

ENVIRONMENT — 1992

AUGUST. — DEC.

State 'could make up for blunder'

Make St Lucia a 'peace park'

STAR 1/8/92.

(56)

CAPE TOWN — By proclaiming the St Lucia wetland area a "peace park", the Government could make up for a "disastrous" environmental blunder committed immediately after the National Party came to power in 1948, says Dr Ian Player.

The internationally acclaimed conservationist told business leaders at a "green" breakfast in Cape Town this week that one of the last political acts of General Jan Smuts as prime minister had been to proclaim the Dongola Reserve in northern Transvaal.

Desert

"The first act of the Nationalist government in 1948 was to deproclaim the park.

"Today it is a desert. The Government has a chance to redeem that disastrous error and proclaim the Greater St Lucia Wetland Peace Park.

"Mr Bartlett (the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs) must not hide behind the skirts of the environmental impact assessment but must come out and save that wild area for all our children born and yet unborn, for South Africa and the world, for humanity."

Player was recently axed from the Natal Parks Board along with former Wildlife Society president Dr Nolly Zaloumis by Natal Administrator Con Botha.

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IAN PLAYER: Ditched by Natal Parks Board.

ken opponents of the proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine the coastal dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

Although Botha denies it, their axing is widely believed to be be-

cause of their uncompromising stand.

This view has been reinforced by the disclosure that one of the replacement appointees on the board is Durban attorney Richard Cox, whose firm represents Richards Bay Minerals. Cox was reported as saying he personally had not had any business dealings with the company.

Player pointed out that Lake St Lucia was at the end of a long line of wetlands stretching northwards as far as east Africa. This created the possibility of trans-frontier parks.

Desecration

Such trans-frontier parks could be the key to a political confederation of southern African states, he suggested.

"We have a chance here — let's be bold and seize it, seize the day and show the world our breadth of spirit and commitment to the emerging Africa."

St Lucia was the key and the Government had the power, Player said.

"The Government came in on the deproclamation of Dongola Game Reserve. Does it want to go out on the desecration of St Lucia and Chapman's Peak? Is this what they want future historians to remember?"

"I call on the Government to do the honourable thing. Show us your commitment to the land. Here is something all of us can be united on."

St Lucia 'should be SA's peace park'

56
AA 1/8/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government has a chance to redeem a "disastrous" environmental blunder committed immediately after the National Party came to power in 1948 by proclaiming the St Lucia wetland area a "peace park", says Dr Ian Player.

The internationally acclaimed conservationist told a "green" breakfast for business leaders in Cape Town this week, organised by Farrest Cape/The Argus, that one of the last political acts of General Jan Smuts as prime minister had been to proclaim the Dongola Reserve in the Northern Transvaal.

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Dr Ian Player, doyen of South African conservation who was recently axed from the Natal Parks Board, has called on the government to proclaim the St Lucia estuary a "peace park" and show its commitment to the land and to Africa.

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Dr Player was axed from the Natal Parks Board recently by Natal Administrator Mr Con Botha with former Wildlife Society president Dr Nolly Zalounis.

Both men have been outspoken opponents of the proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine the coastal

dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

Although denied by Mr Botha, their axing is widely believed to be because of their uncompromising stand, and this view has been reinforced by the disclosure that one of the replacement appointees on the board is Durban attorney Mr Richard Cox, whose firm represents Richards Bay Minerals.

Mr Cox was reported as saying he personally had not had any business dealings with the company.

Dr Player pointed out that Lake St Lucia was at the end of a long line of wetlands stretching northwards as far as East Africa.

This created the possibility of trans-frontier parks — as reported in Weekend Argus last week. Such trans-frontier parks could be the key to a political confederation of Southern African states, he suggested.

"We have a chance here — let's be bold and seize it, seize the day and show the world our breadth of spirit and commitment to the emerging Africa."

St Lucia was the key and the government had the power, Dr Player added.

"The government came in on the deproclamation of Dongola Game Reserve. Does it want to go out on the desecration of St Lucia and Chapman's Peak? Is this what they want future historians to remember?"

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Anthrax threat ⁽⁵⁶⁾ to desert elephants

APG 1/8/92

WASHINGTON. — Wildlife officials are trying to organise a helicopter assault against the deadly anthrax virus they say threatens to wipe out the world's last herd of desert elephants.

One Namib elephant has died and the remaining 50 could die quickly if they pick up the water-carried virus, said Henri Nsanjama, an official of the World Wildlife Fund here. He is travelling to Namibia.

The majestic elephants who roam across moon-like terrain in the Namib are not physically different from other African elephants, but their adaptation to desert life makes them unique.

Funds are being raised to fire darts loaded with the vaccine at the elephants from a helicopter, he said in Nairobi. The Namibian government has no helicopter, said Mr Msanjama, and the fund is trying to raise money to rent one.

"The situation is desperate," he said. "Elephants who contract the disease will die in less than 24 hours. We could lose the entire herd."

The highly infectious disease is spread, through saliva from infected elephants, to others through the water they drink.

Behaviour sets apart the desert elephants of northern Namibia from others of the same species.

Most elephants behave like bulldozers, pulling down entire trees just to eat the tender top branches, but the desert variety pick carefully away at the branches of sparse trees.

"Elephants learn very quickly and they are extremely careful in terms of water and food resources," he said.

Other animals are threatened. — Sapa-AP.

Tribe gets compensation from park

By Charmeela Bhagawat

The Bakgatla-Ba Kgafela tribe has finally started to receive compensation for the land it gave up 13 years ago for the creation of Pilanesberg National Park, on promises that they would share the park's profits.

Last week they received a cheque for R49 000, part of the park's 1991 hunting and gate fee profits, from the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board (BNPB) at a colourful function in Saulspoort.

It was an historic moment both for the tribe, and for wildlife conservation and community development in southern Africa.

For years there have been bitter recriminations from the tribe over the land on which they lived and grazed their cattle for centuries, and for which they had never been compensated by the Bophuthatswana government.

The Bakgatla chief's son, Kgosi Pilane, said the money would be used for the development of the Bakgatla-Ba Kgafela community and would be administered by their newly formed Community Development Organisation.

BNPB director Roger Collinson said the tribe could look forward to receiving part of the Pilanesberg National Park's hunting and gate fee profits every year now that the park was finally showing substantial profits.

The Sustainable Environmental Conservation through the Utilisation of Natural Resources project (SECURE), a BNPB initiative which was launched at the ceremony on Friday, would help develop the community and conserve natural resources, Mr Collinson said.

Mr Collinson added that SECURE's main objective was to get the people to support and take part in conservation and, at the same time, use the financial benefits conservation offered to develop their own communities.

Green Party to take root in SA

Staff Reporter ⁵⁰

A NEW political party, dedicated to environmental issues — named the Green Party — will be officially launched in South Africa at the end of October. ^{CT318192}

This was announced in Cape Town by the party's national convener, Mr Ian Brownlie, who headed the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

The Green Party was not connected with any foreign political group and it would "strive to rid itself of any sensationalism attributed to 'green movements' here or abroad," Mr Brownlie said. ⁶

Platinum sole reactor to strike concerns

(56)
CT 3/8/92

From MERVYN HARRIS

JOHANNESBURG. — Platinum soared nearly \$10 to be fixed above \$385 at both London fixing sessions on Friday on foreign concern that this week's general strike could result in labour unrest and disrupt supplies.

But the ANC-led mass action was discounted by domestic investors who continued to lift leading industrial and financial shares for the fourth successive day on Friday after sharp falls recently.

Analysts said the strike was expected to have less impact than initially estimated, although there were still some worries over a flare-up of violence which kept most investors on the sidelines and volumes remained low.

Reuter reports that platinum eased back from early highs after rallying sharply as buying in opening European trade by Japanese trade houses sparked frenzied short covering.

Nobody wanted to go into the weekend short ahead of the general strike, and the early buying caused a panicky scramble to get covered, one dealer said.

He said the planned two-day strike was already discounted in the platinum price, but there was still nervousness that the situation might spiral out of control.

Dealers said platinum should hold in the \$380s after finding good support at \$372 recently and might test highs of \$391.

Platinum was fixed at \$385,50/oz, up

about \$10 from the previous \$375,50 close, but off the high at \$386,50 before retreating to retest the \$382 support/resistance level it smashed through in the initial rally.

In New York, platinum was the most active sector in the precious metals market, with spot prices jumping about \$7 to close at \$384,50. October Nymex platinum ended \$7,40 up at \$385,10/oz, off an early high of \$388,30.

An analyst said \$385 and \$394, basis October Nymex, were awkward areas of resistance for platinum, but the metal appeared on course for a technical upside target of \$425 by year-end.

Gold was fixed at \$357,95, up \$1,50 from the previous close on the back of platinum's rise. In Hong Kong the metal ended at \$357,45 from a previous \$356,75 close.

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: Helen Nomazizi, 9, holds a young ficus tree about to be planted at the Langa library. Abalimi Bezekhaya project co-ordinator Dave Golding prepares the hole while centre manager Wilfred Mbude explains to friends of the library how to care for the new arrival.

Barren Cape Flats fast becoming the green, green fields of home ⁽⁵⁶⁾

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THERE'S an exotic influence sending out strong roots across the barren wastes of the Cape Flats townships, with close links to Brazil, Australia, New Zealand...

No, it's not a new dance craze or international pop culture. Rather, it's a green movement that is growing exponentially, according to officials of Abalimi Bezekhaya (Xhosa for "Planters of the Home.")

Abalimi Bezekhaya is a service project which has been providing trees, fertiliser and gardening advice to residents and community organisations in Cape Town's black townships for 10 years.

The non-profit project, close-

ly linked to the Catholic Church's Welfare and Development Agency, runs two People's Garden centres — at Khayelitsha and Nyanga.

After a slow start, demand for their services and products is now so great they are unable to keep up, says project development officer Mr Rob Small.

"There's a growing green culture developing — absolutely, without a doubt.

"I've been with the project for four years now. In 1988 we only had the Nyanga centre and people used to trickle in — I wondered whether it was worth it."

Initially, the centre supplied only food plants such as vegetable seedlings and fruit trees, he continued.

"But people started asking for trees and shrubs and now we just can't keep up — people are pouring in.

"Last year we had more than 7 000 people coming to the centres and the demand is growing at between 60 and 80 percent each year. We're running our butts off, so something really is happening."

The two centres have demonstration areas where people are shown how to plant and care for fruit trees, flowering plants, shrubs, hedges and even lawns, and how to grow vegetables using the highly effective deep tech system.

The centres also sell cheap plants, seeds, seedlings, trees, manure and gardening equipment.

And the exotic touch? It's in

ARG 5/8/92
the trees they provide, which include Brazilian peppers, Queensland pyramid trees and manitokas from New Zealand, as well as indigenous varieties such as sand olives and waterberries.

"We provide a mixture of the hardiest species that will grow in the Cape Flats," explains project co-ordinator Mr Dave Golding.

"Khayelitsha in particular is barren and the priority is the trees must be able to resist the wind."

The project's success is attracting increasing attention, and this year it was a popular category winner in the M-Net-/Green Trust Environmental awards.

● For further information on the project, ☎ 212-578.

Environment report released

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

THE consultants report commissioned by the Fish Hoek Town Council to comment on an environmental impact assessment undertaken by the would-be developers of Extension 7 Zone C, has finally been released to the public.

The report, which with advice from a legal firm formed the basis of the council's decision to conditionally approve the rezoning, has been the centre of a controversy raging between conservation groups opposed to the development and the council, which until now had declined to allow the public access to the document.

Having perused the report, Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, a member of the Silvermine Valley Coalition opposing the development, said it was completely "sound and I just can't see what the point of withholding it for so

long was".

The report states that the "final" assessment is not a true one in terms of the integrated environmental management process but should rather be considered as an environmental study or evaluation.

In accordance with this process there should be ongoing feedback to all involved and affected people throughout the project, in the form of meetings or reports, before the assessment is finalised, yet according to the report, it appears as though this was not done.

It states: "A meeting held at an early stage would have provided clarity on the proposal and provided an opportunity to make it clear to the involved and affected people that their comments were sought at a stage when the layout and design of the proposed development were still flexible.

"Their input would be incorporated in

(5) CT 6/8/92
the study and it would again be sought at a further stage when more detail was available."

The consultants feel the overall study is detailed and comprehensive, yet additional input into other alternative uses for the site could have been made.

"If the 'no-go' option is followed, would the client seek compensation from the Fish Hoek Municipality, from the Cape Provincial Administration or not at all? Would the client fence off land and prohibit public access? These aspects need further investigation and reporting so that the interested and affected parties realise the consequences of this decision," states the report.

The document was tabled at the last council meeting after Councillor Vic Kabalin proposed at the previous meeting that it be made available to the public.

Wildlife body⁵⁶ aghast at new Silvermine plan

CT 6/8/92

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH^{SP}

THE Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has reacted with horror to a proposal by a new welfare organisation calling itself Silvermine for Christ to build a R14 m centre for "spiritual healing and training" in the Silvermine valley.

A spokesman for the welfare organisation, Ms Sonia Cope, confirmed that plans for the project — which will include a "spirit hospital" a rehabilitation centre, an awareness centre, an Aids wing, a caravan park and a tea-room — had been submitted to Cape Town City Council.

Healing

She said: "The organisation was launched at the Alphen Hotel last month. Interested businessmen displayed a positive attitude and willingness to co-operate."

The organisation is non-denominational and it claims to offer emotional, mental, physical and spiritual healing. It serves all people — regardless of creed.

A council spokesman confirmed that the application had been received and that Mrs Cope had been interviewed by Exco.

In a letter to the city planner, Mr Neville Riley, Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society described the proposed development as "highly inappropriate within the Silvermine River valley and nature area".

He said: "This proposed complex will further add to the exponentially mounting pressures in the Silvermine River catchment.

"We do not deny that Silvermine Farm — an important national monument of considerable historical significance — is in dire need of repair, but this proposed project is not in keeping with the generally acceptable uses of a nature area.

"If the council is seriously considering the proposal of Silvermine for Christ, perhaps it should also consider equally seriously the option of leaving what is left of the Silvermine River Valley as far as possible in the state that its Creator intended — unspoilt and pristine, a physical and spiritual refuge from the drabness of everyday urban living?"

Also in the letter, Mr Gubb said the Silvermine River Valley had been the focus of one threat after another. He listed 12 incidences over the past six months, focusing on the Silvermine for Christ proposal as the "final straw to break the camel's back".

It's green
but will
it grow?

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w/Max 7/8-13/8/92

By GAYE DAVIS

A NEW seedling poked its head up in South Africa's political garden this week when the formation of a Green Party was announced in Cape Town — but whether it will grow into a hardy sapling is open to doubt.

Convenor Ian Brownlie, who rose to some prominence as one of the co-ordinators of the campaign against kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak, claimed the new party had the backing of prominent personalities — but declined to name any of them.

At a one-person press conference last Friday, Brownlie distributed a Green Party manifesto and a press release stating the party's intentions to keep environmental issues high on the agenda within a parliament where "social, economic and political issues" were likely to demand prior attention.

According to the press release, the new party has already formulated its policies as well as long-term strategies and will "strive to rid itself of any sensationalism attributed to 'green movements' here or abroad", adopting "active liaison between itself and inter alia industry and commerce".

Which is all very well, but when questioned on specifics — such as funding, figureheads and membership — Brownlie was reluctant to say anything other than that it was only possible "at this stage" to give "very broad brushstrokes".

"We anticipate having a strong voice in parliament. Even if we fail to reach our objectives, at least we will have raised environmental awareness."

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Bop Parks in bid to make friends

STAR 7/8/92

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56

BOPHUTHATSWANA national parks now allow herbalists inside the reserves accompanied by game rangers — but the rangers mustn't peek when the herbalist begins picking herbs or shaving off tree bark.

This preserves the herbalists' secrets.

The rule is just one of the quaint and sometimes dramatic adjustments "Bop Parks" has made in its attempt to befriend the people living outside the fences.

The people can also get cost-price meat, collect thatch free (and sell it afterwards in Johannesburg), collect firewood and dig clay for pots — all from inside national parks.

The title "Bop Parks" is another innovation. The colloquial name for the National Parks Board of Bophuthatswana now appears on its official publications, which are presented in bright covers bearing the slogans "Catch the spirit of Africa" and "Meeting the challenges of a changing Africa".

Bop Parks director, ecologist Roger Collinson (43), says: "We have to move close, very close, to our neighbours.

He said game parks could no longer be islands of wildlife. If the neighbours did not benefit, then parks could not be justified.

Bop Parks has a rov-

In an effort to win friends and influence their neighbours, Bophuthatswana national parks are now giving away cash . . .
By JAMES CLARKE.

ing ambassador outside the fence — Daniel Ntsala (27), an ex-Johannesburg Technikon student who recalls childhood adventures in the wide valleys of what is now Pilanesberg National Park. His father was evicted from his farm in the Pilanesberg and although he received compensatory land outside, he felt great bitterness and, later, homesickness.

I first interviewed Dan Ntsala four years ago at Johannesburg Technikon after he was chosen to speak in Japan on South African environmental problems. He told me then: "My ambition is to teach communities."

That describes very nicely what he is now doing. He talks and liaises daily with those outside the fence. He collects sociological data and, at the same time, facilitates schemes by which wildlife outside the proclaimed areas can be used to generate income and jobs.

The situation is that Bophuthatswana — economically a rising star in Africa — has become not

only the Witwatersrand's playground and quiet retreat, but is now becoming internationally attractive because of its Sun City complex and its opportunities for big game hunting.

While this is all very well for those who can afford to holiday in time-share apartments at KwaMaritane or Bakubung game lodge, or at the luxury hunting camps, the local people are only now beginning to detect benefits.

Many still resent having been moved out of the Pilanesberg.

Last weekend, in a ceremony at Pilanesberg attended by Chief Pilane, a cheque for R49 000 was handed over to the Bakgatla tribe by Roger Collinson. The money was from a cut of the big game hunting receipts.

The Bakgatla tribe was the main tribe affected by Pilanesberg's proclamation.

How will the tribe spend the cheque and other money which will accrue to it from wildlife? Significantly, they are going to develop a 3 000 ha wildlife reserve of their own.

For years the tribe has been making a modest income mostly from Transvaalers who come to hunt in their area. Now they intend fencing the area and, when that happens, Bop Parks will help them restock it with big game species. □

Dam water 'toxic'

56
ARG 11/8/92

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — An environmental group claims that the banned pesticide Dieldrin has recently been used and could have contaminated Potchefstroom's drinking water.

The claims were denied by the Department of Agriculture's Directorate Resource Conservation.

The Biotox Foundation, formed about 18 months ago to combat the misuse of chemicals in the environment, said yesterday that test results had shown high levels of the toxin in the tissues of animals around Potchefstroom's Boskop Dam.

The Department of Agriculture said its own animal tissue tests indicated that levels of the toxin were within permissible limits.

Dieldrin was used to combat the quelea finch, an agricultural pest, before the substance was banned in South Africa in 1983.

Biotox Foundation director Mr Abre Steyn said the presence of Dieldrin in Potchefstroom's Boskop Dam was well over the level considered safe for animals and humans.

The tests were conducted by a reputable scientific research group, which he declined to name "at this stage", after a number of pesticide sprayings in and around Potchefstroom during March this year.

"An enormous quantity of Dieldrin" was found in all animal tissues tested.

Large quantities of Fenthion — being used to combat quelea finches — and Dieldrin were present in the tissues of fish and other animals.

The foundation "had evidence" that ostriches, vultures, black wildebeest, geese, flamingos and other "non-target" animals were dying of cancer and anaemia.

The Department of Agriculture's Directorate of Resource Conservation director Mr Johannes Vosloo said that Dieldrin was not being used for spraying quelea.

He confirmed that Quelatox (Fenthion) was used near Potchefstroom in March to combat the finch, but he did not have the details at hand.

Traces of Dieldrin, which was used extensively by farmers in certain parts of the country before it was banned, were diminishing and the Department conducted tests regularly to ensure this, he said.

World opposition to plutonium ship grows

ARC 7/8/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

WORLD-wide protests against Japan's plans to ship reprocessed plutonium from Europe are escalating, with Greenpeace activists targetting a drydock in Japan where the carrier vessel — dubbed "a floating Chernobyl" — is being prepared.

Locally, the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps) is preparing an information pamphlet for distribution later this week and finalising plans for further protest action against the Japanese government.

Last week coalition members briefly occupied the foyer of the Japanese consulate in the city.

On Wednesday, eight Greenpeace activists using three inflatables hung two giant banners across the drydock in Yokohama where the plutonium carrier, the *Akatsuki Maru*, is berthed.

The 10 x 2 metre banners

read *Stop plutonium* in English and *We don't need plutonium* in Japanese.

Six of the Greenpeace team were held for questioning by the Japanese coastguard after the protest.

Greenpeace spokesman Mr Damon Moglen said the *Akatsuki Maru* had apparently returned to the drydock in Yokohama after a "training mission" for its "new and inexperienced" crew.

This had prompted concerns that, following a refit in Britain and Japan — apparently to increase security — the vessel was still experiencing problems which could compromise safety.

"This ship is a disaster waiting to happen, and it is clear that the safety conditions of the plutonium transport are inadequate," Mr Moglen charged.

"In just a few weeks this floating Chernobyl could be passing tens of countries and effectively endangering the safety and security of the world."

Politicos seem agreed on saving environment

ARC 11/8/92 (56)

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Whatever the composition of a future government, the main players appear to appreciate the nature of the challenge of saving the environment.

Both the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party express a strong environmental ethic and point out that it is their grassroots supporters who are the first to suffer from degradation of the land, drought or pollution.

The Democratic Party always has been strong on conserving the environment and natural resources, while officials of the Department of Environment Affairs believe they have already made significant progress in a relatively new area of concern.

The ANC, the IFP and the DP all call for stricter enforcement of environmental controls, although there is some disagreement as to whether management is best executed on a centralised national or a regional basis.

Professor Stan Sangweni, ANC spokesman on the environment, says he would like to see the Department of Environment become part of a Ministry of Finance and Planning — the strongest in government — so that all major developmental proposals would pass through it.

He says there should be legislation defining the areas of responsibility between central, regional and local government, because it is at the two lower levels that destruction of the environment actually takes place.

Professor Sangweni is director of the newly-created School of Rural Community Development at the University of Natal, Maritzburg, having spent 33 years in exile, during which he became a senior officer with the

United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi.

He says there is a need for an effective programme of rural development which addresses upliftment of the artificially created homelands, access to land and access — for those who require it — to agricultural credit, extension services and marketing services. Those are concerns for government.

Professor Sangweni calls for education to create an ethic of environmentalism and for the benefits of modern scientific knowledge to be combined with the traditional and instinctive conservation practices of the African peoples.

Mr Maurice MacKenzie, IFP spokesman, says his party subscribes to international concern for the environment and is encouraged by the growing awareness in South Africa.

Good environmental practices will succeed only if underpinned by education and sound rural planning which leads to economic growth.

Unless this happens, a burgeoning population will exploit natural resources to survive, and the process of degradation will not be arrested.

Mr MacKenzie, a Natal Midlands farmer, says development proposals should be considered on a well-researched, case-by-case basis. It could be that short-term human problems like unemployment and poverty have to take priority.

Environmental legislation should be more strictly enforced, while the Conservation of the Environment Act of 1989 should provide the basis for a far-reaching and enforceable policy.

The Democratic Party's Rupert Lorimer says the environment knows no political boundaries and fragmented management of river catchments has proved disastrous. There has to be national co-ordination of control.

Incentives may help burn diesel 'lake'

EDWARD WEST

(56)

INCENTIVES might be needed to promote the use of diesel-driven vehicles if the diesel surplus proved to be of a long-term nature, the National Energy Council (NEC) said yesterday.

NEC spokesman Lourens van der Berg said the possibility of incentives was still speculative, but options included the promotion of diesel engine manufacture and the use of diesel engines in taxis or other passenger vehicles, or a restructuring of taxes on diesel.

Demand for petrol had increased proportionately more than diesel. Demand for diesel had been dampened by drought and low levels of economic activity over the

past couple of years, he said.

Since there was limited flexibility in petrol and diesel yields from a barrel of crude oil, it was not always technically possible to adjust the refining process to balance the petrol:diesel supply and demand ratio. To balance this ratio, petrol was imported or diesel exported. Currently the surplus was being exported.

If SA had a better agricultural season this summer, and if the economy improved, the surplus could be short term, Van der Berg said. He declined to quantify the current diesel surplus.

SID 10/21/81

... is common form of Hout Bay.

(51) ARG 12/8/92

Nature-lovers launch fight for reserve

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

LANDOWNERS and political authorities are under pressure to unite to protect the Karbonkelberg, the largely untouched area between Llandudno and Hout Bay.

The newly constituted Karbonkelberg Nature Reserve Proposal Committee, which is backed by several Cape environmentalists, wants tougher conservation measures in Klein Leeukoppie, Sandy Bay, the Oudeskip Peninsula, Leeugat, Karbonkelberg, Seal Island and the Sentinel.

The area is in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment but it does not have formal conservation status and

includes several private properties, notably 200 hectares next to Sandy Bay owned by Bankorp Properties and two erven belonging to hotel magnate Mr Sol Kerzner.

Ms. Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, spokesman for the new committee, said the area was "an exquisite yet little-known promontory — an area of exceptional and unspoilt beauty".

Speaking on the summit of the Karbonkelberg yesterday, she said it deserved the same protection as Table Mountain, a declared nature reserve and national monument.

The committee wanted all State-owned land consolidated into a reserve, as well as the private property on a conser-

vancy basis. "We do not want to buy it out," she said.

Absa, which owns Bankorp, was reported last week to be considering selling its land for about R3,8 million.

Ms Kruger-Liptrot said Absa had told her it was no longer interested in developing its Sandy Bay property, mainly because of adverse publicity.

But she warned: "The area now faces a serious threat of commercial development and it appears that a change of ownership of a vital portion is imminent."

Conservationists place a high ecological value on the proposed reserve, which has at least three important vegetation types of the species-rich

Cape Floral Kingdom: mountain fynbos, coastal renoster-veld and strandveld.

"A Karbonkelberg Nature Reserve would be of inestimable value to all South Africans and visitors to this country as a place of relaxation, education and research, as well as a habitat for the re-introduction of indigenous flora and fauna," said Ms Kruger-Liptrot.

The committee had contacted various authorities and environmental organisations about the proposal, including the Wildlife Society, the Botanical Society, Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring and the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee.

Cashing in on the tou

w/ Mail 14/8-20/8/92.
After resisting it in the past people in rural areas have realised that preserving wildlife can be profitable.

By **EDDIE KOCH** (56)

THERE'S a new breed of man who travels deep into the wildest areas of the country with enough stamina and determination to save our ecology from total ruin.

You will find him being feted by government ministers, entrepreneurs, planners, farmers and tribal chiefs. From the bankrupt farms of the northern Transvaal to the congested plains of the homelands, they revere him as the new messiah.

Thousands of his kind come to the region every year, sometimes with hunting rifles strapped to their backs, but mostly with the latest in video technology around their necks and lots of dollars or yen in their pockets.

They call him homo superbus.

South Africa's official tourist body, Satour, reports that 1,7-million foreigners visit this country every year. Eight out of 10 say that they have come to appreciate the wildlife, indigenous vegetation and scenic beauty of South Africa.

And with a new environmental awareness seeping into the public mind, there is an increasing number of local people who choose to spend a week out in the bush instead of gambling at Sun City.

"Commercial wildlife management and the attendant tourism development provide a land-use option that is not only profitable and sustainable but also has the capability to heal the scars of earlier degradation," says a recent report by ecologist David Grossman and Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

"With the imminent redress of former political problems, the region is preparing for a growth in eco-tourism. The existing state-run parks are stretched to capacity and private sector conservation-based developments are emerging to cater for the game viewing market."

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) reports that there were 50 000 local hunters and 400 professional hunting guides inside the country and that 4 000 hunters from abroad visited South Africa, bringing in an income of some R270-million.

But the Kruger National Park, and other game reserves, find they don't have enough beds to accommodate the demand. Every year, during the peak holiday season, they turn away one out of every second person trying to get into the park.

All sorts of schemes are springing up in every part of the country to cater for this demand. There are now some 800 reserves, excluding those owned by the National Parks Board, ranging from exclusive resorts like Mala Mala and Londolozi to small tribal resource areas in the homelands.

The SAAU's National Game Organisation reports that in 1990 there were 9 000 game ranches occupying some eight million hectares of the country.

A total of R355-million was generated by game farming in 1990. Three quarters of this came from safari hunting and the rest from tourist visits, game auctions and sale of venison.

The government, recognising the capacity of eco-tourism to kickstart the rural economy, this year made R600-million available to fund the infrastructure for these kind of ventures.

"Farmers, hard hit by economic depression and the drought, are selling their cattle, erecting game fences, stocking the land with wild animals and building lodges or chalets and holding thumbs that this will save them from going under," says Grossman.

Conservation authorities in kaNgwane and in

Harvesting tourists

● From PAGE 23 (56)

Bophuthatswana report that, whereas they struggled to sell the notion of conservation to rural people in the past, they are now receiving spontaneous applications for reserves to be established in parts of these homelands.

Take a tiny reserve at a place called Mzinti in a remote and drought-stricken corner of KaNgwane not far from the Mozambique border. Here the KaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) made a healthy turnover of

R100 000 over the last year by conducting a few safaris for foreign hunters, accommodating some tourists in tents and selling a few head of eland. w/ Mail 14/8-20/8/92

The parks authorities aim to use these resources for building civic projects in the local community such as clinics and creches. "These are small amounts of money. But in these depressed areas it indicates some form of growth and development," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson.

The result is that wildlife ranching is now the fastest growing and most dynamic livestock industry in South Africa — and it is fast becoming the most dynamic force for conserving the country's indigenous plant and animal species.

And it's not only wildlife tourism that is encouraging farmers and peasants to preserve the rural environment. In the northern Transvaal and parts of the eastern Free State, farmers are converting their old stone buildings into guest houses for sensitive visitors. Others are allowing their properties to be used, in return for a fee, as horse and hiking trails.

But Grossman and Ferrar point out in their report, published in the latest edition of *The Traffic Bulletin*, that eco-tourism should not be seen as a magical panacea that will automatically solve the problems of rural development.

"Game ranching should not be a quick-fix solution to poverty in the white and black rural areas. A lot of people put up a fence and call the place a game lodge and think they will make megabucks overnight," says Grossman. "But it doesn't work like this. These projects need care and planning. They have to be carefully marketed so that they can become financially viable and, most of all, they have to have popular support."

Many new game farms and private reserves have adopted the latest conservation principles being promoted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which stress the need to promote tangible benefits to rural people living in and around these protected wildlife areas.

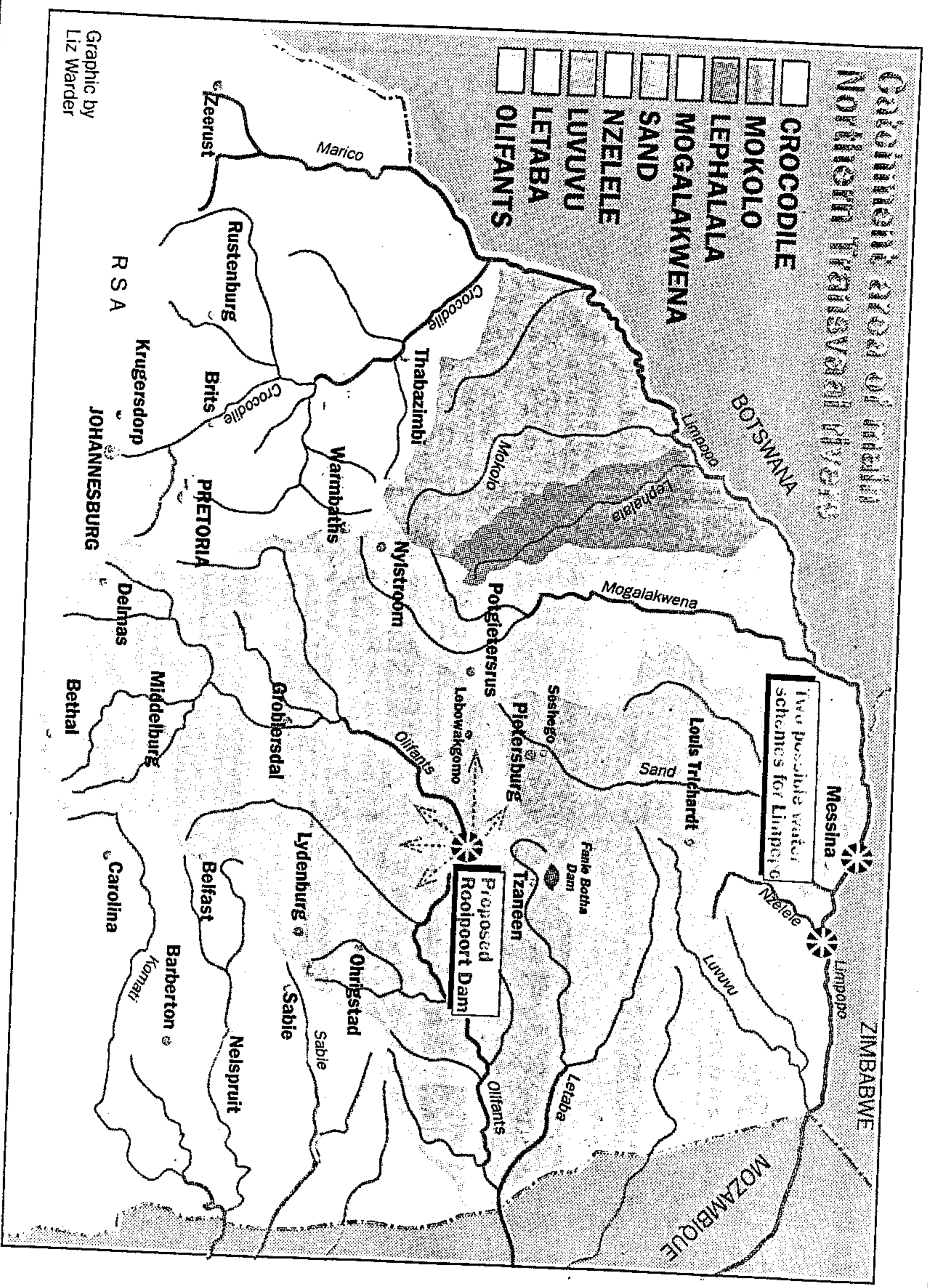
"Perceptions in the rural areas are changing. People used to see wildlife as a nuisance and a threat to their traditional way of farming. There is now a growing awareness of the potential for rural development through game farming," says Grossman.

"But in South Africa revenue derived from the wildlife trade does not reach the rural poor as well as it does in certain projects in neighbouring countries and there is not sufficient participation by local people in decisions about these conservation activities."

These inadequacies have to be addressed for wildlife conservation to achieve the full potential it has to help reconstruct South Africa's rural economy.

rist crop ●

Drought gives water experts flood of ideas



Graphic by Liz Warder

While the drought was devouring the northern Transvaal this week, experts were planning major water schemes. DIRK NEL reports.

Star 13/8/72

POLITICS pulled the plug 10 years ago on joint water schemes with Zimbabwe on the Limpopo River.

At Pietersburg this week, a few kilometres from the river, South African and Zimbabwean officials were in the mood to revive them at a conference on water affairs.

Changes in South Africa meant politics was also a prompt for reviving the plans, supported by the best reason of all: mutual need. It is still too early for details of joint schemes to have emerged from the conference, but it looks promising.

Urgent task

Domestic planning was easier to be specific about, and one project outlined was a large dam on the Olifants River, at Rooipoort in Sekhukhuneland, to serve Pietersburg and neighbouring towns.

A working group was formed at the end of the conference to make specific proposals for action. The task is urgent, since a conference heard that the drought threatens the water supply of 5 million people in northern Transvaal alone.

The talks ranged widely, and the animals in the Kruger National Park were not forgotten; one suggestion was improving water supplies to the park, using the Olifants, Levuvhu and Letaba rivers.

CT 12/18/92 (5b)

Sandy Bay 'should be part of nature reserve'

Staff Reporter

SANDY BAY naturists are lobbying the government to have their beach declared part of a proposed Karbonkelberg nature reserve to protect it from development.

The pressure group is headed by Sandy Bay activist Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, who proposes that the reserve should stretch from the Sandy Bay car park over Klein Leeukoppie and the Karbonkelberg as far as the Oudeskip

Peninsula and the Hout Bay Sentinel.

This area incorporates several privately-owned plots, including the 270 hectares owned by the Absa group, which abandoned the idea of commercial development because of public pressure and said last weekend that the R3,8 million property was for sale.

Ms Kruger-Liptrot said yesterday that Sandy Bay had endured the "constant onslaught" of developers for long enough.

CONCERN for the environment is not just fashionable, it is permanent. It involves the very survival of the human race and life on the planet.

So says John Tinker, head of the Panos Institute, who received a "Global 500" award at the Rio Earth Summit in Brazil in June for his contribution to sustainable development.

He was speaking at a workshop for journalists entitled "Media and the Environment" in Harare last week.

In 1972 Tinker attended the first-ever world conference on environment in Stockholm, Sweden. And 20 years later, the Rio summit was looking at essentially the same problems.

"There has been relatively little real action taken to address these issues," he said.

The plus point for the Rio Summit, however, was that it was widely publicised and there was greater awareness now of the problems but governments did not show the will to "work together to solve these problems", Tinker said.

The governments of the rich countries showed little willingness to provide funds and on the other hand those of the poor countries were only too happy to criticise the rich ones.

Three things were achieved though, Tinker said. These were that:

A permanent United Nations monitoring group on the environment was set up. This body has powers to look at individual countries and demand that governments mend their ways;

A public awareness to green problems was increased; and

Environmental issues received priority from governments because heads of state took part in the conference.

What is the role of the media after Rio? Tinker asked.

"The media should focus on solutions at local and national level. Information must be locally produced," Tinker said.

The role of the media was to:

Environmental reporting is mostly full of jargon that ordinary people do not understand and does not explain why certain things have to be done.

Head of the Panos Institute,
John Tinker

The Press had an important role to play in saving the environment, a world authority on the subject told a workshop for journalists in Harare. **Musa Zondi** who attended reports:

*Sowetan
14/8/92*



Musa Zondi takes time out to discuss environmental reporting with John Tinker, president of Panos Institute.

Deepen public awareness and understanding. The media has to answer questions why it was important to save our planet but this should be done in the language that all people would understand.

"Environmental reporting is mostly full of jargon that ordinary people do not understand and does not explain why certain things have to be done," Tinker said.

Journalists had to:

Learn all different issues surrounding the environment;

Establish links with non-governmental organisations. While these organisations may know what is wrong, they need the media for publicity.

Half of what we write should be explaining,

and

Investigate vigorously if certain projects were underway. Journalists should find out what they are for, who is meant to benefit and whether people who are supposed to benefit believe this will happen.

"The work of the Press in Southern Africa is important to the future. Problems affecting the environment won't be solved globally but locally," Tinker said.

The Panos Institute is an independent body working to promote sustainable development. It combines research with disseminating and providing information to those who need it. Panos also serves to stimulate constructive debate and acts as a bridge between non-governmental organisations and official agencies.

Air pollution damage: Early planning urged

(5) APR 14 1992

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PLANNING to avoid serious environmental damage and health hazards associated with air pollution in Cape Town should start immediately, says Cape Town City Council air pollution control officer Mr Brian Oxley.

He told a National Association for Clean Air symposium in Stellenbosch that reducing the number of vehicles in the region would reduce pollution levels, but this involved practical problems.

Introducing catalytic converters was probably the most feasible solution, although this was dependent on the introduction of lead-free petrol, "since lead poisons the catalyst".

In a paper, *Photochemical Smog As A Contributor To Brown Haze*, Mr Oxley said Cape Town's physical environment of mountain and amphitheatre provided a "perfect trap" for pollution.

The city council had initiated a successful air-pollution control programme in 1968 to deal with frequent problems and, within a decade, the situation improved "to the stage where Cape Town

could be considered one of the cleanest major cities in the world".

In spite of this success, concern had been expressed about vehicles and their potential for creating photochemical smog — the name given to brown haze which formed as sunlight acted on emissions from petrol-powered vehicles.

Mr Oxley pointed out that South African air-pollution legislation did not include air quality standards, but only set guidelines "designed to give wide health and safety margins".

These had been exceeded locally. In 1990, air pollution had been evident on 15 days during autumn months, with photochemical smog on nine of them.

Once pollutants entered the atmosphere, there were no effective control measures, he said.

"Only natural meteorological events ensure dispersal of the pollution.

"Hence, control measures must be directed towards reducing production and emission of pollutants, a major source of which is the petrol-driven motor vehicle engine."

The introduction of catalytic converters probably would be the most feasible solution.

● A pilot study into the presence of brown haze in the Cape Town region is underway and sampling is being done at the Cape Showground in Goodwood and at Hartleyvale.

Professor Richard Dutkiewicz, director of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town, told the clean-air seminar the study started at the end of May and sampling should be complete by the end of September.

The study was a joint programme between various units and departments at the University of Cape Town, the National Accelerator Centre at Faure, the Cape Town City Council, the CSIR and the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Professor Dutkiewicz said concern about brown haze had prompted an investigation into its severity of the haze, origins and constituent elements.

The exact relationship between brown haze and photochemical smog also would be investigated.

Cutting red tape helps to quench their thirst

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

STAR 14/8/92
PIETERSBURG — A red tape-cutting initiative has brought water to thousands of drought-stricken villagers said to be worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq.

The urgent programme, involving private enterprise, Department of Water Affairs officials and British disaster relief engineers, is operating in remote rural areas in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

A water supply task force, operating under the National Drought Relief Consultative Forum, this week invited the media to visit its projects.

The project uses private-sector finance and equipment, government influence and infra-

structure, and ready-for-anything action teams to get the job done, said Water Affairs strategist Simon Forster.

Engineer David Williamson co-ordinates events from an operations room in Pietersburg where crisis information is gathered and urgent drilling, repairs and maintenance are arranged.

"By cutting out all formalities which cause delays, we have managed to supply thousands of drought-hit people with clean drinking water within a short time," Mr Forster said.

The situation was critical in some areas, said British relief engineer Ian Johnson.

"Some villagers in Venda are worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq — many are down to a quota of a litre of water a day each, and such people are in danger of contracting all kinds of diseases because

domestic and personal hygiene is virtually non-existent."

At a village near Elim Hospital, villagers crowded expectantly around a drilling rig. The contractor predicted he would strike water within two days.

A few kilometres down the dusty road, 200 children, all carrying 25 litre containers, queued for water at a dusty pump.

Task force leader Malcolm White said the pump provided water for thousands of people.

Meanwhile nutritional, agricultural and employment task forces went about their work in other areas this week as part of the overall programme.

"The drought relief programme supplies employment for many," said Mr Forster.

The Delta Motor Corp had provided a fleet of vehicles to get work teams to project sites, and other firms had provided advice and equipment.

Unique 'green' project in Soweto

STAR 17/8/92

(56)

It takes a special person with a unique approach to encourage Soweto youths to care about environmental issues. Shadrack Madingwane (below) spoke to MONICA OOSTERBROEK.

SOWETAN environmentalist Shadrack Madingwane believes that if youngsters could be taught to nurture a growing tree, they would care more about human life.

In a community where violent deaths and destruction are part of daily existence, Mr Madingwane hopes that if children were taught to respect and love nature's little things, life would become more precious.

He gave up his full-time job as a community worker and has devoted himself to environmental issues in Soweto — but has found it to be a tough battle.

"It is hard to interest people in conserving nature when they are hungry, cold and homeless," Mr Madingwane said.

When he launched the Tirelo Sechaba (Work of the Nation) Youth Project two years ago, the aim was to involve youths in community issues and therefore tap vital resources.

He wants to interest unemployed people in community concerns, particularly environmental ones, and give them something to focus on. He hopes that by giving them something constructive to do, there will be less anti-social activity.

"Most environmental organisations aim at elitist sections of the public and mean nothing to Soweto children.

"We focus on issues relevant to our community — air pollution, overpopulation, lack of housing and electricity," he said.

To help with his environmental education plan, Mr Madingwane is at present raising funds for a community centre. To be called Yaron, meaning Ours, the resource centre would also provide sporting, recreational and social facilities.

For more information contact Mr Madingwane on (011) 837-7955 or at Box 1818, Johannesburg 2000. □

Sanitation needed for 18-million

HALF the population does not have access to adequate sanitation, the Water Research Commission said yesterday.

The commission found in its investigation into sanitation that in urban and rural areas, 18-million people lived without proper sanitation.

In urban areas a third of the people do not have adequate sanitation. In addition, about 9-million people (one in every four) do not have access to a safe water supply.

"This involves major health hazards as diseases relating to human waste and impure water are the cause of the majority of infant deaths in developing countries," the commission warned.

Gastric disease was a major cause of death and permanent disabilities among infants.

The commission said it was engaged in a programme aimed at addressing the problem of inadequate sanitation.

Its objectives included:

- Establishing the number of people with access to safe sanitation;
- Testing the efficiency of current systems; and
- Developing a strategy to improve the situation and developing guidelines for the provision of sanitation.

The investigation has found the cost of providing urban dwellers with waterborne sewerage by 2000 to be R11bn. — Sapa.

Protest against toxic cargoes

By DANIEL SIMON

A GROUP of 20 environmentalists symbolically blockaded the V & A harbour entrance yesterday to protest against Japanese plans to ship large amounts of lethal radio-active plutonium round the African coast from next month.

The Cape Town action, led by the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments, was part of a national awareness programme, with protests also being held in Pretoria and Durban.

Protesters, wearing black rubbish bags with stickers declaring "We are dead against plutonium", strung a banner across the harbour entrance urging the public to help stop the planned shipments.

Protesters also called on the government to impound "18 tons of toxic waste" on board the Maria Laura, which docked in Table Bay yesterday morning.

The toxic cargo, consisting of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), a pesticide waste, originates from

56 CF 17/8/92
Australia and is being shipped to France.

Earthlife Africa chairman Dr Greg Knill accused the Western Australian government of "violating" an international treaty which calls on signatories to notify foreign governments of the movement of hazardous waste in their waters.

He urged Cape Town harbour authorities to charge the cargo's owners and the Western Australian government for violating South African sovereignty.

POLLUTION

Pollution, respiratory tract illnesses link investigated



STAR 18/8/92

Data collected on more than 10 000 children between the ages of eight and 12 as part of the Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study (Vaps) have indicated that up to 70 percent of the children suffer from respiratory tract illnesses during the year. **Pharmacy**

Today reports.

The Vaps project was set up two years ago by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to establish the levels of air pollution in the industry-intensive Vaal Triangle and whether these levels are affecting the health of residents.

The respiratory conditions reported in children include sinusitis, earache, hayfever and

chronic runny noses.

"The high levels of particular matter and pollen measured in the region could be an explanation for these conditions and are being investigated further," Dr Petro Terblanche of the MRC explains.

Asthma

The prevalence of lower respiratory tract illnesses (bronchitis, pneumonia, wheezing, chronic cough), was 29 percent in the Vaal Triangle population. The normal distribution of this in the South African population is not known.

The prevalence of asthma was 7,7 percent, which is similar to what is expected in the general South African population.

Significant risk factors for respiratory illnesses in the Vaal Triangle children are the period of residency (the longer the residency, the bigger the risk), maternal smoking, younger age and female gender. The study also found that there is a strong correlation between the mother's concern about air pollution and the prevalence of respiratory illnesses.

It is assumed that because the child is ill, the mother is aware and concerned about air pollution rather than the opposite. This hypothesis is currently being tested.

The preliminary results of the Vaps have now enabled the project to focus on specific problems. The top priorities of the study

for the next two to four years are:

- To determine the relative contributions of pollen and man-made air pollution to the high percentage of children suffering from upper respiratory illnesses.

This data is crucial in decision-making regarding control priorities.

Evaluate

- To closely evaluate the levels of gaseous pollutants to ensure that the levels are acceptable and are not a health risk to the population.

- To characterise risk factors such as maternal smoking and coal-burning better and to communicate the results to the Vaal Triangle residents.

Joint resource strategy urged

BIDAM 18/8/92
THE time was opportune for southern African countries to co-operate in a long-term strategy on water management, Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Magnus Malan said yesterday.

The growing realisation of the dependence of countries on limited and shared water resources, as well as the recurrent threat of drought, had spurred negotiations between SA and its neighbours, he said.

Opening a Water Week conference at the CSIR, Malan said the positive political climate in the region meant joint strategies were attainable. One such strategy was the re-use of water

GERALD REILLY

to supplement fresh water resources. The Development Bank of Southern Africa's Brian Hollingworth said water planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies which prevented comprehensive water programmes being initiated in developing communities.

The sudden attention on developing communities held the danger that policy and strategy approaches focused on developing communities would become separate from overall national water supply management.

Co-ordinated management and planning was vital, speakers agreed.

Pssst! Aerosol cans are free of CFCs (almost)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PSSSSSSST! Heard the latest?

All aerosol cans manufactured in South Africa for general consumer use are now free of CFCs (chloroflourocarbons).

This means that 96,78 percent of the more than 112 million aerosol cans produced each year are "ozone friendly", according to the Aerosol Manufacturers' Association.

The remaining 3,22 percent containing CFCs are used in industry and medicine where exceptionally high safety standards are required, such as for asthma pumps or in mines.

"The view that if you used aerosols you didn't care about the environment is now completely obsolete," said Mr Mike Naude, the association's executive director.

An action programme to substitute ozone-depleting

ARG 18/8/92
CFCs with "ozone-friendly" propellants had been in place for more than four years, during which the association had worked with manufacturers to identify and overcome environmental problems, he said.

In terms of the Montreal Protocol, the international agreement signed by 75 countries (including South Africa), a total ban on the production and use of CFCs should be in place by the year 2000.

The protocol recognised that inhalent drug products, often called medical or metered dose inhalers (MDIs), were the most difficult aerosol medical products in which to substitute CFCs, Mr Naude said.

"Nonetheless, research for ozone-friendly propellants for pharmaceutical applications continues, with toxicity and other testing currently under way in Europe and the United States."

NATIONAL WATER WEEK

A Star advertising feature

The theme for National Water Week is "Grow with water". This survey, compiled and written by LINDSEY SANDERSON, takes a look at various aspects related to water and how it affects all of us.

Hills alive with sounds of water

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is one of the most ambitious multi-purpose water schemes under development worldwide.

When fully completed, the joint Lesotho-South African project will have tremendous benefit for both countries, supplying much-needed water to South Africa and hydro-electricity to Lesotho.

As long ago as the 1950s, proposals were made to transfer Lesotho's abundant water to South Africa and studies were undertaken on the feasibility of diverting the headwaters of the Orange River in Lesotho to the Vaal River in South Africa. However, the plans for the Oxbow scheme never came to fruition.

In the 1970s the proposals were reviewed. In the 1978 Lesotho and South Africa launched a joint feasibility study into what was to become known as the Lesotho Highlands Water project.

More than 2 000 variants were evaluated before the final proposals were made and it was not until 1986 that Lesotho and South Africa signed the treaty approving the water scheme and the binational Joint Permanent Technical Commission was established.

The commission, equally represented by both countries has monitoring and advisory powers with regard to operation plans, calculation and allocation of

costs, funding, design and tendering.

The LHWP will developed in four phases over 30 years. When complete it will deliver 70/cu m of water a second to South Africa and will generate 1 304 GWh of hydro-electric power a year to Lesotho.

When fully developed, the project will consist of five major storage dams, a power station with a total installed capacity of about 110 MW, a smaller dam to crate the tailpond of the hydro-electric scheme, a total of 225 km of tunnels, three pumping stations and 650 km of access roads. Work is already progressing on Phase 1A which involves construction of the 180 m high 1 950 million/cu m Katse Dam, the Muela Dam and power station two lengths of transfer tunnel and three lengths of delivery tunnel totalling 81 km. Phase 1B will see the construction of the 958 million cu m Molehale Dam, the Matsoko Diversion and 6,4 km tunnel from the diversion to the Katse Dam and capacity of the Muela Dam increased to 10 MW.

Phase II includes the construction of the 3 306 million/cu m Mashai Dam, pumping stations connecting Mashai and Katse dams, a second transfer tunnel from Katse Dam to Muela power station; or from Mashai Dam to Muela power station and a second delivery tunnel from Katse Dam to the Axle River outlet.

Sasol keeps their

Sasol's stringent minimal-discharge policies not only limit environmental pollution, but also help to conserve South Africa's scarce water resources.

Virtually all water used at the oil-coal plant at Secunda is recycled back into the production system after extensive treatment.

Sasol has devised and installed appropriate recycling technology to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Water Act.

Each day, the Sasol plants use millions of litres of water to ensure full-scale operations.

Thus water is used for washing raw coal, chemical conversion processes and for cooling.

Engineers opted for in-plant water recycling rather than conventional discharge into rivers.

This recycling process has another advantage: it almost completely eliminates the risks of pollution.

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Before the flood . . . the Katse Dam cons.

Keep a clean, healthy home and

Brita, the world's leading water filter systems are soon to be produced locally, a move expected to significantly increase the development of the product — which already has an annual growth rate of 89 percent in this country.

The water filters refine tap water using a filter cartridge comprising an ion exchanger and activated carbon.

They simultaneously reduce temporary hardness, lead, copper and chlorine, while inhibit-

ing the growth of bacteria in the filter and leaving behind the trace elements important to health.

The filters are not only popular as a health aid, but also play an important role in the household.

Because the cartridge removes the calcium that causes scale build-up in kettles and steam irons, one of the biggest benefits of the system is that it prolongs the life of all household appliances which use

water.

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Secunda complex situation. The catchment area of the plant does not want to detract from the effect of one of the strategic water reserves in the PWV region.

Properly treated waste water and rain-water conforming to stringent legislative requirements can be discharged into neighbouring streams.

Recycled water not only meets the standards required in on-site dams, and saves the plant through

evaporation.

The ripple effect has encompassed the neighbouring farming community where the farmers had to endure relatively dry winters before the commissioning of the Secunda plants. Now they enjoy more abundant water supplies during the rainless winter months.

In trying to reduce water consumption, large parts of the designs for the two Secunda plants had to be converted from being water-cooled to being air-

cooled.

The results are quite staggering: about 80 megalitres of fresh water are saved a day. That's enough water to keep the population in a city the size of Bloemfontein alive for one day.

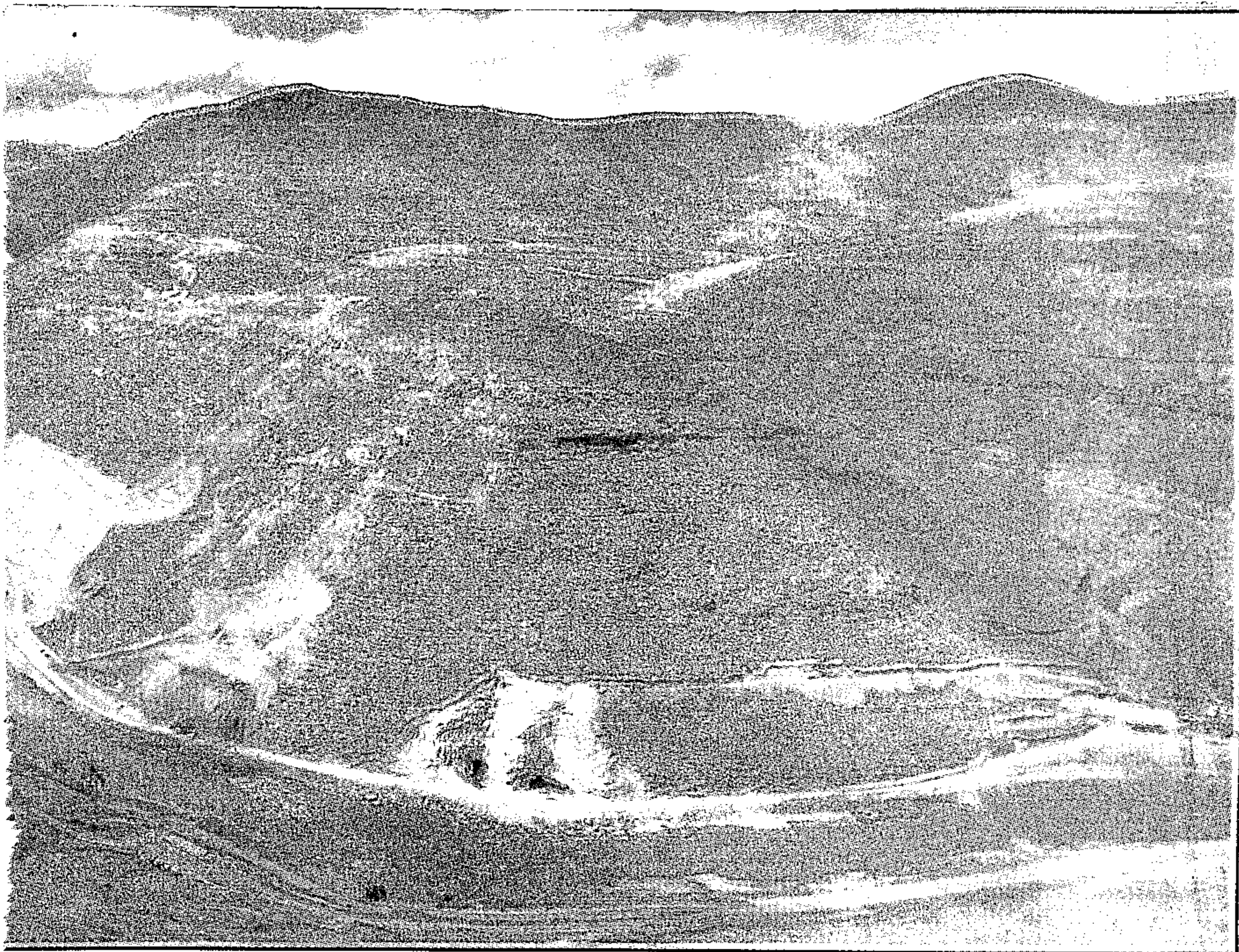
Monitoring of surface water in the area outside the plant is done and attention is also given to ground water.

Using strategically placed boreholes around the Sasol plants, chemical profiles of the

ground water are continuously tested to avoid any deviations from acceptable ground water standards.

Pipeline and dam conditions are investigated routinely by specialist personnel to ensure that they comply with acceptable technical and environmental standards.

Considerable research into water purification and optimisation is being conducted by Sasol to improve the quality of the water for re-use.



Construction site. When the 180 m wall is built, it will hold back the highest dam in Africa.

filter filth from water Service on your doorstep

An injection mould from Germany, South Africa will initially produce 1 litre Aqua Export System. Identical in appearance to the imported

Because of the reduced costs of production, Brita has managed to reduce the retail price of the Aqua Export from R69,99.

The mini model — ideal for long on holidays or

business trips — will retail at R34,00.

The cartridges will be priced at R19,99 each.

In South Africa, Brita Water Filter Systems has its head office at Eastbury House, Hampton Park, 20 Georgian Crescent, Bryanston, tel (011) 706-1125, or fax (011) 706-1127. Brita also has branches elsewhere in the Transvaal and in Natal and will shortly launch its Cape Town office.

The country is in the midst of a crisis as a result of the absence of rain. The cost of water has become astronomical and, if there is no rain soon, the possibility exists that water restrictions will be imposed.

Rand Water Boring Contractors have been in existence since 1946 and are accordingly able to offer the public excellent professional service.

On the drilling side we use two air drills, each of which can

complete a borehole within two days. Pumping equipment is thereafter supplied.

In terms of irrigation, our team consists of people who have been in our employ for at least 20 years and are fully conversant with this aspect.

All teams are supervised by Victor Benyamin who also builds electrical panels with complete protection.

For more information call (011) 444-9387.

Bottom

of the well

As the drought tightens its grip throughout the country, more and more desperate farmers are turning to an already over-used commodity in an attempt to counteract the damaging effects of the drought.

As a result boreholes are going deeper, water tables are dropping and holes are being pumped dry.

This can and will have a long lasting impact on South Africa's once reliable water source.

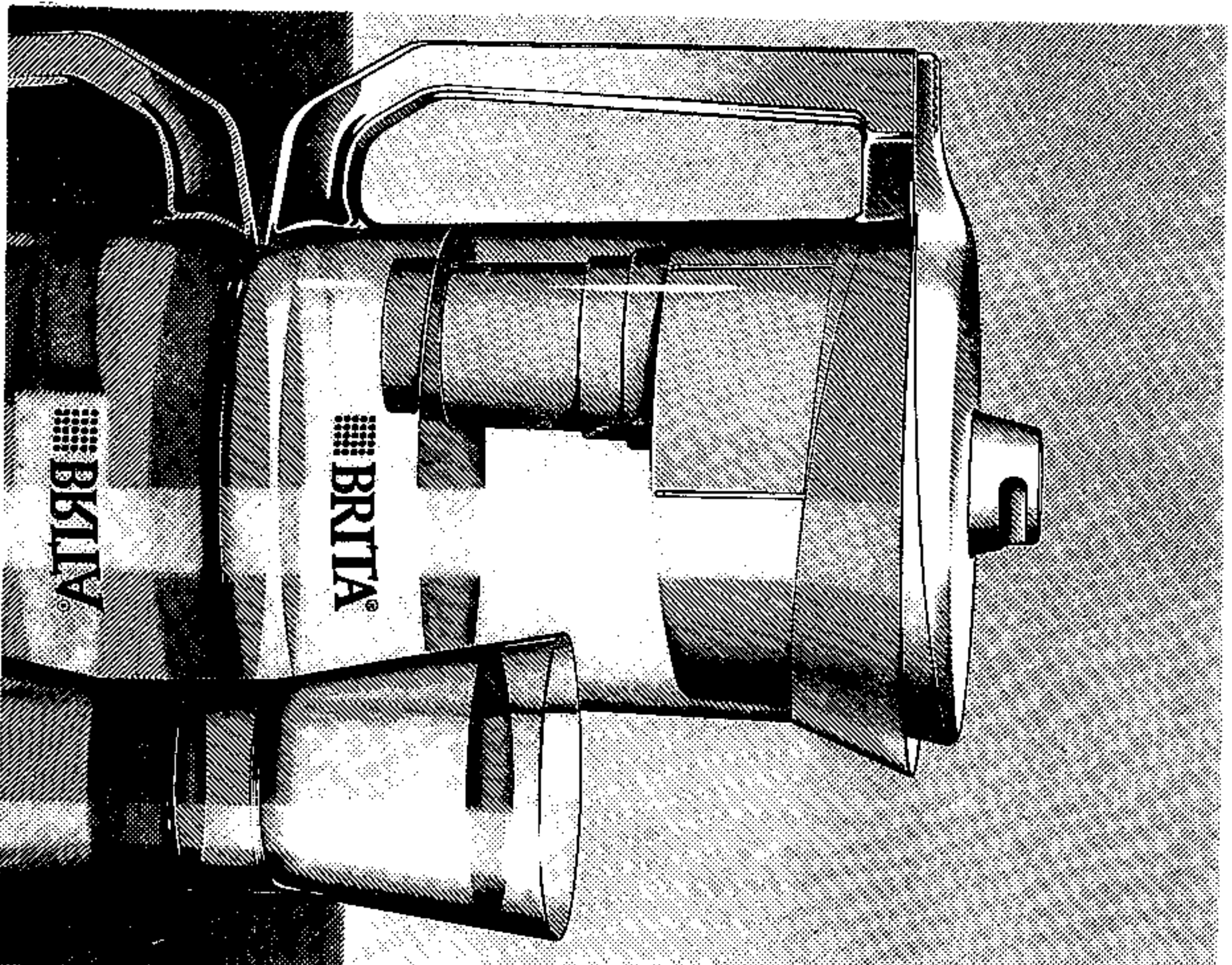
The Borehole Water Association of Southern Africa, a body with members ranging across a wide range of disciplines has been established since 1979 to address some of the problems that arise from drought conditions.

For more information contact: Borehole Water Association, PO Box 2178, Southdale, 2135. Tel: (011) 942-1123.

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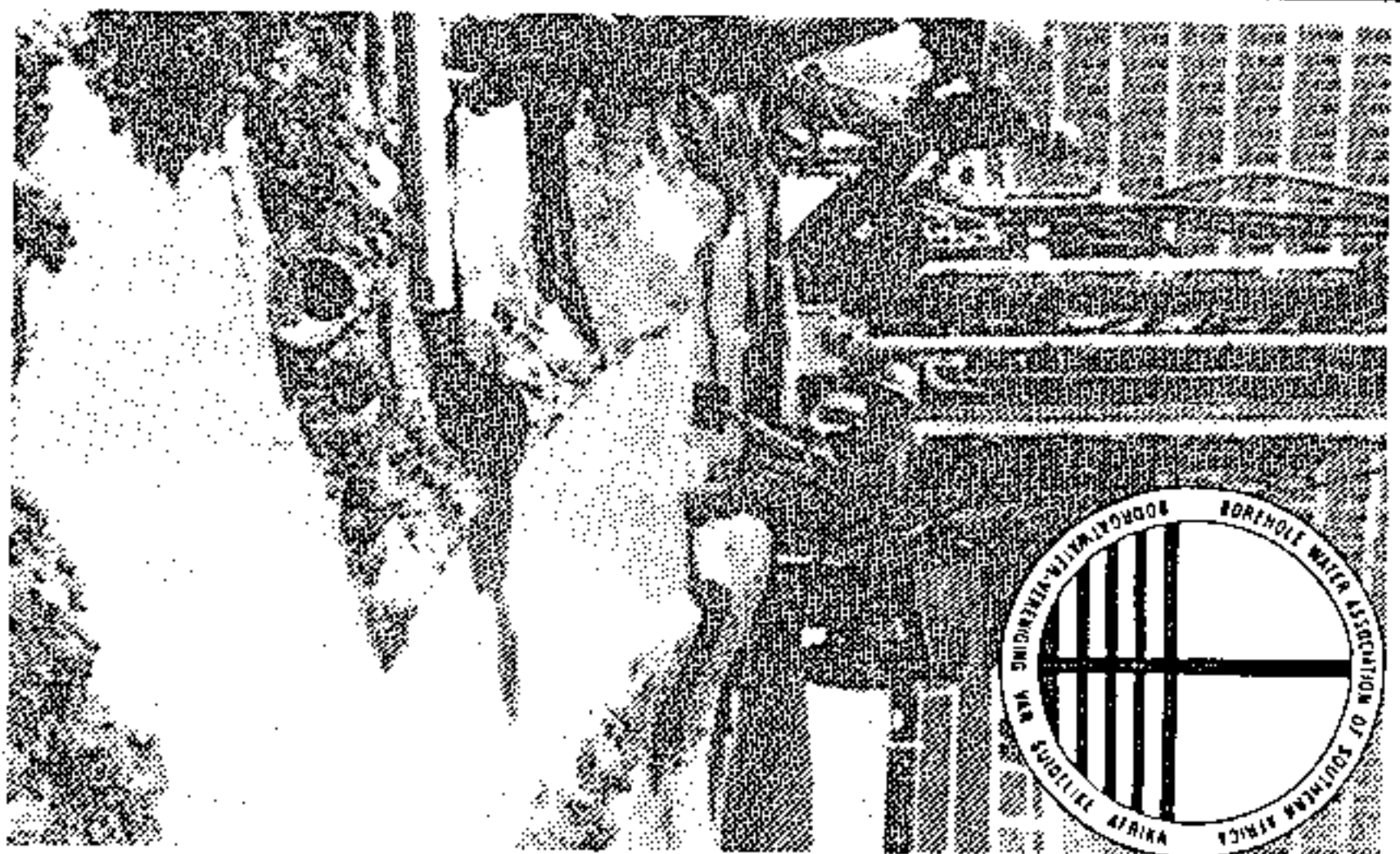
BRITA improves the quality and taste of your tap water in seconds. The unique BRITA patented cartridge, which as a capacity of 130 litres, removes the following:

- * The taste of chlorine
- * 90% lead and copper
- * Prevents scale build-up in kitchen appliances



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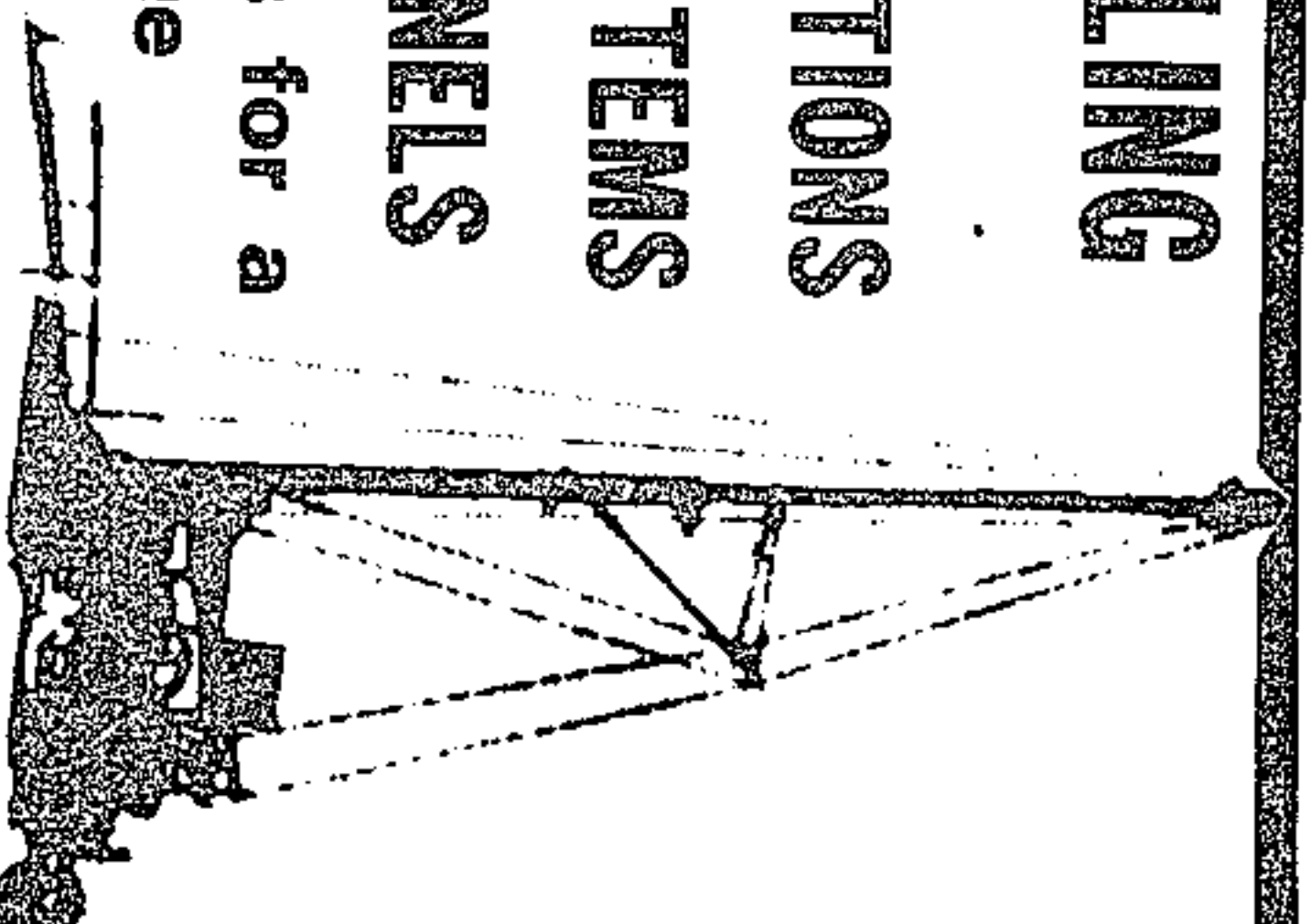
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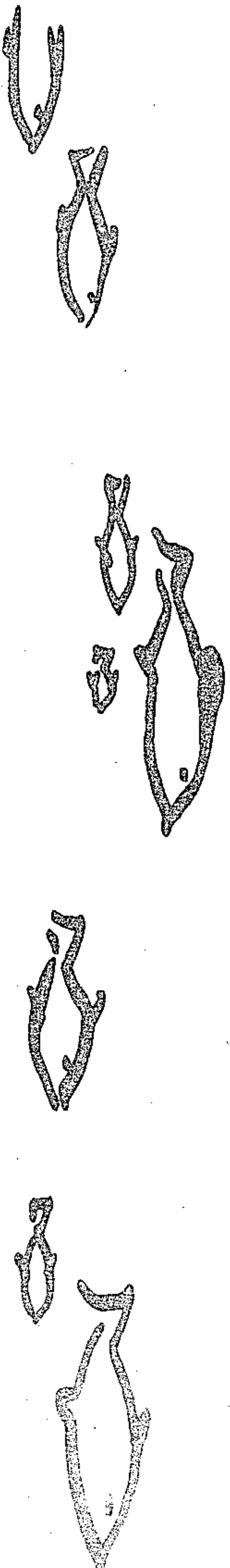
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All the technology in the world cannot change the fact that nature remains our sole source of existence. Which is why Sasol goes to great lengths to prevent polluted water from reaching rivers and streams. Because, of all the discoveries we've made this remains the greatest: it is not what we get out of nature that matters, but what we put back in.

UI

Vital for SA's water to be used optimally

In countries with limited water resources, such as South Africa, it is vital that the available water be used optimally.

Consequently, water research has played a very important role in the management of South Africa's water resources for many years.

This is the view of Piet Odendaal, executive director of the Water Research Commission, which has co-ordinated and also largely financed water research in South Africa for the past 27 years.

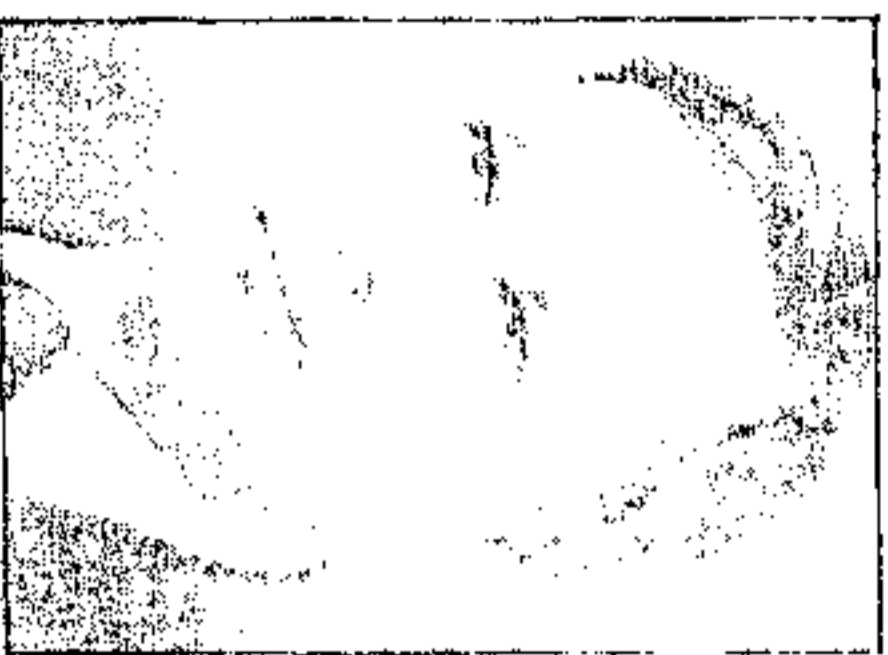
According to Mr Odendaal, research not only plays an important part in better utilisation of existing resources, but it can also help to exploit new resources and even to develop additional resources.

By the first half of the 20th century South Africa's natural water resources will no longer be able to meet the needs of the growing population.

"Therefore we shall have to rely more and more on techniques such as re-use of water in order to meet the country's needs," he said.

"Fortunately South Africa's water authorities realised as far back as 1970 that research would play an important role in the management of South Africa's resources."

The WRC was established fol-



Piet Odendaal... executive director, Water Research Commission.

lowing the reorganisation by the Commission of Inquiry into Water Affairs in 1970 that, in view of the importance of water research for optimum water utilisation, it had to be better co-ordinated and extended.

The objectives, financing and procedures of the WRC are clearly spelt out in the Water Research Act passed by Parliament in 1971.

In terms of the Act it is the task of the WRC to:

- promote water research
- better co-ordinate such research.

- identify research needs and priorities
- finance important research
- promote technology transfer.

It was decided at an early stage that the WRC itself would not conduct research but would contract research bodies to do research on its behalf. At this stage most of the research work is done by the CSIR and certain universities, but other bodies are also involved.

Therefore, the WRC mainly concentrates on the co-ordination of existing research activities — and on providing finance for such research wherever possible. This also ensures that expensive research facilities are not duplicated unnecessarily.

The commission only becomes involved in research that would affect the interests of the country as a whole or at least promote the interests of an entire region or sector. In addition, this research has to find practical application.

While such research obviously costs a great deal of money, the commission does not receive any money from the Government. All research is financed by consumers of water who pay a levy on their water consumption.

Since 1990 the levy has amounted to 1.5c a cum for domestic and industrial use

Blueprint for research into water quality

Owing to the increasing danger of pollution, it is becoming more and more difficult to ensure that the quality of South Africa's drinking-water meets the standards to which people have become accustomed.

Consequently the quality of drinking water — and in particular the health aspect thereof — remains one of the most important aspects of research of the Water Research Commission.

The commission says in its annual report that changing circumstances are making even increasing demands on South Africa's water supply authorities.

Therefore, research can play an important role to develop the necessary technology to meet the growing need for pure drink-

ing-water.

For this reason the WRC's coordinating committee for health-related water quality drafted a blueprint for future research on water quality.

The purpose of the blueprint is to determine, in good time, the effect of the various applications of water on the quality thereof — and to identify the necessary research to address priorities.

One of those objectives is to analyse the efficiency of existing technology.

In fact, several research projects are already under way to examine existing and new technologies.

In one of the chapters in the latest annual report it is stated that the consumer needs to know

for a fact that his drinking-water does not pose any health hazards.

While the man-in-the-street evaluates water on the basis of its clarity, odour and taste, he has to rely on the authorities to ensure that there are no organisms in the water which would be injurious to his health.

This implies that the water quality needs to be monitored on a regular basis. Consequently, the WRC in conjunction with the Department of Water Affairs, has developed a strategy and a set of guidelines for testing the quality of water in South Africa.

However, research on drinking-water is not limited to purification processes and human health.

The micro-organisms and



Industrial effluent... poses a threat to South Africa's water resources.

chemicals in the water can also pose a threat to health. Pipes to rust and kettles and household appliances to scale up.

Great progress has been made with extensive research aimed at establishing the causes of the problems and stabilising the contents of water.

Considerable time and money are also being spent on water consumption, on economising in urban areas with a view to preventing wastage. However, progress is slow.

Research is focused, inter alia, on water-saving equipment, on water consumption patterns, tracing leaks in pipe systems, corrosion in pipe materials and the supply of water to developing areas.

Water, sanitation are needed for all

The supply of water and sanitation facilities to developing communities will become one of the major challenges in the management of South Africa's water resources in the coming years.

Research conducted by the Water Research Commission indicates that only one in every four people has access to safe water supply.

Furthermore, only one in every two people has access to safe sanitation.

The Department of Water Affairs estimates it will cost between R19 000 and R12 000 million to supply the necessary facilities to all right now. By the year 2009 costs could amount to about R30 000 million.

The existing technology being used for the construction of water and sanitation facilities is adequate, but many well-planned schemes have failed because not enough attention has been given to the specific needs of particular developing communities.

For this reason the WRC has become much more involved in research on water-supply to developing communities during recent years. About 10 percent of funds available for research in 1993 has been allocated to research on water and sanitation problems in developing areas.

At present the commission is engaged in a project aimed at determining the cost efficiency of existing water and sanitation



Essential... a supply of safe water for everyone.

supply areas. It is hoped that the research will result in a set of guidelines to facilitate future planning, through evaluating present methods in terms of long-term cost recovery and community involvement.

Attention is being given to research on sanitation, because the inadequate facilities in over-populated areas could cause large-scale pollution of these areas which could pose a health threat.

The run-off of such areas can also pollute streams and rivers and there is a real danger that the pollution may even affect groundwater sources.

South Africa a world leader in water re-use research

Projections indicate that the demand for water in South Africa will exceed the country's available resources by as early as the year 2020.

For this reason, says Piet Odendaal, executive director of the Water Research Commission, it is vital that new and improved technology be developed on an ongoing basis for optimum utilisation of available resources.

South Africa has, for many years, been a world leader in research on water re-use, a large part of which is financed and co-ordinated by the WRC.

Mr Odendaal says about 35 percent of the total demand for water is used for domestic and industrial purposes. Nearly 80 percent of the water is used non-consumptively, that is, it has

to be returned to the system in one way or another.

Before it can be returned to the river system the water must be purified to such a degree that it is suitable for use by people further downstream.

According to Sakkie van der Westhuizen, director, water quality of the Department of Water Affairs, the quality of purified water is, however, subjected to rigorous control and is often adapted to changing conditions.

Consequently, researchers are under constant pressure to further improve existing cleaning processes, particularly in view of the demographic changes taking place in the country.

The emergence of new peri-urban communities, in particular, pose new challenges to the water treatment industry.

Research is focused on sewage treatment, sewage sludge, purification of industrial effluent and water re-use in mines.

The WRC is engaged in projects aimed at increasing the efficiency of sewage treatment.

The development of membrane technology, in particular, receives much attention. This technique is not only important for the removal of undissolved substances from municipal and industrial effluent, but it can also play an important role in the desalination of brackish water and seawater.

A major challenge is to find ways of disposing of the sewage sludge resulting from the treatment of sewage effluent.

In South Africa this sludge is used to lesser degree in agriculture, because diseases and parasites could spread more readily in South Africa's climatic conditions than in other countries.

Research is focused, in particular, on overcoming this problem so that sludge may be used on a large scale in agriculture.

Industrial effluent has been in the news recently, owing to its threat to the environment.

The WRC has just published a series of 14 guides containing guidelines on the correct management of water and effluent in various industrial sectors.

Many research projects are currently under way with a view to developing new technologies for the removal of pollution from industrial effluent in such a way that the water can be returned to the rivers for further use.

Bring the taste of spring back into your home

Water is key to urban influx crisis

By Richard Wesson

More people in the urban centers have their attention on the water supply than ever before. The problem of water supply is directly related to the urban influx crisis. The lack of water, not only in the urban centers but also in the rural areas, has become a major problem. The lack of water supply is a direct result of the urban influx crisis. The problem of water supply is directly related to the urban influx crisis. The lack of water, not only in the urban centers but also in the rural areas, has become a major problem. The lack of water supply is a direct result of the urban influx crisis.

The idea of a supply of sparkling clear water right in your home is very appealing and with the use of a compact appliance consisting of a filtering cartridge, a tap deviator and a jointed aerator the taps in your home can turn on a supply of "spring water" for you. An added bonus is that you can cut down on water consumption because of the built-in regulator in the aerator.

The LINI 3 Purifier not only eliminates the solid impurities of the water by means of a filter, but also absorbs and eliminates bad smells and tastes by making use of the active carbon (about 50 g) to obtain water suitable for drinking and cooking purposes at a low cost.

● Fitted for any type of water-lap, either threaded or smooth it takes up very little room and can be used very easily.

● It is equipped with the jointed aerator shower SHOFLEX and it incorporates a water-tap deviator which can purify the water whenever necessary, thus considerably extending the life of the cartridge.

● The purifier is particularly efficacious against the chlorine put in drinkable water. Purifier LINI 3 absorbs also phenol, arsenic, cadmium, mercury, zinc and, in less measure, other components which are harmful to health, as has been proved from analysis carried out in German and Italian Labs.

● A patented flow regulator is incorporated into the deviator and, under any capacity and pressure conditions, lets the optimum quantity of water flow thus exploiting the action of the active carbon to the utmost. In fact, the slower the flow of the water is the more efficacious the action of the active carbon will be, with a water flow from 1 to 2 litres a minute, approximately 50 g of active carbon contained in the cartridge of LINI 3 absorb initially about 90 percent of chlorine.

The life of the purifying action of LINI 3 is obviously related to the characteristics and quantity of the water we want to purify. In an average household it lasts for three months after which the filtering cartridge can be replaced.

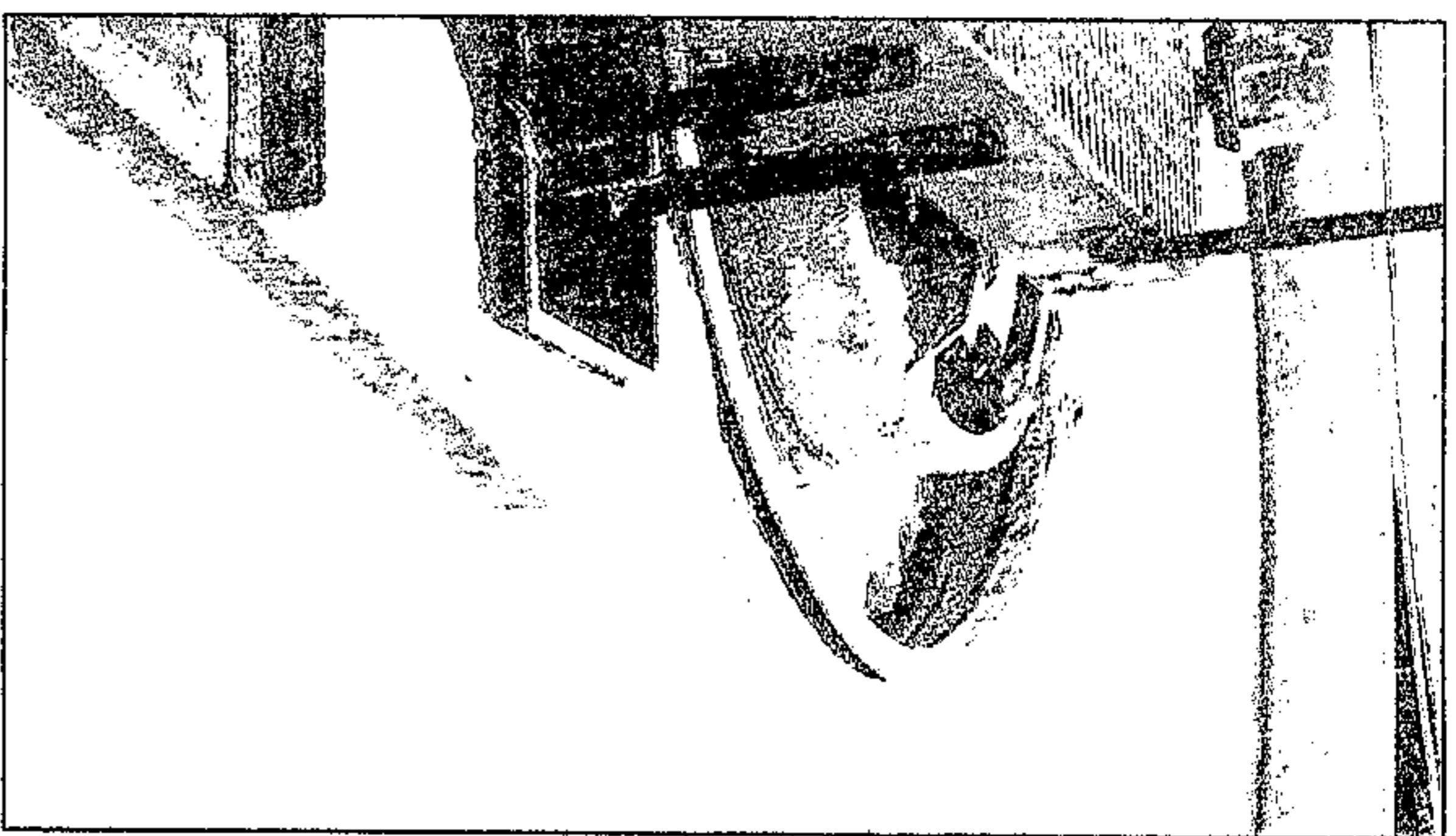
positioning of boreholes must be carried out in a professional manner. A hydrogeological and resource study for the region should be carried out. Geologists must be properly equipped and dispatched. Drilling should be properly supervised and logged so that there is ongoing coordination between the geologists and geographers.

This correlation not only improves the drilling success rate but may also optimize depths of drilling and therefore reduce the total cost of a project.

Ideally, any community relying on boreholes should have a minimum of two boreholes so that water can continue to be supplied if there is a problem with any one borehole. It is not a sin to under-tilt a borehole, but it is a sin to over-tilt one.

If a community has a reasonable, sustainable clean water supply, it has taken its first essential step on the road to development. Only by raising the living conditions in rural areas will the more obvious problems of the urban areas be solved.

Richard Wesson is principal engineer hydrogeological services. For more information, contact him on (011) 976-5192.



First step towards development... a sustainable supply of clean drinking water.

Use of water must relate to means of water conservation

The rapidly growing need of mining and urban and industrial development in South Africa have highlighted the limited amount of available water resources and have put an emphasis on the need for better techniques and improved water management. At the same time a need for changes in consumer awareness of the vulnerability of our water supply has been highlighted.

The ultimate aim is a total system in which all the effects of precipitation, evaporation, runoff, seepage, infiltration, pollution and erosion can be managed to our benefit.

Various means have been devised with the aim of preserving water and ensuring that maximum yields are obtained from our available water resources.

Water transfer schemes such as the Tugela-Vaal, Orange-Fish, River-Ouderveld, Berg River and Tsubu-Vaal projects carry water from areas where it is in abundant supply and where there is less demand for water to areas such as the PWV where it is scarce and in great demand.

Evaporation and spillage accounts for the loss of a great deal of stored water. As an example, the average amount of water lost per day by evaporation from the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam is equal to the amount of water needed to supply 10 cities the size of Port Elizabeth.

One method of reducing such a loss is by variable demand procedures which water is withdrawn from dams at a greater rate than the "firm yield" (de-

termined by the amount of water that can be supplied in the most severe drought) leaving less water in dams to be lost by evaporation and spillage.

Another method of reducing evaporation is by the linking of different water sources. An example of this is the Tugela-Vaal project. In this instance, water is stored in the Sterkfontein Dam and released to the Vaal Dam when the capacity of the latter is reduced to a critical level. Much less evaporation takes place in the Sterkfontein Dam because it is much deeper and the surface area much smaller.

A considerable drop in water consumption at Eskom's power stations has been noted with the introduction of "dry" cooling systems as opposed to "wet" cooling systems.

Hydroelectric schemes at the Hoedsig, Kerkwag and PK Je Rous dams and the Drakensberg and Steenbras Pumped Storage Schemes and in balancing the loads on the electricity supply grid.

Accuracy and reliability in forecasting climatological conditions is a key factor in water management and at present much research is being carried out in this field. An example is the study of the El Niño phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which has been found to have a direct bearing on rainfall in the southern hemisphere countries.

The accumulation of sediment in dams is a factor in reducing the storage volume of dams. Increasing the capacity of a dam by raising the dam wall leads to an increase in the surface area which allows for further evaporation. The answer is to prevent sediments reaching the dam by effective land management and soil conservation.

Salination is the main cause of water deterioration and is a result of natural salination as well as the use of fertilizers and insecticides in rural areas and effluent discharges in urban and industrial areas. Control measures in both urban and rural areas are vital to protect the quality of our water.

Traditionally water has been seen as a freely available low-cost resource. However it should be regarded as an increasingly scarce and valuable commodity. All water users should be encouraged by education and incentives to become actively involved in effective water use in the home, on farms and in industry.

Inefficient irrigation leads to water wastage. Emphasis should be placed on obtaining the maximum crop yield from a predetermined volume of water, while the correct planning of irrigation schemes also plays a vital role.

The application of effective hydrological and hydraulic principles is essential to prevent costly flood damage. Soil conservation measures are also essential in the control of floods.

Practising multiple internal recirculation of water and effluents in industrial processes fresh water intake can be reduced by up to 90 percent. Purification of domestic effluent for re-use has proved very effective in Windhoek and at Daspoot.

Better quality means better water supply

A comparatively new line of pumps which has proved very reliable over extended periods is the range of EY 200 mm turbine submersibles supplied by M&B Pumps.

Delivering up to 250 cu m/h at a head of up to 200 m, the high-capacity pumps have a reputation for dependability, making them ideal for pumping out of boreholes.

The long-life bearings are made from heavy duty bronze and are fitted with sand caps to protect them against abrasives. Pump shafts are of stainless steel heat-treated to close tolerances.

Impellers are made from high quality bronze and are perfectly balanced to run vibration-free.

The turbine bowls are designed for maximum efficiency over a wide range of pumping conditions. Cast in close grain iron the inside of each bowl is glass-lined to maximize performance.

The pumps have proved themselves over many years and are popular with municipalities, farmers and people running irrigation schemes, not only because of their high capacity but also because of the quick payback on capital cost and installation.

For more information contact Landay Dumbrell (011) 699-8260.

Don't let your pool get on top of your water bill

Many communities and regions are faced with water restrictions and these restrictions have an impact on responsible pool care.

What can pool owners do to conserve as much water as possible? Some practical solutions have been provided by Olin marketers of HTH dry chlorine.

● One of the best ways to save water is to cover your pool when it is not in use as this can save hundreds of litres of water a month that would otherwise have evaporated.

● If your pool is fitted with a sandfilter, you can consider storing the backwashed water in drums. If you allow the sediment to drop to the bottom and scoop off any floating material from the surface, you can carefully return the clear water to your pool and throw the sediment away.

● Scoop the surface of your pool as regularly as possible. This will reduce the number of times you will need to backwash. Cartridge and diatomaceous earth filters use less water to clean.

● Make sure you have no leaks either in your pool or in the system of pipes serving the pool.

● Ban diving and excessive splashing in your pool.

● If you live at the coast don't even think of supplementing your pool water with sea water.

● It is too corrosive and will play havoc with filters and fittings. And if you should need to drink the pool water in an emergency, salt water in the pool would make this impossible.

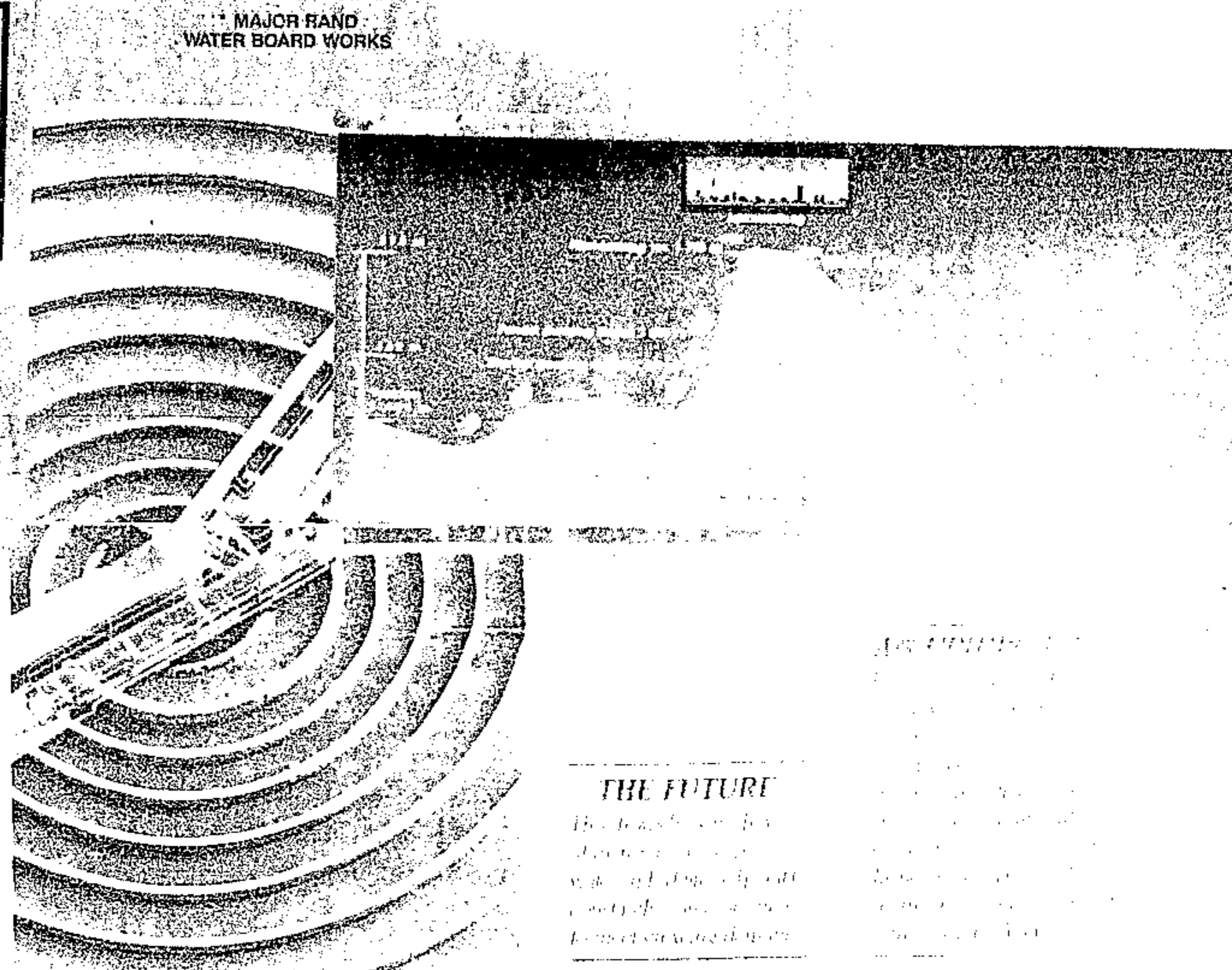
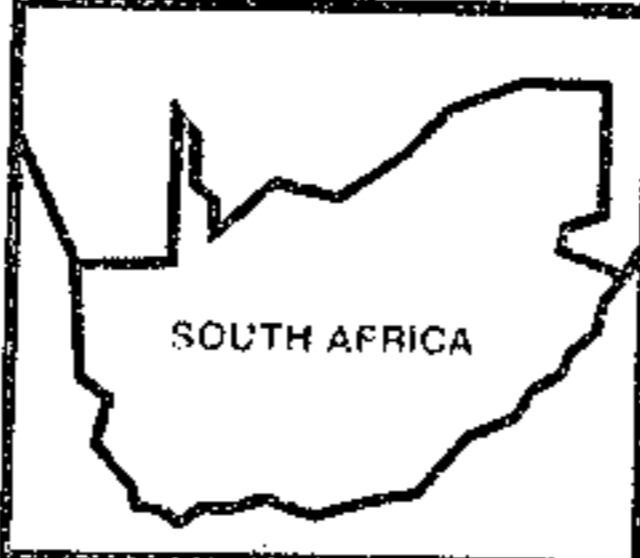
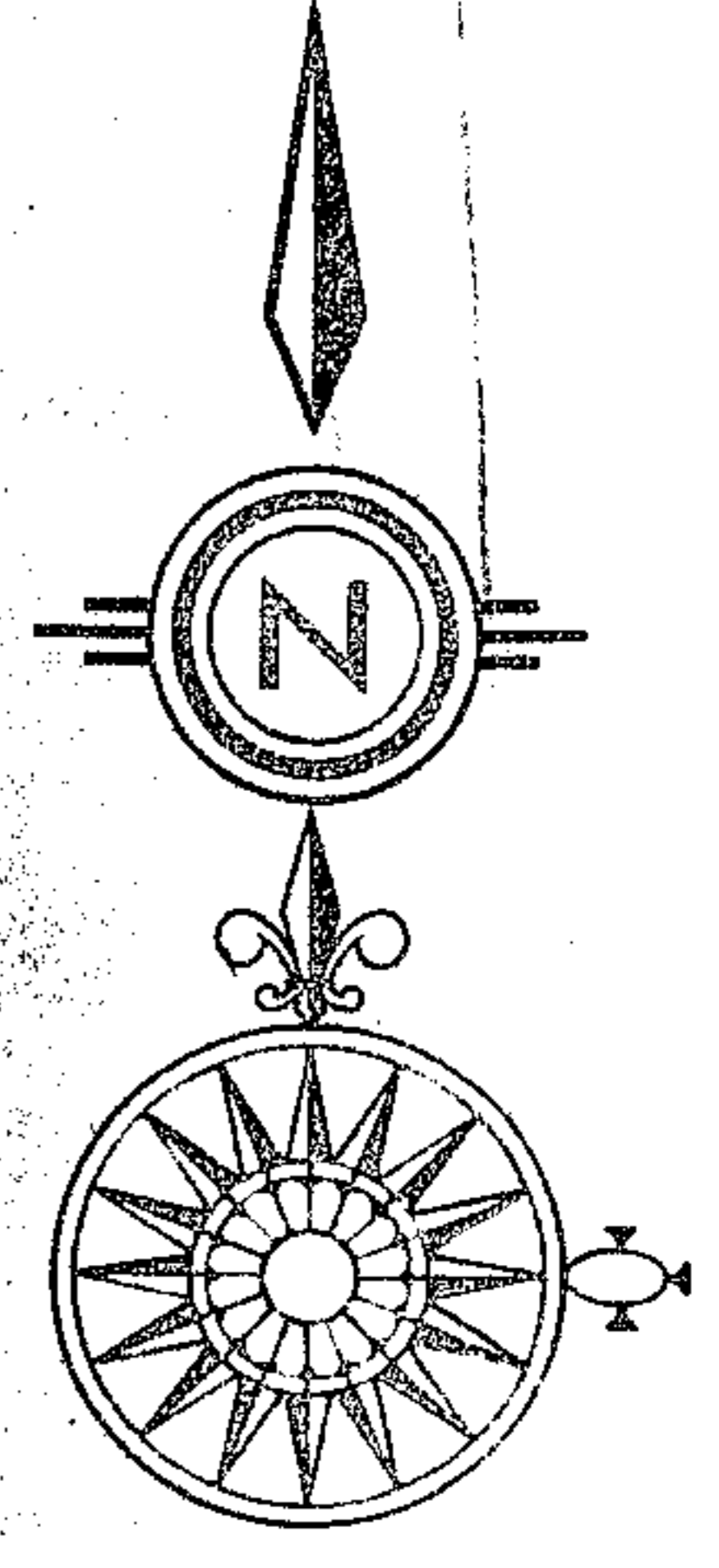
● In times of extreme drought, pool owners need to be even more responsible and maintain their pool water in pristine clean and healthy condition. You need to ensure that the pH is within the ideal range of 7.2 and 7.6 (7.0 and 7.2 for fibreglass pools) and that you add a cup of HTH dry chlorine a day.

If you have any queries relating to the care of your pool, please give the HTH Pool Advice Service a call, toll free on 0-800-222-40. They will provide you with free advice and literature on responsible pool care.



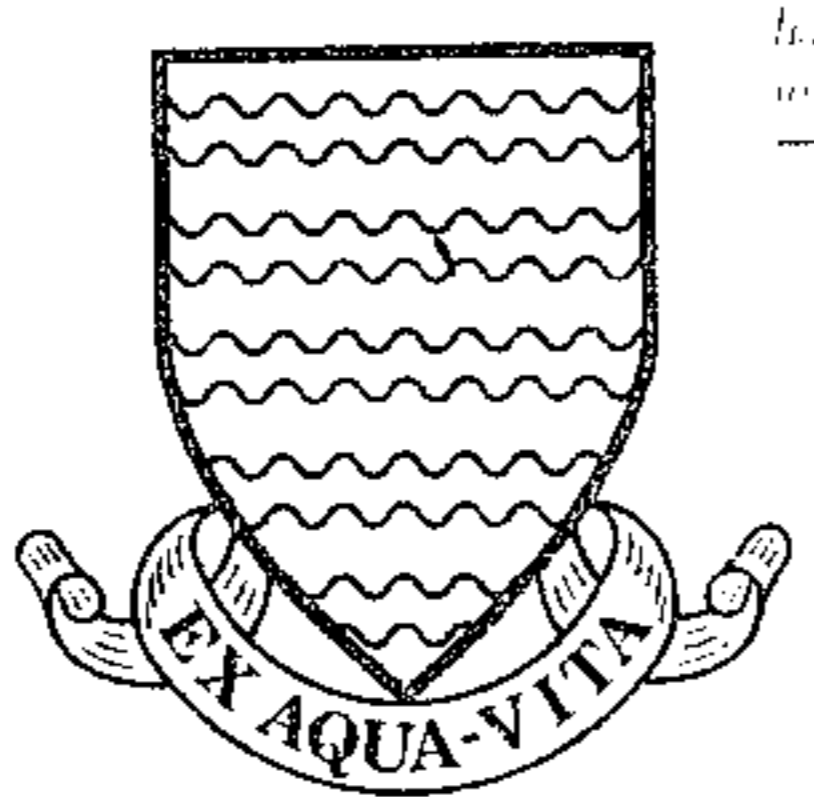
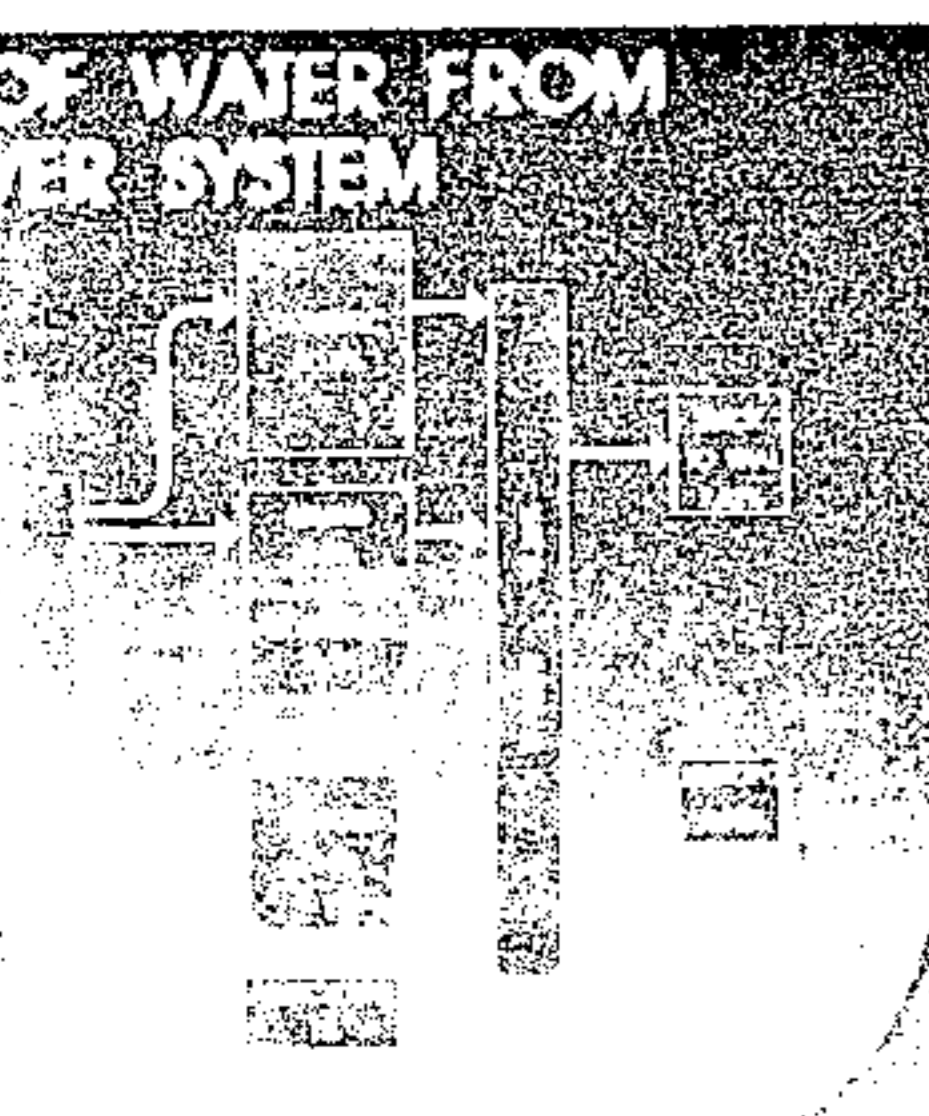
WATER SUPPLY CHAIN

The Department of Water Affairs supplies the Rand Water Board with 700 million litres per day.
 The Rand Water Board supplies treated water to bulk to local authorities, mines and large industrial concerns.
 The local authorities (from municipal reticulation) water to houses, shops and local industries.



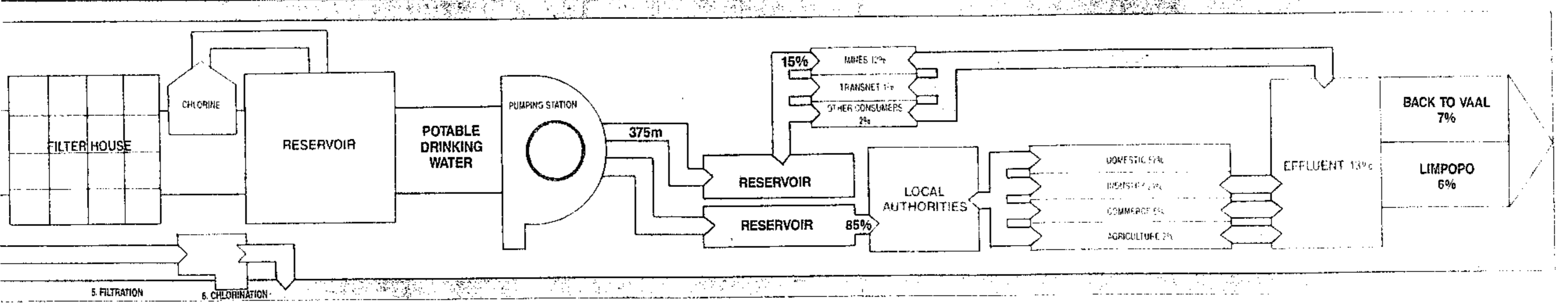
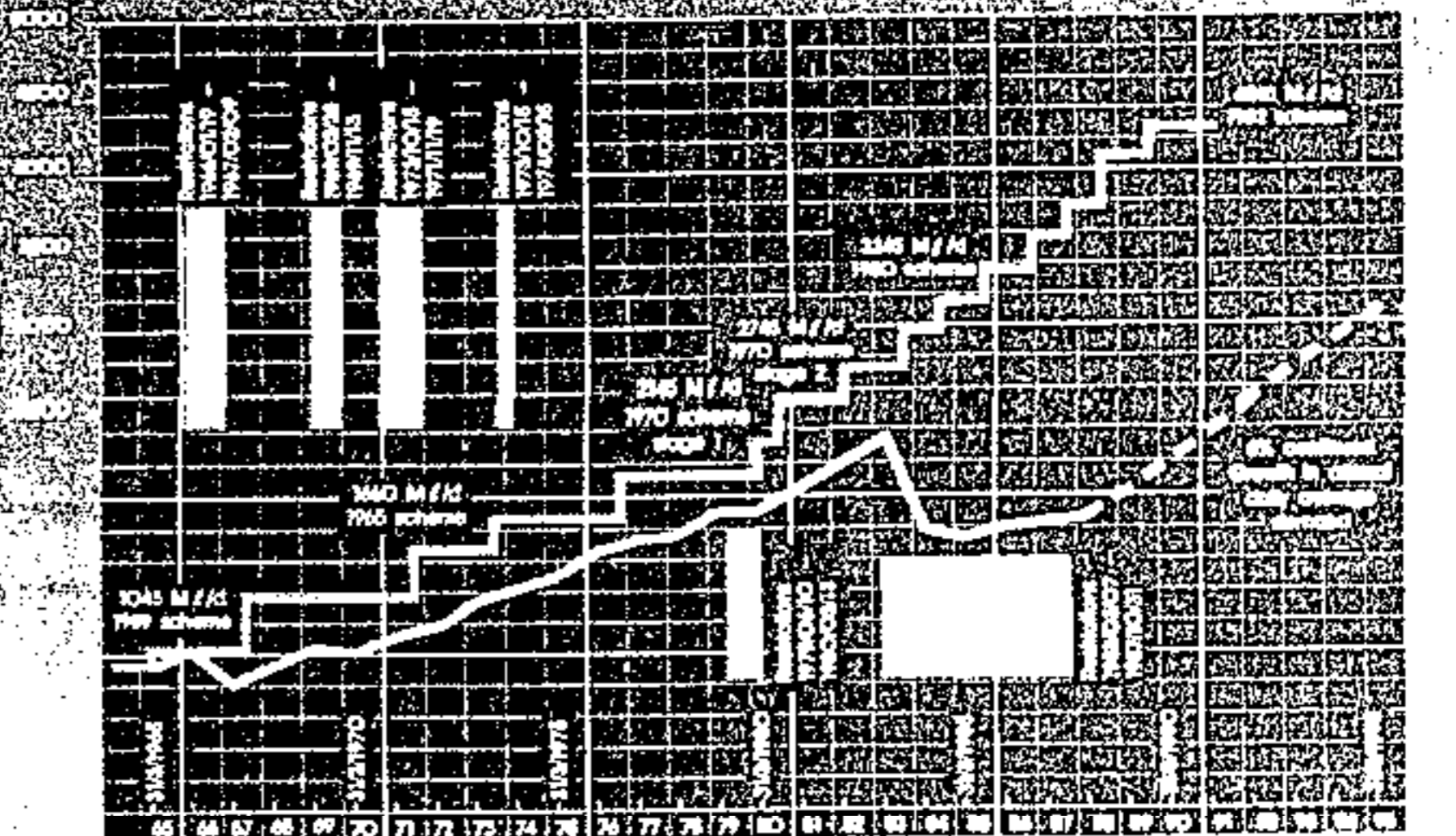
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 labor tanks which help us
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 has aroused much interest
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ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED FUTURE WATER DEMAND AND CAPACITY OF BOARD'S UNDERGROUND



Drought victims receive EC aid

6/04/92

Don (56)
56

THE EC yesterday donated R2.6m to the Water Supply Task Force to keep emergency water supplies going to drought-stricken communities in the far northern Transvaal.

The task force is a joint effort by government and non-governmental organisations to take water to parts of the far northern Transvaal.

The donation was significant because it was the first to an agency involving government in many years, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

EC spokesman in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said: "We recognise that the current drought is having a devastating impact in some parts of SA. Many rural communities which comprise some of the poorest people in the country are suffering badly from the effects of the drought.

"We understand there are real dangers that this may precipitate major movements of population."

The money will be used to buy water pumps, drilling equipment and other capital items, task force co-convenor Len Abrams said.

Abrams said it was ironic that international aid had to be used while SA drought relief money remained inaccessible to the task force. "It points to the absurdity of bringing in foreign capital while SA can cope with the drought better than other countries in the sub-region."

But Loots said government was helping extensively by providing drilling rigs, tankers and engineers.

RAY HARTLEY

Government was reluctant to give taxpayers' money to non-governmental agencies because it would lose control over how the money was spent. "There may be some red tape involved in getting money to these agencies. Some of them are not interested in giving the government information on their books."

GERALD REILLY reports that a Nampo spokesman said yesterday that tens of thousands of farmworkers were being housed and fed on farms for humanitarian reasons and in the hope of good summer rains. This had reduced significantly the drift of unemployed workers to platteland towns and into major urban areas.

Financially strapped farmers had made agreements with workers to allow them to remain on farms without pay until preparatory planting work for new crops could begin.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has said drought in the northern Transvaal could force between 1-million and 2-million people to move to the PWV area this year.

Nampo supported an appeal to farmers by SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie to speed up the "sluggish flow" of applications for aid. Fourie warned that applications received after August 31 deadline would not be considered. The Nampo spokesman said planting time was approaching and if serious bottlenecks in the process were to be avoided, farmers would have to "hustle".

Shipper bans ⁵⁶ toxic cargoes

ARC 19/8/92

STEFAANS BRÜMMER
Shipping Reporter

THE shipping line managing the Maria Laura, which sparked an environmental furore when it called in Durban and Cape Town carrying highly toxic chemical waste, has pledged not to transport such cargoes again.

The ship is carrying 18 tons of allegedly carcinogenic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from Fremantle, Australia, to Le Havre in France for reprocessing.

Captain Salvatore Sarno, chairman of the South African branch of Mediterranean Shipping, of Geneva, said yesterday: "We have decided to ban all toxic waste from our ships because we are also environ-

mentalists. We have informed all our offices."

The Maria Laura would continue its voyage, calling as scheduled at Antwerp, Hamburg, Bremen and Felixstowe before Le Havre.

The vessel was boarded by Earthlife Africa activists in Durban last week and on Sunday, after its arrival in Cape Town, protesters symbolically blocked the Waterfront.

They also handed port authorities a letter demanding the cargo be impounded. The ship sailed later on Sunday.

Captain Sarno indicated that his company's ban would not make a significant dent in the world market in hazardous waste transportation and suggested it would stop only when there were no more opportunities for disposal.

"Our ships are only a drop in the ocean, so we proposed to Earthlife Africa that maybe Greenpeace should do something in France against that factory," he said.

Captain Sarno's statement was welcomed by Mr Stephen Smith, spokesman for the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa.

"But they've been caught with their fingers in the cookie jar — Captain Sarno must have known about the Basel Convention," he said.

Earthlife, with its international partners such as Greenpeace, would continue to monitor the trade in toxic waste, he added. "We will be watching Captain Sarno's ships and all the others involved in this."

Black matric starts on October 20

The Argus Correspondent

(S)

ARC 19/10/92

PRETORIA. — Black matrics start their final exams on October 20.

All 325 348 pupils who entered for matric will write the same paper as it would be unfair to make exceptions, a Department of Education and Training spokesman said.

He said in schools where there had

been less disruptions pupils "probably" completed the syllabus.

However, "it would be impossible" to make up for lost school days where there had been a greater number of disruptions.

The number of school days lost due to mass-action, sit-ins and pickets, differed from region to region.

Meat to get new marking

B/DAY 20/8/92
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A meat marking system which will identify all carcasses and meat fit for human consumption was announced yesterday by Agriculture Department meat hygiene director Jan Coetzee.

He said the step had been taken to help the public and local health authorities.

The public assumed meat products bought in shops originated from approved sources but this was not necessarily the case because of illegal slaughtering, he said. *20/8/92*

The directorate, Coetzee stressed, was responsible only for health and hygiene control within an abattoir. Outside abattoirs, this became the responsibility of the National Health Department and local authorities.



Perez Olindo of Kenya, who was recently appointed Bophuthatswana National Parks Board chairman, at a news briefing yesterday. *Picture: ROBERT BOTHA*

Redistribution of land is on the cards, says ANC

B/DAY 20/8/92

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but "maldistribution" of land would have to be addressed and there would have to be redistribution, ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the Free State Agricultural Union annual congress yesterday.

The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and efficient production to ensure sustainable food production.

Hanekom said a bigger problem than the forced removal of blacks from farm land was the prevention of people buying or leasing land.

The greatest source of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant labourers, but as more people lost their jobs, those on the

land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed.

He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system, and gave Taiwan as an example of successful land reform.

He suggested a land tax could lead to the release of land by those who were not using it productively.

The ANC did not have a comprehensive agricultural policy, he said.

MP Paul Farrell (NP Bethlehem) said the NP and government regarded organised agriculture as the mouthpiece of the farmer. It was accepted that groups other than whites would have a voice.

Agricultural finance would depend on the repayment capacity of land.

Surpluses were a bigger problem than shortages and quality would become increasingly important.

MP Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg), who is the CP's agriculture spokesman, said that Western economies would recover only if agriculture recovered. The CP believed a government which did not care for farmers, or did not recognise them as a special sector, was a stupid government.

The CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming based on private initiative. It rejected any form of state interference that would lead to artificial redistribution of agricultural land, collective land ownership, and socialistic agricultural economic systems.

Land courts were not part of CP policy because a healthy legal system could deal with land claims. — Sapa.

Urgent need to plan for water shortage

B/DAY 20/8/92
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — SA's limited water resources would force the country into a supply crisis unless co-ordinated planning and management techniques in the southern African region were developed swiftly.

This was stressed at the water week conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which ended yesterday.

Speakers said water scarcity intensified by mismanagement, degradation or underdevelopment of the region's water resources would hobble economic growth. Water Affairs engineer PH van Niekerk said the undervaluation of water would lead to shortages and low economic growth throughout southern Africa.

If the price of water was to reflect its scarcity, other options such as regional transfers and desalination would become viable, speakers said.

Correct pricing would control demand, encourage careful use and provide the finance to ensure a co-ordinated water resources development.

Water Affairs Commission executive director Piet Odendall said water demand from SA's growing population would outstrip supply by the second decade of the new century.

Speakers warned conflict among water users was escalating as growing needs outstripped the natural geographic availability of water.

Water Affairs engineer A H Conley said with the increasing scarcity of water and the reduction of suitable sites for new projects, the costs of supply schemes were rising rapidly.

For water provision to be sustained, the concept of users paying an economic price would have to be accepted, he said.

Speakers stressed SA's water supply sector remained highly fragmented. Institutions involved included homeland governments, local authorities and water boards.

Planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies that prevented comprehensive programmes being initiated in developing communities.

News in Brief

No wind blows pollution (56)

WINDLESS conditions over the city as well as a temperature inversion were the reasons for the nitrogen oxide (exhaust fumes) pollution level jumping to 2013 micrograms/m³ — 509 micrograms/m³ higher than the guideline. CT 2/8/92

Anti-poaching war stepped up

Own Correspondent

SKUKUZA. — Kruger National Park authorities have endorsed a plan to set up an anti-poaching unit to fight international gangs operating in the reserve.

Parks general manager Mr Salmon Joubert says the park is facing a new threat from organised poaching gangs armed with modern weapons and who form

part of international poaching operations.

Last year 30 elephants and two white rhinos were killed, involving about 40 poachers, 31 of whom were arrested and four shot dead. Fifteen poachers were sentenced to fines of about R500 000 and total jail terms of 84 years. This year the park has lost five elephants and two white rhinos.

(56) CT 21/8/92
The specialised anti-poaching unit will cost about R6 million to establish and about R1m a year to run.

Reasons for the recent high level of poaching include the high prices of ivory and rhino horn as well as peace in Mozambique. Until now the civil war there has hindered the movement of poachers.

Leaders urged to go 'green'

By TITUS PEMBA

WHILE political organisations focus on violence, the country's environmental issues have been seriously neglected. (56)

The only time the subject is taken seriously is when humans are directly affected. C/P/M

In a desperate bid to save the earth, Kruger National Park officials intend lobbying politicians to take note of the environment. 23/8/92

Reserve officials say the Kruger National Park is undergoing a devastating drought, and should condition worsen they will have to transfer some of the animals.

Publicist Fanyana Shiburi said there are plans to bring various leaders into the park. Although there are plans to invite Nelson Mandela and Transkei's military ruler Gen Bantu Holomisa, there have been no confirmations yet.

The ANC has had no formal links with the park but its environmental policy states: "A future growth strategy would have to be compatible with ecological and human rights."

Shiburi acknowledges that PAC president Dikgang Moseneke has visited the park and was impressed by some initiatives taken by the Kruger management in order to reach out and educate different communities on ecology.

Seeing the light in the wilderness

SOME forty years ago the concept of the Wilderness Leadership School came to Ian Player, pioneer of the school, who together with Magqubu Ntombela began to take young people South Africans into the wilderness in Natal.

Since then, thousands have shared the wilderness experience and learned to understand the intricate relationship between man and his environment. From shanty towns and mansions, from cities and dorps they have been brought together irrespective of status or colour. They have left the wilderness understanding not only their relationship with their natural surroundings but their fellow man.

From its beginnings in the Umfolozi Game Reserve the Wilderness Leadership School has grown branches in the Cape Province and Transvaal.

Professional and volunteer guides are trained in wilderness skills to lead the groups in an experience that has altered many young lives.

Trust

"We know that we cannot make ecologists of all the young people who go on trail, but we also know that what begins as an African adventure becomes an emotional experience and a religious quest," explains Dr Player.

"The men and women who take people into the wilderness are good people, good in the almost forgotten Biblical sense of the word.

"Parents can trust their children to be taken into the wilderness by such men and women to learn the lessons this unique school has to teach.

"The trails have become a meeting place of minds, where, around the campfire at night, experienced field officers guide the talk to the three basic questions: Who am I? What am I? Where am I going? "The setting is the unique, magical continent

THE symbol of the Wilderness Leadership School since its inception has been the coral tree leaf. Each of its three points represents a part of the philosophy of the school: man to God, man to man, and man to soil — three of the most important relationships for mankind. DIANA STREAK reports on the school and its increasing popularity.

of Africa, and at night when the skies sparkle with stars there is time to reflect on the life drama of wild and bush: creation-birth-growth-maturity-decay-death-rebirth."

Insight

Dr Player believes wilderness areas, of which there are only eight declared in South Africa, must be preserved at all costs.

With the population explosion wilderness areas are being squeezed by burgeoning rural communities. There are also city people, overwhelmed by crowds, noise and pollution who know at an unconscious level that eventually

they will have to reconnect with the land.

Interact in unique beauty

THE Cape may not have big game but it has its own unique beauty where the school can focus on interaction.

Great Winterhoek, two hours from Cape Town, is the main training area. Cape Point Nature Reserve, Steenbras Dam and Table Mountain are used for shorter excursions. Baviaanskloof in the Eastern Cape is scheduled to become a wilderness area.

Andrew Muir, national fundraiser and public relations officer, is based in Cape Town. Patrick Marsh is the field officer and Milly Gough the secretary. Twelve actively trained guides make up the team.



PIONEERS ... Ian Player and Magqubu Ntombela were the first to take young people into the wilderness in Natal

From township 'litterbins' to debate about snakes with legs

THE firelight flickered on the faces of Dr Mamphele Ramphele and Andrew Muir as they sat relaxing one evening at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. From a nearby bungalow children's voices could be heard arguing angrily.

One of the children suddenly burst out of the bungalow's door and raced towards Dr Ramphele to ask her opinion on the subject of the heated debate. Do snakes have legs?

Dr Ramphele, deputy vice-chancellor at UCT, is running a three year research programme under the auspices of the Wilderness Leadership School which has exposed children from New Crossroads in Cape Town to the outdoors.

Contrast

The programme focuses on children from 10 to 14 years old with the aim of improving their social situation.

"I take children in batches of eight into the wilderness at weekends, get to know them, get them to know me and we all get to

Wild indaba can help build business spirit

THE wilderness can be of assistance in the turbulent world of business.

A strong management team is an essential factor in the survival of any company, and the wilderness experience offers one of the finest team-building environments known to man.

The lessons that are learnt from the structure and functioning of natural ecosystems are directly applicable to the business environment.

The wilderness offers great curative powers to those suffering from stress. Senior managers who simply need a break to restore their equilibrium and recharge their batteries can not do better than spend a few days on a Wilderness Leadership School trail.

Andrew Muir, fundraising director, says the team-building course has had very good results.

"We teach communication skills using the wilderness. It can also be a reward scheme, offering incentive to staff."

Johan du Toit, managing director of Ogilvy, Mather, Searil and Tripp, in Cape Town said his company had used the school twice in the past few months.

"We were experiencing leadership problems and as a result staff morale problems. I had always known about the school and what it can offer."

Effective

The first time the group spent a weekend at Cape Point. Initially a few strong-minded individuals were very sceptical about the whole concept and suspicious about group indoctrination.

"I was amazed by the results they achieved, particularly the dramatic change in attitude among those individuals to their role in the company, their colleagues, peers and their job function," said Mr Du Toit.

Mike Beamish, Volkswagen's staff management and development manager, agrees that the school uses nature in an extraordinarily effective way to draw out the best in people.

"The knowledge of the bushmen was fantastic in the way in which nature was used to draw out the learning points. We had very positive feedback from the two managers who went on the trail in response to the methodology they used."

Uwe Koch, one of the Volkswagen managers who went on the trail in the Baviaanskloof wilderness area in the Eastern Cape, said the experience had definitely been worthwhile.

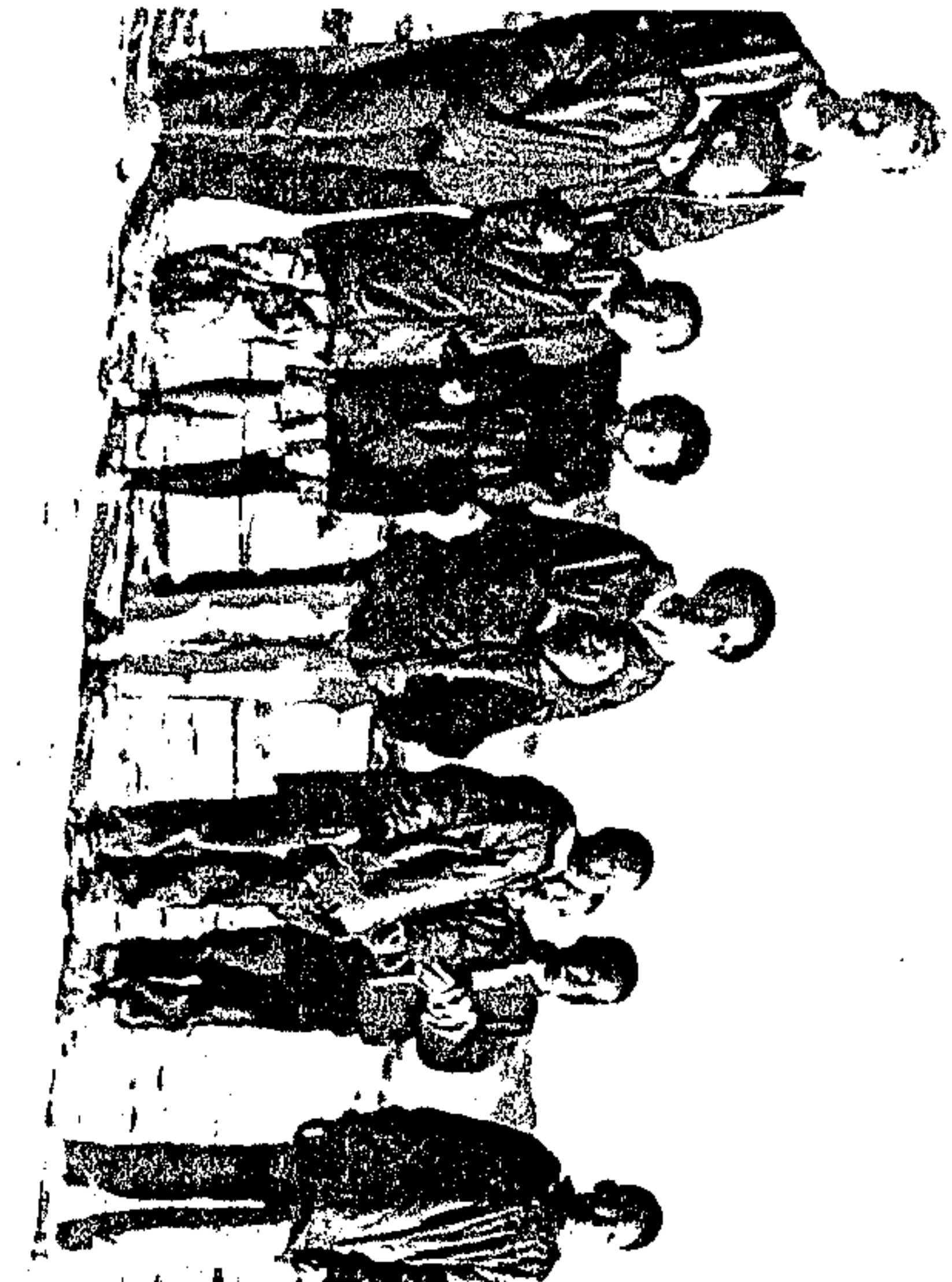
The school had several objectives, he said, to expose people in leadership positions to nature and develop their awareness and to form a team building exercise in an informal, unstructured way.

