unlawful and that the community wished to begin negotiations for a just resolution of the problem. If this option was closed they would seek redress in courts.

At present the land is safeguarded by a general undertaking by the Department of Agricultural Development that "no agricultural land which had been expropriated at an earlier stage in accordance with previous consolidation policy will be sold henceforth".

It remains to be seen whether

Star 16/3/91

General 3



s should not be allowed to return to their former lands is little comfort for many. Here s squad, wait with their police escort for the journey to their new home at Pachsdraai.

Local govt to have teeth to stop decay

Star 16/3/91

[Handwritten signature]
PAT DEVEREAUX

RESIDENTS, ratepayers and housing associations will be given teeth to enforce by-laws and keep neighbourhoods in good nick when the Residential Environment Bill is passed by Parliament, town council spokesmen said this week.

The Bill aims to prevent the possible downgrading of neighbourhoods with the scrapping of the Group Areas Act. It also confers additional power on local authorities to pass and enforce by-laws in order to maintain neighbourhoods. But the Bill stipulates that racially discriminatory by-laws will not be allowed.

The Bill provides for the setting up of an Urban Environment Board to help local authorities to maintain standards and set up urban renewal projects. The board will play an advisory role and consist of experts in urban renewal.

Standard

Apart from providing for the maintenance of norms such as tidy and hygienic premises, the Bill provides for ways to settle disputes and for the orderly and civilised use of public facilities, noise control and urban decay.

"This national provision sets minimum standards which go further than previous legislation," said Midrand Management Committee chairman Ian Bekker.

He said Midrand had already amended existing by-laws, mainly to ensure ghettos don't develop.

Asked about the effect the Bill would have, Sandton town councillor Peter Gardiner said: "Neighbourhood standards could be protected and most municipalities could now decide on what standard of service they want in their area."

"Presumably we are now allowed to

set our own standards. For example, Sandton neighbourhoods want high security standards and environmental standards. We could even provide our own security force.

"Our council could now pass a by-law to set up residents' associations more formally. This would put teeth into the system and residents would be encouraged to pay for upgrading their neighbourhoods."

He said another example would be to formalise homeowners' associations — which in Sandton already raise money to control architectural standards and maintain landscaping.

The Bill also means local authorities will have more control over spending and it provides for financial assistance to local authorities to undertake projects out of appropriated funds, according to Mr Gardiner.

Johannesburg City Council spokesman Professor H Hurwitz said he believed local authorities may have more power to enforce legislation because penalties would now be more realistic. Offenders could be fined up to R10 000 and there is an additional R100 fine a day for an ongoing offence.

The Randburg Town Council has promulgated housing nuisance by-laws aimed at ensuring minimum standards, according to council spokesman Andre-Jacobs.

But he admitted that it may be difficult to enforce legislation while the country was going through a transition.

Federation of Western Johannesburg Ratepayers' Associations spokesman, Frank Salmon said residents were already contributing to maintaining standards in their suburbs but the new legislation would give local authorities more power to prevent urban decay.

for their comfort

Star 16/3/91

General (3) *[Handwritten scribble]*

land policy is a bitter pill for dispossessed

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It remains to be seen whether the

position taken by the Government in its land reform White Paper will do away with this safeguard.

Despite this week's developments, Mr Monnakgotle still feels that the political climate is more conducive to a settlement than it was in the past. "If they are taking the African National Congress out (of jail), why can't we get our farm back? We are going to stand very hard to get our land back."

For years after the brutal removal the community lived in fear. It placed its faith in lawyers, not daring to do anything more assertive. And it got no returns.

Now, the Bakubung are beginning to think of the legal approach as mere backup for a more assertive, activist strategy. They have been stirred by others who simply reoccupied their old land.

Already they are planning for the future. "That old style of living must come to an end," says Mr Monnakgotle's fellow leader, Mr Moloko. "The idea of everyone having a morgen must come to an end."

The idea is to farm all the land communally and profitably and to properly plan the village. Whether the tenants will be allowed to return is a sore point. Like the landowners, they are living in the utmost poverty

at Ledig. "They are crying but there's nothing we can do right now," observes Mr Monnakgotle.

It is also apparent that the quick capitulation of the tenants is seen as a crucial factor in the removal. "Had we been owners we would have spoken with one voice," asserts Mr Moloko, implying that — like the Mathope — they would have found the power to stay put.

Mr Monnakgotle says they were never properly compensated for the destruction of their homes and property and he has never built a house at Ledig on the supposed "compensatory" small plot.

These compensatory plots are registered in the name of Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope and it is a moot point whether the Bakubung, who have retained South African citizenship, could obtain title.

Forefathers

In any event they do not intend to try. Their eyes are firmly fixed on the return of farms 19 and 21 at Boons. "Our forefathers sold everything to get that land. They even let Barclays Bank look for minerals so that they could finish paying the debt," says Mr Monnakgotle.

For him the only justice will come when the day the security police took the title deeds from him is wiped from his memory by the return of the deeds to his safekeeping.

'Boer struggle has begun'

³ General ² ~~Star~~
 We'll die to
 Star 16/3/91
 protect land
 rights - CP

PETER FABRICIUS
 Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Conservative Party parliamentary caucus declared yesterday that the Government's land reforms announced this week had precipitated the Afrikaners' freedom struggle.

"The Government leaves us no choice but to rise up in the struggle to defend our living space and our freedom with the necessary means at our disposal," said CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht.

He vowed that "his people" were prepared to "sacrifice their lives" for their land rights.

With his party caucus standing behind him, he read out a solemn declaration at a press conference in Parliament.

But he refused to say afterwards what form the "freedom struggle" would take and whether it would involve violence. This would emerge later, he said.

He said a nation's territory was one of the cornerstones of political power.

With its White Paper on Land Reform, the Government intended to deprive the nation of its collective ownership of land.

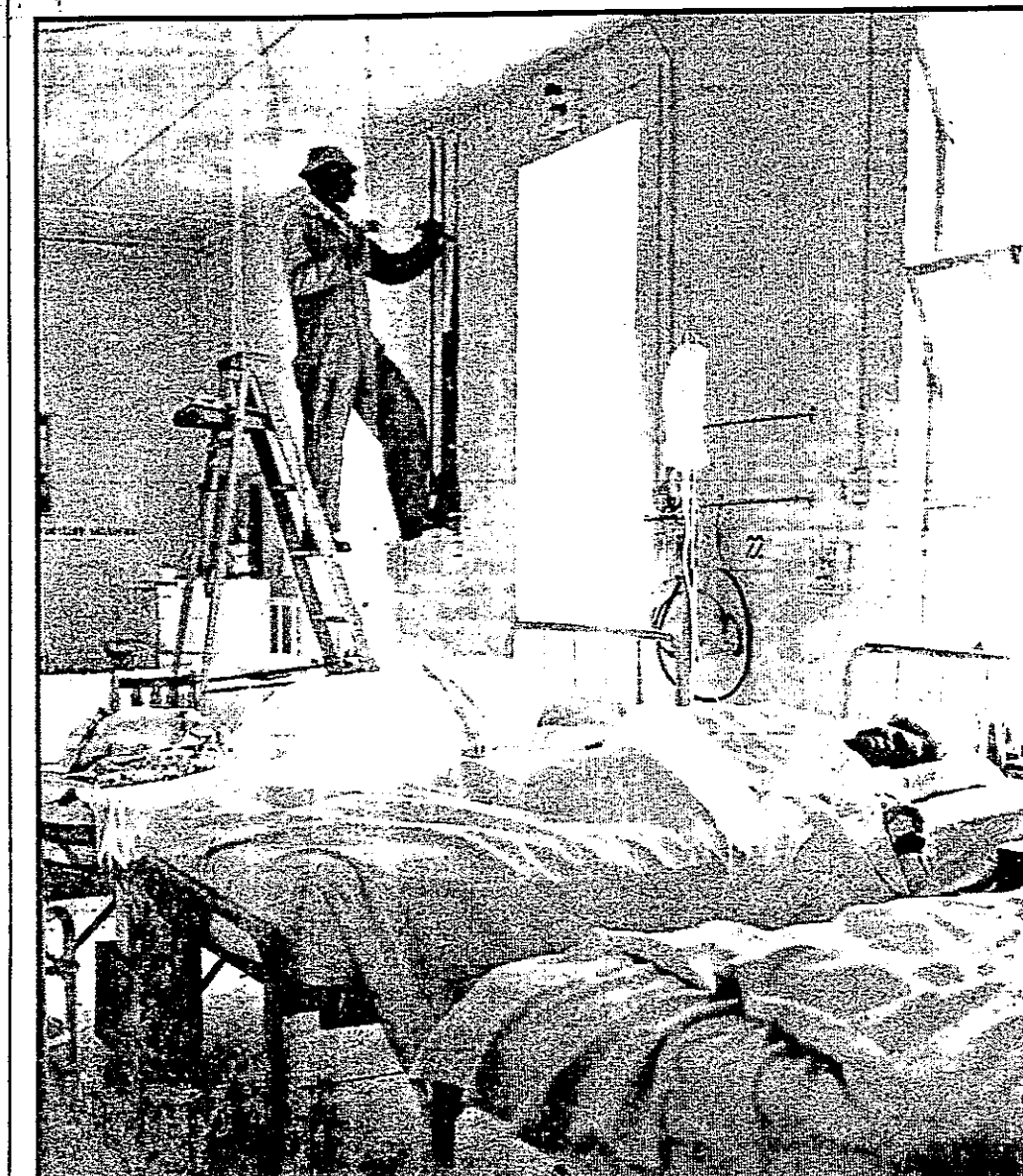
"This is an extremely serious assault upon a nation's right to self-government in its own territory and an obvious onslaught against our political power. No self-respecting people will tolerate this.

13 percent black land. If one included the BLS (Botswana-Lesotho-Swaziland) states and the homelands, non-whites owned more than 50 percent of the land.

"Our people's claim to its own country and its right to self-government is not negotiable.

"We are prepared to

**SEE ALSO
 PAGE 11.**



Doctors get
 Star 16/3/91
 death threats
 in race row

ESMARÉ VAN DER MERWE, Political Reporter

TWO figures at the centre of the Goldfields hospital racism row have received death threats from extreme right-wing organisations in Welkom and Virginia.

Hair-raising accounts of animal poisoning, blatant death threats and shots being fired at the house of a prominent anti-apartheid medical doctor in Virginia were told the Saturday Star this week.

AWB threat

This week, as the hospital row grew, the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging openly threatened to "act hard-handedly" against Dr Rhet Kahn, the Democratic Party's Goldfields chairman and one of the driving forces behind the Goldfields Hospital Desegregation Campaign Committee.

His wife, Janet, also received threatening telephone calls after a high-powered visit by politicians, trade unionists and medical professionals to the Welkom Provincial Hospital.

ed pressures for the desegregation of these hospitals, spearheaded by the GHDCC, the ANC and the DP, might again release right-wing anger against him.

In Virginia, Dr Kahn and his wife — dedicated anti-apartheid activists — have been the target of severe harassment by the lunatic Right.

During last year's black consumer boycott of Virginia, during which Dr Kahn's help was called in to bring together businessmen and township leaders for negotiations, their home was shot at.

Police suspected that the notorious Blanke Veiligheid organisation was responsible, but the case was never solved.

A while later, the Kahn's dog and cat were mysteriously poisoned.

Virginia's only veterinarian — a well-known right-winger, according to Janet — refused to attend to the Kahn's other dog, which became seriously ill but did not die from the poison. The vet allegedly called Dr

since their lives" for their land rights. With his party caucus standing behind him, he read out a solemn declaration at a press conference in Parliament.

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With its White Paper on Land Reform, the Government intended to deprive the nation of its collective ownership of land.

"This is an extremely serious assault upon a nation's right to self-government in its own territory and an obvious onslaught against our political power. No self-respecting people will tolerate this.

"The Government's intended actions will destroy the economic and social order of South Africa.

Seize

"It will destroy each nation's community life and friction will disrupt neighbourhood and community relations. Our people cannot and will not submit to this.

"The revolutionary forces will not be satisfied with the odd white property, erf or farm. They want to seize our entire country. They want to degrade us to the level of peasants, a powerless minority under a revolutionary black government."

Dr Treurnicht said other white communities had fled when this had happened to them. "Our people ... have no boat waiting in the harbour. We cannot flee, nor will we flee.

"Our national way of life, our community life, residential areas, schools, facilities and our very own Government are sacrificed for foreign accolades and so-called internal reconciliation.

"We acquired our land through the lawful occupation of large tracts of uninhabited land, through agreements, through cession, barter, and, to a lesser degree, through justifiable conquest.

"Whites did not exterminate other people to do this — although others had tried to exterminate them. Whites had given away millions of hectares of land without charge to other people who now occupied some of the most fertile and water-rich areas in South Africa.

"The southern African region did not consist of 87 percent white and

SEE ALSO PAGE 11.

13 percent black land. If one included the BLS (Botswana-Lesotho-Swaziland) states and the homelands, non-whites owned more than 50 percent of the land.

"Our people's claim to its own country and its right to self-government is not negotiable.

"We are prepared to negotiate with the elected leaders of neighbouring nations regarding the adjustment of borders only on the condition that our rights are recognised and respected.

"Our people are prepared to sacrifice their lives for these rights. The Government has no mandate to make the country the property of 'all and sundry'.

"Its action is immoral and the honourable way would be to test the will of white voters in a general election."

In response, the National Party accused Dr Treurnicht of playing a dangerous game by flirting with violence.

The NP condemned the statement as "an intemperate diatribe" that had no foundation.

Rhetoric

NP Transvaal spokesman Sheila Camerer said: "Dr Treurnicht owes the electorate an explanation of what he means and what the implications are for this country when he says 'the CP has no choice but to rise up in the struggle'.

"Once again Dr Treurnicht is playing the dangerous game of flirting with violent action through the use of revolutionary rhetoric."

