

ENVIRONMENT — 1992

APRIL — MAY.

# Table mountain management plan to be disclosed (56)

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter *ARC 11/4/92*

ADMINISTRATOR Mr Kobus Meiring is to make an important announcement about the management of Table Mountain within the next few weeks.

It is understood that the provincial administration has assigned a significant amount of money — believed to be about R100 000 — for the development of a management plan for the Peninsula mountain chain.

Mr Meiring is advised on the management of the mountain chain — technically called the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment (PNE) — by an advisory committee headed by former Cape nature conservation chief Dr Douglas Hey.

Dr Hey's committee has been under fire for years for not having a proper management plan.

Recently, UCT ecologist Professor Eugene Moll — representing the Botanical Society's flora conservation committee — resigned from Dr Hey's committee in protest at what he termed "the frustration of not having a proper ecological management plan for the priceless heritage, the Cape Peninsula".

Asked to comment on rumours of the province's financial backing for a management plan, a spokesman for Mr Meiring said an announcement would be made soon.

# Kaolin protest to go national

51 CT 1/4/92

Staff Reporter

A NATIONWIDE campaign to prevent the proposed mining of kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak is to be launched following a national survey in which 70% of all respondents rejected the proposal.

Mr Ian Brownlie, chairman of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, claimed yesterday that the planned campaign would be the largest environmental campaign ever undertaken in South Africa.

He said the findings of an independent survey — undertaken over the past two weeks by Re-

search Surveys — were that an overwhelming 70% of English and Afrikaans-speaking South Africans between the ages of 18 and 50 years were against the proposed mining of kaolin on Chapman's Peak by the Serina Mining Company.

The independent survey was undertaken free of charge by the company, as a donation to the action group.

Of the remaining respondents, 18% were in favour of the proposed mining development, and 12% "did not know".

"As far as we are concerned this indicates overwhelming support in favour of the mine not going ahead.

"In the Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vereeniging (PWV) areas alone, 70% of respondents were against the mine, and this indicates that support against the proposed mine is countrywide and not localised," said Mr Brownlie.

He said a 1990 petition by 55 000 Capetonians against the proposed mine was recently declared "lost" by the authorities.

That petition, he said, was signed in six centres over three Saturday mornings.

"Seeing that the authorities have treated the previous petition with such disdain, we are embarking on a massive countrywide campaign."

## 12 held after mob kills man

WINDHOEK. — Namibian police yesterday arrested 12 people in connection with the mob execution of a dump-truck driver employed by the Ministry of Works.

Mr Johano Mlambo Masemene, 31, was stoned and hacked to death on Monday for killing five people when reversing his heavy vehicle into a queue of job-seekers at a road camp near Kavango.

Mr Masemene, who is from South Africa, was working on a road-con-

## Mercury poisoning: 3 worse

CT 1/4/92

DURBAN. — The condition of three former employees of Thor Chemicals in Cato Ridge near Durban who are thought to be suffering from mercury poisoning continued to worsen yesterday, said Dr Mark Colvin of the University of Natal's Industrial Health Unit.

Dr Colvin said Mr Engelbert Ngcobo was still in intensive care at Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital, Mr Peter Cele's condition had remained bad and Mr Albert Dlamini's speech was deteriorating and he was experiencing increased difficulty standing or walking.

Dr Colvin said Professor A C Davies from the National Council of Occupational Health would arrive in Durban today to begin an independent investigation into Thor Chemicals and apparent mercury poisoning of the three workers.

A Thor Chemicals public relations spokeswoman said the outcome of the investigation would be passed on to the Department of Manpower, which is conducting a separate investigation.

She said Thor's mercury recycling section remained suspended pending investigations. — Sapa

## Nude arrest: Journo acquitted

JOHANNESBURG

Ms Karen Lotter, a Johannesburg

# Soil to sea 'our greatest export'

STAC 11492 (56)  
Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — Handle the land properly or face greater food and fibre shortages, a soils expert has warned.

Dr Dries van der Merwe, director of the Soils and Irrigation Research Institute in Pretoria, said future food and fibre shortages could become commonplace in South Africa if people believed production could be increased merely by cultivating more land.

While 0,4 to 0,5 ha was needed to produce the food and fibre for each person, by the year 2050 less than 0,2 ha would be available if there was no halt to the rapid population growth.

Dr van der Merwe said the perception that land was an unlimited resource to be used without proper conservation would spell disaster, as had already been shown in several parts of southern Africa.

"Horizontal expansion of production can no longer take place and greater production must take place vertically by producing more per unit area.

"High-potential land will thus have to be reserved for agriculture and soil retrogression will have to be tackled pro-actively.

"Soil erosion is the greatest cause of retrogression — and South Africa's greatest export is soil into the sea.

"Soil compaction, crust formation, acidification, brak formation, drowning and pollution are serious problems which must be stopped."

Lack of water in the soil was the most limiting production factor in large parts of South Africa, he added.

## ANC seeks ban on toxic waste import

STAR 1/4 92  
The ANC has called for a ban on the importation of toxic waste following the hospitalisation of three Durban workers.

Peter Cele, Engelbert Ngcobo and Albert Dlamini, workers at Thor Chemicals in Cato Ridge in Natal, are being treated in Durban hospitals. They are thought to be suffering from mercury poisoning.

Their condition continued to worsen yesterday, according to Dr Mark Colvin of the University of Natal's industrial health unit.

Dr Colvin said Mr Ngcobo was still in intensive care at Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital. Mr Cele's condition remained bad and Mr Dlamini's speech was deteriorating and he was experiencing increased difficulty standing or walking.

The Department of Manpower has announced a public inquiry into the alleged poisoning.

In a statement issued in Johannesburg yesterday, the ANC said "tons of toxic waste, too dangerous to process abroad, has been imported by Thor Chemicals with Government approval". — Staff Reporter.

# UWC crisis meeting

Staff Reporter

THE University of the Western Cape administration, SRC and students intend holding a meeting this afternoon to discuss disruptions on campus as a result of the exclusion of 189 students unable to pay fees.

Students have been boycotting classes since last Tuesday. Lectures have been disrupted and on Tuesday about 200 students, who were

given an SRC mandate to stage a brief sit-in at the administration block, allegedly wrecked rector Professor Jakes Gerwel's office. CT 2/4/92

Professor Gerwel slammed the students' actions and yesterday SRC spokesman Mr Oupa Ntombela dissociated student leadership from "acts of destruction".

He said the students had "overstepped the

boundaries of their mandate to hold a brief placard demonstration and sit-in" in the administration block.

Yesterday's meetings which were to have taken place between the SRC and administration were cancelled and will take place this morning before the meeting in the afternoon.

The campus was quiet yesterday with very few students present.

# Signal Hill under spotlight

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

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ARC 2/4/92

ism, recreation, housing and biological conservation".

THE city council is to draw up a management plan for Signal Hill and Lion's Head and has ordered a R300 000 revision of its Table Mountain management plan.

City planner Mr Neville Riley said the aim of the Signal Hill plan would be to develop an overall vision of the potential of the area, "having regard to the often conflicting needs of tour-

Deputy city administrator Mr Peter Alston said it was hoped the plan would clarify the area's future, particularly for residents and developers.

The report will evaluate various aspects of Signal Hill and Lion's Head, and recommend land uses, giving probable costs for various types of development.

# Ruin of Rietvlei ...

## Lack of funds and dumping hampering conservation

May 2/4/92

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A LACK of funds is seriously hampering proper conservation of the Rietvlei protected national environment and uncaring individuals are abusing the area by using it as a rubbish dump.

Also, some management activities in this internationally important wetland have been quered.

But negotiations to buy the 527-hectare property and manage it as a fully-fledged reserve reached an advanced stage, according to Milnerton town clerk Mr Peter Gerber.

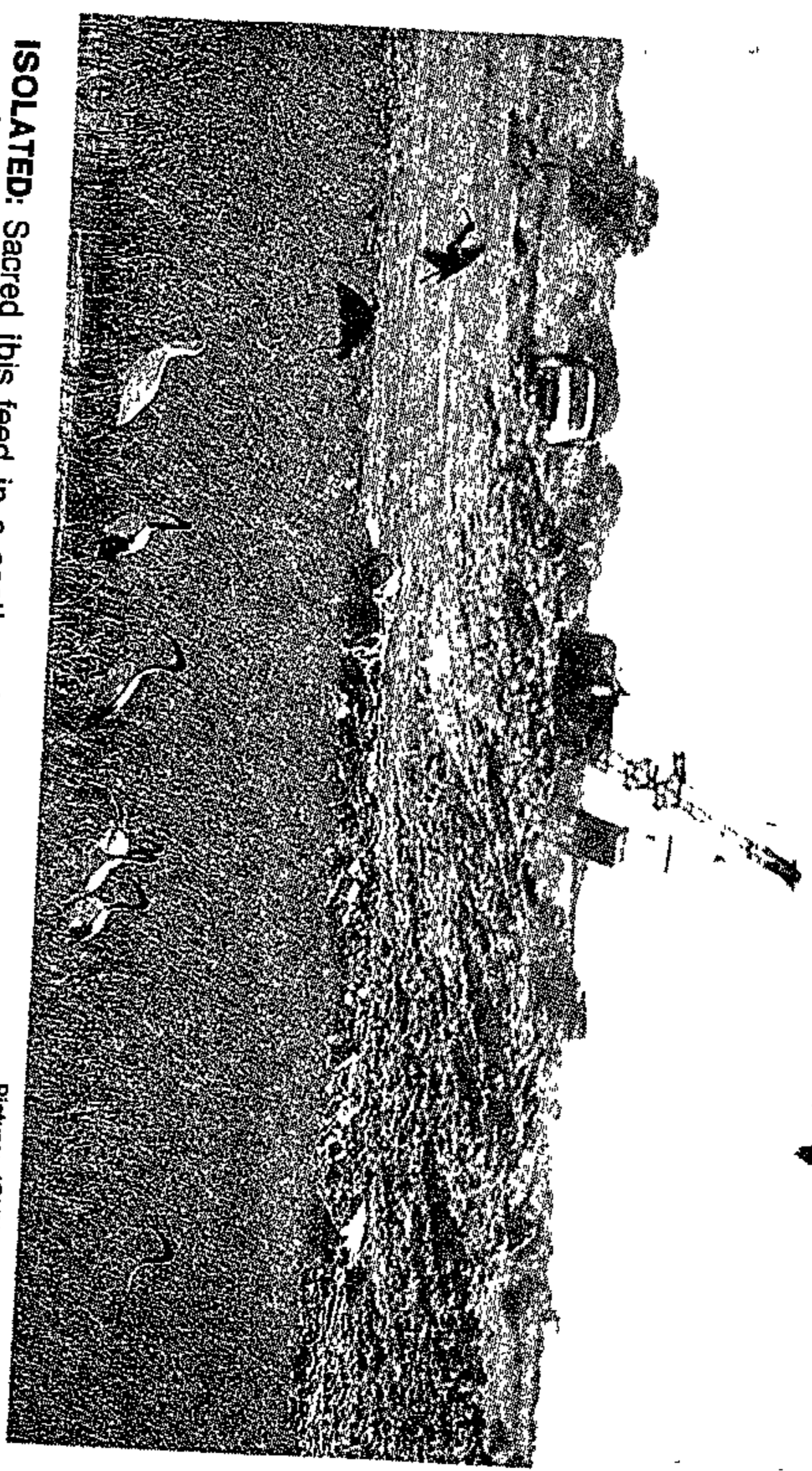
A management plan for Rietvlei is being compiled by a management advisory committee headed by Dr Douglas Hey.

Mrs Pat Titmuss, chairwoman of Friends of Rietvlei and a member of Dr Hey's committee, queried the decision to dredge a channel and construct an earth berm along the eastern edge of the lagoon which effectively cuts off a section of wetland.

"Unfortunately it's one of those situations where man has interfered with the system and so we have to continue interfering."

"But we're concerned that the wetland area doesn't get filled in behind the berm, and there must be culverts under this berm for water to flow freely."

Mrs Titmuss was also concerned that there was no clearing of alien vegetation, and no fence-



**ISOLATED:** Sacred ibis feed in a section of the Rietvlei wetland which conservationists fear may be at risk because of the construction of an earth berm — part of anti-flooding measures. ing or proper signs indicating the status of the area.

"I'm a bit unhappy. There are an awful lot of those sort of management things that could be done but aren't," she said. "As the years go by it gets worse and worse. It's very difficult because there's no finance."

Mr Dennis Baker, chairman of the West Coast branch of the Wildlife Society, said they had found substantial quantities of rubbish dumped around the edge of Rietvlei during a festive season survey. Subsequently, some had been cleared. "Basically, we're losing our wetlands — that's the problem. I feel they're taking a slice here and reclaiming it, and then a slice there — eventually there'll be nothing left. When are we going to stop?" he asked.

In response, Mr Gerber said the major problem had been to find the "substantial" funds required to buy the property, but negotiations were at an advanced stage and the municipality hoped

progress could be made soon.

"Until the land is in the council's ownership, it would be irresponsible to spend public funds on the management of the nature area," he said.

The council had always taken a "pro-active" approach towards Rietvlei which formed a valuable asset for Milnerton, the Western Cape "and indeed for the community as a whole."

"Council was instrumental in having the area proclaimed as a nature reserve, and, as funds for the purchase were not forthcoming from government or provincial sources, for providing funds from its own budget for the purchase of the valuable wetland."

The berm was necessary as a management tool but there would not be filling behind it, he added.

"Once the wetlands have been purchased by the municipality, funds will be budgeted for fencing and for the clearing of aliens."



# Big 'no' to Peak plan

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

56 PAGE 2/4/92

AN OVERWHELMING majority of respondents in a national survey are opposed to kaolin mining on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

The results of the independent survey, done last month by a professional market research company, are to be sent to President De Klerk and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

They will also be used as the basis for an intensified national campaign against the proposed mine.

The survey, conducted free for the group, found that 58 percent of 500 respondents nationwide were aware of the kaolin mining proposal.

A majority of respondents in all the major metropolitan areas except Durban knew about the mine. In Cape Town, 88 percent said they were aware of the proposal.

Of the 291 respondents asked wheth-

er they believed Serina should be given the go-ahead to mine, an overwhelming 204 (70 percent) answered "no".

Only 52 (18 percent) said "yes" while 35 (12 percent) were unsure.

There were majority "no" votes in all the metropolitan areas: 70 percent in the PWV area, 69 percent in Cape Town, 62 percent in Durban and 79 percent in Bloemfontein and the Eastern Cape.

"This is a categorical result," said Save Chapman's Peak spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie.

"We have come under a bit of flack recently from people with a vested interest in the mining — particularly from (Continental China chairman Mr Klaus) Zirker during the radio debate — saying our support base is only small.

"But this is a pretty overwhelming result, even better than the referendum. This was a totally unbiased survey and I think nobody can dispute the results."

# Can we afford these parks?

**T**HERE is something obscene when almost two million hectares of arable land is left to animals and vegetation. It becomes equally absurd when communities who live on the borders of this enclave are poor, mostly unemployed and starving.

But is it really that obscene? Depending on the side that you on, it may be anything.

Kruger National Park - one of the world's best sanctuary for birds, animals and vegetation - raises these contradictions.

The case against the park - or any other park in this country for that matter - would also weigh heavily if you look at their history. It followed the rules of this country - separating people yet at the same time claiming they are conserving nature.

This is a short-term and shortsighted view. Sure, if people are allowed to go and stay in the park they can plant crops and hunt game. They will be well-off for some time. But how long will it take before the land loses its nutritious top soil? How long will the game survive? How long will the soil be able to take the pressures that it will come under?

Off course, you might say, it is easy for me to write this. I have food, I have a job and I am looking at the problem from the sidelines.

True, it seems like a terrible waste to have all those animals running around the park, eating each other or avoiding to be eaten.

It also seems like a terrible thing to have all that arable land lying fallow when people can actually do something about it.

But if we take that land and give it to people who need the land, all the natural vegetation will be gone before we know it.

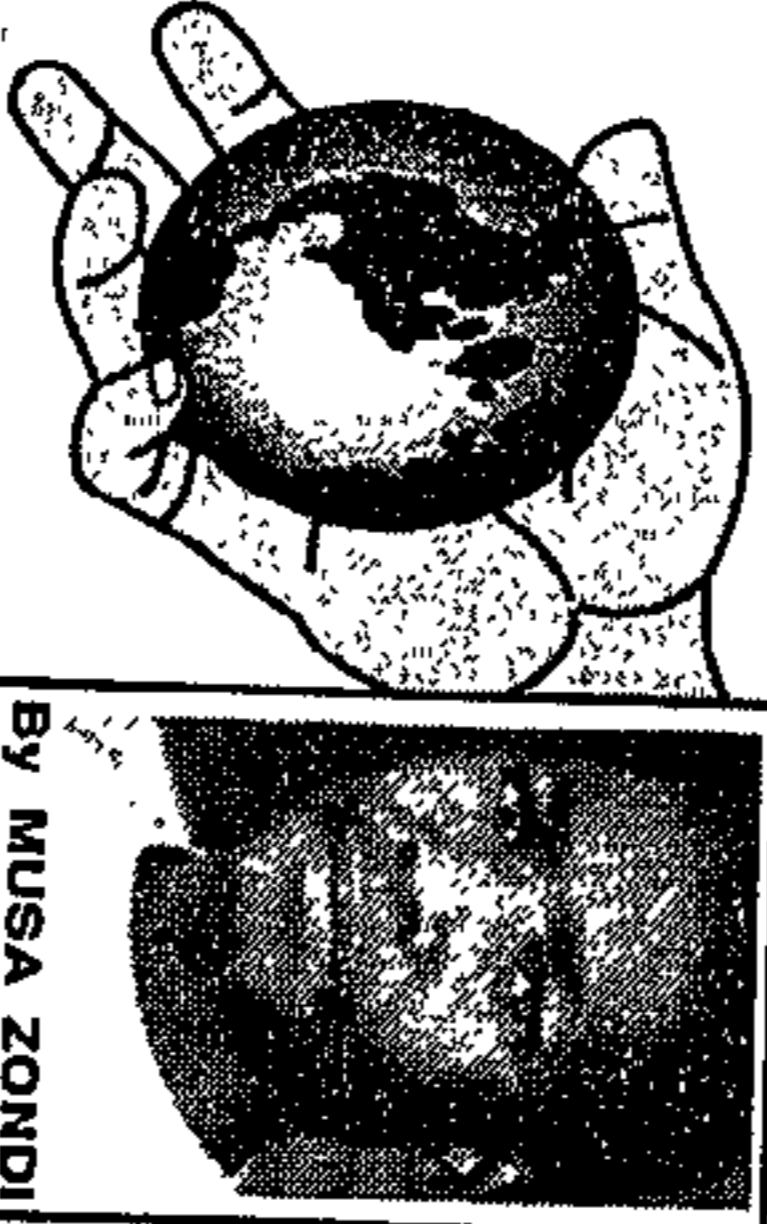
There is still intense research being done to see if any of these plants have any value at all - whether they can be used as medicines.

As we were going along the park looking at

## ROOTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN

Joubert 3/4/92

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By MUSA ZONDI

various plants, it was easy to spot the ones I have seen being used as medicines. They were - and still are - used for coughs, toothaches, earaches or stomach ailments. But that is just a limited scope. What other plants are there? What are they capable of curing? Could it be cancer or maybe even Aids?

**T**ake for instance the marula tree. This tree is used for many things by people in the Northern Transvaal. It is used for making beer, used for rituals, used against spider bites, used for making drums and also as a source of food.

People there value this tree because they can relate to it directly. It is part of their culture. It is part of their tradition. There are many other trees used for different purposes in traditional societies. But this is the value we should be placing on all trees and vegetation.

But this line of argument begs a question: What if people need this tree to make firewood? For now I will let the matter rest and we will deal with it at another level.

There is a strong need to preserve our natural resources. There is a need to do more research to determine whether these plants are capable to



Mr Paul Kruger, managing director of Sasol and Dr Solomon Joubert of the Kruger National Park at the unveiling of Huhla. This is a Sasol Environmental Education Centre near Skukuza. The house that has been changed into an educational centre used to be a stationmaster's house. The building will be used as an overnight facility for groups attending an ecology course offered by the game reserve.

come to our salvation in our times of need.

Perhaps more than just for our selfish reasons: We should reserve these areas to bring us back to nature.

We need these areas to relax and on that score they must be accessible to all the people of the land.

The prices must be such that people can afford to go there and that not only the well-off can enjoy this natural paradise.

If they are properly managed and run, these areas can be a major boost for the economy with all the tourists bringing foreign exchange which this country desperately needs.

These areas also provide job opportunities for thousands of people - especially those living next to these reserves.

Furthermore, this is our heritage. We could not leave our children a better gift than these places.

# Widespread damage to fertile soil threatens world food supply

UNITED NATIONS — The world's future food supply is threatened by damage done by mankind to more than a tenth of the Earth's fertile soil since 1945, an area the size of China and India combined, a new United Nations report says.

Overgrazing by livestock, inefficient farming practices and deforestation are about equally to blame for the loss of fertile land, the UN Environment Programme study found. Urbanisation and pollution are other factors.

Environmental scientists fear that as the Earth's population grows from 5.5 billion now to 10 billion by the year 2050, the loss of fertile land will lead to a permanent global food shortage.

"As land becomes scarce, how are we going to make sure that the common man in a developing country is able to get the food that he needs?" asked Visvanathan Rajagopalan, a World Bank vice-president who heads its consultative group on international agricultural research.

"We are going to have to feed an increasingly large population on a finite base of arable land," soil researcher Dirk Bryant said. "A conservative assessment is that you try to save that base."

About 1.2 billion hectares of land have sustained moderate to extreme degradation since 1945, accounting for 10.5 percent of the planet's fertile land, an area the size of China and India

Of that land, 300 million hectares are severely degraded. Most of the rest of the degraded land has lost some fertility, but can still be used for some agriculture, the report says.

But even that land is threatened. If it is not improved, "one may fear that at least part of it may become strongly de-

graded in the near future."

Worldwide, about 25 billion tons of soil were lost each year due to erosion and other damage.

The vast majority of the damaged land is in Asia, with 453 million hectares, and Africa, with 321 million hectares.

Central America has the highest proportion of damaged land — 24 percent of its total.

About 17 percent of Europe's land, 14 percent of Africa's and

12 percent of Asian's soil is degraded.

Only 4.4 percent of North America's soil has been damaged or lost.

Although the use of fertilisers and high-yield crops has helped offset the loss of agricultural land and prevented food shortages so far, ecologists warn that the dual trends of declining farmland and increasing world population will eventually lead to a supply crisis. — Sapa-AP.

# Wild to feed hungry

WINDHOEK. — President Sam Nujoma said yesterday the drought-stricken nation would soon start killing wildlife to provide meat for hungry Namibians. (S) ET 3/4/92

"All natural resources must be utilised to provide food for the needy," Mr Nujoma told a news conference.

Namibia is suffering its worst drought since the turn of the century. Mr Nujoma did not say which ani-

mals would be slaughtered, but the most likely targets are springbok and gemsbok. They are most heavily concentrated in Etosha National Park, considered one of Africa's top game parks.

Government officials and aid agencies have estimated the 11 countries in the region will need 7 million to 13 million tons of imported food over the next year. — Sapa

# Season of smog begins in city

Staff Reporter (56) CT 4/4/92

CAPE TOWN has entered the season of smog with nitrogen oxides this week exceeding the guideline level for the first time this year.

Mr Derrick Oxley, the council's air pollution officer, confirmed yesterday that this was the first smog of the season. According to the Cape Times' records, the last time a guideline was exceeded was in September.

Thursday's NOx level was 1 526 micro-

grams. The guideline level is 1 504. Yesterday it was back down to 1 063.

Last year, the first time that either of the two monitored gases exceeded a guideline level was late in April.

Mr Oxley said this did not necessarily mean that the air pollution problem was getting worse, as so much depended on the weather.

"The beginning of April was an Indian summer last year. What we are having now is normal April weather — nice crisp mornings, with very little wind."

If we have more windless days than last year, it is "virtually certain" that the air pollution guideline levels will be exceeded more often than last year, he said.

Equipment costing over R200 000 has been ordered from Canada to enable the Cape Town City Council to monitor a new chemical, known as PAN, which indicates whether smog is photochemical or not.

Ordinary smog becomes photochemical smog when ultraviolet rays from the sun interact with pollutants in the air and create new, harmful chemicals.

# Rand firm in poison probe

S/Timeo (B455) 5/4/92

By CURT VON KEYSERLINGK

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THE Department of Water Affairs is investigating allegations that waste-disposal company Wadechem handled toxic material "irresponsibly and dangerously".

It is said to have pumped a highly toxic phenol and leachate mixture on to farmlands from its disposal facilities at Holfontein near Springs. It is also accused of using cyanide waste containers in a way that could have produced poisonous cyanide residue gases.

The allegations are made in an affidavit by waste-disposal expert Steven Elliot, a former Wadechem employee.

A source in the department says tests are being done to determine whether the Environment Conservation Act has been contravened. So far the tests have been negative, but they are not complete.

He says a difficulty is that the alleged contraventions occurred some months ago and dumped toxic material could have since leached away.

Wadechem competitor Waste-tech — a subsidiary of JSE-quoted company Fraser Alexander — obtained an order from the Rand Supreme Court last month.

It resulted in the sheriff's searching offices in Benoni.

This action stemmed from the affidavit by Mr Elliot.

## Prices

He says that while he was working at Waste-tech last year he supplied Wadechem with copies of confidential documents from Waste-tech's files.

The documents contained contract prices and other information about Waste-tech's major customers.

Mr Elliot says he was paid R2 000 for the information by Allstair Gillespie who worked at Wadechem.

Mr Gillespie previously worked at Waste-tech, but left shortly after being demoted.

Mr Elliot says Mr Gillespie undertook to get him a job at Wadechem. Wadechem subsequently offered him a job at a salary of R5 500 a month and a company car. But he told Wadechem that he wanted R7 000 a month. Waste-tech had in the meantime raised his salary to R6 000.

Mr Elliot says: "I realised that if I refused the position, offered, Gillespie was in a position to advise Waste-tech of my doings which would endanger my position with Waste-tech and leave me unemployed."

"I accepted the position as offered as I felt I had no other choice and resigned from Waste-tech."

In his new position Mr Elliot and Mr Gillespie had several meetings with Waste-tech customers.

Mr Elliot says: "At each of these meetings Gillespie was in a position to quote competitive disposal prices. He had access to the disposal

prices quoted by Waste-tech as I had furnished them to him."

Shortly after this several Waste-tech customers moved their business to Wadechem. They included Reckitt Household Products, Fry's Metals, NCP, Renown Foods, Carlton Paper, SA Cyanamid and Gypsum Industries.

Their combined business with Waste-tech was worth R3,3-million a year.

Copies of Waste-tech's documents relating to these customers were found during the sheriff's search of the Benoni offices.

Mr Elliot says that on February 6 this year he noticed that a pump had been installed at the Wadechem site. It was connected to an underground pipe leading to farmlands 500m away. The pipe was connected to a farm irrigation system.

He says highly toxic liquid was being sprayed on the farmlands by this system. When he complained, he was told to mind his own business.

Mr Elliot then spoke to another waste-disposal company about setting up a company, but this apparently became known to Wadechem.

He was taken from his work to a farmhouse where he was met by several people, including senior executives. He was told to leave the country and that he would be bought an airline ticket to the UK and given some money.

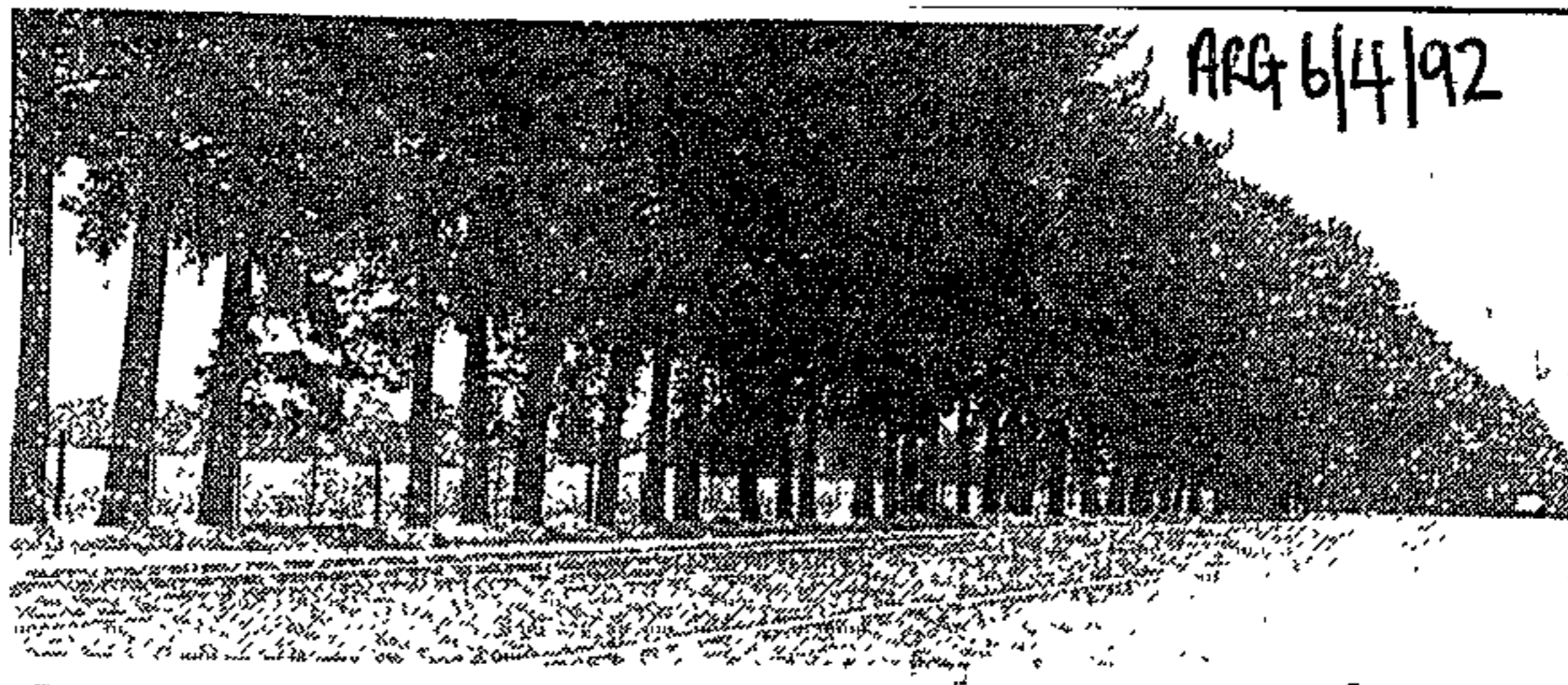
## Warning

He was warned that a senior Wadechem executive had connections in Soweto and would have him killed if he returned to SA and involved himself in Wadechem's business.

Mr Elliot later signed an undertaking that he would not return to SA. It is believed that he is now in the UK.

A spokesman for Wade Refuse, a company associated with Wadechem, says the company's attorneys have been instructed to oppose the court application by Waste-tech.

He denies the allegations in Waste-tech's founding application. He is not prepared to debate the matter in the media because the matter is due to come before a court.



**THREATENED:** The row of mature pines lining the N2 at Joostenbergvlakte, some of which will be felled if a proposed service station development is approved.

## Pines facing the chop <sup>(56)</sup> due to service station

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

THE proposed development of a service station on either side of the N2 at Joostenbergvlakte has drawn fire from some objectors who are opposed to the removal of mature pine trees on the site.

However, the company responsible for the proposal says it is "environmentally concerned" and will improve the natural environment — presently zoned agricultural — by planting vineyards, orchards and "dense tree backdrops".

The South African Energy Company (Mobil) has applied to rezone three smallholdings which straddle the N2 to develop a major service station.

Objectors say the proposal will mean the "wanton destruction" of most of a row of mature pines which

line the southern property for about 700 m.

"Just why this should be necessary or allowed by the authorities, I cannot understand," said one of them, who declined to be named.

In response, Mobil general manager (retail sales) Mr Olof Fehrsen said that while some pines would have to be felled to provide access, the proposal was to "render the site environment-friendly".

"Along with the Cape Dutch-style architecture in keeping with the rural ambience of the area, about R500 000 will be spent on landscaping," he said.

"An integral part of this will be the planting of more trees — most of them indigenous — on the north-bound side of the N1, which is infested with Port Jackson, in order to mirror the line of trees on the south-bound side."

# Kruger Park enters deal with private company to lease lodge

STAR 6/11/92

By Juliette du Toit

The first commercial partnership agreement between the Kruger National Park and a private company was announced last week.

The park has entered into a contract with the Conservation Corporation — effectively leasing Ngala Lodge to them, with sole tourism operating rights over the adjoining 14 000 ha of land, on the western borders of the Kruger Park.

The lodge and land is owned by the National Parks Trust and the land will be managed as an integral part of the park.

The Conservation Corporation will pay the National Parks Board rental for the property, traversing fees, a share of the gross revenues, and will provide the capital for improvements on the existing lodge.

Conservation Corporation managing director Alan Bernstein said he could not yet dis-

close how much the National Parks Board would be receiving, but said it would be a "win-win" situation.

The new Ngala Lodge will be opened in mid-July, and would be targeted at the top-end of the eco-tourism market, Conservation Corporation chairman Dave Varty announced.

## Private

Ngala will be run along the lines of Londolozi Game Reserve and Phinda Resource Reserve, both owned by the corporation.

Chief executive director of the National Parks Board Dr Robbie Robinson said that this type of private game reserve, with its rides in open vehicles, did not fall into the "culture" of his organisation.

The executive members of the board felt it should be transferred to the private sector. The property was originally

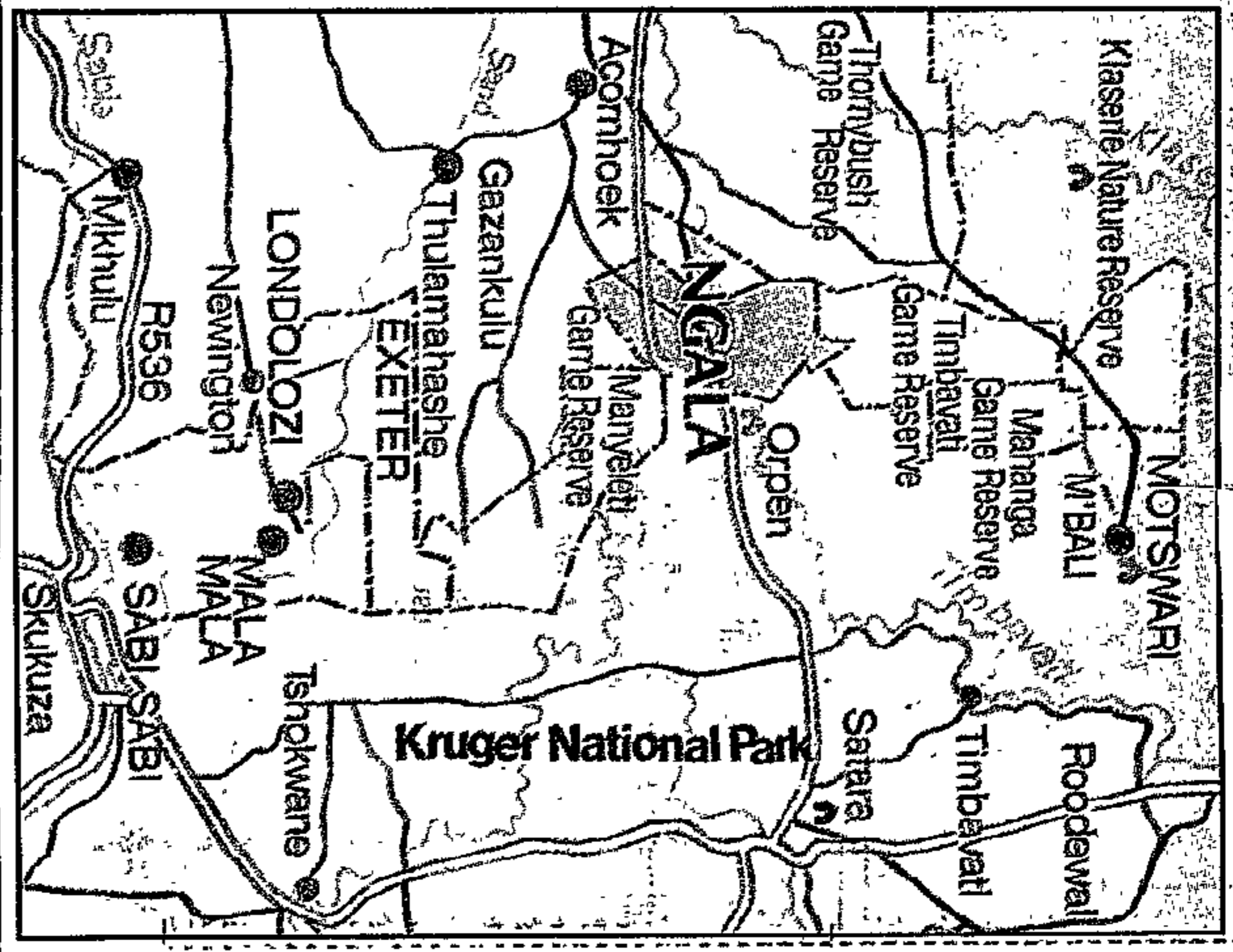
donated to the National Parks Trust via the SA Nature Foundation by landowner Hans Hohenstein 18 months ago.

It has one of the highest densities of lion populations in southern Africa.

Mr Varty said Ngala would be a model of how wealth could be generated for local communities and how wildlife could generate revenue for the country.

As with their other ventures, the surrounding communities would be offered jobs and locals contracted for joint ventures like transportation, sewing, vegetable growing, mechanical work and bricklaying.

The corporation would supply the seed capital, said Mr Varty. Dr Robinson said the ideal scenario was to open up the game reserves in the eastern Transvaal and take down fences so that animals could resume their traditional east-west migratory patterns.





# Malawian labour leader arrested

LILONGWE — A prominent Malawian dissident was arrested yesterday, minutes after he returned home from Johannesburg for a showdown with the authoritarian government of President Hastings Banda.

Labour leader Chakufwa Chihana, 52, was bundled into a waiting car by security agents after he attempted to read from a prepared text on the tarmac at Lilongwe Airport, witnesses said.

Chihana left the plane waving a text calling for the ousting of Life President Kamuzu Banda, a return to democracy and respect for human rights, witnesses said.

There was no immediate comment from the government.

A Western diplomat, who was at the airport, said Western embassies intended to protest against the government's action.

Passengers on the flight from Johannesburg said Chihana expected to be jailed upon his return and "counted down" his last hours of freedom as the flight ap-

proached the capital, Lilongwe.

In Johannesburg Chihana's colleagues in the National Democratic Alliance called for an immediate suspension of Western aid to Malawi as a response to his arrest.

Chihana, secretary-general of the powerful Lilongwe-based Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council, attended a meeting in Zambia last month of Malawian dissidents who pledged to organise a democracy conference in their homeland in defiance of laws banning such gatherings. *Blow 7/14/92*

On Sunday, Chihana accused Banda of leading one of Africa's most repressive regimes. He predicted his return would mark a turning point in the quest for democratic reform in Malawi.

Calls for democracy have intensified since Roman Catholic bishops demanded reforms in a pastoral letter circulated early in March. The government declared the letter a "seditious document". — Sapa-AP.

# Parks hoard R7m in ivory

THEO RAWANA *SB*

THE National Parks Board has an ivory stockpile worth R7m, but it will not sell it in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) ban, says chief executive director Robbie Robinson.

Robinson says the parks have a population of 7 500 elephants and cull between 300 and 400 a year.

"We have R7m of ivory in our stockpiles and can produce R3m a year.

"Although we believe in the sustainable utilisation of wildlife, we will not be going against the decision of Cites. *Blow 7/14/92*

SA will wait until debate has sorted out the issue.

Delegates at a meeting of Cites in Japan last month refused to lift the ban on ivory trade, sparking a defiant reaction from Zimbabwe, which said it would set up an ivory marketing centre in Gaborone with Botswana, Namibia and Malawi.

Robinson would not comment on Zimbabwe's plans.

## PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



ONLY  
**R525** incl. VAT  
 HEADSHEET

## 'User-friendly' nature plan

NATURE conservation in the Cape is to become more "user-friendly", to ensure survival of the conservation ethic in a new South Africa, according to regional chief director of the Cape Nature Conservation Department Dr Johan Neethling.

Dr Neethling yesterday said in a statement that the policy change announced by Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring in his budget speech was aimed at making the province's nature conservation more accessible to the public.

In line with this, Dr Neethling's de-

(5) CT 8/4/92  
partment would establish affordable accommodation in suitable nature areas.

"We believe conservation is dependent on local support, and conservation activities must thus contain direct benefit for local communities," he said.

This will be done with job creation, the support of local suppliers such as builders and caterers and the use of surplus natural resources to, for example, grant game hunting concessions, Dr Neethling said. — Sapa

# Crisis at Kirstenbosch

R1,2 m needed to stave off townhouse plan

CLIVE SAWYER, Staff Reporter

URGENT efforts to raise R1,2 million are being made by the National Botanical Institute to build an ecological laboratory and library on the contested Kirstenbosch Heights site.

Developers offered R6 million to the State last year to buy the land to build 105 townhouses.

The site, which adjoins Kirstenbosch, has been the focus of concern for years over attempts to build houses on it.

Appeals by the institute, backed by a 14 000 signature petition, led the State to offer the land to Kirstenbosch free, on three conditions:

That an architect be commissioned to draw plans for laboratories; quantity surveying be done and that the institute prove it has the R3,2 million needed for the project.

"We have R2 million so far and big companies will not help us. We are appealing urgently to the public to provide the remaining R1,2 million," said National Botanical Society chairman Mrs Kay Bergh.

If the money is not raised, the State will offer the land to developers.

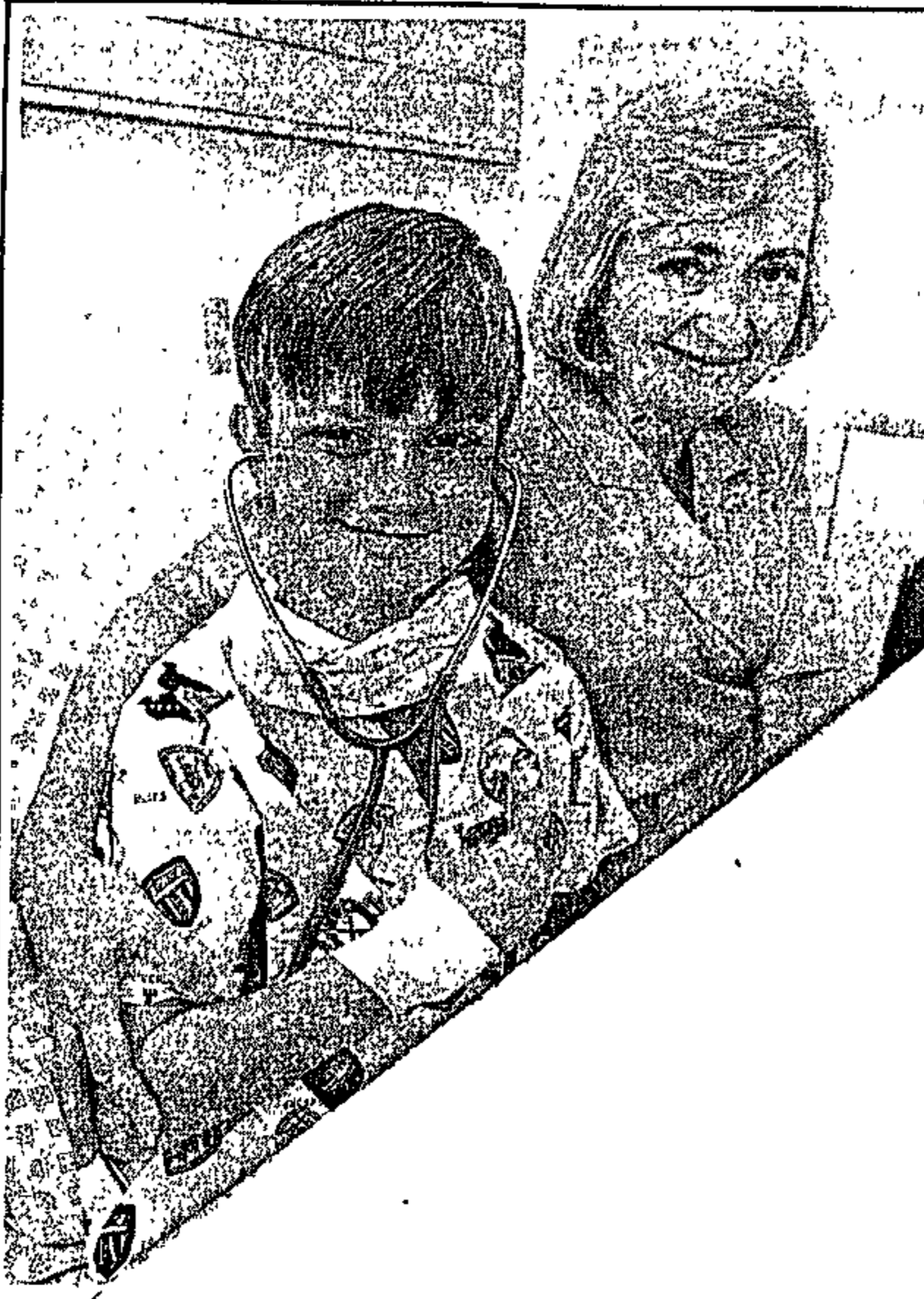
"We have six weeks to get the money or there will be townhouses on the site," Mrs Bergh said.

Botanical Institute researchers from all over the country will be assigned to the planned ecological laboratory to find solutions to problems such as re-establishing vegetation on damaged or developed sites.

This knowledge would be useful on Table Mountain and other natural sites, and could be used if the Serina kaolin mining site was developed.

The library will house a collection of botanical books and will be paid for in part by a R500 000 gift from the Molteno Trust.

Mrs Bergh said a five-year plan for the complex provided for a herbarium and further development of research facilities.



Lucky leap year for liver swop girl

ANDREA WEISS, Medical Reporter

FOR the youngest liver transplant recipient in South Africa, it's been a lucky leap year.

Elretha Gentz, 6, of Windhoek, who received a new liver on February 29, was discharged from Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town last week. She still has to spend some time in hospital before returning to Windhoek.

The little girl can go back to school next year.

Elretha is only the second child in South Africa to have a liver transplant.

From the time she was born, she had to spend most of her life in hospital because of her liver disease.

Gang grabs R365 000 from guards

# The place called Foulest Cape?

Municipal Reporter

(56) ARG 16/4/92

CAPE TOWN'S "brown haze" smog problem is expected to get worse before control measures take effect — and is being aggravated by household refuse being burnt as fuel.

Equipment to measure peroxyacetyl nitrates (PAN), an important component of air pollution, will come into operation within two weeks to enable a more precise study of smog in the Peninsula.

With the start of the "brown haze" season, permissible nitrogen oxide levels have been exceeded once already, according to city council air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley.

The season is normally April to September, but medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss warned in his annual report it might soon stretch into the summer months.

High pollution concentrations happen on days with no wind and strong low-level inversion — when warm air is trapped by higher-altitude cold air.

Adding to the main cause of "brown haze" — the petrol-driven engine — is a new problem caused by rapid urbanisation by the poor. In impoverished areas and informal settlements residents have resorted to burning refuse as wood runs out or becomes too expensive.

From a public health point of view burning of uncollected refuse does control rodents and fly breeding — but the price to pay is more visible smoke," Mr Oxley said.

The National Association for Clean Air has raised money for a pilot study of the constituents of brown haze, but does not have the money or equipment to measure its sources scientifically.

A start had been made on controlling smog by the introduction of unleaded fuel by 1995.

"This must be accompanied by three-way catalyst exhaust control on all new vehicles. Motor manufacturers are resisting this but they must be over-ruled," Mr Oxley said.

Unleaded fuel without catalytic control would aggravate the photochemical smog problem.

"The last thing we need is the Fairest Cape being rechristened the Foulest Cape," Mr Oxley said.

**ONE** OF the latest buzzwords is drought. Turn on the TV news, read newspapers and you see dead animals or the dam that is supposed to supply the whole of Thohoyandou about to dry up.

But what is the drought? What is its significance? Why does it happen and can it be avoided? These and other questions have not been answered in full and in this column **DAVID HOLT-BIDDLE**, an award-winning radio and print environmental journalist tries to unravel the mystery of this plague.

**I**T HAS been blamed on the return of the mini-skirt, it has been blamed on the casinos in the homelands, no doubt it will now be blamed on Sunday movies, and it has even been blamed on the "yes" vote in the white referendum.

In our usual quaint terminology it has been described as the worst in living memory, the worst this century, the worst in recorded history, the worst since the rinderpest.

But whatever we blame it on, and however we describe it: the current drought is a disaster for Southern Africa - economically and socio-politically.

Over the past four months I have travelled, one way or another, over much of South Africa, and there is only one way to describe it, at best dry, at worst devastated. Thohoyandou has enough water for three more months and the government of Venda has appointed a Drought Crisis Committee to co-ordinate relief efforts. Rivers have dried up in the Eastern

# How turning off that tap?

Transvaal Lowveld and animals are dying in the Kruger National Park. and it is even being said that the Sabie River could stop flowing soon.

Rivers have also dried up in Natal and KwaZulu and there have been crop failures. In parts of the Eastern Free State and the North Eastern Cape, the maize and sunflower crops have reached full-growth at a height of about half-a-meter, and the plants are dying where they stand.

In parts of Transkei, the ground cover has disappeared altogether, and the Eastern Cape even the invasive jointed cactus appears to be feeling the heat and the lack of rain. At least one large dam in the Southern Karoo is totally dry, and has been for at least eight years. In fact the Karoo is the most depressing of all. Predominant feature are the dust devils that chase

*Sowe Ian 10/4/92*

each other across the parched landscape, and the sheep which try desperately to get into each others shade as they stand panting in the sun. Many farmers in the region have driven their stock to other parts of the country where there is still a little grazing, and I was told of one

white family (father, mother, kids, bags and baggage) waiting on the national highway for a lift away from their farm and to the coast, and hopefully work. And elsewhere in Southern Africa? President Quett Masire of Botswana has declared his entire country "drought stricken". There have been widespread crop failures, water sources have dried up, and many Batswana simply have no income.

There have also been disastrous crop

failures in Lesotho and Swaziland.

In Namibia President Sam Nujoma has declared an "emergency situation" countrywide and has said that wildlife may have been sacrificed for people.

There have also been widespread crop failures in Zambia, and the Zambian Electricity Supply Company may have to suspend power supplies to neighbouring states because of a drop in water levels for hydro-electric plants.

In Zimbabwe, the situation is little short of catastrophic. At one stage the country had just four days' food left, in some urban areas water is being supplied by stand pipes and in Bulawayo, residents were recently asked to flush their toilets simultaneously at nine in the evening, in an effort to clear the rapidly-clogging system.

Severe water shortages have been reported from Malawi, and drought has been added to the woes of the long-suffering people of Mozambique, giving them yet another reason to stream into South Africa in search of succour.

But what is really the cause of this devastating drought? Basically it is a natural phenomenon. The world's

weather is a cyclical business: it comes, it goes and it varies, but it tends to come and go and vary in a reasonably predictable way.

Here in Southern Africa, for example, we are supposedly going into a nine-year wet period, although some areas have had a fraction of their normal rainfall, and others have had none at all over the past season.

But our wet and dry patches tend to come in nine-year cycles, although there are cycles within those cycles and greater cycles encompassing the basic cycles, it is a fairly complicated business. Of course there are global phenomena that impact on the Southern African situation, like global warming, the so-called El Nino effect, and of late dramatic volcanic activity. But there is another world-wide phenomenon of particular significance, and with a particular impact here in Southern Africa, and that is growing human numbers.

The fact is that land has what is described as a 'carrying capacity'. This means that when all sorts of factors are taken into account, like soil type, vegetation cover, mineral content, water availability, it can be very accurately calculated just how many creatures - sheep, cattle, impala, elephants, man can be settled and sustained on the land.

In much of South and Southern Africa the land is rapidly reaching its human carrying capacity as far as water is concerned. It has been estimated that South Africa can support, and this is only as far as water is concerned, no more than 80-million people, and at current rates of population growth, we will reach that figure in about 20 years. We do have a problem.

Can anything be done about it? Indeed yes. Weather is global issue and can be dealt with globally. It is also a regional issue, and can be dealt with regionally. But it is also a local issue, and can be dealt with right in our homes. How about turning off that tap?

## ROOTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN



By MUSA ZONDI

# Council 'dumped rubble on city site'

07/10/4/92 Municipal Reporter (5)

THE Cape Town City Council has allegedly dumped rubble on the old Imperial Cold Storage site.

This was claimed yesterday by Mr Mike Flax, managing director of the Seeff Trust, which has offices in the upgraded ICS building nearby.

He also said vagrants were living in holes in the ground on the neighbouring council-owned power station site.

A city council spokesman said an officer sent to investigate felt that the Post Office, and not the council, had been responsible for dumping the rubble. He said the rubble was being removed yesterday.

CT 10/4/92

# K'bosch<sup>(56)</sup> in race to save land

By PETER DENNEHY

**KIRSTENBOSCH** Botanic Gardens is racing against time to raise R1,2 million by the end of this month to save a 4,5-hectare tract of mountainside on its northern border from townhouse developers.

Mrs Kay Bergh, chairman of the Botanical Society of South Africa, said the land was needed for low-rise research laboratories and a library. Up to R12m will be needed.

The state-owned land was put out to tender. It is understood that private developers offered up to R6m for it, but withdrew the offer in December after a public outcry.

The state has since offered the land to the National Botanical Institute free — provided it has funds to start building soon.

The cost of the first of three phases will be R3,2m, but Kirstenbosch has only R2m. The government feels its condition will not be met unless there are funds for the entire first phase.

(56) ARG 10/4/92

# City engineer asks for R2-m to clean up dirt

**CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter**

CITY engineer Mr Arthur Clayton, facing claims that Cape Town is rapidly becoming a dirty city, has asked for his budget to be increased by nearly R2-million to hire more street sweepers and buy vans.

In a budget request submitted to the utilities and works committee today, Mr Clayton said budget restrictions and resource shortages meant the cleansing branch was hard pressed to provide the service citizens expected.

The problem of inadequate resources had been eased partly by new cleansing management techniques. But growing demands meant labour-intensive services could not be maintained unless the level of service was cut.

The frequency of street sweeping in residential areas had been cut since 1986 from once a fortnight to once a month and recently to once every eight weeks.

Sweeping in central business districts at weekends had been reduced.

Street sweepers had been used for other duties because of other cleansing posts not being filled.

"Requests for additional funds and staff have been refused on numerous occasions, resulting in Cape Town being labelled a dirty city," Mr Clayton said.

He needed R1-million to hire 134 extra labourers, and R850 000 for vans.

The vans would be used by staff to monitor refuse removals, discuss complaints and special removals and remove minor litter.

Bicycles, presently allowed by the budget, were inappropriate for these tasks, he said.