Natural solitude is a costly experience

IT MAY sound like an esoteric, attainable goal: to go into a wilderness area, where there are no man-made artefacts, no tar roads, telephone poles. It's pure, it's pristine but elusive. It allows for an experience of solitude, without running into other people. It also costs money.

"We couldn't do it if we didn't have sponsors," says fundraising director Andrew Muir.

The school takes some 2 000 people into the wilderness each year of which 1 300 are sponsored. The wilderness area, where there are no man-made artefacts, no tar roads, telephone poles. It's pure, it's pristine but elusive. It allows for an experience of solitude, without running into other people. It also costs money.



Wilderness Leadership School

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Contrast

The programme focuses on children from 10 to 14 years old with the aim of improving their social situation.

"I take children in batches of eight into the wilderness at weekends, get to know them, get them to know me and we all get to know the wilderness," said Dr Ramphele.

"This is in sharp contrast to the very pressured, overcrowded, violent environment they are used to."

Dr Ramphele said the argument about snakes having legs indicated how the children had become used to violence.

"The one who shouts the loudest can reinforce their point of view and win the argument."

"These children have no access to reading material, no educational films, no world books, adults do not have time to talk to them, so there is no basic knowledge."

Thus, she said, it was not that surprising that a 14-year-old did not know



RESEARCH TRAIL... Dr Ian MacCallum is researching the benefits of the wilderness experience for his patients. Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

Lessons from silence for patients at Lentegour psychiatric hospital

FORMER Springbok rugby player, Dr Ian MacCallum is now head of the Adolescent Unit at Lentegour Psychiatric Hospital in Cape Town and is conducting a research programme into the benefits of the wilderness experience for his patients.

Dr MacCallum has been involved with the Wilderness Leadership School since 1983 when he introduced it to the Cape and was local chairman until 1991.

It is the first time adolescent psychiatric patients have gone on trails in this country.

"It is difficult to say how it has helped as we have only done four trails so far," said Dr MacCallum. "All the children in this unit have some degree of damage to his or her self concept or self esteem. These are personality problems, not mental illness. The wilderness provides a novel form of therapeutic setting and an important aspect relates to the silence. We are not there to chat but to look and listen."

There is a dawning awareness of another kind of mirroring. Nature areas have their own kind of ethos with different elements like mountains, water and trees.

"To fully appreciate what these areas are about they have to recognise that they can't, for example, climb a mountain with impunity — they have to take certain precautions."

Everyone has to be on nightwatch — on their own with a torch and no communication with anyone for an hour. The most anxious are put on first watch while there is still some semblance of activity.

Most find the dreadful unfamiliarity really frightening — the sounds of distant baboons or a bird nearby can take on huge proportions.

"I take great care to contain any excess anxiety and tell them they can wake me if they have problems," he said. The effects are remarkable and are reflected in their diaries and report back afterwards. It also causes bonding among themselves.

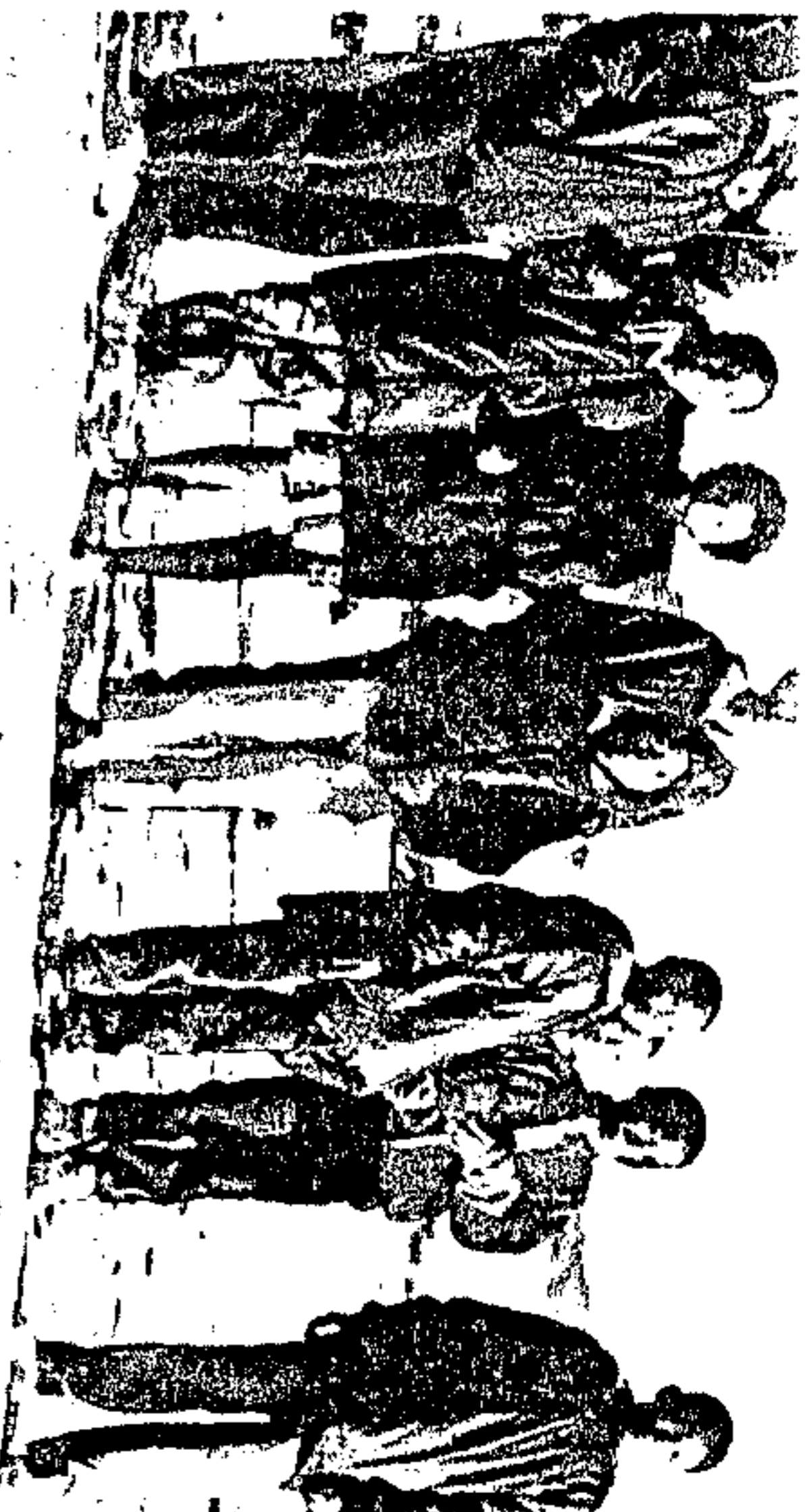
"Climbing a peak, as many have never climbed a mountain before, is an achievement in itself.

So far there are only two who will not go back on other trails. It is a novel situation so they behave differently at first. Some personality problems are so ingrained that the wilderness experience is hardly a significant factor in a favourable prognosis.

But it is potentially a healing experience and Dr MacCallum hopes it will have a positive effect on their self concept, self esteem and value system.

In October Dr MacCallum will conduct his first repeat trail, a reunion of the same group, in a more research oriented way. He will then put the project on paper.

His message is that wilderness areas are symbols of what life must have been like without human beings and the recognition that without them we are all the poorer. He hopes to use the wilderness experience as part of an ongoing therapeutic programme.



LEARNING FROM NATURE... Dr Mamphele Ramphele and Andrew Muir with a group of children on one of their weekend trails

whether a snake had legs.

"I explained to them that snakes slither and that their cousins, like lizards, do have legs. So in one minute those children had a lesson in reptiles."

Dr Ramphele said taking the children out of their stressed and violent environment into the wilderness had a great social levelling impact.

"They're not interacting with me as an authority figure but as a fellow searcher for peace and quiet."

"I have found it remarkable that in the townships they all normally call me Auntie or Doctor but out there I am Mamphele."

"Another important point of the wilderness experience is the symbolic impact of me putting aside a whole weekend for them and allowing them just to be children."

Pressure

She said all the children were expected to do was to wash their own dishes, but "it is all done in a non-authoritarian, non-conflict way and it is one of those rare experiences for them when they can just be children. At home they are expected to do numerous tasks."

"More and more pressure is being put on children to take on adult responsibilities as the family becomes more poor and more stressed. For most it is the first time that have their

Under stars

THE Adult Wilderness Trails for the public are unlike any other hike, because one is really taken back to nature.

Tents are only used in winter, most of the time trailsists sleep under the stars. The cost is about R120 a day.

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"We couldn't do it if we didn't have sponsors," says fundraising director Andrew Muir. The school takes some 2 000 people into the wilderness each year of which 1 300 are sponsored. The school provides all the equipment, haversacks, hiking tents and in some cases boots. It is a non-profit private body, directed by a board of governors in terms of a deed of trust administered by trustees. The greater part of its income is derived from donations by private individuals and organisations, both locally and overseas, and from wilderness trail fees.

Making maximum impact with minimum resources

FUTURE plans for the school are in keeping with the original concept, "to make the maximum impact with the minimum resources."

"Our dreams are not of vast but effective numbers of conscientious people determined to lend their weight to the maintenance of wild areas on our planet, so that they can be handed over unimpaired to the next generation," explained Dr Ian Player.

"Wilderness is one of the most precious resources on our planet. Only a few countries give it legal protection. It is the task of everyone who knows the power of wilderness to fight for its retention and to persuade all governments of its importance to humanity."

Dr Player believes that the history in African countries where governments which took over from the colonial powers maintained parks and wildlife areas augurs well for this country. "But it's the job of the individuals to make their voices heard to stress what is at stake," he said.

Lifted above the violence

THE Green Street Law Programme lifts youths from squatter camps caught in a spiral of hate and violence and hands them in the wilderness — the tranquillity and beauty of the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

Experiences during the trail help the youngsters to understand their environment and their responsibility to its conservation.

Changed attitudes help these damaged children to become young leaders able to restructure a lawless society into a successful, law-abiding one.

They have introduced projects such as waste control, recycling, tree planting and the development of creches and schools in their communities.

Don Richards, coordinator of the programme, says it takes a few days for the youngsters to settle down and realise they are safer in the bush than at home.

Mike Mahize, who together with several others formed the Inanda Conservation Committee after being on a trail, said the experience had taught him to reflect on the violence of his childhood and discover how he could prevent it happening to others.



AGE OF DISCOVERY... youths from squatter camps in Natal are exposed to a world of nature at Lake St Lucia which nurtures their leadership potential. Picture: MARK WING

(S) 25/8/92
Japan defends
plutonium ship

TOKYO. — Faced with mounting international criticism, the Japanese government has compiled pamphlets explaining how dangerous plutonium will be transported to Japan from France, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Mainichi Shimbun said the pamphlets contain illustrations showing how the ship is constructed and details of safety measures.

Due to fears of terrorism, the pamphlets do not include schedules or the route the vessel will take. — UPI

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by the British special branch. He used
a radio scanner linked to a six metre
garden aerial to eavesdrop.

terday rang a telephone hotline to hear a tape
recording allegedly of Princess Diana chatting inti-
mately to a mystery male admirer. Picture: AP

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(56) CT 26/8/92

Karakul coat for mountain?

LONDON. — Table Mountain may soon be partly clothed in a woollen coat, specially made in Yorkshire, if an experiment to halt erosion proves successful.

Researchers at the Ilkley-based International Wool Secretariat have developed what they believe to be the first wool mulch fabric through which grasses, shrubs and trees can be planted and given protection against the elements while they root and grow.

The fabric, which resembles carpet underlay, is biodegradable, breaking down after about three years to provide protein for the plants.

A section of matting, made in a Yorkshire mill, was placed on Table Mountain recently to halt the effects of erosion.

Shrubs and grasses have been planted through it and their progress will be monitored to see if the added wool protection allows their root system to develop strongly and bind the soil.

Professor Eugene Moll, of the Department of Botany at UCT, said the coat could provide cover and a micro-climate for germinating seeds.

"If this material takes two to three years to disintegrate, that's perfect, because

that's about as long as it takes for strong roots to grow ... the roots in turn, would prevent erosion.

Mr Andrew Balmforth, a technologist with the Wool Secretariat, said yesterday that the early results of the experiment were "encouraging".

"We use karakul wool to make the fabric, which in fact comes from South Africa. It is naturally coloured either dark brown or black and so blends in with the scenery and blocks out the light." — Telegraph, Staff Reporter

... thought my life was
One bullet ...

Nuremberg trials

not for SA — ANC

ARG 27/8/92

DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Political Staff

NUREMBERG-type trials cannot be held in the South African context, according to Professor Kader Asmal, a member of the ANC national executive committee.

Writing in the September issue of *Mayibuye*, the ANC's monthly publication, Professor Asmal, professor of human rights law at the University of the Western Cape, said Nuremberg was important for humanity.

"But trials of political leaders cannot take place when the political settlement results from negotiations, even though apartheid has been described as 'a crime against humanity'," he said.

Nuremberg-like trials had started or been proposed in Eastern Europe where communist regimes were overthrown.

But he argued that South Africa's route to the transfer of power was different, adding there were complex problems about who should be tried.

"No Nuremberg can take place in our context. But the guilt of apartheid can be removed only by an acknowl-

edgment of its evil and criminal nature. This provides a proper base for reconciliation."

Professor Asmal said the government could not declare a general amnesty.

"Those who are guilty can hardly clear from guilt the perpetrators of murder, torture and disappearances."

This could be done only by a democratic government after full disclosure and "possibly the trial of the most infamous of killers".

Society had to be reconstructed, fundamental human rights had to be recognised and the state reorganised if the crime of apartheid was to be removed.

Giving minorities a constitutional veto as proposed by the National Party would maintain the status quo.

"There may, therefore, be a form of democracy, but with the reality of apartheid maintained.

"Nuremberg trials are not needed to convince the people that the fruits of apartheid cannot be retained permanently by those who developed this infamous system."

Council 'has too few green thinkers'

Municipal Reporter

THERE is an enormous lack of informed environmental thinking in the city council, said Mrs Joan Kantey.

A task group has been given two months to make recommendations on an environmental policy and the environmental advisory committee's future.

City administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr was briefed to report on amendments to environmental legislation.

A memorandum from an environmental advisory committee delegation said there was "inconsistent" referral to the committee for advice.

● Keegan to head green task force, page 7.

Keegan to head task force for green issues

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A TOP-level task force headed by deputy mayor Mr Clive Keegan is to investigate how city council policies and management practices should be adapted to ensure proper environmental protection for Cape Town.

This follows representations to the council's executive committee by a delegation from its environmental advisory committee, led by chairman Professor Richard Fuggle, head of UCT's department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences.

In a hard-hitting presentation, the delegation pointed out that the council's bureaucracy had yet to confirm the advisory committee's formal terms of reference or effective operating procedures — more than a year after the committee had been reconstituted.

The council, its committees and officials "have neither policies nor strategies to safeguard the city from environmental degradation", the delegation told Exco.

"Further, no recognisable



Professor Richard Fuggle

mechanism exists to ensure that the environmental consequences of developments within the city are properly considered in routine decision-making. This applies to both the council's own activities and to the activities of private sector developers."

Items with significant environmental implications were being referred to the advisory committee only after important decisions had been made by council committees, the delegation said.

The advisory committee's sug-

gestions include:

● That the council recognises formally the importance of the environment to the future well-being of Cape Town;

● That it formulates and adopts a Policy on the Environment;

● That all council committees and heads of department be directed to ensure that this policy is implemented and enforced as part of line management;

● That council administrative procedures are modified to ensure that all environmental matters are properly considered and documented before "significant" decisions are taken;

● Establishing an executive committee portfolio on Health, Safety and Environment, to establish a "point of accountability" through a senior councillor.

The executive committee has set up a task group under Mr Keegan to consider the recommendations.

Professor Fuggle said Exco's response "bodes well. "If these (recommendations) are in place, I really think we can get somewhere in our city."

ARG 27/8/92

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**Nature profits
in the pipeline**

CAPE Nature Conservation and Museums might be transformed into a statutory board or corporation within the next few months, enabling the body to raise loans and generate an income.

This was announced yesterday by Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of Cape Nature Conservation and Museums, at a function to mark the body's 40th anniversary.

Profits raised would be used to the benefit of nature conservation.

A bald yawn for Mountain 'wig' ⁽⁵⁾

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

REPORTS that Table Mountain is to get a woven "seed" blanket to stimulate growth on bare patches are ... well, woolly, to say the least.

Britain's textile industry was reported to be highly optimistic that a newly designed "grass toupee" — a blanket made in Yorkshire from scraps and swatches of low-quality wool and woven with grass-seeds — could be used to fill in bare patches on the mountain.

But this was met with a bald denial from the city council's Parks and Forests department.

"I don't see an application for this on the mountain because nothing will grow through it," said the department's landscape architect Mr Paul Britton.

"It might have an application in a horticultural sense, where you could roll it out on a bed and plant shrubs through it while weeds are suppressed, but certainly not on the mountain, where we're trying to shy away as far as possible from planting shrubs."

The huge "geojute" mat which was recently placed on a steep slope near 12 O'Clock Hole on Devil's Peak had totally different properties, Mr Britton said.

That was woven from sisal, coir and jute with mesh big enough for seedlings to grow through while holding the topsoil in place.

In contrast, the woollen blanket was closely woven and suppressed all growth underneath it.

A sample of the blanket had not arrived at the Parks and Forests department.

They would experiment to see how best it could be applied, Mr Britton added — "but we're certainly not going to use it all over the mountain".

Brain-storming sessions in a remote pub on Ikley Moor led to the experiment which, the International Wool Secretariat believes, is one of the most promising to boost the industry yet devised, the Argus Foreign Service reports from London.

It revives the Victorian idea of using wool shoddy — scraps and swatches of low-quality

goods — in the garden, providing high-quality protein to crops, usually rhubarb.

The personal garden of researcher Dr John Pitts suggests the project might work out so well it could open up a whole new industry in the Yorkshire wool belt.

A crop of cauliflowers grown on a trial mat of the karakul blanket, reportedly designed for use on Table Mountain, have attracted admiration from fellow scientists and gardeners.

"You can see the effects of the protein in the much darker and bluer leaf colour," said Mr Andrew Balmforth, a wool technologist with the International Wool Secretariat.

"The wool seems to have the usual advantages of a mulch, too, keeping down weeds and conserving moisture."

The blanket destined for Cape Town is made from black and brown shoddy to blend naturally with the landscape until it decomposes.

Not a baaaaa-d idea, really — just a case of mixed meadows?

AAQ 28/8/92

BLACK workers at Transkei's rustic Mkambati Reserve kidnap their bosses and lock them up in a chalet for the night.

Labourers arrive for work at a game park in Natal early one morning to find all the holes they dug the previous day filled in and their fencing poles missing.

Villagers in the eastern Transvaal send a note to the management of a new nature reserve with a polite request that their fence be taken down and all the animals sent back to the Kruger National Park.

Militant youth toyi toyi down a dusty road that runs along the southern border of the park. "Kruger you shall weep" is the refrain of their song.

These are symptoms of a silent

Barricades in the bush

struggle that is taking place in the countryside as peasant farmers, their grazing land devastated by the worst drought this century, look with resentment at the grass that grows on the other side of game fences that separate them from their ancestral land.

The conflict at Mkambati began during the African National Congress' mass action campaign last month. About a thousand residents from a mission settlement occupied the reserve to back demands for their cattle to graze alongside the animals.

The villagers, claiming that they had lost land when the park expanded,

Sparse grazing for cattle brought on by the drought is causing rural people to clash with nature conservationists,

reports EDDIE KOCH

also wanted revenue from the reserve to be used for extra community services at the Holy Cross Mission.

The protesters erected barricades at the reserve's entrance, started fires in the veld and broke into the stores to steal food and alcohol. The 150-strong workforce joined in the fray to demand a wage hike.

This was the latest in a series of conflicts around nature conservation that have erupted as the poverty and hardship caused by drought intensifies social tensions in many rural areas.

Residents of Matsulu, a sprawling township in kaNgwane where the local youth believe Paul Kruger stole their land to create the park, earlier this year told *The Weekly Mail* how they have had pitched battles with game rangers after going into the park to poach animals and collect fuelwood.

"People feel that in hard times like this the land must be given back to the people," said civic leader Lawrence

Moeti. "When people are starving it is not right to worry about the welfare of wild animals."

People from the village of Matafin, near the Kruger Park's Numbi Gate, have expressed similar sentiments.

About two years ago the kaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) erected a game fence around a beautiful piece of tribal land in the area after the local chief called them and said he wanted a nature reserve for his people.

"We were very excited because it hasn't been easy to persuade rural people about the advantages of game reserves," says senior KPC ranger Arrie van Wyk. "But the next thing there were mass meetings in the village and the people were telling us that unless we took down the fence our game rangers' tents would be burnt down."

The National Parks Board, which manages the Kruger Park, is alarmed by reports that people living next to the reserve in Gazankulu have begun talking about pulling the fence down and sending their cattle into the park.

"We are really worried that the drought is forcing people to take militant action," says a conservationist who asked not to be named. "This is undermining all our efforts preserve the biological species in the reserve and to educate people about the importance of nature conservation."

Unlike unrest in the urban areas, most of these protests have gone unnoticed by the media. But even a scanty survey shows that nature conservation is becoming a major source of conflict in many rural areas.

Which is why some conservation agencies are taking innovative measures to deal with the resentment that is smouldering around their projects.

kaNgwane's conservationists have started a pilot scheme in the Komati district which allows cattle farmers from a nearby village to graze their cattle "in a sustainable way" in one of their small reserves.

"We've agreed with the farmers that only cows, female calves and a limited number of bulls are allowed to graze in the conservation area," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson. "This has been enormously helpful in preventing hostility toward the project that may have been generated by the drought."

And on the other side of the Transvaal, the Bophuthatswana Parks Board has agreed to make alternative land available to farmers who had to remove their cattle for the creation of the new Madikwe Game Reserve near the Botswana border.

These initiatives show that it is possible to reconcile the need for conservation of rare species with the interests of rural people. But unless they are replicated on a much wider scale we are likely, in the immediate future, to see more barricades in the bush.

**HOW MANY MUST
DIE BEFORE
WE FIND PEACE?
NEGOTIATE FOR PEACE
AND DEMOCRACY.**



Save wetlands or face water crisis, warns conservationist

STAR 31/8/92

56

By Julienne du Toit

South Africa must either take care of its wetlands or face the enormous cost of desalinating sea water to supply its growing population with water, according to conservationist Jon Wyatt.

As the population grows and South Africa's water resources shrink, wetlands are being touted as the future saviours of the country, although more than half have been destroyed or damaged already.

Renfreight last week donated R65 000, its third

annual contribution, to its five-year-long Renfreight Wetlands Awareness Campaign, headed by Mr Wyatt, who was seconded from Natal Parks Board. The campaign began in 1990.

Dr Ian McDonald, director of conservation at the SA Nature Foundation, which is co-ordinating the campaign, received the cheque from Rennies chairman Buddy Hawton.

Huge areas of previously arable land in SA now no longer absorb water because they have been overgrazed or over-

cropped.

According to one Karoo farmer, recently quoted in a farming magazine, drought comes six months sooner to the areas of his farm that are overgrazed than those that are not.

Mr Wyatt said most of his time was now spent making people aware of how valuable wetlands are. His main target groups were white commercial farmers, black subsistence farmers, industrialists, tourists and tourism developers.

Wetlands were often damaged by ignorance,

he said. "Our initial emphasis is on spreading information on the consequences of draining, filling in, overgrazing or other extreme forms of exploitation, chemical pollution and urban development."

Wetlands control flash floods, as they absorb water like sponges. During droughts they allow stored water to seep out, he said.

They purify water as it trickles through the plants, and prevent soil erosion by absorbing the force of flowing water.

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DEVELOPERS hoping to build a housing estate on Fish Hoek's sand dunes have at least three more legal hurdles to clear in what is expected to be a protracted battle, in spite of an "in principle" rezoning approval by the town council.

Earlier this year, the council approved the application for Extension 7, Site C — a 35 ha property stretching across the dunes from the bypass road reserve to the Silvermine River, below Skildersgatkop.

However, the council subsequently was told by the Western Cape Regional Services Council and the Silvermine Valley Coalition, which is opposing the development, that the decision was *ultra vires* because of the Physical Planning Act.

Site C is defined as a nature area under the Guide Plan for the Peninsula, drawn up in terms of the Act, and local authorities are not entitled to change a zoning in conflict with the Guide Plan.

The council now has sent a proposed amendment to the Guide Plan to the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr. Jacob de Villiers.

Mr De Villiers has called for comments from authorities.

Site C also falls within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE) and a permit — issued by the Administrator on the recommendation of his PNE management advisory committee headed by Dr Douglas Hey — is required.

Also, opponents of the development have lodged formal appeals against the council's rezoning approval with the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Works (House of Assembly), Mr Leon Wessels.

Dune housings plan faces still three more hurdles

51

RA 3/8/92

Top author joins nature foundation

CAPE TOWN — World famous author Wilbur Smith was appointed to the board of trustees of the Southern African Nature Foundation (SANF) at its AGM in Stellenbosch yesterday.

Smith was one of 13 new members appointed to the board together with estate agent Pam Golding and socialite and anti-drugs campaigner Adele Searll.

SANF president Anton Rupert told the meeting that since its launch, SANF had played a major role in establishing and consolidating national parks and game reserves.

"In 1991/92, SANF spent R11,95m on purchasing land to consolidate these areas. We are very proud of the foundation's achievements over the past 24 years in acquiring land for nature conservation.

"There is no doubt that SA has an incredibly well-managed mosaic of protected areas which conserve our extraordinary habitat and biological diversity.

"However, much more needs to be

done," Rupert said.

SANF chairman Gavin Relly said that in spite of financial difficulties facing commerce and industry, foundation income had increased in the past year.

Relly said more than 100 conservation projects had been supported during the period with a total budget of R14,67m, up from last year's R10,12m.

□ Former Natal Parks Board director John Geddes-Page was presented with the foundation's Gold Medal Award for his outstanding contribution to conservation during his 25-year career as board head.

Rupert said that under Geddes-Page's firm direction the board had more than tripled the number of reserves under its control.

The number of visitors to its parks increased from 100 000 to 1,5-million, while its annual budget grew from R700 000 to R54m.

SIDNEY 11/9/92
Own Correspondent (56)

Free insurance to protect eagles

PORT ELIZABETH. — A major insurance company has introduced a free insurance policy extension to Eastern Cape farmers, in a bid to halt the slaughter of black eagles and protect the species.

Eastern Cape farmers insured with SA Eagle are now automatically covered against loss or death of livestock where eagles are held responsible.

The company's offer was in reaction to reports that some farmers — complaining of black eagles causing huge stock losses — had shot hundreds of the protected birds.

In terms of the scheme, farm-

ers suffering losses can claim up to R2 000 a year with a limit of R100 a bird.

Company spokesman Bruce Illing said a claims monitoring system would identify areas where eagles were said to be responsible for stock losses.

"We want to find out whether the black eagle is attacking sheep and other stocks," he said.

He said he believed other predatory animals, like the hyena, could be also be responsible.

He said data would be passed on to conservation bodies which would then make recommendations to farmers on how they could prevent stock losses with-

out having to resort to killing the eagles.

"We decided to provide farmers with an incentive not to shoot the eagles," he said.

Mr Illing said it was not a marketing strategy for the company to get involved with the black eagle.

"Our company logo is the eagle and we are into conservation in a big way."

Nature conservation officials have welcomed the commitment shown by SA Eagle and urged the private sector to be actively involved in conservation issues.

(56) ARG 2/9/92

R12-m spent on land for conservation

STAR 3/9/92
Own Correspondent

(56)

CAPE TOWN — The Southern African Nature Foundation — one of the country's "big three" non-government conservation organisations — spent up to R12 million on land to establish or consolidate national parks and nature reserves last year.

President Dr Anton Rupert said these included a farm linking the Mkuzi Game Reserve and Sodwana State Forest in Natal, four farms to extend Addo Elephant National Park near Port Elizabeth, and a farm to consolidate the Namaqualand Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve.

At the annual meeting in Stellenbosch this week, Dr Rupert said South Africa had "an incredibly well-managed mosaic of protected areas".

The SANF's land acquisitions were a great credit to South Africa, but the expanded protected areas would not survive in isolation, he warned.

Former Natal Parks Board chief director John Geddes Page was presented with the SANF's prestigious gold medal award for his outstanding contribution to conservation.

Water (56)
STAR (3/9/92)
tragedy
3/9/92
in E TVI

The devastating drought in southern Africa has had tragic consequences for a community of 15 000 people in the eastern Transvaal who rely on a single spring for water.

Already an old woman has died in Daggakraal after queueing in sub-zero temperatures to fetch spring water.

A statement by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee yesterday said Daggakraal residents had approached the Transvaal Provincial Administration for emergency water, but nothing had come of it despite assurances of relief.

The situation has been aggravated by the fact that animals in the area are now sharing the sole source of water with residents.

Anyone able to assist the community in any manner can contact Star Motswege (011) 833-1063 or Lerry Molo (013352) 4004 — Sapa.

Protesters tied to toxic waste

BRUSSELS. — Environmental activists chained themselves to containers of toxic waste on board a ship in the Belgian port of Antwerp yesterday to prevent it sailing without its cancer-causing cargo.

5 OCT 31 9/92
"This waste belongs in Australia and nowhere else. We deplore any attempt to offload it," a Greenpeace statement said. The ship was transporting the waste from Australia to France. — Sapa-Reuter



MOUNTAIN SCARS: They look highly alarming, but the deep dol gas on Devil's Peak date back more than a century and present erosion is limited. Pictures: JOHN YELD, The Argus.

Spillover

Devil's Peak is on the mend ... but regular rain vital

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter
PAINSTAKING rehabilitation work after last year's fire on Devil's Peak is paying off — but unless Mother Nature cooperates with regular rain during the next few months, some of the effort will have been in vain.

In February last year, a huge fire swept across the mountain-side, destroying 420 hectares of vegetation.

Fire is an essential element in the ecology of indigenous vegetation, and more than 350ha recovered quite happily.

But a core area of 64ha, centred on Skotelsloot — also known as tin mine ridge — did not regenerate naturally and of this about 30ha remained almost bare.

Soon afterwards a city council inter-departmental working group initiated a major programme to restore the original vegetation on the severely damaged slopes.

aged slopes.

Hundreds of kilograms of Italian rye grass, an exotic but non-invasive pioneer species which will provide cover for indigenous plants, were sown.

But the expected soft rains of April and May never materialised last year and the slopes were still bare when torrential early winter rains arrived.

Huge amounts of debris were washed down through old erosion dongas and on July 5 a mudslide swept through Vredehoek.

This year, the weather has been kinder and the grass cover is extending.

"The natural vegetation is coming through in these patches of rye grass, so that process is working," said parks and forests branch landscape architect Mr Paul Britton.

"But we have also planted and sown a lot of natural grasses this year and it will be interesting to see how many survive the summer."

56 WREG 4/5/92

"If we can get the sprouting grass cover back I'm happy, because then the next fire can come and we shouldn't have any problems."

The exposed slopes and erosion dongas in the Skotelsloot area had a long history of damage by successive, uncontrolled fires, Mr Britton pointed out.

"If you look back in the records, the ridge had been planted with pines and wattle and gum and virtually every exotic you can think of."

"There'd been erosion there before — the same dongas are visible in old photographs dating back to 1858 — and they'd planted these trees to stabilise that area in the early 1900s."

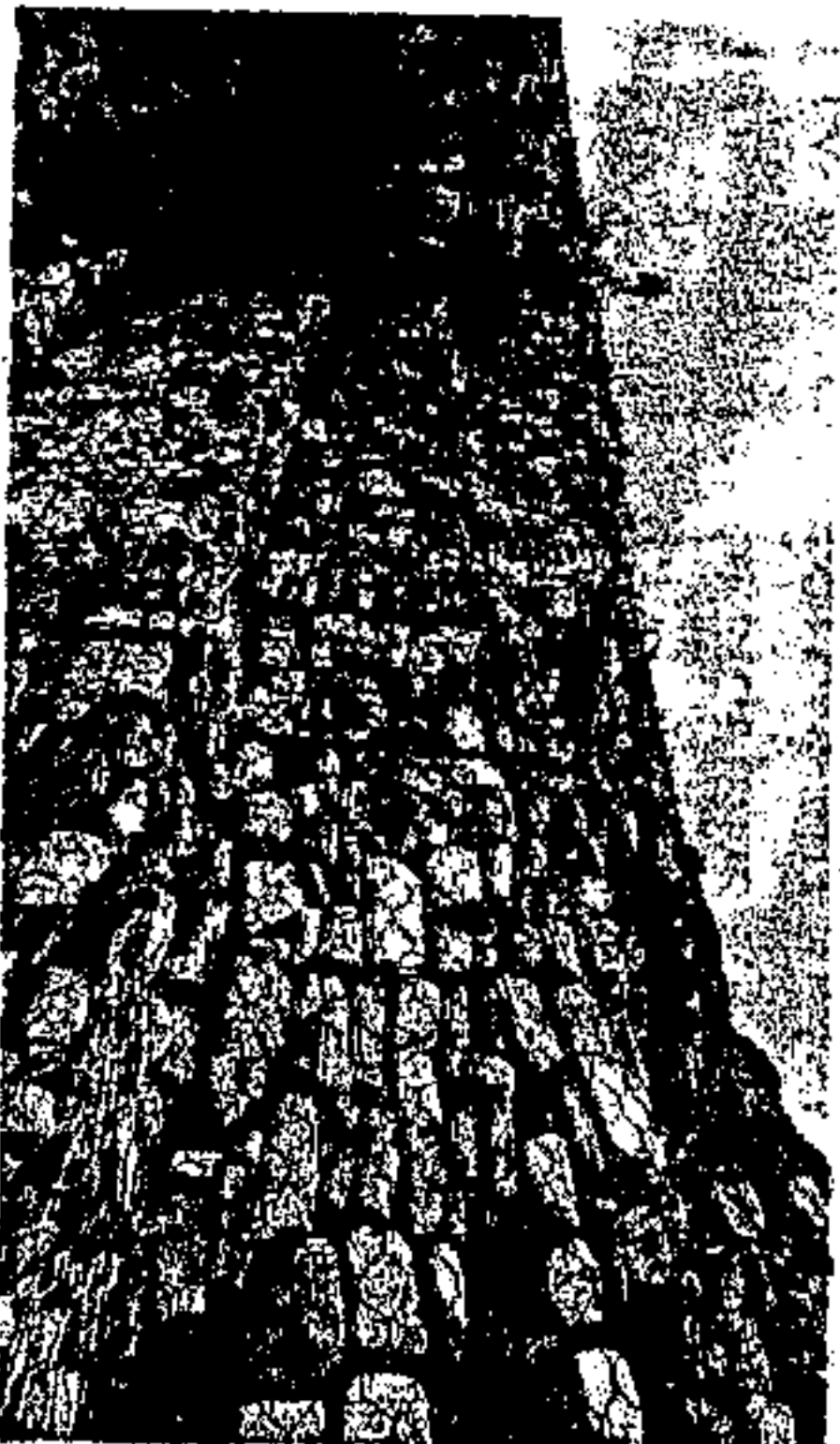
"Where there were no aliens, there's been a completely natural recovery — no hassles whatsoever. But you'll find all the problem areas were covered in exotics. And these uncontrolled fires were very hot and damaging to the soil because of the extreme fuel load."

The exotic vegetation — especially acacias — had caused a water-repellent layer of waxy resins to form about five centimeters below the surface of the soil, Mr Britton said.

"It's a well-documented phenomenon, called 'dusty foot-prints in the mud' in California. Any rain that falls on that soil just runs off."

Work has now stopped for the year, and the branch will be watching anxiously during the next few months to see how strongly the sprouting grass cover regenerates. Regular, soaking rains will be a major bonus.

Will Mother Nature co-operate? Or will it be a case of "Devil's Pique"?



ALL TIED UP: Extensive gabions — stones in wire baskets — have been built across the biggest donga on Devil's Peak as part of the council's rehabilitation programme.

Big plan for mountain chain

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE first steps towards a comprehensive, scientifically based management plan for the entire Peninsula mountain chain have been announced by conservationist Dr Douglas Hey.

He heads the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee, which has been roundly criticised in the past for lack of an overall management plan for the Peninsula's remaining natural areas.

At a media conference yesterday, Dr Hey said advertisements calling for a consultant to prepare a policy document which could act as a blueprint for an eventual comprehensive management plan were being placed this week.

Prospective consultants, who would have to be ecological experts, would have to submit "tenders" by the end of the month and an appointment would probably be made by the end of October, Dr Hey said.

The time required to produce the document would be subject to

negotiation, but was likely to be about six months, he added.

The document would have to synthesise existing information about the mountain chain, including the present development and management goals; the jurisdiction of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE), a description of the existing natural systems — including land, fire, water, flora and fauna; recreation uses, tourism and the predicted future demands on the mountain system.

Specific issues to be considered included:

- The possible revision of the boundaries of the PNE;
- Controlling visitor numbers through permits and/or entrance fees;
- Retaining "historic" trees such as gum belts and plantations as part of the historic landscape;
- The question of more kinds of recreation being permitted on the mountain;
- The possible restoration of the mountain's former indigenous forests; and
- Whether development should be controlled on both private and

public land.

Dr Hey said the call for a consultant was one of three major initiatives his advisory committee was undertaking. The two others were an attempt to co-ordinate existing management activities by the 11 authorities involved in the PNE and an investigation of the future funding of the PNE, in conjunction with the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Johan Lensing, Cape Nature Conservation's representative on Dr Hey's committee, emphasised that the public would be asked to comment on the consultant's report and their comments would be incorporated into the final policy and management plan.

"It (the policy document) is a starting point for a more complete and comprehensive process... Extensive provision is being made for public consultation and participation in the planning process."

Several interest groups had already been identified and would be drawn into the planning process.

51 ARG 4/9/92

School boss SA's 2nd coloured deputy mayor

Staff Reporter

THE principal of a school in Clanwilliam has become the second coloured deputy mayor in South Africa.

Mr Willem Edward Fransman, 39, married with three children, was elected deputy mayor at a municipal meeting this week.

Clanwilliam, with 4 000 residents, made history in August 1990 when it became one of the first towns to have combined council meetings with management committees.

Mr Fransman, who was born and raised in Clanwilliam, was chairman of the town's management committee for seven years.

51 ARG 4/9/92



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R¹/₂-m loan to put right Devil's Peak fire damage

ARG 8/9/92

Municipal Reporter

THE Western Cape Regional Services Council is to lend R500 000 to the Cape Town City Council for the rehabilitation of Devil's Peak after last year's fire. The Provincial Administration has turned down a request for cash.

Last October the city council resolved to ask regional and provincial government for aid to meet the R4,5 million bill for repairing the damage.

The CPA was asked for R687 000 and the RSC for R313 000 towards R1 million in mountain maintenance protection costs.

The CPA turned down the request, saying it had also had heavy losses in the fire, including

the burning of the Devil's Peak Nature Reserve.

The CPA already carried a heavy burden in managing and protecting about 1,6 million hectares of mountain land elsewhere in the province.

RSC chief executive officer Mr Chris Mocke said R500 000 would be lent for rehabilitating dongas and replanting the mountainside.

Three percent interest would be charged, he said.

A grant was not possible under RSC policy.

Mr Mocke said two further allocations were to be made to the city council: R200 000 for improving trails on the mountain and R300 000 for footpaths and facilities on Signal Hill.

Drought-hit park awaits crucial rains

STAR 9/9/92

By Clyde Johnson (S6)
Lowveld Bureau

SKUKUZA — As temperatures rise steadily each day the drought in the Kruger National Park is reaching a critical phase and everything now depends on the first spring rains, executive director Dr Salmon Joubert said yesterday.

Survival, he said, had become the name of the game as animals — desperately in search of food — have changed their diets.

"Buffalo have been seen browsing, hippo are feeding on water hyacinth and warthog have been found eating dry elephant dung," Dr Joubert said.

Yet, despite the severe food shortages, the animals appear to be managing well and many are still in relatively good condition.

"Their resilience and ability

to survive under these conditions again proves the wonders of nature," Dr Joubert said.

Although many rivers have dried up completely there was still water — although precious little — at various places in the reserve.

Underground supplies were also holding out well.

Dr Joubert said the park's whole system was far better off than had been anticipated at the start of the drought.

This, according to Dr Joubert, could be as a result of the 1982/83 drought having left stronger animal strains which, had built up resilience to the conditions over the dry years that followed.

However, hippo are particularly susceptible to drought and many could die in the crucial period ahead.

After the rains come the survivors will return to their traditional water holes and re-establish themselves.

Rhodes' will brings new Groote Schuur plan

56
CT 9/19/92

By JILYAN PITMAN

A NEW management plan for part of Groote Schuur estate will deal with issues such as tree felling, wildlife, and Mostert's cemetery and its general condition, when it is submitted to the Department of Public Works next Tuesday.

This is the third plan dealing with the dictates of Cecil John Rhodes' wills, following others in 1936 and 1955.

The plan is expected to be made public in mid-November.

On August 20 a sub-committee met at the Parliamentarians Club

in Fernwood, Newlands where they asked other concerned bodies for their views.

Developments

This group included several architects, town planners, three members of the Rondebosch Civic Association, representatives of the Cape Heritage Trust, the Historical Society, the Wildlife Society, Aldermen Eulalie Stott and Joan Kantey, Mr Julian Elliot, a University of Cape Town planner, and others.

Mrs Bea Whittaker, a spokesman for the De-

partment of Public Works in Pretoria, said in a faxed statement:

"The Groote Schuur Landscape Advisory Committee was created about 10 years ago to oversee developments on the Groote Schuur estate. It falls under the chairmanship of the public works' regional representative in Cape Town, Mr Johan van Wyk.

"In April the committee felt that developments on the estate needed to be executed in a co-ordinated manner and a sub-committee of five professionals was appointed to look into Rhodes' will (Act 9

of 1910) to determine his exact requirements of developments on the estate and to give guidelines for future development."

Opportunity

Mrs Whittaker said that as most of the parties involved — including Mr Barrie Gasson, representing the Rhodes Trust in South Africa, and Mr Theo van Robbroeck, director-general of the Department of Public Works — would be overseas during the period September 10 — October 30, the report would be made available to the public by mid-November.

"By then all parties will have had an opportunity to study the report and they will be able to answer questions about the contents of the report," Mrs Whittaker said.

The final report on September 15 is to be submitted to PWD representative Mr Johan van Wyk, convener of the sub-committee in Cape Town.

The professional sub-committee comprised Mr Barrie Gasson (city planner), Mr Dirk Visser (architect), Mr Barry Oberholzer (landscape architect), Mr Fabio Todeschini (urban designer) and Mr Pierre Combrink (forestry scientist).

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Effects of drought will be felt for many years

By Michael Sparks

While city dwellers have yet to feel the harsh effects of the drought, their country cousins will feel its devastation for several more years.

Despite the low rainfall, PWV residents do not have much cause for concern that their taps will run dry, or that water restrictions will be imposed, even if the drought continues.

But Transvaal farmers still have to deal with the

(56) STAR 10/9/82.
legacy of the drought, with three to four years of good rains needed to replenish the groundwater levels.

A Water Affairs spokesman yesterday said although the Vaal Dam was now only 19 percent full, "there are no prospects of water restrictions for the PWV area during the next 12 months and probably not for the year after that, even if the drought continues".

This was because water was being released from the

Sterkfontein Dam to flow into the Vaal Dam.

She said the Sterkfontein Dam — with a slightly larger capacity than the Vaal Dam — had sufficient water to keep the Vaal supplied for another two years, though this was unlikely to happen.

The spokesman said another problem with such a severe drought was that the earth became so dry that more water was absorbed before it started to run off into rivers to fill dams.

Boost for Komati River delayed

By Jo-Anne Collinge

S6 (S)

The Government is reluctant to release water from the Vygeboom Dam to boost the Komati River in the drought-stricken Tonga area of KaNgwane where the river stopped flowing a week ago and communal taps supplying about 150 000 people have dried up.

"If a suitable solution cannot

be found, the Department of Water Affairs, in consultation with Eskom, will consider possible releases from the Vygeboom Dam," a statement by the department said.

"This could, however, have serious implications for electricity supply and a great deal of water will be lost due to evaporation and filtration."

As an alternative, the depart-

ment is sending tankers, plastic storage tanks and experts on pump maintenance to KaNgwane at the request of the homeland government.

Engineers employed by non-governmental organisations, funded by the British government, are already at work in Tonga, activating boreholes and investigating submerging a diesel pump in the Komati River.

STAR 11/9/92

Board delays Knysna move (56)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

AFTER a meeting of all interested parties, the National Parks Board will decide whether or not to stop managing the Knysna lagoon says board chairman Professor Fritz Eloff.

He said the board had accepted the reasons for the proposed withdrawal given by chief executive Dr Robbie Robinson last month.

These were that the Knysna National Lake Area, "for all its

magnificence", did not meet internationally-accepted criteria to qualify as a national park, that there was a range of management problems and that managing the lake area was a drain on the board's limited resources.

Dr Robinson's proposal caused an uproar in the town and led to demands from the local community that the board's responsibilities in the area be broadened and that a full national park be declared, incorporating the entire Knysna river catchment area and surrounding natural forests.

REC 11/9/92
Professor Eloff said Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar had visited Knysna last week and had been told of the community's "dismay" at the proposed withdrawal.

The board had therefore decided at its meeting this week to establish a forum at which all interested parties — including the Knysna municipality, Cape Provincial Administration, Regional Services Council and the Department of Environment Affairs — could discuss the issue.

Theft of 52 water pumps hampers drought relief

THE mysterious disappearance of 52 diesel-powered water pumps — worth about R100 000 — in Lebowa has seriously exacerbated the effects of the drought in that region, according to a drought relief source.

Lebowa Agriculture Department spokesman Jerry Mashaphu yesterday confirmed the pumps had been stolen. He said suggestions they had been stolen by corrupt government officials were "stories formulated by the civic association to discredit the department so they can win the confidence of the community".

The pumps could have been removed only by people connected with officialdom who knew where and when they were being installed, the source said.

"They were removed within two weeks of installation. The pumps are quite heavy so the people who removed them must have had the equipment and the knowhow.

"It's also very unlikely people from the communities would steal pumps that are their only water supply."

The source said an official in KaNgwane had been arrested after he tried to sell a similar pump to a farmer. The farmer sensed something was wrong and informed the police.

RAY HARTLEY

Meanwhile, Lebowa's latest official drought report said almost 10 000 cattle had died between May and July, and the situation was worsening.

The report said R16,6m of an SA grant of R45,8m would be spent on job creation while a further R10,5m would go towards improving water supplies.

"People walk long distances in search of water. Livestock is seen roaming along completely dry rivers and dams or crowded around drinking troughs without water," the report said.

Sapa reports from Pretoria that the Water Affairs Department is sending tankers, plastic storage tankers and personnel for pump maintenance to KaNgwane to relieve the water shortage there.

The department said yesterday that while water was reaching drought-stricken Lebowa and Venda through the joint operation of the Water Affairs Department and the National Consultative Forum in Drought, the KaNgwane government had requested assistance with the supply of water.

"In the Tonga area of KaNgwane, the Komati River has ceased to flow. If a suitable solution cannot be found,

the department, in consultation with Eskom, will consider possible releases from the Vygeboom Dam in the Komati River.

"This could, however, have serious implications for electricity supply and a great deal of water will be lost due to evaporation and filtration."

The statement said following the release of water twice in June and July to remedy the situation on the Lower Komati River, the possibility of a power shortage arose. This could have considerable socio-economic consequences for the country as a whole.

"To prevent this, Eskom made R60m available for an emergency pipeline between the Usutu and Komati Systems. The construction of the pipeline, however, was retarded by the strike in the steel industry."

The greatest task, said the department, was the repair of borehole equipment in drought-stricken areas of Lebowa and Venda. This was complicated by the poor condition of the equipment. In addition, problems were experienced with delivery of new equipment.

The department said the delivery of food supplies to stricken areas was under way under the directorship of chairman of the Co-ordinating Drought Relief Action, Frans van der Merwe.



Paramedics struggled in vain to save the life of a suspected car hijacker who was shot by police outside the Johannesburg Stock Exchange after a chase through the city streets yesterday. The robber was fatally wounded and crashed into several parked cars after undercover police opened fire with pistols and machine guns. Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

Dam plans call for careful management

RAY HARTLEY

UNLESS water distribution from rivers in the Kruger National Park was managed properly, future droughts would have a devastating impact on wildlife there, Water Research Commission consultant David van Roooyen said yesterday.

Van Roooyen said plans to build dams on the Sabi River for use by industry would have to be managed carefully so that enough water remained in the river.

By the year 2000 the water needs of SA's conservation areas would represent up to 13% of the country's total water needs, a commission statement said. The commission is a government agency established to research SA's future water needs.

Nature conservation areas including parks, lakes, estuaries, wetlands and riverbank habitats needed three billion cubic metres a year to remain viable. The commission, along with the Water Affairs Department, the National Parks board and other bodies was conducting a R2m research project on the future water needs of the Kruger National Park. "The problem is that the claims of nature conservation are not recognised in the existing Water Act. Consequently no water is allocated specifically to the game reserve and rivers in the area have dried up."

PHOTO: B. HENDLER

First fire lit as ozone study gets off ground

By Julienne du Toit (56)

The first small fire was lit yesterday in the Kruger National Park as the precursor to a major international study on veld fires and how they contribute to the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The Southern African Fire Atmosphere Research Initiative (SAFARI) project is like "joining the scientific Olympic Games" after a long boycott, said scientist Dr Bob Scholes.

Dr Janette Lindesay, deputy director of the University of the Witwatersrand Climatology Re-

STAR 11/91 2
search Group and co-chair of the SAFARI committee, said that in South Africa fires would be monitored in the Kruger Park and in Natal sugar cane fields until the end of the month.

US National Aeronautics and Space Administration scientists were first alerted to the phenomenon of greenhouse gases from veld fires when they noticed bulges of ozone over the Atlantic some years ago.

The ozone was carried by winds from Africa and South America, just at the time the veld or savannah was driest and there were the most fires. Ozone is produced during veld fires.

Dr Scholes, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Re-

search, has speculated that the ozone produced, which is usually trapped in the lower atmosphere as a pollutant, may be able to move upwards during certain weather conditions and add to the much-needed ozone in the stratosphere.

The studies in South America, the Kruger Park and Natal, Etoosha, Victoria Falls and some smaller centres will involve about 100 scientists from countries including the US, Canada, Germany, Belgium, France, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Satellites — as well as a DC-8, a DC-3, Lear jets, Cessnas and helicopters — will be used in the study of veld fires.

'Struggle must go green'

Own Correspondent

LONDON. — Political leaders can no longer afford to ignore the urgent need for environmental restoration in their struggle against poverty and social injustice in South Africa, UCT deputy vice-chancellor and leading academic Dr Mamphela Ramphele said at a press conference here yesterday. **SBCT 11/9/92**

"They are inextricably linked," she said, marking the

publication of "Restoring the Land, Environment and Change in Post Apartheid South Africa".

The book, edited by Dr Ramphele, is a collection of 30 essays by South Africans.

It highlights the role played by apartheid in mismanaging resources by forcing people to live on land unable to sustain them.

But she warned that democracy in South Africa would not necessarily mean sound environmental policy.

● Dr Ramphele defended her position as a director of Anglo American, criticised for its history of exploitation.

"In South Africa, activists have two choices: To remain pure or committed," she said.

"Anglo represents a resource in terms of wealth in South Africa. My role is not to help them make a sound investment policy. My knowledge is of social policy," she said.

Research keeps thirst at bay

of press 13/9/92

56

THE availability of sufficient water supplies is, undoubtedly, the most limiting factor for sustained development in SA.

In fact, projections indicate that our water supplies will be severely strained soon after the year 2000.

To compound the problem, we are faced with increasingly severe pollution problems which follow in the wake of rapid population growth, urban expansion and industrial and agricultural development.

New knowledge and technology will have to play a key role to ensure our future water supplies. We cannot simply import knowledge from overseas. Our rainfall is only about half the world's average, so our plight is worse

than that of the world's industrialised nations.

This means we have to do our own research. Today we are, in fact, among the world leaders in a number of water research areas.

Water research in SA is co-ordinated and largely funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC). Its tasks are to:

- Promote water research;
- Co-ordinate such research;
- Identify research needs and priorities;
- Fund high-priority research; and
- Promote the application of research findings.

The WRC funds all its research under contract. At present more than 180 projects are supported. The research is done

by about 90 different organisations, including various CSIR divisions, more than 40 university departments and other bodies.

While such research obviously costs a great deal of money, the WRC does not receive any money from the government. All research is financed by consumers of water, who pay a levy on their water consumption. At present the levy is 1,43c a cubic metre, and R1,55 for each hectare of land scheduled for irrigation.

Some of the aspects being addressed in research are: rainfall stimulation, ground water, irrigation, water pollution, water resources development, water supply and sanitation for developing communities, sewage treatment, industrial water, water treatment and distribution, and con-

servation of water ecosystems.

■ As part of an educational drive, Umgeni Water has, in association with the Wildlife Society and the Natal Parks Board, developed a scheme called Project WATER (Water Awareness Through Educational Response) which exposes schoolchildren to various aspects of water management.

The participative education uses the fieldwork approach to expose children to the necessity of keeping their sources of water uncontaminated.

Scholars take a four-day hike from the river source to the mouth, camping out along the way. Among other things, they are taught to identify water life and to carry out their own chemical analyses of water samples.

No shortage of issues

in supplying society

Clifton 13/9/92. (56)

IT has been estimated that about nine million people in SA lack access to a safe water supply while 18 million lack access to adequate sanitation. These figures include rural as well as developing urban communities.

This obviously intolerable situation has attracted concern, as well as considerable aid, from government and non-government organisations locally and abroad. These problems are compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world as well as the rapid influx of people into urban areas.

This is made worse by the problem of water pollution through runoff into rivers and leaching into groundwater, which is hazardous.

Because there is not enough money to adequately address the problem in the short-term, available funds must be used as effectively as possible. To do this, the best information is needed on a wide range of aspects. The Water Research Commission is funding extensive research into this.

In the case of sanitation, the kind of questions that need to be answered are: What alternative sanitation systems are available and at what cost? How well do

they work? How acceptable are they to the people using them? How can they be improved or be made more acceptable? There are many more questions that need answers, but the important point is that much of the information must be acquired directly from the people involved – they know what their needs are and must be involved in addressing their problems.

Water is free. Rain falls from the clouds, flows in our rivers, fills our dams and seeps underground. However, it costs money to build dams, drill boreholes, erect windmills, treat water, pump water, lay pipes and fit taps. It costs money to maintain facilities. To supply water costs money and this must be paid for – either by subsidies from the authorities or at least partially by the users.

What are the best ways of recouping costs and what is the community prepared to pay? What are the best ways to consult with the community concerning the supplying services.

Many of these questions are being addressed by WRC projects, aimed at relieving the plight of so many of our developing communities.



EVERY LITTLE DROP ... Supplying adequate water services to 18-million people in the rural areas and in the cities is the main problem for SA's water supply managers.

Scheme more than a pipe dream for the rural future

Clifton 13/9/92. (56)

THE severe drought which is devastating much of Africa has not left Natal untouched. However, in most areas the supply of water has survived remarkably well.

"The dams which fall under our control and which supply the cities and towns are all more than half full and there is enough water to see us through another two to three years even if the drought continues," says Graham Atkinson, chief executive of Umgeni Water, responsible for the storage, treatment and transport of water to the main cities and surrounding areas.

The only dam which is currently low is the Nungwana Dam which supplies Amanzimtoti, where emergency measures have been implemented.

Unfortunately, says Atkinson, only rain can now save those drought-strick-



WATER CHIEF ... Graham Atkinson.

en areas where it has not yet been possible to get supply pipelines laid, although every effort is being made to assist by means of water tankers and in various other ways.

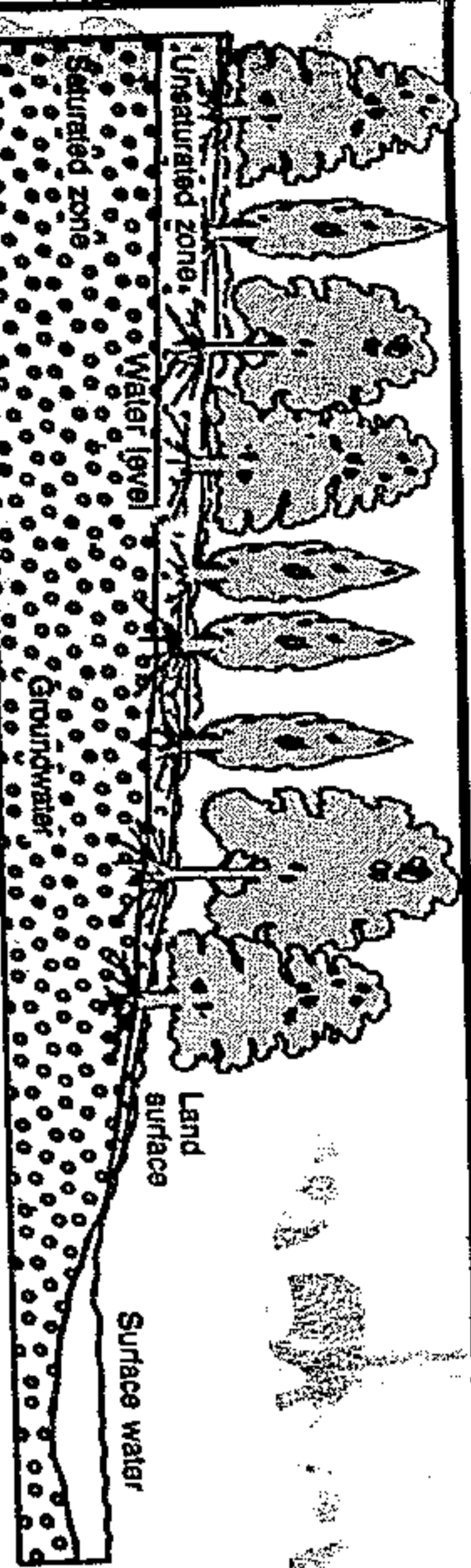
However, the company has embarked on an intensive operation which has, as its goal, water for all by the year 2005. Called the Rural Areas Water and Sanitation Plan, the company is currently involved in 35 dif-

ferent projects which will supply water to 150 000 people who have previously not had access to potable water.

In order to get water supplied through RAWSP, a community should approach Umgeni Water for help. Once a representative from Umgeni Water has visited the area, a community committee should be elected to negotiate details before a plan is prepared and put forward to the community for its approval.

It does not cost community members any money for the water to be brought to the village, but they must be prepared to commit themselves to paying for the water they will use once their supply has been installed.

"Bringing water to the rural areas means a vast improvement in the quality of life by reducing water-borne sickness," says Atkinson.



WATER FEATURE

WATER... VITAL FOR OUR FUTURE

A 'seven-day wonder' feeds industrial heart

CP News 13/9/92

IT'S a little-known fact, but SA's grimy industrial heartland is kept going by water siphoned off hundreds of kilometres away from the country's pristine mountains.

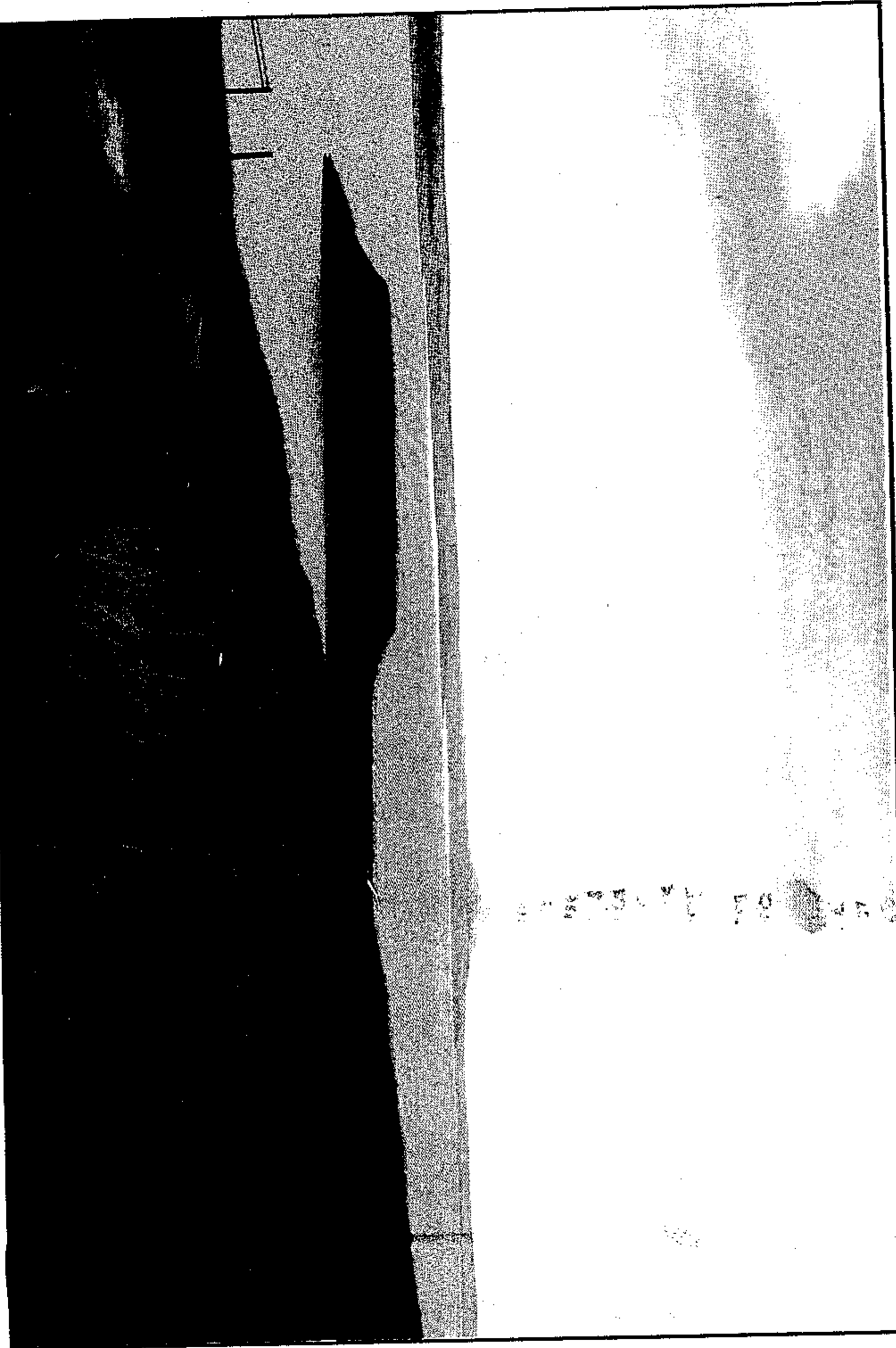
Call it the seven-day wonder if you like, but when water supplies in the highveld dip to alarmingly low levels during the periodic droughts, within seven days mountain water will be spurting from PWV taps.

The water is piped in through an elaborate system from the mountainous areas of Lesotho and northern Natal.

In times of plenty the PWV area - which produces about 60 percent of the nation's total industrial output - is supplied by the Vaal Dam. The dam also supplies the OFS Goldfields, the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme and numerous other users in the western Transvaal.

A cut-off or even restriction of supply from the dam would normally be little short of catastrophic. To alleviate this heavy dependence on a single source the Tugela-Vaal Scheme was completed while the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is presently under construction, providing an assured supply of water to this vitally important region.

The Tugela-Vaal Scheme transports water from the Tugela River in Natal through a system of dams, canals, pump stations and pipelines over the 445 metre-high water shed to the Sterkfontein Dam. The storage capacity of this dam is 2 600 million cubic metres, a little more than the Vaal Dam. Sterkfontein is presently 99 percent full. In 1983 water was released from the Sterkfontein Dam for the first time to supplement the water supply of the Vaal Dam during a drought. Since then, a total of 1 805 million m3 of water has been released in times of drought (1985, 1986, 1987, 1992). Water is stored in the Sterkfontein Dam because its evaporation rate is lower than that of the Vaal



BOUND FOR TOWN ... The 99 percent full Sterkfontein Dam is supplied with water from the Tugela River, and in times of drought supplements the Vaal Dam - which in turn supplies the PWV.

Cost of schemes will be borne by users

Dam. Water released from the dam reaches the Vaal Dam after 320 km and approximately seven days. The present release of 30 m3 a second will not improve the level of the Vaal Dam, but will prevent it from dropping rapidly. The duration of the present release will be determined by the rainfall during the coming rainy season.

and projections can change drastically due to socio-political and economic factors.

As the scope for the further development of SA's conventional water resources is rapidly declining, it is becoming more important to understand and effectively manage present and future water demands.

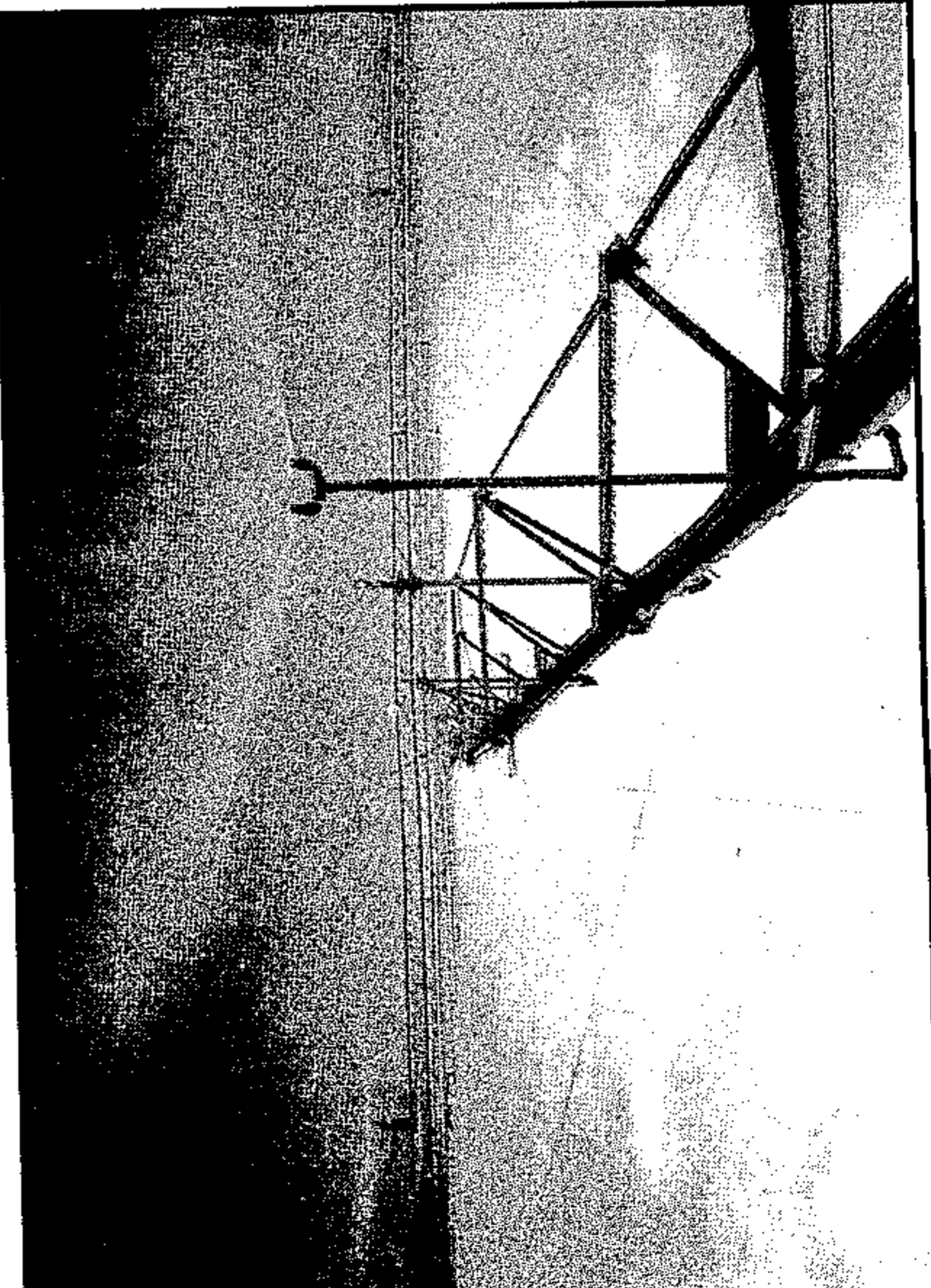
One of the most powerful tools for managing water demand is correct pricing. By increasing the monetary value of water, its judicious and careful use is also increased. Between five and 35 percent of the nation's useable water is often lost through leakage before it reaches the consumer. Higher water prices would encourage loss reduction, which would reduce demand and defer the commissioning dates for new schemes.

However, there is currently no consensus between major water users on what water is worth or even how to value it. In addition, many users in SA, such as developing communities and agriculture, may not be able to afford a market-related water price. Therefore, using pricing to manage water demand has its limitations and must be applied with care.

The approaches adopted to meet the growing needs of a thirsty future SA will be multi-faceted. New recycling technology and the development of unconventional water sources will certainly play a role.

Consumer education will help in both demand management and in informing many seemingly illogical water supply management strategies.

The most important aspect of the management of SA's scarce water resources is the emphasis that the present generation places on meeting the demands of future generations. No matter how depressed the current economic climate, this is one area where we must maintain a high level of investment to ensure future wellbeing and prosperity for all.



LIFEBLOOD ... Sufficient research on irrigation has been undertaken in SA. The priority now is to transfer the knowledge to the farmer.

Irrigation uses more than half our water

CP News 13/9/92

THE greatest single user of water in SA is irrigation - about 52 percent of total use.

It is therefore highly desirable that this sector increase the efficiency of its water utilisation, not only to save water but also to ensure adequate food production for our increasing population.

The initial thrust of research in this field, funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC), was aimed at crop irrigation interactions.

The recent trend is to fund on-farm experiments. This shift in emphasis became possible through many years of good basic research which gave our researchers the confidence to translate their findings into the on-farm situation.

The initial on-farm research concentrated on the application of scientific irrigation scheduling programmes in the Pietersburg and Winterton areas. This was followed by similar projects which included soil science, climatology and engineering. Special emphasis was also placed on the economic aspects of irrigation farming.

In order to ensure effective irrigation research, the WRC developed a research master plan which has as its objective the optimum development, management and conservation of irrigation resources in SA.

In order to achieve this objective, nearly 30 primary and secondary water projects have been identified and prioritised.

Basic scientific knowledge of irrigation farming in SA has reached a high standard. What appears to be lacking is expertise in the efficient and effective transfer of such knowledge to the end user, namely the farmer.

Strategies for promoting the application of research findings, or technology transfer, is complicated by the fact that irrespective of social structure, farmers differ in their knowledge and ability. The result is that strategies must be modified to suit all users. This problem has, for the last seven or eight years, received much attention from the SA Institute of Agricultural Engineers and also, more recently, from the WRC itself.

The WRC has become involved in research relating to technology transfer for the entire spectrum of irrigated farmers, from the most sophisticated to the beginner. This is essential in order to ensure that all sectors of the irrigation farming community benefit from research. An example is a research proposal currently under consideration dealing with the evaluation of irrigation techniques geared to the specific needs of subsistence and emerging farmer groups. If successful, this project will make a major contribution to the effective application of irrigation in the socio-economic development of rural areas with a potential for irrigation farming.

IMF monitors economic reform

■ Kenya may hold first multi-party election in 26 years by end of the year. ^{Sovetan 149192} (56)

NAIROBI - Kenya's Western donors say they want to see the report of an International Monetary Fund team on the progress of economic reforms in the country before deciding whether to restore aid after a 10-month suspension.

"There has been substantial progress. Obviously there has to be more of this," said one Nairobi-based diplomat as a two-week investigation by an IMF team wound up on Saturday.

Kenya's government hopes a nod

from the IMF will unblock about R810 million of World Bank aid and persuade bilateral donors to resume vital balance-of-payments support, suspended at a November meeting of the Paris Club of donor nations.

"The team's agenda was secret, but they certainly looked at the budget (deficit), financial sector reform and parastatals," one economic analyst said.

"Donor response will depend very much on the readout of this mission," he said, adding that full resumption of aid would

not take place until the next Paris Club meeting this autumn.

Donors acknowledge Kenya has tried hard to win favour since the suspension, worth about R1,62 billion, was made to protest against the slow pace of economic and political reforms.

Kenya's first multi-party election in 26 years is expected before the end of the year after the unbanning of opposition parties by President Daniel arap Moi last December. - Sapa-Reuter.

Increase in water price

Municipal Reporter

The Rand Water Board (RWB) has announced an increase of 4,40 cents per kilolitre of purified water from October 1.

This means that bulk consumers — municipalities and mines — will now pay 82,50c/kl.

RWB chief executive Vincent Bath explained that the increase was due to the additional levy of 4c/kl to be charged by the Department of Water Affairs on all water purchased by the board from the Vaal River System from that date, to which 0,4c/kl would be added for value-added tax.

The purpose of the levy was partly to finance the cost of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. STAR 1419192

Call for 'Ecology City'

 (56)
 APR 16/19/92

Make that city's future aim — Riley

CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter

CITY planner Mr Neville Riley has urged the city council to commit itself to the principle of sustainable development.

Among proposals outlined in his annual report, with its theme of *The Ecological City*, was one to create an effective metropolitan environmental agency.

He defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This policy would include recognising the right to an ecologically-sound environment as a fundamental human right, Mr Riley said in his annual report.

Drastic reduction of the present inequality in providing health services was needed.

The policy also included the right of community participation in planning their natural and physical environment.

Mr Riley said Cape Town, while one of the world's finest tourist destinations, faced significant environmental challenges.

Cape Town was dependent on energy supplies from coal and nuclear-fired power stations, both controversial because of their environmental impact.

Future water supplies from conventional sources were threatened by increasing demand.

The Cape Flats was unsuitable for urban development because of flooding, windblown sand and difficulty in stabilising the environment.

Urban development was displacing and threatening agriculture on the city's edge.

Table Mountain, a unique visual, recreational and biological resource, was being degraded by fire and exotic vegetation, Mr Riley said.

Air quality, particularly in the city bowl, was causing great concern as increasing use of private vehicles worsened photochemical smog.

False Bay, which could be a major recreational resource if properly planned, was threatened by increasing levels of harmful bacteria caused by urban runoff.

Stormwater, sewage, solid and toxic waste needed to be dealt with more creatively, said Mr Riley.

To promote sustainable development, Cape Town should conserve natural resources and processes.

Growth of the city should take into account historic squares, places and buildings.

Water consumption could be reduced while new sources were exploited, like recycling waste water and desalination or use of the Cape Flats aquifer.

Another tactic would be the formation of an effective metropolitan environmental agency supported by all authorities and land owners.

R15 m for



Picture: HANNE

Fewer houses, flats built

Municipal Reporter

OFFICE, factory and town-house projects are in fashion for developers, rather than houses or flats.

This emerged from city planner Mr Neville Riley's annual report.

The value of building work approved by the city council increased from R433 million in 1989/'90 to R656 million in 1990/'91.

The value of work completed in the same period of comparison increased from R164 million to R238 million.

About 42 plans a day were given to the council for approval, said the report.

The value of all building work

in progress in June, 1991, was R880 million, an increase of about 29 percent compared to the previous year.

About R18 million worth of work was abandoned in the past financial year.

Mr Riley said fewer houses and flats were completed than during the 1989/'90 financial year, but the number of town houses, industrial and commercial buildings increased substantially.

Alterations to houses increased by about 23 percent.

The central business district and Foreshore had the largest value of work, with several office blocks being built, but there was a trend for office accommodation

and businesses to move out to the suburbs.

Building projects highlighted by Mr Riley included:

- The R100 million, 23-storey, Old Mutual Sea Street building;

- Pier Place, on the Foreshore, which cost R35 million;

- The R52 million, seven-block Belmont Office complex in Rondebosch which had parking for 800 cars;

- In Tokai, the R3 million additions to the Blue Route Centre and the R5 million Joint Village Centre; and

- The 257-house R14 million Pelican Park housing development and the 230-house Sea Crest housing scheme at Mitchell's Plain.

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Blueprint for False Bay ⁽⁵⁾ given boost

ARG 17/9/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PLANS for a single authority to manage False Bay and improve its water quality have been boosted by a meeting between bay managers and public representatives.

Increased public concern about the state of the bay led to the formation in March of the False Bay Forum, which represents groups who use the bay and aims to put the public's point of view in the debate about its future.

The forum was especially concerned with the quality of water flowing into the bay from the surrounding area, said Mr Andy Gubb, chairman of its interim steering committee.

Last week the forum met the False Bay Water Quality Committee, a voluntary, ad hoc body of officials from local authorities bordering the bay and from provincial and central government authorities.

The water quality committee, headed by city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton, does not have any public representatives.

The meeting, described as "a very positive step", focused on issues such as public participation in decision-making, communication and management structures, the release of information to the public and the development of a False Bay management plan, Mr Gubb said.

"Reasonable consensus was reached on all these issues."

Areas for further negotiation included a management structure, a single authority and adequate legislation governing the bay and its catchment areas.

The two groups plan to hold a public meeting at Muizenberg Pavilion early in November to discuss the issues and provide information.

"It is clear that both the forum and the water quality committee have supportive and complementary aims and objectives," Mr Gubb said in a statement on behalf of the two bodies.

"What is needed now is a single, holistic and integrated approach, by the public and the authorities alike, to the sustainable future management of False Bay for the benefit of all our people."

Govt, ANC speak on environment

STAR 18/9/92

By Julienne du Toit
Environment Reporter **S6**

MARITZBURG — The Government and the ANC put the blame on each other for environmental degradation in South Africa at an environmental conference yesterday.

At the Earthlife Africa Conference in Maritzburg, titled "What it means to be green in South Africa", Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said he saw the greatest threat to the environment as too many people in the country.

An additional cause of damage to the environment was violence in the country, he said.

The ANC's environmental affairs department spokesman Bonile Jack blamed apartheid for environmental degradation.

The Government's strategy of economic development had been particularly destructive to the environment and to the lives of black workers in general, he said.

Mr Jack said: "Those who benefited from apartheid policies have always put the blame for environmental degradation on the oppressed peoples' inability to use resources wisely.

"The actual cause is in fact the unfair distribution of resources," he said.

Water the key to rural revival

W/Mant 18/9-24/9/92. (Mant)
(56)

FOR the rural poor, this year's drought has made a razor of survival's sharp edge, but programmes supported by the health, rural and community development (HRCD) portfolio — particularly in the provision of clean water, sanitation and clinics — are building a basis for recovery.



The portfolio, directed by Professor Len Karlsson, deals with all aspects of development that aren't housing, education or job creation. Allocated R520-million late in 1990, it had committed R132-million to 132 projects by July 1992.

NEED HELP: "People must be helped to work to support their families," says Professor Len Karlsson, who directs the HRCD portfolio.

A further R180-million will be spent in 1992-93 on building clinics and improving supplies of potable water.

With a limit of R300 000 per clinic, applications for 300 clinics have been processed from all parts of South Africa. Regional health authorities must guarantee to staff and supply these clinics before the IDT will build.

HRCD is also administering a R100-million IDT relief development programme in drought-stricken areas.

The IDT will spend R10-million on improving communications between clinics and base hospitals, and R10-million on the training of clinic personnel.

With the Kagiso Trust, the IDT has drawn 68 organisations into a consultative forum which, supported by a rapid-response operations room at the IDT's Johannesburg offices, is planning water projects, community public works, and institutional capacity-building in affected communities.

Energy provision, including the planting of wood lots as a renewable fuel source, and the provision of solar power for rural clinics, will get R20-million.

Public works, including road-building, soil conservation, and repairing schools, will take 60 percent of the funds. Community participation — for example the formation of village committees for health, water, electrification, or agriculture — has been an important feature of IDT-funded initiatives.

Other major funding commitments have been made, among them:

This can be a painstaking process but experience shows that these are the institutions that ultimately determine development outcomes; without them programmes misfire.

■ R40-million to welfare, to be channelled through up to 20 national councils, for the empowerment of disabled groups or the elderly;

Only 53 percent of South Africa's rural population of 16,6 million have access to so-called "improved water supply", and only 14 percent have access to individual adequate sanitation. So interventions here are an important thrust for HRCD.

■ R11-million for a three-year national AIDS programme by the Progressive Primary Health Care Network.

■ R6-million for a tuberculosis project in the Western Cape, where the incidence of TB is four times higher than the national average;

Water and sanitation programmes will get R55-million and should reach two million people in the next three years.

■ R5-million for the Medical Research Council's GOBI-FFF programme, based on a "well-woman" concept which places the health of the mother at the centre of her family's wellbeing.

In the "grossly neglected" area of primary health care, planning for a R50-million programme to build or upgrade clinics is complete, and building will begin soon, says Karlsson.

HRCD started later than the other portfolios because several months were spent on fieldwork establishing needs and priorities.

"It's only really been running about a year," says Karlsson. "But since the groundwork was done, there has been an exponential increase in the portfolio's output and disbursement of funds."

Isle Brand displays some of the drawings by students



ENTRIES PILE IN

HUNDREDS of entries for the water conservation and purification project have started pouring in at the three water boards and municipalities countrywide.

Rand Water Board (RWB) public relations officer Louise Fourie said she was impressed by the high spirit among pupils and their schools.

"Judges will certainly have difficulty choosing the winner as most of the entries received so far, are excellent," she said.

Fourie said judging for the country's four regions - the

Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal and the Cape Province - will take place on September 21. Winners and runners-up will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony at the Rand Water Board in Johannesburg on September 23.

Judges for the Transvaal region are - NEW NATION's environmental and Business Nation writer Sydney Mafilika, Marietta Marx of the Johannesburg City Council, Marinus Wijnbeek of the SA Broadcasting Corporation, Gerrit Botha of the Water Institute of SA, Dr

Piet Muller of Rapport and Gerhard du Toit director of Youth Affairs in the Transvaal Education Department.

Fourie said: "Muller will be speaking about the merits of the winning entries and the standard by which they were judged. Also ingenuity, insight and artistic content would be the criteria used by the judges".

A representative of the competition, Ingrid Alberts, said although the competition was open to all, the majority of the entries received so far were from the African and coloured schools.

Sir Laurens slams mining giant

SIR Laurens van der Post has attacked mining giant Rio Tinto Zinc over what he claims is a false attempt to imply he approves of the proposed mining at St Lucia by its subsidiary, Richards Bay Minerals.

In a statement to the Sunday Times this week Sir Laurens, environmentalist guru to Prince Charles and godfather to his son, Prince William, described RBM's mining intentions as "a smash-and-grab, Canadian-inspired raid".

And he threatened to enlist the aid of the British press in "doing battle" against mining on the eastern shores of the Lake St Lucia estuary.

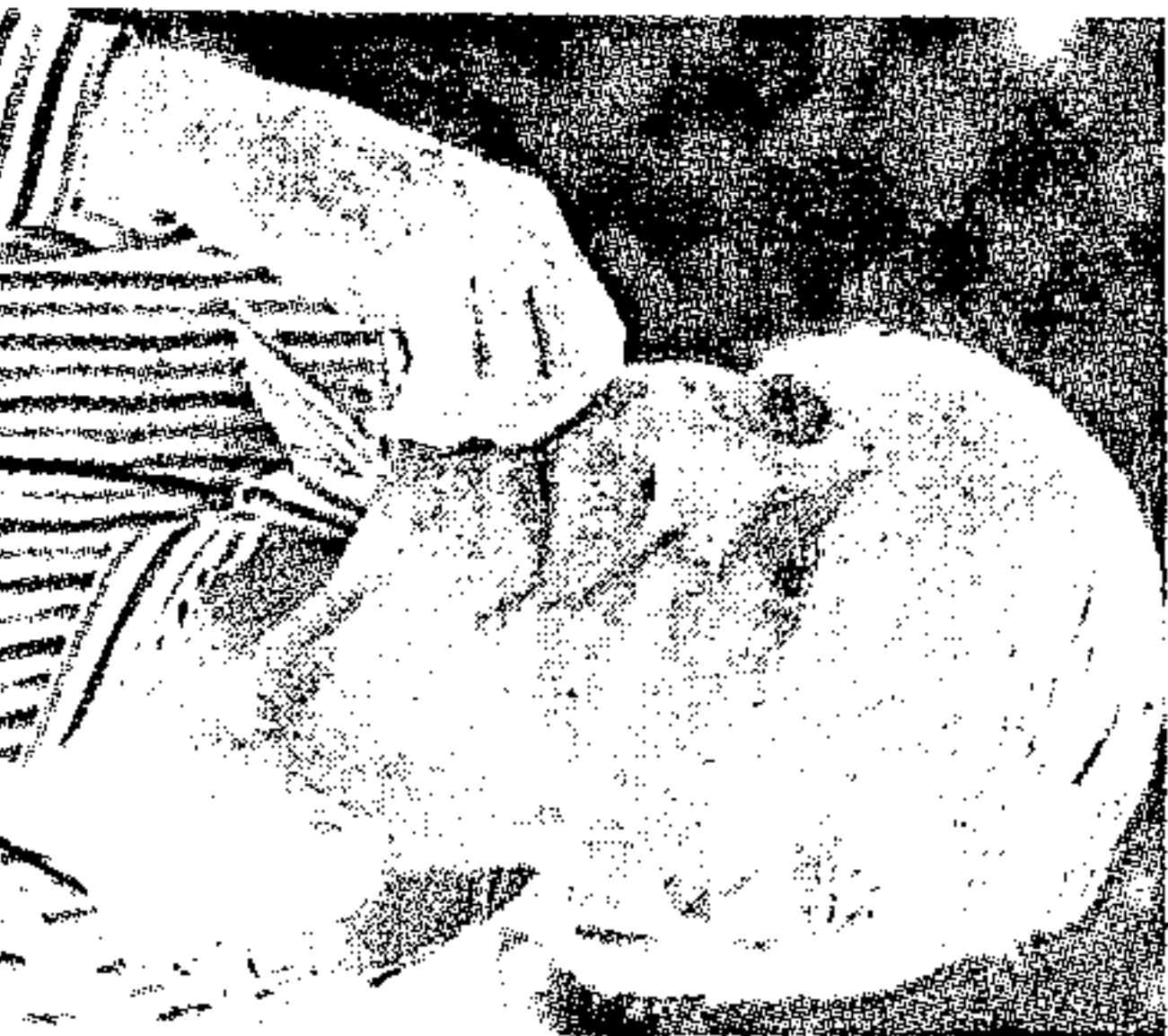
Revolution

The attack was provoked by the publication of the minutes of Rio Tinto's latest AGM in which the chairman, Sir Derek Birkin, boasted of his giant conglomerate's "positive contribution to the enormous tasks facing the world".

In support, Sir Derek said that Sir Laurens had written of Rio Tinto (which owns 50 percent of RBM): "They have humanised mining. I have been to these places and they do one's heart good. They have set a wonderful example which is beginning to revolutionise the whole of mining."

But an angry Sir Laurens, who is a patron of the Campaign for St Lu-

STW 20/9/92



FURIOUS ... Sir Laurens van der Post says he was quoted out of context

ROY RUDDEN reports on the latest in the St Lucia mining controversy

cia, said the quote was defence of Rio Tinto's involvement in Palabora had been made nearly 10 years ago at the height of Sir Derek's reference to sanction moves against South Africa and was in

Patron says he is ready to fight to save St Lucia

for the exploitation of the last remaining natural areas in this country.

Sir Laurens said he was not anti-mining and was a defender of its valid aspects — "but not of this smash-and-grab, Canadian-inspired raid". (RBM has strong Canadian origins and most of its heavy metal products are exported to Canada.)

He said Rio Tinto's mining, when under direct control — particularly at Palabora and Rossing in Namibia — was contemporary mining at its best, "and therefore makes what is now proposed by Richards Bay Minerals even more unpardonable".

Speaking from his London home, Sir Laurens said: "It is to this specific project that I, and most of the people of South Africa, am so profoundly opposed. The op-

Horrified

"I have the conviction that at heart RTZ and its shareholders in Britain will be horrified at what Richards Bay Minerals is trying to do to us in South Africa — not least in overpopulated and increasingly distressed Zululand."

● The St Lucia mining controversy will be featured in a special feature to be broadcast in the 50/50 programme on TV1 at 7pm today.

Water shortage threat to four power stations

S (Times) (BUS) 20/9/92.

By DON ROBERTSON

THE possibility of water shortages at four Highveld power stations has forced Eskom and the Department of Water Affairs to rush ahead with a R60-million pipeline to serve the drought-stricken Kangwane area.

Construction of the 42km pipeline, financed by Eskom, will link the Usutu and Komati Government water schemes. It is hoped that it will avoid any water shortage at the power stations.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry says the normally reliable Komati River which flows through SA, Swaziland and Kangwane, has run dry.

To meet the needs of people in the Tonga area of Kangwane water was released from the Vygeboom Dam in June and July.

The dam was built to sup-

ply the Arnot, Hendrina, Duvha and Komati power stations. Should further releases be needed, "it could have serious implications for electricity supply ... which could have serious socio-implications for the country," says the department.

The four power stations supply 8700mW of electricity.

Work started on the pipeline at the beginning of this month and will be completed by March 1993.

Rains

The pipeline will carry 2 300 litres of water a second from the Jericho Dam at Camden power station across the divide to the Komati system near Breyton.

It will then be delivered to the Boesman Spruit, from where it will flow to the Nooitgedacht Dam upstream of Vygeboom.

Ian Tudhope, technical consultant for fuel and water at Eskom, says rains in October are essential.

"I hope we will not have to release more water from the Vygeboom Dam, but we might have to before the pipeline is completed."

Although water can be carried to the power stations, its quality is a problem.

The department says that although water shortages at the power stations are unlikely, the threat cannot be ignored.

Sell-out for ANC

THE ANC is spending R10 000 a month on its first newspaper, The Congress, a monthly in the Eastern Transvaal area.

Editor Jackson Nthembu says all 10 000 copies (at 30c each) printed for the first issue were sold. *20/9/92.*

"The first issue only had four pages and the next issue — due out at the end of September — will have eight. For the rest of this year we will publish monthly, going fortnightly in January and weekly from March-April."

Co-operation key to conservation

JONO WATERS

B101M 22/9/92

AN ELEPHANT tusk or a rhino horn can provide an individual with 10 times the average annual income in countries like Zambia and Mozambique. Rhino horns are believed to fetch about US\$12 000/kg — as much as a kilogram of gold.

Rapidly expanding populations and weak economies, wrecked through coups and successive corrupt administrations, have impoverished much of Africa and placed great pressure on environmental resources.

Many southern African countries have little money for conservation and rely on aid from international conservation bodies to preserve wildlife.

In Zimbabwe the policy for dealing with poachers is shoot to kill. More than 100 poachers have been shot since operations were stepped up in the mid-'80s.

Namibia decided the only way to keep its rhinos alive was to saw off their horns and started a de-horning operation in 1989. The horns grow back at 9cm a year.

Horried

Zimbabwe followed suit, after refusing to consider it five years previously. In a recent de-horning operation in the Matusadona National Park, rangers were horrified to discover that only 15 of the estimated 150 rhinos in the 1 500km² park had survived.

Kruger National Park wildlife manager Lynn van Rooyen said the park had no plans of "ever going that far" but said it would depend on the incidence of poaching. He said

the park had 59 white rhinos and between 300 and 400 black rhinos.

About 85% of the world's rhinos are thought to have been killed in the past 30 years, and less than 11 000 animals from five species are believed to be left in Africa and Asia. Africa's black rhino population has dropped drastically, from an estimated 70 000 in 1970 to 3 000 today.

One observer points out that the hope for Africa's wildlife, an important drawcard for tourism, will come through countries sharing expertise and co-operating with each other on issues such as the combating of poachers.

The possible formation of the 180 000ha Limpopo Valley game reserve where Zimbabwe, Botswana and SA borders meet could be a step in the right direction.

SA features low on IMF agenda

From JIM JONES

WASHINGTON — SA's problems figured low in the list of IMF nations as Michel Camdessus, the IMF's MD, opened the fund's 47th annual meeting in Washington yesterday.

Camdessus merely alluded to last week's European currency turmoil, but the structural economic problems which underlay it were uppermost in his speech.

Recent turbulence in markets related only partly to political circumstances, Camdessus said. But he made it clear the IMF's

(Sb) CT 23/9/92
view that economic policies, particularly inadequate fiscal policies in several large industrial countries, were largely responsible.

Camdessus cautioned against early relaxation of anti-inflationary monetary discipline, and emphasised that fiscal consolidation or the reduction of budget deficits should take precedence.

Camdessus, understandably, did not deviate from IMF economic orthodoxy though he paid lip service to the concerns of countries which asked whether budget balancing and fiscal rectitude

were correct given that economic recovery was still so hesitant.

He urged prompt action to ensure speedy fiscal consolidation in the USA and Germany while applauding Japan's prudent fiscal policies of several years which gave the authorities the ability to announce their latest economic package.

Camdessus's prescription for job creation was brief: He specified a need to decentralise wage bargaining so that wages reflected local employment conditions and individual enterprises' performance.

Commodity Index 1579,6

Closing

National parks 'crucial to SA's tourism future'

BLDAM 23/9/92 THEO RAWANA (56)

THE four national parks situated in the Eastern Cape offered a glimpse of what SA stood to gain from ecological conservation and tourism, Southern Parks liaison and information manager Trevor Dearlove said last week.

Leading a media tour of Mountain Zebra National Park, Addo Elephant Park, Tsitsikamma Marine Park and the Wilderness Park, Dearlove said national parks were needed to preserve a heritage without which SA could have no future.

"When finite resources in the fossil fields — gold and diamonds — dry up, tourism will be the single biggest generator of revenue for SA and ecotourism will be an integral part of that experience," said Dearlove.

Foreign tourists' first choice on visits to SA were the parks, and these had to conform to world standards, and operate on sound ecological and business principles.

"Parks are not only for animals, they are for people. They are the 'lungs' of urban SA, where businessmen can take a break from the busy lives they lead and breathe some fresh air," said Dearlove.

Of the 17 parks under the National Parks Board, 11 had tourism facilities, while others were being developed.

Dearlove made it clear that the Parks Board's priority was conservation. "We are answerable to future generations as far as conservation is concerned. If all this ecological heritage were to be lost, there would be no future for SA," he added.

The Mountain Zebra Park, 25km west of Cradock, has raised the zebra population from 11 in the 1930s to the present 265. The number has been limited to 265, with other animals being farmed out to other parks.

Protection

The park's pride is the Doornhoek guest house which is a restored Victorian homestead furnished in period style. A national monument, the complex was used in the filming of Olive Schreiner's Story of an African Farm.

The Addo Elephant National Park, 72km north of PE, rests in the Valley Bushveld in the Sunday River Valley.

This is where the most southerly herds of elephant on the African continent have found lasting protection. From a mere 11 in 1930, the elephants now number more than 250, while the park also boasts the only herd of buffalo to survive in the Cape.

The Tsitsikamma Park, the first marine national park on the sub-continent, stretches for 80km along the rugged southern Cape coast, and for 5km out to sea.

The Otter Hiking Trail, which traverses 41km of coastal landscapes and dense forests, starts here, and crosses 11 rivers before ending at Nature's Valley.

The Wilderness National Park, nestling between the Indian Ocean and the Oteniqua Mountains, has three rest camps: Wilderness, Ebb & Flow and Kleinkrantz.

The National Parks Board has introduced a temporary 30% discount package for accommodation in five of its southern parks, reports Sapa.

Parks board spokesman Braam van der Vyfer said the packages would be applicable to the Mountain Zebra, Wilderness, Addo Elephant, West Coast and Augrabies national parks from October 15 to November 30.

Van der Vyfer said the reason for the discount was the traditional tourism slump experienced by these parks during the period.

IGI's unit trusts grow
24/9/92
ANDREW KRUMM

THE IGI Unit Trust (IUT) portfolio grew 75% to R42m (R24m) in the year to March 1992, but the share market had since taken a knock, said management company director Peter Linnell.

According to Linnell a buoyant share market between March and June did not continue into the third quarter, when the all-share index dropped by 13%. 58 82

"We outperformed the market on its downward ride in the third quarter, going down only 5,5%."

As a younger trust, IUT had not been as badly hit by the spate of unit repurchases seen in the downturn, and consequently had a positive inflow of funds during the third quarter. 24/9/92

"Being a newcomer we tend to attract the more serious investor, who is in it for the long term," Linnell said.

IUT's portfolio was now worth about R45m.

Keep plutonium ships away, say Cape children

56 ARCT 24/9/92

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

"DON'T ship plutonium around our coast!" is the message Japanese prime minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa will get from several hundred Cape Town pupils today.

Letters from the pupils will be handed to the Japanese consulate on the Foreshore by members of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps), with a request that they be sent to Mr Miyazawa.

Said Caps spokesman Mr Andy Gubb: "The coalition received a number of queries from pupils about the possible role they could play in preventing the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan via the Cape sea route."

He said the environmental education section of the Wildlife Society — a member of the coalition — had responded with background information and a letter to schools, and pupils had been encouraged to write to Mr Miyazawa.

"There was an overwhelming response from the children of Cape Town," said Mr Gubb.

"Their concern stems directly from questions surrounding the possibility of a shipping accident, and exactly how such an accident would affect them now and in the future.

"It's obvious the pupils are not easily convinced by technical safety arguments, and that even a statistically-small risk is far too great to allow plutonium to be shipped via the Cape sea route."

The coalition would insist that Mr Miyazawa responds "adequately" to the children's fears, Mr Gubb said.

Bolt cutter used to free atom protesters

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

POLICEMEN today used a bolt cutter to free three environmental activists who had spent 22 hours chained to a window in the reception area of the Japanese Consulate on the Foreshore.

Mr Stephen Smith of Earthlife Africa, Mr Nosey Pieterse of the Food and Allied Workers Union and Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society — all members of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments — were protesting against Japanese plans to transport plutonium from France to Japan, possibly around the Cape sea route.

Yesterday the protesters handed letters and a petition from Cape Town children to the Japanese Consul, Mr I Tanaki. They then chained themselves to a window in the reception area of the sixth-floor offices and said they would not leave before getting a formal response from the Japanese government.

At 9.20 am, Mr Tanaki asked the protesters to leave immediately or said he would call the police to remove them "forcibly".

"Then we said from our point of view we had only two options — we either had to receive a response, or as a matter of principle we would have to be removed," Mr Gubb said.

Mr Gubb said their relations with Mr Tanaki had been friendly and it was clear he was carrying out instructions.

At 10.15 am a group of plain clothed policemen arrived and spoke to Mr Tanaki. At 10.30 am the police used a bolt cutter to free the men and they then left.

The three were asking for a formal response from the Japanese prime minister to a protest letter sent in July, and to several thousand letters and a 600-signature petition handed in at the consulate yesterday.

The three men were locked into the offices overnight when it closed at 4.30pm.

Mr Gubb said they had held long discussions with the consul, Mr A Tanaki, yesterday afternoon about their presence, and they were aware that the consul had been in constant contact with the Japanese Ambassador in Pretoria.

56 ARG 25/9/92

Govt blamed for drought devastation

EMERGENCY drought relief operations have been thrown into crisis, with drought experts blaming government for the water shortage which has devastated large areas of SA's northern areas.

A confidential report drawn up by Consultative Forum on Drought manager Len Abrams says foreign engineers blame bad government — rather than the extent of the drought — for the region's water crisis.

The British engineers said SA was more chaotic and provided less support than Ethiopia, Somalia and Iraq, where they had worked previously.

The engineers were contracted by the forum, a joint government-development agency project, to help bring relief measures to the ravaged northern Transvaal

RAY HARTLEY

(56)

communities.

The British government and the Overseas Development Forum have now cancelled their involvement in the project because they deem the crisis to be the result of "long-term problems of neglect".

Abrams's report described government bungling as "the largest obstacle to disaster relief activity".

"The SA government and its creations, the homelands, are responsible for the disaster," says the report.

"The lack of rainfall is a natural phenomenon but the consequences are a result of years of neglect, inadequate investment,

To Page 2

Drought

maldevelopment, mismanagement, corruption, no maintenance and apartheid policies.

"The state has used its structures of the homeland administrations to channel public drought relief funds where they are to be managed by the same bureaucracy that is responsible for the problems," Abrams said.

Water Affairs drought relief worker Simon Forster commented yesterday that there was no consensus on the Abrams

From Page 1

report in the Consultative Forum on Drought and pointed out that two of the visiting engineers had voluntarily agreed to stay on in SA.

He said three more foreign engineers — two from the US and one from Australia — would shortly be joining emergency water provision operations.

He said water provision operations in Venda and KaNgwane were proceeding and the situation was almost under control.

Chains, letters used in toxic cargo protest

CT 25/9/92

56

TWO environmentalists chained themselves to a window of the Japanese consulate yesterday in protest against Japan's proposed plutonium shipment, after handing over several thousand letters from local schoolchildren opposing the plan.

They were protesting against a planned shipment of plutonium from France to Japan in November which the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps) believe will be transported via the Cape sea route.

Caps spokesman Mr Andy Gubb handed over the letters from primary and high schoolchildren and a 600-signature petition from Plumstead High, to consulate official Mr H Komori.

Earlier a huge banner proclaiming "Cape Children Say No to Japan's Plutonium" was strung up outside the



THUMBS DOWN . . . Plumstead High pupil Bruce Connolly shows his opposition to the planned plutonium shipment to Japan. Picture: Harold King

building.

Caps representatives Mr Stephen Smith and Mr Nosey Petersen were still chained in the sixth floor reception area when the consulate closed for the day. They demanded to speak directly on the phone with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

The big wheeze: Humans losing the fight

(56)

ANDREA WEISS, Health Reporter

ALLERGIC diseases, among them life-threatening asthma, have increased dramatically in South Africa over the past five years, an allergy congress has heard.

Air pollution and rapid urbanisation have been blamed.

Speaking at a Press briefing, Dr Matt Haus of the Allergy Society of South Africa said that five years ago an estimated 10 percent of the population was affected. Today, estimates run as high as 25 percent.

Dr Haus said the phenomenon was not peculiar to South Africa but was common in all developing countries.

Allergic people had a genetic predisposition and would react to an "allergen" such as pollen. Adding to this were non-specific factors such as smoking or environmental pollution which could also trigger reactions.

Dr Haus said studies had shown that rural populations were not susceptible to asthma but that this changed dramatically when the population moved to the city. Possible causes included exhaust gas emissions, food preservatives and a change in breast-feeding habits.

Another speaker, Dr Paul Potter, said that an estimated six million South Africans had allergic rhinitis,

the most common form of allergy.

An estimated two million were affected by asthma. One cause of asthma was the house-dust mite. Dr Potter said that 90 percent of asthmatics at the coast were affected by the house-dust mite.

Cultivated grasses such as Kikuyu also caused allergic reactions. He said it had been found that wild grasses growing in rural environments did not pollenate as often as those that were mown frequently in urban environments.

Kikuyu was introduced into the country as a single "female" rhizome in 1912. Later nurserymen brought in

the male pollen-producing plants. It appeared there were more pollen-producing male plants in the Transvaal than in the Cape.

He said it had been found that 40 percent of allergic patients were sensitive to Kikuyu pollen.

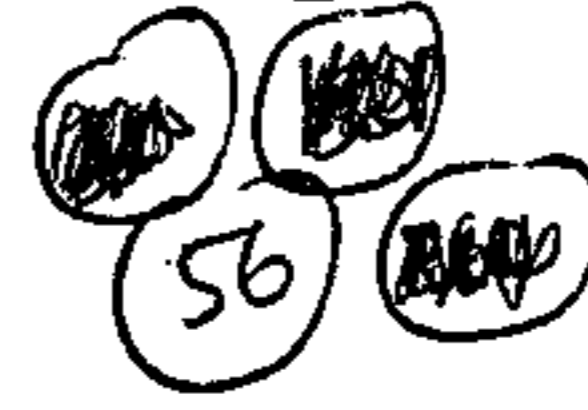
Dr Potter advised against regular mowing of lawns and suggested a switch to the indigenous buffalo lawn which produced less pollen.

On the subject of house-dust mites, Dr F Spietsma from Leiden in the Netherlands said they were a "natural inhabitant of the human nest" and it was virtually impossible to eliminate them.

25/9/92

Eskom will rectify 'shocking' bills

Soweto 25/9/92.



By Joshua Raboroko

■ **BIG SHOCK** Traders charged tariffs

of between R4 000 and R10 000:

ESKOM HAS UNDERTAKEN to rectify the huge electricity bills charged to businesses in Soweto.

This was said by the corporation's sales and customer manager, Mr Paul Mare, at a meeting at the Standard Bank Hall in Jabulani yesterday with members of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce (GSCC), the Soweto Independent Shopkeepers Association (Soinsa), Soweto Civic Association (SCA) and professional people.

Mare was responding to complaints by traders that they had received "shocking electricity bills" ranging from R4 000 to R10 000 although their shops did not have meters.

One businessman asked how the electricity company calculated consumption when many businesses either had

faulty meters or none at all.

"How do you come to this conclusion?" the businessman asked.

Businessmen said they felt that they should be included in the Soweto Accord which cancelled arrears for the majority of Soweto residents earlier this year.

Mare said there were 11 service centres where complaints could be made. If any mistakes were found, they were prepared to rectify them.

Eskom would install and repair electricity meters in Soweto and the business community would not be excluded, he said. The corporation would charge small businesses such as spaza shops and others the same tariffs - as low as possible

- as residential dwellings. He added that "we are prepared to help the informal sector grow".

"Business people will begin paying a market-related tariff for their electricity, paying accounts which are based on how much electricity you use as measured by your meters," Mare said.

GSCC's executive director, Mr Max Legodi, said they felt concerned about the supply of electricity because in the past they were not consulted.

Soinsa's secretary general, Mr Thami Skenjana, said business people were promised they would pay a flat rate when Eskom took over the supply of electricity in Soweto in April.

Greens' chained protest ⁵⁶

TWO Cape Town environmentalists, who have chained and handcuffed themselves to a window inside the Japanese consulate on the Foreshore, have refused to leave until they are put in direct telephonic contact with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

Duffin 25/9/72
Mr Stephen Smith of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments and trade unionist Mr Nosey Petersen are protesting against the planned shipment of plutonium from France to Japan in November, which they believe would be transported via the Cape sea route.

New dawn for SA's game parks

ALG 26/9/92
Ⓟ

PLANS are being made by the National Parks Board to cope with the huge influx of foreign tourists to its parks which it believes will follow political stability in South Africa.

The board is involved in a comprehensive commercialisation programme which eventually will see most of the parks under its control run as independent business ventures, responsible for their own budgets and income.

There are high-level negotiations with all major political groupings in South Africa and there have been "particularly fruitful discussions" with the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, who have shown a "very positive attitude" on retaining national parks in a new South Africa.

Some park wardens already have embarked on their own programmes in an effort to become financially viable and draw more tourists to their particular areas.

The buzz-word among Parks Board officials is eco-education — a programme aimed at educating children and adults of all races on the need for conservation and the important role of national parks in promoting tourism to this country and creating employment.

The National Parks Board employs about 4 500 people and many parks have border industries in which people from surrounding rural areas produce ethnic art which is sold to tourists.

■ Our national parks have an important role to play in promoting tourism and creating employment. The National Parks Board is planning for a future filled with busloads of promise.

WILLEM STEENKAMP Weekend Argus Reporter

Mr Braam van der Vyver, marketing and public relations manager of the Parks Board, told Weekend Argus that the organisation also was involved in proactive steps to make parks more accessible and "user-friendly".

Among the ideas under consideration was the development of mountain bicycle trails. These were the brainchild of Mr Trevor Dearlove, marketing manager of Southern Parks, which has 13 parks in the Cape.

Mr Dearlove, based in Cape Town, said the first mountain bicycle trails would be introduced in the Karoo National Park. He was negotiating with sponsors to supply bicycles for hire. Other parks would follow suit.

The Mountain Zebra National Park near Cradock has a small herd of horses and it was hoped that horse trails could be developed there soon. Other ideas included a camel trail, canoe trips

and 4 X 4 trails like the one already existing in the Karoo National Park.

Mr Van der Vyver said there was vast potential for promoting foreign tourism to this country, but political instability, especially after the Botswana tragedy and the Bisho shootings, had had a negative effect on the numbers of foreign visitors.

"But, we hope this will change soon. We are in the middle of commercialisation with the intention of becoming totally customer-driven, but obviously nature conservation still remains our number one objective.

"In the process of commercialisation, we also are looking at partnerships in the private sector to ensure the maximum utilisation and benefit for visitors to our parks."

Mr Van der Vyver said he had little doubt about the continued existence of national parks in a new South Africa.

"Locally and internationally, we have great support for our work in nature conservation.

"Our experience has shown parks are becoming more and more popular as people become more conservation conscious and need to escape the high pressure of city life. Progressively larger numbers of people seek the peace and quiet that only nature can provide.

"We look forward to the future and the positive role we can play in South Africa, not only to promote tourism, but to supply the needs and expectations of every one," said Mr Van der Vyver.

Mystery moth multiplies in Addo



□EGGS: Mr Trevor Dearlove of the National Parks Board with one of the cocoons in which a mysterious moth lays its eggs. Inset: A close-up of the cocoon.

Picture: WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus.

Worms devour elephant food

Weekend Argus Reporter

A SUDDEN increase in numbers of a mysterious moth in the Addo Elephant National Park is causing concern among National Parks Board officials.

The moths lay their eggs on the branches of the small-leaved garrul tree, one of the staple diets of elephant in the park.

The eggs are encapsulated in brown paper-like cocoons which can be seen on trees. Once hatched, the worms feed on the

leaves tree and have so far stripped bare the branches of hundreds of garrul trees.

Mr Lincius Moolman, park warden, said there had always been a small moth population in the park, but in June his officials were dumbfounded by a huge increase.

Researchers have established that the moths belong to a known species, but little is known about the specific type.

"We believe and obviously also

hope that this sudden increase is part of a natural cycle and that the wasps which are known to feed on the moths and which have in the past kept their numbers down, will reappear. But we have seen few wasps this year."

Mr Moolman said that although the Parks Board was concerned about the moths, it seemed as if the speckboom and the Karoo beer bean, the other two staples in elephant diet, were unaffected.



Workers in protective gear yesterday cleaned up the Midrand chemical storage facility where toxic substances spilled when a fire gutted it 10 days ago. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Council says Midrand site should be avoided

AIR toxicity tests were being carried out every hour at the Midrand site where a fire destroyed a chemicals storage facility 10 days ago, following a warning by the town council that the area should be avoided.

About 72 chemical substances — including sulphur dioxide, cyanides and petro-hydrocarbons — had leaked from ruptured or melted containers during the fire at the warehouse, Rhone-Poulenc Animal Health and Chemical company spokesman Simon Grimbeek said yesterday.

However, all tests, including those of water in the area had been negative, he said. Extensive tests of employees had also proved negative.

Several companies in the adjacent Constantia Park complex had evacuated the area while specialist industrial and toxic waste disposal company Waste-Tech was cleaning up the site.

Constantia Park occupants had started complaining about nausea, headaches, dizziness,

STEPHANE BOTHMA

bloody urine and bleeding gums last week.

The Midrand Town Council yesterday advised that the area next to the Rhone-Poulenc site should be avoided until tomorrow.

The council told occupants of adjacent buildings that air conditioning systems should be thoroughly cleared by qualified contractors.

Remains of the buildings on the property — also severely contaminated — would be completely demolished.

The chemicals and the rubble were being transported in specialised vehicles and disposed of at Waste-Tech's landfill designed for hazardous wastes at Rietfontien.

"Some chemicals, because of their high levels of toxicity, will be encapsulated in concrete and buried," Waste-Tech MD Ken Bromfield said.

Waste-Tech employees on the site were being checked at regular intervals, he said.

Toxic factory a no-go area

By Charmela Bhagwat
and Julienne du Toit

The Midrand Town Council has advised residents to avoid the area around the Rhone-Poulenc chemical factory — which burnt down 10 days ago — until tomorrow, when toxic debris from the site would be completely removed.

The decision was made at an urgent meeting between the Midrand Town Council, Rhone-Poulenc and Waste-Tech — the disposal company hired to remove the toxic rubble — after a second inspec-

tion of the site.

The town council said occupants of air-conditioned buildings next to the factory should have their systems and ducts cleaned by qualified contractors to ensure removal of all trace of chemicals.

The council said 70 percent of the toxic waste had been removed by midday yesterday and the operation would be complete by late tomorrow.

"Tests have been conducted at regular intervals since Thursday last week for sulphur dioxide, halogenated hydrocarbons and cyanides. The council is aware that organophosphates are on site," said the council.

Waste-Tech said the clean-up operation of the 50 chemicals which "pose a health hazard to residents and offices in the area" would take up to two weeks.

In a statement, the company said the rubble at the factory was "severely contaminated" and because of the "high level of danger, all staff working on the site had been supplied with protective clothing and gas masks".

Meanwhile, three companies from Midrand's Constanatia Park complex, next to Rhone-Poulenc, have moved their staff to other premises after some employees displayed disturbing symptoms.

Constanatia Park owner Felix Meyburgh has hired a private research company to conduct tests in the area.

Mr Meyburgh engaged Protechnik on Friday after a number of employees in the complex began complaining of itchy skin, blocked noses, severe headaches, nausea, diarrhoea and burning eyes.

Protechnik research and development manager Dr Phillip Coleman said organophosphates were used in pesticides and could be lethal in large enough quantities.

Businessmen who moved their staff said repeated requests to the Midrand Town Council for more information

about the polluting chemicals were unfruitful.

The owner of Stream Computer Service and Cablecom, Bob Sugrue, said the attitude of the council — which has hired a public relations company to deal with the crisis — had been "cavalier".

"They refuse to tell us what is happening. They are risking our lives because of their ignorance," said Mr Sugrue, who has moved his staff into his home.

Movie World producer Paul Raleigh and Panorama Sound manager Sandra Bezuidenhout said they would both be sending their staff home.

SM 20/9/92

56

17

Nelspruit faces stiffer water curbs

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau



NELSPRUIT — Nelspruit residents, already faced with severe water restrictions, could be subjected to further tough measures unless it rains soon.

This warning came from management committee chairman Nic van Zyl at a town council meeting on Monday night.

He said Lydenburg's Braam Raubenheimer Dam was at a level of 19,65 percent.

New restrictions include:

- Water usage for householders and flat owners to be limited to 40 kilolitres a month.
- School, club and hospital gardens may only be watered for two hours a week.
- Written permission will have to be obtained to fill new or repaired swimming pools.

The following rates, plus VAT, will be applied to householders exceeding the 40 kl limit: from 0-40 kl: 85c/kl; 41-50 kl: R2/kl; 51-75 kl: R5/kl; 76-100 kl: R10/kl; exceeding 100 kl: R20/kl.

Chemicals removed from Midrand factory

By Juliette du Toit

STAR 1/10/92

waste site at Rietfontein near Germiston.

All chemicals and potentially harmful substances have been removed from the Rhone-Poulenc animal pharmaceutical factory and warehouse in Midrand, the suburb, dawn on September 19, according to a company waste disposal specialist, Waste-Tech.

The walls had been washed down and there was no longer any danger of inhaling poisonous substances.

David Baldwin of Waste-

When demolition of the structure was started last Thursday, workers and busi-

nessmen in a 1 km radius of the factory began to complain of nausea, vomiting, headaches, skin irritation and tight chests.

Waste-Tech was then called in to complete the demolition and remove the hazardous waste to the Class 1 toxic

The walls of the structure will be levelled in a week, according to Rhone-Poulenc spokesman Blake Wilkens.

The loss suffered by the pharmaceutical company will be assessed next week, but managing director Simon Grimbeek said stock of chemicals in the warehouse amounted to about R6.2 million. This excluded machinery, equipment and the structure.

At least one resident told The Star he was no longer happy to live over the road from Rhone-Poulenc.

Mayor Alan Dawson said

that as a local authority, Midrand Town Council could not impose stricter safety regulations than the Government, but was encouraging factories to investigate contingency measures in case of disaster.

Rhone-Poulenc has indicated that its insurance company would consider "on merit" medical claims from those who suffered from organophosphate poisoning. Anyone with medical or other inquiries can telephone (011) 315-2427.

Workers, residents tested after toxic gas exposure

STAR 2/10/92

56

By Charmeela Bhagawat

Residents and workers, exposed to toxic gases released from the Rhone-Poulenc chemical factory fire in Midrand recently, yesterday took medical tests, paid for by Rhone-Poulenc, to determine whether they were contaminated.

And police yesterday said they were investigating the possibility that the death of a 35-year-old man, whose body was found in a relative's deep freeze in Alexandra two days ago, was related to the fire.

SAP spokesman Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said police searched for Sefrao Ngoma's body after his employer, Bob Sugrue, reported the

death to the police.

Mr Sugrue told The Star that Mr Ngoma died in his outbuilding early last Wednesday morning, allegedly after walking past the gutted chemical factory on Tuesday afternoon.

He said the man died at about 1 am after saying he was thirsty.

He said policemen who came to the scene told him Mr Ngoma had died from natural causes before taking the body to a mortuary.

But when numerous attempts to trace Mr Ngoma's body in the past week failed, he decided to go back to the police to demand an autopsy, said Mr Sugrue.

Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said the SAP for-

mally opened an inquest docket on Wednesday after Mr Sugrue spoke to the police and Mr Ngoma's body was found in Alexandra.

Midrand electronics technician John Rich, who works near the gutted chemical warehouse and was one of the people who visited the Carstenhof Clinic for tests yesterday, said his nose started bleeding on Monday.

Among about 20 people who went for tests yesterday was television personality Richard Loring, who owns a company in Constantia Park — an office complex next to Rhone-Poulenc.

He said he was having his family and all 35 staff members tested



Conservation Corp's Varty ...
preserving the lifeblood

planning and fences between reserves than lack of rain. Longer-term planning is needed to give animals in the Kruger Park and private reserves greater mobility along traditional east-west migratory paths.

Agreement with Mozambique to allow game access to huge grazing areas in the east would be necessary and the World Bank is negotiating a mirror-image Kruger Park along Mozambique's western boundary. To the west, the Kruger Park is about to expand by 15% with the removal of its fence line with the private reserves of Klaserie, Sabi Sands, Timbavati, Umbabaat and Manyeleti. More critical is long-term land-use realignment to protect catchment areas further to the west for the sake of their rivers.

"New regional boundaries need to be planned along ecological lines," says Conservation Corp chairman Dave Varty. He adds: "The lifeblood of the game reserves should be managed by one authority instead of the multiplicity of departments to which rivers such as the Sand, Sabi, Olifants and Crocodile are now subjected.

"Poor land use planning and commercial forestry are strangling the eastern Transvaal's major rivers, posing a critical threat to ecotourism — an industry hugely valuable in terms of foreign revenue and employment potential."

Varty says much agricultural land bordering these reserves is being converted to wildlife. Game land has increased by 1 500% in value over the past decade while marginal agricultural land shows meagre returns.

Ngala is the first private reserve created within the Kruger National Park as a result of a contract between the National Parks Trust and The Conservation Corp. The agreement gives the corporation exclusive operating rights over the 14 000 ha Ngala Reserve — within the boundaries of the Kruger National Park — plus a 10-year lease over the adjoining Ngala Game Lodge.

The lodge was run by the National Parks Board and has been refurbished by the Conservation Corp at a cost of R4m. The property was donated last year to the National Parks Trust by landowner Hans Hoheisen. ■

PHOENIX INDUSTRIAL PARK

EASTERN TRANSVAAL (S6)

Lifeline to earnings

One thing the new SA needs to do is safeguard catchment areas west of the Kruger National Park from human depredation. This is essential to the survival of what is potentially a major foreign exchange earner — wildlife tourism.

Now is a good time to redraw the map and consider the needs of this sector. Ecotourism is worth R2bn and predictions are that, with some measure of political stability, growth could exceed 12% a year. The success of wildlife tourism — comprising 50% of the total — hinges on the eastern Transvaal, now stricken by the worst drought in living memory. *FM 2/10/92*

Drought devastation of region and overgrazing have more to do with the lack of land

Continued

TAHITI IN THE

FM 2/10/92

Sun International is spending R90m transforming Transkei's Wild Coast Sun into a South Sea island theme resort. The project is due for completion in December — 18 months after work started. It was to have cost R75m but Transkei Sun International (Transun) decided on R15m of additional attractions including a bingo lounge, more children's facilities and undercover parking.

Transun chairman Ken Rosevear says the first phase of the development, completed last year, included new stone walls for the landward side of the complex and thatch-roofed walkways. Additions completed last month included an hotel, covered driveway, entrance and foyer with shops, including a clothing boutique, hairdresser and kiosk. There was 30% more casino space, 830 slot machines, panelled salon privé with sea view, bar and cashier, another casino restaurant and bar, covered parking for 1 100 cars and a tropical water garden.



Changing the V

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**Chemical
clean-up
botched**

By CAROL GALES

A GROUP of doctors claims company and town officials bungled their response to the chemical inferno at the Rhone-Poulenc animal feed plant in Midrand a fortnight ago.

As a result 18 firefighters were hospitalised and clean-up workers still risk injury, frightened area residents are clamouring for information and complaining of symptoms, and litres of chemicals were allowed to soak into the ground before clean-up began a week after the fire.

Two weeks after the fire, officials are still trying to explain their response to angry people who live and work in the area.

"We don't know what's in the air," said Richard Loring, whose theatre is next to the plant. "At the moment, what's in the air is fear."

Dr Murray Coombs, spokesman for the South African Society of Occupational Medicine, blamed officials of both Midrand and Rhone-Poulenc for injury to the firefighters.

Rhone-Poulenc officials didn't say there were chemicals in the building until after firefighters who had battled the blaze for three hours complained of burning sensations.

Coombs said that workers for Waste-Tech, the firm hired by Rhone-Poulenc to demolish the building and dispose of the rubble, had not worn protective clothing.

Coombs' group faulted the Midrand Town Council for not immediately forming an action committee of residents, company and town officials to arrange evacuation and monitor possible chemical contamination.

Rhone-Poulenc finally released a list last week of 140 chemicals and compounds that were stored in the building. Experts will not know until at least next week how the chemicals interacted with each other, fire and water, nor whether they linger in the air or groundwater. Testing done by Waste-Tech has found no contamination on the plant grounds.

Campaigners hope to stop deadly cargo

(56)
Aug 31/92

■ Too few Japanese know that their government's plan to ship plutonium from France is causing worldwide consternation, says a campaigner against the shipment.

TOKYO. — Delegates from countries on the likely routes of a Japanese vessel carrying plutonium meet in Tokyo tomorrow with the aim of stopping the shipment which they see as a potentially devastating nuclear threat.

Several nations likely to be on its route from France to Japan, including Malaysia, Singapore and South Africa, have protested against the ship sailing in their waters.

The 3 800-ton Akatsuki Maru set off from Yokohama on August 24 for Cherbourg, where it will pick up a ton of plutonium from France for use in a Japanese reactor.

Its route back, when it will be accompanied by a 6 500-ton armed escort vessel, is a tightly kept secret.

Participants at tomorrow's meeting, including the president of the Pacific republic of Nauru, will draw up a resolution to submit to Japan's Science and Technology Agency, which is in charge of the plutonium project.

"We're hoping for something like asking the French, Japanese and United States governments to postpone the shipment," said Ms Yurika Ayukawa, spokeswoman for the Citizens' Nuclear Information Centre (CNIC), organiser of the meeting.

"Not many Japanese know that their nuclear programme is a threat to the whole world," she said. "We want to find out the real concerns of the countries along the route of the shipment."

As the original source of the fuel, Washington has the right to veto the shipment under a 1988 agreement between the two countries. However, it gave permission, satisfied of Japan's intentions and its measures to protect the ship.

After getting uranium from the United States and using it in light-water reactors, Japan sent the spent nuclear fuel to France and Britain for reprocessing into plutonium.

It wants to ship the plutonium back for use in Monju, a prototype fast-breeder reactor.

The CNIC also has attacked government secrecy over the ship's route.

Tokyo says this is to protect the shipment from terrorist attacks, as high-grade plutonium can be used to make nuclear weapons. However, there are increasing complaints that Japan is putting other nations in danger without their knowledge.

The most likely route would be around the Cape and across the Indian Ocean.

This would take it through the 600-mile Strait of Malacca, which separates Malaysia and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, one of the busiest waterways in the world.

This has seen four major accidents since June and is known for pirates who raid passing vessels in hit-and-run attacks.

Indonesia last month demanded details of the ship's route and Malaysia and Singapore also have objected to the Akatsuki Maru passing through the strait.

South Africa has said it will ban ships carrying plutonium from sailing within 200 miles of its coast.

The Tokyo conference will be attended by academics, environmentalists and representatives of various anti-nuclear groups. — Sapa-Reuter.

Abacor privatisation not yet cleared at Cabinet level

SEVERAL aspects of the privatisation of Abacor still had to be cleared at Cabinet level, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

He said a decision was expected within 10 days, when a full statement would be issued.

He said his department had taken cognisance of recommendations made in July by the Competition Board, which had expressed reservations about the deregulation and privatisation of the industry.

Organisation of Livestock Producers chairman Nils Dittmer confirmed at the weekend that complaints about the Meat Board's proposed new scheme are due to be lodged with Van Niekerk this week.

He said privatisation could create a situation of unfair competition, as nearly half the country's abattoirs would be controlled by Abacor.

Industry sources said producers, wholesalers and retailers, as well as meat importers had been objecting to the new scheme.

The Meat Board has maintained the new scheme would deregulate the meat industry, allowing for free movement of meat throughout the country while eliminating certain existing production requirements.

MEREDITH JENSEN
and GERALD REILLY

However, industry sources said the new scheme would extend more control to the board.

"The influence exercised by the Meat Board was formerly limited to the so-called controlled areas," a source said. The new scheme proposed to extend control over the entire country by imposing nationwide Class 1 and 2 abattoir restrictions.

All slaughtering would effectively have to be carried out at one of these approved abattoirs, most of which were owned and operated by Abacor or one of the big three — Kanhym, ICS and Sam's.

Dittmer said the new scheme would give "dictatorship" powers to the board. "With the new legislation, the Meat Board can enter your property at any time, without a court order, and confiscate your meat without asking questions."

Responding to allegations, Meat Board GM Pieter Coetzee said there was no conspiracy on the part of the board to retain control of the industry through producer shareholders in Abacor after privatisation.

Referring to claims that the board intended granting loans from the

stabilisation fund to assist producers to buy Abacor shares, Coetzee said this had been requested by the Red Meat Producers' Organisation.

Coetzee said only producers with five or more years of association with Abacor would be entitled to a share allocation.

He said no one and no organisation could hold more than 10% of total share issue.

Producers were entitled to 45% of the share issue, the trade to 30%, the public to 20% and Abacor personnel to 5%. The possibility of producers gaining overall control was remote.

Meanwhile, Abacor GM Frans van der Vyver said Abacor had received a valuation of the organisation from Rand Merchant Bank, but details could not yet be released.

He said privatisation could not be finalised until the deregulation process had been completed.

Deadline for comment on the scheme was October 7, whereafter the National Marketing Council would make recommendations to government.

Only when the new scheme had been officially accepted could the privatisation process, including a stock exchange listing, be completed.

Govt department 'a toothless watchdog'

THE aftermath of a fire at a pesticides warehouse in Midrand showed the Department of Environment Affairs up as "a toothless watchdog", DP environmental spokesman Rupert Lorimer said yesterday.

Lorimer said: "The problem is that there are too many authorities — some who do not know what they are doing — controlling the after-effects of an incident like this."

The September 19 chemical fire at the Rhone-Poulenc warehouse and resulting contamination allegedly caused the death of one man, made many others violently ill and forced the costly closure of surrounding businesses for up to four days.

"There is an obvious gap in legislation," he said, adding that the department had to be given legislative powers to investigate and

prosecute environmental disasters themselves.

But Environmental Affairs director-general Colin Cameron defended SA's environmental laws, saying: "Our law is able to cope with most eventualities."

"That they need revision and a degree of rationalisation is obvious, but to say they are backward is too severe," Cameron said.

However, he said his department could not open a special investigation on the Midrand fire as the consequences did not fall within his department's ambit.

Wits University environmental law lecturer Peter Lazarus said the incident might result in SA's first direct environmental action as people claimed doctors' bills, working hours lost or losses from the closure of business.

Flight timing ranks tops in passenger poll

STEPHANE BOTHMA

FLIGHT timing was placed at the top of a list of factors influencing businessmen's choice of airlines, a survey conducted among international flyers showed.

And delays topped the list as the most common complaint among international business travellers.

A survey of business travel planning practices showed that 62% of these travellers chose an airline for times of departure and arrival.

Way behind in second place, with 12% of mentions, was an airline's safety record, the Reed Travel Group said at the weekend.

The cost of an air ticket accounted for just 11% of mentions, "past experience" 6%, inflight service 4% and incentives such as free travel 2%.

Flight delays scored 46% on the "aggravation scale", followed by in-flight service at 10%.

Complaints relating to problems with luggage scored only 6%, with check-in problems and dissatisfaction with hotel accommodation both scoring a low 4%, Reed Travel said.

Corporate travel policies were almost non-existent, with 84% free to choose any airline, 24% free to select the class of travel, 81% free to choose their hotel and 16% having no restrictions at all.

The companies surveyed in the UK, France, Germany, Sweden, Italy, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong were mostly in manufacturing, followed by transport, communications and service industries.

Call to test for 'Agent Orange' toxins after fire

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

Environmental group Earthlife Africa has urged that tests be conducted urgently to determine whether one of the toxins released into the air after last month's Rhone Poulenc fire at Midrand was Dioxin — the primary ingredient of the notorious "Agent Orange"

The Sunday Star reported yesterday that among the 70 different chemical compounds incinerated in the blaze were several substances containing chlorine.

Dioxin is one of the products of incomplete combustion which can be produced when chlorine is burnt. It was the primary ingredient in "Agent Orange" — the defoliant blamed for causing cancer in thou-

sands of soldiers and civilians after the Vietnam War.

Peter Lukey of Earthlife Africa's Johannesburg branch told the Sunday Star: "It's all very well saying people in the area have recovered from the effects of the pollution. But what happens 10 years from now when they start coming down with cancer?"

According to environmentalists, Rhone Poulenc is the only company in the world that produces Aldicarb, an extremely toxic pesticide, although there is no evidence that Aldicarb was produced in the Midrand factory at the time of the fire.

Greenpeace lists the symptoms of exposure to Aldicarb as respiratory arrest, nausea, stomach cramps and diarrhoea.

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City to get fire alarm

CT 6/10/92 (56)

Municipal Reporter

THE city has a sophisticated new early warning alarm system to prevent mountain fires — which prompts lookout personnel with a buzzer if they don't call in on schedule.

It will cost the council R120 000 to install the new buzzing device at the Lions Head, Orange Kloof, Silvermine and Wemmershoek firewatchers' huts.

The costly alarm system is being introduced after the massive mountain fire in February last year when the Lions Head firewatcher called in only after the fire-fighting operation had begun. He said at the time he had a problem with his two-way radio, but the city ombudsman believed that he was asleep or absent.

Deputy city engineer Mr D B Bradley said that the new solar-powered devices, which would automatically "beep" if the firewatcher did not call

in at regular intervals, would be installed in the firewatchers' huts.

A computer at the Kloofnek Control Centre would record when the firewatcher was late, that he was reminded and when he responded.

Firewatchers would also be able to set off an alarm in the control centre when they spotted a fire, making them less dependent on the two-way radios.