Top US I

WASHINGTON — Influential congressmen and senior members of the Bush administration are to meet with South African political leaders in Cape Town next week.

The delegation of prominent South African businessmen is being brought to South Africa under the auspices of the Aspen Institute, a Washington-based group tempting to facilitate South African transition to a democratic system.

The primary objective of the

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WE WANT OUR LAND

BATTLE lines have been drawn between the government and an estimated 3.5 million victims of forced removals.

Their hopes were dashed this week when the government made it clear they would not be given back their ancestral land they were dispossessed of by forced removals.

The government's recent White Paper on Land Reform, described by the ANC as "outrageous and a deep disappointment", also said these communities would get no compensation.

"This is a serious shortcoming," said Democratic Party spokesman on Land Affairs, Peter Soal. "Land, like that of the Mogopa, has to be returned to the people from whom it was stolen."

Political observers believe the government has now set itself on a collision course with several dispossessed communities.

■ The first salvos have already been fired by three northern Natal communities.

Representatives of Roosboom, Charlestown and Criemen held a media conference this week to launch a "Back to the Land" campaign.

More than 16 000 people were moved from Roosboom, 9 000 from Charlestown and 20 000 from Criemen.

In a memorandum presented to senior officials of the Natal Provincial Administration, the communities gave the government until April 15 this year to provide a written undertaking to return their land.

They want the government to restore title deeds and mineral rights and to compensate them for schools, churches, houses and grazing land for which they received no compensation.

They also urged the government to develop their land to its former condition, adding that tenants who were removed along with landowners must also be given land.

Former Roosboom landowners began returning to their land last October after forming the Roosboom Interim Committee.

The Department of Public Works and Land Affairs applied for a court order to evict them, but later suspended the action pending negotiations with the community.

■ A spokesman for the displaced Doornkop community in the eastern Transvaal, David Debelie, said they were go-

DEFIANCE



Flashback ... we will not be moved, is the message this Mogopa man and millions of others tried to get across.

PETITIONS ...



Let's get together ... people under threat of removal from their ancestral land tried, often in vain, to halt their evictions through a petition.

White Paper fails to satisfy land hunger

THE National Land Committee views the government's white paper on land reform with concern, believing that for the most part it will be detrimental to landless and rural-based people.

In his February 1 speech State President FW de Klerk said: "No one dares underestimate the emotions and the potential conflict attached to land rights."

This sensitivity to the depth of feeling surrounding the land issue has unfortunately not been carried through in the White Paper published this week.

Despite De Klerk's claim that the document is a product of extensive consultation, the drafting process was marked by intense secrecy.

Yes, the homeland leaders were consulted, but the communities who will be most directly affected by legislation have not been consulted at all.

We have heard that the

JOANNE YAWITCH, co-ordinator of the National Land Committee (NLC) and a former fieldworker of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, critically evaluates the White Paper on land reform tabled in Parliament this week.

parliamentary select committee set up to hear evidence on the proposals is to sit only for a very short time and that the government hopes to have the legislation passed by the end of April.

Such a time scale clearly rules out any thorough consultation.

By opting for individual tenure, absolute ownership and the free market as the basis of our land tenure system, the government ignores the historical issues which have made land such a critical question.

The fact that whites own 87 percent of South Africa and that 13 percent of the land is allocated to blacks is deeply etched in our national consciousness.

More than 3.5-million people had to be forcibly moved to achieve our present population distribution. In the process they lost their land, homes, possessions and some even their lives.

The white paper rules out land restoration to the victims of forced removals as "not feasible". Instead, it says, "the government believes it is in the interests of peace and progress that the present situation should be accepted."

The victims of forced removals, in their remote and isolated resettlement camps, have not forgotten

Surely we should recognise that land is a disputed issue and institute mechanisms to ensure a fair and just hearing for all land claimants.

The White Paper emphatically rules out redistribution of agricultural land yet makes provision for a potential 500 000ha of SA Development Trust land to be set aside for state-controlled agricultural settlement schemes.

For the rest, blacks wanting to buy land will have to do so on the terms of the free market. The people with the most desperate need for land are however the ones with the least capacity to enter that market.

NLC believes that there is a desperate need for land redistribution.

We agree with Nafco's recent policy proposals which suggest that all unused and under-utilised land be identified to make it available for the landless.

Black people have experienced strict and intense state control throughout their history over how and on what terms they could settle and utilise land.

The White Paper regrettably carries forward this approach in its controls over communal land tenure.

The National Land Committee calls for an equal and fair distribu-

BUT THE BULLDOZER FINALLY WON THE DAY



Dispossessed communities all over South Africa learnt with a shock this week that the government's White Paper on Land Reform states no compensation will be given for land taken away from them under apartheid. LEN KALANE, S'BU MNGADI and SAPA look at how this news was received.

Battle lines drawn as the forgotten 3,5 million raise voices in protest

3,5 million raise voices in protest

displaced Doornkop community in the eastern Transvaal. David De-belle, said they were going to step up the fight to get their land back.

■ Responding with "disbelief" to the government's White Paper on Land Reform, the National Land Committee (NLC) called for the scrapping of the clause which rejected land restoration, and for consultation with those making land claims.

The NLC, formerly the National Committee Against Removals is represented in Natal by the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra); in the Border region by the Grahamstown Rural Committee (GRC); in the Southern Cape by Southern Cape Against Removals (Scar); in the Western Cape by Surplus Peoples Project (SPP); and by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac).

■ The White Paper was not a land reform document, the ANC argued, but an attempt to codify the present state of land dispossession under cover of free market proposals. ANC publicity head Pallo Jordan said the White Paper would, however, not jeopardise the negotiation process although it would definitely lead to greater resistance from dispossessed communities.

"Our suspicion is that the government wants to present the people of South Africa with a number of faits accomplis which will then have to be undone later," Jordan said.

■ At a press conference preceding the tabling of the White Paper, Education and Training Minister Dr Stoffel Van der Merwe said it was the government's answer to set straight the question of

land inequalities. *(Skeena)* It was the government's view that setting right historical wrongs would lead back much further than the 40 years of National Party apartheid rule and this would present an impossible situation, Van der Merwe said.

Both black and white people were dispossessed during the social engineering attempted by apartheid. In fact, he claimed, more white land was alienated than black land.

The Minister insisted people had been compensated in one form or another but where this had not happened, particular instances could be taken up. However, the general rule incorporated in the White Paper was "no redress".

Any attempt to restore land to those who had been removed under apartheid measures would open up a quagmire, he said.

"Certain groups have been disadvantaged with regard to occupation of land. This has been addressed in a positive form by empowering them to get access to land, rather than in a destructive way by trying to restore it to the original owners," he said.

The government rejected the idea of land claims courts "because we are not going to enter into the question of reparations".

Present titles would be recognised, and any adjustment necessary could be done through normal legal procedures.

Van der Merwe also said the government would not attempt to regulate land prices.



In vain ... a child looks on as an bulldozer rides roughshod over the homes and dreams of his community.



Barend du Plessis ... how far will he go?

Land reforms could open up homes markets

Parliamentary Correspondent

THE government's new proposals on land reform will open new property markets and could boost the economy as more blacks acquire property.

All attention will now be focussed on this week's budget speech by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis to see how far he is prepared to go to eliminate inequalities and make property accessible to all.

Both cabinet ministers involved with land reform indicated that financial aid schemes have been part of their planning. Neither indicated what the aid entails for fear of preempting this week's budget speech.

Hermus Kriel, Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing, in his briefing to parliamentary and foreign correspondents, referred to a subsidy for first-time

home buyers. Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Agriculture and Development Aid, spoke about foreign aid and private sector involvement in black farming. The government will also assist black farmers. More details will be given in the next two months.

Financial aid will be viewed against the background of the reparation debate which is now warming up. Government spokesmen have so far avoided getting involved in the debate, saying all groups were affected by expropriation and that due compensation was given in each case.

The government did, however, recognise that black people were disadvantaged. The approach now seems to be that the issue must be addressed in a new constitution and in some form of black economic empowerment.

If the government aid is substantial, it

could be an important injection for the economy. More than one million plots will be transferred to full ownership immediately after implementation of the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Bill, one of five bills that form part of the land reform programme.

Another one million stands will become available for full ownership soon.

It is expected the envisaged subsidy will enable 250 000 people to buy or build homes. Altogether, 254 000 ha of farming land will also become available after the tabling of the Rural Development Bill. Another 220 000 ha will become available in the short term.

Most of this land is spread around the so-called self-governing territories.

Assistance programmes that have so far only been open to whites will become available to blacks with immediate effect.

Attack on CP editor was unfair

THE ANC Youth League's response (*City Press*, March 3) to an article by the editor also needs some clarification of certain points. It was quite an unfair attack on Khulu Sibiyana.

I want to first point out that the Harare Declaration we refer to was drafted by the OAU and was adopted by the ANC in toto. The Harare Declaration states clearly that the South African government must scrap apartheid legislation unilaterally.

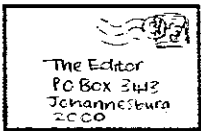
It does not need assistance from the liberation movement to do that. We need not mention again that Alfred Nzo had to tell the members of Umkhonto weSizwe, who are opposed to negotiations, that since its formation the guerrilla movement has not made a "dent" in the South African government. As for the talks about talks, the editor had a valid point, whether true or false.

It is common knowledge that certain ANC members did not want Nelson Mandela to meet Mangosuthu Buthelezi. This was not a secret. It was openly said that such a meeting would boost Buthelezi's image. Even when it was realised that consultation was needed between IFP and the ANC, attempts were made to leave Mandela out of those meetings. Here again, there is validity in the argument. - L Saki, TB Davie Res, University of Cape Town

PEOPLE'S PRESS

Where City Press readers speak out

Preference will be given to short, neatly written or typed letters. While pen names will be used on request, all letters must include the writer's full name and address.



Kids should load their brains

I AM deeply concerned about the future of our children who are busy loading guns instead of loading their brains with knowledge, education and skills.

Children, you belong at school. Politics without sufficient education can be as dangerous as a minefield. Education is the only weapon which can make seasoned politicians out of you. If you want to be a leader, start where our leaders started - at school.

Education is a prerequisite. The crisis in our schools should concern anyone who cares about the welfare of our society.

Pupils intimidate teachers and even demand that certain teachers should leave certain schools because of their political beliefs.

The dangerous thing is that these pupils know nothing. They are being used by irresponsible people to promote what is known only to themselves - and that is manipulation. - AS Tshabalala, Bethal

MY soul brother number one is not the kind of man who claims to know all the answers.

Neither does he impose his will and views on others.

He prefers – and this he has displayed in the years I've known him – to listen to the opinions of others before he makes his known.

He does not claim to understand politics but he knows the white man's system of government is bad. After all he knows no other system of government.

He is mindful of South Africans declining standards of living and the poor state of the economy.

When he was young, "in the good old days of pounds", blacks did not earn the same as whites, "but with the little we got we could still afford just about everything", he quipped.

Because I believe in him, I asked his opinion on the government's recent land reforms.

After all, he had been a farmer, and is in a position to explain what it means to be a land owner.

He should know, he

MY WAY

With Khulu Sibiya

Going back to the land

3 General
C/Pres 17/1/91



was among the 3,5 million blacks whose land had been expropriated by the government over the past 40 years.

His land is close to his heart. It is where his ancestors were buried, the place of his childhood memories and where his 100 cattle, goats and sheep grazed.

When my soul brother number one talks about Dannhauser and Amanzimnyama you can detect a deep-rooted anger and frustration against those who forcibly removed him from his father's land.

His eyes are failing now and he may not be able to

read the small print of the White Paper on Land Reform tabled this week, but he has closely followed President FW de Klerk's reform policies, especially on the land issue.

"I am disappointed," he said.

"To me freedom means going back to my land and not living in this four-room house the government brought me to."

When I told him he would have to pay more to buy his farm back than he received for it 30 years ago, he said it was another act of "the white man's daylight robbery".

I recently listened to John-Kane Bermann of the

South African Institute of Race Relations telling US Ambassador to South Africa, Bill Swing, that blacks had different values to land than whites.

Blacks could rear cattle and goats but were not real farmers, he said, and foresaw a decline in farming standards if blacks were given more land to farm.

Was this the reason the white government gave 13 percent of South Africa to more than 25 million people, while they gave 87 percent to only five million whites?

Does this imply that black men are naturally lazy and leave the farming to

their womenfolk while they drink beer all day?

Does this mean that only white farmers are capable of feeding the nation?

We may not have had much farming experience this century, thanks to the black education system that never taught us how to farm, but many returning exiles have studied agriculture abroad.

If we are honest about a new South Africa that would be free of racism, we must be ready to admit the mistakes of the past and work towards correcting them.

The privileged classes must look critically at the plight of those like my soul brother number one.

For 30 years he has been yearning to get back to his land where he can visit the graves of his ancestors and see the Manzimnyama river.

His children are well enough equipped to make that land profitable.

They deserve it – it is their right.

You may call me subjective but my soul brother number one happens to be my father.

The new lie of the land

government
ns to settle
000 black peas-
farmers on land in
viously "white"
th Africa within
next eight years.

e ambitious project
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ster Jacob de Villiers
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ation of the historic
Paper on land which
ses to transform land
ship and settlement
as in the country.

De Villiers and Plan-
nd Provincial Affairs
er Hernus Kriel, the
Cabinet members

THE White Paper on land reform pub-
lished last week will lead to a dramatic
change in the social character of the
country.

The new Government plan is centred
on removing all racial restrictions on
the ownership of land and encouraging
freehold title.

Key proposals include: scrapping of
racial prohibitions on the acquisition
of land; improving tenure rights to
land; conferring ownership of land on

charged with piloting the
land reform programme
through parliament, this
week categorically rejec-
ted calls for restitution by
those dispossessed of their

land.