INSURANCE FM 10/4/92

## Creeping costs

The insurance aspects of gradual pollution or environmental impairment — a potential cost to the industry — have been analysed by broker MIB. Local legislation is not yet as onerous as the laws in the US and the ones planned for western Europe, but it may be heading in a similar direction.

The need for cover is emphasised by the trend towards making responsibility "joint and several," so that a polluter who has deposited only a small proportion of hazardous waste can be called upon to clean up the entire problem.

There is also a tendency to make legislation retroactive so that a property-owner can be held responsible for problems created prior to the new legislation.

Gradual pollution makes risk assessment highly specialised. The current spirit, MIB says, is to enhance legislation — "for example, the President's Council reported in October on the need for environmental legislation on an holistic basic; CSIR has done a report; the ANC states that people have a right to a healthy environment and the duty to defend it."

Most conventional covers bought by employers do not provide for creeping pollution that may be unintentional, but still renders the company liable to substantial fines and clean-up costs.

Public and products liability is intended to cover only incidents that are sudden, unintended and unforeseen. There would be no cover against even a sudden incident if it resulted from a process that had been devel-

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## ECONOMY & FINANCE

FM 10/4/92

oping over a long time.

Employers' liability cover is limited, MIB says. It does not, for instance, recognise health impairment at work over time. Asbestosis is an obvious problem here, but new ones include exposure to electronic screens.

So cover is being refined, but, the broker

insists, it will not be designed for the negligent polluter and it cannot become a convenient way to pass pollution problems from industry to insurer.

However, insurers make expert assessments before issuing cover and simply commissioning such a survey will stand the in-

dustrialist in good stead if he ever faces prosecution.

Cover applies for specific sites and periods. Pollution claims must be made accordingly. Clauses stabilise cover so that an insurer cannot easily remove it where he sees problems but has not received claims. ■

# Homeless clean up the city's act

56 Arg 11/4/92

**DALE KNEEN**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

SCORES of vagrants are helping keep the price of bottled goods down by separating city dwellers' garbage and collecting waste that can be recycled.

Consumers are the main beneficiaries of their efforts as liquor prices, in particular, are kept down because the bottles the vagrants collect can be re-used by the multi-million rand wine and spirits industry.

An added bonus is that the suburbs stay cleaner, aiding the task of waste removal which literally falls on the shoulders of staff members at the city council's cleansing department.

Some of the people collecting waste live at The Haven Organisation's night shelters in Harrington and Napier streets. They collect waste in the City Bowl, Green Point and Sea Point.

Mrs Julie Aitchison, the Haven's donor liaison officer, said very few people realised that many homeless people were providing a useful service.

"Many of these people are not unwilling to work. Collecting waste is a job for them and usually it is the only way they can survive. They are not parasites but useful members of society."

For several months Mr Jack Makombe, 66, a former waiter, and Mr William Jacobs, 60, a former labourer, have been collecting bottles, plastic and cardboard in the city and Green Point.

"I do this every day," said Mr Makombe. "I go to the city and find cardboard and bottles cleaned out of offices and I sell this to bottle stores and scrapyards."

"Some of the office cleaners know me quite well already and when they see me in the mornings they call me over and ask me if I am interested in taking their rubbish away."

## Cape Town is littered with unsung heroes of the streets

Mr Jacobs said many women also collected waste. Women worked mainly in the residential suburbs, separating domestic garbage and taking away waste they thought could be sold.

"These people also help the council refuse collectors as they carry the rubbish to places where it is easy for the rubbish men to collect. I think the council is pleased with the help we give them," he said.

A city council spokesman said the efforts of most vagrants was appreciated by the cleansing department as there was less waste to remove.

"Unfortunately there are a few people who open bags and scatter around the contents to find waste that can be recycled and they don't bother to close the bags again. But this doesn't happen often," he said.

Cardboard, plastic and metal is sold to scrapyards and refunds for bottles are paid at most liquor outlets. Between 10 and 34 cents is paid for individual bottles.

Mr Martin Fortyn, of Solly Kramer's in Green Point, said thousands of bottles were collected every day. Most of the bottles were brought to the bottle store by vagrants.

The bottles are sent to distillers or recycling companies, where they are disinfected, washed and re-used. It is cheaper to do this than make new glass bottles.

● A British millionaire, the Honorable George Borwick, has donated R25 000 to the Haven to be used for the erection of "second phase rehabilitation" cottages for homeless people in Woodstock.

# Radical change for defenders of nature

SITIMES [Cape Metro] 56 12/4/92

By EVE VOSLOO

**NATURE** conservation in the Cape is undergoing a radical change — starting with its name — to make it more people-orientated and "user friendly".

In terms of this changing approach the old formal name of the Chief Directorate of Nature Conservation is to change to the shorter, friendlier one of Cape Nature Conservation, the head of the department, Dr Johan Neethling, said this week.

The new name takes effect immediately.

The department's focus will also change to make nature reserves more accessible for public use and affordable accommodation will also be established to give more people the opportunity to enjoy the Cape's variety of nature in suitable nature areas, Dr Neethling said.

## Significant

"We are entering what is probably the most exciting era in the 40 years since the CPA established a department of nature conservation in 1952. I have immense faith that the policy change will succeed tremendously in the new South Africa.

"We believe conservation is dependent on local support and conservation activities must therefore have direct benefit for local communities," he said.

This implied that local communities would be directly involved in the conservation of the environment, he said.

"Improved use of nature reserves can eventually lead to them becoming significant components in the region's economy."

Steps planned in this di-



**NEW IMAGE ... nature conservation officials want to make their work more people-orientated**

rection include job creation in terms of tourism, which would also lead to support of local businesses such as builders and caterers, Dr Neethling said.

Another possibility is "the use of surplus natural resources by local groups such as the granting of game hunting concessions".

Plans were also underway for Cape Nature Conservation to obtain greater say in the generation of income and obtaining loans.

"As soon as this has been done, projects can begin which can unlock the vast potential of conservation areas for optimal use by the public."

In many countries, he said, the funding of nature conservation was based on a partnership between the state and users of nature conservation services, Dr Neethling said.

"Favourable potential for this exists in the Cape and the executive committee will soon consider propos-

als which will make nature conservation functions more efficient and cost-effective while at the same time allow for the continuance of state functions such as regulation and control.

"A prerequisite is that the income potential of nature areas and resorts must supplement the state treasury without prejudicing the nature conservation function.

## Emphasis

"In so doing we can reduce the demands of conservation services on state finances in favour of other urgent socio-economic priorities in the country."

Large-scale changes to post structures, placing the emphasis on local services, environmental education and extension work were already being implemented, Dr Neethling said.

Details of specific projects which were being planned would be released at a later stage, he said.

# State defies own ban on importing toxic waste

(56)

STime 12/4/92

By RYAN CRESSWELL

THE government allowed thousands of tons of toxic waste — believed to be responsible for poisoning the Umgeni River in Natal — to be imported to South Africa "as an act of conservation".

But environmentalists claim the government circumvented its own ban on the import of hazardous waste to allow Thor Chemicals to process toxic waste — which the government classified as "raw materials" — at its Cato Ridge mercury reclamation plant, the world's largest.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said this week that Thor had been given permits to import the waste so that it could recover mercury for re-use, thereby keeping it within the "production cycle" and out of the "waste stream".

"This procedure in fact satisfies the very sound environmental conservation principle of optimising the use of the resource," he said.

He denied that the decision circumvented the government's policy decision on toxic waste.

But Earthlife Africa claims the toxic waste imported by Thor has a 30 to 40 percent volume of hazardous compounds.

## Hole

Mr Brendon Wolff-Pigot, spokesman for Earthlife in Maritzburg, said: "We believe the whole thing is deceitful. We were told there was a ban on toxic waste imports but then a definition was used to circumvent it."

"There is now a gaping hole in the ban which actually means there is no control for South Africa as far as toxic waste goes."

In February, Environment Minister Gene Louw told Democratic Party MP for Maritzburg South, Mr Rob Haswell, that the material imported by Thor

was classified as "raw materials".

This week, his department blamed Thor's "apparent bad management, bad housekeeping practices, inferior pollution control measures or negligence" for "pollution incidents" in the area around the plant.

"Current policy prohibiting the importation of waste for disposal in the RSA does not affect the approval — in principle under certain conditions — given to Thor Chemicals to carry on with the recycling of spent mercury catalyst," said a spokesman.

"Thor's problems will not be resolved by the prohibition of the imported waste."

Thor's managing director in Natal, Mr Steve van der Vyver, denied that his

company was importing toxic waste.

"We receive only spent mercury products from our clients," he said.

However, New Jersey-based American Cyanamid has confirmed that between 1986 and 1989, it shipped 70 tons of toxic waste to Thor for recycling and recovery. Undisclosed amounts of toxic waste are also believed to have been imported from other areas, including Manchester and Ramsgate in Britain.

Thor admits it received more than 700 tons of spent mercury catalyst from abroad between 1986 and 1989, and processed another 2 000 tons collected from South African sources during the same period.

In response to questions in Parliament from Mr Haswell, Mr Louw said: "Raw materials are not waste materials. The definition of raw materials does not depend on the origin or the physical or chemical state thereof."

"Whether it is imported or manufactured locally is also irrelevant. The phrase 'raw material' is defined in acknowledged dictionaries as a substance from which something is or will be manufactured."

## Decision

Asked whether the government still considered mercury-containing wastes collected by Thor to be raw materials, Mr Louw responded: "Yes. Mercury is extracted from the substances concerned for the manufacture of a product and thus, per definition, those substances are raw materials."

A spokesman for Mr Louw's department said yesterday the decision to classify the compounds as "raw materials" was made by "several government departments", which felt the waste did not infringe the Hazardous Substances Act of 1973, administered by the Department of National Health

# US supplier is a major polluter, says Greenpeace

AMERICAN CYANAMID, which admits sending 70 tons of toxic waste to Thor for recycling, is considered by Greenpeace to be a major polluter, discharging thousands of tons of hazardous waste throughout North America.

The multinational corporation, with headquarters in Wayne, New Jersey, manufactures a range of products, including pharmaceuticals, pigments and pesticides. It is a public-owned company and is one of the largest chemical firms in America.

In 1988 Cyanamid agreed to spend a record \$94-million (R244-million) to exhume waste from a Superfund toxic waste dump at its Bridgewater, New Jersey, plant.

From 1929 to the 70s the corporation dumped a cocktail of poisons — including mercury wastes

— directly into 27 pits that surround the Bridgewater site.

Environmentalists also claim Cyanamid's Louisiana plant is one of the four largest hazardous waste generators in the US.

Cyanamid purchases Thor's mercury catalyst for use in the production of synthetic rubber at Bridgewater. It ships the resulting mercury wastes from Global Marine Terminal in Jersey City back to Durban. The waste is then trucked to Thor in Cato Ridge for disposal, as part of a catalyst purchase agreement.

Names of ships carrying the waste include the Gina S and the Michele.

President George Bush's administration has not proposed any new laws that would prohibit US waste shipments to South Africa or anywhere else.

# MILLIONAIRE VOWS TO SAVE PEAK

By EVE VOSLOO

FLAMBOYANT British multi-millionaire John Aspinall and his wife, Lady Sarah, have returned to their estate at Noordhoek in the Cape to fight "relentlessly and with every means at our disposal" kaolin mining on the nearby slopes of Chapman's Peak.

Mr Aspinall vowed this week to lie down in front of bulldozers if they started clearing the ground "if that's what it takes to stop the mining".

The world-famous gambler and animal lover also said he had received letters of support from high-powered friends who have been guests at Noordhoek Manor House, the property he bought from the estate of the late former Minister of Environmental Affairs John Wiley.

They include international businessmen Kerry Packer, Sir James Goldsmith, Sir Charles Powell, newspaper baron Conrad Black, and Dr Anton Rupert and his son, Johan.

At the manor this week, the Sunday Times spoke to Mr Aspinall and Lady Sarah, Mr Ian Brownlie and Mr Eric Smith, of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, and Mr Mark Wiley, owner of the land on which Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd has rights to mine.

All of them were outraged at the plan, which has been described as "the thin edge of the wedge which will lead to the rape of the Cape", especially as mining rights have also been granted on two nearby properties, Bonanza Farm and Imhof's Gift.

Kaolin is a decomposed derivative of white granite used in the ceramics industry and in the manufacture of high-quality paper.

"If Serina gets the green light, others will be able to argue that their mines could go ahead and the whole valley will soon be riddled with

mines," said Mr Brownlie. "The absurd thing is that there are at least 92 alternative deposits of kaolin all over South Africa which are not, as this one is, right next to a road on a major tourist attraction."

Mr Aspinall said the campaign would be "well-financed and consistent and will go on for as long as necessary".

## Powerless

"We will never give up. Even if they succeed in mining for one week, they won't succeed the following week."

At one point Mr Aspinall held a lump of greyish kaolin in his hand and said, only half-jokingly, that if the protests won the day "I will have a mahogany case made for this and have a party for it every year... and we'll all bow down to it". Mr Brownlie said that the next step

would be the launching of a nationwide campaign to collect at least a quarter of a million signatures.

Mr Wiley is powerless to stop the mining, as the mineral rights were sold by a previous owner. He said a hole "big enough to hold 11 Oceanos cruise liners with space to spare" would be dug and a large processing plant erected.

"The irony is that Mr Aspinall and I have created a fynbos reserve on our properties. Development on my property must be one of the most environmentally sensitive in the country."

Serina has not yet been granted a permit to mine on the site, but Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett said recently mining would go ahead "under stringent conditions".

The company has claimed that the mine would save South Africa over R1-billion in foreign exchange in the next 30 years.

# Cash promises <sup>(56)</sup> for Kirstenbosch <sup>Aug 13/14/92</sup>

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

WITHIN hours of the launch of the Botanical Society's Kirstenbosch Heights appeal last week, callers were promising substantial contributions to the tough R1,2 million target.

This amount will ensure that the prime mountainside property is incorporated into the adjoining Kirstenbosch national botanical gardens and not put back on to the open property market — probably for townhouse development.

"One lady came in here waving her credit card and gave us R5 000," Botsoc executive secretary Mrs Daphne Barends said at the weekend.

"And we had a man call from Newcastle in Natal asking how he could send his donation."

The National Botanical Institute — keeper of Kirstenbosch — has been given a tight three-week deadline by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs to come up with the full funding for phase one of the planned research facility on the Kirstenbosch Heights property.

The institute, a statutory body, is not entitled to fund-raise so the finance is being channelled via the Botanical Society's development fund.

The society has about R2 million available from various sources and an urgent public appeal was launched last Thursday to raise the outstanding R1,2-million for phase one of the planned research facility/library, which will bring the institute's scattered research scientists under one roof.

There was an almost immediate response to the appeal, Mrs Barends said.

"The reaction has been very good. In terms of hard cash — physically in the form of cheques — we've already got about R6 000 and we've had probably more than a dozen calls already promising money.

"There's been a lot of interest shown."

A Pinelands man had put a poster on his gate appealing for funds and a resident of an old age home had started encouraging contributions from all her fellow residents, Mrs Barends said.

"The appeal has definitely evoked a 'let's-do-something' attitude, which is rather nice."

The society is concerned at the extremely short notice from the Department of Public Works, which last year had a tender for the property — believed to be about R6 million — before a public outcry forced the cancellation of any sale.

"They're putting pressure on us because I think they want the ground back," Botsoc chairman Mrs Kay Bergh told journalists at the launch last week.

● Cheques can be made payable to the Botanical Society Development Fund, Kirstenbosch, Private Bag, Claremont 7735. For further information, call 797-2090/1/2.

## Dams drying up at 'disturbing rate'

WITH SIX potentially rainless months ahead, SA's major dams have begun to dry up at a disturbing rate and could reach record low levels by the end of winter, say agricultural authorities in Pretoria.

Certain restrictions, according to a Water Affairs spokesman, have already been imposed.

The overall average of the department's 137 dams earlier this week was 58%, compared with 81% at the same time last year.

The 17 dams in the western Transvaal averaged 44% compared with 83% last year.

The average for the eastern Trans-

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GERALD REILLY (56)

vaal's 32 dams was 57% (82% last year), upper Orange River 55% (88%), eastern Cape's 19 dams 34% (41%) and Natal's 16 dams 58% (81%).

Port Elizabeth's main source of water, the Paul Sauer Dam, is only 13% full.

The Vaal Dam, the PWV's main source, is 43% full, compared with 90% this time last year.

But the Vaal Dam's level can be manipulated through the Sterkfontein Dam which can be kept well supplied with water pumped from the Tugela River. The Sterkfontein dam is currently 99% full.

# A dam dilemma

(56) ARG 13/4/92

## At stake — the heart of Cape's floral kingdom

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

EXTINCTION is forever, the saying goes. So if a particular plant or animal species occurs nowhere else on earth, are you justified in putting it at risk for the sake of saving a few rands?

That's the question concerned conservationists are asking as various proposals to dam the pristine lower reaches of the Palmiet River near Kleinmond come under intense scrutiny.

The river runs through a biological treasure chest called the Kogelberg conservation area — literally and figuratively the heart of the Cape floral kingdom.

This invaluable area contains some 1 600 plant species — about 25 percent of all fynbos plants and more than the entire British Isles — of which at least 150 are endemic, occurring nowhere else on earth.

There are compelling reasons for keeping the Kogelberg unspoiled — ethical obligations, recreational and environmental education opportunities, economic spin-offs in the form of tourism, are among others.

The most important reason is perhaps still in the realm of the future — what genetic benefits are there waiting to be tapped in these hundreds of different plant species?

Ask any parent with a child with leukemia whether they would allow the humble rosy periwinkle plant to be wiped out by dam construction. For it was discovered fairly recently that this pretty little plant from Madagascar yields vincristine and vinblastine which, when used with other treatments, increases the long-term complete remission chances of children stricken with leukemia from 20 to 80 percent.

"We're trying to be as constructive as possible about this," explains Dermot Judge of the Botanical Society's Palmiet River Special Interest Committee.

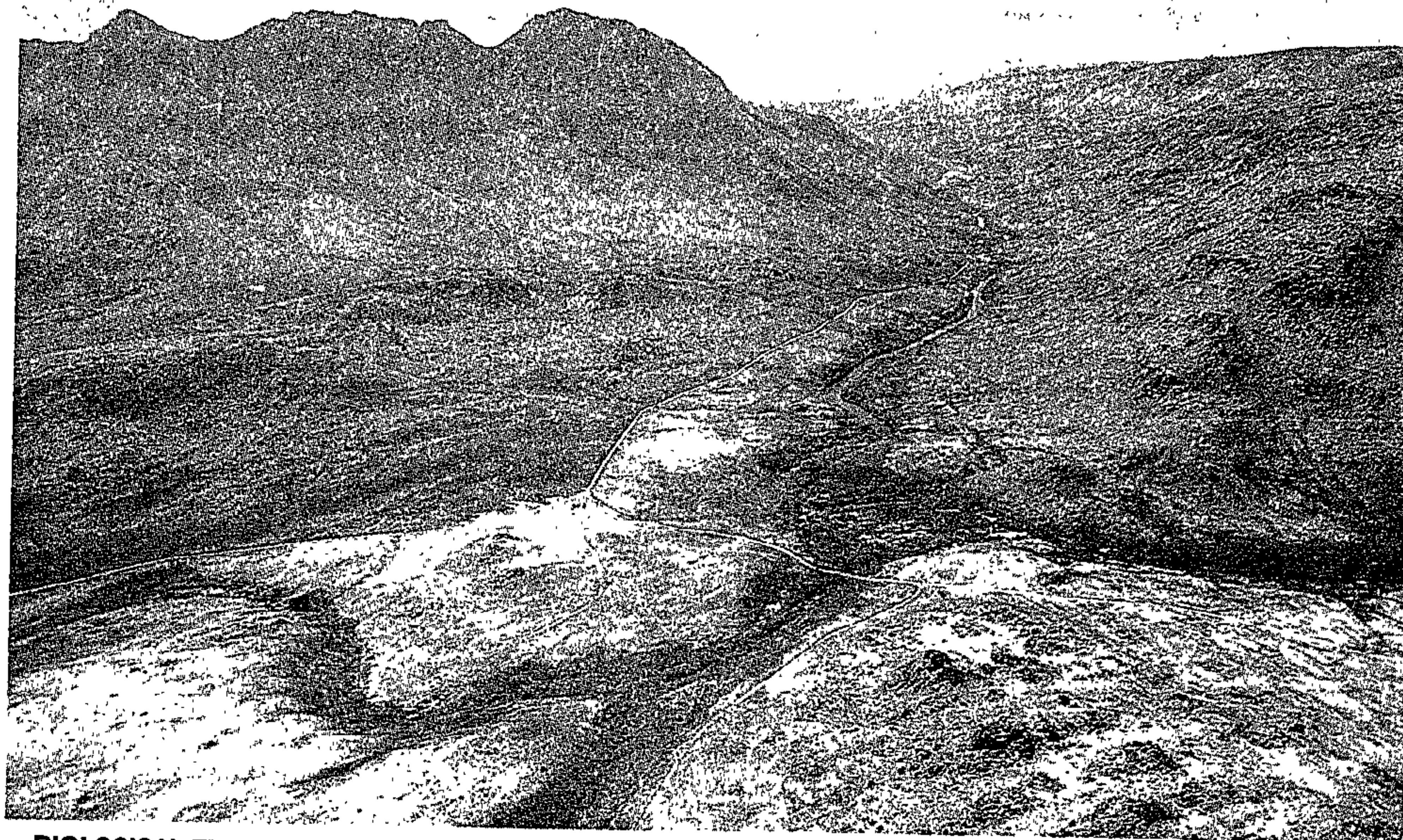
"The policies of the committee are firstly, to do our best to delay the damming of the Palmiet until all the alternatives have been considered. We consider the decision is going to be made prematurely.

"And secondly, we support the biosphere concept." (An application is being made to Unesco to declare the Kogelberg a biosphere reserve.)

He said the various Palmiet dam options would provide sufficient water to meet the rapidly increasing demand of the Cape metropolitan area for only a short time — probably for about 10 years, possibly as little as five.

"Then we will have to go for desalination and the Palmiet will have been destroyed. The public must be informed of the true price," he said.

According to a report by a Water



**BIOLOGICAL TREASURE CHEST:** The junction of the Palmiet, Louws and Dwars rivers in the heart of the Kogelberg nature reserve, inland of Kleinmond. Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus

Affairs' Palmiet working group, any of the proposed major dams and weirs within the Kogelberg state forest would have major — "and even catastrophic" — direct consequences for the integrity, natural diversity and wilderness character of the conservation area.

Some of the alternative proposals — to dam the Palmiet River north of the Kogelberg — would also affect important natural areas, but could have beneficial effects for maintaining an adequate river flow and keeping the estuary at Kleinmond open, the report added.



(5b) ARG 13/4/92

# Move to make Kogelberg a world reserve

## Environment Reporter

AN APPLICATION to have the 30 000-hectare Kogelberg conservation area declared a world biosphere reserve is ready and will be forwarded to the United Nations soon.

But the application will automatically be disqualified if any of the various proposals to dam the lower Palmiet River, which runs through the centre of the Kogelberg, are applied.

This was revealed at a recent media briefing organised by the Botanical Society, which has launched a Palmiet River Special Interest Committee to investigate all the possible water options for the Western Cape.

The committee is hoping to persuade the Department of Water Affairs to delay its decision-making programme for damming the lower reaches of the Palmiet.

The department has embarked on a concerted public involvement campaign to consider the various options for tapping the Palmiet, as part of its commitment to Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedures.

But it has recently run into

criticism and has now been asked to re-schedule a major workshop on the issue, planned for mid-year.

The Kogelberg, which includes existing nature reserves and proclaimed state forest, is considered the "heart" of the Cape floral kingdom and Cape Nature Conservation is applying to have it declared a world biosphere reserve by Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Biosphere reserves make allowances for both conservation and development by having a system of core conservation areas surrounded by transitional zones which can be used in various ways.

Mr Greville Ruddock, one of the Cape Nature Conservation officials responsible for managing the Kogelberg, told journalists their biosphere reserve application was ready.

"It will be going through to Unesco quite soon," he said.

"But the core area (of any biosphere application) has to be particularly pristine and damming will disqualify the Kogelberg — definitely."

# Kaolin chaos call

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**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

BRITISH millionaire gambling magnate and Noordhoek Manor owner Mr John Aspinall has urged residents to demonstrate "Tiananmen Square-fashion" to prevent the proposed kaolin mine on Chapman's Peak from operating.

In a hard-hitting speech to about 50 people at the annual meeting of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association last night, Mr Aspinall also vowed to help fund the anti-mining campaign and said he believed there was a "50-50" chance that mining would not proceed.

"One notices that Sanlam distances itself from Serina and that's pretty strange," he said.

If kaolin was a useful product and provided much em-

ployment, Sanlam should be happy to acknowledge its ties with its subsidiary, he suggested.

"Because they know, of course, that their subsidiary is doing something extremely unpopular against the whole trend of the times — in any sort of area like this, anyway."

The only way Noordhoek residents would stop the proposed mine was by "extreme action", Mr Aspinall said.

"The only thing that's going to stop them, if it gets that far and if the trucks turn up, is if the homesteaders — every man and every woman among you who has the physical strength and the moral courage — is to get out there and demonstrate, lie down in Tiananmen Square-fashion..."

"Because if people don't demonstrate to protect their own homesteads, they are worthless. In my view you're all worthless unless you're prepared to go out and humiliate yourselves and lie down on the ground when the trucks come in."

Mr Aspinall said opposition to the proposed mine had to be continuous.

"It will be a great discomfort to you, but nothing like the discomfort to them going through with it, tearing a hole in the mountain..."

"Everyone must demonstrate, they must get there and lie in the dirt and wait until they come over you. And they won't, they'll stop..."

# Fire-ravaged Devil's Peak getting back to looking at its green best

**CLIVE SAWYER**  
Municipal Reporter

RISK of soil washaways from fire-ravaged Devil's Peak has been reduced by plant rehabilitation and stormwater drainage improvements, said city engineer Mr Arthur Clayton.

Rehabilitation of plant life had been considerable, he said.

"Many areas which were bare throughout the winter showed remarkable recovery in spring."

Commenting on the progress of the R4,55 million programme to aid the recovery of the mountain after last year's February fire, he said remedial work had reduced the risk of soil washaways this winter.

Soil was expected to wash down natural water-courses this winter, but the stormwater system was better equipped to handle it.

Recovery in the 12 o' clock hole had been good and a concrete sediment trap was expected to stop major soil

washaways towards the housing below.

The intense heat had oxidised soil in about 20 percent of the area of the fire.

This "baked" area was being sown using a technique tried out during experiments in the past year.

Various products were tried to get plant growth going again, but the only one that worked would have been too expensive to use over a wide area.

Breaking the soil and using resprouting vegetation seemed to be the answer.

The baked soil was the victim of a succession of fires burning alien vegetation which created a "waxy" layer in the soil, so that it repelled water.

Pockets of vegetation would be planted in the baked area, in the hope they would grow to cover it eventually.

Work scheduled for the next 12 months included continued planting and monitoring of all parts of the project.

56  
AUG 14/4/92

# Road safety council is to go

## Political Staff

THE national road safety council is to be abolished and its functions taken over by the department of transport, in terms of a new bill tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The Transport General Amendment Bill proposes that the minister of transport will determine road-safety policy and the director-general of trans-

port will take over the function and powers of the council.

The constitution of the transport advisory council is to be changed and the minister of transport is to be granted the discretion to decide on the number of members of the council.

The bill will also scrap the port welfare committees, appointed in terms of the 1951 Merchant Shipping Act to advise on the welfare of seamen.

This follows an investigation by the commission for administration into "the role, place, functions and right of existence of institutions and statutory bodies attached to the department of transport", according to a memorandum attached to the bill.

The bill also provides for the assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the council to be transferred to the state.

## FW stoning — no one charged

### Staff Reporter

NO charges have been laid after the stoning of President FW de Klerk during his visit to Mitchells Plain on Saturday.

Captain Attie Laubscher said yesterday that police had observed the incident but had received no complaints and therefore were not investigating.

National Party spokesman Mr Karel Greyling said yesterday that laying charges was futile.

## Election boost for Solidarity

### Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Solidarity, the ruling party in the House of Delegates, has increased its parliamentary strength back to 25 in the 45-member Chamber after its candidate in a Port Elizabeth by-election, Mr Kesu Padayachee, was returned unopposed.

## Gering up for honeymoon

### Own Correspondent

LOS ANGELES. — Cindy Crawford, wife of actor Richard Gere, has revealed how she pleases her man: She went on a gruelling fitness campaign in preparation for their honeymoon.

The newlywed said she worked out for one-and-a-half hours each day to build up stamina — and Gere was thrilled.

# Kaolin

# find 'won't stop mine'

## By BARRY STREEK Political Staff

THE Serina Kaolin company would certainly look at the large kaolin deposits discovered in Nigeria, but these would not replace its Chapman's Peak plans.

This was said yesterday by Serina's managing director, Mr Carl Tarrant.

The proposed mining of kaolin in Katsina state was announced last week by the state's Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mr Alhaji Abubaker Jalli Gambo.

Mr Tarrant said the kaolin found in the state was about 85% pure which "makes it among the best found anywhere in the world".

However, he said the kaolin had to be of an acceptable quality and had to be good enough for paper, which required a high degree of purity.

Kaolin from the Chapman's Peak site is purer than that from the Katsina deposits, he said.

It has been reported in the past that the kaolin at Chapman's Peak was about 95% pure.

## Threat: Serina to respond

### Political Staff

SERINA Kaolin mining company is to respond publicly to the threat by British multi-millionaire Mr John Aspinall to lie down in front of bulldozers at its controversial proposed mine at Chapman's Peak.

The company would be issuing a statement, probably today, on Mr Aspinall's threats, but the statement "is being studied by our attorneys at the moment", Serina's managing director, Mr Carl Tarrant, said yesterday.

Mr Aspinall and his wife, Lady Sarah, who recently returned to their Noordhoek estate, said they would fight the proposed mine "relentlessly and with every means at our disposal".

"It is certainly worth looking at, but it would only be in addition to the Chapman's Peak project, not in lieu of it," Mr Tarrant stressed.

Large deposits of kaolin have been found at Kankara, Dutsinma, Safana and Batsari, all in the Katsina state.

The state's government is to invest about R1 million in the development of the mines. Other funding is to be provided by the federal government.

Work on the Kankara project is expected to be completed at the end of this year, while work on the Dutsinma project will spill over into 1993.

ANC spokesman Mr Saki Macozoma said the ANC would take a

see (N.E.C.). If she chooses to resign she has

Mr Macozoma was not prepared to state whether the ANC would

saying they had during the trial to protect her.

## Cleaner harbour like 'giant aquarium' as fish return

JACQUELYN SWARTZ  
Staff Reporter

EFFORTS to keep Cape Town harbour clean of oil and other pollution are paying dividends — it is becoming like "a giant aquarium", says Port Captain Bill Shewell.

"The harbour is filling up with all kinds of fish because we are keeping the harbour clean — free of oil and pollution," he said yesterday.

"The fish are making their home

in the harbour more and more. It's like a giant aquarium."

He said that yesterday a new resident, a huge sun fish, had nearly come to grief when it was trapped between a 47 000 ton Greek ship, the Captain George Tsangaris, and the quay at H-berth.

The fish, weighing about 260 kg, had apparently got caught when it swam underneath a quay fender. It was spotted by Portnet cargo

co-ordinator Mr Herman du Preez who alerted Captain Shewell's office.

A diver was called and the ship, which had brought maize from the United States, stopped unloading for an hour while he coaxed the huge fish into open water.

At first it had seemed reluctant to leave and swam back to its niche between two fenders.

The diver pushed it back underneath the barriers and it finally

swam away, much to the relief of Portnet workers and the ship's crew.

Captain Shewell said he believed the fish had been attracted by the new source of food growing in the harbour now that the water was cleaner.

It is one of several seen in the harbour lately.

Mr Andrew Penny, Sea Fisheries head of line fish research, said sun fish were usually found in warm, open waters.

**G**REEN activists fear a Japanese plan to import 45 tons of plutonium from Europe — possibly by shipping the lethal cargo around the Cape — poses a serious threat to South Africa's marine and terrestrial environments.

Japan may send a tanker around the Cape at the end of this month in a "trial run" designed to test whether this is a viable route to move the vast cargo of plutonium from France and England.

Members of Earthlife Africa, alarmed by reports that repeated shiploads — one every two months — of the lethal cargo could be ferried around the Cape, met activists from Greenpeace in Europe last month to discuss the environmental implications for southern Africa.

Plutonium, a highly radioactive material used to make nuclear weapons and operate power stations, is the most toxic substance known to man. One ton of plutonium is enough to produce 30 bombs more potent than those that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A single microgram, smaller than a speck of dust, can cause cancer if ingested and it is estimated that a shipping accident in Tokyo Bay could cause the evacuation of 40-million people. "It appears that Japan favours the option of

# Fear of a plan to ship

# lethal cargo past Cape

WJW and 16/4-23/492

*Japan's plan to ship plutonium, used to make nuclear weapons, along the Cape sea route could be a serious threat to southern Africa.*

By **EDDIE KOCH**

shipping the plutonium through the Panama Canal but political instability in the area and opposition from America could result in it being sent around the Cape," says Earthlife representative Chris Albertyn.

"We met Greenpeace members in Holland last month and are investigating the issue. We are trying to obtain confirmation about the Cape sea route being used for the exercise."

Albertyn, who represents Earthlife's

Pietermaritzburg branch, says controversy in Europe and America has foiled plans to import the plutonium by air. Canada has refused permission for flights over its air space and Japan will now send the shipment via the Panama Canal or the Cape.

Japan wants to import all 45 tons by 2000, ostensibly for its nuclear power programme, by bringing in bimonthly shipments of one ton at a time.

"The facts indicate that there is no technical or economic justification for the plutonium use. These shipments will endanger the environment and threaten to open a new and potentially disastrous chapter in the story of global nuclear proliferation," says a Greenpeace report.

The form in which the plutonium will be transported, as plutonium oxide particles, is

especially dangerous as it is easily inhaled and can be taken up in the food chain. Plutonium also remains a radiological hazard for tens of thousands of years.

"An accident near a population centre — during loading or unloading, or if problems forced the ship into port — could cause widespread contamination of the public..." says the report.

"Using a computer simulation, it has been estimated that an accident in Tokyo Bay involving the release of 50kg of plutonium (or about five percent of the full shipment), could force the evacuation of as many as 40-million people."

In 1984 a smaller shipment of 250kg from France to Japan was considered such a security risk that a multi-national escort of naval ships from France, Britain, the US and Japan was arranged and the operation monitored by satellite, says Greenpeace.

The United States Department of Defence then recommended, against further shipments stating that "... even if the most careful precautions are observed, no one could guarantee the safety of the cargo from a security incident".

ARG 16/4/92

# Concern at new power station for Robben Isle

CLIVE SAWYER (5)  
Municipal Reporter

A POWER station being built next to a Robben Island penguin colony is causing concern among members of the Cape Town environmental advisory committee.

The power station, a replacement for one in the village, is among issues mentioned in a letter from the committee to Commissioner of Correctional Services Lieutenant-General Willem Willemse.

Others are a planned retirement village and holiday camps for Correctional Services staff, and the proposed felling of a eucalyptus forest.

Visitors to the island said foundations for the new power station were laid in January and it was under construction.

The site is near the harbour at Murray Bay, home to the island's penguins.

The committee — of city councillors, academics, professionals and private sector representatives — called for a moratorium on all development until a master plan for the island was drawn up.

There has been no reply to the letter, posted on March 24.

Since it was sent, there has been new concern over an announcement that the Department of Correctional Services is to allow the SA National Equestrian Federation to set up a quarantine station for horses on the island.

The island is "owned" by the Department of Public Works and leased to Correctional Services.

No planning permission is needed for development, which could allow the construction of the retirement village.

Several interested parties, among them Cape Town City Council, are keen that a master plan for the island be devised as soon as possible.

Dressed under car

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

KAOLIN mining company, Serina is to mine its Brakkloof property to the boundary fences even though the Fish Hoek town council last year resolved unanimously not to approve the application.

According to papers tabled at this week's town council meeting, permission was given to the company by the Regional Director of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

In a letter to the town clerk, the executive director of Serina, Mr Andre Viljoen, said the right to grant the permission rested with the department.

### Concrete wall

However, the department may withdraw or amend the permission at any time if this is considered necessary.

Speaking at the council meeting, Councillor Pat Landon said the council deplored the lack of local option afforded to them and called for a new concrete wall along the plant's Harrington Street boundary to be extended along Kommetjie Road.

She said: "The visibility of the mine could impact unfavourably on the tourism potential of the area."

Also on the agenda at the meeting

## Serina to expand kaolin mining to boundary fence

ET 16/4/92 (5)

was the issue of Serina processing kaolin from the Trentham excavation at the Brakkloof plant.

Noting a legal opinion it had obtained, the Fish Hoek Council in February reaffirmed its decision to oppose the processing of imported kaolin here.

However, a letter from the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs was tabled at Monday's meeting which stated that, in terms of the Minerals Act, two or more excavations worked in conjunction with one another were considered as one mine.

"Furthermore, it is not contrary to the provisions of the Mineral Act to import kaolin from any other place, mined by any other person to the beneficiation plant at Brakkloof."

It also said Serina was in the process of applying for a mining licence at the Trentham section and, providing the specified requirements were met, this would be issued in due course.



# Do Greens face 'last post' (56)

MRG 16/4/92

JOHN VELD, Environment Reporter

CONSERVATION organisations are facing a major financial crunch next month when postage rates are increased by an average of 33 percent.

Many organisations are dependent on membership fees and requests for donations — solicited by post — for their survival, and most of their activities are post-related.

At least one group says it is reaching "crisis point".

The Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which distributes thousands of educational pamphlets about the marine environment to pupils every year, says new postal rates next month may force it to cancel this service.

During the last financial year, the group spent R32 000 on educational literature.

"This is now becoming so popular we are receiving requests from scholars in many overseas countries," said secretary Mrs Nan Rice.

"But we are facing a growing dilemma which is reaching crisis point with the enormous increase in postage.

"The demand for our free literature is escalating weekly, and unless we find a solution, we are going to find in the not-too-distant future we shall most likely have to discontinue this valuable service."

The budget for sending out the society's journal Veld and Flora would have to increase by a third to R9 000, and members would be told that a certain proportion of the increased membership fee was for postage.

Ms Sandie Anderson, production editor of the Wildlife Society's bi-monthly magazine African Wildlife, said their most recent postage bill was R12 300. Next month it would soar to more than R16 000.

# Wadchem faces action for alleged dumping

THE Water Affairs Department confirmed yesterday it was considering recommending to the Transvaal attorney-general that he take action against waste disposal company Wadchem, a division of Wade Refuse.

Wadchem has been accused of illegally dumping 1-million litres of toxic waste at Holfontein, 60km east of Johannesburg.

A department spokesman said: "We are running tests on various samples taken from the (Holfontein) site. There are indications of a toxic

6/Day 16/4/92. (56)  
MEREDITH JENSEN

substance present."

In a letter to Wadchem MD Ben Meyer, the department said it was "of the opinion that the test results could indicate a breach of permit in terms of Article 20 of the Environmental Protection Act".

Article 20 calls for all toxic waste dumps to be licensed by the State.

"We emphatically deny these allegations," said Wadchem's Alexander McLean. He said he knew nothing more about the investigation.

Director of Water Quality Management for the department, Sakkie van der Westhuizen, said prosecution of Wadchem would be precedent-setting. "It is an unusual case and the first of this kind to come before us."

The waste, a mixture of phenol water and leachate, was up to 50 times more potent than raw sewage. However, Van der Westhuizen said it was unlikely to be harmful to humans. "Our best information regarding geology is that the chance of the waste having contaminated ground water is very low."

# Broeder tussle

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theologian Professor Bernard Lategan, dean of arts, professor of Biblical Science, and husband of former "verligte" politician Dr Esther Lategan.

A third potential candidate named this week is Professor Christo Viljoen, dean of the faculty of engineering and chairman of the SABC board. However, doubts were expressed as to his availability as a candidate. Should he be selected he would have to relinquish his post as head of the SABC.

A fourth name mentioned is that of Professor Hennie Rossouw, senior vice-rector (academic) and professor of philosophy. Doubts have also been expressed about his availability as a candidate.

Names of nominees for rector are to be submitted to the university council by the university senate. The nominations are expected to be made at a senate meeting on April 24.

University sources say that usually up to three names are submitted. But the council is not obliged to accept the senate's recommendation and could even choose an outsider if it wishes.

The chairman of the council is Dr ("Dik") Dawid de Villiers, former chairman of Sasol.

The new rector-designate will assume his duties only on July 1, 1993, after the retirement of Professor De Vries.

However, before that date the new person may be called upon to act as rector in the absence of Professor De Vries when he goes on leave.

The Broederbond issue was in the forefront of speculation in Stellenbosch this week about the election of a new rector.

Fears were expressed by some senior academic staff members that the appointment of another Broederbond as rector could seriously dent the university's image in the "new South Africa" — especially at a time when the country is moving away from all remaining facets of apartheid and racial exclusivity.

It is argued that in various respects, including status, overseas support, and the university's image in the eyes of black communities, it would be a retrogressive step to return to the 1960s situation when the university's rector (then Professor H B Thom) was also head of the Broederbond.

The main criticism of the Broederbond is based on its secrecy, its influence and power in the highest circles, its exclusivity on grounds of race and gender (only white men may join), and the secret role it has played behind the scenes in shaping government policy and decisions.

A question now often asked is: how can such an organisation continue to exist in a political climate which is claimed to be increasingly non-racial, democratic and non-discriminatory?

A rare published interview with Broederbond chairman Professor Pieter de Lange in a Nationalist newspaper this week was seen in Stellenbosch as a clear sign that the ground was being prepared for the appointment of a new rector linked with the secret movement.

Critics of the Broederbond say the De Lange interview appeared to be designed to allay some of the fears of those who have misgivings about the organisation's secrecy and racial exclusivity. There were even hints that the organisation may in future admit people of colour.

Education reporter John Viljoen reports that there is speculation that Professor De Vries, 58, a director of Nasionale Pers, will succeed Professor Piet Cillie as chairman of the newspaper group. A spokesman for Nasionale Pers, Mr Andrew Marais, said Professor Cillie was retiring later this year but the company would not engage in public speculation about his successor.

# Broeders in tussle for top Matie job

56 ARG 18/4/92

FRANS ESTERHUYSE

Weekend Argus Political Correspondent

THE scene is being set for a silent battle which observers say could shake the academic ivory towers of Stell— and the Afrikaner establishment — to their foundations.

The battle — largely behind the scenes in the academic community — is between members and non-members of the Afrikaner Broederbond.

First sign of the gathering storm is an amazing campaign of whispers, rumours, subtle propaganda and "off-the-record" talk in the town to prepare the ground for the election of a new rector of the university to replace Professor Mike de Vries who retires next year.

Contrary to popular belief, this seemingly low-key event is loaded with political dynamite. The outcome of the election, to be finalised at a special university council meeting on May 9, could have repercussions right through the Nationalist establishment — even as far as the office of President F W de Klerk (who is reputed to be a top Broeder).

Front-runner among at least three possible candidates for rector named in academic circles is Professor Andreas van Wyk, the university's vice-rector (operations). He is a former dean of law and a former key man in Mr Chris Heunis's constitutional development department in the old P W Botha regime.

What makes Professor Van Wyk a highly controversial choice is a persistent and hitherto unrefuted claim that he is destined to succeed Professor Pieter de Lange as chairman of the Broederbond.

Approached by Weekend Argus this week, Professor Van Wyk declined to comment.

Indications at this stage are that his candidature may be challenged by a strong "verligte" non-Broederbond academic, possibly one with close contacts in black communities, especially in ANC circles. A name mentioned on campus this week is

Turn to page 3



Argus table to of April.

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# Toxic-waste firms lock horns

STAFF  
18/4/92  
SB  
BRENDAN TEMPLETON

A BITTER fight between rival waste-disposal companies might end up with the consumer and the environment as winners.

East Rand waste-disposal company Wadechem is adamant that it has not illegally dumped toxic waste, despite test results this week which showed evidence of phenols in a field near its disposal plant.

The tests were done after former Wadechem employee Steve Elliot — who had previously worked for rival Waste-Tech — alleged that he had been threatened with death if he made the company's "illegal" activities public.

## Legal battle

He alleged that Wadechem was not running its Holfontein site properly and had resorted to dumping 1 million litres of waste when its plant could no longer cope with its leachate.

Elliot's claims have sparked a legal battle between Wadechem and Waste-Tech — and calls from conservationists to toughen up environmental laws to restrict both companies.

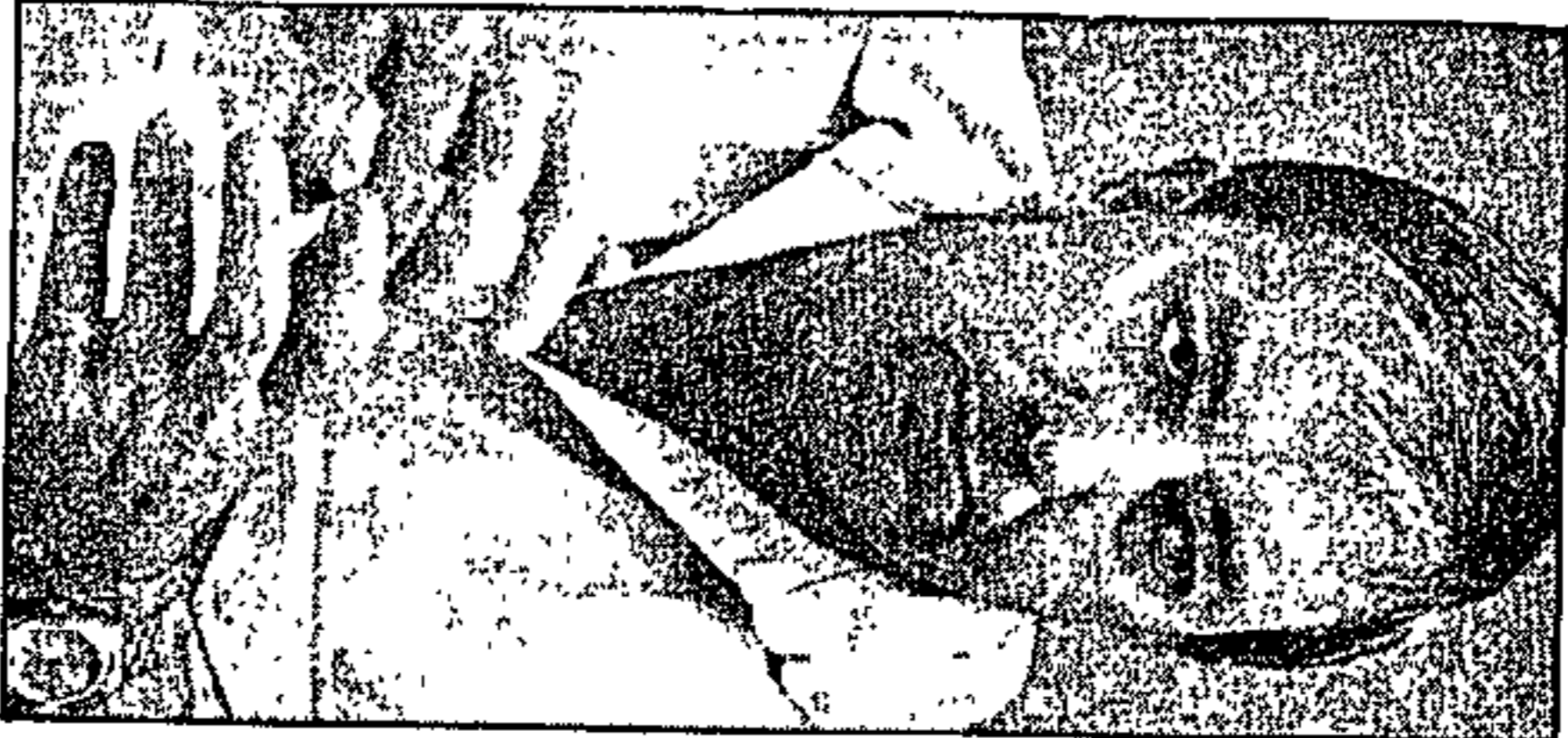
The Department of Water Affairs entered the fray this week. Spokesman Wouter van der Merwe said the department would refer the matter of Wadechem's alleged pollution practices to the Attorney-General for possible prosecution.

Department assistant director Leon Bredendam said the decision to proceed with prosecution was the culmination of a series of "problems" the department had encountered with Wadechem over a number of months.

However, he said that Wadechem had been "very co-operative" with the department in trying to solve those problems.

Elliot also claimed he had passed on confidential information to Wadechem while working for Waste-Tech which resulted in a legal battle between the two companies.

He said he had disclosed details of Wadechem's prices to Wadechem.



SMEAR CAMPAIGN: Wadechem the target, says boss Alexander McLean.



POISON: A Wadechem toxic-waste truck enters the Holfontein site, where dumping is allegedly continuing. An investigation by the Attorney-General is expected soon.

Photograph: ETIENNE ROTHBART.

## Man who set rivals against each other flees SA for fear of his life

chem, which was then able to undercut its rival's tenders to prospective customers.

However, Wadechem managing director Alexander McLean was adamant this week that his

company was being smeared by Waste-Tech in an attempt to push his company out of the industrial waste market.

opening of our landfill site has made inroads into their business on a legitimate basis," he said.

He dismissed the Water Affairs Department's tests, saying soil in its natural state contained phenols in certain instances.

He also claimed it was impossible to dump 1 million litres of leachate on to 64 sq m of ground.

Wadechem attorney H C Recorders said the site had been constructed to absorb heavy thunderstorms. It was "preposterous" to suggest that the company might need to dump excess liquids.

Waste-Tech was deliberately leaking information to the media in an attempt to hound his company out of the market, he added.

Waste-Tech has denied this.

Technical director Dr Dave Baldwin said "It isn't that we are trying to take out the competition — we are simply trying to get the competition to act in a professional manner."

Van der Merwe said it was also possible for a court to order a company to pay up any savings it might have made through illegal dumping. Courts could also order companies to bear the costs of clean-up operations, he said.

Lazarus expressed scepticism on this point, claiming that most magistrates in South Africa were not well-enough acquainted with environmental issues and infrequently took such steps

"Our management team believes competition is good for us."

McLean denied the Elliot had been threatened with death, an asked why the former employee had not laid complaint with police.

Elliot, who is now in England, said Wadechem was so desperate to get him out of South Africa that it had bought him an air ticket.

## Paltry sum

However, he returned it

Wadechem faces a R10 000 fine if found guilty under environmental laws, which environmentalists believe to be a paltry sum and no deterrent to pollution.

Earthlife Africa spokesman Peter Lazarus said South Africa's weak laws needed toughening up if businesses were to be prevented from harming the environment.

Van der Merwe said it was also possible for a court to order a company to pay up any savings it might have made through illegal dumping. Courts could also order companies to bear the costs of clean-up operations, he said.

# Tanker Sinks

## Leakage of oil 'enormous'

**DURBAN.** — The damaged tanker Katina P exploded and sank in the Mozambique Channel yesterday morning, losing "an enormous amount" of oil — an estimated 6 000-9 000 tons — according to a salvage expert close to the disaster.

Jubilent marine experts at first hailed the sinking of the Greek-owned vessel as the end of a massive pollution threat to African coastal waters because it took place more than 100 nautical miles out from land and in deep waters. But the extent of the reported leakage means the environmental tragedy may not be over.

The tanker was holed off Maputo on April 16 and lost 3 000 tons of oil as she lay stranded in the bay. The full cargo of 80 000 tons was estimated to be worth R10 million.

Salvage co-ordinator Mr Godfrey Needham said a Pentow Marine aircraft would fly this morning to the spot where the Katina P went down and check downwind to see if the slick had moved.

### Crew ordered off

He said the tug Causeway Salvor was standing by to monitor any oil leakage, as were the Kuswag anti-pollution vessels in Richards Bay.

Salvage Captain Dai Davies said there was what sounded like an explosion on board the tanker at dawn yesterday as it lay about 200 nautical miles out from Maputo, and the deck had begun to crack up.

Captain Davies ordered the 31-man salvage crew off the Katina P and then cut the low line.

The tanker went down in 2 740 metres of water, with the ship's cat and an estimated 57 000 tons of oil still on board.

Pentow Marine's Mr Pim Zandee

said the oil was very heavy and viscous and would probably remain contained "for a very long time".

"Our experience is that the oil in the hull will remain in the hull," he said in Cape Town. Chemical action might ensure it actually solidified eventually, he said.

Mr Zandee estimated the amount of oil lost at 6 000-9 000 tons. "It's an enormous amount," he said. "It's serious enough for us to have left one vessel, the Causeway Salvor, in the vicinity."

Mr Needham said that just before dark yesterday there had been a slight upwelling of light oil which was thought to be oil from the ship's engines.

### Beaches clogged

Mr Zandee said the slick was about three square nautical miles in extent but would only move inland if there were "prolonged easterly winds".

Mozambican Construction and Water Minister Mr Joso Salomao said yesterday that wind and currents would determine how much oil washed up on his country's beaches and ecologically fragile islands.

Already oil has clogged beaches and mangrove swamps around Maputo and poisoned shellfish and other marine life. Researcher Dr Margaret Kalk has forecast disaster if the oil reaches Inhaca Island, an important fishing area and home to 2 500 marine species.

A Mozambican commission of inquiry into the disaster is already underway. One answer sought is why the captain continued his journey when the tanker had already been damaged in South African waters.

The tanker lay stranded in Maputo Bay until last Thursday, when it was hooked up to the tug John Ross to be towed out to deeper water. The plan, after talks between the Mozambican government and Pentow Marine, was to tow the tanker to the middle of the Mozambique Channel, where the remaining oil was to have been transferred — Sapa-Reuters



**NO LINK...** Mrs Amanda van Dyk of Bellville has denied reports of a link with Dr Allan Boesak. "Me, the new Mrs Boesak? Never," the financial adviser said. Dr Boesak has described the reports as "scurrilous".

Picture: ANNE LANG

## 'Not new woman in Boesak's life'

Staff Reporter

AN attractive dark-haired financial adviser at a Durbanville bank has denied that she is the new woman in the life of Dr Allan Boesak, Western Cape leader of the ANC.

An Afrikaans Sunday newspaper yesterday reported speculation that Mrs Amanda van Dyk of Bellville was linked to Dr Boesak. It quoted her as confirming that she knew Dr Boesak well but denying any rumours of a liaison.

The Cape Times spoke to Mrs Van Dyk about Dr Boesak last week and found her by turns amused and outraged by the idea of a personal relationship with Dr Boesak.

"Me, the new Mrs Boesak? Never," she said. "You've got the wrong woman." Mrs Van Dyk said she was married with children. Her association with Dr Boesak was strictly business. Mrs Van Dyk is a financial adviser for First National Bank and Dr Boe-

To page 2

»» SATIN  
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22

Cohort

SA teams and tugs head for Maputo as tanker's condition worsens

# Race to avert oil disaster

S6  
STAR  
21/4/92

Own Correspondent

**CAPE TOWN** — A huge salvage operation has been launched from Cape Town in a bid to save the oil tanker Katina P and prevent an ecological disaster on the Mozambique coast.