● The city engineer's department also reported to the amenities and health committee yesterday that astounding results had been obtained with an infra-red fire-detection device, but it was too expensive.

It could detect the heat from small flames hidden from sight.

But a surveillance station would cost R300 000 and running costs would be "of the order of R100 000 every six months".

The cost of such a system could not be justified at this stage, city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said.

R1m a month spent searching for water

PRETORIA — The Water Affairs and Agriculture Departments are spending more than R1m a month in an intensive search for ground water in the drought-ravaged homelands, say Water Affairs officials. *BIDM 6/10/92.*

In Venda alone five of the department's boring rigs are working 14 hours a day. The desperate water search operation is also in progress in Lebowa, Gazankulu and Transkei, and will soon be extended to Ciskei.

Although success has not been overwhelming "we are getting water to most communities".

In Venda, the four main dams are virtually dry. The largest, Venda dam, is less than 1% full. An effort is being made to transfer water from Tshakhuna dam to Venda.

Rivers in the homeland have dried up or have been reduced to a muddy trickle.

The levels of most of the department's

56
GERALD REILLY *(56)*

137 dams are at their lowest in years and are falling by about 1% a week.

The average level of the Vaal river system's 13 dams was measured last week at 50% — down 1% on the previous week — compared with 79% percent at the same time last year.

The Vaal dam is at 17% compared with 67% this time last year.

According to the spokesman, the flow into the Vaal dam is at its second lowest since 1923. Sterkfontein dam — which backs up the Vaal dam with its access to Tugela river water — is 98% full.

In Natal the levels of the 16 dams are down to 50% compared with 75% at the same time last year.

In the eastern Cape, thanks to recent good rains, the average level has been lifted to 37% compared with 32% last year.

North, east desperate for rain

By Clyde Johnson
and Dirk Nel

Many northern and eastern Transvaal communities face economic ruin if it does not rain this month.

Although welcome rains fell in the Warmbaths and Nylstroom districts at the weekend, and over many parts of the lowveld last week, more is desperately needed to break the drought.

Over the past few months, drought reports by government officials, organised agriculture and conservationists have described a bleak picture.

Several factors which have brought the rural northern areas to their knees include:

- Thousands of cattle have died in Lebowa, Venda, and Gazankulu. It will take years for livestock farming to be re-established in these areas.
- Most districts in the far north had only 20 percent of their average annual rainfall in 1991/92. This resulted in dam levels dropping to below 20 percent of their capacity.
- Stringent water restrictions are in force in most towns, and thousands of people in the homelands are receiving daily or weekly water supplies by road tanker.
- The drought has caused an increase in unemployment, as farmers and businesses have been forced to retrench workers.
- City markets have suffered

drastically due to cuts in the irrigation quotas of fruit and vegetable farmers in the fertile Tzaneen district.

Conservation officials and game farmers are involved in the extensive feeding of wild animals which can no longer be sustained by the land.

● Fires have destroyed valuable plantations, indigenous vegetation and grazing. The ongoing danger of fires remains a constant cause for concern in the region.

The timber industry has been hard hit by the loss of up to 30 percent of the trees in State and private forests, because there simply is no dampness in the ground anymore.

"It's purely a matter of survival, one day until the next. God only knows how long we can hold out," a desperate lowveld farmer told The Star.

The Kruger National Park, gripped in its worst drought, had between 12 mm and 35 mm on Thursday — just enough to get grass growing.

But just as quickly as the tender young leaves make their appearance the hot lowveld sun scorches them.

The Braam Raubenheimer Dam is presently at a dangerous 19 percent level and unless water flows into it soon, all irrigation supplies to farmers will be stopped.

Nelspruit inhabitants, already subjected to strict water restrictions, will face even sterner measures in the weeks ahead unless it rains.

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Rhone-Poulenc faces police probe

FRENCH pharmaceuticals giant Rhone-Poulenc, already under threat of possible civil suits following a blaze at its warehouse north of Johannesburg, now faces a police probe, the Midrand Town Council announced on Wednesday.

In a letter to residents, the council said it would ask police to investigate the fire on September 19 in conjunction with the National Health Department, which issued the licence for Rhone-Poulenc to store chemicals.

Midrand town secretary Tom Pieters said the police and the department should make sure any party involved in the "disaster" had complied with the regulations.

The council has complained that Rhone-Poulenc did not warn its fire brigade about the chemicals on site until about two-and-a-half hours after fire crews arrived, and did not make a full disclosure until six days later.

Eighteen firemen were taken to hospital suffering from nausea, vomiting, skin irritation and diarrhoea, and six were found to

have non-lethal amounts of organo-phosphates in their blood.

On Monday, Rhone-Poulenc appointed the Atomic Energy Corporation to conduct soil and air tests and put together a dispersion model to see where a cloud formed during the fire might have deposited toxins. The scientists were looking for dioxins, which may have been formed when phenol-related products in the warehouse burned, said warehouse general manager Simon Grimbeek. *BIPAM 8/10/92*

Grimbeek said the samples may be sent to the US for analysis. Results would take at least three weeks to come back. An independent search for dioxins by a Pretoria company, based on samples around the site, is expected to yield results earlier.

Tests for organo-phosphate, benzene and other chemical poisoning carried out on Rhone-Poulenc's 49 workers and some 27 people in neighbouring offices, have come back negative.

The council has advised the nearby offices to have their air conditioning systems cleaned out. — Sapa-AFP.

Code of conduct approved for the timeshare industry

THE Harmful Business Practices Committee had approved a code of conduct for the timeshare industry, said committee chairman Prof Louise Tager.

The code of conduct had been drawn up by the Timeshare Institute of SA and would allow the industry to regulate itself.

Tager added that a newly established industry watchdog, the Timeshare Standards Council would administer the code of conduct, and could turn to the committee for enforcement against unscrupulous timeshare operators.

Retired Judge Cecil Margo would act as industry ombudsman and head the council. The code would apply to all timeshare companies and developers to ensure that consumers were protected.

BIPAM 8/10/92
ANDREW KRUMM

Resort Condominiums International MD Steve Griessel said the formation of the council was only part of a broad initiative by the institute to clean up the industry's image, and boost slowing sales.

Speaking at the launch of the Timeshare 2000 initiative yesterday, Griessel said the customer would benefit directly from a range of innovative programmes which would come into effect on November 1 this year.

One innovation was the introduction of a mandatory five-day "cooling-off" guarantee, which did away with pressure-selling tactics by salesmen.

"The cooling-off period gives purchasers the option of cancelling agreements

within five days, should they feel they have been pressured into buying.

"This is one of the most significant changes as salesmen are going to have to become far more creative in their selling methods," he said.

Among other things the institute would offer a 15-year warranty to provide holidays to timeshare buyers whose resort had been liquidated, or who had lost their occupation rights, Griessel said.

Satour director Kobus Roux endorsed Timeshare 2000.

"The far-reaching changes will ensure the continued growth of this vital part of the tourism infrastructure, while at the same time eliminating undesirable practices."

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Research centre to be established

BLOOM 8/10/92. (56)
A RESEARCH centre, which will also serve to educate tourists and locals on the marine environment, is to be set up early next year on Grande Comores.

The JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology at Rhodes University and the Island Ventures dive operation will be co-operating in establishing the laboratory which is to be manned by a researcher from the university.

Guy Fotherby of Island Ventures and the institute's curator of marine fishes, Phillip Heemstra, said the laboratory would serve as a base for the study of the wide and complex range of fish fauna. New species or variations of fish would be preserved and studied, or sent back to SA for identification. Heemstra said the centre could also be used by other scientists.

The Comores are also famed for their coelacanths, the prehistoric specimens providing a link in the evolution of fish, and

CLAIRES
PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

these will be included in the educational programme. Coelacanths are still being caught by deep sea fishermen off the islands, leading some researchers to speculate that they may not be as threatened as was thought.

Divers will also appreciate the centre's formulation of charts for the identification of fish, and Fotherby said they hoped to develop introductory audio-visual shows for visitors. They were also getting a photographic centre off the ground to promote underwater photography.

Most importantly, it was hoped the education of tourists and locals on the fragility of the reef system would lead to greater protection of the environment.

Island Ventures assistant manager Tony Marnewick expressed concern about the local practice of stockpiling beach sand to build

homes. In addition, crushed coral is used as a binding agent for building, as few can afford the expensive imported cement. But while the removal of beach sand and use of coral have been outlawed for years, the practice continues.

Marnewick said it was hard for government to enforce such laws owing to pressure from a poor and volatile electorate. However, tourism and the opening of Le Galawa Sun Beach Hotel last year had bred greater environmental awareness.

Government recently declared the nearby Comorian island of Moheli a marine reserve, but Marnewick argues Comorians have benefited little from that. The locals had relied on the sea for centuries and it was vital for the West to provide support for them in changing times. Many projects, such as fish and shellfish farming, could be encouraged to provide viable alternatives.

Act allows for environment studies

PRETORIA — Recent amendments to the Environment Conservation Act had made it easier to impose compulsory environmental impact assessments for certain activities which could have a detrimental effect on the environment, Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

Speaking at an SA Institute of Civil Engineers function, he said a list of activities earmarked for mandatory environmental impact assessments was being drafted for publication.

Regulations were also being drafted to specify what would be required in any environmental impact report emanating from an environmental impact assessment.

Pienaar said the country's throwaway culture and waste disposal methods had increased the problem of adequate dumping grounds.

It had become cheaper and easier to throw away a used product than to attempt to reuse or recycle it.

The department had identified bottle-

GERALD REILLY (56)

necks in the waste management system. One was the lack of a clear national policy on waste management.

Pienaar said more than 20% of the workforce was unemployed and between 7-million and 8-million people were estimated to be living in informal shacks.

He said the provision of basic infrastructure such as water, sewerage, electricity and waste disposal would have an effect on the environment.

SA had to face a doubling of its population every 25 years unless the rate of increase could be curbed sharply and these numbers would present a major threat to the environment.

Without economic growth to rein in unemployment, accommodate urbanisation and curb the population growth rate the country would be drawn relentlessly into the "suffocating quicksands of poverty". This was a greater threat to the environment than development, he said.

'Water can't keep up with growth'

By Shirley Woodgate

(56)

STAR

9/10/92

As the levels of many dams in the Transvaal, eastern Cape and Little Karoo hover around critical levels, Water Research Commission executive director Piet Odendaal has warned that the ultimate solution to the mounting water problem is limitation of the population growth.

The water shortage was directly linked to the increase in population, which could not be allowed to continue at

the present rate of 4 percent a year unless vast sums of money were made available to ensure more supplies, he said.

He said increased funds were also needed to provide improved long-term weather predictions for the agricultural sector so that farmers could plan ahead with confidence.

The Water Research Commission was funding investigations in this area. Indications were that "fairly good predictions" could be made

once a suitable formula was developed.

Odendaal said another vital area of research being pursued was better use of the country's ground water resources, including dolomitic regions on the Reef, in the western Transvaal and near Pretoria.

According to the latest Department of Water Affairs "state of the dams" bulletin, the total amount of water in reservoirs countrywide is down to 43 percent full, from 69 percent at the

same time last year.

The Vaal Dam, which serves the PWV, has dropped to 17 percent.

Dams in the western Transvaal are 30 percent full, the eastern Transvaal 38 percent, the Upper Orange River scheme is on 34 percent, Natal 43 percent and the eastern Cape total stands at 37 percent.

Only the western Cape is in a healthy state, with the 27 reservoirs serving the region ending the winter rainfall period threequarters full.

Gencor boss predicts no mining at St Lucia

By ROY RUDDEN

AN executive director of Gencor, the mining giant which is the biggest South African shareholder in Richards Bay Minerals, is quoted as predicting that mining at Lake St Lucia will not go ahead.

Under the heading, "No! ... and no again," Gencor's Naas Steenkamp, who is also president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, is reported in the society's Expo News as saying that he believed "ultimately they will not mine at St Lucia."

Mr Steenkamp, former president of the Chamber of Mines, was speaking at the opening of Durban's

recent Wildlife Expo.

Gencor owns about 25 percent of the shares in RBM. The other South African shareholders are SA Mutual (8 percent), known for its vigorous pro-conservation advertising, and the Industrial Development Corporation (17 percent). The remaining 50 percent is owned by international mining conglomerate Rio Tinto Zinc.

In his opening address at Expo, Mr Steenkamp also came out forcibly in favour of further government measures to protect the environment.

"Unless adequate safeguards are entrenched at the highest level," he said, "our national parks and nature reserves might be subjected to indiscriminate over-exploitation."

The Wildlife Society believed that the state's environmental obligations involved accepting ultimate responsibility for the compromises that needed to be struck between environmental constraints and the need for economic growth and development. The government had to acknowledge the maxim, "You cannot build a thriving economy on a bankrupt environment," he said.

Mr Brian Gilbertson, chairman of Gencor, said he had not seen the publication, and could not comment.

Conflict

Mr Steenkamp is out of town and could not be contacted for comment on a possible conflict of interests between his professional and environmental positions.

Dr Ian Player, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, said he was delighted by the speech.

"We hope this will give further impetus to the move to pass the Wetlands Conservation Bill, which would effectively empower the government to prevent mining at St Lucia," he said.

Banned toxins found in dead fish

By Julienne du Toit

(56) ~~Fishing~~ STARZ 12/10/92.
Fish that died at a specific spot in the Vaal River may have been killed by Dieldrin and benzene hexachloride (BHC), both banned insecticides, according to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The CSIR found traces of Dieldrin and BHC in live fish taken from the river near Schoemansdrif in the western Transvaal, as well as the derivatives of the banned DDT, called DDD and DDE.

The Department of Water Affairs reported four sets of fish deaths starting on August 24 in the area.

Some experts ascribed the deaths to changes in

temperature of the water, but Abre Steyn of the Biotox Foundation said he found it "too much of a coincidence" that Dieldrin was found in dams in Potchefstroom, and that domestic animals were dying in the area at roughly the same time.

Chickens, ostrich, springbuck and cattle were found dead as far away as Christiana, about 200 km away.

The department said in a statement issued late last month that tests of the water of the Vaal River where the fish had died showed good water quality, and that Onderstepoort could not find traces of pesticides in the dead fish.

Said Steyn: "I don't

want to say anything harsh about Onderstepoort, but the Department of Water Affairs has long ago acknowledged to me that Onderstepoort is not geared to micro-analysis.

"It is minute quantities that we are dealing with, and it is very easy to get a negative result. This does not mean it's not there, just that you did not find it."

The CSIR tests showed a concentration of 0,028 mg/kg of Dieldrin in yellow-fish. The lethal 24-hour limit, according to a pesticide manual, is between 0,018 and 0,089 mg/kg for fish.

The allowable daily intake for man is set at 0,0001 mg/kg. Dieldrin has been linked to liver cancer in man.

Angry Midrand residents demand answers

Staff Reporter



SB



STAR

12/10/92

Angry Midrand residents, concerned about the possible effects a fire at a chemical factory last month might have on the environment and their health, have called for answers from the Midrand Town Council and some business organisations in the area.

At a meeting convened by the Glen Austen Ratepayers' Association and the Make Midrand Green Association in Halseway Ho on Thursday, residents wanted to know:

- Why the company, Rhone Poulenc, did not reveal what chemicals were on the property when fire broke out on September 19.
- Why experts were not called in to clean up once it was established that highly toxic chemicals were present.

- Why the Midrand Town Council did not act decisively during the crisis.
- Why the Midrand Town Council and Rhone Poulenc, Waste-Tech, the Midrand Town Council and chamber of commerce as well as specialists faced a barrage of accusations from members of the public afraid of damage to their health.

Responding to questions, Rhone Poulenc general manager Simon Grimbeek said his company had not tried to hide anything. It had been unable to give the Midrand authorities a comprehensive list of chemicals immediately because it was unable to retrieve the information on the computer as the fire had cut off the electricity.

The company has employed a team from the Atomic Energy Corporation to make a comprehensive environmental impact study, Grimbeek promised to give regular reports on the findings.

He said anyone who needed medical attention for chemical poisoning should forward accounts to the factory.

Drought in far north and eastern Tvl tightens grip

By Dirk Nel
and Clyde Johnson

(56)

STAR 12/10/92

While good rains fell at the weekend in the Free State and northern Cape, the weather prophets who predicted it would rain in the northern and eastern Transvaal by Saturday were proved wrong.

In the far northern Transvaal the drought continues to tighten its grip.

A huge interdenominational church service was held in the Pietersburg stadium yesterday, and members of the large congregation broke up into small groups to pray for peace and much-needed rain.

Stringent water restrictions are in force in most towns in the far north, with Louis Trichardt particularly hard-hit. Residents are allowed only meagre daily supplies for domestic use.

SA watching toxic cargo

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA is in regular contact with the Japanese government over their planned shipment of a highly toxic cargo of plutonium around the South African coast, a foreign affairs spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said the Japanese were well aware that they were not allowed within the 12-mile territorial limit of South Africa's coast, and they had no

intention of breaching this understanding.

The plutonium will be carried by the 3 800-ton Akatsuki Maru, which left Yokohama on August 24 for the northern French port of Cherbourg.

The spokesman added the ministry had no idea when the Akatsuki Maru would be passing off South Africa's coast, and added Japan would want to keep these details a "closely guarded" secret.

(56) CT 14/10/92
"The Akatsuki Maru will not pass through the territorial waters of the countries it sails past. The freedom of passage in the 200-mile economic zone is guaranteed by international law," a Japanese source said.

● About 80 Greenpeace activists briefly blocked the entrance to a nuclear reprocessing plant in northern France yesterday in protest against the planned shipment.

The... could not be traced... Picture: JEREMY GLYN

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'Violations' of court's authority criticised

BIDM 15/10/92

GERALD REILLY

GOVERNMENT has been called on to remove the "checkmate situation" which has arisen regarding the death penalty, in terms of existing legislation and the fact that since November 1989 it has not been carried out.

In an editorial in the SA Bar journal, Consultus, it is stressed that a basic principle of a civilised legal system is that sentences pronounced by the courts should be carried out.

This principle has been violated by the government decision to suspend the death sentence for a further period until the constitutionality of the punishment has been firmly established, the editorial says.

This presumably means the suspension will apply until a new constitution with a bill of rights has been enacted. The suspension of the execution of the death sentence amounts to approved encroachment on the functions of the courts - just as the premature release of thousands of non-political prisoners did last year.

"Either the death penalty should be carried out, or abolished and all prisoners on death row reprieved, or death sentences which are not commuted should be carried out within a reasonable time," says the journal's editorial.

The courts, it says, should no longer be inhibited in carrying out their task in an orderly manner.

To expect trial judges to spend days hearing evidence and reasoning to determine that a death sentence should be imposed when it is, from the outset, certain that, whatever the courts may decide, no death penalty will be executed "is really not acceptable", it says.

Untenable

The suspension of the execution of the death sentence for an indefinite period in fact was probably unlawful. In times such as the present the judiciary should be strong and free to perform its function unimpeded and without let or hindrance of whatever nature.

The uncertainty on the death penalty could not be allowed to continue. Apart from the untenable situation that has developed in regard to the courts, it is in the public interest that clarity be obtained without further delay. It is also inhuman to keep prisoners on death row for unreasonably long periods with agonising uncertainty, the journal says.

Medical aid schemes start campaign against fraud

BIDM 15/10/92 ANDREW KRUMM

CERTAIN medical aid societies had started a campaign to clamp down on fraud and abuse of medical schemes, an industry source said yesterday.

The source said the campaign included swopping accounting records among certain societies to track down doctors who were blatantly over-servicing patients and having experienced investigators talk to them.

It was hoped these investigators would eradicate the abuse in the interests of the profession as a whole.

"Medical Fund Administrators has a good idea of who the abusers are, but unfortunately finds it difficult to press charges formally."

Steps would be taken against medical aid members who abused their schemes to create awareness that the over-use of benefits prejudiced medical care for others.

SA Association of Medical Schemes (Saams) chairman Keith Hollis said: "The medical schemes movement is in crisis as claims escalate at a rate considerably faster than inflation through over-use and over-servicing."

Hollis said Saams was not involved in any investigation, as investigations were the responsibility of individual administrators.

"Saams has launched an educational video to change perceptions and improve members' understanding of how their medical scheme works."

The video would be distributed among 82 medical aid societies and among employers for viewing by nearly 2-million members.

It was likely that a letter campaign would also be launched soon.

Jo'burg 'worse than Koeberg'

BIDM 15/10/92 Business Day Reporter

PEOPLE living in Johannesburg were exposed to higher radiation levels than those working at the Koeberg nuclear power station, Koeberg communications manager Donne Murray said yesterday. (56)

He was reacting to a report released this week which said 640 of the station's 1 400 radiation workers received detectable radiation doses during 1991.

Murray said exposure to radiation was normal.

People living in Johannesburg were exposed to 1 850 microsieverts as opposed to 1 500 microsieverts in Cape Town.

Exposure at Koeberg was below the World Association of Nuclear Operators' norm.

The company's health physics department ensured that exposure to radiation was minimised at all times, he said.

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New plans to protect coasts

Political Staff

INSENSITIVE development had seriously damaged the coastal environment and investigations into proclaiming limited development areas were under way, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

Development would not be forbidden in limited-development areas, but would be controlled more strictly than now, and environmental impact studies would be required, he said.

⑤ CT 17/10/92

Serina applies to RSC

56 CF 17/10/92
Municipal Reporter

THE kaolin-mining company Serina applied to the Western Cape Regional Services Council yesterday for permission to quarry their Noordhoek site as a gesture of "goodwill".

There has been a long-standing difference of opinion between Serina and the RSC over the legal necessity for Serina to get RSC permission for the mining operation.

The company has conditional permission from central government to mine the white powder, used in producing ceramics and white paper.

The RSC view is that mining would be illegal without local authority permission.

Yesterday Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, the vice-chairman of Serina, said his company had applied "as a gesture of goodwill".

In July this year Serina came to an agreement with the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group in which the company agreed to ditch plans for an on-site extraction plant.

Instead, it will pump kaolin six kilometres through a pipeline to its existing Brakkekloof processing plant.

Serina's agreement with the SCPAG included a clause that the kaolin would be piped "subject to obtaining the necessary approvals".

8/10/92
19/10/92

Thor orders CSIR study

THOR Chemicals has commissioned the CSIR's Graham Noble to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact study of the company's Cato Ridge site and surrounding neighbourhood, spokesman John Macdonald said at the weekend.

Thor became the centre of a controversy last year when three employees were hospitalised with severe mercury poisoning, two of whom have remained comatose.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Sale of water in Natal

343. Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

(1) Whether, as a result of the drought, water is being sold at approximately R6,00 per 25 litres in certain areas of Natal; if so, (a) in which areas and (b) what steps are being taken or are to be taken in this regard;

(2) what steps is his Department taking to assist residents of Natal who have lost their water supply as a result of the drought;

(3) what scientific basis is used in deciding on the categories of persons that are eligible for receiving assistance from his Department? B840E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is a bulk supplier of water and does not normally reticulate potable water to individual consumers or groups of consumers. Water for human consumption is normally supplied by the Department in bulk from Government Water Schemes to distributors such as water boards, regional services councils and local authorities. The government rates charged in these cases in Natal are in the order of 20c to 30c per 1 000 litres. Some of these bodies in turn supply individuals or groups of consumers with potable water depending on the particular circumstances in their areas of supply. Beyond this point neither the Department nor these statutory bodies have control over the charges levied for water sold by individuals and can thus not take any steps in this regard. In so-called water

shops under the auspices of Umgeni Water in Natal, water is sold at 8c per 25 litres. It is believed that some general dealers in the rural areas charge significantly more, but this could not be substantiated.

(2) Water supply to consumers is, in the first instance, the responsibility of the local authority concerned. In the case where no such an authority exists, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Administration or responsible department in the Self-governing state, whatever the case may be. Should the authorities concerned be unable to provide an adequate supply of water, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry can be approached through the normal official channels to assist in finding a solution. Such assistance can range from providing technical advice through to the construction of a Government Water Scheme.

As part of its normal as well as strategic planning, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry is closely monitoring the availability of water, not only in the drought-stricken areas, but throughout the country and, if required, the Department can assist communities in distress. Such assistance will, however, be the last resort after all the other responsible bodies and institutions have done their part.

(3) The department of Water Affairs and Forestry does not operate any assistance scheme for supplying water or to develop water resources for individuals or groups of individuals. The Department does, however, operate a subsidy scheme for water schemes of local authorities and full particulars thereon appear in the Government Notices in this regard as published in Government Gazette 11976 of 30 June 1989, as amended by notices in Government Gazette 12426 of 20 April 1990 and Government Gazette 13482 of 30 August 1991.

SAP members: injuries/deaths owing to gunshot wounds

350. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Cyanide leak alleged

WATER has been released from the Chelmsford Dam near Newcastle in Natal to dilute pollution apparently caused by cyanide leaking from Karbochem (Sb)

The chemical products company undertook to compensate farmers, following the deaths of 16 Brahman cattle thought to have drunk the polluted water.

Department of Water Affairs spokesman Lyn Gravelet-Blondin said the water would be tested.

BIDM 20/10/92

Water sold in Natal

WATER was being sold at 8c for 25l at so-called water shops under the auspices of the Umgeni Water Board in Natal, Water Affairs Minister Magnus Malan told Parliament yesterday.

Replying in writing to a question from Pierre Cronje (Ind Greytown) he said that it was believed some general dealers in the rural areas charged more, but this could not be substantiated.

Malan said the department was closely monitoring availability of water throughout SA.

3/10/77 22/10/77

(56)

Focus on False Bay pollution

Municipal Reporter

A PUBLIC meeting is to be held next month to discuss new ways to manage the waste flowing into False Bay.

Conservationist Mr Andy Gubb and False Bay Water Quality Committee Chairman Mr Arthur Clayton said yesterday they had agreed on the need to report back to the public on progress made so far.

One of the problems identified was that the management of catchment areas draining into the bay fell under several different authorities.

Another concern was that water-quality criteria were "merely guidelines".

A pamphlet issued by the Water Quality Committee said False Bay's pollution problem manifested itself "primarily in the surf zone, not the whole bay".

political affiliations, is also now taking place.

2. A second category, those who are serving life sentences, do not qualify for remission of sentence in terms of section 69 of the Correctional Services Act. They will be released, after a process of identification, before 15 November 1992, in terms of legislation which the Government will present to Parliament during the forthcoming short session in October. The proposed legislation will deal equitably with all those prisoners who qualify and whose release can make a contribution to reconciliation.

Certain prisoners in this category will however, within days, be released on parole on certain conditions. In such cases the parole conditions will be cancelled in the event of Parliament passing the above-mentioned legislation.

In addition to the above-mentioned cases, the Government will submit further legislation to Parliament to enable it to address the cases of persons who have committed similar offences, but who have not yet been charged or sentenced, in keeping with the Government's position that they should be dealt with on the same basis.

The Government has, in this regard, been guided by the following considerations:

1. All prisoners and offenders who fall in this category should be treated on the same basis, regardless of their political affiliation.
2. The Government's action in releasing these prisoners does not signify condonement of the crimes which they committed—many of which were atrocious and morally inexcusable.
3. However, the Government has, throughout, accepted that national reconciliation and a comprehensive political settlement, will require that the slate should be cleaned with regard to all persons who have committed crimes with a political motivation. Only on this basis can the book finally be closed on the conflict and bitterness of the past.
4. Whatever steps are taken should be taken properly and in accordance with the law.



In this regard it has consistently been the Government's view that special legislation would be required for the release of certain categories of prisoners and that the use of the State President's powers *inter alia* that of pardon in terms of section 6(3)(d) of the Constitution would not be appropriate in such cases.

ISSUED BY THE SA COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN
26 September 1992

Plutonium on ships: disasters

383. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

 56

- (1) Whether his Department has drafted any contingency plans to deal with any disasters that may occur while ships carrying cargoes of plutonium, for example, pass through South African territorial waters; if not, why not; if so, what measures will be taken in respect of (a) human health, (b) the environment in general and (c) the fishing industry in particular in the event of any such disasters occurring;
- (2) whether he or his Department has been notified that a ship carrying a cargo of plutonium en route from France to Japan will be passing through South African territorial waters; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B881E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Department has not drafted contingency plans to deal with disasters that may occur while ships carrying cargoes of plutonium, for example, pass through South African territorial waters. Should such a shipment pass through territorial waters, and it be necessary to obtain competent authority approval from the Council for Nuclear Safety (Council) in terms of the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material"*, or should the vessel wish to enter a port, sojourn or anchor in territorial waters, it

would be required to be licensed in terms of the Nuclear Energy Act. Such approval or licensing would be contingent on the establishment of a comprehensive emergency plan, approved by the Council. Such plans as a matter of course require consideration of all potential exposure pathways.

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- (2) The Department has been informed by the Japanese government that several routes are being considered and a decision on the actual route will only be taken at a later stage. The ship will undertake a non-stop voyage from France to Japan. It has been indicated that the intention is not to pass through any territorial waters except those of France, Japan and possibly Britain. According to information received from the Japanese government, the ship will traverse neither the economic zone, nor the territorial waters of South Africa.
- (3) No.

Ships entering exclusive economic zone/territorial waters: permit

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385. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether a permit is required for a ship to enter South Africa's (a) exclusive economic zone and (b) territorial waters; if not, why not; if so, (i) by whom is it required, (ii) subject to what conditions it issued and (iii) what specifications are contained in such permits in respect of (aa) normal and (bb) emergency conditions;
- (2) whether the Japanese government or agency responsible for a proposed shipment of plutonium to be transported from France to Japan has lodged an application for such a permit; if so, (a) when and (b) in what manner;
- (3) whether such a permit was issued to the said government or agency; if not, why not; if so, (a) when, (b) for what reasons and (c) subject to what conditions;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B883E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes, under certain circumstances.

(b) (i) An application for a permit must be made to the Council for Nuclear Safety in terms of the Nuclear Energy Act, No 92 of 1982, and the International Atomic Energy Agency Regulations in respect of nuclear powered vessels or vessels carrying nuclear substances on board requiring to enter the South African territorial waters.

(ii) Safety conditions laid down by the Council for Nuclear Safety.

(iii) (aa) and (bb)  56

Specifications laid down by the Council for Nuclear Safety.

- (2) No.
- (3) No, an application was not lodged.
- (4) News releases have already been issued by the Minister of Home Affairs and of Environment Affairs and the Council for Nuclear Safety. A further news release will only be issued if and when circumstances and the public interest warrant it and after consultation with the other government institutions that have an interest in the matter.

Release of prisoners on political grounds

387. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (1) Whether any prisoners have been released from gaol on political grounds in 1992; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (2) whether he will furnish information on the prisoners so released; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are their names, (b) for what offence or offences was each such prisoner convicted, (c) what sentence was imposed in each case, (d) on what grounds was each prisoner released and (e) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B885E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e)

Forest lodge plans for Phinda

PETER GALL

B10My 21/10/92

NEGATIVE political developments are affecting foreign bookings for upmarket game resorts, says Conservation Corporation chairman Dave Varty.

"Bookings were slowed down by the events at Bisho, but picked up markedly within three days of the peace summit. Combined occupancies at our two lodges, Phinda and Londolozi, have averaged 70% since the beginning of the year." About 60% of visitors were foreign.

Despite the loss of bookings, two further lodge developments were on the cards for the corporation's Phinda Resource Reserve near St Lucia, MD Alan Bernstein said. "A R9m Phinda Forest Lodge is due for completion in mid-1993, offering facilities targeted at the very top end of the eco-tourism market." The 32-bed lodge will be situated on the edge of a sand forest in the northern section of the reserve.

In addition, five executive bush lodges are to be developed, targeted at the top of the local corporate market. They will offer four double-bedrooms, a private swimming pool, full catering and a private vehicle and ranger.

Earlier this year the group signed an agreement with the SA Nature Foundation's National Parks Trust, which gave it exclusive, 10-year operating rights for the Ngala Game Lodge in the Timbavati region of the Kruger Park as well as traversing rights over 14 000ha of adjoining game land, Bernstein said.

The corporation invested about R3m in the recently opened lodge, which was funded off the assets of the company using long-term loan finance. However, the company was only 12% geared, he said.

The National Parks Trust had also invested R1,25m in capital improvements for the project and owned both the lodge and the land.

The corporation had first option for any renewal of the lease and management contract as well as the right of first approval for any future expansion.

"In the first year we will pay the trust an aggregate rental of R750 000, escalating at about 8% a year, plus 10% of accommodation turnover," Bernstein said.

"To achieve a break-even position in the first year, after all overheads are paid, we need an occupancy level of 36%, which we are confident will be easily achieved."

Occupancies for November were already almost 40% and the target average of 70% was expected by early next year.

"The National Parks Trust bought the land and the lodge to resolve the insecurity of tenure about the traversing rights, which had previously made it almost impossible for a proper investment to be made in the lodge," he said.

In 1989, local businessman Hans Hohenstein donated 30 000ha of land in the Timbavati area to the SA Nature Foundation to be managed as part of the Kruger National Park, and donated R1m towards the purchase of the lodge.

Varty said the tourism operation would be monitored by a joint conservation committee, which included representation by the Kruger Park, National Parks Trust and the Conservation Corporation.

"A percentage of the profits will flow into the Parks Trust coffers to further National Parks Board conservation projects. Our goal of creating wealth for regional communities will also be reflected in this venture," he said.

While a number of projects were on the drawing board for the area, these would be implemented only when an interim government was in place.

National Parks Board head Robby Robinson said the venture was the realisation of his dream to create a working relationship between his organisation and the private sector.

"The Kruger Park has been a closed shop until recently and this partnership has broken the barrier between the private sector and the National Parks Board," he said.

Bernstein said the group would probably list on either the JSE or the London Stock Exchange in early 1997.

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(c) No.
Plutonium shipments

393. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether the South African delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency Conference held in Vienna, Austria, on 22 September 1992, lodged an objection to the possible routing of plutonium shipments via the Cape sea route; if so, what is the (a) name of this delegate and (b) purport of the statement or comment made on this occasion;
- (2) whether the South African Government is in official contact with the Japanese government concerning the possible shipment of plutonium via the Cape sea route; if so, what are the details of the plans and other arrangements made in this regard;

Handwritten initials (3)

According to the Nuclear Energy Act, plutonium is a radioactive and fissile material and as such its transport is subject to the controls applicable to such material in accordance with IAEA "Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material", for the purposes of which the Council for Nuclear Safety is the National Competent Authority. In addition, vessels carrying such materials may, under certain circumstances, require to be licensed in terms of the Nuclear Energy Act, the licensing authority being the Council for Nuclear Safety.

- (3) subject to (a) what conditions and (b) whose approval will shipments of plutonium be allowed to enter (i) South Africa's (aa) exclusive economic zone or (bb) territorial waters or (ii) South African ports;
- (4) whether there has been a change in his or his Department's policy in regard to allowing plutonium shipments within South Africa's exclusive economic zone; if so, (a) why has there been a change, (b) what is the nature of this change and (c) what, in brief, is the new policy; if not, (i) what, in brief, is the existing policy and (ii) how will it be enforced?

B904E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No official statement or comment on this matter was made by the South African delegate to the conference.
- (2) The Japanese government has been apprised of the technical and legal requirements in respect of transport of radioactive materials in South Africa, including the territorial waters, related to the IAEA transport regulations and licensing requirements. The Japanese government is still considering several different sea routes. Should it be necessary, appropriate application will be made.

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stowage provisions. It would also include emergency arrangements.

In addition, should such a vessel wish to enter a port, anchor or sojourn, in South African territorial waters, for any reason whatsoever, such vessel must be licensed by the Council for Nuclear Safety. The licensing process requires a comprehensive quantitative assessment of the risks involved to be carried out, a comprehensive emergency plan to be established and financial guarantees to be provided in respect of any liability for nuclear damage which may be incurred by the licensee, should this be required by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

(4) No.

Disposal of land

394. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether any land listed in Schedule 3 of Proclamation R.28 of 31 March 1992 was not referred to in a general notice issued by the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation on 2 October 1992; if so, (a) what land and (b) why;
- (2) whether this land has been disposed of; if so, (a) at what price, (b) for what purpose, (c) when and (d) to whom;
- (3) whether the disposal of this land was made public; if so, (a) when and (b) in what manner?

B890E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) No general notice for public attention has as yet been published by the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation regarding the utilization and allocation of the state land concerned. In accordance with the said Commission's mandate as stipulated in section 91 of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, 1991 (Act 108 of 1991) an advice has, however, been submitted to the State President regarding the identification of land which has not yet been developed or allocated for a specific purpose. This advice not only includes land mentioned in Schedule

3 of Proclamation R.28 of 1992, but also other state land.

No. The future allocation, alienation and utilization of the land concerned will take place on the basis of Governmental decisions taken on the advice of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation and relevant bilateral agreements.

Transfer of land in East London district

395. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether any land in the East London district was transferred to his Department on 1 April 1992 in terms of paragraph (e) of Proclamation R.28 of 31 March 1992; if so, for what purpose is this land being used or held;
- (2) whether his Department is planning to develop this land; if so, what is envisaged in this regard?

B891E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

No. The land was not transferred to the Department of Regional and Land Affairs but to the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs. The land concerned comprises all the former South African Development Trust properties which are not situated within the jurisdictional areas of the TBVC States and Selfgoverning Territories. The allocation and utilization of the land will be determined by means of bilateral agreements and advice of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation.

The development of the land concerned is being undertaken by the respective line function departments.

Management of political party: member of SAP

396. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether a certain member of the South African Police, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, serves on the management of a political party; if so, (a)

- (1) Whether the Government is responsible for paying the costs of representatives of the (a) United Nations and (b) Organization for African Unity who recently visited or are currently visiting the Republic as observers; if so, (i) to what extent, and (ii)(aa) what are these costs to date and (bb) in respect of what period is this information furnished; if not,

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the financing of the above-mentioned visits?

B859E

~~_____~~
The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) As far as the UN and other observers are concerned the Department of Foreign Affairs did not pay any expenditure to date.

- (b) (i) and (ii)

Only certain transport costs in accordance with international practice. From 14 September 1992 to 4 October 1992 and amount of R9 550 has been paid.

- (2) The general worldwide practice in the case of such missions is that the host country where a team is being deployed, provides financial assistance with regard to office accommodation and related expenditure. It could thus be expected that certain costs will indeed be paid. The amount cannot be provided at this point in time because there still have to be discussions about the extent of the services.

Special representative of Secretary-General of UN: costs of visit

362. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the Government is responsible for paying the costs involved in the visit to the Republic in August this year of Mr Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; if so, (a) to what extent and (b) what were the costs involved; if not,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the financing of this visit?

B860E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (2) Not applicable given the answer under (1).

Imizamo Yethu settlement at Hout Bay: site

364. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

- (1) Whether the Imizamo Yethu settlement at Hout Bay is situated on a site of approximately 18 hectares agreed to in the second phase of the development in this regard; if not, what are the relevant details; if so,

- (2) whether his Department has any plans for extending the above settlement; if so, what are these plans;

- (3) whether these plans have been discussed with the liaison committee representing the Hout Bay communities; if so, when; if not, why not? B862E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) No; the activities of the Western Cape Regional Services Council on the relevant site of approximately 34 ha have been influenced to such an extent that they have to acquire an alternative site. Consequently the Cape Provincial Administration is obliged to purchase the whole area of approximately 34 ha.

- (3) Although no formal plans for the development of the additional approximately 16 ha have been discussed, the Hout Bay Liaison Committee has agreed that the residential component will be confined to approximately 18 ha. The future utilisation of the additional approximately 16 ha is thus still to be decided upon in consultation with the local communities. This land could possibly be utilised for community facilities.

Pine forest area in Hout Bay: cutting down of trees

365. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

- (1) Whether his Department has any plans to cut down any trees in the existing pine forest area near the Imizamo Yethu settlement at Hout Bay; if so, (a) what trees and (b) why; (c) what are the possible effect of the cutting down of these trees; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by whom;
- (2) whether an independent environmental impact study has been made regarding the possible effect of the cutting down of these trees; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by whom;
- (3) whether he will make public the findings resulting from such a study?

B863E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) Yes;

- (a) only those trees that have been identified during a scientific investigation to be dead, or are in the process of dying, as well as a limited number of trees which will hamper the alignment of roads or services in the development;

- (b) the retention of the dead trees is a risk to the lives of people and property. It would also not be cost effective to re-align roads and trunk services for purposes of retaining a small number of trees.

- (2) Yes;

- (a) in June 1992;
- (b) by Ms E L van and Honert, M.Sc. (Botany) employed by Messrs Hill, Kaplan and Scott, consulting engineers;

- (3) Yes.

Single care grants: children of each race group

367. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health:

- How many children of each race group were receiving single care grants in terms of the Mental Health Act, No 18 of 1973, in respect of each province as at 30 September 1992 or the latest specified date for which information is available?

B865E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

Province	White	Coloured	Indian	Black
Orange Free State	7	0	0	18
Cape Natal	98	0	0	580
Transvaal	44	0	101	307
Total	141	0	19	459
	290	580*	120	1 364

*Figures are not kept per province.

SA citizenship: independent Black states

368. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- Whether any Blacks in the independent Black states have applied to regain their South African citizenship in terms of the provisions of the National States Citizenship Act, No 26 of 1970, as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, No 13 of 1978; if so, in respect of each such state, (a) how many applied, (b) how many applications were approved and (c) for what specified period is this information furnished?

B866E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- Owing to the provisions of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), which came into effect on 1 July 1986, no Black of any of the independent states applied in terms of section 3 of the National States Citizenship Act, 1970 (Act 26 of 1970), as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, 1978 (Act 13 of 1978), for South African citizenship since that date. Particulars of applications prior to the commencement of the above-mentioned Restoration of South African Citizenship Act are not readily available.

Telephone installations: North Rand

369. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

- Whether any applications for telephone installations for (a) residential, (b) facsimile and (c) business purposes were outstanding at the North Rand office of Telkom as at 1 October 1992; if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) when is it anticipated that these backlogs will be eliminated?

B867E

TPA looks to incorporate private land into reserves

THE TPA was examining the viability of incorporating tracts of private land into provincial reserves, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said at the opening of the Wild Expo 92 in Pretoria yesterday.

Provincial conservation authorities already administered 11% of the Transvaal, of which 17% was under private management. There were 450 nature reserves, 1 600 game farms and seven conservancies already in private hands, he said.

Hough said that while it was important to harness the private sector's capital and expertise, tremendous economic and manpower restrictions demanded a new approach with the state as facilitator.

He saw ecotourism playing an increasingly important role in drawing overseas visitors to SA.

Overseas and local hunters paid more than R250m each year to shoot game, while other tourists brought in an additional R30m to see animals in their natural habitat.

Protection of natural resources against exploitation had to be guard-

ed against, said Hough.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that more than R15bn was invested in SA's wildlife ranching industry, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Opening an international wildlife symposium at the CSIR, he said the industry earned more than R335m a year from hunting, live sales and tourism.

It served about 50 000 local hunters and included 400 professional hunting guides who looked after more than 4 000 foreign hunters a year.

The hunters were a vital tourism component, spending up to four times as much as the average tourist, who spent about R4 900 a visit excluding airfares.

Forex earnings exceeded R2,5bn and were on a par with agriculture's foreign earnings.

It also vied for fourth place after manufactured goods, gold and mining and contributed 2% towards GDP.

New KLM flight to Cape Town

STEPHANE BOTHMA

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines' plans to expand its market share of air travel and cargo to and from SA will be launched today with its inaugural flight to Cape Town.

Gulf Air will also start flying twice a week from Adu Dhabi to Johannesburg, beginning in December.

For the first month of operations the airline would offer fares reduced by 50%, Gulf Air vice-president marketing Mohamed Al Shafie said at a news conference yesterday.

KLM was planning an additional weekly flight for 1994 and in the medium to long term expected to operate a daily service, KLM president Pieter Bouw said yesterday.

Gulf Air expected to announce a third weekly flight by March next year, said Al Shafie.

At this stage, no reciprocal service would be operated by SAA, he said, adding that no joint venture existed between the two airlines.

Angolan talks 'making good progress'

LUANDA — Talks on arranging a reconciliation summit between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and opposition leader Jonas Savimbi were making good progress, officials said yesterday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura said that in four days of talks with senior officials of Savimbi's Unita movement, the two sides had overcome preliminary issues and were discussing substantive items.

Victorino Ossi, a Unita official at the talks, agreed.

Diplomats in Lisbon said Savimbi's negotiators were seeking a special statute to guarantee him a large slice

of power even if he lost the second round of the presidential election.

Unita lost UN-supervised presidential and parliamentary elections on September 29 and 30 that were supposed to set the seal on a peace agreement ending 16 years of civil war.

Diplomats say Savimbi is demanding guarantees of power in a government of national unity. The MPLA scored a clear win with 53,7% of the vote to Unita's 34,1%, but Dos Santos fell just short of the 50% required for a first-round victory.

Luanda police chief Gaspar da

Silva said since the elections the capital had been swept by a wave of politically motivated crime which his forces had been unable to control. Da Silva told journalists police had arrested 135 people during the last three weeks for carrying arms ranging from pistols to 81mm mortars. Even in normal times, the crackle of gunfire associated with banditry echoes through Luanda at night.

But Da Silva said that since the elections there had been a surge in violent crimes ranging from bombings and the killing of policemen and soldiers to kidnapping of civilians. — Sapa-Reuter.

Rotary gives UCT 'green' bursaries

ARC 28/10/92
Environment Reporter

THREE environmental science bursaries, worth R5 000 each, have been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Claremont.

A cheque for R15 000 was handed to Professor Richard Fuggle, head of UCT's department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences.

The bursaries are for students studying for honours degrees in Professor Fuggle's department next year.

They will be awarded by UCT's scholarship committee

"The bursaries will preferably be awarded to students with an interest in the natural, as opposed to the man-made, environment," a Claremont Rotary Club spokesman said.

"The only obligations expected of the students will be to address our club during the course of the year."

3/10/92 29/10/92
Dam levels low (56)

SA's dams are 42% full on average, and the Water Affairs Department reports the Vaal Dam at 16% this week, compared with 64% this time last year, although the average content of western Cape dams has risen to 78%, while eastern Cape dams stand at 44% and Natal dams are 46% full.

Itineraries can be varied or you can make your own unique one

Travel choice is wide

Sowetan

30/10/92

By Elliot Makhaya

■ SPECIAL PLACES Off the beaten track:



LOGANS International Tour Operators offer a broad range of special places and activities not normally available to the traveller.

And this is in addition to the more popular destinations and excursions it offers. Their itineraries can be varied as required, or you can make up your own unique one.

Logans give advice on practical itineraries, flight routines and fares to save you money and maximise the enjoyment of your trip.

They have an experienced staff which can arrange all aspects of your holiday. They handle African safaris to Botswana, Zambia and Na-

mibia.

The Okavango Delta in Botswana is one of the favourite destinations.

The vision of beauty and uniqueness takes on multiforms: to some it may mean crystal clear water, dugout canoes and exotic bird life, to others it may mean huge herds, lions and elephants and still there is a further group whose vision is that of the best fresh water fishing in Africa.

The water activities include boat rides, makoro trips, bird watching, fishing, swimming and walking. There is nothing more relaxing than gliding down narrow papyrus lined chan-

nels on a mokoro (wooden dugout) searching for rare and elusive birds.

The delta water is pure and crystal clear making the scenery all the more attractive. Game is generally not encountered at a typical water camp, although it is often present in the area.

Land activities in game areas include game drives and walking through diverse terrain offering excellent game viewing.

All camps are reached by light aircraft either from Maun or Kasane or by four wheel drive vehicles. Accommodation is authentic safari styled lodges offering rustic, comfortable facilities with good cuisine.



The fences come down under Oom Paul's nose

A GRANITE bust of Paul Kruger, the grandfather of Afrikaner Nationalism, which watches imperiously over the main entrance to the game reserve that bears his name is emblematic of the way the Kruger National Park has been shaped by the legacy of colonialism and apartheid.

But the fences are coming down, literally and symbolically, as the erosion of Paul Kruger's old order presents the people who run the park with fresh challenges for their conservation effort.

"We are in a state of stress," says Salmon Joubert, head of the Kruger Park. "And we must respond appropriately with dynamic and creative strategies."

Joubert was referring mainly to the worst drought this century which has caused peasant farmers, their grazing land devastated and livestock dying by the thousands, to look with resentment at the grass that grows on the other side of game fence.

But at a seminar last weekend, Joubert and some of his senior officials asked delegates from three newspapers to give them a wider perspective on ways to improve the park's image in the communities that surround it.

Representatives from the *Sowetan*, the *New Nation* and *The Weekly Mail* pointed out that the park had earned a

negative image in the rural areas around it for the following reasons:

- Game rangers adopt a punitive approach by arresting villagers who jump the fence to steal firewood or poach "meals on legs" for the families.

- Many tribal groups believe that land in the reserve belonged to their ancestors and, especially now that their existing tribal land has been all but destroyed by drought, overgrazing and congestion, want the past to be redressed.

- Extensive operations by the South African Defence Force, including armed patrols to apprehend refugees from Mozambique and covert operations in the past to support Renamo rebels in that country, have created the impression that the park collaborates with the security forces.

- Entrance fees and accommodation is too expensive for ordinary people from the townships to afford a

visit to the park.

The management of the park, the delegate from the *Sowetan* said bluntly, appears to be "dominated by white Afrikaner bureaucrats", a charge dispelled by the immediacy of management's response.

Media representatives were thanked for their contributions and a committee was set up to organise a larger conference of all major political bodies active in the region of the park to discuss ways in which the above issues, and others, could be addressed.

National Parks Board officials also pointed to a range of activities which

30/10-5/11/92

The Kruger National Park is striving to adapt to the new South Africa by reaching out to surrounding communities and private game parks,

reports **EDDIE KOCH**

have already been undertaken to improve the quality of life for people living in settlements on the borders of the park.

Water has been provided to villages in parts of KaNgwane where rivers have dried up, black artisans from neighbouring villages are encouraged to manufacture and sell crafts and curios to Kruger's tourists, advanced plans are underway to build small business estates in some of the large townships nearby, park officials train residents to grow communal gardens, trees are supplied from a nursery in the park for village woodlots, recycling schemes provide employment and revenue for people in the township of Namakgale, near Phalaborwa.

Herbal gardens have been initiated in some areas so that indigenous healers can harvest roots and plants needed for traditional medicines, subsidised day trips for local schoolchildren are encouraged and "ecoclubs" have been set up at nearby schools

with the co-operation of headmasters in the area.

But Joubert realises this is just a beginning and he is keen to gather advice from a range of political players about more wide-ranging measures — including schemes whereby representatives from rural neighbours participate in policy formulation for the park — that can deal with the animosity that is smouldering on his borders.

There is also a growing realisation that the policy of fencing off valuable species from the outside world may not be the best way to ensure their survival.

In the early 1960s, for example, more than 90 percent of Kruger's wildebees and zebra populations were lost when a fence was built between the Kruger Park and privately owned reserves at Timbavati and Sabi Sands as the animals' traditional migration routes were severely disrupted.

This is only the most graphic example of the way in which the policy of containing natural ecosystems has led to a phenomenon which biologist Roy Siegfried calls the "zombi syndrome", a reference to animal populations that are in a state of "living dead" because they cannot reproduce naturally inside the boundaries of reserves (see accompanying story).

So the park is literally taking down its fences, forcing its management to deal with new challenges and exposing it to challenging ideas about the management of game reserves.

Before the year is out the barrier between Kruger and the private game reserves on its western border will come down. "Private enterprise has developed a tourism culture that consists of high-income lodges and people travelling around in open landrovers. This does not conform to our guidelines for a national park but we acknowledge this as an important form of tourism," says Joubert.

"We will set up a loose co-ordinating body with the private reserves and this will broaden the scope of experience and facilities we can offer."

Even more challenging is a plan to take down the eastern fence so that the park can be linked up with a swathe of territory that has been depopulated because of the war in Mozambique.

Joubert recognises that the Mozambican government is likely to adopt a different approach to national game reserves that will be created as part of a programme to reconstruct that country's post-war rural economy.

"Parts of the conservation areas in Mozambique could be managed jointly with us as part of a large national park but other areas can take the form of mixed game and cattle farming, multiple forms of land use where rural development and conservation take place side by side. We see the idea of a transnational game reserve as a peace park."

Then there have already been approaches to the governments of KaNgwane and Gazankulu for reserves run by the homelands to be incorporated into the park, with the same kind of management autonomy that is envisaged for Kruger's neighbours to the east and west.

"The mission of the Kruger National Park and my mission is to conserve large natural ecosystems and viable populations of all biota ranging from the big five to small invertebrates. The more intact these ecosystems are the nearer I come to fulfilling my mission," says Joubert.

"To do this the national park system would like to live in harmony with local people and its neighbours in a way that promote an ethic of sustainable land use in these areas."

A series of experiments are taking place beneath the stony gaze of Paul Kruger that will turn the park into a very different institution to the one the Boer leader created.



Freer to roam ... Bringing the fences down will double Kruger Park's animals' space to migrate

Big white hunters vs big black rhinos?

By HEIDI KRIZ

2/1/92

20/10 - 5/11/92

(56)

KILL to conserve? That's the focus of a raging debate in conservation circles over a plan by the Boputhatswana Parks Board that will allow big game hunters to kill endangered black rhino in the Plianesberg Reserve.

Hunting to generate funding for conservation is a widespread practice in South Africa but so far the killing of rhino has been taboo because of their endangered status.

The controversial scheme is based on research which shows that the ability of the herd to reproduce drops dramatically when there are more females than males in the black rhino population — a situation that will prevail at Plianesberg in a short while.

With \$250 000 (about R700 000) charged for the head of each rhino shot on safari, it makes sense to bring in big-time hunters to bump off the old bulls responsible for reducing the reproduction rate of the herd, says

Plianesberg wildlife biologist Hanne Lindemann.

But the money-spinning scheme has some members of the conservation fraternity in a tizz. A source in the Natal Parks Board says some staffers are so offended by the idea that a similar project will start in their parks that they have threatened to resign.

"The response was so strong that our decision was to put the idea on ice for some time. We will not be hunting black rhino for the foreseeable future," he said.

Rhino and Elephant Foundation chairman Clive Walker is squeamish about the killing of rhino for money. "I personally would never be able to understand why anyone would want to shoot a black or white rhino. To me the life of a rhino is more important than the tourism it generates."

But Walker respects the management of Bop Parks and acknowledges that the killing of these endangered beasts can generate useful revenue for conservation. "It's acceptable for Plianesberg based on data that confirms the animal is really about to die."

Lindemann says research techniques are now so advanced that it is possible to predict when old bulls are a year or less from natural death, and it is only these animals — labelled "post-productive males" — that will be the targets for the hunt.

There are currently 16 female and 17 male black rhino at Plianesberg, a situation that does not lend itself to healthy reproduction. Lindemann says these circumstances also cause the territorial bulls to fight and kill each other more often.

Alf Wills, Bop Parks assistant director in charge of the programme, says they have wracked their brains to come up with a more palatable alternative for generating revenue.

The current cost of running Plianesberg is R3-million each year and the its takes R335 000 to monitor and maintain the black rhino popula-

tion.

The plan (a pay or a may won't be given until March next year) proposes a third of the hunt money feed back into the research programme, a third to the conservation of the rest of South Africa's black rhino and the final third into community development.

This would be windfall for the local community development organisations, made up of independent civic leaders from villages around the park, who decide how to utilise revenue generated by Plianesberg.

"We are at the crossroads. We have a very powerful ethical pseudo-religious lobby from the northern hemisphere that could undermine effective conservation," says Wills.

"The aims of our project are to re-empower the rural people of Bop with conservation as a form of land use, like agriculture. We think of conservation as being for the people. If people don't want conservation, then it can't exist."

Botanist warns on fynbos

(5b)
ARC 4/11/92

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

MUCH of the fynbos on private land is under threat and "cascading" plant extinctions will happen during the next few decades unless there is suitable intervention, a leading botanist has warned.

Professor Richard Cowling, director of the University of Cape Town's Institute for Plant Conservation, was welcoming guests at a function of the newly-established Fynbos Foundation this week.

The foundation has been constituted to educate fynbos landowners about the cultural and economic value of this rich natural vegetation type, and to demonstrate how it can be used sustainably.

Professor Cowling said most of the fynbos area — including nearly all the species-rich lowlands — was privately owned, and that its conservation status was deteriorating rapidly.

"The solution to this problem doesn't lie in the purchase of land by the public sector for additional reserves," he said.

"Funds for this don't exist now and won't be available in a new South Africa. The solution lies in creating incentives for landowners themselves."

Mr Barrie Low, the National Botanical Institute's director of education and information, welcomed the new initiative, but warned that all South Africans would have to be drawn into its activities.

"We need to get the environment to work for the people," he said.

"My message, if I may be so presumptuous, is: 'Please involve the broader section of the community'.

"Until we involve the very people who depend on these areas, I see a dismal future."

Coastal development a threat, Minister warns

(56)
B/DAY 5/11/92
GERALD HEILLY

PRETORIA — Further large-scale development along the country's coastline would result in serious environmental problems, Tourism Minister Org Marais said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Western Cape and Garden Route Exhibition at Sunnypark in Pretoria, Marais said the results of large-scale development could include dune erosion and the denuding of vegetation.

He said local authorities would have to develop structural plans to preserve coastal areas.

Government would soon have to introduce a levy on

non-returnable bottles and cans to generate funds for the protection of the environment, Marais said.

He added that his department was examining options for grading accommodation which would benefit the industry and an announcement was expected early next year.

There had been a dramatic increase in informal accommodation during the past few years, he said, including bed-and-breakfast units, farm holidays and guest houses.

Cost-conscious businessmen were increasingly using these facilities and up to 80% of bookings were from businessmen.

Marais said in the first six months of the year the number of overseas visitors increased by 14%.

On the improved tourism infrastructure Marais said the extension of D F Malan Airport to an international port of entry had been enhanced by new routes like KLM and Lufthansa.

This had spin-off benefits for Cape Town and surrounding areas, he said.

Katina P oil hits False Bay

MORE oil from the Katina P, which sank off Mozambique in April, has washed up on False Bay beaches over the last few weeks.

(56)

Pushed inland

Speaking to the Review this week, Fish Hoek councillor Mr Vic Kabalin, said: "Apparently this ship has been oozing oil regularly and this has been running down the coast of Mocambique. Unfortunately, whenever we get strong southeasterlies the oil is pushed in-

land and comes on to the beaches."

ST 5/11/92
Cooking oil

Mr Kabalin said he had spoken to Mr Anton Molden, head of the pollution division at the Department of Sea Fisheries, and he had said the oil was most likely from the Katina P and there was little that could be done about it now.

"If people get it on their feet they can use margarine or cooking oil, which emulsifies the oil and removes it easily."

Bid to bring together all False Bay interest groups

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(5b) SUBSTANTIAL government funding for the management of False Bay is on the cards if democratically acceptable management structures are developed through public participation.

This was the message from Mr Andy Gubb, chairman of the False Bay Forum interim steering committee at a report-back meeting attended by about 100 people in Muizenberg this week.

The meeting, called jointly with the False Bay Water Quality Committee, approved a False Bay Forum mission statement and mandated the interim committee to set up work sessions with more than 140 groups identified as users of the bay.

ARG 6/11/92
These sessions would try to find common ground so that a False Bay Forum Steering Committee, representing all user groups on a fully democratic basis, could be constituted, said Mr Gubb.

This would liaise with decision-making authorities.

In principle, the interim steering committee also supported the ideal of a single, statutory management authority for False Bay which would have 50 percent public representation.

The committee had heard "through the grapevine" that substantial funding for managing False Bay would be available, said Mr Gubb.

Responding to a question by Muizenberg author Mr T V Bulpin, city engineer and chair-

man of the water quality committee Mr Arthur Clayton said there had been an improvement in False Bay's water quality "from a bacteriological point of view".

"But, that is not a reason for complacency," he warned.

There were cases of "point source" pollution from storm-water discharges which were deteriorating.

"We recognise there should be a framework for the holistic management of the bay and we also recognise that the False Bay Water Quality Committee is not the ideal vehicle," said Mr Clayton.

"The problem is to identify representatives who can speak for all the users of the bay."

● More environment reports, page 10.

Boy Child will be blasted into our heads over the frozen turkey counter.

...but joy and well being to all mankind. Always at the ready for the

9pm. Copyright 1992, The D.A. Norton & Stodder Holy Library.

Plan to control development on the coast

By EVE VOSLOO

SITING [cut] web 8/11/92

THE government is planning to strictly control development along parts of South Africa's coastline to prevent further "serious damage" by "insensitive development".

urgent attention to introducing control measure to better protect the sensitive coastal environment."

department was holding a series of seminars along to coast to enable interested parties to participate.

This was said by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar.

Development will not be stopped completely in sensitive areas but controlled more strictly than at present, Mr Pienaar said.

Two more will be held in East London (November 24) and Port Elizabeth (November 26).

"Development pressure on our coastal zone has increased considerably during the past decade and there are many cases of serious damage due to insensitive development," he said.

Environmental impact studies would be required in certain areas before any development was allowed.

Mr Niel du Bois of the Department of Environment Affairs said the areas to be protected would be demarcated at a later stage — with the full participation of the communities affected.

"We cannot allow this. The Department of Environment Affairs is giving

The effectiveness of limited development areas would depend largely on the support of local authorities and communities, Mr Pienaar said, so the

The guidelines for development would differ from area to area depending on the environmental sensitivity, he said.

Time to stop dithering about the environment

8 Times [Cape metro] 8/11/92

HARD-NOSED business people will have to accept that dithering about environmental awareness issues will lose them money in a world where energy-efficient products are rapidly gaining favour with the public.

This warning comes from Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman, whose company carries out regular environmental audits on items such as correct packaging, recycling, and waste and energy management.

"The public will support companies who show care for the environment as part of their social responsibility programme," says Mr Ackerman, who cites Swedish-based Electrolux, which won first prize in a competition for energy-efficient appliances and found it received orders for more than 10 000 of the units instead of the 500 guaranteed by the competition organisers.

Also, the Electrolux super-efficient refrigerators could be responsible for up to 50 percent of the company's sales in Germany in 1992, and total market share there is expected to increase.

"It is simplistic for sceptics to label the Green issue as a seven-day wonder and to see the involvement of various organisations in it as a market ploy," says Mr Ackerman.

"Alert business people are using the environmental issue to give them a competitive edge and at the same time enabling them to give the consumer a better product.

"The environment is going to be a key issue in making companies more efficient and competi-

tive in the 1990s.

"The Japanese have gone much further than this and have published a 100-year environment plan.

"Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the Earth Summit conference held this year in Rio de Janeiro, says the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which prepared the 100-year plan, believes the environment is going to be the driving force of the economy and the source of most new comparative advantages in industrial opportunity.

"He points out that the Japanese have lowered the energy and materials content of their unit of production to such an extent that they use only half the energy per unit of production that the USA does, to give them a comparative advantage of at least five percent on energy alone."

Mr Ackerman attended the Earth Summit conference in his capacity as a member of the Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development, an international committee on which sit 50 chief executive officers of major companies. Representing the southern Africa region, he is one of four African members.

Information disseminated at Earth Summit showed the success of companies in developing environmentally sound products through a two-part programme which first involved cleaner production processes and then cleaner product development.

56 ~~32-180~~

Hough spells out the benefits of ecotourism

GERALD REILLY

(56)

LOCAL and foreign hunters spent more than R250m in SA each year and paid more than R30m for live game, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said at the weekend.

B/DAM 9/11/92

Addressing a news conference in northern Transvaal on the progress made in saving hippos threatened by drought, Hough said the fact that more than 2-million people visited national parks and provincial nature reserves in the Transvaal each year indicated the enormous potential for development.

Hough stressed that private sector expertise and capital should be harnessed to develop ecotourism. The TPA was considering a range of collaborative nature areas in which large tracts of private land would be incorporated into provincial reserves.

Hough said the hippo survival fund had generated nearly R340 000.

The rescue action was well timed to avert a disaster for hippo in the northern Transvaal, but it should be seen as only a short-term solution.

SA could ill afford to repeat a similar operation and should climatic conditions not improve in the next month or so it would be necessary to scale down the involvement, he said.

The Limpopo River was 90% dry and grazing for the 120 hippos was scarce. Twelve had already died.

Hough said efforts to save more than 300 hippo from death from starvation started in June. Until now, 65 had been captured and transported to 11 conservation areas.

Storm growing over plutonium shipment

TOKYO — Japan, facing a storm of protest over its decision to ship 1.7-tons of radioactive plutonium from France, said yesterday the vessel would stay 200 nautical miles from other countries on its return journey.

This rules out the most direct sea routes from France to Japan, including passage via the congested Malacca Strait and the Panama and Suez canals.

The Japanese government has refused to say what route the 3 800-ton Akatsuki Maru will take. The quickest would be via the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest sea lanes which borders Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Akatsuki Maru left the French port of Cherbourg on Saturday. The voyage has aroused growing international resistance, particularly from countries that could lie along the route, including Chile, SA and Indonesia.

Yesterday the Filipino navy announced that it would turn back a Japanese plutonium-carrying ship if it entered the country's territorial waters.

The plutonium, which France reprocessed from spent Japanese nuclear fuel, is the largest shipment of its kind. Environmentalists say the tiniest leak could cause huge damage to the environment and endanger lives.

Japan yesterday blamed the Greenpeace environmentalist group for a collision on Sunday between the group's ship Solo, which is tracking the Akatsuki Maru, and an armed Japanese coastguard vessel, the Shikishima, escorting it. Greenpeace said the Japanese coastguard vessel had rammed the Solo. — Sapa-Reuter-AP.

EC ministers s trade war solu

BRUSSELS — EC foreign ministers meeting in Brussels urgently debated new efforts yesterday to avoid a trade war with the US, as France lobbied for the help of Germany in fighting back against threatened US trade sanctions.

The ministers indicated their preference for talk instead of retaliation as they arrived to discuss restarting negotiations with Washington over EC subsidies to oilseed farmers that collapsed last Tuesday.

Washington subsequently announced punitive tariffs on EC exports to the US worth an initial \$300m, mainly white wine, which will take effect on December 5 if the oilseeds quarrel is not resolved by then.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said: "I think we should try to avoid escalation. I think we should lock up the negotiating groups with each other and they should not come out before they have reached agreement."

The British and Danish ministers, Douglas Hurd and Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, said retaliation would be stupid.

Their Luxembourg counterpart, Jacques Poos, said there would be some pressure for retaliation, but added: "I prefer negotiations."

French Industry and Foreign Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in a French radio interview yesterday Germany's attitude would be decisive in determining whether the EC would support France's call for retaliation.

The EC foreign ministers met amid intense

diplomatic efforts to and avert a trade war EC retaliation.

A similar appeal c on Friday from Brit Major, current presi executive European Jacques Delors.

And on Saturday G mit meeting betwee President George Bu prospects for a break the trigger date for t

But in a newspaper Delors called for cour US. "I am in favour c that we are on a firm accused last week of oilseeds dispute and of than EC interests. He

France's signals th buckle under to US pr countries as Britain, G lands. But France, whi subsidy reforms, claim Spain, Ireland and Belg ation against the US s

EC agriculture cor Sharry told the Final yesterday the US had GATT negotiations and negotiate a solution to rately from overall fig. Sapa-AFP.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

B100m 12/11/92
Plans for Swazi dam

A FEASIBILITY study of the R280m-R300m Maguga Dam on the Komati River in Swaziland was well advanced, SA Water Affairs spokesman Paul Roberts said yesterday. (S) (56)

In terms of a treaty ratified by SA on November 6, Swaziland had two years to decide. Roberts said the dam would benefit agriculture in both countries.

Confusion about unleaded petrol

Own Correspondent

56
CF 12/11/92
THERE is confusion about the effects of introducing unleaded petrol in South Africa in 1995.

Several technical authorities said yesterday there was no need to modify late model cars to run on unleaded 95 octane petrol.

But Mr Johan van Vreden, head of the Automobile Association's vehicle technology division, said the current range of cars could not run on unleaded fuels.

However, Toyota South Africa spokesman Mr John Nimmo said all Toyotas and several other vehicles assembled here after 1980 were designed to run on unleaded petrol.

Professor J Bindon, of the mechanical engineering department of the University of Natal, said a lower octane rating of 95 was unlikely to cause problems.

The AA suggested the year 2000 as "a more realistic" date to introduce unleaded petrol.

Richards Bay project impact 'acceptable'

ADRIAN HADLAND

(56)

AN ENVIRONMENTAL impact assessment of Alusaf's proposed aluminium smelter in Richards Bay has found generally favourable implications for the project. *B/DAM 13/11/92*

Conducted by UCT's environmental evaluation unit and the CSIR's environmental services, the assessment concludes the project is "environmentally acceptable" subject to certain conditions.

These conditions include the full upgrading of Alusaf's existing Richards Bay smelter to limit fluoride emissions together with effective and ongoing monitoring procedures.

The assessment said general waste and dust emissions, liquid effluent and toxic waste disposal, odours and noise levels would all have a minimal impact on the environment.

During the aluminium smelting process, the pots in which electrolysis occurred became lined with material consisting of fluorides, sodium and other minor impurities including cyanide, the assessment said.

Alusaf had agreed these potlinings would be stored in totally enclosed dry sheds with concrete floors to prevent possible leakages.

The assessment did indicate some aspects of the environment that may be affected to a greater extent. These included vegetation, bird life, traffic congestion, pressure on housing and schools and possible exacerbation of party political tensions.

REVIEW: Green Pages

Disasters make for a new chemistry

W/mail 13/11-19/11/92.

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The fire which spilled a cocktail of chemicals into the air, soil and water near Johannesburg marks a milestone in the creation of an environmental movement in South Africa, reports **EDDIE KOCH**



Clean-up ... After the Midrand fire barrels of chemicals are moved to another plant Photo: SARAH PRALL

THE chemical fire in Midrand, near Johannesburg, has jogged a variety of environmental organisations — from the government's Department of Environment Affairs to Earthlife Africa members — into action.

Last month's fire at the Rhone-Poulenc chemical plant has been greeted with a political reaction almost as heated as the blaze which burnt down the factory and left the air, soil and residents' lungs contaminated with a cocktail of toxic poisons.

Midrand residents report they are still suffering the after-effects of the fire at the Rhone-Poulenc warehouse, where more than 140 toxic chemicals were stored, which caused respiratory problems for scores of people and lasting pollution in the soil and water.

A spate of other chemical spills and accidents followed the Midrand disaster.

Early last month five employees were killed in an explosion at the Karbochem factory in Newcastle. Days later two labourers died and another 28 were left with lung damage when toxic materials blew up at a waste dump in Springs. And throughout the month two employees were lying in a coma after being exposed to mercury poisons at the Thor Chemicals plant in Natal.

"The Midrand fire attracted a lot of attention mainly because there was someone at hand who could recognise the symptoms of toxic poisoning," says Earthlife Africa representative Peter Lukey.

"But it has also become clear that workers are exposed every day to chemical dangers. These don't receive as much attention because black workers don't have much power and frequently don't know the dangers of the chemicals they are working with."

An informal network of trade unions, environmental protest groups and medical researchers has been activated in Johannesburg to monitor the diet of spills, accidents and fires that appear to have become commonplace in this country's chemical industry.

The network will also co-ordinate

protests by local communities, worker organisations and environmental groups as crises arise.

It is managed by the Group for Environmental Monitoring and represents activists from Earthlife Africa, the Biotox Foundation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and the National Centre for Occupational Health.

The spate of fires and spills has also

resulted in the launch of two new branches of Earthlife — one at Midrand and another in Springs where, according to Lukey, farmers were demanding "mass action of the type run by the ANC" to block plans for the building of a toxic waste dump in the area.

The government has not left itself out of the act. In a strongly worded statement the Department of Environment Affairs acknowledged bluntly that the

country has a woefully inadequate system for the management of toxic waste.

Under the heading "Polluters must get their act together", the statement announced that the department was launching a concerted drive to create a "national holistic policy on integrated pollution control" over the next two years.

Environment Affairs official J Stander, replying to criticisms that this response was too cumbersome and

slow to deal with an emerging crisis in the chemical industry, said his department wanted time for a thorough process of consultation with public bodies in order to give legitimacy and effectiveness to new legislation.

Big business has been active to ensure that its image is not tarnished by the disasters.

"The big boys have got their act together. They just can't afford to have accidents like the one at Midrand," said one consultant. "Large corporations are doing their best to ensure effective management and control of their products given the almost total weakness on the part of the Department of Environment Affairs."

Included in their thinking is a novel concept called "product stewardship". Companies recognise that their products can be hazardous long after they leave the warehouse and are beginning to insist that customers demonstrate a capacity to handle these carefully before selling them.

"That's okay," says Lukey. "There's an interesting process taking place. The government and businesses are beginning to take the issue seriously. But we believe that the best way to ensure effective legislation and preventative action is for public pressure groups to keep them on their toes. Laws must be driven by the public. Otherwise they will simply remain on paper."

Freedom Square goes green

By Diane Coetzer

SOUTH 14/11 - 15/11/92.
THE greening of South Africa's townships has begun.

On a clear and hot Spring day last week, pupils, community leaders, activists and ANC veterans gathered at a site used for ANC meetings in the fifties — Freedom Square Park in Worcester's Zwelethemba township. The mission? To plant trees.

Pupils raced to the park's perimeters to plant the 15 trees destined to ring the township's only piece of green space.

Earlier, they listened to leaders

explain why the 200 trees donated by Trees for Africa were an essential part of the community.

ANC Youth League member Mr Nana Khohloloane said it was useless, to become politically free if the country in which that freedom was to be exercised was sick and dying.

The organiser of the event and co-ordinator of the Boland Land Committee, Mr Tumelo Moleleki, said the tree-planting ceremony was a continuation of Arbor Day last year when trees were planted at schools, community halls and near the library.

Special lanes for buses and taxis would get commuters to and from work more quickly — and perhaps encourage more Capetonians to use public transport instead of cars

Environment-friendly option

SOUTH 14/11-18/11/92

CAPE TOWN'S infamous "brown haze" (smog), seen when the Cape Doctor is not blowing, is caused mainly by exhaust fumes from petrol-powered cars, trucks and taxis. Diesel-powered buses and trucks are far less dangerous.

Petrol-powered vehicles produce nitric oxide and certain hydrocarbons. The ultraviolet rays of the sun act on these to form harmful secondary pollutants.

In fact, for every 1 000 km travelled, a petrol-powered car produces 9kg nitrous oxide, 0,138kg hydrocarbons, 72kg carbon monoxide and 529kg carbon dioxide. In contrast, a diesel-powered bus emits only 2,31kg nitrous oxide, 0,504kg hydrocarbons, 0,8kg carbon monoxide and 900kg carbon dioxide for every 1 000 km travelled.

Bearing in mind that a bus carries an average of 85 people during peak hours

~~and~~ and a car an average of 1,5, it becomes obvious that the bus is far less hostile to the atmosphere than the car. Trains, which operate on electricity, are even less hazardous to the atmosphere, but unfortunately it would take massive capital investment to expand the rail network.

Fewer cars on the road and better use of public transport would not only relieve road congestion, but would also mean less pollution of the atmosphere with less of a hazard to our health. Ensuring that there are fewer cars on the road requires active encouragement of the use of multi-passenger vehicles, like buses and taxis.

By controlling road traffic conditions through measures like special bus and taxi lanes, passenger transport can be shown to be the smarter, more community-spirited option.

Expansion into reserve slammed Row brewing over apple co-op's plans

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PLANS by Kromco, the giant apple co-operative, to buy 100 hectares of land in the Cape Town City Council's Steenbras Forest Reserve at Grabouw have been slammed.

Kromco is reported to be expanding its operations and apparently has selected a site adjoining the N2, a few kilometres east of Sir Lowry's Pass, to build packing sheds on a scale similar to those of its existing operation closer to Houwhoek.

Observatory planner Ms Pene Ward has written to city councillors, council officials and local environmentalists to express concern about the proposal.

She said the important Palmiet water catchment area between Sir Lowry's and Houwhoek passes was highly sensitive both ecologically and scenically.

"The erection of additional large buildings close to the main through-

route will not only have a severe visual impact, but may create negative environmental disturbances," she warned.

"A thorough environmental analysis in accordance with Integrated Environmental Management principles and a detailed land search need to be undertaken before the selection of a suitable site or any development taking place."

It was possible there were more appropriate sites for new packing sheds closer to the urban areas of Grabouw or Elgin, she suggested.

"Situating employment opportunities closer to where workers live is a more-sound planning principle and would be far more in keeping with the city council's present environmental and planning policies."

The city council has not responded to a request for comment.

A Kromco spokeswoman said general manager Mr D J Kruger was the only person who could comment on the proposal. He was overseas.

Villagers catch sight of...

Nature service 'an honour'

Staff Reporter

ACTING attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn, SC, said yesterday he regarded it an honour to be chosen chairman of a working group to rationalise the management of the 29 000ha Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (CCPNE) area.

The CCPNE includes the Table Mountain Nature Reserve, the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Kirstenbosch and Groote Schuur Estate.

The administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, announced Mr Kahn's appointment yesterday. Mr Meiring

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AFCT 17/11/92
said he wanted a chairman who did not represent any authority situated within the CCPNE area.

Mr Kahn said he would be pleased to do something for the good of the entire Peninsula area.

Other bodies on the working group are the Cape Town City Council, the Regional Services Council, Fish Hoek and Simon's Town, the Ministries of Water Affairs and Forestry, Defence and Public Works, Cape Nature Conservation, the National Botanical Institute and the CCPNE Management Advisory Committee.

Umgeni Water ensures adequate future supply

UMGENI Water is the second largest water undertaking in southern Africa, supplying the needs of about 2-million consumers in Natal.

It was founded in 1974 in terms of national policy to regionalise water resources and ensure their professional management, said CE Graham Atkinson.

Turnover in water sales to the Durban and Maritzburg metropolitan regions and a number of KwaZulu areas grew from R298 486 in 1975 to R195m in the 1991/1992 financial year.

Umgeni has added to its reserves since its inception by budgeting for a surplus every year. This means it is able to fund more than half its capital development from internal resources.

Accumulated reserves stand at R63,2m. As a result, the company will be able to provide a greater part of the community with water and sanitation.

Umgeni employs more

than 1 100 people; 44% are skilled and 56% semi-skilled. Atkinson says employees are selected and advanced on merit.

The organisation has, despite poor rainfall, ensured an adequate water supply for the next three years through its policy of total catchment management. It owns four storage dams, 12 waterworks, more than 400km of pipeline, 60km of tunnels and two large wastewater works. It also manages another seven wastewater works and a large storage dam on an agency basis.

Sophisticated

The company operates a sophisticated analytical laboratory which was recently commercialised to offer its facilities to companies and others that need water analysed.

Sales grew by 12% last year and 14% in the previous year, despite the fact that for the past six years

Umgeni has restricted the increase in the bulk price of water to half the prevailing inflation rate, says Atkinson. Since Durban and surrounds is one of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world, the Water Plan 2025 was commissioned in 1989 to develop a base for planning and policy.

The plan collates and projects demographic, employment, income and land-use information, and evaluates the effect these factors are likely to have on water supply and demand, and pollution control.

The Water Plan will look into the development of springs, boreholes and local water resources in many rural areas through the Rural Areas Water and Sanitation Plan. It aims to provide potable water and sanitation by the year 2005 to almost 3-million people in the Umgeni supply area.

Umgeni launched its two gilt megabonds — UG50 and UG55 — on the JSE in 1990 to lower the cost of

borrowing and secure development funds.

Atkinson says the stock issue will save R2m a year for the next five years. Investors have increased from 40 to more than 180 during the 18-month period since the gilts were issued. Foreign investment is now 8% of Umgeni's total debt.

Presentations

Atkinson has given several presentations to the International Water Supply Association (IWSA) on behalf of the SA National Committee for IWSA. SA will host the IWSA World Congress in 1995.

"At Umgeni we believe we cannot achieve our goals without people and their dedication to improving productivity of the company and quality of the water we manage."

He says it is through employees' efforts that Umgeni is once again among the top 20 for the Non-Listed Company Award.

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... its winning formula

Rains will end some drought aid

THE national drought committee expects to end drought relief by the end of the year to many of the 130 magisterial districts now receiving aid.

This follows recent good rains in many parts of SA.

A decision would be taken by the end of the month, said Koos Smit, Department of Agriculture director of financial assistance and deputy chairman of the national drought committee.

"The decisions will be implemented by January 1, maybe earlier," he told Sapa yesterday.

"I am quite confident a lot of those areas receiving drought relief will be taken off our list," he said.

The department, which budgeted

R60m for drought relief this financial year, is now expected to spend between R80m and R85m on drought aid, Smit said.

"At present we are paying out money in almost all the 130 magisterial districts listed as needing drought relief." SA has a total of 320 magisterial districts.

Smit warned, though: "If we take a few areas off our list, others apply. The drought never ends in this country — it is always shifting."

At present, for instance, it was moving from the eastern Cape to the northern Cape. There were also "a lot of problems" still in the Lowveld and northern Transvaal.

"Just this weekend I received in-

formation from the Lowveld that the situation there was still very serious," Smit said, adding "the northern Transvaal has been a disaster area for the past eight years".

Explaining the procedure for ending drought relief in a magisterial district, Smit said the Department of Agriculture "does not act one-sidedly". It ends drought aid only once a request has been received from an area, he said.

Letters were sent last week to all local drought relief committees — these are chaired by local magistrates — requesting them to reassess the situation.

They had until November 27 to reply, Smit said. — Sapa.

OAU running out of money

ADDIS ABABA — The OAU could run out of money in four months unless its 51 states paid \$60m in membership arrears, Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim said yesterday.

The arrears threatened the OAU's attempts to help end conflicts.

Documents show that Libya and Sudan are the biggest non-payers. Tripoli owes \$4,7m and Sudan \$4,6m. Only Malawi, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Gabon, Senegal and Mauritius are paid up.

Halfway through the financial year only \$6,2m of a budgeted \$27,9m had been paid. — Sapa-Reuter.

Call for strategy to fight drought

A STRATEGY to combat drought is urgently needed in SA, say Development Bank analysts.

In a recently published paper, Johan van Rooyen, Nick Vink and Mosebjane Malatsi, of the bank's Centre for Policy Analysis, said the present drought had emphasised the fragility of the agricultural industry.

They called for a strategy aimed at agricultural restructuring and rehabilitation, and immediate relief strategies serving rural and urban areas through multisectoral support programmes.

"The present drought ravaging the southern African subcontinent emphasises a further dimension of the agricultural industry. The weakly developed 'early warning systems' from a technological, management and institutional perspective compounded the impact."

There was a need for climatically sensitive production management practices, drought-resistant farm technologies and

"nature-friendly" farming systems supported by appropriate policies.

While present regional co-operation indicated positive trends, a subcontinental approach should be developed to investigate early warning systems, and restructuring and emergency relief strategies.

They also warned of the environmental impact of SA agriculture, saying there was increasing evidence of environmental degradation.

"This can be ascribed to inappropriate policies in the area of pricing, subsidisation and technology development as well as population settlement policies resulting in unsustainable farming systems and settlement patterns in both the commercial and subsistence farming sectors.

"These are features which cannot be ignored in future policy formulation," the analysts said.

LLOYD COUTTS (56)

Green donation (56)

THE Green Trust, an organisation which involves local communities in conservation projects, yesterday received a donation of R1 million from a South African bank. *Sowetan*

The Trust, a combined project of the Nature Foundation of Southern Africa and the bank, was formed in 1990. The donation forms part of R5 million which will be handed to the trust over five years. More than R2,5 million has already been awarded to 15 projects countrywide. *18/11/92*

Texan tycoon's St Lucia pledge

St Times 22/11/92
By ROY RUDDEN

ONE of the world's most influential conservationists has joined the battle to halt mining at Lake St Lucia.

Mr Harry Tenneson, president of Game Conservation International — which has a world-wide membership of several thousands — plans to put pressure on the SA government.

He hopes to meet author/conservationist Sir Laurens van der Post in London this month to mobilise world action.

"I have been visiting Lake St Lucia since the 60s and this time I was shocked and horrified to realise that only special government legislation can now effectively stop a mining operation that will deface and destroy part of possibly the most important and beautiful wetlands area on earth," he said.

The Texan billionaire rancher's efforts for conservation have earned him accolades from many heads of state and leading politicians.

He is in South Africa to open the conference of Professional Hunters of SA in Johannesburg tomorrow.

In Durban this week he met leading Natal conservationists, including Ian Player and Nick Steele. He said he was aghast to learn that Richard's Bay Minerals could succeed in its plan to mine heavy metals on the



HARRY TENNESON

estuary's eastern shores.

"It seems that only the passing of the private member's Wetlands Protection Bill (which the ecology lobby believes the government is trying to sidestep) could enable the government to legally stop RBM," he said.

"St Lucia is part of the whole earth's heritage, just like the rain forests and the ozone layer.

"No single country has the right to allow the destruction of any vital part of such a heritage."

Mr Tenneson said he would embark on an immediate campaign to save St Lucia.

"There will be such major international pressure that your government will become the polecat of the world again if it effectively blocks legislation giving it the power to stop this international mining giant desecrating one of the treasures of the world."

New deadline for kaolin objectors

Environment Reporter

SB 24/11/92

NOORDHOEK residents unhappy with the agreement between the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group and Serina over its kaolin mining proposals have been given another chance to object.

In spite of a legal difference of opinion as to whether Serina was obliged to get the approval of the Western Cape Regional Services Council to mine — because of the existing zoning scheme — the company decided to apply to the RSC.

A legal notice by the RSC was published last week, calling for objections to Serina's proposal to mine kaolin on portions of Cape Farm 1387, Chapman's Peak, and Cape Farm 939, Noordhoek, also known as Trentham.

Details of Serina's proposal are available for inspection on the 2nd floor of the RSC's head office annexe, access via 44 Wale Street, Cape Town, between 9am and noon Monday to Friday.

The closing date for objections is Monday December 7.

CT 044

Asbestos clean-up (50)

Handwritten: BAC 1/19/72

ABOUT a quarter of SA's asbestos-polluted areas have been rehabilitated under a project co-ordinated by the Mineral and Energy Affairs Department, a government statement said yesterday.

Call to ban plutonium shipments

Political Staff

THE ANC has called for a ban on all global transportation of radioactive material and nuclear waste. (S) CT 25/11/92

The organisation said yesterday the possibility of an accident or terrorism involving the shipment of 1,7 tons of plutonium around the South African coast was too great a risk to ignore.

The shipment, from France to Japan, had been called "a floating Chernobyl" and this aptly described the danger involved, the ANC said.

The Democratic Party said the Department of Environment Affairs failed to publicise details of safety precautions and checks concerning the transport of the plutonium.

The DP spokesman on mineral and energy affairs, Mr Roger Hulley, condemned the department for its "seemingly blase" attitude.

He called on the department to "play open cards".

Gencor director bows out

DUMA GOUBULE

THE country needed wise heads to find ways of reconciling the demand for economic development with the pressing need to conserve the country's natural heritage, outgoing Gencor executive director Naas Steenkamp said yesterday.

The former Chamber of Mines president announced this week his decision to leave the Gencor group early next year, after 27 years in the mining industry, to devote more time to his conservation and environmental interests.

Describing himself as a "rational green", Steenkamp said he hoped to help provide balanced and sober leadership to the environmental lobby.

It was vitally important that more dedicated people joined in conservation.

All development, including mining, disrupted the environment. But a way had to be found to minimise its impact while providing jobs and incomes for people.

Environmental issues, he said, were not marginal. They were linked with burning issues such as land utilisation and redistribution, and with providing people with shelter, fuel, clean air, water and food.

Eco-tourism was the industry of the future and set to become a major provider of employment and foreign exchange earn-

ings. Important as mining was, its resource base was declining. Tourism, which made sustainable use of national assets, would take over and eventually contribute more by way of employment and foreign exchange earnings.

Steenkamp said he was leaving the Gencor group after a highly satisfying career which had enabled him to contribute to the country's evolving labour relations dispensation.

He had been seconded to the Wiehahn commission, which in 1979 recommended the legitimisation of black trade unions, and was closely involved with the emergence of trade unions in the mining industry and, more recently, initiating the Economic Forum and the peace process.

His many wildlife commitments included serving two terms as president of the Wildlife Society.

Steenkamp, a member of the National Parks Board, was appointed this week to the Council for the Environment.

At 59, he was hoping to pack into a few years in conservation as much as he had put into the the mining industry in almost three decades, he said.



Gencor executive director Naas Steenkamp intends to retire from the group early next year, after 27 years in the mining industry.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Fences to come down around Kruger Park

THE National Parks Board is to remove at least 25% of the Kruger Park's western boundary fencing, linking the park to adjoining private game reserves.

The surface area of the reserve will be increased by 60 000ha or 15%.

Kruger Park wildlife management manager Lynn van Rooyen said yesterday discussions between the board and game farm owners were in their final stages, and an announcement was expected soon.

He declined to put a date on the removal of fences, but industry sources said this could happen within the next two weeks.

B/DAM 26/11/92

GAVIN DU VENAGE

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So far, four private reserve areas — Klaserie, Sabi Sands, Timbavati and Umbabat — are part of the scheme, and hundreds of smaller game farmers have expressed a willingness to participate.

Van Rooyen said the main reason for taking down fences, which was initiated by the landowners, was ecological.

The private reserves would continue to operate autonomously and the park would become involved in running them only if its expertise was requested.

The removal of fences would allow traditional east-west migratory patterns, and would re-establish the vast herds of game that existed earlier this century.

Trevor Jordan, director of Thornybush, a game lodge within the Klaserie area near the Orpen gate, said the removal of fences would have benefits for the region and for tourism. Promoting the private lodges overseas would be much easier if it was known they were part of the Kruger Park.

If the smaller farms could work out some arrangement, he said, 120 000ha could be added to the park.

Plutonium ship rounding Cape

(56) CT 26/11/92

Staff Reporter

THE Akatsuki Maru, laden with 1,7 tons of weapons-grade plutonium, will pass about 200km from Cape Point at the weekend as it steams towards Japan under a storm of world protest.

Mr Louis Pienaar, Minister of the Environment, said in a statement yesterday the Japanese government had informed him of the ship's intended route around the southern tip of Africa — a closely guarded secret since it left France earlier this month.

He said the dangers of plutonium and "claims made with regard to the threat to human health, are totally exaggerated, others are not in line with reality, while others are physically impossi-

ble".

"The transport of this cargo is under strict internationally accepted conditions," he said.

Dr Arjon Makhijani, president of the US-based Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, condemned the South African government for "minimising" the dangers of plutonium to the public.

Dr Makhijani, a contributor to the recently published book "Plutonium: Deadly Gold of the Nuclear Age", said the government was not familiar with the latest information on plutonium.

There has been no research into the effects a spill the fine plutonium oxide powder would have on the marine environment.

He said inhalation of "a millionth of an ounce would lead to a 100% certainty of lung cancer".

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Jonathan Cooper said there were no contingency plans for a plutonium spill.

The government's committee on transnational transportation of hazardous materials, apparently established as an information centre, hung up on the Cape Times when a reporter asked to speak to spokesman Mr Koos Stander.

Greenpeace's Mr Damon Mogen, international co-ordinator for plutonium reprocessing, will arrive in Cape Town today as a guest of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps).

He will attend a protest at Cape Point on Sunday and will be the guest speaker on Monday for Caps' public meeting at the Mowbray town hall.

... Dolling catch up

NEWS Grazing scarce in the parched Far Northern Transvaal; stock losses expected

Women will gather to pray for the nation

■ **The Standard Bank Arena will echo with prayers for peace: By Mzimasi Ngudle**

THOUSANDS of women are expected to gather at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg on December 10 to pray for peace.

The day of prayer, entitled *Women For Peace*, falls on the eve of the Heal Yourself Concert that will see music giants Calphus Semanya, Hugh Masekela, Jonas Gwangwa, Miriam Makeba and Letta Mbulu at the same

venue on December 11 and 12.

Co-ordinator the Reverend Mollale-pula Chabaku said she saw the event "as the climax of efforts by women over the years to play a significant role in trying to end the carnage."

The event, is sponsored by companies because of their concern for peace. The sponsors are *Sowetan* newspaper, Radio Metro, Radio Zulu, Radio Sesotho, Mathibe Printers, Pepsi Cola and Jabula Foods.

The rain falls at last

■ **The drought has been broken in many areas of SA but dams are not filling up:**

WELCOME rains have fallen in the drought-stricken Far Northern Transvaal and Free State, although most of the country's dams still remain constant.

It was reported yesterday that 25mm was recorded at Hoedspruit and up to 20mm in the Tshipise district, while 10mm and more fell at Messina, Waterpoort and Tzaneen.

Grazing is still scarce, however, and more stock losses are expected in the

Lebowa, Gazankulu and Venda homelands where more than 100 000 head of livestock have died because of the drought.

The levels of the country's main storage dams remain constant despite the good rains experienced in most western parts of South Africa. Dam levels in the Vaal River system have risen by an average of only two percentage points.

Along the upper Orange River dams are 34 percent full, in Natal 43 percent,

and in the Western Cape 78 percent. The Charlie Matan Dam in the Eastern Cape is overflowing while other dams in the region are only 49 percent full.

Several places in the eastern Free State also reported some rain with 18mm measured at Lindley and 17mm at Harrismit and Koppies.

The Koppies Dam is now 33,65 percent full. At Memel and Heilbron 16mm were recorded and at Marquard 6mm. - *Sapa*

Sowetan 26/11/92



Greens

Southern
activist

26/11/92
to join

locals (S6)

■ Protest against shipment of plutonium:

GREENPEACE International activist Damon Moglen arrives in Cape Town today to join local environmentalists protesting against the shipment of plutonium on board the Japanese vessel Akatsuki Maru.

The international environmental organisation has been spearheading opposition to the radioactive shipment and a Greenpeace vessel, Smit New York, has been shadowing the Japanese freighter since it left the French port of Cherbourg on November 7 bound for Yokohama.

The Akatsuki Maru, with its cargo of 1,7 tons of reprocessed plutonium, is currently south-west of Luanda and is headed in a southerly direction.

Barring a last-minute change of course, the ship and its armed escort vessel Shikishima are expected to round Cape Point at the weekend. The shipment's exact route has been kept secret for security reasons.

A spokesman for Southern Air Command said the South African Air Force would only monitor the Japanese ship's movements if requested by a Government department. To date, no such request had been received. - Sapa.

Cape's unique fynbos comes under watchful eye at workshop

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ARG 26/11/92

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Cape's unique fynbos vegetation is on centre stage at a Kleinmond workshop this week as conservationists, academics and managers meet to discuss future research needs.

The workshop, attended by some of the region's top botanists and wildflower farmers, is being hosted by the University of Cape Town's new Institute for Plant Conservation.

The institute, headed by newly appointed professor of plant conservation Richard Cowling, was established following a R5 million endowment by an anonymous Cape Town businessman.

In the opening session, Professor Cowling said they wanted to use the participants' expertise to help define the institute's role in developing realistic solutions to conservation problems in the Cape Floral Kingdom.

The challenge was to seek practical solutions to fynbos conservation problems while maintaining a strong academic respectability, he said.

Such solutions had to be mindful of socio-political tensions in South Africa, and have an economic perspective which would help conservation pay for itself.

"We live in an area of absolutely stunning biodiversity, and we have to ask 'How does that work for ordinary people?'" he said.

Opening the workshop, UCT deputy vice chancellor Professor Mike Savage said consultation outside the confines of the university community was vital.

"This is a very real task that can't be confined to the 'ivory tower'," he said.

In the opening session, participants identified a number of problems threatening fynbos.

These included the rapid spread of alien vegetation, human apathy and lack of knowledge about the uniqueness of fynbos, uncontrolled development, economic and political marginalisation of sectors of the South African population, a lack of holistic planning, pressure from an increasing human population, and poor management of mountain catchment areas.

Need to STAR monitor 26/11/92. polluted (56) waters

By Julienne du Toit

The Water Research Commission (WRC) is investigating how to accurately monitor the condition of sensitive groundwater, which may have become a major victim of pollution.

Municipal waste dumps and old mine dumps often release excessive salts and heavy metals which can end up in groundwater, while the lack of sanitary facilities in squatter camps also poses a strong pollution threat.

One of the greatest dangers is posed by leaking underground storage tanks. Fertilisers and pesticides have also been known to pollute the groundwater. Once groundwater is polluted, it is almost impossible to clean it up.

According to the WRC, not enough is known about the quality of South Africa's groundwater. It could already be very polluted.

"In certain areas a good many tests have been conducted, but in many areas it is simply accepted that the water is still safe," said a WRC spokesman.

One of the major problems is the way in which water is collected for tests, so the WRC has developed a uniform set of methods to be used when taking samples for the testing of groundwater.

The WRC and the CSIR plan to hold special workshops in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg next year, where the sampling procedures outlined in the manual will be explained.

Park

Sowetan 27/11/92

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Dr Salomon Joubert

park is essentially a holiday place, it is also an educational place.

When people come and visit, they must go away with an environmental ethic - they should become more aware of the world around them.

They have started programmes with neighbouring countries. (See separate story.) These range from helping schools to come in and see biology in practice to being involved in clean-up campaigns.

By why is it that it is only now they realise the need to work with their neighbours and promote the environmental ethic? "We depend on each other. People around here must also benefit from what we do," he says.

On promoting the environmental ethic, he says this is a worldwide trend. People all over the world have come to realise that if we do not start saving what we have, we are doomed.

The problems

The population explosion, the filthy rivers, the dwindling natural resources - these are the problems we have to deal with before it is too late.

He also says it is a political gesture. "We cannot live in the past. The past must not sink us but we must build the future. We must make friends today and realise that we need each other. We made mistakes in the past, but let's not cry about it now. We must look to the future," he says.

For the love of nature

Sowetan 27/11/92

56

By Musa Zondi

■ Despite being unable to get education he wanted, Caesar ended up where he wanted:

CAESAR Ngwenyama has got just two loves in his life: nature and the kids (family).

He speaks with passion about what those things and people he cares about most. It is this love for the nature that makes him unique.

He is the first black person to become an environmental education officer at the Kruger National Park. But he admits, it was more by chance than design that he ended up where he is now.

He started working in the park in 1958 part time during school holidays as a messenger. When his parents could not send him to school anymore, he decided to work at the park for a year, hoping to save enough money to go back to school. But he soon discovered the money he was earning was not enough to send him back to school.

"Still I had the inspiration of going further with my studies. I started studying through correspondence. But I still have to finish my matric," he says.

Caesar has been through various departments within the park "doing a bit of this and a bit of that".

Having started out as a messenger, he was transferred to the garage as a petrol attendant. After that he was made an assistant mechanic, then a waiter and a clerk at New Product

Department. He became an assistant mechanic before he was made an environmental education officer in 1989.

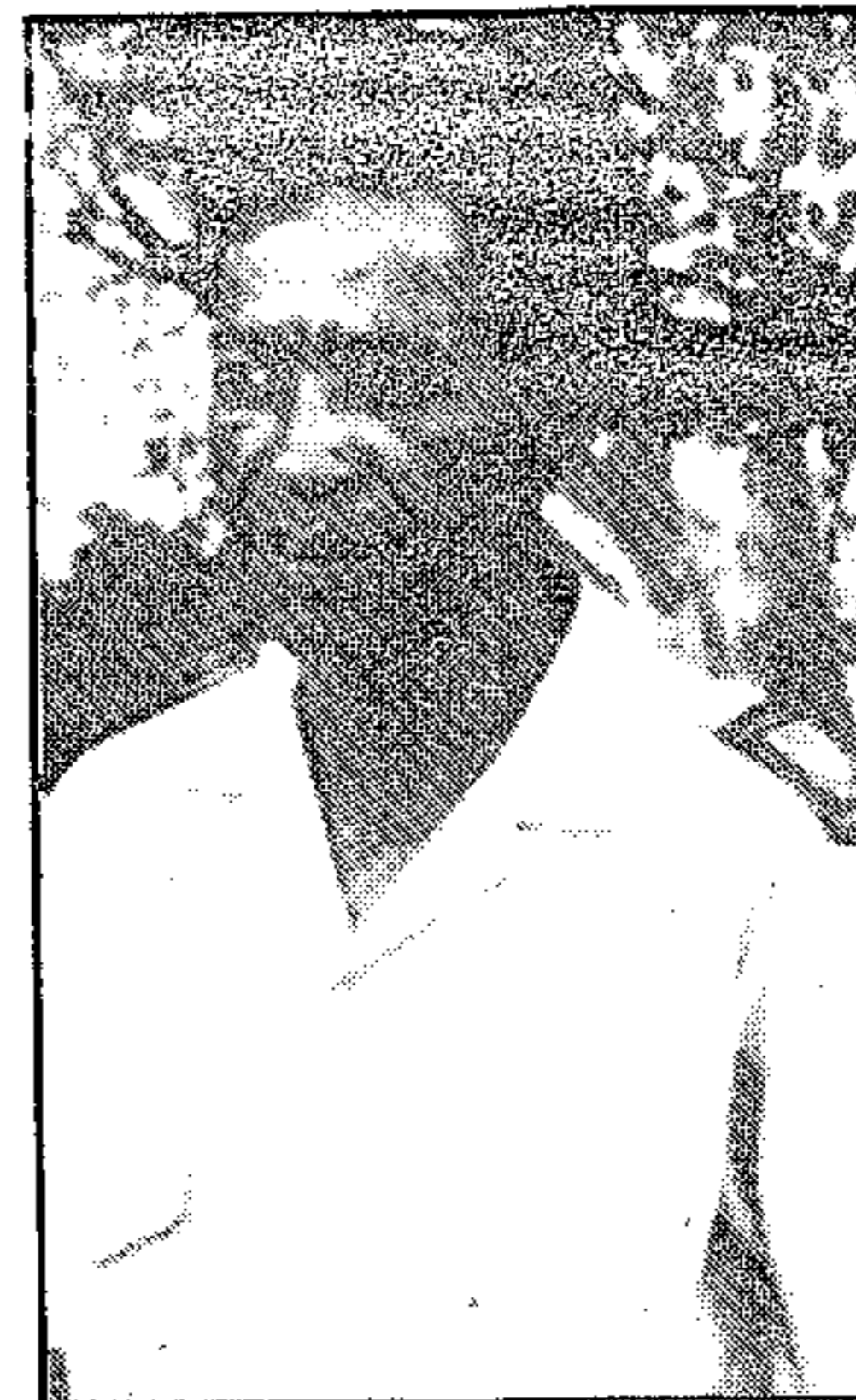
In his present job, he says his responsibility is to make people aware of their environment. "The awareness must not be for now only, but we must make sure our resources are sustainable so that the future generations can also enjoy them. Here (at the Park), it is our responsibility to take this message to the people," he says.

"Wherever there is soil, everyone must have a duty to take care of the future for the next generation."

He says the park has come to the realisation that they cannot "work for the people but work with the people". This is why they have started programmes of making people of power more aware about the environment.

"It is very difficult to start from the bottom. You have to start with people who are on top and convince them first. They have the power to make laws and decide policy. We have started working with school principals and circuit inspectors from the neighbouring areas about making them more aware of the problems in the hope that they will start programmes in schools which will make children more aware," he says.

"We talk about the beauty of nature and how the ecosystem works. We talk about how man fits into the picture. We also talk about polluted water, litter,



Caesar Ngwenyama

overgrazing and fire burning. From the smallest insect to the biggest tree, there is a delicate interdependence and we will not survive without it," he says.

There are also programmes they run with locals in nearby Malamulele. This varies from taking students for practical lessons in the Park like Biology lessons to helping run clean-up operation competitions. "People must get something out of this. That way, there

is more interest and once you win, you'll always want to win and those who have never won will try to win. But we don't just run competitions only.

"We also do bi-monthly checks on these areas and see if the people are keeping the momentum. We have found that people are doing this continuously and the rural areas where this has been done are cleaner than towns," he says.

They also help agriculture students with practical lesson and also ecological courses for general students. Recently, they brought in a group of head men into the park for a week's course. When these people went back, they encouraged their subjects to get involved in cleaning up their areas.

"I like talking to people. My dream would be if we could deliver this environmental education for the whole of Southern Africa. I want to leave the soil with something I have done," he says.

Caesar has no human hero. His hero is nature "because I get everything I need from it. Everything around me comes from nature and nature gives me the most important benefits," he says.

A lot of people would say that and you think they are mad. With Caesar, he means it. His voice has a special emphasis when he talks about the subject.

Plutonium shipment to round Cape at weekend

ARG 27/11/92

56

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

THE government has been phoning Greenpeace to enquire which route a Japanese freighter carrying a potentially lethal radioactive cargo will take as it rounds the Cape this weekend.

As the Akatsuki Maru and its hazardous cargo steamed southward, an international Greenpeace activist flew into Cape Town to add momentum to local environmental protestors.

Mr Damon Moglen spearheads Greenpeace International's campaign against plutonium production and transport.

He said Greenpeace had contacted President De Klerk when he visited Japan in June, telling him he should bring up the matter of the proposed shipment with his Japanese counterpart.

Apart from a "very nice letter saying they appreciated our concern", Greenpeace had received no response.

Since then the only contact between the South African government and Greenpeace had been the enquiries over the shipment's route.

The government should have the will to say they were not prepared to tolerate this form of



Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.

MEAN GREEN: Greenpeace activist Mr Damon Moglen in Cape Town yesterday.

dangerous commerce, which was putting the country at risk, Mr Moglen said.

The Akatsuki Maru left the French port of Cherbourg on November 7 bound for Japan — with 1,7 tons of reprocessed plutonium, enough to manufacture up to 200 nuclear weapons.

Previously the dangerous cargo would have been transported through the Panama Canal, but

the British owned Pacific Nuclear Transport company has been forced to take the route of least political resistance.

The Akatsuki Maru is being tailed by the Greenpeace vessel Smit New York.

The Japanese provided no information to en-route countries on the ship's exact route, its potential danger, and how a disaster could be best controlled.

Plutonium ships 'not adequately designed'

CT 27/11/92

56

Staff Reporter

THERE is growing concern that ships carrying nuclear material are not adequately designed and tested for the transport of plutonium, said Greenpeace international co-ordinator Mr Damon Moglen.

Mr Moglen arrived in the city yesterday to help organise protests against the Japan-bound 1,7-ton plutonium shipment, claiming the radioactive material was in inadequate containers.

The Akatsuki Maru will pass 200km (110 nautical miles) from Cape Point this weekend.

Mr Moglen, who lives in Amsterdam, told a press conference at D F Malan airport yesterday that the 110-ton containers used for eradicated nuclear fuel were inadequate for shipping plutonium.

Mr Moglen said plutonium was "extremely dangerous" and research had shown that a speck of plutonium, "smaller than a speck of dust", was enough to cause lung cancer.

When in January 1990 a similar ship, the Pacific Teal, carrying irradiated nuclear fuel, had rounded the Cape of Good Hope, she was so overtaxed she had to have both her engines replaced.



SIMILAR SHIP ... Greenpeace co-ordinator Mr Damon Moglen shows the Pacific Teal, which carried nuclear material in 1990. Picture: ANNE LAING

Department of Environmental Affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said yesterday there was an existing contingency plan at the Koeberg nuclear power station which could be applied in case of any nuclear accident.

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Mr Jonathan Cooper, commenting on Mr Moglen's fears, said: "One can make these assertions, but I believe this ship has enormous fire protection."

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Slabbert outlines basics of democracy

B/DAY 27/11/92
ONE of the basics of democracy was the ability of the individual to frustrate the will of the political majority in certain instances, Van Zyl Slabbert said at a forum on local democracy in Johannesburg yesterday.

He said there were "certain critical issues" which formed the principle of "bounded uncertainty" that had to be removed from being politically contested.

These included basic elements usually found entrenched in a constitution, such as a bill of human rights, which included freedom of association, adult suffrage and so on, Slabbert said.

Another basic element was what he called "contingent consent" in which a party winning an election did not deny its opponents the right to win the next ballot.

The ruling party could not assume that its mandate gave it a right to rule in perpetuity, and abolish the opposition in favour of a hegemony.

By the same token, a losing party should not deny the victor the right to rule.

"You have to accept losing, and when

GAVIN DU VENAGE

you lose, accept that the stronger party has a right to govern," said Slabbert.

Substantial or participative democracy could be measured in the way people were allowed to exercise their rights, he said.

They should be able to express their points of view through protest and mass action, and be able to call for referendums and challenge the rulers in votes of no confidence. However, mass action could never be a substitute for democracy. While people would mobilise when they felt strongly about an issue, they soon reached a "rally fatigue" and mass action would fizzle out.

Slabbert said there was place for a minority veto, but not along the lines of ethnicity, or where a minority group, which had governed undemocratically, sought to preserve some of its power.

A minority veto should only be used to protect issues such as religious freedom and cultural expression.

He added that it would be difficult for democracy to exist without economic growth and redistribution.

Numsa wins appeal over strike ruling

BLOEMFONTEIN — An appeal by the National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) to set aside an order of the Labour Appeal Court was allowed by the Appeal Court yesterday.

The case was remitted to the Labour Appeal Court to reconsider whether the proved facts constituted unfair labour practice. B/DAY 27/11/92

The Labour Appeal Court had dismissed with costs an appeal by Numsa against an industrial court refusal to reinstate employees dismissed by Vetsak Co-operative, Isando Industries and Turin Pressings.

The case arose from a nationwide strike

by 31 000 workers in the iron and steel industry on August 3, 1988. Among the strikers were 600 workers employed by Vetsak, Isando Industries, Turin and an associate company LM Nywerhede. There were 200 strikers at Isando and 400 at Bothaville.

On August 5, the group announced that the Bothaville strikers were dismissed, but no effect was given to the announcement. On August 8, 1988 the strikers at Isando were dismissed. Despite requests they were never reinstated.

The appeal was allowed by Judge Botha and acting Judges of Appeal Kriegler and Harms. — Sapa.

Groundwater safety probed

GAVIN DU VENAGE (56)

GROUNDWATER that supplies most of SA's drinking and industrial needs may in many cases be unfit for human consumption, Water Research Commission research manager Tony Reynders has said.

The commission has funded an investigation into developing a strategy for accurately monitoring SA's groundwater on a regular basis, and recently published a set of guidelines on pollution testing.

Reynders warned that while South Africans had always taken for granted that their water was safe, experience overseas had shown that groundwater was sensitive to pollution.

Reynders said municipal waste dumps and old mine dumps often released excessive salts and heavy metals which could end up in the water table.

Lack of sanitary services in squatter camps, where waste was uncontrolled and was left to soak into the ground, also posed a great danger of pollution.

Overseas it had been found that groundwater could be polluted by agricultural fertilisers.

Minister gives reassurance as nuclear cargo nears Cape

STW 27/11/92 (56)

By Julienne du Toit

The Japanese government has promised that the ship carrying a load of radioactive plutonium from France to Japan will not come closer than 110 nautical miles, or 200 km, from the South African coast.

Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar said the vessel would turn in an easterly direction south of Cape Point at the weekend and sail for a relatively short distance 110 nautical miles south of the SA coast before moving further away from the coast.

All countries can forbid vessels from entering their territorial waters,



Louis Pienaar... claims exaggerated.

which stretch 20 km from the coast, but have no jurisdiction outside these waters.

A ship carrying nuclear material cannot enter South African territorial waters without a licence issued by the Council for Nuclear Safety. No licence had been requested or granted,

said the council.

Though plutonium was regarded as hazardous, the claims of threats to the environment and human health had been exaggerated, said Pienaar.

● Greenpeace activist Damon Moglen arrived in Cape Town yesterday to co-ordinate protests against the plutonium shipment, reports Sapa.

"It is an extremely dangerous product that will have to be managed for longer than civilisation has existed," Moglen told a news conference.

Japan wants the plutonium for a fast-breeder reactor, but Moglen said the shipment was big enough to make up to 200 nuclear weapons.

Greenpeace in SA to monitor lethal cargo

27/11-3/12/92

56

By GAYE DAVIS and
CAROL GALES

SOUTH AFRICAN maritime authorities had to approach Greenpeace International to discover the location of the freighter Akatsuki Maru, laden with 1,7 tons of plutonium, because of Japan's secrecy about the controversial voyage.

This was revealed yesterday by Damon Moglen, a Greenpeace International official, on his arrival in Cape Town. The Akatsuki Maru is expected to round the Cape this weekend and is being monitored by a Greenpeace vessel, Smit New York.

Moglen said the Japanese government should provide information to countries on the ship's route — "otherwise it makes a mockery of any (country's) claims that safety precautions have been taken.

"Japan is not prepared to give route details and we see this as a question of how far is one country's so-called security policy allowed to go in endangering other countries, their waters and international sea areas," Moglen said.

The ship left France on November 7 with enough plutonium to build 200 nuclear weapons.

Japan will use the plutonium to develop a new generation of nuclear reactors known as breeder reactors, according to Thomas Auf der Heyde, a chemistry professor at the University of the Western Cape and spokesman for Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps).

The group will stage a protest at Cape Point on Sunday and a public meeting, to be addressed by Moglen, on Monday at 7.45pm in the Mowbray town hall.

The Akatsuki Maru is the first of many loads of plutonium that will float from France and Great Britain to Japan over the next decade. Plants in those countries are extracting plutonium from spent nuclear fuel from Japan.

Caps fears Cape storms will spell disaster for at least one of the shipments.

The powdery plutonium oxide poses no danger if it stays contained within the ship.

"The containers are completely inadequate and the broad range of ships used raises questions about the regulatory procedures," Moglen said.

...t believe it is an indestructi-
on. — Sapa

...which still holds 780 medium-term prisoners
Colonel Eksteen said 30 people were allowed to

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Plutonium closer than promised

(56)
CT 28/11/92

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Staff Reporter

THE Akatsuki Maru — carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium — is sailing 110 miles south of Cape Point in contravention of earlier guarantees by the Japanese government that the ship would stay 200 miles offshore.

The guarantee was given in an official document earlier this month.

The shipment is on its way from France to Japan and will round Cape Point this weekend.

The corner-cutting by the Akatsuki Maru did not meet with any objection from Department of Environment conservation director Mr Sydney Gerber yesterday.

Japan's counsellor Mr Yoshinbu Hiraishi had not replied to Cape Times inquiries about the plutonium shipment by late last night.

Mr Gerber said protesters were "making a mountain out of an anthill". He said the shipment of plutonium was the same as the shipment of nuclear fuel to Koeberg, which "in the past came from Europe".

Mr Gerber said "as far as we can ascertain the shipment is safe" and Japan has said it will not enter South Africa's 12-mile territorial waters.

Greenpeace international campaigner Mr Damon Moglen, in the city to increase awareness of plutonium shipments, said the South African government's failure to protest would ensure that the remainder of the 45 tons of plutonium scheduled to be shipped to Japan from France would probably be routed around the Cape.

'Not worth it'

Mr Moglen said "the shipment was going along the course of least resistance". Alternative routes from France to Japan, around Cape Horn or through the Panama Canal, were scotched after objections from countries in the regions.

● The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said in a statement yesterday it "believes the risks to the environment and to human health, resulting from the transport of plutonium around the world in proliferation of fast breeder technology, are not worth the potential benefits".

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Serbs block UN food c

SKELANI, Serbia. — A jeering crowd of Serb women and children blocked a bridge yesterday, thwarting a second attempt by a UN relief convoy to cross with supplies for the besieged town of

enemy," the weeping woman said. "They will kill them."

A 25-year-old man was killed and death notice of three months ago was way past.

...ndishing staves, was Local people



LOADING: The plutonium-laden crates are loaded on to the Akatsuki Maru at Cherbourg.

Plutonium ahoy!

APR 28/11/91

ma Canal and Caribbean route.

He said the South African government should have the "will" to say they would not tolerate this form of commerce which put the country at risk.

Mr Moglen said if a fire broke out aboard the Akatsuki Maru and spread to the fuel tanks directly below the cargo it would have the effect of an oven.

For "security reasons", the Japanese government has provided no information about the ship's exact route, its potential danger, or how a potential disaster could be contained.

Nor have the Japanese clarified the type or nature of inability should a disaster occur. Commandant Jinx Botes of Southern Air Command said they had an aircraft on standby to monitor the Akatsuki Maru if asked to do so by the government, but no request had been made so far, he said.

Most South American countries as well as the Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaysia have banned the shipment from entering their waters.

Greenpeace, the international environmental group, claims that Japanese safety precautions taken for the protection of 1,7 tons of lethal radioactive plutonium, which is rounding the Cape aboard a Japanese freighter today, are totally inadequate.

The Akatsuki Maru is in fine-powder form. Inhaling even a speck could lead to terminal lung cancer, it is claimed.

The Akatsuki Maru, shepherded by the Japanese Coast Guard vessel the Shikishima and monitored by Greenpeace's Smit New York, is due to round the Cape today.

A major salvage company has recorded 900 shipping casualties in South African waters since 1963.

Farther afield, but proving accidents do happen, a Swedish ship carrying nuclear fuel to a Finnish power plant was involved in a collision with another vessel in the Baltic Sea as recently as last Tuesday.

This week, a Greenpeace international nuclear transport campaigner arrived in Cape Town to add momentum to the local environmental protest coordinated by CAPS (the Cam-

ROGER FRIEDMAN

Weekend Argus Reporter

WHO will eat South Africa's fish and how many tourists will flock to our shores if the plutonium ship rounding the Cape this weekend meets disaster off our coast?

Japan's Akatsuki Maru left Cherbourg in France on November 7, bound for the Japanese port of Tokai, the site of a small fabrication facility for plutonium fuel.

This is the first voyage of what is intended to be a series in the next decade. There are plans to transport about 45 tons of plutonium from Europe to Japan by the year 2000.

On board the Akatsuki Maru are 15 containers, each holding 10 canisters of radioactive plutonium, enough to manufacture up to 200 nuclear weapons. Its total weight is 1,7 tons.

Plutonium emits alpha rays which do not have a high skin penetration capacity, but can be lethal if inhaled or swallowed.

The plutonium oxide aboard

paign Against Plutonium Shipments).

Mr Damon Moglen, based in Holland, said he saw Greenpeace's role as translating complex and often critical environmental concepts into language average people understood.

He said safety precautions taken for the shipment had been inadequately tested by Japanese authorities.

He showed Weekend Argus a single-sheet Japanese leaflet listing the safety tests undertaken on the plutonium containers.

The Japanese had exposed a canister to an 800 Deg C fire for 30 minutes whereas, according to the IIN Charter Agency for Maritime Safety, the average shipboard fire burned for 21 hours at 1 000 Deg C.

They had dropped a canister

from a height of nine metres while a United States engineering company proved the impact of a collision between two vessels similar to the Akatsuki Maru was equivalent to a vertical drop of 610 m.

They had immersed a canister in water at a depth of 15 m for eight hours, whereas the Akatsuki Maru travelled through water of up to 6 000 m depth.

Eco-Engineering Incorporated, an American company which has the US government as a client, said there was "no substantive evidence to support any claim relative to the integrity of a cask exposed to the consequences of a maximum credible maritime accident".

Mr Moglen said the Akatsuki Maru had taken the long route around southern Africa to avoid the intense political pressure that would have resulted had it taken the shorter Pana-

Plutonium closer than promised

(56)
CT 28/11/92

Staff Reporter

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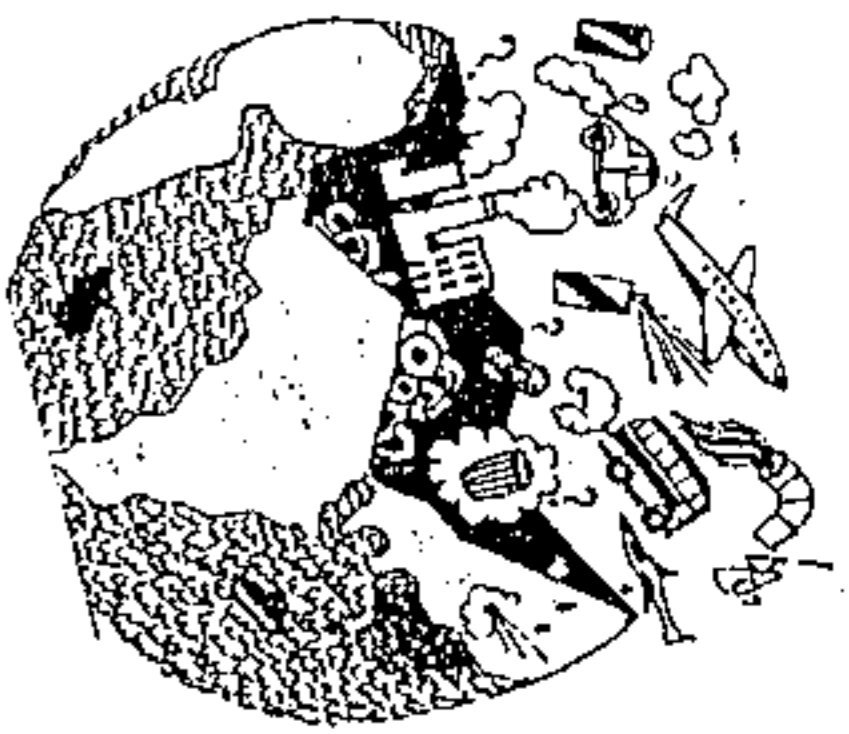
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'Not worth it'

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BIOSPHERE reserves — areas which allow for conservation and development — are one way of redressing the damage caused to the environment by human beings.

The Cape's first biosphere reserve was recently established in the Kogelberg region of the Hottentot's Holland mountains.

Cape Nature Conservation and Museums, which took the initiative to proclaim the reserve, believes that the establishment of biosphere reserves is essential to redress the damage that has been done to the environment by human beings.

"Environmental problems such as the greenhouse effect, the diminishing ozone layer and pollution in general cannot be wished away," says a Nature Conservation press release.

"They underscore the urgent need for immediate concerted and comprehensive action — such as

A wilderness on our doorstep

A new approach is being used to preserve the beauty of the

(56)

Cape's magnificent Kogelberg nature reserve, reports

Dieter Odendaal:
SOUTH 28/11-2/12/92
"Establishing biosphere reserves."

The Kogelberg wilderness area lies north of Betty's Bay and south of the Steenbras Dam.

The reserve covers some 18 000 hectares which contain one of the richest concentrations of fynbos, hosting over 3 000 plant species, 34 of which are rare or endangered.

The Kogelberg is the heart of the Cape floral kingdom (one of only six internationally recognised floral kingdoms in the world) and is an area of extreme importance for conservation.

Another important feature of the Kogelberg is the Palmiet River which forms the heart of the reserve



lowland and represents one of the last unspoilt river systems in the South Western Cape.

Because of this ecological diversity, conservationists have been forced to develop an effective and all-embracing strategy to maintain

the area.

Their biosphere reserve strategy allows for both conservation and development, and for applying conservation principles in both developed areas and areas set aside for future development.

Such a reserve accommodates strictly conserved core areas, as well as agricultural intensive areas and plantations as transitional zones. Once registered with UNESCO, biosphere reserves enjoy international recognition.

What makes the Kogelberg so special?

The reserve is located close to rapidly growing population areas. This means that future community involvement should be a prerequisite for guaranteeing and justifying the preservation of this very unique wilderness area.

Besides the key role of the Kogelberg in the conservation of fynbos, the area also encompasses a tremendous diversity of landscapes and ecosystems.

The biodiversity which the Kogel-

berg offers includes magnificent landscapes such as rocky and sandy beaches, mountain peaks, coastal and mountain fynbos, vleis, coastal lakes, sand dunes and the last lowland riverine system within the fynbos-biome — the Palmiet River.

This river system can be isolated as one of the most threatened components in the Kogelberg. Furthermore, the entire catchment areas of three of the four tributaries of the system are — from source to sea — confined to the boundaries of the Kogelberg reserve.

The Palmiet River estuary is also one of the last naturally functioning systems in the South Western Cape and is entirely dependent on natural flow rhythms.

The uninterrupted conservation element which the Kogelberg represents, as well as stringent conditional usage over the years has contributed to the biosphere character of this reserve.

(Dieter Odendaal is a liaison officer for Cape Provincial Administration communication services)

A medium to regenerate society

SOUTH 28/11-2/12/92

THERE is no way that a petroleum and chemical manufacturing company can be beneficial for the environment.

This is according to Dr Derek Burns, head of the Health, Safety and Environmental Protection (HSEPP) division of energy corporation Engen.

"However, development cannot take place without energy. There has to be a trade-off between the benefits and negative impact on the environment," Burns says.

In Engen's mission statement, the corporation recognises its responsibility to safeguard and protect the environment and to comply with all environmental laws and regulations.

"Engen has committed itself to satisfying the people's needs for development, but at minimum risk to the environment," Burns says.

The company's policy manual on HSEPP lists the use of the codes of practice — the compliance with health, safety and environmental laws and auditing, product safety and environmental protection.

"The implementation of these codes are the most difficult. At the moment, the company is running educational and training programmes within Engen's subsidiaries, so that the workers might be aware of the precautions they have to take in their specific areas," Burns says.

Engen is trying to overcome these difficulties by producing on-site videos where workers can see examples of safe conditions to work in.

After the implementation of codes, the auditing process starts.



Dr Derek Burns, head of the Health, Safety and Environmental Protection division of energy corporation Engen

This process will be conducted annually, unless special circumstances arise. The process includes completing questionnaires, interviews with staff and inspecting equipment, facilities and on-site performance.

Engen's environmental protection policy includes the following:

- to conduct their activities with full concern for safeguarding public health and for the protection of the physical environment;
- to maintain good communica-

tions with the communities around them, and to give appropriate education on environmental issues;

- to motivate employees towards environmentally aware behaviour.

Burns says these points could help change the attitude towards the environment, especially if every part of the corporation participates.

Engen is currently involved in a project at an oil refinery, called "Regenerate", which has seven eco-systems around it.

The eco-systems are used as a buffer between the community and the refinery.

"The environment should be used as a medium to heal society, it should be there for the benefit of the people - as opposed to putting a fence around it for conservation," Burns says.

He says there is a need to protect the environment now, when South Africa is at the "interface of development".

Burns says more attention should be given to the black communities, so that the legacy of apartheid can be addressed.

Engen has been trying to address the effect that paraffin has on children in the townships, where it is the most common cause of poisoning.

"We have been testing child-proof bottles, but we found these difficult to market because it would be too expensive."

Engen has been funding numerous projects, but the funding has to be more focused.

"We can't cure all the problems with limited resources. Funding has to be focused in certain parameters of what can be achieved. We can fund environmental projects but the long-term development of the communities has to be the first choice," Burns says.

Consultative planning for Cape Town's water supply could set a new trend by involving citizens, reports **Justin Pearce:**

Water talks set to flow over into public debate

SOUTH AFRICA 28/11-2/12/92.

56

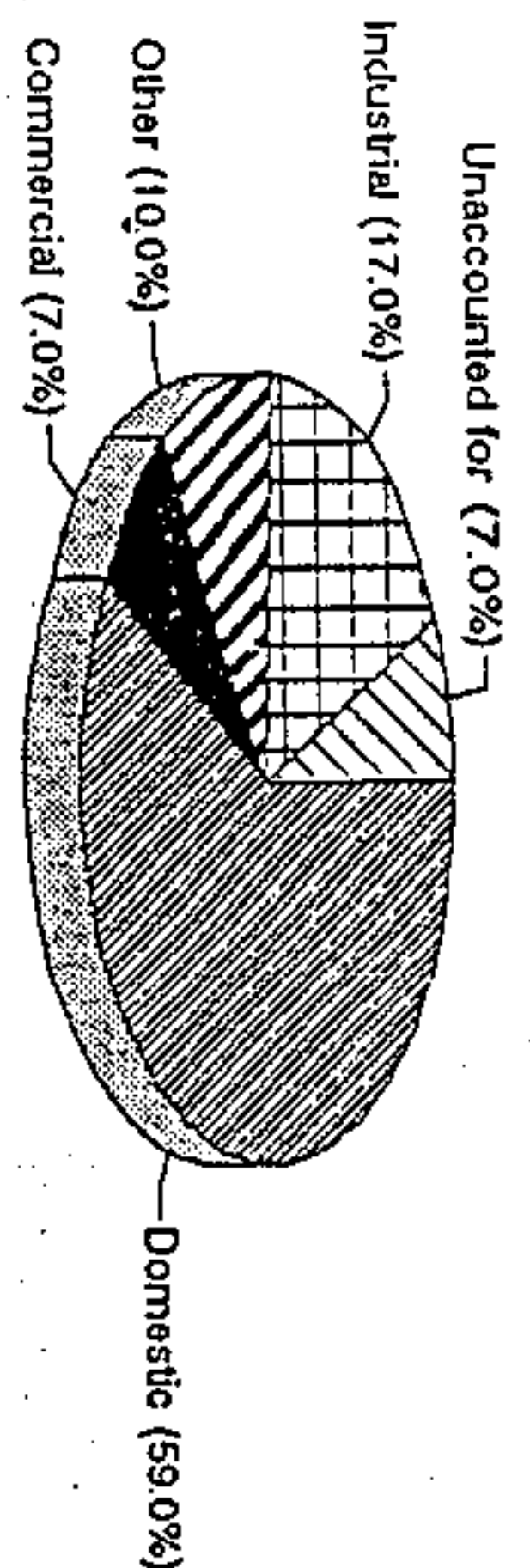


LO DAM or not to dam? Cape Town's present water supply will become inadequate within the next 10 years, and the Department of Water Affairs is looking at ways to ensure that the city's taps don't run dry.

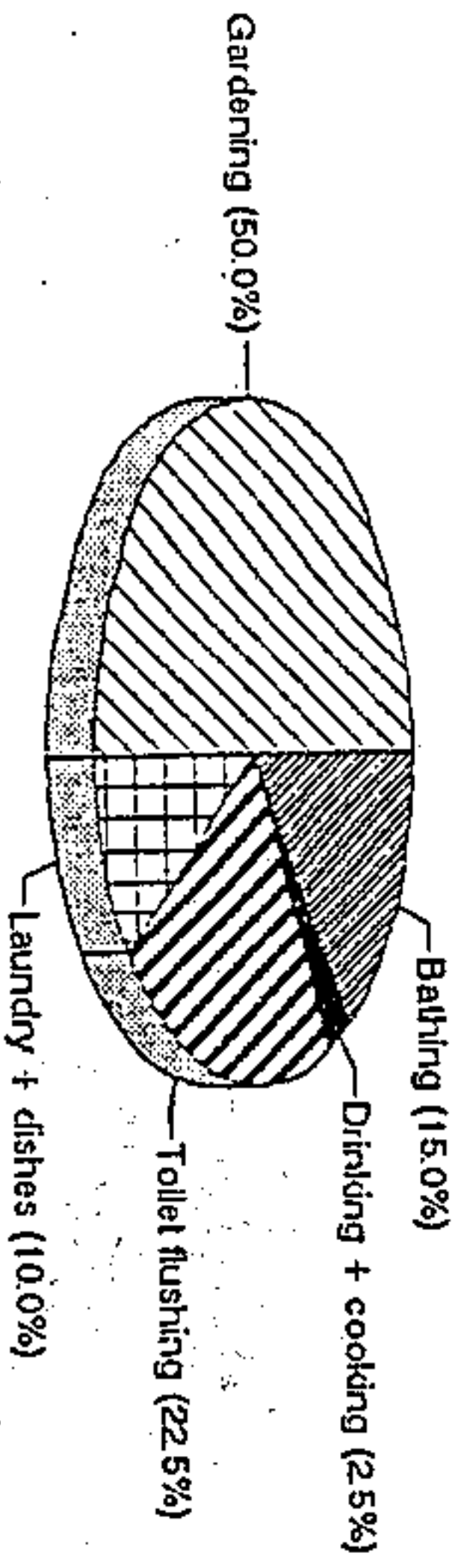
While damming another river is an obvious solution, it is not necessarily the best. Moreover, a number of different proposals for dams have been put forward, all of them differing in the amount of water they supply and the impact they will have on the environment.