They said instead, the
government planned to
make small and medium
sized farms available to
black farmers at low cost.

tribes; cutting red tape for the survey
and registration of land; support pro-
grammes for small-scale farmers; and
the opening of farming land to occupa-
tion by all.

Massive private and public resources
are now being mobilised to confront
the country's basic needs — houses
and jobs. MIKE ROBERTSON and EVE-
LYN HOLTZHAUSEN report on some of
the important new initiatives after the
tabling of the White Paper . . .

In addition, the govern-
ment would provide black
farmers with access to
credit, extension and train-
ing facilities necessary to
enable them to compete as

③ 1. General
commercial farmers.

Mr Kriel said there were
millions of hectares of land
available on the open mar-
ket.

"We must just plan our
economy in such a way
that we can assist people to
become owners of these
farms."

Mr De Villiers said, as a
first step, black farmers
presently occupying some
254 000ha of land owned by
the SA Development Trust
would be given title deeds
to this property. This
would happen after mid-
year.

Soon after that, titles to
farms on some 220 000ha of
SA Development Trust-
owned land would be given
to black farmers.

Mr De Villiers said once
the farmers were in pos-
session of the titles they
would be able to get loans
from agricultural credit
boards and the Land Bank.

Those who were rela-
tively better off would also
be able to get loans from
commercial banks.

Mr De Villiers said the
National Rural Develop-
ment Corporation, which
would be set up to oversee

the rural land reform pro-
gramme, would negotiate
the size of farms with com-
munities and farmers
involved.

It would also service
these farmers with advice,
training and extension ser-
vices "on a more intensive
scale than we service
white commercial far-
mers".

He said the government
planned, by means of the
corporation, to establish
300 000 small to medium
scale black commercial
farmers on land outside the
homelands by the year

2000.

The 474 000ha owned by
the SA Development Trust
would be used for the first
grants of land.

He added, however, that:
"It is far too little. We will
have to buy other land."

Mr De Villiers said to
achieve its aim, the gov-
ernment would be looking
for support from private
enterprise and the interna-
tional community.

"What I would aim for is
that a family would be able
to produce food and have
the ability to save money
on their property.

"They can't be subsis-
tence farmers... I want to
help a subsistence farmer
become a small farmer...
enable a small farmer to
grow both in terms of pro-
ductivity on the land and in
the size of his farm."

Mr De Villiers said,
initially, settling farmers
would not cost a lot
because the land on which
they would be settled was
already owned by the gov-
ernment.

He disclosed that the
government had begun to
discuss projects involving
settling black farmers on
land outside the homelands
with a number of foreign
governments. He declined
to say which governments.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Kirkwood: farms for housing purposes

9. Mr C E GREEN asked the Minister of Housing:†

- (1) Whether any farms or portions of farms in Kirkwood have been purchased by the Administration: House of Representatives for housing purposes; if so, (a) from whom, (b) what farms or portions have been purchased, (c) what is the (i) size and (ii) purchase price of each farm or portion, (d) what percentage of each farm or portion is suitable for housing purposes and (e)(i) what percentage of each farm or portion is unsuitable for housing purposes, (ii) what is the monetary value of each such farm or portion and (iii) on what basis is this monetary value calculated;
- (2) whether any of these farms or portions are being leased at present; if so, in what way were lessees obtained;
- (3) whether all the lessees are occupying the properties concerned; if not, (a) why not and (b) since what date have the houses on the farms or portions been standing empty;
- (4) whether any improvements had been made to the properties concerned before the lessees moved in; if not, why not?

C24E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(1) Yes

- (a) Mr J S Roux
Mr C P Roux
Mr L G Nel
Mrs V Schoonraad
Mr A F Krestfelder

(b)

Portion 257 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 280 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 313 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 17 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 217 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 270 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 365 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42
Portion 8 of the farm Strathsomers Estate No 42

(c)	(i) Portion	(ii) In extent	(iii) Purchase price
	257	±4,2827 ha	R146 000,00
	280	±16,28 ha	R 32 000,00
	313	±4,2828 ha	R 62 000,00
	17	±4,0328 ha	R135 985,00
	270	±10,2154 ha	R156 385,00
	271	±10,5849 ha	
	365	±54,1942 ha	R 56 000,00
	8	±30,1785 ha	R 62 130,00

(d)	Portion	% Suitable land
	8	4
	365	22
	270	12
	271	47
	313	61
	280	20
	257	62
	17	100

(e)	Portion	(i) % Unsuitable land	(ii) Monetary value
	8	96	R41 280,00
	365	78	R46 644,00
	270	88	R22 730,60
	271	53	R25 949,86
	313	39	R12 480,00
	280	80	R25 600,00
	257	38	R13 376,00
	17	0	R 0,00
(iii) Paid		% Unusable Land	
Marked value	100	×	$\frac{\% \text{ Unusable Land}}{1} = R$

(2) Yes—By means of tenders.

(3) No.

(a) Portion 270-271—Lessee Deceased.
Portion 17—Waited for the completion of repairs.

(b) Portions 270-271—01/01/91 to date

(4) No—not necessary.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Indian schools: mass protests

2 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether teachers in Indian schools staged any mass protests during the past two weeks; if so, (a) when, (b) where, (c) why and (d) what amount of teaching time was lost as a result;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D20E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) Natal:

A protest march was staged on Friday, 15 February 1991, commencing at 13:30.

Transvaal:

A protest march was staged on Saturday, 16 February 1991 at about 11:00 and a mass meeting held on Friday, 22 February 1991.

(b) Natal:

In Durban the protest march began at the Emmanuel Cathedral, Queen Street and proceeded through the centre of town to the Durban City Hall.

Transvaal:

In Lenasia the protest march commenced at the Powerlines ground, Protea Road and proceeded to the Regional Representatives Offices: Administration: House of Delegates and the mass meeting was held at the Mayfair Recreational Centre.

(c) The two protest marches were against:

- "Cut backs" in Indian Education and Own Affairs Administration of Education;
- rationalisation of teaching staff as contained in E C Circular No. 2 of 1991;
- redundancies and retrenchments;
- overcrowded classes;
- increased teaching hours;
- the resignation of the Acting Chief Executive Director of Education and Culture, Mr M Pillay;
- the disbanding of the Tricameral system of Government.

(d) Overall teaching time lost was minimal because schools extended the teaching hours prior to Friday, 15 February 1991 and also on the morning of Friday, 15 February 1991 to make up for lost time. The march in Durban, however affected teaching time as schools terminate generally at about 14:00.

(2) Yes

The time for marches, sit-ins and boycotts is over. The Chief Executive Director's office is open for discussion on any problems in education and, I as Minister also have an open door policy.

It is ironical that when the ANC is calling for a back-to-school policy, educators at Indian schools chose the retrogressive step to down tools or to boycott their duties.

I subscribe to the belief that dissatisfied individuals have the democratic right to protest. If the educators feel strongly about the financial cut-backs and administrative matters, they are perfectly free to engage in protests or marches provided they do so after school hours and they do not involve school children in their demonstrations. Of course, the more sensible approach would be to engage in productive dialogue with the relevant authority.

Bop pushes for alliance with SA farmers for 'golden future'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Bophuthatswana is poised to enter a partnership with organised agriculture and local government representatives in the northern Cape and western Transvaal with the apparent aim of demanding that they be treated as a single regional government in the "new South Africa".

The foundations for this formerly improbable alliance between black politicians and the largely conservative leadership in the surrounding white areas were laid in Mmabatho.

"In isolation we may be threatened. Together we can build a golden future in this the 'golden west' of southern Africa," Bophuthatswana President Mangope said in a speech to a 320-strong gathering on Friday.

The meeting, attended by politicians, farmers and businessmen from both Bophuthatswana and the surrounding "white" regions, concluded with the election of a joint steering committee charged with investigating "all opportunities for joint planning and action in the economic field which can be of benefit to the regions as a whole".

Although Mr Mangope

③ General Star 18/3/91
avoided stating whether this forum was an initiative by Bophuthatswana to position itself with relation to the future constitutional developments in South Africa, his government's consultant, Pretoria economist Dr J A du Pisanie, was more forthright.

In a paper to the forum, Dr du Pisanie made it clear that Bophuthatswana, within its present boundaries, could not afford to pursue an independent course in the new South Africa. Bophuthatswana was heavily dependent in financial terms on the central South African Government, which was seeking to reduce public spending, including inter-governmental transfers.

'Intimidate'

"Judging from the expectations created by newly unbanned organisations aspiring to be part of the future government, this trend (cutting finances to homelands) is bound to continue and to gain momentum," warned Dr du Pisanie.

"The very real possibility that such a future might encourage — and even intimidate — Bophuthatswana citizens residing within its borders to assume South

African citizenship has already been mentioned ... Bophuthatswana would lose its claims to the taxes they pay," he said.

He presented figures showing that if Bophuthatswana were to join forces with parts of the western and north-western Transvaal and northern Cape, it would look considerably more healthy in financial terms.

It was perfectly possible, he argued, that "Bophuthatswana may first become part of a larger State or States, which, in turn, could be members of a federation".

The very clear desire for co-operation with Bophuthatswana on the part of farmers representing many local agricultural unions was based on the values that Mr Mangope outlined in his speech. These were Christian beliefs, a free market economy and private property.

There were problems which bound Bophuthatswana decision-makers and their white counterparts in the region together, Mr Mangope argued. These included "socialistic threats of nationalisation", the urban bias in future development strategies and the deterioration of the rural economy.

Farmers report heavy flood losses

By Paula Fray

19/3/91

③ General

Farmers yesterday began counting the cost of torrential rain which fell over huge areas of the country at the weekend — turning roads into rivers and many farms into mudbaths.

As mopping up began yesterday, farmers reported crop losses, damaged roads and houses, and lands turned to mud up to two metres deep.

The Weather Bureau in Pretoria predicted further widespread rain over the Transvaal, Free State and Natal today, although there had been earlier predictions of the weather clearing.

"With the ground already saturated, some local flooding is likely. A partial clearance is expected tomorrow with further showers," the Bureau said.

Clearing

Bloemhof residents reported rain until noon yesterday. One resident said conditions were clearing and farmers were taking advantage of the sun to start cleaning up.

Farmers said it was too early to give damage estimates.

"The floodgates of heaven just opened," was how Bloemhof district farmer Kallie Buys from Mooiplaas described the heavy rains.

Crops have been washed away, houses destroyed, and roads are inaccessible, he said.

"It rained from 4 pm until 10 pm on Saturday. About 350 mm fell in six hours," Mr Buys said. In the afternoon he set out to rescue his neighbours, Jaco Labuschagne and his family, on his tractor.

"The tractor's lights are 1,5 meters from the ground. At times the water was covering them," he said. He had to resort to towing the Labuschagnes, who were in a bakkie, to safety.

"At places the water washed over the top of the bakkie. The family was sitting inside with their windows closed. It was a terrible sight," Mr Buys said.

"My farm is ruined," he said, adding that his maize crop had been washed away. His cattle and sheep were at another farm and he was unable to get there.

"It is raining here now. At some places the mud is two metres deep. There is a lot of damage ... it was something terrible. My workers' homes just caved in," he said. "The wind was like a hurricane. The tiles of my roof were lifted off.

"Today you can only see the scars," Mr Buys said.

The worst affected areas were the far western Transvaal and western Free State — both of which faced a misery of a different sort earlier this summer as a result of the worst drought in 60 years.

In some places water rose at the rate of one metre an hour as streams broke their banks and farms and homes were flooded. Many sheep drowned.

Farmers in the Zeerust district were cut off from the outside world after the heavy downpour, reports Sapa.

The weekend's heavy rain also put 1 000 telephones out of action on the West Rand.

Sapa reported that a spokesman for the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, Koos Laubscher, said water had flooded a manhole and penetrated a cable, disrupting telephone links.

Mr Laubscher said technicians were replacing a section

of the cable, but full repairs would not be completed before tomorrow morning.

According to the Automobile Association a number of roads were opened up yesterday after mopping up operations.

Among these are the R717 in the Free State between Edenburg and Trompsburg, three gravel roads between Edenburg and Jagersfontein, Hertzogville and Dealesville, and Hertzogville and Boshoff. The R29 national road to Kimberley was reopened at Bloemhof today.

There has been continuous rain over the PWV area since Friday morning, with more than 120 mm measured in parts of the East Rand, up to 110 mm in parts of Roodepoort on the West Rand; 88 mm in the northern suburbs and 85 mm in central Johannesburg. Heavy rain over Pretoria caused flooding in the Capital Park area as well as forcing the temporary closure of a freeway exit on the N1.