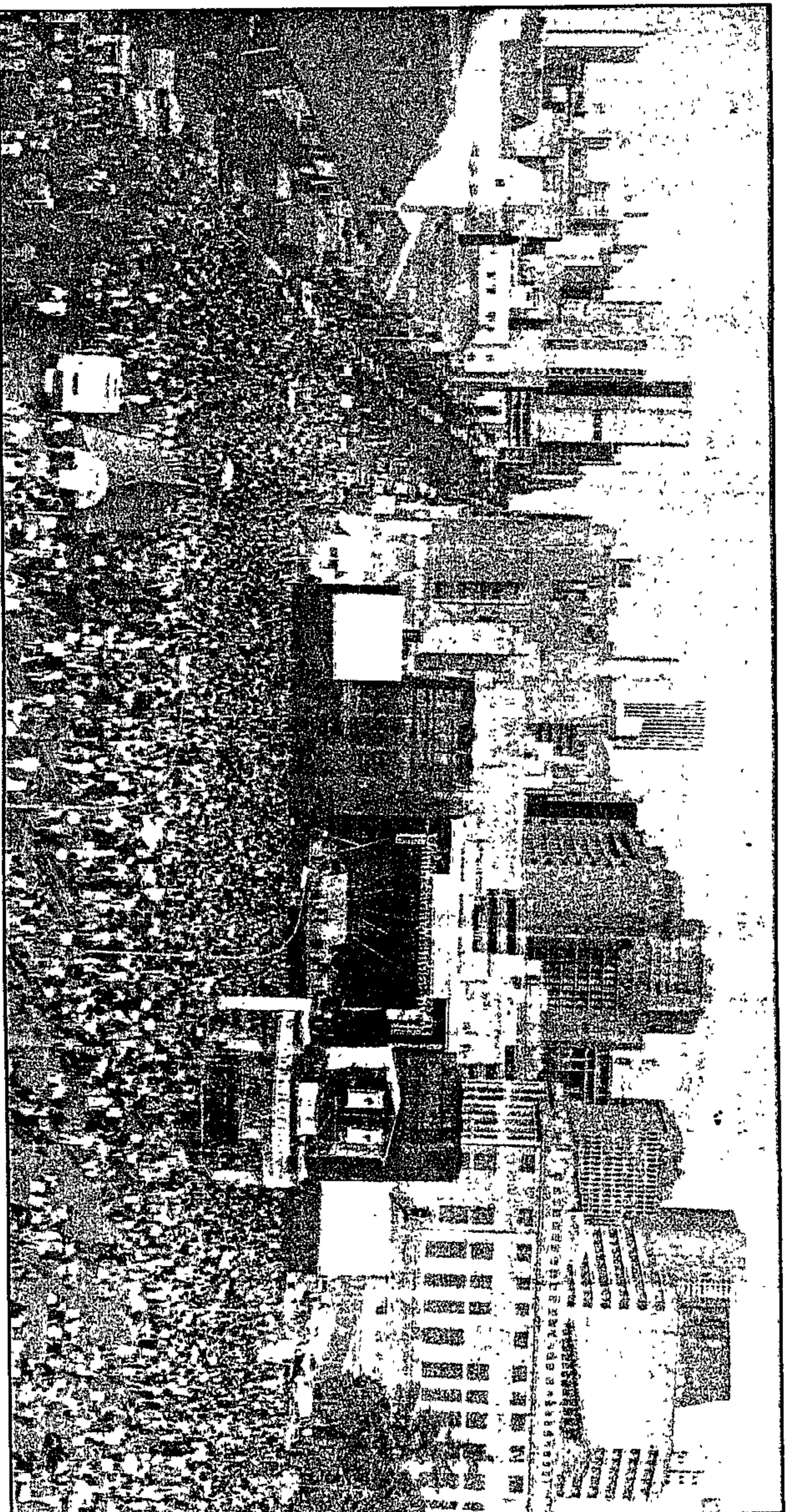
The condition of the storm-damaged Greek tanker is steadily deteriorating and oil — estimates vary between 150 and a few thousand tons — has already spilled into the Mozambique Channel, polluting beaches in the Maputo area.

South African equipment and expertise could prove crucial in preventing the Greek vessel breaking up and spilling its full 66 000-ton cargo of heavy fuel-oil into Mozambican and possibly Natal waters. The tanker took refuge in Maputo Bay on Friday after heavy seas ruptured hull plates.

Cape Town-based salvors Pentow Marine, charged with the urgent task of stabilising the listing tanker and averting a pollution crisis, have dispatched a small flotilla of anti-pollution and salvage vessels to the area.

Anti-pollution and shipping experts from the Departments of Environment Affairs and Transport were flown by Kuswag aircraft to Maputo yesterday to assist anxious local officials.

An Environment Affairs pollution expert said last night if the Katina P's oil cargo could not be transferred to another tanker in time, the only alternative



## Fans tune in to global groove

By Susan Smuts

Mango Groove, boerewors rolls, sunny skies and condoms were a mega-success yesterday when the South African band belted it out in

react against the recent closure of the St Francis Aids hospice in Boksburg were signed by all kinds — acid-heads in search of beer, angry young skinheads, new age hippies, hi-techers,

killing. The Yard of Ale's cup ran ... and ran ... until it ran out of beer. Then the thirsty found a shebeen. Great crowd, great music, and a good time had by all. ● About 72 000 rock fans

City on the move ... a bird's-eye-view (above) of the crowd streaming into the Market Theatre precinct yesterday for Queen's Aids concert. Claire John-



and spilling its full 66 000-ton cargo of heavy fuel-oil into Mozambican and possibly Natal waters. The tanker took refuge in Maputo Bay on Friday after heavy seas ruptured hull plates.

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An Environment Affairs pollution expert said last night if the Katina P's oil cargo could not be transferred to another tanker in time, the only alternative would be to tow it to the deep sea and sink it.

Pentow chief Captain Dai Davies said the hull damage was "serious" and conceded there was a possibility the tanker could break up with disastrous results.

### Similar

"Nobody can handle 66 000 tons of pollution anywhere in the world," he said.

Pentow Marine, which has done two similar operations in the Mozambique Channel, started mobilising over the weekend. "Everything we have is en route to Maputo," a spokesman said.

Elements of the operation are:

- The Richard's Bay harbour tug Hoffe, chartered by Pentow, is to keep the tanker's bow pointing safely into the weather.

- The tug Causeway Salvor left Cape Town on Saturday. Before heading for Maputo it will pick up about 50 tons of salvage equipment in Durban.

- The Pentow supertug John Ross left Cape Town on Sunday and is racing around the coast at almost 20 knots. The John Ross will reach the tanker tonight.

Dr Lynn Jackson, a Department of Environment Affairs pollution control officer, said the grade of oil was very thick and would be difficult to pump from the Katina P. Oil which did reach the beaches would "take a lot of effort" to clean up.

The Maputo Bay area was shallow, had extensive tidal flats and coral reefs, all of which were "very sensitive to oil pollution". The prawn industry as well as tourism would be affected.

She said it was possible some of the oil spill will drift into Natal waters.

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Reform is needed if courts are to protect the environment, reports Jo-Anne Collinge

# Uphill legal battle for better world

STAR 22/4/92

**CONCERNED** citizens who imagine the courts will lend themselves to defending the public good by halting environmental destruction are in for a rude awakening, says Cheryl Loots, a law lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Such public-spirited people are likely to find that the courts believe they lack "standing" to bring a civil action, Mrs Loots writes in the latest edition of *Rights*, the journal of Lawyers for Human Rights.

"One of the major problems with regard to the enforcement of environmental law by civil remedy is that the courts will not allow a party to claim relief in the public interest."

If you want to seek an interdict to halt environmental destruction, or get the courts to review an ad-

ministrative decision likely to cause harm to the environment, you would have to be able to show a direct interest — that is, that you would be adversely affected by a wrongful act or administrative decision, or that your legal rights might be infringed.

"What the courts are not prepared to countenance is the 'ideological plaintiff' who alleges no personal right or personal injury, but comes to court on the basis that s/he is claiming relief in the public interest," says Mrs Loots. It is also not clear what kind of adverse effect would be considered strong enough by the courts to allow the action to proceed.

"The state of the environment affects all persons who live in that environment. Problems relating to macro-government such as the

diminishing ozone layer affect all mankind. Other environmental problems affect only those persons physically present in a particular area. The more widespread the problem the more difficult it is likely to be for an individual to establish that he is affected."

The going gets even rougher when the threatened object is a tree or a river or a class of animals. In the United States, writes Mrs Loots, since the publication of an article entitled "Should trees have standing — toward legal rights for natural objects", objects like rivers or trees have been cited as plaintiffs in a number of cases, but always in tandem with a recognised legal person.

"In South Africa it is not likely that the courts would ever allow a plaintiff of this nature to be cited

as a party, though there is certainly no reported case in which this has been tried."

But there is an aspect of the United States legislation which would facilitate legal action in defence of the environment if it were incorporated into South African statutes: the "citizen suit clause".

Says Mrs Loots: "Some American statutes completely open the doors of standing in that they grant a right of action to any person irrespective of whether s/he has an interest, while other citizen suit clauses give a right of action only to interested parties."

In addition, if the right to enjoy environmental quality were written into the law, this would go a long way to establishing *locus standi* in a court of law. □



## City pollution over the top

ET 23/4/92  
BOTH air pollution guideline levels in the city were exceeded yesterday for the first time this year (5)

The guideline of 1 504 for NOx (nitrogen oxide) fumes was exceeded by 816 points and measured 2 320, while the NO2 (nitrogen dioxide) level jumped to 502, 126 above the recommended level of 376 points.

The council's Mr Derrick Oxley said the smog had been exacerbated by windless conditions.

# PROPERTY

**Dam means jobs for 300**  
Joubert 23/4/92 (56) (113)

Unemployment rate in Balfour on the Far East Rand has been reduced with the creation of 300 jobs by the local municipality.

Balfour town clerk Mr T Joubert said the town council has already begun building the biggest man-made dam in the country, thus easing the unemployment burden.

The new dam will serve as a reservoir for the old one, P van der Merwe Haarhofdam. Valves will be operated in the new dam in such a way that the water is kept at a constant level in the old dam. The dam will be a little higher than the present P van der Merwe Haarhofdam which currently supplies Balfour.

The dam is being built at a cost of R8,2

**Sowetan Reporter**

million. Joubert said a subsidy from the Department of Water Affairs for R1,6 million, a R4million loan from the Local Government Loan Fund and R2,6 million from the Department of Manpower provided finance for the project.

The work force will comprise people from Siyathemba and the Balfour Village. The site is within walking distance. No travelling costs are involved.

The other objective in building the dam is to provide much needed water for Balfour which should attract industry to the town.

# Oil spill: Fishing <sup>(56)</sup> is banned <sup>CF 24/4/92</sup>

Own Correspondent

MAPUTO. — The Mozambican government has banned all fishing in the bay of Maputo until further notice because of the potential health hazard posed by oil-contaminated fish.

The ban — which has severe implications for thousands of fishermen and the population of the entire southern province — was announced yesterday by Health Minister Mr Leonardo Simao.

The ban was prompted by the spillage of hundreds of tons of heavy fuel oil by the holed Greek tanker Katina P before it was towed to its present position about 80 sea miles off Maputo.

Fish were still on sale in the markets late yesterday, with anxious merchants desperate to convince customers that their fish were not contaminated.

The Monitoring Group on Katina P — an environmentally-conscious community group — said in a statement last night: "The seriousness of this disaster can only be measured if you take into account that 40% of the total exports of this country depend on the sea."

## Compensation

"We also have a serious drought, so people have become more dependent on marine resources."

Representatives of 7 000 local fishermen held a press conference late yesterday to urge the government to seek compensation from those responsible for the spillage.

Early yesterday municipal employees began removing oil clots from Maputo's tourist beaches.

Mr Benny Bennett of the British-based Oil Spill Service Centre, which is responsible for the clean-up, said although equipment had arrived to skim oil from the sea, officials were likely to wait until most of the oil had washed up, as this was the easiest approach to cleaning up.

Meanwhile, the tanker's rate of deterioration has slowed down. So long as she remains in one piece, transfer of her oil will go ahead, according to Pentow Marine's Captain Bob Liptrot.

The Katina P was holed when it hit a sand-bar 50km north-east of Maputo last Thursday.

# Kruger (Sb) gears up for worst drought

STAR 24/4/92

By Julienne du Toit

The Kruger National Park is gearing up for the worst drought in its recorded history.

Head of the park Dr Salomon Joubert said this week that unless there was a lot of unseasonal rain, parts of the park would be reduced to dustbowls, especially when the dry winds of August and September came.

This did not necessarily mean that a grim sight awaited visitors to the park, however. The biggest concentrations of game ever seen would probably occur, gathering around the remaining sources of water, said Dr Joubert.

"It is a once in a century opportunity," he said.

The park is showing signs of the drought, but is driest in the northern parts near Pafuri and Punda Maria, where some animals, including crocodile and hippo, perished this year because of the high temperatures in February.

Shingwedzi recorded an all-time high of 48 deg C on February 26. Dr Joubert said it was temperatures such as this and the diminished rainfall in the past three years that also made this the worst drought ever.

Dr Joubert said the Department of Water Affairs had informed him that the flow of water in Fanie Joubert dam, which dams the Olifants river, and the Braam Raubenheimer dam on the Crocodile river would be cut by up to 50 per cent. This meant that even artificial watering holes would not be able to supply additional water.

While there are old laws governing the quality of water for wildlife, there are none for the quantity of water, and the primary needs of humans and farm irrigation are looked after first.

On Monday decisions would be made on whether or not to cull buffalo this year. Nature would cut out the weak and sickly, said Dr Joubert.

This would happen for all species, and it was found that once rains came, the stronger individuals would soon build up the numbers again.

# Workers battle to stop flooding

CR 25/4/92 Staff Reporter (56)

CITY council workers have been toiling overtime to prevent Cape Town suburbs flooding following the fire on Devil's Peak last year which destroyed much of the vegetation.

There are fears that the vegetation has not recovered in time to prevent flooding this winter.

A R4,33 million programme to aid the recovery of the mountain has reduced the risk of soil washaways, the director of the city council's parks and forests branch, Mr Peter Rist, said yesterday.

"We had 150mm of rain over the Easter weekend, and the system to prevent flooding is working well," he said.

The work — scheduled to continue for the next 12 months — has already cost the council R4 million.

The rehabilitation of plant life had been very effective, Mr Rist said. The entire fire-damaged area is being reseeded with indigenous plants and fast-growing grass.

To further boost the greening process, the contours of the mountain have been terraced with a strong wire mesh which allows water to filter through freely, but traps plant matter or soil.

Extra strong kerbing and channelling have been installed at strategic points where flooding occurred last season.

# Secret scheme to ship lethal cargo round SA

ST Times 26/4/92 56

THE Japanese have a secret plan to ship huge quantities of plutonium — one of the most lethal and toxic substances known to man — around the treacherous Cape sea route.

Conservationists say that in the event of the radioactive cargo leaking while rounding South Africa, thousands of people might face the risk of cancer.

And the long-term impact on the environment would be disastrous, warned the environmental watchdog group Greenpeace International, which exposed the plan.

A single speck of the highly radioactive material can be fatal.

Mr Tom Clements, a Greenpeace spokesman in

By RYAN CRESSWELL

Washington DC, said the first of many shipments from Europe to Japan — where the plutonium will be used to generate electricity — would take place in about five months.

## Leak

The form in which it is to be transported — as plutonium oxide particles — is especially dangerous because it is easily inhaled or absorbed into the food chain. Plutonium remains hazardous for tens of thousands of years.

Mr Clements said: "In a worst case scenario, if there was a surface leak, in wrong wind and close to shore, thousands of people would get cancer."

"If there was a deep-sea leak, plutonium would enter the food chain and you would have a long-term ecological disaster."

Mr Clements said the route for the first shipment had not yet been finalised, but he had been told the parties involved were "leaning towards the Cape of Good Hope route rather than the more sensitive route through the Panama Canal or the longer route around Cape Horn".

The Suez Canal route has apparently been excluded because the area is too volatile.

## Security

Mr Clements said: "If Japan chooses the Cape route, which is very likely, South Africans should be deeply concerned as to the environmental threat passing near their shores. A plutonium shipment in the rough water off southern Africa is nothing less than an idiotic idea."

Amounts of about one metric ton of plutonium will be carried on each trip.

A spokesman for the Department of Transport's marine division said the department had not been notified that plutonium would be shipped around South Africa.

# Oil slick threat to SA shores to be surveyed from the air today

56  
ARG 27/1/92

**STEFAANS BRÜMMER**  
Shipping Reporter

THE only trace of the sunken Katina P, a huge oil slick drifting slowly heading south in the Mozambique Channel and threatening the South African coast, is to be surveyed from the air today.

The Kuswag 7 pollution spotter aircraft was to check on the extent of the slick — believed to be between 6 000 and 9 000 tons of heavy fuel oil — and its movement, using a tug at the point the Katina P sank as reference.

Satellite readings from the tug, the Causeway Salvor, will also help map the pollution threat.

Mr Godfrey Needham, tug coordinator of salvors Pentow Marine, said the slick seemed to be drifting south "very slowly" at about half a knot.

A Pretoria weather bureau

forecaster said there could be a threat to the Natal or Mozambique coasts, depending on the wind.

He said the light north-easter now blowing would not necessarily push the slick shorewards, as it tended to "shove the current away from the coast".

Meanwhile the salvage tug John Ross, which was towing the Katina P when it started sinking yesterday, is heading for Durban with the 31 members of the crew and salvors who had to abandon the tanker.

They were about 100 miles offshore, 270 miles east-north-east of Maputo, when the tanker's hull broke under the strain.

Mr Needham said the salvage team on board: "Heard a rumbling sound. Everybody went on deck and saw the midsheeps awash — the middle was already sagging."

The order was given to abandon ship.

Two divers stayed on board to burn off the towline with acetylene torches while the rest left in a lifeboat and a supply boat.

"Everybody watched from a fair distance, but when they saw it was not going down immediately they went back to recover some salvage equipment."

"They watched the ship sink in the middle first, the funnel almost touching the foremast. It went down in one piece, but almost doubled.

"It disappeared from view at 8.17 am. The ship went very quickly at the end, like a stone."

Mr Needham said it was not clear yet how much salvage equipment was lost, but the loss was "substantial".

page 2 See page 1  
areas would be promulgated at

possible contenders are Standard Bank chairman Mr Strauss, Reserve Bank Governor Dr Chris Stals and Mr Schwarz, former Democratic Party finance spokesman and ambassador to the United States.

# Warning as deadly tide spreads

CT 27/4/92

(56)

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — An urgent warning to the public here not to eat any form of shellfish was issued by the Department of Environment Affairs yesterday after the red tide present off the West Coast spread to the sea near Port Elizabeth and the South Cape coast.

The red tide, which has also been present north of St Helena Bay since mid-February, has prevented Capetonians from gathering and eating shellfish for the past 11 days.

Department scientist Mr Deon Horstman left Cape Town for Port Elizabeth last night. Today he is to examine shellfish gathered by fisheries officers at Hobie Beach at the weekend.

"Red tide has been detected along the Cape South Coast," the statement from the department says. The public is warned not to eat any mussels collected along the coastline until the nature of the red tide has been determined.

"Several people have already become ill as a result of this red tide."

A red tide is made up of tiny, toxic organisms which turn the sea dull red in colour. They can be deadly poisonous when several natural factors coincide, killing within minutes people who eat the shellfish.

The organisms, which do not harm the shellfish, gather in high concentration in the digestive tracts of organisms such as crayfish, shrimps, univalves, bivalves, octopuses and crabs.



# Coastwatch plans to <sup>56</sup> branch out

GRAHAMSTOWN. — Environmental group Cape Coastwatch is to establish branches in coastal towns throughout the province in an attempt to involve people in preserving the coastline.

Cape Coastwatch chairman Professor Roy Lubke said a branch was launched in Port Elizabeth last year and another would be launched in Port Alfred at the end of the month.

"We also hope to set up another one in the Cape St Francis and Jeffreys Bay area in July and towards the end of the year in Plettenberg Bay, Knysna and George," he said.

Another branch will be set up in East London soon, he said.

Professor Lubke said the move followed the good response Coastwatch had received as a "grassroots watchdog" organisation.

The branches would be encouraged to discuss threats to the coastline and report problems to the headquarters in Grahamstown.

"For example, although the spillage from an oil-tanker that's lying off the Maputo coast does not pose a threat to South Africa's coastlines at the moment, we will educate people about that problem so that when a similar problem crops up in their area they will know how to handle it, and if need be, we can get experts in to look at it immediately," he said. — Ecna.

# Huge slick threatens SA coastline

Own Correspondent

(56)

STAR 27/4/92.

CAPE TOWN — The huge oil slick from the sunken tanker Katina P, slowly heading south in the Mozambique Channel and threatening the South African coast, is to be surveyed from the air today.

The Kuswag 7 pollution spotter aircraft was to check on the size of the slick — believed to be between 6 000 and 9 000 tons of heavy fuel oil — and its movement, using a tug at the point where the Katina P sank as reference.

Godfrey Needham of salvors Pentow Marine said the slick seemed to be drifting south "very slowly".

A Pretoria Weather Bureau forecaster said that depending on the wind there could be a threat to the Natal or Mozambique coasts.

The salvage tug John Ross, which was towing the Katina P

when it started sinking yesterday, is heading for Durban with the 31 crew and salvors who had to abandon the tanker.

They were about 100 miles offshore, 270 miles east-northeast of Maputo, when the tanker's hull broke under the strain.

Mr Needham described what happened: "At 5.10 am they heard a rumbling sound from afore. Everyone went on deck and saw the midships awash — the middle was already sagging."

The order was given to abandon ship.

"Once everyone was off, they watched from a fair distance. But when they saw it was not going down immediately, they went back to recover some salvage equipment."

"They watched the ship sink in the middle first, the funnel almost touching the foremast. It went down in one piece, but almost doubled.

"At 8.17 it disappeared from view. The last of the ship went very quickly, like a stone."

# Township 56

## smog levels CT 38/4/92 are sky-high

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Coalfire smog in Soweto has been measured at more than double acceptable worldwide levels, Eskom scientist Mr Colin Turner said yesterday.

If this was typical of other townships, the health of millions in South Africa could be affected.

In a paper presented at an Eskom conference, Mr Turner said Soweto's pollution levels exceeded international guidelines for 25% of the year.

"On some days, the level of the main pollutant was so high in Soweto that it went off the scale of our instruments," he said.

He proposed the provision of cheap electricity as the solution.

# Township smog 'a health hazard'

8/1/92 28/4/92

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COALFIRE smog in Soweto has been measured at more than double acceptable worldwide levels, Eskom scientist Colin Turner said yesterday.

If this was typical of other townships, the health of millions of South Africans could be affected, he said.

In a paper presented at an Eskom conference on technological and engineering research, Turner said Soweto's pollution levels exceeded international guidelines for 25% of the year.

He said the main pollutant was fine particulate mass (FPM), the product of burning coal.

Eskom established a pollution monitoring station in Soweto's Dhlamini suburb in August 1990. Turner was presenting the results yesterday of the first year of the station's operations.

"On some days, the level of FPM was so high in Soweto that it went off the scale of our instruments," he said.

Turner suggested that while "township smoke has the greatest immediate impact on the immediate environment of the township itself, it is nonetheless transported by wind to surrounding areas".

The introduction of the Clean Air Act of 1965 had caused smog and sulphur dioxide levels to decrease by about 1,5% a year over the last 20 years, Turner said. But SA's townships had never been subject to the act and as a result, all towns and cities had been affected.

The control of pollutants, and particularly of FPM, "warrants urgent attention", Turner said.

"Concentrations regularly exceed internationally accepted standards and adverse health effects can therefore be expected."

Turner suggested the provision of cheap electricity was the ideal solution to the high pollution levels.

"The use of electricity to replace coal combustion in the townships would provide a complete solution to township air quality degradation," he said.

Zululand University sociologist Prof Herbert Vilikazi told the conference the proposed extension of the national electricity grid to incorporate more than 3-million people in rural and urban areas could provide a major impetus for SA's economic development.

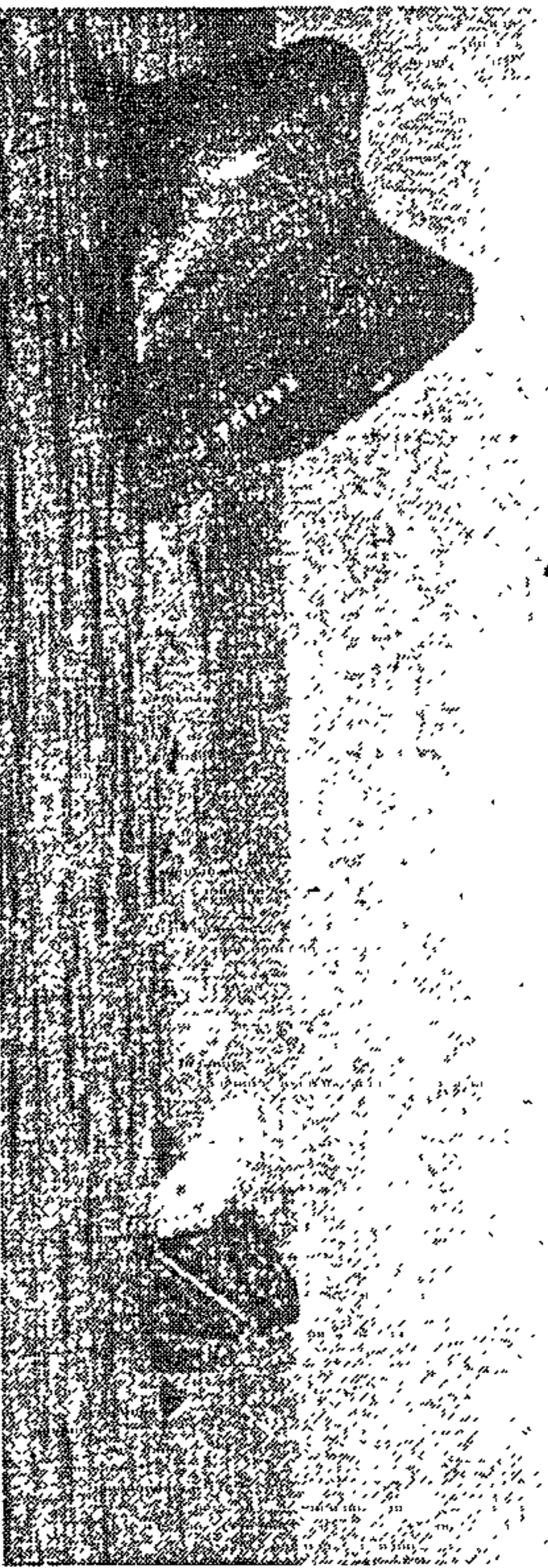
"In the 20th century, economic development is unthinkable without electricity in both the production and distribution of products," he said.

The electrification of SA would have enormous economic consequences by incorporating black South Africans into the industrial economy.

Vilikazi said more than two-thirds of SA's black population had no access to electricity and were therefore not contributing to the efficient operation of the economy.

7%-10% guideline for more





The Katina P released more than 9 000 tons of oil as it sank off the Mozambique coast on Sunday. It was photographed going down by Capt Peter Rimmer, master of Pentow Marine supporting John Ross, which had been towing the oil tanker.

# FW to hear Alexandra aid plea

By Day 28/4/92  
WILSON ZWANE

LAW and Order Minister Hermus Kriel agreed at yesterday's meeting with Alexandra community representatives to refer a request for part of the township to be declared a disaster area to President F W de Klerk.

The Alexandra Civic Organisation and local branches of the SA Communist Party, the ANC and the Congress of SA Students asked Kriel to declare a section of the Alexandra township, known as "Belruf", a disaster area. At least 60 people have been killed and 585 injured since fighting broke out between residents and Inkatha-supporting hostel dwellers.

Delegation spokesman Paul Mashatile said thousands of residents had been displaced by violence and

their houses looted. "We are asking government to assist these people materially," Mashatile said Kriel, who indicated he would visit Alexandra soon, promised to refer the request to De Klerk.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Capt Craig Kotze would not comment on the meeting.

Meanwhile Sapa reports the nine community leaders staging a sit-in at Spoorneet's Johannesburg offices have agreed that the Witwatersrand Commissioner of Police can represent Kriel in talks on Reef train violence. ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the deadlock between the protesters and Law and Order and Trans-

port was broken when acceptance was reached on Gen Gerrit Erasmus's representation at the talks.

Mamoepa said Law and Order had told them Erasmus would have the necessary powers to make decisions on measures to be taken to curb the train violence.

They had decided to accept the proposal and a meeting would be arranged to discuss the violence. Officials of Spoorneet and the SA Railways Commuters' Corporation would also attend the talks.

A police spokesman said yesterday four of the 10 people who died in unrest incidents on Sunday were killed by police who returned fire after being attacked in three incidents.

# Slick poses a threat to Natal's estuaries

By Day 28/4/92  
GAVIN DU VENAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL experts are anxiously watching the progress of the oil slick from the tanker Katina P, which sank off the Mozambique coast on Sunday.

The slick could drift south towards the Antarctic, but might be blown westwards on to the Natal coast, they said yesterday. The ship released more than 9 000 tons of oil from two damaged storage tanks as it went down, with the bulk of its cargo still on board.

SA Sea Fisheries Research Institute pollution officer Lynn Jackson said yesterday she hoped the oil slick — 30km long and 20km wide — would not reach the Mozambique current, which would carry it ashore.

If the slick reached the beaches it would be relatively easy to clean up as heavy oil was "like a tar blanket" and could "virtually be rolled up". But if it washed into estuaries and mangrove swamps on Natal's coast it would be almost impossible to remove, and would threaten fish and turtle breeding grounds.

Oceanographic Research Institute director Prof Tony de Freitas said yesterday he thought it unlikely that the slick would reach the coastline as it was outside the Mozambique current. However, an onshore wind could change the situation.

Pentow Marine spokesman David Murray said the slick did not appear to be moving shorewards. The oil came from the tanks lying amidship of the vessel, which held 12 500 tons of heavy oil. He added that the tug Causeway Savior, which had been monitoring the slick, was on its way home as the Katina P's owners — the Polern brothers — had ceased their salvage operation. A Kuswag aircraft would continue to monitor the slick.

Our Durban correspondent reports the Mozambican authorities have asked SA's Foreign Affairs department ensure that Katina P captain Trifon Kalatazakis and five crewmen be returned to Mozambique to assist with an official commission of inquiry into the incident.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs could not be reached for comment.



# Damaged tanker 'ran from Cape'

CT 25/4/92

(56)

DURBAN. — Cape beaches were spared the danger of an oil pollution disaster when the leaking tanker Katina P made a dash for Mozambican waters.

This was according to Mozambican officials who are organising a huge cleaning-up operation after oil from the Katina P caused widespread pollution on beaches in the Bay of Maputo this week.

The officials said the tanker was already damaged when it passed the Cape coast about two weeks ago and that the Greek captain had decided to "make a run for a Third World country" before further damage occurred.

They suspect that the captain believed the Mozambican government would be "less severe" against him than the South African authorities.

Pentow Marine salvage director Mr Godfrey Needham confirmed yesterday that the vessel — laden with more than 60 000 tons of heavy fuel oil — ran into bad weather as it rounded the Cape nearly two weeks ago.

"It's a very old vessel, and that (bad weather) started the rot," he said.

Asked at what point the vessel was seriously damaged, Mr Needham said "the first trouble" happened in Cape waters somewhere between Port Elizabeth and East London.

This would have meant that the vessel still had two days sailing



**OIL TIDE MARK ...** Oil from the damaged tanker, Katina P, has washed up on a beach north of Maputo. This young Mozambican mixed the oil with sand to make mud pies.

time before it reached Mozambican waters.

However, Mr Needham said the captain may not have been aware of the seriousness of the damage until he reached Mozambique.

But according to sources in Maputo, officials are concerned that the captain was aware the damage occurred off the Cape, and had decided to head for Mozambique to avoid polluting South African waters.

It is believed the Mozambican authorities have taken possession of the ship's log book, and that this could contain vital information.

The vessel is now about 160km north-east of Maputo, about 80km off-shore.

Mr Needham said "no further significant damage" occurred yesterday.

Sapa reports that a ship still has to be commissioned to take the oil from the Katina P.

● The South African-led operation to salvage the Katina P had helped shed years of antagonism in the Southern African region, Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha said yesterday. Mr Botha was speaking during debate on the Foreign Affairs budget vote.

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## NEWS

# R51-m to fight coal mine damage

56  
STAN 28/4/92

CAPE TOWN — It would cost the State at least R51 million over the next three decades to combat pollution from abandoned coal mines in the Witbank and Ermelo districts, the Minister of Water Affairs, General Magnus Malan, said in Parliament yesterday.

Speaking in debate on his department's vote, he said this would be done in terms of the State's responsibility to control pollution caused by mines that stopped operation before 1956.

Pollution from coal in the Witbank district affected water quality in the Loskop Dam catchment, and pollution from Ermelo could be noticed in the upper Vaal catchment up to the Grootdraai Dam.

Sixteen coal mines in the Witbank area and seven in the Ermelo area were concerned.

"It is estimated that about R29,3 million must be spent over four years, while a further R22 million at present prices will have to be spent over a 30-year period to get these proposed (control) works established and to maintain them."

In 1987 Parliament had allocated R32 million over 10 years to combat water pollution from coal mines in northern Natal. — Sapa.

## De Hoop's future for review

Environment Reporter (56) ARG 29/4/92  
PEOPLE in the Bredasdorp area, environmental educators, non-government conservationists and tour operators are among those appointed to a 13-member steering committee to direct a study into the future of De Hoop nature reserve.

Cape Nature Conservation recently appointed consultants to investigate the development of the reserve.

The consultants will report to the steering committee throughout the project, but will also discuss the issue with other interested parties.

Coordinating consultant Ms Mary-Jane Muller said they viewed the project as "challenging and exciting".

The consultants can be contacted at Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten, PO Box 6824, Roggebaai 8012.



# Beating about the bush makes for ineffective law

ENVIRONMENTAL issues have become increasingly important worldwide and many countries now have strict legislation designed to protect their diminishing natural resources.

Although the application and enforcement of environmental legislation in SA lags behind many first world nations, there are more than 60 Acts and Regulations dealing with environment-related issues.

Central to this legislation is the Environment Conservation Act of 1989.

This Act authorises the Minister of Environment Affairs to identify and control activities which may have an adverse effect on the environment.

## Chemical

These include water use and disposal, chemical treatment, land use and transformation, resource removal and renewal, agricultural and industrial processes and energy generation and distribution.

However, as attorney Pieter Conradie of Hofmeyr van der Merwe points out, the present structure of environmental legislation has not proved sufficiently effective.

Some of the reasons for this, he says, are:

- Undue fragmentation of the laws;
- Limited involvement of public participation and the limitations of procedures for the public to participate; and
- Too lenient fines and sentences.

"Although it had been hoped by many observers that some of these problems would be addressed in the Environment Conservation Act, this Act still has to live up to expectations," says Conradie.

A number of SA legal firms, aware of the increasing importance of this area of the law, have established new departments aimed at

providing specialised and co-ordinated legal services on environmental matters.

One firm, Werksmans, has established a six-man cross-departmental environmental group.

This branch of the law covers a wide spectrum of other legal practice areas, which is why the six-man group has been drawn from various specialist departments within the firm.

Attorney Des Williams, a member of the Werksmans group, says environmental issues are now of considerable importance not only in long-term corporate and social planning, but also in the day to day management and operation of thousands of businesses and industries.

"Times have changed. There is an ever increasing awareness of the fragility of our environment.

"This concern is being translated worldwide into an expanding system of controls and sanctions."

Williams says one issue under debate is how the right to a clean and healthy environment should be introduced into a new constitution. He says the civil remedies which become available will be influenced by the constitutional direction which is ultimately taken, especially if a Bill of Rights is adopted.

"Matters which are of more immediate concern to our clients are firstly the scope and effect of the Environment Conservation Act and, secondly, the civil remedies which are available in terms of the Act and the law of nuisance."

Williams says anyone aggrieved by activities which have a detrimental effect on the environment should be aware of the remedies available to them.

"Similarly, anyone, from captains of industry to the operators of small one-man businesses in control of an activity potentially harmful to the environment, should not only be aware of the relevant criminal penalties but also the civil

remedies available to those aggrieved by such activities," he says.

Conradie suggests personal liability of directors, managers and servants of corporate bodies could be one way of enforcing compliance with environmental legislation.

"Directors should not be entitled to accept information and advise blindly.

"Failure to understand the company's affairs should not be an excuse.

"Directors will have to accept that they have a duty to safeguard and protect the affairs of the company and the environment."

Environmental lawyers offer their clients a wide range of services ranging from making representations to public bodies and authorities, risk assessment, environmental management assessment as well as keeping them informed about environmental legislation.

## Questionable

However, Moodie and Robertson partner Doug Wimble says it is questionable to what extent law firms will be able to use their skills for the protection of the environment.

Wimble, himself a committed conservationist, says the Environment Conservation Act provides a framework for the Minister to control environmental use and abuse.

"But it is so hedged with pre-requisites before he can act that he has not yet, after two years, laid down any environmental policy or controlled any harmful activity.

"One is forced to conclude that while there may be conservationists in government, government as a whole is not committed to conservation.

"As the law currently stands, generally speaking the exploitation lobby is rich and its interests legally protected, while the conservation lobby is poor and has few rights."

Competition puts an

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## Pretoria City Council takes over township

STAR 29/4/92  
 The Pretoria City Council took over the administration of its neighbouring black township last night with council agreement that its town clerk would act as the town clerk of Atteridgeville.

The council decided it would inform the Transvaal Administrator that it had agreed, according to the Black Local Governments Act of 1982, to perform all the duties of the Atteridgeville Town Council.

According to section 20 of the Act, the Management Committee of Pretoria was appointed as the Executive Committee of Atteridgeville.

In a lengthy debate, the Conservative Party objected to these measures and charged the National Party had annexed Atteridgeville in colonial fashion.

CP councillors said Johannesburg had tried similar measures to help black townships but had failed.

The NP leader in the council, Dr Pieter Smith, said Atteridgeville was part and parcel of Pretoria and every cent invested in the black township would ensure a safer Pretoria. — Sapa.

# Eyes on weather as oil threatens coast

STAR 29/4/92

(S6)

Experts watched the wind and the sea yesterday, fearing a threat to South Africa's wild northern Natal coast from an oil slick from the sunken Greek tanker Katina P.

A 240 sq km slick has formed since the tanker's port and centre tanks disgorged 13 000 tons of oil into the sea when she sank on Sunday in more than 2 000 m of water off Mozambique.

Another 47 000 tons remain in the holds and experts hope the heavy furnace oil will solidify in the cold water at that depth.

David Murray, spokesman for Cape Town salvage company Pentow Marine, said yesterday the slick had moved 19 km south, but was still 380 km from the Mozambican coast.

The oil is packing against the edge of the south-flowing Mozambique current, and will not break through the natural barrier formed by the current unless there is a strong onshore wind, he said.

Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) officer Lynn Jackson: "We are really dependent on the weather. At the moment it looks quite positive."

As the oil moves southwards it will hit the Agulhas current coming round the east coast of Madagascar and moving towards the Cape, she said.

Where the Mozambique current hit the Agulhas current eddies formed in the sea which could trap the slick for two to three months, she said.

If the oil did come ashore the department would activate a contingency plan drawn up five years ago.

She said the main task would be to seal the estuaries, either by stringing across inflatable booms to block the oil on the surface or by bulldozing the entrances closed if the currents were strong enough to drag the oil under booms.

Booms could be kept in place indefinitely but es-

tuaries could stay completely sealed for only two or three weeks, as the build-up of fresh water behind the barriers would disturb the salinity levels on which estuarine flora and fauna depended, Ms Jackson said.

Lex Fearnhead, chief coastal conservator for the Natal Parks Board, which owns much of the land in the area, said his department had the equipment at its disposal and would act when the DEA gave the order.

● The salvage tug Wolraad Woltemade is heading from St Helena to aid the Rio Assu in response to the ship's captain's report yesterday that the fire which broke out on Monday had flared up again.

A spokesman for Pentow Marine said the 24 800-ton Brazilian bulk carrier had lost her main engine and repairs would take 40 hours.

Earlier, a spokesman for the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Silvermine said the ship was not in danger. — Sapa-AFP.

# Drought likely to take heavy toll in Kruger Park



Salomon Joubert... he remains comparatively optimistic in spite of the drought, which he calls a "once in a century" event.

By Juliette du Toit

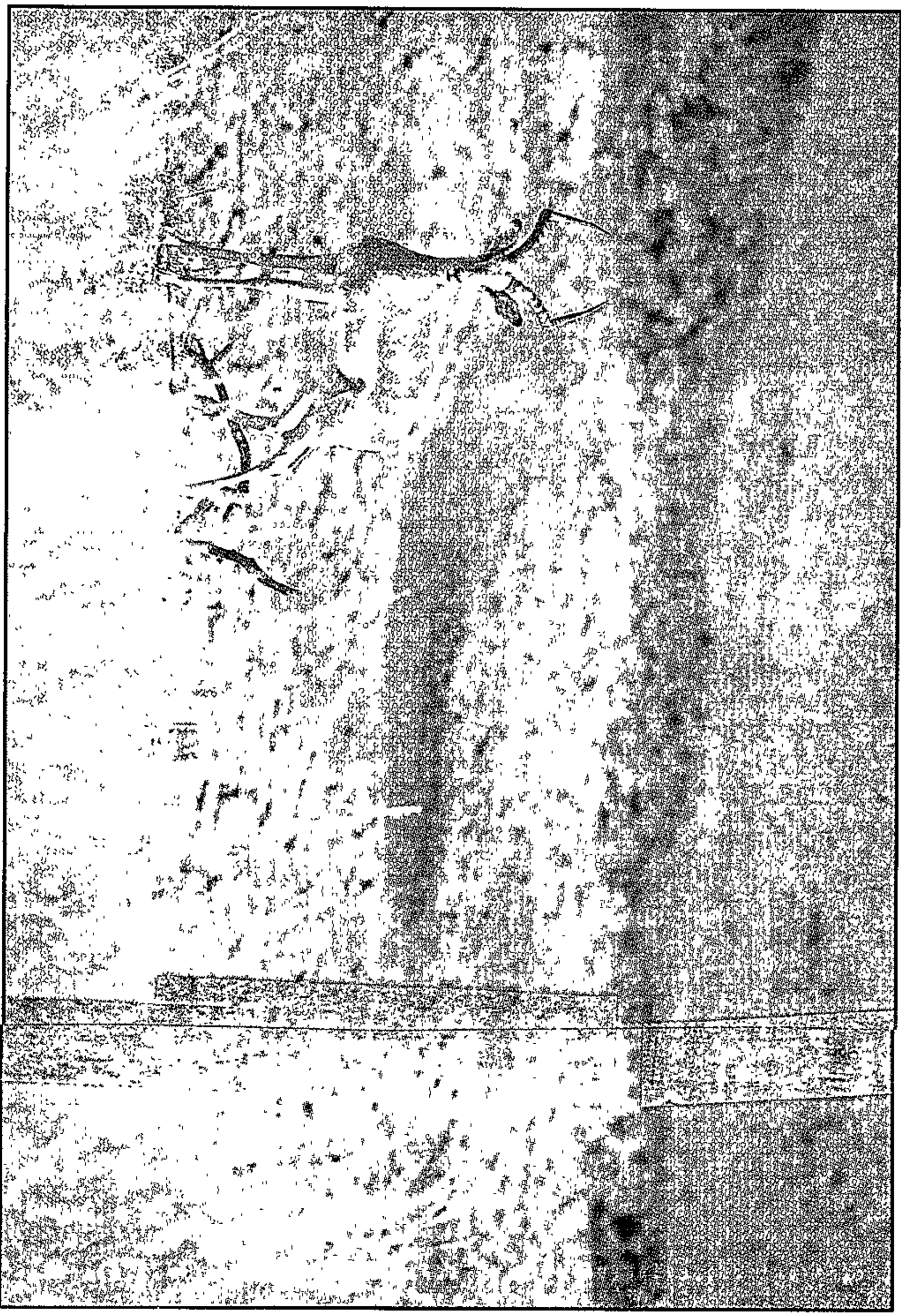
Star 29/4/92 (56)

The Kruger National Park is dry, but it still looks as if someone has been up all night polishing the impala to a fine gloss. The park, according to its head, Dr Salomon Joubert, is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. Accurate records stretch back to 1919. There simply will not be enough water to carry all the animals through the dry season coming up. But the drought has had no visible effect on the ani-

mals yet. There are no buck with ribs showing or lacklustre lion — at least not in the south and middle of the park. And despite the fact that many animals are bound to die, Dr Joubert is comparatively optimistic about what he calls a "once in a century" event. An ecosystem under stress like this is not necessarily a bad thing. Tourists will be able to see greater concentrations of game than ever before. And the species themselves will be strengthened because the drought will wipe out the weakest.

In Pafuri, in the northern part of the park, and usually the driest, animals were far more resistant to drought than in the south, said Dr Joubert. Fewer animals there died under stressful conditions, as a rule. Some animals had already died in the north, but this was due to the unusually high temperatures, he said. Chingwedzi measured a record high of 48 deg C, and Shukuzza a high of 45,6 deg C on February 26 this year. It is this incredible heat, combined with little seasonal rain and the comparatively low

rainfall in the past few years, that is making this the worst drought yet for the park. There is nothing park management can do to save the animals from dying of thirst and hunger. The Department of Water Affairs has notified the park that the water flow to the Crocodile and Olifants Rivers will be restricted — by up to 60 percent. The priority, by law, is human and agricultural use. The artificial waterholes cannot be filled, since there will be nothing to fill them with. "We can't create water out of nothing. We can't make rain," said Dr Joubert. He said, however, that boreholes might be sunk to help animals over a critical time. It would also be impossible to feed the animals with trucked-in lucerne, since cattle had first priority, and because such quantities would be needed. What Kruger Park management can and is doing is to step up its monitoring of the drought's effect on the entire ecosystem. Some animals, like zebra and wildebeest who like wide-open, arid plains, may even increase in numbers because of the drought. Other factors to be monitored are conception and survival rates and at what stage animals start to die off. "It would give us an insight into aspects of ecology that cannot be simulated in a laboratory," said Dr Joubert. Recent research has shown that buffalo are more sensitive to drought than previously thought. So this year, the usual 3 000 buffalo may not be culled.



It's dry out there... as this impala discovered when visiting what is left of a waterhole displaying ill-effects from the lack of rain.

But elephants, 300 this year, will still have to be culled. The culling operation is taking place now, with more than 30 young animals simultaneously being captured and transferred to Kangwane and Bophuthatswana parks. Elephants were too compet-

itive when it came to food and water, said Dr Joubert. They could eat anything: trees, shrubs, roots and grass at a rate of 30 to 70 kg a day and in addition, by muddying waterholes, could actually endanger the lives of other animals in a short-term crisis. The danger of anthrax,

which spreads fastest when many animals gather at fewer waterholes, and when they are under stress, is not as big as initially thought. Dr Joubert did not see anthrax as a major killer, although carcasses of animals that had died from it were still being burnt to prevent the

disease spreading. When the drought finally ended the numbers of animals would rise dramatically, as they had after previous serious droughts, he predicted. And the public would be informed fully on what was happening in the park through the press

# The trouble with trees is they drink too much

By PAUL STOBER

CONSERVATIONISTS are aiming to plug an unsuspected drain on South Africa's scarce water resources — plantations.

The charge that they are also one of the worst water abusers has led to fiery debate. But there is more to it than a simplistic, blanket condemnation of greenery.

The debate has focused on the effect of South Africa's plantations — reported to be the largest in the world — on the natural environment and the life it supports. And it has sparked a review of the impact of the plantations on water sources.

Pine tree plantations are disrupting catchment areas, leading green activists to say that "South Africa is effectively exporting its most valuable resource — water — through timber".

David Cooper, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring, outlined two perspectives on the issue. Foresters believe they are making more effective use of water by planting trees high in catchment areas where the rains fall. Excess water which is not used by the trees, still runs off to feed rivers. Conservationists counter that plantations reduce the amount of rainwater which reaches the earth and flows into rivers, further reducing South Africa's usable water resources.

According to South African Wildlife Society conservation ecologist, Andrew Duthie: "There is no doubt that plantations reduce run-off."

He listed three reasons why pines, mainly used for the manufacture of paper, reduce run-off: pines have tap-roots which penetrate deep into the earth and draw up groundwater which then transpires into the atmosphere through their leaves; the tops to the trees form a canopy which catches rain, preventing it from reaching the ground and allowing it to evaporate much faster; pine trees are large living organisms and need a lot of water.

Very few montane grasslands, which are important for water production, are left along the Transvaal escarpment where 50 percent of the endemic plants occur. At least 80 permits have been issued on land supporting red data species, said Duthie.

"Even though the Nature Conservation Department is required to make an input into the issuing of permits, there is no legal back-up for these recommendations. This is a disastrous situation considering the impact on biodiversity and tourism."

Duthie does not dispute the right of the foresters to use the water, like any other sector of agriculture, but maintains that the reduction of run-off is a problem. "The water does return as rain," he said "but less becomes useful to people and animals downstream in rivers."

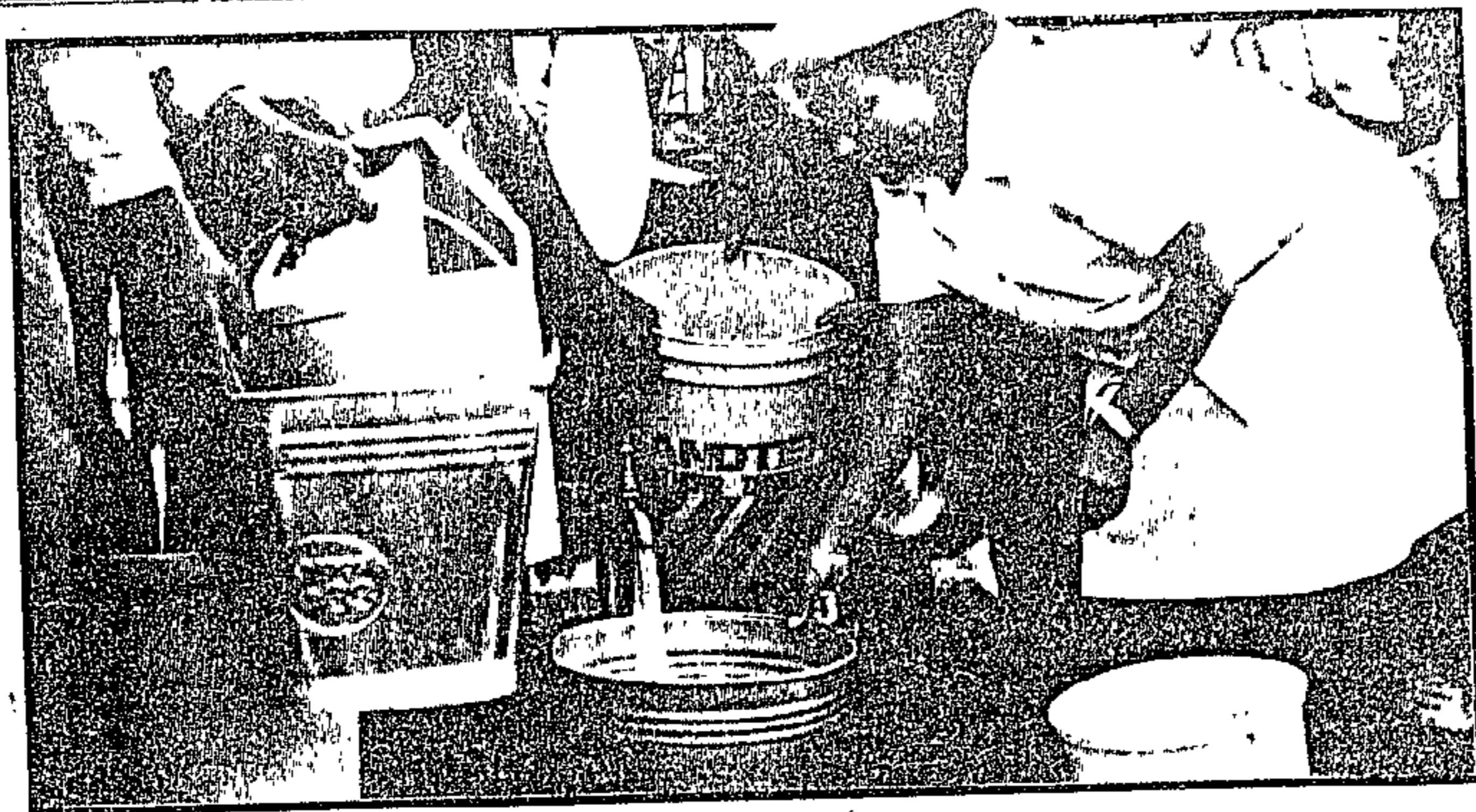
According to the spokesman for the Department of Water and Forestry, Bosman Olivier, the Forestry Act of 1984 is designed primarily to limit the potential use of water by foresters.

Under the Act, anyone who wants to establish a plantation has to apply to the department for a permit. "Even the state has to apply to the department for permission to plant forests," said Olivier.

He explained that the Department of Water and Forestry, which is responsible for state forests has two parts; national forestry planning and timber production. Timber production has to apply to forestry planning for permission to plant trees. Olivier said the department checked how much of the proposed plantation fell within the catchment areas of rivers. Plantations may only cover between five and 10 percent of the total catchment area. In some areas, like that of the Vaal river, this level has been reached and no further afforestation is allowed. The planting of trees within 20m a water course or wetland, which store water and release it over time, is forbidden. "Forestry is the only industry which manages itself no other agriculture has such a system of land management," says Olivier.

The forestry sector is self-sustaining and the most profitable in agriculture. According to the Forest Owners Association, the industry has a turnover of R6-billion.

However, Cooper indicated disquiet existed among conservationists about the effectiveness of the laws in protecting the natural forests, wetlands and grasslands. "There is a feeling that the percentage formula should refer the land left in its original condition," he said.



The long haul ... Women walk many kilometres every day, fetching water for their families

Photos by KEVIN CARTER

## All we want is a tap of our own

Chicken Farm squatters spend four hours a day collecting water from a distant source. Households in nearby suburbs receive 20 000 litres a month — on tap. By FERALIAFAJEE

IT'S not even nine on a weekday morning, and already the women from Chicken Farm are streaming to the only tap near the squatter camp to collect water in 20 litre drums.

The sprawling camp is situated in Soweto's Pimville, near Baragwanath Hospital. For many it is the second trip of the morning and it isn't an easy one. The 1km walk to the tap is along a pathway pockmarked with ridges and bumps, long grass and stones.

Pinky Mathole fetches her water in a wheelbarrow borrowed from a neighbour. She collects five 20 litre drum-fuls four times a day.

She gets to the tap at seven in the morning and often waits up to an hour for her water because it's peak time as workers collect water for a wash or early-morning coffee. When we saw her, she was fetching a second round of water to "scrub the floors, pots and the kettle". Later she will come back for another load, this time "to wash myself and the children".

The final haul comes at five when she fetches water for the evening's cooking, for tea and for her husband to wash in.

Mathole, and most of her neighbours, spend up to four hours a day collecting water. Even this is not enough.