How then to deal with this wide range of options? A few years ago, you could have been sure that the final decision would have been made by a cabinet minister and his underlings.

But press reports have announced that the Department of Water Affairs is involved in a process of



Water use within the Cape Town Municipal Area



Typical domestic water usage in higher income Cape Town suburbs

consultation with a wide range of interest groups.

All of the proposals are for dams on the Palmiet River, in the area between Grabouw and Betty's Bay. But as environmental scientist Mr Stephen Granger said in a public

forestry and the environment — at the greatest possible social benefit and the least environmental cost."

Up until now, the process has been kept under wraps. It appears that what is going on is a series of "talks about talks", with organisations and the Department of Water Affairs discussing how to formulate a plan that will involve the public as widely as possible.

The Department is expected to announce its plans for a process of public consultation within the next few days.

A source told SOUTH that the consultation process now envisaged will go much wider than merely looking at the various Palmiet dam options. It will also consider ways in which we could use our existing water supplies more efficiently.

Most of these proposals would involve the total or partial destruction of the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, and this accounts for a large part of the controversy. Some of the dam schemes would also involve the destruction of farming land, adding an economic consideration to the environmental concerns. A further complication is the fact

that the most cost-efficient options are those that involve the most damage to farmland or to the natural environment.

Rather than meeting all of the city's water needs with one enormous and environmentally costly dam, some proposals suggest that we make better use of the water we have. With domestic use accounting for 59 percent of the water consumed in the western Cape, saving can start in the home.

The wealthy should be the first to get their house in order. Surveys showed that Constantia households use an average of seven kilolitres of water per day, while Khayelitsha households use only 1.5 kilolitres per day. Half of domestic water is used on gardens, a situation which could be alleviated were homeowners to plant more indigenous plants which require little water.

Dams are not the only source of water. Some other suggestions that have been put forward include recycling of sewage, the desalination of seawater, and even towing icebergs from the Antarctic to be melted at the Cape.

14 Environment focus

WHEN harvests failed in Ethiopia during the 1983-84 drought, farmers who were forced off the land took care to store the seeds.

They sealed the seeds in urns and buried them in a safe place. For those who survived the famine, the seeds would be ready to be planted when the first rains fell.

Those farmers had probably never heard the word "biodiversity". It is one of those bits of eco-jargon that mystify most people who hear it. Yet biodiversity is exactly what those farmers were aiming for by storing away the seeds. If the seeds had been left to rot, it would have meant the loss of valuable genetic

The more, the healthier

SOFT 28p 11-21/2/92

The genetic diversity — of species is increasingly under threat as genetic engineers strive to produce "better" seeds by means of artificial breeding techniques that combine genetic material only from selected members of a species.

If nature were left to its own devices, every living organism would have a unique genetic structure — this is why, for example, no two human beings are exactly alike. Genetic engineering is becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few companies, which consequently limits the genetic material available. There is an urgent need for farmers to assert control over the varieties of seeds which they plant, as the Ethiopians were doing by storing their seeds. Biodiversity is healthy. Resistance to diseases may be genetically programmed. If all the members of a species are genetically identical, there is a strong possibility of the entire species being wiped out by a disease to which the species has no resistance.

In the 19th century the population of Ireland was decimated when all the country's potatoes — the nation's staple food — were destroyed. The plants fell prey to the disease because they had all been bred from a few plants imported from America, where the potato originates from.

The modernisation of agriculture has involved narrowing down natural genetic diversity. Plant species are genetically engineered to create High-Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of seeds. The process of genetic engi-



neering involves the careful selection of genetic material for breeding — and a consequent loss of biodiversity.

"The reality is that biotechnology is controlled by transnational corporations which have gone beyond democratic control," says Chilean agro-economist Miguel Alferi.

In some countries the only seeds certified for sale are HYVs. This means that the big companies have complete control over which seeds are available.

Zimbabwe is one country where only HYV seeds are approved. Farmers who choose to grow other varieties may not market their produce. In other countries farmers cannot get credit or loans to grow non-HYV seeds.

But HYVs are only "high-yielding" under optimum conditions, which do not exist for most farmers.

British researcher Mr Alan Gear speaks of how high-tech farming has eroded the variety of plants available in developed countries. A new development could see the first world research laboratories securing a "copy-right" on the types of seeds they manufacture. Farmers will have to pay for their seeds when they first plant them. And when the farmers plant the seeds that come from the first year's crop, they will also have to pay "royalties" on the patented genes. The result would be a flow of cash from poorer countries to richer world farmers, whose low-tech agriculture provided the genetic material used in the high-tech genetic engineering. They are forced by legislation to contribute to the profits of the big corporations. "Broadening the circle of social control over how genetic resources are managed and used is central to tomorrow's food security," says Michael Pimbert, head of the biodiversity programme at the World Wide Fund for Nature. "This may be a rather uncomfortable message for the corporate gene traders. But that's a small price to pay for the food security of everyone."

— Justin Pearce and Penos

Sure, it's dangerous ...

Just what is this stuff that the Japanese are shipping half way round the world — a substance that has sparked protests from environmentalists around the world?

The last few months have seen increasing concern about a cargo of plutonium that is being transported around the Cape. Last week the ship was to take a different route from France to Japan, via South America and the Pacific Ocean. Then on Monday the ship was suddenly off the coast of Angola.

A South African government spokesperson said recently that swallowing a cup of plutonium was no more dangerous than drinking ten cups of coffee. But some environmentalists have warned that one shipment of plutonium (about one ton) is enough to destroy all life in a substantial part of South Africa.

Plutonium is an artificially created element used to fuel nuclear reactors. The plutonium that will round the Cape coast is spent nuclear fuel which has been reprocessed in France to make it fit for use in the Japanese reactors.

The desirability of nuclear energy has been a politically and emotionally loaded issue ever since the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki disappeared in nuclear mushroom clouds in 1945. With the balance of nuclear capabilities crucial to the 40-year standoff of the Cold War, anti-nuclear activists in the West were suspected by Nato governments of having a hidden pro-Soviet agenda.

At the same time, anti-nuclear lobby groups have criticised the development of supposedly peaceful nuclear projects (power stations), as they employ technology which could also be used in developing nuclear weapons.

'Jou ma se plutonium' says the graffiti on a wall in Cape Town. But how valid are the anti-nuke sentiments which the scribbler has captured so well. **Justin Pearce** reports:

but a disaster?

PROFESSOR Robin Cherry of UCT's physics department points out that there is a certain amount of natural radioactivity in seawater, next to which the radiation from spilt plutonium is negligible.

"An ocean basin 100 kilometres square and two kilometres deep — which is a very small part of an ocean — contains as much natural radiation as one ton of plutonium," Cherry said.

"That doesn't mean that plutonium is harmless — but the situation is not likely to be catastrophic," he said, adding that the security precautions seemed adequate.

Cherry said a greater risk was the possibility of a hostile military power hijacking the ship.

The shipment now off the South African coast could signal the start of a trend.

"What worries me more than one single accident is a worldwide move from an oil-driven economy to a plutonium economy," said Mr Mark Gander, founder of the Society Against Nuclear Energy, in an interview with "New Ground" magazine.

"A plutonium economy will result in hundreds of plutonium ships on the high seas. We have not managed to contain oil. What makes us think we are going to do any better with plutonium?" Gander asked.

This has given a political edge to discussions about nuclear power. The South African government is quick to defend the shipment of plutonium off our coast — a fact which could be related to the government's eagerness to improve trade relations with Japan.

Last week Mr Niel du Bois, spokesperson for the Department of Environmental Affairs, said plutonium was "only 10 times more toxic than coffee".

"Swallowing a cup of plutonium is no more dangerous than drinking 10 cups of coffee," he said.

This statement horrified two medical physicists from Groote Schuur hospital. They said that allowing even a small amount of plutonium inside one's body is tantamount to suicide. Cancers and leukaemia are among the consequences of exposure to alpha radiation from a source inside the body. Plutonium apologists use the

argument that the alpha radiation emitted by plutonium "can be stopped by a sheet of paper". What this means is that alpha radiation is very easily absorbed by the paper — but it is just as easily absorbed by human tissue. As little as one nanogram (one billionth of a gram) of plutonium can cause cancer if eaten or inhaled.

What if you are exposed to plutonium without getting the metal into your system?

"If there was a gram of plutonium on that table over there I wouldn't like to be here," said one medical physicist.

Researchers who work with plutonium use the smallest possible amounts and do everything possible to reduce the risk of radiation.

Apart from the radioactive dangers, plutonium is chemically toxic: —like non-radioactive heavy metals such as mercury and lead.

Professor Thomas auf der Heyde, of the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps), said plutonium is more poisonous than lead, and is roughly comparable to strychnine in its toxicity.

Plutonium, in short, is deadly stuff. As Auf der Heyde pointed out, the security arrangements and secrecy surrounding the shipment bely the argument that it is safe.

Whether transporting the plutonium is a tremendous risk is less certain. Scientists familiar with the procedures for transporting radioactive materials said the plutonium would be encased in ceramic beads which would be packed in steel containers. The ship will keep a distance of 200 km from the shore.

Professor Graham Jackson, professor of chemistry at UCT, said the major concern would be "bio-accumulation".

This is a process whereby plutonium would be absorbed by plants and animals and passed along the food chain. But this would be a worst-case scenario, depending on the plutonium breaking loose from both the ceramic casing and the steel containers.

(S6)

SOUTH 28/11-2/12/92

Diversification into new areas of private-sector work, away from key long-term contracts with Telkom and Armscor, was a costly exercise for Altech and carried through in the face of stiff competition.

Turnover in the six months to end-August edged up 5,5%, but EPS grew a mere 0,4%. Though pre-tax income rose 2,4%, executive chairman Don Snedden says margins and operating income — not disclosed at the interim stage — were maintained at previous levels. This suggests that interest earned (also undisclosed) declined, apparently because of the recent decline in rates.

Nevertheless, the balance sheet remains strong. The cash balance grew 7,5% since year-end to R242m. Snedden says some R50m-R60m of this will be invested in new grassroots ventures before the year-end. Acquisitions will always remain possible, and management is talking to several parties.

The electronic systems division remains the largest activity, contributing some 61% of group turnover, Snedden says the new Altech — whose focus is on "African solutions for Africa" — is aiming to develop its distribution and, in particular, its industrial division.

Though dependence on Telkom has been lessened, Snedden sees its role increasing again as capex restrictions are eased. Exports have traditionally represented a small proportion of group turnover but, after investing heavily into this arm of the business, he is bullish about the prospects this avenue holds.

He says the outlook for the second six months is encouraging. The problems associated with industrial unrest and political stayaways in the first half are not expected to be repeated.

While trading profit is showing little or no growth, Altech now has a healthier spread of

SMALLER SPARKS

Six months to	Aug 31 '91	Feb 29 '92	Aug 31 '92
Turnover (Rm)	453	477	478
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	73,0	79,6	74,7
Attributable (Rm) ..	42,7	49,4	43,0
Earnings (c)	408,5	471,6	410,3
Dividends (c)	—	297,0	—

continue →

Absa warns brokers and staff members

S/Times (B455) 29/11/92

ABSAs has warned its financial advisers not to sell unapproved products such as Supreme Bond.

The warning comes from Absa marketing head Gert Dry.

A statement says: "Our financial consultants and brokers are encouraged to market a cross-section of approved group products. If anyone moves outside of the guidelines, they will be viewed in a very serious light and the necessary disciplinary steps will be taken."

A spokesman says the bank will not tolerate group financial advisers or brokers who sell non-approved products, for which they receive a separate commission.

These commissions are effectively private deals for which any financial institution with its own investment products is on a hiding to nothing.

Call

"The sale of outside products is doubly damaging to our banking group. Firstly, because our own products are not sold and secondly because many of our clients believe they are being sold products guaranteed by the Absa umbrella," says the spokesman.

The bank has reacted to a few cases where customers have allegedly been put into investments such as Supreme Bond and Masterbond and now stand to lose their cash. For many elderly investors, these funds are their life savings.

One example is that of 69-year-old Barbara du Toit, who lives on her own in Johannesburg.

She received an unsolicited call from a financial adviser at Allied United where she kept all her retirement money in a savings account and on fixed deposit account. She was asked to go to a branch.

Mrs du Toit was apparently advised she had too much money in her savings account and could get a much greater return if she moved it to Supreme bond.

She placed her savings of R60 000 in Supreme Bond in the belief that her investment had the backing of the Allied. She was "very shocked" when told this week she might lose all her savings.

TERRY BETTY reports that several companies are interested in buying the three

By JEREMY WOODS

listed subsidiaries of the provisionally liquidated Supreme holding companies.

A source says a decision on the sale will be taken only after the value of the underlying assets has been assessed.

Coopers Theron Du Toit is studying the net worth and viability of the subsidiaries.

The subsidiaries are Supreme Industrial Holdings, Supreme Manufacturing Holdings and Protea Furnishers.

Even if the companies are sold as going concerns, it is uncertain what will happen to the debenture holders' money. It will depend on whether the liquidators are obliged to hold the companies to their securities.

A financial analyst says it is unlikely anybody will buy the companies if the debentures remain secured. Debenture holders would then be able to call in their debt at any time.

He says the buyers would be in a strong bargaining position to have the securities over the debentures removed to keep working capital in the business.

Other options for the liquidators include liquidating the listed subsidiaries to raise cash to pay debenture holders. It could also be possible to convert the debentures into equity.

Warning

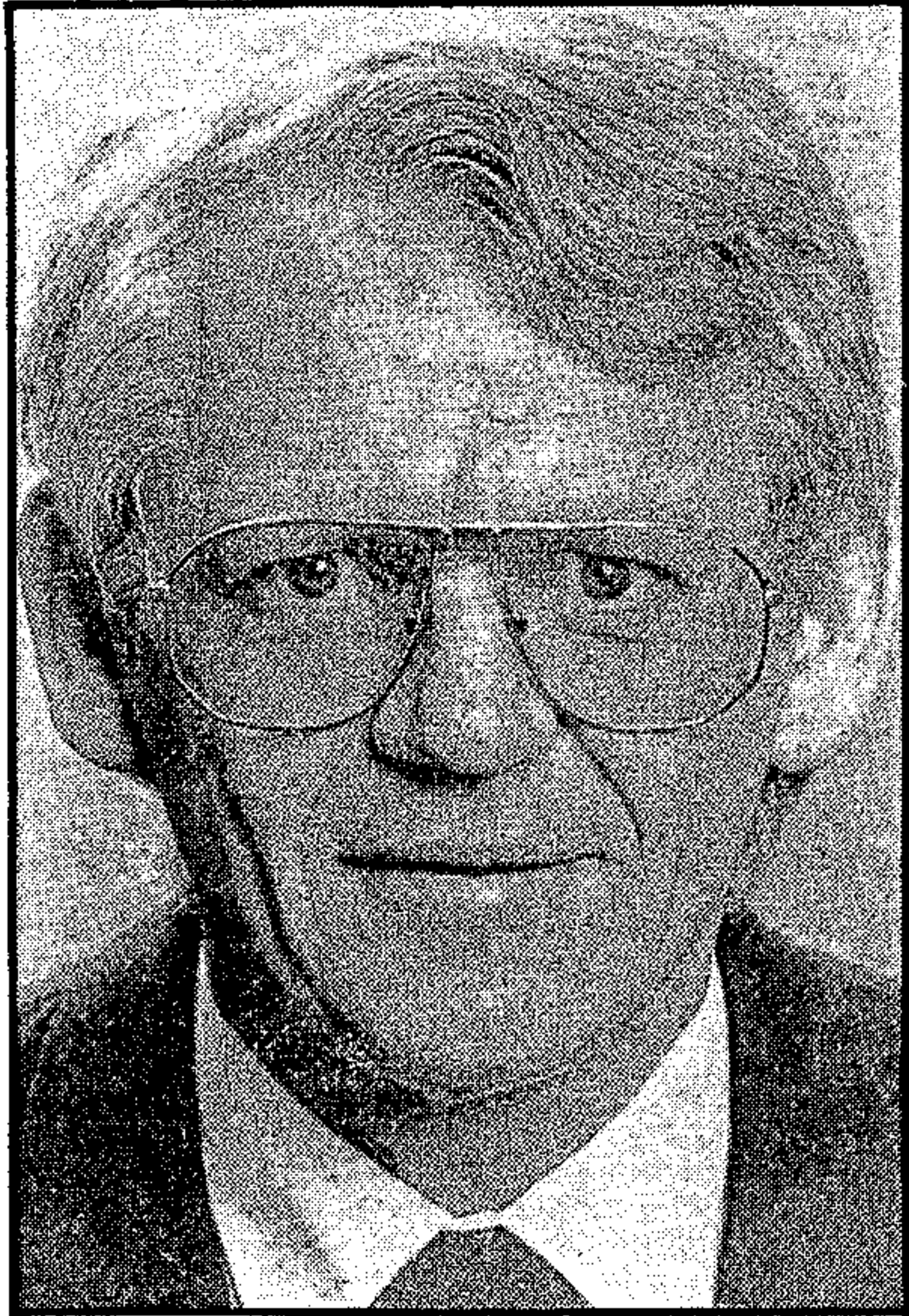
Either way, it seems the debenture holders will have to be patient while waiting for their money.

In the time being the provisional liquidators are allowing the companies to continue trading. They say the subsidiaries are viable and will continue to trade profitably over Christmas.

The Harmful Business Practices Committee has warned the public. It says the onus is on investors to investigate a company before they place their money with it.

It says many people are unaware that neither the Government nor regulatory bodies guarantee repayment of capital investment or the yield on an investment.

It warns people to look into the financial history of the company and ascertain the possible vested interests of the agent promoting the sale.



GERT DRY: Stick to the group's products

R150m for water and sanitation

S/Times (B455) 29/11/92

THE European Community, the Independent Development Trust and the Development Bank have combined in a R150-million water and sanitation project for marginalised communities.

The goal of the three-year programme is to ensure that the poorest of SA's communities have adequate water and sanitation facilities.

The EC and IDT will put up R48,5-million each, the Development Bank making R3-million in operational support and a R48,5-million loan available.

The programme, which is to be independently operated, was signed on Friday and will begin as soon as support staff members are in place.

It will be known as the Water and Sanitation Programme and be run by a board which will include representatives of the targeted communities.

"We hope that the pro-

By KEVIN DAVIE

gramme will play a role not only in meeting the needs for water, sanitation and primary health care but that it will bring South Africans together," says IDT chairman Jan Steyn.

"Development can and does perform that function."

The programme intends to ensure that historical imbalances are dealt with, mobilising resources for marginalised communities, increasing the capacity of development implementors and enhancing the co-operation of developmental institutions.

The allocated resources will not completely reduce the vulnerability of deprived communities, but are an important step in alleviating the cycle of poverty, the parties say in a statement.

Tours to save the environment

By ROBERT HOUSLEY

TWO Kommetjie ecologists — Wally Petersen and Russel Weston — have started a tour company aimed at preserving the environment on the Cape Peninsula. *S Times*

Called Green Life Tours, it is aimed at a local bid to increasing environmental awareness.

and to conserve existing ecologies. *[Cape metro]*

It it will provide regular eight-hour trips to some of the Peninsula's most inspiring ecological sights, including the Rondevlei Bird Sanctuary, the Jackass Penguin Colony, the Cape Of Good Hope Nature Reserve and The Kom bird viewing

spot.

Also incorporated in the tour will be fynbos and coastal walks and the prospect of seeing up to six of the remaining 10 baboon colonies on the peninsula. *29/11/92*

Mr Petersen — frustrated not being able to raise enough money to further his studies on the Chacma baboons — joined Mr Weston in devising the tour concept.

They have also developed a trust fund from which local environmental projects will be sponsored. For

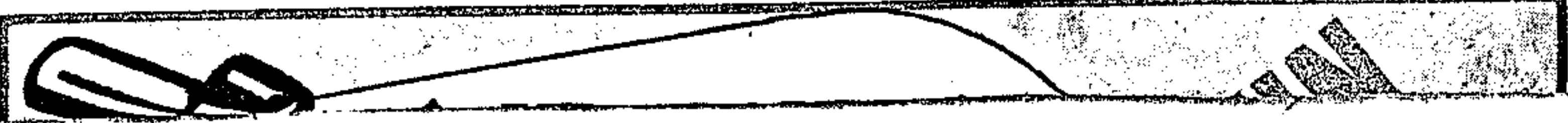
every person who goes on a Green Life tour, R10 will be placed in the fund.

"The government services have no money so we can no longer rely on them to fund projects," Mr Petersen said.

School children and poor communities will also be catered for.

"We want to take local school children and the underprivileged on a weekly trip because ultimately the future of conservation on the Peninsula is in the hands of the people who live there," Mr Petersen said.

● For more information telephone Wally Petersen on 783-3433.



Plutonium ship off Cape Point

By AYESHA ISMAIL

THE Japanese ship carrying a cargo of plutonium, which has sparked worldwide protests, was due to pass Cape Point last night — as a Greenpeace chief expressed concern at her safety in “some of the most dangerous seas in the world”.

As the Akatsuki Maru was preparing to pass 130 nautical miles from Cape Town, carrying 1.7 tons of plutonium, the International Maritime Organisation acceded to worldwide pressure to review the safety of transporting the element at a UN-sponsored meeting in London on December 7-11.

The Akatsuki Maru, which set sail for Japan from France earlier this month, is being shadowed by a Greenpeace ship, the Smit New York. Its voyage has led to several large-scale demonstrations being planned in Cape Town over the next few days.

Greenpeace international co-ordinator Damon

Moglen arrived in South Africa this week.

“This ship is not very big. When I spoke to Argentinian navy officials, they told me she was completely completely unprepared for rounding Cape Horn,” he said.

“In January 1990 a similar ship carrying irradiated nuclear fuel rounded the Cape. She was so overtaxed that both her engines blew.”

Mr Moglen said if something went wrong with the ship — if she caught fire or sank — the contamination would destroy marine life. And the inhalation of a particle of plutonium smaller than a speck of dust could cause lung cancer.

“Contamination can last tens of thousands of years.”

A spokesman for the Japanese embassy in Cape Town said safety precautions of the highest standard had been taken to transport the cargo.

More rains needed to alleviate drought

STAR 30/11/92
By Shirley Woodgate
Dirk Nel and
Clyde Johnson

Patchy summer rains have failed to alleviate the scorching drought in the Transvaal and Free State, where most dams hover around critical levels.

Isolated showers have encouraged farmers to start planting crops in the western and south-western Transvaal and the northern Free State, but the outlook for the bulk of the agricultural sector remains bleak, according to Transvaal Agricultural Union general manager Johan Hartman.

Most districts in the far northern Transvaal had received only half their normal average rainfall for October and November. Louis Trichardt residents, relying on the 4 per cent-full Albasini Dam, were al-

lowed barely enough water for basic domestic use, he said.

The lowveld's November rainfall has been nearly 30 per cent below the general average. Rainfall figures for the month were: Nelspruit 73,7 mm, Burgershall 107,1 mm, Malelane 21,5 mm and Komatipoort 96,5 mm.

Mark Holmes, a researcher at Nelspruit's Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, said the lowveld's rainfall was down on the general average since August. Two extreme examples were Malelane and Komatipoort, which had had no rain in August and September.

Badfontein — the catchment area for the Braam Raubenheimer Dam — had only 47 mm.

The dam, which serves all lowveld irrigation farmers, is less than 14 percent full.

The Kruger National Park, which had good downpours during the first half of November, is slowly recovering from the

worst drought in memory.

The park's nature conservation general manager, Dr Willem Gertenbach, said rainfall figures had been much the same as in November last year.

Rains in the Tshokwane and Nwanetsi regions had filled dams and saved many hippos from certain death.

Department of Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon warned that the coming months were critical. A significant boost to the dams depended on continuous, widespread rain and heavy downpours.

The above-average rain on the Witwatersrand had had no effect on stored water.

"Although the agricultural drought is ending in isolated areas, the low level of most dams indicates a serious hydrological drought is still gripping the country," Van Biljon said.

● No end to drought torment — Page 11

R150m water project co-operation a first

THE Kagiso Trust, the IDT and the Development Bank of Southern Africa have co-operated formally for the first time with a R150m water and sanitation programme in rural and semi-urban areas, according to a weekend statement.

The co-operation comes two years after the De Loor report recommended rationalisation of development institutions, and could lead to formal ties in other development areas.

Development Bank MD. André la

GRETA STEYN

56

Grange said yesterday the co-operation between had facilitated raising funds from the EC. The EC has provided R48,5m to the programme, secured by the Kagiso Trust, and matched by the IDT, over a three-year period. The bank has offered operational support of R3m and loan funding of a further R48,5m.

This was the first programme to combine loans and donations.

B10M 30/11/92

Plutonium ship off Mossel Bay

56 CT 30/11/92

THE Japanese plutonium carrier Akatsuki Maru, carrying 1,7 tons of deadly plutonium, was 150 nautical miles south-south-west of Mossel Bay last night.

The ship allegedly came within two nautical miles of a passing vessel off the Namibian coast late on Friday, a spokesman for the Coalition Against Plutonium Shipments (Caps), Prof Thomas Auf der Heyde, said.

Citing a report from Green-

peace vessel Smit New York, he said the freighter and her armed escort Shikishima had earlier been about 180m from one another before suddenly heading off in different directions.

The manoeuvre, during which the two ships effectively became a single radar blip, is thought to have been an attempt to shake off the Smit New York.

Shortly before 11.55pm on Saturday, the Smit New York's

crew saw a large vessel, thought to be an oil tanker, cross within two nautical miles of the Akatsuki Maru's bow. They were unable to identify the vessel because of the fog.

● Japan will stockpile the plutonium being transported by the Akatsuki Maru for at least three years, despite a pledge not to store large amounts of nuclear fuel, officials said on Saturday. — Sapa-AP, Staff Reporter

SA is no manager of its own resources

STAR 30/11/92.

(56)

Everyone in South Africa knows you get nothing for mahala (free). But the principle hasn't really been applied when it comes to our resources — our water, our wildlife, our land, our air. JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

tribute them, and the ANC and Government have waxed enthusiastic over the plan, he said.

This country has an incredibly bad record when it comes to managing its resources.

"There has been no money value placed on anything. If there was a market value for topsoil, it wouldn't have been thrown away the way it has."

The moment has come to put

have access to a safe water supply, according to the Water Research Commission.

Basically, clean water in this country is ridiculously underpriced, and only available to the comparatively well-off.

The answer? Put up the price of water to urban and industrial householders, says one of the world's foremost resource economists, Dr David Miltz.

He was brought out recently by the Institute for Natural Resources, and has been reviewing St Lucia with the CSIR.

He said making water more

expensive would cut down on the incredible wastage of water. It would also subsidise the supply of water to those who do not have it, and to the poor.

The principle applies to almost every resource you could shake a stick at.

Placing a value on resources could make it easier to redis-

a price on clean air, since that is at a premium these days, too, said Dr Miltz. As for the St Lucia issue, the choices must be made quite explicit, said Dr Miltz. "What must be decided is the financial gains of the environmental impact. The trade-offs must be clear."

But putting a value on environment, or resources means that it stands a far better chance of being taken care of. "This is not a game of morals. Basically, we must maximise shareholder value." □

THERE is a recurrent theme in old blues songs: you never miss your water till your well runs dry. In South Africa, the well is in constant danger of running dry. With or without drought, this is a dry country.

But industries prettify their premises with megalitres of water for fountains. People wash cars and fill up swimming pools without a thought. On the other side, about nine million people, or one in every four people in South Africa, do not

Advert: Serina CT 1/12/92 stabbed (5b) in back?

Staff Reporter

SERINA kaolin vice-chairman Mr Sybrand van der Spuy is "a bit disappointed" that the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) is urging people in advertisements to object to a rezoning that he needs for his kaolin mine.

Earlier this year Mr Van Der Spuy and Mr Ian Brownlie, the chairman of SCPAG, came to an agreement in terms of which Serina would pay R6m for a kaolin pipeline and R1m a year in operational costs so that no on-site processing plant would be needed.

Object

In return, the SCPAG agreed to tone down its opposition to the kaolin-mining on the Chapman's Peak site.

In the advertisement the SPAG said people opposed to the degradation of the Cape should object in writing.

Mr John Cannan, chairman of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association, explained the SCPAG viewpoint.

"The group has toned down its objections. It maintains that everybody should object because the fact that Serina is going to mine does not mean that it is a desirable activity in that area."

810 23 11/2/92
**Trust 'is a
role model'**

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — The R150m Pula Trust established jointly by the EC, the Kagiso Trust, the Development Bank of SA and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) to undertake water and sanitation projects was likely to be a precursor to future foreign funding for development, IDT chairman Jan Steyn said yesterday.

He said the presentation of a united front by three SA development agencies had been crucial in securing foreign funding and could provide a role model for future finance.

Each of the SA participants had unique strengths to bring to a joint venture and could provide projects into which foreign donors could lock.

Steyn said the participants had identified access to clean water as one of the urgent needs in rural areas.

The Kagiso Trust (funded by the EC), the IDT and the bank would each inject R48,5m into the Pula Trust. The bank also undertook to provide infrastructural support worth R3m.

Cape route a 'trial run' for plutonium

JAPAN's decision to ship 1,7 tons of radioactive plutonium around the Cape was taken because the route offered the least resistance, a Greenpeace International spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Damon Moglen, speaking at a press conference hosted by the ANC, said the controversial shipment of plutonium was only a "trial run".

"Forty-five tons of plutonium are scheduled to be separated from nuclear plants in France and Brit-

ain before the end of the century and it could all be shipped around the Cape," he said.

The Akatsuki Maru was yesterday 240km south-west of Port Elizabeth, travelling east-north-east at 14,5 knots.

Mr Moglen said Japan had probably used political and economic leverage to get South Africa to allow the shipment to pass the Cape after Caribbean islands, South American countries and Panama had

protested against the vessel using their routes.

A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs said the Japanese government had informed Pretoria that it would not move closer than 200km from the South African coast and it could not enter our territorial waters — 20,1km from the coast — without a permit.

Japan had not applied for a permit, he said.



**Bay's
water quality
matches
EC laws**

ARG 1/12/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FALSE Bay's water quality conformed "generally" to tough European Community standards during the past year, but untreated stormwater runoff into the bay from increased urbanisation could cause problems in future.

These are the main points in the annual report of the False Bay Water Quality Committee, headed by Cape Town's city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

The ad hoc committee, consisting of senior representatives of local authorities and government departments, was formed in 1990 in response to growing public concern about the bay's water quality.

In his report for the period from October last year to September, Mr Clayton said significant progress had been made towards establishing standardised monitoring along virtually the entire coastline.

"In this respect, it gives me great pleasure to note that for the year under review the water quality in the bay conforms generally to the European Community's directive for the water quality of bathing beaches — except near the Sir Lowry's Pass River, where the mandatory level was exceeded."

At four points — Kalk Bay harbour beach, Lifeboxes 21 and 23 between Sunrise Beach and Sonwabe, and Woltemade Street at the Strand — bacteriological counts were marginally above the EC guidelines.

But at Sir Lowry's Pass River, both guidelines and mandatory values were exceeded.

"At this sample point, the problem stems from the river water which flows over a rocky part of the beach with poor mixing," Mr Clayton explained.

During the summer holiday season, counts were low and the river was being diverted westward where currents were stronger and mixing was better, he said.

All wastewater in the catchment was treated before discharge and, in international terms, the bay had low bacteriological levels, Mr Clayton added.

"Following rainfall, point-source pollution occurs at locations where stormwater discharges to the bay and results in contaminated urban runoff being discharged to the surf zone, but these pollution inputs are limited both spatially and temporarily."

The major concern was not the bay's status, but what could happen if urbanisation rates continued without regard for the water quality of stormwater runoff, Mr Clayton said.

Effective catchment management was therefore essential.

The committee's ultimate objective was to develop a comprehensive management strategy through a process of public participation to control aspects such as tourism, conservation, economic utilisation, user-group requirements, water quality, health, catchment development and land use, Mr Clayton said.

"It is important that this strategy be given a statutory base and have the support of all interested and affected parties."

Health risk at rocket testing site — claim

(56) CT 1/12/92

By RONNIE MORRIS
Supreme Court Reporter

ACIDIC fallout from rocket tests at Hangklip could kill plants and animals and pose a health risk to people, the Supreme Court was told yesterday.

The Rooi Els Local Council wants to evict Somchem (Pty) Ltd — an Armscor subsidiary — from the rocket testing site.

The council brought the action against the Overberg Regional Services Council, the Administrator of the Cape and Somchem.

Professor James Ronald Bull, professor of Organic Chemistry at UCT,

said in an affidavit hydrogen chloride emissions from the combustion of the solid rocket propellant, a colourless gas, combines with water to generate hydrochloric acid.

The acid is hazardous to humans and animals and is also a severe respiratory irritant which can cause inflammation and ulceration of the respiratory tract. It also causes skin irritation.

Mr Justice H L Berman postponed the application to May 17 next year to allow Somchem, the Overberg RSC and the Administrator time to file replying affidavits.

'Greens' try to flush chlorine out of the system

8/10/91 11/12/92.

(546)

CHLORINE, one of the chemical industry's main building blocks — it is used in plastics, pesticides and pharmaceuticals — would be banned if many environmental campaigners had their way.

Greenpeace has mounted a strong campaign against its use. But now, after much dithering, the chlorine industry and manufacturers of products which use the chemical are fighting back.

It is not that their survival is at stake. Chlorine is too important an ingredient in many modern products — packaging, paint and insulating products also contain it — for this to be severely threatened. But public opinion against the use of chlorinated substances, especially where alternatives exist, is taking its toll.

ICI Chlor Chemicals MD Bob Hunt says the industry's growth prospects are small. Besides the recession, the environmental threat is one of the main factors constricting the business. "We certainly won't see the growth we have enjoyed over the past years," he said.

Environmental consultant John Elkington also foresees tougher times ahead. "I don't see chlorine being flushed out of the industrial system. But the campaigners have got a strong grip on some parts of the

chemical industry and they will continue squeezing for some time."

Chlorine is a gas formed by passing electricity through salt. For every ton of chlorine made, more than a ton of caustic soda is produced. Other big producers include Solway, Bayer and Akzo.

Throughout the world, chlorine and its derivatives are used to disinfect drinking water. But its main importance is in the production of other products, including industrial chemicals. Some retain chlorine at the end of the process. Chlorinated products like DDT, PCB and CFCs have been implicated in global environmental problems. And dioxins — considered one of the world's most dangerous group of poisons — are created when chlorinated substances, such as PVC and PCB, are burnt at low temperatures.

Furthermore, the traditional method of making chlorine involves mercury. Small but sometimes dangerous quantities of the metal are emitted as waste into rivers and the sea. But — as the chemical industry is keen to point out — chlorine is an integral part of daily life.

Most chlorine production goes straight to plants which make other products. Chief among these is PVC which is used, among other things, to

insulate electrical equipment.

Other plastics using chlorine include polyurethanes, polycarbonates and epoxy resins. Chlorine is an intermediate in the production of titanium dioxide (the white pigment in paint and toothpaste) and silicones. Chlorinated solvents are widely used as cleaning agents. Only about 6% of the world's total chlorine production is used to purify water.

The chlorine industry and businesses using products made with it are under pressure from two fronts: environmental campaigners want to force the industry's closure and politicians are trying to control the build-up of chlorinated waste.

Campaigners have successfully highlighted possible health risks from the use and disposal of some chlorinated products. Among these are the creation of dioxins when PVC is burned in municipal incinerators and the production of potentially harmful by-products when chlorine reacts with other substances.

The industry has answers for most accusations, but the campaigners' position is strengthened by chlorine's

PETER KNIGHT

involvement in pollution incidents where there is no disagreement about the environmental damage caused. These include CFCs' role in the depletion of the ozone layer and the harmful effect of DDT and PCBs.

The industry has also had a poor record of voluntarily withdrawing potentially harmful products. It is, for example, still making and selling CFCs while it develops alternatives.

Hunt says this attitude is changing. "We have always withdrawn products which were demonstrably harmful to people and the environment. If there are other products like this, then the industry will phase them out as fast as possible."

"But we also need to be careful that the substitutes are safe. We are not doing this purely to protect our income. We do have a number of customers who simply don't know what to do when there are no ready alternatives."

Campaigners remain sceptical, pointing to the manufacture of CFCs as evidence of industry's recalcitrance. "Given that companies are still producing CFCs, we do not hold out much hope that they will withdraw other products in the future. The industry is playing Russian roulette with the environment," says Greenpeace's Madeleine Cobbing.

Yet while the mass of scientific evidence collected by Greenpeace and other campaigners is startling, its validity is not overwhelming because much of it is questioned by other scientists.

However, the campaigners have been winning the public relations battle and this is reflected in the market. Some large retail chains like Migros in Switzerland, Tengelmann in Germany, and Ikea of Sweden, have started to phase out their use of PVC. Some German and Danish local authorities no longer use PVC in public buildings and hospitals. The paper and pulp business is also moving away from chlorine bleaching.

These pressures worry the chlorine industry.

Stephen Harriman of Harriman Chernsult, a chemical consultancy, feels the industry has to defend a diminishing base. "The industry is having to retreat in some areas, notably CFCs and pulp bleaching. It might offer the best product for the job but it is faced with a negative emotional response from the consumers. Over the next 15 to 20 years, chlorine will probably retreat into the areas where it has no parallel on quality, such as PVC, water treatment and chemical synthesis." — Financial Times.

LETTERS



SA 'pressured over shipment of plutonium'

CAPE TOWN — There was little doubt that Japan had used political and economic leverage to get the South African Government to soften its stance on the controversial shipment of plutonium passing off the Republic's coast, Greenpeace International spokesman Damon Moglen said yesterday.

He told a press conference in Cape Town that the shipment should be seen as a dry run for "tens" more shipments of plutonium and nuclear waste before the end of the century, and strongly criticised Japan's announcement that it was to stockpile this load of plutonium rather than use it immediately.

The last report he had had of the ship's position was that, at 8 am yesterday, it was 150 nautical miles south-southwest of Port Elizabeth and travelling east-northeast at a "fast" 14,5 knots.

He said it was clear the route around the Cape had

been chosen as the course of least resistance.

"I do want to emphasise this is not a one-time shipment. This is a trial run," he said. "The fact that this route has been chosen suggests that this may well be the route of choice for forthcoming plutonium shipments."

The use of this route for plutonium also suggested that it could be the route back to Japan of the mixture of chemical and high-level nuclear waste generated in the production process — which would constitute the most radioactive cargoes ever transported, and which could begin next year.

He said there had been a great deal of ambiguity in South African Government statements on how close to the coastline the ship would be permitted to pass.

The vessel was now within South Africa's economic exclusion zone of 220 nautical miles, an area from which other countries seemed to have had no problem in banning it, Moglen said. — Sapa.

STAT 4/12/92

(56)

Refinery 'pours oil' on public's troubled waters ^{ARG 2/12/92} ^(Sb)

Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL standards at the huge Caltex refinery near Milnerton have slipped in recent months, following the recommissioning of two plants which have been mothballed since 1984.

But the company — the biggest American-owned business operating in South Africa — says it is highly concerned about the environment and is completely committed to minimising the impact of its operation.

It also believes many residents of surrounding suburbs like Table View and Bothasig have an unjustified perception of its operations and often unfairly accuse it of polluting the atmosphere.

These points were made by the company's senior management at a Press briefing at the refinery yesterday.

Mr Johann Lubbe, refinery director and general manager said they had experienced problems in March and April with the mothballed plants and there had been "lots of complaints".

A third mothballed plant is to come on stream in May, bringing the refinery back to full capacity.

Mr Lubbe conceded that the refinery could create "a nuisance value" for residents, as certain petrochemi-

cals had an offensive smell.

Also, under certain "very infrequent" atmospheric conditions, emissions such as sulphur dioxide were brought down to earth in the surrounding area.

"You can't hide a refinery," he said.

"A refinery does emit certain substances which might be referred to as a nuisance, either visibly or by smell."

The company made a substantial effort to curb emissions and to ensure staff were competent to handle the plant, Mr Lubbe added.

He dismissed claims that the refinery caused medical problems for residents.

"I think it's well-known, and it has been shown in surveys, that the whole Cape area has a fairly high incidence of asthma and bronchial problems.

"I think there's a public perception which often leads to people pointing to the refinery."

Mr Lubbe said they were committed to full public disclosure about the environmental effects of their operation.

"(And) we're saying we want to improve all the time," he added.

Public affairs spokesman Mr Terry O'Donovan said the company attempted to deal promptly with complaints.

Developers 'need to focus on environment'

B/D AM 2/12/92

(56) (S)

ENVIRONMENTAL issues are fast becoming the focal point of popular interest, and property developers who are not seen to conform or show interest will lose market share, says Anglo American Property Services estates development director Peter Gardiner.

"Rapid urbanisation poses a major threat to our natural environment and developers need to put something back as they continue to supply the market with residential and business developments.

"Development needs to be managed in a way in which there are tangible benefits to the man in the street," he said.

However, in heeding environmental concerns, the developer had to avoid over-capitalising its products, particularly in the current recession, he cautioned.

Gardiner said there was no excuse for not taking into account the advantages of environmental planning in development design to achieve:

- A more attractive end-product;
- The preservation of the natural resources of each property developed;
- An enhanced quality of lifestyle for the tenants or buyers;
- Fulfilment of a public education obligation; and
- A higher return on their investments.

"Although it is initially costly to capital-

PETER GALLI

ise, we are firm believers that in our sphere of development conservation can and must be made to pay its own way.

"Our environmental management policy establishes controls from the initiation of an estate development that is linked to provisions for its ongoing management and maintenance, through legal structures such as Business Park Owners and Homeowners' Associations," he said.

Ampros' estate concept provided conservation areas, a landscaped environment, security and community facilities managed by an association with an executive committee elected by residents.

"The size of our estates and business parks are designed so we can rationalise the capital cost of the enhancements necessary to create these facilities," Gardiner said.

The cost to communities of maintaining the environment was rationalised among unit owners, who paid a monthly levy to the Homeowners' Association of between R100 and R150 a month.

Ampros had three non-residential projects on its books — Waterfall Park and Kyalami Park in Midrand and Springfield Park in Durban. Its six residential projects were in Sandton, Chaka's Rock, Muizenberg, Midrand, Pretoria and Bellville.

Report on new cableway soon

Staff Reporter

A FEASIBILITY report by the Cape Town City Council on the proposed Signal Hill cableway should be available by February or March, Dr John Raimondo of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit said last night.

He was speaking at a meeting attended by disgruntled Boundary Road, Greenpoint, residents and the Waterval Ratepayers' Association last night.

Dr Raimondo, who is doing a separate feasibility investigation on behalf of would-be Signal Hill property developers the Table Mountain Cableway Company and a firm of architects, said no final decisions had been taken on the proposed development and the other possible cable route — running along Strand Street to Buitengracht Street — was being "as intensely investigated" as the Boundary Road cableway proposal.

Residents complained of the severe impact the proposed Signal Hill cableway would have if channelled through Boundary Road.

Reduced privacy, blocked views, noise and percentage decreases in the value of their properties were some of the issues raised.

Dr Raimondo said value decreases would be estimated at a later stage.

(56) CT 2/12/92

UCT to draw up plan for Peninsula mountains

50
82

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

UCT has won the contract to prepare a policy document for the future ecological management of the Cape Peninsula mountain chain.

The UCT consortium includes research units across

the academic spectrum.

It will be led by Professor Richard Fuggle, head of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Studies, and will be managed on a day-to-day basis by Dr John Raimondo, general manager of UCT's Environmental Evalua-

tion Unit.

UCT was one of eight tenderers for the contract which was announced in September by Dr Douglas Hey, chairman of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee.

At an Argus-Fairest Cape

ARG 3/12/92
"green" breakfast for business leaders today, Professor Fuggle called for the Peninsula to be recognised as a World Heritage Area.

He also called for a trust similar to Britain's National Trust to be set up to ensure the protection of the Peninsula's natural environment.

Third World air pollution near

GENEVA — Air in many Third World countries is getting more polluted, with heavy metals like mercury and cancer-causing chemicals increasingly entering the mix, says a United Nations report.

Several Third World cities were approaching "the massive air pollution levels of the notorious London smogs of 40 years ago," Dr Michael Gwinn of the UN Environment Programme told reporters earlier this week.

Although cities in developed countries had done much to improve air quality, some devel-

oping countries seemed unaware of the dangers, said the report.

The cost of the latest technology needed to tackle some of the problems kept poorer countries from using them.

The report, by the environment agency and the World Health Organisation, warned that air pollution would increasingly cause health problems, including damage to the heart, lungs and brain, as more and

more people moved to cities.

The report noted a UN prediction that 47 percent of the world's population would live in urban areas by the year 2000.

The two agencies joined in examining the air quality of 20 "megacities", which they said already had populations of at least 10 million or were expected to reach that number by the end of the century.

They said it was the first comprehensive overview of

world air pollution.

Mexico City had the dirtiest air, while New York, London and Tokyo had the cleanest.

It said the dangerous elements that were increasingly being found alongside the "traditional pollutants" included asbestos fibres, radon and benzene.

The new pollutants were in smaller quantities than the traditional pollutants, but they could nonetheless pose major

risks because they were extremely toxic, it said.

Open trash burning was a major problem in developing countries, the report said.

"There is no excuse for this going on," said Gwinn.

The problems of Mexico City, which is ringed by mountains, were made worse because of the thin air at its high elevation — 2240 metres — much above the other cities, which were generally near sea level.

'massive' levels (56)

Location often played a major role, with nearby deserts or barren lands causing dust storms that frequently fouled the air of Beijing, Cairo, Delhi, Karachi and Mexico City.

Motor vehicles were the main source of pollution in most of the cities, especially in Los Angeles, whose eight million registered vehicles were double those in second-place Sao Paulo, Brazil. Most of the cities had about one million.

Four cities — Seoul, South Korea; Karachi, Pakistan; Cairo and Beijing — each reported two pollutants at levels of more than double the WHO limits.

Ten cities — Bangkok, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Jakarta, Los Angeles, Manila, Sao Paulo, Shanghai and Tokyo — each had double the WHO limits for one pollutant.

London was low in all areas but carbon monoxide, a frequent element of car exhaust.

Tokyo had a serious problem with ozone, but reported only low levels of pollution in other areas.

The report cited incomplete reports from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Moscow had problems with dust, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides, but the city did not report levels of ozone and sulfur dioxide.

Sulfur dioxide had been a problem in the past in Moscow, the report said, casting doubt on the Russian data supplied. — Sapa-AP

On the move



MR Tota Matsipa has been appointed personal assistant to the managing director of Amalgamated Beverages Industries (ABI).

He formerly worked for SA Druggists as an industrial relations group adviser. Before that the 47-year-old Matsipa held a similar position at timber interests company Hunt Leuchars & Hepburn.

At one stage he was an industrial relations specialist at Nestle's Randburg branch.

Charging for water suggested by experts

Sowetan 3/12/92

Water use has trebled since 1950s and its scarcity highlighted:

IN seven years South Africa will join 26 other countries which currently have more people than their water supplies can adequately support.

This startling warning is contained in a new book on water, and its scarcity, worldwide.

Water use has tripled since the 1950s, and 26 countries - including 11 from Africa - now suffer water scarcity, Sandra Postel said at the launch of her book *Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity* in Washington recently.

South Africa, Malawi, Sudan and Morocco will by the end of the 1990s join the list of nations already suffering water scarcity below the annual level of 1 000 cubic metres of replenishable water a person, Postel says.

Three specialists on water, writing in a newly-launched reference book, *Environmental Management in South Africa*, elaborate on the seriousness of the problem.

They suggest a solution may lie in charging for water that reflect its real value as a scarce resource. "This would have the added bonus of reducing demand in some sectors of the community which squander water.

"(In recent years) the warning signs have become much clearer and they have been recognised, but the remedial measures are still in their infancy," they say.

The authors, Jay O'Keeffe, senior research officer at the Institute for Water Research at

Water quality is deteriorating in a number of ways, and will continue to deteriorate as pressure is put on the scarce supplies

Rhodes University, Maritza Uys, legal research consultant with the Water Research Commission in Pretoria, and Professor Michael N Bruton of Rhodes' JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology, contributed a chapter on freshwater systems in the comprehensive book.

"We are now in a better position to judge the trends in water supply and quality, and they are, on the whole pessimistic.

"The demand for water is increasing, and will have to increase enormously to upgrade the basic requirements of the previously disadvantaged black population in the new South Africa."

The authors warn, "Water quality is deteriorating in a number of ways, and will continue to deteriorate as more pressure is put on the scarce supplies.

"Rivers are literally running dry as impoundment and abstraction increase, and as the buffering capacities of catchments are reduced by urbanisation and devegetation." - *Sapa*.



Rhino extinct 'in 5 years'

(56) CR411219

LONDON. — Africa's rhino population faces extinction within five years because of unrelenting poaching, the United Nations envoy responsible for trade in wildlife warned here yesterday.

And middlemen in South Africa have been instrumental in the decline, said Dr Esmond Martin.

Dr Martin, here to meet Environment Minister Lord Strathclyde, made what amounts to the first formal statement from the UN Environment Programme predicting the imminent extinc-

tion of the black rhino, which is only found on the African continent.

Dr Martin said Taiwan, the main market for rhino horn, was failing to enforce a world ban on trade.

"Because of that, what we are witnessing in Africa is the worst slaughter of any mammal that's occurred at any time," he said. The population has been slaughtered down from 65 000 in 1972 to less than 2 500 today. In Zimbabwe the killing has reached such a rate that only 249 survive from more than 2 000 counted in 1990.

"However in India, Asian rhino numbers which were down to just a few dozen, have risen to more than 1 600 now. They're also rising in Namibia," he said.

The key to a new UN strategy is to allow countries to pay more for information than poachers receive for the horn.

The sums of money need not be large, he said. Poachers receive only about R280 for an average adult horn, which middlemen, usually in South Africa, then sell to Taiwan for about R5 600. — Telegraph

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5/12/92 (56)
Mountain water warning

Staff Reporter

TABLE MOUNTAIN streams could be contaminated with a parasite which may render the water unfit for consumption, the Mountain Club of South Africa has warned.

Cautioning hikers in its recent newsletter, the Mountain Ear, the club, however, points out that the warning was based on unconfirmed reports.

The article says the faecal parasite *giardia lamblia*, which grows in the stomach, was commonly found in the United States which made water from

most mountain streams and rivers there unfit to drink.

"Given the number of people visiting Table Mountain and the comparative lack of facilities for the numbers involved, it is hardly surprising that *giardia lamblia* may be present in our Table Mountain water," the article says.

Complaints include "low-grade chronic diarrhoea, nausea, flatulence, abdominal discomfort and a feeling of distension".

Hikers were warned to boil water or to take a supply of fresh water.

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Water for all by Christmas, says govt

Bloema
8/12/92
ALL South Africans would have an adequate supply of water this Christmas with relief efforts in drought stricken areas continuing throughout the festive season, Water Affairs spokesman Lucinda Scholtz said yesterday.

Although borehole drilling would be halted a week before Christmas, emergency supply operations would continue, she said.

Water Affairs, Forestry and Agricultural Development along with the Consultative Forum on Drought (CFD) were co-ordinating relief efforts to ensure an

RAY HARTLEY (56)

adequate water supply, she added.

A CFD spokesman said the situation was deteriorating in certain areas of Venda and Lebowa.

Water Affairs said restrictions were not expected for the PWV area next year following an improvement in the level of the Bloemhof dam and the halting of releases from the Sterkfontein dam.

Scholtz said it was too early to say the drought had been broken generally.

Detained pilots 'abandoned by SA'

THE Foreign Affairs Department had abandoned the two SA pilots currently being detained by Angolan police in Luanda, a spokesman for the pilots' company said yesterday.

Theunis Steyn of Africa Air Cargo said the ANC, which still has a representative in Angola, Peter Tshikare, had been approached for assistance.

The pilots, AAC MD Manfred Brüssow and Hendrik Lategan, were arrested by Angolan police following an unauthorised landing in Luena last week.

Angolan representative in Pretoria Manuel Augusto said the two pilots had not been in possession of current visas or travel documents as these were still at the Angolan embassy and had also affixed false Red Cross insignia to their six-seater Aztec aircraft.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed

ADRIAN HADLAND

that no application had been received for the ICRC's insignia to be used.

Steyn said the aircraft was on a mercy flight to Kinshasa with a doctor on board but that a fuel selector problem may have caused the emergency landing.

Augusto said, however, that the two men would be returned to SA in the interests of good relations.

Meanwhile, the ANC has confirmed it will send a representative to the emergency Frontline states meeting scheduled for Friday in Harare.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said it was possible ANC president Nelson Mandela would attend.

It is understood that the meeting, called by Frontline chairman Robert Mugabe, will discuss SA's alleged infringement of neighbouring countries' airspace.

Government has denied the claims.

Maize belt faces disaster as follow-up rains hold off

PRETORIA — High winds and temperatures in the mid-30s along most of the maize belt in the past 10 days have played havoc with early plantings and big rains were needed to prevent a disaster, Nampo said yesterday.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said: "Unless we get good rains before December 15, the situation will become extremely serious."

The optimum planting time had passed in the Transvaal, Free State and Natal and 1,2-million ha had not yet been planted.

In the western Transvaal and northern Free State, where about 60% of the total crop is normally grown, nearly half of the crop still has to be planted.

In the eastern Transvaal, highveld planting is about 90% complete but in Natal only 18 000 of the projected 70 000ha had been planted by the end of last week.

Van Zyl said much of the 2,2-million ha already planted was exposed to a big damage risk unless the rains came.

Maize planted late also faced the prospect of frost towards the end of the growing season. What appeared to be good rains at the start of summer made little if any difference to the critical moisture content of the soil.

"We don't want to cry wolf," Van Zyl

GERALD REILLY

said, "but the situation could become critical if we don't get immediate rains and if January and February are dry months."

Sapa reports that the Transvaal Agricultural Union said conditions were critical, particularly in the western Transvaal. The lack of follow-up rain in the past few days meant that many Transvaal farmers were facing bankruptcy.

About 70% of farmers planted crops soon after the first rains, but young maize plants have been scorched and virtually no grazing remains.

In the Tzaneen area, fruit trees are dying and a TAU spokesman said banana trees on some farms had been ruined.

Agricultural conditions in the eastern Transvaal are more promising, but follow-up rains are needed in the next 10 days to save crops.

Conditions have improved in the eastern Cape, but the interior remains dry.

Eastern Cape Agricultural Union president Tinus Hartman said good rains fell between Tsitsikamma and East London, and the outlook in coastal areas was promising.

Water for all by Christmas, says govt

ALL South Africans would have an adequate supply of water this Christmas with relief efforts in drought stricken areas continuing throughout the festive season, Water Affairs spokesman Lucinda Scholtz said yesterday.

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RAY HARTLEY (56)

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Scholtz said it was too early to say the drought had been broken generally.

SA water reserves may run out by 2020

GAVIN DU VENAGE

56

SA WOULD run out of water in the early part of the next century, Water Research Commission (WRC) executive director Piet Odendaal said yesterday.

Odendaal said adequate water supplies would become the most critical problem in SA's future development. *B/D/M 9/12/92*

"Even if all our political problems are solved tomorrow, we will still be faced with a situation where our water supplies will, according to projections, run out somewhere in the period 2020-2030," he said.

Department of Water Affairs and Forestry estimates had shown that it would cost between R10bn and R12bn to adequately address the problem — a sum of money that was just not available, said Odendaal, adding that other figures put the cost at R30bn.

The WRC was funding about 200 projects in 80 different organisations.

Odendaal said strategies ranging from reducing water consumption in agriculture and industry, eliminating pollution and better management of resources had to be explored.

Other avenues included the importing of water from neighbouring states and setting up desalination plants. Even towing icebergs had to be considered.

□ Sapa reports that several regions in SA have been declared drought disaster areas, but a number of others have been deproclaimed.

The national drought committee of the Department of Agricultural Development had declared Adelaide and the Gordonia-Upington areas drought-disaster areas with effect from November 1, and Beaufort West, Cradock, Calvinia, Victoria West, Laingsburg and Umvoti drought-disaster areas with effect from December 1.

Four other areas — Alexandria, Calitzdorp, Port Alfred-Bathurst and Steytlerville — have been deproclaimed drought disaster areas from December 1.

Committee chairman Stroebel Hofmeyr said because of good rainfalls in Transvaal and the Free State over the past month it had been decided not to declare those regions drought disaster areas.

1 700 objections to kaolin mining

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 1 700 people objected to the proposed mining of kaolin on portions of two farms in Noordhoek and on Chapman's Peak.

Mr. Chris Mocke, chief executive officer of the Regional Services Council, said yesterday in a statement that those who responded to the RSC's request for responses in writing were environmental and wildlife groups, tour operators, visitors to the Cape, various ratepayers' associations and residents from the area as well as from Cape Town, the northern suburbs and cities up-country.

He said objections to the proposed mining schemes dealt with harmful effects on the environment, pollution and health risks, the negative effect on tourism and a reduction in property values.

The closing date for applications to the RSC to prevent the proposed mining on farm 1 387 on Chapman's Peak and farm 939 — also known as Trentham — in Noordhoek, was on Monday.

at 9/12/92 (56)

Honours for 'greens'

STAR 9/12/92

(56)

By Julienne du Toit

The Green Trust Environment Awards, honouring those who contribute towards the conservation of South Africa's environment, are entering their fourth year.

The categories are:

- The corporate category for a company's serious commitment and action towards environmental improvement.
- The organisation category is for projects ini-

tiated by an environmental, religious or service organisations.

- An individual contribution that conserves, uplifts or restores the environment.
- A school project, from schoolchildren of any age.
- The Trees for Africa award is for the most effective tree-planting or greening project.
- The Sam Mabe Media Award is for stimulating action.

Concern at plan to pump effluent

into vleis

ARG 10/12/92
JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

THE proposal by Simon's Town municipality to pump treated sewage effluent through the Glencairn wetlands could change the ecosystem and further opinion should be canvassed before any final decision was taken.

This is the opinion of Glencairn resident and board member of the Fairest Cape Association Ms Pam Herr.

In an open letter to Simon's Town town clerk Mr Charles Chevalier, Ms Herr said she had asked leading environmentalists about the proposal.

"I find there is great concern about the proposed discharge of effluent into the vleis which effectively will change the entire ecosystem of the area," she said.

She suggested that fynbos experts and representatives of UCT's Freshwater Research Unit, the Cape Wetlands Trust, the Wildlife Society and other bodies be canvassed before any final decision was taken.

"This action might appear excessive, but it would seem a great deal of further research is required before an informed decision on the wetlands can be made," Ms Herr said.

"The residents in this area and particularly the municipality are custodians of one of the most scenic and environmentally rich routes in the world.

"We owe our tourists and future generations the respect they deserve by making good long-term decisions about an environment already under strain."

Asked this week what the proposal's status was, Mr Chevalier said the municipality's consultants were still investigating the issue in conjunction with the town engineer.

Flood of protest at Kaolin application

Environment Reporter

(56) APC 10/12/92

A FLOOD of protest has greeted Serina's application to mine kaolin on two Noordhoek properties.

A call by the Western Cape Regional Services Council for objections to Serina's proposed change in land use to allow mining resulted in some 1 700 objections by the closing date on Monday.

Objectors included residents of Noordhoek and other areas in the Peninsula, ratepayers' associations, tour operators, environmental groups and visitors to the Cape.

Their concerns included the environmental impact of the proposed mines, pollution and health risks, the negative effect on tourism and on flora and fauna, the reduction in neighbouring property values, aesthetic considerations, the presence of heavy vehicles and the broad issue of mining in the Noordhoek valley.

The objections will be forwarded to Serina for comment before being considered by the RSC.

● In October, Serina announced it would apply for the change in land use "as a gesture of goodwill and to foster a spirit of co-operation", in spite of legal advice that the company was fully entitled to exploit kaolin deposits on the site.

The RSC has contrary advice from senior counsel to the effect that the mining company is obliged to apply for permission to mine, and has hinted at court action should Serina fail to apply.

Experts predict a future without water

CP REPORTER 56
CP/News 13/12/92

EVEN if SA gets everything else right, the big crunch could come in the year 2020 when some experts predict the drying up of water supplies.

Piet Odendaal, executive director of the Water Research Commission (WRC) this week warned that it would become increasingly difficult to deal with water pollution problems because of dwindling water supplies, the rapidly increasing population and continued industrial and agricultural development.

"This is one field where we cannot depend on overseas research to show us the way. Our needs are unique and generally much greater and more urgent than those of the world's industrialised nations.

"We have to take the initiative and remain a leading nation in the field of water research," he said. "The WRC is already funding about 200 projects, but a serious challenge of supplying water and sanitation for developing communities has emerged.

"It is estimated that only two out of every three people in the country have access to a safe water supply, and only one out of two have access to adequate sanitation," he said.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry estimates that it would cost between R10 million and R12 million rand to adequately deal with this problem.

Odendaal said that available funds must be used as effectively as possible.

Council mops M'berg 'oil'

(5b) CT14/12/92

Staff Reporter

CITY council workers were called out yesterday to clean up Muizenberg beach which was polluted with a suspected oil derivative for about 50 metres in front of the pavilion.

City council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said the council was alerted on Saturday and had taken steps to clean it up. Mr Doman said samples of the pollutant had been taken and it would be identified today.

No ships were in False Bay and it was not known where the substance had come from, Mr Doman said.

Mr Anton Moldan, the head of the pollution division of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, said last night it was difficult for him to say whether the

oil could have originated from the sunken Katina P tanker off Mozambique. Analysis of the substance would have to be done before there could be any certainty as to where it had come from.

Several weeks ago when oil washed ashore at Clifton and Noordhoek beaches, Mr Moldan said it appeared to have originated from the sunken Katina P and further oil spills could occur.

He said if the pollution on Muizenberg was oil, it might have come from Katina P.

Meanwhile, Captour fielded over 100 queries at their city office yesterday morning from tourists at a loss for things to do because of the rainy weather.

The majority of people were from the Transvaal.

'Ricochetino' bullet

Rains bring hope of good production year

SOAKING rains fell over drought-stricken areas of the northern and eastern Transvaal at the weekend, bringing relief to farmers — and animals in the Kruger National Park and other Lowveld reserves. There was also widespread rain in Natal and Mozambique.

The rains were the first falls substantial enough to indicate a normal agricultural season might be possible.

A Weather Bureau spokesman said yesterday the heaviest falls were at Graskop where 126mm was measured, Skukuza (95mm), Tzaneen (84mm) and Levubu

RAY HARTLEY

(87mm). *BIDM 14/12/92*

At least 28mm fell in central Johannesburg, while 11,6mm was recorded in Pretoria and 21mm at Jan Smuts Airport.

Sapa reports that rain continued falling in the Kruger Park, where several roads were closed.

The rain led to the postponement of Saturday's one-day cricket international between India and SA at the Wanderers in Johannesburg, and delayed the start of play yesterday.

Maputo recorded 113mm, while 61mm was measured in Swaziland. Zimbabwe also enjoyed good rains. Other areas where rain fell included Komatipoort, Thohoyandou, Phalaborwa, Marnitz, Waterpoort and Warmbaths.

Rain also fell in northern Natal with 39mm measured at St Lucia. Sapa reports 94mm was recorded in the KwaZulu town of Ubombo.

Eighteen millimetres was recorded at Eshowe, and 15mm at Paulpietersburg.

Cattle farmers welcomed the rain, as

To Page 2

Rains

BIDM 14/12/92
they had been experiencing steady stock losses since the drought began more than a year ago.

Agriculture official Mike Walters said at the weekend government had not ruled out allocating more money to drought relief next year, despite good prospects for a normal commercial farming season.

Although no money had been set aside, the situation would be closely watched and emergency finances allocated if required.

Areas of Venda and Gazankulu were also being monitored as the drought remained unbroken there, he said. "Normally the onset of seasonal rains is later and later as you progress northwards."

A Consultative Forum on Drought spokesman said many areas remained at

56 From Page 1
between 10% and 25% of their normal seasonal rainfall.

The back of the drought would be broken only if there was 100% normal seasonal rainfall in affected areas and surface storage facilities managed to capture substantial amounts of water.

While commercial farming areas like the Free State were enjoying 100% of expected seasonal rain, rural areas where high concentrations of people relied on few water resources were still suffering, the spokesman said.

~~"What's worrying everyone at the moment is that there were good early rains last year, but they then petered out. This could also be the case this year."~~

GAME reserves are focusing sharply on eco-tourism and working for the support of local black communities, even to the extent of involving them in the management of parks.

Conservation officials say they believe the old policy stylebook has to be updated to suit the new SA, and its uncertain future.

"There will be no conservation miracle until we address the needs of the man in the veld — the rural dweller," said Kwazulu Bureau of Natural Resources director Nick Steele. "Gone are the days when we could talk about lofty strategies which are not supported by the average person."

"We face a disaster unless there is an agreed approach by both the political leaders and the scientific community on the importance of the natural, physical and biological environment."

Conservation Corporation chairman Dave Varty warned: "It is now increasingly recognised that wildlife projects which fail to recognise the socio-economic aspirations of communities around them serve to foster resentment and antagonism. This eventually leads to interference with conserved areas, and even an invasion of them."

The Kwazulu Bureau, established

A people's policy for parks

B10A-3 14/1/2/92

KARIN FRANKEN

Conservation Corporation recently received a grant of R650 000 from the European Trust which had heard of the group's commitment to involving local communities in its plans

and to ensuring that they shared in the benefits of its nature reserves. The money has been placed in the Rural Investment Fund, founded by the corporation.

The corporation currently manages three game parks — Londolozzi and Ngala in the eastern Transvaal and Phinda Resource Reserve in northern Natal.

Ngala's trust fund is jointly managed by the National Parks Board and Conservation Corporation.

Conservation Corporation management were inspired by Londolozzi's community projects to initiate their own ecotourism projects. It plans to use the grant for a primary school and clinic, a skills and training centre focusing on carpentry, building techniques, permaculture, and marketing fresh produce in Kwazulu.

The Natal Parks Board said that apart from employing people from local communities, it also offered brushwood and cut grass for fuel and culled animal meat at low prices for "undernourished residents."

BOOKS

Future plans for the Rural Investment Fund include fund-raising efforts for rural development. The targets will be business corporations, pension funds, foundations, family trusts and government agencies.

Steele said: "In Zulu culture the land is there for the use of all the people who live on it, rather than for the individual. This is the natural starting point for a conservation strategy. Game reserves and conservation areas must produce benefits for the local communities."

in 1982, has practised a policy of sharing natural resources with people living in the area, Steele said. He suggested three principles for securing nature reserves in the present and future:

- Where conservationists are attempting to prevent degradation of nature — for example, where there is a need to protect a forest from exploitation for firewood — alternatives should be provided for the local community.
- Conservation cannot be divorced from the economy of the region in which it is practised. If changes to lifestyle and culture are to be made as a result of conservation activities, there must be tangible benefits for the communities involved; and
- Conservation will be successful only if the people of the region see that it is in their interest to take part.

National Parks Board CE Robbie Robinson said the national parks had been involved in helping rural communities by employing local people or training them to become self-

Complete guide

On ... the Fish ...

Complete guide to green issues

BIDAM 14/12/92
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA, edited by Richard Fuggle and Andre Rabie (Juta, R185) (56)

GREEN awareness is holding an ever greater sway over the management of world affairs, and SA business has also increasingly had to consider the impact of its decisions on the environment. There is no more comprehensive a guide to addressing the issues involved than this 780-page tome, written by 52 authors from 15 different disciplines.

Public administrators, businessmen, lawyers and development personnel are among those who would find it an invaluable reference work.

So many developments in the environmental management sphere have taken place since the publication almost a decade ago of its forerunner *Environmental Concerns in South Africa* that a new book, rather than a revised second edition, was considered necessary.

International and SA legislation governing environmental management is one area of focus and a detailed examination is given to renewable and non-renewable resources, air and water pollution and environmental evaluation. The authors analyse the degree to which existing legal provisions meet SA requirements.

The section on non-renewable resources deals extensively with the environmental effects of mining, on- and off-shore. Other issues investigated are solid wastes, pesticides, radiation, noise and the effects of environmental mismanagement on human health.

The text is written clearly in a non-technical way, making it accessible to the layman.

The authors suggest that apart from population growth, environmental degradation is to a large extent due to the lack of human restraint in the use of resources.

LINDA ENSOR

the nation in brief

Fires kill 2 children in Cape

TWO adults and two children were burned to death and 30 families were left homeless after four fires in the Cape Peninsula and Boland. (56)

A man died and 18 squatter huts were destroyed in a fire that swept through a squatter camp at Fairyland near Paarl. Many residents lost all their belongings.

Six families were left homeless after a fire destroyed their homes in Ocean View yesterday morning. *Sowetan 14/12/92*

An elderly couple is being treated for shock after their two grandsons, aged four and five, were burned to death in a fire in a farmhouse in Stikland, Bellville.

In Khayelitsha a 26-year-old man was burned to death when a squatter's hut caught fire.

New salvoes in kaolin war ^(Sb)

Environment Reporter

THE principle of allowing open-cast mining in residential areas of the Peninsula needs to be addressed before particulars involving Serina's plans to mine kaolin at Chapman's Peak, says the Wildlife Society.

In a comprehensive objection lodged with the Western Cape Regional Services Council — one of 1 700 received by the RSC before last week's closing date — the society's conservation ecologist Mr Andrew Gubb said they were "strongly opposed" to any form of mining in the Peninsula.

"Discussions concerning re-

zoning applications to release further land for this type of activity, as well as discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of underground pipelines versus trucking of the kaolin ore, tend to divert discussion from the principle," he said.

The society acknowledged Serina's "considerable effort" to address community fears.

Despite mitigating measures to reduce the impact of kaolin mining, this activity remained "fundamentally incompatible" with the residential nature of the area, he argued.

The society had always acknowledged that the proposed

mining sites at Chapman's Peak and Trentham were not in a pristine condition.

But it was well-documented that the rehabilitation of alien-infested areas was not difficult, Mr Gubb said.

The mining company's proposed construction of a pipeline to carry slurry from the new mine to the existing plant at Brakkekloof — as agreed between Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group — should not be considered before a comprehensive environmental impact assessment, Mr Gubb said.

● Serina will be asked by the RSC to comment.

APR 14/12/92

Fertiliser factory denies polluting air

Staff Reporter

MILNERTON, Bothasig and Table View residents say a fertiliser factory close to their homes is a major source of air pollution.

But managing director the Kynoch factory, Mr Clive Thorpe, refutes the claim.

He said the brown gas, which contained oxides of nitrogen, was discharged about 80m above ground. No particles fell to the ground because they were lighter than air and diffused quickly.

Mr Thorpe denied that the factory increased emissions at night.

"Lower air temperatures and higher humidity make it more difficult for emissions to diffuse at night. The longer-lasting clouds only create the impression of more night-time pollution."

Department of Health air pollution officer Mr Pieter Odendaal said Kynoch was regularly inspected by the department.

STAR 14/12/92

St Lucia project gets the nod from environmentalists

Plans for a luxury holiday resort on the banks of the St Lucia estuary in northern Natal have received approval from one of the organisations which has headed the fight to save the area from mining.

Advertised in a glossy pull-out in a Sunday newspaper, the developers say the resort will be built "in the heart of the (St Lucia) wetlands".

Speaking from Durban yesterday, Campaign for St Lucia chairman Dr Nolly Zoloumis said he believed the site was inside St Lucia village and would not affect the conservation area.

The town's management board has for some time been

working closely with the Natal Parks Board.

The world-renowned St Lucia wetlands hit the headlines in 1989 when a proposed mining operation in the area raised a storm of protest.

The operation is now hanging on the outcome of an environmental impact assessment.

Commenting on the planned new resort, Zoloumis said people had to have access to the area, and it was best to confine building activities to within the precincts of St Lucia village.

Properly controlled ecotourism should be encouraged, he said. "Conservation is for people." — Sapa.

'Oily' beaches cleaned

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town City Council has cleaned up the polluted beach at Muizenberg and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute is analysing samples in an attempt to discover where the pollutant originated from.

Mr Anton Moldan, head of the pollution division of the institute, said yesterday he suspected that the pollutant was oil and may have come from the Katina P tanker which sunk off Maputo in April.

"It appears to be heavy fuel oil which is no longer toxic and is more of a nuisance than a threat to the environment," he said.

Mr Moldan said that the results of analysis would probably be known by tomorrow.

Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said workers from the council's cleansing department had cleaned up the spill over 50 metres in front of the Muizenberg pavilion over the weekend.

(56) CT 15/12/92

Environmental group hails Berg action plan

DURBAN — ^{STAN} Environmental group Bergwatch has hailed the proposed plan of action for the control of development in the Drakensberg as a "promising" sign.

Bergwatch said it was

^{17/12/92} pleased at the announcement by Dr DS Rajah, MEC for Planning, Land Affairs and Development, but added: "We need to know exactly what is meant by development before we can be too enthusiastic".

⁽⁵⁶⁾ This week Dr Rajah said the Executive Committee had approved a plan for the control of development in the Drakensberg, including the establishment of a discussion forum of all interested groups.

Alarm over atomic-energy coastal land sale

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

5b
A29 16/12/92

THE decision by the Atomic Energy Corporation to sell its large coastal property at Ystervarkpunt near Albertinia has been queried by a "greatly concerned" Botanical Society.

The property, on the southern Cape coast west of Mossel Bay, has a R8-million price tag and was acquired by the corporation for its now-cancelled reactor development programme. It already has been developed with expensive housing, roads

and other facilities.

The society, which wants the decision to sell reviewed, has pointed out the property contains some 2 000 hectares of pristine coastal lowland fynbos which is of "very great conservation and ecological value".

It wants to know why the site is to be sold to the highest bidder, "with the AEC having undertaken neither to investigate the environmental implications of releasing the land for development, nor to allow time for a public debate to develop around the issue".

Said Botsoe spokesman Mr Murray Taylor: "As a quasi state body, funded largely by public funds, the AEC should be mindful of its responsibility to manage its resources in the public interest.

"In seeking to dispose of its property, therefore, the AEC should look beyond the immediate financial gains to be derived in order to ensure that the cultural, historical and environmental value of the land is not compromised."

In response, the AEC denied any undue haste in selling the property

and said it had been negotiating with the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs and Cape Nature Conservation for the past 18 months.

Although the conservation department had been interested, it had declined the offer.

AEC spokesman Mr Nic Lighthelm confirmed they had not called for public comment on the proposed sale.

"The AEC regards its referring the matter to an appropriate nature conservation department as sufficient contact," he said.

Historic Long Street an urban conservation area

(56) ARG 16/12/92

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THE provincial executive committee has approved a city council application to declare Long Street between Strand Street and Buitensingel an urban conservation area.

Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring said the decision confirmed that the Provincial Administration was "serious about conserving our heritage".

In a 1983 report, the provincial chief town and regional planner said Long Street had a unique character, mainly because of the many old attractive Victorian and other buildings abutting the street.

"With their colonnaded ve-

randahs these old, picturesque buildings enhance the area of which a portion otherwise would have been struggling as a retail area, because of its remoteness from the central business district," he said.

Declaring the urban conservation area means property owners and developers will be bound to negotiate any changes to the buildings within strict limits.

The declaration does not take away or give any new rights to property owners.

Mr Meiring said: "I trust this approval will strengthen the hand of the city council to conserve the unique character of this special street and to use it as a further means to promote tourism."



BYGONE ERA: Cape Town's Long Street with its buildings decorated by "broekie lace" along the upper-floor balconies.

Sandman sweeps into Cape beaches

W/M 18/12-22/12/92 (56)

MOSSSEL BAY'S municipality has resorted to trucking in tons of sand to fill beaches denuded by recent heavy storms in time for the lucrative holiday season.

Many other beaches on the eastern and southern Cape coast were damaged during heavy storms in October and early November.

Most affected beaches were said to resemble cobbled walkways as unusually high spring tides coupled with gusting easterly winds, at times up to 100km/h, drove away sand cover.

In some places, 19th century wrecks were exposed for the first time in decades.

While some local authorities opted to let nature take its course, the Mossel Bay municipality trucked in sand and used bulldozers on sections of the popular De Bakke and Dias beaches.

Town clerk Willem van Heerden said 80 truckloads of sand, totalling 1 300 cubic metres, had to be used to fill the denuded De Bakke beach.

"It is a little better now," he said. At Dias beach, bulldozers had to be used to level walkways to allow access to the beach, he said.

The Plettenberg Bay municipality had to remove and rebuild walkways providing access to the beaches after sand around them was washed away.

Town clerk Alex Smart said nature had taken its course with the level of sand having risen more than a metre. It has been 17 years since storms caused such heavy damage to Plett's beaches, he said.

At George's popular Victoria Bay, the beach is still one mass of cobble-

After storms lashed the Cape coast tons of sand have been dumped on beaches in time for the holiday rush.

By SHADLEY NASH

stones. The regional authority said it was advised to let nature take its course and restore the beach.

George publicity association spokesman Elena du Toit said that Victoria Bay was now "Mediterranean" and she was "praying to the good Lord" to bring back the sand.

Little damage was caused to beaches further down the coast towards Port Elizabeth, with destinations like the Wilderness, Herolds Bay, Keurboomstrand and Nature's Valley minimally affected.

A number of shipwrecks dating back to the 19th century were left exposed on Mossel Bay beaches. At De Bakke, a Norwegian ship, Seagulls, which sank in 1894 was exposed.

At Santos beach, two wrecks were exposed, that of a French ship, Galatea, which sank in 1874, and a British ship, Erin, which went down in 1846.

"The big one which still eludes is the Danish ship, Kronprins von Denmark, which sank off Mossel Bay in 1754," said Errol van Heerden, a municipal superintendent at De Bakke.

He said parts of the ships which were loose would be given to the local museum. The rest of the wrecks had to be covered to meet the holiday rush.

— Pen



Sea, sea everywhere and no sand in sight ... Beaches were denuded after recent storms hit the Cape coastline

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

Eyes on the environment in '93

LEADING companies such as Pick 'n Pay and Anglo American Property Services (Ampros) will continue to focus on the environment as they enter 1993, with the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce adopting the environment as its theme for the annual Design for Living exhibition.

"The current rapid rate of urbanisation is a major threat to South Africa's natural environment,"

warned Ampros Estates Developments director Peter Gardiner when he spoke in Cape Town on new living styles for the future.

"Developers who are not seen to show concern for the environment will lose market share.

"As far back as 1970, I was summoned to a conservation conference in Natal to answer the charge that residential development, or the expan-

sion of suburbia as we know it in this country, is the worst form of pollution known to man.

"It was an uncomfortable day which convinced me that we had an obligation to put something back as we provided the market with attractive lifestyle, both at work in our business parks and at home in our residential estates."

Mr Gardiner said developers had to heed the advantages of environmental

planning to achieve

● More attractive properties.

● Preservation of the natural resources on each property.

● An enhanced quality of lifestyle.

● A higher return on investment.

He pointed out that Ampros Estates Developments provided for conservation areas in addition to extensively landscaped environments, security in the home or workplace and a range of community facilities.

These were managed by an association with an executive committee elected annually by the property owners.

"The cost to our new communities of maintaining this utopia is rationalised among householders, who pay a monthly levy to the home-owners association on each estate of between R100 and R150 a month," said Mr Gardiner.

Cape Town Chamber of Commerce exhibition manager Mike Bertram said choosing the right theme for Design for Living was "vital", as it gave a focus to the exhibition.

"After careful consideration of many suggestions, the environment was cho-

sen as next year's theme.

"It was felt that the selection of this internationally topical and critically important subject would best serve as a centre-point of the exhibition.

"The chamber will budget funds and earmark a lot of time to produce a special exhibit on the environment.

"Exhibitors will also be requested to highlight the theme on their individual stands," said Mr Bertram.

In a recent chamber bulletin, he quoted Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay, as saying: "Alert business people are using the environmental issue to give them a competitive edge and at the same time enabling them to give the consumer a better product."

Mr Bertram attributed the quote to a story on the business page of the Sunday Times Cape Metro on November 8.

Under the heading "Time to stop dithering about the environment", Mr Akckerman said energy-efficient products were rapidly gaining favour with the public, who would support companies showing care for the environment as part of their social responsibility programme.

PAC's claims on violence in PWV area 'ludicrous'

POLICE have described as "ludicrous" PAC claims that the activities of its armed wing Apla are behind a decrease in violence in the PWV area.

The SAP has suggested that Apla might have been responsible for train attacks on the Reef.

Any decline in train and other violence could be attributed to increased police action and national peace committee initiatives, police said.

PAC West Rand regional chairman Ntsundeni Madzunya said on Friday that his organisation had noted a sharp decline in political violence since Apla attacked whites at King William's Town and Queenstown. This was in contrast to "international scarecrow" suggestions that the attacks would increase violence.

The general decrease in political violence, train attacks and attacks in which more than six people died indicated that Apla's threat of retaliation for every black killed had "borne fruit", Madzunya said.

The decline in the wake of the Apla attacks in the eastern Cape and subsequent threats proved that a "mercenary" element under the state's control was primarily responsible for

STEPHEN COPLAN

violence in the PWV area.

"It is common cause in international relations that the threat of military action by those who have a demonstrable capacity to retaliate always serves as a preventative measure in the conduct of aggression by opposing forces," Madzunya said.

The response of ordinary citizens, who were joining the PAC in large numbers, showed there was a perception "on the ground" that Apla was responsible for stemming violence.

The PAC had declared 1993 constituent assembly year but believed "the bullet cannot be abandoned until the ballot has been secured".

The PAC and Apla would refuse to co-operate with the Goldstone commission's probe of Apla's activities.

In response to growing international criticism of the PAC, Madzunya said the organisation's policy had always been "to accommodate the wishes of the oppressed" and to shape its own destiny.

The PAC still owed allegiance to the OAU, which had recently criticised the organisation for not distancing itself from Apla's attacks.

Justice slams Comsa allegations

THE Justice Department has denied allegations that SA's criminal justice system had broken down and lost the confidence of the majority of the people.

The allegations, made by the Commonwealth Observer Group to SA (Comsa), also said that SA courts were not interested in the protection of human life.

The Department described the findings as a generalised, ill-informed and superficial evaluation of the country's criminal justice system.

"SA is justifiably proud of its legal system, which ranks amongst the foremost in the world," it said.

"The SA legal system is continuously involved in a process of dynamic change and the Minister of Justice and Department of Justice have not and will not hesitate to take the lead in this regard."

An invitation was issued to Comsa to meet officials and present any proposals which could help improve the administration of justice. — Sapa.

Trees go to retain view

BIDAY 2/11/92
GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE Forestry Department has been forced to remove hundreds of pine trees it had planted along the scenic Long Tom pass and to halt afforestation that would have affected tourism and ecology in the Lowveld.

Seedlings planted over an area of 35ha, with a commercial potential of R500 000, were removed after local residents and the Wildlife Society lodged objections.

More than 2 000 residents of the Lydenburg/Sabi district petitioned the department to remove the trees, which they said would obscure the panoramic view for which the pass was famous.

Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Andrew Duthie said the department had undertaken to remove up to 20% of the young trees planted along the pass that links the Highveld to the Lowveld.

The trees would have obscured "the entree to the Lowveld", as well as threaten natural vegetation in the area, Duthie said.

Seasonal flowers that bloomed spectacularly would have disappeared as they could not compete with the trees.

Department spokesman Bosman Olivier admitted that the planting was a "mistake" and that a new policy of environmental assessment had been drawn up.

Planting would continue in the area, but in such a way as not to obscure the view. Trees would be planted only behind hillocks along the road and along the natural contour lines of the pass, instead of in uniform rows.

The cost of uprooting the trees, estimated at R20 000, came off the department's trading budget and not from government, he said.

Drought far from broken, says forum

6/07/92 24/12/92
THE drought gripping parts of northern Transvaal, Natal and Transkei is "far from broken", says a multiparty consultative forum in its latest report.

The Consultative Forum on Drought, which consists of 70 organisations including government and development agencies, also says good rains in other parts of the country could easily give way to dry conditions in the new year.

"It is worth remembering that last season's rainfall pattern was one of good rains at the beginning of the season, followed by their failure in January, February and March," says the forum.

It says the agricultural sector of the economy has suffered a serious setback from which it will take some time to recover, even with good rains.

The situation continues to deteriorate in northern Transvaal, with most of the region receiving 50% or less of its expected seasonal rainfall. As a result, emergency water supply operations will have to be stepped up in the region.

The situation remains particularly bad in Venda with the Vondo Dam, which supplies the homeland's capital Thohoyandou, less than 5% full.

"Rural villages outside the Vondo network desperately need 50 boreholes. The five drilling rigs of the Agricultural Development Department are working overtime," says the forum.

While good rains have fallen in parts of northern and central Natal, the situation remains serious in many areas of the province.

Wits University Climatology Research Unit member Colleen Vogel says droughts are "endemic to SA" and need to be managed.

"Drought management... is dogged by bureaucratic inertia, failure of government to follow through with a detailed hazard plan and a complex situation that prevails in rural areas, where hazard/disaster situations are permeated by problems that often have their roots in poverty," she says.

A lack of reliable data also hinders drought relief intervention and manage-

RAY HARTLEY

ment. It is difficult to trace population movements, and information on the sequestration of farmers is hard to come by.

At the same time more than 50 000 people in SA are living below flood lines, says Pretoria University's Prof W Alexander.

These people had settled in homes below the high-water marks of previous floods during the prolonged drought of recent years, Alexander says in a report on drought relief measures.

"Should severe, widespread flooding occur, there will inevitably be a loss of life - possibly several hundred persons during a single major flood.

"The consensus among climatologists is average to above-average rainfall can be expected during the coming season," he says in the forum's December Drought Update.

"There is some indication of global climatic disturbances and climate patterns that could lead to severe flooding in SA within the next one or two years," he says.

Unlike many countries, SA does not have national or local flood warning systems which are essential to give those living below the flood line adequate time to evacuate their areas.

"The most effective means for reducing the risk of loss of life during floods is to prevent residential occupation of flood prone areas," he says.

Flood warning systems linking local authorities to local communities and river watch systems for isolated communities have been developed at Pretoria University.

A computer-based flood advisory Service would collect, process and transfer weather forecasts and warnings of heavy rain to registered users across SA who had access to telephones and desktop computers, he says.

A river watch system had also been developed.

Manuals on flood preparedness were being prepared by the university to outline procedures to prevent loss of life in flood-prone areas.

Flood warning for dam properties

GAVIN DU VENAGE

PROPERTY developments on the edge of Hartebeespoort dam may be below the highwater flood line, the Water Affairs Department warned in a statement yesterday. (56)

The department said that prospective buyers on the waterfront should make sure their property was not below the flood line, as they would have little chance of compensation should water damage occur.

Residential units were being built on former agriculture land, which was almost worthless as it was situated in the servitude area — the area used to store water temporarily during floods.

Original landowners had been compensated for the servitude area, and new owners would have difficulty in pressing damage claims.

The department would also not allow any sewerage purification works below the flood line, and if systems which posed the slightest pollution risk during heavy rains were installed, action would be taken against owners in terms of the Water Act.

The department added that exclusive use of a section of the water's surface, which some property developers were advertising, did not exist.

ENVIRONMENT — 1993

JANUARY — MARCH.

Mountain plan soon

Environment Reporter (56) AUG 10/3/93
A PRELIMINARY report on proposed policy guidelines for managing the Cape Peninsula's mountain chain should be ready by May, the University of Cape Town's environmental evaluation unit (EEU) has announced.

UCT was appointed by the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee to prepare policy guidelines, and the EEU is administering the project.

Co-ordinator Ms Sue Lane said accountability and public involvement were "fundamental principles" underpinning the investigation, and the views of interested parties were being canvassed.

Susan Watts reports on a dispute over engineering herbicide-resistant crops

Greenpeace fails to foil patent deal

STW 5/11/93

ENVIRONMENTAL organisations object to patents on life. Patents were designed to protect inventions — to cover the mouse-trap, not the mouse itself, they say. Their latest dispute is over the first patent to be granted on herbicide-resistant crops. Greenpeace has failed to persuade the European Patent Office to withdraw this patent — granted on plants engineered to resist the Basta herbicide.

The group's main concern is that the herbicide is manufactured by Hoechst, which was granted exclusive rights to exploit the resistant crops. Environmentalists argue that this type of "monopoly" control over genetic resources should not be trusted to any individual, and certainly not to a multinational corporation.

But Plant Genetic Systems, the Belgian company that filed the original patent and settled the patent deal with Hoechst, argues that since the German company is not a seed company it is not in a position to set up a full monopoly — selling both herbicide-resistant seed and the herbicide. Hoechst would need to strike a development deal with a seed company to create the situation environmentalists fear, the Belgians argue.

Greenpeace is opposed to the herbicide-resistance patent since it believes it promotes the use of harmful chemicals.

Dr Anne-Marie Bouckaert, director of the technology planning and protection division at Plant Genetic Systems (PGS) disagrees. She said: "Of course that particular herbicide will be used more

often, but it will be replacing other herbicides which are more detrimental to the environment."

Greenpeace is also unhappy because conferring Basta resistance on crops involves adding only a single gene, taken from bacteria. The anxiety is that this increases the likelihood of the gene "escaping" and passing into species via pollen. This would risk the spread of herbicide resistance to weeds.

Even Dr Bouckaert concedes this point. "Because the trait is due to one gene it could more easily be transferred to another species," she said. But she said that PGS was one of the most experienced European companies testing genetically engineered crops outside the laboratory.

"There may be cross-pollination between wild species and cultured

crops, but in practice you see that it occurs in very few cases."

She added that the fact that the Basta transformation involves only one gene also makes it easier to track the gene if it does jump.

"Escape of genes in either direction is a problem of which farmers are very aware. Farmers and breeders who pay a substantial amount for seeds need to avoid at any price cross-pollination with wild species. They are therefore already using natural barriers — taking care about which crops they plant next to each other."

But Greenpeace argues that this is too big a chance to take. Sue Mayer, director of science, said: "Farmers cannot control who grows what over the hedge." — The Independent News Service. □

Hardships threatened by global weather shifts

SOUTH Africans had better get used to radical variations in their weather, with droughts and floods increasingly likely over the coming decades, or find themselves hopelessly unprepared for major global climatic shifts.

Wits Climatology Research Unit deputy director Janette Lindesay says the signs are there that the world is heading for its first major climate shift for several centuries, presaging greater unpredictability in global weather patterns.

As southern Africa, at "normal" times, is caught between the tropics and the middle latitudes, which make it subject to variable weather, the climate change could lead to even greater variation on the sub-continent, she says.

The climate change would take "several decades" and ultimately result in a warmer world, although it is impossible to predict what new climate patterns will emerge, she says.

Global temperatures, which have been increasing gradually this century, rose markedly over the past 12

years, and climatologists are still trying to understand this, she says.

The most recent global climate change, from cooler to warmer conditions, came at the end of The Little Ice Age which lasted for about a century.

The most recent true ice age occurred about 18 000 years ago, and had been followed by warming and a period of greater variability, but there is no cycle according to which global climate changes can be predicted. Unfortunately, the greater variation experienced at present could bring more extreme dry and wet spells in southern Africa, causing further hardship for farmers who depend on reliable and predictable rainfall, Lindesay says.

Climatologists believe SA's fairly regular nine-year wet and dry spells have been upset. The previous nine-year dry spell was supposed to have ended in 1987, but has persisted into the '90s, with the past three years unusually dry.

The "geographical accident" which finds SA in two climatic zones is compounded by the fact that the



RAY HARTLEY

56

summer rainfall areas are located on a plateau, with the escarpment preventing moist air from getting to the interior from the Atlantic and Indian oceans.

This makes SA's summer rainfall areas dependent on moist air flowing in from the tropics to the north. This is, in turn, affected by the El Niño phenomenon, which has been found to suppress rain formation, she says.

It has been widely speculated that El Niño — a warming of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America — led to a weakening of the high pressure system in that area, thereby adversely affecting southeast trade winds over the Pacific. Because air normally flows from the high pressure system to a low pressure system over northern Australia and Indonesia, El Niño has weakened this wind system and affected global weather, ultimately preventing the formation of the "cloud band" which,

in good rainfall periods, extends from Africa's tropics across SA.

The little publicised La Niña, El Niño's rain-bringing twin, leads to periods of heavier rainfall in SA.

Although SA's seasonal rainfall is very difficult to predict, the signs are there that below average to average rains can be expected in the rest of the summer season, with the decline of El Niño in 1992 and the absence of any other "dominant governing factor", she says.

Under the circumstances, SA's Weather Bureau does "an excellent job" with its daily forecasts which show a good understanding of global and southern African climatic conditions. "The only thing we can predict about SA's seasonal weather is that it will be unpredictable," she says.

"The anticipated global climate change has been partially prompted by the activities of human beings on the planet. Industrial gases, including carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons, and deforestation, among other factors, are probably affecting the climate," she says.

While greenhouse gases contribute

to the natural climatic tendency for the earth to warm, widespread deforestation is changing moisture levels in the atmosphere and changing the extent to which the earth reflects sunlight, she adds.

Climatologists are working on plausible scenarios to explain climate change, variability and prolonged drought. Mechanisms to deal with potential droughts and floods in the coming decades need to be established, while forums such as the Joint Government-Development Agency Consultative Forum on Drought need to become permanent features of SA life, she argues.

"Perhaps the most sensible body would be a forum or committee on natural disasters which would include drought," she says. South Africans are victims of a "hydro-illogical cycle", which leads to great concern during droughts, followed by apathy after good rains.

"One thing of which we can be certain is that drought will recur. We don't exactly know when or how severe it will be, but there will be another drought," she adds.

A COMMONLY cited criticism of...

Nuke 'rethink' in future SA

JOHANNESBURG. South Africa's commitment to nuclear and military research would need an urgent rethink when a democratic government came to power, says a policy report issued yesterday.

CT 16/2/93
The report, drawn up by a Canadian-based research centre, was initiated by the ANC, Cosatu and other groups.

It says SA's atomic energy budget is seen "among the democratic movement as part of the military industrial complex" and in many parts of government as "a huge drain". — Sapa

Rhino horn deals: ⑤ South Africans held

HARARE. — Two South Africans, an agent of Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) and a police officer are among a group of 13 people arrested in Bulawayo on allegations of dealing in rhino horn.

OT 17/2/93
The South Africans, Mr Asher Zeev Fisher, 42, and Mr Brian Leslie Priest, 48, have been released on R500 bail, with orders to surrender their travel documents and report daily to Bulawayo police.

Public land probe agrees on control of mountain chain

APR 26/2/93 (56)
JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

PROGRESS has been made by a working group investigating the rationalised control of public land in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE).

Representatives of the nine government and quasi-government departments involved in managing the public parts of the PNE, which include most of the Peninsula's mountain chain, today announced consensus on a plan that could see future control vested in just two authorities.

The plan could make the Cape Town City Council responsible for Table Mountain and the mountain chain as far as Fish Hoek, and the Western Cape Regional Services Council for the remaining natural area in the southern Peninsula.

If this speculation is correct, major changes will include:

- The Department of Public Works giving up control of the Grootte Schuur estate above De Waal Drive.

- The SADF forfeiting land on the summit of Karbonkelberg at Hout Bay, on the Twelve Apostles above Llandudno, and above Glencairn.

- The Cape Town City Council swapping pine plantations at Steenbras and Wemmershoek dams for the Cecilia state forest.

- The National Botanical Institute relinquishing control of Table Mountain along the Smuts Track from the top of Skeleton Gorge above Kirstenbosch to Maclear's Beacon.

The working group, chaired by Cape Attorney-General Mr Frank Kahn, SC, was appointed last year by Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, who said the fragmented control and ownership of the mountains warranted an inquiry.

Mr Kahn announced today that consensus had been achieved after meetings on December 9 and on Wednesday, when all the authorities controlling public land in the PNE had been asked to justify their presence.

The authorities involved were the Cape Town City Council, the Western Cape RSC, the municipalities of Fish Hoek and Simon's Town, the National Botanical Institute and the departments of Water Affairs and Forestry, Defence, and Public Works and Land Affairs.

Mr Kahn said submissions had been debated, after which consensus had been achieved on a potential model for rationalising control of public land within the PNE.

"The model is based on the concept of consolidating the conserved areas in the northern and southern parts of the Peninsula as separate entities for management by the most appropriate authority."

Mr Kahn declined to give details at this stage, saying some of the participants had to report back to their principals.

"In the interim a sub-group has been formed to begin investigating the more detailed implications of the rationalisation proposals — such as the use of infrastructure, the allocation of equipment and the deployment of personnel."

SA must guard against oil tanker pollution hazard

Political Staff

56 APR 26/2/93

SOUTH AFRICA would have to exercise strict control to avoid the possibility of a major oil spill from ageing tankers rounding the Cape.

Replying to a debate on the Marine Traffic Amendment Bill, the Minister of Transport, Dr Piet Welgemoed, quoted a report in which Lloyd's of London stated that 68 percent of the international tanker fleet was older than 10 years.

"We are going to have problems with pollution in the near future if the oil tanker fleet is not modernised."

The Bill prohibits marine traffic from approaching within 500m of offshore installations, such as the Moss gas drilling platform off Mossel Bay. Mariners who contravene the prohibition could be fined or imprisoned.

Dr Welgemoed said the Department of Transport, the police water wing and the Navy would jointly enforce the legislation.

Offshore installations would also monitor offenders on their own radar systems.

The 500m exclusion zone conformed to international conventions, he said, but Mr Willie Botha (CP Uitenhage) said the 500 m was inadequate and should be doubled.

The Bill was supported by all parties. — Sapa.

Hout Bay wins delay over dune houses

ARG 26/2/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

BANKORP Properties' application to develop more than 300 houses on sand-dunes in Hout Bay in return for a nature reserve at Sandy Bay will be withdrawn for at least six months.

This was announced to applause by the deputy chief executive of the Absa banking group, Mike de Blanche, at an emotionally charged meeting in Hout Bay last night attended by about 300.

The group's rezoning application to develop the Hout Bay section of its 270 hectare property, which includes most of Sandy Bay and the northern slopes of the Karbonkelberg, has already been advertised.

The closing date for objections is March 19 — an extension of two weeks beyond the statutory minimum.

Mr De Blanche's surprise announcement was made mid-way through the meeting after Absa had been accused of trying to "railroad" its proposal through the legal process.

Asked why Absa had refused to accept a six-month moratorium on its application — suggested at a meeting called by the South Peninsula Environmental Forum a fortnight ago — Mr De Blanche took the audience by surprise when he responded: "Yes, I'm agreeing to that, to indicate our anxiety to resolve this question.

"We will withdraw the application for six months."



Picture: WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus.

LONE VOICE: Veteran Sandy Bay activist Ms Lisa Kruger-Liptrot, the only person in a lively audience of 300 to support Absa's plans to develop the Hout Bay dunes, waits to speak at last night's meeting.

Mr De Blanche said after the meeting he would "put that in motion" as soon as he returned to Johannesburg.

Tony Barbour of Earthlife Africa said Bankorp had bought the property knowing it had no development rights.

"They're offering to trade-off development rights they never had," he said.

Mr De Blanche said Bankorp had "inherited" the property.

Former ratepayers' association chairman Dave de Freitas said Trust Bank — Bankorp's former holding company — had taken a chance and backed a failed developer.

"Why does the public of Hout Bay have to bail out a bad investment on the part of Trust Bank?" he asked.

Controversial

STAM 26/2/93
resort not

yet approved

By Shirley Woodgate (56)

A controversial nature resort which is being planned below a vulture breeding colony in the Magaliesberg protected nature area has not yet received the official go-ahead, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

Entering the row between conservationists and the owners of the farm Leopard Lodge, the TPA this week claimed only a conditional permit was granted after an application by Monex Development Company.

"Various absolute conditions will have to be met before development can begin."

The developer had no rights unless the Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation recommended that the Executive Committee of the Transvaal support the application.

"At this stage negotiations are still under way between the applicant and the TPA."

"A final application confirming the conditions has not been received from the applicant, nor has such an application been approved by the TPA."

River Day — March 5, 1993

RIVER DAY 1993 will be celebrated on March 5, and forms part of National Water Week (March 1 - 5).

The River Day committee's mission is to create a broad awareness of the plight of the Cape's rivers and freshwater resources, and to encourage people to actively conserve their local waterways.

Numerous activities and events are planned for Water Week, including educational programmes, river clean-ups and a mural painting competition.

The main focus will be an exciting programme on River Day for school children at the Waterfront.

● For further details on River Day telephone:
Di Wilson at 701-1397
Janice Barret at 438-4082
or Joanne Harrison at 24-3330.

SOYTH 2772 - 313193

Consensus on land plan

Staff Reporter

THE working group appointed by the Administrator of the Cape to reorganise the management and control of public land in the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment announced this week that consensus had been reached on a potential model for

reorganisation.

Chairman of the working group and attorney-general of the Cape, advocate Mr Frank Kahn, said the 11 authorities would be replaced by two main bodies which will manage the Table Mountain area and the southern Peninsula chain. The working group does not

envisage any retrenchments with this model, but rather an increase in productivity by using the existing man power on a more cost-effective basis. Mr Kahn said details about the model could not be released at this stage, as some of the participants still had to require authority from their principles.

56 CT 27/2/92

ed ● New evidence expected at Goniwe inquest

Residents pay for water leaks: expert

Sowetan 26/2/93

(S6)

~~193-262~~

By Joe Mdhlela

■ **WASTE NOT** Up to half of supplies

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN CERTAIN cities and towns made no effort to preserve water, Water Research Commission research manager Mr Charles Chapman said this week.

The wastage, argued Chapman, came about as a result of their failure to reduce leaks in the distribution systems.

He said cases had been reported where up to 50 percent of purified water bought

councils buy don't reach users:

by local authorities did not reach users.

To recoup their losses, local authorities normally increased the tariffs, Chapman said.

"Since local authorities pay for all water purchased by them — including the water which goes to waste in the distribution network — they normally

recoup their losses by increasing their water tariffs," he said.

To combat this, the WRC, in conjunction with the South African Bureau of Standards and the City Council of Pretoria, has embarked on a project to help authorities improve the management of water.

Doing it *their* way

Savefan 26/2/93

■ **OLD DIEHARDS** *Entrenched attitudes refuse*

to die nor will they fade away:

(56) 

THE old South African mentality will never die. Last weekend a large contingent of environmentalists, journalists and other interested parties converged on St Lucia in northern Natal for a congress. Most of these people had one thing in mind — to halt the proposed mining by Richards Bay Minerals of the dunes on the eastern shores of the lake.

But the people who gathered there had the same mentality that has driven this country to ruin. There we were, all the elitists, debating and discussing the future of this area. The local people were not there.

When black people who were there asked why local people were not attending, there was a vague reply that the "indigenous" people were informed but, it seemed, they did not want to attend.

That is the whole problem. The majority in this country are never consulted but are informed.

Another excuse was that the mining company

has allegedly "bought off" the chiefs to agree to the mining. Maybe, maybe not. But if the anti-mining lobby was really interested in getting the people involved, they would have consulted the people — instead of informing them.

While the anti-mining lobby has not got the money and the resources available to RBM, the oversight smacks of arrogance. If the people there come out for mining and against eco-tourism, which is being touted as an alternative, it would not be surprising.

Maybe eco-tourism is an alternative but the anti-mining lobby has not been very convincing in this regard either. From the air, the lake looks absolutely splendid.

The group of hippos can be clearly seen. There

are also buffaloes, zebra and other animals. The natural forests covering most of the area around the lake lifts your spirit as you soar above them in the tiny plane.

Then, suddenly, the natural pattern is rudely broken by a big scar caused by dredge mining. The muddy waters in the area being mined makes you think of a gaping wound.

This is the emotional and spiritual impression of the area. But the question the anti-mining lobbyists are not answering is how soon would eco-tourism provide for the local people as opposed to mining?

It is easy for elitists to make decisions — but until people on the ground can decide as well, even the best intentions will not work.

'Itchy' needles hurt bathers at Hout Bay

Staff Reporter

(56) 27/3/93

AN itchy substance like tiny fibreglass hairs has been washed up again on Hout Bay beach.

Newlands businessman Mr Jürgen Schirmacher said yesterday his fiancée, Ms Helena Burger, had cut her foot on the substance.

"It is much worse than it used to be," Mr Schirmacher said. "Kids were crying, several families were packing up and leaving, and people were limping around. Many were not aware that the beach was contaminated," he said.

He thought it was an asbestos-type substance that had been dumped into the sea. A lot of it was to be found at

the high-water mark.

Mr Bruce Ballam said at first he had thought the substance was coming off his paddle-ski, but then saw there was too much of it.

His companions, Ms Vanessa Sutcliffe and Ms Lynda Gibson, said it was "just like fibreglass".

Another beachgoer, Mr Anthony Butler, said the phenomenon had been around since at least 1980.

NSRI volunteer Mr Fred Nebe said his father, a boat-builder, had once been accused of being responsible for the substance. Yet it had turned out that the fibreglass "needles" came from a type of plant.

1991 Population Census, 7 March 1991. Final data after having been adjusted for over- and undercount are furnished. The Port Elizabeth metropolitan area comprises the metropolitan districts of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage.

Handwritten signature and scribbles

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Self-governing territories: size in hectares

208. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

What was the size in hectares of each of the self-governing territories as at 31 December 1992 or the latest specified date for which figures are available? B464E

THE MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

OwaOwa	103 428 hectares
Kwandebele	266 539 hectares
Kangwane	364 229 hectares
Gazankulu	743 954 hectares
Lebowa	2 138 644 hectares
KwaZulu	3 167 242 hectares
Total	6 784 036 hectares

The above information differs from the figures provided in reply to Question No 187 of 20 March 1992 as the extent of all categories of former South African Development Trust properties (former quota and non quota land) as well as land in the possession of individuals situated within the area of jurisdiction of self-governing territories, are being verified and computerized.

Nuclear power: accident at Pelindaba

236. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) Whether an accident occurred at the nuclear enrichment plant of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa, Limited, at Pelindaba in or about December 1992; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of the accident.
- (2) whether this accident was reported to the Council for Nuclear Safety; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether any emergency measures were taken in respect of members of the public in the vicinity; if not, why not; if so, what measures;

(4) whether (a) uranium hexafluoride and/or (b) any other radio-active material was released into the atmosphere; if so, (i) in what quantities and (ii) what was the extent of the area affected by the material released as a result of this accident;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B539E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) 9 December 1992.

(b) At the Feed, Waste and Product Handling Section of the Enrichment Plant.

(c) (i) Release of uranium hexafluoride at natural isotopic concentration to the immediate environment as a result of failure of the nuts used to secure a blind flange.

(ii) It is estimated that between 100 kg and 150 kg uranium was released. Of this quantity, approximately 29 kg is estimated to have escaped through the stack to the environment outside the process hall.

(2) Yes, the accident was reported to the Council for Nuclear Safety telephonically and in writing on 9 December 1992.

(3) Internal emergency measures were taken to assess the size and possible consequences of the release. An evaluation during the accident, using an estimated size of release and a dispersion model to the environment indicated that the environment outside the plant as well as the public will not be affected. Measurements were taken in the direction of the expected dispersion and these gave no values above background. No emergency

procedures outside the plant were therefore necessary or taken with respect to members of the public in the vicinity. It was not even necessary to take any special precautionary measures outside the plant on the site.

- (4) (a) Yes.
(b) No.

(5) No.

- (i) 29 kg natural uranium
(ii) As a result of natural dispersion and distribution the dilution was such that no measurable material was found in the environment outside the plant and no area outside the plant was effected by the release.

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Abrahams, Mr T—	Isacs, Mr N M—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Education and Culture, 629	Public Works, 619
Beyers, Mr J M—	<i>Own Affairs:</i>
<i>General Affairs:</i>	Local Government, Housing and Agriculture,
Constitutional Development, 573	125
Bruwer, Mr A A B—	Langley, Adv T—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Agricultural Development, 783	Justice, 413
Burrows, Mr R M—	Leon, Mr A J—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Education and Culture, 99, 954	Justice, 56
Carlisle, Mr R V—	Moorcroft, Mr E K—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Housing and Works, 605	Agriculture, 734
Chiolé, Mr J—	Naidoo, Mr P—
<i>General Affairs:</i>	<i>Own Affairs:</i>
Transport, 49	Education and Culture, 855
Gerber, Mr A—	Nasson, Mr C I—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Education and Culture, 19	Administration and Tourism, 823
Gibson, Mr D H M—	National Health, 351
<i>General Affairs:</i>	<i>Own Affairs:</i>
Trade and Industry, 309	Education and Culture, 359, 975
Goodall, Mr B B—	Nel, Mr W U—
<i>General Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Finance, 580	Justice, 7
Gounden, Mr T L—	Pauw, Dr F H—
<i>Own Affairs:</i>	<i>Own Affairs:</i>
Education and Culture, 648	Education and Culture, 459
Haswell, Mr R F—	Pienaar, Adv C H—
<i>General Affairs:</i>	<i>General Affairs:</i>
Law and Order, 420	National Health, 927

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

(56) ARG 1/3/93

THE proposed deproclamation of the 600-hectare Driftsands nature reserve near DF Malan Airport — the largest nature reserve on the Cape Flats — is being strongly contested by the Driftsands Task Group.

Part of the reserve has been occupied by squatters since 1990, following political upheavals in Crossroads.

The task group was responding to a legal notice by the Cape Provincial Administration, which wants to use the property for informal housing and market gardening, apart from a protected wetland area around the Kuils River.

In its objection, the task group said there was no guarantee about the areas's fate after deproclamation.

The CPA already had indicated its intention of developing housing and the group understood that between R25 million and R30 million had been reserved — enough for 3 000 to 4 000 serviced sites.

Although many proposals in the Driftsands structure plan interim report of October last year had merit, these needed to be comprehensively debated by the various communities and interest groups.

The task group said: "It's clear from our investigations that unless there is community acceptance of the proposals and community responsibility for the area, Driftsands will not be able to realise its full potential..."

"Until there is a negotiated settlement with built-in guarantees that the whole area will not be lost to development after deproclamation, we strongly oppose any deproclamation."

It noted that while Driftsands had been severely invaded by exotic Acacia trees, the reserve contained threatened dune and wetland habitats "under-conserved" elsewhere on the Cape Flats.

"The initial proclamation by the-then Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation signified the importance of the area for conservation," said the group.

"The same department now regards the area as of little importance for conservation, indicating an abduction of their responsibility as manager and their possible lack of a conceptual understanding of natural urban open space networks, of which there are pitifully few on the Cape Flats."

Task group up in arms over move to cast Driftsands adrift

CITY

White Page

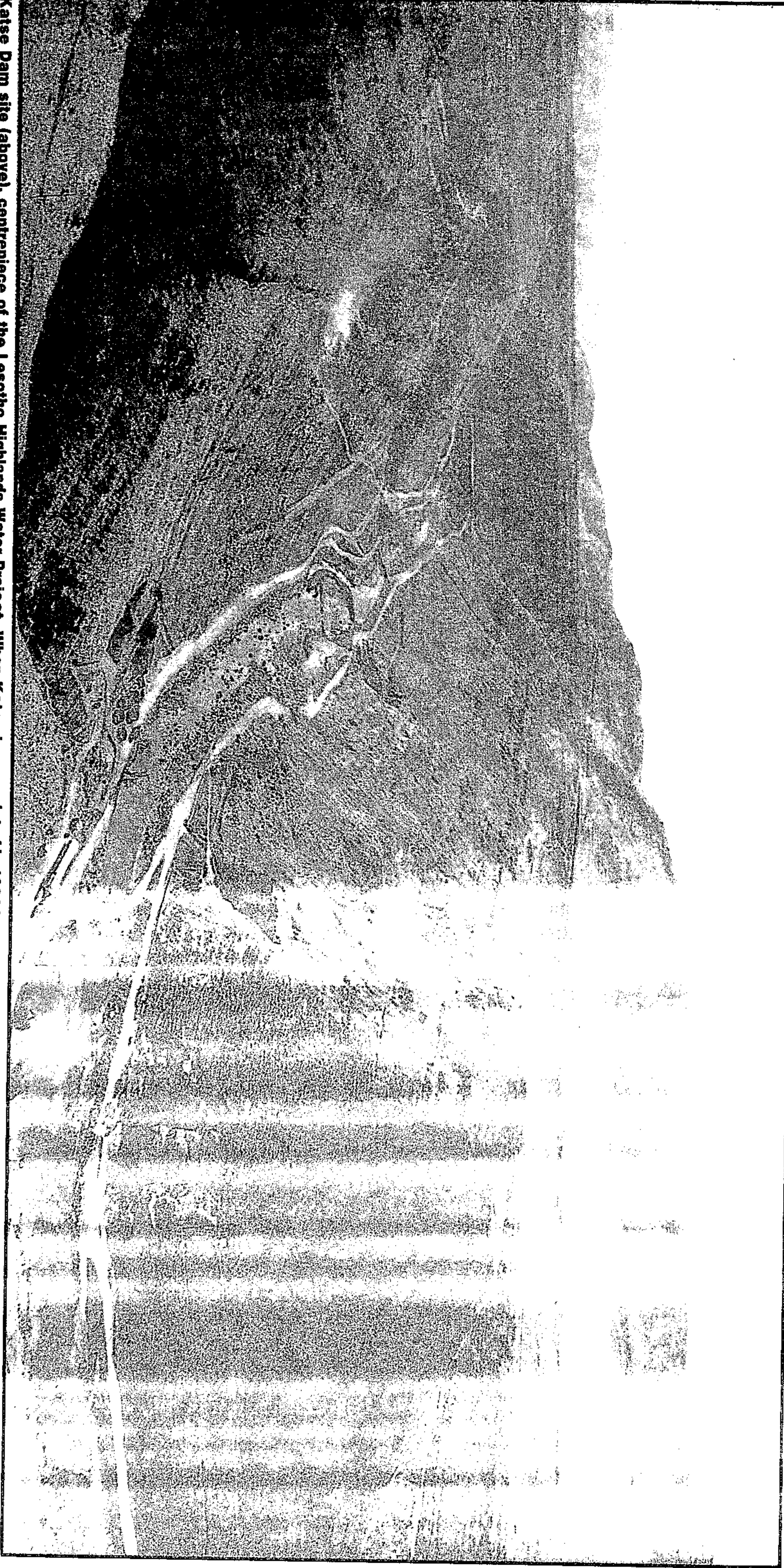
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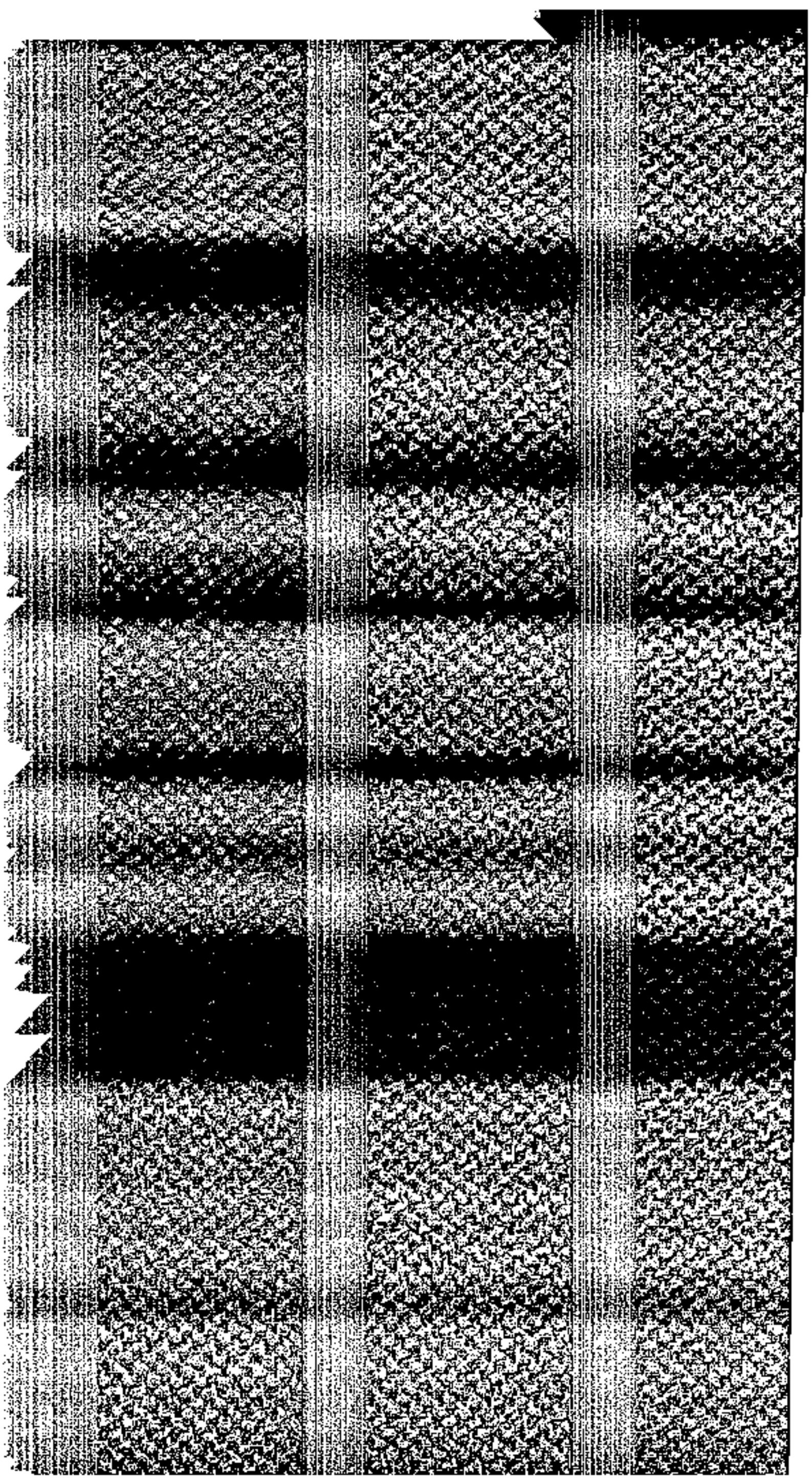
NATIONAL WATER WEEK

1 - 7 MARCH 1993

EDITORIALS SPONSORED BY: WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS



Katse Dam site (above), centrepiece of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. When Katse is completed in 1996 it will be the deepest dam in Africa. Sunset at Muela Adit, part of the project



Water crisis is alleviated

By ELIAS MALULEKE

SA is emerging as the major supplier of water resources and infrastructures in southern Africa, but the country faces a devastating water shortage in the future.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has embarked on dam building projects in conjunction with neighbouring states to alleviate the water crisis in those areas.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project, which is under construction and due for completion in 1996, is one of several major development schemes undertaken to alleviate the water crisis in the sub-region.

The first phase of construction began last November with the building of an upstream cofferdam at the Katse construction site.

The coffer-dam was built to create a safe and dry work area for the preparation of the foundation for the Katse Dam, a double curvature arch

dam of 185 metres high in the Malibomats'o River.

On completion in 1996, the Katse Dam will be the deepest dam in Africa with a water storage capacity of 1 950 million cubic metres. Water will be transported along an 80 km tunnel system, to augment the yield of the Vaal Dam in SA's strategic PWV area.

Another major development is the construction of the Driekoppies Dam on the Lomati River on the border of Swaziland and SA.

The dam will take about six years to complete at an estimated cost of R488-million, with a gross storage of 250 million cubic metres.

The Driekoppies Dam will be followed by the construction of the Maguga Dam inside the Swazi border, at an estimated cost of R432-million.

The two dams will also supply Mozambique and Kangwane when completed and are financed by the SA Development Bank.

BE AWARE OF WATER

The waste boggles the mind

VERY few people realise just how much water a family uses - and wastes.

The Department of Water Affairs has calculated that each person uses an average of 250 litres of water a day.

This means a family of five requires up to 350 000 litres of water each year.

Figures not only include water that one uses directly, but also water required to generate the electricity that we use.

If the figures still seem pretty high, consider this:

■ Eleven litres of water is flushed away every time a toilet is used.

■ A toilet uses roughly 20 075 litres of water each year.

■ A kettle and oven used for over 90 minutes every day consumes 32 450 litres each year.

■ Lights use 30 000 litres each year. For example: if eight lights burn for 10 hours every day, 30 000 litres of water is needed each year to generate electricity.

By ELIAS MALULEKE and STAN MHLONGO

BE water conscious! That's the theme for this year's National Water Week which kicks off tomorrow.

According to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry water is one of SA's most limited resources.

The major purpose of Water Week is to highlight the dire consequences of water pollution and dwindling water supplies in SA.

And, says the Water Affairs Department, every one of us can help save water.

According to the department, the aim of the week's theme is to focus every person's attention anew on the importance of water as a means of survival. It also aims to make the public partners in the responsible use of water resources by highlighting the various facets of water management.

Running out

According to the Department of Water Affairs, SA's water resources are limited and consumer figures are rising to such an extent that a study by the Water Research Commission (WRC) has found that water supplies will run out between the years 2020 and 2030.

The Water Affairs Department says timeous planning for future water needs is important and the best way to ensure the optimal use of this scarce resource is to bring about co-operation on all levels.

Department of Water Affairs official C van Der Westhuizen cites the example of how greater awareness in the United States about water resulted in a 50 percent decrease in the use of washing powder that contains phosphates.

Very few people realise just how much water a family uses and wastes.

The Department of Water Affairs says every person uses an average of

250 litres of water each day.

■ A lot of water can be saved by flushing toilets only when necessary - 11 litres of water is used every time a toilet is flushed. It is also a good idea to decrease the volume of water that can be held in the cistern by placing an object, for example a brick, in the cistern. In offices automatic flushing systems are used. These can be adjusted to flush for shorter periods.

■ Water is used to generate electricity - by saving electricity you are saving water.

■ To prevent water pollution, people are urged not to discard waste items into the environment, not to pour oil into drains, and not to use storm water drains to dispose of waste. All cases of water pollution should be reported to the nearest Department of Water Affairs.

The first National Water Week was launched last August, however, the Water Affairs Department decided to stage the nationwide event during the first week of March from this year, because the weather is favourable for open-air activities.

Local government authorities, the Water Board and various organisations including schools, women's societies, sports clubs and libraries will undertake projects of their own during the Water Week awareness campaign.

The Department of Water Affairs has appealed to organisations wishing to take part in the week's events to inform the department of such projects. Angling competitions, water sport and educational projects will also be co-ordinated during the week, culminating in the River Day to be held on Friday.

Individuals and organisations wishing to take part are requested to telephone Lucinda Scholtz (012) 299-3461 or Nicolette Teichmann (012) 299-2549.



Public must step in to solve pollution crisis

By ELIAS MALULEKE

THE Department of Water Affairs and Forestry has identified the major sources of water pollution in SA.

In its report on water quality management policies and strategies in SA, the department spelt out the status quo of their policies, possible future trends and areas where policies and strategies may have to be adopted after proper evaluation.

The categories of pollutants are listed as chemicals; suspended particles and colloids; pathogens, including bacteria and viruses; thermal changes; and radioactivity.

Below are a list of pollutants causing serious damage worldwide and increasingly so in SA.

INDUSTRY:

- Industrial waste
- Hazardous waste
- URBANISATION:
- Solid waste disposal
- Pollution of storm-water
- Leaking sewers polluting groundwater

- Faecal pollution from runoff from informal settlements
- MINING AND POWER STATIONS:
- Discharge of saline effluent
- Acid mine drainage
- Metal pollution
- Erosion

- AGRICULTURE:
- Irrigation return flows with high salt loads and other pollutants
- Pesticide
- Fertilizer nitrate
- Faecal pollution
- Land disturbance which leads to erosion as well as other agricultural pollutants to the water environment.

In addition, atmospheric pollution in various forms such as acid rain, aluminium, iron, manganese and other heavy metals are described as pollutants.

Water Affairs has called on the general public to help control water pollution. It said everyone has a responsibility towards the future of the water environment in SA.

Billions needed to keep water flowing in SA

The most critical problem facing SA's future development will be water-related. Whatever political dispensation emerges in the new SA will not alter this fact.

Even if all our political problems are solved tomorrow, we will still be faced with a situation where our water supply will - according to projections, run out somewhere in the period 2020-2030, says Water Research Commission executive director Piet Odendaal.

He put it down to the pressure of a rapidly growing population together with agricultural and industrial usage. In addition, water pollution problems were on the rise.

"Whereas the sources of pollution will increase, the dilution capacity of our water resources will diminish," he said.

According to Odendaal, the severe drought we have just experienced is but a portent of what we can expect with increasing frequency as the pressure on our available water supplies builds up.

To cope with this challenge, Odendaal said water management in SA had to be based on the best

available knowledge and technology. He said this was possible through a sustained and extensive water research programme.

"This is one field where we cannot depend on overseas research to show us the way. Our needs are in many ways unique and generally much greater and more urgent than those of the world's industrialised nations.

Projects

"We have to take the initiative and be a leading nation in the field of water research," Odendaal said. The WRC was funding about 200 projects for about 80 different organisations.

Odendaal said another serious challenge during the phasing-in period for the new SA was water supply and sanitation for developing communities in the wake of urban influx and accelerated informal settlement.

It is estimated that two out of every three people in SA have access to safe water supply, and only one out

of two have access to adequate sanitation.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry estimates that it would cost almost R12-billion to fix.

"This order of money is just not available at this stage. Therefore, available funds must be used as effectively as possible and to do this, the best possible information is needed on a wide range of aspects," Odendaal said.

The WRC will, in total, fund 24 research projects this year, dealing with the water and sanitation needs of developing communities.

He said money was only made available once the WRC was satisfied it would benefit the community.

"Research should not be of importance only to a small number of scientists. Its result should help to improve the quality of life of people," Odendaal said.

It was for this reason the WRC regularly reviewed the criteria used in evaluating research projects before money was made available for research purposes.

A wide spectrum of experts, representatives of major political groups including the ANC, were ap-

proached and asked for their views. The results appeared in the department's latest review.

New priorities

It had been agreed that research should:

- Promote national prosperity by reducing costs;
- Increase the income of people or institutions;
- Promote national health by reducing disease and death;
- Help to protect the people and the environment;
- Improve human dignity by providing the public with proper sanitary facilities.

A voluntary Standing Committee for Water and Sanitation was established in January this year. The committee has an advisory function which, for the first time, has representation from extra-parliamentary organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Taps after 23 dry years

By STAN MHLONGO

FOR a community living in an area known as Eatonside near Vereeniging a long and dry season has eventually come to an end.

The community of 10 000 has finally won a 23-year battle to have taps built in the area.

In the grand apartheid era when the likes of the late Prime Minister John Vorster and his successor P.W. Botha were in power, the community's pleas for such basic facilities as taps and clean water were ignored.

Eatonside resident Evelyn Twala told City Press: "Endurance and prayers were our only forms of defence. We had no one to run to and, of course, no place to go and stay to build ourselves a better future."

Vaal Civic Association spokeswoman Tina van Schalkwyk said the Transvaal Provincial Administration

had eventually agreed to assist this community to get taps installed in their neighbourhood.

However, Van Schalkwyk emphasised that the ball was not entirely in the TPA's hands as the Eatonside region did not fall under its jurisdiction, but under the De Deur-per-urban region.

Another resident, Maria Tsoetsi, was overcome with joy. "God be praised we suffered long enough before our prayers were answered."

As if the total lack of water facilities wasn't enough, there were sharks out there profiting from the residents' woes - selling water at exorbitant prices. A 198 litre container cost R5, five litres cost R1,20.

The VCA is set to seal the water deal after meeting with the De Deur Peri Urban region next month.

Natal river raises a stink

DURBAN. — Faecal bacteria levels in the Um-
simdusi River here have risen by up to nearly
six times the accepted European standard for
bathing following rain in the area since Sunday.

Wilderness water probe to include reed study

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ARC 24/2/93

AN INTENSIVE investigation of water quality in the Wilderness lakes area is under way and will include an assessment of the extent to which reeds block the system.

Some residents have been upset by the National Parks Board's recent decision to cut reeds on the southern bank of the river, following representations by property owners — including former state president Mr P W Botha.

But the board says the decision is in line with the zoning, which demarcates the lower Touws River for recreation.

Mr Nick Geldenhuys, general manager (conservation) of the National Parks Board's southern parks, said a standing committee of parks board officials, the town council and ratepayers met three times a year to discuss "matters of mutual concern".

"We cannot manage any system without the input of local people," said Mr Geldenhuys.

"There was a request from landowners at the bottom of the Touws River to deal with the problem of reed growth. We held an on-site meeting in October or November where we decided to cut down the reeds on the southern shore in an ecologically sound manner."

This meant cutting them by hand and removing cut material over about half a kilometre.

The lower Touws River section of the lake area was zoned for recreation, Mr Geldenhuys pointed out.

"The core area of the lakes system is Langvlei and Rondevlei, where we don't allow any boats and where only bird-watching is permitted.

"The extreme western part is an intensive recreational area and the reeds have been growing prolifically there in recent years."

Mr Hugh White, chairman of the Wilderness branch of the Outeniqualand Trust, said he was not aware of any debate about the removal of the reeds.

An investigation into the entire drainage system of the Wilderness area was under way.

The trust was extremely concerned that the lake would become a sealed unit and deteriorate ecologically and was working with Water Affairs officials and a specialist consulting engineer to consider various options to keep it open.

Conservation agencies face an uncertain time

GAVIN DU VENAGE

(56)

CONSERVATION agencies are worried about their future in new regional structures that may be put in place by a future government, the Wildlife Society says in its latest newsletter, African Wildlife.

The society criticised government for the lack of any clear direction on conservation in discussion documents on regionalism released last year, and for failing to provide any outline for state responsibility.

Society president Naas Steenkamp and executive director Tony Ferrar said uncertainty over their future under a new political dispensation had led to a "quiet but vigorous struggle for status and survival" between agencies.

In the article, they said conservation bodies feared losing control over their "real estate" which could lead to "highly destructive" competition if the situation was not clarified.

Agencies were also worried about management changes as new regional structures were put in place.

It was this uncertainty that was the cause of the friction between groups, the article said.

The society said while some form of federalism seemed a certainty in the future, the position of wildlife protection under this form of government was not known.

The society would therefore insist on solid safeguards that would benefit both regional and national interests.

It wanted environmental protection and management to be a central government function; protected areas should be given constitutionally entrenched protection; and provision should be made for the delegation of management functions to regional or local level where appropriate.

R330m for St Lucia firm

Own Correspondent

(56)

DURBAN. — The Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) company, which is developing the controversial lake St Lucia area in Natal, has admitted receiving at least R300 million worth of export incentives in the past 10 years — but has denied it was singled out for preferential treatment by the Government.

Commenting on information sup-

plied to Parliament last week, RBM also acknowledged that the incentives — which were discontinued last year — were a factor in ensuring the company's competitiveness.

However, managing director Mr Roy MacPherson said in a statement that as far as RBM was aware, it was subject to higher levels of corporate tax than any of its international competitors in Australia, North America, Asia or Africa.

ET 24/2/93

Rain figures still low ⁵⁶

BIDM 24/2/93
MARIANNE MERTEN

DAM levels and monthly rainfall figures are still below average despite the recent rains, according to Rand Water Board figures.

The board was concerned that not enough rain would fall in March and April to alleviate this situation, Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said.

Average February rainfall to date is 71,1mm, well below the long-term average of 102,5mm but more than last year's 67,5mm.

Total dam water reserves were 47,4%, compared to last year's 68,6%.

Although Sterkfontein Dam was 87,2% full and would service Witwatersrand water requirements over the next two years, the Rand Water Board was concerned that the Vaal dam, at 18,4% capacity, was not filling up.

If insufficient rains fell in the next few months, the board would consider measures such as restrictions, said Bath.