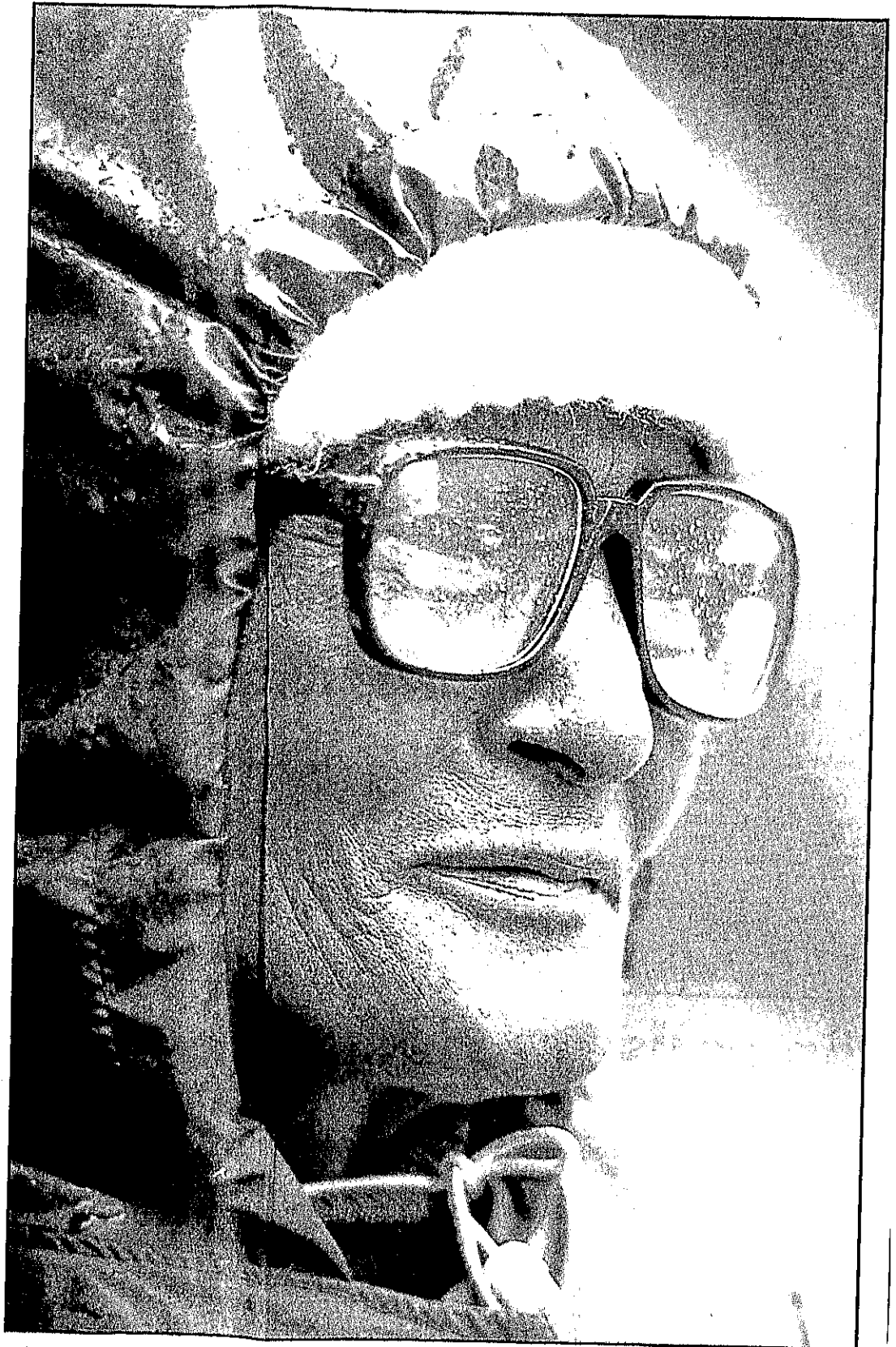
Welcomed

Cattle, grain and citrus farmers welcomed the wet weather. Cattle farmers in the Rustenburg area said the rains had ensured good winter grazing.

Today's forecast for Transvaal is cloudy and cool but cold on the Highveld and escarpment in the morning, clearing partially during the day and becoming warmer with scattered thundershowers in the afternoon. It will remain cloudy over the eastern parts.

In the Free State there should be further rain overnight, although this will clear in the morning, with scattered thundershowers.

In Natal it will be cloudy and cold with further rain and thundershowers.



All wrapped up . . . Katy from Vereeniging, too cold to give her surname, weathered the chill and rain-dampened spirits on the Reef to travel to work in Johannesburg early yesterday morning. The Weather Bureau in Pretoria has predicted further widespread rain over the Transvaal, Free State and Natal today.

Picture: Karen Fletcher

'CP wants to negotiate over land, not power'

3 General
By Abel Mushi Star 19/3/91

A top CP politician said in Johannesburg last night that his party was not prepared to negotiate on power-sharing but was prepared to take part in negotiations over land.

Koos van der Merwe, CP spokesman on information, told the monthly Tribute Forum, hosted by Tribute magazine and attended by a predominantly black audience of about 300, that he was a staunch Afrikaner nationalist who was determined to fight for the self-determination of the "Boere".

He said the CP, which he said was not racist, was not prepared to negotiate power-sharing but could take part in negotiations about land.

Mr van der Merwe accused President de Klerk of conspir-

ing with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, president of the Inkatha Freedom Party, to beat "radicals of the Right and Left" in a "Namibian-style one man, one vote under international supervision."

He dismissed the ANC stance on sanctions as "dangerous" and "stupid" as it backfired on black people.

Safari suits

A speaker suggested to Mr van der Merwe that the best would be for him and his people to "go back to Holland".

"No way! Remember that Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) has about 5 000 men," he retorted.

He had earlier said it would take the SADF five minutes to wipe out MK.

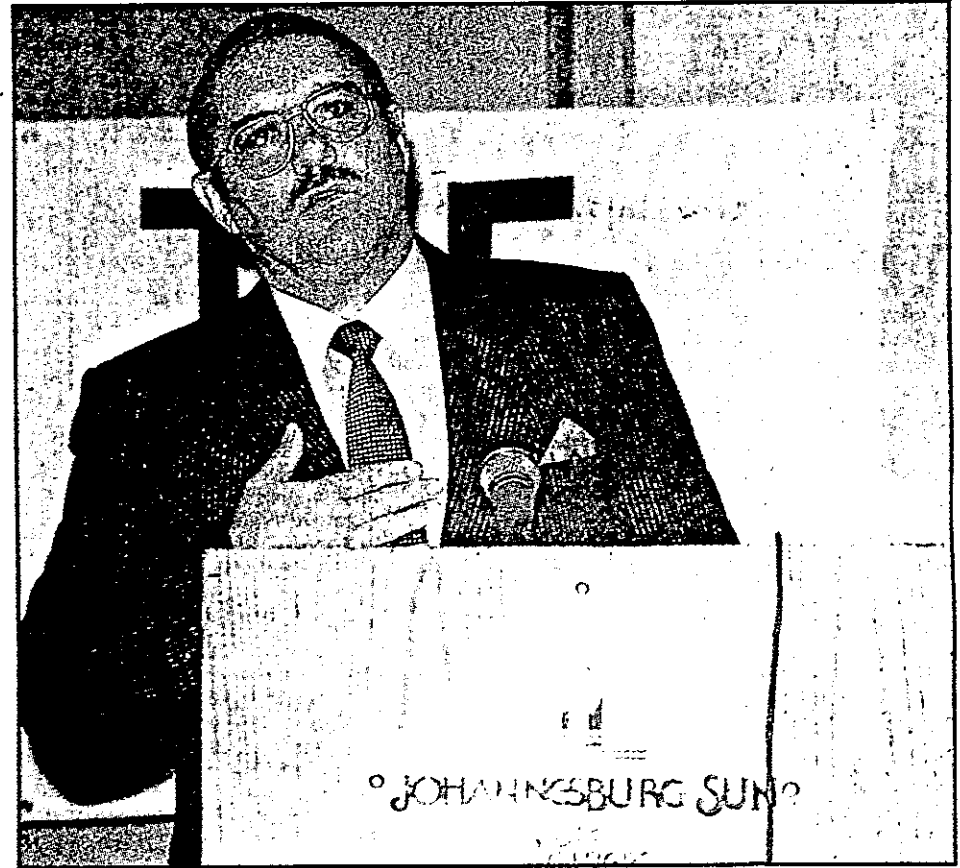
The Afrikaner, he said, was "not asking for a favour" but

was demanding a part of land in his fatherland where he could practise self-determination and maintain his own value system and culture in terms of a "modern approach to partition" as practised in other countries.

"We want to retain our Afrikaner way of life, safari suits and sakkie-sakkie musiek," Mr van der Merwe said to roars of laughter, adding he hoped there were Zulus and Xhosas who also wanted to retain what they had.

He said the CP recognised the wish of the "internationalists" who aspired to live together and be assimilated into one nation.

In the CP's envisaged state, the Afrikaners would remain "plain Boere" and would have their own schools and churches. He hinted that members of other races could face rejection from the Afrikaner community.



Historic moment . . . Koos van der Merwe at last night's meeting.

Star 19/3/91
**Land Bills open
to public debate**

The Parliamentary Committee on Land Reform Legislation has invited representations on the package of five Bills that accompanied the Government's White Paper.

Chairman Piet Marais said yesterday the committee was now considering the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill, the Residential Environment Bill, the Township Establishment Bill and the Rural Development Bill. (S)

Representations on the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Bill should be made by not later than April 3. Representations on the other four measures should be in by not later than April 10. (S) *several*

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Parliament, Box 15, Cape Town 8000. — Sapa.

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Indian congresses won't be disbanded

Biparty 19/3/91



TIM COHEN

THE Transvaal and Natal Indian congresses would not be disbanded, but retained to mobilise the Indian community into the ANC, a top level meeting decided at the weekend.

The meeting, held in Durban on Sunday, was attended by the executive committees of both the Natal Indian Congress (NIC), the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and senior members of the ANC's national executive committee led by ANC internal chairman Walter Sisulu.

The meeting's decision was contrary to expectations that the two organisations would be scrapped in line with the ANC's policy of non-ethnicity.

The meeting agreed the ANC was the primary means of strengthening the organisation within the Indian community, the ANC said in a statement.

At the same time, there was a continuing role for the TIC and NIC to help bring about unity in action between the Indian community and the ANC-centred national liberation movement.

NIC secretary Farouk Meer said he real-

ised the decision would have its "detractors" but added neither the NIC nor the TIC were technically ethnic groups. They were both open to all and campaigned on behalf of all South Africans.

Retaining the TIC and NIC was merely a "technical and strategic method of mobilising the people into the ANC".

The decision was partly prompted by the realisation that the ANC's membership had reached a plateau and that the retention of the TIC and the NIC would improve the ANC's ability to mobilise Indians.

He said once this goal had been achieved the TIC and NIC would be disbanded. The decision not to disband was reached by consensus, he added.

The statement emphasised the TIC and the NIC's long association with the ANC, which it described as "the consistent champion of the democratic rights of all the people of SA" and the "the most reliable vehicle for the realisation of the true aspirations of the people of this country".

SAAU denies it lacks backing for its position on land reform

Biparty 19/3/91

3 General

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) yesterday rejected CP claims that it had no mandate to act for its members on government's White Paper on land reform.

The SAAU was reacting to a statement issued on Sunday by the CP's extra-parliamentary agricultural study group in the northern Cape.

The union said it would be neglecting its duty if it refrained from taking a standpoint. It rejected the allegation that it was a lackey of government.

A statement said the SAAU congress had adopt-

ed resolutions on land ownership and its reaction was measured against them. The congress had ruled that change within the judicial dispensation fell within the political field.

However, it was made clear that should change come about, the union would have to act to ensure the interests of farm owners were protected.

The union stressed private ownership of agricultural land had to constitute the basis for a sound farming industry.

Sapa reports from Cape

Town that the chairman of the CP's agricultural study group, Ronnie van der Merwe, said until now management of the Northern Cape Agricultural Union had been silent over the majority will of the farmers it represented. In a referendum 60% of the farmers had asked for the maintenance of the 1913 and 1936 land laws.

Sapa also reports that Boere Krisisaksie representatives said yesterday the movement would issue a statement soon. The organisation had a hand in the recent farmers' "siege".

● Comment: Page 8

Law experts move to halt Govt land reform Bills

By Jo-Anne Collinge
Star 20/3/91

Leading legal academics are heading a move to get the Government to halt all land reform legislation, except the repeal of racial laws, until proper consultation has taken place.

"We call for the repealing legislation (on the Land Acts and Group Areas Act) to be separated from the other Bills, and for a holding process to be applied in the interim so that real consultation can take place and care can be applied in proposing alternatives which will build a just and lasting land-system," a declaration by lawyers, land rights groups and planning groups reads.

At present the Government is allowing only until mid-April for the public to submit comment on the proposed legislation.

It is understood that it hopes to have the Bills well on their way through Parliament by the end of April.

Signatories to the declaration rejected the main principles of the Government's White Paper on land reform because there will be no large-scale redistribution of land from white to black outside of the market mechanism and no restitution for victims of forced removals.

They seek the redrawing of four of the five proposed land Bills in such a way as to reverse the principles.

Among the individual signatories are Professor John Dugard of the University of the Witwatersrand; Professor Michael Robertson, director of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies at Natal University; Professor Dennis Davies, head of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand; D Bosch of Stellenbosch University's Centre for Rural Legal Studies; Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre; and Joanne Yawitch of the National Land Committee.

Polarise

Organisations endorsing the declaration are Planact, Lawyers for Human Rights, the ANC Land Commission, Operation Masakhane for the Homeless, and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers.

"The White Paper's pre-emptive approach to the sensitive issue of land rights will further polarise the land issue and leave black people with no option other than to break the laws in order to assert legitimate claims to the land," the declaration adds.

Particular concern has been expressed that the policy may deprive huge numbers of occupants of their existing homes rather than secure their tenure.

Additional criticism has been levelled at the heavy administrative discretion contained in many areas of the legislation which effectively leaves communities helpless in moving to secure their own housing rights.

The declaration suggests that the following issues be included within the terms of reference of an extensive Government consultation on land reform:

- Restitution of land to victims of forced removal, and reparation in cases where it is impossible to restore people to their land.
- A State commitment to make land available for redistribution.
- Protection of existing land rights of blacks, including tenancy.
- Creation of acceptable forms of security of tenure for all forms of urban dwellers no matter the status of their present occupation.
- The creation of a land claims court.
- A stated commitment to creating a right to shelter for the homeless.

**No reforms,
say farmers**

bipart 29/3/19
(3) General
PRETORIA — Right-wing farmers' organisation Boere Krisisaksie said yesterday it would not accept the proposed amendments to the Land Acts.

Boere Krisisaksie mobilised up to 7 000 farmers for January's Pretoria "park-in" to demonstrate its dissatisfaction with government's approach to agricultural problems.

It said yesterday farmers would maintain their established rights regarding the ownership and use of land.