"The World Health Organisation estimates that basic health criteria can only be met when every person has access to at least 50 litres of drinkable water every day," said Henk Coetzee, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

The tap is a meeting place for the women, who gossip while they enjoy the "luxury" of washing with as much water as they like. The children play in the mud and mimic their mothers, filling their Coke bottles and baking powder tins with water.

The tap that Chicken Farm residents use was not meant for them: it belongs to the nearby scrapyard. There is a tap in the camp but nobody uses it since all it yields is a trickle.

By contrast, the average suburban household of four and six people



Washing is done where there is water — usually a long way from home receives about 20 000 litres a month tapped directly to their homes.

The council has installed about 40 mobile toilets in the camp. But, says Kenneth Mhlangu, "individuals keep it for themselves". Three or four families claim a toilet by putting a lock on the door and writing their names all over it.

Mhlangu, who is unemployed and unmarried, is one of few men at the tap. Fetching water is women's work, says Mhlangu as he guides his wheelbarrow along the path.

One of his drums topples to the ground and spills the water he has taken half an hour to collect, but he merely shrugs his shoulders.

The struggle for water has brought with it a thriving little industry. Professional carriers fetch the water for residents. Using "nation-

alised" trolleys from nearby Highgate shopping centre, they charge R4 for 100 litres of water delivered to your door. This is 25 times more than piped water supplied to Johannesburg's suburbs where R4 buys 2 500 litres.

Seven million South Africans live in shack settlements and half of these are in the PWV area in the Transvaal.

Trying to get answers from the authorities on who is responsible for supplying water to squatter areas is as much of a problem. The government departments of National Health and Water Affairs said it was not their responsibility and referred the questions to the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA said responsibility rested with the local authorities but they referred the question back to the TPA.

"Shack settlements are regarded

as transit areas and infrastructural costs are discouraged," says Henk Coetzee, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

Studies of 12 050 families on the West Rand, carried out by the Department of Community Development, showed that 23,8 percent had no water source, 2,6 percent used river water, 49,7 percent collected water from neighbouring townships and 24,8 percent were supplied by TPA water trucks.

Almost 80 percent of the families surveyed used pit latrines, 17 percent had toilets and 2,9 percent used the bucket system.

However, "many squatters, including those from Chicken Farm, get their water from rivers. But, South Africa's rivers are among the most polluted in Africa," says Coetzee.

The PWV settlements draw water mainly from the Vaal River where contamination begins at its headwaters in the eastern Transvaal at the power stations and increases as it flows through the Witwatersrand.

Tests by the Rand Water Board in the catchment area of the Vaal Dam found amounts of mercury, arsenic and sulphates which "far exceed European standards for surface water".

A Rand Water Board official told *The Weekly Mail* that inadequate maintenance and overload of toilets in Soweto caused burst sewage pipes and contamination of ground water.

Water supply is often the pawn in struggles between residents and local authorities. Often, water is cut to force residents into compliance with local government regulations. When water is supplied by local authorities there are so many problems, such as the high cost and interrupted service, that more and more civics in squatter camps are demanding that local authorities be by-passed and that the government be solely entrusted with this responsibility.

Meanwhile, Mathole's wish is for "a toilet and a pump in my own yard". She says that as if it is as far from her reach as the sparkling swimming pools in the suburbs where some of her friends work.

**T**HIS week, greater Cape Town came under the icy lash of the first winter rains. For the thousands living on the Cape Flats without basic services, the deluge meant added misery: water everywhere, and not a drop to drink. For those with water on tap, the heavens opening served simply to shore up the notion that Cape Town has all the water it will ever need.

Not so. While relatively better watered than other parts of the country, the western Cape's resources of good quality water are limited. Rapid urbanisation, population growth and improving the living standards of those forced to fetch and carry their own water are putting the region on course for a water crisis soon after the turn of the century.

Economic growth is another factor: during the boom years of the 1960s, water demand surged by 2,06 times more than the growth in population, according to the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Water use varies, depending on income levels. In affluent areas it goes into swimming pools, fuels washing machines and keeps lawns lush. A survey carried out in Constantia's plush Southern Cross Drive, where plots range in size from 4 500 to 8 000 square metres, household usage ranged from one kilolitre to 50 kilolitres a day — averaging at seven. By comparison, usage in a medium-income area like Mitchell's Plain was about 150 litres a day per person. And in Khayelitsha, shack dwellers were shown to use about 15 litres a day, while those in site and service schemes used 90 litres and those in brick-built houses, 120 litres a day.

The department is using figures like these to illustrate how demand will increase as the living conditions of people improve. It points out, in an information package released last month, that agricultural demand will also increase, especially under the influence of overseas demand for the Cape's apples and other deciduous fruit and a favourable exchange rate and because farmers will have to produce more to feed the region's growing population.

Farmers make use mostly of water from their own dams or irrigation schemes, but water is also supplied from Voelvlei Dam and the Riviersonderend Government Water Scheme — which serve the urban sector as well. Water from Voelvlei Dam is fully utilised, while that from the Riviersonderend Scheme is not — yet.

**U**rban water supplies come chiefly from Table Mountain dams and springs, the Steenbras Dam, Wemmershoek Dam and dams in Stellenbosch, the Boland and the Lourens rivers, near Somerset West.

Projected urban growth and increased agricultural demand will outstrip existing water supply sources by the year 1995.

Residents of Cape Town, judging by the way they use water, are unaware of this. Like the ozone hole, the problem can't be seen — and is thus deemed not to exist.

Fully 59 percent of the city's water is used in the home, with commerce and industry accounting for 24 percent of the consumption pie-chart. Typical water usage in a home in one of Cape Town's higher income suburbs looks like this: 50 percent goes on the garden, 22,5 percent on flushing the loo, the laundry and dishes takes up 10 percent and bathing, 15 percent. Drinking and cooking accounts for only a fraction — 2,5 percent.

Unconventional sources of water considered by the department include re-using sewage effluent, which is what Windhoek does for its water. Reclaimed effluent could be used to water golf-courses and parks — or given to farmers to irrigate crops in exchange for their fresh water. But both these options are costly, while the first involves a measure of risk: how to control what goes into the sewers and may later turn up in the water supply?

In the Middle East, there are several large desalination plants. Cape Town has unlimited access to sea-water. But both the initial costs and running costs are, according to the department, much higher than for conventional sources: a staggering R970-million in capital costs and R142-million in annual operating costs, according to a recent study (and based on 1992 prices).

Towing icebergs from the South Atlantic sounds like an Alice in Wonderland scheme, but has also been considered. The department notes that the technology involved is "totally unproven" and that capturing the icebergs, contending with wind and current to bring them to Cape Town, and then, when they arrive, turning them into a usable supply of water, all present formidable problems.

What about two water supplies — one "high-class", for cooking and drinking, and one second-

# WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE AND NOT A DROP TO DRINK

6/1/1992 30/4 - 1/5/92

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**In cities, shanty-towns and forests, a quiet but desperate war is being fought over the one national resource no one can survive without. By GAYE DAVIS**



The struggle for water has brought new forms of employment ... like professional water carriers

class, for loo flushing and gardening? It might be possible in new residential areas, says the department, but the costs of installing a second reticulation network would be high, more so in established areas.

From the department's point of view, the most efficient and cost-effective option lies in damming the Palmiet River — and here it has clashed head on with conservationists.

For the Palmiet River is not only the last pristine river system in the region, flowing undisturbed by dams or other manifestations of human interference from its source to its exit into the sea near Kleinmond, but also flows through 30 000ha of conserved land which comprise the heart of the Cape floral kingdom — the Kogelberg.

Little wonder, then, that conservationists are ral-

lying to ensure that damming the Palmiet is delayed until every other possible alternative is thoroughly explored.

But part of their problem is that just as few are aware of the western Cape's potential water crisis, so are few aware of the Kogelberg or its importance: much of it proclaimed state forest and thus out of bounds to the public.

Within it, occur one-fifth of all known species of fynbos — the plants making up the Cape floral kingdom. One of six floral kingdoms recognised throughout the world, the Cape's is unique in that its species occur in the Cape only.

Beyond its flora, the Kogelberg offers a biological diversity said to be so unique that an application to have it declared a biosphere reserve — recognised worldwide as an area of unique conservation

importance — has been submitted to the United Nations for consideration by its Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

Biosphere reserves allow for core conservation areas which remain untouched, bounded by transitional areas which, within the framework of a conservation strategy, can be developed for recreation and education.

But if plans to dam the Palmiet River go ahead, the application will be automatically disqualified, according to Greville Ruddock, one of the Cape Nature Conservation officials responsible for conserving the area. "The different dam options under the scheme fall right within the core biosphere area," he said. "If we dam in the Kogelberg, it will disqualify it."

**O**f the plant species found in the area, 77 occur nowhere else in the world. Thirty-four plant species found in the Kogelberg have been classified as red data book species, meaning they face threat of extinction, according to Douglas Jeffery, chairman of the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation Committee.

"There are a variety of other water sources which do not involve the damming of the Palmiet River," he said. "These include various dam options on rivers which have already been heavily impacted by human activity, removal of water from underground aquifers, recycling of waste water, desalination of sea water and reducing current water demand."

"The biosphere reserve proposed for the area by Cape Nature Conservation requires that there be a pristine area with no human structures within it. Certain dam options (proposed by the Department of Water Affairs) will be in direct contradiction to this proposal. We feel it is essential that all other options of water supply are considered before the damming of the Palmiet River is embarked upon."

To this end, the Botanical Society recently formed a Palmiet River Special Interest Committee, which hopes to persuade the department to delay taking any final decisions until all other possible water options have been thoroughly investigated.

According to committee member Dermot Judge, the various options proposed for damming the Palmiet will provide sufficient water to meet the burgeoning demand for only five to 10 years.

"Then other options will have to be followed, such as desalination — and the Kogelberg will have been destroyed."

The committee is planning an awareness campaign, to bring the message home to western Cape residents that water is not an unlimited supply.

"Exploding population growth is not the chief problem and won't be for a long time," said Judge. "Fifty percent of our water is used on gardens and in flushing toilets. We're hoping to improve the public's awareness of the need to use water more carefully."

According to Cape Nature Conservation official Greville Ruddock, almost 50 percent of the south-western Cape's fynbos has already been lost to agriculture and urban development.

"The Department of Water Affairs is aware of the importance of the area — but their bottom-line is cost," he said. "People have to decide whether it's worth paying more for their water — and saving the Kogelberg."

Sowetan

Correspondent

THE Kruger National Park is dry, but it still looks as if someone has been up all night polishing the Impala to a fine gloss.

The park, according to its head, Dr Salomon Joubert, is experiencing its worst drought in recorded history. Accurate records stretch back to 1919.

There simply will not be enough water to carry all the animals through the dry season coming up. But the drought has had no visible effect on the animals yet. There are no buck with ribs showing or lacklustre lions - at least not in the south and middle of the park.

And despite the fact that many animals are bound to die, Joubert is comparatively optimistic about what he calls a "once-in-a-century" event.

An ecosystem under stress like this is not necessarily a bad thing. Tourists will be able to see greater concentrations of game than ever before.

And the species themselves will be strengthened because the drought will wipe out the weakest.

# Severe drought hits the Kruger National Park

*Sowetan 30/4/92*

*56*

In Pafuri, in the northern part of the park, and usually the driest, animals are far more resistant to drought than in the south, said Joubert. Fewer animals there died under stressful conditions, as a rule.

Some animals have already ready in the north, but this was due to the unusually high temperatures, he said. Chingwedzi measured a record high of 48deg C, and Skukuza a high of 45,6deg C on February 26 this year.

It is this incredible heat combined with little seasonal rain and the comparatively low rainfall in the past few years, that is making this the worst drought ever for the park.

There is nothing park management can do to save the animals from dying of thirst and hunger. The Department of Water Affairs has notified the park that the water flow to the Crocodile and Olifants Rivers will be restricted by up to 60 percent.

The priority, by law, is human and agricultural use. The artificial waterholes cannot be filled, since there will be nothing to fill them with. "We can't create water out of nothing. We can't make rain," said Joubert.

He added, however, that boreholes might be sunk to help animals over a critical time. It would also be impossible to feed the animals with trucked-in lucerne, since cattle get first priority, and because such vast quantities would be needed.

What Kruger Park management can and is doing is to step up its monitoring of the drought's effect on the entire ecosystem.

Some animals, like zebra and wildebeest who like wide-open, arid plains, might even increase in numbers because of the drought.

Other factors to be monitored are conception and survival rates and at what stage animals start to die off.



No lacklustre lions in the Kruger National Park.

"The danger of anthrax, which spreads fastest when many animals gather at fewer waterholes, and when they are under stress, is not as big as initially thought," said Joubert.

He did not see anthrax as a major killer, although carcasses of animals that had died from it were still being burnt to prevent the disease spreading.

When the drought finally ended the numbers of animals would rise dramatically, as they had after previous serious droughts, predicted Dr Joubert.

And the public would be informed fully on what was happening in the park through the Press, he promised.

But elephants, 300 this year will still have to be culled. The culling operation is taking place now, with over 30 young animals simultaneously being captured and transferred to KANgwane and Bophuthatswana parks.

"Elephants are too competitive when it comes to food and water," said Joubert.

"They can eat anything, trees, shrubs, roots and



# Oil slick 'dispersing naturally'

**STEFAANS BRÜMMER**  
Shipping Reporter

THE oil slick threat from the Katina P seems to be abating, but the Department of Environment Affairs remains "fully prepared".

Mr Anton Moldan, pollution expert of the department's Directorate of Sea Fisheries, reported from Mozambique yesterday that the slick east of Maputo had started dispersing naturally.

It has been estimated that 13 000 tons of oil came from two tanks that ruptured when the 66 000-ton Greek tanker sank on Sunday.

Dr Lynn Jackson of Sea Fisheries said Mr Moldan flew over the area yesterday. The main slick stretched 33 miles south-west from the spot the tanker sank, but it had become less solid with more sheen in between.

It extended further south-west, but "essentially it has not really moved". Heavy winds yesterday and Tuesday, working against the direction of the current, seemed to have had a dispersing effect, she said.

A Sea Fisheries statement said the slick was expected to have "little, if any, adverse effect on the northern Natal coastline.

ANC 30/4/92



# Unusual deal behind R63-m Phinda rescue

Magnus Heystek

5b 30/4/92

JOHANNESBURG. — In a unique financing deal a total of R63 million has been raised from foreign and local investors by the Conservation Corporation Group, the developers of among others the Phinda game reserve in northern Natal.

A portion of the funding comes from the sale of a foreign debt, currently tied up in terms of the debt repayment moratorium agreement, to a group of British investors, at a substantial discount of approximately 20 percent.

About 40 percent of the funding comes from international investors including blue-chip names like Hambros Bank, the Getty family as well as Scottish investment group Martin Currie.

The deal is also good news for certain Masterbond debenture-investors who will be getting back a significant portion of their investment through this particular scheme.

Conscorp managing director Alan Bernstein said yesterday that the fund-raising represented the first international issue of unlisted equity by a South African company for years, and would enable the group to meet all its liabilities to the Masterbond group of companies.

He said 40 percent of the funds was raised from abroad, and 60 percent obtained locally — in total 50 percent more cash than expected.

Local and international institutional, corporate and private investors would subscribe for equity units in two investment companies, Conscorp International based on the Isle of Man, and Conscorp SA.

AECI Pension Fund made the single biggest investment of R21 million in Conscorp SA. Other South African investors include Metropolitan Life, Fedlife Assurance, Southern Life, Anglo American and De Beers.

London-based Hambros Bank, which sponsored the fund raising, a group of trustees associated with the Getty family and Scottish Martin Currie Investment Management will be the major shareholders in Conscorp International.

Conscorp International will use the proceeds of the overseas investment to purchase a foreign loan, currently blocked by the Third Debt Standstill Moratorium, on the secondary bond market at a discount to the face value of the loan. This discount currently is roughly about 20 percent.

In terms of the provisions of the Debt Standstill Agreement the blocked loan is converted into a long-term loan, repayable over 10 years.

According to Mr Bernstein, Masterbond had been engaged by Conscorp's Phinda subsidiary company to arrange finance in the early stages of the Phinda project by issuing debentures to private investors.

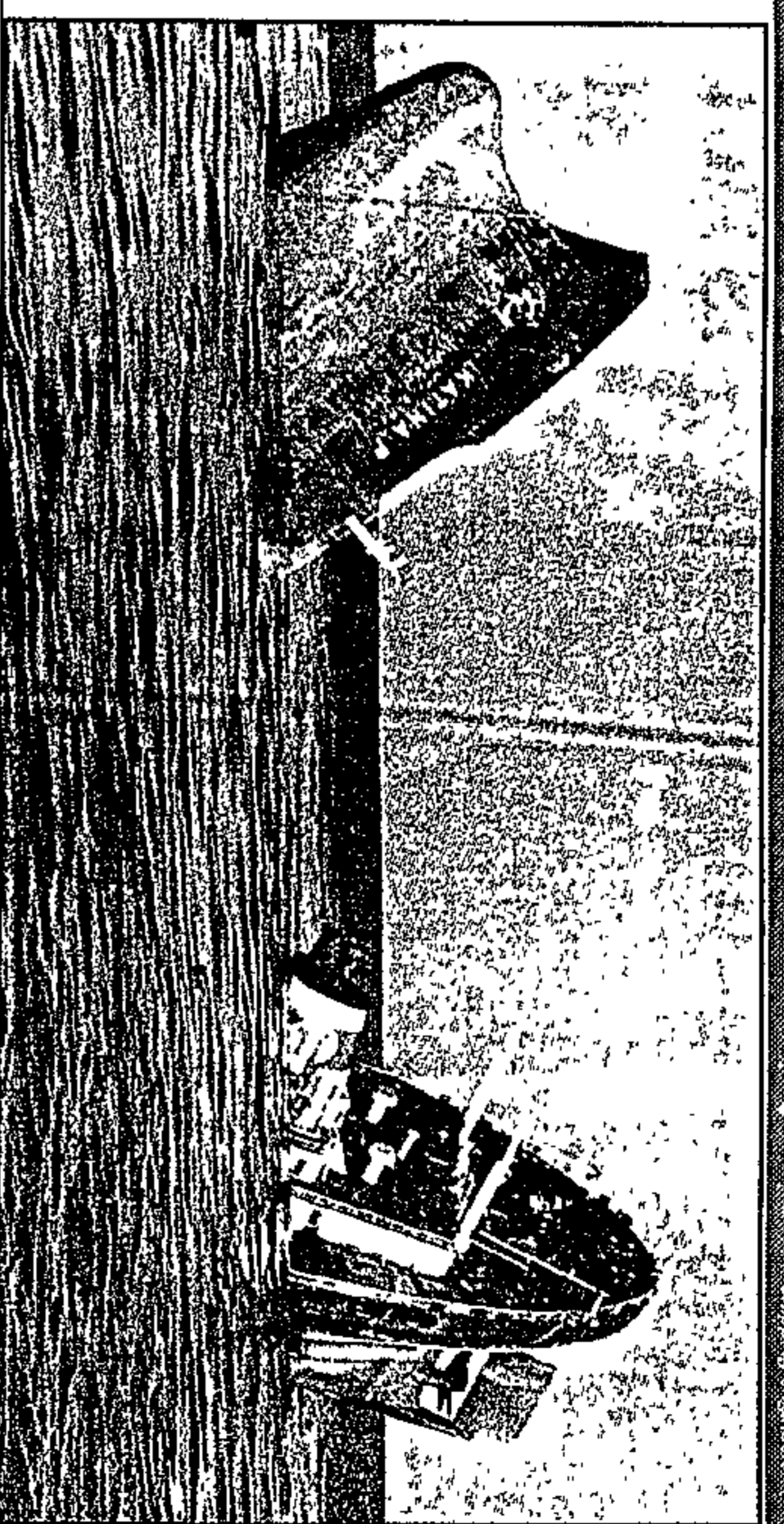
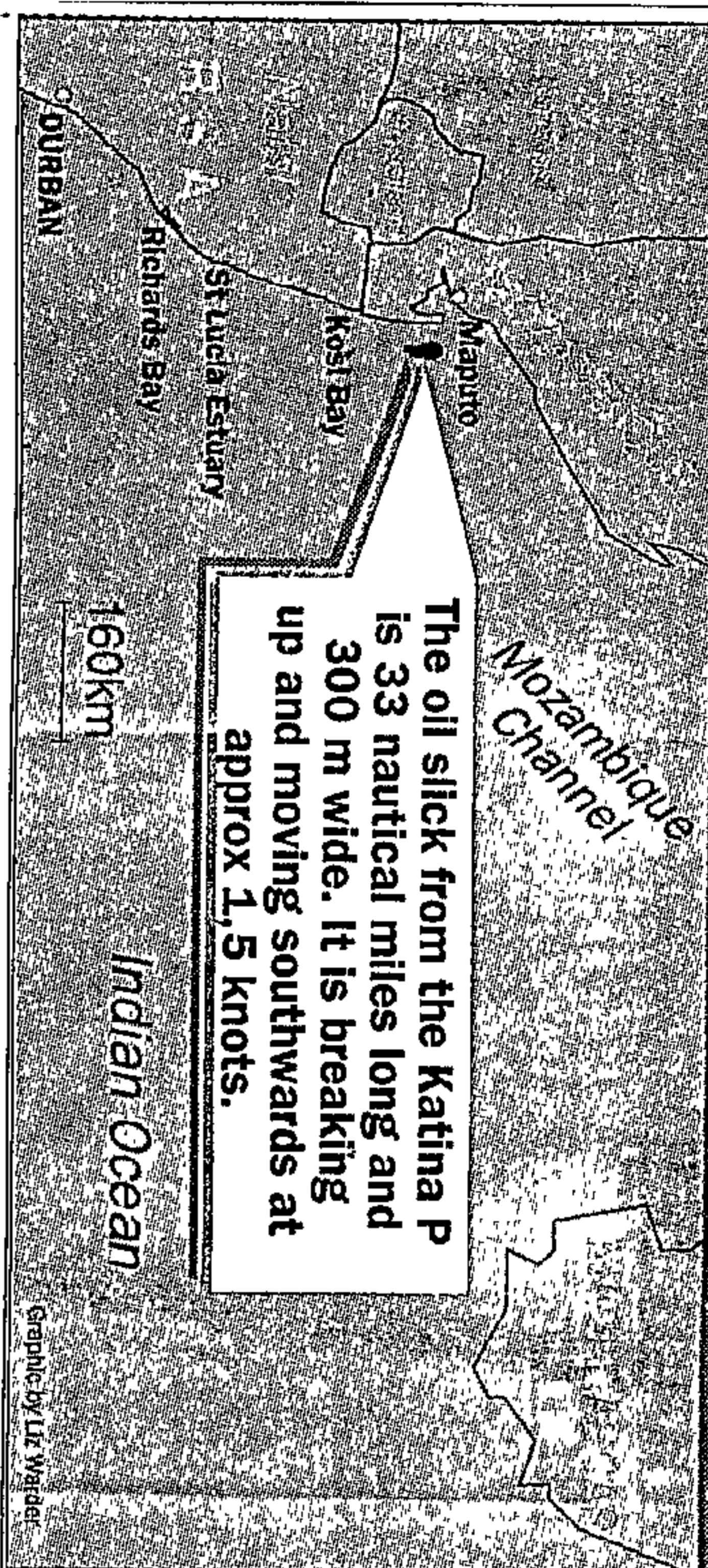
Part of the proceeds from the equity fund-raising were to be used to repay debentures as they matured.

However, the provisional curatorship of Masterbond in October 1991 had delayed the fund raising, and the group was unable to repay the first tranche of debentures due in December 1991.

AECI Pension Fund, in a provisional agreement with Conscorp and the curators, undertook to advance bridging finance of R22 million to Conscorp to settle all amounts owed to Masterbond as at December 1, 1991.

"The shipmaster ... noticed a small crinkle in the deck off the SA coast, but did not think it was that serious"

Dave Fisher  
Dept of Fisheries  
Shipping Engineer



**M**OZAMBIQUES "big-  
gest environmental di-  
saster" is drifting  
south towards the  
pristine northern Natal coast  
and is threatening to become a  
South African ecological disas-  
ter.

Twelve days ago the Greek-  
owned, Maltese-registered oil  
tanker Katina P — en route  
from Venezuela to the United  
Arab Emirates — ran into Iron-  
ble in stormy weather 50 km  
north of Maputo. Captain Triton  
Kalatzakis steered his ailing  
vessel on to a sandbar to pre-  
vent its breaking up.

A 15-m-wide gash on the star-  
board side of the tanker saw an  
estimated 13 000 tons of oil  
seeping into waters rich in  
shellfish and leatherback turtle  
hatcheries.

Efforts to transfer the bulk of  
the 47 000 tons of oil proved  
fruitless and, on the insistence  
of the Mozambican government,  
the tanker was towed out to

The oil slick from the Katina P  
is 33 nautical miles long and  
300 m wide. It is breaking  
up and moving southwards at  
approx 1.5 knots.

# Who'll foot the bill?

As an oil slick from the sunken Katina P threatens the Natal coast, many questions must be answered. PETER DAVIES AND STEFANS BRUMMER report.

open seas, and sank on Sunday.

Now a slick of oil 33 nautical  
miles long and 300 m wide coats  
the ocean and is nearing the  
northern Natal coast.

Dr Louis Botha, chief director  
of Sea Fisheries at the Depart-  
ment of Environment Affairs  
(DEA), whose team is monitor-  
ing the slick, said that if the oil  
permeated estuaries such as  
Kosi Bay or St Lucia the situa-  
tion would be disastrous — kill-  
ing off animal and plant life and  
severely damaging mangroves.

Weather conditions will de-  
termine if the slick reaches

South African shores.

"As the oil moves southward,  
it will hit the Agulhas Current  
coming round the east of Madag-  
ascar. The oil will not break  
through the natural barrier  
formed by the current unless  
there is a strong onshore wind,"  
said DEA officer Lynn Jackson.

If the oil does come ashore,  
the DEA will activate contin-  
gency plans drawn up five  
years ago.

Estuaries would be sealed by  
stringing inflatable booms to  
block surface oil, and entrances  
would be bulldozed closed if the

currents dragged oil under the  
booms

As well as addressing the po-  
tentially disastrous ecological  
problem, the governments of  
Mozambique and South Africa  
also have to foot the bill for  
monitoring the threat to their  
shores.

On Monday, the Katina P's  
Greek owners terminated their  
contract with salvors Pentow  
Marine, forcing the company to  
withdraw a tug and an aircraft  
monitoring the slick. The tax-  
payers of countries affected

thus bear the cost of oil spill  
clean-ups

Not surprisingly, officials  
have accused shipowners of  
"dragging their feet" or "penny  
pinching" when bold and urgent  
salvage action was needed.

Director-General of Shipping  
William Kempen said he would  
have expected the ship's owners  
or their insurers to pay until the  
sailed Mozambican coastline  
had been cleared.

without double hulls from en-  
tering its waters, and govern-  
ments worldwide are putting  
more pressure on builders and  
operators of tankers.

The South African Govern-  
ment has the power to refuse  
unseaworthy vessels entry into  
territorial waters, but policing  
is a problem.

One Department of Transport  
official said he did not know  
whether the Katina P's run was  
intentional, but added "It  
sounds nice. It would mean we  
are doing our job properly."

David Fiddler, a Department  
of Transport shipping engineer  
who was in Maputo for the di-  
rection of the crisis, said he did  
not believe the Katina P ran  
aground deliberately. "I spoke  
to the shipmaster on an infor-  
mal basis and he said they no-  
ticed a small crinkle in the deck  
off the South African coast, but  
they did not think it was that  
serious." □

# Unusual financial deal behind Phinda rescue

STAR 30/4/92

By Magnus Heystek

56

In a unique financing deal a total of R63 million has been raised from foreign and local investors by the Conservation Corporation Group, the developers of among others the Phinda game reserve in northern Natal.

A portion of the funding comes from the sale of a foreign debt, currently tied up in terms of the debt repayment moratorium agreement, to a group of British investors, at a substantial discount of approximately 20 per cent.

About 40 percent of the funding comes from international investors including blue chip names like Hambros Bank, the Getty family as well as Scottish investment group Martin Currie.

The deal is also good news for certain Masterbond debenture investors who will be getting back a significant portion of their investment through this particular scheme.

Conscorp managing director Alan Bernstein said yesterday that the fund-raising represent-

ed the first international issue of unlisted equity by a South African company for years, and would enable the group to meet all its liabilities to the Masterbond group of companies.

He said 40 percent of the funds was raised from abroad, and 60 percent obtained locally — in total 50 percent more cash than expected.

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Conscorp International will use the proceeds of the overseas in-

vestment to purchase a foreign loan, currently blocked by the Third Debt Standstill Moratorium, on the secondary bond market at a discount to the face value of the loan. This discount currently is roughly about 20 percent.

In terms of the provisions of the Debt Standstill Agreement the blocked loan is converted into a long-term loan, repayable over a ten-year period.

According to Mr Bernstein, Masterbond had been engaged by Conscorp's Phinda subsidiary company to arrange finance in the early stages of the Phinda project by issuing debentures to private investors.

Part of the proceeds from the equity fund-raising were to be used to repay debentures as they matured.

## Debentures

However, the provisional curatorship of Masterbond in October 1991 had delayed the fund raising, and the Group was unable to repay the first tranche of debentures due in December 1991.

AECT Pension Fund, in a provisional agreement with Conscorp and the curators, undertook to advance bridging finance

of R22 million to Conscorp to settle all amounts owed to Masterbond as at December 1, 1991.

Conscorp will repay the loan within three months and the fund will be left with its R21 million equity stake in Conscorp.

Mr Bernstein said Conscorp aimed at opening its equities to the public and to list on the London and Johannesburg Stock Exchange within the next three to four years.

Conscorp executive chairman David Varty predicted that conservation-orientated tourism or "eco-tourism" was "the next major growth industry in South Africa".

"There's a massive global market and that's where South Africa has a competitive edge," he told reporters.

Phinda's first R50 million first phase, Phinda Nyala, opened last year.

Three more lodges costing R27 million in total are expected to be completed by 1994.

Expansion across the South African borders was a subject of "lively internal debate" he said, adding that discussions were being held with Kenya, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

## Environmental centre launches educational facilities

The Delta Environmental Centre in Victory Park, Johannesburg, yesterday opened new expanded educational training facilities. STAR 115192

The centre (previously known as the SA Nature Conservation Centre) is running an educational awareness campaign with

"conservation on your doorstep" as its theme. (56)

Centre administration director Hennie Viljoen said the campaign aimed to inform people that they could make a difference to conservation "wherever they are".

The campaign centres around

the practical education of students and teachers in all aspects of nature conservation.

Part of the campaign will include a primary school colouring-in competition, as well as a conservation competition for pupils and a workshop for teachers. — Staff Reporter.

# The Renaissance of Africa

**E**ARLY ONE morning not too long ago I left my camp on the Mara river Kenya and drove for 6 hours downstream to watch hundreds of thousands of zebra moving to an area 40 km away.

The animals were moving to take advantage of new grass that would surely follow an isolated cloudburst in that area.

On the way I passed herds of buffalo, waterbuck, wildebeest, elephant and gazelle. Despite a severe drought all the animals were in good condition.

The zebra began crossing in near thousands that morning — and at 4:30 that afternoon they were still crossing. The sheer volume of life was extraordinary. Here was an ecosystem working as it had done for millions of years, vibrant and healthy, unrestricted by man.

Soon the plains were empty, the animals had moved on. Millions of years of evolution have adapted them to take advantage of the situation, and then to move again. This is the key to their survival and the survival of their food supply, the grass being utilised and then rested in a natural rotating grazing system.

This is how, even in times of drought, wildlife maintain their superb physical condition. This is how Africa has worked for millions of years.

Scenes such as these could be found in South Africa 200 years ago — but today they are gone. Instead, a patchwork of fences criss-crosses the land.

Remnant herds of animals stand immobile in fenced-off game reserves causing the habitat to become downgraded and overgrazed. If a thunderstorm were to fall nearby the animals couldn't take advantage of either the water or the resultant grass — wire fences would block their way.

And it is politicians who are largely to blame for both the fences and the fate of our wildlife.

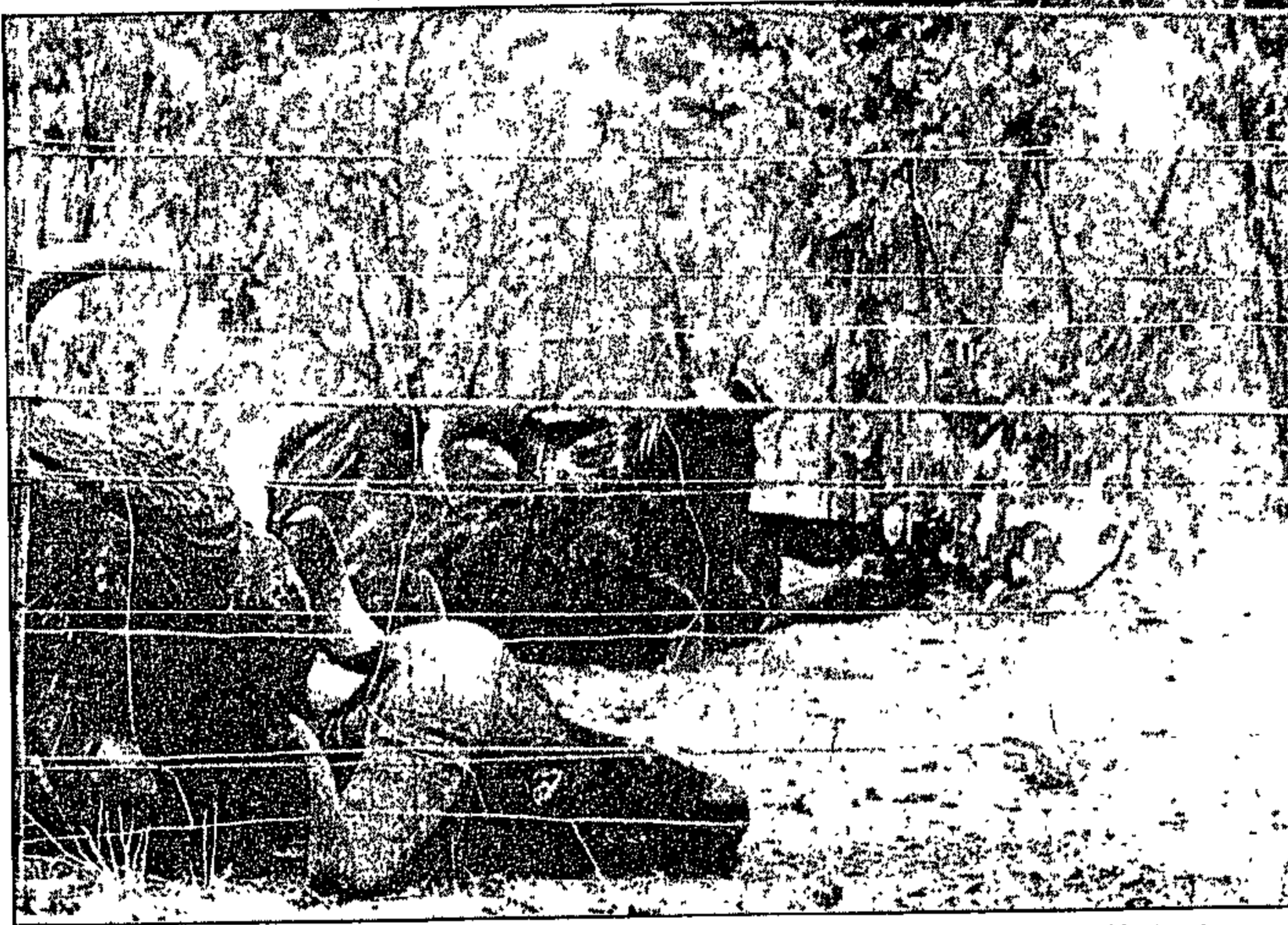
**T**HE DESIGNS of Kruger Park, Sabi Sands, Manyeleti, Timbavati, Klaserie and a host of private game ranches in the Lowveld make no ecological sense. Looking at the area from the air it appears as if they had been designed by an ecological ignoramus.

To the west, the Drakensberg escarpment receives considerably higher rainfall than the Lowveld. It is to this escarpment that the animals migrated in previous dry periods.

Free to move, they would by now have moved to spots favoured by isolated rainfalls — as in the Kenyan example.

But now, blocking this former migration path, are some 3.3 million people forcibly settled in the homelands of KaNgwane, Gazankulu and Lebowa, and the numbers are increasing at an alarming rate.

From this same escarpment flow the rivers that feed the homelands and wildlife areas — the Crocodile, the Sabi, the Sand, the Timbavati, the Olifants and the Levubu rivers. But these rivers are all slowly but surely failing.



**MAN-MADE DEATH:** In the drought of 1983 thousands of wild animals died in game reserves, their ages-old migration routes blocked by fences. Today, in a worse drought, we still don't seem to understand how a natural ecosystem works.

**A NEW government must lead South Africa into a new era of wildlife conservation, says JOHN VARTY. What will be important is not who owns the land, but what we do with it. At present the country does not have the wildlife areas needed to absorb the advancing tourist armies — 40 million are expected in Africa every year by 2000 — which, if handled correctly, will create wealth to uplift rural communities.**

STAR 2/8/92

(56)



For too long their catchments have been unprotected. Goats and cattle have been allowed to overgraze the sloping land, resulting in heavy loads of silt being deposited into the rivers.

Unrestricted agricultural schemes have been developed to the edge of the water, destroying the riverine bush.

Huge pumping and irrigation schemes for more people and agriculture further suck the rivers dry, while exotic forests are being expanded on the escarpment itself, further reducing underground water supplies.

The tragic scene symbolises a political system that has failed dismally to protect the very basics of our life — our forests, our soil and our rivers.

A political system that was so intent on dividing the land and the people that it totally disregarded the workings of the ecosystem.

In the drought of 1983 thousands of wild animals died in fenced-off game reserves.

At that time I pleaded for a system which would allow wildlife freedom of movement on the already reduced areas of land available to it. A plan which would link the small game reserves to the west with

the Kruger National Park and create one large area across which wildlife could move.

Today in 1992, in a worse drought, we are still paralysed by our own inability to understand how a natural ecosystem works.

It seems that only when our valuable tourist industry is threatened will we respond and by then it will be too late.

**A**T PRESENT the fences dividing the game reserves remain, strangled in a bureaucratic hard-bargaining process, bogged down in political indecision. But every day the grip of the drought tightens. Inside the fenced-off parks all we can do is reduce animal populations by culling.

Typically our response is technological. We drill for water to keep the tourist industry going.

Patiently we wait for a new government to emerge from the political mish-mash, hoping for an environmental messiah to appear — an ecological Nelson Mandela or environmental FW de Klerk.

Someone who can see the country holistically, who understands that environmental deg-

radation is long-term suicide.

The fact that the present Minister of Environment shares his portfolio with Education demonstrates that the present Government has no idea of the enormity of the environmental crisis that is facing South Africa.

What is needed is a new Minister of Environment who has the portfolios of Forestry, Water Affairs and Tourism all under his control so that all can be co-ordinated to return some harmony to ecological planning.

Let us examine what a new South African government will inherit.

It will inherit a country of 1.13 million square kilometres, 40 percent of which receives less than 500 mm rainfall a year and so is unsuitable for agriculture.

The country will have a population of around 50 million people by the year 2000.

The present rate of soil-erosion will have increased from its present rate of 300-400 million tons lost a year.

The land-use system at present indicates that a mere 17 000 farmers — 30 percent of the total number — produce 80 percent of South Africa's food, leaving the remaining 39 000 farmers to produce only

20 percent of the food.

In other words these 39 000 are merely subsisting on the land. They are practising incorrect, damaging and non-sustainable forms of land-use but are being kept artificially on the land by the Land Bank.

Examples of this are maize farmers in the Western Transvaal and Free State where monocultures have failed regularly over the last 20 years.

In the political arena the land issue is an emotional one. One political party wants all the land, another wants the productive land, another wants its own land but doesn't say how much, and yet another wants to give all white-owned land to blacks.

All of these scenarios are a recipe for environmental disaster. All of these will replace a bad land-use system with a worse one. Every approach is from the top down.

**W**HAT A new Minister of Environment needs to do is to ask the questions "Under what form of land-use will the land be productive?" and more importantly, "Under what form of land use will that use be sustainable?"

In other words, what's important is not who owns the land, but what we do with it.

If the Minister does his homework correctly he must come to the conclusion that 40 percent of the country is best suited to wildlife. This is for no other reason than that soil types and rainfall dictate that all we can do with vast areas of South Africa is to reintroduce wildlife.

Wildlife is successful because it is a product of millions of years of evolution, and there is no more severe a test than evolution, which slowly but surely weeds out the weak, the unproductive, the unsuitable.

Secondly, Africa has a monopoly on wildlife. It is mainly to see the wildlife that affluent First World countries travel to Africa.

By the year 2000, 639 million people will be travelling the world annually, spending \$527 billion — and 40 million are expected to travel to Africa to spend an estimated \$22 billion.

By 1993 tourism will be the largest industry in the world — surpassing the oil business.

**A**FTER Kenya, South Africa is the second-largest tourist destination in Africa. But even at present South Africa does not have the wildlife and wildlife areas needed to absorb the demand.

The challenge for a new South African government is to convert the low rainfall areas of this country — at present employing destructive land-use systems — back to wildlife. Only when this is achieved can it start to take advantage of the projected tourist market.

This tourism, if handled correctly, could create the wealth to uplift rural communities. The new government must see that a share of the wealth from tourism flows into these rural communities. They must invest these people in the future of wildlife.

In this way they can renew our partnership with nature, using what evolution has given us to create wealth and opportunity, while at the same time preserving the great variety of species on this great continent of Africa.

When pioneer farmers ripped up the fragile African soil, destroying a wide diversity of plant life and replacing it with monoculture maize or wheat when millions of springbok and other African animals were replaced with sheep and goats we had no knowledge of whether the experiment would be successful.

Now the long experiment with exotic animals imported from other continents into Africa, where they are plainly unsuitable, should be over.

Today we know that in low-rainfall marginal range lands of Africa wildlife is the only sustainable way of utilizing the land.

With this knowledge, a new government must lead South Africa into a new era of wildlife conservation. It will take courage, it will take money, above all, it will take vision.

# Grim Smog Warnings for City

DI CAELERS  
Weekend Argus Reporter

CAPE TOWN will be in a "hell of a mess" a decade from now if nothing is done to curb the stream of motor vehicles pouring into the city each day, gushing poisonous fumes.

The quality of city air continues to deteriorate with more than 160 000 vehicles clogging the city's roads, said Mr David Brook, Western Cape chairman for the National Association for Clean Air (Naca).

Air pollution guideline levels for nitrogen oxides were exceeded four times last month, with photochemical smog occurring on one of those days, according to figures from the Cape Town air pollution control officer, Mr Derrick Oxley.

Photochemical smog occurs when nitrogen oxides combine with hydrocarbons and strong sunlight.

"At this point, it's difficult to say where the worst effect will manifest itself — aesthetics, the nuisance factor or the effect on the tourist industry."

"What remains clear is that it will get worse before it gets better. Provided control measures are taken in time, we hopefully can prevent the stage where the smog becomes a health hazard," said Mr Oxley.

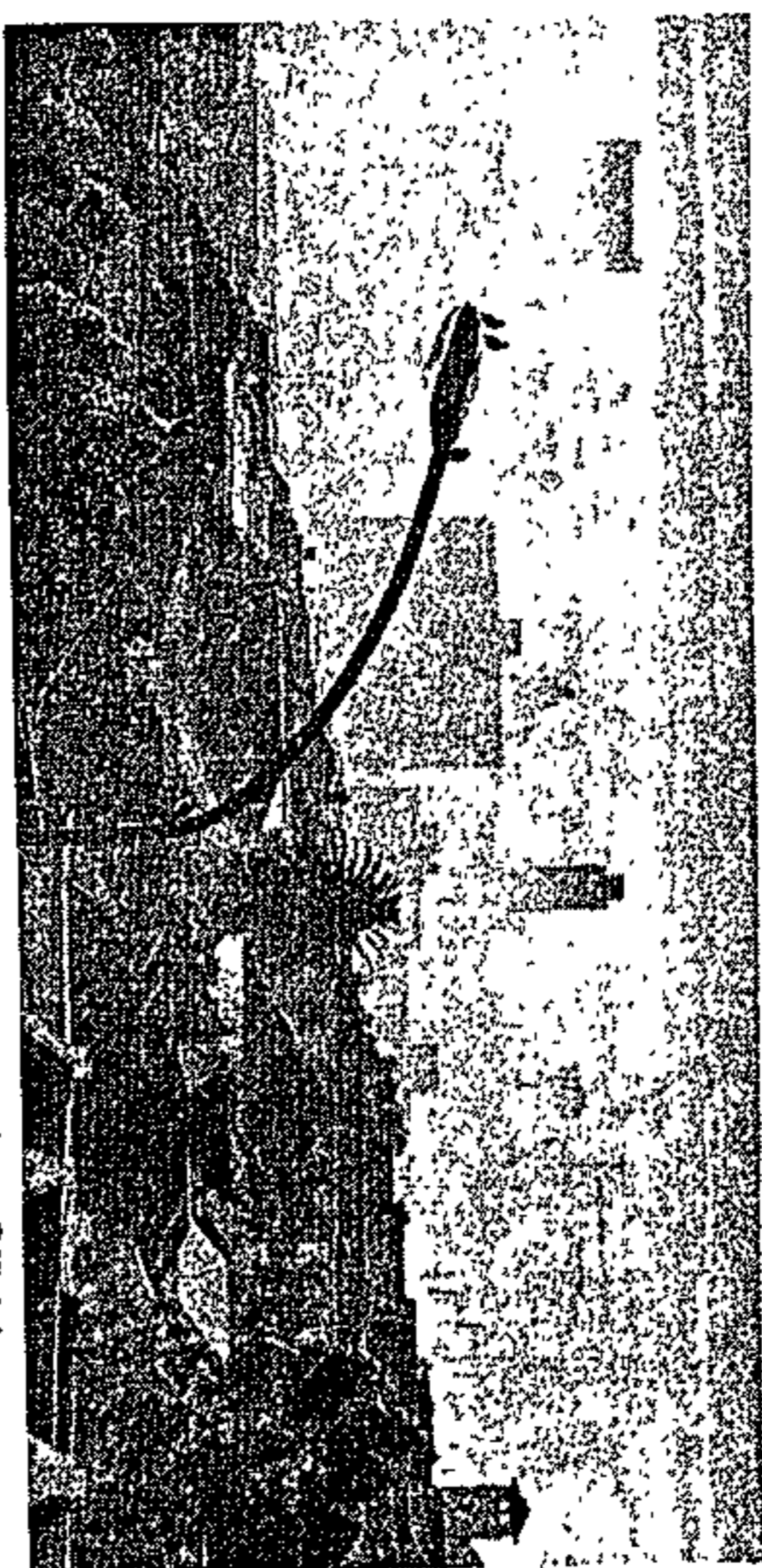
## 'We'll be in a hell of a mess in 10 years ...'

The "brown haze" season normally happens between April and September. High pollution concentrations occur on days with no wind and strong low-level inversion — when cold surface conditions develop overnight below warmer air flowing off the interior.

This means there is no vertical movement of air at ground level and any pollution in the colder lower air remains there.

Between April and June in 1990 air pollution was evident on 15 days, but last year that figure rose to 28 occasions between April and September.

"That would appear to indicate that things are getting worse, but the reality is that the problem is totally dependent on the weather."



□ UNNATURAL BLANKET: A layer of smog coats this city view. Officials say something must be done or Cape Town will be a mess in a decade.

"Obviously, the pollutants are there all the time, but it is only when we have an inversion with no wind that we actually see the evidence."

"There is only one answer and that is fewer cars and better public transport," said Mr Oxley.

He said a new contributor to photochemical smog had come in the form of residents of Infor-

mal areas burning their refuse for fuel.

"From a public health point of view, burning of uncollected refuse does control rodents and flies, but the price is more visible smog."

A start has been made on controlling smog with the government decision to introduce unleaded fuel by 1995, but Mr Brook said that "with the ex-

tent of the ageing car population in South Africa, we don't expect to see any real turnaround until well into the new century.

"In the meantime, the situation is getting worse. We need to get cars off the road and, in the next five to seven years, look at introducing better public transport."

Questioned on the possible health hazards of "brown haze", Mr Oxley told Weekend Argus "sensitive" people would experience some discomfort in the form of smarting eyes and a runny nose in the event of a high pollution episode.

"But, they won't be lasting effects. Things must get considerably worse before people's health is affected."

Meanwhile, Naca plans to convince the government that photochemical reaction is happening and that steps must be taken countrywide to thwart it.

The association has raised R30 000 for a pilot study that will try and determine the factors behind "brown haze".

"We know that motor vehicles are the main contributors, but there are other constituents involved. These may be caused by natural occurrences or by specific industries which may act as catalysts in creating these episodes of photochemical smog."

"The pilot study is a 'grab sample study' in which we'll collect samples for analysis throughout the winter. We anticipate that a second, more detailed, study will follow, but that will cost three to four times as much as the first," said Mr Brook.

## SA scientists now turn effluent to clear water

PRETORIA. — South African scientists have patented a new process that purifies industrial effluent to such a degree that it yields clear water and by-products which can be used as animal feed.

The developers, in a statement yesterday, said the process was expected to revolutionise international industry's approach to the treatment of effluent.

● The Water Research Council has reported that Eskom has been successful in reducing the amount of water needed to generate electricity.

Latest Eskom results showed that only 1,6 litres of water per kilowatt-hour were being consumed at present, compared with 2,6 litres in 1982. — Sapa

# ANC environmental policy praised

610am 5/5/92  
A LEADING environmental scientist has welcomed the ANC's environmental proposals in its policy document.

Wits University nuclear science professor Harold Annegarn, who is conducting detailed research into environmental pollution in SA, said the general policies advocated by the ANC were sound, and fell broadly in line with the latest international thinking on the environment. But he said the ANC document gave no details about how its proposed policies would be implemented. "Then implementation methods will make all the difference," he said.

The document proposes revising legisla-

DARIUS SANAI

56

tion to establish an effective system of environmental management, and the encouragement of ecotourism and environmental awareness, as well as stricter regulations on polluting industries.

But Annegarn said the section on mining indicated the ANC viewed the mining industry as "something of an ogre", disregarding its contribution to the economy.

Conservation Corporation chairman Dave Varty said there was hope political organisations were coming to grips with environmental issues.



# Beached pesticide 'not lethal' — claim

5/5/72  
56  
Staff Reporter

**THE** distributors of the pesticide that was washed up on Kommetjie beach on Sunday claim that in its present form the substance is harmless.

But the chief director of health services in Cape Town, Dr Stewart Fisher, has warned the public not to touch anything resembling the white plastic packets if they find them on other beaches.

The pesticide, known as Detia Gas-ex-B, is used on ships for fumigating grain containers. It is an aluminium phosphate which forms a nerve gas on contact with water and can lead to death if inhaled.

Mr Don Gautier, technical manager for Coopers who distribute the substance, said if all that remains are the plastic wrappers containing liquid then the substance is "definitely harmless".

# Stormwater the cause of pollution at Rocklands <sup>(56)</sup>

ARG 5/5/92

## Municipal Reporter

STORMWATER is causing bacteriological pollution at Rocklands Beach, says city council medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss.

Tests had established the link between stormwater and pollution at the pool, he told the amenities and health committee.

The pollution was not caused by the damaged Mouille Point sewage outfall pipe.

"Pollution by stormwater is not peculiar to Rocklands Beach, but can be expected at all stormwater outlets around the Peninsula. The shape, size and confined nature of the bathing water renders it particularly susceptible to develop pollution following the discharge of stormwater," Dr Popkiss said.

Notice boards are to be put up to warn the public.

# Environmental problems detailed

*8 (day) 6/5/92*  
GOVERNMENT will table a comprehensive 250-page report on local environmental problems at the World Environmental Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June, Environment Department officials said yesterday. Speaking at the launch of this year's World Environment Day publicity campaign near Johannesburg yesterday, the officials said the first week in June — which coincides with the first five days of the summit — would be dubbed National Environment Week. World Environment Day will be on June 5, and its theme this year is "One World, One Chance". SA will submit the document to the Rio conference in spite of not being a

(56)  
**DARIUS SANAI**

full participant due to exclusion from the UN General Assembly. Air pollution and the problems caused by the use of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in mine cooling systems, the depletion of SA's wetlands, soil erosion and the threatened extinction of plant and animal species are all dealt with in the report. On the agenda for the summit are negotiations for new international conservation conventions, an "Earth charter" to promote a balance between conservation and development, and discussions aimed at strengthening institutions responsible for environmental control.

# Spotter plane flies to Natal to assess Katina P oil slick

WILLEM STEENKAMP  
Staff Reporter

(5b)  
ARC 6/5/92

THE Kuswag 7 patrol aircraft of the Department of Environment Affairs has left for the Natal coast to establish whether any threat remains from the 12 000 tons of oil spilled by the Katina P, which sank off the Mozambique coast last month.

Department of Environment Affairs spokesman Mr Niel du Bois said there was very little danger of the 33km-long slick reaching the Natal coast.

But the Department had decided to send Kuswag 7 to Natal to fly up the coast following heavy seas over the past week. The spotter plane will fly about 80km from the shore and up to 75km up the Mozambique coast.

Tomorrow it would fly to the area where the Katina P went down, to see if there was still oil in the area.

Mr Du Bois said experts believed the rough seas might have caused the huge oil slick to break up.

But to make absolutely sure there remained no danger to the sensitive nature areas of the Natal coast it was decided to send Kuswag 7 to the area.

## SA and Kenya to forge wildlife links

DURBAN — SA and Kenyan wildlife authorities have agreed to forge closer links and to exchange research information for the benefit of each other's wildlife conservation programmes.

It is believed that SA's National Parks Board is particularly interested in expanding the involvement of rural communities in game parks, and hopes to draw on Kenya's experience in this area.

SA also hopes to benefit from Kenya's experience in attracting wealthy "ecotourists" from overseas.

An informal agreement was reached this week in Pretoria between National Parks Board chief director Robbie Robert-

Own Correspondent

son and Kenya Wildlife Services director Richard Leakey. (2/15)

Robertson was invited to Kenya last year soon after President F W de Klerk's visit to the country. (1/2) (56)

Leakey has subsequently visited SA three times and 12 members of Kenya's wildlife department arrive on Saturday for a two-week visit to several of SA's national parks. B/day 6/5/92

Robertson said yesterday he had been discussing mutual co-operation with Kenyan authorities for nearly a year.

# Contamination a hazard as <sup>(56)</sup> rivers dry up

Staff Reporter *STAR 7157R*

The drought in the lowveld is posing a pollution threat to farmers as rivers start drying up, according to the Department of Water Affairs.

Spokesman Dr Andrew Deacon said although low rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers had reduced the flow of water, waste materials were still being dumped in the streams.

These were not being washed away and it was highly likely that the greater concentration of unnatural materials might not be carried off.

Farmers who have had to cope with water restrictions would suffer a double setback if their crops were to be affected by poor-quality water as well, warned Dr Deacon.

The Directorate of Water Quality Management is monitoring the situation and has appealed for information about fish mortalities or pollution.