Water Board considers options

TIM MARSLAND

THE Rand Water Board, which will require about R2bn from the capital market over the next five years, was unlikely to go for a straight market-making operation to boost bond turnover, GM finance Alan Rorke said yesterday. (56)

Capital market players had believed the water authority was set to become a key player, with its bonds being actively traded after the appointment of market-makers. B10AM 24/2/93.

Market-makers increase turnover of the bonds because investors are guaranteed someone will be available at all times to buy and sell bonds. The increased activity also makes it easier to borrow money and reduces an issuer's borrowing costs.

The water board owes the capital market about R1,02bn but will require a further R2bn over the next five years to finance capital expenditure.

Rorke said the board's capex programme would be to fund infrastructure to increase its capacity. This was necessary every seven years because of increasing

demand in the PWV area. Water from the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme would become available from 1996.

While the board had not discarded the idea of appointing a market maker, it was investigating options to make its stock more attractive to investors. A decision would be made by mid-year.

Various options were under discussion. The board needed to implement a system which would be attractive to institutions.

The board was too small to run a market-making operation in-house, so if a single merchant bank was appointed to make a market in the board's stocks, it would be tied to that particular bank.

The board's need for funding was not that great, Rorke said.

He disclosed that the board would probably not raise finance from the capital market in the current year. The board's redemption profile was such that it would not need to roll over any loans until 2008.

Closer look at the ozone layer

IN AN effort to discover more about the ozone layer, five ultra long-range jetliners are to be equipped with instruments to measure ozone and water vapour concentrations during scheduled flights. (56)

The initiative was aimed at a better understanding of the "greenhouse effect" in the atmosphere, Airbus Industrie said in a statement yesterday. *8:10 AM 23/2/93*

The trials, co-ordinated by the French national scientific research centre, will be the first to measure ozone and water vapour accurately at airliner cruising altitudes on such a widespread scale.

It is hoped the results will help clarify the debate about what is actually happening to the ozone layer and its effect on the world's climate.

The flights of the specially equipped aircraft will begin in the second half of the year, covering a wide range of routes, and continue at least until the end of 1994 to cope with seasonal variations. — Sapa.

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Financier offers to save vultures

KATHRYN STRACHAN (56)

A SINGAPORE-based financier has offered to save the Magaliesberg vultures by buying the neighbouring land which has been earmarked for development. *BID/mj*

SA-born businessman Richard Bluett said he was "99%" sure the Magaliesberg farm would be his by June, and emphasised he was opposed to any form of development on the land. *23/2/93.*

The vulture colony has become the focus of heated debate between conservationists and the company proposing to develop the land, Monex Development Corporation, with the conservationists saying the inevitable disturbances will upset the vultures' breeding habits.

Bluett said he hoped to boost conservation by setting up an environmental education centre in a disused church on the neighbouring property, as well as to dismantle the overhead powerlines — a danger to the birds.

He said there were "billions" of rands in Singapore and Dubai waiting to be invested in SA. Through tourism, he believed conservation would be one of the main beneficiaries.

But conservationists and Monex representatives held a highly-charged meeting yesterday to draw the battle lines in case the sale did not go through.

ing on a narrow path and tumbled into the gully.

"I thought he was dead. He

members and Metro rescue personnel, including two doctors, climbed to the spot where Salaza had fallen, but could not find him.

bruises and hip and rib injuries, was carried down the mountain on a stretcher and taken to Victoria Hospital.

Investigation urged into pesticide use

50 ARU 22/2/93

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Department of Agriculture has "excessive" powers to use poisons and pest control should be investigated, says Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer.

His call coincides with an outcry over the poisoning of birds of prey in the Dwaalboom area, near Thabazimbi in the Transvaal, after the department sprayed red-billed quelea finches.

Writing in the environmental newsletter Eagle Bulletin, Mr Lorimer said there was fresh evidence of deaths of cattle in sprayed areas.

Tests on dead cattle in Potchefstroom had revealed phention and dieldrin in carcasses.

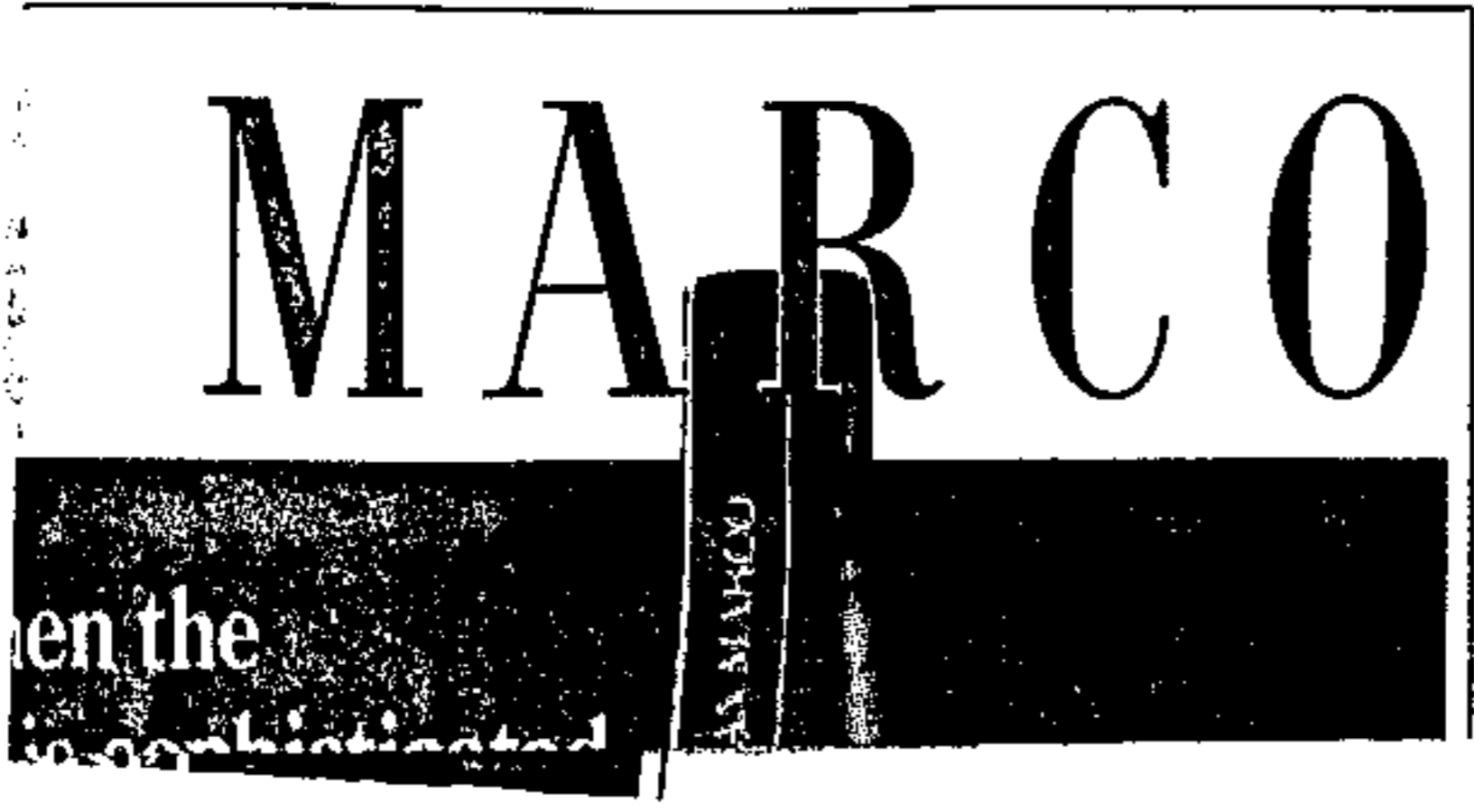
"The use of dieldrin was banned in South Africa in 1983 and the source of this dieldrin ... is unknown," said Mr Lorimer.

"Phention is used extensively by the department.

"The fact that all deaths were in areas where spraying had taken place seems to indicate the necessity for detailed investigation. "I believe the powers vested in the department are excessive and the Act should be amended.

"There are alternative methods of dealing with agricultural pests which are not as dangerous as spraying poisons."

● Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has ordered a moratorium on further quelea spraying, pending a report by an ornithologist.



Absa appoints new blood to top ranks

Own Correspondent

58
22/12/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Absa had appointed eight top foreign bankers to inject fresh blood into the company, Absa finance group executive Alwyn Noerth confirmed at the weekend.

Four of the eight were named as Absa international banking GM Bruce MacLlwaine, senior credit consultant Adedeji Aganga-Williams, financial risk management training senior consultant Ian Mitchell and project finance and special projects group consultant Jay Runewitsch.

SI Times 21/2/93
(Cape metro) (56)

PW at centre of a rumpus over cutting of reeds

By DIANA STREAK

FORMER state president P W Botha, accused last week of slapping his gardener, is embroiled in a row over a National Parks Board decision to cut down nearly a kilometre of reeds along the banks of the Touw River in the Wilderness following complaints by a handful of riverside residents, including Mr Botha.

Last week a former gardener of Mr Botha, Mr Jan Louw, alleged he had been slapped across the face four times and fired.

Police in George confirmed they were investigating a charge of common assault against Mr Botha following a complaint by Mr Louw. A second charge of assault had also been laid against Mr Botha's bodyguard, Major Fanie Botes.

The district CID officer at George, Colonel Boet Claassen, said a report would be forwarded to the Attorney-General this week for a decision.

The latest row involving Mr Botha began two weeks ago when parks board workers began cutting down the reeds, a move that incensed environmentalists and divided the community.

The reed beds are in front of several houses — including Mr Botha's — along the river which is part of a national park.

"It is definitely because of P W," said local conservationist Gerald Derby-Lewis. "The two houses adjoining his are owned by absentee landlords."

Mr Botha refused to comment and referred all inquiries to Dr Robbie Robinson, parks board chief executive director, who was not available.

Conservationists believe that if the reeds, an important habitat for birds, are destroyed, this will reduce the diversity of birdlife and interrupt the food chain.

Council chairman Professor Wynand Mouton



P W BOTHA

said the council had spoken to the parks board because it had received complaints.

Paul Sieben, warden of the Wilderness National Park, said homeowners on the river had complained that the "reeds were encroaching on their properties and their visual contact with the river was lost".

"Mr Botha, along with others, complained."

If the cutting of reeds was "ecologically controlled", it should not be a problem, Mr Sieben said.

He found the measure difficult to justify, but was following orders.

The general manager of Southern Parks, Mr Nick Geldenhuys, said although the reed area fell within the national park, the river was zoned for recreational activities.

Professor Mouton said the community was divided over the issue and that it was unfortunate there were houses on the river.

Mr Botha had apparently tried to interfere in a parks board management plan, which included the occasional opening of the Touw River mouth, because his garden had been flooded.

"He said our management plan didn't work and he would like to see alterations," said Mr Sieben.

CP slams govt for loans silence

Political Staff

20/2/73
THE Conservative Party has slammed the government for declining to reveal whether Richards Bay Minerals enjoyed lower tariffs or rebates on loan funding from, among others, the Industrial Development Corporation. (56) (13)
CP MP for Pretoria West Mr Joseph Chiole said taxpayers had a right to the information. Richards Bay Minerals is the company that will undertake the controversial mining of Lake St Lucia's eastern shores if it is given the go-ahead by the government.

'Greens' see red over plans to mine estuary

Bitter tug of war for St Lucia's treasures

STAR 20/2/93

56

ST LUCIA — Vast flocks of pelicans float like clouds on the waters of Africa's biggest estuary, scooping up fish with their bulbous bills. A hippo ambles out of the shallows under a full moon, heading for a night's grazing along the shores of St Lucia estuary.

But if a major mining company has its way, the pelicans will be joined by giant dredgers and the hippos by bulldozers in a project to harvest the estuary's heavy minerals.

The "green" movement is outraged at the mining plan by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM). Environmentalists say it would destroy the character of one of the country's most spectacular wilderness areas and have an unpredictable impact on the ecology.

RBM rejects the charge, saying only a limited area will be mined, and that the area will be rehabilitated afterwards. The project, it says, will bring in \$6 billion in foreign exchange.

THE fight hots up to save Africa's biggest estuarine wetlands from the dredgers, writes ANTON FERREIRA.

"All things considered, the 'anti' lobby would sacrifice these massive benefits to the people of South Africa on the altar of white elitist spiritual yearning for a wilderness experience," said RBM spokesman Barry Clements.

"This talk about saving St Lucia by preventing the mining

See 'Greenpiece' on Page 11

is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of South African conservation," he said.

Among groups fighting the dredging plan is the Natal Parks Board (NPB). It wants to incorporate the area in a wetlands nature reserve.

"It is the largest estuarine system in Africa, and is considered absolutely unique in the southern hemisphere," said NPB ecologist Roger Porter.

"It supports the largest populations of hippo and crocodile in southern Africa, and is crucial for migratory bird and marine species — tens of thou-

sands of water birds use it." The estuary, recognised as a wetland of international importance, stretches about 50 km from north to south.

The dunes which RBM plans to mine cover 1 400 ha between the estuary and the ocean.

It would be mined by bulldozing the dunes, mixing the sand with fresh water in an artificial pond, then sucking up the resulting slurry with a dredger and separating the minerals — ilmenite, zircon and rutile. The minerals are used in applications from paint through cosmetics to nuclear reactor control-rods.

RBM, half-owned by Britain's Rio Tinto Zinc, says the foreign exchange earned from the deposits at St Lucia would secure up to 25 000 jobs in the country every year. The company has said that once its dredgers were finished, bulldozers would re-form the dunes to their original contours.

But the "greens" say the area

has greater economic potential as a tourist destination. They argue that RBM will never be able to recreate its complex ecosystem. "They will be importing nutrient-laden river water into a nutrient-poor system for the dredging operation," Porter said.

"The soil mixed with this water will be in a totally changed state, and species evolution will be locked into a completely different pathway."

Independent scientists have carried out an environmental impact assessment into the mining plan, and their report is expected in mid-March.

But the anti-mining lobby, which has organised a major petition drive, believes RBM should be stopped regardless of the outcome of the study.

"You've got look at the morality," said veteran conservationist Ian Player, who played a key role in saving South Africa's rhino from extinction.

"Morality must say that there's so little wilderness left, that there can only be one answer — you've got to turn it into a park." — Sapa-Reuter.

Second phase of the St Lucia mining debate

RIDM 19/2/93

MICHAEL ACCOTT

"If the study indicates that any damage to the environment and the ecology of St Lucia conservation area can be repaired or eliminated, and will therefore be acceptable, I see no reason why the mining cannot proceed as planned."

"However, if the study shows that the damage to this natural treasure will be permanent or substantial, and therefore unacceptable, the department and I will be the first to ensure that the integrity of the area is protected."

His Cabinet colleague in charge of Mineral and Energy Affairs, George Bartlett, was enthusiastic about the economic benefits of mining, but stressed that the environmental study would determine whether mining was allowed. He said it made sense to extract minerals before an area was permanently sterilised "especially if the process of extraction is such that the environment is not permanently harmed".

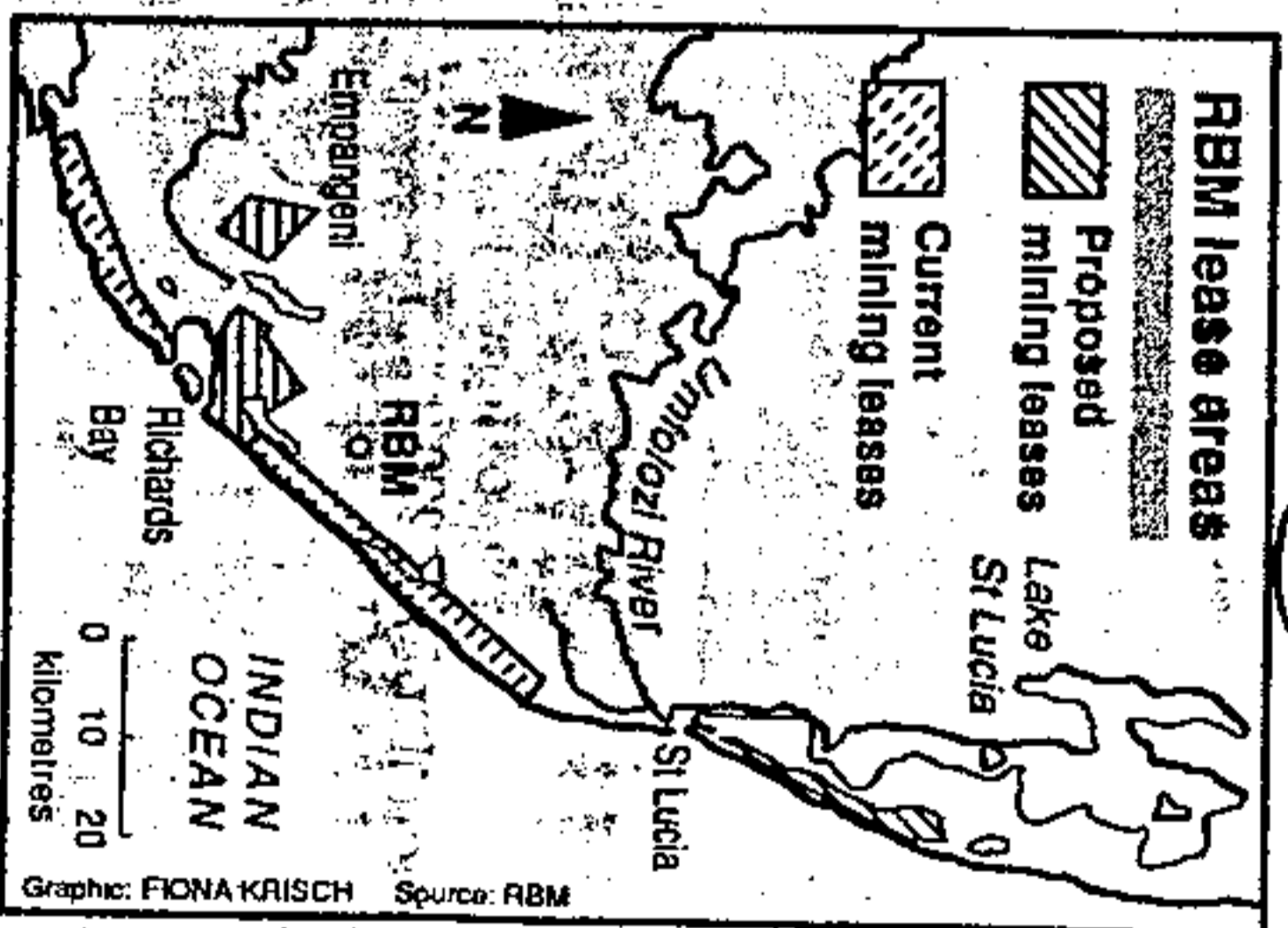
Permanent harm is the question around which the debate will revolve. It will be heated, and international, because RBM is 50% owned by London-based RTZ, and because St Lucia is recognised as a wetland of international importance. Conservationists hope the greater St Lucia conservation area will be designated

a World Heritage site.

The dredge mining process for the extraction of heavy minerals — the dark streaks in Natal beach sands consisting largely of titanium, rutile and ilmenite — destroys the dune structure. After gravity extraction of the minerals, the dune is reconstructed, shaped as closely as possible to the original, covered with topsoil and seeds, and revegetation begins.

Rehabilitated dunes going back 14 years are returning to natural forest; RBM is confident that the St Lucia dunes will not only look like they did, but that they will be returned to grassland instead of the pine forest covering much of the area.

Conservationists, and in particular the Natal Parks Board under whom most of the St Lucia area falls, say most of their fears cannot be addressed. Apart from opposing mining in St Lucia on principle, they doubt that the reconstituted dunes will be the same as the originals in important ways, including shape and hydrology. The coastal dunes are part of the process of filtering water to the wetlands and then the lake.



But, if it comes to a "balance sheet" competition between the economic benefits of mining and the economic benefits of St Lucia tourism, the conservationists are likely to lose. They cannot compete with RBM's projections of R7bn earned in foreign exchange in 17 years, of R1,3bn paid in taxes, R500m paid in salaries and R100m in mineral right royalties to government.

People on both sides of the argument are now asking how mining could benefit conservation. Government has already been asked informally to consider using its R100m in royalties for that purpose.

There is concern, however, that the money should go into a conservation trust to prevent it from being diverted to other uses. Conservationists also want a fund set up in advance to guarantee that rehabilitation would be completed should RBM strike financial disaster.

RBM says St Lucia will not be saved if mining is stopped, because mining will take place in one small area which will be rehabilitated; the company says the real threat to St Lucia is the fact that its catchment area is degraded, eroded, overgrazed and overpopulated.

Conservationists talk, with some reservations, of the inevitability of trade-offs; if mining is to go ahead, they want it monitored and stopped if it proves environmentally disastrous. They also believe that if big money is going to be generated, some of it should be put aside for conservation.

Once the tumult and the shouting dies, this is the probable second stage of the great St Lucia debate.

LETTERS

DUNE mining at St Lucia is virtually certain to go ahead. Environmentalists have not given up their fight, but some are already considering how best to squeeze money for conservation out of the multimillion-rand project they had hoped to stop.

Officially, nothing has yet been decided. An environmental impact assessment is to be published on March 18, there will be public hearings in August and a review panel will make recommendations to government, which has promised a decision by the end of this year.

Officially, few doubt that the project will be approved. Environment Minister Louis Pienaar has said the determining factor will be "irreparable damage", a term he has declined to define. However, as mining company Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has an impressive dune rehabilitation scheme at its current mining site, and conservationists' fears are largely of the unknown, there is a wide expectation that government will decide the mining damage to the dunes is repairable.

During a tour of the area this week, Pienaar hit out at critics of the project for whom "emotionalism was the yardstick" and said government would wait until it had all the facts before making a decision.

Palmiet River plan rejected

CT 19/4/93 Political Staff 56

THE controversial scheme to dam the Lower Palmiet River and develop the Kogelberg State Forest was rejected by the statutory Council for the Environment, which advises the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar.

In its report tabled in Parliament yesterday, it called for areas such as the Groot Drakenstein and Fransch-

hoek Valleys to be declared national monuments.

The damming was promoted by the Department of Water Affairs as a way of bolstering Cape Town's falling water reserves.

But the plan evoked strong reaction from environmentalists who argued that the rivier and forest were unique and that some fynbos species grew only there.

More nuclear plants possible

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

TWO more nuclear power stations may be built near Kleinsee on the West Coast at the turn of the century.

Top Eskom officials yesterday met representatives from the tourism industry, municipalities and regional services councils in Springbok, Vredendal and Komaggas to inform them of two sites they may wish to buy.

The sites are believed to be on farms along the coast near the diamond mining town of Kleinsee.

Kleinsee is about 80km from Springbok, which relies heavily on tourism and copper mining for its trade.

Springbok assistant town clerk Mr Jaco Victor described the meeting as "amicable".

"We are happy they are playing open cards with us."

Eskom will hold a news conference in the city this morning to announce the results of an investigation into "suitable sites" for more nuclear power stations.

● Building on the country's first nuclear power station — Koeberg — started more than 16 years ago.

Rumours last year that workers at the plant had been subjected to detectable levels of radiation were denied.

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Foreign exchange earner ... Wealthy tourist pay thousands of dollars to view the big cats

Making a mint while saving planet Earth ⁽⁵⁶⁾

W/Mail 18/2-25/2/93

WHAT kind of industry has no smokestacks, earns more foreign exchange than the world's entire mining economy, can turn guerrillas into tour guides and respects every form of life on earth? It's called ecotourism and it's the kind of industry that could bankroll South Africans' halting efforts to construct a new society for themselves.

Conserving the environment and making money long seemed to be mutually exclusive. But the new growth industry, ecotourism, combines 'green' ideas and cash generation, reports

EDDIE KOCH

That, at least, is the lesson that the South African government and African National Congress economic planners can learn from the proceeds of an international conference on ecotourism that was held in a renovated mediaeval villa on the shores of Lake Como in the north of Italy last week under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Consider some of the statistics and case studies that emerged from the symposium. Travel or tourism is the world's largest and fastest growing industry. World tourism grew by 260 percent between 1970 and 1990, one out of every 15 workers is employed in the travel industry and, in at least 17 countries, tourism accounts for more than half of all export remuneration.

where the demand for ecotourism is strongest. These half-a-million overseas visitors earn the country R2.5-billion a year. If these numbers were to double, South Africa would then earn more from tourism than it does from the economy's traditional backbone, gold. This shouldn't be difficult to achieve because surveys show that nine out of every 10 foreign visitors come here to experience the country's wildlife and natural beauty. South Africa's game reserves — especially the top-of-the-range private parks on the boundary of Kruger National Park — were rated at the conference for being among the best managed in the world. Most rich green tourists aim to see

That's not all. Tourism is the only industry in the world that allows a net flow of wealth from the northern hemisphere to the south. It is a more stable source of foreign exchange than the export of gold and other minerals and, unlike the export manufactured goods, the world's consumers of travel pay for their own transportation costs.

A growing proportion of these globetrotters are travelling with more than just their luggage. They are, in the words of one commentator, packing a conscience as well as a keen desire to experience the fast-disappearing natural wonders of the world.

Research conducted by the World Tourist Organisation shows that 85 percent of German tourists want a holiday that is environmentally correct.

Foreigners arriving at Manaus in the Amazon Basin jumped by 300 percent between 1988 and 1989, causing one specialist to comment: "The words eco and nature are so easy to sell that the marketing (of tours) has begun before the infrastructure has been set up."

In Rwanda, the gorillas who live in the mists are the country's main economic asset. In 10 years since 1980, the number of tourists to this central African state has grown tenfold, making ecotourism its third most important source of foreign exchange.

A study of Kenyan game farming showed tourism was 50 times more lucrative than grazing. A lion in that country is now worth \$575 000 for viewing by foreigners. In Peru one free-flying macaw generates up to \$4 700 each year in tourist revenue.

South Africa is perfectly placed to take advantage of this world trend. Currently it receives 1.5-million foreign tourists each year. One million come from Africa and the rest are mainly from Europe and North America — from

'Tourism can be a major catalyst to kick-start the economy'

the planet's most endangered species — elephant and white rhino — in the wild, and these abound in South Africa.

There are signs that the government has grasped the strategic potential for ecotourism to provide the economic fuel for political reform. "Tourism can be a major catalyst to 'kick-start' the economy, thus providing the much needed economic upswing. Government therefore intends to promote tourist development in all its facets and to commit itself to supporting the industry in

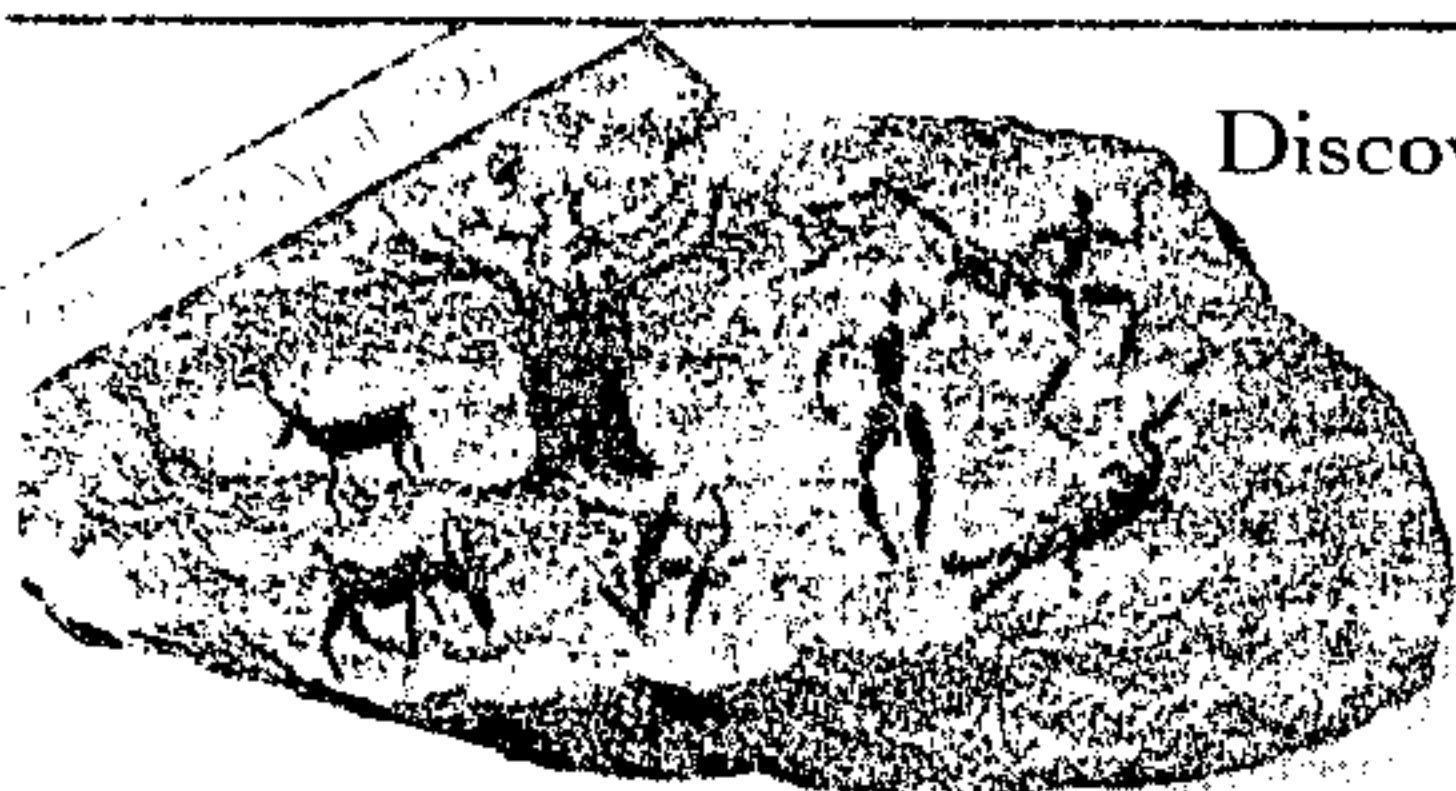
such a way that the economy and the community as a whole will benefit," says a White Paper on tourism published last year.

This month Administration and Tourism Minister Org Marais announced he intended to double the amount of land available for conservation and safari lodges in a bid to make South Africa the world's "ecotourism destination number one".

But participants at the Rockefeller Foundation's conference noted that in many parts of the world, the industry had failed to deliver its promised panacea.

The biggest problem with ecotourism is the sheer weight of numbers it brings. The government of Ecuador, for example, set a limit of 12 000 visitors a year to its fragile Galapagos islands. Economic expedience forced this figure up to 47 000 last year and there is now evidence that the impact of foreign visitors is putting the regional ecology under severe stress.

The Himalayas, which provide Nepal with its largest source of revenue, is fast becoming the world's highest garbage dump as visitors cut trees for camp fires and leave behind their tins and papers.



Discover a Safari Lodge that's more than 1 000 years old.

As its ethnic Setswana name suggests, Mowana - the place of the baobab - has been around for quite some time. Over 1 000 years in fact, according to expert assessment of the age of the enormous,

gnarled old baobab tree that majestically dominates this tranquil river wilderness.

People and animals alike have been resting here ever since the legendary baobab's branches first provided shade. And now the Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge has been created to extend the serenity and peace of this unspoilt retreat to visitors.



Built on the magnificent banks of Botswana's Chobe River and inspired by the great Mowana tree that dominates the site, everything about the very stylish Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge promises to spoil you in a "get away from it all" atmosphere that's steeped in the traditions of the wild.

To reserve your place around the Mowana tree, please contact Cresta Central Reservations in Johannesburg (2711) 787 9500 or fax 787 9757. Gaborone on (267) 312431 or fax 375376

Or write to Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge PO Box 266, Kasane, Botswana.



Special opening rate applicable 2 April 1993 - 30 June 1993. Only P211 per person sharing bed and breakfast. P275.00. single bed and breakfast. P366.00. per person sharing fully inclusive P430.00. single fully inclusive.

- Children under the age of 18 years sharing their parents room accommodated free and pay only for meals and activities (children's menu available for children under 12 years).
- Rates are subject to change without notice.
- Fully inclusive rates quoted include accommodation, 3 meals, 2 game/boating activities, morning and afternoon tea.

Rates indicated are per day.



Together with the charm you'd expect from an isolated safari lodge where the golden silence is only broken by the early morning cry of the fish eagle and other sounds of the wild, Mowana has all the modern comforts needed for true relaxation.

Ideally placed, just a short drive in courtesy transport from Kasane International Airport, and only one hour from Victoria Falls, Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge is the perfect springboard into the nearby Chobe National Park, Okavango Delta, Caprivi, and Savute Marsh.

Cresta

The place of the baobab.

PEOPLE'S LIVES Vegetable gardening in the backyards, on rooftops and on flat balconies



Jeremy Burnham waters the garden patch on his balcony.

Permaculture

Sowetan 18/2/93

By Pearl Majola

NEW SYSTEM Unemployed people

AS THE RECESSION BITES deeper into the pockets of many South Africans and unemployment soars, permaculture, a system of vegetable gardening, may prove to be a

are taught and helped to feed themselves:

useful and sensible way of saving.

The system, developed by Australian Mr Bill Mollison some years ago, aims to help individuals feed themselves in a

way that is both inspiring and environmentally responsible.

It can be applied by anyone, anywhere. It is simple and does not need

one to be an agricultural expert, nor does it require vast tracts of land to be cultivated. From the small backyard gardens with ordinary soil of private homes to garden patches on roof tops and on flat balconies - it works everywhere.

Permaculture was introduced to South Africa in 1991 by Mollison and in January 1992 a group of 50 people, including farmers and community workers, were trained in permaculture. Six months later the Permaculture Association of South Africa (Pasa) was formed.

"Agriculture and industry have crippled ordinary people by keeping them from providing in their own basic needs, especially food," says Pasa co-ordinator Mr Jeremy Burnham.

"People now depend on money to feed themselves. But industry can't create more jobs, which means that the people who have been dependent on money to get food are going to starve.

"The only sustainable, long-term answer, therefore, is to allow people to produce a significant proportion of their food," he explains.

"Permaculture is more enduring because it uses nature's way of cultivating, mixing a variety of things in one place - vegetables, fruit, trees and animals. For instance, in my garden patch, which is on my balcony, I grow tomatoes, beans, some herbs and even a sunflower.

"Permaculture does not use fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals that are ultimately destructive to the soil," says Burnham.

Pasa is putting together projects in various areas. The Thlolego Centre near Rustenburg functions as a permaculture farm as well as a school. Another farm is based in Warmbaths.

In Pretoria a project was started in 1991 under the Hlubukani Development Project. All the projects are intercropping farms with a variety of vegetables and fruit. Several courses, including soil management, water harvesting, producing and developing seedlings, designing gardens and environmental awareness, are taught.

A national cultural organisation, the Ndlamu Cultural Association, has also shown interest in permaculture. At the moment the organisation is involved in helping its members buy seed and plants collectively and has asked for help from people already involved in permaculture.

Come to the zoo and see the National Symphony Orchestra play for peanuts.

Watch humans performing in front of animals at the Johannesburg Zoo. Flutes, cellos and violins will fill the air while birds chirp, elephants trumpet and hyenas laugh.

It's a day we've set aside to make our children smile. A day where the whole family can get together among the animals, and hear some light classical favourites.

The music is absolutely free. But because the animals

have to be fed, the normal entry fee at the zoo gates will be charged.

It's a fun-filled family day not to be missed. Pack a picnic basket and make sure you get there early.

If you have any old children's clothes or books, please bring them along. We'll be collecting them for the needy children in 702land. So they can smile too.

702 kHz **Colgate**

FAMILY CONCERT AT THE ZOO. 2PM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21.

N1416

9/18/76
Military use of
De Hoop noted

Political Staff

ABOUT 18 000 hectares of the De Hoop Nature Reserve was set aside for military use but only portions had been used for this purpose. Defence Minister Mr Gene Louw said yesterday.

He said the 18 000ha bloc had been a privately-owned rural area before being expropriated for about R10m (5b)

Responding to a parliamentary question by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP, Pinelands), Mr Louw said: "Only after expropriation were the properties added to the De Hoop Nature Reserve."

He said the reserve would be used for arms testing in a manner compatible with environmental conservation.

Star 17/12/93
**Decision on St
Lucia to be
taken this year** (56)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Government must decide this year whether to allow mining on Lake St Lucia, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said yesterday during a press tour of the area he co-hosted with Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar.

Asked whether the decision might be postponed for a future government, Bartlett said that, in terms of the Minerals Act, the decision had to be made after the review panel submitted its recommendations to the Cabinet by the end of August.

But RBM could lose its rights before that if the Environmental Impact Assessment, due for release on March 18, indicated mining would cause irreparable damage to any ecosystem.

Those who blatantly refused to report are as follows:

- (a) 10,7%
(b) 13,8%

SADF: alleged malpractices

*9. Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any disciplinary steps are being taken against certain members of the Defence Force as a result of an inquiry into alleged malpractices within the information community of the South African Defence Force; if so, (a) what steps, (b) how many members are involved and (c) why;

- (2) whether these disciplinary steps have been concluded; if not, why not; if so, when;

- (3) whether the members concerned have been informed of the nature of their contraventions; if not, why not; if so, in what way? B47E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

The AGs of the Witwatersrand and the Transvaal, in conjunction with the SAP, are investigating allegations against certain members of the SADF. On completion of the investigation they will decide whether *prima facie* cases do exist and if legal proceedings should be instituted. In the meantime the case is *sub judice* and no details can be made public.

*10. Mr R F Haswell—Local Government. [Question standing over.]

Reggie Hadebe: progress in investigation

*11. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether the South African Police have made any progress in the investigation into the alleged murder of Reggie Bekumuzi Hadebe between Richmond and Ixopo in Natal on or about 27 October 1992; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B51E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) No.

The South African Police has made no positive progress with the investigation of the case. The reason for this is the lack of clues and witnesses. Only eleven cartridges and two spent cartridges were found at the scene and ballistic tests produced no evidence. The two co-passengers of the vehicle concerned could not identify the attackers. The investigation is continuing.

- (2) No.

SADF: persons called up/failure to report for service

*12. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) How many persons (a) were called up for national service in respect of the January 1993 intake and (b) failed to report for such service on the due date;

- (2) whether any action is contemplated against those who failed to report; if so, what action? B55E

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Certain organisations who campaign for the termination of National Service misuse these figures and therefore answers which contain call-up statistics are not made public. I wish to continue with this practice except that I am prepared to make an exception this time only and disclose that 18 467 conscripts reported in January 1993.

- (2) Yes. After each case has been investigated and it has been established that the person has no valid reason for failing to report, the case will be referred to the Attorney-General concerned for a decision regarding prosecution.

Pollution of sea around Cape Peninsula

*13. Mr C W EGLIN to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether any tests were conducted in 1992 to determine the level of pollution of the sea around the Cape Peninsula; if not, why not; if so, (a) (i) when and (ii)

where were these tests conducted and (b) what was the finding in respect of the pollution level;

- (2) whether this pollution constitutes or at any stage constituted a hazard to human and marine life? B60E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

- (1) Yes. The following authorities conducted tests in their respective areas of jurisdiction to determine the level of pollution of the sea around the Cape Peninsula:

Western Cape	Regional Services Council
Municipality of Cape Town	
Town Council of Lingeletu	

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry did not conduct any tests in this regard, but did in terms of the permits issued to local authorities receive the required information regarding tests carried out on the discharges from sewage works, enabling the Department to determine whether the permit conditions were being complied with.

- (a) (i) Throughout the year at approximately two-weekly intervals.
(ii) In the surf zone at:

21 points from Silverstream to Llandudno; 15 points from Hout Bay to Kommetjie; and 34 points from Miller's Point to Gordon's Bay and 1 more at Kogel Bay which is under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Cape Town.

Of these 71 sampling points, approximately 46 were at bathing areas and 25 near treated wastewater or stormwater outfalls.

- (b) Regarding False Bay in particular, the position is that the tests done by the various authorities represented on the False Bay Water Quality Committee confirmed that there is no need for concern. In the 1992 Annual Report of this Committee it is pointed out that the European

Community (EC) guidelines were exceeded marginally at four points in the surf zone near stormwater outlets where samples were taken.

Microbiological counts from Clifton Beach to Bakoven indicate general compliance with EC guidelines with a static or decreasing trend which is expected to improve still further on completion of the Green Point sea outfall pipeline repairs. The situation at Green Point, however, is not expected to return to normal until the repairs have been completed.

Microbiological results of tests conducted at Hout Bay indicate that the EC guidelines are exceeded from time to time, but the condition is expected to be rectified when the Hout Bay sea outfall pipeline is completed.

- (2) No hazard to marine life could be established and only limited risk towards bathers near stormwater outfalls could have existed at times at places. Recognised bathing areas, however, are generally not in the close proximity of stormwater outfalls.

Signs warning the public have been erected opposite the beaches near the damaged sea outfall pipeline at Green Point. It is not foreseen that the discharges from the damaged pipeline will have a detrimental effect on the marine life in this area over the long term and once the repairs have been completed and tests carried out, the beaches currently closed for bathing will again be safe from a health point of view.

Walvis Bay: future

*14. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 11 on 20 May 1992, finality has been reached regarding the future of Walvis Bay; if not, why not; if so, what decisions have been taken in this regard? B64E

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

No finality has been reached on the future of

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Hewson

Hewson

Minister please answer the second part of the question in this regard? [Time expired.]

*Adv J J S PRINSI.OO: Mr Speaker, this question is a very fundamental one, because this Government has a history of employing State funds to serve the NP's party-political interests. We need only think back to the relatively recent past when the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs had his little exercise with the DTA and other parties in South West Africa, where taxpayers' money was used to subsidise political parties in another state.

We are thinking of the publication *RSA Policy Review* that is published regularly and is nothing but a policy document of the NP and not of the Government of the day as such. We need, therefore, to consider the publication of the draft bill of rights against this background.

The simple question is whether the NP is going to publish a different draft bill to the one that the Government is supposed to have published here. The answer is simply, no. This bill is the NP's draft bill, and everybody knows that Government funds, or taxpayers' money, was used to make this publication possible.

The CP says that under no circumstances should the State's money be used to finance the propaganda or information of political parties. This should not be allowed to happen under any circumstances. However, it has happened again here. The question is, what do we do now? Our only logical and practical solution, with the warning that this process should not be repeated, is that since the Government has already committed an injustice, the same amount that has already been spent should be made available to all the political parties in South Africa that wish to publish such a draft bill, or their opposition to it. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Mr Speaker, this is really a very fundamental issue. What the Government intends to do concerning other political parties is definitely at issue here.

The hon member for Houghton obviously misquoted me with regard to the bill of rights.

†I did say: "We'll lick the radicals". But he castigates the Government every day, for reasons he alone knows, for not castigating or licking the radicals. I am not apologising for

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

licking the radicals, because he encourages us to do that. However, I did not say that in the context of the bill of rights. He must take my word for that.

Secondly, the interest in the report of the Law Commission is well underlined. It has reactivated the interest in that very important document. It is so important that the hon member for Houghton has now read the report of the Law Commission. [Interjections.] That is good. For the first time he has read it properly, because he has discovered 6 differences. One difference involves the issue of the death penalty. We do not apologise for that, because outside there is a cry, not only for the death penalty to be imposed, but for it to be put into operation and for people to be executed. I want to know his position on this point.

An HON MEMBER: That is irrelevant to the question!

The MINISTER: No, it is very relevant, because the debate will indicate . . . [Interjections] . . . what every political party's views are on these various points of difference. [Interjections.] What he does not say is that there are twenty-eight more points on which we agree with the Law Commission. [Time expired.]

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, the DP has scored a great victory in persuading other political players to accept our position, which is that South Africa needs a bill of rights. We have fought for this for decades. [Interjections.] We have persuaded those hon members.

What a tragedy it is that the draft bills of rights produced by the ANC and the Nationalists are such mediocre efforts in conception, contents and style.

The hon the Minister is a progressive and a reformer. Unfortunately he is also a prisoner of his party's past. Instead of taking advice from liberal democrats who know something about bills of rights, he has inspired his department and at vast expense has produced a party-political manifesto which is over-detailed where it should be simple, and deficient in detail where content is required. He then tried to present it as a contribution to the debate, again at public expense.

To add insult to injury, the long-suffering taxpayers have had to pay for this effort, and will now apparently not have the privilege of being

Hewson

Hewson

presented with alternatives as part of the wider debate.

One of the most appealing factors of the USA is the touching faith which ordinary Americans display in their pledge of allegiance to their flag, their Constitution and their Bill of Rights. One of the reasons is the simple elegance of language used to encompass lofty ideals and to describe and protect the rights of its citizens.

The DP is ambitious for South Africa and we insist that our people deserve better than this mediocre effort by the Nationalists, paid for by the people. We want State funding for all serious contributions to the debate, and I challenge the hon the Minister to use some of his R1.5 million to help fund serious contributions by this party and others.

Mr A J LEON: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister has conspicuously failed to answer the questions which were set before him this afternoon, and he knows that he has failed to do so. I am not surprised, because the hon the Minister has a very poor memory. He cannot remember what question was asked last week—which was on the Order Paper—and he certainly cannot remember what he said four years ago.

I quote from *Business Day* of 30 June 1989:

By introducing a bill of human rights the National Party would for once be in a position to 'lick' revolutionaries who claimed they could tender to South Africa a more just society, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said yesterday.

Speaking at the NP federal congress, Coetsee said South Africa did not yet have a full democracy, as large numbers of Blacks did not have a vote in regard to matters of concern.

However, the point is that the hon the Minister never went to the Press Council about this. He never said this front-page headline story was wrong or erroneous.

Four years later he says we should accept that he did not say or mean it in that context. However, the issue is that this is a political ploy by the NP to enhance their . . . [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Mr Speaker, I will show the hon member for Houghton my speech, and he must take my word for it. I know there is a tradition that if a member denies

having said something, it should be accepted. [Interjections.]

We want to emphasise that it is not the purpose of the Government to claim this area for itself. Therefore, on the same basis that we supported the constitutional process at Codesa I and II, we render assistance to those other parties and organisations who would like to present their proposals on a bill of rights during the next multiparty conference, because the Government will have to foot that bill as well. [Interjections.]

I am inviting the hon member and other members of the Justice Committee to come forward with ideas as to how we should go about doing that. This is the very reason why we have activated a debate on the Bill of Rights, which is very important, and we have succeeded. I am therefore responding positively to the request of the hon member.

As far as quality is concerned, we read the following in the *Washington Times* of 3 February 1993:

What Mr De Klerk proposes, is a document that sounds very similar to the mother of all bills of rights, the one enshrined in the United States Constitution since the 18th Century. Mr De Klerk's draft even goes well beyond ours in absolutely forbidding discrimination on the basis of race of sex, and also prohibiting the confiscation of property.

We have this visible intolerance on the part of the liberals. I want to conclude with the following definition of a liberal: A liberal is a man who leaves a room when the fight begins. [Interjections.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Questions standing over from Wednesday, 10 February 1993:

De Hoop nature reserve: land used for military purposes

*1. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Defence:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- (1) Whether any land in the De Hoop nature reserve has been set aside for military purposes; if so, (a) what is the total extent of the land involved and (b) what will become of the rest of the nature reserve;
- (2) whether any portion of the land so set aside has been expropriated; if so, (a) for what purposes, (b) at what cost and (c) what is the extent of the land involved;
- (3) whether any area in this nature reserve is being or will be used for military purposes; if so, what are the relevant details?

B3E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Approximately 18 000 hectares of the De Hoop Nature Reserve as it is known today of which only sections are used for military purposes. This ground, however, was not part of the De Hoop Nature Reserve. It was a rural area owned privately and used mostly as holiday estates, none of which were registered as private nature reserves. Only after expropriation were the properties added to the De Hoop Nature Reserve.
- (b) It is managed as a proclaimed nature reserve.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) Military purposes.
- (b) About R10 million.
- (c) 18 000 hectares.
- (3) Yes. Parts of the area of 18 000 hectares which was added to the original nature reserve, will be used for armament development which is compatible with principles of environmental conservation. Inside the original De Hoop Reserve a 0,02 hectare site is being used as a calibration point.

General Law Amendment Act, 1992: coming into operation

*3. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Justice:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- (1) Whether section 8 of the General Law Amendment Act, 1992 (Act No 139 of 1992), has come into operation; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (2) whether it has been brought to his attention that South African political organisations that are not registered as political parties are allegedly collecting money in foreign countries to be used for political purposes in South Africa;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B8E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) Yes, on 1 January 1993.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A statement is not necessary.

Tax deductions: payments/donations to educational institutions

*6. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 124 on 27 March 1992, he or his Department has as yet found a solution in regard to the deductibility of moneys paid by individual taxpayers for educational purposes at school or college level; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what is the current tax policy regarding individuals and/or companies making donations to (a) tertiary institutions, (b) pre-primary schools, (c) primary schools and (d) secondary schools? B18E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) It is not the intention to grant any tax relief in respect of school fees. On equity grounds there can be no justification for a tax deduction that would be of benefit to wealthy persons but would afford little or no benefit to the more needy. Furthermore, total Government expenditure on education, expressed as a percentage of both the budget and the gross domestic product, is already markedly

- higher than that of countries at the same stage of development, and an increased contribution cannot therefore be justified, taking into account the manifold claims on the Exchequer
- (2) It is still not policy to allow donations to pre-primary or primary schools as a tax deductible item. The interdepartmental committee referred to in my predecessor's reply No 124 of 27 March 1992 was instructed to seek solutions to two problems currently being experienced in the application of section 18A of the Income Tax Act, namely:

- (a) The system is being abused on an increasing scale, in that certain schools are partly converting their school fees into tax deductible donations.
- (b) Under the SITTE system, persons earning less than R50 000 per annum do not render tax returns and are thus unable to claim a deduction.

The committee concluded that these problems cannot be satisfactorily resolved. The committee recommended in principle that individual donations to secondary schools also should not be tax deductible. I am accordingly obliged to consider this recommendation and possible alternatives.

Judges: Freemasonry Movement/Afrikaner Broederbond

*8. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Justice:†

- (1) Whether his Department has made a survey in order to establish whether any judges are members of the (a) Freemasonry Movement and (b) Afrikaner Broederbond; if so, when;
- (2) whether there are any judges who are members of these organisations; if so, how many, in each case;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B24E

†The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) No. I would like to draw the hon member's attention to the fact that already

during 1965 a judicial commission of inquiry into secret organisations was instituted. The commission found that none of the said organisations rendered itself guilty of any form of treason or intrigue or of attempts to obtain for itself domination, or of harmful or unlawful influencing of the administration of justice.

In the light of the fact that to my knowledge no information exists which suggests the contrary, there was no need for an investigation into the involvement of judges with one of these organisations.

- (2) and (3) fall away.

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister did not reply to my question, but arising out of his reply I should now like to ask him directly. Would the hon the Minister ask Mr Justice Goldstone, for example, whether is a member of one or both of these organisations?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have put my policy viewpoint very clearly. There was an investigation into the particular organisations and in the absence of any indication to the contrary, namely that such organisations are damaging to the judiciary and/or conduct hostilities, I do not deem it necessary to put such a question to the judge.

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him whether he is aware that a certain judge resigned from a confidential organisation because—this is the impression we gained—he regarded it as unethical to be a member of such an organisation while also being a judge.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, if a judge has resigned, giving certain subjective reasons, I cannot pass judgment on whether he should have remained there. It is his privilege to decide whether he wants to remain there or not, just as the hon member, Mr H D K van der Merwe, I gather, resigned from one secret organisation and joined another. It is done on the same basis. It is a matter of one's conscience and where one stands with respect of one's own personal experiences or feelings of guilt, one or the other. [Interjections.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Natal Parks Board rethinks dam projects

B/D/My 16/2/93.

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Natal Parks Board (NPB) is considering "winding down" its involvement at several state dams in Natal, so that scarce finances can be used more effectively on high priority conservation functions.

NPB deputy CE Dick Parris said yesterday the proposals could include Midmar, Albert Falls and Hazelmere dams, and involve greater involvement by the private sector.

He stressed that any major decisions would have to be approved by the NPB's board and the province.

"It would be a question of ongoing decisions, rather than shedding responsibilities overnight."

State subsidies to the NPB had been declining in real terms for

several years, and the NPB had to re-examine funding priorities on a regular basis.

"Our primary mission is the promotion of nature conservation in Natal. We could find that money spent on recreational areas at dams could be better spent on conservation in Hluhluwe/Umfolozzi, or the the creation of the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park."

Parris said the recent government White Paper on tourism had expressed reluctance to permit uncontrolled private sector development in national parks and botanic gardens. However, dams were an area

where the private sector should be involved, as the state could not be expected to finance these areas on its own.

The NPB was also analysing the viability of several self-funding projects, and the loss-making bait operation at Richards Bay had already been closed.

Asked how staff would be affected by changes, Parris said the board had a policy of avoiding retrenchments.

Wherever possible, staff were moved to other reserves or resorts, where positions had been created through attrition.

The extensions to Hilltop camp at Hluhluwe Game Reserve had created several new posts.



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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The audited results for the year ended 31 December 1992 are shown below:

	1992 Z\$000s	1991 Z\$000s
Turnover	117 284	121 384
Export	30 197	13 912
Domestic	87 087	107 472
Operating profit	20 035	30 041
Interest (paid) received	(89)	510
Profit before taxation	19 946	30 551
Taxation	7 361	11 276
Profit attributable to shareholders	12 585	19 275
Dividends	3 121	4 804

Long wait for St Lucia decision

A DECISION on whether or not to allow titanium mining in the dunes at St Lucia will probably only be taken in the last quarter of this year.

The government-appointed environmental impact study into the controversial mining plan is due to be completed by March 18, but a panel of five experts will then scrutinise the findings, assess public reaction and make further recommendations.

Government might only take a final decision on the issue about six months after publication of the impact assessment report, Environment Affairs chief director of conservation Sydney Gerber said this week.

Damage

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett recently said he would turn down the Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) application to mine the St Lucia dunes if such mining resulted in "irreparable damage" to the ecosystem in the area.

This week a spokesman for Bartlett's department said there was no official definition of irreparable damage.

It is unknown what the environmental impact assessment team's definition of irreparable damage is. Gerber said his department hoped for an objective impact study.

"We are here to conserve the country's resources, which does not exclude the utilisation of resources. We are approaching the issue with an open mind," he said.

Natal Parks Board spokesman Bill Bainbridge said his own definition of

MARIANNE MERTEN

irreparable damage was "long-term severe environmental damage which is not possible to mitigate".

"We hope the report will find against RBM and determine that the best use for St Lucia is nature conservation linked with ecotourism for which there is great long-term potential," he said.

Should the report find that the mining had resulted in no irreparable damage, there was no reason why mining in the area could not proceed as planned, he said.

Richard's Bay Minerals public relations GM Barry Clements said the company would abide by the report's outcome.

He said the impact study was a victory for conservation because of the seriousness with which it was being viewed by government, business and conservation bodies.

Wilderness Trust of Southern Africa chairman Clive Walker believed that for mining damage to be declared repairable the structure of the dunes would have to be able to function as before.

He said St Lucia's hydrology was one of the key issues in assessing environmental impact. The ecosystem channelled rainwater through the dunes into the freshwater pools which were vital to wildlife during drought years.

Bartlett has invited RBM officials, conservationists and journalists to visit the St Lucia area this week, in advance of publication of the impact assessment report.

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Cottage cluster plan ruffles some feathers

8/10/93 16/2/93. (56)

KATHRYN STRACHAN

CONSERVATIONISTS are considering taking legal action against a company which plans to build 45 cottages in the Magaliesberg — in the heart of a vulture colony's nesting area.

Wildlife organisations, including the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the Nature Conservation Department, have added their voices to the protest against the development at Hartbeespoort. They believe it will pose a threat to the future of the colony. But the developers contend the project will be to the benefit of wildlife.

Wildlife Society spokesman Andrew

Duthie said the conservation lobby was considering legal action to get the housing scheme stopped. The vultures living on the site made up one of the last two colonies in the Magaliesberg, he said.

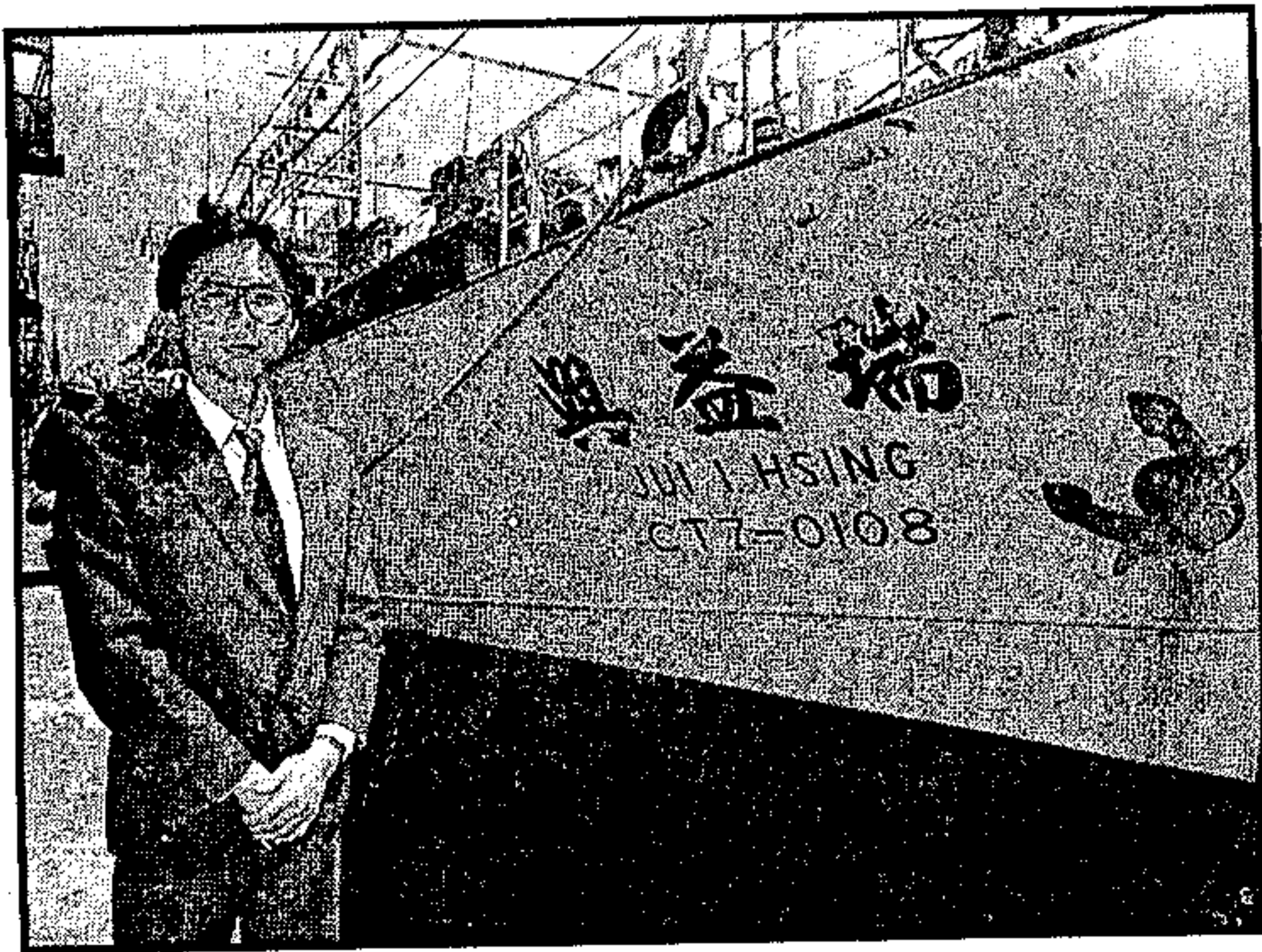
Duthie said vulture colonies were fast disappearing all over southern Africa, and because of their vital role in the ecosystem they had to be conserved at all costs.

But spokesman Martin Wragge defended Maxex Development Corporation's plan. He said his company was being ex-

posed to a "hysterical, bizarre attack" by people who had not attempted to understand the problem. The company had been given a permit for the development, but had changed its original plan to build 100 units to one involving only 45 units.

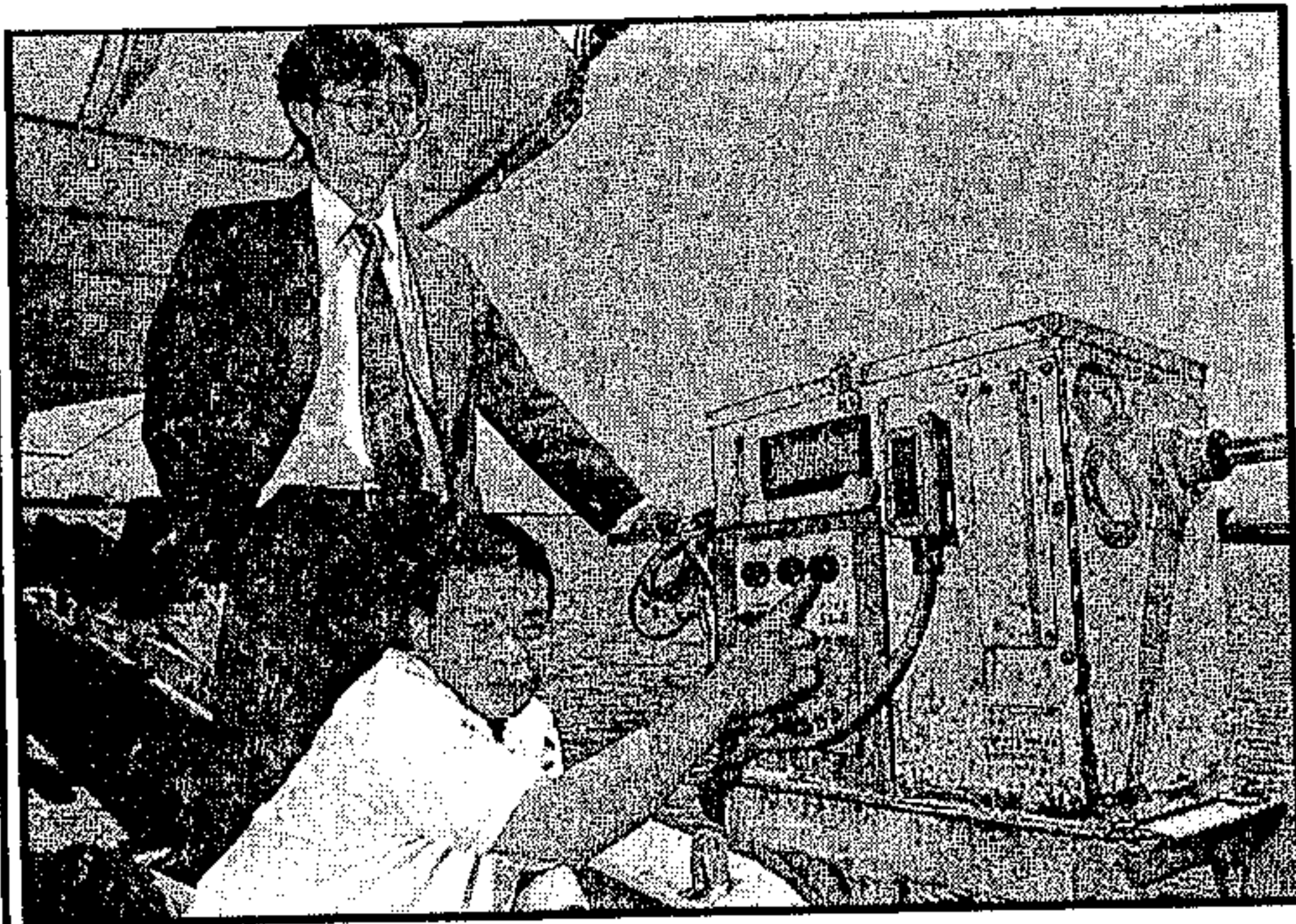
Wragge said the intention was to build an environmentally sensitive development for wildlife enthusiasts. Their presence would be a deterrent to poachers.

Duthie said once development encroached on the "core area" set aside for preservation 30 years ago, it would be difficult to stop the trend.



Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

CERTIFIED "DRIFT-NET FREE": Taiwanese inspector Mr Tian-Shang Lin on the quay alongside a former driftnet fishing vessel which he has cleared to resume other methods of fishing.



ON A NEW TACK: Mr Lin and Captain Te-Shun Chen, master of the converted driftnetter Jui I Hsing, inspect one of the vessel's squid jiggers.

Green anger over permits for Taiwanese trawlers

56
ARG 15/2/93

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SIXTEEN Taiwanese fishing vessels have been declared "driftnet-free" by an inspector flown in from the Republic of China and given permits to resume other methods of fishing on the high seas.

But angry South African conservationists say at least nine of these vessels sailed fully equipped to driftnet and are demanding an explanation.

The Taiwanese vessels came into Cape Town to meet the February 5 deadline set for removing all driftnets and associated equipment, as ordered by their government in terms of its stated commitment to the United Nations moratorium on driftnet fishing which came into effect on December 31.

The Taiwanese consulate asked the South African government for permission for the ships to enter Cape Town, saying they could not remove their big power blocks (net haulers) and net carrying pipes at sea.

But Taiwanese Inspector Mr Tian-Shang Lin, who flew to Cape Town to examine the 16 vessels, reported that they had dismantled this equipment at sea and transferred it to a carrier ship for transport back to Taiwan.

Conservationist and anti-driftnet campaigner Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said all 16 vessels had been closely monitored and photographed while in the docks.

"Of the 16 vessels, at least nine left Cape Town fully equipped to driftnet," she charged. "Net frames and stackers were in evidence, as were net carrying pipes below deck, and one could be clearly seen on deck."

"It's our firm opinion that despite the deadline set by the UN moratorium, there are still numerous Taiwanese vessels roaming the high seas which are still capable of driftnetting."

Mrs Rice condemned the South African and Taiwanese governments for allowing a loophole in South Africa's tough driftnet legislation to be exploited.

She said 14 of the 16 vessels — now all confirmed driftnetters — had visited Cape Town for supplies last year, leaving their nets at sea. This was in defiance of the spirit, if not the letter, of South African law.

"Their visits weren't contrary to our regulations but I still feel it's dishonest because they know we didn't want driftnetters in here," she said.

She is calling for a UN-sponsored international register of all former driftnet fishing vessels so that their movements and catches can be monitored.

Taiwanese consul-general Mr Rung-tso Yang said his government was sincere in its commitment to the UN moratorium on driftnetting.

Referring to the arrest of Taiwanese driftnetters in local waters in previous years, Mr Yang said "awkward things" had happened.

Concern over rise

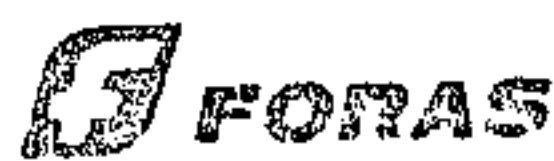
AUCTION SALE CAMPS BAY AUCTION SALE

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The proposed mining area covers 17km of high-forested dunes on the eastern shores of the lake.

Richards Bay Minerals, which is partly owned by Rio Tint Zinc, a British company, have applied to mine the area but they are still waiting for the Environmental Impact Assessment before they can do anything.

The report will be published on March 18.

56



Reprieve for Sandy Bay? Housing estate site swop deal

ARL 13/2/93
56

A CONTROVERSIAL Sandy Bay housing site will be given up by its owner, Bankorp Properties, if it is allowed to develop a 50 ha site it also owns on the Hout Bay mountainside nearby.

About 300 houses were planned, but it would take at least two years to instal services and put the plots on the market, said a spokesman for Amalgamated Banks of SA (Absa) yesterday.

Services are estimated to cost R9 million (R30 000 a site) and houses will cost at least R300 000 each to build.

Buildings will be limited to two storeys and Bankorp consulting architect Mr Christo Kannenberg believes they will not be seen from Sandy Bay.

The 216 ha Sandy Bay site was bought by Trust Bank more than 15 years ago and inherited by Absa when it took over Bankorp.

Absa has offered the Sandy Bay site and a large part of its other site to the Cape Provincial Administration as a nature re-

■ A deal involving development of a Hout Bay mountainside area rather than building at Sandy Bay is to be put to a public meeting in Hout Bay on February 25.

TOM HOOD,
Business Editor

serve.

But Mr Pierre Augustine, head of Bankorp Properties, says a condition of the deal is that the Sandy Bay site must be handed back to Bankorp if development is allowed at Sandy Bay in future.

"We have turned away various potentially lucrative offers to buy the Sandy Bay portion of our property," he said.

A leading architect, who said he was "elated" by the proposals, said the housing project would make no difference to the visible impact which had already been destroyed by all the building at Hout Bay.

Absa is to unveil its plans to

the public at a meeting in Kronendal Primary Hall, Hout Bay on February 25 at 8 pm.

The proposed housing development is on the Hout Bay side of the Karbonkelberg-Klein Leeukoppie watershed.

"In planning for our proposed development, we are applying the most stringent tests of environmental compatibility to ensure that accepted aesthetic and ecological standards are met," said Mr Augustyn.

"In public interest, we are also extending the period for any comment and objection subsequent to the publication of the official advertisement, from 21 to 35 days.

"We have also placed the findings of our studies at the disposal of public representatives. This open book approach will avoid the need for them to cover the same ground."

Because of the sensitivity of the Sandy Bay area, Bankorp commissioned a series of in-depth environmental studies

Retrenchments tell ...

R25m fund started for Table Mountain

(56) MLE 13/2/93
JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

CONSERVATIONISTS have launched a fund with a R25 million target to ensure the rehabilitation and future conservation of Table Mountain, along with an application being prepared to have the entire protected nature area of the Cape Peninsula declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

This dual initiative was announced by SA Nature Foundation executive director Dr John Hanks at a function at Stellenbosch yesterday.

Although South Africa was not a member of Unesco — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation — which registers the sites, this was likely to change soon and the application would be made, said Dr Hanks.

"I hope that with political acceptability, this will become a reality shortly."

Referring to the Table Mountain fund, Dr Hanks said interest on the capital would be used by relevant conservation and management authorities for the long-term conservation and development of "this unique natural heritage".

Aspects to be funded included:

- The development and implementation of a co-ordinated plan for the whole of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment; and

- The prevention of the uncontrolled spread of invasive aliens — mainly shrubs and trees like Australian Acacias.

Londolozi lives by its environmental code

Nature rules, okay?

Star 13/2/98

(56)

LONDLOZI game reserve has embarked on an unusual policy of not serving any foodstuff, such as tuna or canned drinks, or condoning practices, such as smoking or using insecticides, which are considered environmentally destructive.

The reserve is well known for its strict environmental principles of care of the land, care of wildlife and care of people. This week it won the international Tourism for Tomorrow award, which recognises a tourism infrastructure that strives to be environmentally friendly.

Varty says there are still many practices at the reserve which are environmentally unethical — such as serving battery-fed chickens and beef pumped up with hormones, using environmentally unfriendly insecticides and selling cigarettes.

“Londolozi gets exposed to people from all over the world and from different cultures. Therefore it is perfectly poised to effect and influence people to change,” he told Londolozi staff at a recent meeting.

“How we act locally will affect us globally. We have to start somewhere and it might as well be here at Londolozi.”

He proposes a draft code of ethics, which includes:

- Growing small plots of organic vegetables for use in the lodge’s kitchens.

ONE of South Africa’s foremost private game reserves is taking conservation to extraordinary lengths. MANDY JEAN WOODS reports.

● Striving not to support any monocultures — “If you want to smoke, grow your own tobacco,” he told staff. “And we would prefer not to sell cigarettes to our clients in future.”

- Using no “unethical” food like tuna (since dolphins are killed in gill nets), veal, battery chickens, and beef from stock fed on hormones. “We should serve fish caught in the river and im-

pala shot in culling.”

- Saving rainwater for drinking.
- Using no environmentally unfriendly packaging. Already all canned foods and drinks have been banned; only bottled products are purchased because bottles can be recycled. Nothing in CFC-based packaging is bought.
- Using no insecticides or herbicides.

“The life-support systems of the planet are failing. The Earth can survive without us, but we cannot survive without it. Already, one species (humans) consumes 80 percent of the world’s resources, and things cannot continue like this,” Varty says. “We have to move to more sustainable development, otherwise we won’t

survive.”

Because of the exploratory nature of the new philosophy, he notes, not everything will be successful. However, every avenue must be explored to see where changes can be made at Londolozi and what influence the park can exert on the world around it.

Varty says he would like to see solar-powered or electric vehicles used at Londolozi one day. He has also suggested that two-children families at Londolozi be rewarded, and families with more than two children be taxed.

It is one thing to write such a policy, and entirely another thing to live it, he concedes, but “we have to create a new attitude, and the birth of this new attitude won’t be easy.”

COMMERCIALISING DAMS

Going that extra mile 56

Resort facilities at Midmar Dam in the Natal Midlands could get a R1bn revamp if a Transvaal developer gets the go-ahead. Plans for the dam include: a five-star international hotel; golf course; an upgrading of the historical theme village to include shops, a period hotel/pub, housing, conference facilities, health spa, an amusement park and waterworld, a sport and training centre, timeshare accommodation, equestrian facilities and an extended scenic steam railway.

A feasibility/environmental impact study into the proposals is being undertaken. It is due for completion in September. Then the Natal Parks Board will have to decide whether to give the project the nod.

The board is grappling with the problem of what to do with its under-used resources. So it is paying attention to development that does not impair the environment.

An extreme case is the controversial proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine the St Lucia dunes on the Zululand coast. In this instance, the decision will be made by the Mineral & Energy Affairs Minister. Less high profile is the board's dilemma over loss-making low conservation assets such as the dams it administers on behalf of the Department of Water Affairs.

In this respect, the 2 500 ha Midmar Dam nature reserve, built in 1957, is an ideal test case. Next to the N3 and north of Maritzburg, it gets about 200 000 visitors a year. Though attractive, it has little potential for development as a high-density wildlife sanctuary.

The preliminary development proposals for the dam and its surrounds were motivated by Doornfontein-based Democritus, a subsidiary of consulting engineers B S Bergman & Partners.

Though interested, the board has not committed itself to the development. Parks Board western region deputy director David Cook says: "We could, depending on financial viability and desirability, decide to implement all, part or none of the proposals."

He adds that though the board's mandate is to concentrate on nature conservation, the nature component of Midmar is low. And when resorts of this kind don't break even or make a profit, options need to be explored.

Cook says the board administers five State dams. Though some, like Spioenkop Dam,

PROPERTY FM 12/2/93 56

have a high conservation value and could not be considered for intensive development, others like Albert Falls Dam, near Maritzburg, and Hazelmere, near Durban, could undergo resort-type development. ■

(56) 11/2/93

Londolozi gets 'green' honour

LONDON. — Londolozi game reserve in the Eastern Transvaal has won an international "green" tourism award for their successful approach to conservation.

Londolozi co-owner Mr Dave Varty was presented with the Tourism for Tomorrow awards at a ceremony last night.

He and his brother John were praised for their reclamation of grassland, restoration of ecological and wildlife diversity and restoring migratory routes.

Star 11/2/93

Environmental body born

A national environmental organisation, which has the potential to be the definitive voice on issues at the interface between economic growth and environmental protection, was launched in Johannesburg yesterday. (56) ● Page 6

focus on Zoeknog Dam

WAS IT divine intervention on behalf of humans and animals downstream or the work of saboteurs?

Or, worse still, was it just plain poor workmanship of an unbelievable magnitude?

These are the questions that are taxing the minds of all who have seen the gaping hole at the Zoeknog Dam outside Bushbuckridge.

Built at a cost of R37 million and completed two months ago, the dam collapsed in the early hours of January 25, filled to only 28 percent of its total capacity.

The collapse, which left in its wake a major environmental tragedy that killed fish and made water uninhabitable for hippos and crocodiles, has focused attention on the dam itself and how it will affect the local communities and business interests.

Speaking to the different players in the R37 million game is extremely enlightening. What becomes obvious is that there are opposing commercial interests that are fighting for and against the dam.

On the one hand, the Lebowa government, through the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation (LAC), acquired R37 million from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to build the dam on the Mtlomobe River.

The primary aim was to develop further an existing coffee plantation managed by the LAC. This project is reputed to have the capacity to create jobs for "hundreds" of local black people.

Lebowa deputy chief engineer in charge of water Mr Louis Theron said the coffee plantation would eventually occupy 350 hectares.

The dam, he said, would also provide drinking water for over 100 000 people in the region, including some in Gazankulu. Theron emphasised that it was actually the latter reason that motivated the damming of the river.

The department "intended" to build a purification centre at the dam to ensure that "water that is supplied to the villages was good for human consumption", he added.

"The dam is a major achievement for Lebowa and will provide jobs and water. The collapse is a tragedy but it will have to be rebuilt for the purposes for which it was created. Otherwise the money will have gone down the drain," Theron argued.

At the other extreme are private game lodge owners who depend on the river for water and for their animals.

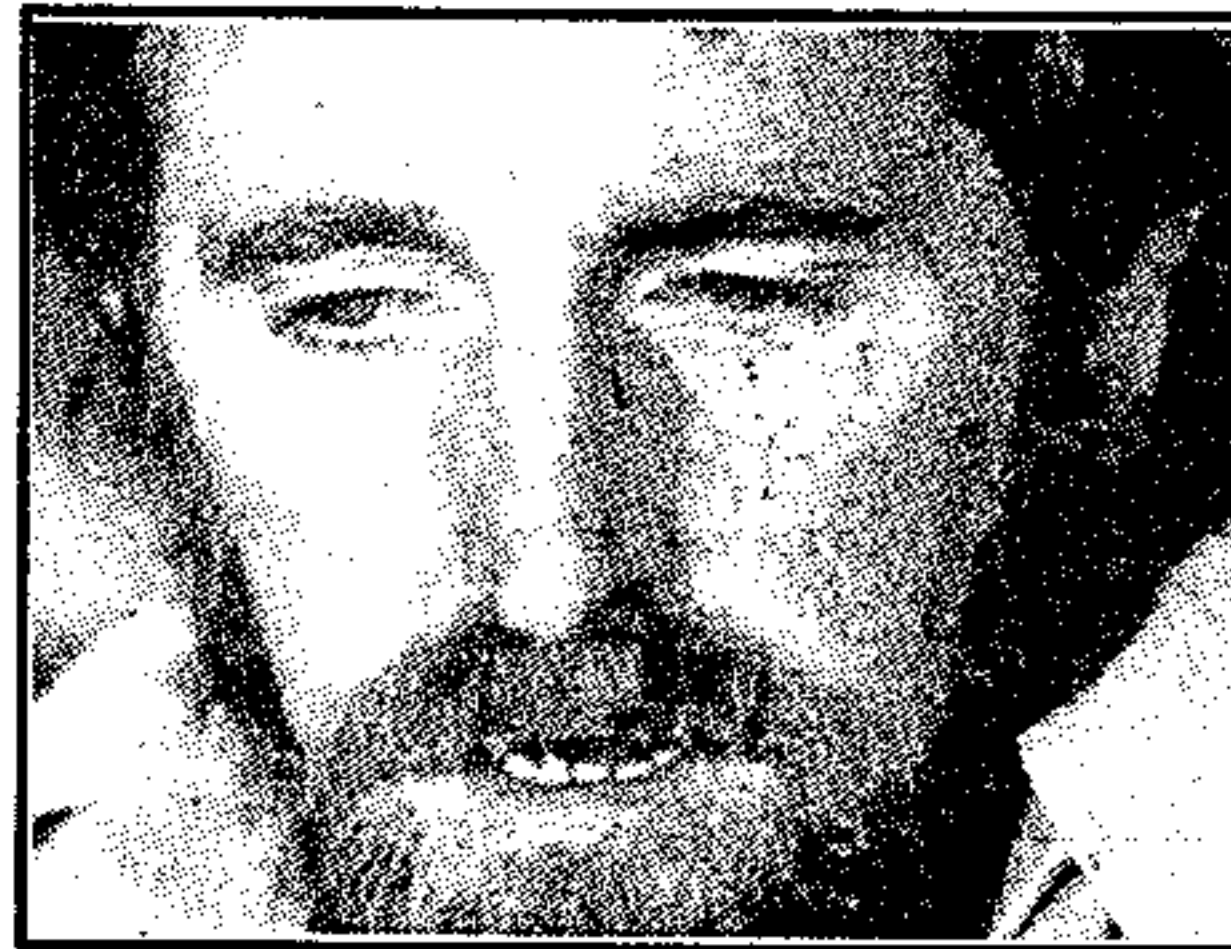
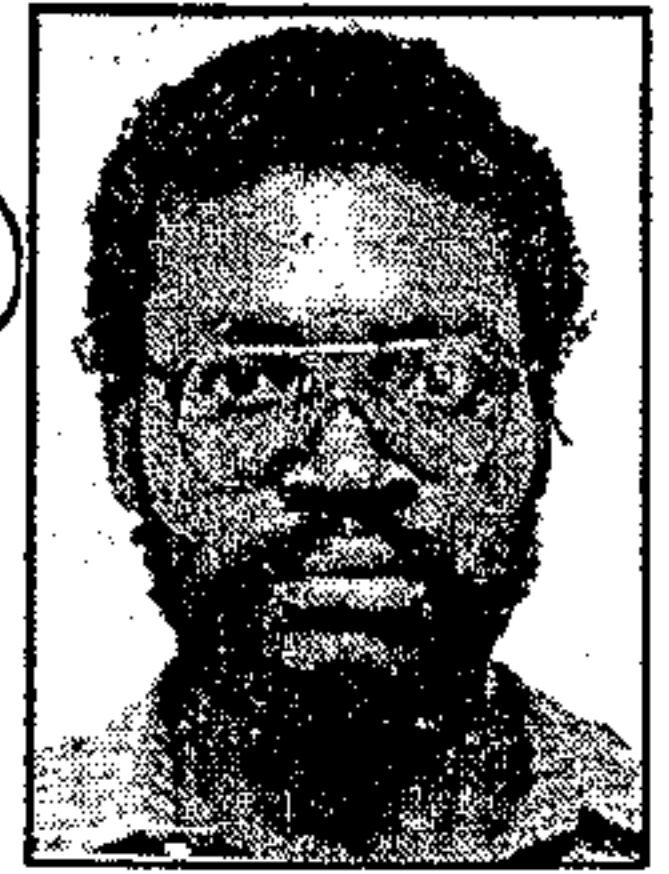
For them the Zoeknog dam is a major disaster that has almost dried up their supply.

At least 12 lodges in the Sabie area — Mala Mala, Londolozi, Castelton, Ravenscourt, Othawa, Toulon, Exeter, Ulusaba, Alicecot, Ulu Lapa, Idube, Dulini and Inyati — depend directly on the Sand River which is fed by the

Sowetan 9/2/93.

Game lodge owners say the Zoeknog Dam, which collapsed recently, is an ecological disaster for animals and villages, while the Lebowa government claims it will provide jobs and water for villagers, writes

Mathatha Tsedu, Investigations Editor:



Londolozi communication manager James Marshall.

Mtlomobe River.

For these private lodge owners the argument against the dam is clothed in environmental terms.

Mr James Marshall, communication manager for Londolozi, argued that damming the river upstream was an infringement of the rights of lodge owners downstream and a murderous act on water animals such as hippos.

"This river is home to hippos, crocodiles, large species of rare birds and beautiful vegetation. What has been done is wrong. The Lebowa people are not only damming the river, they are also planting gum trees right on the edge of the river, siphoning water off for coffee and leaving the river virtually empty.

"One gum tree needs about 200 litres a day to survive and if they are planting these trees and citrus fruit trees on the river's edge, they are disturbing the river.

"To cap it all, they went and built the dam and now, thank God, it has collapsed," Marshall said.

He said their concern was also for black villagers along the stream who have depended on the river for drinking water since time immemorial.

"The lodge owners may be able to drill for water but the residents cannot. Where are they supposed to get water from? This river was dry after they closed the dam," he said, introducing the villagers as one of his reasons for fighting the dam project.



Deputy chief engineer Louis Theron.

We spoke to villagers at Zoeknog and Madjembeni villages who are to benefit from the dam. They were happy at the promise but decried the fact that they had no access to the dam water at present.

Caught in between the arguments of the two capitalist pivots, the villagers have now become the trump card for both sides, dealt to strengthen opposing points of view.

And as the argument rages, the dam that never was lies in ruin, with workers on site doing mop up operations.

They are the workers who had to spend the night in the nearby hills after the dam collapsed and almost washed them downstream.

The costs of repairs will run into further millions but with R37 million already gone, literally down the river, the argument about rebuilding is merely academic.

Marshall denied that it was the game lodge owners who bombed the dam for water.

Theron said he did not know how it happened and was awaiting results of an investigation by experts.

Locals are just amazed at the damage and are wondering whether they will ever get water from the dam.

In the interim, the crocodiles and hippos, the villagers downstream and the game lodge owners, are just happy that water is flowing downstream for now.

See page 7

Toxic spraying of birds halted

AGRICULTURE Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has placed a moratorium on the control of red-billed quelea (finches) by chemical spraying.

This moratorium follows the death of some 80 birds of prey after spraying, to control the quelea, by the Department of Agriculture.

Present policy is being revised, Dr Van Niekerk said yesterday. — Political Staff, Sapa

(56)

Star 8/2/93

Outrage as toxic spray kills 'protected' raptors

By Julienne du Toit

Conservationists yesterday expressed outrage at a Department of Agriculture toxic-spraying experiment which caused the death of at least 82 raptors at Dwaalboom in the north-western Transvaal.

The Biotox Foundation, an organisation which monitors the misuse of pesticides and toxins, threatened to take the department to court.

And a specialist scientist at the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Department of

Nature Conservation, Peter Milstein, described the experiment as "absolutely shocking" in view of the "present catastrophic decline of our birds of prey".

The deaths resulted from experiments to test poisons designed to rid farmers of the red-billed finch or quelea, which causes damage to crops.

Biotox Foundation spokesman Abre Steyn said he planned to lay a charge against the department for "knowingly" poisoning birds of prey which, he said, were

protected by law. But Johannes Vosloo, head of the department's section which handles spraying against red-billed finches, said it came as news to him that birds of prey were protected by law.

According to Steyn, the 82 raptors killed at Dwaalboom near Thabazimbi included 66 Steppe buzzards that migrate from Russia, six Wahlberg's eagles, eight yellow-billed kites, one banded goshawk and one lanner falcon.

The birds of prey died from eating the poisoned red-billed

finches or quelea. Last year quelea caused R43 million in damage to South African crops.

Steyn said quelea posed no threat to farming in that area. He added that using explosives on the trees where the quelea roosted caused far less damage to the environment and was far cheaper than spraying Queleatox.

Using explosives was highly effective and cost only R3 000 an operation, he said. Vosloo admitted that one Queleatox spraying could cost more than R12 000.



56

Sea outfall in bad odour, locals complain

Stimes (Cape Town)
Sunday Times Reporter

MOUILLE POINT residents are complaining about a bad smell that they believe can be traced to problems with the sewerage pipes off the coastline. They say green sludge and slime also wash up on the shore.

The chairman of the Sea Point Ratepayers' Association, Mrs Annette Reincke, said the city council's method of disposing of raw sewage into the sea was "outdated and disgusting".

"The council's decision to embed the sewerage pipes in the seabed is regrettable. The cost of an alternative method, although initially higher, would have been more economical in the long run."

Unconcerned

The smell was a short-term nuisance, but a long-term concern was that waste being pumped into the sea would cause the loss of marine life.

Residents believe there must be a better way to dispose of sewage. A Mouille Point resident, who declined to be named, said the council appeared to be "unconcerned".

"I wish the council would try to reassure us that it is paying attention to the possible disasters that could arise," she

said.

Residents are also concerned about the capacity of the reticulation plant in Table Bay to cope with the growing demands placed on it by the burgeoning development in the city centre and at Granger Bay and the Waterfront.

Chief city engineer Arthur Clayton said the new pipeline would be completed by March 1994 and would cost about R20 million.

"It is designed to carry the same capacity as the present one and it will work for Sea Point, Green Point and the City Bowl," he said.

The pipe was sophisticated and complied with international standards, he said.

However, residents are not satisfied. They want to know why sewage can't be disposed of in another way rather than pumping it into the sea.

"We need a new reticulation plant as the present one won't be able to cope," said one.

A 1991 municipal report said a major increase in residential density would

put a huge strain on the waste-disposal unit.

"Anything except minor increases in residential density would have financial consequences for the city," it said.

"We are going to be stuck with the consequences," said an irate resident.

"It's all very well for the council to add a new pipeline and say everything's going to be all right.

"We have to contend with smells, dirty shorelines and polluted water and we, as ratepayers, will have to foot the bill," Mr Clayton replied. "I have no doubt that once the new pipeline has been completed the area around Mouille Point will clear up considerably."

When the new sewage pipe construction was finished, the "No swimming" signs off Three Anchor Bay and Mouille Point would be removed as the area would be safe for recreational use.

"The faecal coliform level is regularly checked to ensure it complies with international standards. There is also a high maintenance on the pipes and in the case of a breakdown, a stand-by system comes into operation," said Mr Clayton.

"The plant in Green Point has a very sophisticated system to combat bad

odours that might arise from a leakage."

However, Mr Clayton urged residents to report bad odours from the reticulation systems and the pipes to the council.

"It is vital for us to know immediately if there is an overflow problem."

Confident

A public awareness campaign in 1990 had given residents a chance to air their concerns.

"This was fairly successful, and for this reason the council decided to build the new outflow pipeline instead of a new reticulation plant," said Mr Clayton.

The deputy city engineer, Henk Beekman, said he was confident about the new pipeline as intensive research had been carried out before construction began.

"The pump station and marine outfall system is quite adequate," he said.

Mr Clayton said the Waterfront had its own sewage system, which had been completed about a year ago, so the increase in the area's population did not increase the burden on the Green Point reticulation plant.

Teach ^{(56) AND S/2/93} our children, beg mothers

JOHN VILJOEN
Education Reporter

CHILDREN who have been turned away from overflowing township schools are flocking in their hundreds — some with their weeping and desperate mothers — to the Langa offices of an education trust to plead for help.

Scenes at the Washington Street offices of the Council for Black Education and Research Trust this week gave an insight into the extent of the classroom crisis which is excluding hundreds of pupils from township schools.

Trust staff have taken the names of about 600 young people who have been turned away from Department of Education and Training high schools.

Since DET schools re-opened three weeks ago a steady stream of excluded pupils, sometimes more than 200 a day, have turned up at the trust's offices.

Earlier this week the offices were filled with parents whose children had not found places in township schools.

Some were weeping, pleading with trust staffers to accept their children into its youth development programme so that they would not be out on the streets.

Their plight is the most visible symptom of an appalling situation, say trust staff, who are able merely to record the children's names.

Ms Phyllis Foku, the trust's youth development co-ordinator, said: "We are taking their names down so that we can show the DET. There are so many children out of schools and so many teachers out of jobs. Can't they provide a school for them?"

The trust runs its youth development programme in premises provided by a church. It intended to limit numbers to 75 this year but, overwhelmed by the demand for some form of education, it has taken in 190.

The programme was designed to rehabilitate street children, but the trust has succumbed to demands to expand the curriculum to include subjects taught at DET schools.

Word of its success has spread and now the trust, funded by the Independent Development Trust and various companies, foundations and embassies, has to turn away hundreds in search of learning.

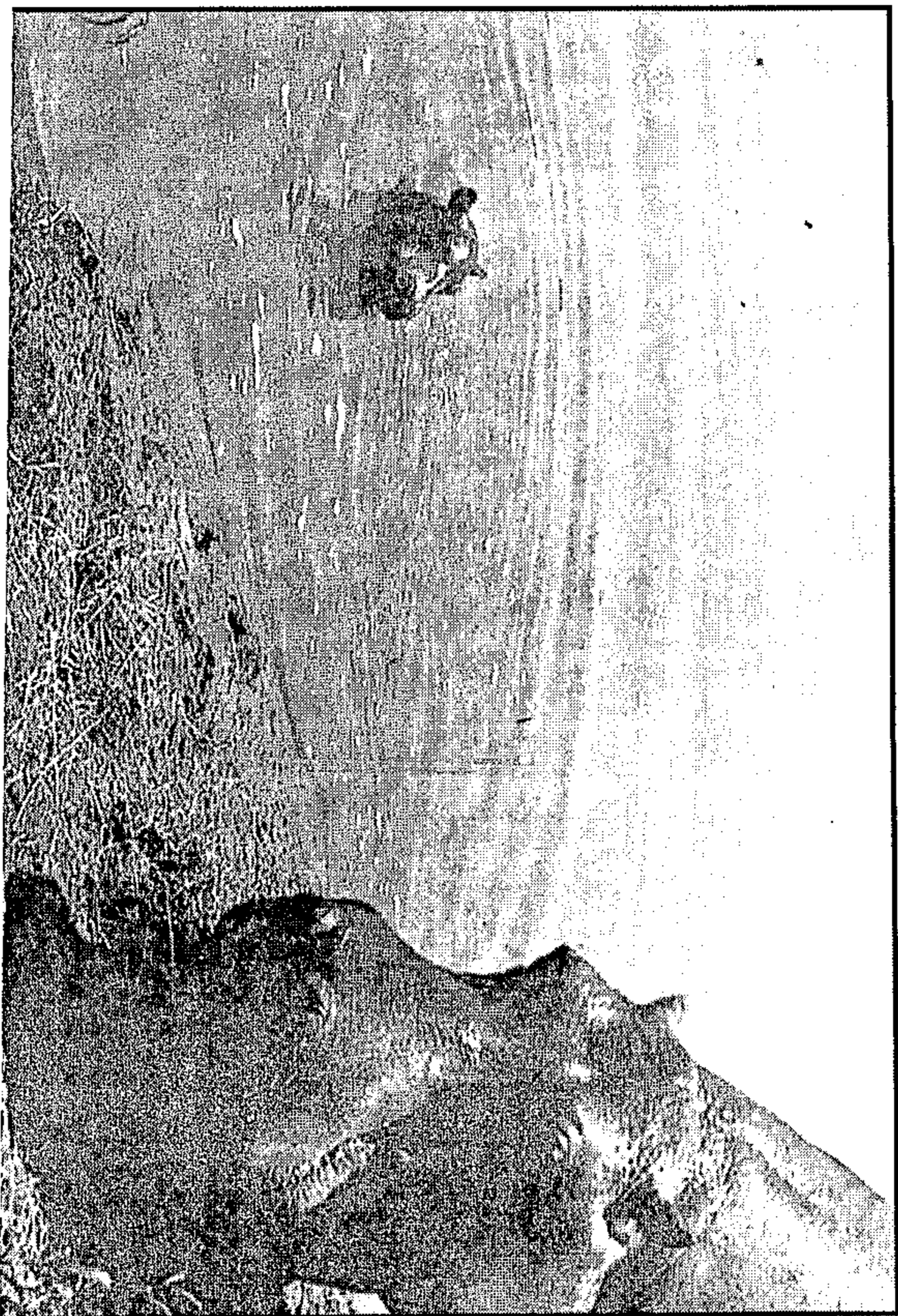
Trust manager Ms Nombeko Mlambo said: "They should be at school — they want to be at school."

"These people come in off the street. They have been to all the schools, in Langa, Nyanga, Guguletu, Khayelitsha and Crossroads. They are all full.

"It just shows the extent of the crisis."

"We are registering more than 200 a day — that means there is a crisis. Yet teachers are unemployed.

"The only solution is for the department to open more schools.



Star 5/2/93

Don't prejudge St Lucia study, pleads Minister

(56)

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The Government would lose some R350 million a year in taxes if Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) were denied permission to mine the sand dunes at Lake St Lucia, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said yesterday.

He was being questioned at an international press conference at St Lucia after Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar said RBM would not get the go-ahead "if there was irreparable damage" to the environment.

Bartlett appealed to people not to "prejudge things". The environmental impact study being carried out was the most intensive study of its kind ever done, he claimed. Some of the "best brains in the world" were involved, and 23 disciplines were being covered.

"I appeal to South Africans to start to think, and to use their



George Bartlett . . . don't prejudge impact study.

heads and not their emotions," Bartlett said.

RBM had said that if the study's report were against mining operations, it would withdraw the application.

Bartlett said he operated under an Act that called for the optimal utilisation of South Africa's mineral resources.

People had to ask themselves what contribution to the gross domestic product came from mining.

"Without mining, South Africa would crumble," Bartlett

said.

The Government had to ensure that mineral resources were "not going to be sterilised".

There was between R6 billion and R9 billion worth of heavy minerals at St Lucia.

If RBM were allowed to mine there, it would extend its present operations by between 12 and 17 years.

The huge smelting plant at Richards Bay also had to be taken into consideration.

"You have to get your basic ore from a place close by. You have to take a look at all these implications."

Other people had to be taken into consideration, Bartlett said.

The industry would provide R350 million in tax a year, he said. If mining did not go ahead, this tax money would escape the economy.

The decision to allow mining at St Lucia would be taken by the Cabinet.

Bartlett said neither he nor his director-general knew what was in the environmental impact report.

Increasing oil pollution an 'unsolvable problem'

BIDMY 4/2/93

(56)

OIL pollution on the world's coastlines is on the increase, and although international agencies continually update contingency plans, very little can be done to prevent environmental catastrophes.

SA's Environment Affairs Department says tanker disasters have to be treated on an individual basis. "In the case of a spill very close to shore and in very bad weather conditions — such as the Braer off the Shetland Isles — it is virtually impossible to avert disaster," spokesman Lynn Jackson says.

Just a few days after hurricane weather destroyed the Braer, giant supertanker Maersk Navigator collided with Sanko Honour off the Sumatran coast, creating yet another world environmental disaster.

About 20 major oil spills have been reported off SA coasts since 1980, with 128 small spills during 1988 and 96 in 1991. Jackson, who works in the department's oil pollution unit, says many of the spills are insignificant, but warns that size is not the major factor.

"A small spill near a sensitive resource and under unfavourable conditions can often do greater harm than a large spill offshore. So it's difficult to decide which spills pose a serious threat to our beaches."

And although international shipping legislation is growing stricter, it will not completely eliminate accidents, she says.

Transport Department spokesman Captain B R Watt says countries cannot prevent, let alone stop, future shipping disasters, even with contingency plans invented to minimise pollution effects.

"The international maritime community, through the International Maritime

KARIN FRANKEN

Organisation, continually analyses accidents and disasters, after which improved safety and construction requirements are developed." Although public awareness is peaking on environmental issues, shipping owners still appear uncommitted to saving sensitive coastal areas.

But Watt says: "Most owners are admitted to protection and indemnity clubs which cover the costs involved in pollution cleanup costs. For this, they pay a heavy premium and the more they pollute the seas, the more they pay."

Local authorities are now responsible for funding clean-up operations unless perpetrators are identified and fined, says Jackson. "The Transport Department also has funds which can be used for this."

Watt says the upgrading of supertankers is "of utmost importance". "Unfortunately, due to the cost of replacing vessels, many one-hull tankers still cruise the world's oceans. Modern practices in tanker construction call for all tankers to be fitted with double bottoms."

The advantage of multiple cargo tanks is that they seal undamaged hulls, with only the damaged hull spilling crude oil. One-hull tankers often spill thousands of barrels of crude oil into the sea, thereby destroying hopes of transferring the cargo to another vessel.

"The 'Venpet/Venoil' supertanker collision off Port Elizabeth is a typical example where only one tank of oil was lost into the sea," says Watt.

AIDS awareness campaigns

FM licence

for Wits radio
KIDNEY 4/21/93
KATHRYN STRACHAN

LISTENERS from all over Johannesburg can now tune into the Voice of Wits radio station next week after it was granted a five-day FM signal licence for a 50km radius. And the station is optimistic the licence will be extended permanently.

The move is seen as a relaxation of the stringent broadcasting laws enforced by the Home Affairs Department and the SABC.

Voice of Wits station manager Damian Hardy said he hoped the temporary licence could signal the beginning of "community radio" in SA.

The commercial station Showtime Music Radio and Pretoria University had also been given temporary FM signals, Hardy said.

The station can broadcast stereo on 95.9 FM within a 50km radius.

Homelands' water beyond govt control

BIDA 4/21/93

EDWARD WEST

GOVERNMENT had a water supply target of at least 15 litres a person a day in drought-stricken homeland rural areas, Water Affairs and Forestry Department deputy director-general Tiny Krige said this week.

Krige told the SA Association of Consulting Engineers forum his department was unaware of the serious problems of water supply in those areas as affairs of homeland governments were outside its jurisdiction.

Barring a few exceptions, homeland structures did not have the expertise or capacity to maintain existing water supply schemes, he said.

A survey by the department had found that during the past two months no maintenance work had been done and water pumps had broken down again.

The drought had emphasised the fact that SA, with its severe climatic conditions and water scarcity, could not fragment development and control over the country's water resources.

Central government should be responsible for overall development and control, with any work done at regional or local level falling within the policy framework determined by central government, he said.

Krige said government was developing a management strategy to deal with future droughts, but in the meantime it would continue maintenance work, supplying water by tankers to some areas and with a borehole drilling programme.

Drought Consultative Forum convener Len Abraham said in June 1992 the Development Bank of SA estimated that 2.5-million rural people could be faced with the need to relocate to survive the drought. To date, the forum had provided drought relief aid to about 750 villages.

The forum concluded the underlying issues in black rural communities were mainly poverty, neglect, and inadequate investment.

Early warnings system would help relief workers

RAY HARTLEY

SA IS in urgent need of a national early warning system on food security to enable relief workers to respond to emerging crises more efficiently, says a Consultative Forum on Drought committee report.

The system would also need to provide early warning of "hazards that affect the ability of households to

obtain adequate food and water".

The report proposed a system involving the disciplines of meteorology, hydrology, agriculture, natural resource management and finance. While the major risk was drought, others were pests, hail and flooding.

While warning systems were relatively well developed for large-scale farm production, the effect of weather on small farms and in the homelands had not yet been analysed fully.

Recommendations had been formulated for nutrition surveillance of children younger than five.



A policeman stands guard as a taxi is towed away after drivers tried to barricade a city street in Johannesburg yesterday. Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

ANC misused R2,3m Norway

OSLO — Norway had demanded the ANC explain the fate of a R2,3m grant intended to help set up a print shop and provide jobs, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnen said the 5-million kroner were placed in an investment company instead of being used to buy printing equipment, Sapa reported. "Clearly, it wasn't used for the purpose for which it was allotted," said Havnen. "It is definitely in the best interest of the ANC to clarify this."

The ANC had asked for an urgent transfer of the promised funds, he said. Norwegian state radio network NRK said it had reason to believe key ANC members were on the board of directors of the investment company, TB Invest. It said a foreign ministry official was checking ANC records in Johannesburg to track down what had happened to other contributions. The Norwegian government gave about \$5,8m to the ANC last year. DIRK HARTFORD reports an ANC spokesman was yesterday unable to comment on the Norwegians' allegations. He said the matter had been referred to ANC NEC members and the organisation would comment as soon as information was available.

ANC misused R2,3m Norway

Star 2/2/93
**'Time for
St Lucia
decision'**

(56) CAPE TOWN — The time for making a decision on mining at Lake St Lucia was fast approaching, Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar told an international press briefing yesterday.

However, he gave no indication either way of whether or when the Government would give Richards Bay Minerals the go-ahead to mine.

"We have something very special in the site of St Lucia. It is something that needs to be protected." — Political Staff.

Star 11/2/93

Zoeknog Dam break to hurt wildlife, tourism

By Julienne du Toit

When the Zoeknog Dam in Lebowa gave way last week, it was not just R38 million that was washed down the river.

The tons of soil from the dam wall turned the river a thick orange-brown colour, so solid it looked like a sand road from the air.

But it was not so thick as to clog up the gills of the fish. The damage was far more subtle.

It coated and smothered the eggs and hatchlings the fish have just laid on the gravel bottom of the Mutlomuvi River, and also the river it flows into — the Sand — and ultimately the Sabie River.

According to biologist Des Weeks, of Rhodes University, who is doing studies on invertebrates in the Sand River system, this huge load of topsoil does not kill, but weakens the

life in the river.

It is not just the Mutlomuvi River that is in trouble, but the entire Sand-Sabie river system.

In a space of less than 100 km, the Sand River and its tributaries run through the territory of three governments: South Africa, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The two homelands, which are politically hostile to each other, usually do not communicate on river matters, and this has led to a great deal of misunderstanding, according to Londolozi game reserve owner John Varty.

He maintains the Sand River is perennial. From his birth, it has flowed, clean and strong, throughout the seasons. A perennial river has certain rights. It must be kept flowing. No one can completely dam it or channel it, he says.

Last year, Varty and his brother became frantic. The Sand River was not flowing. Their hippos were trapped in

shrinking, stagnant pools.

A trip in a helicopter showed them the problem. The water was not flowing beyond a weir in Lebowa, built to trap water for Champagne Citrus Estates.

Because of this, Gazankulu water officials further downstream, unaware the river was flowing strongly above the Lebowa weir, maintained that the river was a seasonal one.

A seasonal river can be sucked dry by anyone for any purpose. So the Gazankulu officials said they were under no obligation to release water from the Edinburgh Dam, which the Sand River flows into, to save Londolozi's hippos.

Before the wrangle became too complicated, the rains came, and most of the hippos were saved.

SA Department of Water Affairs director-general Claasie Claassens admitted, after some argument, that the Sand River was perennial. The problem was that the entire catchment

area was overdeveloped, he said.

At the rivers' source high in the Drakensberg, exotic pine trees and bluegums planted for forestry were sucking up 30 to 40 percent of all the rain that would go into the river, Varty said.

Further down, citrus trees used up 200 tons of water for every ton of citrus produced.

The Mutlomuvi had been dammed at Zoeknog for coffee, which was also not a water-economical crop.

Lastly, there were hundreds of thousands of people. Very few had running water, but when they all did, even more water would be used.

And as less and less water found its way downstream, to the Sabi Sand Reserves and the Kruger National Park, so the game would suffer.

And if the game suffered, the tourists would be less willing to come, which would be a blow to the tourism industry.

Star 11/2/93

Major environment body launched

(56)

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

A national environmental organisation which has the potential to be the definitive voice on issues at the interface between economic growth and environmental protection was launched in Johannesburg yesterday.

The current 55 members of the Environmental Scientific Association (ESA) include some of the most respected names in science, engineering and environmental management in the country, who consider it essential that social and industrial development is managed without destroying bio-diversity.

They have joined ESA in their individual capacities and pay their own costs incurred in participating in ESA activities.

"Industrial growth and development is the way our leaders are going," said ESA member Dr John Ledger at the launch. "Where there are resources they will be used. To manage that explosion without destroying bio-diver-

sity is the challenge."

ESA chairman Dr Dan Walmsley, environmental programmes manager at the Foundation for Research Development, said the aims of the organisation were:

- To present balanced scientific opinion on issues of national and global concern.
- Develop a southern African scientific network.
- Identify areas of concern.
- Define future environmental research.
- Assist in developing environmental standards.
- Facilitate responsible environmental decisions.

The ESA is run by a six-member executive committee: chairman Dr Walmsley, a zoologist; director Brian Gore, senior professional in Eskom's research and development wing; Dr Louis du Pisani, a meteorologist and climatologist at the Weather Bureau; Greg Tosen, a meteorologist and environmental sciences manager at Eskom; Dr Andrew Jarvis, an environmental biotechnologist at Sasol; and Dr George Green, who is with the Water Research Commission.

Mud-slinging after collapse of dam

STAR 30/1/93

(56) (57)

JULIENNE DU TOIT

THE spectacular hole that appeared in the Zoeknog Dam this week has led to speculation that corruption may have been responsible for the disaster.

The Zoeknog Dam, on the Mutlomuvi River in Lebowa, was completed only a month ago at a cost conservatively put at R38 million.

Early on Monday morning, the brand new dam wall collapsed, sparking speculation among property owners in the area that millions of rands had disappeared into back pockets. Sources in the area said the dam's construction may have failed because of the use of second-grade materials or theft of monies destined for construction.

The dam, which was built to hold 12 million cubic metres of water, was being filled for the first time when it burst, but was only 28 percent full.

The Lebowa government, whose Department of Works constructed the earthen dam wall, said it was the concrete tunnel underneath the dam that failed.

The Development Bank of



HOLE IN THE WALL: An aerial view of damage to the dam.

● Photograph: MIKE BAKER

Southern Africa (DBSA), which put up R30 million for the scheme, concurred that this seemed to be the situation.

But Grinaker Construction, which put up the spillway tower and the concrete tunnel, retorted it was the wall that had failed, not their construction.

"We have 100 percent confidence in our construction," said managing director "Bean" Bornheimer.

The consulting engineers, Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, of Pietersburg, said they were baffled.

An inquiry by independent professionals would have to be appointed by the contracting

party, the Lebowa government, said P J van der Walt, who was in charge of construction.

The earth had been properly compacted, and instruments to detect moisture and vibrations had been installed. He could not say whether these instruments had given any untoward readings.

A community leader from the Zoeknog area said that in his opinion, people with vested interests had built the dam, because villagers living around the dam were told they could have no access to its water.

Farris Siwela said they were told to sink a borehole or take water from the river. There is no running water in the villages surrounding the dam.

Siwela said there were rumours that the dam had been sabotaged by angry neighbourhood youths.

He said the Lebowa government had told him the water was meant for coffee farmers. A group of white farmers had shares with the Lebowa government in the proposed coffee project, he said.

The community became so angry that they had told Londolozi's community contact officer, Solly Mohaule, that if they could not have access to the water, no one would.

Lebowa government project

official Bernie Badenhorst denied the water was only for coffee farmers, saying it was for consumption by 90 000 people in the area.

For Londobzi private game reserve owners John and Dave Varty, the dam burst is just one incident in a long line of shady happenings in the Sand and Sabie river systems, of which the Zoeknog Dam is part.

They have been fighting since October against the various governments they allege have been "illegally" damming the river.

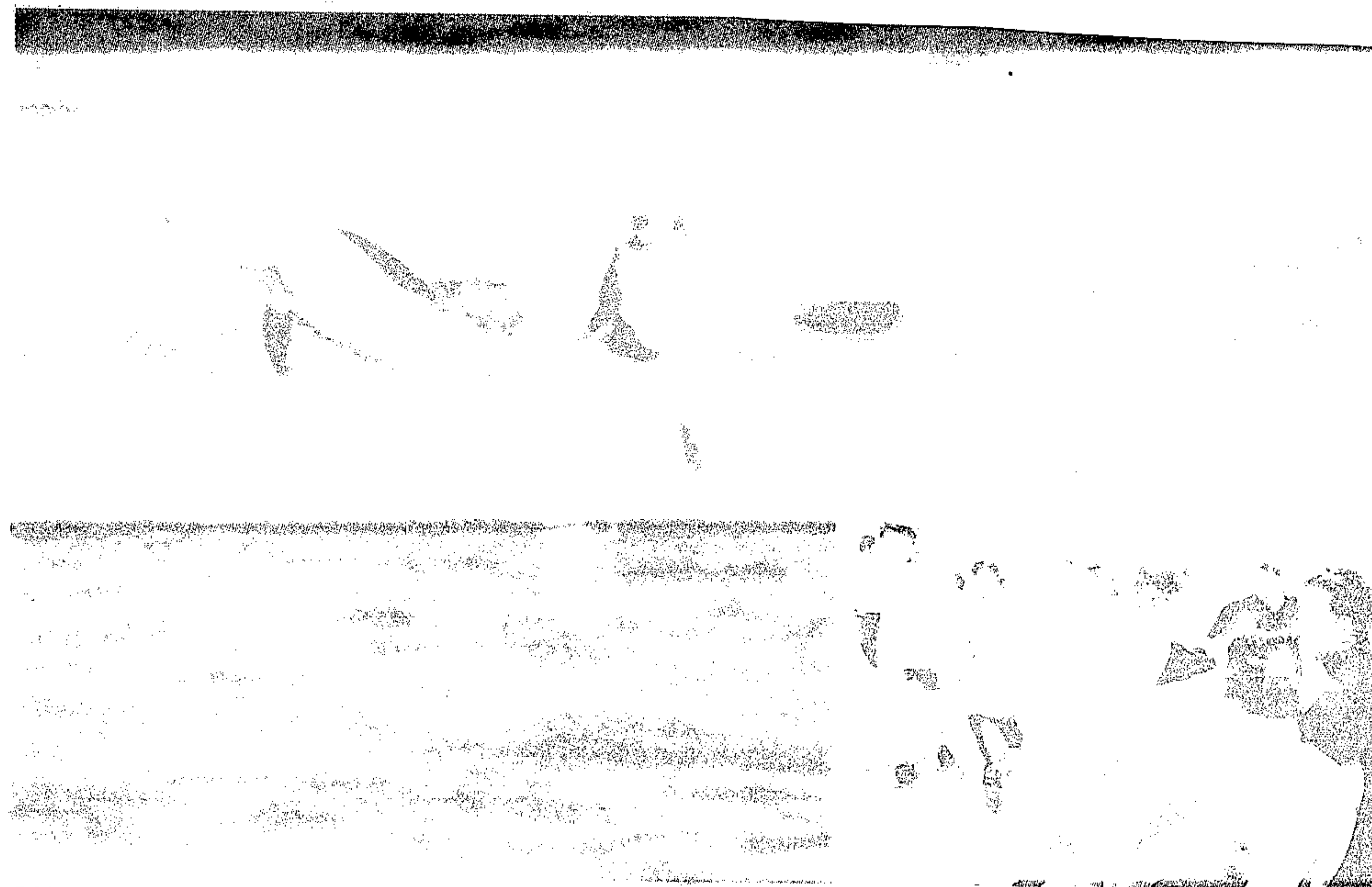
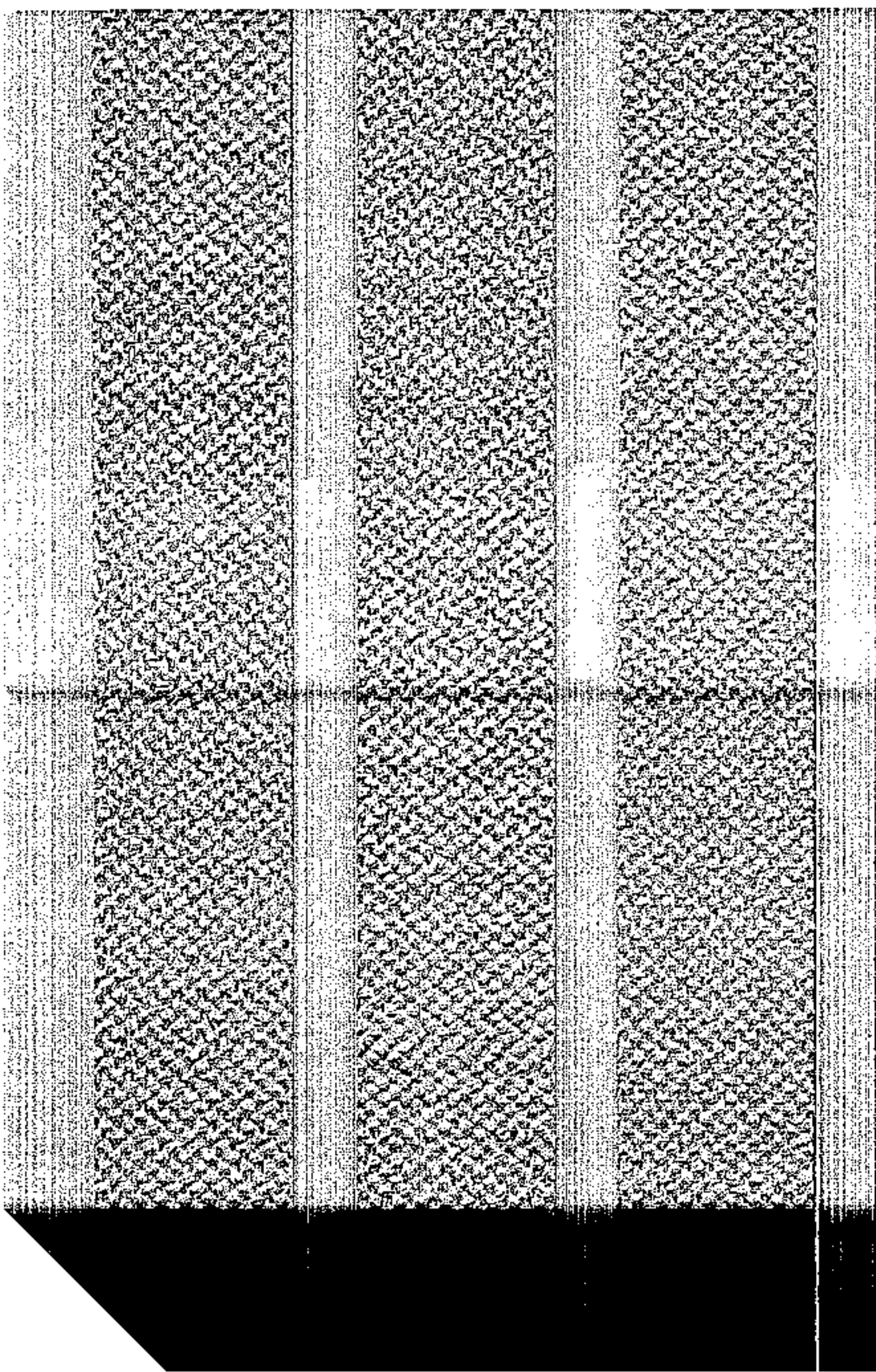
In December, at a meeting between Londolozi and Lebowa and Gazankulu government representatives, a Gazankulu official threatened that if the Vartys took them to court over the water, they would be "run ragged" in the homeland's courts.

Varty said that after the meeting, the man from Gazankulu's Department of Agriculture proposed a compromise: If the Vartys, with their good environmental track-record, approached the DBSA for R53 million to build a dam near Thulamahashe in Gazankulu, a plan would be made to keep supplying Londolozi's animals with water. Gazankulu, with its bad financial track-record, would find it difficult to get a loan, the official implied.

Top Soweto activist detained

JOHANNESBURG. — Police yesterday confirmed the detention of prominent Soweto political and environmental activist Mr Japhta Lekgetho (56) (30/1/93)

Mr Lekgetho had been detained for interrogation on a murder charge, and once interrogation had been completed, police would decide whether to charge or release him, a spokesman said. Mr Lekgetho, president of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, was active in the local civic association and his branch of the ANC. — Sapa



CAMPS BAY FROLIC . . . This dolphin off Camps Bay beach yesterday got an appreciative welcome from a surfer. **INSET:** Municipal beach-patrol bobbies remonstrate with a surfer who paddled among a school of dolphins. Pictures: BENNY GOOL

Dolphin law confusion leads to row

Staff Reporter
CONFUSION about the law on the treatment of dolphins led to a confrontation yesterday between a Camps Bay policeman and surfers who swam among a school of dolphins that ventured close to the beach to feed off a shoal of fish.

Constable Reinhold Oertel said that in warning the surfers to keep away from the dolphins he had acted under regulations

promulgated in the Government Gazette in October last year which prevented people from being closer than 300 metres to dolphins and whales.

However, Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said yesterday the regulations applied only to whales.

But a spokeswoman for the Sea Point Law Enforcement unit said the regulation applied to all sea mammals, including

whales, seals and dolphins. (56)

The regulation, contained in the Government Gazette of October 23 seems to apply only to whales. A separate paragraph dealing with dolphins does not mention legal distances.

Activities such as chasing or herding dolphins and whales or riding through the school in a motor boat are, however, illegal.

CT 29/1193

R40-m down the Mutilomvi River

Stamp 29/11/93: (H) (Sb)

By Julianne du Toit

A large earth dam in Lebowa, built at a cost of about R40 million, mysteriously collapsed in the early hours of Monday morning when it was only between 26 and 28 percent full, Lebowa engineers have confirmed.

The Zoeknog Dam on the Mutilomvi River near Bush-buck Ridge was finished only a month ago, and was being filled for the first time.

The collapse has enraged game reserve owners downstream, particularly the Varty brothers who own the exclusive Londolozi game reserve.

They said the dam should never have been built in the first place. Its construction and collapse had caused huge ecological damage.

"These people are stealing water," said John Varty.

The community around the Zoeknog Dam has expressed its satisfaction over the collapse. School principal

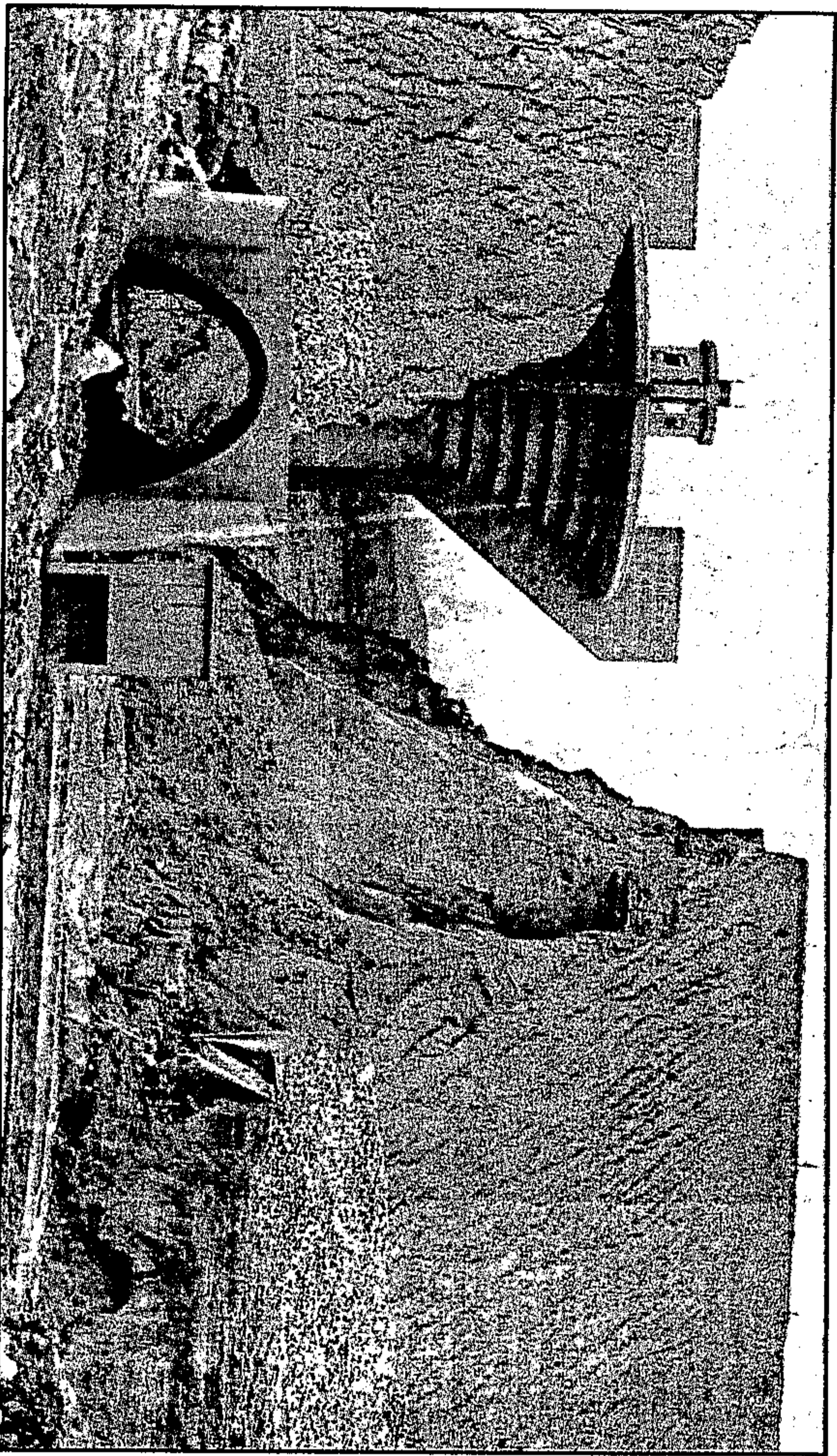
Farris Siwela said the Lebowa government had told them the water could be used only for coffee irrigation and could not be used by the community, which now carries water in buckets from the river.

But Claasie Claassens, director-general of the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, said the dam water would have fulfilled the needs of 90 000 people living in the area.

No one can work out why the dam failed, except to say the concrete tunnel under the earthen wall collapsed, undermining the rest of the wall.

Consulting engineer P J van der Walt, of Eksteen, Van Wyk and Nissen in Pietersburg, said he was baffled by the collapse.

Frans Chillié of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which lent most of the money for the building of the dam, said investigations would be carried out.



Down the drain . . . the Zoeknog Dam in Lebowa collapsed this week, leaving financiers, engineers and the Lebowa government grim-faced; the community around the dam happy; and conservationists downright gratified but angry. Picture: Mike Baker



'Seconds out' in dunes building battle

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

5b

AUG 29 11 03 AM '93

THE first shots in what is likely to prove a bitter battle over plans to build more than 300 houses on sand dunes on the slopes of the Karbonkelberg at Hout Bay will be fired at a public meeting next week.

The meeting is being called by the Southern Peninsula Environmental Forum to draw public attention to rezoning proposals by Bankorp Properties — the property arm of the Absa group — which have already been submitted to the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

The 50ha property is zoned rural and development rights are for a

single house.

The proposal to build 240 houses and 76 group units is due to be advertised by the RSC for objections to the required rezoning on February 12.

Also, the property falls within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE) and any development will require a permit from the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring.

Consultants for the developers have already approached the PNE management advisory committee, which makes recommendations to Mr Meiring.

Consultants for the developers, The Planning Partnership, are

holding a public presentation on February 25 and have asked for the standard three-week period for objections to be extended to five weeks.

Mr Ian Brownlie, acting chairman of the environmental forum, criticised the delay in bringing the proposals to people's attention.

He is calling for a six-month moratorium on the application so that people will have time to assess the proposal in detail.

Mr Brownlie said he believed the proposal was in direct conflict with the Guide Plan for the Cape Metropolitan Area. Part of the developers' application to the RSC is to amend the guide plan.

He also accused the consultants of "flouting" standard Integrated Environmental Management procedures.

"The public need to be involved in this one — it's right up the slope of the mountain and the sand dunes will be gone," he charged.

"All the people in Hout Bay and the Peninsula have a right to say: 'Hold on, we're destroying the integrity of the Peninsula. The mountains are our precious natural assets — what are you guys doing here?'"

Mr Christo Kannenberg of The Planning Partnership refuted Mr Brownlie's accusations, and said his call for a six-month moratorium was "a bit excessive".

St Lucia report to be made public

28/09/93

RAY HARTLEY

THE CSIR would publicise the results of a three-year environmental impact study on the effect of mining, conservation and tourism on St Lucia's wilderness area on March 18, the report's editor Brian van Wilgen said yesterday.

Van Wilgen said the study, which is being printed, examined the environmental and economic impact of proposals submitted by Richards Bay Minerals and the Natal Parks Board.

The company had proposed using the land for mining as well as conservation and tourist purposes, while the board had concentrated on conservation and tourism, he said.

The study would be forwarded to a review panel, which would make rec-

ommendations to Cabinet on how the land is to be used. Cabinet would make a final decision later this year.

He said he was unable to comment in detail on the contents of the report but said it covered the economic impact of both models on revenues, jobs and foreign investment, as well as "people's intrinsic ideas of St Lucia as a wilderness area".

Government said it believed the report would be impartial as the CSIR "had used a team of objective experts to evaluate the two forms of land use in the area", Sapa reports.

It said 120 "interested and affect-

ed" parties had been asked to submit their concerns to the CSIR team.

Van Wilgen said the report, which had been based on studies by more than 50 consultants, also suggested steps to be taken in the event of either proposal being adopted.

"It's a very comprehensive report. There's no doubt that people will have a lot to say, and I must stress that that is what we want," he said.

The public would be able to study and comment on the report, which would be available in libraries.

The CSIR would then draft a comment report based on public reaction and this would be used by the review panel together with the impact report, he said.

US group slated for tobacco links

KATHRYN STRACHAN

LOCAL anti-smoking groups have attacked a visiting US-based organisation, Healthy Buildings International (HBI), for serving the interests of the tobacco industry and opposing local initiatives for smoking controls.

Healthy Buildings International director Simon Turner told a media briefing in Johannesburg yesterday that his organisation's survey of office environments in the city concluded that 72% of office workers experienced symptoms associated with the "sick building syndrome".

But Medical Research Council spokesman Dr Derek Yach said that while the organisation billed itself as an indoor environmental consulting firm it did not disclose its tobacco industry links. *B/DAM 26/1/93*

"Their efforts have ranged from trying to convince businesses not to adopt 'no smoking policies' to influencing governments not to pass clean indoor air laws," said Yach.

The organisation had been active around the world in supporting smokers' rights groups and business coalitions to defeat specific tobacco control initiatives, said Yach, adding that Turner was the son of the head of the Tobacco Institute of Hong Kong.

National Council Against Smoking executive director Dr Yussuf Saloojee said the organisation had targeted SA at a time when government is preparing to pass legislation controlling smoking in public places.

Saloojee said the dispute arose over methods to purify indoor air. The HBI advised employers to install their ventilation systems complementing smoking cessation. The anti-smoking lobby claimed that air conditioning systems could not filter nicotine particles.

Not guilty pleas in finrand fraud trial

SUSAN RUSSELL

THE trial of four businessmen who allegedly took part in a series of fraudulent finrand transactions, in which R32,7m was brought into the country, began in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Company directors Abraham Liebrecht Coetzee and Hendrick Schalk Coetzee pleaded not guilty to 12 counts of fraud.

Pieter Le Roux de Bruin and Johann Marais pleaded not guilty to 10 and eight counts of fraud respectively.

It is alleged that during 1987/88 Reserve Bank authorisation was fraudulently obtained for the importation of a total of R32,774m via the finrand on the pretext that Bloomington Investments Ltd of Hong Kong wished to invest the money in two SA companies, Aroma Tobacco and Aroma Cigarettes.

Reserve Bank authorisation was also allegedly obtained to send R19,703 185m of this amount out of the country, purportedly to pay for machinery imported from overseas.

According to the indictment Abraham Coetzee and Hendrick Coetzee were both directors of Aroma at the time the offences were allegedly committed, while

Marais was a senior manager at Standard Bank's Eloff Street branch.

The foreign investor, Bloomington, and the two companies from which machinery was purportedly purchased, Dolford Trading Inc and Machine Specialists Inc, were all directly or indirectly controlled by a businessman named as Jock Kim Cho.

De Bruin worked for Cho until 1985. The State alleges that the four conspired with Cho to introduce funds into SA via the finrand under false pretences, convert them into commercial rands and export them on the pretext that forex was needed to pay for overseas creditors.

In some of the charges it is alleged that Aroma's bankers were induced to process applications for the release of amounts totalling \$3,147 432m and £7,569 780m in the belief that Reserve Bank authorisation had been given for the payment of creditors overseas.

The State alleges that the machinery was either not purchased at all or that the invoices for the goods were falsified to reflect more than the amount actually paid for the goods.

Tunnel boring ends far ahead of schedule

B/DAM 26/1/93

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The Robbins tunnel boring machine has completed a 5,2km section of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project a year ahead of schedule, according to a Water Affairs Department spokesman.

The machine is one of five boring a series of tunnels to take water from the Lesotho highlands to SA.

Starting on a south drive from Ngoajane in July, the machine took 137 working days

to reach its target at a vent shaft near the Hololo River. In September it tunneled a record 1 203,4m.

The machine will be re-assembled at Ngoajane for its third and last drive towards the Caledon River.

The first water from the project is scheduled to reach SA early in 1997.

St Lucia 'dries up water reserves'

STimes 24/1/93

56

By ROY RUDDEN

FARMERS and conservationists expressed alarm this week over massively increased demands on Natal/Kwazulu's water table by Richards Bay Minerals' mining operations.