It added it would deal with transactions entered into in terms of the proposed new legislation in accordance with these standpoints.

The statement said the White Paper on land reform had been tabled without the majority of farmers being consulted, and that this was seen as hostile to the established rights of white farmers. — Sapa.

White paper entrenches apartheid - legal experts

There is nothing in the white paper on land reform that shows the Government's desire to break out of the logjam of inequitable land distribution, a group of legal experts said this week.

The group - including Professor M Robertson, director of the Centre of Socio-Legal Studies in Durban; Geoff Budlender, an attorney with the Legal Resources Centre; and Professor Dennis Davis, Director of the Centre of Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand - rejected "the way in which the state has tied legislation which has profound racially discriminatory laws."

A statement prepared by the group said: "The people who are most affected are doubly excluded: not only are they excluded from the parliamentary process, but they have also not been consulted. The rushed parliamentary process will prevent any effective consultation and participation even at this late stage.

"The intention of the proposed land reforms is to legitimise and entrench the legacy of apartheid, while repealing laws which created it. The fundamental principle of integrity of title is not applied to the black people who are not members of tribes."

It said the white paper did not address the historical inequity in distribution of land.

The group also wrote a declaration which suggested

Sowdan 21/3/91 (3) General
that there should be a moratorium on the destruction of existing shacks, evictions and any other removals.

The declaration called for the restitution of land or reparation to victims of forced removals.

It also called for:

- * A state commitment to make land available for redistribution;

- * Protection for the land rights that black people have, including tenancy;

- * Consideration of tenure options other than individual ownership;

- * Creation of acceptable forms of security of tenure for all urban dwellers regardless of their form of occupation;

- * Creation of mechanisms for dealing with conflicts around land, specifically the formation of land claims court; and

- * A commitment to create the right to shelter for landless and homeless.

The declaration concluded that the white paper's pre-emptive approach to the sensitive issue of land rights would further polarise the land issue and leave blacks with no option but to break the laws.

Value of goods produced falls

Sowdan 21/3/91

3 General

THE shrinking of the economy in 1990 was now estimated at slightly less than one percent, with the value of goods produced by each worker falling by about three percent in 1990 after being unchanged in 1989, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said in his Budget review tabled yesterday.

result of poor weather. This had led to a fall in the wheat harvest in the fourth quarter of 1989, followed by a fall in maize production. The wheat production once more fell in the fourth quarter of 1990.

"The upshot was that agricultural production in the fourth quarter of 1990 was about 23 percent lower than the high point in the third quarter of 1989."

Although real mining

production did not fall to the same extent as in agriculture, a sharp downward trend was discernable since the fourth quarter of 1989. The real value added by the mining sector fell 1,5 percent in 1990.

Reason

"An important reason for this poor performance was a conjuncture of factors that adversely affected the gold mining industry.

"These factors included sporadic labour unrest, a fall in the aver-

age gold content of the ore crushed, a long-term problem of rising production costs and the recent more stable exchange rate of the rand.

"There were also declines in the production of most other mining sectors, with the exception of coal, iron ore, manganese and other non-metallic products, which rose as a result of firm overseas demand."

The total real value-added in the manufacturing sectors fell by 1,5 percent in 1990. This could be ascribed mainly to a

decline in manufacturing production, which was related to a planned reduction in inventories by local enterprise.

"Manufacturers also had to grapple with strikes, stay-aways, the intimidation of workers and labour unrest."

Capacity use in manufacturing had fallen noticeably from a high of slightly over 85 per cent in the second quarter of 1989 to 81,5 percent in the third quarter of 1990.

- Sapa

PROGRESS FLORIST

PROSPERITY

Homeless will still occupy bare land

Sowetan 22/3/91
Transvaal and Operation Masakhane for the Homeless said they will continue occupying vacant land.

The ^{General} Government's White Paper did not address the real land issues, they said at a press conference this week.

Mr Basheer Lorgat, general secretary of Omhle said the government saw the White Paper as a major leap forward towards a new South Africa.

He said the majority of the people were not excited by the paper. Genuine change to benefit the majority of South Africans could only be achieved by the people, Lorgat said.

"We believe our people and not the government are best able to redistribute land. The people must do this by a well co-ordinated campaign to occupy vacant land," he said.

Lorgat said it was the responsibility of the Government to service and facilitate people on that land.

"We will not wait for the government to move at its own pace. The people will determine the pace of land distribution through disciplined, united and co-ordinated action," he said.

Mr Sam Ntuli, general secretary of CAST said the White Paper on Land Reform had an eerie connotation, especially as it sought to penetrate the impoverishment of black people.

Conference on homeless

By SOPHIE TEMA

A TOP-LEVEL international conference on the shortage of land and housing, featuring experts from as far afield as India, Hong Kong, Colombia and Bangkok, was held in Johannesburg this week. *April 24/3/91*

The object of the conference, based on a similar exercise which took place in 1989 in Seoul, South Korea, was to strengthen the voices of those people whose daily lives are directly affected by the acute land and housing shortage in southern Africa.

A 150-strong local delegation, comprising three sectors affected by the problem, attended the conference organised by the Southern African Council of Catholic Social Services, under the auspices of the South

(3) general
African Catholic Bishop's Conference.

The largest and most important sector was made up of homeless and landless people from the entire sub-continent.

These included people who live in hostels and lack security of tenure, people who face eviction from farm lands and those who have been dispossessed of their land.

Communities that were represented included Lawaakamp in the Southern Cape; Phola Park in the Transvaal; Botshabelo in the Orange Free State; Inanda in Natal; Noordhoek in the Western Cape; Kei Road in the Eastern Cape and Katatura in Namibia.

The local delegation took a backseat role in the discussions and only recorded the workshops and responded to questions in a panel forum.

A question of profit

By BILL KRIGE

IN 1977 the Fingoes lost nearly 8 000ha of land, of which 5 857ha was sold five years later to 19 whites at an average price of R229,70 a hectare — about a third of the market value.

The Fingo Exile Association estimates the current value of the land — it has since been intensively developed — at R5 000 a hectare and claims that, thanks to easy loans, 13 farmers would bank more than R1-million profit each if they sold now.

The 19 farms — bought

in 1983 for R1,35-million — are today collectively worth R29,3-million.

The Fingoes say each farm is bonded by the Department of Agriculture at five times the purchase price at an enviably low eight percent.

Farmers claim the registered bonds are not a true reflection of their financial input.

They say they've put lots of money into dams, dairies and irrigation systems and are not on the verge of making big profits.

Fingoes launch land battle

By BILL KRIGE
SITW 24/3/91

APARTHEID'S bitter harvest is being reaped in the southern Cape as 4 000 Fingoes fight to recover land which they were evicted from at gunpoint 13 years ago. Whites occupying 19 farms between Storms River and Humansdorp were this week served notice by the Fingo Exile Association that the Supreme Court would be asked to decide who owned the land. Tempers are fraying and

TEMPERS FRAY AS FARMERS VOW TO FIGHT FOR THEIR PROPERTY

battle lines are drawn between the farmers, who hold title to 6 000 ha, and the Fingoes, who were given the land in perpetuity by Sir George Grey 150 years ago. The farms are highly productive, transformed in a decade by science and easy loans from fynbos and forest to the finest milk-producing farmland in the country. The area has been called the New Zealand of South Africa — but the farmers say they made it so. The Fingo claim comes amid signs that land ownership is fast becoming an explosive political issue, with 10 other deprived communities near Ciskei registering their "outrage" this week at the govern-

ment's land reforms. Sitting uncomfortably on the sidelines of the Fingo issue is the Moravian Mission Church, established in the area 150 years ago on land it held in trust for Fingo battle veterans who aided the Cape government in the Sixth Frontier War. At Clarkson, at the foot of the Kareedouberge, there are now some 2 000 souls, and the prospect of hundreds of Moravian Fingoes arriving to squat on the 2 700ha on the flank of the mountain fills many with dismay. Much of the mission's land is rented out to whites. Complicating matters is the fact that the church is a signatory to the Rustenburg Declaration drawn up at the National Conference of Churches last December. This states explicitly: "As a first step towards restitution, the church must examine its land ownership and work for the

TRIBE TELLS SUPREME COURT TO FULFIL 150-YEAR-OLD PROMISE

return of all land expropriated from relocated communities to its original owners." The chairman of the Moravian Church Board, the Rev Martin Wessels, refused to discuss his church's position on the Fingo claim. Nor would he say how the church came to own the land outright in 1958 — although the original deed, dated 1841, states explicitly that the freehold title was granted "on behalf of and in trust for the Fingoes now residing at Clarkson". Deeds office records show that title was transferred from the parent church in Germany to the South African mission for the nominal sum of £1 — and, in the process, all reference to the Fingoes was deleted. Mr Wessels would not allow mission superintendent, Reverend Brian Barthus, to comment on the church's position this week, but plainly the community, devout but poor, is in no shape to absorb the hundreds who may have claim to use or settle on the land. As yet the Fingo Exile Association has not targeted the church. Its primary aim is to recover land Fingoes occupied until the end of 1977 when, in a series of armed raids, officials guarded by troops and police, supervised the loading of possessions and bulldozed Fingo homes. The dispossessed were trucked 300km to Elukhanyeni — "the place of light" — in Ciskei where they received compensatory land, smaller in area and value than the home they had lost. Five years later, with the exiles battling to survive in temporary wooden shacks amid great poverty, their old land was sold to whites at prices the Fingoes say were one-third of the true value. The Fingoes point out that each farm is bonded by the Department of Agriculture at five times the purchase price at an enviably low eight percent. Farmers claim their state subsidised bonds are nowhere near a true reflection of their financial input and that loans for improvements are usually negotiated with commercial banks at interest rates of about 24 percent. State loans are available only on completion of whatever project is being financed. The new owners feel trapped between the Fingoes — whose drive to return is gathering momentum — and their own farming input, from which many are only now starting to reap dividends. For some, like Daan Landman, 33, the experience of losing land is not new. The family farm near Queenstown was expropriated some years ago for Ciskei consolidation. But Mr Landman says his quarrel is not with the Fingoes. Like other farmers, he was angered by the arrival on his doorstep this week of representatives of the Legal Resources Centre who served documents stating that the Fingo Exile Association planned to approach the Supreme Court for a ruling on land ownership. Like members of the Moravian mission, the farmers ask what would happen if the Fingoes won their land claims and returned en masse to an area without schools, jobs or housing.

Survive

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Dispossessed to fight for land

Stes 25/3/91.

3 General

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Representatives of 13 communities who were forcibly removed in the 1970s and 1980s have warned that they are determined to return to their land and have demanded the opportunity and time to present their cases to the Government.

After a two-day meeting near Hekpoort, west of Johannesburg, delegates yesterday told the press they would seek an urgent meeting with the Government's select committee on land to convey their complete rejection of the recent White Paper on land reform.

"We demand that the White Paper and accompanying Bills be scrapped and replaced by a document drawn up with the participation of all South Africans," a lengthy resolution adopted by the meeting read.

Referring to the fact that the White Paper had ruled out restoring land to victims of forced removal, the resolution commented: "The White Paper reminds us of our past pain, suffering and frustrations. It illustrates apartheid is not dead ... it

protects only minorities and makes them richer. The Government refuses to restore land which was stolen from us. The Government wants us to forget the past."

Delegates said nothing less than the return to the land from which they were moved would suffice.

"We reject alternative land," read the resolution.

It is estimated that the 13 communities comprise at least 50 000 people — a fraction of the 600 000-odd who were subjected to "black spot" removals.

All have plans for direct action to reoccupy the land should negotiation fail.

Continuing

These plans are at various stages of implementation.

At Mogopa in the western Transvaal a large section of the community is back on the land, and negotiations with the Government are continuing with a view to legalising the occupation.

At Roosboom (Natal), 45 families — part of a community of about 125 families — are back in place and will remain there pending the outcome of negotiations.

At Machaviestad, near

Potchefstroom, a small-scale occupation in December resulted in trespass charges being brought against a number of residents.

In most other cases, community leaders have just begun the organisational work underpinning any re-occupation attempt.

Delegates to the weekend meeting made it clear that decisions on reoccupation had been taken by residents themselves well before the meeting and that each community had made an independent decision.

The communities represented were: Charlestown, Roosboom and Cremin from Natal; Majeng and Bojelakgomo from the northern Cape; the Mfengu and Macleantown, from the eastern Cape; and the Barolong, Doornkop, Kaffirskraal, Goedgevondon, Mogopa and Bakubung people from the Transvaal.

A northern Cape delegate said the 13 were the tip of the iceberg. Although only two communities from his region were there, people in a further 20 communities were demanding to be given back the land they had been forced to quit.

● Land problem a quagmire - Page 16

Patrick Laurence looks at FW de Klerk's pledge to abolish discriminatory laws

Land problem is a quagmire

Star 25/3/91

3 General

20/3/91

THE pending repeal of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 has been presented as a major step towards fulfilment of President de Klerk's promise to rid the statute book of racially discriminatory laws by the end of June.

But ironically, his plan of action as outlined in the White Paper on land reform is seen by a wide range of opposition forces as a move to protect the beneficiaries of apartheid without properly compensating its victims.

The Land Acts reserved barely more than 13 percent of South Africa for black ownership. In the remaining 87 percent, white interests were supreme. The land outside the native reserves was under white control.

Vast tracts of it were owned but not always occupied by whites. Black people were allowed in the areas outside their reserves under sufferance on terms dictated by whites.

For nearly 30 years, from the mid-1950s to the mid-1980s, successive South African governments, inspired by the vision of

grand or territorial apartheid, sought to clear white-designated South Africa of "black spots", or patches of land where, for historical reasons, blacks had acquired ownership rights.

According to the Surplus People's Project, 3.5 million people were forcibly moved, sometimes at the point of a gun, from black spots and herded into their allotted tribal homelands.

But the White Paper dismisses the notion of restoring land to these people as impracticable, arguing that the present position should be accepted in the interests of "peace and progress".