Telephone Marius Keet at (012) 299-2079 during work hours or (012) 57-4721 after hours.

# Why our air pollution this year will be as bad as ever

By James Clarke

(56)

A recent Department of Health statement says Soweto has not much of a problem with air pollution.

According to Dr Colin Turner of Eskom it has a big problem.

For a quarter of the year, he says, Soweto's particulate air pollution exceeds the World Health Organisation's recommended limits.

Sometimes its pollution is double internationally recommended ceiling levels and once or twice its pollution has been too dense for Eskom's meters to quantify.

It is interesting that Eskom and not the Government is doing the monitoring.

Black areas in South Africa are still exempted from the almost 30-year-old Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, which obliges all other residential areas to be maintained as "smokeless zones".

The 70 percent of South Africans who do not have electricity are mostly black, and Eskom, with an installed electricity supply capacity that amounts to twice as much as South Africa is using, is keen for economic and humanitarian reasons to bring electricity to black areas.

Dr Turner says the only solution to smoky townships lies in cheap electricity.

It may not be as easy as he suggests.

Soweto already has cheap electricity.

Township smoke is coming from thousands of coal stoves. Even if people were willing to buy electric stoves, they would not dump their coal stoves. They would sell them to people who cannot afford electric stoves or who have no electricity. Thus, the stoves would go on smoking.

Almost all permanent homes in Soweto are wired up for electricity — and, compared with white homes, the electricity is cheap. A mother of three told

me that she and her neighbours in Dobsonville all had two-plate cookers and burnt no coal.

One said: "I have the hot plates, colour television, lights, electric kettle and iron and a (space) heater and my monthly bill is R33."

That is cheap, yet the area's smoke pollution is growing in volume.

This is partly because of the increasing number of open braziers in the squatter areas, but it is also because many Sowetans, like the people of Europe, still hang on to their coal stoves despite having the electricity option.

They say even the most expensive electric stove cannot compete with a coal stove. A coal stove not only cooks and bakes, it also heats the house and the bath water, keeps food warm all day at no extra expense, boils water, dries the washing and provides a cosy place to sit around.

Fuel scientists at establishments such as Richlab in Johan-

nesburg believe that coal stoves should not be discouraged but that a smokeless coal should be developed. This is how Britain achieved its remarkable clean-up of the atmosphere in the '60s.

Coal scientists point out that South Africa is one of the few countries in the world which still manufactures "smokeless coal stoves". These stoves are not really smokeless and often the owners, to improve the heating efficiency of the stove, remove the plates which are supposed to reduce smoke.

Smokeless stoves have no export value — but, says Bill Muirhead, a British coal expert who visits South Africa, a smokeless coal would not only be effective locally but would have an instant export market.

Local coal technologists say that until South Africans pay a more realistic price for coal, there will be little money for research and development of smokeless fuels.

South African coal prices are among the world's cheapest.

# Peninsula beaches are still a gritty problem <sup>5b</sup>

**CLIVE SAWYER, Municipal Reporter**  
EMPLOYING more casual staff and stepping up the anti-litter awareness campaign, are among recommendations to solve continuing problems on Peninsula beaches.

Drunkenness and littering remain serious problems on city council-controlled beaches, according to a city administrator's report tabled at the recent city council amenities and health committee meeting.

There were five drownings in the 1991/92 season — two off Wooley's Pool, one off Queens Beach, one in the Camps Bay tidal pool and one in Kalk Bay harbour.

Cleanliness of toilets and late opening and early closing of facilities and beaches and pools were the subject of several complaints from the public, ratepayers and councillors.

Staff could not cope with the influx of large crowds at beaches and pools, the report said.

Complaints about dirty facilities and late opening and early closing of changerooms covered Camps Bay, Clifton, Sea Point beaches, Muizenberg's sunken gardens and the Kalk Bay pavilion.

The city administrator said these complaints were legitimate. The reason was that there was insufficient staff because of budget cuts.

Clifton's Fourth Beach, venue of a three-day fundraising volleyball event, should not be used for such an event again because of the nuisance created, he said.

Fireworks policy need not be changed, the city administrator said.

The discharge of fireworks on Sea Point beachfront was a "one-off" annual event, he said.

There were many complaints about the opening hours of swimming pools, and the new policy of restricting admissions so that limited staff could cope.

Recommendations in the report included:

- Increasing money available for casual wages by R884 000.
- Allowing volleyball on Camps Bay beaches, but not at Clifton.
- Keeping Clifton Fourth Beach toilets open, with lights on, throughout the night in the forthcoming season.
- Charging a user fee of R1 a child and R2 an adult at St James Beach from December 5 to January 17.
- Banning dogs from grassed areas at Sunrise Beach.
- Beach constables doing off-season patrols in other areas.
- Stepping up anti-litter awareness campaigns.
- Providing temporary chemical toilets at beaches, including the grassed area at Sunrise Beach.



Staff Reporter

PACKETS containing the deadly pesticide Detia Gas-Ex-B have washed up on the southern Cape beaches of Franskraal and Buffelsjag.

## More deadly pesticide dumped on our beaches

FRSC 7/5/92

(Sb)

Officials of the Regional Services Council have begun regular beach patrols on the south coast as well as from Scarborough to Llandudno where others were found this week.

RSC official Mr Ferdie Mostert said Detia Gas-Ex-B was often used to fumigate the holds of ships.

"I suspect that some of the packets washed overboard during rough sea conditions. It is difficult to say from which direction they came from."

The RSC has asked to be alerted on 24 7715 if further packets wash up on the shores.

Mr Mostert warned the public not to open the plastic packets. When the pesticide reacts with water, it sets off a gas which can be deadly when inhaled.

*Meet the Light Arm*

Opposition outcry after Pickard Commission's findings of theft and corruption

260 Ar24 8/5/92

# FOUND SOANNOAT

A JUDGE'S DAMNING INDICTMENT: PAGE 13

**MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Political Correspondent

**PRESSURE** is mounting on the government today to take further action after the Pickard Commission's report on corruption, fraud and irregularities in the defunct Department of Development Aid which runs into billions.

The Speaker is to be asked to allow a special debate in parliament.

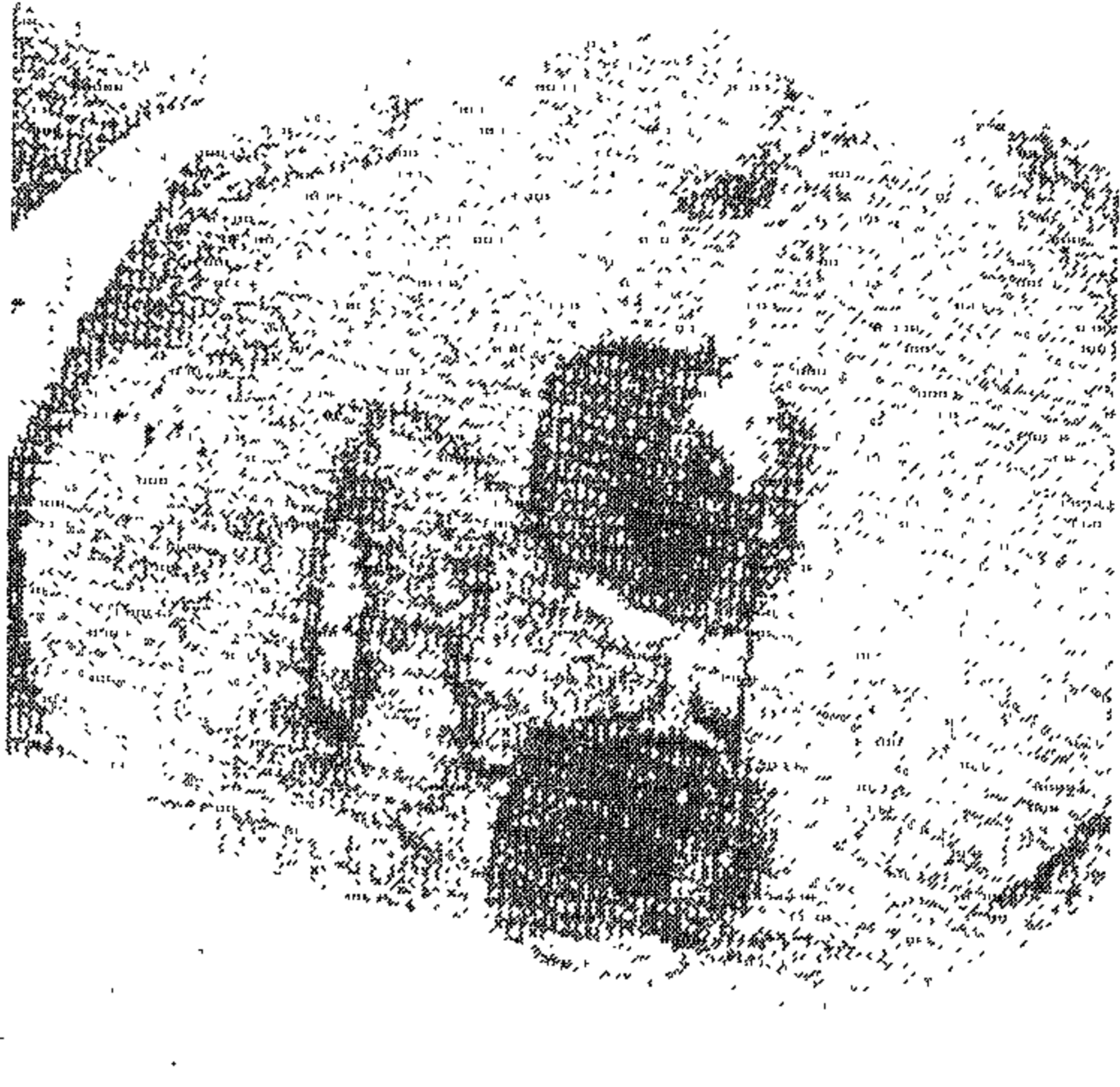
As the Attorney-General assesses "about 20" dossiers arising from police investigations into the findings of the Pickard Commission, both Opposition parties are demanding further political action.

The government has had the report since September last year — hastily acting on its chief recommendation to scrap the department within a month — before making the damning contents public.

President De Wierk announced the scrapping of the department in October last year and this was put into effect on March 31.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, said yesterday investigations by the commercial branch of the police into matters raised by the commission had been completed. These dockets were now being considered by the Attorney-General. He said fewer than 20 dossiers were involved. These included only two officials of the former department, who were presently under suspension. The remainder included people from the private sector.

Eleven officials had been suspended as early as December 1988. They had been found



**STILL AROUND:** Former Director General of the Department of Development, Mr Gillies van der Wall. He is still in the government service, as managing director for the South African Development Corporation.

not guilty by a departmental inquiry presided over by an official from the Department of Justice, but most had chosen to resign thereafter.

DP spokesman on development aid, Mr Peter Soal, said that "political heads have to roll" because of Judge Pickard's "damning indictment" of the department.

CP spokesman Mr Schalk Pienaar said that his party would today ask the Speaker for a special debate on the commission's report.

The CP said the report made it clear that the three succes-

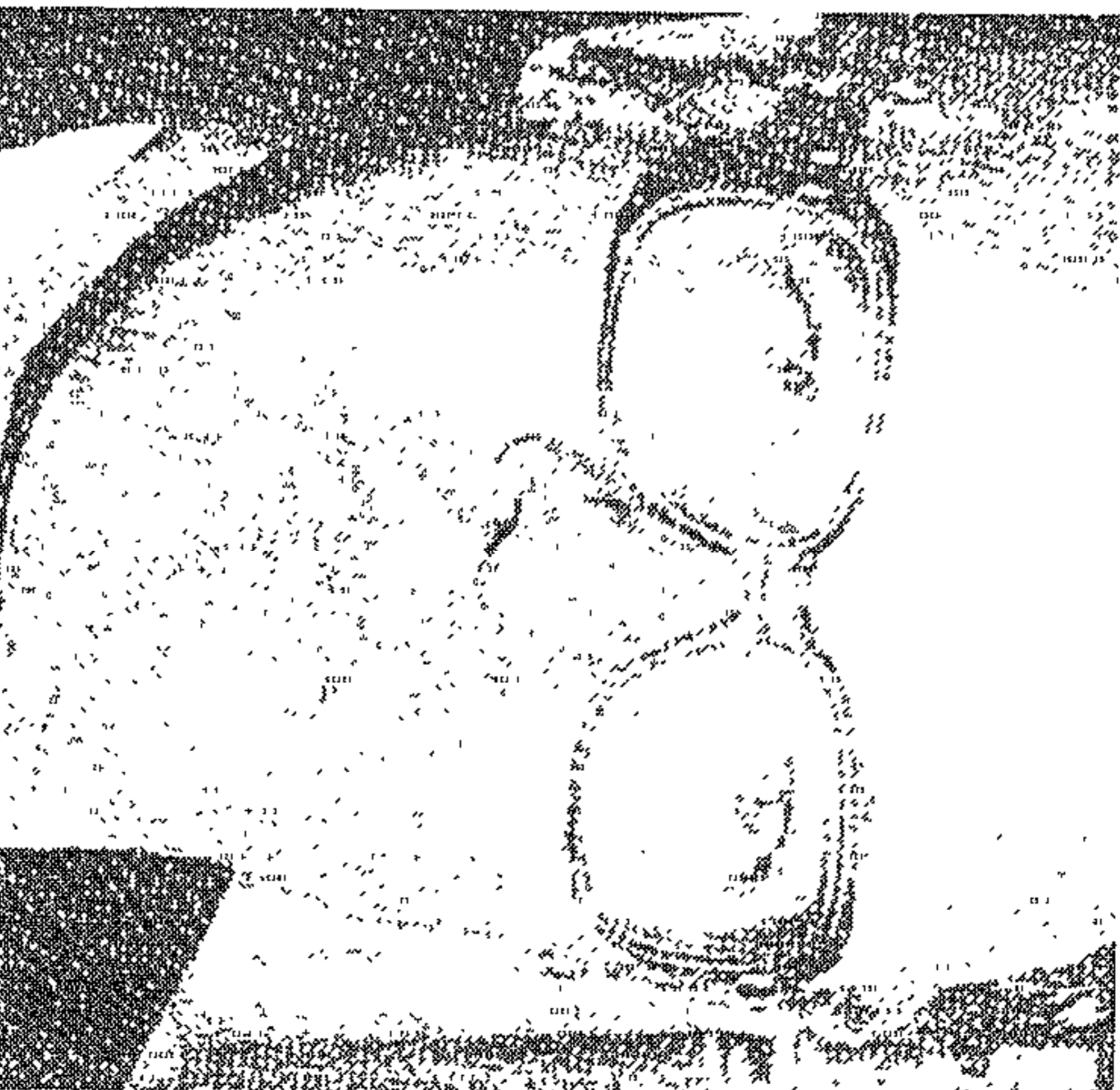


**LAST MINISTER:** The last Minister in charge of Development Aid, Mr Jacob de Villiers — now Minister of Regional and Land Affairs — was left to table the damning report.

sive political heads of the department, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe and Mr Jacob de Villiers, were completely incapable of limiting or rooting out corruption and, in fact, lived with it.

Their role would be fully handled in the parliamentary debate.

Mr Soal said the report confirmed every suspicion that the DP ever had about the department and vindicated its call several years ago for the resignation of Dr Gerrit Viljoen, who was then Minister of Development Aid.



**JUDICIAL PROBE:** Mr Justice Pickard... his probe revealed rampant corruption, fraud, theft and irregularities in the now-defunct Department of Development Aid.

Picture: HANNES THART, The Argus

# Decision on St Lucia mining soon, says Govt

STAR 8/5/42

CAPE TOWN — The final environmental impact assessment (EIA) on mining of heavy minerals at St Lucia was expected towards the middle of the year, after which a final decision would be made, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said in Parliament yesterday.

"The proposed mining operations at St Lucia should be approached unemotionally and with regard to the facts and the realities," he said, introducing debate on his vote.

Richards Bay Minerals was a reputable concern which had successfully rehabilitated coastal dunes.

The company had also won the Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Award a few years ago and there was every reason to believe the company would cooperate fully if mining rights were granted, Mr Bartlett said. The company had indicated

that if the EIA concluded that the proposed mining operations would lead to irreparable damage to the area, it would withdraw its application, the minister said.

"If the EIA indicates the opposite, Richards Bay Minerals would probably accept that mining rights would be granted," he said.

The present value of the heavy mineral deposits was about R6 billion.

Referring to the proposed mining of kaolin at Noordhoek, in the Cape, which had an estimated value of R1 billion, Mr Bartlett said the EIA commissioned by Serina (Pty) had been completed and strict conditions had been approved in terms of which mining would be allowed.

The conditions included:

- Registration of a trust fund to be used for rehabilitation purposes only.
- Directives concerning the abatement of noise, control of dust, prevention of soil erosion, water management, protection of the ecology, lessening of the

visual impact and rehabilitation of the land.

● Specific requirements of all State departments involved, as well as the Cape Provincial Administration.

● Establishing a committee, to include representatives of various interest groups and bodies, which would monitor mining and rehabilitation developments at the site.

"The key to mining development appears to be a sensible management of projects within the framework of environmental conservation.

"Regrettably, mining and conservation considerations have become emotive issues. This often leads to the distortion of facts. It is therefore in the interest of all concerned to rationally consider the facts of a particular project in order that a sound judgment can be made," the minister said.

"Man needs mining and the resultant economic advantages as much as he needs environmental conservation for his survival," he added. — Sapa.

# Wetland experts ponder over St Lucia

Pretoria Correspondent

Experts of the Ramsar Convention, which aims to conserve wetlands of international importance, have yet to decide on what their recommendation to the Government will be with regard to proposed mining activities at Lake St Lucia.

"We have no doubt whatsoever about the area's status as a wetland of international importance," Ramsar Convention assistant secretary-general Michael Smart said yesterday.

Mr Smart and members of an international delegation arrived in South Africa on April 27 to determine whether the mining activities in the area would be a threat to the wetland. They have visited the wetland in question as well as wetlands in KwaZulu that are also listed on the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance.

Dr Vic Semeniuk, an Australian delegate and specialist in the effects of mining operations on sand dunes, said the delegation had also visited Richards

Bay Minerals (RBM), the company which hopes to mine in the south-eastern portion of the Lake St Lucia wetland.

"RBM's operations and revegetation work in Richards Bay appear to be very successful, but this is only a first impression and the impact of mining and success of revegetation at Lake St Lucia will still have to be studied carefully," he said.

Mr Smart said the delegation would compile a report on its findings and submit a recommendation to the Department of Environment Affairs.

# Taking on the big boys

w/ mail

8/5-14/5/92

Mining is among the chief culprits in polluting South Africa. But a farmer took on Anglo American Corporation — and the court judgment has spurred the industry to become more environmentally aware.

**EDDIE KOCH** reports

**A** DAVID-AND-GOLIATH legal battle between the country's biggest mining corporation and a small-time farmer has shown that intense public pressure can combine with corporate responsibility to safeguard the environment from being degraded by industrial pollution.

In November 1989, Anglo American Corporation attracted the ire of environmental groups when 10 000 tons of contaminated mining waste, left by Anglo's prospecting division on a game farm in the eastern Transvaal, killed all the aquatic life in a nearby river.

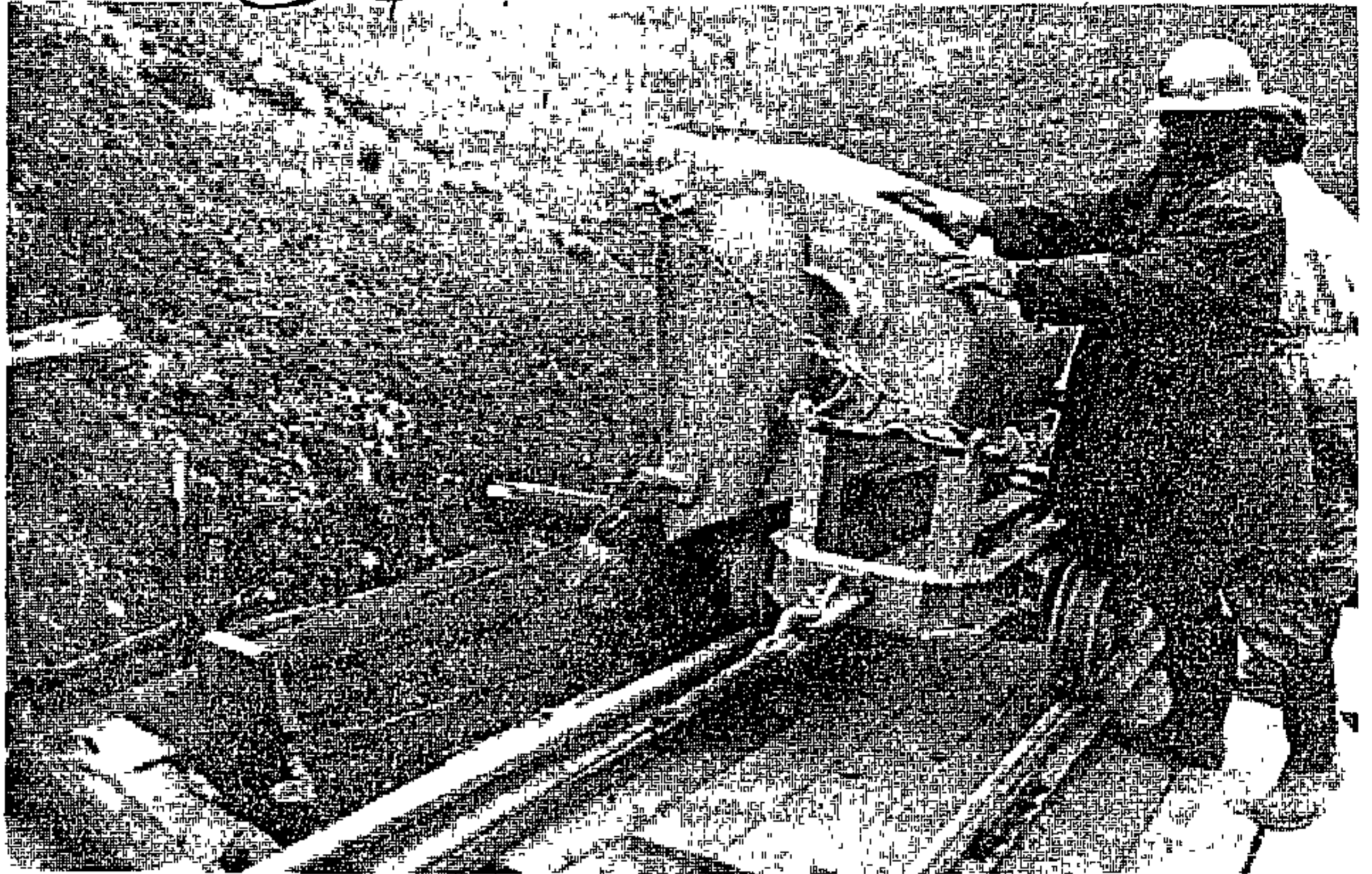
The waste was dumped illegally on the course of the river on a farm called Boondoks in the Barberton district after Anglo's prospecting services abandoned a shaft in the mountains where they had been exploring for gold.

The incident sparked a protracted dispute, which farm owner Luke von Johnson eventually won when he managed to persuade the company to remove the dump — and the result encouraged a thorough overhaul of environmental policy in the corporation's mining division.

The R2,5-million operation involved removing all waste material from the dump, cleaning up and rehabilitating the site and carefully burying the waste about 5km away.

In addition, Anglo conducted a comprehensive survey of its other prospecting sites. According to company representative James Duncan, every road, gulley and trench dug by the company was checked to eliminate unnecessary damage to the environment.

"The incident at Boondoks also resulted in Anglo implementing a thorough environmental code of conduct that the management of all mine prospecting operations is obliged to implement," said Duncan.



**Making amends ... Anglo American repairs the damage at Boondoks**

The code requires that:

- An environmental impact assessment is carried out at the beginning of every prospecting operation.

- Monitoring of environmental disruption takes place during prospecting operations.

- Steps are taken to remedy any pollution problems as soon as these may appear.

- At the conclusion of every prospecting operation, a certificate is signed by all parties concerned that site has been properly cleared.

Anglo was found guilty in court of violating clauses of the Mines and Works Act at Boondoks and was fined R10 000, which was suspended for five years. The magistrate took into account the rehabilitation carried out by the corporation and the review of environmental policy that the incident had stimulated.

"I think a sentence to hold the company to their word regarding this case and to try to keep them in future from conducting their operations in a manner detrimental to nature would be a suitable sentence," he ruled.

The Worldwatch Institute has judged the South African mining industry to be one of the most damaging to the environment in the world.

"South Africa has treated mining like a sacred cow, fearful of disturbing the cash flow. Air and water near mining smelting operations is hardly monitored and what little

monitoring is done is not reported. In South Africa the extent of mineral damage from mineral extraction is massive," said a 1990 report by the Washington-based institute entitled *Apartheid's Environmental Toll*.

But if this description was accurate two years ago, the outcome of the Boondoks case is a sign that some sections of the mining industry are beginning to take the environmental impact of their operations more seriously.

Other mining executives have also begun to display a sensitivity in their boardrooms to the ecological consequences of their activities.

Richards Bay Minerals is conducting the largest environmental impact assessment ever conducted in South Africa at the proposed site of its controversial scheme to strip mine the dune forests of Lake St Lucia.

John Frear, group environmental consultant for Genmin, says the company is spending large amounts on rehabilitating old dumps and preventing acid water from leaching out of slimes dams.

Butch Smuts, chief ecologist for Anglo American, said last year that "the corporation has decided at executive level that no new project will be funded without the environmental side being considered. This year we adopted an integrated environmental approach which requires consultants to be appointed from the word go".

(56) CT 8/5/92

# Green light to kaolin miners

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

THE government yesterday gave the green light for the mining of the R1-billion kaolin deposit on Chapman's Peak.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett announced in Parliament that he had approved conditions in terms of which mining would be allowed.

The go-ahead followed the evaluation of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) commissioned by Serina (Pty) Ltd.

Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant said last night: "There was never any doubt in our minds that we would get the go-ahead.

"We still have about three years of mining to do at Brakkekloof." It would be 18 months at least before they started the new mine but they could be going in "in a few weeks or months to put up fences."

Referring to the controversy sparked by proposals to mine in the area, Mr Bartlett noted that the issue

## Impact study awaited

Political Staff

REFUSAL of a licence to mine the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia would be "problematic" if an environmental impact assessment (EIA) found it would not cause irreparable damage, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett said yesterday.

"Such action would be contrary to policy guidelines followed in the past and which led to the creation of a sense of security in the mining industry," he said in Parliament.

The EIA is expected this year.

had given rise to wide media coverage and heated debates.

He said aspects which had in the past proved to be contentious, as well as matters raised by concerned groups and bodies, had been taken into consideration in the drafting of the conditions.

The conditions also included the requirements of all the state departments involved, as well as those of the Cape Provincial Administration. They provided for:

- A committee to monitor mining and rehabilitation developments in the mining area. Its members would include representatives of state departments, the Provincial Administration and other interest groups and bodies.

- A trust fund for rehabilitation.

- Directives concerning the abatement of noise, the control of dust, the prevention of soil erosion, water management, protection of the ecology, lessening of the visual impact and land rehabilitation.

# Beaches patrolled for pesticide

Staff Reporter

(56)

**SOUTHERN** Cape beaches are being patrolled for fear that more packets of potentially lethal pesticide may be washed ashore.

Western Cape RSC public relations officer Mr Ferdi Mostert said attempts are being made to

ET 8/5/92

trace the guilty parties through the batch numbers on the packets.

The pesticide, known as Detia Gas-Ex-B, is manufactured by Detia Freibergh of Germany and distributed locally by Coopers (SA).

Coopers' technical manager, Mr Don Gautier, said they had

checked their records and "nothing was missing".

"I think a passing ship tossed the empty packets overboard once they had been used," he said.

The pesticide is commonly used in ships to fumigate grain containers and releases a dead-

ly nerve gas on contact with water.

However, Mr Gautier said that if all that remained of the original airtight metal containers were the simple porous plastic wrappers, despite the fact that they were still sealed, the pesticide had probably been used.



**RESCUED:** Mr Cliff Staley, left, skipper of the 13m yacht Otium which was towed into Gordon's Bay by the NSRI yesterday after a night of battling howling gales and huge swells. With him on the NSRI's Rescue 9 is Mr Harry Hvidsten, coxwain of the rescue boat. **INSET:** Rescue 9 tows Otium into Gordon's Bay.

Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus

## Clash over kaolin project threatened

JOHN YELD (56) ARG 8/5/92  
Environment Reporter, and Sapa

**PROLONGED** public protest — including disruptive action — appears inevitable after the government's go-ahead for kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett told parliament yesterday he had approved Serina's application to mine on the De Goede Hoop estate in Noordhoek, subject to con-

ditions. These included:

- The registration of a trust fund to be used only for rehabilitation of the site;
- Issuing directives on noise, dust control, prevention of soil erosion, water management, protection of the ecology, lessening of the visual impact and rehabilitation of the land;
- Listing specific requirements of all state departments involved

as well as the Cape Provincial Administration; and,

- Establishing a committee including representatives of interest groups and bodies to monitor mining and rehabilitation.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council believes Serina has to apply for planning permission to mine at Noordhoek and has indicated it is prepared to go to court over the issue.

**New! Imported from France!**





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THE ARGUS

## Focus on SA ecosystems

(56) AUG 9/5/92  
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE quality and quantity of South Africa's aquatic ecosystems will be the focus of a four-day conference in Cape Town.

The Marine, Estuarine and Freshwater Ecosystems Conference will draw together scientists from various disciplines as well as engineers, local authorities and recreation organisations.

Conference co-convener Mr

Bill Harding said proceedings would include 80 papers and 16 workshops as well as post-conference excursions in the Western Cape.

Mr Harding said the organisers were battling to find sponsorship for the conference at the University of Cape Town from July 7 to 10.

Anyone interested in exhibiting or contributing to the conference should call Mr Harding ☎ 637 9090.

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# Legal clash looms over kaolin mine

■ From page 1

for their comments on the "draft" conditions.

Mr John Cannan, chairman of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association, said they were still in the process of replying.

"We understand (our comments) will still be accepted, but it would seem as if the minister is in a hurry to have his own way.

Save Chapman's Peak Action Committee spokesman Mr Ian Brownlie said Mr Bartlett's announcement had not come as a surprise.

The group had been present during an interpellation debate in parliament in February when Mr Bartlett had indicated he was going to allow mining to proceed, Mr Brownlie said.

"So this is not anything new. We would have been surprised if he had said otherwise."

The group had also been aware of intensive behind-the-scenes negotiations about the conditions, although it had not been asked to comment.

"Certainly it would appear that public opinion against the mine will determine that mining is not going to go ahead willy-nilly, and from that point of view our campaign has had a very positive influence," Mr Brownlie said.

Protests against the mine would continue. "No question about that", he added.

Mr Zirker said the new mine was unlikely to become operational for at least two years. "Our Brakkekloof mine near Fish Hoek has a life of over three years before the kaolin at Noordhoek is required.

"Before that we will ensure the monitoring committee and trust fund are fully functional and playing their roles in ensuring conditions and that directives, particularly with regard to tree-planting, are met to the satisfaction of all concerned."

He appealed to those interested in the issue to study carefully the conditions imposed by Mr Bartlett.

"We believe it is essential that all concerned parties are involved in the activities of the monitoring committee and the trust fund.

"We urge everyone with a concern to acquaint themselves fully with these conditions and the directives concerning noise abatement, dust control, prevention of soil erosion, water

management, ecological protection, lessening of visual impact and land rehabilitation."

As mining in each section was completed, Serina would rehabilitate the area. The company would "immediately" approach leading environmentalists and other concerned parties to involve them in the process, Mr Zirker added.

"Our premise from the start has been that we will return the land in better condition than it is now, with indigenous flora instead of the current alien vegetation."

Serina stressed that the mining operation would have no impact on Chapman's Peak and Chapman's Peak Drive as it would take place on the De Goede Hoop Estate, and the company had made a careful study of kaolin mining practice in Cornwall and Germany, Mr Zirker said.

"We believe our approach and rehabilitation process to be far advanced."

Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Momborg said he had been expecting the decision all along as the government's hands were tied by mining legislation.

"But I believe the battle is not over, and I think the battle lines are going to be drawn between Sanlam and Serina and the people."

The two companies did not appreciate the depth of feeling about the mine among Noordhoek residents, Mr Momborg said. "I still think the people who must stop this are Sanlam."

He would be watching with interest the appointment of members of the monitoring committee announced by Mr Bartlett as one of the mining conditions.

"Mr Bartlett interjected during the interpellation debate that he would appoint me chairman, but I'm not sure he'll want the ANC heading his committee," Mr Momborg quipped.

## World's oldest complete obelisk is unearthed

SAKKARA (Egypt). — Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known complete obelisk, dedicated to a long-forgotten queen who in her time was so beloved and famous that she became a goddess after death. A twin obelisk, broken in three pieces, was also unearthed. — Sapa-AP.

# Legal clash looms over kaolin

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

LEGAL confrontation, likely to end in the Supreme Court, is looming after the government gave Serina the nod this week to proceed with plans to mine kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

Speaking during his budget debate on Thursday, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett announced that he had approved conditions under which mining on the controversial site would be allowed.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council, which recently revealed it had legal opinion to the effect that Serina had to apply for planning permission to mine the site, has reiterated its intention of attempting to enforce that opinion, possibly through an interdict.

But Mr Klaus Zirker, chairman of Serina's holding company, Continental China, said they had also taken advice. "Our legal advice is that we do not have to apply and so we do not intend to apply," he said yesterday.

Mr Clive Keegan, Cape Town's Deputy Mayor and chairman of the RSC's land usage and transport planning committee, told Weekend Argus: "If it ends in the courts, so be it. As far as we're concerned, if they continue it will be an unauthorised activity."

Mr Bartlett is also facing criticism for approving the mine before Noordhoek residents had a chance to respond to a request by his department

■ Turn to page 3

# Horror on our doorstep

STWes 10/5/92

56

PETER VALE and DAVID CATLING call for a joint effort to combat the worst drought this century

SOUTHERN AFRICA faces a cataclysmic crisis — a famine with the proportions of the great disasters on the Indian sub-continent.

The images of famine to which South Africans have been exposed have been projected from a comfortable distance. The horror pictures of emaciated mothers and babies, of scuffles for grain handouts: these no longer have to be imported. The sheer hopelessness of famine laps at our borders.

The drought which has dehydrated the country's farms has visited itself upon our neighbours a thousand-fold. Their fragile rural base has been savaged. As a result millions across our borders face starvation as winter approaches.

In countries like Mozambique, a delicate agricultural sector has been brought to its knees by the long-lasting effects of strife spawned by destabilisation and civil war.

Zimbabwe is the worst affected by the famine: its projected yield is only a quarter of the previous year's production and the proposed nationalisation of commercial farms has punched a hole in

agricultural confidence.

Clearly, drought and famine pay no respect to ideology or to forms of government. But political change can deepen their effects. The ending of apartheid has made the region's borders more porous than ever. Countless pairs of feet are criss-crossing southern Africa. Most, however, have no doubt about their final destination — South Africa.

Operation Hunger estimates it will feed two-million people this year, a figure which will increase as more cross the border.

There may be the temptation to deal with the issue in the long-accepted South African way. Fob off questions, keep the public in the dark, shuffle decisions between government departments and hope that the problem will go away.

This would be a grave mistake.

This famine should be the beginning of an enduring commitment to foster and support the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference to ensure adequate food security for the entire region.

Right now, we can help them by using our transport and communications system to ensure that the food passing through South Africa's ports reaches its destination speedily and without waste.

But there is more. Within these countries, transport is woefully inadequate. Distribution networks will need both support and expansion. Without this, those in most need will simply starve to death.

Transport is the key. South Africa should help its neighbours increase and hone their effectiveness.

In the long-term, the region must pool its agricultural know-how. This will involve careful use of South African technical expertise. But we, too, can learn from our neighbours especially in the area of subsistence agriculture.

The end goal of this sharing will be to ensure that a robust and sustainable class of smallholder farmers takes root throughout the sub-continent. But they must have confidence in grain as a profitable crop: if not, as now, it will go unplanted.

The region also needs to

share information. South African scientists, for example, should dovetail their efforts at developing an adequate early warning system with the one used in neighbouring countries.

With this, there needs to be a regional effort at building a grain reserve.

Those touched by famine, the region's inhabitants, are the crucial players. They need to be involved in what happens to them. This means openness by the government to prevent rumours that lead to panic.

Decades of strife have battered southern Africa. If badly handled, this crisis could compound old suspicions. It should instead be creatively used to deepen understanding and so prove untrue the old aphorism "when hunger enters at the door, under-standing leaves by the window".

● Peter Vale is research professor and co-director of the Centre for Southern African Studies, University of the Western Cape. David Catling is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Develop-

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Phalaborwa Water Board: tenders

228. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

(56)

- (1) (a) How many tenders for the upgrading of the water works of the Phalaborwa Water Board were received, (b) what was the amount of each tender and (c) (i) which tender was accepted and (ii) why was this tender accepted;

- (2) whether his Department (a) received a letter in this regard from the Phalaborwa Town Council and (b) replied to this letter;

- (3) whether he or his Department will make the contents of the above-mentioned letter and/or the reply thereto available; if not, why not; if so, (a) to whom, (b) in what way and (c) when;

- (4) whether his Department intends rendering any financial assistance to the Phalaborwa Town Council in view of the tender that was accepted; if not, why not; if so, to what extent?

B523E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

- (1) (a) Six.
- (b) Sullwald Bouers R5 472 183,93  
Goldstein Civil (Pty) Ltd R5 806 634,51  
Murray & Roberts Structures (Pty) Ltd R6 066 992,15  
Norse Construction Projects (Pty) Ltd R6 584 104,92  
Grinaker (Pty) Ltd R6 936 110,48  
Dick Smith (Pty) Ltd R7 239 178,21
- (c) (i) Goldstein Civil (Pty) Ltd

(ii) Lowest tender according to specification and with proven experience in the construction of water retaining structures.

- (2) (a) Yes, but only for information. A copy of a letter dated 30 January 1992 addressed to the Phalaborwa Water Board was endorsed to the Department for information. (56)

(b) No. The letter was answered by the Phalaborwa Water Board.

- (3) No. It includes correspondence between the City Council of Phalaborwa and the Phalaborwa Water Board which authorities, as autonomous bodies, must decide over the release thereof.

(a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

- (4) No, as no legal provision exist therefore.

National Health: lawsuits

235. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

- (1) Whether any lawsuits were brought against (a) her in her capacity as Minister of National Health and/or (b) any specified chief executive director of provincial hospital services in 1991; if so, what (i) were the circumstances of each lawsuit and (ii) was the outcome in each case;

- (2) whether (a) she and/or (b) any specified chief executive director of provincial hospital services paid out any money in 1991 (i) as a result of successful lawsuits brought against them and (ii) in out-of-court settlements; if so, what amount in respect of each case?

B544E

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) (a) No and
- Chief Executive Director of Provincial Hospital Services
- Cape Provincial Administration
- (1) (b) yes,
- (i) 1. Catheter left in patient.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# Oil from Katina P enters Kosi Bay

Own Correspondent. (56)

DURBAN. — A floating boom was erected across the mouth separating two of the lakes in Kosi Bay after oil from the Katina P, the tanker that sank off Mozambique last month, entered the ecologically sensitive areas at the weekend.

The head of the pollution division at the Department of Environment Affairs' Sea Fisheries department, Mr Anton Moldan, said the amount of oil which had

entered the mouth to Kosi Bay was minimal.

ET 11/5/92  
"The oil within Kosi Bay will be collected but the patches on the beaches will be left — unless Parks Board want to remove them. It's not as though there are large stretches of oil, there are very small patches."

Mr Moldan said it appeared the oil washing up on the beaches leaked from the Katina P on her way up to coast

towards Mozambique and was not part of the slick left behind when the vessel sank more than two weeks ago.

Mr Moldan, along with Natal Parks Board members, did an aerial survey of the area from St Lucia to the Mozambican border yesterday.

"It's not very heavy. Even on the sea it's very patchy — sort of tennis ball-sized blobs of oil. Apparently on Saturday the patches were a bit bigger — car tyre-size."

## New approach to retrenchment

WILSON ZWANE

UNCONVENTIONAL thinking was necessary to avoid retrenchments, said personnel consultant Denis Keenan-Smith in the latest edition of People Dynamics.

Keenan-Smith said the failure to save jobs was fraught with "potentially serious political consequences".

He said since a retrenchment programme was an equivalent of a "process of asset stripping", it should be embarked upon only after all alternatives had been explored and exhausted.

Besides "conventional retrenchment avoidance methods" — such as manpower planning, retraining, job sharing and overtime limits — unconventional thinking was also necessary.

Keenan-Smith proposed a multi-mini-manufacturing concept which would have as its prime objective not simply the avoidance or limitation of retrenchments, but also the companies' survival.

"Its aim is the improvement of productivity levels and the profitability of the enterprise," he said.

The concept, which relied on creative and unconventional thinking and which was intended as a mechanism and a process, would focus on people and draw on fundamental organisational and motivational principles.

"It mobilises the collective energy of employees and encourages and enables all employees to increase their involvement in decisions affecting their work and work environment," Keenan-Smith said.

# Lesotho water scheme adequate for seven years

ADRIAN HADLAMB

THE R10bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project would provide adequate water supplies to the PWV for only seven years before additional water would have to be found elsewhere, probably at a cost of several more billions, experts said this week.

Future scenarios being investigated included obtaining water from the Zambezi or constructing a pipeline to central African water sources, said Johannesburg City Council executive director of water and waste Melvyn Watson.

## Requirements

"Most of the world's major cities are built on rivers or have access to sufficient water supplies. Johannesburg sprung up because of gold and water is scarce," Watson said.

The first phase of the Lesotho Highlands scheme, which would provide up to two thirds of the PWV's water requirements, would be completed in 1997. By 2 004 however, an additional water source would have to be found to meet the region's growing demand.

"We can live without electricity,

but not without water. Without water, this city will die," said Watson.

PWV ratepayers faced increasing water tariffs as planners struggle to provide sufficient quantities.

The region's water consumers paid almost R10m a month, in the form of a special levy, towards the costs of the Lesotho project. This amount was expected to triple before water from the project was connected to the Vaal river system.

The levy of 10c a kilolitre would be increased to 14c in October. Average domestic consumption was about 25kl a month — meaning an average levy of R2,50 a household. Total PWV monthly consumption was 80-million kilolitres.

The council was expected to announce new increases in municipal water tariffs next month which would "take into account" the rising Lesotho project levy, said Watson.

Apart from the R10n share of the project which was the Lesotho government's responsibility, PWV ratepayers would be expected to pay the balance, almost R9,7bn. Gradually increasing levies up to

1997 were expected to soften the blow of expensive water supplies from Lesotho once the project was on line.

The project's managing engineer, Willie Croucamp, said funding would "all come from the water consumer" in the PWV region. State aid was provided on a small scale for some infrastructural development together with the initial funding for the feasibility studies.

Watson said: "Johannesburg is a drought-stricken area and we have just got to have the water. Whatever the end cost, we who need the water will pay for it."

## Financing

The full scope of the Lesotho project, which would take 30 years to complete in four phases, included six major dams, 225km of tunnels, three pumping stations and 650km of new or upgraded roads.

And while the financing of the scheme, which involved 30 major loans in six currencies, was one of the largest exercises of its kind in the world, only seven years after its construction the PWV would once again be on the prowl for new supplies of water.



## Oil booms to stave off threat at Kosi Bay

DURBAN. — Eight oil containment booms will be airlifted to Kosi Bay and laid across its mouth today to try and contain an oil pollution threat here.

Oil from the sunken tanker Katina P entered the area at the weekend. The booms were airfreighted yesterday from Cape Town. **Oct 12/92**

Mr Anton Moldan, head of the pollution section of the Department of Environment Affairs' sea fisheries division, yesterday found the oil-slick more widely adrift than on Sunday.

Earlier yesterday parks board liaison officer Mr Jeff Gaisford said some birds were covered with oil. The KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources said yesterday sand had been stockpiled at the mouth of Kosi Bay should a major slick wash up. — Sapa



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Afforestation applications

234. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (a) How many afforestation applications were received by his Department in each province in 1991, (b) (i) how many of these applications were approved and (ii) for which areas were they approved in each case and (c) (i) how many applications were refused and (ii) for what reason was each application refused?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

	Transvaal	Natal	Cape Province	Free State	Orange
(a)	104	189	40	Nil	Nil
(b) (i)	61	159	40	Nil	Nil
(b) (ii)	18 285 ha	38 919 ha	9 151 ha	Nil	Nil
(c) (i)	43	30	0	Nil	Nil
(c) (ii)	The maximum permissible area for afforestation in the relevant catchment or subcatchment, which had been determined earlier by the Central Afforestation Permit Committee, had already been fully allocated.				

Eskom: amounts written off

240. Mr A A BRUWER asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) (a) What amounts were written off by Eskom during the period 1 October 1991 to 30 April 1992 or the latest specified period of six months for which figures are available, in respect of the non-payment of electricity accounts by (i) Black, (ii) White, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Indian local authorities, (b) how many local authorities were involved in each case and (c) what total amount was involved in respect of each such local authority;
- (2) (a) how many farmers' electricity supply was cut off during the above-mentioned period and (b) what total amounts were written off during this period in respect of farmers' electricity accounts in each province?

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) Nil.
- (b) Falls away.
- (c) Falls away.
- (2) (a) No distinction is made by Eskom between farmers' supplies and other supplies that are cut off and statistics are kept for full years only. The following are estimated figures for customers that were cut off for longer than two months:
  - 5 368 customers in 1990
  - 5 459 customers in 1991
- (b) Eskom writes off customer debts bi-annually at its head office. No debts have as yet been written off during 1992. Eskom does not keep statistics per province. The following is a breakdown of farmers' debts in Eskom's various regions (of which the borders do not coincide with provincial borders) that were written off in 1991:

Region	Amount written off in rand	Number of farmers
Western Natal	16 303	47
Western Transvaal	498 634	260
Southern Transvaal	0	0
Central Transvaal	158 101	78
Eastern Cape	12 573	24
Southern Cape	20 374	37
Western Cape	2 014	9
OFS	52 524	57

respect of 93-octane petrol, was this cost expressed in cents per litre at the pump? B583E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

- (a) US Dollar 15,4163 during April 1992.
- (b) The above-mentioned cost is not directly taken into account in the South African price for 93-octane petrol. The average landed cost of 93-octane petrol for four refineries—three in Singapore and one in Bahrain—is being used as basis to determine the South African price. The landed cost currently reflected in the price of 93-octane is 47,020 c/l.

Northern Cape	2 930	11
North Eastern Transvaal	26 024	59
Eastern Transvaal	15 776	51
Eastern Natal	29 614	69
	834 867	702

Crude oil: landed cost

250. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

In respect of the latest specified date for which figures are available, (a) what was the landed cost in South Africa of crude oil in United States dollars per barrel and (b) what, in

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

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	Transvaal	Natal	Cape Province	Free State	Orange
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(b) (i)	61	159	40	Nil	Nil
(b) (ii)	18 285 ha	38 919 ha	9 151 ha	Nil	Nil
(c) (i)	43	30	0	Nil	Nil
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- (2) (a) how many farmers' electricity supply was cut off during the above-mentioned period and (b) what total amounts were written off during this period in respect of farmers' electricity accounts in each province?

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) (a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) Nil.
- (b) Falls away.
- (c) Falls away.
- (2) (a) No distinction is made by Eskom between farmers' supplies and other supplies that are cut off and statistics are kept for full years only. The following are estimated figures for customers that were cut off for longer than two months:
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Region	Amount Number in of rand farmers
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Western Transvaal	498 634 260
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Central Transvaal	158 101 78
Eastern Cape	12 573 24
Southern Cape	20 374 37
Western Cape	2 014 9
OFS	52 524 57

Region	Crude oil: landed cost
Northern Cape	2 930 11
North Eastern Transvaal	26 024 59
Eastern Transvaal	15 776 51
Eastern Natal	29 614 69
	834 867 702

250. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

In respect of the latest specified date for which figures are available, (a) what was the landed cost in South Africa of crude oil in United States dollars per barrel and (b) what, in

respect of 93-octane petrol, was this cost expressed in cents per litre at the pump? B583E

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Ricardo's aunt, Ms Lorraine Kupido, and his cousin, Ms Elizabeth Kupido, said Ricardo's mother, assisted by friends and relatives, had searched every day

appeared while playing in the street on December 5.

"We searched for him everywhere. At least we have seen his body now," said Ms Elizabeth Kupido.

## No sewage in water, say consultants

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

(56) ARG 12/5/92

INDEPENDENT consultants say the brown water off the Atlantic seaboard that worried bathers last Christmas was not caused by sewage — and was not a health hazard.

A city engineer's report tabled at today's executive committee meeting said Dr T Probyn, a specialist in seaweed and phytoplankton physiology, and Mr P Hughes, a specialist in coastal processes, were hired to investigate the water.

The brown water was associated with high swell, when fine sediment and "detrital matter" were suspended by wave action. This in turn was dispersed over a wide area by turbulence caused by rip currents.

It was not caused by the Green Point sewage outfall and could not be considered a health hazard, the analysts said.

While there was speculation that faecal matter was washed down to sea by the stormwater system, the city council scientific services branch thought this "most unlikely".

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# Oil slick puts troops on alert

56

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Troops from 121 Battalion in Mtubatuba were on standby yesterday to clean up Zululand beaches after a oil slick was spotted off the coast from the Mozambique border down to Sodwana Bay.

Environment Affairs spokesman Niel du Bois said although the slick consisted mainly of thin "sheen" oil which had been broken up by heavy seas, some patches were between 40km and 20km long and between 10km and 2km wide.

Du Bois said his department did not believe the Natal coast was doomed because the oil had been in the sea for at least three weeks and had lost much of its toxicity. Nevertheless, the threat to the coastline was serious. *810am 13/5/92*

Du Bois said there was close co-operation between his department, the Natal Parks Board and the KwaZulu Bureau for Natural Resources who were doing everything possible to reduce the oil's impact on the environment.

The department's oil pollution officer Anton Molden, who has been monitoring the slick from the air, said although the

slick covered a large area it was mostly a thin layer "a few microns thick".

He was convinced the slick was part of oil spilled from the Katina P tanker while it was still sailing to Maputo last month and not oil discharged when the tanker broke in half several days later on April 26.

This would mean that the main slick — containing as much as 13 000 tons — had yet to appear, Molden said.

The main slick has not been sighted for at least two weeks and negotiations are continuing with the Katina P's owners to provide a long-range aircraft to help locate it.

Molden said the main slick would have drifted past Maputo by now, but was believed to be far out to sea.

The mouth of the ecologically sensitive Kosi system had been blocked off by sandbanks and inflatable booms.

A further 600m of booms was being flown from Cape Town to Durban yesterday and would be ready to block the St Lucia estuary if necessary.

## Sadtu served with interdict over plan for protest action

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) was yesterday served with a court interdict restraining it from embarking on two days of national mass action planned for school hours later this month.

The case will be heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court this morning. *810am 13/5/92*

The interdict application was made on behalf of Education and Training Minister Sam de Beer. Sadtu also received notification from House of Representatives Education Minister Abe Williams that his department would consider issuing an interdict.

Sadtu general secretary Randall van den Heever said, however, that teachers had been specifically asked to report to school and attend to their teaching duties before embarking on their campaign.

The decision to protest came after negotiations with education authorities concerning recognition of the union reached deadlock over the issue of teachers' right to strike. The action was also aimed at highlighting Sadtu's claim that teachers had been victimised by the authorities because of their union membership.

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# DP town councillor to administer Alex

A DP town councillor from Randburg has been appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to run Alexandra township, a special provincial gazette has announced.

Andre Jacobs, 34, who was Randburg's management committee chairman until he resigned in March, said yesterday of his appointment as administrator: "Now I will have to wear two hats and be objective about both of them."

It is believed Jacobs is the first DP leader to be appointed by the TPA to such a post.

He will retain his post as chairman of the party's Randburg council caucus.

As a prime mover behind the anticipated merger or joint administration between Randburg, Sandton, Marlboro Gardens and Alexandra, Jacobs said his appointment would be "helpful" in forthcoming negotiations.

He said his intimate knowledge of Alexandra's financial and administrative situation would make possible a more informed decision regarding the possible formation of a joint administration.

"My uppermost priorities are the

ADRIAN HADLAND

provision of a normal and improved local administration, the resolution of the financial situation in Alexandra, the upgrading of facilities and services and participation in negotiating forums which will decide how best to fit Alexandra into new developments," he said.

Jacobs succeeds the previous administrator John Griffiths — who was formerly chairman of the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council.

Administration in the violence-ravaged township has virtually come to a standstill.

"There are some councillors, though without a quorum the council does not function," Jacobs said.

"We have got to get back to the basics and will be employing a turn-around strategy rather than any fancy new ideas."

Jacobs will consult the township's interim crisis committee as well as councillors and community organisations in his bid to turn around the fortunes of Alexandra.

The resolution of violence in Alexandra would also be an important objective of his tenure, he said.

## Vaal dam levels down to 37,7%

ADRIAN HADLAND

WITH an average rainfall of only 0,1mm on the Witwatersrand in the past six weeks, the Vaal dam's level had dropped to 37,7%, the Rand Water Board said yesterday.

A board spokesman said the Vaal would only be replenished by the Sterkfontein dam, currently 99,3% full, once it had reached less than 15% of its capacity.

Due to high water evaporation rates from the larger surface area of the Vaal, it was not economically viable to use Sterkfontein water before the 15% level in the Vaal dam had been reached, he said.

The total capacity of dams serving the Witwatersrand was currently at 61,6%, compared to 87,7% in May last year, the board said.

Lesotho Highlands Water Project managing engineer Willie Croucamp said yesterday that phase 1A of the project would be able to supply sufficient water to the PWV until January 2004. This, together with phase 1B would ensure the region adequate water until 2008. The combined cost of the projects would be R9,7bn.

If all planned phases of the project are implemented, the supply in the Vaal River System would exceed demand until 2020, he said.

The board said the volume of water sold to consumers in the PWV had increased 122% since 1982.

# R10m to make Kirstenbosch a Kew

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

(56)

SOUTH AFRICA would gain more from an internationally respected plant research facility at Kirstenbosch than a "quick bucks" townhouse development, says National Botanical Institute chief director Professor Brian Huntley.

He was replying to criticism by developer Mr Harry Fuchs — who put in the highest bid of R6.2 million for Kirstenbosch Heights last year — that a research facility on the site would be impractical and economically irresponsible. ARC 13/5/92

Professor Huntley pointed out the R3.2 million raised by the Botanical Society would cover only phase one of the proposed research complex.

"The truth of the matter is that the ultimate research centre will

cost in the order of R10 million and will serve not only the research community and the lay public, but will be a new centre of excellence for research into the southern African flora ...

"Kirstenbosch will unquestionably become the Kew of the southern hemisphere once the required research and educational facilities have been completed.

"South Africa, and Cape Town in particular, will gain far greater rewards from such international prominence than it would benefit from the quick bucks that some speculators might gain through a rather unpopular land transaction," he said.

Mr Fuchs's claim that the management of Kirstenbosch had previously agreed to the townhouse development was news to him and no such record was available, Professor Huntley said.