Not only are they worried by RBM's vast freshwater consumption — which they say is drying up reserves — but by the prospect of further depletion should the company be allowed to go ahead with heavy-metal mining at the already endangered Lake St Lucia.

The long-awaited environmental impact assessment mining at St Lucia is due to be released in March. Farmers and conservationists fear that if the government gives the go-ahead for mining after studying the report, the results will be calamitous — not only for the estuary but for agriculture.

Terrible

Only fresh water is used to meet mining's huge demands, and RBM is already said to be experiencing difficulty in getting enough water for its present operations at Richards Bay.

The Wildlife Association's Dr Nolly Zaloumis, who is also chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, said the whole area, including the lake, was suffering from a water shortage.

"RBM has already doubled its production and its water demand is becoming more and more insatiable," he said. "We and the farmers are desperately worried about the company's



Sites of existing and proposed sources of water for Richards Bay Mining current mining requirements. Mining on the eastern shores of St Lucia (see *) would mean further depletion of the water table.

immense water consumption. Heaven help us if mining is now to be allowed on the eastern shores of St Lucia Estuary itself."

The Zululand Environmental Alliance is concerned that RBM's present and future water needs could have an adverse

impact on Mapelane, Lake Nhlabane and Lake Mzingazi and that this could lead to cattle farmers being forced out.

An official of the SA Sugar Association said his industry was also deeply concerned. The Umfolozi river — on which the

Umfolozi Sugar Mill and the Mtubatuba township and agricultural area depend for water for industrial, agricultural and residential purposes — was already drying up due to the drought, he said.

He said RBM had been drawing huge quantities of water from the Hlabane Wetland and the area was depleted.

RBM officials have conceded that some cattle farmers might lose grazing land at Nhlabane, but they have rejected several other concerns as unfounded.

Mr Dennis Gibson, RBM's chief civil engineer, said a proposed Umfolozi water extraction project had yet to be approved by the Natal Water Court. RBM has applied for permission to build a 10-million-litre reservoir, fed from the Umfolozi, to supply current needs.

He said a separate environmental impact assessment of the Mapelane project had not been carried out. However, a firm of water consultants had assured RBM that there would be a minimal or non-existent effect on the ecology.

Nevertheless, Mr Charles Wally, chairman of the Monzi Farmers' Association, said cane farmers were worried.

"They are uncertain that their needs are being considered and they fear they might be bulldozed by RBM into a situation in which their water needs are further threatened."

Farmer Wally Menne, chairman of Zeal, said: "At Lake Nhlabane estuary, RBM's proposals to raise the weir by 1.5m to extract underground water could affect the fish population, flood swamp forest at Mapelane and displace farmers."

"We are also particularly worried about what is happening at Lake Mzingazi, where RBM is drawing water at an enormous rate. The ecology is already under terrible stress because of the drought and freshwater plant communities are dying," he said.

Disastrous

Said Dr Zaloumis: "All these worries are bad enough, but the water problems can only get worse, given RBM's enormous thirst for fresh water."

"It would be folly of disastrous proportions if the government allowed mining to go ahead at St Lucia as well."

"We hope against hope that Parliament will pass the private member's Wetlands Conservation Bill (introduced by the ANC's Mr Rob Haswell and already supported in principle by the Conservative and Democratic parties) at its next session."

"This is the only thing that could give the government legal power to forbid mining in the heart of St Lucia, one of the world's last great wetland areas."

SA parks must now go it alone

23/1/93

(56) ARG 23/1/93

IF nature conservation is to survive under a new government in South Africa it must make a financial contribution to its own future.

This is the firm message from the country's top conservationists.

They fear that state subsidies for nature conservation will be cut in face of the demands of housing and education for bigger slices from the national budget.

Financial independence for national parks, say the experts, is the way forward.

Explaining how the National Parks Board plans to counter the conservation problem, its chief executive director Dr Robbie Robinson told Weekend Argus that state subsidies account for 30 percent of his total budget.

"But for quite some time we have been totally independent on government funding in terms of facilities within national parks," he said.

Plans for the future outlined by Dr Robinson and Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, executive director Southern Parks, National Parks Board, include:

- Maximising income from tourism by diversifying visitors' facilities and activities.
- Entrenching good and prosperous relations with communities living adjacent to parks through secure jobs for locals as well as the generation of revenue from the sale of curios and fresh vegetables.

- Involving the private sector, particularly in the establishment of tourist facilities on the borders of national parks.

But Dr George Hughes, chief executive of Natal Parks Board, which is funded by the government to the tune of 70 percent of its annual budget,

■ The future of nature conservation in South Africa lies in financial independence for national parks, say experts.

set

DI CAELERS, Weekend Argus Reporter

said state subsidies should be safeguarded as far as possible.

He said that while parks with tourist potential should be used to generate as much money as possible, the reality was that not all parks were suitable or designed with big-time tourism in mind.

Dr Hall-Martin countered that new parks should be subsidised by the old and profitable parks like the Kruger National Park, Golden Gate and Tsitsikamma.

Price increases were not the answer, he said.

"You can't boost income by putting up prices and we would certainly meet resistance if we did. It clashes with the fundamental aim of making conservation accessible to everyone. Instead we must make our shops more attractive so that visitors spend more money there," he said.

"We aim to develop different attractions in different parks, activities that are appropriate to the local scene. The parks are a mix of different opportunities for different ways of experiencing nature."

Mr Trevor Dearlove, liaison and marketing manager for Southern Parks, told of plans for national parks in the Cape, which has 13 of the total 17 reserves.

"Each park is unique with its own selling points. We'd like to get people into the parks to experience hiking trails, 4x4 trials in appropriate areas, snor-

kelling, canoeing, mountain bike and even overnight donkey trails."

Commenting on the experience of Natal Parks Board, which administers nature conservation, parks, public and tourist facilities, environmental education and law enforcement in the province, Dr Hughes said that many of the benefits derived from natural resources outside of the parks were not readily understood.

"In 1991 in Natal the value of living natural resources — fish, octopus, oysters, mussels and crabs — collected legally by people with licences totalled R70 483 million. That includes a hunting industry worth well over R10 million.

"In the same year from just one of our parks the local community made R200 000 tax free from the sale of traditional crafts and fresh produce. Last year we paid wages to local communities totalling R32,4 million."

Dr Hughes added: "The parks are an essential and integral part of making South Africa attractive and if we didn't have nice parks, we wouldn't get even the few foreign tourists we are presently getting."

Of joint ventures with private enterprise, Dr Robinson said they were "very beneficial" with the trend towards establishing new parks.

"Revenue is split and we use those funds for other undeveloped parks," he said.

Drought aid for three Cape areas

PORT ELIZABETH — Three more drought-stricken eastern Cape districts — Aberdeen, Adelaide and Tarkastad — have been declared drought disaster areas.

The move was announced by National Drought Committee chairman Dr Stroebel Hofmeyr. As disaster areas, the three towns now qualify for Government assistance in the form of transport rebates and drilling equipment. *STAR 23/1/93*

Hofmeyr said a decision to remove certain areas from the disaster list would be postponed until February 1 because of the effect the El Nino weather phenomenon was having on the country's weather patterns.

In an earlier interview, Adelaide town clerk Jaco Jooste said the town had been hit by acute water shortages and the council had been forced to truck in water from nearby Cookhouse. — PEN.

Rivers of vapour move through lower atmosphere

WASHINGTON — Massive streams of vapour, some carrying as much water as the Amazon, have been discovered in the lower atmosphere.

Reginald Newell of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said this week he was surprised to find the flows while analysing satellite data. His findings are reported in Geophysical Research Letters, published by the American Geophysical Union.

A half-a-dozen vapour rivers carry water through the atmosphere from the equator toward the poles in relatively narrow streams, Newell said in a telephone interview.

"I expected to see things following air masses, which usually have much larger horizontal widths. The fact that it's so concentrated was a surprise to us," said Newell. The flows look like a river, he said.

The general understanding of the atmosphere has been that warm, moist air rises in the region of the equator and then moves toward the poles, usually curving somewhat because of the twist imparted by the spinning of the Earth.

The newly discovered rivers do follow these general principles, but move the moisture in narrow streams rather than having it spread out over a large air mass.

They seem to generally trend towards the poles, Newell explained, though he has found a couple of cases in which the stream encounters a typhoon, "gets entangled in itself and goes back equatorwards". The rivers also display waves in their movement, he said.

The researchers calculated the length of some of these rivers of vapour at as much as 7 000 km with a width of 600 km to 700 km. The flow carries about 165 million kg of water a second. That translates to about 700 000 cu m of water a second, which compares to

STAN 23/11/93
RANDOLPH SCHMID and FRANCIS MDLONGWA

an average flow in the Amazon.

What does this mean to the world's weather and climate? Newell and his associates are still trying to figure that out.

Meanwhile, it is reported from Harare that the drought in southern Africa is turning former enemies into allies.

By forcing them to cooperate, it drew them closer, analysts said. It also gave new urgency to efforts to build a Southern African Development Community

(SADC).

"I think the drought demonstrated the closeness and interdependence of all members of SADC and their important relationship with South Africa," said Ted Morse, southern Africa director of the US Agency for International Development.

Some countries could only bring in half their food aid needs through other member states' ports and transport routes, he said. The other half came through South Africa. "This was an important lesson," Morse

said.

SADC comprises Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The group meets in Harare from January 27 to 29 for annual talks to plan the organisation's future in a rapidly changing world. — Sapa-Reuter-AP.

Why the world's climate is changing

Drought aid for three Cape areas

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In an earlier interview, Adelaide town clerk Jaco Jooste said the town had been hit by acute water shortages and the council had been forced to truck in water from nearby Cookhouse. — PEN.

M. Not ...

and 9 Muslims to help.

**New fuel: 'SA
can't afford it'**

CT 22/1/95
56
PRETORIA. The Consumer Council said yesterday that South Africa could not at present afford the high production cost of lead-free petrol.

Reacting to the announcement that lead-free petrol was to become available from the end of 1995, the council said the current recession and unemployment warranted more attention than the acquisition of the latest technology.

Mr Johan van Vreden, head of the Automobile Association's vehicle division, said yesterday that unleaded petrol should be gradually introduced in South Africa to keep in line with the developed world.

The proposed introduction of unleaded petrol in 1994/5 was too soon in view of other economic problems faced by South Africa. — Sapa



Flocking together ... Unionists may join the fight to save the flamingoes' habitat — temporarily

NUM against mining

W/MAIL

22/1-28/1/93.

(56)

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), one of the biggest black unions in the country, is likely to block Richard's Bay Minerals' (RBM) controversial scheme to mine titanium in St Lucia.

If the National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) backs its sister union in opposing the scheme, RBM could be blocked by a powerful lobby group of conservationists and the country's two biggest unions.

The NUM's southern Natal region is in the process of adopting a resolution to this effect. A few months ago the union sent a letter to RBM, withdrawing support for the mining scheme. Commented NUM organiser Enoch Mbuyasi: "We feel it is too early to mine St Lucia due to the fact that it will only benefit certain groups. We want to hold mining in the area until a new government is in place, when the wealth of the country will be distributed to all the people of South Africa. We are saying, however, that maybe in the long run we will need to mine the area."

The union's position is that the current scheme to mine the titanium strip will offer relatively few new jobs in the fast-diminishing mining industry — particularly if the raw material is exported and not processed here to stimulate further industry.

Already, say unionists, RBM is cutting back on labour. While 300 people stand to gain jobs from the titanium mining, at least 27 laboratory workers are about to lose their jobs. RBM is reluctant to give guarantees of permanent employment to existing workers, many of whom still have temporary status after being in the company's employ for as long as three years.

The mining scheme has the backing of most of the chiefs in the area known as Reserve Four, and sections of the community, who have benefited from infrastructure like schools, clinics and tribal courts supplied by RBM, and who stand to gain employment.

However, accusations that the chiefs are being "bought off" are rife, particularly among the youths who oppose the authority of the tribal structures and harbour anger at the level of exploitation of workers at RBM. One youth said there was simmering resentment over the fact

The National Union of Mineworkers could soon join conservationists in opposition to the controversial scheme to mine St Lucia. By PHILIPPA GARSON and EDDIE KOCH

that RBM was canvassing support for its scheme via the tribal authorities and neglecting consultation with other organisations with a measure of support in the area.

Numsa regional organiser Mike Mabuyakhulu said understanding of the complex debate of the benefits of tourism over the mining has not filtered down. "There are not many in the affected communities who understand the debate. It is mostly the white community which has been canvassed to support the no-mining campaign. Black communities who have not been informed however are looking at the simple answer to their problems — more jobs."

Mabuyakhulu says that the fight to save St Lucia is perceived among the black community living in Reserve Four as a mainly white issue and that conservationists have done very little to win popular support for their campaign.

At least 20 000 people, including a number of blacks, have signed a petition against the plan to mine St Lucia. But the unions feel there needs to be more direct consultation with a variety of community and labour groups in the black communities who will be directly affected by mining.

Until recently, the NUM and Conservative Party supporters were in bizarre alliance over opposition to RBM. "We can support each other in one area — not to mine St Lucia — but we are saying that maybe in the long term we will need to do so. They are against any mining taking place in the future." Discussions between the two parties have now ground to a halt.

Journalist Fred Khumalo, from *City Press*, reports that there is also mounting hostility to the conservation lobby amidst a 17 000-strong community that live in the indigenous Dukuduku forest on the outskirts of Richard's Bay.

The Natal Provincial Administration, along with a delegation from the Wildlife Society of

Southern Africa, have been trying to negotiate with the forest dwellers to move out of the rare forest and on to a 1 400 hectare site near the town of Mtubatuba.

Both the African National Congress and Inkatha are unhappy about the plan to shift the residents, saying there has to be proper and effective consultation before any removals take place.

"We are back here not because we want to disturb nature but because this land belongs to us. We were kicked out of here in 1973 and we lived like nomads in search of suitable land on which to grow our crops and graze our cattle," said resident Joseph Ngcobo.

"We've always lived peacefully with different kinds of animals in the forest. But if we're all cramped together on a small patch of land, there is likely to be a lot of overcrowding which results in soil erosion and the general depletion of natural resources in the surrounding areas."

There is clearly an uneasy tension between those in favour of conserving the natural resources in and around St Lucia and black villagers who want to exploit these resources for their survival.

But an informal pact between organised black labour and the Campaign to Save St Lucia is emerging as a powerful obstacle in the way of the company's plans to mine the dune forests.

"We welcome the unions' indication that they will not support mining at St Lucia and we want to stress that we are not anti-mining in principle but want it to take place in the right place," says Andrew Dulhcie, conservation ecologist for the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

"It is absolutely true that we haven't consulted widely with the unions at Richards Bay about the mining issue but feel that the whole issue of saving the dunes is in the interests of everybody in South Africa."

RBM plans to release the findings of an extensive environmental impact assessment of its plans to mine — the biggest study of its kind ever conducted in this country — in March this year.

There is currently a private member's Bill — the Wetlands Conservation Bill — before parliament which calls for all wetlands to be spared from mining activities. If it is passed, the Bill will save the St Lucia dunes from being mined.

Dry spell serious, says expert

STAR 22/11/93.

By Anita Allen
and Staff Reporter

(S)

Authorities should take the current dry spell seriously and start water conservation measures, a University of the Witwatersrand climatologist warned yesterday.

Dr Janette Lindesay, deputy director of the Climatology Research Group at Wits, said the unprecedented weather

patterns currently being experienced could mean greatly reduced rainfall for the rest of the season.

Lindesay said latest satellite information indicated a pool of warm water in the middle of the Pacific, thousands of kilometres in extent. The cause was unknown but the pool could be affecting weather patterns over South Africa.

Lindesay said scientists were not calling the phenomenon El Nino because the time

was not normal for its appearance. However, it was an El Nino-type pattern and was being closely monitored.

The specific cause of the heat wave over South Africa was a high pressure system several kilometres above the land surface.

"This supports the theory that climatic change is happening which would disrupt weather patterns," she said.

"As scientists, our understanding is based on past experience. If things are changing,

then prediction becomes more difficult."

● Roodepoort City Council has imposed stringent water restrictions in areas north of Ontdekkers Road because demand has outstripped supply.

Hardest hit are Weltevreden Park, Helderkruin, Rooderans, Strubens Valley, Wilgehuwel, Little Falls and Constantia Kloof.

Residents are requested not to water their gardens between 5 pm and 8 pm. The use of sprinklers is prohibited and

gardens may be watered by hand only outside these hours.

The Weather Bureau has forecast cooler weather with scattered thunder showers for the PWV area today.

● The Vaal Dam is currently 15,6 percent full, but water is being pumped into it from Sterkfontein Dam, which is still 92 percent full.

The levels of water in the Vaal River system are 48,6 percent, compared with 73,1 percent at this time last year.

GAME PARKS FM 22/11/93

Looking at lions

If Sun International (SI)'s Lost City complex is really going to work — it costs about R600/person/night to stay there — then one surefire way of ensuring its success is to entice foreign tourists, their pockets bulging with hard currency.

That, in essence, is the marketing philosophy underpinning the development. The problem is, in the current fragile socio-economic environment, that's easier said than done.

What would help in getting international tourism off the ground in Bophuthatswana, everyone agrees, would be having the "big five" right on the Lost City's doorstep. It's acknowledged that foreign tourists come to SA principally to see three things — the game parks, the Sun City complex and Cape Town.

It thus comes as no surprise that, as a starting point, the group is talking to the Bophuthatswana Parks Board about introducing lions to the Pilanesberg Game Reserve.

"Having the big five (lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard) will boost tourism significantly," says SI CE Ken Rosevear. "An all-in package which includes visits to the game parks and Cape Town is expensive because of the travel involved. It would be so much better if they could enjoy the facilities at Sun City — and see game."

The key to the plan, though, is big game — especially lions. "From a tourism perspective, lions are important in the marketability of a reserve," says Bophuthatswana Parks Board chairman Roger Collinson.

He says introducing lions to the reserve has been on the agenda from the beginning. "The board has agreed in principle to introduce lion providing the project has the support of the local population, funding is forthcoming to meet capital expenses and that the board is not out of pocket."

But there are some problems. One is the cost of erecting an electrified lion-proof fence around the park. "The country is hilly and cut with riverbeds and streams. Any fence we erect will have to withstand floods," Collinson says.

Another difficulty is posed by the people who live along the boundaries of the reserve. Quite understandably, they have expressed

some reservations. It means the lions have to be properly managed in order to maintain a balance so that individual animals will not be pressured out of the reserve.

Collinson estimates costs will run to between R3m-R5m — money which the board is hoping will come from SI, the Bop government and other sources. The cost includes the hiring of a lion expert to manage the prides as well as insurance cover should lions escape and maul cattle or people. Collinson says while chances of an escape can be minimised, there are no guarantees.

SA Wildlife Society ecologist Andrew Duthie says putting lions into the reserve will change the neighbour/park relationship, which he notes has only recently improved. "There is great potential for friction here," he observes. A rough study of the costs and requirements of the project has been completed. Now it's a question of winning over the hearts and minds of the people most likely to be affected.

Unleaded petrol for SA in 1995

PRETORIA. — Unleaded petrol will be available in South Africa towards the end of 1995, the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has announced.

It will be obtainable from all service stations after a brief introductory period.

The department said the introduction of unleaded petrol would be accompanied by a new octane structure.

At the coast 93 octane would be phased out and replaced by 95 octane unleaded petrol but 97 octane leaded petrol would remain available. Inland, 87 octane would be phased out and replaced by 91 octane unleaded petrol and 93 octane leaded petrol would remain.

"Unleaded petrol may contain alcohol or alcohol derivatives to achieve the required octane rating," the department said.

It was expected that unleaded petrol would be cheaper than leaded to encourage its acceptance.

"A large proportion of motor vehicles in use in South Africa can operate on unleaded petrol, although in some cases slight engine adjustments may be necessary." — Sapa.

Mountainside quarry halted

56 CT 21/1/93.

Staff Reporter

NOORDHOEK developers who uprooted about two hectares of trees in the past three days to quarry for gravel for a nearby township, said yesterday they did not know they needed a permit for the work and would try to repair the damage.

Mr Ian Brownlie, chairman of the South Peninsula Environmental Forum, said yesterday, after complaints about the stripping of dense trees on the Noordhoek mountainside, that he met the Regional Services Council and the developers, Mr Richard Beresford of Brookwood Development, and Mr Chris Sprengler of Gradeline.

He said Mr Beresford said he did not know a permit was necessary or that he was quarrying across the boundary line into a conserved mountain area.

"They (developers) did no environmental impact studies and

Noordhoek developers lack permit

had no plans to revegetate the scarred area. They would have left us with a massive, unsightly, hole in the mountain.

"After the meeting operations ceased. Gradeline removed its bulldozers and Mr Spengler promised to try to repair the damage.

"Mr Beresford said he had got permission to dig the site from the owner of the land, Mrs Muriel de Villiers," said Mr Brownlie.

At the bald quarry site yesterday Miss Gertie de Villiers said

her 82-year-old mother, Mrs Muriel de Villiers, had not known she needed a permit to allow quarrying on the site on her property.

"My mother is terribly upset", said Miss De Villiers.

She said the developers had promised her mother R5 a square metre of gravel site quarried. The gravel is to be used in building roads in the nearby Brookwood township area.


Mr Brownlie said it should not be up to "embattled" residents to fight such developments.

The Department of Environment Affairs, the Regional Services Council and Cape Nature Conservation should ensure that this type of thing did not happen.

"The Cape does not have the heavy financial industries of the Reef, but has the mountain, the sea and winelands.

"Those have to be guarded as our strongest assets and we are selling them off for short-term financial gain", said Mr Brownlie.

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Wakeford Fish Hoek candidate

FISH HOEK businessman Mr Clive Wakeford has been elected the Residents' Association candidate for councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr Rob Laing last month.

Mr Wakeford was born in Fish Hoek. Recently he moved to Rondebosch with his family, but will be returning to his home town in November.

Mr Wakeford said he'd been asked by the mayor, Mr Malcolm Wallace, to stand in the election held at the quarterly general meeting of the association last week.

Mr Wakeford is vice-chairman of the Fish Hoek Chamber of Business and president of the Fish Hoek Surf Life-saving Club.

Expert looks into mine's noise levels

at 2/11/93
 (56)

THE kaolin mining company Serina has appointed an acoustics engineer from the University of Cape Town to investigate noise levels generated at its Brakkeloof plant in Fish Hoek after complaints from residents.

In papers tabled at a recent Fish Hoek Town Council meeting, Councillor Pat Landon said she'd met a representative of the company after residents in the area objected to noise pollution from heavy mechanical equipment during the early hours of the morning.

Bunker houses

She said: "The noise which has been heard by Sun Valley residents during the night and early hours is caused by a front-end loader which operates continuously in one of two open-fronted buildings referred to as bunker houses.

"Part of the operation to feed raw clay into the production line required the front-end loader to move from one bunker house to the other, across an open roadway. The intermittent noise may be due to the prevailing winds."

Although the front-end loader has been fitted with a sophisticated noise-dampening system, Mrs Landon said the acoustics engineer is considering recommending that a blanket of plastic strips be fitted to both of these open-fronted buildings.

Feelings high over St Lucia

By Julienne du Toit

Emotions ran high last night when about 100 members of the public crammed into an airless room in Johannesburg for an information meeting on possible mining at St Lucia.

Richards Bay Minerals spokesman Barry Clements and Natal Parks Board officer in charge of planning, Bill Bainbridge, explained the consequences of mining or not mining.

Clements said St Lucia offered the highest grade of ilmenite, or titanium ore, available to RBM.

If the company mined only its other option at Zulwi South in Natal, which it planned to do anyway, it would have to leave the country five years earlier than it would otherwise, he said.

In other words, it would be in the country for 17 years instead of 22.

If Parliament decided mining could go ahead, RBM would be happy to comply with conditions like guaranteeing a fund to rehabilitate the mined area if the company went bankrupt.

Bainbridge said 90 percent of all tourists to South Africa came to see the wildlife and wild areas, and St Lucia was potentially a big and ongoing money-spinner.

He said 360 new jobs could be created if the area was developed for eco-tourism.

Clements said 150 jobs would be provided on site if mining went ahead, but said the spin-off industries would generate many other jobs.

Bainbridge said the eastern shores of St Lucia belonged to South Africans, and the land

use decided on should be in the interests of the public.

He said it was still not established that re-vegetating the dunes was effective, and the environmental impact assessment (EIA) had been done over only one year.

Eco-tourism was the best, most sustainable way of using the land, said Bainbridge.

The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park would have the status of a national park. If mining went ahead, overseas countries would question South Africa's commitment to conservation.

Clements and Bainbridge said they would abide by the conclusions reached in the EIA, which will be made public on March 18.

Bainbridge said copies of the EIA would be found in public libraries and with interested parties.

SB
STAR 21/1/93

Alarm bells rings for hiking

**UPHILL
BATTLE**

South Africa offers an enviable variety of hiking options, and trail-building is booming. But there is mounting concern about the future of the hiking goose that lays the golden egg. CHRIS VAN DER MERWE reports.



HIKING has come a long way since the creation, in 1973, of the Fanie Botha Hiking Trail in the Eastern Transvaal. It was inspired by the North America's Appalachian Trail, and mapped by foresters because it ran through forestry land and because they knew the area best.

Today, says recreational land use consultant Leon Hugo, developing trails can — and should be — a sophisticated affair, involving cartographic analysis, terrain assessment, ecological and aesthetic principles, marketing projections and legal inputs.

And it matters what potential users think. For example, the dream of developing a series of mainly one-directional trails from the Soutpansberg in the northern Transvaal to the Cedarberg in the southern Cape has been eclipsed by recognition of a greater priority: the development of circular (week-end) trails.

But the sustainability of hiking is under threat.

Interest in hiking is increasing. Estimates of number of nights spent in hiking areas each year vary. But they could be as high as one million, and this figure could double if all existing trails were effectively marketed.

For a single State-run trail, Tsitsikamma, 20 000 hiker nights a year are recorded. Lesser-known options may boast only a few

hundred.

Reasons for the growing demand include increased environmental awareness; the recession, making cheaper recreational options more attractive; and political change which opens up traditional white playgrounds to everyone.

The continuing trail-building boom, with unprecedented municipal and private-sector enthusiasm, corporate sponsorships and the possible phasing-out of the 17-year-old National Hiking Way Board, have provoked an imaginative response: a uniquely constituted seminar, put together by consultants Hugo and Paul Bewsher with the co-operation of the board, to be held at the University of Pretoria on January 29 and 30.

THE current economic climate has led to delegation of government functions to private enterprises or local authorities. The board's functions for development of hiking trails are presently filled mainly by private entrepreneurs and local authorities.

No measures of effective control and responsible ecological planning exist; hazardous planning practices cause serious environmental degradation, and hikers' needs are not satisfied. And

there are far too many parties — including local authorities — involved in opening up land for hiking who don't know the first thing about hiking trail design.

According to Hugo, municipalities, conservancies, farmers and other landowners are all getting in on the act of supplying the need for trails.

Municipalities have an obligation to taxpayers; conservancies see trails as a means of providing controlled public access and generating revenues for conservation, including enforcement of rules; individual landowners view hiking as a steady, if modest, source of income.

Increasingly, farmers welcome hikers for another reason: added security, especially in remote areas. "They like friendly movement across their land," says Hugo.

The rapid increase in farm holidays both stimulates hiking, and helps to meet the need. Says Hugo: "Virtually everyone advertising a farm holiday offers hiking as one of the attractions."

The sponsorship of hiking by the Perm announced last year — R1 million to be spent over three years — is aimed, among other things, specifically at establishing a hiking club at every school. This can be expected to increase the use of all kinds of trails.

Going up . . . to the top of Mont-aux-Sources. The pressure on hiking areas is growing as more people turn to this activity.

Picture: Chris van der Merwe

TOMORROW
The clean way to a
healthy nation.

Huge international game park planned

STAL 19/11/93.

Southern African governments are working with private enterprise to develop a Limpopo "Peace Park" that will become second in size only to the Kruger Park, reports JAMES CLARKE.

A huge international game park is being planned by private enterprise working with the governments of South Africa and Botswana. Zimbabwe is considering joining in.

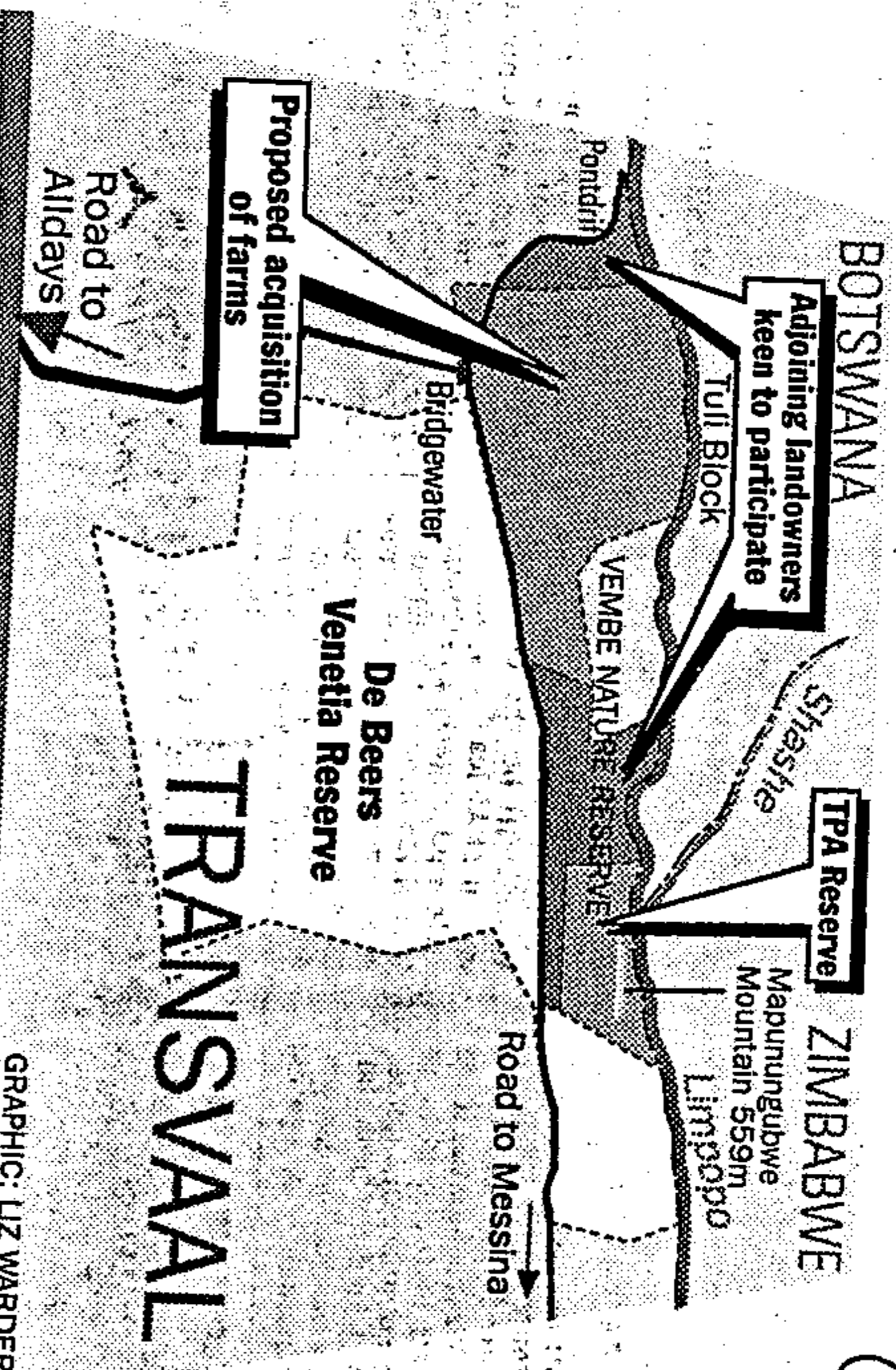
The proposed park will initially cover at least 185 000 ha. It straddles the Limpopo River and is five hours by road from Johannesburg.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration owns land on the east side and has confirmed it wants to amalgamate it with the project.

The South African National Parks Board is also in the negotiations and has embryonic plans to extend the park along the Limpopo towards Beit Bridge.

Zimbabwe is considering extending a reserve along the north bank.

But the core of the Limpopo "Peace Park" — as Dr Anton Rupert has called it — comprises two abutting sections:



GRAPHIC: LIZ WARDER

● The unfenced wildernesses of the Tuli Block (75 000 ha) and the Tuli Circle (50 000 ha) in Botswana which contain Africa's largest elephant population on privately owned land.

● De Beers' Limpopo Valley Venetia Reserve (about 40 000 ha).

The park area extends 80 km south into the Transvaal incorporating the historical Limpopo River crossing at Pont Drift as well as many historical

camping sites unchanged since they were used by Cecil Rhodes and the Pioneer Column.

Both sides of the river are rich in archaeological sites — including the mysterious natural fortress of Mapungubwe in the Transvaal where an early southern African civilisation lived.

When, as seems likely in time, Zimbabwe joins in with its Shashe River valley the reserve will be 260 000 ha. It is

also likely that the rest of eastern Limpopo will be incorporated as the political situation improves.

The configuration of the park makes it ecologically viable because game movements are traditionally north/south.

The move will reinstate much of the Dongola National Park which Jan Smuts proclaimed but which the National Party de-proclaimed when it took power in 1948.

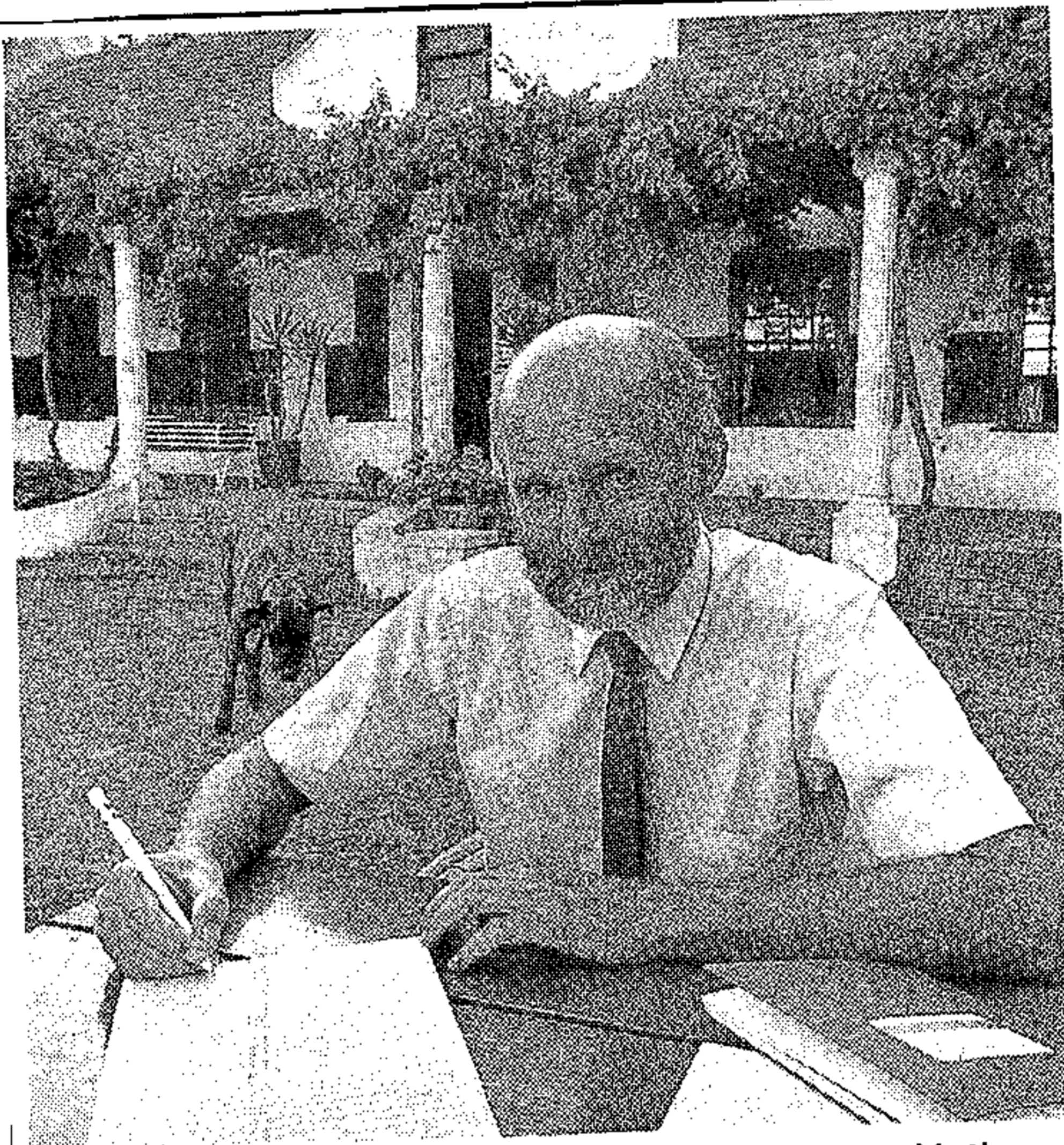
The Transvaal side of the proposed park comprises 17 farms owned by De Beers which buffer its Venetia Diamond Mine — soon to become South Africa's biggest diamond mine. De Beers' Venetia Limpopo Game Reserve is stocked with elephant, lion and the rest of the big five.

The medium-term plan is to join up the De Beers land with the Tuli Block and then to buy a number of farms (15 000 ha) to buffer the west side. The farms are marginal and 12 500 ha could be bought immediately — if R25 million could be raised.

The Board of Executors is examining ways of doing this.

Such farms would remain in private hands but would be ecologically managed as one — just as is about to happen in the "Super Kruger" Park where private farms are volunteering to share a common perimeter and wildlife management system — as long as they can still use their farms and, in some cases, accommodate hunters. □

(56)



EXPERT: Professor Rob de Meijer of the Netherlands is studying environmental radiation.

ARC 18/1/93 (56)

Silent killer that lurks in your home

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

DID you know your own house could kill you?

If not, you are the kind of person who might benefit from the knowledge of a Dutch expert who is on the last leg of a world tour to share his expertise in environmental radiation.

Professor Rob de Meijer is head of the Environmental Radioactivity Research Institute at the Rijks University in Groningen, Holland.

One of his special interests is radon, a radioactive gas which seeps from rock and soil, and can be a serious health risk in homes. High levels put occupants at increased risk of lung cancer.

In Holland alone, 1 000 people a year die of radon-induced lung cancer, putting the risk on a par with traffic and house-

hold accidents, and well ahead of passive smoking.

According to the South African Atomic Energy Corporation, about 10 percent of lung cancers can be attributed to radon.

Professor De Meijer is also gathering beach sand to measure heavy minerals (which exude radioactivity) as part of a scientific study of the shifts in sand deposits. He has collected samples from Port Elizabeth and the South Coast and plans to pick up more on the West Coast for analysis.

● Research by the Atomic Energy Corporation on 2 000 houses in 26 urban areas in South Africa found that radon levels were comparable with those in other countries.

The expected number of houses that might exceed acceptable levels could amount to "several thousand".

Mining at St Lucia still a burning issue

(56) ARG 18/1/93

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Richards Bay Minerals has called on people to await the outcome of an environmental impact report on the planned dune-mining at St Lucia before judging the issue.

In a statement from the company's public relations manager, Barry Clements, it said that RBM was "dismayed by numerous unsubstantiated claims made by the Campaign for St Lucia (CSL) that the proposed sand mining of the dunes north of St Lucia in the eastern shores State forest would radically affect delicate eco-systems, destroy pristine dune forests, flood wetlands, cause erosion and cause disturbance through heavy traffic".

The statement said RBM and many environmentalists were concerned that "the propaganda campaign being waged by the CSL" was undermining the environmental impact assessment report which is to be made public on March 18.

"The fact that the CSL is waging their campaign in advance of the publication of this report, and the democratic pro-

cess of public participation within it, proves that the CSL want to dupe the public into signing a petition based on their one-sided propaganda campaign," the statement said.

Three years ago a widespread public outcry prevented RBM from moving into St Lucia to mine the dunes. The company was then forced to commission the environmental impact assessment.

● February 22 - 28 has been declared national St Lucia Week by conservationists.

They have appealed to South Africans to help during that week draw attention to the fact the government is considering allowing open cast titanium mining at St Lucia.

The CSL is also asking people to sign individual cards (available by ringing (011-648-1307) pleading with the government to proclaim St Lucia inviolate by passing the Wetlands Conservation Bill.

The campaign is also appealing for volunteers to help it distribute and collect tens of thousands of cards. So far 450 000 have been distributed.

Warning of water curbs as level of dams plunges

By Shirley Woodgate

57A72 18/1/93
36

The next few months are critical as the total amount of water stored in dams in all four provinces hovers at 40 percent.

This is well down from the 74 percent mark at the same time last year, according to Water Affairs spokesman Claus Triebel.

The level of dams in Natal and the western Cape is satisfactory but most reservoirs elsewhere in the country are critically low.

Triebel did not exclude the possibility of water restric-

tions being imposed before the end of the rainy season in areas supplied by the Orange River Project as the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam plunged to 22 percent and the P K le Roux to 43 percent.

In the eastern Transvaal, the Fanie Botha Dam is down to 9 percent, the Albasini to 4 percent, the Braam Raubenheimer to 12 percent and the Loskop to 27 percent.

In the western Transvaal the Doringdraai is only 5 percent full.

The total amount of water in dams serving the PWV is down from 72 percent in January last year to 48 percent.

Battle for St Lucia's future starts

SOUTH Africans should await the outcome of an environmental impact assessment on mining northern Natal's unique St Lucia dunes before judging the situation, mining firm Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) said yesterday.

The company was reacting to the Campaign for St Lucia's (CSL's) relaunch of its anti-mining lobby.

RBM, whose majority shareholder is Canadian-based mining giant Rio Tinto Zinc, was dismayed by CSL's view that mining could radically affect delicate ecosystems, destroy pristine dune forests, flood wetlands and cause erosion.

The campaign's views were "propaganda", and RBM referred to "the most extensive and comprehensive assessment ever undertaken". *BIDAY*

A review panel would test public opinion and add their comments before the report was submitted to Cabinet, RBM said.

The impact assessment's findings are due on March 18. *15/11/93*

The CSL said there was some hope that a wetlands conservation Bill would be passed by Parliament, preventing all prospecting and mining within internationally recognised wetland sites, including St Lucia.

CSL chairman Dr Nolly Zaloumis said St Lucia was too important to gamble with. There were other mining sites available, and ecotourism would generate much more money in the long run. The area was also an integral part of a proposed greater St Lucia wetland park. — Sapa.

Crisis prompts sanctions rethink

By Hugh Robertson
Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — Because of South Africa's massive unemployment, ANC president Nelson Mandela is considering a call for all remaining sanctions to be lifted as soon as a date for non-racial elections has been set and a multiparty committee established to monitor them, according to The Washington Post.

In an interview with the newspaper's South African correspondent Paul Taylor, Mandela is quoted as saying he and other political leaders had been "sobered up" by the derailment of negotiations in recent months.

The interview includes a prediction by Mandela that non-racial elections will be held some time this year.

Taylor noted that official ANC policy on sanctions was to retain them until an elected democratic interim government was in place. But he reported that Mandela had said that once a date for a non-racial election had been set, and once multiparty authorities had been established to ensure the fairness of such an election, he would consider asking the ANC to call for an end to sanctions.

Taylor said both those steps were expected to occur within a few months.

Mandela told the newspaper he did not expect to serve in the interim government creat-



Nelson Mandela... concern about high unemployment.
Star 15/11/93

ed by such elections, but would seek the country's highest elective office after a new constitution had been drawn up.

Referring to the resumption of negotiations between the Government and the ANC, Mandela said: "All of us made mistakes in the past. But I think there is a realisation that the international community, the business community, academics and church groups are getting fed up with politicians.

"We can't afford to call each other names, point fingers, say that I am virtuous and so-and-so is wrong. Nobody is prepared to put up with that today."

The interview quotes Mandela as saying the condition of the economy had injected a

sense of urgency to the political process.

"One cannot overemphasise the importance of a very quick solution so that we can have investments from the international community," he told the newspaper.

Mandela said he envisaged a series of bilateral discussions between the ANC, the Government and other political groups over the next several months, coinciding with a resumption of the multiparty negotiating forum that was suspended six months ago when the ANC withdrew from Codesa.

Commenting on an outburst from his estranged wife, Winnie, at last week's funeral of civil rights activist Helen Joseph, at which Mrs Mandela denounced negotiations as a pact between "the elite of the oppressed and the oppressor," Mandela said: "Where in the world do you not have extremists? The important thing is to keep your head cool and to be sure your organisation is disciplined."

He was quoted as saying that although he had been frustrated by the slow pace of change, a beneficial side effect may have been the lowering of inflated expectations.

"One of these things that worried me when I was in jail was the tendency to make one a demigod, a messiah. I am very happy to be seen now as an ordinary human being."

Call to wait

for St Lucia dunes study

Star 15/11/93

South Africans should await the outcome of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on mining northern Natal's unique St Lucia dunes before judging the situation, mining company Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) said yesterday.

The company was reacting to the Campaign for St Lucia's (CSL) relaunch of its anti-mining lobby last week.

RBM, whose majority shareholder is the Canadian-based mining giant Rio Tinto Zinc, said it was dismayed by CSL's view that mining could radically affect delicate ecosystems, destroy pristine dune forests, flood wetlands and cause erosion.

According to the company's statement, the campaign's views were propaganda, and RBM referred to "the most extensive and comprehensive EIA ever undertaken".

A review panel would test public opinion at public meetings and add their comments to the report before submitting it to the Cabinet, the mining company said.

The EIA findings are due for release on March 18. — Sapa.

● RBM mum on finances

C-IFP rivalry, will sit in Empani today to hear preliminary submissions from people on the north east. The committee, chaired by Malcolm Wallis, sat in Port Shepstone on Monday.

Bay of Quendale yesterday. Salvage experts believe the ship is broken in at least four pieces

CP 'prepared to talk to SACP and ANC'

BILLY PADDOCK

THE CP had tacitly shifted its negotiation policy and was prepared to bargain a future with the SACP and the ANC, a senior CP source said yesterday.

He said the CP had consistently rejected "supping with the devil incarnate", and the fact that President F W de Klerk had chosen to negotiate with the SACP had been a major thrust of the CP's campaign to discredit him over the past two years.

"But now we are prepared to enter into discussions with these groups. It is a clear implication of our decision to participate in a multiparty planning conference agreed to with government at the weekend," he said.

He said CP leader Andries Treurnicht's statement on Monday had not contradicted this decision. All parties of the Concerned South Africans Group had rejected Codesa and the planning conference would decide what kind of negotiating forum would be set up. It could be exactly the same as Codesa, he said.

He also said the CP, though insisting that self-determination was non-negotiable, would be prepared to put this on the table when the chips were down. "We will cross that bridge when we come to it."

He said a careful look at Treurnicht's

statement would show that while the leader said self-determination was non-negotiable, "his later point on regions or states deciding on functions to be retained or given to central government informs on his first point".

He said Treurnicht clearly acknowledged a central government but insisted on it not having the determining role of functions and duties to be devolved to regions.

"Like (Inkatha leader) Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's new constitution, we want a bottom-up method, not a top-down one," he said.

He denied allegations that the Concerned South Africans Group was in the process of splintering, saying it had won large concessions in the two-day talks with government "and is the hope of the nation to bring fairness and sense into the negotiations process".

He said there were clear acknowledged differences within the group, but the parties were bound together by a common rejection of a unitary state, and opposition to government and the ANC making decisions for the country without consultation.

Attack on wilderness slammed

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Conservationist Ian Player said yesterday Richards Bay Minerals was insulting several religions by attacking the wilderness concept.

Player, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, was commenting on a 15-page sponsored survey on RBM in Leadership magazine.

In the survey, RBM's public relations head Barry Clements was quoted as saying: "This talk of saving St Lucia by preventing mining is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of SA conservation."

"The anti-(mining) lobby would sacrifice massive benefits to the people of SA on the altar of a white elitist spiritual yearning for a wilderness experience...."

Player said: "To mock any of the spiritual aspects of wilderness is to mock every major religion in the world; both Mohammed and Christ spent time in the wilderness as did many of the Hindu prophets."

He challenged RBM to disclose how much it was spending on its PR campaign. "If we had one-tenth of their PR money we would be able to tell the full story."

RBM spokesman Norman Clements said the cost of the articles had been offset by supporting adverts from other companies, and the final cost to RBM had not been calculated.

Peace accord steps up efforts

WILSON ZWANE

THE national peace committee will step up efforts this year to make the national peace accord felt at grassroots level.

The committee's executive will meet in Johannesburg tomorrow. Spokesman Val Pauquet said yesterday the meeting would evaluate the organisation's progress and special attention would be given to "socio-economic" strategies to rebuild violence-ravaged communities.

Pauquet said it was committee chairman John Hall's feeling that the peace accord would have an impact only if it filtered down to grassroots level. That could be done by undertaking socio-economic reconstruction projects.

Tomorrow's meeting would also continue with its attempts to convene a meeting of the signatories to the accord, Pauquet said.

The signatories' meeting was to have taken place tomorrow, but Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he would not

attend it before a meeting between himself and ANC president Nelson Mandela.

Mandela has said repeatedly peace interests would be served better by a signatories' meeting than a one-on-one meeting between himself and Buthelezi.

But ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday the meeting of the two leaders was still on the cards.

Working groups, set up last year to deal with the leaders' preconditions for their meeting, were still meeting.

It is understood that tomorrow's meeting will consider also a request by the National People's Party to join the peace accord.

Pauquet said the committee would hold discussions with various organisations, including the PAC, with a view to getting them to sign the peace accord.

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B10PM 13/11/93

Large-scale urbanisation of green belt 'inevitable'

810A
13/1/93
LARGE-scale urbanisation in the green belt northwest of Johannesburg was inevitable, and the question before the Demarcation Board was which structure would be best equipped to handle the flood, TPA deputy director of community development Len Dekker said yesterday.

In his opening address to the Demarcation Board hearing in Krugersdorp, Dekker said a balance had to be struck between protecting the rights of residents already living in the area, and creating new rights for those communities which had been deprived for so long.

The TPA had suggested that the six municipalities administer the area between them as it was better for local authorities to decide how the urbanisation would go ahead rather than for the decision to be made in Pretoria, Dekker said. He added that the councils had been discussing the plan for several years.

The six municipalities — Verwoerdburg, Midrand, Randburg, Sandton, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp — have submitted applications to the Board to divide between them the 80km² northwest of the borders up

KATHRYN STRACHAN

to the Hartebeespoort Dam.

The Greenbelt Action Group, which represents residents in the area, has proposed an alternative to the carve-up — a self-funding rural municipality which will protect the green belt area against forced urbanisation. They fear squatters will be placed on site-and-service stands rather than in low-cost housing schemes which they are proposing.

The municipalities believe their skills and resources would allow them to handle urbanisation in the area in a more controlled way, and would ensure that nature reserves and environmentally sensitive areas were preserved.

Dekker told the board the problem of urbanisation was so vast that developing the areas within existing municipal boundaries would only satisfy a small percentage of the need — and it was therefore imperative that the greater area be considered.

He stressed that the question before the board was to decide whether the flood of urbanisation would best be administered through the institution of a new local authority, through smaller viable local management

committees, or through the extension of the existing municipal boundaries.

"The TPA has already adopted the standpoint that as far as informal towns for the low income group are concerned, it will take the initiative to address the urgent need in two new towns, namely Diepsloot and Nietgedacht," he said.

Further identification of land for informal towns would be done by the local authorities themselves.

Provision would also have to be made for commercial and industrial areas that would create work opportunities in the region.

The conservation of agricultural and natural reserves, especially north of the Krugersdorp highway (R28), would be central to the plan, Dekker said, and the TPA believed a local authorities could provide better protection for the area than individuals or organised interest groups.

He said factors that could inhibit development of low-cost settlements in the area included the traditional perception that the entire area be preserved as an open "green" area, the relative lack of a physical infrastructure and the lack of mass transportation in the region.

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Natal Parks Board allows hunting of some species

CT 13/11/93 (5b)

MARITZBURG. — Applications to hunt certain animals in Natal parks are being accepted by the Natal Parks Board.

Species included in the hunts are red hartebeest, impala, blesbok and springbok at Albert Falls; blesbok, springbok and zebra at Chelmsford; blesbok, kudu, impala, black wildebeest, zebra and red hartebeest at Spioenkop; and nyala, impala, bush-

pig, warthog, common duiker, zebra, blue wildebeest, common reedbuck and red duiker at Mkhuzi Game Reserve.

The NPB's hunting and extension conservator, Mr Gary Davies, said the cost of the hunts and accommodation ranged from R1 620 at the Albert Falls park to R7 950 at the Mkhuzi game reserve. — Sapa

Phone: 488-4722

Saving Earth big business

Star 13/1/93

56

CLEANING up the global environment has become a huge growth industry promising to create myriads of jobs worldwide, the 10th annual "State of the World" report said.

Pollution and misuse of resources, meanwhile, were costing billions of dollars a year, said the Worldwatch Institute report released on Saturday.

Efforts to save the environment were fuelling a "new industrial revolution" affecting nearly all industries and offering global profit-making opportunities, the report from the non-profit, independent research group said.

"The environment is now a powerful market force in its own right," researchers Christopher Flavin and John Young write in the concluding chapter.

The new route to economic success, they said, would be "supplying energy services rather than electricity, information rather than newspapers, and crop protection rather than pesticides".

Industry would need to pro-

DAVID BRISCOE in Washington writes of a new industrial revolution.



Albert Gore . . . expert on environmental issues.

duce cars fuelled by hydrogen, natural gas, electricity or far less petrol than current models. "It now appears that the automotive industry is about to undergo some of the most rapid change since Henry Ford introduced the Model T," the report

said, predicting the demise of the internal combustion engine.

Other emerging industries include fish farming, recycled steel manufacturing and solar energy production.

Nearly all such industries had profit-making opportunities, said the report, which for the first time focuses on the role of private business in protecting the environment.

Cleaning up air, water and soil was already a \$200 billion (R600 billion) annual business, and environment-related industries may be counted in the trillions of dollars in the next century, the report said.

Ecological progress worldwide should be spurred by the administration of President-elect Clinton and Vice-President-elect Albert Gore, said Worldwatch president Lester Brown.

He said Gore's knowledge of environmental issues "exceeds that of any person I know of in government in the world".

The report said taxes on toxic chemicals and air pollutants

were better than regulations for promoting greener industries.

Without controls, Earth faced overpopulation, impoverishment, polluted air, dying forests, soil loss, poisoned waterways, ozone depletion and global warming, said the report's opening chapter.

Since the first "State of the World" report in 1984, tropical forest loss had increased 60 per cent, more species were disappearing, and population increases had accelerated from 80 million a year in 1984 to an expected 92 million in 1993.

The new report estimates that reduced forest productivity from air pollution costs Europe \$30 billion (about R90 billion) a year, overgrazing costs African countries \$7 billion (about R21 billion) a year and global warming costs the US alone about \$60 billion (R180 billion) a year in lost crops, damaged forests and rising sea levels.

Businesses fighting environmentalists might be better off hiring them to increase profits, the report noted. — Sapa-AP. □

Bop accused of hindering drought relief work

Blom 13/1/93
DROUGHT relief workers were being refused access to areas of Bophuthatswana by the homeland's government despite severe water shortages affecting thousands of people there, northern Cape relief worker Junior Nkabo said yesterday.

Nkabo said Bophuthatswana government officials regarded with suspicion the Consultative Forum on Drought — a joint government-development agency initiative — because ANC aligned organisations were involved with it.

The most critical areas were the

(10/1/93)
RAY HARTLEY

Kudumane district and the Dithakeng area, which had been designated "red areas" by the forum as they were in need of urgent intervention, he said.

A Bophuthatswana Water Supply Authority spokesman denied yesterday the forum had been refused access to the homeland.

He said it was "advised to liaise with the office of the governor (of Kudumane district)".

(2/1/93) *(2/1/93)*
But Nkabo said the governor's office had consistently refused the forum permission to begin emergency water supply operations through its Water Supply Task Force. *(56)*

The only sources of water for about 2 000 residents of Dithakeng were shallow wells, used by livestock, which dried up from time to time and had become health hazards.

The Bophuthatswana spokesman said water supply problems in the area had been attended to, with five pumps being installed to supplement existing resources.

ANC opposes bid to grab green belt

KATHRYN STRACHAN (So)

THE ANC has criticised the attempts by six municipalities to extend their boundaries into the green belt north of Johannesburg, as pre-empting the outcome of national negotiations on local government.

Verwoerdburg, Midrand, Sandton, Randburg, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp yesterday put their plans to divide the 80km² between them before the Demarcation Board for Local Authorities.

The ANC PWV region said the redrawing of the boundaries could be made only after consultations with different communities, and called on the authorities to suspend the hearing pending the outcome of local government negotiations at a national level. *Bl DAM 13/1/93*

The municipalities plan to implement a joint development strategy for the region, which will include low-cost housing schemes, to deal with urbanisation.

But their proposal is being fiercely opposed by residents who fear that it will ruin the rural character of the area and that the green belt will be used as a dumping ground for squatters.

Midrand council management committee chairman Dave Hidden said yesterday the issue had been referred to the Demarcation Board because of the authorities' failure to consult residents in the area.

It was regrettable that the crucial issue had to be decided in a few days by bureaucrats who had very little interest in the area, he said.

The clash between the Midrand and Sandton town councils over Sandton's bid to incorporate the Midrand suburb of Glenferness into its borders would also be put before the board within the next two days.

● See Page 7

Hunting opened at four reserves (56)

Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) is to reopen four of its nature reserves for public hunting. They are Sandveld (OFS), Bloemhof Dam, Langjan near Vivo and Pongola.

Sandveld, which is near Bloemhof nature reserve, offers a hunting package consisting of two gemsbok, five black wildebeest bulls with two zebras as optional

choices.

STAR 13/1/93
The Bloemhof Dam package consists of an eland, a gemsbok, a red hartebeest, a blesbok and three black wildebeest bulls.

Only experienced hunters should apply for Sandveld and Bloemhof Dam nature reserve because in many cases animals will have to be hunted in open veld over a long distance.

The popular Langjan nature reserve could

offer only one package this year. It consists of two eland, two gemsbok, two waterbucks and two red hartebees. Warthogs, blue wildebeest and impala were optional extras.

Pongola nature reserve, which was also very popular, offers one package consisting of six impala and eight blue wildebeest.

Prices of the packages vary between R4 150 and R6 700.

Randburg replies to green belt critics

B/DP/12/1/93 (56)

KATHRYN STRACHAN

RANDBURG Town Council has hit back at residents in the green belt, north of Johannesburg, who claim the plan of six Reef municipalities to divide the area between them will devastate the environmentally sensitive area and turn it into a dumping ground for squatters.

The plan will be discussed at a hearing of the Demarcation Board for Local Authorities, which is to begin today.

A Randburg council spokesman said yesterday the municipalities could mobilise the skills and resources to manage the area more effectively than a newly formed rural authority would.

He pledged that the municipalities would "do their utmost" to protect these areas.

The spokesman said Randburg had proposed that a structure plan be prepared for the area which followed proper town-planning principles.

It proposed that this plan should indicate that all environmentally sensitive areas would be preserved as public or private open spaces.

Although developing low-cost housing was a top council priority, Randburg management committee chairman Brian Crail had assured residents that "no development was planned for the area north of the Krugersdorp highway (R28) — which dissects the green belt — and that it would be retained as a natural area.

The adaptation of municipal borders, extension of areas of jurisdiction and the establishment of new local governments to the north-west of Johannesburg will all be argued at the three-day hearing.

The session involves the municipalities of Krugersdorp, Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdburg, as well as local area

committees of Chartwell, Muldersdrift and Rantesig, the Greenbelt Action Group and the Jukskei Crocodile River Catchment Area Association.

The area at issue is the entire green belt stretching from the present municipal boundaries to the Hartbeespoort Dam and the Skurweberg mountains.

Crail said the six municipalities banded together last year at the request of the TPA to seek a joint solution to the massive influx of people and the unplanned settlements that had resulted.

Boerestaat leader Robert van Tonder, who is also chairman of the Garden Triangle Action Group, said in a statement issued yesterday that the municipalities did not want the area for expansion, but for refuse dumps, squatter camps and sewage farms. He threatened that residents would refuse to pay rates if the plan went ahead.

'New industrial revolution' ⁽⁵⁶⁾ to save the ^{ARC 11/1/93} environment

DAVID BRISCOE of Sapa-AP reports from Washington.

CLEANING the global environment has become a huge growth industry that promises to create a myriad jobs worldwide, the 10th annual State Of The World report says.

Pollution and misuse of resources, meanwhile, are costing billions of rands a year, according to the Worldwatch Institute report released at the weekend.

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The new route to economic success, they said, would be "supplying energy services rather than electricity, information rather than a newspaper, and crop protection rather than pesticides".

Industry will need to produce new cars fuelled by hydrogen, natural gas, electricity or far less petrol than current models.

"It now appears that the automotive industry is about to undergo some of the most rapid change since Henry Ford introduced the Model T," the report said, predicting the demise of the internal combustion engine.

Other emerging industries include fish farming, recycled steel manufacturing and solar energy production, the report said.

Nearly all such industries have profit-making opportunities, said the report, which for the first time focuses on the role of private business in protecting the world's environment.

Cleaning up air, water and soil already is a R600-billion annual business, and environment-related industries may be counted in the trillions of rands in the next century, the report said.

Ecological progress worldwide

should be spurred by the administration of President-elect Clinton and Vice President-elect Albert Gore, said Worldwatch president Lester R Brown.

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The report said taxes on products that damage the earth — toxic chemicals and air pollutants — are better than regulations for promoting greener industries.

Without controls, the earth faces overpopulation, impoverishment, polluted air, dying forests, soil loss, poisoned waterways, ozone depletion and global warming, said the report's opening chapter, written by Brown.

"If our generation does not turn things around, our children may not have the option of doing so," Brown said.

Since the first State Of The World report in 1984, tropical forest loss has increased 60 percent, more species are disappearing, and population increases have accelerated from 80 million a year in 1984 to an expected 92 million in 1993, the group said.

The new report estimates that reduced forest productivity from air pollution costs Europe R90 billion a year, overgrazing costs African countries R21 billion a year and global warming costs the United States alone about R180 billion a year in lost crops, damaged forests and rising sea levels.

Flavin and Young write that businesses fighting environmentalists might be better off employing them to increase profits.

"While some have begun to re-vamp their products and processes, others are fighting the tide and failing to look ahead," the authors say. "Businesses that do not learn how to earn profits in an ecologically sound way may find they have no profits to worry about."

The report is being translated into 27 languages.

RBM keeps mum on Lake St Lucia finances

S142 15/1/93.

56

[Handwritten initials]

THE company that wants to mine Lake St Lucia's dunes on the Natal coast will not divulge what it has paid to lease the wetland — even though the land is owned by the taxpayer.

Richards Bay Minerals told resource economist Dr Frank Vorhies of Johannesburg — he was working on the economics of mining St Lucia as opposed to developing it for tourism — his question was "outside the terms of reference" of the current inquiry.

Vorhies also asked RBM

what deposit it would be required to put aside in case, in the event of the market collapsing, it found itself unable to afford to clean up?

He was told the question was irrelevant.

Vorhies, an American economist married to a South African and now living in Johannesburg, told a Campaign to Save St Lucia strategy meeting in Johannesburg that the finances of RBM, being a privately owned company, were a private matter.

He said he believed it was not in the interests of South

Some economic questions on St Lucia are not being answered, reports JAMES CLARKE.

Africans to allow mining at St Lucia.

He admitted he originally felt no need to see St Lucia and simply asked for the "numbers to be sent up to Johannesburg so I could crunch them up here". But he was persuaded to go to see the area.

He said it was then he realised it was unique. "It is so unique that there would have

to be a unique reason for messing the place up. And titanium is not a good enough reason.

"Nobody has been able to quantify, even superficially, the value of the existence of these dunes in an unspoiled state."

He said it was important to find out the value of the region to tourists, anglers, hunters, hikers and others.

He warned against thinking only in terms of what foreign exchange mining might bring in. RBM claims it will bring in far more foreign exchange from St Lucia over 20 years than would tourism.

"We need to know what the value of (an intact) St Lucia is to *South Africans*. It is not all about foreign exchange.

"If foreign exchange is the sole reason then we'd be keeping South Africans with their hands out of Kruger Park and allowing in only foreign tourists."

He said another important

but unanswered question was: what would happen to RBM if its bid to mine St Lucia failed? Would the company collapse?

He said RBM had other nearby titanium deposits but preferred St Lucia because the profits were better.

The mine had created the impression that billions would be lost. Vorhies said only the company would lose and it would lose "a few million rands".

He said if RBM got the go-ahead it would mine with subsidies from the South African taxpayer. □

Fight to save St Lucia dunes in giant wetlands for tourists

58 PRG 9/1/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Mining the "biologically-unique" St Lucia dunes will generate less money than protecting them for tourism.

This was said at a meeting called here to muster support for the St Lucia anti-mining lobby, which claims the support of the African National Congress among other organisations.

A Campaign for St Lucia group is trying to ensure the proclamation and consolidation of a greater St Lucia wetland park stretching from Mapepane in southern Natal to Mkuze and Sodwana in the north and incorporating Lake St Lucia.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has applied to mine the area for titanium. The company's proposals cover 1 200 ha and incorporate 17 km of St Lucia's coastal dunes.

The Campaign for St Lucia, chaired by Dr Nolly Zaloumis and with patrons such as Dr Ian Player and Sir Laurens van der Post, say the company's proposals would be disastrous if carried through.

They say that apart from the ecological effects, mining would mean increased heavy traffic with noise day and night in a place held by many to be one of the most idyllic wildernesses left on earth.

According to a campaign spokesman, RBM was authorised to mine 70 km of Zululand coastal

dunes not in the St Lucia area, assuring the company mining and smelting operations for decades.

"Environmentalists do not oppose all mining so long as it is strictly regulated and conditions are properly monitored," the spokesman added.

Large quantities of water would have to be imported daily to service the strip and dredge mining which would be employed.

"This additional water would drastically raise water tables and create problems which even the best scientists cannot predict accurately. There is also serious doubt about where this water would come from," said Dr Zaloumis.

In 1991 the government reversed its decision to plant the area with pine trees, he noted, and these forests were at present being harvested and rehabilitated by the Natal Parks Board. The argument that the proposed mining area was already degraded made no sense.

Mining would radically interfere with delicate ecosystems, while the previous damage by pines had been minimal.

Dr Zaloumis said dunes were complex layers of sands and minerals built up over hundreds and thousands of years, which could not be successfully rehabilitated as dredge mining permanently changed their structure and nutrient status.

St Lucia was a candidate for World Heritage Status. This, he said, had not been awarded up to the present because of South Africa's excommunication from the world.

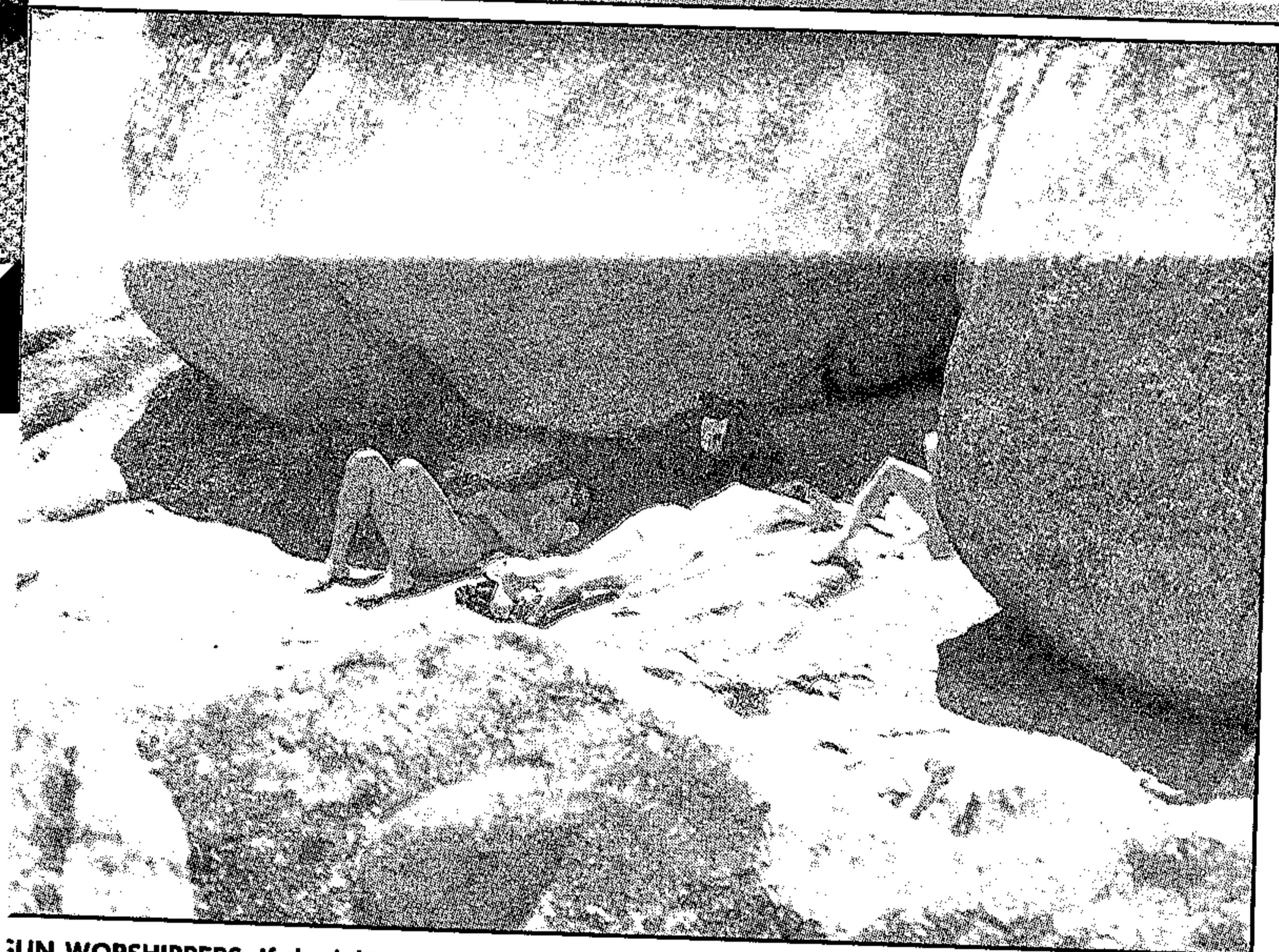
Another hope for the area was that the Wetlands Conservation Bill would be passed by Parliament thus preventing all prospecting and mining within internationally-recognised sites, including St Lucia.

Campaign organisers believe South Africa definitely needs another national park. The country at present has only about four percent under legal protection while 10 percent is the minimum internationally-recognised goal.

According to a campaign statement, RBM was assured mining income from other areas.

Furthermore, "95 percent of our titanium wealth is exported as raw material so that overseas interests can make huge profits at our expense in terms of both income and jobs. Ecotourism would provide far more jobs than mining. By protecting St Lucia and developing it wisely for eco-tourism, income distribution would be far more effective."

A total of 350 000 postcards have been sent out in a renewed drive to get half-a-million people to sign a petition opposing the mining of St Lucia. — Sapa.



BAY OF PLENTY: The Cape is beautiful and Sandy Bay is a part of it, famed for its nudists as much as the beach, the waters and the mountain backdrop.

Rezoning planned but Sandy Bay unaffected

STAR 9/11/93

CAPE TOWN — The pristine land above the Sandy Bay nudist beach that belongs to Absa is safe for the present.

But a large piece of land on the Hout Bay side will be subdivided and rezoned for housing if an application by Absa to the regional services council (RSC) is successful.

The application by Absa for the subdivision of the roughly 60 ha site and rezoning from rural to residential was lodged on December 21.

Surrounded

An RSC spokesman said the proposal would be advertised for comment and objections within three weeks.

Pierre Augustyn, managing director of Absa's property arm, Bankorp Properties, said he was fully aware of the ecologically sensitive na-

THE beautiful nature area above Sandy Bay will not be affected by a residential development, a spokesman for the developers told WILLEM STEENKAMP.

ture of the area.

"That is why we have applied for rezoning of the Hout Bay portion of the land only," he said.

"The Hout Bay side is already surrounded by residential property and all essential services are already available in the portion proposed for development.

"However, to preserve the ecological integrity of the area, our development plan includes a green fringe or buffer zone for the site where

stretches of indigenous flora can be preserved among the houses.

"The housing units will not be visible or encroach in any way on the Sandy Bay side," he emphasised.

Once the proposal is advertised, the public and other interested groups will have 21 days to comment and lodge objections.

Thereafter the application and the comments on the proposed development will go before the council for approval.

Magnate

Hotel magnate Sol Kerzner also owns a section of land between Llandudno and Sandy Bay, but the spokesman for the RSC said that at this stage no application for rezoning or development had been received from Kerzner.

SUN WORSHIPPERS: If the bikinis and tangas of Clifton make you feel overdressed, then Sandy Bay is the place to be, in nowt much more than skin, glorious skin! But beware of voyeurs.

Thaba Nchu Manpower centre 48 494

Winterveldt: Schools 9 091

R 6 487 623

*Technical and other assistance***

Manpower provision ... R 11 751 000

Technical assistance ... 1 052 676

Salaries of Judges 199 000

R 13 002 676

Grand Total **R2 308 595 792**

** No financial transfers in respect of item D were directly made to Bophuthatswana.

I note that the hon member's question only deals with Bophuthatswana, but I would nevertheless like to add that similar assistance, as listed below, was also rendered to Transkei, Venda and Ciskei:

Transkei R2 231 365 023

Venda R 665 562 235

Ciskei R 914 122 978

All figures are unaudited.

Ministers: tax deducted from home allowances

*19. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Public Works:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 33 on 5 February 1993, tax is deducted from the allowances payable to Ministers occupying their own homes instead of accommodation provided by the State; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom is this tax deducted and (b) how is it calculated;
- (2) whether the manner in which this tax is deducted and calculated has been changed in any way since 1 January 1990; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the other relevant details? B580E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) By the Department of Public Works.
- (b) It is calculated at the maximum rate on two-thirds of the total compensation.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- (2) Yes.
- (a) On the advice of the Department of Finance.
- (b) From 1 December 1992 the full compensation payable for the maintenance or purchase of kitchenware is taxable, which was not the case prior to that date.

Recycling of plastic/paper

*20. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether he intends introducing legislation and incentives to promote the recycling of paper, plastic and other products; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what is envisaged in this regard;
- (2) whether his Department is committed to the concept of recycling; if not, why not; if so, to what extent;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B582E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. Specialised national and international advice obtained, as well as national and international experience, suggest that legislation is not effective in this regard. Recycling should be regulated by market forces and direct incentives by the Government would not only mean interference with the free enterprise system, but cannot be considered in the present economic situation. South Africa, however, is making good progress with regard to recycling and re-use. The percentage tonnage recycled to total tonnage produced for the various categories is as follows: Paper and board 33%, plastic 13%, tin-plate 16%, aluminium 84% and glass 70%. This represents an increase of about 73% in the recycling effort over the past five years.
- (2) Yes. In the 1993 White Paper on the Policy on a National Environmental Management System for South Africa the following goal is set:
- Deploy a national strategy for waste management and develop integrated

pollution control in which the elements of responsibility, accountability, prevention, treatment and re-use must enjoy priority. Disposal in the atmosphere, land and water environments should be considered as a last option only. Protection against toxic waste, the control of environmentally detrimental agricultural and industrial practices, as well as the combating of littering and the promotion of recycling will be included in the strategy. Industry-based programmes to achieve the above-mentioned objectives will have to be introduced.

(3) No.

SAA: Civil Aviation examinations for pilots

*21. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether any (a) pilots and/or (b) former pilots of the South African Air Force holding civilian, commercial, senior commercial or airline transport pilots' licences were not required to write and pass the applicable examinations set by the Directorate for Civil Aviation; if so, (i) how many and (ii) why were such licences issued to these pilots;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B584E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (i) During the period April 1989 to November 1990 civilian pilot's licences were issued to 54 pilots who were at that stage in the service of the South African Air Force, by the Chief Directorate: Civil Aviation.
- (ii) All applicants met with the requirements for the civilian licences issued after the successful completion of an additional course including work which is related to civil aviation.
- (2) No. The matter is *sub judice* at present because of a pending appeal case.

SAA: foreign pilots/aircraft

*22. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether the South African Airways have entered into any lease agreements to use (a) aircraft belonging to foreign countries and (b) pilots who are foreign nationals in the course of its business; if so, (i) what are the details of these agreements and (ii) on what basis were the licences of such foreign pilots accredited;
- (2) whether any practical difficulties or safety problems have arisen as a result of these agreements; if so, what are the relevant details? B585E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (i) The South African Airways leases aircraft and operates them in SAA's fleet which are piloted by SAA pilots. SAA operates a freight service with an Ukrainian company using Ukrainian aircraft, pilots and technical assistance.
- (ii) The foreign pilots are properly accredited in terms of the standards applied by the Department of Civil Aviation.
- (2) No.

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Filling of vacant places at schools

1. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether he intends taking steps to ensure that, as far as possible, all

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

parties such as the Association of Mortgage Lenders of South Africa, the South African Coordinating Consumers Council and the National Black Consumers Association.

(3) It is envisaged that the aforesaid bills be finalised in the course of 1993 with a view to submit the bills for consideration by Parliament during the 1994 Parliamentary session.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Pollution in rivers in Eastern Transvaal

109. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Water Affairs:†

Whether there is any pollution in rivers rising in the Eastern Transvaal; if so, (a) in which rivers, (b) what is the (i) nature and (ii) extent of this pollution in each case and (c) what steps are being taken to combat the pollution? B238E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

Yes, wherever human activities and land use occur there will be an impact on the water quality of rivers and other water resources. The difference lies in the level of acceptability. All rivers in the Eastern Transvaal are presently being affected to varying extents by pollution and to give more detail the question will be answered individually for each important river.

(a) Komati River Catchment

(b) (i) Mainly salts and acid mine water emanating from closed coal mines and opencast mines in the Highveld area. Partially treated sewage is discharged from some underdeveloped towns.

(ii) Most of the pollution cases entail small volumes of water with an unacceptable quality. The water quality of the water resources in general, and certainly in the Vygeboom Dam and downstream thereof, is considered to be of reasonably good quality and acceptable for use.

(c) Each individual mine is involved in an environmental management program. Towns in the catchment are currently upgrading their effluent treatment works.

(a) Crocodile River Catchment

(b) (i) Mainly salts and non-toxic industrial effluent. Low concentration of arsenic emanate from gold mining operations in the Kaap River catchment.

(ii) Industrial effluent quality in the catchment is improving but further improvement is needed.

The water in the river remains fit for use.

(c) Industries are co-operating in efforts to improve their effluent quality. The gold mines in the Kaap River valley are implementing measures to prevent further contamination of the river. Permits for the discharge of effluent by major industries are currently being reconsidered and this entails comprehensive impact studies. The Department is currently developing water quality strategies and objectives for the Crocodile River catchment, which also entails comprehensive studies.

(a) Sabie River Catchment

(b) (i) Partially treated sewage reaches the river. As in other Eastern Transvaal catchments exceptional population growth occurs without the necessary waste water management systems.

The breakage of the Zoeknogg Dam resulted in silt being deposited in the river.

(ii) The extent of the pollution in the immediate vicinity of the points of discharge is unacceptable. Generally, however, the quality of the water in the river is very good. The Department strives to maintain the quality of the river so that the river will continue to sustain the largest specie diversity of aquatic life in the country. This area has been identified as a priority area to develop and implement water quality management strategies. Comprehensive studies have been commenced and water quality requirements for nature are being developed in co-operation with the National Parks

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Board and wild life organisations. The breakage of the Zoeknag Dam had no impact on the Sabie River and only a limited impact on the Muthulumuvi and Sand River tributaries.

- (c) The sewage treatment works are in the process of being upgraded.
- (a) Upper Olifants River Catchment
- (b) (i) Mainly salts from active coal mines that affect the water quality of the Witbank Dam. Acid mine water and salts emanating from abandoned coal mines influence the water quality of the Loskop Dam.
- (ii) The extent of this pollution is such that the water quality of the Witbank Dam has become unacceptable to certain users. The natural buffer capacity of the water in the Loskop Dam is reduced by the acidity of the water entering the dam and if this continues unabatedly the water could become acidic. The Klipspruit in this catchment is already devoid of all aquatic life for a stretch of 80 km. This situation is totally unacceptable to the Department.
- (c) A comprehensive water quality management plan based on *in situ* catchment studies has been developed for the Witbank Dam and will be implemented as from April 1993. Each individual mine must submit an environmental management programme from the beginning of 1993. The proposed individual management plans have to be compatible with the overall management plan for the region. The White Paper on the Proposed Water Pollution Control Works at Abandoned Coal Mines in the Witbank and Ermelo districts (White Paper WP F-92) addresses the water quality problem of the Loskop Dam. The measures mentioned therein will be implemented as from 1 April 1993.
- (a) Middle Olifants River Catchment, from the Loskop Dam to the Olifantspoort (Strydom Tunnel)
- (b) (i) An unacceptably high silt concentration originating mainly from the

self-governing states is the main problem.

(ii) The high silt concentration is a cause for concern to irrigation farmers, the Phalaborwa Water Board, (situation of the Phalaborwa Barrage) as well as for the natural environment.

(c) A national strategy addressing informal settlements, bad agricultural practices and the effect thereof on water quality is being developed. It is hoped that the implementation of such a strategy will alleviate the situation.

(a) Lower Olifants River Catchment from the Olifantspoort to the border with Mocambique

(b) (i) Silt loads from the Middle Olifants River and salts from mining activities in the area, especially fluorides and phosphates during low flows impair fitness for use.

(ii) The pollution mainly affects the Phalaborwa Barrage as well as the natural environment, especially aquatic life and this is of specific concern to the Kruger National Park.

(c) The silt problem will be addressed at its source as part of the proposed solution to the water quality problems in the Middle Olifants River.

As with all other mines, the mines in this area must submit environmental management programme reports. On request the mines are currently conducting comprehensive impact studies in order to enable the Department to re-evaluate their permit conditions. Comprehensive water quality requirement studies for the rivers are currently being conducted.

(a) Letaba and Levubu River Catchments

(b) (i) Almost no industrialisation takes place within the catchments of these rivers, but the rivers are mainly influenced by farming practices and town development. Population growth in both areas is considerable and with limited waste water management systems, it is expected that

more problems will be experienced in these areas. Reasonable growth in agricultural and industrial activities is expected.

(ii) The impact is mainly nitrates and phosphates, as well as pollution incidents by pesticides on an *ad hoc* basis by the agricultural sector. These impacts in general have a limited influence and the water is considered to be acceptable for use.

(c) The Department conducted comprehensive studies to assess the situation and is striving to establish a water management strategy as soon as possible. At this stage it is, however, not a crisis.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

- (a) Nil,
(b) and (c) fall away

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFS

- (a) Nil,
(b) and (c) fall away

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF NATAL

- (a) 1992/93 Financial year: R29 653 368,

	(a)	(b)	(c)
Don McKenzie SANTA Centre	R	26 445	
McCord Zulu Hospital	R	1 465 625	
Mountain View Hospital	R	52 096	
St Mary's Hospital, Kwamagwaza	R	476 927	
St Mary's Hospital, Mariannhill	R	1 445 145	
Siloah Hospital	R	66 738	
Subsidies to Local Authorities for Health Services rendered to Blacks	R	1 478 000	
Richmond Chest Hospital (TB)	R	8 317 680	
McCord Zulu Hospital (TB)	R	452 354	
St Mary's Hospital, Mariannhill (TB)	R	689 479	
Siloah Hospital (TB)	R	968 033	
St Mary's Hospital, Kwamagwaza (TB)	R	670 536	
Mountain View Hospital (TB)	R	753 126	
CJ Smith Sugar Limited (TB)	R	161 024	
Madacent Hospital (TB)	R	51 746	
Dorts Goodwin SANTA Centre (TB)	R	157 946	
SANTA Motivators (TB)	R	49 603	
SANTA Centres (Charles James, Fosa, Khoisong, Don McKenzie, Dunstan Farrell) (TB)	R	11 062 899	
Tongaat Hulett Group Hospital (TB)	R	2 393	
Family Care Clinics	R	561 794	
Happy Hours Day Care Centre	R	53 099	
Single Care grants	R	690 680	

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Primary health care: amount allocated
147. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Welfare:

- (a) What total amount was allocated to non-governmental organizations in each of the four geographical regions of the Republic for the provision of primary health care during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available, (b) what are the names of these organizations and (c) what amount was allocated to each such organization?
B286E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

EC missions seek access

BRUSSELS — The EC has stressed the importance of allowing internal observer missions free access to all parts of SA, including the homelands. (56)

In a thinly veiled reference to the Bophuthatswana authorities who have occasionally hampered international observers, the EC issued a statement yesterday urging "all parties to support the international observer missions in fulfilling their tasks". B100M

The EC also expressed its abhorrence and condemnation of the "recent senseless murders of children and other innocent victims", and appealed to all parties engaged in negotiating a political settlement to do their utmost to end the violence. 31/3/93

The EC and its 12 member states noted a "general downward trend of violence since the beginning of 1993".

However, the community called on all parties involved in the democratic process to sign the national peace agreement reached in September 1991. It urged the parties to commit themselves to a speedy and peaceful transition to a democratic, nonracial and united SA.

It noted that the EC observer mission, like its UN and Commonwealth counterparts, had "the mandate to observe the situation on the ground in areas most affected by violence and to facilitate dialogue between the relevant parties". — Sapa-AFP.

Chamber challenges mine pollution report

THE Chamber of Mines has contested the recently published CSIR findings that the mining industry was SA's biggest hazardous waste producer.

Mining waste was predominantly inert rock material classified as non-hazardous, the chamber said.

The debate around cyanide-bearing effluent from gold mining operations was crucial in determining how big a polluter mining actually was, said chamber senior GM operations Horst Wagner.

Cyanide was used mainly to dissolve gold from the ore. The gold-depleted solution was then recycled and pumped into tailings dams where the dissolved cyanide underwent natural degradation through, among other processes, oxidation.

The Witwatersrand climate greatly facilitated oxidation which contributed to cyanide reduction before seepage discharge into groundwater, Wagner said.

The CSIR's Hazardous Waste in SA: Summary of Responses report has estimated mining caused about 90% of SA's solid, liquid and gaseous waste and 56% of all toxic waste.

Gold mining alone contributed about 53,5% of SA's hazardous waste in the form of cyanide-bearing effluent streams, the report said.

Seepage from mines' sludge dams still contained eco-toxic concentrations of free cyanide and was acidic enough to kill fish,

MARIANNE MERTEN

the report said.

Wagner said the long-term potential for serious health or environmental damage from cyanide-bearing waste streams was minimal and these effluents should be reclassified as non-hazardous. "If this reclassification is carried out then the total amount of hazardous waste produced by the mining industry reduces to 5,2%."

Various studies had shown little evidence of groundwater contamination below or adjacent to gold tailings disposal facilities.

The chamber's environmental management programme report has also adopted a holistic approach to environmental management, Wagner said.

He said current environmental regulations pertaining to mining were enforced by at least 20 Acts and about nine government departments.

"The administration of the legislation applicable to SA mining could possibly become chaotic and obscure because of the number of government departments involved and the extent of delegation that can take place," Wagner said.

For this reason the chamber supported industry self-regulation and "a single point of contact between industry and government so that the administrative process is facilitated".

10 Etosha zebras sent for 'quagga romp' to Vrolijkheid reserve

(56)

APR 30/3/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

TEN more zebras from Etosha National Park in Namibia have arrived to boost the South African Museum's ambitious project to re-create the quagga.

The once-numerous quagga was hunted to extinction during the 19th century, but a re-breeding project was launched in 1987 after genetic research determined that the animal was not a separate species but merely a sub-species of the plains zebra.

The research was instigated by South African Museum specialist taxidermist Mr Reinhold Rau, who obtained tissue samples from quagga skins in various museums. This allowed genetic scientists to analyse the quagga's DNA structure.

Zebras, carefully selected for quagga-likeness — either in basic colouring or stripe reduction — were caught in Etosha National Park in Namibia and in Zululand and taken to the Cape Nature Conservation's Vrolijkheid nature reserve outside Robertson to breed.

"Of the present southernmost plains zebra populations, we found the most stripe-reduction in Zululand, while the brownish basic colour occurs most frequently in the Etosha population," Mr Rau explained.

"It is this brownish colour which, at this stage, was most needed for the breeding group."

Earlier this month, the Namibian Ministry of Wildlife, Conservation and Tourism approved the selection and capture of a further 10 animals in Etosha.

The new animals — five stallions and five mares — have been taken to an experimental farm outside Pretoria, and some of them will be transferred to Vrolijkheid in a few months' time.



QUAGGA-BREEDERS: Plains zebras with reduced striping have been carefully selected to help breed back the quagga.

The captive zebras have produced 16 foals to date, Mr Rau said.

"Although some of the mares have already given birth to three foals, they all represent first generation, captive offspring as most of the Vrolijkheid-born animals are not yet mature enough to reproduce.

"Not much progress with reduced striping or darkening of the basic colour should be expected in the first generation.

"For that reason, it was encouraging when two of the 16 foals born appeared to be a little 'closer' to the extinct quagga than do their parents."

Nurserymen root out claims of ignorance about Cape plants

APR 30/3/93 (56)

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Cape Association of Nurserymen has rejected a report which found that Cape Town's nursery managers were ignorant of environmental issues affecting indigenous plants.

The report, based on interviews with 19 managers of privately owned nurseries and with managers of state and local authority nurseries, was sponsored by the Botanical Society's flora conservation committee.

The report, published earlier this month, also found that some of the Cape's worst invasive alien plants were being stocked in commercial nurseries.

In its response, the association said the report — *Attitudes of nursery managers of Cape Town toward the sale and use of invasive alien plants* — did not reflect the general opinion or attitude of its members.

The issues had been investigated after the report had been published and a list of participating nurseries had been requested, the association said in a statement.

"But we were informed that the parties involved had been requested to remain anonymous."

Also, it appeared some of the larger wholesale and retail nurseries had not been approached, the statement added.

"It is therefore our opinion that this report is incorrect."



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

WATER WONDER: Hout Bay environmentalist Dr Guy Preston and his five-year-old son, Ian, prove it's possible to get squeaky clean while using a minimum of water from a revolutionary new showerhead.

City man staking ⁽⁵⁶⁾ his life savings on ^{ARG 29/3/93} huge water-saver

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

WATER is probably South Africa's most precious natural asset.

So, who could refuse an opportunity to save huge amounts of money on the family's water and electricity budget **AND** help the country's conservation effort at the same time?

That's the question on which two prominent members of Cape Town's conservation fraternity have staked their life's savings by starting a trading company specialising in environmentally friendly goods.

Husband-and-wife team Dr Guy Preston and Dr Penny Brown of Hout Bay already have won the SA Nature Foundation's 1993 Product for the Year award for their first line: A "wonder showerhead" which uses less than a quarter of the amount of water flowing from a conventional head while still delivering a high-quality shower.

Dr Preston, a senior environmental scientist, said the showerhead, which cost less than R50, could pay for itself within 24 days.

Over a 10-year period, a family

of four could save more than a million litres of water — enough to fill an Olympic-size swimming pool — and more than 34 000 kilowatt hours of electricity — sufficient energy to keep a 60-watt bulb burning 24 hours a day for 66 years.

The financial saving of fitting one of the devices would be R11 761.

These "conservative" figures had been independently verified by a researcher in UCT's Energy Research Institute and the flow figures confirmed by the SA Bureau of Standards, added Dr Preston.

"We believe that a widespread switch to this product would be a practical and very significant measure that could be taken to promote environmental conservation and economic efficiency in our country."

He pointed out that more than 15 million of the showerheads already had been sold in the United States — "a most eloquent endorsement".

Part of the proceeds of each sale will go to the SA Nature Foundation.

● Contact 790 2898 for further information.

Report on St Lucia to come under fire

RAY HARTLEY

THE CSIR's report on the viability of mining and ecotourism at St Lucia will come under fire in two documents to be released next month as part of a renewed campaign by environmentalists to put pressure on government to prohibit mining.

The Natal Parks Board, a proponent of the ecotourism option in the CSIR study, would release its full response to the CSIR report in April, a board official said at the weekend. *BIDM 29/3/93*

And the Zululand Environmental Alliance is planning to produce an alternative version of the CSIR's executive summary, which it says is biased because Richards Bay Minerals — which wants to mine the estuary dunes — paid the salaries of most of those who drafted it.

The two organisations both said they believed the report was fundamentally flawed and the critical finding — that no irreparable damage would be done to the environment by dredge mining — had been reached before studies into water flows had been completed.

Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has argued that mining would not disturb the complex process by which fresh water flows into Lake St Lucia from the dunes, which the CSIR report fully endorsed.

Parks Board head of planning Bill Bainbridge said: "I personally believe that, despite what the CSIR said, there has been bias. I believe that it is totally untenable for RBM to sit on the Assessment Management Committee (which managed the drafting of the report)," he said.

Zululand Environmental Alliance chairman Wally Menne said yesterday the alternative summary would be based on the same research papers and the CSIR version, but would not be biased in favour of mining.

The alliance had already collected "close to 300 000" postcard petitions calling on government not to allow to mining at St Lucia, he said. If mining were to go ahead, the alliance would subject the company to "unprecedented scrutiny" and expose its mining track record.

A 110-page submission by the alliance to the CSIR had largely been ignored in the executive summary, he said.

People in the St Lucia area were aggrieved by the way in which RBM was using land with little compensation. Menne said two RBM employees had been shot at recently by members of the local community and an RBM bus had been raked by AK-47 fire.

RBM had ignored recommendations made by the alliance on how to improve the rehabilitation of indigenous vegetation along their mining paths in the past, he said.

An Inkatha statement in favour of mining was probably a kneejerk reaction to an earlier ANC statement which opposed mining, Menne said.

Unions in fight for council

THE threatened collapse of the Transvaal Building Industrial Council would be aggressively opposed by the three union parties to the council.

The Master Builders' Association decision to pull out of the council came as a surprise to the unions which say they were not consulted on the move.

The building council is SA's second largest and the ripple effects of allowing its collapse were enormous, said Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers national organiser Jose de Oliveira. *BIDM 27/3/93*

Other building councils could follow the same route, as could industrial councils in other sectors, thus rendering government liable for the provision of

social benefits, he said.

The council controls a pension fund with about R800m in assets, as well as sick benefit, medical aid and unemployment funds.

It also administered quality and safety — the two major concerns of the industry, De Oliveira added.

He said the influx of subcontractors harmed the industry as workers were exploited and quality control ignored. However, deregulation was no solution.

The Construction and Allied Workers' Union, the White Builders' Union and the Amalgamated Union were working together to prevent the council's demise, he said.

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Johannesburg's director of environmental health, Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, has been in office for a year. PETER WELLMAN interviewed her.

YASMIN von Schirnding's office is an inspiration for every victim of the Civic Centre's bureaucratic greyness. The navy and white wallpaper allows for the strong colours she prefers, like Caroline Cullinan's vibrant poster of the African continent.

Her response to City Council austerity was to redesign the office herself, covering old chairs and bringing in some of her own things, like her favourite bookcase.

She is a stylish dresser who did a course in music and the history of art at the University of Vienna. Her father, Kurt, was a South African diplomat, and she has the softened accent that years abroad produces.

She occasionally undermines the accent by saying "well, ja" in mid-sentence, but it still comes as a bit of a jolt when she talks about her job in such down-to-earth terms that an apprentice artisan would know exactly what she wants, and that she demands results: she wants a healthy city.

Von Schirnding (36), the city's first director of environmental health, has been at it for a year now. After what she calls "a jump into the unknown", she had to learn the laws of bureaucracy for the first time.

Her previous job was specialist scientist at the Research Institute for Environmental Diseases (at the Medical Research Council in Cape Town) and she has been involved in teaching and research, particularly in environmental epidemiology, for years.

The men in her department have had to adjust as well; there aren't many women at her level in the Civic Centre.

Von Schirnding manages to talk about a healthy city without sounding like one of those protesters who say "Isn't it terrible?" without offering solutions.

Environmental health covers a wide field, including anything from smoking and smog to a sick building.

Being new in the job (a year is not a long time in any bureaucracy), Von Schirnding prefers not to antagonise anyone unnecessarily. So, when she talks about problems and solutions, she generalises: one of the major problems is a lack of co-ordination between sectors which impact on health.

She is talking to major role players in and outside the council, and wants longer-term issues such as sustaina-



Bright new approach... Dr Yasmin von Schirnding made her name with a study of lead levels in schoolchildren. Picture: Karen Sandison

Her aim is a healthy city

bility addressed in development plans.

She fidgets a little as she says this, probably betraying a secret desire to go in some-where with a bulldozer.

Environmental health has been her priority for some time, but what made her name was a study of lead levels in Cape Town school-children in the '80s when she was at the University of Cape Town. The lead content of petrol was an issue overseas at that time, but little work had been done on in South Africa.

Her findings won her a master's degree in environmental science with distinction, followed by a doctorate.

So it was difficult for the petrol lobby, or anyone else, to rubbish what she said. Her research was presented at conferences in China and America, and proved to be a major lever in getting South Africa to cut the lead content in petrol by half, to 0.4 g per litre. She says that is still too high, but the Government has announced there will be NO lead in our petrol by 1995.

Von Schirnding does not want to "just shout words" about what she wants, she wants to "bring people along" with her, so there will be an increased emphasis on training, retreating, group discussions and workshops.

The image of health inspec-

tors must change, she says. Their skills have been under-utilised, she wants them to get to know the communities they work with, to be seen as "development officers" promoting an integrated environmental health programme with the community.

Her theme is guidance and co-operation, keeping up the traditional health work while targeting specific groups in need of help.

Von Schirnding says housing, water, and sanitation are going to be the major health issues.

She wears many hats, and chairs the Metropolitan Chamber's environmental task team, which fits in with

her concept of an integrated approach to the health and environmental impacts of development projects.

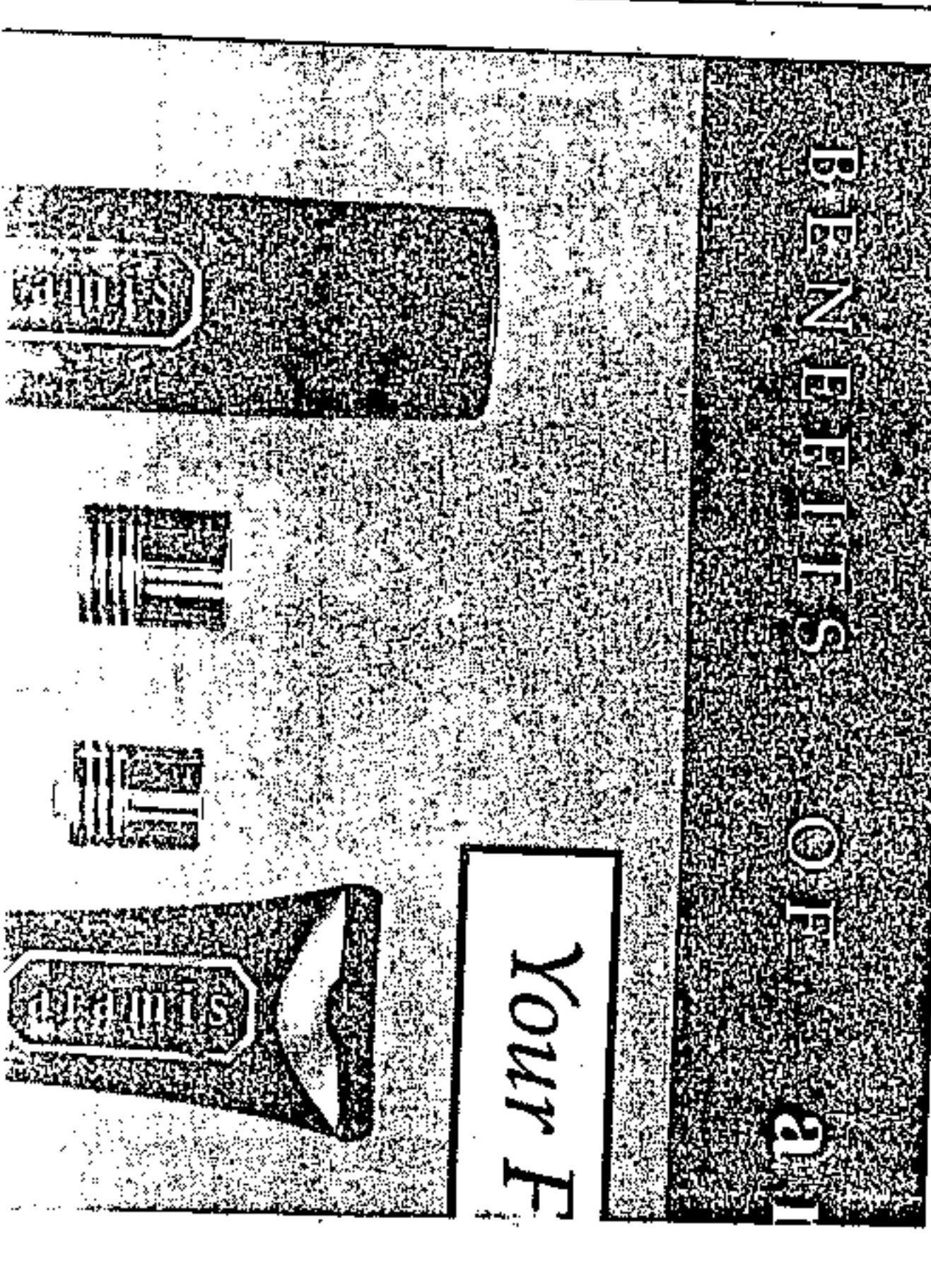
She and her husband Derek, who are moving from a two-bedroomed flat to a home in the suburbs, both cook "in theory". In practice they both drive themselves hard, and don't cook too often.

She also works out at a gym in theory, and one senses that, once she has got the job sorted out the way she wants it, she will try to make more time for things like that.

Von Schirnding plays the guitar, folk and classical, but even that will have to wait until everyone in her department is singing her song. □

BENEFITS OF

Your F



SOMEWHERE between the years 2020 and 2030 water for further expansion will run out unless steps are implemented to ensure a continued supply, according to Water Research Commission executive director Piet Odendaal.

Sufficient water will become one of South Africa's most critical problems, with an estimated R30 billion required to address the situation adequately, he says.

Focusing on the PWV alone, the optimistic scenario supplied by Department of Water Affairs and Forestry managing engineer (planning) Dr Paul Roberts is that there is absolutely no chance the country's industrial heartland will ultimately deteriorate into a giant dust-bowl, ground to a halt by the insatiable thirst of millions of people and their machines.

Fishmings off a desert

Star 29/3/93

(56)

On the contrary, the options far into the next century are not only many and varied, but breathtaking in the sheer scope of their possibilities.

But first the logistics. Future projections include one by the World Population Profile, published by the United States Bureau of the Census in Washington, that the South African population could more than double from 40 million in 1991 to 83 million by 2020. Nearer home it is estimated the total population of the PWV alone will treble in 30 years from 8.5 million in 1985 to 24 million in 2015.

Placing the vital PWV in context with South Africa, former Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Johnny Frankel says although the region covers only 2 percent of the country, it accommodates 25 percent of the population and produces about 43 percent of the gross domestic product.

The PWV is responsible for 51 percent of the secondary sector, 34 percent of all mining and 7 percent of all agricultural output. It contributes 41 percent of the country's taxes, 39.4 percent of its household income and 41 percent of the nation's

The water supply to the PWV region is assured at least until 2026, Rand Water Board chief executive Vincent Bath claimed recently. But what will happen after 2026? SHIRLEY WOODGATE reports.

savings, he says. The Witwatersrand alone has no less than 40 percent of the nation's industrial capacity.

Critical to all these needs is water, particularly since Johannesburg is one of the few major world cities not situated on, or even near, an adequate water supply. Roberts says the current needs are adequately met by

the Vaal River system, augmented in drought times by water from the Sterkfontein Dam which is part of the Tugela River Government Scheme.

This supply from the Vaal River, which includes re-use of effluent, is currently being purified by the Rand Water Board for distribution throughout the region. In the long term, the Lesotho

Highlands Water Project (LHWP), expected to come on stream by 1997 after 30 years of planning and negotiating from the early days of the Oxbow Scheme, together with further phases of the project, can supply the needs of the region until at least 2020, he says.

Other long-term options range from costly desalination — already in operation for purifying saline borehole water in Bitterfontein in the northern Cape — to rainfall stimulation. Although desalination may become feasible, at this stage removing the salt from seawater is six times more expen-

sive than obtaining water supplies from a combination of rivers and dams, Roberts says. So the main focus is on southern Africa's major rivers as the most cost-effective means of providing water, despite the fact that storage dams must be built to counter the extremes of flow in our rivers.

The country faces the twin problems of maldistribution of water, with about 60 percent concentrated on the eastern seaboard from the eastern Transvaal to Natal, the Transkei and Ciskei, and the fact that the main consumers are in the hinterland, far removed from

the major water sources headed by the Orange, the Tugela, the Vaal, the Umzimvubu, the Breede and the Sundays rivers. Experts are again looking to the lower Tugela River, launching a fullscale investigation by mid-year into the possibility of pumping up water from the Tugela Basin to the PWV via a series of pipelines and canals combined with the construction of major storage dams.

South Africa is also casting an eye towards the north, to the Zambezi River.

A major problem here is the huge 1 000 km to 2 000 km distances from source to point of use.

Another is that South Africa is not, according to the Helsinki Rules, a "basin" state with rights to the Zambezi water, since its flow is totally unaffected by run-off from the Republic. □

He's still slaughtering those holy cows!

By FRED KHUMALO

C Press
28/3/93

NKOSINATHI Maphumulo has grabbed the bull by the tail again! Entrepreneur Nkosinathi, who lives in Amanzimtoti, a swanky formerly whites-only suburb in the Natal south coast, has held another rip-roaring feast.

His aim was to appease the heavenly ancestors — and perhaps to tell white mother grundies in the suburb to go to hell!

Some whites, it appears, can't stand the notion of a black man slaughtering animals in "their" area.

Last weekend he slaughtered two cows, a sheep and a goat for the week-end-long bash.

This week white local officials threat-

ened to take legal action against him for breaking municipal by-laws and the new Abattoir Hygiene Act.

Maphumulo, 32, found himself at the centre of white outrage last June when, immediately after moving into the white suburb, he slaughtered two cows and four goats "to show the spirits where he was living".

Local animal rights activists were miffed, the local municipality fumed and the health department huffed and puffed about "cruel, unhygienic" acts.

Amanzimtoti town clerk Dave Ongley said the health department was phoned on Friday and told "a cow" was seen at Maphumulo's house.

But the custodians of law and order were not quick enough: By the time they arrived at the house, a strong

aroma of braaivleis filled the yard — the ancestors had already been appeased!

Ongley said they had reported the matter to the Department of Agriculture, which was responsible for abattoir hygiene and it was now "up to them" to take action.

He said: "Last year when it happened, the old Act applied which had certain exemptions for the slaughtering of animals, but now that the old act has fallen away, all the exemptions have also fallen away.

"Now you can't slaughter anywhere except in a recognised abattoir," said Ongley.

Last year members of the local neighbourhood watch pounced upon Maphumulo's house after receiving "tip-offs"

about the presence of beasts at the businessman's home.

The police were called — in the form of two police reservists — and the animals were temporarily impounded by the SPCA and he was charged with cruelty to animals.

When Maphumulo went to collect his animals two weeks later, he had to pay R820 for their "safekeeping".

Eventually, Maphumulo was given a permit to slaughter the animals.

Maphumulo said: "We get on quite well with the neighbours. They understand me and do not object to the slaughtering as we never interfere with their lives. After the feast, we clean the yard and there is hardly a smell."

"I'm an African. I have to keep in touch with my *amadlozi*."



MONEY

WHAT lies between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown is typical Eastern Cape wasteland. True or false? The answer, since late last year, is a resounding false.

This was when PE entrepreneur Adrian Gardiner opened his R10-million Garden Route answer to the Transvaal Lowveld's Mala Mala and Londolozi: Shamwari Game Reserve.

An anecdote charged with anti-Greedy 1980s and pro-Nurturing 1990s meaning helps explain how one of ecotourism's most exciting developments came about. It concerns the imported Mercedes-Benz 500SL Mr Gardiner used to own. "I had R600 000 sitting in my garage," he says, "and I never used to drive the damn thing. So I got rid of it and bought another farm."

Mr Gardiner, a self-made millionaire, already owned a patch of bird- and buck-rich bushveld 72km from PE. He had built a lodge out of a decayed dwelling on it for the use of his family and friends.

Mr Gardiner is not faint hearted. Over the years he has made a success of a motley array of business interests, including swimming-pool construction, crane hire, transport broking, shipping, racehorse breeding and property. The sale of the Mercedes marked his decision to go big in the game-reserve business.

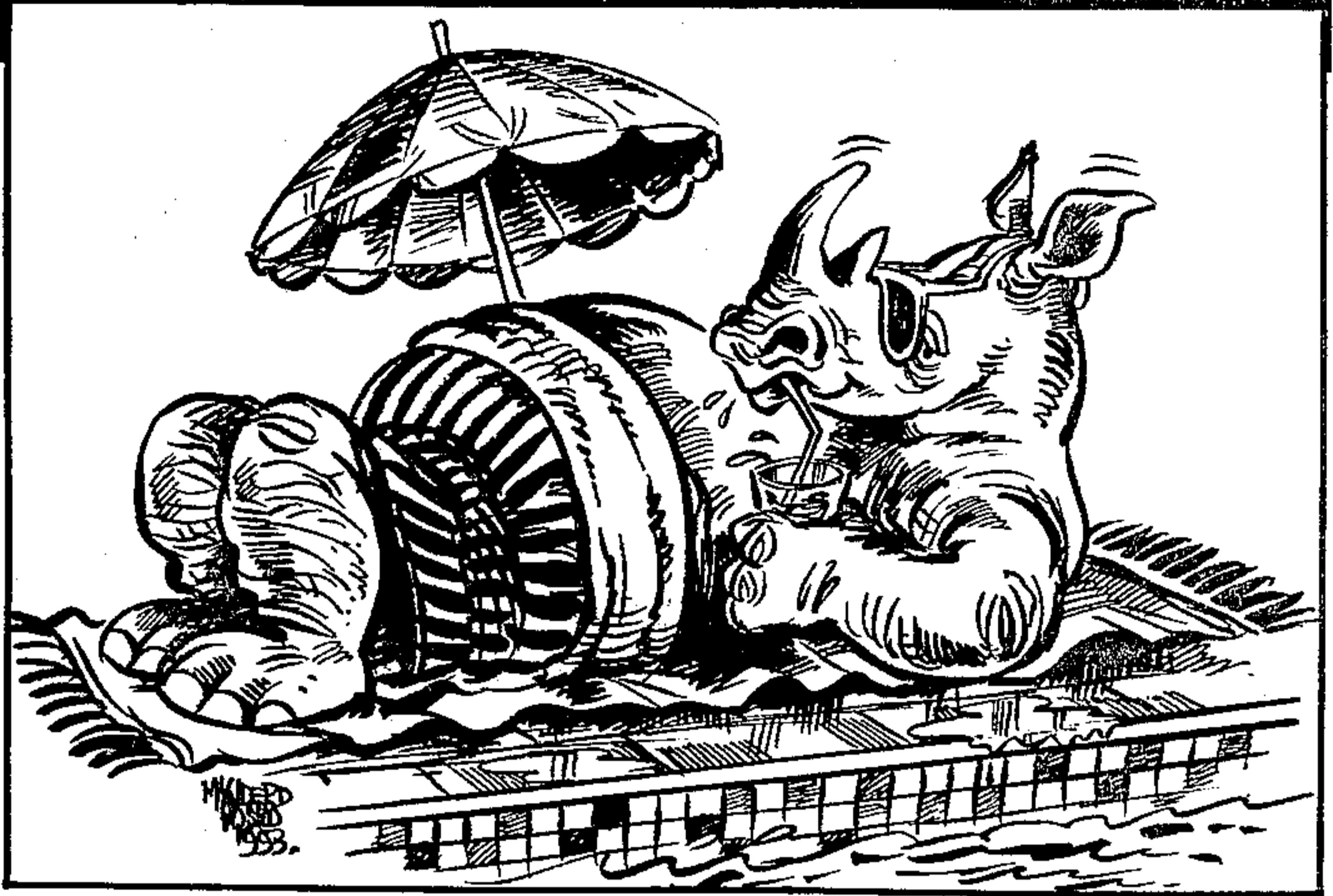
Today, Shamwari (it means friend) Game Reserve is set to compete with retreats in the likelier conservation areas of the Transvaal Lowveld and Northern Natal.

With typical gusto, Mr Gardiner has embarked on an ambitious programme to restore to the reserve the variety of indigenous game — including the Big Five — it lost over the decades.

The programme encourages involvement by guests in the ecology of the region; indeed, when we were there, five baby elephant, bought from the Kruger National Park when their mothers were culled, had just been released into the wild.

Then, too, Shamwari is rich in another kind of history: that of the 1820 Settlers. Its four camps are centred on the restored, historically important, homes of the first white people to brave this frontier.

Flagship Long Lee Manor, where we stayed and which boasts a semi-underground



A Mala Mala in the Eastern Cape

S Times 28/3/93

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Linda
Stafford

HOW TO SPEND IT

conference centre seating 50, is as improbable as it is beautiful.

This is because it is an Edwardian mansion, accommodating 23 in luxury, period en-suite bedrooms decorated

by Colonial Homes of South Africa author Graham Viney, whereas most game-reserve dwellings are rough-hewn and deliberately rustic.

To come down Long Lee

Manor's staircase to an elegant, inspired dinner after a two-hour game drive is to savour two worlds at once: to revel in luxury while you rough it in the bush.

More traditional is thatched Shamwari Lodge, the original haunt of the Gardiner family which now sleeps 10 in five double en-suite bedrooms.

Contrast is also provided by Highfield and Carn Ingly. Restored settlers' cottages, each of which accommodates six, are ideal bases for families or small parties bent on getting away from it all.

That Mr Gardiner has enlisted a few former Mala Mala staff is testimony to his bid to offer first-rate service.

I can certainly vouch for the skills and charm of Long Lee Manor manager Lynn Schenk, general manager and head ranger Richard du Toit and chef David Dampier, whose dishes are as out of the ordinary as the setting.

What also sets Shamwari apart is its rail link: the reserve borders the main railway line between PE and Johannesburg; Long Lee Manor is a stone's throw from the Boesmanspoort siding.

"We have an agreement with Spoornet whereby it has lent us three old, teak-lined coaches and an old-world dining car," says Mr Gardiner. "These will be attached to the main PE train for overnight journeys to and from Shamwari."

He has packaged the train service plus accommodation at Long Lee Manor, Shamwari Lodge, Highfield or Carn Ingly — or a combination — for conference and leisure groups of up to 24.

Tariffs at the lodges begin at R250 a night a person sharing, including meals and game drives.

Mr Gardiner is not alone in believing that Shamwari Game Reserve will draw international tourism along the Garden Route.

The Rattrays and the Varty's had better watch out.

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White paper bleaches out the green

By IAN CLAYTON

W/week

26/3 - 1/4/93

(56)

THE government this week launched its new green strategy in a clear bid to curry favour with the environmental lobby, but much of it remains hot air.

Its White Paper on a National Environmental Management System and a policy statement by retiring Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar outlined its green goals, including new laws on air and water pollution, soil conservation, and the handling of toxic waste.

It also spelled out a co-ordinating role for the central government, with the decentralisation of powers to local or regional level, and it saw the Department of Environment Affairs as a policy-maker, but the implementation of policy would be local.

Pienaar said the department would not work out of an ivory tower and it would consult as widely as possible. It wanted the mobilisation of every possible authority. "Caring for the environment is not the responsibility of government only," he explained.

But the frustrating experience of the African National Congress MP for Pieter-

maritzburg South, Rob Haswell, in trying to get a private members' Bill through parliament to protect South Africa's 12 internationally recognised wetlands, including St Lucia, is an indication of where the National Party's green commitments really lie.

Haswell submitted the Wetlands Conservation Bill through parliament's Joint Committee on Private Members' Legislative Proposals, but the National Party majority on the committee this week deferred for the second time any debate on the proposed measure, this time until after the report of the Review Panel, chaired by Mr Justice Leon.

He said this was the second occasion on which his Bill had been stalled by the NP. "The current committee system requires that a Bill must be approved by all three House as represented on the committee, and, surprise, surprise, the NP forms the majority in each House. Thus although individual MPs express support for my Bill, His Majesty's Voice dictates otherwise."

Haswell admitted that it was a moot point as to whether his Bill would be passed by parliament if MPs were allowed an open and non-party determined vote. But the fact was

that the NP would not allow the proposal to be discussed in parliament and voted on, let alone allow a free vote on the matter.

"Despite all the controversy, and the glib undertaking by the Department of Environment Affairs to the Rio summit that we will honour our international obligations by effective legislation, the present government continues to shuffle and drag its feet.

"The so-called conservationists within the NP sought recently to make as much political mileage as possible about an ANC spokesman's view that cattle farming in parts of the Kruger Park could be investigated.

"Yet, hypocritically, they are prepared to stand back, or rather keep quiet, about mining St Lucia."

Indeed, the White Paper sounds progressive, but the actual environmental policies applied on the ground to date have not been nearly as impressive.

And the replacement of Pienaar by the politically and environmentally unknown Japie van Wyk on April 1 is graphic illustration that government priorities have not changed.

Police probe Unita embargo buster

By ARTHUR GAVSHON and
STEPHEN LAUFER

SOUTH AFRICA has informed United Nations secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali that it is taking action against a Vereeniging air operator accused of violating a ban on supply flights to Unita.

In a four-page letter to the UN, Foreign Minister Pik Botha says the Department of Transport has instituted legal action against an offender violating the prescribed civil aviation procedures.

"On March 5 I requested the relevant government departments to take additional steps to prevent unauthorised private flights to neighbouring countries," he writes.

The letter also goes to some lengths to reassure the UN of South Africa's continuing support for the Angolan peace process, saying that it will not

tolerate the recruitment on its soil of mercenaries for duty in Angola.

It is clearly part of the government's current push to win friends and influence the international community in the run-up to multi-party negotiations.

Civil Aviation Directorate sources say that the Vereeniging operator used a Russian-registered Antonov 32 cargo aircraft with a Russian crew which have been stationed at Rand airport for several months to fly at least two missions between late February and early March to southwestern Zaire, long a supply route favoured by Unita.

The first mission, the sources said, was a reconnaissance flight to look for suitable landing areas.

The second took several tons of specialised fuel for heavy construction equipment to a drop-off point in

an area adjoining Angola. The fuel had been cleared through South African customs.

The sources said the flights were in clear violation of South African and international aviation procedures, because the operator involved was not registered to provide air services. A flight plan had also not been filed, as required.

The matter is now in the hands of the police, who have been told by the air operator that he was unaware of the regulations he is said to have breached.

The Antonov 32 is a turboprop cargo plane with powerful engines. It is designed specifically for operation from high altitude airfields with short or poor runways and is described by industry sources as a workhorse particularly well suited to the Unita supply mission.

People v rhinos

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

FORMER residents of Riemvasmaak in the northern Cape have accused the government of valuing animals more than people following the announcement that land in the area is to be set aside for the re-establishment of the endangered Cape rhino.

Riemvasmaak residents, who farmed the land from 1923 until they were forced out under the Group Areas Act in the 1970s, want to return and have told the government's Advisory Commission on Land Allocations they intend applying for the land to be restored to them.

Riemvasmaak residents were resettled in Marrehand in the northern Cape, Khorigas in Namibia and Welcomewood in Ciskei. Their land was later taken over by the South African Defence Force.

Deputy minister of Defence and Environment Affairs Wynand Breytenbach announced recently that the land would be divided into two sections: 60 000ha to be managed by the National Parks Board mainly to re-establish the Cape rhino and a 15 000ha training area for mechanised battalions.

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Award for service station programme

Environment Reporter

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ARC 26/3/93

AN ENVIRONMENTAL programme at service stations has won Shell and its consulting engineers, Kapp Prestedge Retief, this year's prestige award from the Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee (Eppic) Western Cape.


Accepting the award, Mr Ian Williams, managing director (oil division), said his company believed its environmental responsibility extended beyond large installations such as refineries and chemical plants.

"Potential environmental impacts from accidental spillage, tank leakage, waste storage, noise levels, effluent and litter at our branded service stations have to be dealt with as well," he said.

The winning programme is based on a "cradle-to-grave" approach over the commercial life of a service station, involving planning and design, construction, operation, environmental auditing and decommissioning.

Eppic's national award will be announced in June.

Former winners include UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit, Eskom's Palmiet Pumped Storage Scheme near Grabouw, and Richards Bay Minerals for its dune rehabilitation programme after mining on the Natal north coast.

ST LUCIA FM 26/3/93 (56) 

With the release last week of the environmental impact assessment for Lake St Lucia, the combatants in the mining-vs-preservation controversy now have a series of ecological facts that allow a clearer perspective on an issue long muddied by highly emotive debate and publicity.

The report is open for public comment for the next eight weeks. Then government will decide whether to allow Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) to mine the sand dunes for titanium on the lake's eastern shores. The alternative analysed by the report is to place the entire region under the control of the Natal Parks Board, which would develop it exclusively for nature conservation and tourism.

Another option that the report does not consider is to have it run as a private reserve along the lines of Phinda, Londolozi and similar parks.

Of course, St Lucia could get mining and ecotourism. The report concludes that "it is possible to gain maximum value by developing ecotourism concurrently with mining."

The report points out that mining the dunes would have no effect on Lake St Lucia

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(56) 

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

because the closest the mining operations would approach the lake is 600 m. There would also be no accumulation of sediment in the wetlands around St Lucia and no effect on most of the mammals, birds and reptiles because the mining would affect only 1 437 ha of the 12 874 ha that make up the Eastern Shores State Forest.

Another critical ecological area is the zone between the dunes and the Indian Ocean. The report recommends that mining operations be kept at least 400 m from the shore. RBM had previously said it would not go nearer than 300 m. The report says the mining will have an adverse visual effect on the area until the dunes are restored.

As the debate hots up in the weeks ahead, the most useful discussion will concern the economic implications of the two proposals,

including the crucial topic of job creation.

Ecological economist Frank Vorhies says he remains unconvinced that mining the region would provide the greatest financial returns and he queries the low figures for job creation from ecotourism in the report. "Judging from experience with new private-sector game reserves such as Phinda, job creation from ecotourism should be greater and have a more widespread effect through the local population than mining."

While the report does clear up many of the ecological issues surrounding St Lucia, it does not do so well clearing up the economic issues. Vorhies says the report does not analyse the economic benefits for ecotourism of the private sector operating in the region. He expects these benefits to be far greater than those the Natal Parks Board, a non-profit

government body, could produce.

Privately held RBM keeps its finances to itself. Critics say this makes it difficult to evaluate the full economic impact that the project would have on the region and to judge proposals that say the company should contribute towards conservation work in Natal through a fee or royalty on material mined at St Lucia.

RBM spokesman Barry Clements argues against a St Lucia royalty. "We pay a R100m royalty annually to the State. Hitting us for more might make the project not worthwhile. We would prefer some of the R100m to be earmarked for conservation work in Natal."

This is surely one RBM proposal that the Natal Parks Board can endorse, whether it wins or loses the battle of St Lucia. ■

Game park investment (56)

LLOYD COUTTS

A R35m ecotourism project designed to reintroduce the "big five" to a private game reserve in the northern Transvaal was launched yesterday. *B1084 26/4/93*

The scheme, a joint development by the Du Plessis Trust, Rand Merchant Bank and Jordan Properties, involves the sale of 51 farms of 500ha each under freehold title in the Vaalwater district, about 265km north of Johannesburg.

Jordan Properties MD Trevor Jordan said yesterday the farms would be owned individually, but investors in the 25 000ha Welgevonden private nature reserve would have automatic traverse rights across the entire reserve.

Investors would be permitted to build 10-bed accommodation units and would be allowed one 10-seater vehicle.

Sixteen units would be sold initially to individuals, corporations or syndicates at R1,05m each.

Most of the money raised by the sale of the units would be invested in game stock, including lion, elephant, buffalo, rhino and leopard, and Welgevonden's current R3m stock would be increased to R8m.

Landowners would be permitted exclusive use of a hunting camp.

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Report warns on St Lucia

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

Mining at St Lucia could cause irreparable damage to the area's wetlands and would lead to a drop in tourism to South Africa, warns an international body which protects the world's rare wetlands.

The Ramsar Convention's report was released by Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar yesterday, days after the release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which concluded that mining would not have serious long-term effects on St Lucia's ecosystem. (56)

The Ramsar report said the St Lucia system was so important internationally that the Government should consider refusing "on principle" the application to mine its dunes.

Impossible

Mining "could cause a long-term drop in popularity of the area which would be hard, perhaps impossible to overcome in the long run".

It noted that potentially damaging mining on a Ramsar site could only be done in the urgent national interest.

The Ramsar report noted that the St Lucia system was one of the few sites in the world that met all three criteria as a wetlands of international importance:

- It was unique as one of the best conserved and one of the major estuary systems in Africa.
- It had plant and animals species of special interest.
- It had internationally important breeding concentrations of at least eight species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands.

The report noted that of all 12 of South Africa's Ramsar sites, the St Lucia system was by far the largest, most famous and most varied.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mayekiso joins picket

SANCO president Moses Mayekiso joined a UK anti-apartheid picket at FNB-owned Henry Ansbacher Merchant Bank in London yesterday.

The picket had been organised by the End Loans to SA group and was aimed at raising consciousness about "socially irresponsible" banking in SA, Sanco said.

Mayekiso will address the Local Authorities Against Apartheid conference in Sheffield today.

Tough anti-poaching law

BOPHUTHATSWANA this week amended its Nature Conservation Act and introduced tougher anti-poaching measures following official concern about an increase in regional poaching.

Water quotas loom

FREE State farmers would have their irrigation quotas halved on May 1 unless water reserves in the province's dams improved, Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk said yesterday.

The recent good rainfalls had not brought relief to Free State wheat farmers who have had almost total crop failure this year.

The rain had also not been sufficient to boost dam levels.

Van Wyk said farmers would still have time to complete harvesting because the intention was "to pull current crops through without restrictions".

Hippo evades capture

THE Dullstroom hippo, "Mighty Maas", trapped in an eastern Transvaal dam, has continued to frustrate TPA nature conservation efforts to capture it.

TPA nature and environmental department chief director Pieter Mulder said this week the hippo would not leave the dam while people moved around the area. He appealed to the public and media to avoid the dam.

REPORTS: Business Day Reporters.

Industrial action at lowest in five years

BIDAM 25/3/93.
THE dramatic decrease in strike activity for the first quarter of 1993 — at its lowest in more than five years — is largely attributed to a reluctance by unions to initiate industrial action in light of the economic climate.

According to Andrew Levy & Associates' latest strike report only 65 000 man days were lost in the first three months of this year compared with 135 000 in 1992 and 180 000 in 1991. The report suggested, however, strike activity would increase in the second half of this year as wage rounds began in earnest.

The most likely sector to be affected by strikes was the public service, which was expected to oppose the 5% wage ceiling imposed by government.

To date the protracted dispute by the SA Democratic Teachers' Union over wages and retrenchment was alone responsible for more than half the man days lost.

Postal workers in wildcat strike

ABOUT 2 000 SA Post Office and Telkom workers in Natal and Cape Town have embarked on wildcat strike action over a looming wage dispute.

Yesterday Posts and Telecommunications Workers' Association (Potwa) president Khabisi Mosunkutu said the action stemmed from a belief that wage talks were "shifting towards deadlock".

Management had offered increases of less than 5% whereas Potwa's demands ranged between 14% and 30%, he said.

Potwa officials had tried to intervene and were desperately trying to resolve the matter. However, if management adopted a "high-handed" attitude this would "simply escalate the situation", he added.

National strike action could not be ruled out unless management moved substan-

(152) (153) (345)
ERICA JANKOWITZ

The main trigger factor this year was discipline and dismissal. This triggered 37,5% of strikes followed by grievances and wages (25% each) and retrenchment (12,5%).

"Given high levels of unemployment and continuing retrenchments affecting all sectors of the economy, unions are adopting a cautious approach and not resorting to strike action as readily as they have in the past," the report said.

Traditionally wages accounted for a far greater proportion of strike action from the second quarter of a year. This year was unlikely to be an exception given the economic constraints companies were facing.

Realistic opening demands, such as the one tabled by Numsa, also made settlement more difficult as unions showed their determination to stand their ground.

(152) (153) ERICA JANKOWITZ *(213)*

tially on the present offer. Talks are scheduled to resume next week, he said.

A Telkom spokesman said the Cape Town strike action had been limited to Post Office employees and details from Telkom Natal were sketchy.

Meanwhile, 155 Telkom workers based at the Phillipi Technical Services Centre were dismissed yesterday.

Telkom said their dismissals followed a series of work stoppages which did not concern wages. During the course of mediation yesterday workers refused to return to work and they were sacked.

Negotiations on the set of demands submitted in November would continue, Telkom said.

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R380m loan for Klip River water project

THE Central Witwatersrand RSC signed a R380m loan agreement with the Development Bank of SA yesterday to assist in funding an upgrading of waste water treatment facilities in the Klip River Basin, south of Johannesburg.

The bank said the project was valued at about R624m and would protect the water resources of more than 7-million people in the lower Vaal catchment area.

After the signing ceremony in Midrand, bank CE Andre La Grange said the project, to be implemented over five years, had brought together more than 70 organisa-

ANDREW KRUMM

tions, including local government and civic associations.

(56)
The bank's project leader, Burgert Gildenhuys, said the Johannesburg City Council would act as agent for the RSC and had undertaken to raise the R244m balance required. *BIDM 25/3/93.*

He said some contracts were already out to tender and others would be awarded soon. A loan agreement stipulation gave preference to labour intensive construction methods and smaller contractors.

Mining 'will kill'⁽⁵⁶⁾ St Lucia habitat⁽²⁾

PRETORIA — Opencast mining at St Lucia would result in major, irreparable damage to the habitat, an international wetlands monitoring body has found.

In a report issued yesterday, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Especially as Waterfowl Habitat), or Ramsar, said the mining operation would significantly alter the soil characteristics, dune structure and beaches of the area.

"The SA authorities should consider whether, in view of the importance of the St Lucia system, the application to exercise mining rights should be refused on principle," the report concluded.

SA was one of the original seven contracting countries which established the Ramsar convention in 1971.

St Lucia is one of 12 SA sites on the Ramsar list detailing wetlands of international importance.

Conducted in May last year by Ramsar experts, the survey indicated it would not be possible to reconstitute the original vegetation at St Lucia by rehabilitation measures.

The elevated water table as a result of mining would affect the beaches and seaward face of the dunes of the barrier, and also the wetlands of the eastern shores, it said.

Tourism would be affected as the proposed mining

ADRIAN HADLAND

would take place at the gateway to St Lucia, causing a "long-term drop in the popularity of the area".

It would also be impossible to restore the original dune structure. It must be doubted, the report said, "whether a complex dune forest which has grown up over millenia can ever be really reconstituted with such an altered dune structure and soil composition".