One of Mr de Klerk's trouble-shooters, the smooth-talking Minister of Education and Training, Stoffel van der Merwe, argues disingenuously that whites had to give up land as well and that they, too, suffered.

It impresses few people outside the National Party: whites were not moved at gunpoint and they were usually paid huge sums, often after long periods of haggling, as distinct from the meagre and arbitrary payments made to

blacks.

The Government's refusal to consider restoration of land, except by removing the restraints on blacks to participate freely in the land market and by making loans and aid available on a nonracial basis, has united the often quarrelsome black opposition organisations.

The Pan-Africanist Congress, declaring that the land was usurped from the indigenous people by "settlers", says it is illogical to expect people to buy back land stolen from them. As PAC president Clarence Makwetu puts it, repeal of the land laws without restitution for their victims is land apartheid "dressed up in new clothes".

The African National Congress insists that restoration of land to the victims of forced removals is indispensable to a credible land policy. The White Paper, it says, "absolves the white population of all responsibility" for the long, tragic history of black dispossession.

Political organisations on the Left representing black interests

have been supported by a wide range of pressure groups and university professors. In a special declaration they called on the Government to go ahead with its plans to repeal the Land Acts, but to impose a moratorium on all related measures, including the policy of not restoring land to the victims of apartheid.

Rejecting the Government's mid-April deadline for representations on its White Paper, they say: "The intention of the proposed land reforms is to legitimise and entrench the legacy of apartheid while repealing the laws which created it".

A report by the Government's own Law Commission has endorsed the concepts of affirmative action and "expropriation of property with compensation" to meet the aspirations of all South Africans. These sentiments are, as Mike Robertson of the University of Natal has observed, "markedly similar" to those expressed in the African National Congress's constitutional guidelines, published in 1988.

The White Paper raises another

question of central importance to Mr de Klerk's pledge to repeal discriminatory laws from the statute book: the future of the 10 homelands.

The Land Acts, as the White Paper frankly acknowledges, provided the legal framework for the policy of separate development or apartheid. But, the White Paper hastens to add, repeal of the Land Acts and related discriminatory laws will not affect the status of the homelands.

It is striking that Mr de Klerk's February 1 speech — in which he promised to clear the statute book of the remnants of discriminatory legislation "within months" — makes no mention of the Status Acts, the laws which granted "independence" to four of the 10 homelands.

These laws, however, went further than that: they deprived millions of blacks of South African nationality on the grounds that they were nationals of the four independent territories, even though many lived outside their tribally allotted homelands.

The Status Acts were compared

at the time to the notorious Nazi law which deprived Jews of German citizenship.

Responding to pressure at home and abroad over these laws, the Government offered blacks deprived of South African nationality an opportunity to reclaim it via the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act of 1986.

The Restoration Act was open only to people permanently resident in South Africa and, initially at any rate, was hedged with restrictions and red tape. Hence only a minute proportion of the estimated 9 million blacks who lost South African nationality have since regained it.

A request by nominally independent Transkei for the blanket restoration of South African nationality to its designated citizens appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

The issue, however, will not disappear. As the ANC has observed, the homeland system is part of the apartheid system which President de Klerk has committed himself to eradicating. □

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(ii) 987 square metres

(f) No—private land.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply: Hansard 25/3/91

General Affairs: 3 General

Farm Wimbledon No 454

139. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs:

Whether any of the following portions of the farm Wimbledon No 454, situated on or near Wimbledon Road in Blackheath, have been sold either jointly or separately, viz (a) Erf 454/56, (b) Erf 454/93, (c) Erf 454/96, (d) Erf 454/55, (e) Erf 454/59 and (f) Erf 454/95; if so, (i) (aa) for what price, (bb) by what method, and (cc) when, in each case and (ii) what is the surface area of each portion?

B392E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (a) and (b) Yes, jointly
- (i) (aa) R3 100 000,00
- (bb) Public auction
- (cc) 23 January 1991
- (ii) 454/56—11,4123 hectares
- 454/93—6,0939 hectares
- (c) No—private land
- (d) Yes, jointly with 454/57
- (i) (aa) R4,86
- (bb) Out of hand (Divisional Council for road purposes)
- (cc) 1 May 1956
- (ii) 6957 square metres
- (e) Yes, jointly with 454/58
- (i) (aa) R0,69
- (bb) Out of hand (Divisional Council for road purposes)
- (cc) 13 March 1958

Black work-seekers

188. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower: Hansard 25/3/91.

How many Black males and females, respectively, were registered as work-seekers in the Republic in each month of 1990?

B517E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

Month	Male	Female
January	58 355	16 888
February	69 297	23 608
March	66 229	19 442
April	67 672	19 337
May	69 338	19 452
June	67 647	19 070
July	.	.
August	.	.
September	110 132	28 227
October	108 906	27 611
November	109 220	25 650
December	113 698	25 554

*Not available.

Labour bureaux: registered work-seekers

189. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower: Hansard 25/3/91.

How many males and females, respectively, were registered at labour bureaux as work-seekers in terms of the Guidance and Placement Act, No 62 of 1981, as at the end of each month in 1990? Hansard 25/3/91.

B518E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

Month	Male	Female
January	82 391	36 567
February	100 395	49 209
March	97 513	44 073
April	99 946	44 586

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Lack of planning 'will hit public health services'

Biday 27/3/91
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Public health services would be unable to meet future health care needs because of a lack of long-term planning and rationalisation. Medical Association of SA secretary-general Hendrik Hanekom said yesterday.

Commenting on the large increases in Transvaal provincial hospital and ambulance tariffs announced this week, Hanekom said the fragmentation of health services continued to be the core of the problem.

In some cases, tariffs were more than doubled.

Private patients at academic hospitals will pay a 30% levy on the new daily rate of R205. H2 category patients will pay R41 instead of R10 a day at community hospitals and R52 instead of R15 a day at regional and academic hospitals.

Masa urged government to urgently move towards ending this fragmentation.

Hanekom said the increased fees were entirely unexpected.

It appeared the new TPA tariff structure had been based on the principle of extending accessibility to health services to more poor people.

"Masa, however, is concerned that a situation has developed in various public health services where it has become necessary to introduce contingency measures to maintain services and to balance budgets," Hanekom said.

Masa, he added, supported the principle that individuals should take care of their own health as far as possible.

Lost ancestral lands 'stay white'

PRETORIA — Planning and Housing Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday dashed the hopes of thousands of black South Africans by saying land seized under apartheid laws would never be returned.

In an interview in the magazine RSA Policy Review, Kriel dashed the hopes of blacks removed from ancestral lands over the past 48 years by saying people had been compensated for land taken away from them.

"It will be unrealistic to expect land to be taken away from those who, over the years, developed and sustained it," he said.

"The government believes that the future rather than the past should be looked to ...

"The whole matter must be dealt with in a constructive manner by helping people to become land-owners rather than in a destructive manner by once more taking land from people."

The interview, which will be published in April, was conducted a day after the White Paper on land reforms was tabled in Parliament on March 12, triggering a sharp response from the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groups.

Kriel said he hoped white people, scared by moves to dismantle apartheid, would accept colour was not a decisive factor in life.

"In the course of time South Afri-

cans will realise that colour is not the decisive factor in the level of people's civilisation.

"There is no question of the fact that the government is conceding to pressure.

"The reality in SA that the majority of its citizens are excluded from the highest political decision-making processes, and that all South Africans do not have equal opportunities, caused the government to reconsider its viewpoints."

He warned against high expectations, saying "people's expectations should not exceed the limits of existing realistic standards".

Kriel said the aim of the White Paper was to bring about justice to all South Africans.

Rightwing groups bent on sabotaging the scrapping of apartheid laws would not be allowed to do so.

"The government wants to appeal to people to show the same attitude in their private affairs as that which underlies the decision to repeal the Group Areas Act.

"It will be unlawful for any local authority to accept regulations in terms of which areas are reserved for specific population groups," the minister said.

"The SA government will have to monitor the situation to ascertain whether blatant discrimination still takes place.

"As a result of this, further rectifying steps could be taken in the course of time," he added. — Sapa.

Leaders 'impotent to stop violence'

THE SA Council of Churches (SACC) this week said leaders of factions involved in the continuing township violence were impotent to halt the carnage.

In a statement, the SACC said it, in consultation with church leaders, felt there was an urgent need for the church to intervene in an attempt to stop the violence, which was escalating despite peace talks between rival political parties.

"This reality has convinced us that either the parties involved in resolving the crisis have failed or the violence has now simply gone beyond the control of the organisations themselves," the SACC said.

The organisation said it had hoped positive results would flow from recent peace talks between the ANC,

Biday 27/3/91
WILSON ZWANE

Inkatha, government, the PAC and Azapo.

As its contribution to efforts aimed at ending factional violence in the country, the SACC would convene an urgent national meeting of all leaders of strife-torn communities within a week.

SIMON BARBER reports from Washington that the Bush administration has reacted to Sunday's police shootings in Daveyton with unusual vehemence, calling the incident "an unacceptable vestige of the old SA".

Officials indicated that they were angered as much by the circumstances that led to the the incident as by the police decision to open fire.

SA ambassador Harry Schwarz has

sought a full report on the episode from Pretoria.

"The indefensible cannot be defended," he said. "If the police have acted wrongly there is no way I can defend it."

Meanwhile, PATRICK BULGER reports the ANC Youth League, reacting to the weekend clash, yesterday repeated its calls for an interim government and the integration of ANC forces with those of the SA security forces.

"In the interests of peace and for the sake of our country, the ANC Youth League demands of the regime that it immediately recognise the need for a neutral force to take over the control of the country during this delicate stage in our history," the statement said.

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Land won't be returned - Minister

Sowetan 27/3/91
3 General



MR HERNUS KRIEL

LAND seized under apartheid laws would never be returned.

Planning and Housing Minister HERNUS KRIEL yesterday dashed hopes of thousands of black South Africans as he sought to assuage whites' fears over the Government's sweeping reforms.

In an interview in the magazine *RSA Policy Review*, Kriel conceded the Government had embarked on reforms under pressure and in consideration that the majority of the people had no political rights.

But he dashed the hopes of black people removed from their ancestral land over the past 48 years, saying people had been compensated for land taken away from them.

"It will be unrealistic to expect land to be taken away from those who, over the years, developed and sustained it.

"The Government believes that the future rather than the past should be looked to. The whole matter must be dealt with in a constructive manner by helping people to become land-owners rather than in a destructive manner by once more taking land from people."

The interview - which will only be published in April - was conducted a day after the White Paper on land reforms was tabled in Parliament on March 12, triggering a sharp response from the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid groupings.

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white people scared by moves to dismantle apartheid would accept colour was not a decisive factor in life.

"In the course of time South Africans will realise that colour is not the decisive factor in the level of people's civilisation.

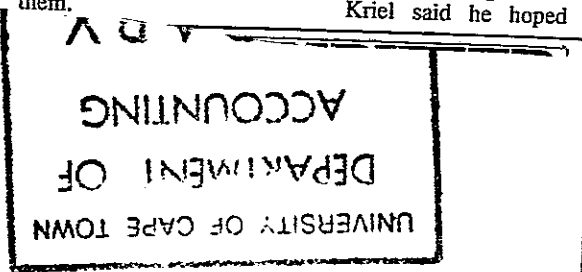
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"The reality in South Africa that the majority of its citizens are excluded from the highest political decision-making processes and that all South Africans do not have equal opportunities caused the Government to reconsider its viewpoints."

He warned against high expectations, saying "people's expectations should not exceed the limits of existing realistic standards".

He said the aim of the White Paper was to bring about justice to all South Africans and right wing groups bent on sabotaging the scrapping of apartheid laws would be not be allowed to do so.

"The Government wants to appeal to people to show the same attitude in their private affairs as that which underlies the decision to repeal the Group Areas Act. - Sapa.



Boland town halts work on resort

3 general

RESIDENTS of Saron, a small community in the Boland, were granted an interim interdict in the Supreme Court stopping the local management board from developing a holiday resort on communal grazing land in the town. *Southern 28/3 - 3/4/91*

The first phase of the Kleinpoort Holiday Resort — a swimming pool and ablution block — has already begun and residents are hoping to stop the development of phase two and three.

The application was brought last Thursday by the chairperson of the Saron Ratepayers Association, Mr Daniel September, and four other residents. The respondents are the Saron Management Board, the Cape Provincial Administration, the Bree River Regional Services Council and the Minister of Local Government and Land in the House of Representatives.

Mr September said in his affidavit that he had lived in Saron for all of his 61 years.

The land on which the resort was being built was originally purchased by the Rhenish Mission Society in 1846 for the so-called Hottentots and freed slaves.

Some of the land was used for housing and the rest deeded as communal grazing land for the community which was

largely livestock farmers.

September said in May 1989 the Saron Management Board announced that a holiday resort would be built on the communal land.

The community has very unhappy at the prospect as they were concerned about the further decrease of grazing land and the lack of water for their livestock.

After months of negotiation and petitioning, development went ahead on the resort, which opened officially in December last year.

In his answering affidavit, the chairman of the management board, Mr Johannes Smit, said the area where the resort was being built had been fenced off since 1970 for the exclusive use as a camp for the board's stud bull.

"No other livestock, except those sent in to be serviced by the bull, were allowed in the camp," Smit said.

"At the moment there are 10 bulls and about 10 donkeys and horses wandering in the camp."

The residents are asking the court to restrain the respondents from developing the resort further and asked for a declaratory order declaring the planning, building and administration of the resort ultra vires.

The return date for the application is May 14.



DISPOSSESSED: The delegates from 13 communities, who have been removed from their land, at the Transvaal meeting where they discussed their reaction to the government's White Paper on Land Reform

Dispossessed seek talks on land 'white paper'

South 28/3 - 3/4/91

③ benevol

From Mono Badela
Johannesburg

REPRESENTATIVES from 13 dispossessed communities and victims of forced removals have rejected the government's White Paper on land reform and vowed to return to their land.