The National Botanical Institute was formed in April 1989 by an amalgamation of the National Botanic Gardens, owner of Kirstenbosch, and the Botanical Research Institute. Professor Huntley was appointed after the amalgamation.

"Whatever the case, there can be no doubt that neither the present management nor the locals would approve a massive townhouse complex being established on the site," he said.

Professor Huntley said Mr Fuchs's argument that a free site existed within the gardens was only partially correct.

The only land available in Kirstenbosch was restricted, uneven, suspect because of its position over a geological fault and in a dense stand of oak trees "which we would most definitely not wish to remove", he said.

... of violence  
**puts off visitors**

CAPE TOWN — The perceived threat to personal safety in the unstable political environment was probably one of the major factors hindering the rapid growth of international tourism to South Africa, according to the White Paper on Tourism released yesterday.

It said this was one reason for the fact that SA had been able to attract only 0,2 percent of the international tourism market and why the growth rate had been slower than the growth in world tourism over the past decade. **STAR 13/5/92**

Once an acceptable political dispensation was in place, international tourism should play a significant role in SA's overall economic development. — Sapa.

**R600-m boost from IDC**

By Shirley Woodgate **56**

The Industrial Development Corporation yesterday announced a R600 million injection to finance new game parks as well as tourist accommodation and facilities in and near game reserves.

The announcement of the huge boost to eco-tourism infrastructure development follows hard on the heels of South African Airways' new "open skies" policy, which experts predict will bring a flood of overseas visitors to this country.

Saying the Kruger Park had limited accommodation and there was a definite need for alternative game reserves to cater for tourists, IDC managing director Carel van der Merwe said: "The lack of ade-

quate suitable accommodation is a major inhibiting factor in our present situation.

"Through a capital injection to the conservation authorities, we believe the IDC's funds will make a major contribution to development, job creation and economic growth." **STAR 13/5/92**

This news coincides with the tabling yesterday of the White Paper on Tourism, which claimed if all known expansion plans of the conservation authorities were realised, SA's share of the world tourism market could be pushed up from 0,2 to 0,5 percent by 1997.

This could not only lead to meaningful domestic economic development but increase foreign earnings and lead to the creation of about 50 000 jobs.

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# Hambros is willing to invest in conservation, says director

810 day 13/5/92

PETER GALLI

UK-BASED Hambros Bank's recent investment in the Conservation Corporation and the Phinda Reserve reflected its willingness to invest in projects involving conservation and local communities, the bank's director, Jonathan Klein, said in an interview.

"Prospective investors were looking for an ethical investment and the fact that the Phinda project provided employment for the local community and was directed at environmental enhancement made it both credible and appealing," he said.

However, there had been some problems with marketing the project as it was one of the first inward investments of capital into a non-listed SA development while the ANC was still touting sanctions.

The placing of the R63m in debentures had taken longer than expected for several reasons — the demand for sanctions to remain and President F W de Klerk's decision to hold

the referendum.

"Also, our association with Masterbond seriously damaged our efforts to place the debentures locally," Klein said.

Questioned about his knowledge of Masterbond's financial problems, Klein said that once the prospectus had been drawn up and distributed it became clear that Masterbond was in trouble.

"We decided not to proceed unless working capital finance to cover the Masterbond investment was put in place. About R10m was made available and was used to provide funding until the end of the marketing campaign," he said.

Despite the R63m raised, 88% of the revenues for the reserve were hard currency based and, as most visitors were based offshore, any depreciation in the rand would see these currencies appreciate.

Any investor wanted a good return

on investments, and the projected returns on this investment were compatible with development capital projects elsewhere, Klein said.

Projections for the reserve were made in July and were ahead of predictions.

"Hambros Bank has been involved in SA for some years and with the advent of the reforms initiated by President F W de Klerk we needed the right project to start reinvesting in the country," he said.

"We advised, structured and marketed worldwide this project in addition to the £1,5m we invested, which we intend to retain. There is still a lot of caution about investing in SA and we felt this was an investment for the shepherd rather than for the sheep," he said.

The Conservation Corporation recently announced that all Masterbond investors who held debentures in Phinda would be given an offer to have their debentures repaid in full and with interest.



evidence. At present there is an inquest under the chairmanship of a judge into the death of the late Mr Webster. Who took the initiative to appoint the Goldstone Commission? It was the ANC and others who struggled for four months before they accepted it.

As early as May last year we took the initiative to appoint an ongoing judicial commission of inquiry and to grant protection to witnesses who wanted to bring evidence before that commission. We want to stop violence, and we took comprehensive steps in that regard, but there should at least be some basic evidence.

Are the same incisive questions put to persons politically responsible for acts of terror over many years? No, such questions are not asked. The same demands are not made upon them.

I want to tell the hon members on that side that we are prepared to go into any matter on which *prima facie* evidence is available, to investigate any clues that can be investigated and arrive at the truth. We shall not hesitate to make use of judicial inquiries and judges in this regard, as the objectivity of such inquiries has to be beyond any doubt. It cannot, however, take place on the basis of rumours.

For years I was a co-opted member of the State Security Council. I can remember that I indeed was at a meeting in Port Elizabeth. During holidays we often met at places other than Pretoria or Cape Town. I cannot remember the specific date.

The point, however, is as follows. Never at any meeting of the State Security Council where I was present, and where any of my colleagues were present, did we plan or consider crimes, abductions or violations of the law. The matter that did indeed receive the continuous attention of the State Security Council during that first half of 1985 was how to stop the ongoing violence, and during that time we started thinking of the ultimate decision of declaring a state of emergency. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

**Air pollution: people's health/ecology**

\*2. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether her Department has any data on the effect of air pollution on people's

health and the ecology; if so, what are the relevant details;

- (2) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

B614E:INT

\*THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: Mr Speaker, the hon member for Sasolburg asked a question here to which he surely wants a reply. The hon member is either displaying his ignorance or he deliberately put his question so vaguely that it is not possible to react to it specifically.

If he had taken a bit of trouble, the hon member would have established that the Department of National Health had undertaken more than 100 research projects over the past 15 years, specifically to obtain information on the effect of air pollution and high air-pollution levels on man's health. In the few minutes of an interpellation it is not possible for me to furnish the hon member with full particulars in respect of a great many investigations.

\*Mr L F STOFBERG: Mr Speaker, I appreciate the hon the Minister's reply. I do not want to ask more from her than she can give. [Interjections.] I do not want make demands on her which she cannot comply with, but I think I have to point out to her that Sasol 1's motto is that it is one's duty to protect the environment, not one's choice.

Well done! Sasol's environmental policy is:

Sasol glo dat die kwaliteit van die lug, water en grond beskerm moet word vir die volgehoue benutting van alle ekosisteme. Die behoeftes van huidige en toekomstige geslagte sal so doende bevredig word, en dit sal hulle in staat stel om in 'n omgewing van aanvaarbare kwaliteit te leef.

†So far so good.

\*At the end of last year the following was reported in the *Vaal Ser* which circulates in the whole of the Vaal Triangle:

Die eerste fase van die Vaaldriehoek se lugbesoedlingsgesondheidstudie, waaraan meer as 9 000 kinders van 46 skole deelgeneem het, is onlangs afgehandel. Alhoewel dit volgens dr Petro Terblanche, hoof mediese navorsers, in hierdie stadium nog te vroeg is om enige stellings of gevolgtrekkings te maak oor die newe-effekte van lugbesoedeling in die omge-

wing, is daar wel beperkte inligting beskikbaar.

Die eerste resultate van die buitenshuis lugbesoedlingstudies dui aan dat daar waarskynlik probleme is met die vlakke van vaste deeltjies—stof en rook—in die lug, asook osoon in sekere areas. Hoë vlakke van stufmeel is gemeet. Die resultate van die monitors wat sommige kinders gedra het, toon geweldig hoë vlakke van lugbesoedeling in die woongebiede waar steenkool verbrand word.

Die vraelyste . . . toon dat die Suid-Afrikaanse kinders baie meer tyd buite deurbring as Amerikaanse kinders. Hierdie feit kan belangrik wees vir hulle blootstelling aan industriële lugbesoedeling en word tans verder ondersoek.

I have with me a report Sasol itself compiled, in which the following is said:

Die vyfde reeks sesmaandelikse stofmonsters is einde September 1991 afgehandel. Die algehele blootstellingskonsentrasies het toegenem. Die riskokoers by Kole en As-aanleg het toegenem. Die riskokoers vir Sasol Een-fabriek het toegenem.

According to the second series of samples, dust exposure at the Cinder and Ash Plant is increasing progressively.

I therefore have to ask the hon the Minister this afternoon to tell us what her Department is doing to monitor all of the large enterprises, including Sasol, and to determine what is being done. What are the hon the Minister and her Department doing? Is she satisfied that there is an improvement in the situation? From the information which I submitted here this afternoon—and I have more—there is no improvement. As long as that hon Minister holds that particular position, there is a process of deterioration. [Time expired.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, today, as I drove into town, I listened to the car radio and heard a message to the effect that the citizens of Cape Town are to be warned that due to certain climatic factors the atmosphere in Cape Town would today be polluted beyond acceptable levels.

It is very nice to be warned, but one wonders what is going to happen as a result of that. This may be a very rare happening in Cape Town—I

am not sure whether it is or not—but as far as the Transvaal Highveld is concerned, especially during winter, this unhealthy level of pollution becomes the rule rather than the exception.

Industry burns up fossil fuels in large quantities, resulting in an ever-thickening layer of gases in the atmosphere. Millions of tons of sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide, various nitrous oxides—these are particularly prevalent in the Cape area—are pumped into the air that we breathe. Inevitably this has a serious effect on the health of the people who have to breathe that air, as well as on the ecological balance.

Coal-fire power stations, Sasol One, Two and Three, various other industries such as Highveld Steel and Rand Carbide are all doing damage to the environment. If each of these were taken separately, the result would not have been so dangerous, but it is the combined tonnage of all these pollutants that has now become a threat to us all.

Firstly, one has to look at the greenhouse effect. These gases attract infrared radiation from the earth into the atmosphere. If the gas blanket were thinner, more infrared radiation would escape. However, as the gas layer gets thicker, so the heat of the atmosphere gets more intensive and the earth warms. This could result in a dramatically altered weather pattern, possibly major shifts of deserts and fertile areas, as well as a possible rise in sea levels.

We might have seen these major shifts begin already. I do not think we have the knowledge to judge at this stage. However, one thing we can be sure of is that this is damaging the ecological balance of our country. [Time expired.]

\*THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH: Mr Speaker, we have to determine the acceptable levels, the time of exposure and what is safe for man. This is what it is all about. We most certainly use all the instruments at our disposal to determine this. The Department uses the standards are defined by the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America, which are considered the guide-lines for safe ambient levels in South Africa.

\*I think the hon member for Sasolburg has just confirmed my point. He mentioned particulars of a report on Sasolburg. Why did he not in the first instance ask for an interpellation on the air-pollution levels in the Sasolburg area?

\*Dr F HARTZENBERG: What about the rest?

\*The MINISTER: The hon member probably thought that I would not be able to provide particulars on the position in Sasolburg. (S)

As the report indicates, there is deterioration or an increased exposure to certain gases, but we have to know to what extent these gases are detrimental to man's health. We are occupied with this on a continuous basis. Different investigations are being carried out. Dr Terblanche's investigation to which the hon member referred, was conducted in the PWV area. The particulars of the investigation by the Medical Research Council are not available as yet and we can therefore not respond in full to its findings.

In 1986, for example, Prof Coetzee found that in the Sasolburg area there were smaller differences in the lung functions of children in Sasolburg . . . [Time expired.]

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN, Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister apparently has a big problem. Perhaps she does not want to understand what it is all about and, if she knows, it is pathetic that she and her Department are not doing anything about it.

How many reports of the CSIR and other organisations does the hon the Minister still want which indicate that pollution, particularly of the South African atmosphere, is of the worst in the world?

\*The MINISTER: That is not true!

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: According to various reports the air pollution in the PWV area is the reason why the incidence of nose, throat and respiratory problems is of the highest in the world. The pollution levels are caused by the generation of electricity, industrialisation, motor-vehicle exhaust gases owing to the high lead content of petrol and smog which is caused by millions of squatters and which can be attributed to incompetent and ineffective physical planning in respect of urbanisation. These are all major causes of air pollution and cause serious health problems for man.

This once again brings us to the root of all these problems, namely the monitoring and control of and law-enforcement against offenders, especially the large industrialists and companies who do not care about the acceptable levels of pollution.

there has been an interpellation in this regard, but she has good intentions. [Interjections.] We ask her to pull up her socks and to do much more to ascertain whether the large companies are doing their share (S)

\*HON MEMBERS: Pull up her stockings!

\*Mr L F STOFBERG: If there are problems with funds, she must get the State to do what is necessary

\*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member may rest assured because this matter is very much under control.

The results obtained from all the investigations, indicated with great certainty that air-pollution levels in general did not pose any health threat [Interjections.] The hon member's statements are therefore uninformed observations and are based on conclusions drawn from uninformed prattling.

The information at the Department's disposal, comprises scientific facts which were researched and these are obtained from 155 gauging stations in 37 towns. We have in our employ nine air-pollution control officials who deal with this matter on a full-time basis and issue permits to controlled industries which are gauged in terms of specific pollution levels. There are also 60 smoke-control officials in the employ of all the large local authorities, who specifically monitor this.

The only problem we have identified up to now, is in the Soweto area where at certain times of the day, especially in winter, there is a very high concentration of carbon dioxide. [Interjections.] This is directly attributed to the fact that there is an inadequate electricity supply in the area.

One of the alarming aspects of the whole urbanisation process is that only in the Black townships are air pollution levels higher than normal for a short period of the day at certain times in winter. Attention must be given to this, but this problem can only be resolved if we can electrify those areas. In the rest of the country not one of the investigations up to now has indicated that we should in any way be concerned about the effect of the air-pollution levels on the health of man [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

#### QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply

General Affairs:

Referendum: letter to embassies

\*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

- (1) Whether, with reference to the State President's reply to Question No 1 on 22 April 1992, his Department sent a letter to embassies on behalf of the State President before the recent referendum, if so, who took the initiative with the sending of the letter concerned.
- (2) whether he personally granted permission for the letter to be sent to embassies; if not, who granted permission therefor.
- (3) whether the State President's signature appeared at the end of the letter; if so, by whom was this signature so affixed; if not, whose signature and/or initials appeared at the end of the letter;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B577E

†The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1), (2), (3) and (4)

This issue was debated in depth in the House of Assembly on 22 April 1992 and in the Extended Public Committee on 24 April 1992, during which all the relevant facts and answers to questions were provided by the hon the State President and myself. The position can be summarised as follows:

A draft letter, addressed to a number of Heads of State and Governments, was drawn up for the hon the State President's consideration shortly after the referendum announcement in February this year. The aim was to explain the reason for the decision to hold a referendum and, in particular, to prevent a misconception that the referendum would result in a continuation of apartheid.

After I sent the draft letter to the office of the State President for submission to the State President, the Director-General issued a directive to the Department to send the contents

# 'Huge' oil threat to Natal coast

56 13/5/92

DURBAN. — The environmentally-sensitive far North Coast of Natal is being threatened by huge patches of oil off the coast between Sodwana Bay and Kosi Bay. They stretch about 50km seaward, the Department of Environmental Affairs said yesterday.

Troops from 121 Battalion in Mtubatuba were on standby yesterday afternoon to clean up Zululand beaches after the "huge" oil slick was spotted.

Mr Niel du Bois, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs, said although the slick consisted mainly of a thin "sheen" of oil which had been broken up by heavy seas, some

patches were between 40 and 20km long, and between 10 and two kilometres wide.

Mr Du Bois said his department did not believe the Natal coast was "doomed", because the oil had been in the sea for at least three weeks and had lost much of its toxicity.

Nevertheless, the threat to the coastline was now regarded as serious.

Mr Anton Molden, the department's oil pollution officer who has been monitoring the slick from the air, said although the slick covered a large area it was mostly thin oil, "a few microns thick".

He was convinced the slick

was part of the 3 000 tons spilled from the Katina P tanker while it was still sailing to Maputo — not from when the tanker broke in half several days later on April 26.

This would mean that the main slick — containing as much as 13 000 tons — has yet to make its presence felt.

It has not been sighted for at least two weeks, and negotiations are continuing with the ship's owners to provide a long-range aircraft to locate it.

Mr Molden said the main slick would have drifted past Maputo by now, but was believed to be very far out to sea.

The department was unable

to predict whether parts of the large slick would be washed ashore today, but several precautions had been taken to minimise damage to the Kosi Bay lakes and the St Lucia estuary.

Mr Du Bois said the mouth and channel at Kosi Bay had been sealed off with floating booms and pole barriers, while 600m of oil booms were on the way from Cape Town to block St Lucia estuary mouth.

The Defence Force had been alerted and 121 Battalion troops were available to begin a labour-intensive clean-up.

The Kuswag 7 patrol aircraft would also be monitoring the slick daily.

# THE ZEVENFONTEIN COMMUNITY A QUESTION OF BALANCE

~~56~~ (56) 13/5/92 Sowetan

**T**he future of the Zevenfontein community has stirred up a lot of debate and emotion, largely based on misconceptions and yesterday's realities.

The decision as to their future will, however, have to provide a fair and equitable solution for all concerned - based on today's realities, urbanisation needs and policies.

The reality demands a fair and just dispensation for all. Planned and orderly urbanisation requires the development of some 390 000 sites in the greater PWV region before the year 2000. This requires a balanced approach to urbanisation - high, low cost and informal housing, extensive residential areas and job opportunities, with due consideration for the natural environment.

But how did the Zevenfontein issue arise? In brief:

- \* Part of this low-income community had, for some time legally resided as tenants on a portion of the farm Zevenfontein. Last June the owner gave them notice to vacate the land.
- \* The Zevenfontein Community appealed for land to be allocated for their permanent settlement within the same region where the majority of them work.
- \* The TPA immediately initiated a series of meetings with various concerned parties. It soon became clear that emotions clouded the issue to such an

extent, that consensus was impossible. As a result, the Administrator of the Transvaal appointed a special representative Task Group. Their brief was to:

- Evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy for the north-western PWV region.
- Identify areas for orderly urbanisation, specifically for high, low-cost and informal housing in this region
- Make recommendations to the Administrator on the resettlement of the Zevenfontein Community.

**P**articipation in and access to the Task Group was open to all. The Task Group, of more than fifty, included local authorities, community authorities and groups, business interests, developers and various other organised interest groups, as well as the Zevenfontein Community.

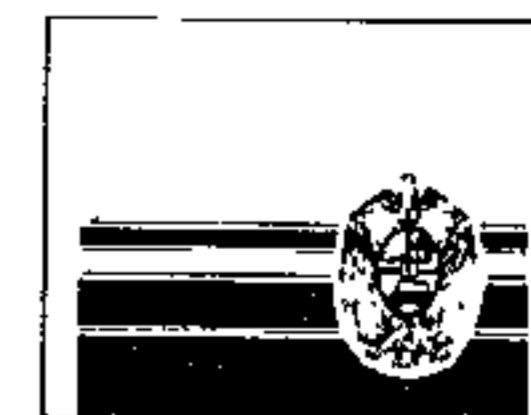
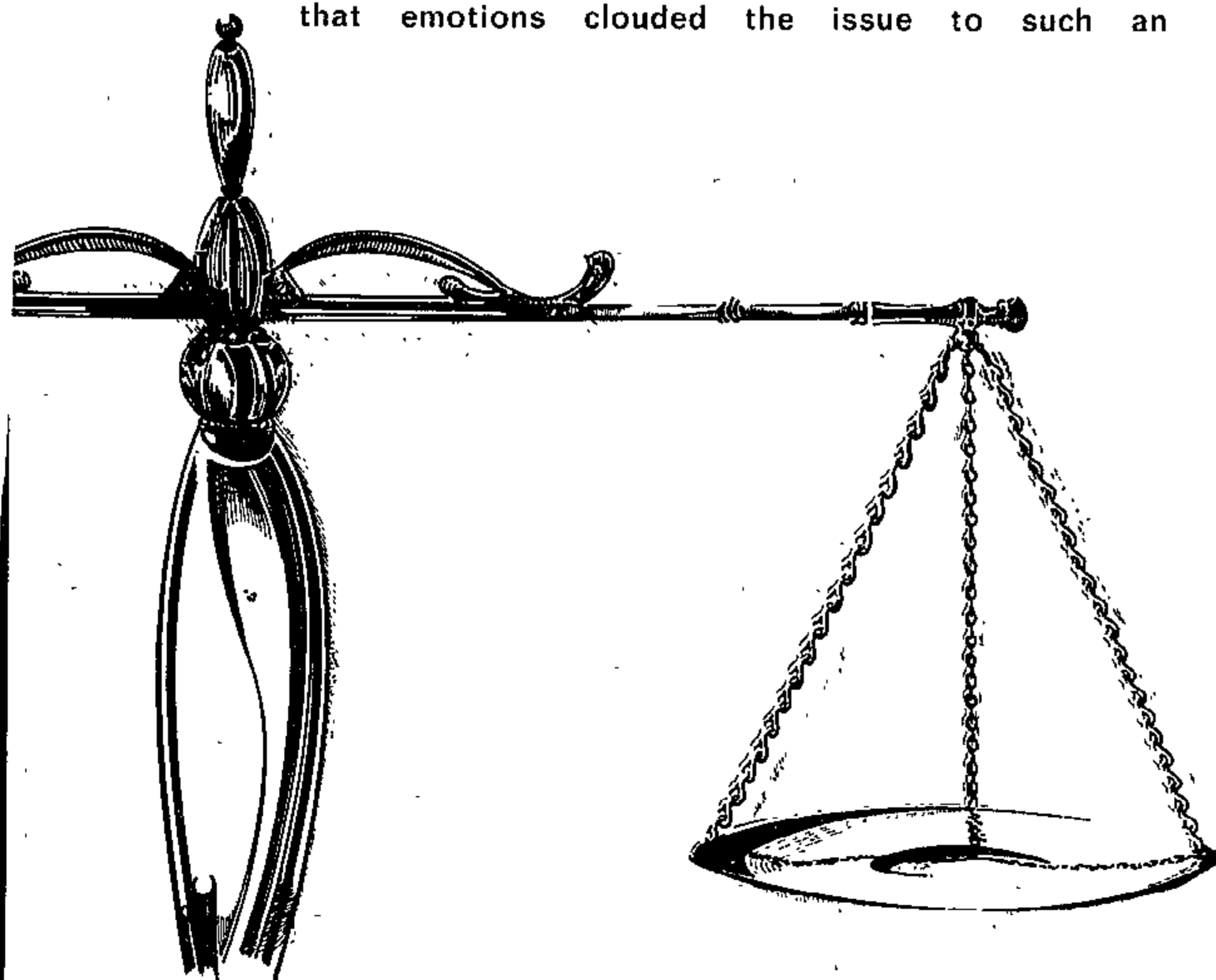
In search of consensus about the permanent resettlement of the Zevenfontein people, it was agreed that the Task Group's recommendations would take into account certain criteria:

- \* Physical suitability of the proposed area in terms of universally accepted principles of town planning
  - \* Economic viability and access to job opportunities
  - \* Social mobility and development potential
  - \* And last but not least, a humane and equitable proposal in terms of its impact on all people to be affected.

Finding permanent residence for the Zevenfontein Community has been widely consulted. The Task Group heard and evaluated as many viewpoints as possible. Many recommendations, including those of the Task Group, were made to the Administrator. Full consensus was unfortunately not reached. There was however, an emerging consensus on the inevitability of urbanisation south of the R28 highway.

The time for a weighed decision is now at hand - a fair and equitable decision which will recognise both the rights and interest of all concerned parties on an equal footing, regardless of their socio-economic situation.

This decision will have to find the balance.



**Transvaal Provincial Administration**

## IDC to inject R600m into game parks

MARCIA KLEIN

(56)

THE Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is to make R600m available for investment in new game reserves and accommodation in a bid to promote eco-tourism in SA. *8/10 Aug 13/5/92*

IDC MD Carel van der Merwe said yesterday the IDC board would allocate the funds to state, parastatal and private sector game park developers and operators to finance infrastructural development.

He said the lack of adequate suitable accommodation in and adjacent to game parks was "a major inhibiting factor". The IDC would make a major contribution to development, job creation and economic growth through this injection of capital.

SA had the basic infrastructure and environment to attract "high yield tourists, rather than high volume, low yield package tours", Van der Merwe said.

SA brand names were well established overseas, but SA needed the facilities to cope with the demand and develop the potential "within the confines of what is acceptable in conservation terms".

The IDC would accept applications from organisations wishing to improve, upgrade or develop new eco-tourism facilities on a substantial scale. It would evaluate the economic merit and then provide project finance. Conservation authorities, the Environment Affairs Department and other bodies would evaluate the conservation merit of the projects.

The inclusion of private sector participants would offer tourists greater variety.

He said the Kruger National Park was limited in terms of the number of people it could accommodate.

Private sector operators would have to "be linked to or involved in those game parks which are considered for financing". The financing project would extend to new game parks and new facilities.

He said the IDC believed that it would be possible to finance and develop a commercial venture without lowering the conservation profile.

IDC involvement in the sector would see conservation and eco-tourism "placed on a solid financial footing" to provide jobs and environmental security.

## Air pollution levels far above guidelines

Staff Reporter **5** Oct 13/5/92

BOTH of the Cape Town air pollution monitors recorded figures way above the guideline levels yesterday.

The NO<sub>x</sub> (oxides of nitrogen) maximum reading at 8am was 2 823 micrograms per cubic metre. This is well above the guideline level of 1 504. Higher readings than this occurred only five times last winter, according to Cape Times' records.

The NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) reading, which gives a better indication of whether secondary pollutants are being created by chemical interactions with ultra-violet rays from the sun, was 586 at its maximum at noon. The guideline figure in this case is 376.

Higher NO<sub>2</sub> readings than yesterday's were recorded on only two occasions last year.

## Vaal dam levels down to 37,7%

ADRIAN HADLAND <sup>(S6)</sup>

WITH an average rainfall of only 0,1mm on the Witwatersrand in the past six weeks, the Vaal dam's level had dropped to 37,7%, the Rand Water Board said yesterday.

A board spokesman said the Vaal would only be replenished by the Sterkfontein dam, currently 99,3% full, once it had reached less than 15% of its capacity. *B10am*

Due to high water evaporation rates from the larger surface area of the Vaal, it was not economically viable to use Sterkfontein water before the 15% level in the Vaal dam had been reached, he said. *13/5/92*

total capacity of dams serving

# SA could be facing oil slick disaster

(56)  
ARG 13/5/92

Shipping Reporter  
and The Argus  
Correspondent

THE oil contamination of the Natal coast could turn into a "national disaster" with the delicate eco-systems of Kosi Bay, Sodwana Bay and St Lucia threatened by more slicks.

Department of Environment Affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said of the oil, thought to have spilled from the Greek tanker Katina P on its fateful voyage to Mozambique about a month ago: "This is a national issue. There are so many variables. The possibility a huge part of the Natal coast could be badly damaged is not excluded."

Prevailing offshore winds were yesterday keeping thin slicks close inshore at the bay, but fears were that a change in wind direction could blow it ashore.

The first oil on northern beach-

es was noticed by Natal Parks Board rangers on Saturday. A large slick was spotted further offshore.

Dead sea-birds had begun washing up, according to reports, and scientists said the slicks could smother and kill sea life.

The insurers of the sunken tanker have been called to Richard's Bay. The costs incurred during the clean-up and monitoring operation will have to be repaid to the South African authorities by the ship's owners and the insurers, Mr Du Bois said.

He would not speculate on exactly how much this could be, but implied it could run into millions.

Mr Du Bois said some patches offshore were between 40km and 20km long and between 10km and 2km wide.

The oil was hovering just outside Kosi Bay and Sodwana. It had already begun gathering against containment booms and

sandbanks blocking the mouth of ecologically-sensitive Kosi Bay.

About 600m of boom was flown from Cape Town to Durban yesterday.

Some booms will be kept on stand-by to block the mouth of the St Lucia estuary in case the slick is blown that far south.

Mr Du Bois said the department was worried, although the situation yesterday afternoon was not described as serious.

"The coastal ecology is not necessarily doomed," he said.

Oil pollution control chief Mr Anton Moldan said from Richard's Bay that the slick was spread very thinly — "a few microns thick" — in a sheen on the sea's surface, with some patches of brown oil.

He said today the situation was "under control".

The SA Defence Force's Zulu 121 Battalion are standing by to scoop the oil.

## Clothing firms seek talks with Keys

Business Editor

PRESSURE is mounting from clothing and textile companies for the Minister of Trade, Industries and Finance, Mr Derek Keys, to abandon new import quotas and duties.

Seeking a meeting with Mr Keys are the National Clothing Federation — representing 1 400 manufacturers employing 150 000 workers — and the Textile

Wholesalers Association (TWA), whose members supply most of the country's garment manufacturers and boutiques.

TWA chairman Mr Munro Bloch says the new import plans will cause serious damage to hundreds of small and medium-size companies in the clothing and textile business. CT 13/5/92

He claimed there was not full representation of all interested

parties when the quotas and duties were negotiated.

Many manufacturers would not get import quotas and would have to pay duties of between 40 and 150 percent.

"How are we expected to remain in business, let alone grow, when we are allowed to import less than half of last year's needs at an affordable price in today's inflationary times?" Mr Munro asked.



abuses, and if so, is any action being contemplated?  
 The DEPUTY MINISTER: This has not been brought to my notice, but if it is the case, I ask the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition to provide me with the necessary facts.

**Chemical plant in Cato Ridge: mercury poisoning**

\*4. Mr T PALAN asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

- (1) Whether, with reference to a certain chemical plant in Cato Ridge and instances of mercury pollution of a nearby stream, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, an investigation is to be instituted to determine the environmental impact of the chemical plant in question; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (ii) by whom will the investigation be conducted, (b) what is the name of this chemical plant and (c) what are the details of the case;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D146E

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:**

- (1) Yes. A comprehensive geohydrological investigation and impact assessment of the plant on groundwater and on the surface water and sediments of the Ugeni River and its tributaries has been instituted.
  - (a) (i) Studies commenced towards the end of 1990.
  - (ii) Consultants appointed by the Company concerned and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
- (b) The name is the one provided by the hon member
- (c) Elevated mercury levels were limited to a relatively small area in the soil in the direct vicinity of the plant. Action taken by the Department resulted in the termination, on 19 April 1990, of the production of any effluent containing mercury. This, to-

gether with further remedial actions, resulted in a marked improvement in the surface and groundwater quality.

- (2) Yes. No effluent containing mercury is presently produced at the plant. Effluent containing mercury which has been generated in the past is contained in double lined dams. This effluent is currently treated to remove mercury to a level below the General Standard in terms of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956). The treated effluent is used, under strict control, for intermittent irrigation and the environment is not adversely affected by this practice.

**INTERPELLATIONS**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

*Own Affairs:*

**Court actions to defend Department**

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) What total amount was paid in legal costs to defend his Department in court actions during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether he has taken a decision in regard to the engagement of any member of the legal fraternity to represent the Administration: House of Delegates; if not, why not; if so, what did he decide?

D163E.INT

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman, as I informed the House yesterday, unfortunately the hon the Minister of Education and Culture has been hospitalised. As he is still in hospital, I wish to suggest that this interpellation be withdrawn. While I am on my feet I also wish to suggest that Questions No 1 and No 2 for oral reply under own affairs, which the hon the Minister of Education and Culture was to reply to, also stand over.

**Allocation of business/industrial plots: Transvaal**

2. Mrs R EBRAHIM asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) What procedure is adopted by his Department in allocating business and industrial plots in the Transvaal;
- (2) whether this procedure has been adhered to in all such allocations; if not, what exceptions are made?

D155E.INT

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, hon members will know that when a business person requires a piece of land for the purposes of conducting business, it is required of him to apply to the Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture where such an application will be scrutinised and processed provided the applicant is a displaced person in terms of the Group Areas Act or other legislation

Whilst it is the policy of the Administration to sell off commercial and industrial stands, in order to generate funds which in turn are used for our low-cost housing delivery programme, such actions are governed by the aspect of proclamation and registration of townships. Where the latter has not been finalised, sales cannot be concluded, since transfer of the property into the name of the purchaser cannot be done in such circumstances.

Where the situation of non-proclamation and non-registration pertains, sites can only be leased to successful applicants who are willing to opt for this alternative. Over the years sites have been allocated to individual entrepreneurs on the basis of applications submitted and often also taking cognisance of the support given by local public representatives such as local affairs committees. In non-proclaimed areas sites were leased to individuals, whilst in proclaimed areas sales by private treaty could be and have been concluded.

Furthermore, in view of the limited number of such sites available, the large number of applicants of more or less equal standing, and the keen interest evident among applicants to acquire sites, certain available sites have been advertised for sale by tender where the highest tenderer is allocated the site tendered for.

In this way the needs of those entrepreneurs who are not displaced persons are also satisfied. Another method of allocation is sale by public auction, where a site is auctioned and allocated to the highest bidder.

To summarise, there are basically four alternatives for disposing of land, which implies the allocation of sites. The first is leasing to individual applicants for a specific period at a specified rental. [Time expired.]

Mrs R EBRAHIM: Mr Chairman, newspaper articles and both direct and indirect intimidation of Mr Sayed, the towing operator who was allocated stand No 10058 in Lenasia, prompted me to place this interpellation on the Question Paper. I want to add that I had ascertained many facts before arriving at a decision regarding this interpellation.

The Ministry of Housing confirmed in a letter to me—I have the letter here—that business sites are sold exclusively by tender. However, there have been exceptions where land has been sold by private treaty. During the course of last year representations were made to me as a member of Parliament by three businessmen to assist them in their endeavours to purchase land. At that stage two of them had been negotiating through Mr T C Chetty and a third through Rev Reddy, the Ministerial Representative in the Transvaal. Two persons have already entered into deeds of sale with the House of Delegates.

Mr O Sayed of Omar's Towing Services has taken occupation of the erf allocated to him on lease pending sale and transfer. In terms of a letter addressed to Mr Sayed by Mr Meiring, the regional representative of the department, the erf would be leased to Mr Sayed with effect from 1 April 1992 at a monthly rental of R350 until such time as the area is proclaimed and a sales agreement entered into.

Notwithstanding the written commitment given to Mr Sayed, the Department refuses to honour its undertaking and enter into this lease agreement. Mr Sayed is occupying the land, has effected improvements and has established his business on these premises. What is the reason for not honouring the written undertaking given by the regional representative?

The hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council, who was the Minister of Housing, is personally aware of the situation. He chaired the meeting at

# Kruger Park restrictions

By Clyde Johnson  
Lowveld Bureau

56 STAR  
14/5/72

SKUKUZA — With immediate effect, water restrictions have been imposed throughout the Kruger National Park.

Making the announcement yesterday, the head of wildlife management, Lynn van Rooyen, said the restrictions had been imposed because of the poor state of rivers in the reserve.

"Farmers dependent on rivers flowing through the Kruger Park are struggling to survive, and it's our duty to cut back on our use as far as possible," he said.

Watering of gardens in all rest camps and staff villages has been reduced to three days a week. Staff members must also reduce their domestic water supply.

Mr van Rooyen said the initial goal was to reduce the park's water consumption by a half.

Visitors will be asked to help and notices calling on them to use water sparingly are to be placed in all the camps.

A committee will monitor water use in the reserve and, if conditions worsen, stricter measures will be applied.

# W Cape farmer saves plant <sup>(56)</sup> ARC 14/5/92 from extinction

ESANN van RENSBURG, Staff Reporter

A RARE Strandveld plant has been re-established in its natural habitat and saved from extinction — thanks to Aurora farmer Mr Floris Visser.

Thirty cuttings of *Freylinia Visseri*, commonly known as suurlat, have been planted on a farm near Velddrif where Mr Visser found it growing in the 1940s.

Mr Ernst van Jaarsveld of the National Botanical Institute at Kirstenbosch said Mr Visser first brought the plant to the Compton Herbarium for identification in 1947.

He had found it on Volstruisleegte farm — then called Hermanuskraal — in the Velddrif district. The plant had not been described before.

“By 1954 the plant was still growing on an ‘island’ in the farm’s wheat fields. When it later became clear the land would be ploughed, Mr Visser removed four shoots and replanted them on his farm at Aurora.”

In 1982 Mr Van Jaarsveld began looking for the plant and eventually found Mr Visser.

“We searched Hermanuskraal and the surrounding areas, but could find no trace of it.”

Had Mr Visser not picked those four shoots, the plant would have been extinct.

Mr Van Jaarsveld obtained cuttings and specimens from Mr Visser and cultivated them at Kirstenbosch where more than 20 plants now grow.

*Freylinia Visseri* grows to about three metres and has bell-shaped, purple flowers.

## Councils seek greenbelt control

SIX Reef municipalities yesterday confirmed they planned to divide the greenbelt north of Johannesburg between them — a development which could see them inheriting responsibility for squatter problems previously the domain of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

Randburg management committee chairman Brian Crail said Johannesburg, Sandton, Randburg, Krugersdorp, Midrand and Verwoerdburg had banded together at the TPA's request to seek a joint solution to the massive influx of people and the resulting unplanned settlements.

Sapa reports the local authorities said the plan would almost double the area under their administration and was aimed at coping with "an explosion in urbanisation almost unparalleled in the world".

Although developing low-cost housing was a top priority, Crail assured residents that no development was planned for the greenbelt area north of the Krugersdorp highway (R28) — which dissects the greenbelt — and that it would be retained as a natural area.

B1 Day 14/5/92  
KATHRYN STRACHAN (56)

Diepsloot Residents' Association chairman Stuart Aitchison, however, believed that the area would automatically be earmarked for urbanisation once it came inside the municipal boundaries.

Although greenbelt residents felt the 100 000ha area should be kept as a single region under one new local authority, this alternative was rejected by the municipalities as not "economically viable".

Crail said the councils' proposal meant the vast area could be divided among the six established local authorities.

He said the recommendation would soon be submitted to the Delimitation Board. The plan would take about five months to implement.

Crail denied accusations from the Greenbelt Action Group that the councils and the TPA had been "secretly plotting behind closed doors", and that the councils had accepted the plan under pressure from the TPA, which was urgently trying to settle the Zevenfontein problem.

# Brown fog culprits soon to be named

Staff Reporter

THE industries responsible for contributing to the brown haze that blankets Cape Town every winter could soon be identified by a R30 000 scientific study that is being conducted by the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town.

Professor Dick Dutkiewicz of UCT is supervising the research which he says aims to determine "which different industries contribute to the brown haze, why it is brown and how much of the haze is photochemical".

The pilot study, which will be conducted over the next six months, involves taking samples of the haze by passing the air through a filter and subjecting the residue to a series of chemical and physical tests.

The first results should be available within a month.

On the strength of these findings, funds will be sought for a more detailed study to identify which industries are directly responsible for emitting these specific gases into the atmosphere.

Mr David Brook, the Western Cape Chairman of the National Association for Clean Air, said "there may be certain trace elements that trigger brown haze episodes because brown haze doesn't always occur under similar conditions".

He added that it was generally accepted that the motor vehicle industry was the main contributor, but said he "suspected that other industries were also involved".

The Chief Air Pollution Control Officer for Cape Town, Derrick Oxley, said that industries were meeting the standards prescribed in the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act but, depending on the findings the main study, "it may well be necessary to change these standards in future".

Cape Town has the worst brown haze problem in South Africa and the recent increase in the number of brown haze episodes has caused a great deal of public concern.

Last winter air pollution guideline levels were exceeded on 28 occasions, which was the highest figure to date.

# Pienaar defends govt's kaolin mine go-ahead

CT 14/5/92

56

**Staff Reporter**

THE Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, has defended his department's decision to allow kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak in the wake of the government's recent announcement to make South Africa the world's No 1 eco-tourism destination.

Mr Pienaar said yesterday that "stringent conditions" had been imposed on the mining of kaolin by Serina "which would minimise the negative visual aspect of the future mine".

According to the White Paper on tourism tabled in Parliament on Monday, South Africa's nature conserva-

tion efforts, linked with its natural beauty, fauna and flora, make it a "forerunner in eco-tourism".

The government has tabled legislation that aims to take advantage of the country's "unique selling features" by promoting tourism that is in accordance with the country's nature-conservation ethics.

Mr Pienaar said that the question of how this stated objective could be reconciled with his decision to proceed with Kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak was best answered by considering "if the ... mine ... is negatively influencing tourism". \*

CT 14/5/92

## Natal oil threat <sup>(56)</sup> disperses

DURBAN. — Large patches of oil which were on Tuesday threatening to wash on to the environmentally sensitive far North Coast of Natal were washed out to sea overnight, according to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said the main body of oil had been washed about 25 nautical miles out to sea by a strong north-easterly wind.

Although there were smaller patches closer to shore, the situation was not as serious as it had been, he said.

"If the wind changes it may blow the oil back to the coast and then we will have the same situation as Tuesday ... but the good news is that many of the patches of oil have started breaking up."

The oil is believed to have leaked from the sunken Greek tanker Katinina P. — Sapa

# Mozambique Channel oil disaster 'inevitable'

56  
APR 14/15/92

## Authorities accused of lack of planning

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — A Mozambican biologist has accused the government of lacking any contingency plans to deal with oil spillages despite the fact that the Mozambique Channel is one of the busiest routes in the world for oil tankers.

Speaking at a seminar this week, the biologist, Mr Mia Couto, said the high number of tankers using the Mozambique Channel made a disaster in the area more or less inevitable.

At any given moment, he said, there was an average of 240 tankers in the channel. There were over 1 000 journeys a year made through the channel by supertankers, and about 4 000 journeys a year by medium-sized tankers.

Mr Couto's remarks, made at a seminar organised by the Mozambique Medical Association, come in the wake of the Katina-P disaster, which spilled over 3 000 tons of heavy fuel oil last month, and severely polluted the bay of Maputo.

This has been described as the worst environmental disaster the country has experienced.

Mr Couto said many tankers which use the channel routinely flushed out their tanks, causing oil slicks which could drift on to the coast.

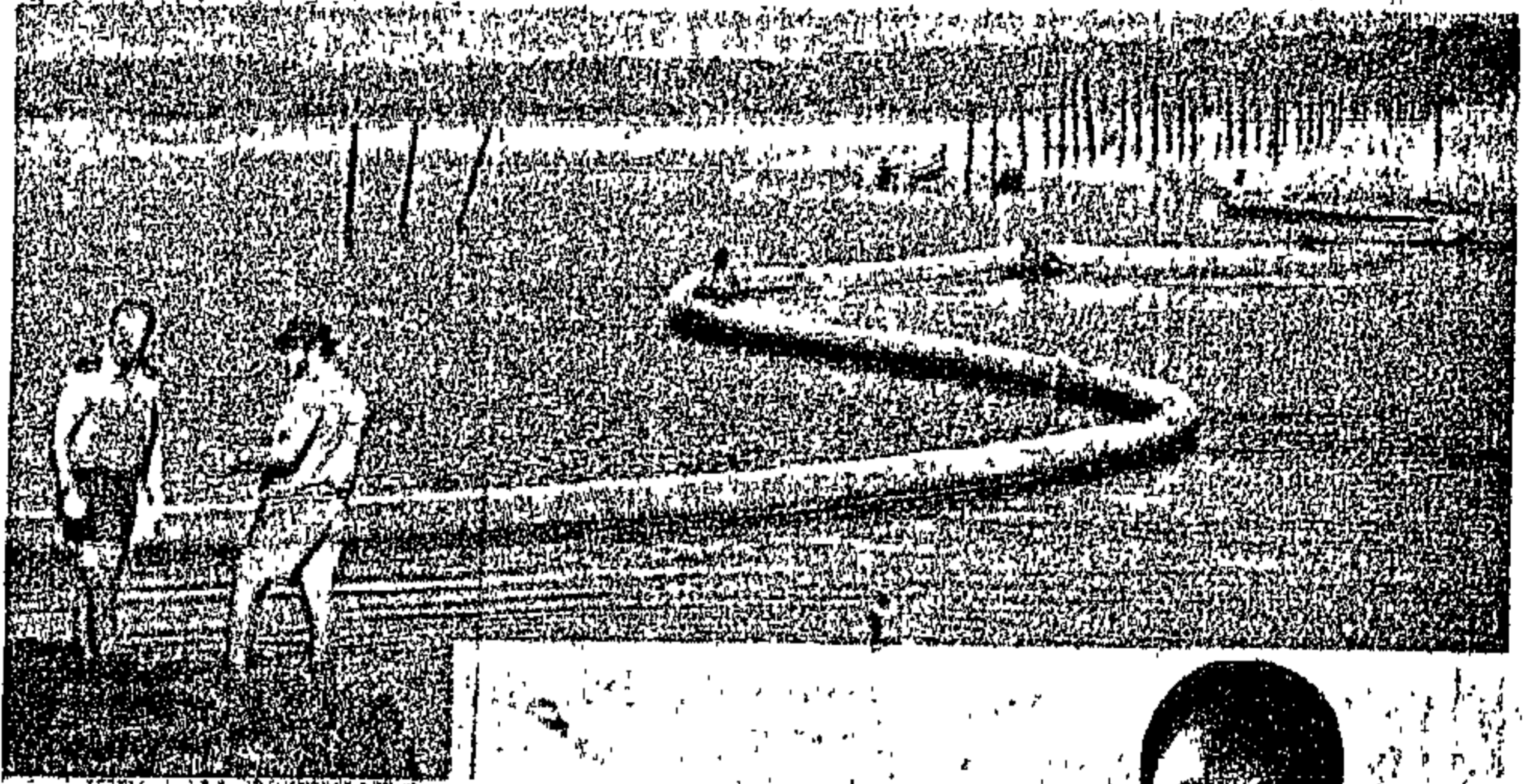
In the light of the heavy use of the channel by tanker traffic, Mr Couto said, the authorities "should have been better prepared".

There had been several spillages in the bay of Maputo in the past and the worst of these involved a Panamanian-registered tanker, the oil from which destroyed some of the mangroves in the bay in 1979.

"Despite this, we didn't learn the lessons and no contingency plans were made," Mr Couto said.

Former health minister Dr Helder Martins said it was difficult to estimate the possible consequences for public health of the Katina-P spillage without knowing the exact chemical composition of the cargo.

He said the authorities did not take any samples of the cargo during the six days in which the ship was grounded on a sandbank just eight kilometres from the Mozambican coast.



**OIL SLICK:** Booms have been placed across the mouth of the estuary at Kosi Bay in Natal to prevent an oil slick entering. The oil is believed to have come from the ill-fated Katina-P, which sank off the Mozambique coast last month.



**VICTIM:** Natal Parks official Mr Robert Mfeka, right, with a Cape gannet — an early casualty of the oil spill.



# Newlands Heights delight

But Botanical Society needs more funds  
to complete research unit

APC 15/5/92 (56)

JOHN YELD and TOS WENTZEL, Staff Reporters

THE government's decision to incorporate the controversial Newlands Heights property into the adjoining National Botanic Gardens has been welcomed by the Botanical Society.

The society last month raised R3,2 million to ensure funding for phase one of a centralised research complex on the site, which had originally been offered for sale for townhouse development.

Minister of Public Works Mr Leon Wessels announced in parliament yesterday they had decided to make the property available to the council of the National Botanical Institute, which runs Kirstenbosch.

"They may erect the proposed laboratories and other buildings on this magnificent piece of property, worth many millions of rands," he said.

Mr Wessels congratulated

the Botanical Society, under the leadership of Mrs Kay Bergh, for its "magnificent effort" to raise the funds.

"I would urge a continued fund-raising effort because there are further phases to follow.

"Demands on the state coffers for social upliftment are such that it is not very likely that the department of Environment Affairs, which is responsible for the National Botanical Institute, will manage to negotiate the necessary funds for these further phases within a reasonable time," he warned.

The state had been generous in forfeiting more than R6 million — the highest bid when the property was put out to public tender last year before being withdrawn — to make it avail-

able to Kirstenbosch, Mr Wessels said.

He hoped lovers of Kirstenbosch, who had signed the petition in favour of the retention of the land for the gardens, would respond generously to the continued appeal.

Mrs Bergh said she was heartened by the decision and the fact that the government had "come down on the side of the people".

A centralised research complex was central to overall plans to turn Kirstenbosch into the "Kew of the southern hemisphere".

In addition to the huge economic advantages of tourism, the research facility's plant propagation unit could earn the country significant amounts of foreign currency, she said.

"That literally is worth mil-

lions — why should Halland (the world's horticultural centre) have it all?" she asked.

Mr Harry Fuchs, a well-known Cape Town property developer who put in the highest tender for the land, is still convinced the property is not suitable for a research facility and that townhouses are a better option.

The "skimpy sketches" of the architects did not show the full development and he doubted there would be enough space. "They haven't done enough work," he said this week.

Mr Fuchs described the petition against townhouses — signed by thousands last year — as "blatantly fraudulent" for intimating it was a high-rise development and that the property already belonged to Kirstenbosch.

"I would have signed it myself," he said.



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus

**OUT YOU GO!** Democratic Party MPs Mr Errol Moorcroft, in front, and Mr Roger Hulley get to grips with some of the young black wattle plants which have invaded the slopes of Devil's Peak after last year's fire.

ARG 13/5/92 (56)

## Urgent action needed to fight Devil's Peak aliens

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

DEVIL'S Peak is in danger of being over-run by highly invasive black wattles and urgent action is needed to tackle the problem, says Democratic Party MP for Albany Mr Errol Moorcroft.

He suggested that teams of unemployed labourers be brought in to help eradicate the young trees.

Mr Moorcroft, the DP spokesman on agriculture, said he could not understand why Cape Town residents could be "so indifferent" about the fate of the mountain.

"It is their most important and best-known tourist attraction."

He said residents did not "deserve" the mountain.

"They have been, and remain, bad custodians of a national treasure," he said.

The black wattle explosion was stimulated by last year's fire.

Mr Moorcroft, who enjoys walking on the mountain, said he was horrified by the extent of the problem.

He said urgent action was needed while the young trees could still be removed by hand.

"If we don't do something now it will be too late. Give these trees two years and you won't get them out — you'll have to poison them," he said.

The incursion of black wattles was the latest in a long list of abuses which the mountain had

endured over the years, Mr Moorcroft said.

The Department of Agricultural Development said black wattle was the most widespread and abundant of all alien invasive plants in South Africa.

Fellow MP and Fairst Cape executive director Mr Roger Hulley suggested his organisation could co-ordinate efforts by schools to help with the problem.

"We mobilised quite a few thousand children on River Day recently and I imagine this is a similar need," he said.

● The alien infested area falls within the Table Mountain nature reserve, and the Cape Town City Council's parks and forests department has been asked to respond to Mr Moorcroft.

With her is Mrs Tania Gazette, manageress of Stadium Residence in Green Point. Mrs Jones was a kind Darling and lived there with her only relative, a niece, until she was 102. She used to enjoy walking, occasionally drinking wine. She has outlived all of her nine brothers and sisters and her husband.

# Land for Kirstenbosch

By BARRY STREEK  
Political Staff

THE state land next to Kirstenbosch, which the government originally wanted to sell to private developers, has been saved for nature lovers.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr Leon Wessels, announced yesterday that land would be made available to the National Botanical Institute.

His statement, made during the debate on his vote in Parliament, ends months of doubt about the future of the land.

It followed a campaign by the Botanical Society of South Africa to raise R3,2 million for the first phase of the development of the

## Go-ahead for building of laboratories

site.

The Department of Public Works originally wanted to sell the land to private developers for more than R6m and said it would be sold if the R3,2m was not raised.

Mr Wessels said he was sure nature lovers, especially Cape-tonians, would be pleased to learn that he had decided to

make the use of the land available to the council of the National Botanical Institute.

"They may erect the proposed laboratories and other buildings on this magnificent piece of real estate, worth many millions of rands."

He wanted to congratulate the Botanical Society "under the able leadership of Mrs Kay Bergh for the magnificent effort in raising the R3,2m", which was reported to be necessary for the first phase of the development of the site, in such a short time.

"At the same time I would urge a continued fund-raising effort, because there are further phases to follow."

Phone: 488-4722

By PETER DENNEHY  
CAPE TOWN is set to mak

HERE is usually a credibility gap when industry talks about greening itself. What- ever it says, the feeling re- mains that it is big business which puts the brakes on govern- ments when it comes to taking action. Enter, for a change, an industrialist who wants to take the brakes off: Stephan Schmid- heiny, the first green billionaire.

Schmidheiny, at 44, is one of Swit- zerland's richest industrialists, with a personal wealth of between \$2-4bn. He owns a sea of high-tech industries in which glitter such pearls as Swatch, Omega and Leica.

Yet his green credentials are hard to fault. And as the recruit of Mar- rice Strong, the director-general of next month's Earth Summit in Rio, Schmidheiny has spent a third of his time and more than \$8m of his own money over the past 18 months plan- ning how business should adapt to a world in which environmental issues will shape economic life.

The group of 47 chairmen of global companies he set up, the Business Council for Sustainable Develop- ment, extends its influence through- out the world. It includes the chair- men of Nissan, Mitsubishi, Volkswagen, 3M, Dow Chemicals, Du Pont, Shell, Norsk Hydro, John Laing, and companies from Brazil, Cameroon and Indonesia.

their agenda for industry in the next century, called Changing Course, calls for nothing less than a new industrial revolution. The bad news for the man or woman in busi- ness class is that energy prices must rise, every product must become "reconsumable" over generations. But a greener world, they say, will be good for business.

# The new crusade: a greener world is better business

B10cny  
15157192  
CHARLES CLOVER in Zurich

wasteful of the earth's resources.

Schmidheiny would not have opened doors so successfully if he did not already practise what he preaches. In 1984, when he was in his mid-30s he inherited the Eternit business empire based on asbestos- reinforced cement. As a young law graduate he had first-hand experi- ence of the fibre — recognised as highly carcinogenic — as the site foreman on one of the company's plants in Brazil. He still has his share of dust in his lungs to remind him. As the youngest member of the board he was sent to Sweden where the gov- ernment had just decided to ban as- bestos. He returned with the convic- tion that the Schmidheiny's needed to get out of asbestos fast.

This message was hotly resisted by his own workforce and his father, Max, who is reported to have asked why, if asbestos was so carcinogenic, their plants were not surrounded by cemeteries. "They thought I was crazy," Schmidheiny says. "I decided that asbestos was a potentially dead- ly threat and acted accordingly."

He threw the company's efforts into developing gypsum-based sub- stitutes for the asbestos tiles and building materials they produced. Meanwhile, he diversified rapidly

into other businesses. Then, at the end of the '80s, he overhauled his empire again, selling off as much as a third which did not conform to his vision for the '90s — global com- panies selling environmentally friendly high technologies.

As a result, his business empire is now five times the size of the one he inherited.

Two of his biggest interests make power generation equipment and air conditioning controls. He sees enor- mous potential in supplying high effi- ciency generating equipment as en- ergy costs rise. The same is true of indoor climate controls.

America — where the large banks normally only fund big projects.

His love for the natural world was born, he says, in the Swiss forests and in a vineyard at home which his mother now runs organically. His family regularly separates all their domestic waste into five different categories for recycling. And he has bought a solar-powered boat for his two teenage children to cruise up and down the lake.