The Ramsar mission said its report did not seek to interfere with, "pre-empt or supplant the national process" under way.

The Environmental Affairs Department said the report "may be presented to the review panel or indeed used as a supplementary document by the Cabinet when it reviews the findings of the EIA".

Sapa reports that Parliament's refusal to deal with a Bill to outlaw mining at St Lucia and 11 other internationally recognised SA wetlands has been condemned by the Campaign for St Lucia.

The Joint Committee on Private Members' Legislative Proposals deferred consideration of the Wetlands Conservation Bill until after the review panel's report.

The Bill would have given effect to the Ramsar provisions.

Key Family Trust's debt is R20,8m, says Absa

BIDA M 25/3/93 NINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Absa brought an urgent application in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday for the provisional sequestration of the Key Family Trust set up by the provisionally sequestered Mervyn Key.

Judgment on the application will be handed down by the court today.

Absa regional GM Dudley Davies said the trust had bound itself as surety and co-principal debtor to Bankorp for the liabilities of Key's Paarl wine estate, Rhebokskloof and its sister company Parmalat investments.

The only asset of the trust was its stake in Rhebokskloof and Parmalat. The total debt to Absa was R20,8m, Davies said.

The trustees of the trust are Key, his father Cedric Key, who is in Australia, and former Tollgate director Lawrie MacIntosh, who is believed to be in London.

Meanwhile Key's Paarl wine estate Rhebokskloof was provisionally wound up without opposition in the Cape Town Supreme Court yesterday.

SHIFTING SANDS: Dynamic dune systems on the West Coast have caused problems for expanding human settlements, but old-style "stabilisation" projects using alien vegetation have been dropped in favour of environment-friendly options.

Picture: THE ARGUS.

Conservationists slowly winning sand-dune battle

56 ARG 24/3/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

PRIME conservation areas — once treated as sandy wastelands which had to be "rehabilitated" — are being re-won slowly in several parts of the Western Cape.

Ironically, conservation officers are now spending thousands of rands and hundreds of man-hours to remove alien vegetation planted carefully by foresters to stabilise dunes at Elands Bay, Yzerfontein, Walker Bay near Hermanus and along the southern Cape coast near Arniston.

Drift-sand reclamation work started in earnest on the Cape Flats during the previous century — particularly after the appointment of J Storr-Lister as superintendent of plantations in 1875.

Storr-Lister developed a technique for stabilising the drift sand which hindered road and rail transport from Cape Town by spreading city waste over it and planting hardy Acacia species from Australia — mainly *A. saligna* (Port Jackson) and *A. cyclops* (rooikrans).

But, in another environmental irony, the big soil conservation

drive following the devastating drought of the early 1930s caused dune stabilisation projects to be extended to the western and southern Cape coasts.

"Sanddunes are natural features which are changing all the time and it was natural to have a certain amount of shifting sand around river mouths," said Cape Nature Conservation regional director Mr Rudolf Andrag.

"But human settlement disturbed the balance and dunes were encroaching more and more on farmland and on local communities like Elands Bay.

"So, various properties identified as problem areas were bought and transferred to the state, specifically with the aim of planting trees, and eventually they were planted with all sorts of exotics."

By the 1960s, the foresters had realised their mistake and the planting of aliens stopped. But, it was only after 1987 when these areas were transferred to Cape Nature Conservation that serious rehabilitation work started.

"At present, our policy is to get rid of the aliens as far as possible. For example, in the Walker Bay area between Hermanus and

Gansbaai we've done a huge amount of work and been very successful, but the cost is very high and at the moment we're struggling to get enough funds," said Mr Andrag.

The Walker Bay dune field had not been officially declared a nature reserve, although it was managed on that basis, he added.

The Die Mond area between Struisbaai and Arniston now is conserved formally, while the dunes north of Yzerfontein have been incorporated into the West Coast National Park.

It wasn't only the sandy areas that got the early "greening" treatment.

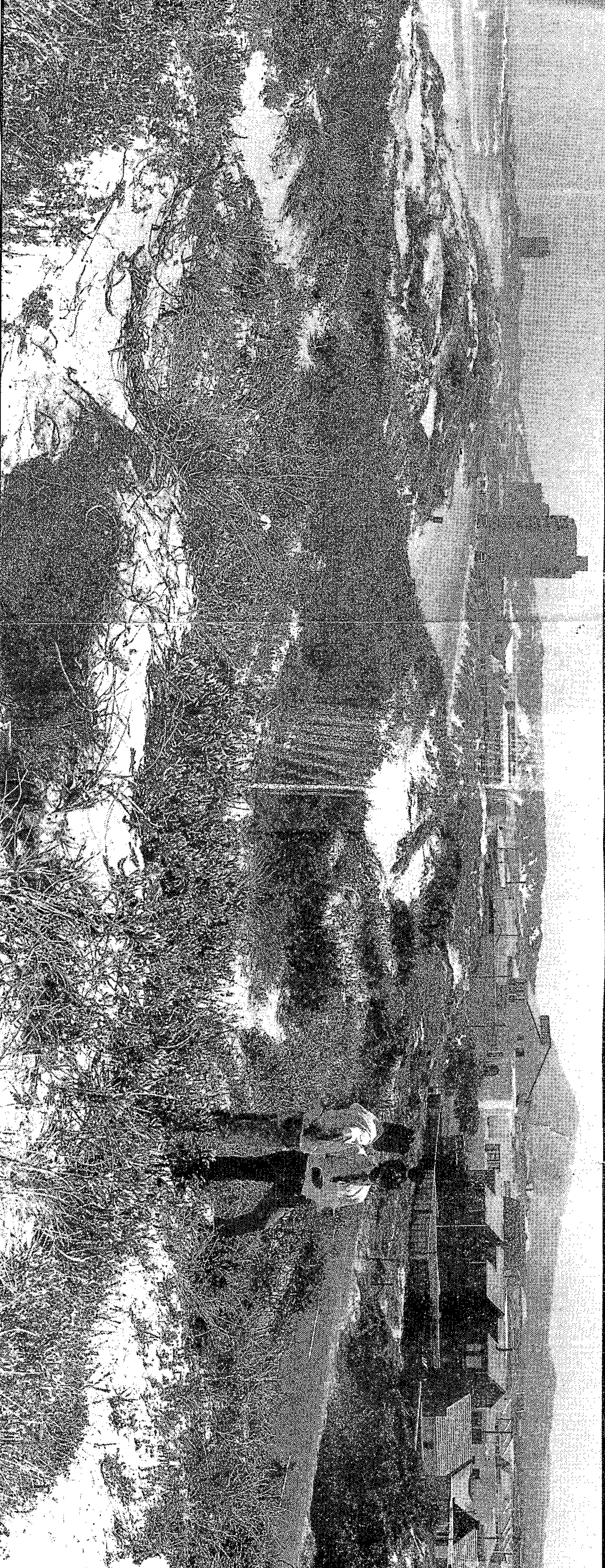
Below the King's Blockhouse on the slopes of Devil's Peak is a plaque in memory of forester Frank Jarman, erected during the 19th Century, which reads: "He found these barren stony slopes treeless and left them covered in forest."

Decades later, conservationists are still trying to undo the damaging handiwork of Jarman and his enthusiastic cohorts on Table Mountain.

A classic case of not being able to see the wood for the trees?

CAPE

Sandy wastelands on their way back to becoming prime areas — many without 'alien' vegetation



MP furious over state stalling on Bill

Environment Reporter

A SECOND attempt by African National Congress-aligned MP for Maritzburg Mr Rob Haswell to introduce a private member's Wetlands Conservation Bill in parliament has been stalled by the government.

The Bill, if enacted, would outlaw mining at Lake St Lucia and 11 other internationally-recognised wetlands.

The parliamentary joint committee on private members' legislative proposals yesterday de-

ferred consideration of Mr Haswell's Bill until after the St Lucia mining impact report — released last week — had been assessed by the review panel headed by Mr Justice Ramon Leon.

An angry Mr Haswell slammed the government and Natal MPs for failing to debate his bill.

"In spite of all the controversy and the glib undertaking by the Department of Environment Affairs to the Rio Summit that we will honour our international ob-

ligations by effective legislation, the present government continues to shuffle and drag its feet," he said.

A new government of national unity would not treat Lake St Lucia as a "Cinderella", Mr Haswell suggested. ARG 24/3/93

"The message to all true conservationists and South Africans is thus abundantly clear: The sooner we get a new government — a government of national unity — the better." (56)

Housing ripe for investors

B/DAM 24/3/93.
LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Property offered a good investment, with weak house prices and relatively low bond rates, Boland Bank economist Louis Fourie said yesterday.

Fourie was speaking at a Cape Town Chamber of Industries seminar on the effect of the Budget on the construction industry.

He said the current weak price of existing houses was apparent from the 20% deficit between the cost of existing houses and new ones of the same size — despite low building costs which had not kept pace with inflation.

As the property market lagged behind the economy by 12 to 18 months, and there was no indication of an economic upturn, any improvement in the property market was unlikely for some time.

Fourie said that during the period 1970-1991, no region in SA had recorded annual house price increases higher than the rate of inflation.

Residential building plans passed and buildings completed looked poor but not bleak, Fourie said, but the non-residential property market was weak and getting worse.

"I am worried about the future of the non-residential building sector over the next two years."

Study 'a victory for environmentalists'

B/DAM 24/3/93.

RICHARDS BAY — Moves to discredit the CSIR's environmental impact assessment of mining and tourism at St Lucia could cause "the greatest harm done in any country" to environmentalism, Richards Bay Minerals officials said yesterday.

Company PRO Barry Clements said the study had been a victory for environmentalists "whichever way the decision went". Inferences that the report had favoured Richards Bay Minerals were totally without grounds because 52 scientists involved had acted independently.

Clements said part of the study had been carried out by the Natal Parks Board and there were "possible buyers on both sides".

The company would compile its objections to the report and submit these to the CSIR. It preferred not to discuss them with the media, he said.

Clements said the report had been misinterpreted to mean that only R153m would be earned by mining the St Lucia dunes. This was a discounted figure. The mine would, at today's rand value, earn R1,1m a day during its 17-year life.

It would generate about R7bn in foreign exchange earnings, R1,3bn in taxes and a further R100m in royalties, Clements said.

RAY HARTLEY

The mine would support the firm's entire operation for five years, keeping its 2 500 workers employed and creating 159 new jobs at the mining site.

Richards Bay Minerals mine and works senior GM Jack Goedhals was confident that when mining started in the year 2000, if government gave the go-ahead, the minerals would still be in demand.

"Richards Bay Minerals has a product that is in very big demand internationally. This demand is growing even in recession."

Suggestions that radioactive monozytes would create a health hazard for workers processing mineral from the dunes were exaggerated, he said.

Monozyte levels at St Lucia were "very, very much lower than the west coast of Australia" where problems had been experienced with radioactivity.

Exposure of workers to the radioactive substance was less than 40% of accepted international limits and conformed to the Council for Nuclear Safety requirements.

Of the 2 500 workers in the plant, only eight worked in the controlled area where such exposure occurred, he said.

Retailers raise prices before VAT increase

PRETORIA — Consumer organisations said yesterday that some retailers had already begun to raise prices ahead of next month's VAT and petrol increases.

Some of the price increases had even affected basic foodstuffs scheduled to be zero-rated. B/DAM 24/3/93

The prices of cool drinks, cigarettes and alcoholic beverages as well as some basic foodstuffs had already been raised at some outlets, the organisations said.

Shelves were being cleared in some cases to mark up old stock to new prices,

ADRIAN HADLAND

said a Housewives' League representative. A Consumer Council spokesman announced that incidences of retailers putting up prices on zero-rated foodstuffs in order to announce reductions on April 7 had also been reported.

Calling on consumers to be vigilant and to report incidences of profiteering, the Consumer Council, SA National Consumer Union and the Housewives' League had all stepped up price-monitoring surveys.

Star 24/3/93

Second AECI gas leak

56

A teacher was rushed to hospital and five school children were sent home on Monday after the second chlorine gas leak in less than a week involving AECI chemicals near Durban. The latest incident happened at the Strelitzia Secondary School in Isipingo. More than 90 people from the Isipingo area were admitted to hospital last week after chlorine gas escaped during pumping.



The absence of a political forum where grievances could be discussed, resulted in a total country-wide boycott of rent and service charges during 1990, instigated by local civic associations.

After negotiations by the four provinces, the situation improved to the extent of a fifty percent payment by the end of 1990. This situation has however deteriorated since April 1992.

Effective suppression of violence, the achievement of the political aspirations of all inhabitants and the rendering of effective services is seen by black communities as the solution to rent and service boycotts.

The still to be formed local government negotiation forum will address, as a priority, various problems experienced on local level.

The suspension of the boycotts of rent and service charges will inter alia be one of these problems.

A culture of non-payment has however already established itself and it will take a major effort to vest the responsibility of payment of service charges on residents. After this, economic tariffs could be negotiated, and only then a shift could be made to the principle of one city, one tax base.

SADF personnel: drug abusers/addicts

85. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any Defence Force personnel and national servicemen were found to be drug abusers and drug addicts during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available; if so, (a) what estimated number of persons was involved, (b) which drugs were most commonly used and (c) what were the sources of the drugs;

- (2) (a) what steps are being taken to (i) treat and (ii) rehabilitate drug abusers and addicts in the Defence Force and (b) what results have been achieved;

- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B219E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ply controls in respect of development in the (a) Mont-aux-Sources, (b) Cathedral and (c) Cathkin areas of the Natal Drakensberg region; if not, why not; if so, (i) what is the (aa) nature and (bb) extent of these controls and (ii) what authority or authorities (aa) enforce these controls and (bb) grant permission for development;

- (2) whether environmental impact assessments are required in each case before such permission for development is granted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? B308F

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) Yes.

- (i) (aa) Nature

— Natal Town Planning Ordinance No. 27 of 1949

— Natal Roads Ordinance No. 10 of 1968

— Advertising of Roads and Ribbon Development Act No 21 of 1940

— Local Authorities Ordinance No. 25 of 1974.

- (bb) Extent

Development, whether it be in urban or rural areas, or with or without subdivision is controlled through the provisions of the Natal Town Planning Ordinance within the objectives set out in Section 40 (1) being to secure "... co-ordinated and harmonious development ..."

The Town Planning Ordinance also regulates the subdivision of land, the development for urban purposes of land without subdivision—and the use which is made of that land or of any buildings on it. Broadly speaking this is a private township and as such the establishment thereof requires the Administrator's approval in the form of need and desirability, development and/or private township applications.

The other Acts and Ordinances referred to in 1 (a) (i) (aa) inclusive above, supplement these provisions and are normally included in the form of conditions of approval relating to for example, access, building lines and/or incorporation into a

local authority area. The main headings are as follows:—

Need and Desirability application (Section 11bis)

Such applications are to be submitted where more than 10 lots or units are proposed in rural areas and in urban areas where there is no town planning scheme control. Here the principle of urban development in the public interest has to be established. Consultation with a wide range of agencies including local communities provides a comprehensive base for assessing such applications in the public interest. Where objections are received or concerns expressed, the Town and Regional Planning Commission whose responsibility it is to formulate recommendations to the Administrator-in-Executive Committee, normally calls for a hearing and site inspection to enable the affected parties to present their case. Thereafter the documents together with a recommendation are submitted to the Executive Committee for a decision.

Development application (Section 11 (2))

This falls under the "development without subdivision" category of a small scale nature and again is for those rural areas or areas without town planning scheme control. As with Need and Desirability applications there is consultation and thereafter approval can be granted under delegated authority within the Community Services Branch of the Natal Provincial Administration.

Applications for private townships (Section 12 to 32 and Chapter 3)

Such applications are for subdivision and/or follow the favourable granting of a Need and Desirability application. Here the focus is on the provision of adequate access and infrastructural services, environmental management during and after construction, the provision of public uses, conditions ensuring security of title for purchases, the layout, design etc. Again there are extensive consultations and a hearing and site inspection is normally held where there are objections. Approval can be granted

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Haasard

under delegated authority within the Community Services Branch of the Natal Provincial Administration.

Structure plans, development plans and town planning schemes (package of plans) (Section 40 to 48)

A Structure Plan is a policy document which:

- sets the character, role and function of the town in relation to its national and regional location, and in relation to national, regional and local policies;
- sets out the present and future boundaries of a town and will show the direction, the extent and phasing of the planned growth of that town;
- shows the broad planning goals and policies including policies with regard to density and design.

Whilst it will be prepared for a 20 year period, it is to be reviewed every 5 years.

A Development Plan is the document through which a local authority will programme and budget the planning proposals as a means of achieving the goals of the Structure Plan. It will cover a 10 year period with a budgeting plan for 3 years.

A Town Planning Scheme within the Package of Plans concept is a control document zoning and reserving land for a 5 to 10 year period. Such controls within the zoning for each property include density (F.A.R. coverage, Height, Units/ha) space about buildings, layout, design, environmental management, parking etc.

At all 3 levels there is extensive consultation before the plans are adopted. There are adopted town planning schemes for Cathkin Park and Driefontein. A Structure Plan is being prepared for the Cathkin Park area.

Town Planning appeals (Section 67)

This provides the opportunity for an applicant or objector who is aggrieved by a decision of a local authority under Section 67 of the Ordinance to lodge an ap-

Haasard

peal to the Town Planning Appeals Board. For an appellant to succeed in an appeal and reverse the decision of the local authority he should prove that one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- the town planning scheme is wrong
- the site/circumstances are unique
- the local authority has exercised its discretion incorrectly in Special Consent cases
- the appellant would suffer substantial hardship.

The Appeals Board convenes a hearing at which all affected parties present their case after which the Board's decision is forwarded to the Administrator-in-Executive Committee for review.

- Standard and location of access points onto provincial roads.
- Building lines on provincial roads.
- Incorporation and creation of new local authorities, leases and closure of roads and public places.

(1) (ii) (aa) *Authorities enforcing controls*

- Administrator-in-Executive Committee and the Community Services Branch of the Natal Provincial Administration through conditions of approval.
- The Development and Services Board is the Local Authority and Planning Authority for the Cathkin Park Regulated Area and the Driefontein Development Area.
- Natal Roads Branch.

(1) (ii) (bb) *Authorities granting permission*

Administrator-in-Executive Committee, on the advice of the Town and Regional Planning Commission and the Town Planning Appeals Board through the Community Services Branch of the Natal Provincial Administration.

(2) No.

Where for example Need and Desirability applications are made under the Natal Town Planning Ordinance, environmental impact assessment is requested when considered appropriate. This will depend on:

the scale of the proposed development and environmental sensitivity of the site. In this regard cognisance is taken *inter alia* of *The Drakensberg Policy Statement* (1976), *The Drakensberg Approached Policy* (1990), *The Wetlands Policy* and current research on selected development nodes in the Drakensberg; and the responses received from those agencies consulted on the proposal, particularly the Natal Parks Board, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, the Development and Services Board and local communities.

The criteria used in screening development proposals are set out in detail in *The Drakensberg Approaches Policy* (1990), supplemented by the Integrated Environmental Management procedures guideline document issued by the Department of Environment Affairs. Important aspects that are considered include: areas of conservation value, areas with agricultural and recreation potential, slope analysis, areas of instability, visual impacts, existing infrastructure and socio-economic aspects.

Outstanding telephone applications in major urban areas

166. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

What was the total number of outstanding telephone applications in each specified major urban area of the Republic as at the latest specified date for which information is available? B380E

The Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

(1) (a) SACS published a total of 43 publications from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992.

(b), (d)

Title of Publication

Suid-Afrikaanse Panorama	ABC
South African Panorama	ABC
Southern Africa Today	ABC
RSA-Beleidsvoorsig (until Aug '92)	Perskor
RSA Policy Review (until Aug '92)	Promedia
RSA-Beleidsvoorsig/RSA Policy Review (from Sept '92)	Promedia
Beleidsrigs/Policy Review	Aurora
Ampteike Jaarboek	Creda

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

The position as at 28 February 1993 was as follows:

AREA	Number of Publications
Cape Peninsula	3 843
Port Elizabeth	2 922
East London	192
Uitenhage/Despatch	321
Central Johannesburg	812
East Rand	12 244
North Rand	4 375
West Rand	3 766
Pretoria	7 969
Vaal Triangle	5 052
Bloemfontein	796
Welkom	1 808
Kimberley	109
Durban	8 635
Pietermaritzburg	2 049

SA Communication Service: publications/total cost/printing contract

172. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Communication:

(1) (a) What total number of publications was produced by the South African Communication Service in 1992, (b) what was the title of each publication, (c) what was the total cost of producing these publications and (d) who printed each of them;

(2) whether the printing contract in respect of each of these publications was put out to tender; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? B386E

The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION:

(1) (a) SACS published a total of 43 publications from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992.

(b), (d)

Title of Publication

Suid-Afrikaanse Panorama	ABC
South African Panorama	ABC
Southern Africa Today	ABC
RSA-Beleidsvoorsig (until Aug '92)	Perskor
RSA Policy Review (until Aug '92)	Promedia
RSA-Beleidsvoorsig/RSA Policy Review (from Sept '92)	Promedia
Beleidsrigs/Policy Review	Aurora
Ampteike Jaarboek	Creda

State promise on environment

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government has undertaken to adjust the structure of the Department of Environment Affairs "with-in affordable limits" so that it can be more effective.

This is one of the main points in the long-awaited white paper, Policy On A National Environmental Management System For South Africa, tabled in parliament yesterday.

According to the white paper — produced in response to recommendations in the 1991 President's Council report — proper management of the environment is one of the critical factors on which the success of South Africa's future political and economic system will depend.

The government, therefore, attaches a high priority to effective environmental management.

"The greatest single challenge in the application of a unique South African environmental policy is without doubt to reconcile the ideals, expectations and aspirations of developed and developing components of the community," it states.

The paper agrees with the President's Council that South Africa should not have a "super department" with total environmental responsibility.

"Although environmental matters should remain the responsibility of the central government, the government subscribes to the principle that, where appropriate, functions should be devolved to local au-

thorities and regional and provincial governments, after it has been established that the necessary knowledge, experience and infrastructure exist or can be made available to perform such functions effectively."

The Department of Environment Affairs will assume responsibility for implementing this co-ordinated system.

According to notes for Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar to use when introducing the white paper today, the government has attempted to create a broad policy document "which will not get bogged down in detail but which sets realistic and attainable goals".

The paper links up with existing policy documents and is likely to result in the amend-

ment of 12 Acts and possibly three new Acts, according to the notes.

It is in broad agreement with international trends and supports principles such as those in the Rio Declaration and Caring for the Earth.

It emphasises the well-being of all South Africans, subscribes to the principles of sustainable development, strives to improve co-operation between the private sector and government and emphasises economic considerations and realities, the notes state.

Because the white paper is a policy document that "merely outlines the government's intention" it will have to be followed by the development of a specific implementation strategy, the paper concludes. "This strategy should set pri-

orities, highlight crucial issues and be supported by energetic management plans and statutory policy declarations."

The white paper recommends the resurrection of the defunct Committee for Environmental Management to coordinate activities within the public sector. This committee will:

- Co-ordinate the financing of environmental functions.
- Rationalise environmental legislation.
- Co-ordinate and monitor the actions of all state and semi-state organisations and regional authorities involved with the environment.
- Regularly publish a comprehensive "state-of-the-environment" report.

The white paper does not favour the creation of an Environmental Council, as envisaged by the President's Council, but says the existing Council for the Environment which advises the minister on policy will be retained.

The Department of Environment Affairs will retain its existing responsibilities regarding meteorological services, research, the management of marine resources and the Antarctic and islands programmes.

According to the white paper, there will be an investigation into the consolidation of specific environmental functions by transferring control of air pollution, water, waste and certain dangerous and toxic substances from the Department of National Health and Population Development. The government will also in-

investigate the possible creation and co-ordination of an inspectorate or "environmental monitoring component" to ensure that norms and standards are adhered to — "particularly environmental pollution".

The department's chief directorate of environmental conservation will be extended, so that functions presently inf-actively performed or not at- tended to at all can be properly managed.

Major problems and issues to be addressed effectively include:

- Land and resource use, including urban and coastal areas.
- The maintenance of biodiversity, including wetland preservation, indigenous forests and the development of a national nature conservation policy.

It is appropriate to adhere to internationally accepted principles, namely, that environmental conservation includes orderly utilisation and protection and must ultimately be directed at the survival, with dignity, of mankind on earth.

● All aspects of pollution control except water pollution management, presently excluded "for practical reasons".

● Management and planning for the environment, including the application of economic measures.

South Africa's environmental problems cannot be solved in geographic isolation. The government acknowledges that it also has a responsibility with respect to regional and global problems and that it must contribute towards a solution.

It is appropriate to adhere to internationally accepted principles, namely, that environmental conservation includes orderly utilisation and protection and must ultimately be directed at the survival, with dignity, of mankind on earth.

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57 AR4 23/3/93

Environment: New laws soon

CT 23/3/93 (56)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

NEW laws on pollution, soil conservation and the handling of toxic waste are in the pipeline — but the government will restrict itself to a co-ordinating role in environmental issues.

This was revealed yesterday by retiring Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar, when he released a White Paper on a national environmental management system for South Africa.

Mr Pienaar said his department would not be domineering, but would co-ordinate decentralisation and delegation of powers and act as a central policy-maker for local implementation.

The department would consult widely and help mobilise every possible authority, he said.

"Caring for the environment is not the responsibility of government only," Mr Pienaar declared, adding that the White Paper outlined goals and ideals that "we must aspire to collectively".

It had been drafted in wide consultation with environmental bodies, he said.

Mr Pienaar said his department would increase its capacity "for policy formulation, monitoring,

Fiscal incentives mooted

Political Staff

THE government is considering fiscal incentives to companies to achieve its environmental goals, but the issue was very complex, the director-general of environmental affairs, Dr Colin Cameron, said yesterday.

"We are studying this, and it can only be applied with circumspection because it could have negative reactions," he told a press conference on the government's White Paper on environmental management.

Earlier, retiring Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said his department had not prepared tax

incentives to companies for waste and pollution controls. "We have not given that aspect any thought," he noted.

Mr Pienaar said recycling would be left to the private sector as his department did not have the necessary funds and resources.

He said recycling depended to a large extent on voluntary public participation, such as the separation of garbage in the home.

New legislation had to consider the viability of industries, he said, as "one could not imagine killing the goose for the golden egg".

● New policy will increase startup costs — Page 11

co-ordination and legislative functions by the formation of national action plans, strategies, standards and norms", and would publish a "regular report on the state of the environment".

He said his department was currently engaged in:

● Devising a national plan for safe handling of hazardous substances (target date, 1997);

● Formulating a national policy for integrated pollution control, including the combat of littering and the promotion of recycling (draft legislation, 1994);

● Formulating a noise control policy (completion, December 1993);

● Updating the integrated environmental management procedure (target date, 1995);

● Identifying activities detrimental to the environment (1993);

● Promulgating regulations for environmental impact reports (1993);

● Implementing guidelines for environmental audits (1993);

● Printing a guide to environmental legislation (July 1993);

● Developing a national strategy for environmental education (1994), and

● Developing a draft national wetlands policy.

Mr Pienaar urged public participation in this "dynamic process".

SOUTH AFRICA's new environmental policy will increase industrial start-up costs, but existing industries will not be put out of business, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said.

Pienaar yesterday released a 25-page government white paper on a national environmental management system that will include tougher rules on pollution, waste management and environmental impact assessment.

"The white paper is a commitment by the government to international thinking on the subject of environmental management. It is a vision for the future based on realism," he said at a news conference.

He said likely areas of new expense would be impact assessment, redevelopment strategies, pollution control and waste management.

"We will have to impose an additional financial burden on an entrepreneur who launches a new development," he said.

He added, however, that the government would be careful to protect initiative as well as existing industries.

"New laws will be implemented with due regard for the viability of the existing industries in the areas concerned," he said.

Environmental policy to boost start-up costs

56
CF 23/3/93

Colin Cameron, Director General of Environment Affairs, said the government was only just starting to assess the financial implications of its environmental proposals.

Proposals

"Many of these proposals will eventually hinge on the economic ability to achieve them or not.

"We are at the very beginning of analysing the whole question of fiscal and other measures directly aimed at achieving our environmental objectives," he said.

Pienaar said the government had not yet considered subsidies or tax incentives linked to the implementation of new environmental protection measures.

● Fiscal incentives — page 5

Stellenbosch: Pollution charge?

Staff Reporter

(56) CT 23/3/93
THE Department of Water Affairs intends prosecuting the Stellenbosch municipality for contaminating the Eerste River with sewage effluent.

Dr John Lusher, deputy director of water quality, said yesterday they believed they had a case against the municipality for polluting the water last week.

"We have taken legal advice and intend

pressing charges against the municipality for dumping a large amount of unpurified effluent into the river," he said.

The maximum fine for contaminating water is R50 000.

Senior water contamination officer Mrs K J Carden said subject to certain preconditions, the municipality was free to drain into the river throughout the year.

But Dr Lusher said this applied to purified effluent.

The chief liaison officer for Stellenbosch municipality, Mr A A Smit, yesterday said the pollution was caused by an unforeseen fermentation process in the settling ponds.

● The Department of Water Affairs yesterday said Brenn O Kem Ltd, which manufactures cream of tartar, paid a fine of R1 500 in the Wolseley Magistrate's Court for discharging industrial effluent via a stormwater drain.

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Plan for changes to environment laws

BIDAY 23/3/93
CAPE TOWN — Government planned to introduce or amend 15 laws controlling the environment, and industry faced a series of new controls over the next four years, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

He said at a news conference to release a White Paper on future environment policy the policy would increase industrial start-up costs, reports Reuter.

However, existing industries would not be put out of business.

He said the new system would include tougher rules on pollution, waste management, redevelopment strategies and environmental impact assessment.

"We will have to impose an additional financial burden on an entrepreneur who launches a new development," he said.

However, government would protect initiative as well as existing industries.

Developers face implementation this year of Section 21 of the Environment Conservation Act, which would identify and schedule activities detrimental to the environment. This would enforce controls such as the requirement for environmental impact reports and redevelopment strategies for scheduled activities, he said.

The White Paper calls for a multifaceted environmental audit along lines to be finalised in consultations this year.

TIM COHEN reports the White Paper suggests fines for offending enterprises and measures to ensure they undertake environmental monitoring.

Government also undertook to issue directives that would require certain developers to undertake appropriate environmental impact studies.

"Without being unreasonable, the principle of 'the user must pay' will also be applied and the environmental costs will have to be borne by the developers," the report says.

The report proposes that government

investigate the application of "fiscal incentives and penalties", like fines for transgressions and levies on pollution, to preserve the environment.

The paper says environmental policy should strive to achieve, among other things:

- Provisions in a bill of rights for satisfying the reasonable environmental aspiration of all South Africans;
- Support for the population development programme and measures to combat poverty;
- Measures to ensure that all government departments give active attention to environmental matters;
- The implementation of a national environmental assessment programme;
- The application of appropriate measures regarding land use to ensure conservation of ecologically sensitive and unique areas;
- The intensification of legislation to protect agricultural land to combat erosion;
- The planning of developments such as forestry, mining, road-building and industrial activity to minimise damage to the environment;
- The compilation of a complete inventory of natural protected areas where a national nature conservation plan would apply; and
- The deployment of a national strategy for waste management and integrated pollution control.

The paper says government would undertake to assess all legislation with a bearing on the environment with a view to amendments, rationalisation, consolidation and deregulation.

The Environment Affairs Department should be extended, and several functions, including air pollution, toxic waste and water control could be transferred from the National Health Department, the paper says.

Forum to discuss nonracial local govt

A FORUM to discuss interim nonracial local government for the Vaal Triangle is expected to be launched next month.

WILSON ZWANE *(Signature)*

Representatives from white and black local authorities in the region, the TPA and the Vaal Civic Association appointed an 18-member steering committee at a meeting on Saturday to draft a constitution for the forum.

committee was expected to complete its work in three to four weeks, Feinstein said.

He added that the creation of the forum, whose primary objective was to get all the relevant parties to reach consensus on an interim nonracial government, was an indication that there was "new willingness" on the part of all concerned to negotiate.

Consultative Business Movement PWV co-ordinator Andrew Feinstein, who chaired the Saturday's meeting, said yesterday the committee would hold its first meeting next Monday.

Feinstein said lengthy discussions about the inclusion of other organisations in the forum, including political parties, would be held before the body was launched.

Since a lot had already been done, the



BIDAY 23/3/93

New laws likely on control of pollution

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ARC 22/3/93
JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

NEW legislation to control air and water pollution, soil conservation and the handling of toxic waste is likely after the tabling in parliament today of a White Paper on an environmental management system.

The White Paper is in response to recommendations in a 1991 President's Council report.

Introducing the paper to the media, Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar stressed the government had attempted to create a broad policy document "which will not get bogged down in detail but which sets realistic and attainable goals".

There had been "wide consultation" in drawing up the White Paper — not only among government institutions but among the private sector as well, Mr Pienaar said.

The document was the government's commitment to international thinking on environmental management.

"It is a vision for the future, based on realism," he said.

Mr Pienaar stressed that caring for the environment was not only the responsibility of government. "It is the responsibility of all of us."

Environment Affairs director-general Dr Colin Cameron conceded that political parties and movements had not been consulted in formulating the White Paper, but said some environmental groups of a "semi-political persuasion" — such as Earthlife Africa — had been asked to comment.

The White paper states that the proper management of the environment is one of the critical factors on which the success of South Africa's future political and economic system will depend.

RT — P14, P15, P16

Environment Star 22/3/93 policy tabled

Own Correspondent (58)

CAPE TOWN — The Government will revamp the Department of Environment Affairs "within affordable limits" so it can function more effectively.

This is one of the points in the white paper, Policy on a National Environmental Management System for South Africa, tabled in Parliament today.

According to the white paper — produced in response to the 1991 President's Council report — managing the environment is one of the factors on which the success of South Africa's future political and economic system will depend.

The paper agrees with the President's Council that South Africa should not have a "super department" with total environmental responsibility.

"The Government subscribes to the principle that, where appropriate, functions should be devolved to local authorities and regional and provincial governments."

The paper is likely to result in the amendment of 12 Acts and possibly three new Acts.

Apartheid shadow over new conservation area

AKG 22/3/93



JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE former residents of Riemvasmaak in the Northern Cape, forcibly removed in 1973-74 from what is now a Defence Force training ground and conservation area, are formally claiming their land back.

Last week the National Parks Board and Mr Wynand Breytenbach, Deputy Minister of Defence and of Environment Affairs, hosted a media visit to the area and outlined conservation plans for the future.

The 75 000 ha property has been divided into two: 60 000 ha managed contractually by the National Parks Board — mainly to re-establish the endangered Cape black rhino — and a 15 000 ha training area for mechanised infantry battalions. Fencing is almost complete.

The Air Force still uses a small piece of land within the parks board's management area to practise precision bombing and missile firing.

But the Surplus People Project has pointed out that the Riemvasmaak community is in the process of applying for the return of their property.

The community, who lived there from 1923 until they were removed, was split into groups and sent to Khorigas in Namibia, Welcomewood in Ciskei and Marchand in the Northern Cape, the project said in a statement.

The government's Advisory Commission on Land Allocations (Acla) was informed by the community's legal adviser last year that they intended applying for the return of the land.

"While appreciating the need for nature conservation, we fear that announcements such as the parks board's, which are made without consultation with people who feel they are the rightful owners of the land, will not be in the interests of a long-term peaceful settlement or nature conservation and could in addition undermine the credibility of Acla," the project said.

Asked to respond, Mr Breytenbach said the contractual agreement between the SADF and the parks board had been signed six years ago.

Also, the Riemvasmaak community had been moved in terms of the apartheid policy of the day, before the property had been offered to the Defence Force.

"I don't want the perception it was the SADF who moved the people," he said.

"Rife" poaching and smuggling across the then South West Africa border was one reason why the community had been moved, he said.

The community's present demand was for land along the Orange River where farming was possible, rather than in the main military training and conservation areas which were an extremely harsh environment, he said.

"You can't make a living there — it's impossible."

Public gets a say in fate of St Lucia

By CARMEL RICKARD

THE future of St Lucia is once more back with the public: for the next eight weeks anyone may make written comment on the environmental impact assessment report released this week.

And when the five-member review panel considers the issue later this year, members of the public will again be able to voice their concerns in open hearings from August 2-6.

The final decision, however, still rests with Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett, who must approve the Richards Bay Minerals licence.

Officials from his office insist that Mr Bartlett has not yet made up his mind, but Democratic Party spokesman on environmental affairs Rupert Lorimer said he did not believe this.

Complained

Thursday's report shocked the anti-mining lobby with its conclusion that mining would not do irreparable damage to the sensitive eastern shores of St Lucia.

While the assessment did not make any recommendations, its finding appears likely to weigh heavily with government decision-makers.

Since the release of the report, critics have complained that it is simplistic and does not adequately reflect all the options available to the area.

"If they had given detailed consideration to the vast potential of local and international eco-tourism run along the lines of the satellite camps around the Kruger National Park, they would have found that this promises long-term sustainable development, with more jobs and far more income for the country than limited period, destructive mining," said Mr Lorimer.

Promised

Speaking from the United States, conservationist Ian Player warned that giving mining the go-ahead would give SA the kind of negative international reputation from which it was only just beginning to recover.

"Don't forget that the new US administration is the most environmentally conscious that the country has ever had," he said.

The Campaign for St Lucia has also promised to keep the government in the international eye by informing the other signatories to the important Ramsar Convention that Pretoria has reneged on its obligations to maintain wetlands.

Campaign spokesman Oliff D'Oliveira said world-renowned scientists acting under the Ramsar Convention have been evaluating the impact of mining in St Lucia, and he urged that no final decision be taken until the release of their report.

Comments may be sent to CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001 before May 14.

Inkatha backs St Lucia mining

(NB) (56)
DURBAN. — The Inkatha Freedom Party last night endorsed mining at St Lucia, but suggested that local communities should get a slice of mining revenues.

IFP chairman Dr Frank Mdlalose's endorsement pits the IFP against the ANC, CP, DP, and KwaZulu's own conservation arm, the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources (KBNR). CT 20/3/93

Dr Mdlalose said mining St Lucia would create "enormous economic bene-

fits" for locals and South Africa.

But KBNR chief Mr Nick Steele yesterday criticised the CSIR environmental impact report on St Lucia released this week, which stopped short of calling for a ban on mining. He said it was based on "outdated policies certain to change with a new political dispensation".

He said that if the mining lease was granted to Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) it would seriously threaten conservation

and tourism in the region.

Mr Steele said eco-tourism was "the most viable land use option" for St Lucia, with "sustained long-term benefits".

St Lucia is Africa's largest estuary. RBM wants to dredge-mine 1660ha of coastal dunes for titanium over 20 years.

The Campaign for St Lucia says no mining should be allowed and demands that 258 000ha of the area should be declared the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park

Star 20/3/93

St Lucia - Who will

talk for the people?

LITTLE is known about what the communities in the area think of the St Lucia mining project and what effect it will have on them. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN investigates.

AS THE environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed mining of the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia moves into its public participation phase, there will no doubt be many voices raised purporting to speak for the people who live in the area.

But in fact little is known about what the poor communities in the area think of dune mining — or ecotourism — or of the debate between the two options for the area they live in.

Under the EIA a Rural Liaison Programme was established run by the Centre for Social and Development Studies (CSDS) at the University of Natal.

"It was very important to establish a process independent of the two proponents in the Lake St Lucia issue — Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) and the Natal Parks Board (NPB)," Dr Alex Weaver, project manager for the EIA at the CSIR's Environmental Services, told The Saturday Star. "So independent consultants were appointed."

Poverty

Two Zulu-speakers at the CSDS, Professor Simon Bekker and Dr Paulus Zulu, head the liaison programme.

tion of mining, followed by ecotourism once mining operations had ceased.

RBM's mining and smelting operation would be cut by five years if the St Lucia mining rights were not granted — this represents a direct loss to the St Lucia sub-region of between R66 million and R247 million, foreign exchange of R606 million and tax revenues of R157 million. In addition, 313 job opportunities would be lost in the region and between 1275 and 4 675 in the country.

RBM has 2 500 employees and spends about R170 million a year on electricity, R40 million a year on coal, about R30 million on transport, and R50 million on harbour and rail services as well as many other expenditures with firms in the area. Also, there is a significant, but still unquantified, contribution to job creation and other contributions to quality of life in the region.

Added to this is an annual expenditure of about R8 million by RBM on social responsibility programmes.

Throughout the world, development policies must deal with questions of sustainability, equity and efficiency. Sustain-

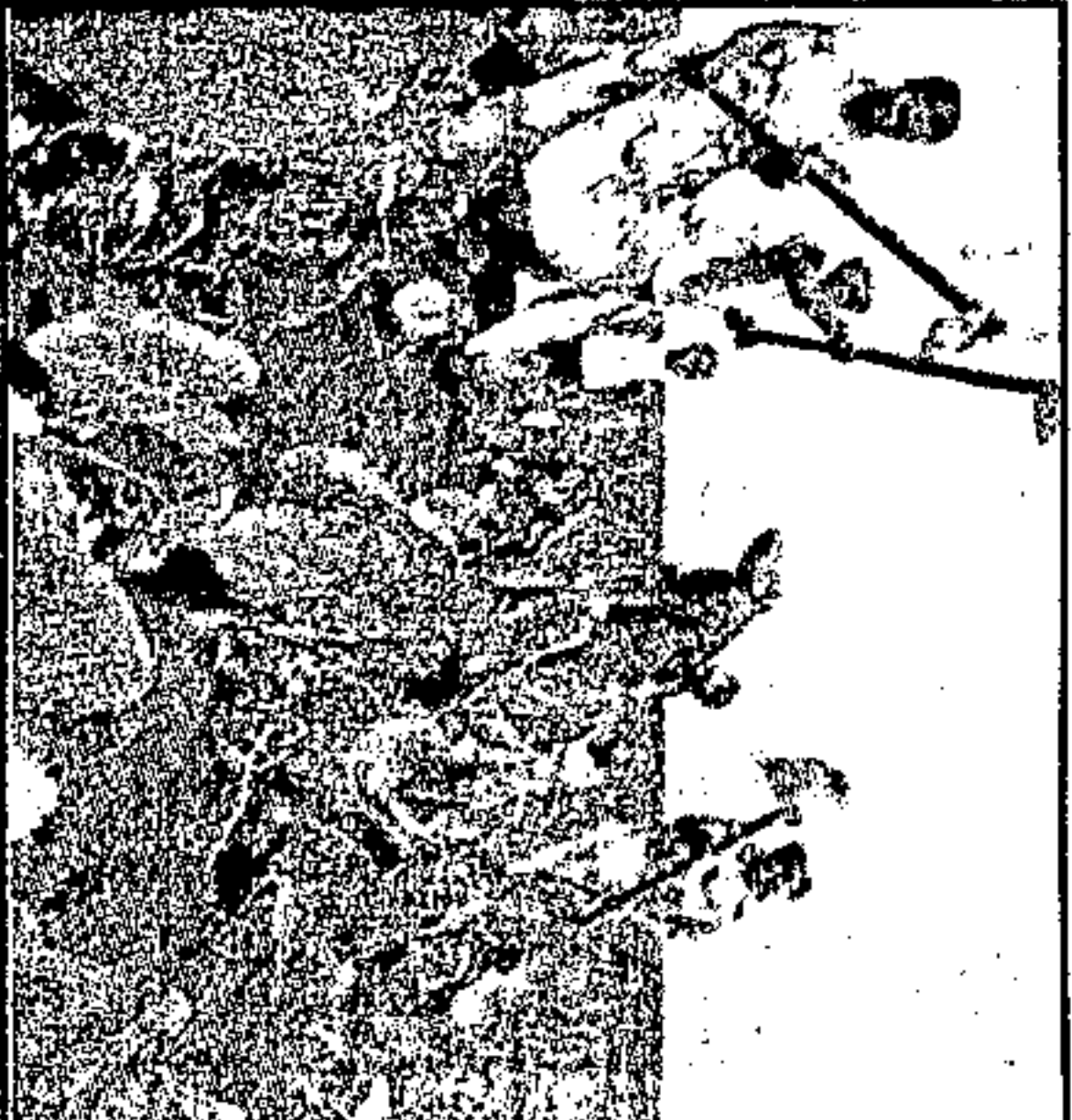
their immediate material and domestic circumstances and they would probably be open to persuasion to accept the option that would offer them the most benefits.

Through the Rural Liaison Programme, the findings of the report will be communicated to the local people and feedback will be obtained. This will be incorporated into the eventual EIA and will be taken into account in the final decision.

Copies of the three volumes of the EIA to date — 23 scientific studies, comments and additions (Vol 1) and analysis of key issues (Vol 2) and the EIR (Vol 3) — are available at university and public libraries.

In addition, the CSIR's report plus a summary are available from Karen Vink, CSIR Information Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001. Telephone (012) 841-2880, fax (012) 86-2869. The report costs R180 and the summary R20.

The public has until May 14 to make written comment on the report to the EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: A vegetable patch flourishes on water from a well installed by RBM in the Mbonambi rural area. The company spends R8 million a year on social development.

run by the Centre for Social and Development Studies (CSDS) at the University of Natal.

"It was very important to establish a process independent of the two proponents in the Lake St Lucia issue — Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) and the Natal Parks Board (NPB)," Dr Alex Weaver, project manager for the EIA at the CSIR's Environmental Services, told The Saturday Star. "So independent consultants were appointed."

Poverty

Two Zulu-speakers at the CSDS, Professor Simon Bekker and Dr Paulus Zulu, head the liaison programme. They were responsible for establishing a network of people who acted as links to communicate the needs and concerns of the community.

The CSIR's environmental impact report (EIR), released this week after three years of study and research, noted that poverty prevailed among the 850 000 people living in the area, which was ranked by the World Bank last year in the same category as the poorest in the world.

The population in the region adjacent to the RBM mines (Enseleni, Hlabisa, Lower Umfolosi, Mtunzini, Ngwavuma, Ongoye and Ubombo) is growing at about 2,1 percent — a relatively low rate because of migration to cities. On average there are 40-45 percent fewer men of economically active age (15-64) than women. Only 40-42 percent of adults are male and about 54 percent are below 15. There is an average of four dependants per wage-earner, where the annual income is R400-R2 600.

There are few schools and colleges and only 30-60 percent of the people complete primary schooling, 16-20 percent secondary schooling, and 64 percent of the adult population is illiterate. Unemployment runs at 27 percent and services are poor, with about 100 doctors per million people.

The need for social upliftment was acute, the report noted, concluding that maximum economic benefits would arise out of a combina-

RBM has 2 500 employees and spends about R170 million a year on electricity, R40 million a year on coal, about R30 million on transport, and R50 million on harbour and rail services as well as many other expenditures with firms in the area. Also, there is a significant, but still unquantified, contribution to job creation and other contributions to quality of life in the region. Added to this is an annual expenditure of about R8 million by RBM on social responsibility programmes.

Throughout the world, development policies must deal with questions of sustainability, equity and efficiency. Sustainability rests upon a view that development can be designed to be compatible with environmental protection, and that the latter is not attainable without the development. A sustainable society is one that manages economic growth in such a way as to do no irreparable damage to the environment.

Critical

In this respect the report found that there would be no irreparable damage to the environment in the long term, after 30 years, if mining were allowed.

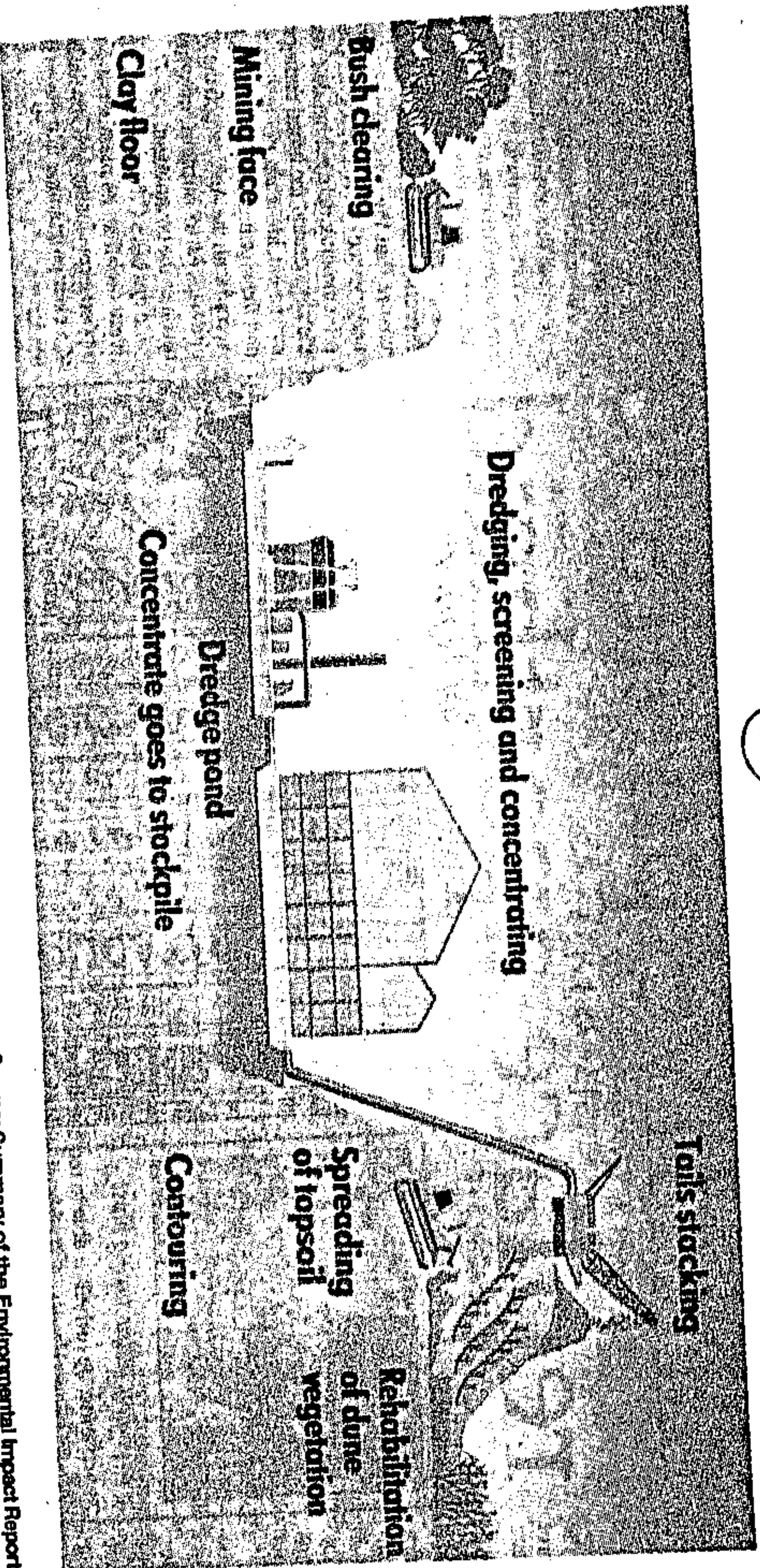
Equity deals with a fair distribution of benefits among the people who rightly have a stake in that development. In that respect the report was critical of the large amounts of revenue generated in the region that left the area, and recommended that policies in this regard be reviewed.

Efficiency is the choice between alternative development strategies or projects, which takes account of which alternative will return the greatest present and future benefits for a given cost in resources.

The report found that maximum economic benefits with acceptable environmental impacts would be achieved by allowing mining to proceed with ecotourism, and then ecotourism on its own after mining ceased.

The feelings of the locals are somewhat ambiguous, the EIR report concluded. Their interests revolve around

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Source: Summary of the Environmental Impact Report

What RBM wants ... This is how the company plans to mine the St Lucia dunes

Shiftings

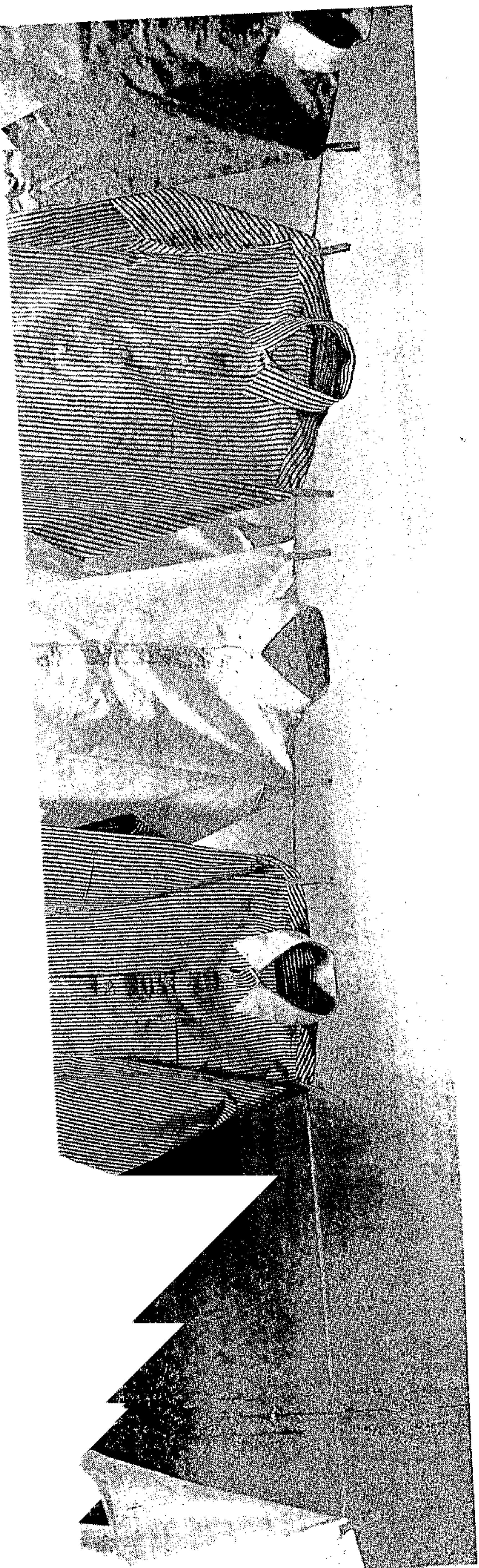
THE script is written. The cast includes a powerful mining cartel, some of the poorest peasants in the world, a corrupt government, two rival liberation movements, a bunch of pedantic academics, members of a combative trade union and a band of idealistic environmentalists. They will play, with the sand dunes of St Lucia at centre stage, for the next eight weeks.

Yesterday Richards Bay Minerals, a company that wishes to stripmine a stretch of rare dune forest on the shores of Lake St Lucia, released a report about the impact its planned operations will have on the ecology of the area if it gets the go-ahead from Pretoria.

The company's environmental impact assessment (EIA), by far the most extensive and controversial ever conducted in this country, makes no recommendations about whether mining

should begin or not. But doubt that its findings will by the corporation as well as a licence to mine.

The study explores two: in which the dunes on the of St Lucia can be used to nomic development in the dics the environmental im These two land-use opti mining combined with i tourism as proposed by I Minerals (RBM); and a scheme that excludes m pted by the Natal Parks; The report comprises ti including studies by exper ey, biology, climate, get other technical subjects, an to make detailed recom about the conditions und government should allow



ng sands in St Lucia dispute

W/Mail 19/3-25/3/93.

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The fight to prevent stripmining at the St Lucia estuary is more than a simple battle between capitalism and conservation.

EDDIE KOCH and ENOCH MTHEMBU report on the long-awaited release of an environmental impact study

should begin or not. But there is little doubt that its findings will be interpreted by the corporation as well as the cabinet as a licence to mine.

The study explores two alternate ways in which the dunes on the eastern shores of St Lucia can be used to promote economic development in the area and predicts the environmental impacts of each. These two land-use options are strip-mining combined with nature-based tourism as proposed by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM); and an ecotourism scheme that excludes mining, being punted by the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

The report comprises three volumes including studies by experts in hydrology, biology, climate, geology and 20 other technical subjects, and it uses these to make detailed recommendations about the conditions under which the government should allow either of the

two land-use options to proceed.

Although the report is exceedingly complex, it contains two simple sets of conclusions — one environmental, the other economic — that will strengthen the hand of company officials and government ministers who are determined to see the mining take place.

The report states unequivocally that the St Lucia estuary and the swamps that surround it — the ecological heart of Africa's largest and most beautiful remaining wetlands recognised by the Ramsar Convention as an international heritage site — will experience "low or

very low negative impacts due to mining in the medium term".

Although indigenous dune forest in the direct path of the mining operation will initially be severely affected, the impact will be "low to very low in the long term". This is mainly because the company will be able to recreate the dunes after it has mined them and effectively rehabilitate forests removed during mining. Although RBM will not be able to recreate the exact topography of the dunes, this problem is "expected to have no effect on ecosystem function", the report says.

The economic forecasts also favour the protagonists of mining.

Mining combined with ecotourism will generate R460-million for RBM as well as R196-million for the NPB from tourism activities. This option will create more than 900 temporary and permanent jobs, 613 in the mining operation as well as up to 392 posts in the tourism industry.

The new mine will indirectly generate between 1 275 and 4 675 jobs through the multiplier effect, pay R157,1-million to the government in tax and earn R606-million in foreign exchange. The company will also spend R8-million on social upliftment programmes in a region where poverty ranks with "the lower levels of the lower-income countries of the world".

Wildlife conservation and tourism without mining comes out as a poor competitor in economic terms. It will generate only R265,7-million in revenue and create a maximum of 392 jobs. There will be no multiplier effect to reduce national unemployment levels and no additional foreign exchange. The NPB has no social responsibility programme to rival that of the corporation.

The environmental assessment and financial predictions contained in the report, if accurate, are persuasive. It would appear that the socio-economic benefits of mining far outweigh the impact it will have on St Lucia's ecosystem.

The dunes at St Lucia are only 14km long and a few hundred metres wide. If strip-mining does not threaten the biodiversity of the nearby estuary, then there are other more pressing ecological crises in this country that should receive the attention and resources that have gone into saving the dunes. These include air pollution, land degradation in the homelands, and serious deforestation on other fragile areas.

There is also a common perception among black people in the area that conservation programmes at St Lucia have taken place at the expense of rural communities. Two large communities were removed between 1950 and the early 1970s from the very dunes that will be mined. Another 3 400 people were evicted in the late 1970s from an area to the north of the dunes so that the South African Defence Force could build a missile testing site which has now been turned into a nature reserve.

All three groups claim to be the indigenous owners of the land and its resources, including the titanium and other heavy minerals that have made the area so lucrative to RBM, and have made claims for the restoration of their title.

"We are sensitive to the growing environmental awareness in this country. But there is one question that our members at RBM are asking and that is: 'Why all of a sudden is there all this

activity and protest to save animals when there was no reaction at the time when people faced removal?," says union organiser Mike Mabuyakhulu.

"Is it because, this time, there is a threat to the survival of a favourite holiday resort for whites? None of the environmental organisations have consulted us about the issue and some of our members are wondering if these groups think it is more important to save insects and animals while we have to sacrifice jobs and wages."

Mabuyakhulu's is a memorable phrase. It goes to heart of the land question in this country's period of political change. And it is a sign that the sands of St Lucia have shifted. No longer are they the site of a straight environmental dispute. They are a portent for the way issues of social justice will be dealt with in a new South Africa.

There are deep flaws in the way social issues have been dealt with in RBM's impact study. Volume one of the report contains 23 specialist studies. Only one of these deals with "social assessment" along with issues such as "noise impact assessment" and "St Lucia: the sense(s) of the place".

The process for handling the report from now to the time the cabinet makes a decision is even more deeply flawed.

The study has been sent to 14 organisations for comment and has been placed in public venues so that ordinary citizens can read it and make comments during the next eight weeks. This is a positive development because it allows for extensive public review of the recommendations.

The problem is that a review panel — which represents none of the dispossessed communities around St Lucia —

coalition of 120 environmental groups, has acknowledged that it has failed to incorporate the concerns of these people in their protests against the stripmining option at St Lucia.

Indications are this may change over the next eight weeks. The Durban branch of Earthlife Africa, one of the fastest-growing green groups in the country, recently held a congress at St Lucia where representatives from the African National Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which organises the black workforce at RBM, were present.

The organisation, a major partner in the Campaign to Save St Lucia, is engaged in continued efforts to build a "rainbow alliance" of organised workers, community organisations, liberation movements and environmental groups to oppose mining.

Other affiliate organisations from the campaign will be making contact with some of the tribal chiefs in the area, who owe their loyalty to the Inkatha Freedom Party, so that they can be consulted about the struggle to save St Lucia.

Signs are that the union and the ANC will join the opposition to mining. "It would be presumptuous in the extreme for the present minority government to make a unilateral decision on an important national issue such as St Lucia on the eve of a new dispensation," said a statement from the organisation's department of economic planning issued this week.

"Because the St Lucia issue is clearly one of national and international importance, the issue should be decided upon by South Africa's first national government — or, as the ANC refers to it, a government of national unity."

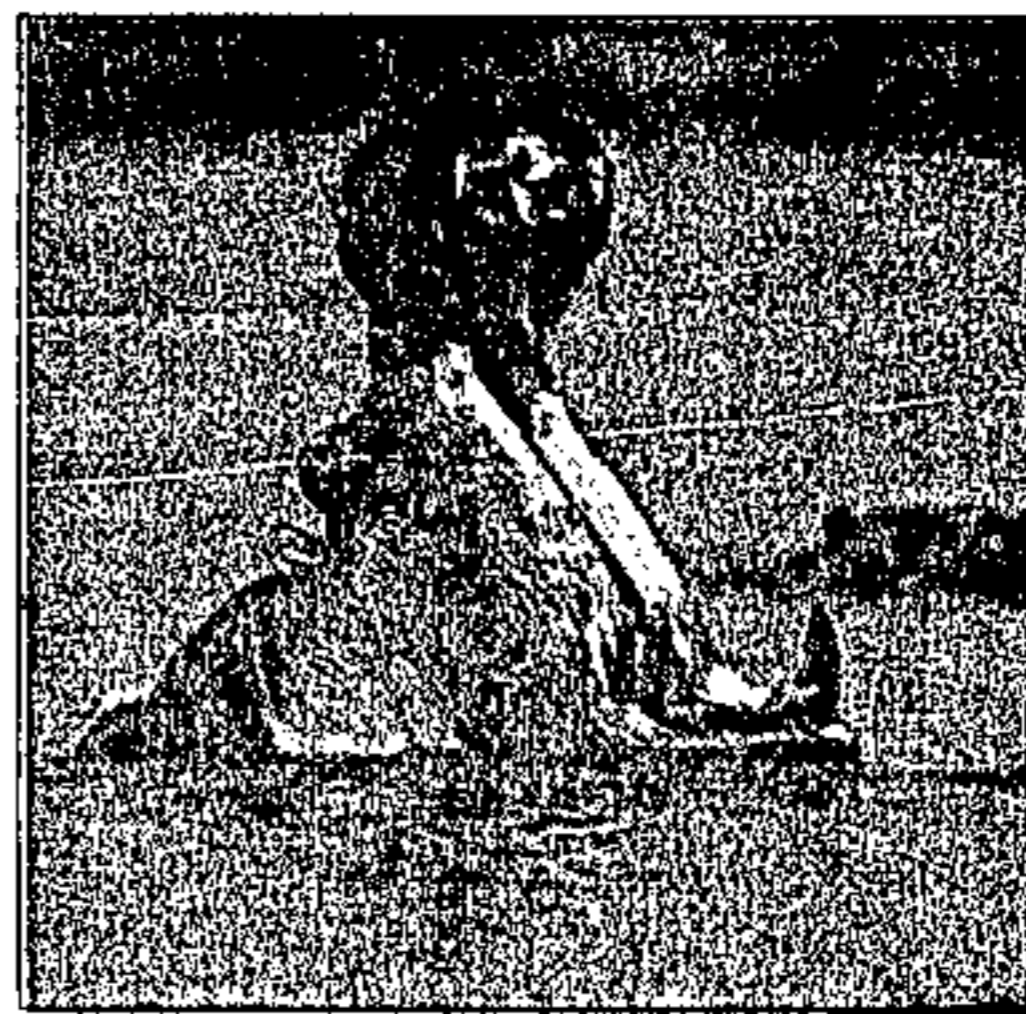
The NUM, the biggest union in the country with 270 000 members, has not responded officially to the EJA. But a number of shop stewards at RBM have told reporters that they are opposed to the new mining operation. They say that the company has kept employees in temporary posts for more than three years, making it easy to dismiss them, and is currently implementing a retrenchment programme.

Workers appear suspicious about RBM's job creation claims and complain that they have not been consulted about the company's social responsibility programmes. "RBM appears to be buying support from the community and from the public," a shop steward told *The Weekly Mail*.

Some of the Inkatha chiefs in the area, including Induna Mkwanzazi, who heads one of the communities claiming rights to the eastern shores, are in favour of mining. Says Robert Mkhize, adviser to Inkatha's central committee for the northern Natal region: "RBM will provide work. It has always been the IFP's policy that people must get jobs. RBM wants to do big things. They have already built schools and clinics and give transport to schoolchildren for free."

This poses the danger that the rival parties, already involved in a civil war that has cost 10 000 lives in Natal, will use the mining issue to score points off each other, especially in the run up to elections for a government of national unity next year.

Unless this rift between the two organisations is handled with great caution the drama could end with scenes of a battlefield in place of a rainbow spread across the dunes at St Lucia.



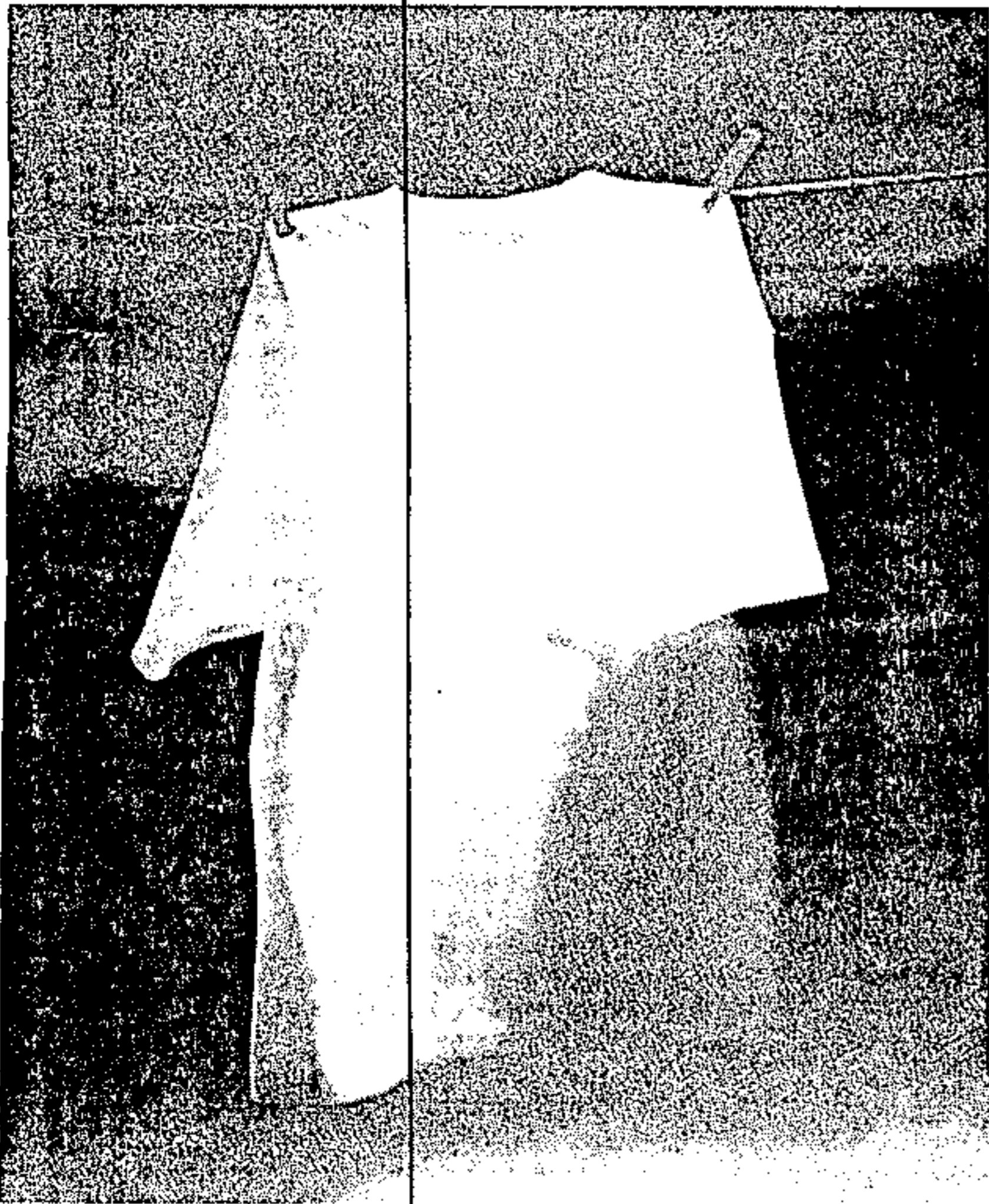
Not threatened ...The reports says hippo populations in Lake St Lucia and the Narrows would not be significantly affected by mining

has been set up to collate these responses and make final, and critical, recommendations to the cabinet.

The committee of five is headed by a retired supreme court judge, Justice Ramon Leon, and has only two black members. Ramanlal Soni is a law professor who sits on the Council for the Environment. Harriet Ngubane is a professor of social anthropology and sits on the board of kwaZulu's Finance and Development Corporation. The others are Charles Breen, director of Natal University's Institute for Natural Resources, and Sybil Hotz, who chairs the Development Services Board in Natal.

The committee's academic credentials are impeccable. The problem is that none of them can claim to represent the views of St Lucia's discarded people, the rural villagers whose land RBM wants to use so that they can make nearly half a billion rand. Has the company consulted these people about their plans? The answer from RBM's chief of public relations, Barry Clemens, is short and to the point. "I don't know who these people are. You will have ask the consultants. We have not had any negotiations with them."

The Campaign to Save St Lucia, a



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What isn't in the RBM report

W/Mail 19/3-25/3/93

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REVELATIONS that radioactive materials are a product of dune-mining at Richard's Bay have added a new twist to the row over plans by Richards Bay Minerals to expand its operations on the Natal coast.

The company acknowledged this week that it extracts monazite, a radioactive heavy mineral, in its current titanium mining operations at Richard's Bay.

Environmental groups are alarmed that an environmental impact study, released by RBM this week, makes no mention of radioactive substances present in the workplace nor of its safety implications.

"Monazite is classed as a low specific activity material," says a statement issued by the company this week.

"RBM produces a small quantity of monazite in comparison to the volume of other products. This is exported to producers who separate monazite into various rare earth oxides."

The mineral is used in a number of high-tech applications including the manufacture of optical lenses, high quality steel, colour television tubes and malleable metals. It is also possible to separate thorium out of monazite, which has been used experimentally as a nuclear fuel in some countries.

RBM public relations chief Barry Clements says a small amount of monazite is stored at Richard's Bay in two ton "toughbags" before being exported. "In transporting the material, strict adherence is carried out with regard to the International Atomic Energy regulations," he said. The company also abides by Atomic Energy Act stipulations.

Earthlife Africa, one of the most vocal opponents of RBM's plans to open a new mining operation on the eastern shores of St Lucia, says its members are concerned that information about radioactive materials has been kept from the public.

"In South Africa all information regarding the nuclear industry is secret and workers, people and environmental organisations do not have the right to know," said Brian Ashe, Earthlife's Dur-

ban spokesman.

The Group for Environmental Monitoring in Johannesburg says the summary of the company's impact study makes no mention of monazite and its potential health hazards. "It is well known that monazites are a source of radioactive thorium. We do not understand why the summary of the EIA commissioned by RBM makes absolutely no mention of the fact that miners will be working with radioactive materials. Why has this important information been withheld?"

A 1990 article in the *Journal of Radiological Protection*, published in the United Kingdom, says: "Mineral sands processing involves exposure to external and

internal radiation sources. The level of exposure is associated with the production of monazite, which contains approximately six per cent thorium by weight ... Recent estimates indicate that significant radiation exposures result from mineral sands processing. It has been shown that the inhalation of radioactive dust is the predominant exposure pathway."

Richards Bay Minerals has admitted that radioactive materials are a product of dune mining.
By **EDDIE KOCH** and **STEPHEN LAUFER**

In July last year the Malaysian Supreme Court shut down a company that exports monazite to Japan. Medical evidence presented during the hearing claimed miscarriages and infant deaths, reduced fertility and an increased incidence of leukaemia and cancer in villages surrounding a waste dump near the monazite processing plant.

Clements says all workers handling monazite at RBM wear dosimetre badges, similar to those worn by X-ray technicians, which are monitored monthly. All results are sent to the South African Bureau of Standards. Asked why the issue of radioactivity did not feature in the environment study, Clements said: "This study was about the impact of both land-use options on the environment in the area. Monazite and radioactivity do not impact on the lakes, and are in the dunes anyway. This is not an issue resulting out of one usage or another."

● See Page 20

St Lucia dunes set for mining

(5) CT 19/3/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The government is poised to approve the controversial St Lucia dune mining proposals before the end of September — in spite of combined opposition from the ANC, Conservatives, Democrats and the anti-mining lobby.

A panel of more than 50 scientists and academics yesterday ruled out the possibility of "irreparable" environmental damage if mining went ahead, making it virtually certain that Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett can now rubber-stamp the Richards Bay Minerals mining licence.

The mining would adversely affect animals, vegetation, topography and the visual quality of the area, but there would be substantial economic benefits and no irreversible damage.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research report set out the problems and advantages of the mining.

Massive opposition to govt plan

The CSIR report found that excavating heavy minerals would have a high negative impact on vegetation and animals in the next 30 years, although this would diminish to a relatively low level in the long term.

The CSIR assessed two options for St Lucia — one as a nature conservation and tourism area without mining as proposed by the Natal Parks Board, and one of mining in conjunction with conservation and tourism "where feasible" as planned by Richards Bay Minerals.

A spokesman for Mr Bartlett stressed that no final decision had been made but it seems clear

from the findings of yesterday's CSIR report that only massive public opposition can prevent mining going ahead.

Dr John Raimondo, in charge of compiling the study's findings, urged members of the public to comment on it before May 14.

Natal Parks Board chief Mr George Hughes said the board was concerned that certain issues — such as the hydrology of the dunes — were "inadequately" addressed by the report.

ANC environment spokesman Mr Stan Sangweni said his organisation was opposed to any final decision before a new government was in place.

Both the Democratic and Conservative parties said the report had not changed their opposition to the proposed mining.

Conservative Party spokesman Mr Carel Schoeman said the ecotourism potential of the area was such that mining should not even be considered and that the government should take care to avoid becoming "the skunk of international environmental organisations".

Impact report leaves the way open for St Lucia mining to go ahead

6/Day 19/3/93

THE report on the impact of mining on St Lucia, released yesterday, left the way open for Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) to proceed with dune mining in the area.

The report said no irreparable damage to the dune ecosystem and its hydrological functions would result from mining.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett has said he would refuse RBM's application to mine the dunes if such mining caused irreparable damage.

RBM MD Roy McPherson welcomed the report's finding that the area of St Lucia proposed for mining was not a pristine wilderness area. "It has always been our belief that mining and ecotourism are not mutually exclusive and it is reassuring

that the report validates this. But conservationists criticised the report for, among other things, its failure to take into consideration the communities living in surrounding areas.

The report follows a three-year study by the CSIR, which was commissioned by government and funded by RBM. A CSIR spokesman said it had not made any specific recommendation on whether to mine or not as its brief had been to set out relevant information and not be conclusive.

The report said RBM would earn R460m (or R153,5m at current values) in "aggregate discounted revenue" from mining the dunes. And the Natal Parks Board would earn R196m from "ecotourism activities

feasible in conjunction with mining". A further R606m would be earned in foreign exchange related to mining.

By contrast, the Natal Parks Board's planned ecotourism development, without mining, would earn a projected R265,7m in revenue, the report said.

The report said mining the dunes would generate 313 jobs for the life of the mine, expected to be about 17 years, and between 1 275 and 4 675 lifetime jobs "indirectly through multiplier effects associated with the proposed mine". Ecotourism in conjunction with mining or on its own would

MARIANNE MERTEN and RAY HARTLEY

generate between 212 and 392 lifetime jobs. The report said mining would have a serious impact on terrestrial vegetation, topography, soil nutrients and a "very high reduction in biodiversity at the scale of the mine path in the short term".

Members of the public have been given eight weeks to lodge their reactions to the report, following which a panel headed by retired judge Ramon Leon will make recommendations to Cabinet in September.

The ANC has already stated that government should not make a decision because an interim government of national unity needed to consider the matter.

Both the CP and the DP said yesterday they still held that the conservation of the

St Lucia estuary would be economically more beneficial in the long term than the short-term advantages that would be derived from mining.

The report said: "The most simple question that can thus be addressed is would SA be willing to pay, in other words forgo by not mining, R153,5m in order to avoid the predicted impacts on the environment?"

Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said: "The report supports the claim that this is the most comprehensive study of its kind... undertaken not only in southern Africa, but probably in the world."

Campaign for St Lucia spokesman Oliff

To Page 2

St Lucia 8/Day 19/3/93

D'Oliveira said his organisation had proposed the environmental impact assessment as there had already been a government commission recommendation, in 1966, that the area be reserved for conservation. St Lucia was also an internationally protected site under the Ramsar convention on wetlands, he said.

Wildlife Society director Tony Ferrar said: "The report is fairly favourable to the mining option in the sense that it seems to downplay the effects against the eco-



From Page 1

systems." The organisation was unhappy about the report, which seemed to be an exercise in mitigation, but would be looking at its rationale in greater detail.

RBM GM public relations Barry Clements said this week the report had cost RBM about R4m over the past two years, but indirect costs such as the experts' time and the public relations campaign were incalculable.

See Page 8

THE long-standing dispute over titanium mining operations on St Lucia's eastern shores is entering a new round of public debate following yesterday's release of an environmental impact assessment of the effects of dune mining.

"The impact assessment has concluded that no irreversible damage in terms of future options forgone would result if mining was adopted," a CSIR statement said.

But, if South Africans decided environmental impacts outweighed economic benefits, mining could justifiably be refused by government, the statement said.

The impact assessment makes no recommendations for or against mining. It sets out the social, environmental and economic effects of alternative proposals for conservation and tourism, favoured by the Natal Parks Board, and mining and ecotourism favoured by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM).

The report's publication sets in motion an eight-week process of public reaction. The drafting of response reports and a final investigation by a five-man expert review panel is set to last until year's end.

Only then will government decide whether mining is to go ahead.

Under the Minerals Act, government is bound to allow mining to proceed if the assessment study found no irreparable damage would be caused. Mineral and Energy Minister George Bartlett has said he would agree to mining in this case.

If mining is given the go-ahead, which the report's findings seem to favour, government would be in contravention of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands which it signed in Iran in 1977.

The convention commits governments to the protection of SA's wetlands, including St Lucia which was added to the list in 1986.

The St Lucia mining dispute has been in the forefront of SA's environmental debates since 1989 when RBM sought to extend its dune mining operations into the St Lucia area. Even if RBM is given the go-ahead now, dune

Mine impact study steers a neutral path over St Lucia dunes

B/DM 19/3/93

MARIANNE MERTEN

mining in St Lucia would not start until near the turn of the century.

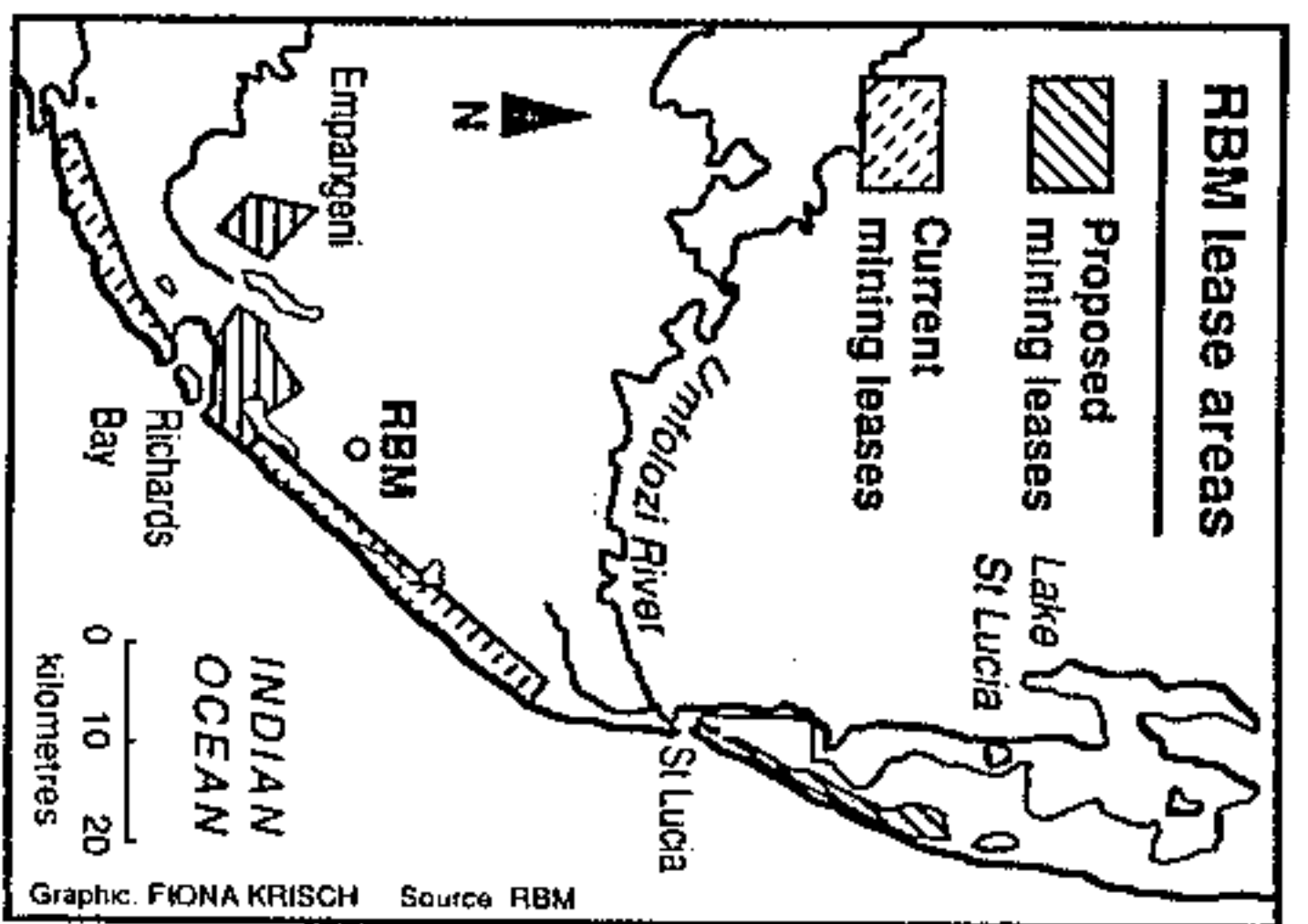
The area is government owned but proposals to make St Lucia Greater Wetlands Park a national nature conservation area have been recommended since mid-1991.

The debate over whether mining should be allowed has reflected the progress of environmentally aware business practices in SA. Even 10 years ago, it would have been unthinkable for a company to pay millions of rands, as RBM has done, to justify its business activities.

The three-year study has applied the most up-to-date international thinking on environmentally integrated management.

Much of the study's philosophical orientation has come from the Brundtland report Sustainable Development, A Guide to Our Common Future, which recommended that sustainable economic development must take into consideration its impacts on the environment and society.

Translated into the SA context, this would mean a careful assessment of the socio-economic consequences of either mining or ecotourism would have on St Lucia's surrounding Kwa-Zulu regions which are known to be among the poorest and most underde-



veloped areas in the country.

The study's aim was to record what impacts the two land use options would have on these communities. The balance the report sought was between the potential for economic growth, social equity and environmental sustainability.

The crucial question whether mining activities would cause irreparable damage to the dunes' hydrological

function has remained hidden behind economic issues and the rhetoric of whether SA can forgo mining generated income.

Put in simple financial terms, mining would be the preferable option for St Lucia.

The impact assessment says mining would generate an additional R763,1m in foreign exchange and tax revenue. The Natal Parks Board would benefit by R196m from ecotourism while mining went ahead.

During the mine commissioning phase 300 temporary jobs would be created while the mine offered 313 full-time jobs during its lifespan. About 1 275 to 4 675 jobs could be created as spin offs from the mining operations.

In comparison, ecotourism without mining would generate only R265,7m. The 212 to 392 full-time jobs from future tourist activity would be created whether mining went ahead or not, but R69,7m less would be earned in tourism if mining was allowed.

The crux of the environment impact assessment is whether mining would cause irreparable damage which is defined in the study as an impact of the highest order, with no possible mitigation in the long term, to the dunes' structure and hydrological function.

Despite findings that mining would have extensive and very high negative effects on St Lucia's environment in the mining area, most of these could be mitigated in the long term, the study said.

Consequences of damage to the topography were largely visual, as no severe persistent effects of altered topography on the biosystem, or the functioning of the ecosystem, had been predicted, it said.

"In terms of people's sense of place, irreparable damage would occur to the perceptions of only some of the people who view the St Lucia subregion as pristine wilderness."

The most serious long-term negative mining impact was the possible displacement of the dunes by about 500m-1 000m. Although dune displacement was considered irreparable damage to the topography — the area would definitely look different after mining activities were complete — the report maintained the ecosystem would not be affected.

The dunes' role in filtering water to the lake sustaining the area's wildlife has been at the heart of the debate because any structural interference would endanger the lake's role as a freshwater conductor to wildlife in the St Lucia estuary. Environmentalists do not know what the impact will be, and fear that by the time a major effect is discovered it will be too late.

CSIR researcher Brian van Wilgen, who headed the study, said irreparable damage would occur only to the topography of the area. No irreparable damage to the dunes was predicted, he said.

Certainly the CSIR's environmental impact assessment has scrupulously applied the principles underpinning an integrated environmental management such as broad-based consultation with interested and affected parties, democratic regard for individual rights, giving the opportunity for public and specialist input and ensuring that the social benefits outweigh the social costs of development proposals.

But, in the final instance, it is government and its interests which will decide on St Lucia's future.

Impact report leaves the way open for St Lucia mining to go ahead

6/Day 19/3/93

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Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett has said he would refuse RBM's application to mine the dunes if such mining caused irreparable damage.

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But conservationists criticised the report for, among other things, its failure to take into consideration the communities living in surrounding areas.

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St Lucia 8/Day 19/3/93

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From Page 1

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Star 19/3/93

Parks Board plan for lake 'impractical'

By ANITA ALLEN

THE nature conservation and tourism option for development of the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia as proposed by the Natal Parks Board (NPB) would have major negative impacts, the Environmental Impact Report collated by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) concluded.

It went as far as to recommend that the NPB review its basis for planning and management of ecotourism for the whole Greater St Lucia Wetlands Park.

The extent of ecotourism development proposed by the

NPB for the Eastern Shores would result in high negative impacts on the environment due to large numbers of tourists. This would extend to the wetlands through trampling as well as infrastructure and chemical pollution of freshwater systems due to sewage and waste.

The NPB proposal involves increasing the present accommodation capacity within the Eastern Shores and its environs from the present 426 beds to 2 774 beds by the year 2012, representing an annual growth rate of 12 percent. The report con-

cluded that this was a highly improbable scenario given that the present capacity of the Kruger Park, an area 160 times larger than the Eastern Shores, is currently 4 018 beds.

The NPB proposal was unlikely to be realised given constraints on capital funding, scarcity of managerial and other skills needed and the probable resistance to such intense development.

The report concluded that the most plausible scenario was 1 500 beds by 2012. The increase in light-vehicle

traffic that would arise from NPB's proposal would be from about 100 vehicles to around 1 000 a day, the report concluded. This would have high negative impacts in the long term on noise levels, visual qualities of the Eastern Shores scene and on quality of wildlife viewing.

To mitigate these negative impacts, the report recommended careful siting of development nodes and placement of electrical cables, telephone links and water pipelines underground. It also called for effective policing of noise levels and

restrictions on the number of vehicles.

It noted that the NPB proposal focused on the provision of hatted accommodation on the Eastern Shores, but recommended that other options need to be evaluated.

Dealing with economic impacts, the report concluded that mining had significant economic advantages. If ecotourism without mining was allowed there would have to be mitigatory action to offset economic losses to the country. It recommended that the

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basis of planning and management for ecotourism in the sub-region be reviewed by the NPB to establish systems and approaches that would maximise social and economic benefits for the communities.

The NPB, as a non-profit organisation, could not allocate a portion of its profits to social responsibility programmes, the report noted. To ensure that needs and concerns of local people were addressed, the report recommended:

- Ecotourism operations be devolved to the private sector to

ensure greatest financial and economic value.

- Private-sector operators should be required to have social responsibility programmes along the lines of major SA companies.
- Private-sector operators should be required to observe development guidelines and pay a portion of their profits to the NPB or relevant conservation authority.

Ecotourism without mining, the report concluded, would have a high positive impact on the perceptions of those who

find intrinsic value in the Eastern Shores as a wilderness. This would be felt at the national and international level. Nevertheless, the report recommended rapid development of ecotourism infrastructure for the following reasons:

- To cater for the growing tourist industry.
- To provide necessary employment and other opportunities that would ensure the acceptance of conservation, without mining, by the local people.
- To provide an attraction for foreign tourists and in so doing to attract foreign exchange.
- To provide a source of funds to facilitate sound ecological management. □

Tough terms set for miners

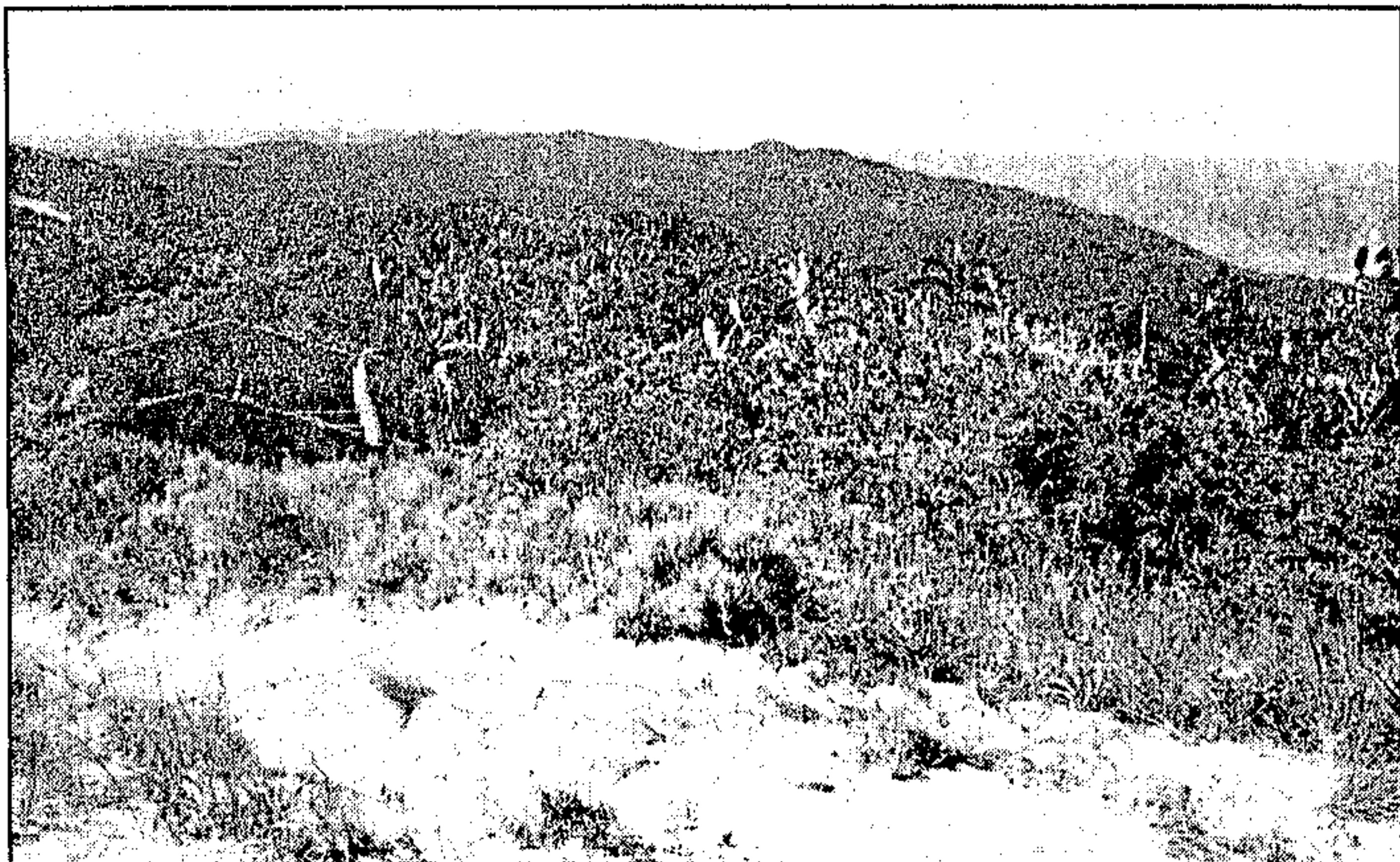
Star 19/3/93

By JILL GOWANS

TOUGH mitigatory actions have been recommended by the environmental impact assessment (EIA) should Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) be granted mining rights.

They include:

- Broads, pipe and powerlines to be designed so that the main routes can accommodate usual traffic to Cape Vidal, together with mining and forestry traffic, to obviate the need for superfluous routes. Pipes and powerlines should follow this course, except when buried.
- Monitoring of the water table in the dunes to predict the possibility of slumping.
- An inventory of special animals in the mine path, in advance of mining, to facilitate rescue operations. Animals in Red Data Book categories that would be displaced should be captured and relocated or held in captivity.
- The mine plant to be camouflaged — lights to be shrouded at night and existing plantations along the access road not to be felled until the mining has passed.
- Clearing ahead of the mining to be minimised and burning prohibited. Cleared vegetation to be chipped and spread on relocated topsoil.
- Construction activities to be restricted to low-tourist season, where feasible.
- Recreation of the original topography: The reconstructed land form to resemble the original as closely as possible: hills, inter-dune valleys and drainage lines to be reconstructed.
- RBM and the Natal Parks Board to immediately begin collaborating on plans for the development of suitable ecotourism infrastructure that would fit into the mining plans.
- RBM's social responsibility programme should focus on communities which abut on the Eastern Shores sub-region.



North to Cape Vidal . . . view along the proposed mining path, which would stop short of the front coastal dunes nearest the sea. Picture: Anita Allen

Eight conditions to be met before mining

Star 19/3/93

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By JILL GOWANS

THE environmental impact assessment has recommended that if mining goes ahead, eight conditions should apply.

- A research programme on soil fertility and plant succession is required to enhance the rehabilitation techniques available, and should be funded by Richards Bay Minerals.
- Sixty-two hectares of sensitive forest areas occur in the southern extremity of the mine path. If this area were excluded, 22 percent of the total area of 227 ha of sensitive sites in the mine path would be saved in return for the loss of only 87,5 ha (6 percent) of the area of mine path. Mining could simply begin slightly further to the north than was originally proposed.
- Not mining closer than 400 m to the high-water mark would reduce the risk of dune slumping and protect an adequate corridor for species migration

and habitats from which the rehabilitated area could be re-colonised.

It would also protect 124 ha of coastal forest, almost 172 ha of vegetation with a high or moderately high conservation importance rating, 165 ha of the Natal Parks Board's identified sensitive areas and 174 ha of the visitor frontal dune (these areas overlap).

The 400 m exclusion zone would exclude only 3,9 ha of the proposed mine path, implying a loss of 0,3 percent of the ore body.

Confined

● Should a mining lease be granted to cover the whole of the lease areas, RBM would be free to mine outside the proposed mine path. This could result in impacts not yet assessed.

Mining should be confined to the dune cordon. It should not approach the wetlands to the west of the dunes to any extent

that may increase impact.

The total area of the final mine path should not exceed the total area of the proposed mine path.

- In order to provide the assurance that adequate rehabilitation and decommissioning after mining would be guaranteed, RBM should be required to provide a R3,2 million performance bond by way of adequate insurance to satisfy this concern.
- An extensive list of mitigatory actions is recommended, and all actions necessary to mitigate the impact of mining should be funded by RBM.
- The establishment of a mitigation monitoring committee with clear terms of reference and consisting of one representative each of RBM and the NPB, with appropriate avenues for arbitration.
- An annual audit of the success of mitigatory actions and the activities of the mitigation monitoring committee. □

St Lucia - NOW YOU have a say

Star  C

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THE complex procedure of the environmental impact assessment (EIA), which will decide between two options for development of the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia, enters an important phase with the release of the CSIR report.

The phase that begins now involves public comment on the report, which is volume 3 of the EIA. Eventually, issues raised by the public as well as submissions by interested parties will be incorporated into the EIA as further volumes. All these volumes will be used to decide finally how the issue is resolved.

They will be used firstly by the five-member review panel chaired by Mr Justice R Leon, which will make recommendations on the preferred option and under what conditions it should proceed. This will happen some time after September.

Secondly, the Cabinet will consider the information and recommendations, and, thirdly, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs will make the final decision on which option will be adopted and issue a written public record of the rationale leading to his decision. No date has been set for this decision.

In a statement issued before the release of the report yesterday, the ANC reaffirmed its position that the matter should be decided by a government of national unity.

"We feel strongly that the current South African Government does not have a mandate whatsoever to authorise the mining at St Lucia," the ANC's statement said.

The Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia EIA is a precedent-setting procedure: nothing like it has been conducted in South Africa. The public now has the opportunity not only to influence the outcome of the pro-

The report on mining and ecotourism options for the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia on the Natal North Coast released yesterday forms part of the environmental impact assessment ordered by the Government in September 1989. The public now has the opportunity to influence the decision-making process. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN reports.



South to Mission Rocks... view along the proposed dune mining path looking towards St Lucia town and the Umfolozi River. Picture: Anita Allen

cess, but to create precedents for future EIAs whenever development and environmental concerns clash.

The CSIR's report, officially known as the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), is part of a process that began when Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) applied for mining rights on 1 437 ha of its prospecting leases on a much larger portion of the Eastern Shores. After a huge public outcry, the Cabinet directed that the necessary EIA be undertaken.

As the proposer, RBM is pay-

ing for the entire EIA - an estimated R4 million to date.

The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) was charged with the responsibility of ensuring this task was carried out. The EIA for the Eastern Shores is guided by the principles of integrated environmental management as developed by the Council for the Environment in 1989, and revised by the DEA in 1992.

Two options for development on the Eastern Shores have been proposed: mining in conjunction with ecotourism, as

proposed by RBM, and ecotourism without mining, as proposed by the Natal Parks Board.

Yesterday's EIR examines these proposals. Its findings are drawn from a database comprised of:

- Twenty-three specialist scientific reports, involving more than 50 scientists and experts, chosen on the basis of their professional standing in their particular field.
- Submissions by 120 interested

and affected parties.

● Submissions via a Rural Liaison Programme which was commissioned to establish the concerns of local people who were either illiterate or whose first language was not English. These three phases comprise volume 1 of the EIA.

● Reports on 12 key issues identified as a result of 1 to 3 above, which is volume 2 of the EIA.

The three volumes of the EIA so far, as well as a summary report, are available for scrutiny at university and municipal libraries countrywide. In the Transvaal these are: University of the Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom University for CHE, University of Pretoria, Rand Afrikaans University, the Johannesburg Municipal Library and the Pretoria City Library.

Copies of yesterday's EIR and the summary are available from Karen Vink, CSIR Information Services, Box 399, Pretoria 0001. Telephone (012) 841-2880, fax (012) 86-2889. The report costs R180 and the summary R20.

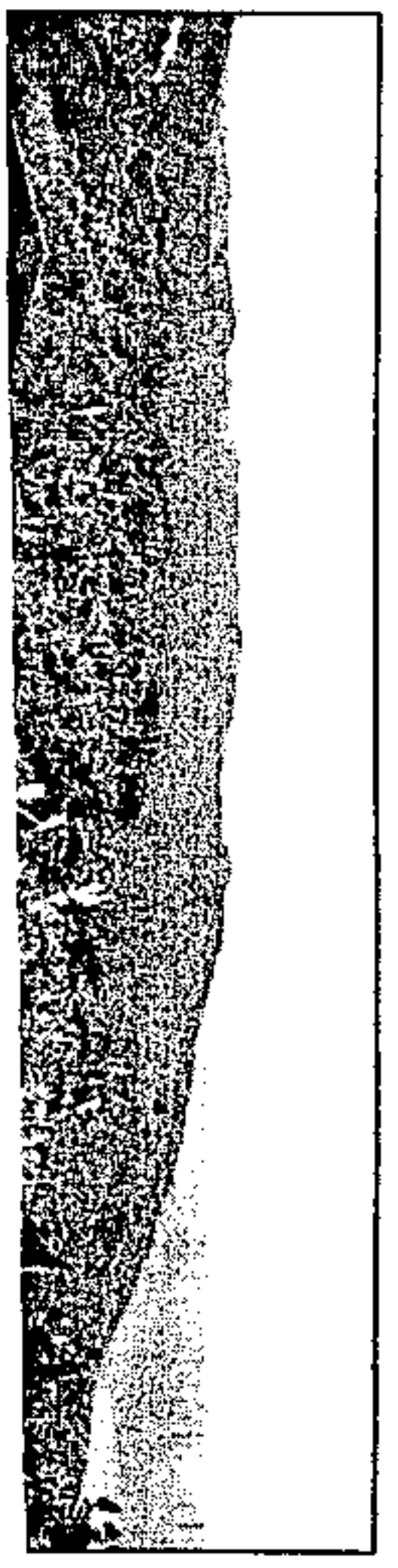
The public has until May 14 to make written comment to the EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001.

A record of all comments received, as well as responses thereon, will be made available at the above-mentioned venues from July 14 to August 2.

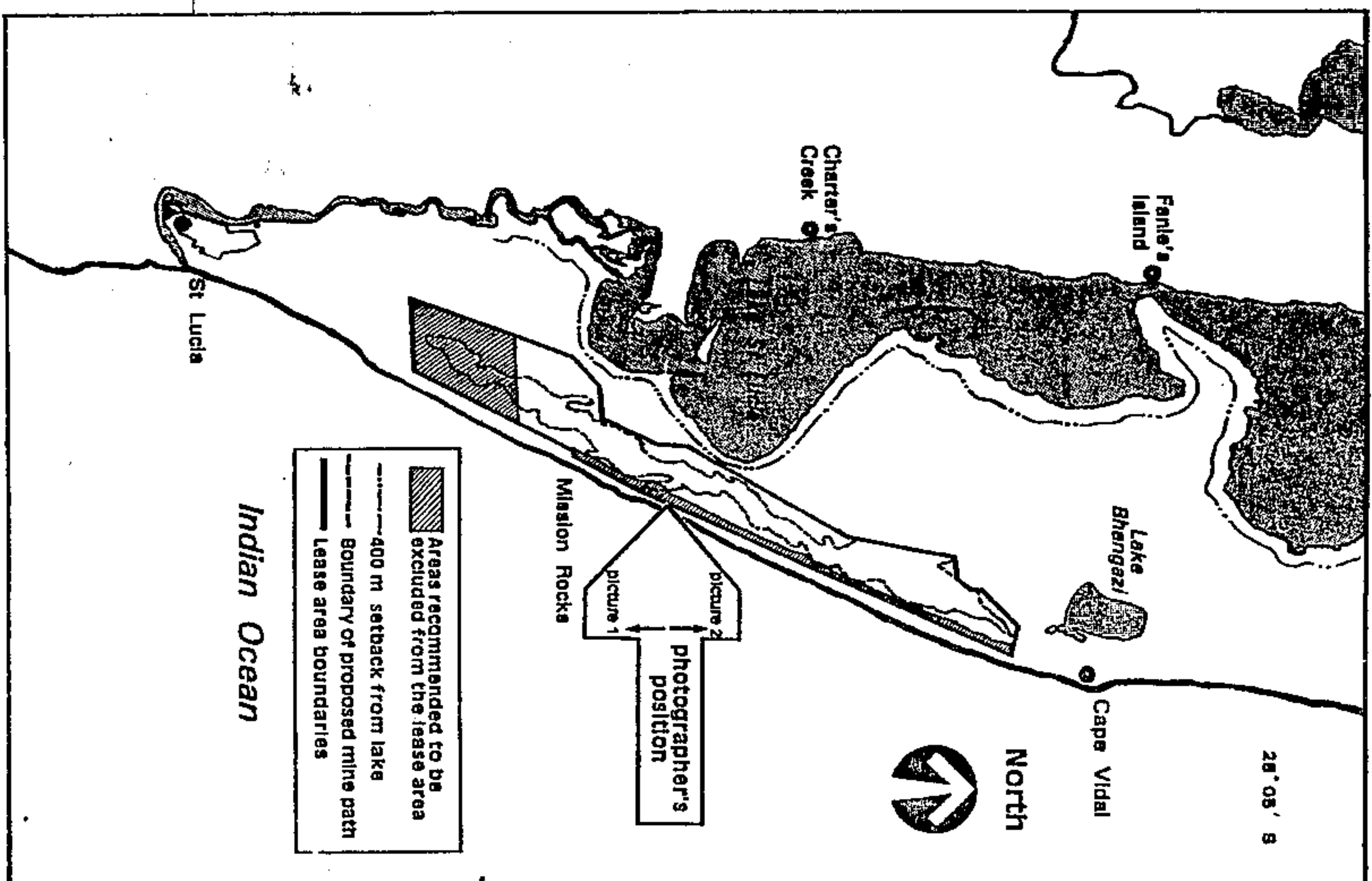
At the same time, the Rural Liaison Programme will continue to inform and obtain opinion from isolated and illiterate people in the St Lucia region.

In addition, public hearings will be held for individuals or groups requesting to address the review panel on the findings of yesterday's report. Dates for these will be announced later, as well as being directly communicated to those wishing to make presentations. □

Tough terms set for miners
Star 19/3/93



Various options for land
Star 19/3/93



Report on St Lucia mining 'irrelevant'

STAC
19/3/93

By Anita Allen
Science Writer

A decision on mining the Eastern Shores of Lake St Lucia has already been taken, making yesterday's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) irrelevant, conservationists claimed yesterday.

They said the report favoured the option of mining in an ecologically sensitive area — and feared a decision had already been made despite a huge outcry.

But Government and independent consultants responsible for the entire environmental impact assessment (EIA) yesterday repeatedly denied a decision had been taken.

The EIA was asked to consider two land-use options for the Eastern Shores of St Lucia: mining with ecotourism, proposed by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM); and ecotourism without mining, proposed by the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

Tony Ferrar, executive director of the Wildlife Society of South Africa, said the public needed a categoric assurance

that the decision to mine had not already been taken.

Ministry of Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman Charles Edwards said: "In terms of the procedures, a review process has now been initiated and it will run through until it is completed, which is anticipated to be at the end of September.

"The Cabinet will take the decision only then and the Minister will announce it."

Edwards could not comment on speculation that the decision could be deferred until a government of national unity was in place.

ANC environment spokesman Stan Sangweni made it clear his organisation was opposed to any final decision being taken before a new government was in place.

NPB chief George Hughes attacked the "simplistic interpretations" in the 1500-page report, particularly the finding that the area would not be damaged permanently.

Barry Clements, general manager, public relations, at RBM, said the EIR had vindicated everything the company had said on dune mining in an ecologically sensitive area.

Endangered Wildlife Trust di-

rector John Ledger said he had not yet read the report.

"I would urge all concerned people to read the report and not go with mindless rejection, but go with their own conclusions."

The EIR warned of long-term damage (after 30 years) to the environment if dune mining were allowed, but concluded there would be substantial economic benefits and no irreparable damage in terms of future options.

The EIR found that the 12 874 ha of the entire Eastern Shores had a history of disturbance, including agriculture, and extensive commercial forestry.

At present, the EIA process is in its public comment phase until August 2. A specific recommendation to allow mining or not to allow it, and under what conditions, will then be made by the EIA Review Panel, before the matter is passed to the Cabinet for its decision.

Should the mining option be accepted, RBM will start mining on the Eastern Shores in the year 2001.

● Now you have your say — Page 13

56

426 5 21 93
Council complains
of slow progress

Municipal Reporter

56

CONTRACTORS replacing the Green Point marine outfall sewer will be told formally that the council is unhappy about slow progress.

"We accept there was bad weather last year, but that is no excuse at present because conditions have been ideal," a utilities and works committee spokesman said. The scheme is expected to be completed in March next year, months after the scheduled June completion.

Assurance on Palmiet River dam opposition

JOHN YELD (S) *File 2/3/93*
Environment Reporter

THE Council for the Environment's strong opposition to the possible damming of the lower Palmiet River near Kleinmond will be taken up by the Department of Water Affairs.

This assurance was given by senior water affairs' officials after a Water Week briefing on the demand for water and possible future sources of supply in the Western Cape.

In its annual report tabled in parliament, the Council for the Environment — a statutory body which advises the Minister of Environment Affairs — said the lower Palmiet River was too sensitive to dam and that the Kogelberg State Forest should remain inviolable.

Mr Peter van Niekerk, chief engineer of the department's directorate of project planning, said they believed the council was merely one interested party.

"We feel everybody should have a say, including the Council for the Environment. Everybody's views should be collated and synthesised in a joint report to the decision-maker. The end result should hopefully be satisfactory to everyone."

After the briefing, Mr Van Niekerk told journalists his department would contact the council about its views.

In his presentation, Mr Van Niekerk pointed out that a typical middle- to upper-income household in Cape Town used 35 percent of its water on the garden and 29 percent to flush the toilet. Drinking and cooking accounted for only three percent.

Metropolitan Cape Town's estimated population growth would probably see water demand growing at about 15 million cubic metres a year.

One of the biggest potential sources of water was re-using sewerage effluent. This could provide an additional 100 million cubic metres a year, "although it is expensive and in certain quarters perhaps socially unacceptable".

The Newlands aquifer (10 million cubic metres a year) and the Cape Flats aquifer (18 million cubic metres a year) were potential water sources. "But the degree of pollution (of these aquifers) will have to be carefully looked at," Mr Van Niekerk warned.

New war looms as armies demobbed

AS southern Africa begins to stabilise and Zimbabwe and Mozambique prepare to demobilise thousands of soldiers, so South Africa is bracing itself for another border war — cross-border raids and even deep incursions by AK47-wielding ivory and rhino horn poachers.

At the recent conference of the Game Rangers' Association of Africa, held at Itala Game Reserve in Natal, rangers spent many hours discussing how to prepare for this new wave.

As rhino numbers slump throughout Africa north of the Limpopo, so South Africa has become a prime target, with 28 percent of all known rhino in the world.

Kruger Park, which holds more than 2 000 rhino, shares a 350 km border with Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Chief ranger Bruce Bryden says there are thousands of Mozambican troops near Kruger Park who will be demobilised and who have starving families.

Rhinos provide meat and horn.

In Natal and kwaZulu the reserves hold about 2 500 rhino and are on the alert.

Since 1990 the Natal reserves have lost 11

South Africa is braced for a new border war — against ivory and rhino horn poachers, writes JAMES CLARKE.

rhino to poachers. Kruger lost eight.

Major Piet Lategan, head of the SAP's 20-strong endangered species squad, told the conference the game departments were prepared for the "onslaught" which he sees coming — a suggestion vigorously denied.

Lategan's squad has had enormous successes. In February, a 23-year-old unarmed police-woman rounded up a gang and their cache of horns and ivory in Randburg. She and a black undercover policeman fooled the gang into thinking they were selling horn. One of those arrested had called to the policeman: "Hey, boy! Help load."

The policeman replied: "Ja, my baas."

When the handcuffs were snapped on, the leader said: "I don't believe this."

Dr George Hughes, chief executive of Natal Parks, said Taiwan has 10 000 chemist shops selling ground rhino horn. Rhino horn has been sold as a fever cure for 4 000 years and, said Hughes, it works.

Taiwan consumes 200 kg a year but considers African rhino horn inferior to the almost unobtainable Asian horn, which sells at 40 times more.

The Taiwanese say they would welcome a legal and reliable source and told Hughes they do not want to go down in history as the people who extinguished the rhino.

A debate on whether it would be wise for South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to put their huge stockpiles of rhino horn — confiscated from poachers or cut from rhino found dead from natural causes — on to the market went on inconclusively for two hours.

The world ban on rhino horn has singularly failed to stop poaching and, annually, the price goes up and the gangsters get rougher.

The law is also getting rougher: when, last year, a senior Kruger Park ranger was given eight years for poaching rhino horns he appealed. He was then given 12 years. □

Environment 'need not be relegated'

MARIANNE MERTEN (56)

ENVIRONMENTAL awareness should not take second place to economic and development concerns, visiting economics professor Christopher Lingle, of Loyola University in New Orleans, said in an article recently published by the Free Market Foundation. *BIDM 3/31/93*

"The choice is not between economy and ecology. These goals are compatible, and in many ways inseparable," he said.

It would be necessary to establish correct incentive structures that balanced the demand for environmental stability and the need for individual freedom.

Lingle's warning that government intervention was more often than not the cause of environmental damage has contradicted current SA demands for government action to protect the environment.

The foundation approached Lingle because of his market-orientated approach to environmental issues, foundation training director Marc Swanepoel said.

"Many of the environmental issues relate to property rights and problems occur in areas where property rights are not clearly defined," he said.

The foundation's approach was to establish clearly defined property rights and allow class actions when problems such as river or ocean pollution occurred.

A market orientated solution would give people access to courts rather than create a new environmental law, he said.

Although poverty was a problem in SA, communities could become involved in saving the environment. "People must see it is a viable way of life."

State wants grassroots approach on environment

(56)
ARC 3/3/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE government's long-awaited response to a President's Council report on an environmental management system will be published as a White Paper on March 22.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar yesterday said the government did not favour the creation of a "super department" along the lines of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Its approach, set out in the White Paper, was one of "co-operation, persuasion and devolution of practical administration to the lowest authority".

This included enlisting the support and co-operation of people at grassroots level, Mr Pienaar said.

He also announced that the recent CSIR report on hazardous waste was "receiving attention" and said his department would respond with another white paper "in due course".

He was speaking at a func-

tion to launch two publications billed as highly important for the greening of South African industry: *Environmental Management and Auditing — Guidelines for South African Managers* and *Suggested Guidelines for the Transportation and Disposal of Hazardous Waste*.

The second edition of *Environmental Management and Auditing* — completely rewritten after the first edition went through three print-runs — emphasises that sound environmental management makes good business sense.

It includes a chapter on environmental auditing, a business practice being adopted increasingly world-wide and case-studies showing how leading South African firms tackled environmental management problems.

A second document sets out concise guidelines for the transport and disposal of hazardous waste by South African companies, backed by a self-regulatory scheme under the auspices of the Institute of Waste Management.

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JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE directors of KWV will deposit R500 000 in a special account to be used exclusively for the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings at Groot Constantia, if draft legislation approved by the cabinet becomes law.

In terms of the legislation, to be considered soon by a committee of parliament, ownership of the historic estate will be transferred to a new Groot Constantia Trust.

KWV directors will constitute a mandatory majority on a 13-person board of trustees and will guarantee to top up the restoration-maintenance fund every year in which the estate doesn't generate adequate profits.

But a KWV spokesman said that while they had agreed to become the "financial backstop" for the proposed trust, they had not yet decided whether their directors would actually serve on the board of trustees.

"Most probably the present members (of the existing board of control) would be asked to stay on," he said.

The draft legislation, proposed by the board as a means of ending the State's financial responsibility for the estate, is opposed by the Western Cape region of the South African National Civics Association (Sanco).

Sanco spokesman Mr John Neels said they appreciated the motivation for the intended changes, but felt the process

was a "unilateral" move by the government. They believed the estate's future should be decided after full consultation with the public.

Mr Neels, who met Groot Constantia Board of Control chairman Mr Dawid de Villiers recently to discuss the proposal, said the estate had to be regarded as a regional and national asset for the benefit of all.

"We believe a consultative process inclusive of all major stakeholders should be instituted to determine the cultural and developmental future of Groot Constantia.

"In this manner an important piece of land, deeply part of our cultural history, would be placed in its true content and not in the hands of a few individuals who do not represent the broader spectrum of Capetonians."

Mr Neels noted that, since the appointment of the new board of control in 1988, revenue from wine sales had risen from R1,9 million to R4,1 million.

"The question is, how does this growth relate to the current metropolitan and regional growth management strategy?" he asked.

Groot Constantia should be linked to the economic development of the Western Cape region, and particularly to the redressing of existing socio-economic imbalances.

The state should "remain as an important, equal partner with other groups, taking part actively in discussion-making

processes", Mr Neels said.

The KWV spokesman declined to comment on Sanco's attitude.

"It's not for us to comment on any of the political discussions between the present board and the various role players," he said.

The KWV had "full confidence" in the viability of Groot Constantia as a wine-producing estate, he added.

Constantia MP Mr Roger Hulley said the principle of transferring the estate to a trust was acceptable providing access by the public was not affected.

"The framework (of the draft legislation) seems okay, but I would like clarity on some of the details," he said.

These included the mechanism of the estate reverting to the state if the trust was liquidated — the question of ownership of last resort — and how a representative from the Constantia community would be elected as a trustee.

"But I think the control board under Mr De Villiers has done a good job, so I don't intend any specific criticism at this stage — there may be perfectly adequate answers," Mr Hulley said.

In terms of the draft statute, the proposed Groot Constantia Trust will consist of founder members, donors and honorary members.

Founder members of the trust are the board of directors of the KWV and the first trustees.

The trust will be managed by a board of trustees of between five and 13 members, the majority of whom must be KWV directors.

They will be appointed for three years.

The director of the SA Cultural History Museum must be an ex officio trustee, as long as this organisation manages the museum on the estate, and at least one trustee must be a resident of Constantia.

Donor members of the trust are ordinary people, lawyers, companies, institutions and other bodies subscribing to the articles of the trust and paying a contribution determined by the board of trustees.

Honorary members may be elected by the trustees in recognition of their exceptional or outstanding service to Groot Constantia.

Affiliated members will consist of conservation, professional and/or educational bodies subscribing to the trust's articles and paying an individual annual fee, determined by the board of trustees.

Trustees can appoint patrons of the trust for any period.

Members can, at any time, appoint additional trustees provided the total does not exceed 13.

KWV to set aside
R1/2-million for
Groot Constantia

ARG 3/3/93 (58)

Star 5/3/93 (25a)
Kruger Park 'not farmland'

The ANC has denied suggestions that it wishes to carve up the Kruger National Park or any other protected natural area to satisfy the land hunger of its supporters. ANC spokesman Professor Stan Sangweni was commenting yesterday on a press reports that Derek Hanekom, the head of the ANC's land desk, had said his organisation was considering whether to turn part of the Kruger Park over to farming. (5b)



Lower pollution levels over city

Health Reporter

PHOTOCHEMICAL smog over Cape Town was not as bad last winter as the previous two years, the Cape Town medical officer of health's annual report says. *ARC 4/3/93*

"Early indications are that the winter of 1992 will not demonstrate worse pollution than 1990 and 1991.

"The weather has been less stable with the result that severe low-level inversions will be fewer in number," says the report.

The reduced levels of pollution have hampered a "brown haze study" by the Western Cape Branch of the National Association for Clean Air.

More rain needed to top up dams

STAR 5/3/93

(56)

[Handwritten signature]

By Shirley Woodgate

The levels of most major dams in the country remain critically low, despite late rains which have saved billions of rands in crops, according to the Department of Water Affairs.

Unless dam levels were boosted by considerable rains in their catchment areas, a bleak dry winter season lay ahead, said Water Affairs hydrology director Stefan van Biljon.

South African Agricultural Union economist Dr Koos du Toit said a large number of fruit and vegetable farmers who literally depended on irrigation for their crops had just come through a difficult period, and it was critical that they had a good winter season.

"If they have a crop failure because of lack of water, the consequences will naturally filter down to the consumers," he said.

Van Biljon said that although

the Blyde River in eastern Transvaal was overflowing and Graskop had experienced record rains last equalled in 1933, the giant Braam Raubenheimer dam was still less than a fifth full.

Further south, the Vaal Dam is still only 20 percent full, in spite of a regular boost from the Sterkfontein Dam. However, the Witwatersrand is experiencing excellent localised rain.

With less than a month to go before the end of the summer rainfall period, Van Biljon said, there was no evidence that major dams were filling up.

More downpours of 100 mm or more are needed to back up the already wet and, in some cases, saturated catchment areas to provide sufficient runoff to fill the reservoirs.

Du Toit said ideally, dam levels should be between 50 and 60 percent at the start of winter if there was to be a chance of granting normal watering quotas.

But western Transvaal dams are only 33 percent full, eastern

Transvaal dams 39 percent full and Vaal River dams 48 percent full.

Upper Orange River dams are only 28 percent full, eastern Cape dams 45 percent full and Natal 47 percent full.

Unless the current levels of major dams improved by the end of April when the last of the summer rains could be expected, farmers would have to be rationed to half their quotas or, at worst, no irrigation water at all, said Du Toit.

● Thousands of squatters in low-lying areas in northern Zululand are in danger of being washed away if heavy rains continue and rivers flood, reports The Star's Own Correspondent.

Defence Force spokesman Commandant Braam van Wyk said yesterday that pilots flying over the area had noticed squatters moving on to floodplains because of the drought.

However, recent heavy rain had swollen rivers and the squatters' lives would be in danger if flooding occurred.



Musa Zondi's

ROOTS

Soweto youths take the lead

(S6)
Soweto
5/3/93.

There are few things as gratifying and pleasing as seeing the youth take control of their lives and their future. It is even more so if they are charting territories that have been ignored before — territories that have always been looked at as the preserve of one group of a society or race.

On Wednesday this week I had the opportunity of speaking to a group of concerned people — if that is the right way of putting it — who are in charge of working with the youth.

These ladies from the Community Services Centre,

which falls under the Soweto Council, are trying to launch an environmental awareness campaign for 16 Soweto youth clubs from all the townships.

They have been asked by these young people to launch this programme. This is not something that they dreamed up out of the blue.

The programme they want to launch is ambitious — but, with tenacity and tact, it is bound to succeed.

Young people will be involved in running and taking part in clean-up campaigns. They will be given tasks of making parks around the areas where they stay.

They have to see to it that these parks are kept in a proper condition and well-looked after. They are looking at workshops to instil in these young people a sense of cleanliness and pride for their surroundings.

They are also looking at having these kids go out on camps to understand how human beings and nature relate — how we cannot survive if we do not take care of all the living things on this planet.

They are looking at workshops that will educate the youngsters and give them an environmental ethic.

A number of people have tried doing this with varying degrees of success. But it is very hard to measure success when something like this is involved.

But, as I emphasised to these ladies, these projects will succeed with proper consultation between all the parties involved. No matter how good suggestions are, if they are sent from the top, they are bound to fail.

275/3/93
**Oil emissions
'are very low'**

EMISSIONS from the Caltex oil refinery at Milnerton had been monitored but were very low in comparison with accepted health safety standards, Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter said yesterday.

The monitoring was carried out continuously, she said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr E K Moorcroft (DP, Albany). She said the monitoring was done by the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

Marine watch alert

The Cape Nature Conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) is gearing itself to protect the Cape's marine resources from over-exploitation to ensure its survival for future generations, says **WILLEM STEENKAMP**, Weekend Argus Reporter.

HUNDREDS of concerned volunteers, officials, members of the Defence Force and local authorities have banded together to launch a drive to preserve the Cape's marine resources.

They include 150 honorary marine nature conservation officers, 250 permanent conservation officers, traffic officers, beach constables and other officials from the different local authorities along the Cape coast in a bid to help protect marine life.

Cape Nature Conservation is working with the government to improve the marine environment and to ensure that the marine resources are protected from any further damage.

Director of the Cape Nature Conservation and in charge of Marine Conservation.

"It is of the utmost importance that we protect our resources and we have started appointing honorary marine conservation officials to help us patrol our coast and protect our sea life."

The volunteers have identity cards and work in pairs, liaising closely with the permanent marine conservation officers.

Says Dr Van Zyl: "The idea is to get the public involved in protecting our marine resources which also belong to them."

"We've already had excellent results, with a number of court cases pending against would-be poachers and other transgressors ought to book by our honorary marine conservation officials."

Dr Van Zyl said the CPA was working closely with other local authorities which had agreed to make their officials available to help protect marine life.

Cape Nature Conservation is on the verge of appointing a group of consultants to investigate the cost involved of replacing some of the older patrol boats that it has been using.

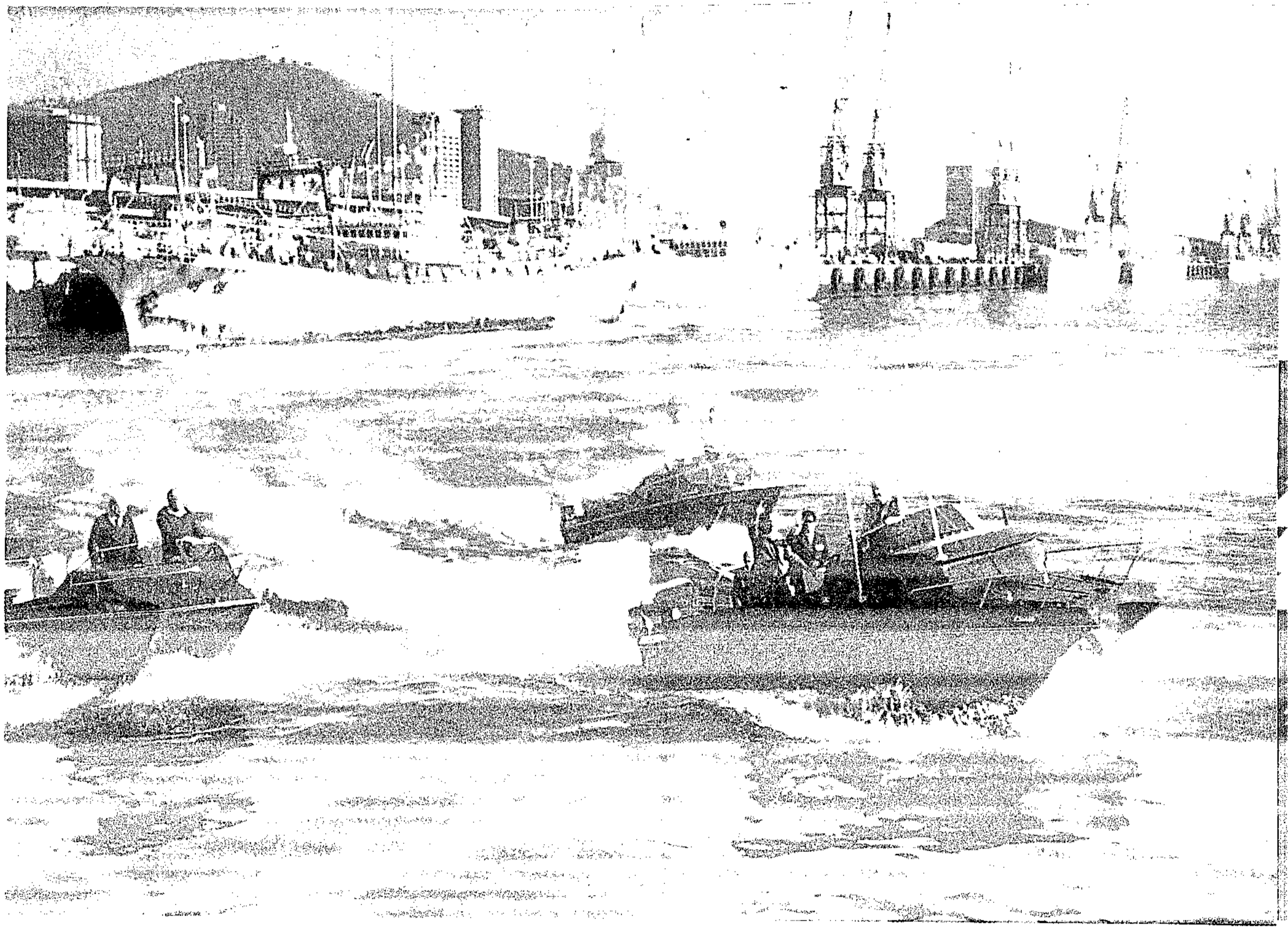
"We have seven large but old boats which are quite slow and some of these will, in all probability, have to go. But we also have about 25 smaller fast patrol boats to cover the coastline."

"I would like to see the South African Navy becoming more involved in patrolling our deeper waters, while we patrol shallower waters."

Dr Van Zyl said other nature conservation officers of the CPA would also be incorporated into protecting the marine environment. This should double the existing number of marine conservation officers to nearly 500.

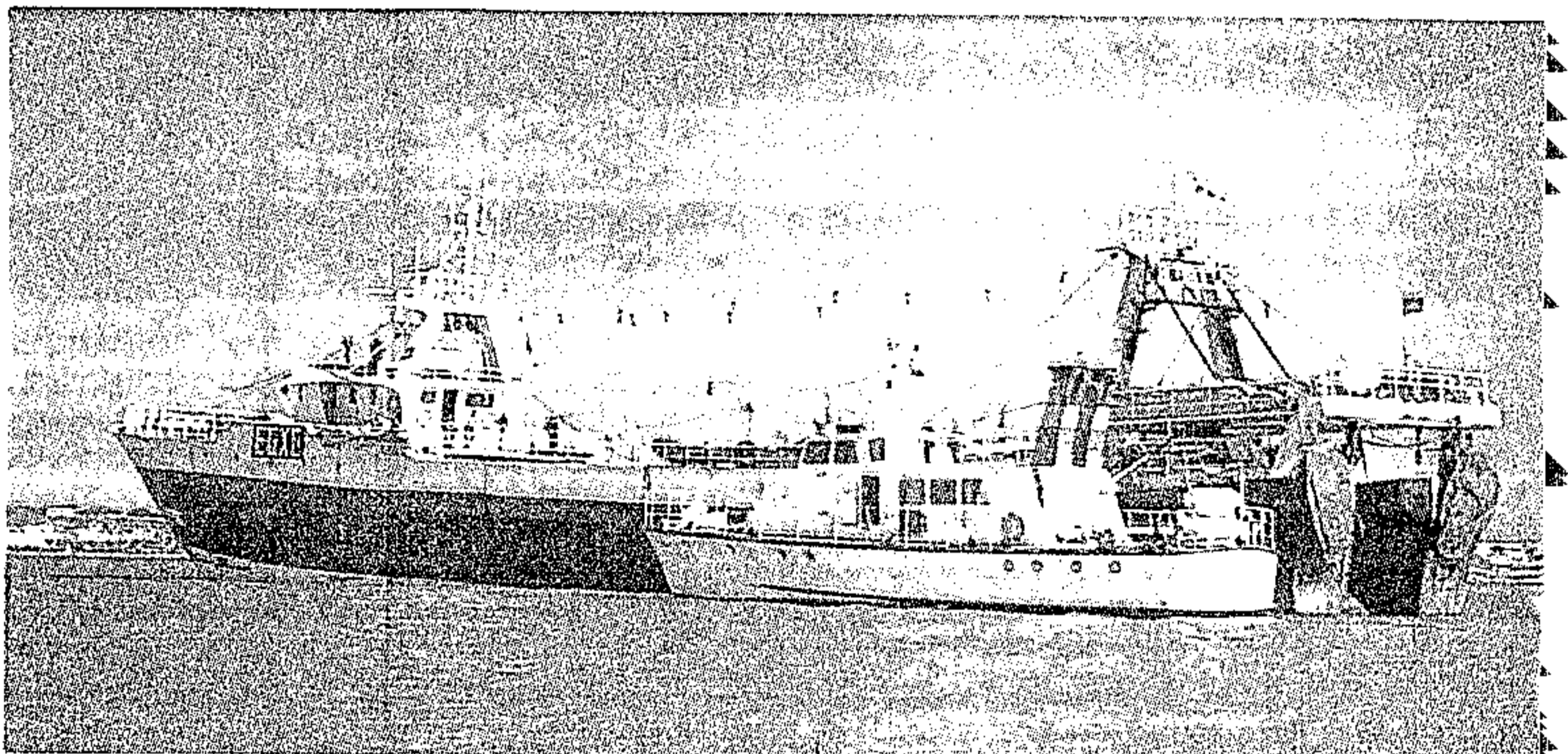
"I am positive we should be able to effectively control our marine resources."