The communities — representing an estimated 3.5 million victims of forced removals — took the decision after a two-day meeting near Hekpoort, west of Johannesburg, on Sunday.

In a statement to the press, the communities, forcibly removed in the 1970s and 1980s, said they would seek an urgent meeting with the government's select committee on land to convey their rejection of the recent White Paper on Land Reform.

"We the dispossessed communities and victims of forced removals declare that forced removals forced us into poverty, scattered our communities, making us refugees in our own country, and caused us to lose out identity.

"Forced removals separated us from our ancestors, who are our guardians," they said.

Reoccupy

The communities attending the conference came from Charlestown, Roosboom and Criemen in Natal; Majeng and Bojelakgomo in the Northern Cape; Mfengu near Humansdorp in the Eastern Cape; Macleantown in Border, and Barolong, Doornkop, Kafferskraal, Goedgevonden, Mogopa and Bakubuno in the Transvaal.

The community leaders said they would reoccupy their lost land, whether negotiations with the government were suc-

cessful or not.

The government was currently leasing the land to white farmers, some of which was controlled by the Defence Force.

The meeting resolved the White paper on land reform "only protects minorities and makes them richer".

"The leaders demanded the White Paper be scrapped and replaced by a document drawn up with the participation of all South Africans," the statement said.

At Mogopa in the Western Transvaal a large section of the community have moved back on the land, and negotiations with the government are continuing with a view to legalise the occupation.

At Machaviesstad, near Potchefstroom, a small-scale occupation in December resulted in trespass charges being brought against several residents.

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 respect of the Central Eco-
 nomy Service are reflected on
 the establishment of the Office
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 partment of Planning, Provincial Affairs
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 Representatives
 of cases the abolishment and
 posts reflect a transfer of a
 function from the Department of
 Affairs to the Department
 of Affairs and Forestry. In other
 instances in establishment figures
 of reorganization where part
 of the existing organization was
 restructured by the existing
 organization and replaced it
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 vironment and Development
 and the Office of the Public
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 These reflect only posts created
 in departments of civil departments
 as defined in section 7(1)(a)(i) of
 the Public Service Act, 1984. Figures in
 the Services and Education
 are readily available.)
 The increase in posts represents a
 2%.

- (1) (a) How many family housing units were built in 1990 in each self-governing territory by (i) the authority of the territory, (ii) private owners and (iii) the South African Government and (b) what was the total amount spent by each in respect of each territory;
- (2) whether there is a shortage of housing units in any self-governing territory; if so, how many units are required in respect of each territory;
- (3) whether any family housing units are being built in the self-governing territories at present by (a) the authority of the territory, (b) private owners and (c) the South African Government; if not, why not; if so, (i) how many units are being built by each in each territory and (ii) when are they due to be completed in each case?

Hansard 28/3/91 B556E

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1)(a)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
QwaQwa	Nil	110	Nil
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
KaNgwane	Unknown	Unknown	1 014
KwaNdebele	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
Gazankulu	300	1 070	Nil

The houses which are being built in KaNgwane is the result of a promise made by the South African Government to the KaNgwane Government during the 1989/90 financial year.

(b)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
QwaQwa	Nil	Unknown	Nil
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
KaNgwane	Unknown	Unknown	R7 116 067
KwaNdebele	Unknown	Unknown	Nil
Gazankulu	R13 012 500	Unknown	Nil

(2) Yes, there does exist a shortage but the self-governing territories could not furnish details of the shortage.

(3)	(a)	(b)	(c)
Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	No

	No	Yes	No
QwaQwa	No	Yes	No
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	No
KaNgwane	No	Unknown	Yes
KwaNdebele	Unknown	Unknown	No
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	No
	(a)(i)	(b)(i)	(c)(i)
Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	None
QwaQwa	None	20	None
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	None
KaNgwane	None	Unknown	131
KwaNdebele	Unknown	Unknown	None
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	None
	(a)(ii)	(b)(ii)	(c)(ii)
Lebowa	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
QwaQwa	Unknown	June 1991	Unknown
KwaZulu	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
KaNgwane	Unknown	Unknown	31 March 1992
KwaNdebele	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Gazankulu	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

The South African Government does not build houses in the self-governing territories since 1984 but in the case of KaNgwane houses were promised in the towns Matsulu and Kamaqhekeza for people who have been moved to the towns years ago in order to supply them with proper housing.

The self-governing territories were requested to forward information but to date not all replies were received in all the cases.

State budget: percentage spent on agriculture
 226. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Agriculture:†

What percentage of the total State budget was spent on agriculture in (a) 1950, (b) 1960, (c) 1970, (d) 1980 and (e) each specified financial year since the 1984-85 financial year for which figures are available?

Hansard 28/3/91 B598E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) 1950	Not available	—
1951	R 36 867 446	11,66
(b) 1960	R 49 926 088	8,35

(c) 1970	R 115 838 100	6,82
(d) 1980	R 354 952 287	3,05
Note:		
Above-mentioned figures include the expenditure of the then existing Departments of Agriculture.		
(e) 1984/85	R 962 120 764	3,73
1985/86	R1 136 333 514	3,61
1986/87	R 940 410 550	2,46
1987/88	R1 240 422 374	2,65
1988/89	R1 173 813 948	2,18
1989/90	R1 005 108 892	1,57
1990/91	Final figures not available	—

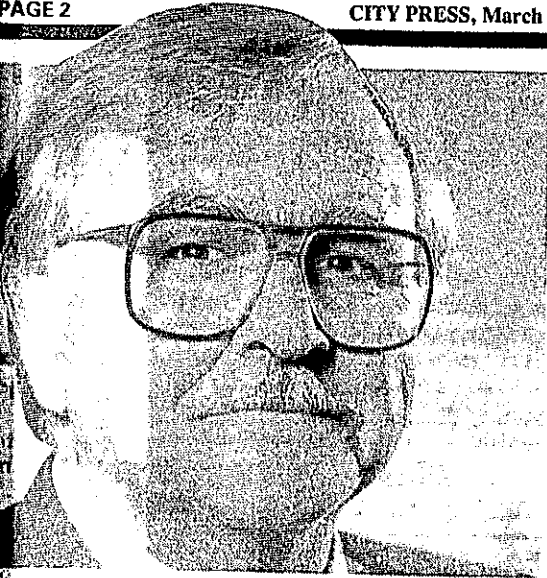
Note: 3 General
 Aforementioned figures are only in respect of the actual expenditure incurred by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agricultural Development and do not include—
 Hansard 28/3/91

- (i) funds allocated to agriculture by the House of Representatives and the House of Delegates as these funds are not readily available; and
- (ii) special concessions to agriculture by Departments such as Customs and Excise and Transport as these amounts cannot be identified.

The total budget of the Department of Agricultural Development is not included in the total State budgets. It is due to the fact that only the net deficit in respect of the total budget of the Administration, House of Assembly is provided for in the main budget.

Freehold land
 273. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Development Aid: Hansard 28/3/91

Whether any freehold land is being held by the State or any of its agencies which was previously occupied by persons who have now been removed from such land; if not, what is the position in regard to such land; if so, what are the details of the land so held?
 B701E



Hernus Kriel . . . seized land will not be returned.

Kriel dashes black hopes for land reform

C.P. Press 31/3/91.

PLANNING and Housing Minister Hernus Kriel this week dashed the hopes of thousands of black South Africans by saying that land seized under apartheid laws would never be returned.

In an interview in the magazine *RSA Policy Review*, Kriel conceded the government had embarked on reforms under pressure and in consideration of the fact that the majority of the people had no political rights.

But he dashed the hopes of blacks removed from their ancestral land over the past 48 years, saying people had been compensated for land taken from

them. "It would be unrealistic to expect land to be taken away from those who, over the years, developed and sustained it," he said.

"The government believes that the future, rather than the past, should be looked to.

"The whole matter must be dealt with in a constructive manner by helping people to become landowners rather than in a destructive manner by once more taking land from people."

The interview, which will only be published next month, was conducted on March 13 - a day after the White Paper on land reforms was tabled in Parlia-

ment.

Kriel said he hoped white people scared by moves to dismantle apartheid would accept that colour was not a decisive factor in life.

"The reality in South Africa, that the majority of its citizens are excluded from the highest political decision-making processes and that all South Africans do not have equal opportunities, caused the government to reconsider its viewpoints," said Kriel.

But, he warned: "People's expectations should not exceed the limits of existing realistic standards."

③ General

The aim of the White Paper was to bring justice to all South Africans and, said Kriel, rightwing groups bent on sabotaging the scrapping of apartheid laws would be not be allowed to do so.

"It will be unlawful for any local authority to accept regulations in terms of which areas are reserved for specific population groups," Kriel said.

"The South African Government will also have to monitor the situation to ascertain whether blatant discrimination still takes place. As a result of this further rectifying steps could be taken in the course of time." - Sapa

Roosboom's uprooted reclaim 'black spot'

S/Times 3/13/91

3 General

FIFTEEN years after being forced out of their homes, the people of Roosboom are fighting to reclaim their land.

By TERRY VAN DER WALT

Roosboom, 10km outside Ladysmith in northern Natal, was once home to 11 000 people until it was designated a "black spot" — a community of blacks surrounded by white farms.

In 1976 the army ferried the inhabitants to the Kwa-Zulu township of eZakheni 25km away, leaving bulldozers to flatten what was left of their homes.

Last year the people of Roosboom formed a committee to fight for their land and 200 people have already returned to the area, prepared to resist eviction and fight court battles.

Aaron Chamane, who says he's 110, and his 96-year-old wife, Josephina, are having a proper but built next to their shack at Roosboom. They have

turkeys, goats and lots of chickens.

They say they have returned to Roosboom to die on the land they bought as a young couple, even though they risk being evicted for a second time.

The Chamanes are just one of 41 farming families who have challenged the authorities and moved back to Roosboom.

And they mean business.

Last weekend they were among the 13 communities who met at Hekpoort to send a clear message to the government — "we will return, come what may".

Three weeks ago, the Roosboom community and those at nearby Criemen and Charlestown passed a resolution demanding the government publish an undertaking in the Government Gazette by April 15 to give their land back.

And they mean business.

Moses Mazibuko, secretary of the Roosboom Interim Committee, said the community realised its dream of returning to Roosboom was drawing near when President FW de Klerk put reform on the political agenda.

"We thought to ourselves: Here is Mr De Klerk talking about change, but we are the victims of apartheid and there is an injustice that must be corrected.

"In March last year we arranged for a meeting back in Roosboom and we cleared our family graves and put up a fence to prevent the white farmers' cattle from trampling over them."

Mr Mazibuko was 18 when his father was forced to get out of Roosboom and accept a small sum in compensation.

He believes his pensioner parents and their neighbours did not

fight vigorously enough to stay on the land, but today he understands why there was no cohesive resistance.

"The older people who put up a resistance eventually gave in because they were afraid of the soldiers and the police. Our parents feared that they would be arrested and sent to Robben Island."

Various laws, some passed even before the National Party came to power 43 years ago, were used in the 70s to remove the blacks living at Roosboom.

"The landowners were subjected to continual harassment until they accepted paltry expropriation payments and were urbanised overnight," said Chris Dlamini, field worker for the Association for Rural Advancement.

The land they left behind was cleared of dwellings and its new owner, the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs, allowed white farmers to graze their cattle there.

We're going home, vow 50 000

By TERRY VAN DER WALT

SOME 50 000 people uprooted in forced removals have vowed to move back to their land.

At a conference last weekend, 13 communities rejected the government's White Paper on land reform and demanded the chance to present their cases to the government.

The two-day conference at Hekpoort, near Johannesburg — organised by the National Land Committee and its affiliates — was the culmination of more than a year of attempts to get answers regarding the return of land "stolen" through

expropriation, the organisers said.

"A memorandum is being sent to the State President saying that the communities should be consulted and the return of land properly negotiated," said Star Motswege of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee.

The affected communities are: Charlestown, Roosboom, Criemen (Natal); Majeng and Bojelaqomo (Northern Cape); Mfengu and Macleanstown (Eastern Cape); the Baralong, Doornkop, Kaffirskraal, Goed-gevonden, Magopa and the Bakubung people (Transvaal).

Community-based agencies across the country have warned repeatedly

over the past year that, unless the government makes a serious attempt to rectify the problems created by apartheid, people will simply reoccupy the land they were forced off.

And since the White Paper ruled out restoring land to the former owners, hundreds of people are expected to defiantly return to their property.

The Association for Rural Advancement in Maritzburg, the National Land Committee and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee say the communities they assist will, in the light of the White Paper, escalate efforts to return to their land.



ON HOME GROUND... Josephina and Aaron Chamane, who have returned to Roosboom to die
Picture: RANJITH KELLY

Hearts

"I remember the day they loaded all our belongings on to trucks — it was so painful and we were all crying," said Josephina Chamane.

"For 15 years we lived in eZakheni, but our hearts always cried out for Roosboom.

"I never thought I would come back to Roosboom and when my grandchildren told me, 'Granny we're going home' I was so happy because I would not be buried at eZakheni."

In July a meeting of all former residents was held under the gum trees at Roosboom's St Hilda School and it was decided

that the Roosboom Interim Committee would lead the fight to get the land back.

Memorandums were sent to the Department of Development Aid in July and October, demanding the right to return and to have title deeds restored before Christmas.

But instead of getting a response, Roosboom was visited by police on December 21 and residents were given eviction notices from the Department of Land Affairs, which demanded they clear the land

by December 28.

The department says that white farmers in the area have complained about theft and damage to property.

No one at Roosboom budged, but their unease grew when further eviction notices were issued in January.

The interim committee set up a meeting on January 14 with the

National Party MP for the area, Jaco Maree, and it was agreed that a meeting be held with the local farmers' association to discuss the future.