Otherwise, he is a mystery. He would have remained private but for Maurice Strong, former director of the UN environment programme, who heard him speak at a meeting on sustainable development in 1990 and asked him to map out a future in which industry became sustainable in its use of natural resources.

Such was Schmidheiny's influence that most of the industrialists he asked to join him accepted, with some interesting exceptions. The chemical companies were the first on board because they had been first hit by environmental concern and understood what he was trying to do. The refusals came mostly, to his sur- prise, from bankers. Schmidheiny thinks they feared being trapped into concessions on Third World debt.

The message of the 48 leaders of global businesses, broadcast around

the world, is: "The prices of goods and services must increasingly re- flect the environmental costs of their production, use, recycling and dis- posal." That means not only higher energy prices but design which looks at the effects of the whole lifecycle of products. Schmidheiny, person- ally, goes further. He says it is absurd that we continue to tax on the basis of income and capital. It would make more sense to tax scarce resources such as fuel and water.

The lasting value of Changing Course is that it shows world busi- ness accepts that governments must bite the bullet and regulate or tax to bring about development that is sus- tainable over generations. What they ask in return is compliance time, free trade and the removal of exist- ing anti-ecological subsidies on en- ergy and agriculture.

"The amount of energy subsidies in the world is absolutely insane," says Schmidheiny. The Common Agricultural Policy is "a shame for mankind", imposing environmental damage directly on Europe and indi- rectly on the Third World. He would pay Europe's farmers to be "ecologi- cal landscape gardeners" instead.

A thinkable scenario for 2050, he says, is a world population stabilised at under 10-billion; a third to half of the world's energy requirements coming from renewable resources; near-zero waste; open markets and technical co-operation between rich and poor. Companies will have to accept that customers and citizens' groups have a stake in their business. Lifestyles in the northern countries will have changed towards consum- ing fewer non-renewable resources.

Politicians might say that his mes- sage is naive in that it overlooks vested interests. But it is also based on self-interest. Schmidheiny has the gift of seeing the great problems fac- ing mankind in terms of business opportunities. Fellow industrialists should be warned that he sees the past 18 months partly as an invest- ment in his own education. Now he can't wait to get back to his own companies to put his investment into effect. — Daily Telegraph.

# 50 'safeguards' to control kaolin mine

56 CT 14/5/92

Staff Reporter

SERINA, which is still waiting to be granted a licence to mine the 1.1 billion kaolin deposits on Chapman's Peak, has been forced to accept more than 50 stringent licensing conditions, including the establishment of an independent monitoring committee and a trust fund to finance a revegetation programme.

The Chief Director of Environmental Conservation, Mr Sydney Gerber, said the conditions were aimed at "safeguarding the natural environment as well as the living conditions of Noordhoek residents". Stipulations include:

- No explosives be used.
- Noise barriers be constructed and SABS noise pollution standards be met.

● Pit operations do not occur after 5pm or during weekends.

● The processing plant be fitted with a dust-extraction system, access roads be tarred and wind breaks be constructed to control dust.

● A comprehensive rehabilitation programme be carried out simultaneously with mining operations.

The conditions would be a "sword

hanging over Serina's head" and every case of non-compliance raised by the monitoring committee would be investigated, Mr Gerber said.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, announced in Parliament that the committee would include "persons with the relevant environmental expertise, a specialist rehabilitation ecologist and representatives

of local residents and government authorities".

He asked Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Mornberg to head the committee. Mr Mornberg said yesterday that he would be prepared to take the position despite opposing the mining of Chapman's Peak.

Serina chairman Mr Klaus Zirkker said he "welcomed the conditions of licence".

# 'Eco-terrorists' enter kaolin fray



DETERMINED ... "eco-terrorist Rob" hammering nails into trees which will be cut down on the slopes of Chapman's Peak in the Cape Peninsula for an open cast Kaolin mine  
Picture: TERRY SHEAN

## Nails knocked into trees to stop mining

HE calls himself "Rob" and says he is an "eco-terrorist". He and a group of militant environmentalists are determined to save the Cape Peninsula's Noordhoek Valley from being mined, at any cost.

They believe open-cast kaolin mining will trigger the "destruction" of "their" tranquil valley.

So far they have pounded thousands of steel nails into more than 400 trees which are due to be felled by Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd to clear the 26ha site for their open-cast pit.

### Condemn

They hope the nails will prevent Serina employees from using chain-saws or axes to fell the trees.

The nails can send the chainsaw flying or break it, which could injure the workers cutting down the trees.

The nails and other threats of militant action from the group have been

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

strongly condemned by Mr Klaus Zirker, director of Continental China Holdings which owns Serina Kaolin.

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, has approved strict conditions under which mining on the site will be allowed.

"I cannot condemn too strongly any human being who knowingly commits any act which could lead to the injury of another human being — especially one who is innocent," said Mr Zirker.

"What this man and his group are doing is sadistic in the extreme and cannot be sanctioned by any right-thinking person."

The Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, who have plans of their own to stop the mine, have distanced themselves from the "eco-terrorists".

"But," said SCPAG chairman Mr Ian Brownlie, "emo-

tions are running high and we cannot dictate what individual protestors do."

The SCPAG intends to mount a vehicle blockade of roads leading to the mine, to handcuff themselves to mine vehicles and form a "human chain" to prevent miners from driving to the site.

"Rob" (that's not his real name) contacted the Sunday Times to warn Serina about the strength and methods of opposition they will face if they continue to mine at Noordhoek.

"We are deadly serious. This kind of thing attracts crazy people with strong feelings."

"Rob" said: "We don't want anyone to get hurt. That is why we are issuing this warning."

### Pollute

Mr Zirker said Serina would adhere to strict permit conditions including the establishment of a monitoring committee and a trust fund to ensure that mining and rehabilitation are carried out in the most environmentally sensitive way possible.

He said the mining will have "no impact" on Chapman's Peak and Chapman's Peak Drive nor on tourism and would not pollute the air or water.

He said the impact of Serina's trucks on local roads would be no greater than that caused by trucks supplying Noordhoek supermarkets.

He denied that the mine would attract squatters as Serina had a permanent workforce.

It is unlikely that the mine will be operational for at least two years.

"We have been extremely responsible. I hope those opposed to the mining will retain their sense of responsibility as well," he added.

# No govt funds for K'Bosch centre

STimes (Cape metro) 17/5/92

By DIANA STREAK (56)

THE future of the botanical research complex planned on controversial land adjoining Kirstenbosch will depend on continued public financial support because the government will not provide funds, says the Department of Public Works.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr Leon Wessels, has announced that the land would be made available to the NBI.

But Mr Theo van Robbroeck, Director General of the DPW, says the public should support the project because "it is unlikely that state funding would become available soon, especially when the government has already shown its goodwill by forfeiting R6.2 million in revenue".

The R6.2 million referred to a bid put in by developer Mr Harry Fuchs to buy the land for building 105 townhouses.

The National Botanical Society managed to raise R3.2 million to cover the first phase of the complex but the final project would need some R10-million, says Professor Brian Huntley, chief director of the NBI.

## Changes

Although Kirstenbosch brings in nearly R30-million in tourism revenue each year it receives only R13 000 from the city council, Professor Huntley says.

Now the DPW has put the kibosh on the project by urging the public to "continue their financial support for such an important cause" because money would not be forthcoming from the government.

The 4.5 hectare site was zoned for residential purposes in 1966 and was expropriated by the DPW in 1987 for the construction of ministerial houses. Terraces had already been made and street and other services supplied.

Mr Van Robbroeck said that due to "changed circumstances" these houses were no longer needed and the original owners/developers claimed the right to buy back the land.

"Being state property this could only be done if the land was sold on tender and they put in the best tender.

"Tenders were subsequently called for and a best offer of R6.2 million was received," he said.

The developers had given several reasons why the land should be sold to them and not offered to the NBI.

They said other land was available for the NBI's purpose, that access from the Kirstenbosch botanical garden would be difficult and expensive and that the site was not suited for the purpose envisaged.

They also argued that the state, and thus the taxpayer, would forfeit more than R6 million in income and that the wrong decision by the Minister could have legal consequences.

## Cloud seeding costs R5m a year

ADRIAN HADLAND (56)

THE Water Research Commission says in its annual report that it spends R5m a year on plans to beat the drought by stimulating rainfall artificially. *6/04/92*

Commission scientist George Green said research into artificially stimulating, or seeding, clouds for rainfall had been going on worldwide for many years but that SA led the field in the technology.

Seeding means adding chemicals such as potassium chloride (normally used as a fertiliser) or dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide) to clouds to encourage rainfall. *18/5/92*

Green said the commission received requests from all over southern Africa for access to rainfall stimulation technology.

Research had been conducted in a corridor from Nelspruit in the eastern Transvaal to Bethlehem in the northeastern Free State, the report said.

Further research into possible environmental or climatic impacts was still necessary before the techniques could be used on a large scale, Brown said.

But the concept of rain stimulation has drawn criticism from farmers and environmentalists.

Save Our Rain Action Committee (Sorac) secretary Eve Henkel, who lives on a plot in Nelspruit, said rather than encouraging rain, seeding actually prevented it.

She said the drought in the area had been caused by experimenting with rainfall over the past 20 years.

"There is drought wherever they operate. It is the crime of the century. All we have for water now is the swimming pool."

Henkel said petitions had been forwarded to the Water Affairs Department demanding a halt to the research.

Brown said there were misconceptions about seeding which the commission hoped to counter with an information campaign.



# Vaal town seeks clean image

STAR 18/5/92

By James Clarke (56)

Vanderbijlpark town council is to combat "the widespread belief that Vanderbijlpark suffers from unusually high levels of air pollution".

It has made available to The Star an exclusive report on the town's plans to monitor air pollution — exclusive because, "on two occasions, The Star printed photographs of the Iscor plant apparently polluting the air".

The report says about 11 000 schoolchildren in the area are taking part in "possibly the most comprehensive air clean-

up campaign ever undertaken in South Africa".

They will wear air monitoring devices for various periods and these will be used to determine the state of the air indoors and outdoors.

Dr Koba van der Walt, Vanderbijlpark's medical officer of health, said: "It is pointless to brand the Vaal region as an overpolluted and unhealthy part of the country, without determining exactly the extent of the problem — if any.

"Yes, this is an industrial region. We do have Iscor's largest steel works here, as well as Sasol I in nearby Sasolburg.

"But I doubt if more smoke is

emitted by these plants than by the hundreds of thousands of coal fires burning all over the Reef in winter."

He said preliminary results of monitoring showed that gaseous pollutants, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide did not exceed health limits and that control was adequate.

Dr van der Walt said Vanderbijlpark was the "green lung" of the PWV.

"We have the Vaal River here. As a council we control 8 km of river front and are custodians of a wonderful natural heritage."

Vanderbijlpark was the first local authority, he said, to adopt

the standards of the Air Pollution Control Act and to set up air monitoring stations.

He said Iscor and other industries were spending millions of rands combating pollution. Iscor alone had spent R150 million on a gas cleaning plant.

"New furnaces that will remove 180 tons of dust daily are being installed to replace older equipment."

The report says Iscor is establishing a 200 ha bird sanctuary to add to the town's existing 760 ha of parks — part of the dream of Hendrik van der Bijl who, when he founded the town 50 years ago, supervised the planting of 500 000 trees.

## K'bosch

### 'still needs public's <sup>(56)</sup> support'

CT 18/5/92  
Staff Reporter

MORE public funding will be needed for the planned botanical research complex next to Kirstenbosch gardens.

The director-general of the Department of Public Works, Mr Theo van Robbroeck, has "urged the public to continue their financial support ... as it is unlikely that state funding will become available soon".

In a statement he said: "The government has already shown its goodwill by forfeiting R6,2 million in revenue," referring to a bid by developer Mr Harry Fuchs, who had wanted the land for building 105 townhouses.

The chief director of the National Botanical Institute, Professor Brian Huntley, has been reported as saying the final Kirstenbosch project would need about R10m.

Professor Huntley was not available for comment at the weekend.

# Zeekoevlei 'choking'

56 CT 18/5/92  
Staff Reporter

HUGE floating "islands" of water hyacinth are threatening to choke Zeekoevlei.

Unless something is done to stop the islands growing, yachtsmen fear there will soon be no open water left.

The commodore of the Zeekoevlei Yacht Club, Mr Daggitt Dickson, yesterday said the water hyacinth was a major problem.

"It's growing very fast and there has never been so much of it," he said.

Mr Dickson said Zeekoevlei residents had complained to the city council about the problem and the council had promised to get rid of it by spraying the weed with poison and trucking it out.

The fast-growing hyacinth was an continuing problem and would take a long time to eradicate, Mr Dickson said. Zeekoevlei residents were helping in the mopping up operations.

Club secretary Ms Wendy Bayly said the hyacinth had been a problem for over a year and was multiplying at an alarming rate.

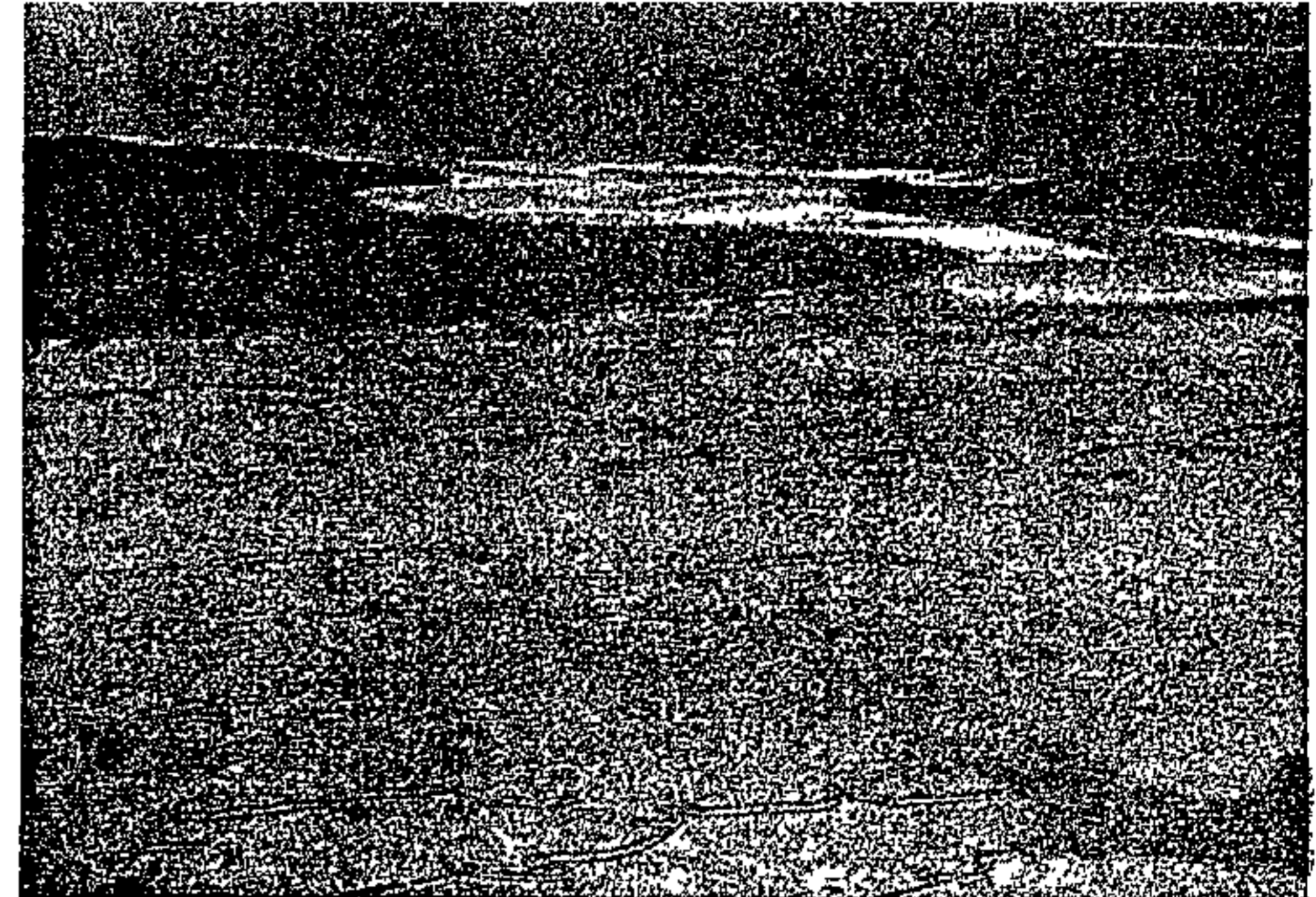
"There is a lot of hyacinth at the Lotus River entrance and we are worried that the weed at the south and east ends of the vlei will converge and eventually cover the whole vlei if it is not controlled," she said.

Spraying the weed with poison had to be done in hot weather for the poison to react effectively.

Ms Bayly said water hyacinth had taken over the Hartebeespoort Dam in the Transvaal and forced the suspension of water sports until it had been eradicated.

Mr Pat Morant, who works for the CSIR in Stellenbosch, said water hyacinth spread very quickly and crowded out other plant life in freshwater lakes and rivers.

"It's a major freshwater problem. It grows rapidly but can be removed by weeding."



**SENSITIVE . . .** The timeless beauty of Kosi Bay still faces the threat of oil pollution. The ragged lines in the photographs are fish traps. The local population is dependent on catches from the area.

# Oil patches lying close to Kosi Bay

56 18/5/92  
CT

## Threat to Natal coast lingers

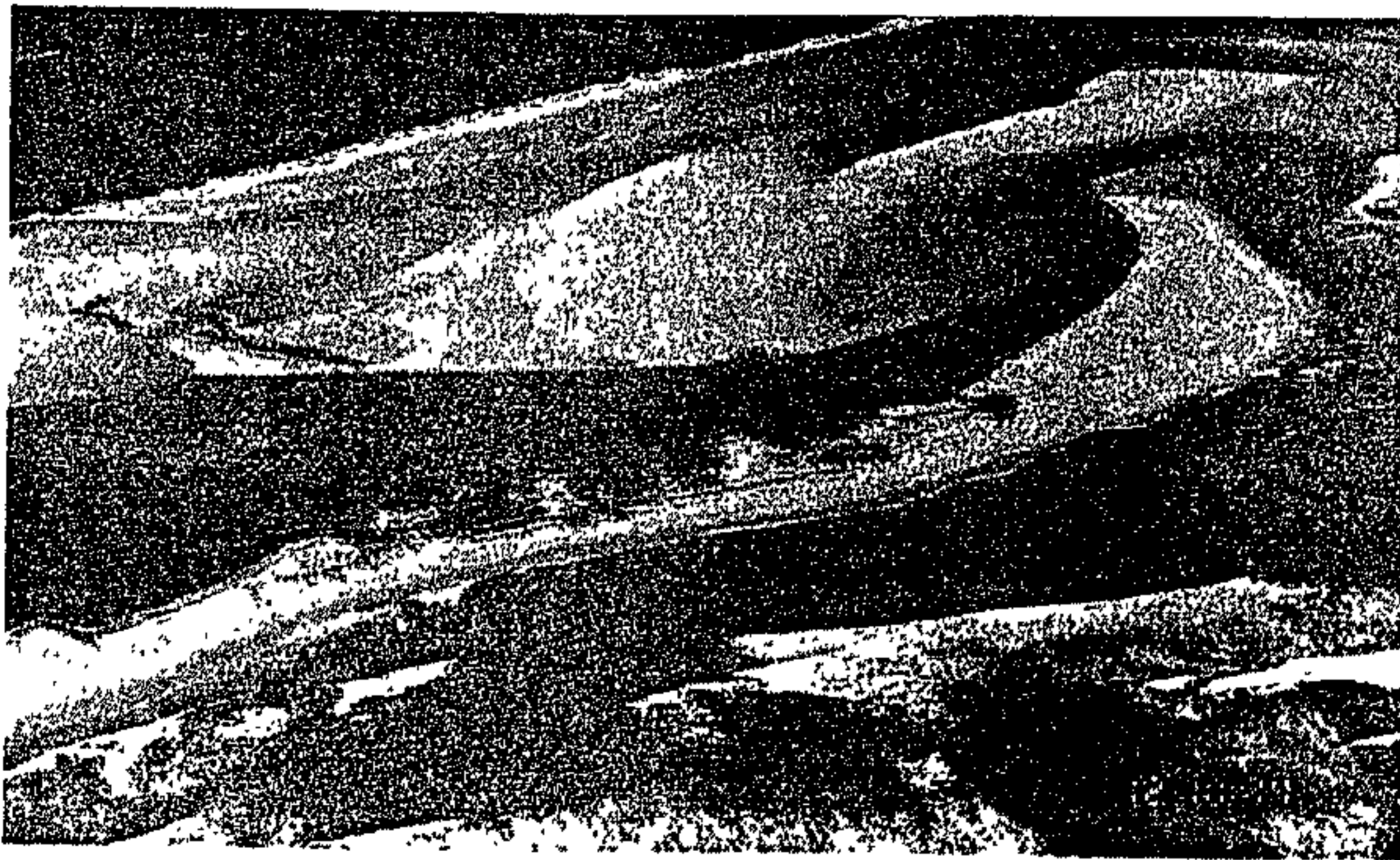
Staff Reporter

THE threat of pollution from the Katina P oil spill to the Natal coast has not receded, with patches lying just two sea miles offshore.

According to Mr Anton Moldan, spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs' pollution division, large patches of oil were yesterday sighted lying between two and 18 sea miles off Kosi Bay. "Yesterday they were not being blown landwards, but we will have to check again today," he said last night.

Mr Moldan said it was difficult to predict which way the patches would move, but it was unlikely that it would affect the entire eastern coastline.

The Katina P spilt 3 000 tons of heavy oil in the Mozambique channel last month after breaking up and sinking during a salvage attempt.



**BOOMS . . .** One of the 25m booms stretched across the mouth of Kosi Bay to fend off oil patches from the Katina P.

Mozambican authorities have described the pollution in that country as the worst environmental disaster ever.

As the oil moved southward in huge kilometres-long patches, South African authorities placed booms across the Kosi Bay mouth and the St Lucia estuary to save the ecologically-sensitive areas from the pollution threat.

Last week patches of the oil hovered just outside Kosi Bay and Sodwana, gathering against sandbanks and containment booms at Kosi Bay.

Troops were also called in to assist if northern Natal beaches were heavily polluted.

While authorities believe the main slick — containing about 13 000 tons — has been washed out to deep sea, large patches measuring between 20km and 40km in length could be off the coast.

Meanwhile, the Department of Environment Affairs says it is still calculating the cost of cleaning up pollution from the oil spill, but does not anticipate any problems in recovering money from the ship's insurers.

Mr Moldan said the costs were unlikely to exceed R1 million

He said expenses involved in the clean-up operation included transporting personnel and equipment to the affected areas.

Natal Parks Board spokesman Mr Geoff Gaisford said the costs incurred by the board were "considerable" and would be forwarded to the insurers once the final account had been calculated.

"If we had to pay for the clean-up ourselves it would buckle our budget completely."

Monday 19/5/92 (56)

## Bank advises on environment control

WASHINGTON — The World Bank said on Sunday that using trade barriers as a weapon to force countries to modify practices that damaged the environment probably caused more problems than it solved.

In its annual World Development Report, the bank said there were more direct ways to combat deforestation, soil erosion, use of pesticides and industrial pollution.

"Liberalised trade fosters greater efficiency and higher productivity and may actually reduce pollution by encouraging the growth of less polluting industries and the adoption and diffusion of cleaner technologies," the report said.

Developing countries have accused richer countries of restricting imports that

compete with their own industries by suggesting the products do not adhere to certain environmental standards. The bank says the developing countries have a case.

It said when countries used trade policy to impose environmental standards, they effectively protected domestic producers from foreign competition.

The bank report dismissed the idea that some countries, by lowering their environmental standards, provided so-called pollution havens.

It said since it was cheaper for multinational corporations to use the same technologies as they did in industrial countries, they could be a potent source of environmental improvement. — Sapa-Reuter.

# Mayor shocked by filth in Langa — calls for <sup>(56)</sup> drastic clean-up action

AG 19/5/92

**VUSI KAMA**  
Staff Reporter

THE filth in Langa, with its overgrown cemeteries, was appalling and drastic clean-up action was needed, said the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde.

During a visit to the township yesterday, Mr Van der Velde pledged to talk to authorities responsible for the graveyards about the urgency of clearing them.

"The graveyards are really appalling," he said. "The dense shrubs and trees make it unsafe for people, especially women, to visit the graves.

"It is also important to show respect for the dead. We must help keep this place clean."

He was in the township for the beginning of the Langa Clean-Up Campaign, initiated by residents, the Fairest Cape Association and health organisations.

The event was attended by about

1 000 children, teachers and residents who took part in the clean-up campaign.

Mr Van der Velde called on residents to get involved in cleaning their environment.

He said 120 rubbish bins would be distributed in the township to help residents.

Mr Van der Velde said he would motivate funds to upgrade the food and meat stalls on the streets, which were a health risk.

He also visited hostels and noted the "health risk" there.

He said he was pleased with the "incredible" improvement in some of the hostels since his visit last month.

He said he was excited about involving children, adding: "Those children will in future make sure that their immediate environment is clean. Involving children in such projects is an investment for the whole community."

# Berg River plan slammed and impact study urged <sup>5b</sup>

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A PROPER environmental impact assessment must precede any further development of the Berg River in Paarl and residents must be drawn into the planning process, conservationists have told the municipality.

Their warning follows deep concern about work on a R4,2 million project to develop the river around the Market Street bridge for recreation purposes, and to stabilise the banks.

The proposal, scheduled for completion in 1995, includes concrete embankments; walking, cycling and jogging tracks; deepening the river to a uniform depth; a new weir; a slalom course for canoeists; a new footbridge; and, an island restaurant.

Contractors have been working since last year on the R1,4 million first phase, scouring a uniformly deep 1 300m channel upstream from the Market Street Bridge and building a 1 050m concrete walkway on the western bank.

They are scheduled to finish next month.

Mr L. Raymond, chairman of the Simon van der Stel Foundation's Drakenstein branch, queried the absence of an impact assessment and the lack of public involvement.

"Exciting times are upon us, but river developments — like breathtaking flying displays — cannot be accomplished without adequate planning," he warned in a letter to the local Paarl Post newspaper.

The Wildlife Society told Paarl town clerk Mr Hennie Liebenberg it had had several complaints, particularly about the lack of an impact as-

assessment, and asked how the "very costly" project would be funded.

"The amount appears to be no secret, but people are querying how it can be justified," the society's conservation ecologist Mr Andy Gubb told Mr Liebenberg in a letter.

Members of the Bird Club were upset because a recent request to fence the Paarl sewerage works — an important bird area — at a modest cost had been rejected, ostensibly because the municipality could not afford it, he added.

Mr Gubb subsequently met Mr Liebenberg, other municipal officials and representatives of the consulting engineers to discuss the issue.

He was told the municipality's ecological consultant, landscape architect Professor Willem van Riet, had informed the engineers an impact assessment was only required after phase one — "and I just don't see the sense of that", Mr Gubb said.

The river had a long history of near-canalisation with the sides constantly having been built up, and it was clear the municipality was trying to develop a recreational amenity of which the town could be proud, Mr Gubb said.

"But they made the decision without involving the public — we had a lot of discussion on how to inform people."

He also wanted the municipality to leave the east bank undeveloped.

"They said they could see some of the points and these would have to be discussed in depth," he reported.

● Paarl municipality has been asked to comment.

*Hansard*  
 †The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

- (1) No, but a document which deals with the involvement of local authorities in the establishment and maintenance of schools did in fact serve before the Council for the Co-ordination of Local Government Affairs on 27 March 1992. The Council decided to appoint a committee, including representatives of education departments, to advise it in this regard.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

**Disappearance of certain person**

\*3. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether an investigation has been conducted into the disappearance of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the circumstances surrounding this person's disappearance and (b) what is his name;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B610E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) Yes. The investigation by the South African Police is still continuing.
- (a) Evidence regarding the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Mr Sono is privileged and the particular Attorney-General is not prepared to disclose the evidence.
- (b) Lolo Sono.
- (2) No.

Mr L FUCHS. Mr Chairman, arising from the answer of the hon the Minister, the question I have asked has absolutely nothing to do with the present charges against Mrs Winnie Mandela. I would like to know from the hon the Minister on what basis he suggests that the evidence is privileged.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not know whether the hon member is still practising, but I assume he has been away from his practice for some time, otherwise he would not have asked the question. [Interjections.] I would like to refer him to Van Niekerk, and I shall be translating as

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

*Hansard*  
 The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, is the hon member suggesting that I should be his messenger or is he asking me because he is afraid of the hon the Minister of Law and Order? What is the purpose of his request? (252)

**Limiting of private practice: legislation**

\*4. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

Whether she intends introducing legislation limiting private practice for full-time hospital specialists; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the position in this regard at present; if so, (i) when is it anticipated that such legislation will be introduced and (ii) what matters will be provided for in it?

B611E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- No,
- (a) the Public Service Act, 1984 (Act 111 of 1984), limits it sufficiently and
- (b) measures have already been announced which enable registered medical practitioners, dentists and medical/dental specialists in the Public Service to participate in limited private practice;
- (i) and (ii) fall away.

**The State vs Chilli: Winnie Mandela**

\*5. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether, with reference to a statement placed on record during the trial in the matter of *The State vs Chilli*, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, he intends to (a) investigate and (b) charge (i) Mrs Winnie Mandela and/or (ii) any other persons or political organizations involved; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B613E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) (a) (i) and (ii)  
 The Attorney-General concerned has already requested the South

*Hansard*  
 African Police to investigate the allegations in the statement and report to him.

- (b) (i) and (ii)

The investigation concerning the allegations has not yet been completed. As soon as the investigation is completed, all relevant evidence will be submitted to the Attorney-General for his decision

- (2) No.

**Harmful chemicals: Kommetjie**

\*6. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of National Health:†

- (1) Whether her Department has taken or is going to take any steps with regard to the harmful chemicals recently washed ashore on the beach at Kommetjie; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;
- (2) whether her Department has inquired into the origin of the chemicals concerned; if not, why not; if so, with what result;
- (3) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

B621E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) Yes,
- (a) the Western Cape Regional Services Council was contacted in connection with the collection and disposal of the containers, and enquiries were made as to the origin thereof and
- (b) immediately after news of the washing up of the containers was received;
- (2) yes, the chemicals are used for the fumigation of grain and most likely originate from a ship transporting maize. The Maize Board has been requested to ask via its overseas suppliers that crew members exercise more care;
- (3) no.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



# Odorous assault has Reef in its clutches

STAR 20/5/92

IT USED to plague the east. Now the west of Johannesburg is also suffering from bad smells, watering eyes, biliousness, wheezing and generally assaulted senses.

On Tuesday last week Hilton Hamann of Greenhills in Randfontein called The Star. There was a ghastly smell of gas that was burning his lungs and throat and making his eyes water.

His wife Joy was suffering the same symptoms, and later in the day started vomiting.

A local creche had smelt the odour, but it had passed by mid-morning and the Randfontein health department, while concerned, could not trace the smell.

Industries in the area, which include mines, a petrol refinery and a milling company, denied they were the culprits.

On Friday, Dawn Hollander called from Florida. There was a disgusting smell in the area, she said. Her entire family felt bilious and their throats were tight.

"You can't tell me this is healthy," she said.

Roodepoort health department said that that particular rotten-egg smell, which had plagued Florida, Weltevreden Park and Delarey before, was thought to come from Secunda or Sasol.

And the smells in the

Winter is upon us. With it comes the low inversion layer over the highveld, trapping smoke and making people feel sick. The onslaught of smells has already begun, writes JULIENNE DU TOIT.

east are continuing.

At a meeting in Germiston on Thursday about 20 people, fed up with suffering from asthma and shutting their windows tightly to block out smells, evinced blank disbelief on being told that tests had shown no high concentrations of anything toxic in the air.

The company Eco-Tox carried out tests in the rather posh area of Klippoortje, where the smells seem worse than most places. It found nothing untoward in the summer months of December 1990 to March 1991 or the winter months of May to July last year.

Germiston department of health head Joe Harmse stressed, however, that this was a pilot study and an in-depth one would follow.

Lionel Rowley of Klippoortje said he had suffered severe allergic reactions ever since he moved to Germiston

about 10 years ago.

Germiston's town clerk said at the meeting he had been approached by people who, having moved to Germiston, suddenly developed asthmatic symptoms.

And former Germiston mayor Kelly Morris said: "Germiston has always had a smell. But I am sometimes woken up by smells of plastic and varnish. These are new smells. We live in expensive houses, on large grounds, and we have to close all our windows to stop the smell seeping in. We appeal to industries to stop this."

Dr Petro Terblanche of the CSIR, who is involved in the Airchem study on the East Rand, said particulate matter was often the culprit.

It overloaded the body's defence system, making people susceptible to infection. Particulate matter was associated with chronic bronchitis, wheezing, asthma, increased phlegm production and respiratory tract irritation.

The sulphur dioxide emitted by power stations and in townships from coal-burning turned into acid rain in the wet season. But in winter the dry acid remained airborne and was inhaled. It ate away at steel fences, but not much was known of its effects on humans, said Dr Terblanche. □

**Ozone first for SA** (5b)

PRETORIA. — South Africa has become the first African country to submit acceptance of the UN's amended Montreal Protocol for the protection of the ozone layer.

Reports by Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent, Sapa-Reuters-AP and UPI

CT 20/5/92

# New plan for objectors to military duty

ARC 21/5/92

**MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Political Correspondent

POLITICAL objectors to military service could be classified as conscientious objectors and dodge the call-up once the new Defence Amendment Bill becomes law — but only if they meet conditions set out in the new, far-reaching draft legislation.

Successful objectors will have to do 1 087 days' community service

The Bill, the result of a detailed review of the 35-year-old Defence Act and a fresh look by the SADF at calls for a community service option for objectors, provides for bona fide objectors to refuse military service not only on religious grounds, but

also on moral, and ethical grounds

A newly-constituted Board of Conscientious Objection (replacing the Board for Religious Objection) will judge each application against criteria set out in the Bill

The applicant must show that:

- His "qualms of conscience" are moral, ethical or religious in nature
- His conscience is sincere and "plays a profound and decisive role in his life"
- His conscience does not permit him conduct or support for conduct which is conflict with his reasons or grounds for objection
- He condemns crime and the pursuit or furtherance of violence or anarchy in or against any community

● That "disobedience to his conscience would be ruinous to his spirit"

Speaking at a briefing on the Bill yesterday, the SADF's chief director of manpower development, Rear-Admiral Ray Eberlein, acknowledged that even political objectors "will be able to make a claim for objection" in terms of the new law.

But he added, "Whether they would be classified by the board would depend on whether they met the criteria."

He said that while theologians dominated the present board, the new one would be changed "to enable it to examine the new concept with more expertise".

# I'm guilty, says ex-SADF major

ARC 21/5/92

**The Argus Foreign Service**

CONNECTICUT. — Former SADF Major Marius Meiring pleaded guilty in court here to a charge of making false statements to US Customs agents as part of a smuggling operation involving rhinoceros horns, Soviet automatic rifles and endangered species parts.

With his guilty plea, Mr Meiring, 44, described by prosecutors as a former No 2 man in the South African Army in Namibia, gained a reduction in the charges against him.

Mr Meiring, who was extradited to the United States and arrived in New York last Saturday in handcuffs and leg-irons, also won a promise from US prosecutors to drop criminal charges against his wife, Patricia, 37, after his sentencing.

A member of the SADF Special Forces stationed in Windhoek in the 1980s, Mr Meiring faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250 000 (R702 000) fine.

He will be sentenced on July 16.

A US legal official said Mr Meiring expected to go to prison

Mr Meiring, wearing a grey suit, tie, white socks and green

leather shoes, declined to comment when approached by reporters.

"I'm a bit busy at the moment and there won't be any comments," he said as he and his US-appointed attorney left the courtroom.

The case of the Meirings and Mr John Lukman, a Connecticut man who was the leader of a smuggling ring in which the South Africans were involved in 1988, has gained wide attention in South Africa and in the world wildlife conservation community

Mr Lukman, a would-be mercenary and a friend of ex-Rhodesian Prime Minister Mr Ian Smith, pleaded guilty to smuggling charges in 1989

Wildlife conservationists in South Africa and the United States say there is widespread corruption among the SADF and government officials in Southern Africa.

Some have claimed that rebel armies fighting in Angola and Mozambique were slaughtering elephants and rhinos to finance their wars, with the complicity of the South African Army.

"It was part of a massive conspiracy right to the top generals of the South African Defence

Force," said Mr Craig Van Note, executive vice-president of Monitor, a coalition of 35 conservation, environmental and animal welfare groups in Washington DC.

"Mr Meiring got caught up in it because of his own indiscretions."

US prosecutors said in a published statement on the eve of Mr Meiring's arrival in New York that the former officer is "alleged to have used his official capacity as the second-highest ranking South African Defence Force officer in Namibia to facilitate the acquisition and transportation of protected wild life, automatic weapons and hand grenades"

Scores of horns from the endangered black rhinoceros were said to have been buried in the Caprivi Strip, in north-east Namibia, and across the Angolan border, according to statements attributed to Mr Lukman in court documents.

South African military vehicles were used to transport horns from Angola to Namibia, prosecutors said

Mr Lukman also said rhinos were being killed by South African troops in Angola, according to a court affidavit submitted by a US Fish and Wildlife Service agent, Mr Richard Moulton.

Mercedes

# Pinelands pong still untraced

**DALE KNEEN**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

A **RETIRED** businessman plans to cause a big stink about the pong in Pinelands.

Fed up with the constant bad smells in the suburb, Mr Victor Broad is to ask the Minister of Environment Affairs to clear the air.

Mr Broad said "the most disgusting smells" had made his life "unbearable" since he moved to the suburb from Durban last year.

"Some days we can smell it for a few hours and sometimes it lasts for days," he said.

The smell was described by Mr Broad as "worse than an open latrine" and his wife Audrey said "it could be hooves being boiled at the abattoir".

The nasty niff wafts into the Pinelands municipal area over the railway line from Ndabeni industrial area.

"I can't stand it any more. Life is simply not worth living here. Goodness alone knows what it must be like in Maitland," said Mr Broad.

"This would never happen in any other civilised country. It's just not good enough.

"People have been complaining for years but nothing seems to have been done about it."

Cape Town medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said several people had complained to the city council about the smell yesterday.

Field officers had been



Picture: HANNES THIART, Weekend Argus

□ **NASTY NIFF:** A blocked nose is better than smelling the air in Pinelands for Mr Victor Broad, who has been telephoning the city council to try to stop the pong.

dispatched to investigate what was causing the smell but they had not yet determined the source.

"The weather may have had something to do with it.

"It's possible that the effluvium from the industrial area has been trapped by blocked drains.

"We will also make sure that industry in the area is not doing anything they shouldn't be doing."

Dr Popkiss said the city council's investigation would probably take a few days. Things should be a little fresher in Pinelands soon.

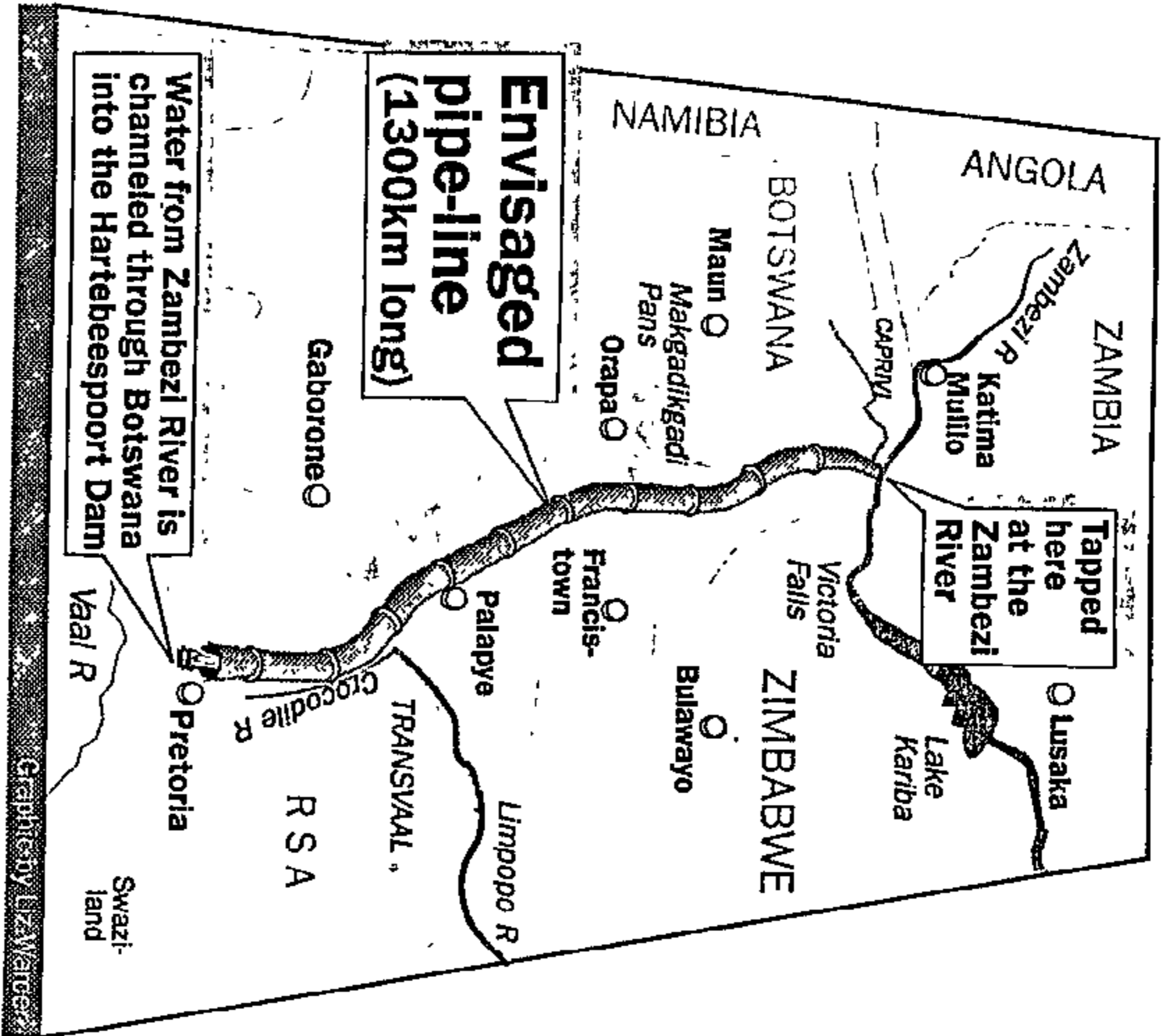
56 ARG

# Zambezi water could do the trick

Star 21/5/92

Water, water everywhere — except in South Africa by the year 2025... HELEN GRANGE looks at how much water we have left, and where we'll get it from when the taps run dry.

56



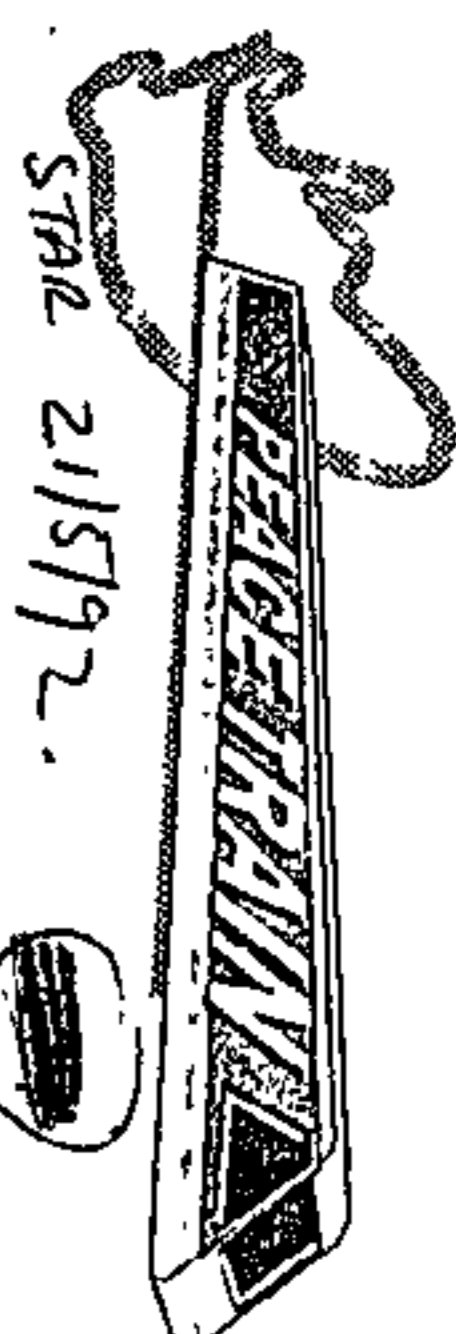
The water will be conveyed through eastern Botswana — using lowland contours so that gravity can play its role. Some pumping stations will have to be built en route but most pumping will take place in the last section, in the Transvaal. The water will flow into the Hartheespoort Dam, constantly topping it up, although this is still being debated. Some feel the dam is too polluted and the

Bank and International Monetary Fund for feasibility studies to be conducted. A reply is being awaited. Hydrolics consultant Professor Des Middley, who wrote a paper on the problem at the University of the Witwatersrand, forecasts that by the year 2025 we will definitely need to import water — sooner if the population grows quickly and industry expands. There is much to be done before the Zambezi project can be transformed from fiction into reality. South Africa's sagging economy is the biggest hindrance, with the Government struggling to cobble together enough funds for immediate social problems, never mind those that remain academic until the year 2025. South Africa would first have to get permission from the "basin states" (countries in which the Zambezi flows — Angola, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) before it could go ahead with the scheme. Apart from the expense of building the necessary aqueduct and pumping stations, the "basin states" would be receiving royalties and compensation for the use of the river. Long years of negotiations go into such schemes, and the experts warn: "Preparations for our future water needs, even if these needs are realised only half a century from today, can never start early enough." Northern water sources closer to home have been examined in the past, but all proved unviable. Greedy eyes were once on Northern Botswana's Okavango swamps. However, environmental jobs quickly brought home the horror of destroying this beautiful and ecologically sensitive feature. If and when the Zambezi project comes about, washing away the anxieties of industrialists and residents on the Reef, there is still the question of how to provide fresh water to the western Cape. Although the consumption of water in South Africa has slowed down along with the decreased rate of industrialisation, there is much unnecessary wastage by the farming and mining industries. □

# The Peacemakers

## Bridge builder to the core

Much grassroots work is needed to set South Africa on the path to peace. MICHAEL SPARKS talks to Con Roux.



STAR 21/5/92

After spending much of his working life in construction, building bridges between groups in the community seems to follow on quite naturally for Con Roux. He became involved in working for peace after attending a prayer breakfast addressed by Dr Louw Alberts before the National Peace Accord became a reality. The two men spoke afterwards about what he could do, something which fits in closely with his philosophy of life as someone who cannot watch from the sidelines. "All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing," Mr Roux said, evoking some of the strong Christian values which play a fundamental role in guiding his life. Mr Roux is currently co-chairman of the Boksburg/Benoni Local Dispute Resolution Committee, with final office-bearers to be decided at its next meeting in early June. The LDRC has managed to prevent numerous incidents of violence, but Mr Roux strongly believes there should be a permanent office where people can walk in to discuss problems or incidents of violence. The office would also aim to educate people about the role of the dispute resolution committees. Mr Roux said the committees where the violence took place tended to be unaware of the committees and their role. It was something he hoped to change in the near future. He added that the business community could fund an administrator who could go to schools and educate the younger generation about the peace process.

Con Roux... quest for peace. Picture: George Mashmini

Mr Roux, a lawyer by training, hopes the committee will create "a climate of honesty and trust to the extent where people from various groups will be prepared to raise the issues which endanger peace." He added: "You can sense an enormous amount of hostility between the groups at some of these meetings. If we can provide a bridge to overcome that, then I believe we have been able to play a major role." For Con Roux, ending the violence is the country's most pressing problem, one that has to be achieved before solutions to other problems can be found. And he believes it can be achieved if groups such as churches and the business community regularly make themselves accountable to a forum where they report back on concrete action they have taken to bring about peace. "There are so many reasons why I wanted to get involved in bringing peace to this country. Not least of these is my seven-year-old daughter. Kirsten I want to try to make the world she lives in a little better," he explained. Photographs of Kirsten and examples of her artwork are displayed lovingly in her father's office. The company is based on the Christian values held by its leader, installed in him by his father, who retired as head of the company three months ago. The employee participation in the company has helped win it a National Productivity Council Gold Class Award three years ago, as well as maintaining a five-star safety rating for the past three years. That participation continues to the financial side, with 20 percent of the privately owned company's equity owned by its 600-strong workforce. □

# Awash with fears of the taps running dry

Water, water everywhere, except in South Africa by the mid.2000s ...

a Sowetan Correspondent looks at how much water we have left, and where we'll get it from when the taps run dry.



Sowetan Correspondent

**IT MAY take 12 years; it may take 50 years - but sooner or later the Witwatersrand Reef will run out of water. And if we want to avoid the day taps run dry, we'd better start making contingency plans now.**

Large parts of South Africa - namely the PWV and the Western Cape - are not well endowed with natural water resources, and although man's genius has taken care of the Reef's thirst by means of the multimillion rand Lesotho Highlands Water Project, there's simply not enough water to last through the next century.

The Lesotho water scheme, as Johannesburg's director of water, Mr Melvyn Watson, explained recently, does not provide new water. It simply short-circuits the Orange River by damming its headwaters and, by using self-generated electricity, pumps the water into the Vaal system.

So where do we find more of this life-giving stuff?

There are two preferred options - desalinating sea water and pumping it up to the dry areas at huge expense, or tapping into the virgin waters of the Zambezi river, which circles the outskirts of southwestern Zambia.

The latter would be the cheaper and more technically feasible op-

tion, agree experts in the field.

And the time is ripe, now that South Africa is re-kindling relations with its neighbours and seeking to establish strong economic co-operation throughout the Southern African region.

The idea is to tap the Zambezi river where it meets the borders of Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Its flow is steady enough here to be directly siphoned off into pipelines, preferably aqueducts, without a dam having to be built.

(Water canals lying on the ground have proved to be extremely disruptive to the environment. Animals frequently fall over them and their migratory patterns are interfered with.)

## Contours

The water will be piped through eastern Botswana - using lowland contours so gravity can play its role. Some pumping stations will have to be built en route but most pumping will take place in the last section in the Highveld.

The water will flow into the Hartbeespoort Dam, constantly topping it up, although this is still being debated. Some feel the dam is too polluted and the water should be used on arrival.

The pipeline would be 1 300km long and the scheme would cost about R7 billion, but it would provide between 600 million cu m and

4 000 million cu m of water yearly.

Botswana, an extremely dry country, would ideally also benefit from the scheme.

Although the need for new water in South Africa by the early 2000s was identified as early as 1958, it has taken this long for the envisaged Zambezi river master plan to get to its first formal stage - an application for finance from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for feasibility studies to be conducted.

A reply is being awaited.

Hydraulics consultant Professor Des Midgley, who wrote a paper on the problem and solution at the University of the Witwatersrand, forecasts that by the year 2040 we will definitely need to import water - sooner if the population grows quickly and industry expands.

## Brainchild

There is much to be done before the Zambezi river brainchild can be transformed from fiction into reality. South Africa's sagging economy is the biggest hindrance, with the Government struggling to cobble together enough funds for immediate social problems, never mind those that remain academic until the year 2040.

South Africa would first have to get permission from the "basin states" (countries in which the Zambezi flows - Angola, Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe) before it could go ahead with the scheme.

Apart from the expense of building the necessary aqueducts and pumping stations, the basin states would be receiving royalties and compensation for the use of the river. (Botswana would conceivably contribute towards financing, since that country would also be served.)

Long years of negotiations go

into such schemes, thus the experts' warning: "Preparations for our future water needs, even if these needs are realised only half a century from today, can never start early enough."

## Unworkable

Northern water sources closer to home have been examined in the past, but all proved unworkable. Greedy eyes were once on northern Botswana's Okavango swamps, into which one of the Zambezi's tributaries, the Chobe river, flows.

However, environmental lobbies quickly brought home the horror of destroying this beautiful and ecologically sensitive feature.

If and when the Zambezi river project comes about, washing away the anxieties of industrialists and residents on the Reef, there is still the question of how to provide fresh water to the Western Cape.

Because the region is close to the ocean, it could be feasible either to desalinate sea water or to import ice from the Antarctic, according to Midgley. A third option is to tap and pump water from the Orange river.

Although the consumption of water in South Africa has slowed down along with the decreased rate of industrialisation and population growth, there is much unnecessary wastage by the farming and mining industries.

There are still a number of coal-fired power stations which require huge amounts of water for cooling purposes. (These are only now beginning to be phased out. Eskom is annually generating more power with less water and leads the world with its "dry cooling" method).

Also, many farmers are not adept at water conservation, despite the ravaging droughts which afflict some of them every year.

# Pollution 'threat to patients'

56  
CT 21/5/92

Staff Reporter

UNACCEPTABLE levels of pollution in Cape Town posed a major threat to patients with respiratory complaints and led to a dramatic influx of people to city hospitals, medical experts said yesterday.

Air pollution guideline levels for nitrogen oxides were exceeded four times last month with photochemical smog occurring on one of those days, according to figures released by Cape Town City Council.

But although pollution played a major role in affecting people suffering from respiratory complaints, other factors also had to be taken into account, doctors said.

"Pollution affects people with respiratory problems and the numbers of people being treated in hospital increases dramatically in the winter months," said Professor E D Bateman, head of the Respiratory Clinic at

Groote Schuur Hospital.

Cape Town is notoriously bad for people with asthma, chronic bronchitis and other respiratory-related problems, but pollution in Cape Town appeared to be getting worse, Prof Bateman said.

The problems for sufferers of respiratory diseases were compounded by pollution from wood and coal fires and gas cooking, specially in low-lying areas like the Cape Flats, he said.

Professor James Joubert, head of Internal Medicine at Stellenbosch Medical School, said there was "no doubt that pollution was a health hazard in Cape Town and it appears to be getting worse".

But smoking posed a far bigger problem than pollution, he said.

Dr Bernard van der Wal, senior physician of the department of internal medicine at Tygerberg Hospital, said statistics showed that pollution in Cape Town was increasing.

Water supply  
3/21/92  
contaminated

CAPE TOWN — Medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss has warned the public against using the city's over-chlorinated water supply for baby foods.

The water supply became contaminated when chlorine seeped into the system through the chlorination plant in Blackheath.

Popkiss said the chlorine would be a strong irritant in drinking and washing water. The reading was 10 times the normal level in places.

56  
Assistant city engineer in charge of water services, John Saunders said the strong-smelling water could reach suburbs as far afield as Zeekoevlei.

Normal levels were expected within two days. However, people using the water should let it stand for a while to allow the chlorine to dissipate. — Sapa.





# Conservationists call for petrol spill probe

HENRI du PLESSIS and  
JOHN YELD

Staff Reporters

56

Mar 22/8/92

CONSERVATIONISTS have asked municipal officials to check possible ecological damage to the Milnerton lagoon after a petrol spill from the tanks of a Koeberg Road service station last night.

But damage appeared to be minimal after an inspection early today, according to Milnerton municipality spokesman Mr Trevor Hollis-Turner.