"But I also want to warn would-be poachers and other transgressors that we will act against them with all the power and authority vested in us to ensure that our marine life is protected for future generations."



Guardians of Cape coastline are ready to act

POWERFUL DETERRENT: Three of Cape Nature Conservation's small but fast patrol boats used to protect the Cape's marine resources.



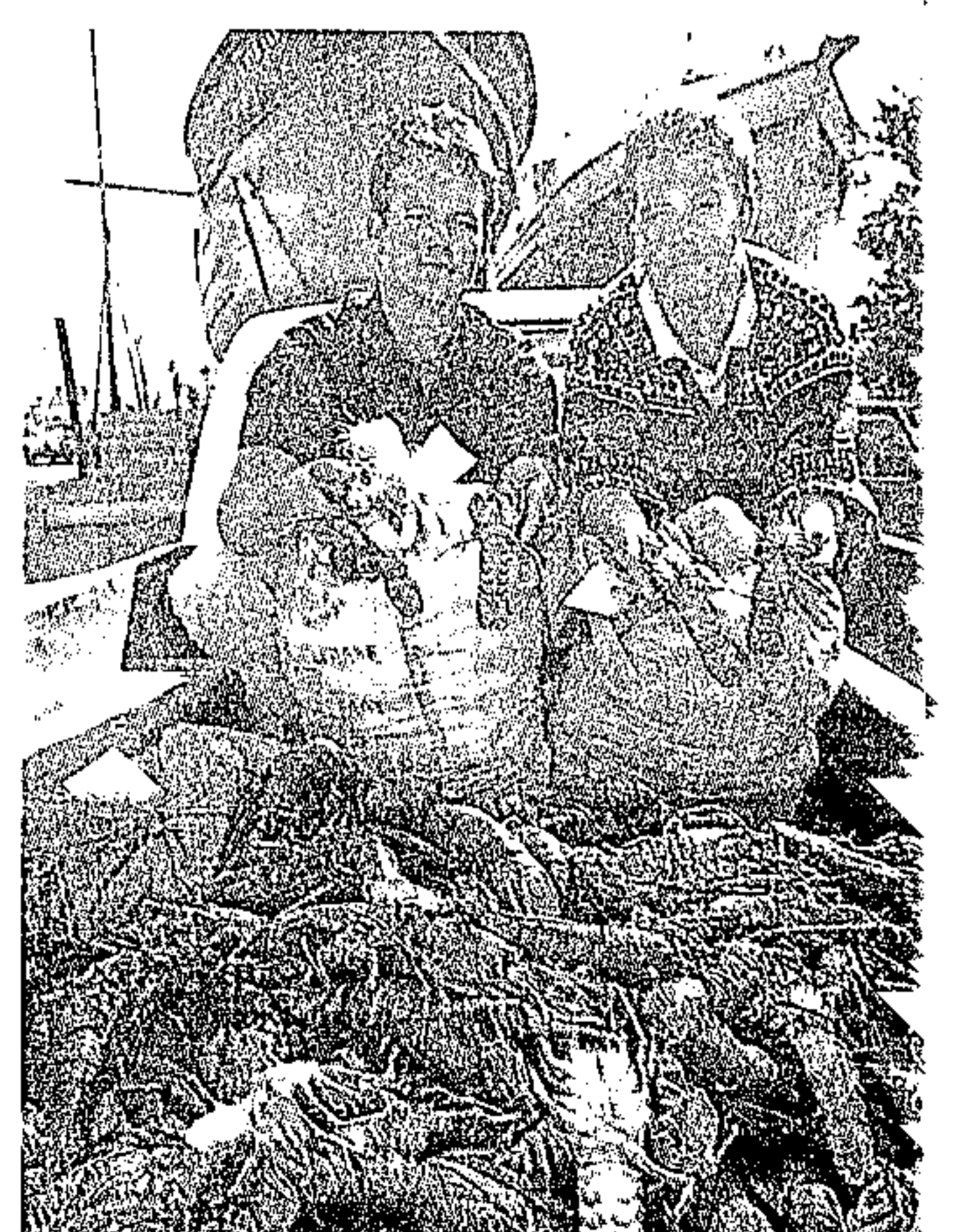
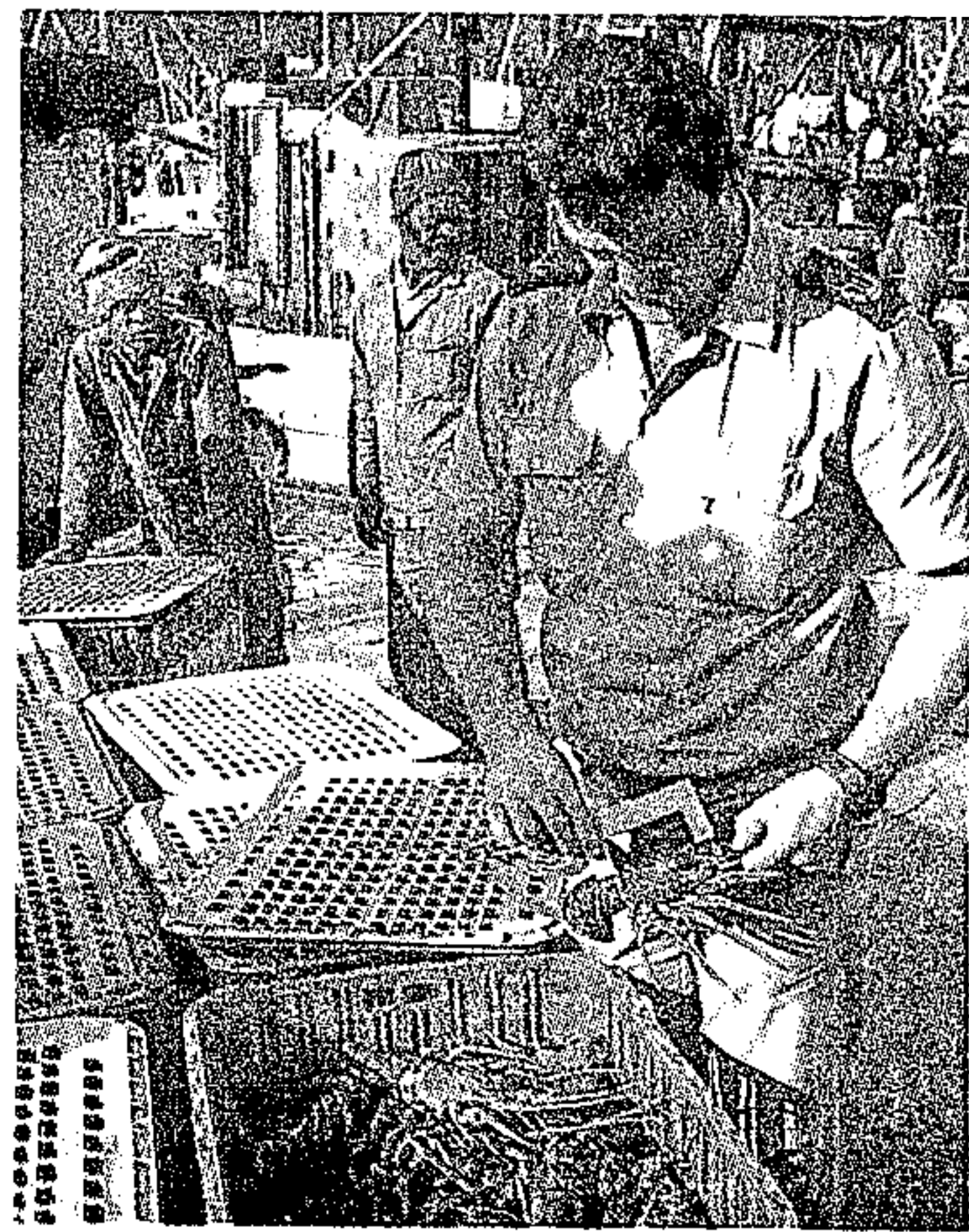
WATCH OUT! The Patella, above, one of Cape Nature Conservation's larger patrol vessels moves in on a large trawler to inspect its catch off the Cape coast.

□ □ □

SIZE COUNTS: A marine nature conservation officer, left, of the CPA inspects some of the crayfish landed at Hout Bay to ensure they are the legal size.

□ □ □

RED GOLD: A mass of crayfish, right, recently confiscated in Hout Bay by officials of Cape Nature Conservation.



New board plans for a blossoming Namaqualand

STimes (Cape Metro)

56

7/3/93.

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

THE first step towards a proposed holistic management plan for the Namaqualand wild-flower region has been taken with the formation of the Skilpad Wild-flower Reserve Advisory Board in Kamieskroon.

The board was formed this week.

This followed the expiry last month of a lease agreement with a tenant on the farm, Skilpad, which the South African Nature Foundation (SANF) had bought in 1988.

The board, comprising leading conservationists working in the area and conservation-conscious farmers, is to investigate ways of managing reserves in Namaqualand.

The Skilpad reserve will be managed by the community, unlike other reserves in the country which are run by local authorities.

Researchers from the University of Pretoria's botany department are to give advice on managing the reserve to produce the best possible flower displays.

The board hoped to determine how conservation farming could benefit farmers and flowers in the area, said Annelise le Roux, a research botanist with Cape Nature Conservation. The project would boost Namaqualand's eco-tourist industry.

Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959) during departmental trials, members were seriously warned against such actions and were made aware of the implications thereof on their careers. Furthermore, such inadmissible conduct is duly considered in the competence evaluation of such members.

Cellular telephones: introduction/licensing
116. Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

- (1) Whether any consideration has been given to the introduction and licensing of cellular telephones in South Africa; if not, why not; if so, (a) what systems are being considered and (b) (i) when and (ii) at what estimated capital cost will the system or systems decided upon be introduced;
- (2) whether the market will be deregulated in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the Post Office or Telkom is considering joint ventures or partnerships with any private companies; if not, why not; if so, with which companies;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B283E

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

- 1.1 At least two additional cellular licences will be granted to cellular operators in South Africa this year. Telkom has been operating a C450 analogue cellular service in South Africa for a number of years. Capacity on this network has virtually been depleted.
- 1.2 The Regulator has not indicated whether a uniform standard for cellular operations will be adopted by both operators. Telkom has indicated a strong preference for the digital GSM standard and indications are that the Telkom cellular consortium will be allowed to apply the GSM standard. Other standards which the Regulator may accept are the analogue standards TACS, AMPS and NMT. In the interest of the promotion

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

of trade and industry in Southern Africa it might be necessary to standardise.

- 1.3 If the GSM standard is used then all GSM telephones which have been licensed by any international accredited test house can be used without further testing in South Africa being necessary. In the case of analogue standards local testing of terminals might be necessary.

- 1.4 The capital cost of a network with a 250 thousand subscriber capacity and a 70% country coverage would be in the vicinity of R700 million.

- 1.5 It would take an estimated 1 year to install such a network from the time the Regulator allowed such an installation to begin.

The market will be deregulated on three fronts:

- 2.1 First of all there will be two cellular networks. Telkom has been allowed a 50% share in one network. The second network operator will be appointed by the Regulator after considering submissions to a tender in this regard.
- 2.2 In terms of the resale of air-time it is expected that there could well be other service providers appointed by both or either of the network operators.
- 2.3 In terms of the sale of cellular telephones there should be no barriers to entry. Any dealer or retailer may sell approved cellular telephones.

3. Telkom is considering joint ventures with other local and international partners. At this stage negotiations do not allow for the identification of these potential partners to be disclosed.

4. A press statement on the matter has already been made. Requests for tenders for the second licensee are expected before June 1993, as are the conditions of the two cellular licences.

Ecotourists: foreign exchange

139. Mr J CHOLÉ asked the Minister for Administration and Tourism:

- (1) (a) How many ecotourists from abroad visited the Republic in 1991 and 1992.

respectively, and (b) what percentage did such tourists represent of the total number of foreign tourists who visited the Republic in each of these years;

- (2) (a) what amount in foreign exchange did the Republic earn as a result of ecotourists in 1992 and (b) what 10 destinations, in order of importance, were the priority of the above-mentioned ecotourists in that year? B344E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND TOURISM:

- (1) In the international context there are various definitions of ecotourism. While none of these have to date been formally recognised as a standard definition they generally embrace experiences related to climate, scenic beauty, wildlife and ethnic cultures. As a result, it can be said that 66% of all overseas visitors were motivated by ecotourism to travel to South Africa. During 1991, 521 000 overseas visitors arrived of which 344 000 were motivated by ecotourism. For 1992, the figure is estimated to be

386 000 overseas arrivals who were motivated to visit the Republic by ecotourism. (The official arrival's figure for overseas visitors during 1992 must still be announced.)

- (2) According to a research study conducted during 1991, overseas visitors stated that they have spent an average of R4 900 per visit (excluding airfares) which indicates that the total income derived from ecotourism was approximately R1 686 m. An estimated income figure relating to ecotourism for 1992 comes to R2 421 m (excluding airfares).

The most important ecotourism destinations in the RSA have not been specified through research yet, but the 10 most frequently visited regions were Johannesburg; Cape Town; Durban/Umlanga; Eastern Transvaal; Pretoria; Garden Route; PE/East London; Natal South Coast; Bophuthatwana; Bloemfontein and Kimberley. These regions are listed in order of importance, although regular variations might appear amongst the last 5 regions.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Star 8/3/93

Toxic waste found in Midrand drain

By Julienne du Toit

on February 28.

(56)

A chemical company in Midrand, Delta G Scientific, has been found to be releasing toxic effluent into a stormwater drain, the Department of Water Affairs and Earthlife Africa (ELA) have announced.

According to ELA spokesman for Midrand, Bob Sugrue, a stream of foul-smelling waste water was found flowing down a stormwater drain.

The ELA contacted the Department of Water Affairs' deputy director of water quality and pollution management, Dewald Steyn, and an inspector was sent out.

Water samples were taken and traced back to the source, Delta G Scientific, on the corner of Old Pretoria and George roads.

According to the department, the water did not com-

ply with the general standard for effluent with regard to, among others, phenols.

The company had admitted to the department that it had been having problems.

The department said it was considering legal steps against the factory because it had contravened its permit requirements as well as section 21 of the Water Act of 1956.

The effluent was flowing along the Old Pretoria Road

to the wetland area in Midrand.

ELA said the phenols issuing from Delta G Scientific could be hundreds of times above the general effluent standard of 0,1 mg per litre.

Sugrue said phenols were highly toxic substances. Some of their derivatives had been described by researchers as being carcinogenic.

No representative of the company could be reached for comment.

Star 8/31/93

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No representative of the company could be reached for comment.

Tourism 'pays more than farming'

8/1/93 8/3/93
MARITZBURG — A recent study has shown that ecotourism generates 58 times more money than cattle-farming, says DP environment spokesman Rupert Lorimer.

Lorimer was reacting to a reported statement by ANC land spokesman Derek Hanekom — since denied — that the organisation was considering farming cattle in the Kruger National Park.

Lorimer said an experiment in the Limpopo area had shown that an annual R12 profit was made a hectare with cattle farming. This was contrasted with the money made by the Sabi-Sands ecotourist resort, which generated R700 a hectare.

Referring to a project which had been undertaken in Bophuthatswana, Lorimer said it had been shown that 80 jobs were generated by cattle farming and 1 200 by ecotourism.

Ecotourism was the most sustainable

and one of the most profitable forms of land use, and should be seriously considered by a future SA government.

Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said he could "hardly believe his ears" when he heard the ANC's suggestion.

The suggestion was totally without reason as the Kruger Park was in fact making a profit. "To want to use the Kruger Park for farming is to kill the goose which lays the golden egg."

The private ecotourism industry around the park was a multimillion-rand investment which created tens of thousands of jobs, Pienaar said.

He said 90% of foreign tourists came to SA to experience the wealth of its natural environment.

For every 11 new tourists, one job was created in the tourism industry and two more in supporting industries. — Sapa.

Eco-tourists spent R2,4bn

ECO-TOURISM brought an estimated R2 421 million into South Africa last year, excluding airfares, the Minister of Tourism, Dr Org Marais, said yesterday.

CT 9/3/93
It was estimated that 386 000 visitors were motivated to come to South Africa by eco-tourism, he said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr Joseph Chirole (CP, Pretoria West).

Dr Marais said there were various definitions of eco-tourism and none had yet been formally referenced, although they generally embraced experiences related to climate, scenic beauty, wildlife and ethnic cultures.

"It can be said that 66% of all overseas visitors were motivated by eco-tourism to travel to South Africa.

"For 1992, an estimated 386 000 overseas visitors were motivated by eco-tourism to visit the Republic.

"An estimated income figure relating to eco-tourism that year comes to R2 421 million, excluding airfares," he said.

56
The fourth most important region cited by tourists — after Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban — was the Eastern Transvaal, where the Kruger National Park is, Dr Marais said.

Removal of alien⁵⁶ trees is CT 9/3/93 'madness'

THE history of non-indigenous trees on Devil's Peak which are being removed to make way for fynbos was discussed at a recent amenities and health committee meeting at the request of Sea Point councillor Mr Chris Joubert.

Mr Joubert was reacting on behalf of a constituent, Dr Jan S Marais, who has been involved in a long-standing fight with "the powers that be" regarding what he calls "fynbos madness".

In papers tabled at the meeting, he said: "An infinite number of beautiful old shade trees have been recklessly chopped down because they are not indigenous and because there is a crowd of 'fynbos mad' propagandists".

Research

In a report, City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said the Devil's Peak plantings were completed in 1877 to "increase the water retaining capacity of the soil to ensure a steady flow into the Disa stream", from which Cape Town received most of its water supply.

He said: "Modern research has shown that trees in fact have the opposite effect and considerably reduce stream flow.

"Because of this and the need to conserve the fynbos, these trees were removed from 1985 to 1987. Subsequent to the removal of these pines not only has the fynbos recovered exceptionally well but *Priestleya laevigata*, long absent from Table Mountain, has made a reappearance."

In 1930 large portions of the Devil's Peak and Table Mountain plantation had been abandoned because of lack of economic return. As a result of this, fire control measures lapsed and several totally destroyed the plantations, he explained.

"Because the species used were fire-stimulated, dense jungles of wattle and pines developed which were also actively spreading into surrounding fynbos. This created an extremely high fire hazard."

He said that although the existing policy of the council was to remove alien trees, no mature trees except gums — which cause severe erosion — will be felled in areas under the control of the Cape Town City Council.

Re-infestation of young trees will be removed.

Eco-tourists spend R2,5 bn in S Africa

ECO-TOURIST destinations had drawn an estimated 386 000 overseas visitors last year who spent an estimated R2 521 million in South Africa, Administration and Tourism Minister Dr Org Marais said in parliament.

In a written reply to a question by Mr Joseph Chiole (CP, Pretoria West), he said eco-tourism generally embraced climate, scenic beauty, wildlife and ethnic cultures.

It could therefore be said that 66 percent of all overseas visitors were prompted by eco-tourism to travel in South Africa.

Of the 521 000 foreign visitors in 1991, 344 000 were concerned with eco-tourism, spending about R168 million in this country.

Last year an estimated 386 000 overseas arrivals were eco-tourists, spending R2 421 million, excluding their air fares.

Johannesburg, Cape Town and the Durban/Umhlanga area were the top three eco-tourist destinations. — Sapa.

New (56)
pollution
control laws

BIDAY
9/3/93
MARIANNE MERTEN

THE Environmental Affairs Department is considering comprehensive legislation for pollution control in SA, says a statement from the department.

The study would, for the first time, provide SA with legislation reflecting a holistic, integrated pollution control policy, the department's environment protection director Koos Stander said.

The study's planning and management phase was awarded on tender to L & W Environmental, who have begun structuring the steering committee and determining expert advisers, work teams and workshops.

Phase one of the study would be completed by mid-year, assistant project manager and co-ordinator Margaret Rawicz said yesterday.

A consultation process with industry representatives and institutions such as the Chamber of Mines and other interested parties would follow the initial planning phase, but the department had not yet awarded tenders for the consultation process.

Department deputy director, pollution control, Willem Scott said the aim of the study was to develop an integrated pollution control policy.

At present there were a number of departments dealing with different aspects of pollution.

Panel will seek to prevent violence

B/DAY 9/13/93
 THE Goldstone commission would convene a panel of SA experts to investigate ways of preventing violence during a national election, commission chairman Judge Richard Goldstone said yesterday.

He called on government, police, church, welfare and political organisations as well as "relevant university departments" to furnish the commission with written submissions by the end of May.

The panel would consist of SA experts. "Appropriate international experts will also be consulted and will be requested to act with the local panel," he said.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus yesterday welcomed the investigation, but added that it needed to "cover the full spectrum and take into consideration the role of elements of the security forces in violence".

Goldstone said the investigation would look into the:

- "Rules of conduct and procedure, including policing and security, which should apply in order to curb public violence and intimidation" prior to the election;
- Effect of the period during which elections would take place on public violence and intimidation;
- Location of polling stations;
- Security and policing of polling stations;
- Conduct and procedures relating to the counting of votes; and
- Role of government, police and the international community in preventing violence during an election.

"The commission hopes that this inquiry, apart from any other purpose, will in effect be a consultation with all the people of SA in order to ascertain their fears, con-

RAY HARTLEY
 cerns and wishes with regard to possible public violence and intimidation in a forthcoming national election," he said.

The investigation would also "educate the public of SA with regard to political tolerance", he added.

Meanwhile, ADRIAN HADLAND reports from Pretoria that the Goldstone commission today resumes its investigation into attacks on members of the police force.

An SAP spokesman said 28 policemen had been killed since the end of last year taking the total to almost 300 since early 1991.

In evidence led before the commission earlier this year, Brig Stefanus Abrie said most of the policemen had been killed while off duty.

"Despite efforts by the SAP to make itself more acceptable to all interested parties, attacks on the security forces still occurred to an increasing degree," Abrie told the commission.

The rising number of police deaths had happened regardless of multilateral and bilateral agreements or the national peace accord, he said.

During 1992, a total of 2 146 politically motivated incidents had been aimed at the security forces claiming the lives of 135 SAP members and injuring 353, he said.

Abrie said it was clear that a "deep-rooted distrust" existed towards the police especially among the young at grassroots level. It was important the police were removed from the political arena as far as possible, he added.

ANC parks statement ridiculed

CAPE TOWN — Political parties yesterday slated ANC land spokesman Derek Hanekom's statement that sections of SA's national parks should be used for agricultural purposes. *B/DAY 9/13/93*

Speaking in Parliament, NP MP Lampie Fick said Hanekom's statement was "unbelievable".

The Kruger National Park was considered one of the world's foremost parks.

He said it was reassuring that some ANC leaders had distanced themselves from the sentiment.

DP environment spokesman Rupert Lorimar said the statements were "disgraceful, stupid and irresponsible".

The Kruger Park justified its existence a thousand times over as a result of the foreign tourists it brought to SA and the employment opportunities it provided.

The ANC yesterday restated its position that conservation land needed to be protected and was thus the least likely category to be considered for redistribution.

TIM COHEN

It said Hanekom had put forward a personal view. "This is not the policy of the ANC." *(56)*

However, it stressed that the park would continue to be treasured as part of the national heritage.

Our Political Staff reports from Cape Town that Tourism Minister Org Marais yesterday said ecotourism brought an estimated R2,42bn into SA last year, excluding air fares.

It had been estimated that 386 000 visitors were motivated to come to the Republic by ecotourism, he said in reply to a question in Parliament by Mr Joseph Chirole (CP Pretoria West).

"During 1991, 521 000 visitors arrived of which 344 000 were motivated by ecotourism.

During 1991, visitors spent an average of R4 900 per visit, and this indicated that income derived from ecotourism was about R1,68bn.

New (56)
pollution
control laws

8/10/93
9/3/93
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At present there were a number of departments dealing with different aspects of pollution.

St Lucia report ready for public scrutiny soon

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

ARG 10/3/93 (56)

COPIES of the St Lucia environmental impact report — billed as the most comprehensive assessment yet done in southern Africa — will be available for public scrutiny from next Thursday.

The report, which assesses the proposal by Richards Bay Minerals to mine sand dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia for heavy metals such as titanium, will be available in the Cape Town municipal library and in research libraries at the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and the Western Cape.

A Department of Environment Affairs spokesman said the full report was being sent to 13 organisations identified as "key interested and affected parties", while another 130 would receive a 30-page summary report.

The public's response to the report was an important phase of the overall investigation and any comment should reach the secretariat before May 14, he said.

A record of this comment and responses from Richards Bay Minerals and the consultants would be available from July 14 to August 2.

"At the same time a rural liaison programme continues to be conducted in the St Lucia area, to inform and to obtain the opinion of isolated or illiterate people," he said.

The environmental report, comment and responses will be considered at a series of review panel hearings in early August.

The five panel members are Professor Charles Breen, director of the Institute for Natural Resources, Natal University; Mrs Sybil Hotz, deputy chairman of Durban city council's management committee; the Honourable Mr Ramon Leon, retired Supreme Court judge and chancellor of Natal University; Professor Harriet Ngubane of UCT's Social Anthropology department; and Professor Ramanalal Soni, rector of the M L Sultan Technikon in Durban.

The procedure for taking part in the review panel hearings would be announced later, the spokesman said.

The review panel was expected to make its recommendations in early September, and these would be forwarded to the Cabinet for a final decision.

● Comments on the impact report can be sent to the EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services, P O Box 395, Pretoria, 0001.

to exercise his or her right to remain silent or not to testify.

These proposed rights of an accused, read with the other rights contained in clause 26 of the charter which should guarantee a fair trial, are merely a confirmation of the care applied by our judicial officers in order to assure that justice prevails in all cases. These rights are, as a matter of fact, more comprehensive than those in most existing charters.

The hon member will agree with me that it costs money to grant an accused legal representation in a criminal trial. It is calculated that, in order to supply legal representation for each of the 684 246 accused persons who appeared without legal representation in the courts during 1992, an amount of R557 009 140 would have been needed. In this regard the Government has done everything in its power to render assistance and has, as a matter of fact, given more assistance than it initially undertook to do. Since the 1990-91 financial year the contribution by the State to the budget of the Legal Aid Board has increased by 38,7% to R56 514 000 for the 1992-93 financial year. This increased contribution is largely responsible for the increase of 49% since 1990 in the number of accused persons who have enjoyed legal representation. The hon member will further agree with me that given the prevailing economic climate it cannot be expected of the State alone to contribute in this regard. In an effort to involve the private sector the State undertook to contribute on a rand-to-rand basis to the establishment of a reserve fund out of which contingency commitments could be settled. This, however, did not realize since no significant contributions were forthcoming from the private sector. I am however of the opinion that it is absolute necessary for the private sector to assist the Legal Aid Board in this regard as well.

In the final instance I would like to refer to the system of the public defender. At my request the Legal Aid Board launched an investigation into the establishment of a public defender system. A pilot project, the funds for the implementation and operation of which are provided by the State, was launched on 2 January 1992 in Johannesburg. Two senior public defenders and eight public defenders were appointed (three advocates and

seven attorneys). To date 2 930 applications for legal assistance in the Johannesburg district and regional courts have been received by the Office for the Public Defender, in respect of which a total of 2 326 were successful.

The project would appear to be a success and several requests have been made for the extension of the project throughout the country. It is furthermore evident that in order to render a more effective service in Johannesburg, the number of public defenders in Johannesburg would at least have to be doubled. In order to expand the project on a national basis and to appoint the necessary public defenders, it is estimated that a further R50 million will be needed from the Treasury. In the prevailing economic circumstances these funds are just not available. The pilot committee is, however, convinced that everything possible must be done to ensure that the project is continued and even extended.

The pilot committee meets regularly and several options are under investigation to obtain funds and assistance from elsewhere. The following may serve as examples:

- (a) Negotiations are under way with several organizations and institutions, including organizations from abroad, in order to obtain funds. These negotiations have not yet been finalised and their outcome is unknown.
- (b) In an effort to provide more indigent people with legal aid, it was decided to involve candidate-attorneys and advocates undergoing pupillage in the activities of the Office. The first group of candidate attorneys started on 1 March 1993. No expenses are involved in this project for the Legal Aid Board (or the State). This project also serves to provide both candidate-attorneys and advocates with invaluable experience in the criminal courts.

New questions:

Air pollution: Eastern Transvaal

*1. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of National Health:†

- (1) Whether steps are being taken to combat

air pollution (a) on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and (b) in the vicinity of metal smelting works in this area; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

- (2) what are the names of the smelting works concerned? B239E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes, all scheduled industries and metallurgical plants are fully equipped with air pollution control equipment. All industries and plants are monitored on a regular basis by the Department of National Health and Population Development and they have to submit written monthly reports to the Department. There are several ambient air pollution monitoring stations in the area and all the measured pollution concentrations are below any health hazardous levels;

- (2) Davsteel Cullinan
Consolidated Metallurgical Industries
Lydenburg
Vanadium Technologies Steelpoort
Tubatse Ferrochrome Steelpoort
Ferralloys Machadodorp
Columbus Stainless Steel Middelburg
Middelburg Ferrochrome
Transvaal Alloys Middelburg
Thos Begbie Middelburg
Ferrometals Witbank
Highveld Steel Witbank
Rand Carbide Witbank
Transalloys Witbank
Vantra Witbank.

*Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to know from her whether she has any knowledge of the situation at the PMC mine in Phalaborwa, where copper poisoning has taken place to such an extent that even animals in the game park have died. Is she aware of this and what are they going to do about this situation?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member can ask me a question on Phalaborwa. However, I was not given any information on Phalaborwa because this question was specifically about the Eastern Transvaal.

†Mr H J COETZEE: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is

she aware that the old mining shafts have now filled up after much rain, and that that water is now running into the Olifants River and polluting it?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I am sorry, but that question does not concern air pollution. It is about water pollution.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Farms/land near Hazzyview/Rust der Winter/Eshowe: future

*2. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:†

- (1) Whether his Department has bought farms in the vicinity of Hazzyview from certain persons, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) what farms, (b) from whom and (c) what steps does his Department envisage in respect of these farms;
- (2) what steps does his Department envisage in respect of the (a) sugar farms in the vicinity of Eshowe, Natal, that were previously managed by the South African Development Trust Corporation and (b) pieces of land at Rust der Winter which are owned by his Department? B241E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

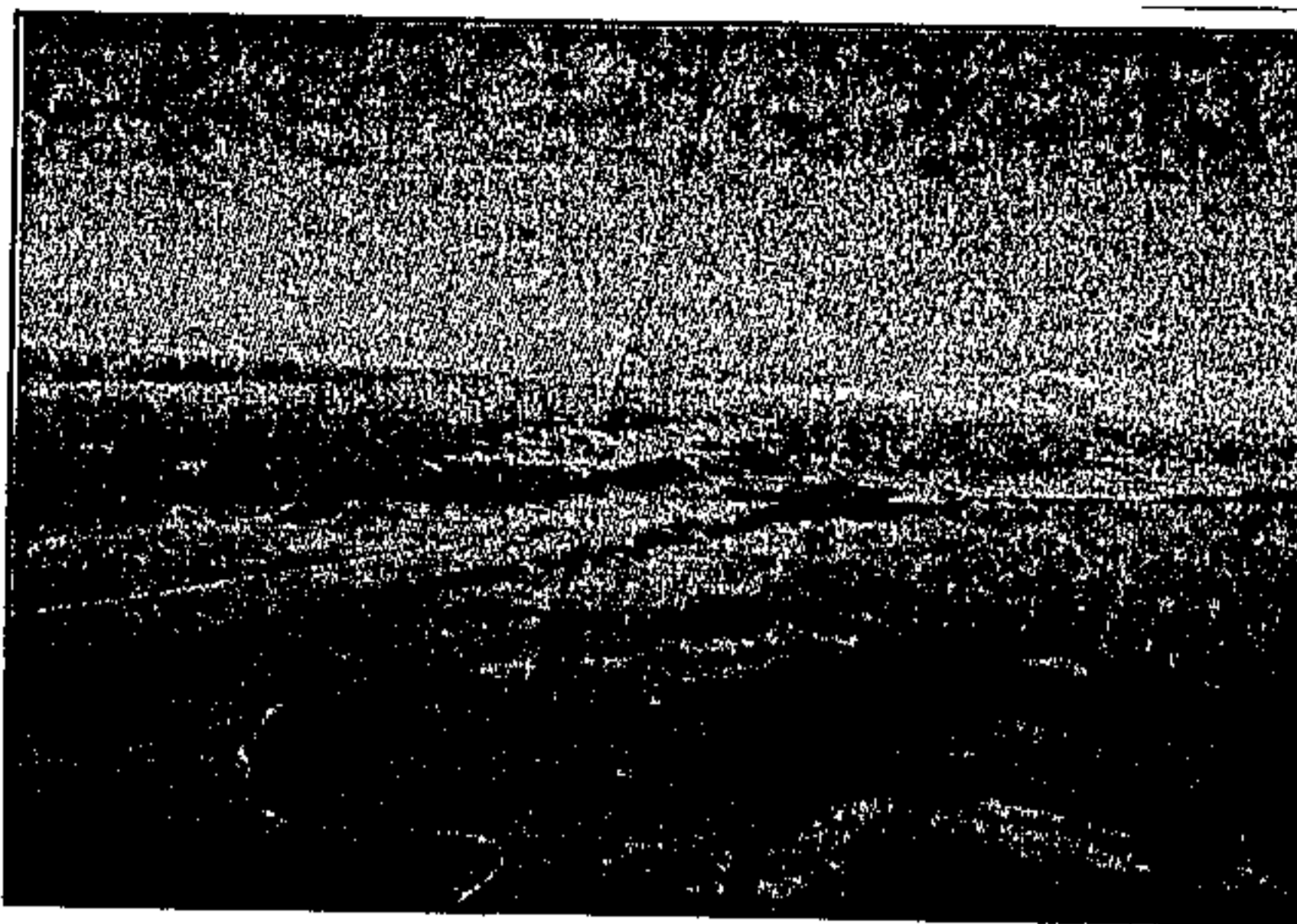
- (1) (a) Burgerhall 21 JU
- (b) (i) Remainder of Portion 8: D G P Malan
- (ii) Portion 76: JFLabuschagne
- (iii) Portion 77: Luwelly's Investments (Pty) Ltd
- (iv) Portions 115 and 92: San Coto-na Investments CC
- (v) Portion 122: J P von Landsberg
- (vi) Remaining Extent: L Kotze
- (c) The Department of Agriculture is at present in collaboration with Agrivane investigating the possibility of other than horticultural utilization of the land.

Mining sand dunes

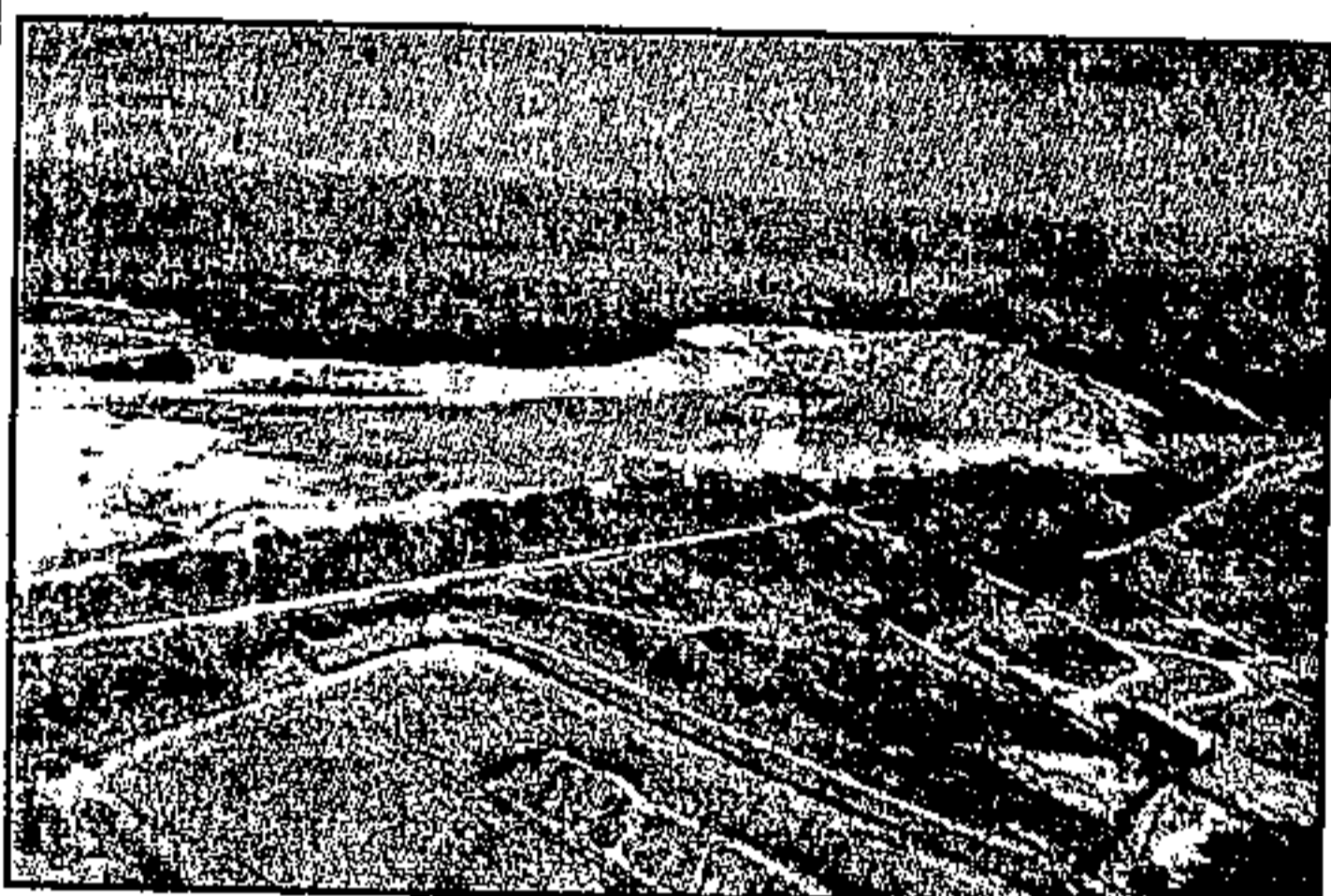
A before and after scenario

DUNE ROW

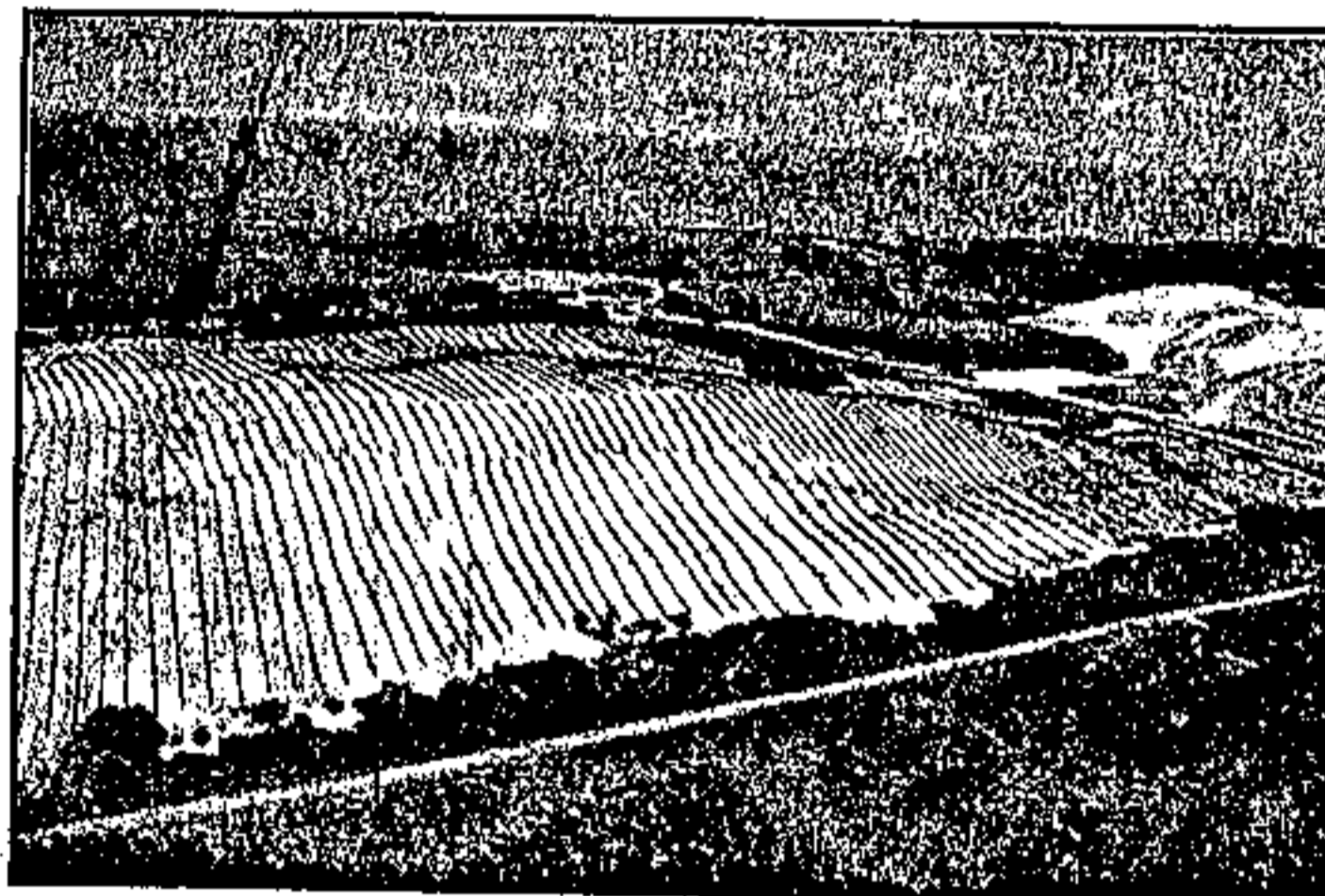
The St Lucia saga raises its head once more, as the most expensive, extensive and detailed environmental impact assessment yet in South Africa's history is about to be released. Science Writer ANITA ALLEN looks at the process of dune mining, to give you a chance to make up your own mind.



St Lucia today . . . the wetlands (right) and the dunes that Richard's Bay Minerals proposes to mine (the area closest to the sea).



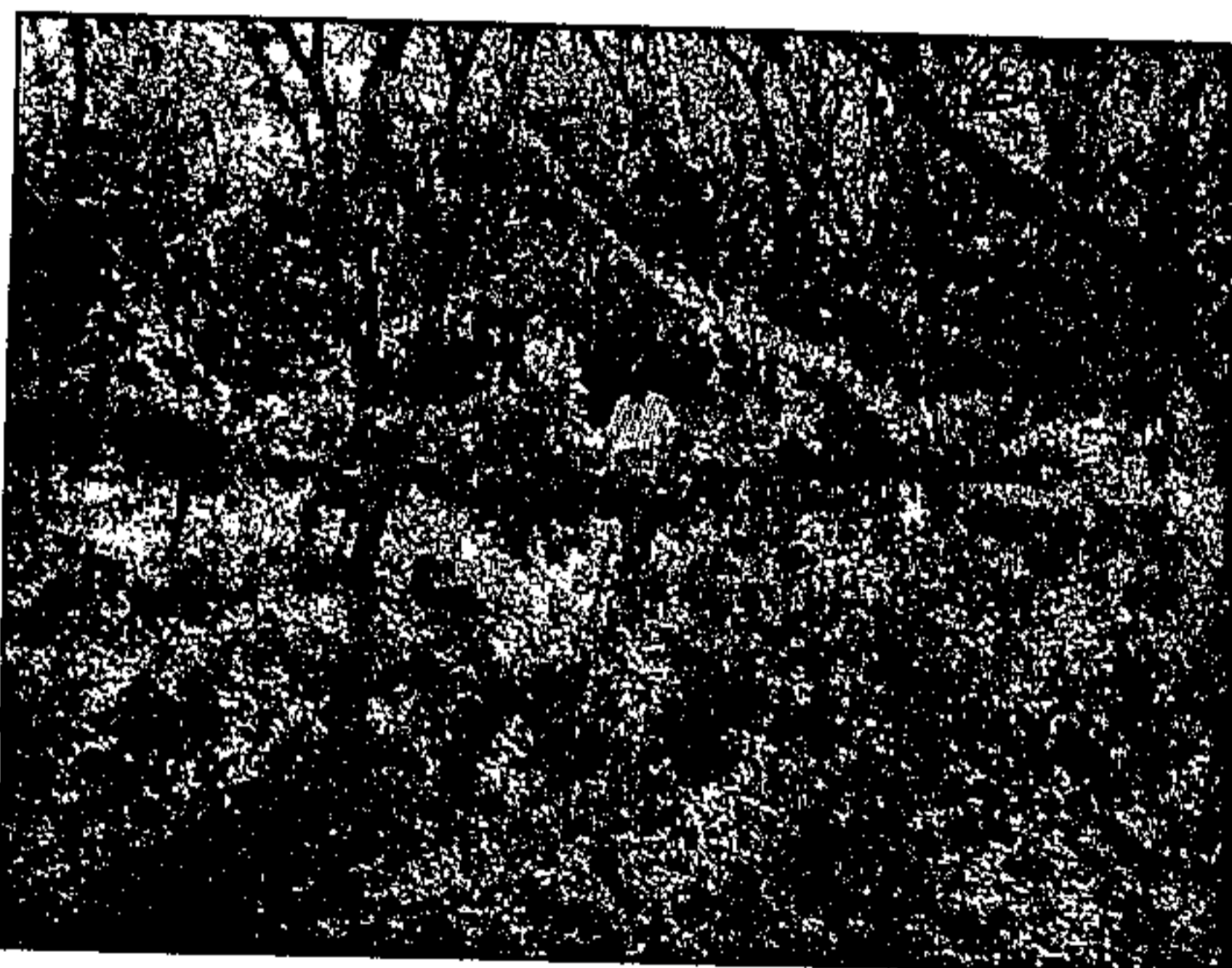
How the process works . . . at an earlier mining site in northern Natal, a dredger eats away at the dune (right) while bulldozers sculpt a new dune in its wake (left).



Vegetation teams move in . . . original top soil and seed are spread across the re-shaped dune and windbreaks are planted.



Progress . . . a replanted dune five years after re-vegetation began.



End result . . . the mining area — 14 years after the dredgers moved in — sports a tree canopy and lush vegetation. Pictures: John Ledger

TO dig or not to dig — the St Lucia saga is a mine of misinformation, dogged by controversy, and much wasted ink spilt in trading insults. But the issue moves into a new and important phase next week, when the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposed mining activities on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia is sent to all 13 interested and affected parties on March 18.

Copies will be available at centres nationwide, including public libraries, and the public will be invited to comment.

The process of dune mining as practised by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has been developed in trials over the years. At St Lucia it involves 1500 ha, which RBM proposes to mine 50 ha at a time.

First, all existing vegetation is cleared and the top soil, with its mix of seeds, is set on one side. Then bulldozers create a pond into which water is pumped and a dredger is floated on the water.

At its front end, buckets eat away at the dune and pass the sand to a separator floating be-

hind. Here the heavy metallic sand — the black sand one finds on many South African beaches — which forms about four percent of the sand of a dune, is separated and trucked out to the smelter. The remaining slurry fills in the pond behind the dredger.

When this sand has dried out, it is "sculptured" into the profile of the dune as it originally existed.

The vegetation teams move in and replace the original top soil with its original seeds, plus a cocktail of added seeds which include quick-growing annual grasses and acacias.

SG Challenge

Windbreaks made of shade cloth are then set up and the area is left to recover. Eventually bird-carried and wind-blown seeds from adjacent areas, which act as a source of original vegetation, are brought in. The acacias form a canopy which attracts bird life.

"Of course one can never recreate the dune as it was," says John Ledger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust. "Humans

are changing the environment, but it need not be detrimental."

With South Africa's population expected to double in the next 25 years, the priority will be economic growth and job creation.

"This will create enormous pressure on the environment," says Ledger, "and the public needs to be geared up to cope."

The St Lucia EIR will provide a logical way of prioritising the decision-making process to develop or not to develop. Ledger talks about win-win solutions, where the goals of developers and environmentalists are addressed in a spirit of mutual concern. This elusive spirit is the real challenge of St Lucia.

"The St Lucia controversy is a crucial test of the ground rules to resolve conflicts between development and the environment. Its outcome will influence Government policy, and establish standards by which future environmental issues will be judged," says Ledger.

Next week's report will also be a reference point for the public debate which will then begin.

Star 10/3/93

Profits plus ecology makes good business

Sound environmental management makes good business sense, say authors Di Soutter and Dave Mohr in their new book. *ARG 6/3/93*

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

ACTION by managers to reduce their company's impact on the environment is both eco-friendly and makes good business sense.

That's the message from specialist consultants and MBA graduates Di Soutter and Dave Mohr in an updated version of their book, *Environmental Management And Auditing — Guidelines For South African Managers*.

Prepared for the Southern African Nature Foundation and endorsed by the Department of Environment Affairs, the first edition was a runaway success, selling out three print runs.

However, the revised version, released this week, is a much more comprehensive

document, said Ms Soutter at the launch.

"This book doesn't concentrate only on environmental auditing, which was the focus of the first edition.

"That used to be the buzz word, but it's changing everywhere. Around the world, the focus is broadening and auditing is now just one element of an environmental management system."

The first edition was produced in response to a need by the South African business community to react to the world-wide trend which saw "green" issues becoming business issues, said Ms Soutter.

"At that time, I think business tended to be fairly reactive and ad hoc in its response — a lot was being done, but not in a structured way as far as environmental management was concerned. So, it's not surprising the first guidelines attracted so much interest."

The authors thought "very hard" about the second edition before deciding on a comprehensive re-write.

"There were two factors which persuaded us. Firstly, we really wanted this document to reflect the changes and progress that had been

made, to update the profiles of the leading companies.

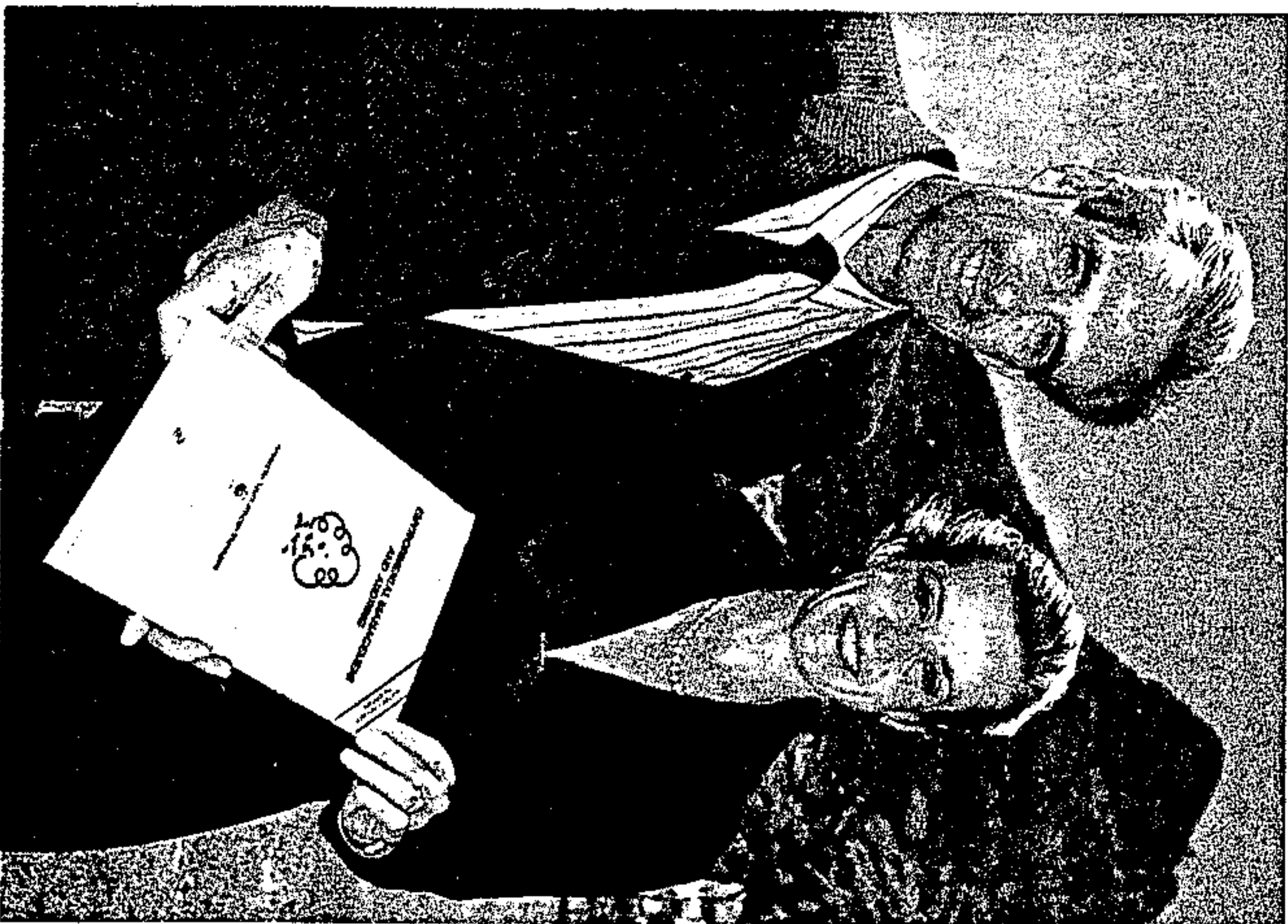
"Also, working as full-time consultants in the field, we had gained so much experience we wanted to share that.

"So, what we've tried to do is write very practical, down-to-earth guidelines for business. The average businessman who today says: 'I recognise this is an important issue, I want to be responsible, but how do I go about it? What do I need to do?' That's really where this book is aimed."

The book suggests the best approach to sound environmental management is to start by setting policy.

"And policy is public — it's something anyone can have a look at and we would push for as much public disclosure as possible," said Mr Mohr.

"Obviously, business is hesitant to go the whole hog straight off — they want to do it piece by piece. But, in the companies with which we're working, we've got the feeling there's a lot of goodwill, a lot of ethical responsibility which is also there, apart from (environmental management) making good business sense.



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, Weekend Argus.
ECO PROFITS: Authors Di Soutter and Dave Mohr

DP national monument call for Table Mountain

079/3/93 Political Staff

(56)

TABLE MOUNTAIN should be declared a national park and administered by a single authority such as the National Parks Board, DP environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said yesterday.

Speaking in a debate on a private member's motion on the environment, he said Table Mountain and the Peninsula chain should also be declared a national heritage site.

He said Table Mountain had cultural, biological and ecological importance and its eco-system should be preserved.

National park idea for Table Mountain

(S) APR 9/3/93

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

TABLE MOUNTAIN could be given national park status without the National Parks Board having to manage it, parliament was told.

Announcing the March 22 release date for a White Paper on the government's proposals for a national environment management system, the outgoing Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said the procedure of designating national parks should be re-assessed.

Speaking during the debate on a private member's motion on the environment, he said the National Parks Board (NPB) was presently responsible for designating national parks.

He said: "It is my opinion we should move away from the point of view that only the NPB can designate a national park."

This would allow national park status to be granted to an area such as Table Mountain despite the fact that the NPB was not interested in managing it.

Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said Table Mountain and the Peninsula mountain chain should be declared both a national park and World Heritage site and should be administered

by a single authority such as the National Parks Board.

He said Table Mountain was a national asset of great natural, cultural and aesthetic importance and should enjoy the highest form of protection.

He also believed that there should be central government control over environmental protection and co-ordination in a future dispensation. Environmental issues crossed political boundaries and poor management in one area could have an enormously adverse effect in another.

Mr Pienaar said his department was already engaged in strategic planning to achieve the goals set out in the White Paper.

Full details would be released on March 22.

Mr Pienaar said the proposals encompassed:

- Development of a national policy on all relevant matters;
- Environmental auditing;
- Co-ordination between government bodies to achieve cohesion of purpose;
- Support for positive initiatives by the private sector; and
- Creation of environmental awareness among all sectors of society.

The future of St Lucia featured prominently in the debate.

ANC 'No' on St Lucia

THE Campaign for St Lucia has welcomed an African National Congress statement that the Government should not take any decision on the St Lucia dune mining issue. (56) (217)

The campaign also called on the Government to table the Wetlands Conservation Bill immediately. Sowetan 18/3/93.

It claimed Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett wanted to rush through a decision to mine the dunes. —Sowetan Reporters.



Controversial coastline . . . the report on mining at St Lucia has been released.

St Lucia report a 'victory for all'

Star 18/3/93 (56)

Staff Reporter

The long-awaited Environmental Impact Report on mining Lake St Lucia was released today — and it will provoke claims of victory from both sides.

Anti-mining lobbyists will grab paragraphs of the report to prove mining would have a negative impact on the animals, vegetation, topography and the visual quality of the area in the short term.

Those not opposed to mining will point out a key conclusion of the report is that there would be little or no long-term effect on the ecosystems of Lake St Lucia and its associated wetlands from the mining of heavy

metals in 1 437 ha of the dunes in the area.

The report warns of short-term damage but concludes there would be substantial economic benefits if the dunes were mined, and no irreversible damage in terms of future options.

In a key conclusion, the EIR found that the 12 874 ha comprising the Eastern Shores had a history of disturbance, including occupation by black communities, agriculture and extensive commercial forestry which was started in the 1950s.

The report emphasised that a final decision on St Lucia would be made by the Cabinet only after further extensive public debate.

On the crucial question of

irreparable damage if dune mining was allowed, the report concluded that no unacceptable irreparable damage would occur in the long term, that is after 30 years.

The report identified only two irreversible changes should mining go ahead: alterations to the topography of the dunes and with peoples' perceptions of the area as a pristine wilderness.

Addressing negative environmental impacts, the report said mining would have severe impacts on vegetation and animals in the mining path in the medium term, which would become negligible in the long term with rehabilitation.

● To Page 2

Star 18/3/93 (56) St Lucia report 'victory for all'

● From Page 1

Today's report is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which was ordered by the Cabinet in September 1989 after a public outcry when Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) applied for mining rights.

Forgoing the mining option would result in a direct loss to the St Lucia sub-region of between R66 million and R247 million, foreign exchange of R606 million.

tax revenues of R157 million, loss of consumer demand estimated at R259 million, loss of business opportunities, including those to Sportnet (R4 million), Portnet (R13 million), Escom (R68 million).

Specific recommendations as to which land-use option should be adopted is the function of the EIA Review Panel. It will make a value judgment after:

● Public participation

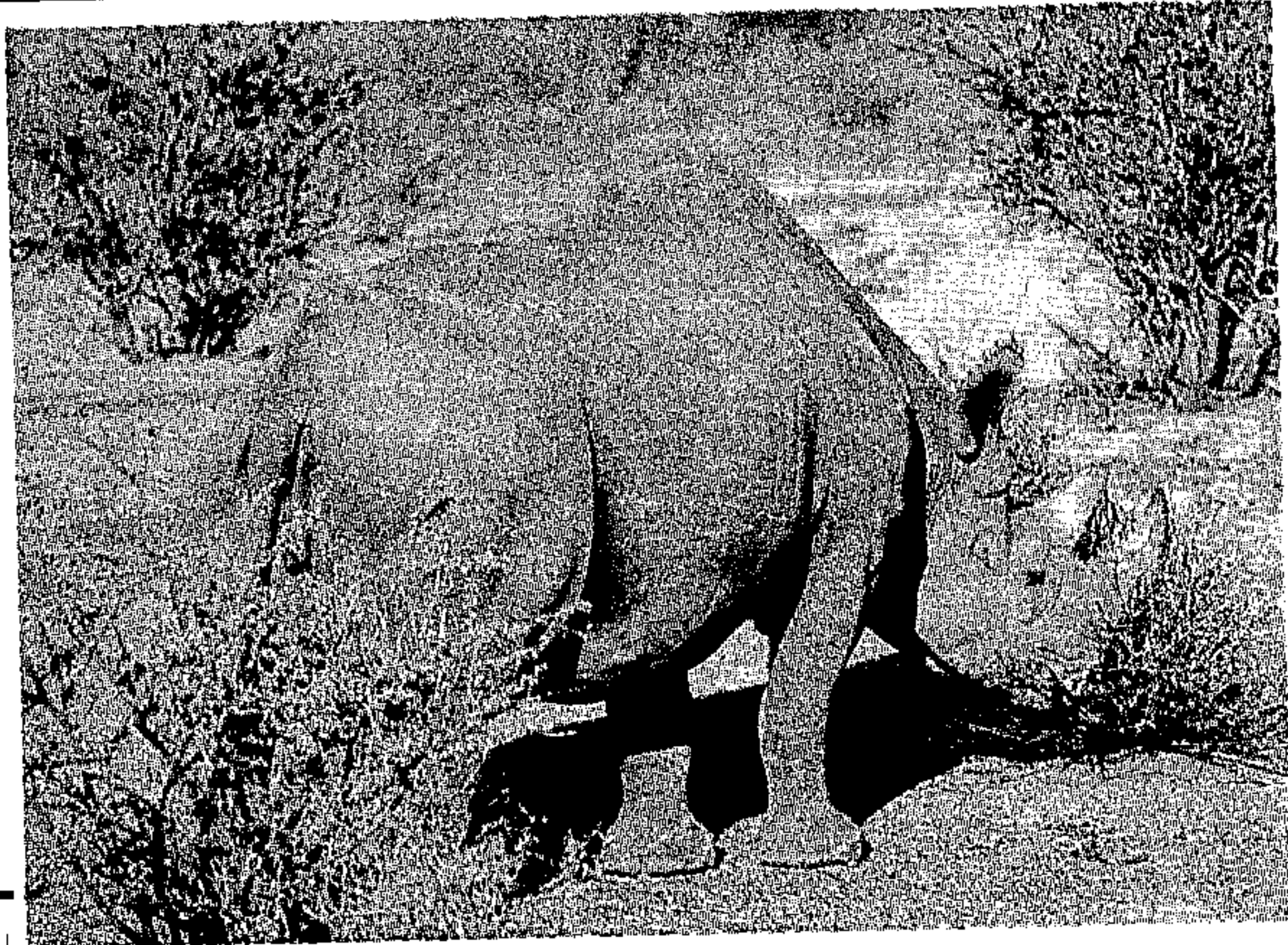
which ends on May 14. ● Answers by RBM, NPB by August 2.

The report will be available for public comment until May 14. Copies are available in municipal libraries in most major cities, or at R180 a copy from CSIR Environmental Services, Box 395, Pretoria 0001. Submissions should be addressed to EIR Secretariat, CSIR Environmental Services at the same address.

LOCAL IS LEKKER:

Shibula, a rare Cape black rhino which was transferred from a zoo in Lisbon, Portugal, to the Augrabies Falls National Park on the Orange River in 1991, samples the vegetation in her new home.

Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus.



New sanctuary for black rhino

(56)
ARG 17/3/93

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE embattled black rhino — under severe threat of extinction — has found a new sanctuary in an enlarged Augrabies Falls National Park straddling the Orange River in the Northern Cape.

The 9 500-hectare park, home to seven black rhino, has been increased substantially through an agreement with the Defence Force to use 60 000 hectares of its Riemvasmaak training ground which adjoins the northern section of the park.

A neighbouring farm, the 6 500-hectare Waterval, was also acquired recently.

This would increase the carrying capacity of the rugged conservation area to between 40 and 50 black rhino, Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, the parks board's executive director of southern parks, told journalists at a briefing.

The rhinos at Augrabies — including the cow Shibula which was transferred from a zoo in Portugal in 1991 — are all Cape rhinos *Diceros bicornis bicornis*, a sub-species which once

flourished in the arid areas of the Western and Northern Cape and Namibia.

Southern Africa's wildlife managers were anxious to keep the two rhino sub-species separate — *D.bicornis minor* occurs in Natal and the Transvaal — and plans were under way to establish a new population of six Cape rhinos in the Karoo National Park at Beaufort West, Dr Hall-Martin explained.

The dominant bulls at Vaalbos and Augrabies could be swapped in about two years to ensure a mixing of genetic material.

"And two years further on, we could take a dominant bull out and put it into a new area — possibly even the West Coast National Park (at Langebaan), but that's a long-term scenario that has to be investigated," he said.

The parks board supplied the material to enclose the conservation section of the 75 000-hectare Riemvasmaak training ground and the SADF is providing the labour. About 15km of the 150km boundary remains to be fenced.

Mr Wynand Breytenbach, Deputy Minister of Defence and of

Environment Affairs, said he had been instructed by the cabinet to investigate what SADF land was not being fully used and possible alternative uses.

Tens of thousands of hectares had already been transferred to the provincial conservation authorities in Natal and the Transvaal.

"There is a land hunger in South Africa, but to go farming in this part of the world (Northern Cape) is an exercise in futility," Mr Breytenbach said.

"I think we (the SADF) are good neighbours and there has been outstanding co-operation between us and the parks board."

Dr Hall-Martin warned that South Africa was not immune from poaching. Several animals had been lost in the Kruger National Park and it had been necessary to establish an anti-poaching unit there, he said.

"There's been an active debate whether we should even admit how many rhinos we have and where they are," he said.

The army's presence at Riemvasmaak would help keep the rhinos safe from poachers.

Two die as violent storms lash Natal

STAR 17/3/93.

Own Correspondent (SB)

DURBAN — Fierce storms in Natal have claimed the lives of two people.

A child died and many people have been left homeless after a tornado cut a path of destruction through the northern Natal village of Hattingspruit.

At Rietvlei, near Greytown, a 16-year-old was killed and four people were seriously injured when they were struck by lightning.

Monday night's tornado at Hattingspruit, near Dundee, blew roofs off buildings, uprooted trees and cut telephone and power lines.

Seven-year-old Sabelo Mazibuko of Berkenheim farm died when the walls of the hut in which he was sleeping collapsed.

The violent storm struck Hattingspruit about 10 pm. Some 50 people were left homeless when six huts were washed away, a Dundee police spokesman said.

The house belonging to NT Pieterse of Rondhovel smallholding lost its roof and the concrete walls collapsed. The family were unhurt.

About 80 mm of rain fell, raising the level of the Tom Worthington Dam by nearly 40 percent.

A spokesman for the Thukela Joint Services Board in Ladysmith said the dam level

rose from 54 percent on Friday to 90 percent yesterday. The nearby Verdruk Dam has risen from 43 to 70 percent. Water is still flowing into both dams.

The torrential rain caused the wall of a farm dam to burst, but no details were available.

Police said about R500 000 damage was caused to yachts on Tom Worthington Dam belonging to the Dundee Yacht Club.

Another storm accompanied by hail and strong winds lashed the Balgowan area on Monday afternoon. A farmer in the area said there had been an "incredibly strong" wind and large hailstones.

Fears grow over dune mining

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE ANC has come out strongly against the proposed mining of St Lucia's eastern shores and says government does not have the right to grant mining rights in the area.

The organisation said yesterday that in the context of impending political transformation, it would be presumptuous for government to make a unilateral decision on an important national and international issue.

It called on government and Richards' Bay Minerals not to decide on an issue that should be decided by a government of national unity.

"The ANC has in the past expressed concern about mining in the area and it was necessary to reaffirm that position," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said yesterday.

There was a strong push by government and Richards' Bay Minerals to

proceed with mining, but the ANC was concerned about the environmental impact on the rare dunes.

Government was a signatory of an international convention on wetlands which carried a commitment to the preservation of St Lucia, including the eastern shores.

ANC environmental spokesman Stan Stangweni said it was a bad show for government to have signed the convention and then to go ahead with mining proposals.

Wildlife Society executive director Tony Ferrar said yesterday the organisation believed that government had already made up its mind to permit mining of the dunes regardless of the findings of the environment impact study to be released this week.

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(56)



ENVIRONMENT *The decision to mine St Lucia's eastern shores still remains a crucial issue*

St Lucia stands at the crossroads

Sowetan

17/3/93

56 Environmental

THE environmental impact assessment study on whether St Lucia should be mined or not will be published today. The Natal Parks Board gives its view on the proposed mining, writes *Joanne Hayes*.

The Natal Parks Board has been aware for many years that prospecting leases for heavy mineral sands were in existence and had been granted for the eastern shore State Forest.

The eastern shore State Forest was under the control of the Department of Forestry which had, over the past 35 years, planted some 5 500ha of alien pine trees on the eastern shores.

This led to considerable conflict between the two organisations despite the fact that a management agreement was reached in the early '70s permitting the board to look after the natural wildlife and living resources while leaving the department to pursue its pine plantation management.

Additional plantations were always met with concern by the board because it was considered that this vast community of pine trees seriously affected the flow of fresh water into the St Lucia

PRECISE EFFECTS Environmental
impact study to be released today:

The real value of tourism to the country as a whole as a result of having wild and unspoilt areas such as the Kruger National Park and Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, runs into many billions of rands a year

Lake system, especially during periods of low rainfall.

When a mining company announced it was interested in actually mining the eastern shores, the matter was greeted with considerable alarm by the board and many outside organisations. The board was quite unequivocal in its opinion that it would not like to see mining on the eastern shores and was opposed to it because of its close proximity to the St Lucia Game Reserve, which is one of the oldest game reserves in Africa — Hluhluwe and Umfolozi game reserves being the other two.

and had in fact been impacted upon quite seriously by pine plantations) the board, being conscious of needs of our communities in South Africa for work, education and a more stable and prosperous future, undertook to abide by the results of the environmental impact study.

The board has committed a considerable amount of time and effort to the review process. The cost probably runs into hundreds of thousands of rands which included paying towards bringing in foreign experts to question sections of the report which we felt had been inadequately addressed by local communities. It has made every effort to ensure the report laid before the people of South Africa will be of the highest quality available.

There are sections of the studies carried out with which the board is not entirely satisfied and we will continue to question the validity of some conclusions and the lack of data which have led to other conclusions.

We do believe however that the economic alternative for the area is a more appropriate use for the eastern shores. One of the difficulties is of course the amount of funds to be generated by mining in this area.

The value of the minerals, it has always been stated, runs to hundreds of millions of rands a year, so on purely economic grounds, as the board has pointed out before, it is very difficult for eco-tourism to match this for the eastern shores alone.

The real value of tourism to the country as a whole as a result of having wild and unspoilt areas such as the Kruger National Park and Greater St Lucia Wetland Park, runs into many billions of rands a year and is a major contributor to the assets and the economic wellbeing of our country.

The saga of the mining has been a painful period for many people — not least of which is that people are concerned about nature conservation in South Africa. It is a matter of considerable joy to the NPB that so many South Africans have expressed their desire to ensure that the decision, whenever it is made, is going to be taken in the best interest of our country.

If this means no mining, then speaking for the staff of the NPB, there will be general joy. If it is for the mining, then we will simply live with that. We will maintain the best possible relations we can with all concerned in the project.



Rains revive development

ANDREW KRUMM

GOOD highveld rains have broken the drought's influence on the leisure property market around Hartbeespoort Dam, and revived some buyer interest, says Lakeland Homes Shareblock director Neil Powell. *R/DAY*

He said the inclination to invest and develop the Hartbeespoort Dam area declined with the level of the water. *17/3/93*.

"Over the past four weekends the number of people coming through our gates has escalated from around two people to 24 every weekend."

Lakeland Homes is launching the final phase of the R50m Lakeland development. Begun in 1989, it is now 95% sold. The last eight units are being released onto the market at prices from R295 000 to R580 000.

However, another Hartbeespoort developer, Club Nautique's Fred Herman, said he had not noticed the improved trend. "The interest is still there; it is just a little static."

Herman, who has launched the 20-unit first phase of a planned 54-unit development, said the dam still remained only 37% full - its lowest level in 22 years.

Star 17/3/93

ANC drops St Lucia mining bombshell

Own Correspondent

56

DURBAN — The ANC dropped a bombshell on the St Lucia mining proposals last night, saying a final decision on the matter could be taken only by a future government of national unity.

It would be "presumptuous in the extreme" for the present minority Government to take a unilateral de-

cision on an important national and international issue such as mining at St Lucia, the ANC said.

This boost for the anti-mining lobby appears timed to coincide with tomorrow's release of the long-awaited environmental impact assessment (EIA) report on the dune-mining proposals.

Until yesterday, the ANC had taken no firm position

on the Richards Bay Minerals proposals. It did not rule out mining in the future, but warned that St Lucia had to be protected and that many people in South Africa and abroad were deeply concerned about the environmental and tourist impact of mining the dunes.

Richards Bay Minerals MD Roy MacPherson said it was unfortunate the ANC

had chosen to comment on the issue just before the EIA findings were released.

"However, we are confident the fears of the ANC will be allayed by the findings contained in the report."

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett, who will make the final decision towards the end of the year, could not be reached for comment.

St Lucia balloon goes up this week

STAR 16/3/93

THIS week the balloon goes up. No, not the Budget — the Environmental Impact Report on proposed dune mining at St Lucia.

It is likely to create a great deal of acrimony. Suggestions from the conservation lobby are that the EIR is likely to provide that most undesirable of outcomes, an inconclusive finding on the hydrological effect of mining the dunes on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

These trap moisture from the sea and percolate fresh water into the lake, maintaining the delicate balance of fresh and salt that makes St Lucia one of the world's great wetland systems and home to thousands of animal and plant species.

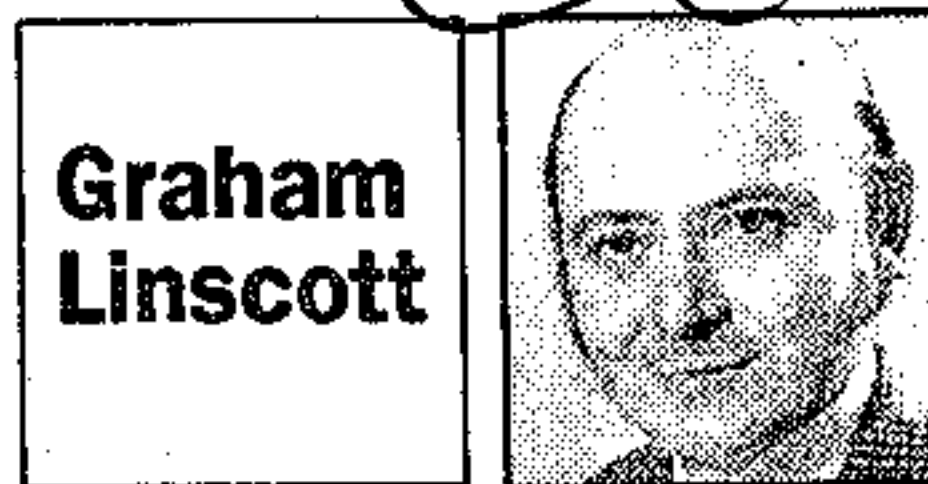
Lined up against the mining option are the Natal Parks Board, the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, the Wilderness Leadership School and a collection of pressure groups falling under the Campaign for St Lucia.

The mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, argues it has already proved at its Richards Bay operation that damage would be limited. It says mining at St Lucia would earn R6 billion in foreign exchange, bringing in tax revenues of R1,2 billion and royalties of R100 million.

Over coming months there will be public meetings, submissions and debate before a final recommendation by a panel, chaired by a retired Natal Supreme Court judge, on whether the eastern shores should be made over to ecotourism plus mining or to ecotourism alone.

However, this might not be the end of the matter. The conservation lobby is determined (if the decision should go in favour of mining) to keep pressure on the Government and RBM by blowing the dust off some old correspondence and negotiations.

Eighteen years ago, RBM offered to pay the Department of Forestry the value of all the tim-



ber on some 4 000 ha at Port Durnford, south of Richards Bay, in return for a mining lease. The area was clearly rich in minerals.

But the department turned down the offer. Dune mining was at that stage an unfamiliar venture and nobody knew what kind of environmental damage might be caused. However, RBM has since shown at Richards Bay that it can re-vegetate dunes.

The conservationists are now likely to lobby for an exchange between the eastern shores of St Lucia and the state forests at Port Durnford, which are far larger than the St Lucia mining lease, have easy access to water from Lake Chubu and are not in an environmentally sensitive zone.

"Have these alternatives been considered?" asks Keith Cooper, of the Wildlife Society. "I've never had a good answer to this."

Meanwhile, the Greater St Lucia Wetland Park is beginning to become a reality with the transfer to the Province of Natal of various parcels of State land in the vicinity (including the eastern shores, ironically), which will eventually be controlled by the Natal Parks Board. A complex of NPB, KwaZulu and private reserves and biospheres will eventually form a jigsaw right up to the Mozambique border, providing an unrivalled diversity of game and habitats.

NPB chairman Pat Goss describes the prospect of delaying an important component of this development by 20 years, just for mining, as "something for grave concern".

Will the guillotine fall? Or are we in for an even more protracted struggle? □

Natal Parks Board probing own official

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Natal Parks Board has confirmed it is conducting an internal investigation into alleged contraventions of its game capture quotas by the respected conservationist and head of the NPB game capture unit, Mr Keith Meiklejohn.

It is believed that money from the alleged sales was used to pay for the medical expenses of an elderly black game guard.

CT16/3/93

Water tariffs in PWV likely to rise

MARIANNE MERTEN

WATER tariffs in the PWV are set to increase following the Rand Water Board's announcement of a 7% price hike for bulk supplies to municipalities and industry.

Rand Water Board CE Vincent Bath said at a Johannesburg news conference yesterday that in calculating the increase, effective from April 1, the board had taken into consideration its loan serving commitments and government's levy on the future use of Lesotho Highland scheme water which would be announced by Water Affairs in September. *BIDAM 16/3/93*

Consumers are, in effect, paying for costs incurred by the board since 1988 for the scheme, although they will not receive water from Lesotho until 1996.

Johannesburg City Council water and gas director George Keay said the council would absorb the tariff increase until July when it would announce its new rates.

"We have made provisions for the increase in our current budget," Keay said.

A Sandton Town Council spokesman said its treasury was still considering the matter but he had recommended the increase not be passed on to consumers yet.

Randburg Town Council water and sewage chief engineer Dirk Gresse said the tariff increase would be passed on to consumers at the start of the council's financial year in July but good rains might influence any increase.

Rand Water Board finance GM Alan

To Page 2

Water *BIDAM 16/3/93*

Rorke said if municipalities passed on the increase directly to users, costs to the average domestic consumer, who used about 30 to 40 kilolitres each month, would rise only R1,70.

Mines and municipalities which the board supplied directly with purified water would pay 88,28c a kilolitre from April.

Moderate electricity price increases and the Water Affairs Department's decision not to raise the raw water price had contributed to keeping the tariff increase be-

low the inflation rate.

Bath said the current water reserves, which were the best yet since the 1982 drought, could fulfil the area's water requirements for the next two years.

Plans, costing about R1,7bn, to secure water supply after 1996 included constructing a major purification plant at Zuickerbosch in the northern Transvaal and a pipeline system to two booster stations at Eikenhof and Palmiet.

● Picture: Page 3

From Page 1

50 in hospital after gas pumped into wrong tank

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — People fell over "all over the place" as chlorine gas permeated the Trade Centre store in Prospecton yesterday morning.

More than 50 victims of the invisible gas were admitted to the Kingsway Hospital in Amanzimtoti with respiratory problems. The intensive care unit was full after chlorine gas wafted from a nearby chemical plant into the store.

One man was in a serious condition with a heart problem.

Patients were wheeled into the hospital continuously to be treated for gas inhalation and most were kept overnight, although some were discharged yesterday afternoon.

Trade Centre security guards David Diamond and Emil Viljoen were on duty

when they smelt chlorine.

"I ran outside to try and see where the smell was coming from, then went back into the store to help people evacuate the premises," said Viljoen.

"There were three guys in trouble and I picked up one of them, a handyman, and carried him outside.

"All the time I had a very bad pain in my chest and could hardly breathe. There was a dry feeling in my throat, and my eyes were burning."

Viljoen was the last to leave the store and he collapsed as he walked out into the open.

"When I woke up I was in hospital," he said.

Diamond said the gas could not be seen, and that no one knew what was happening.

"People were struggling to breathe and then I had an asthma attack," he said.

"I sat down, seemed to get better and then carried on helping people. But about 400 m from the hospital I had another, much worse, asthma attack. It was very bad."

A spokesman for the Amanzimtoti town clerk's office said hydrochloric acid being delivered to Crest Chemicals by AECI was pumped into the wrong tank, causing a chemical reaction.

Clouds of gas were blown towards the nearby Trade Centre, affecting employees and customers. Once evacuated, the store was closed for the day.

An AECI spokesman said the company had launched a thorough investigation into the incident but the results would only be known in "a couple of days".

The spokesman said the Department of Manpower would conduct its own investigation.

3 new national parks to open

56
CT15/3/93

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The National Parks Board, now dependent for about a quarter of its income from the government, aims to be financially independent within three to five years.

The board will be opening three new parks during the 1993/4 financial year.

These are Vaalbos (near Kimberley), Kransberg (near Thabazimbi) and Richtersveld (in the northern Cape).

The board is also seeking to change its image as the provider of exclusively "white playgrounds".

It will now be reluctant to enter any more contracts with private game parks — an arrangement seen as enriching the private parks at taxpayers' expense.

The board's government grant

SADF gives land for rhinos

Staff Reporter

THE endangered black rhino now has a secure sanctuary in the Augrabies National Park on the Orange River, thanks to land made available by the SADF, which will soon extend the reserve to four times its present size.

The deputy minister of Defence and Environment Affairs, Mr Wynand Breytenbach, visited the park last week and said he would like to double

the amount of non-arable land available for national parks in South Africa. Nature reserves constitute about 5% of all the country's land.

The eight Cape rhino in the Augrabies National Park are now supported by 5 000 hectares of arid scrub.

The new territory surrounding the Riemvasmaak training base will extend the park by 45 000ha to the eastern Namibian border and enable the park to support up to 50 rhino.

would decline from 27% in the 1993/4 financial year, southern parks executive director, Mr Anthony Hall-Martin, said at the weekend.

In the board's next financial year, 57% of the parks' total income of R163 million would be generated by the Kruger National Park, 14% would come from the 16 southern parks, 25% from the state and 4% from investments.

This compared to an expected total income of R153m in the current financial year.

The occupancy rates were more or less the same as they were in 1991/2 but visitors' spending had declined, he said.

The occupancy rate was expected to be about 60% this year.

Apart from the Kruger and Tsit-sikamma, three other parks are expected to make small profits.

Secret probe ordered into Tollgate and subsidiaries

Blomvis 3/93

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — A secret commission of inquiry into the affairs of the liquidated Tollgate Holdings group and its subsidiaries is to take place in terms of Section 417 of the Companies Act following an order handed down in the Cape Town Supreme Court on Friday.

The order was granted by Judge H L Berman after an application brought by Tollgate liquidators Bessie Bester and Tjaart du Plessis. Bertrand Hoberman SC was appointed commissioner of the inquiry. In terms of the Companies Act, its proceedings and findings are confidential.

Meanwhile, an application for the provisional liquidation of the Paarl wine estate, Rhebokskloof, owned by a family trust set up by former Tollgate director and current Motor Racing Enterprises (MRE) MD Mervyn Key was postponed to March 24 in the Cape Town Supreme Court on Friday.

Key indirectly controlled a major share of the family trust, the court heard. Rhebokskloof's assets were said to include an historic Cape Dutch homestead, winery, two restaurants and winery and were worth about R10m, court papers said.

Absa brought the urgent application on the basis of alleged debts of about R20,6m, including an overdraft of more than R3,5m; a further R16m owed in terms of a preferential share option agreement entered into between Absa, Rhebokskloof sis-

ter company Parmalat Investments and Rhebokskloof; and a R1,1m guarantee for Parmalat.

Key's purchase of MRE from Tollgate Holdings for R6,63m last year is under scrutiny. Last week the Rand Supreme Court placed the financial affairs of MRE under control of Tollgate liquidators after they claimed that Tollgate had sold the company at below market value.

Absa corporate banking manager Johan Steyn claimed in papers that Absa, Parmalat and Genref had entered into an agreement in August 1992 in terms of which Genref bought a Parmalat preference share worth R15m from Absa. The agreement stated that Absa would have to buy back the share if Parmalat failed to declare a dividend, or pay Genref its share of the dividend, by February 26 this year.

No dividend was paid or declared and Absa was forced to buy the preference share from Genref for R15m plus R1m in interest. Absa had a separate counter put option with Rhebokskloof, obliging the company to buy the share from it if it had to buy it from Genref.

Steyn said Rhebokskloof had failed to buy the share when Absa had called upon it to do so.

Many have no access to safe water

MARIANNE MERTEN

ONE in three SA residents did not have access to safe water while almost half lacked adequate sanitation, the Water Research Commission said in a statement at the weekend.

Commission research manager Charles Chapman said the biggest problem was informal settlements.

Not only were inhabitants in areas without safe water at risk of contracting diseases, but other communities were also threatened during periods of good rain as pollution was likely to spread to rivers and other

water sources. The commission had started examining the possibility of making appropriate technology available to affected communities and to involve them in water and sanitation management, a statement said.

Alternative means of financing sanitation and water supplies, such as the use of prepaid water metres developed by the commission and Eskom, would also be examined.

An Eskom spokesman

said although the installation of prepaid water meters was technologically simple, municipalities shied away from the legal implications.

The project had had to be put on the backburner because water, unlike electricity, was considered a basic human right of which nobody should be deprived, he said.

Education for correct water usage was essential because SA's limited water resources would be exhausted between the years 2020 and 2030.

56

More money needed to equalise services

Sowetan 15/3/93

By Musa Zondi

Up to 15 families share a rubbish bin in Soweto:

THE central government will have to allocate a lot of money to try and bring equality in rendering services in the black townships.

So says Mr Japhtha Lekgetho, Soweto's "Mr Clean" who also heads the National Environment Awareness Campaign.

"In Soweto, services were never good. Occasionally a truck would come around and pick up rubbish in the black areas but, all in all, the services were non-existent," he says.

In some cases, 10 to 15 families (houses with backyard shacks) share one rubbish bin. When the bin is full, people remove it and dump it anywhere, and in most cases it is at some corner in front of someone else's house, he says.

Lekgetho, who is also a spokesman for the Soweto Civic Organisation, says they are working on a system the Johannesburg City Council will have to follow when they take over servicing the township.

This proposed system covers anything from street cleaning to waste removal "to bring Soweto to the level of Johannesburg", he says.

Boycott supported

Though people should pay for services if and when they are provided, Neac and SCA support the rent boycott because at the moment there is no service. "With good service, people would be willing to pay," he says.

He says Neac tried launching clean-up operations but this became frus-

trating in the long run as there were no proper follow-ups. But, he says, "it is possible to make this sustainable by starting environmental co-operatives. These would work on the principle of helping our own people. We would contribute to a fund and hire people who will be responsible for this. Hopefully, we would break the culture of boycott."

He also criticised the council for building houses in the spaces between other houses. "We are creating a sophisticated slum. In any built up area, at least seven percent of the land must be empty," he says.

It is difficult to deal with people who are dumping anywhere since there are no by-laws in the townships that make dumping an offence.

St Lucia: Plea to delay decision

STimes By ROY RUDDEN 14/3/93

LEADING conservationist Dr Nolly Zaloumis, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, has called on the National Party to delay a decision on mining at Lake St Lucia until a new democratic government is installed in South Africa.

He made the plea on the eve of publication this week of the independent — but Richards Bay Minerals-sponsored — Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report on which the government is to base its final decision on whether to give the company the go-ahead to mine the dunes for heavy metals in one of the world's last great wetland areas.

The EIA will be released on Thursday, after which the public and concerned bodies will be invited to comment. An evaluation of the report will also be made by a five-member panel under the chairmanship of former Natal Supreme Court judge Ramon Leon.

But campaigners and most conservation officials, including the ANC's spokesman for environmental affairs Professor Stan Sangweni, believe that the issue is too important to hinge on a report by a group of scientists. They believe the present government cannot make a decision because it does not represent all South Africans.

~~Legal~~ Legal

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They suspect that, in any case, recent statements by Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett indicate that the government favours mining at St Lucia.

The campaigners believe that the government is more obligated towards giving Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) the go-ahead than to morally heed the outcome of the impact study.

This is why opposition parties, including the DP, CP and ANC, are in favour of a private member's Wetland Conservation Bill which would give the state the legal teeth to prevent St Lucia mining regardless of any contractual obligation to RBM.

Dr Zaloumis said yesterday: "At the very least, the government should see that this bill is tabled soon. And the National Party should allow an open vote so that its MPs can vote according to their consciences and not be bound by the party hierarchy.

"If the bill is not tabled, a decision on St Lucia mining should be held over until a fully representative government is there to see that the decision represents what the majority of South Africans want," he said.

Bid to 'save the soul' in its soil

ST Times 14/3/93

By CHARLES LEFTWICH

WHEN Durban-based clinical psychologist Sheila Ramsay looks at St Lucia, she sees a "tremendously powerful" healing tool for South Africa.

A founder member of the successful Green Street Law programme on Lake St Lucia's eastern shores, Mrs Ramsay believes there is "a whole realm of damaged young people" who could benefit from a wilderness experience.

Working at a community mental health clinic in the Inanda shacklands near Durban, Mrs Ramsay found a close relationship between the deficiencies of mothering experienced by children and what they experienced in the wilderness.

It was from Inanda that the first Green Street Law pioneers were chosen to go to the Wilderness Leadership School at St Lucia.

For Mike Mkhize, who watched his family home in Inanda burn to the ground twice, it was a turning point in his life.

"I found out that in the bush all the stress goes. At first, most of us were scared to talk, but after a few days, we talked about everything — the violence, our fears, human rights, the polluted air and water, the cycles of nature and recycling in the cities."

Mike, who is now a trail facilitator with the Wilderness Leadership School, said that he and his seven companions gained confidence in the alien environment.

'Soil sense'

"Keeping watch at night was fantastic. I heard animals — many I didn't know.

"Everyone was asleep, and I knew I had to watch over them.

"It was a chance to be alone and nature gave me the spirit and the time to think. I realised that if all people could feel part of nature like this, there would be no violence."

On returning home, Mike and his companions founded the Inanda Conservation Committee to fight pollution, educate and to try to green the wasteland of Inanda.

Robert Mazibuko, the 90-year-old father of modern "soil sense" in Africa — who has won international fame for his organic trench gardening techniques which dramatically increase the fertility of impoverished soil — has equally strong feelings on the issue.

"If the African people were consulted, they would definitely ask for wilderness rather than mining at the lake."

"There will be no soul of the soil in the minedumps," said Mr Mazibuko.

Roland Goetz, national director of the Wilderness Leadership School, warns that dune mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia over the next 20 years could wreck the wilderness programme.

"The operations would come within five kilometres of the area used by the school," he said.

"The lights and noise would continue through the night and one would have to drive right past the operation.

"It would be like trying to have a wilderness experience in a park in central Johannesburg," he said.

Lifeline for the beaches

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

CONSTRUCTION of the controversial Green Point marine sewage outfall has passed the halfway mark and may be completed by December.

Beaches in the Green Point area could be opened for swimming soon after the work is finished. The beaches were closed in face of pollution fears. Sewage was spilling from an old pipeline.

Mr Mike Marsden, for the city engineer's department, said construction of the new pipeline was going well because of "experience acquired in the work" and improved technology and equipment.

Work had been due for completion in June this year, but was set back to March next year because of problems. Now indications are the job will be finished by December.

A violent storm in 1989 displaced sections of the old pipe and it began snaking across the ocean bed.

It was decided after investigations that the best option for a new pipe was to cut a trench into the ocean floor and embed the pipe in concrete. Contractors were on site in June 1991 and started work by summer.

This week Weekend Argus was shown film of the underwater construction work.

The operation entails divers going down to depths of about 30 metres to place explosive "sausages" into 2.5-metre holes in the rock which blast a trench in the ocean floor.

After the explosions an underwater excavator moves on tracks over the new trench and scrapes fragmented rock towards the nozzle of an airlift pump.

A diver, Colin Bond, died in a freak accident last year when he was sucked into the 500mm nozzle of the pipe.

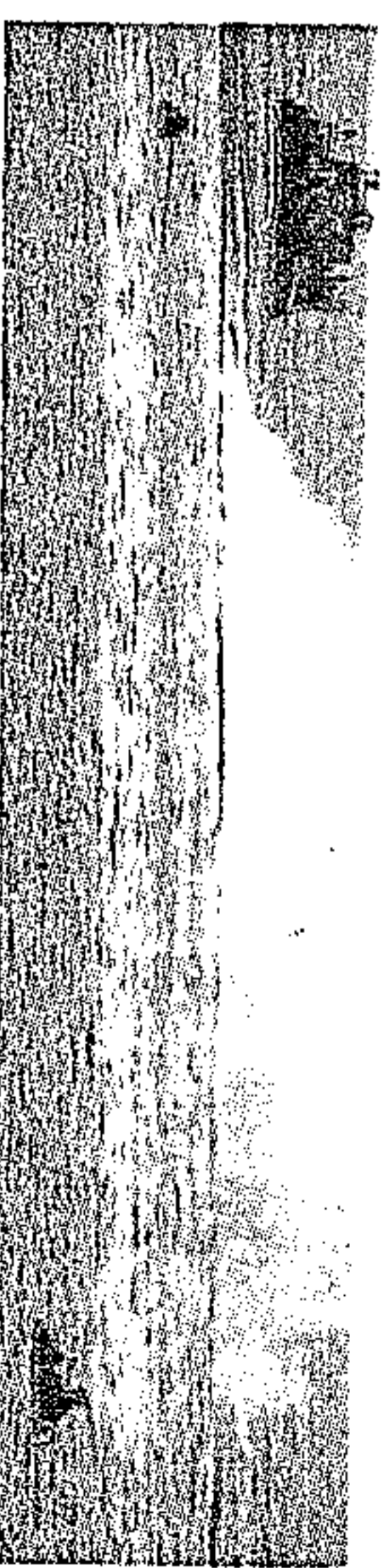
Once a section of the trench has been cleared of debris, lengths of the original pipe — recovered from the old pipeline — are weighted and sunk into position in the trench. Lengths of up

■ Green Point beaches, closed because of fears of sewage pollution, may be re-opened for swimming by December if a new marine sewage outfall pipe is completed by then.



ARC 13/3/93
STP

□ **EERIE DEPTHS:** An submersible excavator clears rock debris from the trench blown into the seabed off Green Point. Sections of the sewage outfall pipe, 1 685m long, are laid into the trench and concreted for protection.



□ **BIG BLAST:** A plume of water shoots into the air after a powerful blast on the seabed near Green Point. Explosives are used to cut a trench in the ocean floor in which the outfall pipe is laid.



□ **THE DEEP:** Divers working on the first 280-metre section of the sewage outfall pipe at Green Point. This section is in shallow water close to land and will be covered with concrete.

a 100 metres are positioned this way.

Concrete is then poured over the pipe to ensure it cannot move or be ripped from the seabed in the winter storms that scour the coast. The length of the pipeline will be 1 685 metres.

Mr Marsden said domestic sewage which has been treated, mulched and filtered through a drum screen will be pumped out to sea where it will be dispersed by a diffuser with 16 outlets at the end of the pipe.

"The sewage that will be discharged is simply discoloured water rich in nutrients and carbonaceous energy.

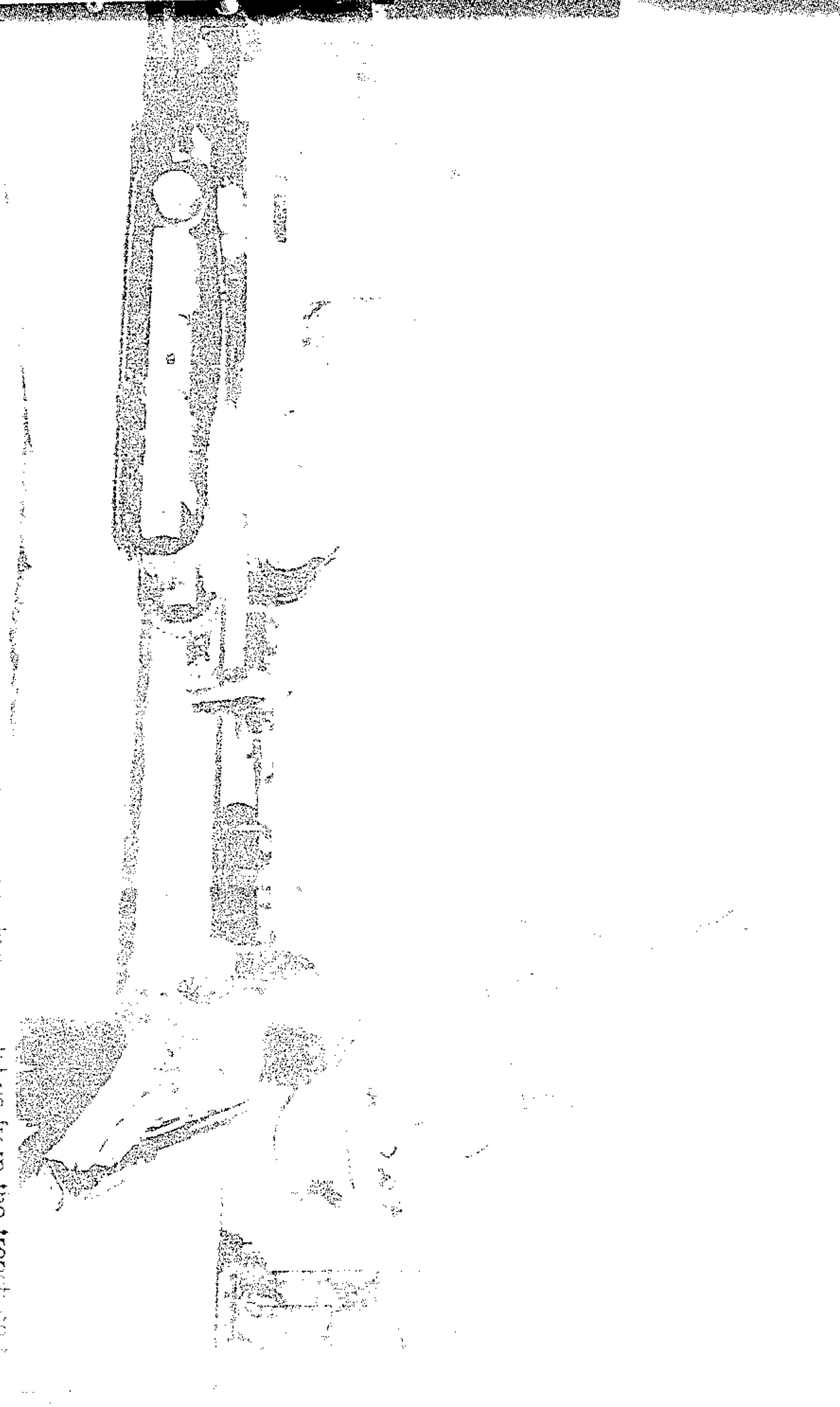
"Calculations showed that a 1 700-metre pipeline such as the one under construction will satisfy all water quality requirements for the current and future flow rates.

"We will be well within the water quality guideline standards set by the European Community, which has very stringent requirements in water quality."

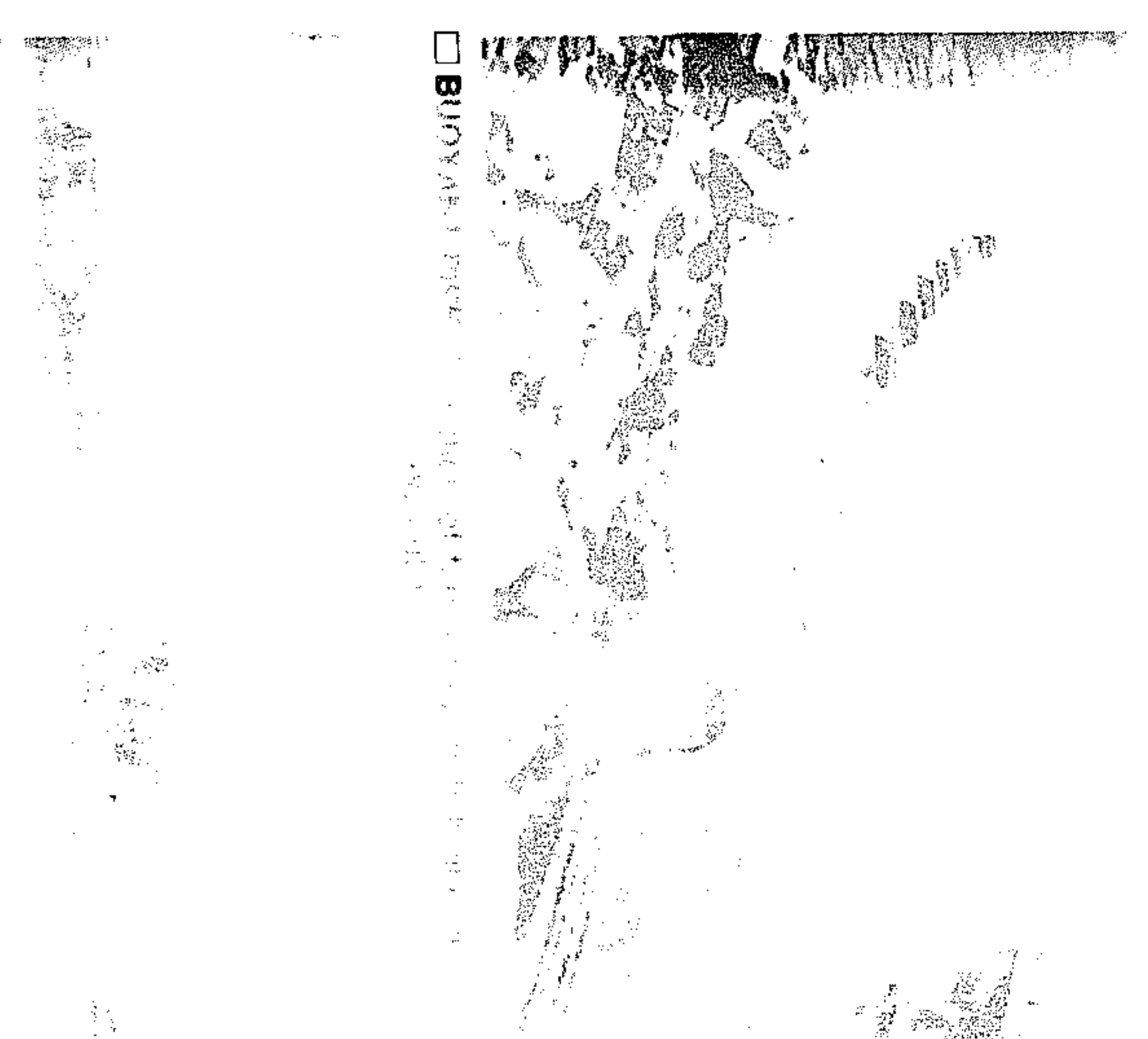
■ Cape Town has a long history of discharging domestic sewage into the sea. At Green Point three marine outfalls have been built to date.

The first was constructed in 1901 and discharged raw sewage only 60 metres beyond the current sea wall. This was replaced in 1931 with a steel pipe discharging about 580 metres offshore. This pipe operated for more than 50 years and was replaced after overloading caused corrosion.

The third outfall pipe was commissioned in December 1985 and was of polyethylene. It was 700 metres long and discharged at a depth of 28 metres. This pipe was anchored to the seabed but a storm in 1989 displaced a section of more than 20 metres and destabilised the whole length.



POWERFUL EXCAVATOR The powerful underwater excavator is being used to dig a trench for the pipeline. It is fitted with an airlift that sucks rocks to the surface and is capable of digging to depths of close on 100 metres.



CONCRETE BARGE The barge that is used to transport concrete to the sea floor is being towed by a tugboat.

Sponsor go-ahead for reserves, trails

NATURE reserves or hiking trails owned by the state will be allowed to accept sponsorship in terms of a new bill.

An official for the Department of State Expenditure said from Pretoria the state was prohibited from accepting such sponsorship now.

The Exchequer Amendment Bill, published in Cape Town yesterday, also provides for an accounting officer to be allowed to receive a R100 000

cash donation on behalf of the state — the current limit is R25 000. "This only applies to cash," the official said.

The bill extends accountability controls over state moneys to include state property and goods.

The Exchequer Act deals only with the accountability of accounting officers for the application and control of state money.

Because goods bought within

the public sector hold considerable financial implications, it is necessary that accountability be established for the use and control of state property as well.

(5b) ARG 13/3/93

Prescribing norms and standards for improvements to state revenue-funded immovable property has become an integral part of the Treasury's functions over the years. — Sapa.

St Lucia's 'eccopain'

(58) AR 4/13/3/93

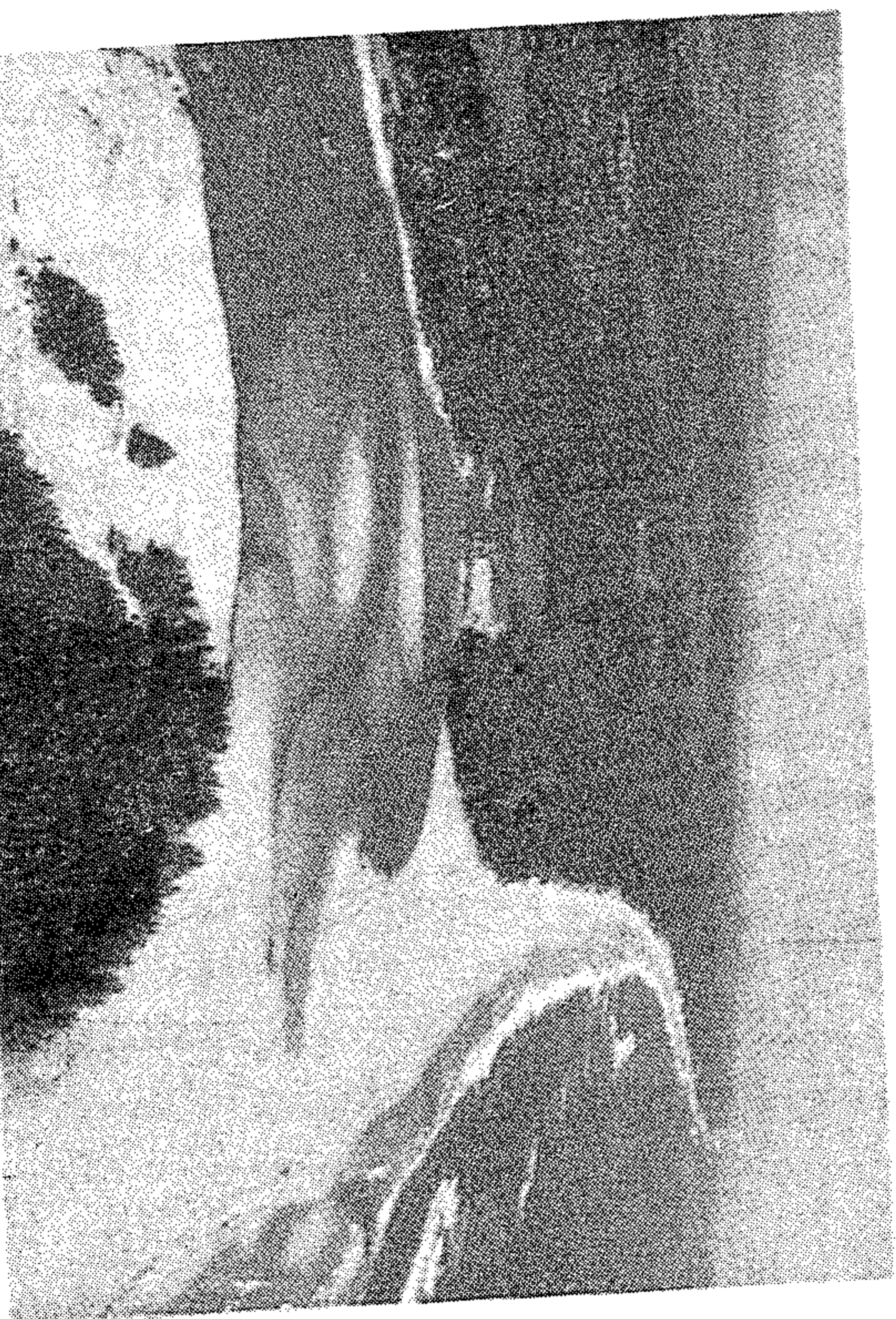
Will the government allow Richards Bay Minerals to mine titanium at pristine St Lucia? That is a question bugging many conservationists, including renowned **JAMES**

CLARKE. The issue reaches another watershed on Thursday with the release of a 12-part EIA (Environmental Impact Analysis) — paid for by RBM.

I FIND myself in a quandary. I have for many years fought for the implementation of EIAs as a pre-requisite to all big developments.

Forcing developers to frankly and fully set out, on paper, what they think would be the likely effects of their development — good and bad — and then submitting this homework to the public, is an excellent exercise.

We are entitled to know what others are doing to those areas which we hold dear. But there are, I have always felt, certain situations where EIAs are inap-



□ **ENVIRONMENTAL QUANDARY:** St Lucia Mouth where mining is set to take place in one of our few remaining natural wonderlands.

erts to examine the EIA and make sure that every eventuality is covered — and that there can be no risk of wrecking the St Lucia system by removing, sifting and replacing its dunes.

Once the public's views, and those of independent experts, are added to the EIA, it would be complete and a formal judgment and recommendation will be made.

I believe the public won a singular victory in stopping RBM going ahead with the mining at St Lucia in 1990 and in getting it to spell out its intentions and thus signal the way things will be done in future as regards new mining ventures.

There is one further possibility: In the event of mining getting the green light, RBM may bow to public opinion and withdraw, realising that merely because a venture is profitable does not necessarily make it right.

The most crucial question is: Will mining St Lucia's dunes cause irreparable damage? RBM has pulled in some of the world's best ecologists and asked them to work out if, by removing St Lucia's dunes and putting them through a milling plant, it would cause "unacceptable" damage.

Admittedly a similar process was employed at Richards Bay, but the dunes there have quite a different function to those at St Lucia. St Lucia's dunes are built up in layers above an impermeable clay "waterproof" floor. Copious coastal rains fall on the seaward side of the dunes.

Far less rain falls on the side facing the lake. The rains from the sea seep through and keep the lake from becoming a salt marsh. Mining could

work to the public, is an excellent exercise.

We are entitled to know what others are doing to those areas which we hold dear. But there are, I have always felt, certain situations where EIAs are inap-

appropriate.

An EIA on the impact of coal mining in the Kruger Park, for example, would have been inappropriate and unacceptable simply because mining is forbidden here by law.

I have also believed an EIA would be unacceptable in the case of St Lucia too, although for different reasons:

After all, there isn't much left in South Africa that is relatively unspoilt. Where are our sacrosanct places? What is really left of South Africa the beautiful?

One has a job naming even half a dozen relatively unspoilt places to which one can take a foreign visitor and tell him with pride: "This is South Africa as it used to be."

The government, 25 years ago, did its best to wreck St Lucia:

■ The Department of Forestry planted water-hungry pines in the wetlands which robbed the lake of essential dune seepage;

■ The Department of Water Affairs built a dam on the Hluhluwe River which robbed the lake of even more fresh water;

■ Resettlement in the Mkuzi flood plain created logjams so that even the Mkuzi stopped flowing into Lake St Lucia;

■ The Department of Agricultural Technical Services began planting experimental potatoes - and Africa's biggest estuary became a salty swamp.

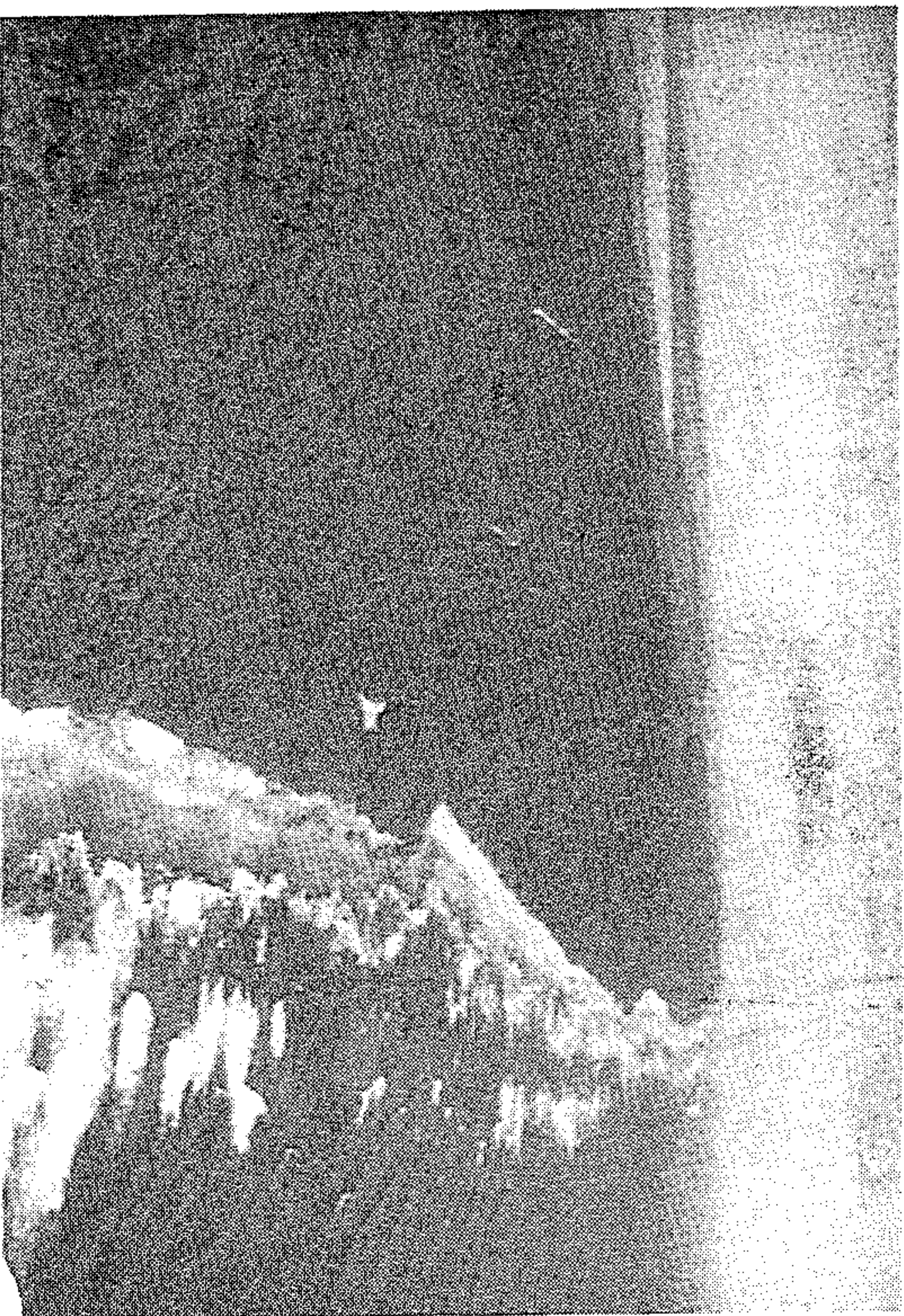
I saw its reed beds blackened and dead; its crocodiles so encrusted with salt they were unable to submerge because of the "Dead Sea effect"; its hippos, their hides cracked, hugging the dunes because by now this area of the lake was the only part receiving fresh water in the form of driving rain on the coastal side of the dunes which then filtered through on the lake side.

There was no attempt to co-ordinate the actions of the various departments.

When the public cried out, the government's answer was to give the Defence Force 1000km square of the lake for rocket and air attack practice!

At about this time, the government entered into an agreement with a Canadian mining company to remove the dunes of St Lucia and sift out the seven percent minerals (mainly titanium) they contained.

Some claim the government never kept secret the prospecting of the dunes. It never announced it, either. And what it never revealed — right



□ **SA's EVERGLADES:** On the top left of the picture, the eastern shore where mining activities are to take place.

through the St Lucia storm — was that, because of a clause in the Minerals Act, any company granted a prospecting licence had the automatic right to mine. That is the law.

That is the situation we now face.

The public, after 25 years, failed to persuade the government to give the St Lucia ecosystem protection — despite its own Kriel Commission's recommendations in the 1960s that it do so.

The St Lucia dunes have been deliberately kept outside the borders of St Lucia Game Reserve.

As the law stands, Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) is perfectly within its rights to exploit such a situation — and it has. The real villain in the St Lucia saga has been the government.

To dismiss the EIA as irrelevant — as I personally advocated — would, I now believe, jeopardise the future of this essential tool, the EIA, as well as IEM (Integrated Environmental Man-

penetrate the clay layer and destroy any chance of that rainwater reaching the lake.

Unless the experts state that mining would disastrously affect the St Lucia lake system, the government may give the go-ahead.

Meanwhile, an interesting situation is arising which could swing the decision against mining: A severe drought is once again threatening the lake.

Because so little rain has fallen this season, the mouth of the St Lucia estuary has closed up and its rivers are barely running. Once again the lake's salinity could climb.

Its main source of fresh water is now whatever seepage takes place from the dunes. Imagine, then, if RBM were already removing them.

The present drought is also threatening RBM's titanium mining at Richards Bay, a few kilometres south of St Lucia.

RBM has asked the Department of Water Affairs for permission to draw water from the Umfolozi — the very river it wants to tap for its opencast mine at St Lucia. But the Umfolozi is barely flowing.

The situation recalls Mr Harry Oppenheimer's words of 35 years ago when he predicted water would be the one mineral that would stop South Africa exploiting all its other minerals to the full.

Part of RBM's plan for St Lucia is to build a reservoir so that in the rainy season the Umfolozi's water can be pumped out of the river and into a reservoir for use in the dry season.

The mine needs — year-round — large amounts of fresh water to float its enormous processing plant.

Many observers fear that, if RBM is given the go-ahead to mine St Lucia's dunes it will open the way to mining from Transkei right up through Mozambique to East Africa, a strip of coast rich in titanium.

There is also the question of the economic impact. A spokesman for RBM was recently asked if RBM would be subsidised by the taxpayer. He said "No."

But a question in parliament has since revealed that RBM has received R310 million from taxpayers over the years as an incentive to export.

RBM has yet to say whether it is putting down a deposit so that if the bottom were to drop out of the titanium market (as it has in the past) — causing RBM to abandon its St Lucia mine — the public would not be faced with the cost of restoring the area.

RBM, being a private company, is not obliged to reveal its financial details — even though it uses millions of rands of taxpayers' money.

early release system with a system of prisoners' industrial earnings. In principle, all prisoners will write letters and receive visits. Day and child welfare.

Focus on SA's ability to handle disasters

ADRIAN HADLAND

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PRETORIA — SA's ability to cope with natural or man-made disasters, from nuclear accidents to floods, was the subject of a multiparty conference which began in Ellipsis yesterday.

Speaking at the conference on civil protection, Local Government Department chief director Jaap de Beer said more than 3-million people had died worldwide because of natural disasters between 1968 and 1988.

With a dramatic increase in the frequency of disasters locally and internationally since the early '80s, it was essential SA was prepared to deal quickly and effectively with any scenario.

One of the serious shortcomings in SA's current civil protection programme was the bureaucratic red tape that had to be cut to activate the service.

Recommendations from the conference would be passed on to the local government negotiating forum which is scheduled to meet later this month, De Beer said.

Tourism grading plan unveiled

LLOYD COUTTS

SATOUR yesterday unveiled plans to introduce a new volunteer grading and classification scheme for all tourist accommodation establishments by April 1.

The scheme was introduced to the industry at a seminar in Johannesburg yesterday by Satour director of standards Greg McManus, who said it would come into operation once the consolidated Tourism Bill was passed by Parliament this session.

Details of the scheme — including a levy — were still under discussion, he said.

A Satour brochure said the scheme, which applied to serviced and self-catering accommodation and caravan parks, was designed to act as a catalyst for tourism development in SA and bring the industry in line with international trends and developments.

The scheme consisted of three categories: listed accommodation, graded establishments and classified establishments.

Holdings of liquor licences registered with the SA Tourism Board as hotels would be accom-

modated in a category protecting their licences. They would no longer be required to provide meals, ancillary services and unnecessary bedrooms, but would have to maintain five bedrooms for guests and be assessed annually.

An annual fee to Satour would be required to cover the costs of monitoring their standards.

Graded establishments would have to collect a tourism development levy, which would be used to fund tourism marketing by Satour internationally and domestically and be based on a fixed amount per room per night.

Serviced accommodation establishments offering above standard services could apply for an optional classification.

Participants in the scheme would be included in the Satour accommodation guide, have access to a Satour development and research data base, enjoy preferential rates for Satour marketing and advertising and have access to tourism funds.

Developer 'shocked' at reserve intrusion claims

(56) CT 11/3/93

DEVELOPERS of an equestrian estate at Noordhoek have defended themselves against claims that they had built paths providing access to, and encroaching on, the Silvermine Nature Reserve.

After the issue had been raised at a recent amenities and health committee meeting, Councillor Joye Gibbs told the Review that the developers had built a road on their own property which ended halfway up the site opening on the Silvermine Reserve.

She said: "We're concerned that residents will view the reserve as their own backyard. The road looks as though it was deliberately built to provide an entrance into the reserve and there are already signs of intrusion into the area."

Ticket intruders

"The council is negotiating to buy a piece of land worth R3 m which will extend the reserve up to the development, but I don't think it can bear the expense of fencing the land off."

"We will just have to see how bad the intrusion turns out to be." She said the council could ticket intruders into the reserve but this would require a full-time officer.

Developer Mr Simon Brodovcki said he was "astounded and shocked" by the claims.

He said he had bought rural land above the development and cut one nature trail which went up each boundary of this land.

"I personally supervised this and even waved the bulldozer away when I saw it heading for a protea. But before I did anything I asked a conservation officer to visit the site and give me advice."

"I am extremely concerned about protecting the environment and have taken a lot of trouble to do so," he said.

He said residents of the development, which could take more than seven years to complete, could possibly be granted access to the reserve through a monthly ticket.

At last week's amenities and health committee meeting concern was expressed about the tracks "which have proliferated on the mountainside above the development and which appear to enter the Silvermine Nature Reserve".

No access

A City Engineer's representative said the development was on land controlled by the Regional Services Council.

The sub-division approval provided specifically that no access to the reserve and no development above the development line would be permitted.

"Despite the foregoing, however, the developer went ahead with the provision of tracks which cross the boundary of the reserve," he said.

Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa said the developers had applied to the council to build pathways up the mountain and had been refused permission to do this.

Political actors at odds over local government

Business Day Reporter

WHILE all three main political actors in SA have expressed support for "strong local government", they each attach a different meaning to the term.

And none is likely to fully achieve its goals, although they can avoid the trap of weak and ineffective local government if they are prepared to moderate their goals and adapt to a democratic culture.

This is the conclusion of an Urban Foundation development strategy and policy unit research report published yesterday.

The report notes that government sees the purpose of strong local government as a means of "limiting the socioeconomic effects of political change". It would enable highly decentralised local authorities to "maintain standards" and thereby protect "white and/or middle class interests".

The extra-parliamentary groups have exactly the opposite vision. They see strong local government acting to transfer resources to previously excluded (black) parts of cities — spreading the benefits of a single tax base.

The third grouping — the "free market position", with which Inkatha largely identifies — aims at "nonracial, market-driven economic efficiency".

However, the report argues that future local authorities will have to operate against the background of the apartheid legacy of racially divided cities, underdeveloped townships with low administrative and fiscal capacities, higher service costs imposed on township residents, township residents' perceptions of exploitation and the deep social and political divisions coinciding with spatial divisions.

Students, IDT clash

THE dispute between black university students and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) showed no signs of abating yesterday as students disregarded the IDT's offer of R30m to pay outstanding fees from last year, saying that the offer fell far short of the need.

The IDT said it was funded by taxpayers to alleviate the plight of the "poorest of the poor", and that funding for tertiary education was not one of the priorities of the trust.

SA Students' Congress (Sasco) spokesman Mogo-motsi Mogodiri said the IDT plan to reallocate the R30m to pay outstanding fees from last year would not resolve the problems of black institutions which

faced a deficit of R52m in outstanding fees.

IDT spokesman Jolyon Nuttall said the trust's principal obligation was to the very poor, "and the more we give to the students, the less we can give to the poor".

The IDT regarded tertiary education as a privilege and not a right, and it focused on the areas of housing, health, job creation and schooling, he said.

□ Meanwhile, Sapa reports Soweto schools were operating normally yesterday as unionists and education authorities continued negotiations over the reinstatement of 30 teachers.

Star 10/31/93

Watchdog body fears Midrand borehole pollution

By Brian Sokutu

Environmental watchdog Earthlife Africa (ELA) yesterday called on Delta G Scientific to pay for an impact study into the chemical company's operations in Midrand.

This follows the tracing by the Department of Water Affairs this week of polluted water samples released into a

stormwater drain from Delta's premises.

ELA spokesman Bob Sugrue said his organisation estimated the pollution in the stormwater drain was 500 times higher than the 0,1 mg per litre allowed by the Department of Water Affairs.

The organisation feared pollutants in general were seeping into boreholes in the area.

Reacting to the ELA call, Delta G spokesman Johan Viljoen described his company as "a responsible corporate business". He invited ELA officials to inspect the factory.

"As far as the removal of any effluent from the plant and from the premises is concerned, Delta G has a highly sophisticated system which is operational and functional,"

said Viljoen.

"The company goes beyond the requirements and standards set for the industry. Every millilitre of fluid is contained in tanks," he said, adding that "an insignificant volume" of 100 litres had overflowed the tanks on Sunday and a small amount ended in the stormwater drain.

The company said on Monday that heavy rain two weeks

ago had caused a small amount of water from a tank containing phenol to overflow into a stormwater drain.

Asked whether there would be any danger if the pollutants seeped into boreholes in Midrand, Viljoen said: "The phenol-based effluent is contained in mouthwashes and detergents and is not at all dangerous."

Plea over Rooi Els test site

Environment Reporter

AN APPEAL for funds to help meet legal costs of the Supreme Court action involving Somchem's test site at Rooi Els has been made to all residents of the area. **AR 10/3/93**

The Rooi Els Local Council is attempting to have Somchem's lease of the site, where it tests ammunition and propellants, declared invalid.

The Overberg Regional Services Council and the Administrator have been named as co-respondents in the

case which started in December.

It was postponed to May 17 to enable replying affidavits to be filed.

In an open letter to residents and ratepayers of Rooi Els, Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Kleinmond and the Kogelberg, the Save Hangklip Action Group said R200 000 had been raised since December but another R250 000 was required. **(56)**

● The Somchem Litigation Trust is managed by the Cape Town firm of attorneys, Fairbridge, Arderne and Lawton.

CAPE

Nature body bids for scrapped atomic site

56 Ar 24 10/3/93

**JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter**

SEVEN tenders have been received for Gouriqua — the Atomic Energy Corporation's scrapped research facility at Ystervarkpunt on the southern Cape coast.

The proposed sale has raised the ire of some conservationists, who believe the property should be transferred free to

Cape Nature Conservation as taxpayers' money was used to buy it in 1984.

The property, which the AEC says is worth about R8 million, includes 2 000 hectares of pristine lowland fynbos, described by the Botanical Society as being of great conservation and ecological value.

The AEC put the property on the market last year after can-

celling its reactor development programme. After objections, the tender date was extended by a month to last Friday.

An AEC spokesman said seven official tenders had been received and were being evaluated.

He confirmed one of the bids was from the SA Nature Foundation, which is offering just over R600 000 for the undevel-

oped part of the property.

Cape Nature Conservation was involved in intensive negotiations for Gouriqua for about 18 months but was unable to reach agreement with the AEC.

A spokesman said they could not justify the price on ecological grounds, nor did the department have that amount of money available for land purchases in general.

Battle over St Lucia intensifies

STAR 6/1/93.

By James Clarke

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South African cricket hero Jonty Rhodes is among tens of thousands who have signed a new and crucial pledge to save St Lucia Estuary from open-cast mining.

More than 400 000 specially designed postcards are being signed countrywide. As they are received they are being stockpiled in "safe places" ready for the last stage in the battle to save the famous wetland.

The reason the cards are being locked away is because the Save St Lucia organisers fear a repetition of what happened when The Star and Natal Witness spearheaded a 360 000-signature petition to save St Lucia in 1989: the then Minister of Environment Affairs, in dismissing the petition, told Parliament he had received less than half that number.

Fortunately The Star had kept a record of all the petitions and had hand-delivered them.

The postcard campaign is taking no such chances, and tomorrow, personalities and wildlife officials will arrive in Johannesburg to attend a strategy meeting.

The row is expected to climax in March when the mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, presents its environmental impact assessment study in which it hopes to show how St Lucia can be mined without lasting damage. The company says it will not mine if the study shows that excessive damage will be caused.

But Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett has already indicated he believes mining should go ahead despite the risks.

During December the Save St Lucia postcard campaign became a blizzard of protest. The National Parks Board helped by inserting the cards in its widely circulated journal, Custos.

The Save St Lucia campaign office telephone number is (011) 648-1307.

Worsening drought brings Natal to point of crisis

MARITZBURG — The drought in Natal is reaching crisis levels.

Natal Agricultural Union director Steven Shone said yesterday that the drought had definitely not broken and was the worst he had seen. It could have a devastating effect on the national economy.

Natal farmers would be in a crisis even if it rained heavily for the next three months.

Farmers in the east Grigueland area had had only a fraction of the monthly average rainfall since the beginning of October.

Boreholes and springs were drying up for the first time in 50

years and many farmers could not irrigate because river levels were low.

The biggest concern facing many farmers was the lack of winter feed.

The sugar, banana and subtropical fruit industries were also suffering, which could severely impact on the national

economy.

Water Affairs and Forestry regional director Joe Hansmann said the drought, although short, was very severe.

Towns most affected by water shortages were Umzimto, Scottburgh, Stanger, Eshowe, Greytown and Amanzimtoti.

— Sapa.

'Mining firm has titanium options besides St Lucia'

By Julienne du Toit

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mean loss of foreign revenue or jobs.

Richards Bay Minerals is underplaying the fact that it has options other than St Lucia where titanium could be mined, said Wits University resource economist Dr Frank Vorhies at a meeting of the Campaign for St Lucia last night.

Vorhies has been involved in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the effect of mining at St Lucia.

Richards Bay Minerals has an option to mine titanium at Zulti South in Natal but did not allow this factor to be taken into consideration during the EIA, said Vorhies.

If mining at St Lucia was disallowed, this would not

"In any case, this would mean a few million rands and maybe a few dozen jobs, not billions of rands and hundreds of jobs," said Vorhies.

Using St Lucia as an eco-tourism resort would attract more income and create more jobs over a far longer term than mining.

Nolly Zaloumis, chairman of the campaign, said St Lucia could soon be declared a World Heritage site.

Executive director of the Wildlife Society Tony Ferrar warned against "demonising" Richards Bay Minerals. The main enemy was the Government which had granted the mining rights.