But Minister for Land Affairs George Bartlett has made an application in the Ladysmith Magistrate's Court to have the returned families evicted. The case is still proceeding.

Dawid Kruiper can be a man again. His ³ Bushmen have found that it pays to survive

51 Times 31/3/91.

Special report by **EVERYN HOLZHAUSEN**

BUSHMAN Dawid Kruiper loves the tourists who pay money to see him and his family. Being put on show, he believes, is the only way he and his tribe can survive.

His prayers to God and his ancestors, he said, have found him a home on a Cape game reserve. And the tourists have enabled him to support his family by buying the "Bushman" souvenirs they make.

"I am an animal of nature," he said in fluent Afrikaans. "I want people to see me and know who I am. The only way our traditions and way of life can survive is to live in the memory of the people who know us."

"And they can't know us if they do not see us. Nor can we eat if they do not buy our things."

Dawid — "I am a Bushman not a San" — and his tribe live on the Kaggga Kamma game reserve, perched on a bleak escarpment sandwiched between the Cederberg and the Kone Bokkeveld and overlooking the barren, sandy scrubland of the Great Karoo.

But a plan is being considered which

will make them more than a "tourist attraction" and will give them freedom to roam the area as their ancestors did 200 years ago.

After a barrage of criticism that the Bushmen are being exploited like a "freak side show", reserve manager Johan "Jopie" du Preez said the game farm, in conjunction with the Wilderness Leadership School, wants to train members of the tribe as trail guides and game guards on the reserve. In that way, they can pass their unique knowledge of bush lore to wildlife enthusiasts.

"That is a happy option for them and us," said Mr Du Preez.

Last year Dawid, 56, and his tribe of 28 — including a baby-in-arms — were on the verge of starvation. Dawid was in despair, and gnawing at him was his apparent failure to keep the death-bed promise he had made to his grandfather to keep the family together and to look after them.

"But how could I? We had nowhere to live, no food and no future."

"That was when I prayed to God and our forefathers for help. My call was answered."



NEW HOME . . . Dawid Kruiper, members of his tribe and manager Johan du Preez look out over the Kaggga Kamma game reserve

Picture: **TERRY SHEAR**

The Bushmen were given a home on the game farm in January by sheep farmer Pieter de Waal and two partners who had heard of their plight after the Kalahari Gemsbok Park was proclaimed.

Criticism and accusations of exploitation erupted after the Bushmen were "paraded" down city streets during a visit to Cape Town this month.

Mr Du Preez said: "Taking the Bushmen for a walk in the streets was a mistake and one we will not make again."

"In our defence, Dawid asked me to take him and his family to Cape Town. They wanted to see the sea, see how their ancestors are depicted in a Bushman exhibit in the South African Museum,

visit the Castle and they wanted to spend some of the money they have earned selling souvenirs to visitors to Kaggga Kamma."

Mr Du Preez admitted the presence of the Bushmen had "put Kaggga Kamma on the map", but he said nothing had been done without the consent of the tribe — including the daily two-hour trip by tourists to their camp.

"They are happy to pay for their keep by talking to tourists, making and selling souvenirs and in the next few months, I hope, working as trail guides and game guards. And they will be able to hunt when we need to cull our game."

Mr Du Preez said a school was to be

built for the children in the group and they were in the process of constructing better homes in which they could live for the winter.

"People say we are exploiting them. But that is a point of view with which neither they nor we agree. It is all very well and romantic to say they should be able to live as their ancestors did, foraging for roots and living in the wild."

"But they do not want that. They are westernised and want clothes, shoes and soap to wash, just like the rest of us."

Andrew Muir, Cape director of the Wilderness Leadership School, has visited Kaggga Kamma to see how Dawid and his tribe are being treated.

He said he was compiling a report for the Wilderness school on the Bushmen and would suggest that some members of the tribe be trained to act as trail guides.

"The farmers' motives are good," he said. "We need to recognise that the day when tribes of Bushmen could roam the country, hunting at will, are over. To us there seems to be a fair trade-off between the Bushmen and the farmers."

"No, I do not miss the Kalahari," said Dawid. "We were not happy there. This is our new home."

"Our ancestors were here and now we are we. Kaggga Kamma is our word for Place of Water. Here we have found not only water but happiness as well."

Church backs tribe's quest to go back home

By GLENDA NEVILL

51 Times 31/3/91

THE quest by the Fingo tribe to return to the Cape land it left at gunpoint 13 years ago is fully supported by the Moravian Church. But the church says there is not enough space to accommodate the 4 000 to 5 000 people wanting to return immediately on the farm the church owns there.

Church board chairman, the Rev Martin Wessels, pointed out that the Moravians gave their "financial and moral" backing to

the Fingo people in their fight to right apartheid's wrongs. It runs a mission at Clarkston on 2 700ha ceded to it in 1841 "on behalf of and in trust" for the Fingos.

Ownership of the rest of the territory is to be decided in a battle, fought in the Supreme Court, between the Fingos and 19 white farmers.

The church has become an unwitting participant in the storm, which dates back 150 years. Sir George Grey ceded the entire

area, 8 000ha of what is now rich farmland, to the Fingos last century. The land was taken away from the tribe in 1977 when their homes were bulldozed and their belongings dumped 300km away in the Ciskei. Farms were sold to 19 whites for R1,35-million. Now, after development, they are worth at least R29,3-million.

The dilemma the church faces is causing concern in South Africa and Germany. At Wurttemberg, efforts are being made to find the

original deed, buried in a distant archive in what was formerly communist East Germany.

Until this week, after the Sunday Times highlighted the plight of the Fingos, the Moravians have refused to comment on the issue. Now they have protested that a reference in last week's report to the church "sitting uncomfortably on the sidelines" was in "utterly bad taste".

● See Return to Roosboom, Page 10

Dawid Kruiper can be a man again. His Bushmen have found that it pays to survive

SI Times 31/3/91.

3 general

Special report by EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

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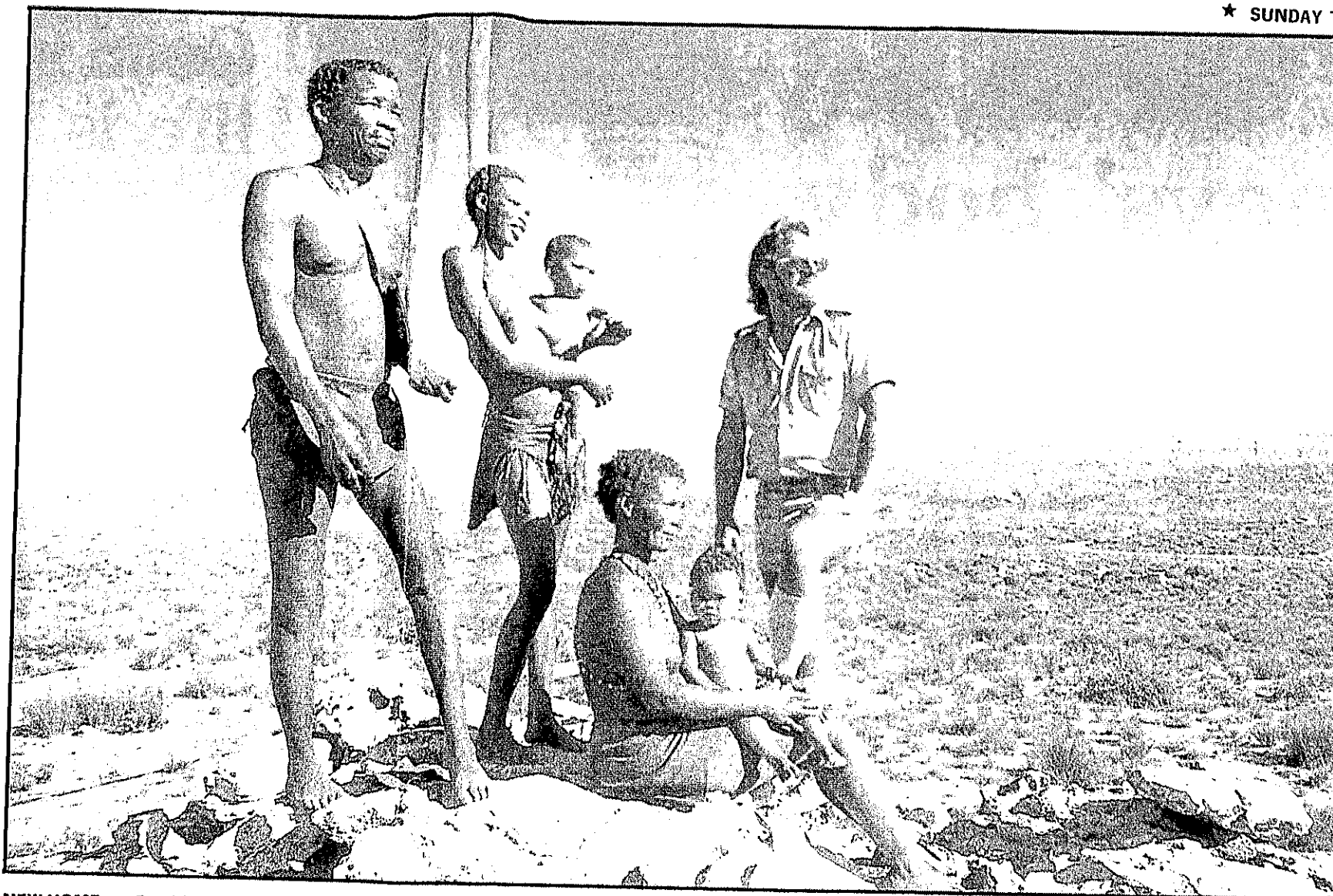
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A land where the word of the white

baas is law!

Sunday Times 3/1/91

(3) General

SPECIAL REPORT by DOMINIC JONES

THE OLD MAN pulled his faded overalls off his shoulders and unzipped his shorts. His buttocks were criss-crossed with welts. The scars, he claimed, of a sjambok beating by a white farmer six months ago.

For more than 40 years, Samuel Chauke, 75, has been a farm labourer in the Messina district, where court cases have recently focused attention on the treatment of labourers by white farmers. Samuel's life had been simple, but happy, until October last year. He cannot remember the exact date, but he had gone to a shop on a farm at Weipe, 60km east of Messina, to fetch his wife.

"As we were leaving, a farmer arrived at the shop and told me to get into his truck.

"I refused and he took out a gun and said: 'I'll shoot you if you do not come.' I got in and was taken to a workshop on his farm. He ordered me to take off my clothes and to lie face down on a bench. One of the



SAMUEL CHAUKE ... beating scarred him for life

farmer's workers held my hands while the farmer sjambokked me. "He never said a word while he was hitting me. After the beating, I fell to the floor and he kicked me in the chest.

"They then drove me back to the tar road. "A man called Simon found me at the side of the road at about 8pm and took me home. He called the police and I was taken to Limpopo hospital in Messina.

Charges

"I was in hospital for five days. The police asked me if I wanted to lay charges, but I refused because I was scared he would kill me."

Since the assault his hands were weak, he said, his back ached and he struggled to breathe.

In this baobab-dotted scrubland, hundreds of kilometres from pry-

workbench, using strips of iron, doused him with petrol and set him alight.

Messina, South Africa's northernmost centre, is a town seemingly caught in a time warp. The new South Africa has passed it by.

It has remained largely the same for the last 10 years, except maybe that the flagging copper mine around which the place sprang up in 1904, is no longer the main contributor to the town's development.

But new enterprises — a canning factory, which is now the town's major employer, and a diamond mine 90km to the east — have brought new prosperity.

Parades

It is an intensely security-conscious town. The police chief's son draws sketches of stick-men in handcuffs and parades through the station with his toy gun.

Armoured vehicles roar up and down National Street from the

surrounding four military bases. Farmers drive landmine-proof bakkies called Rooiboks, reminders of when Messina was at the forefront of cross-border incursions by bomb-bearing cadres of the ANC and PAC.

The white men are mostly paunchy, bearded and khaki-clad. Sometimes they tuck guns into the sides of their pants.

The town's women wear shorts or floral summer frocks. They drive bakkies with all the nerve of Paris-to-Dakar rally drivers.

Town clerk Johan Kok found it hard to smile during a 20-minute interview. "We are changing a lot faster than many other towns," he said.

However, some things haven't changed: a sign points to "Rhodesia" and the white folks like to talk of "Europeans and non-Europeans".

Politically, farmers, police, soldiers and white mine officials tend towards conservatism, while

the white-collar constituency is more nationalist.

The council has four NP councillors and two from the CP.

The township community, however, is now reaching full political maturity along ANC lines.

Much of that has to do with the imminent return of thousands of exiles who will spend their first hours back home in the welcoming arms of the Nancefield community.

Roots

"We helped them out and we will help them back home," said NG Church of Africa minister Lesiba Matsaung.

The roots of their political awareness, he said, were linked to three major happenings: the flow of ANC and PAC recruits through the township to Zimbabwe over the last 20 years, the terrorism trial of two ANC members in the town and the killing by police of 14-year-old Wilson Nedambale in 1989.

Says Messina Advice Office worker Jacob Matakanye:

"The people are afraid to come to me with their problems. The farmers have told them that if they do, they will have to leave the farms.

Feudal

"Many of the workers are born on the land they live on and know no other life. So they obey.

"Whatever the farmer says is law. He is the baas," said Mr Matakanye, who has a small office in the NG Church in Africa's building in Nancefield township.

"Ironically, the biggest problem is taking people out of this feudal environment and trying to help them readjust to a normal life," he said.

Foreign

The average wage for a family man is R70 a month, according to Mr Matakanye. Farmers sometimes provided workers with a bag of mealie meal per family per month, but meat was seldom included in their rations, he said.

Organised labour and recourse to the courts in the event of unfair labour practices are foreign to farm workers in the far Northern Transvaal.