Fire and rescue teams from Cape Town and Milnerton were called to deal with the spill, and the surrounding stormwater drains — which end up in the lagoon — were repeatedly flushed to remove petrol and dangerous fumes.

The petrol, which Milnerton's

fire chief today said was probably less than last night's estimate of 2 000 litres, poured from an overflow manhole of the underground tanks of the Milnerton Service Station on the corner of Koeberg Road and Bosmansdam Road when the tanks were being filled.

The spillage kept rescue personnel and cleansing staff busy until the early hours.

Mr Hollis-Turner said a mixture of water and foam had been flushed through the stormwater system twice last night, followed by another flushing of clear water today.

The municipality's director of works had checked the lagoon today and found only minimal traces of petrol.

"There was a thin film on the water and this is dissipating," he said.

# Pay up to use Cape <sup>(56)</sup> mountains proposed

ARG 22/5/92

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

A PROPOSAL that people pay licence fees to use the Peninsula's mountains will be put to a committee looking at ways of raising funds for the management of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

Individuals and organisations will be asked soon to comment on proposals for funding and on possible restrictions on "unsuitable" recreational uses of the mountain.

This was disclosed yesterday at a Press briefing held after a meeting of the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment management advisory committee headed by Dr Douglas Hey.

It was the first time the committee had held such a briefing, which was called at the request of The Argus.

Dr Hey said the committee had four projects in the process of development — a rationalisation plan of ownership and control; an ecological master plan for the entire nature area; finding adequate funding for managing this area; and, and assessing recreational uses.

The protected natural area was managed by 10 local authorities, which was "a tremendous problem", Dr Hey said.

The committee had put rationalisation proposals to Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring. He had accepted these and was in the process of organising a top-level meeting to try to give effect to them, Dr Hey said.

The management advisory committee had been criticised for not having an overall ecological management plan for the protected area, and this was in the process of being drawn up, Dr Hey added.

A master plan was being co-ordinated by Mr Paul Britton of the Cape Town City Council parks and forests department.

Dr Hey said the lack of finance was "at the bottom of all the problems".

"We want to investigate how to get more adequate funding for the management of this priceless heritage."

He believed individual users of the mountain had also to contribute financially to its management and that a licence scheme was an option that should be considered.

A committee under the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce was being set up to make recommendations on funding options and citizens would be asked for suggestions.

A workshop or forum to discuss recreational activities associated with the mountain was also being organised, Dr Hey said.

Anybody with proposals could contact management advisory committee secretary Mrs Beatrice Willis at 483-3394.

# Petrol spill: 'No major damage <sup>(S)</sup> to lagoon' ET 23/5/92,

Staff Reporter

**THE petrol which spilled into the Milnerton lagoon has caused no major ecological damage, says the Town Administrator, Mr Trevor Hollis-Turner.**

Municipality personnel tested the lagoon's water several times yesterday and found only "minimal" traces of petrol.

On Thursday evening petrol poured from the tanks of the Milnerton Service Station on the corner of Koeberg and Bosmansdam roads into stormwater drains and underground pipes which lead into the lagoon.

Early yesterday morning rescue and cleansing personnel were still working at the scene.

The owner of the garage said inaccurate dip-stick readings had led staff to overfill tanks by 2 000 litres.

GREEN SCENE

# Mountain monstrosity (56) AUG 25/5/92 — or good conservation?

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

**BUILD** a narrow-gauge railway line around the lower slopes of Table Mountain from Kirstenbosch to Camps Bay and construct three tunnel-shafts to carry tourists to the summit.

That's the best way to ensure the mountain's conservation, argues ardent mountain-lover Mr Chris Walker.

Mr Walker, a Cape Town City Council employee and Mountain Club member, makes these startling proposals in a privately-produced pamphlet *Our Threatened Heritage*, intended to stimulate debate on the mountain's future.

And although his ideas are likely to draw a horrified reaction from some conservationists, others are taking similar proposals seriously, with commercial interests already understood to be looking at one possible project.

Mr Walker's proposals include:

- Expropriating the cableway company and re-selling it if the present management is unwilling to make the "required contribution".
- Making Signal Hill and Tafelberg Roads toll roads.
- Establishing three further access routes to the summit — preferably by tunnel-shafts at Kirstenbosch, Newlands Forest station and Rontree Estate in Camps Bay.
- Constructing the proposed cableway to the summit of Signal Hill.
- Running a narrow-gauge railway line from Kirstenbosch via Newlands, Rhodes Memorial, Devil's Peak, the front face of Table Mountain to Kloof Nek, with branch lines going to the top of Signal Hill and Kasteels Poort.
- Joining the upper stations from Kasteels Poort to Nursery Buttress with a narrow-gauge line via the two large dams on the summit.
- Joining all the top stations with hard-surfaced paths constructed to standards set by the management board.
- Building attractive restaurants at all stations, if required.

It was inevitable that Cape Town's ever-increasing population would mean more people using the mountain, and different needs and demands in the future would result in less public funding for conservation, Mr Walker said.

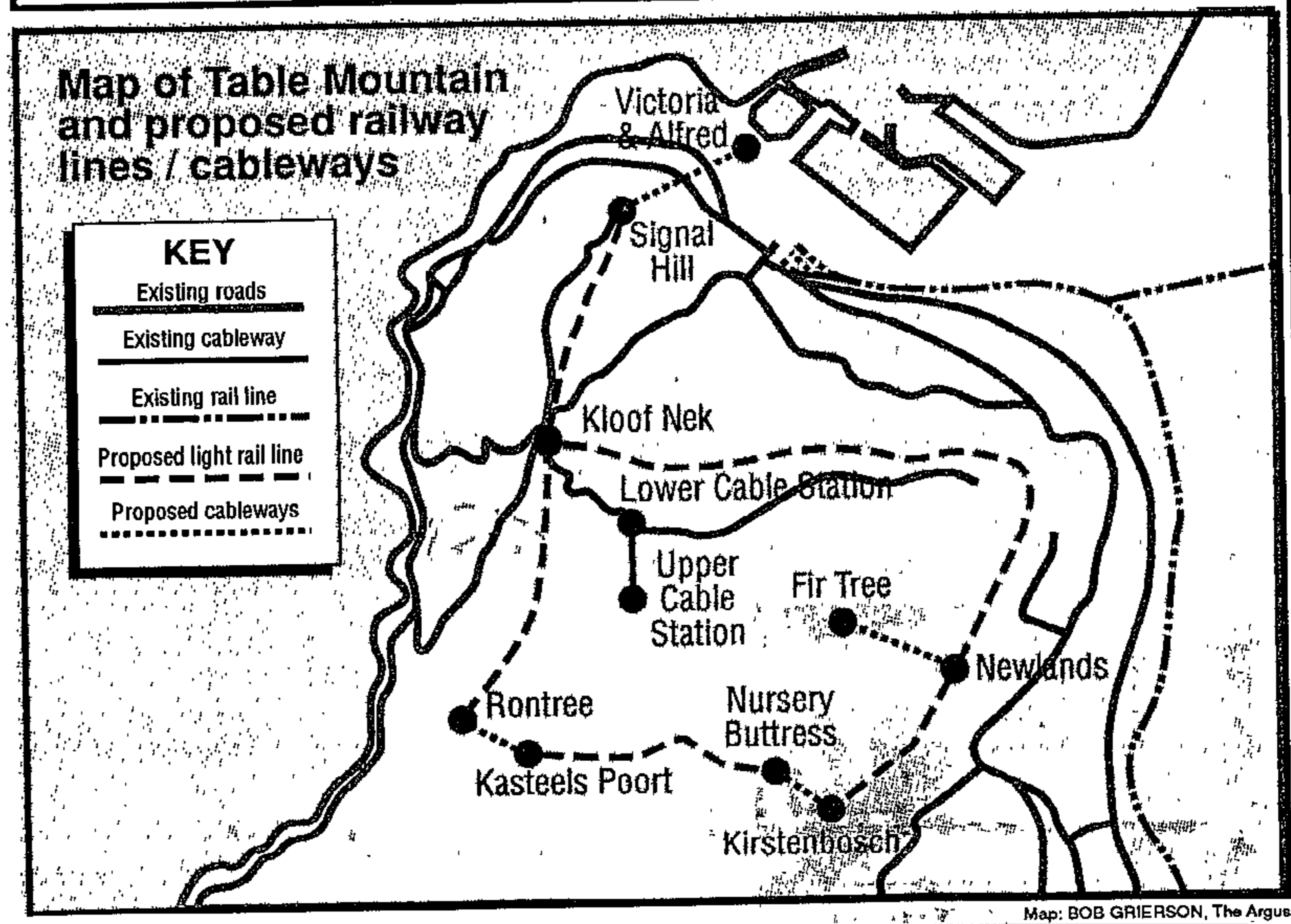
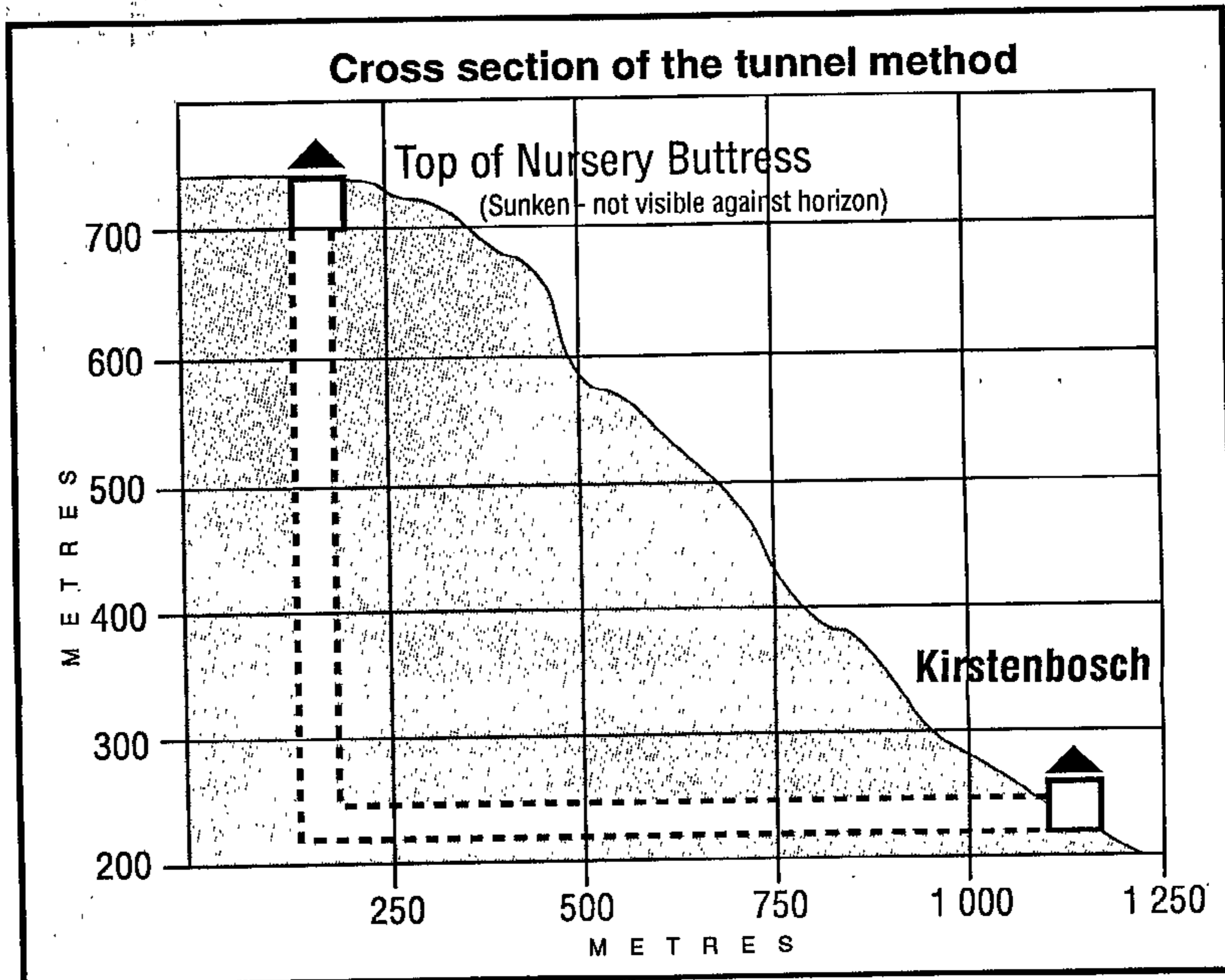
The only workable solution was to allow controlled commercialisation of the mountain, with private, profit-oriented ventures making "generous and sustainable" contributions to mountain conservation funds.

"The concept of commercialising the mountain revolves around the principle of sacrificing a little to manage successfully and conserve the whole.

"There would be some negative impact on the mountain, but I do maintain that if properly orchestrated, adequate funds would be forthcoming to manage successfully the whole Peninsula mountain chain, or at the very worst the whole complex from Kalk Bay to Signal Hill," Mr Walker concluded.

Ecologist Professor Eugene Moll of UCT's Botany Department — the author of several definitive reports on the mountain — said the idea of shaft access to the summit merited consideration.

"Let's look at it — I wouldn't reject it out-of-hand. Conservation has to start paying for itself and we can't expect funds to come out of rates and taxes any longer," he said.



Map: BOB GRIERSON, The Argus

# Kaolin mine site may have protected trees

(56) CT 25/9/92

Staff Reporter

A NATURE conservation official will visit the site of the proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek valley near Chapman's Peak this week to check a report that there are protected milkwood trees on the site.

Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of nature conservation at the Cape Provincial Administration, confirmed yesterday that mature milkwoods were protected by law. Some milkwood trees were over 500 years old.

"A permit is needed before milkwood trees can be moved or chopped down or damaged," he said. "We have not been approached for a such a permit", he said.

"The forestry department has the final say, but normally we would be approached first."

He said he had checked if milkwoods had been mentioned as among the trees on the site in the environmental impact report. They had not.

"Milkwood is a fairly distinctive tree to those who know it," he said.

If there were just a couple of young milkwoods on the site they could probably be moved somewhere else "without much of a hassle about it".

Dr Neethling said one had to be objective about such matters. The presence of a couple of young milkwoods would not normally be a good enough reason to stop a proposed R90-million development.

Young trees could be moved and replanted successfully, but old trees were likely to die. The younger the milkwood the easier it should be to get a permit to move it.

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aid. They will have to submit written justification for the amounts they

Planting and developing last season's drought-reduced maize crop necessitated tons at a

# Thumbs-up for Phinda lodge

1/10/93 25/5/92  
LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — The unanimous approval given by 1 120 Masterbond investors in Phinda to the agreement reached with The Conservation Corporation (Conscorp) frees the company to proceed with its plans to build a R9m luxury lodge at Phinda game reserve in northern Natal.

The luxury 44-bed Phinda Forest Lodge was expected to be completed by the first quarter of 1993, Conscorp MD Alan Bernstein said on the weekend.

Bernstein expressed delight at the outcome of the debenture holders' vote on Friday and in the fact that the Phinda development had been freed from the complexities and confusion associated with the Masterbond debacle.

In terms of the agreement, Phinda investors would receive the full amount of their R43,2m investments, less curator fees and the amount which would have to be sifted with unaccounted-for debenture holders.

The Masterbond curators had to fend off a last-minute court bid last week to pre-

vent the vote being taken. (56) (88) After negotiations, the application was withdrawn.

Bernstein said there was a need to gear up Conscorp.

About R10m-R15m would be raised during the next few years.

A 1:3 debt to equity ratio was considered appropriate.

Bernstein added that it had not yet been decided whether the source of the finance would be the commercial banks or the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).

The IDC recently received R600m for investment in tourism projects.

He said there was a significant requirement for infrastructural development of roads and airports in the areas in which Conscorp was active.

IDC finance could be used for these projects.

## PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

# YOU



# UCT to help bridge Berg River project

ARC 26/5/92

56

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

SPECIALIST consultants from the University of Cape Town have been called in to discuss the next phases of Paarl municipality's controversial development of the Berg River.

This was revealed by the municipality in response to criticism of its R4,2-million project which includes concrete embankments to stabilise the river upstream of the Market Street bridge and various recreational facilities.

Critics said the municipality had not consulted residents about the plan, nor had a proper environmental impact assessment been done.

Paarl town clerk Mr Hennie Liebenberg said consultants who had prepared the development's conceptual plan had contacted "various affected bodies", including the Department of Water Affairs, the Berg River Irrigation Board and the Cape Provincial Administration.

"The conceptual report with the plan dated July 1989 states that the impact on the environment of the preliminary proposals has been thoroughly considered. The proposals were assessed against the requirements of IEM (integrated environmental management)."

The municipality agreed that a more detailed assessment was needed for the second and subsequent phases of the development, Mr Liebenberg said.

Talks with UCT specialists had already taken place and Stellenbosch University researchers would assist by constructing a scale model to simulate the performance of the proposed development.

"Sincere citizens of Paarl have acquainted themselves with the conceptual plan and have given their enthusiastic support," Mr Liebenberg said.

● Spokeswoman Ms Marie Ashpole Department said the Water Affairs had not been involved in planning the development.

● An Environment Affairs spokesman also said the office had not been consulted.

● Cape Nature Conservation said it had not been asked to comment on the proposals at any stage.



ARG 26/5/92 (56)

# Earthlife comes out smoking over Rina's statement on air pollution

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa has inadequate air pollution controls, and Health and Population Development Minister Dr Rina Venter's recent statement on the issue was "misleading and irresponsible", says Earthlife Africa.

Dr Venter told parliament last week that air pollution was well under control and no place in the country needed to be concerned about air pollution levels except Soweto, where coal fires caused unacceptable conditions.

Mr Pierre Mukheiber, spokesman for the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa, said the group rejected Dr Venter's comments.

"Perhaps the Minister has been ill-informed to believe that air pollution in this country is under control," he said.

If South Africa was to have industrial growth, air pollution regulations would have to be upgraded and enforced.

Recent action by the Cape Town City Council — commissioning a study into brown haze over the Cape Flats and buying a new air pollution monitor — also contradicted Dr Venter, Mr Mukheiber said.

"We may be fooled into a false sense of security in Cape Town, but when the 'Cape Doctor' fails to blow, the smog is evident, especially around Milnerton and the Cape Flats area."

Earthlife Africa recognised the complexity of the air pollution problem and the need for a "concerted, broad-based" approach to solving it, Mr Mukheiber said.

It believes the priorities are:

- To introduce clean-burning coal technologies, renewable energy practices and a regionally co-ordinated energy conservation policy;
- The introduction of lead-free petrol and the rationalisation of urban transport systems; and
- Stringent and effective legislation based on the "polluter pays" principle.

# MP alleges 'ganging up' over dunes

AFCT 26/5/92  
By ANTHONY JOHNSON (56)  
Political Correspondent

BIG business and the government were ganging up against Fish Hoek voters in a bid to convert the environmentally sensitive Silvermine River Dunes area into a housing development, the MP for Wynberg, Mr Robin Carlisle, charged yesterday.

"The Silvermine River is one of our environmental gems and this new threat must be resisted by all Capetonians — and will be resisted by the Democratic Party," he told Parliament yesterday.

The Silvermine River Corridor — including the estuary and surrounding sand dunes — was declared a nature area 10 years ago but the owners of the 35 hectares had launched a "massive campaign" to have the area rezoned for housing.

"We dare not entrust the Silvermine River corridor — or any part of it — to developers whose first interest is a fast buck," Mr Carlisle said.

He said repeated attempts by the owners to develop the area had led to a mass meeting of Fish Hoek residents in 1986 which overwhelmingly rejected any change to the status of the area.

However, the Fish Hoek council had recently approved a rezoning application from developers — "a decision which clearly flies in the face of the wishes of the voters and ratepayers of Fish Hoek, and the Peninsula environmental community".

Mr Carlisle called on the Minister of Local Government, Mr Leon Wessels, and the Minister of the Environment, Mr Louis Pienaar, to refuse the necessary permission to go ahead with the development.

# Priority: securing life on Earth

STAR 27/5/92

56

THE show is expensive, the plot complicated and the cast huge, but the theme is deadly serious — safeguarding life on Earth.

More than 100 heads of state and government begin arriving in Rio de Janeiro soon for what organisers bill as the biggest summit in world history.

Their challenge: to change the way mankind lives before the Earth changes it for us.

Plenty of people around the world question the doomsday scenarios of disaster offered up over the years by some environmentalists, but more and more mainstream experts are now warning that action is needed.

A United Nations report this month, for example, said soaring pollution, indiscriminate logging, unchecked population growth and major climate changes threaten the world with drought, flooding, disease and

Environmentalists are gearing up for "the biggest summit in world history", to be held in Rio de Janeiro.

devastation.

Without controls, world population will double by the year 2030 and industrial output will need to quintuple just to meet the newcomers' needs. At the same time, more than 100 plant and animal species are being made extinct every day.

The June 3-14 Rio meeting — officially known as the UN Conference on Environment and Development — hopes to change all that.

Its answer is "sustainable development" — finding ways to make the world richer without wrecking its environment or exhausting natural resources.

Negotiators hope the concept will unite rich nations, who fret about damage to the environ-

ment, and poorer ones, who say development comes before conservation.

What it all will cost is an open question.

Maurice Strong, a Canadian oil millionaire who is secretary-general of the conference, has priced a global clean-up at hundreds of billions of dollars. But nobody believes the politicians in Rio will come up with anything like that much.

Diplomats say \$7 billion (R20 billion) to \$10 billion (R28 billion) a year of new resources for the developing world is more likely, though the exact amount will depend on how the conference goes.

Another \$40 billion (R112 billion) or so of existing resources

from the World Bank, the UN and individual countries' aid programmes will likely be re-labelled and counted as "green" money.

To back their pledges, world leaders are expected to sign five documents in Rio:

- A treaty to control emissions of so-called greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

- A treaty protecting the world's natural wealth and offering ways to share the benefits from biotechnology.

- A statement of intentions for managing the world's forests.

- The Rio Declaration, setting out the principles of the new relationship between people and nature.

- Agenda 21, a detailed action plan for implementing it.

"We will succeed because we must succeed," Mr Strong told a recent public meeting in Geneva. — Sapa-Reuter. □

# Report maps out future for platinum

B (copy) 27/5/92  
JONO WATERS

THE future of platinum lay in the manufacture of fuel cells which generated electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen to produce water, said a report in the latest issue of SA Mining.

The report said history had shown platinum production to be a cyclical industry which had moved through four stages — investment, jewellery, oil refining and catalytic converters. It was predicted the next stage would be the metal's use in fuel cells.

The cells had significant uses over more conventional methods of power generation. It did not produce environmentally offensive by-products

and had high electrical efficiency.

Fuel cells, however, had not had a commercial effect on power generation because of high capital costs, but the 1991 annual report of Northam Platinum said fuel cells could use more than 1-million ounces of platinum by the year 2000.

With SA platinum production standing at 2,8-million ounces out of a world supply of 3,7-million ounces, the potential for SA was huge, the report said.

The price had gradually recovered from its low of 331,50 an ounce in

August last year. Platinum was fixed in London yesterday afternoon at \$365, marginally down from Friday's close \$365,50.

The report said another factor which could lead to the recovery of platinum was the EC requirement that all cars be fitted with catalytic converters from January 1993.

Car catalysts containing platinum proved to be the most effective method of reducing emissions by converting the pollutants into harmless carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen, and their manufacture accounted for 1,5-million ounces of total platinum demand.

in the front bench here said we must change the Act. If this will help I am prepared to look at the matter, because I am concerned about the aged who are being chased out of their flats. [Interjections.] I am concerned about this. If it will help, the hon members are welcome to give me information and evidence which will enable us to review the Act.

\*I am not prepared to allow people to be thrown out and left on the streets while we try to build houses and some people become rich.

That is why it is not correct to say that we are giving in to pressure from the large concerns. It is not true. We want to look after the interests of the ordinary people and the poor people. If hon members can help me . . . [Interjections.] The hon member for Carletonville must keep quiet. What nonsense is he talking again now? [Interjections.] Excuse me, Sir, but that hon member is interrupting me again. He does not know what it is about. [Interjections.] I want to invite hon members to give me information. I undertake to investigate the matter if necessary, and if any amendment must be made, I shall submit it to the Cabinet. We shall then look into what we can do in relation to this matter.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Voluntary retirement by teachers: offer Education and Culture:†

- \*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†
  - (1) Whether his Department indicated earlier this year that some teachers could retire voluntarily on accelerated, adjusted pension; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) for how long does this offer apply;
  - (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B675E

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) In a joint media statement by the Minister of National Education and myself on 17 February 1992 it was announced that where it was up to now on grounds of personal circumstances not possible for teachers to retire prior to reaching the stipulated retirement age, measures are being taken to make it possible for teachers to retire earlier with adjusted pension benefits. The new benefit will be available to teaching personnel who have already reached the age of fifty years and who have completed at least ten years pensionable service. This matter is currently being handled by the Department of National Education. Further information will be made available at a later stage.

(b) Falls away.

(2) No.

†Mr A GERBER: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask whether he can give an indication to us as to when more particulars will be available in this regard.

†The MINISTER: I suggest that the hon member puts a question to the hon the Minister of National Education next week.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Protection against poisonous chemicals and metals

264. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Agriculture:†  
What steps is his Department taking to protect the population against the undue, accumulative intake of (a) pesticides, (b) fungicides, (c) iodine, (d) steroids, (e) antibiotics, (f) vermicides, (g) growth hormones and (h) other poisonous and dangerous chemicals and metals found in agricultural, meat and horticultural products for human consumption?

B629E

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

The Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) contains various provisions aimed at the efficient protection of the population against hazardous substances.

The Act requires that any person who applies to register a remedy must submit the following information:

— The results of sufficient trials to substantiate claims made for the product. Specialist scientists are called upon to evaluate such data, pass comments, and to make recommendations.

— In the case of crop protection agents designed to control insect and diseases on crops, trial data must be submitted to prove that such agents have no phytotoxic effects on the crop it is intended to protect.

— Results must be submitted to illustrate a breakdown curve of the active ingredient following its last application in order to ensure a safety period.

— The results of research and development trials that were undertaken to establish the likely ultimate fate of a compound after it had been introduced into the environment and the effects it may have on non-target organisms.

— A toxicological report on the active ingredient's likely effect on mammals and other vertebrates and invertebrates, especially regarding carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and possible side-effects on the offspring. It is expected that data shall also be submitted to illustrate the compound's likely impact on the environment, plant and animal life.

— A proposed user label that will inform the user regarding warnings, precautions, storage and disposal of the product and its original container.

— The afore-mentioned information is carefully evaluated with a view to registration and before an application is granted the following steps are also taken:

— Liaison with other Government departments, where applicable, as regards appli-

cations for registrations and collating the opinions of relevant specialists

— All applications for registration are discussed at INDAC—the Standing Inter-Departmental Committee for Safeguarding Man against Poisons—which consists of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, National Health and Population Development, Environmental Affairs, Water Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council and the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Pretoria.

— This committee advises the Registrar: Act 36 of 1947 on the desirability of the registration of all compounds. In this way the committee serves as a barrier to prevent toxic compounds from ending up in the people's food basket.

The following control measures, in terms of the Act, are further taken:

— Remedies shall not be contrary to the public interest. Continued use can be reviewed, or restricted, or even be withdrawn. For instance it can be mentioned that the use of synthetic growth hormones in livestock has been forbidden since 23 September 1983.

— Regulations were published in 1991 which prohibit the acquisition, disposal, sale or use of an agricultural or a stock remedy for a purpose or in a manner other than that specified on the label of a container or on such container.

— As part of its function to regulate Act 36 of 1947 the Directorate: Livestock Improvement and Agricultural Production Resources maintains an inspectorate. Members of this inspectorate regularly draw samples of all registered products which are then analysed to verify that they conform to declared standards. Any complaints lodged by producers are also investigated as to the abusive or indiscriminate use of remedies.

— Training to make persons aware of the responsible use of remedies is also receiving attention. For the past year the Department has been involved in the training of more than 800 staff members of co-operative societies and representatives

of agricultural and stock remedy marketing companies. At present training courses are being designed for the correct application of such remedies by end-users, especially for the application of hormone weedkillers and Group Ia agricultural remedies. The electronic media is also employed in this regard. A series of relevant programmes have already been televised in the programme, Agriforum.

56

The overall involvement of other bodies must be acknowledged. For instance, the Department of National Health and Population Development is responsible for monitoring residues in foodstuffs consumed locally by man. The Directorate: Plant and Quality Control monitor all export commodities. Likewise the Directorate: Meat Hygiene maintains a watch on the residues of agricultural and stock remedies found in meat.

**Number of persons attacked/robbed/murdered on farms**

271 Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many persons (a) were (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered on farms in South Africa in 1991 and (b) have been so (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered from 1 January 1992 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

B664E

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:**

- (a) (i) 327
- (ii) 239
- (iii) 66
- (b) (i) 148
- (ii) 112
- (iii) 26

21 May 1992

**NOTE:**

The figures in (a)(i) and (b)(i) also include cases of assault and rape and only apply to persons and workers in and around own houses

**Bombing of Cosatu House: alleged announcements**

272. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 210 on 5 May 1992 in regard to the bombings of certain premises, any further investigations have been carried out in this matter following the announcements allegedly made by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, to the effect that he had been involved in the bombing of Cosatu House; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the relevant details and (b) is the name of the person concerned?

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER**

B673E

Yes

- (a) The person was arrested on 29 April 1992. He also appeared in court on a charge of sabotage on the same day. The case was remanded until 3 June 1992.
- (b) Jacobus Johannes Christoffel Botha.

**Department of Development Aid: staff**

273. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

How many members of staff (a) were employed by the Department of Development Aid at the time of its dissolution on 31 March 1992, (b) to which Government Departments were they transferred and (c) how many of them were transferred to each such Department?

B674E

**The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:**

- (a) 4 057 as well as 4 703 workers from the South African Development Trust.
- (b) Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Justice
- Cape Provincial Administration
- Office of the Commission for Administration

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Manpower
- Department of National Education
- Natal Provincial Administration
- Department of Environment Affairs

Department of Education and Training	10	Department of Public Works	10
Department of Public Works		Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State	1 149
Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State		Department of Local Government and National Housing	5
Free State		Department of State Expenditure	40
Department of Local Government and National Housing		Department of Regional and Land Affairs	706
Department of State Expenditure		Transvaal Provincial Administration	871
Department of Regional and Land Affairs		Department of Transport	2
Transvaal Provincial Administration		Department of Water Affairs	38
Department of Transport		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 057</b>
Department of Water Affairs		Workers from the South African Development Trust transferred to—	
Department of Trade and Industry	2	Cape Provincial Administration	90
Department of Justice	17	Department of Agriculture	1 226
Cape Provincial Administration	90	Natal Provincial Administration	1 414
Office of the Commission for Administration		Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State	707
Administration	37	Transvaal Provincial Administration	1 176
Department of Agriculture	335	Education	1 003
Department of Manpower	37		
Department of National Education	1		
Natal Provincial Administration	703		
Department of Environment Affairs	10		
Department of Education and Training	4		

# What on Earth next?

Ⓛ ARG 27/5/92

IN the first flush of enthusiasm, it was billed as the "Mount Everest of All Summits", but some cynics are suggesting it could end up as little more than "Conference Hill".

"It" is the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Unced), more popularly known as the Earth Summit, which starts in Rio de Janeiro next week.

The summit and its alter ego — the Global Forum convention of some 2 000 non-government organisations (NGOs) which is running in parallel — are expected to attract an estimated 100-plus heads of state and some 30 000 delegates, observers, environmentalists, business leaders, farmers, indigenous people, journalists and assorted hangers-on to the Brazilian capital.

The summit was brought into being by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1989.

It was envisaged both as an assessment of the world's environmental progress since the formative Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment of 1972, and — more particularly — as the means to give effect to the recommendations of the Brundtland Commission of 1987, chaired by Norwegian prime minister Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland.

The commission's report *Our Common Future* ar-

## A summit to break the world cycle of poverty

Some of the planet's most pressing environmental problems will be come under the microscope as never before in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, next week. JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter of The Argus, who will be at the Earth Summit, sets the scene



gued that effective, sustainable development was the only way for poor nations to break the vicious cycle of economic poverty and associated environmental degradation.

The Earth Summit was to decide on strategies to counter-act world-wide environmental destruction and establish practical means by which countries could practise sustainable development and exploitation.

Such means included access to substantial new funds provided by the rich industrialised countries of the North.

Specific issues to be addressed included protection of the atmosphere; protection and management of land resources; conservation of biological diversity; promotion of environmentally-sound use of biotechnology; protection of the oceans, seas and coastal areas; pro-

tection of freshwater resources; and environmental-ly-sound management of toxic chemicals.

Maurice Strong, Unced's secretary-general, described its brief like this:

"The Earth Summit must establish a whole new basis for relations between rich and poor, North and South, including a concerted attack on poverty as a central priority for the 21st century. This is now as imperative in terms of our environmental security as it is on moral and humanitarian grounds."

It was an ambitious brief — probably hopelessly over-ambitious — and the four preparatory conferences for the summit were all bogged down in a welter of accusations and counter-accusations, demands and counter-demands, politick-

ing, bluffs, threats and stone-walling.

The centrepiece of the summit was to be a treaty on climate change, committing nations to fight global warming by restricting greenhouse-gas emissions and protecting carbon dioxide "sinks" such as natural forests.

But because of its severe economic implications for industry, there was strong opposition from the United States — particularly from President Bush in his election year.

In their turn, developing countries of the South demanded significant compensation for the loss of income which would result from their agreeing to reduce the exploitation of natural resources.

China and India had particular problems. Both have huge stocks of dirty coal which, if burnt to fuel their economic development pro-

grammes, could effectively nullify any new emission controls agreed elsewhere in the world.

An essential component of Unced was to be substantial new development aid. This would allow countries like India and China to acquire and install new technology to deal with problems like air pollution from dirty coal.

The United Nations target for official development aid is 0.7 percent of gross national product from each industrialised country. While most of them have resolved to pledge that amount, there is still no agreement on when individual nations will reach this target. To date, the average aid contribution is just 0.35 percent of GNP.

Problems like these have not been resolved in the build-up to the Earth Summit, and some commentators are deeply cynical about its prospects.

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EARTH SUMMIT '92

The Independent has this to say: "... (It) will prove to be nothing more than a public relations hoax, an undemocratic and meaningless assembly of diplomatic bureaucrats whose aim is to perpetuate their own professional interests.

"Equally pathetic are the cohorts from the non-government organisations, well-meaning do-gooders from the rich and privileged parts of the globe with no valid claim to represent anyone but themselves."

Others take a kinder view. Jonathan Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth and one of Europe's most respected commentators on environmental matters, says the Earth Summit has great potential for "rampant hypocrisy and pandemonium", but that he's also reasonably optimistic about its outcome.

"Not least because the summit actually comprises two events — twin peaks, as it were. What Unced may lack in terms of dynamism and unpredictability, the Global Forum will make up for," he wrote recently in BBC Wildlife.

"The Global Forum may well be seen in retrospect to mark the coming of age of both the environment and the development movements.

"Slowly but surely there is a consensus building about the real meaning of sustainable development, and the forum will provide a unique opportunity for NGOs from the North — many of whom still

define 'the environment' very narrowly — to see what 'the environment' really means from a Southern perspective.

"Activities on the twin peaks of the Earth Summit will, of course, run in parallel. But as we all applaud the final wind-up speeches, I wonder which will have been judged to have been the real Earth Summit?"

AP

**ENVIRONMENTAL SNAPSHOT**

**CHINA**

Environmental facts

POPULATION 1.13 billion

LAND square miles

Forest and woodlands 481 274

Deforestation (per year) 0

Protected areas 30 516

WATER Access to safe water 74%

HEALTH Access to health services 90%

GREENHOUSE Share of world emissions 7.8%

Source: The 1992 Information Please Environmental Almanac, United Nations Population Fund

smoked seedlings, left, shows good growth while seeds in the control tray have made little progress.

# Sunken Katina P may be source of new oil blobs <sup>(56)</sup>

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — More oil has washed up on Natal beaches and it is believed to have leaked from the sunken tanker Katina P which went down off Mozambique on April 26.

While no further oil has washed up on Zululand beaches since Saturday last week, some has appeared further south and samples have been taken and sent for tests to find out where it comes from.

Natal Parks Board spokesman Mr Geoff Gaisford said that there had been no more reports of oil on beaches up to Cape Vidal near the Mozambique border.

However, large blobs of oil have been found at Umdloti, north of Durban, while lesser amounts at Durban

and Port Shepstone have been taken for testing. *ARC 27/5/92*

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs confirmed that samples were taken from these beaches, but that the oil had not yet been linked to the Katina P.

The Natal Parks Board are monitoring the situation.

Mr Gaisford said that oil which did break through the containment boom protecting the mouth of Kosi Bay on Friday had been cleaned up.

At Banga Nek, which was the worst-hit section of the coast on Friday, most of the oil had since been removed and the clean-up there was expected to be completed soon.

Oil from the Katina P began polluting Zululand beaches about two weeks ago.

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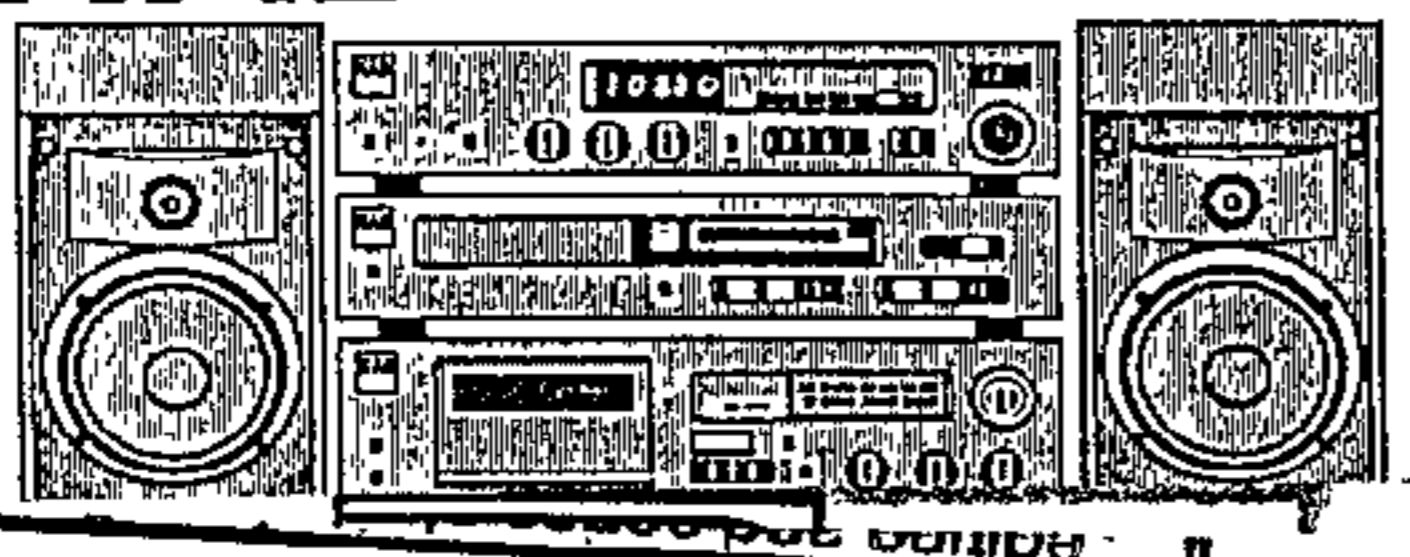
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**BEST PRICE AND BEST ADVICE!**

**NAD HI-FI SYSTEM**



## New heart hope

VANCOUVER. — Surgeons are testing an alternative to heart transplants. Muscle tissue is removed from a patient's back and attached to the heart. A pacemaker sends impulses to the back tissue.





## AIDS spending below target

Political Correspondent

THE Department of National Health did not spend all the money budgeted for its Aids programme for the 1991/1992 financial year, Minister of Health Dr Rina Venter said yesterday.

Dr Venter said a total of R12,9 million was budgeted for the programme but that only R10,3m was used.

However, Dr Venter added: "This is not the final expenditure as certain adjustments may still occur prior to the closure of the department's books by the end of June 1992." *21/5/92*

## Call to protect Hermanus area

Political Staff

THE National Party's environment spokesman, Mr Lampie Fick, yesterday challenged the government to use its powers in controlling development in the Hermanus area.

He said the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, should declare the area between Hermanus and De Kelders a limited development area and the area between the Hermanus to Stanford Road and the Klein River Mountain a controlled area. *21/5/92*

## Stander gang man in court

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### **SA ban comes under attack**

IT was scandalous that SA had been blocked from attending the Rio Earth Summit, Lampie Fick (NP Caledon) said yesterday.

Speaking during the Environment Affairs vote debate, he said he was disappointed that SA had not been allowed to attend officially. *Monday 27/5/92 (56)*

He also said SA would have to address the problem of violence urgently if it wanted to exploit the full potential of eco-tourism.

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EARTH SUMMIT '92

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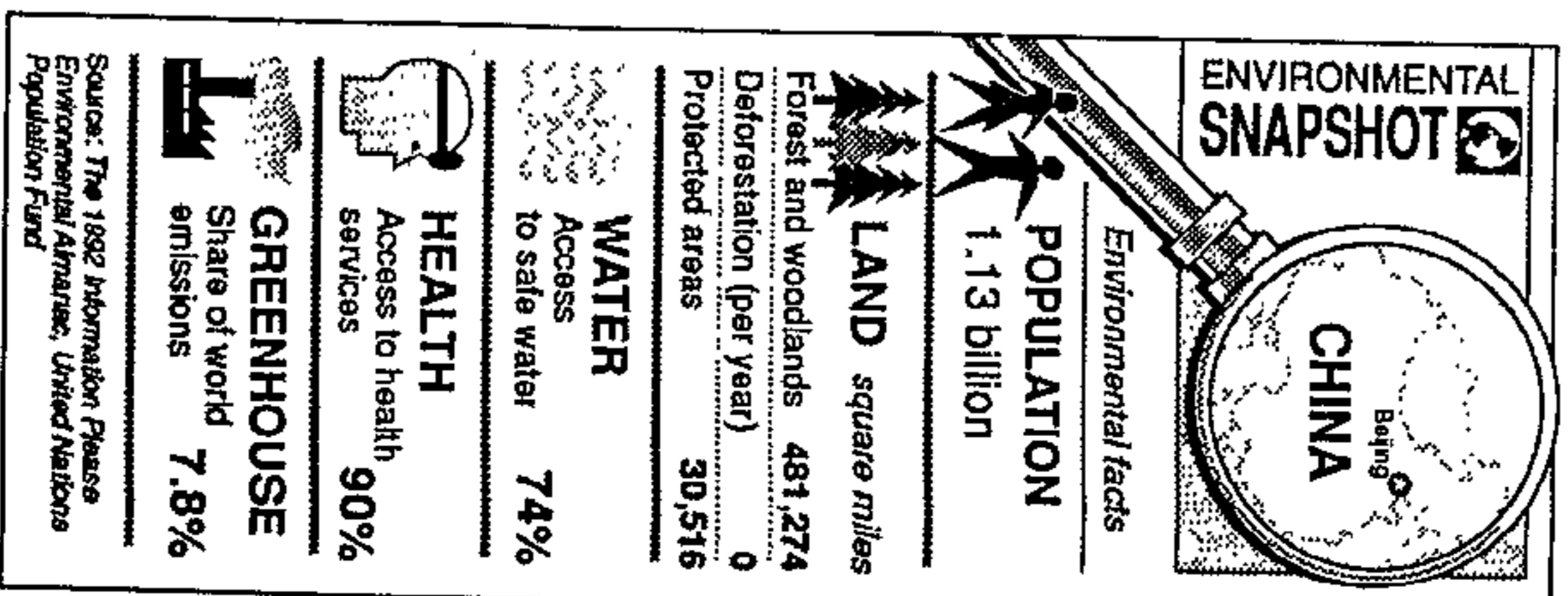
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AP

GAME RESERVES FM 29/5/92

## Limpopo megareserve (56)

The recent White Paper on Tourism is spawning a rash of new projects allied to the industry. Last week Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough announced the development of an extensive conservation area in the northern Transvaal. Essentially it calls for the joining of three blocks of land — possibly five if Botswana's Tuli Reserve and Zimbabwe's Tuli Circle are included — to form a game reserve of 180 000 ha.

Hard on the heels of the announcement comes a privately sponsored project, the Limpopo Valley Reserve, immediately west of the government-owned Vembe Nature Reserve, intended eventually to encompass a substantial area west of Messina and bounded to the north by the Limpopo River.

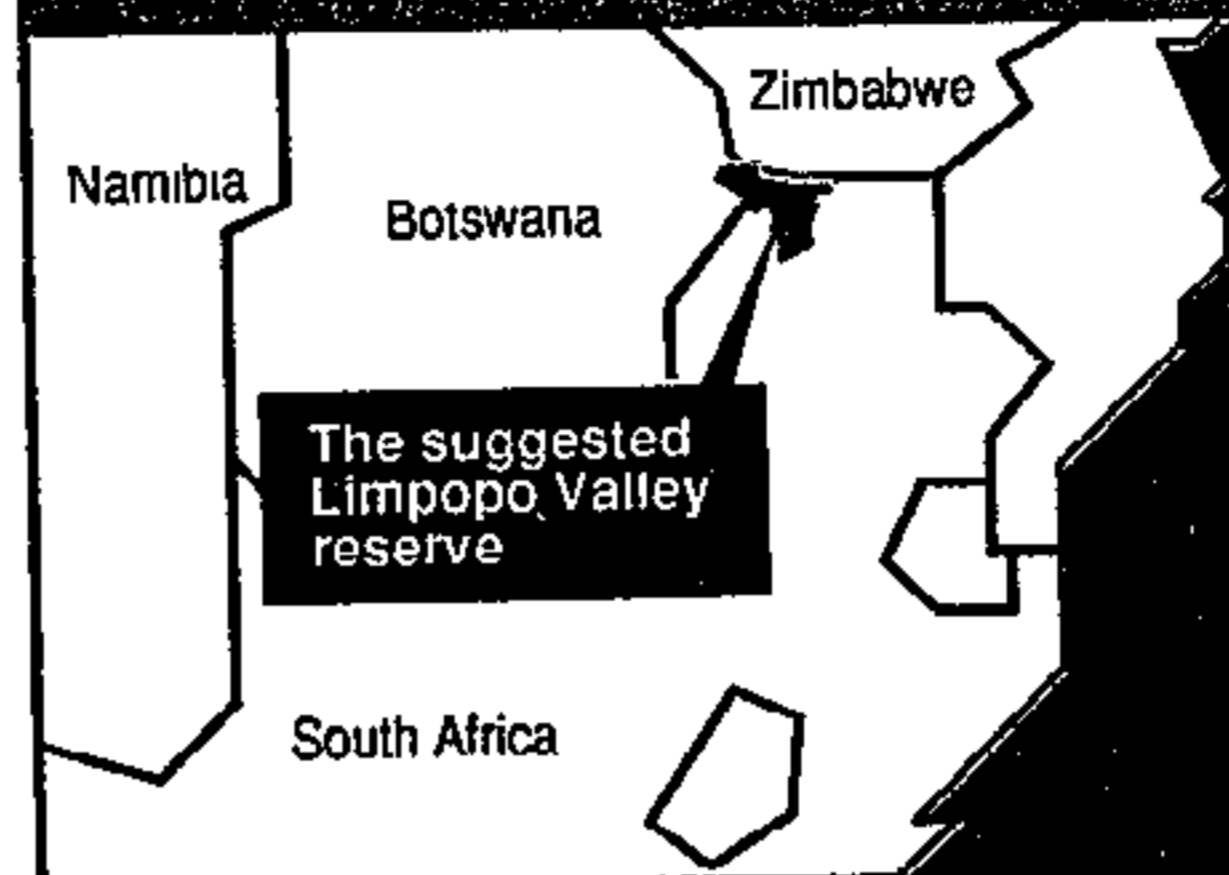
The project's sponsors are Hamish Gilfillan, a property broker linked to a large institution, and Murray Boustred, an independent project manager.

Through their company Bushveld Developments they are proposing as a first phase the acquisition of 10 000 ha of prime, riverine land, close to the confluence of the Shashe and Limpopo rivers. Options to purchase adjoining farms in the area are held by Bushveld Developments and the company is seeking R25m to cover the purchase and subsequent development costs.

The Limpopo Valley Reserve project lies immediately north of the recently announced Venetia Reserve which De Beers says it will develop in the vicinity of the Venetia diamond mine. The company has bought 20 000 ha "... with a view to creating a De Beers Limpopo Wildlife Reserve extending

FM 29/5/92 (56)

## Move over, Sabi Sand Proposed Northern Transvaal conservation area



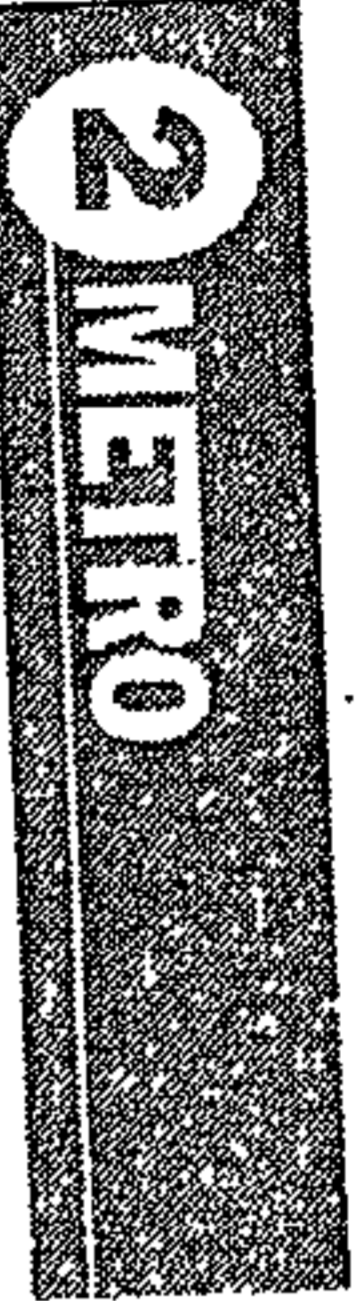
27 km northwards from the new mine to the Limpopo river."

Immediately east of the Bushveld Development's project lies the Vembe Nature Reserve. It is this reserve which the Transvaal administration wishes to enlarge as part of its greater conservancy area. If links can be achieved with De Beers to the south, the Vembe Reserve and the Tuli Reserve in Botswana to the north, the total land available as a wildlife conservancy area would be 180 000 ha.

Across the Limpopo River the Tuli Reserve, a Botswana wildlife area, is already under game pressure. There are an estimated 700 elephants in the region, a population density felt to be far too high. Removing the fence line on the SA border would enable a two-way migration of game.

However, the fences present difficulties. One is an animal cordon erected by the Veterinary Services department to protect SA from the dangers of importing contagious diseases such as foot-and-mouth. Another is the electrified security fence constructed by the military along the country's northern border to keep out people, rather than animals.

An alternative may be to remove the fences and re-erect them around the full conservancy area, much as has been done with the Kruger Park.



# Vaal air pollution exceeds limits

By Julienne du Toit (SL)

Air pollution levels in the Vaal Triangle are exceeding local and international limits.

In a study run by the Medical Research Council, industries and the Department of National Health and Population Development, the results after two years showed that particulate matter (dust and smoke) was affecting the health of young children.

Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study spokesman Dr

Petro Terblanche said up to 70 percent of 10 187 Vaal Triangle children between eight and 12 suffered from upper respiratory tract illnesses during the year.

These conditions varied from sinusitis, earache, hay-fever and chronic runny noses. In Sebokeng, children who lived in homes using only coal, versus those using electricity, indicated that the risk of developing upper respiratory tract illnesses was 120 percent higher in the group using coal.

The health standards for particulate matter as set by

the US Environmental Protection Agency should not be exceeded more than once a year. They were exceeded five times in Vanderbijlpark last year and six times in Meyer-ton after three months of monitoring.

Particulate matter can come from domestic coal-burning, industry, motor vehicles, dust and veld fires.

Measurements of pollen and fungal spores also indicated levels exceeding health guidelines. There were typically two periods of high pollen counts during the year — late summer and early spring.

with August the peak period. The combined effect of pollen and the high levels of particulate matter was not known for this area, but could be a major factor in the development of upper respiratory tract illnesses, Dr Terblanche said.

A survey conducted in Sebokeng indicated that particulate matter there ranged between an average of 662 microns per cubic metre in summer to an average of 1 333 microns in winter.

The World Health Organisation's no-effect-exposure limit for particulate matter is 180

microns per cubic metre. The US's 24-hour health standard is 260 microns.

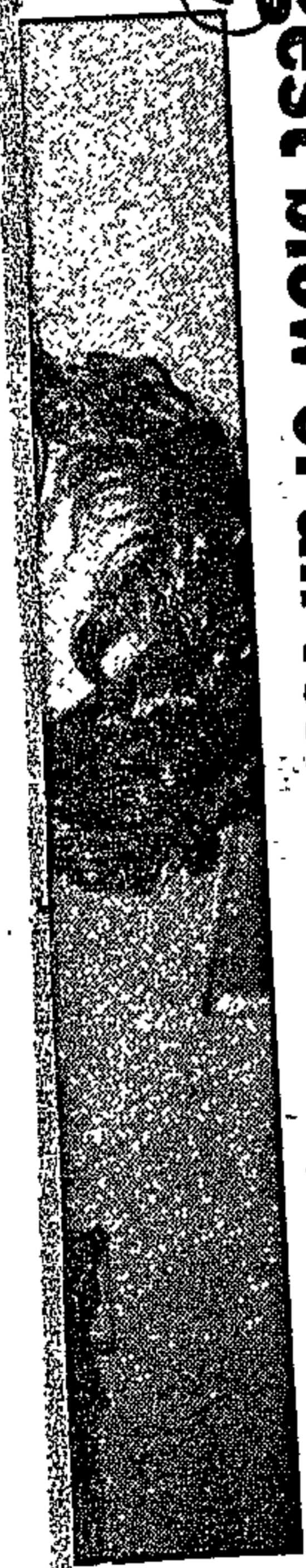
The levels of the main gaseous pollutants were generally acceptable, said Dr Terblanche. Preliminary studies showed that the control of gaseous pollution in the region was satisfactory.

While international levels were not exceeded according to the data, the Department of National Health's hourly guideline for sulphur dioxide was exceeded seven times in Sasolburg (measured in the industrial area) and Vereeniging during 1991.

## Eviction biggest blow of all for disabled woman

By Michael Sparks

A 48-year-old Alberton resident managed to keep up her bond payments for 13 years —



**Court acquits 41 over tennis demo**  
The 41 people charged with

PEOPLE everywhere are frightened by mounting evidence of the deterioration of Earth's life-giving systems. Human beings are part of the web of life, not above its laws.

We have a special responsibility to respect all of the Earth's community, including our air, water, soil and natural resources, our fauna and flora and the atmosphere that shelters us.

This is the preamble to the Women's Action Agenda 21 - a plan of action for setting the planet on the path towards sustainable development in the 21st century.

Agenda 21 is part of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which opens in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday.

The preamble quoted above emerged after a meeting of 1 500 women held last November.

Agenda 21 is expected to be ratified and adopted in Brazil. Other major results expected at the conference are:

- New environmental conventions on change and biological diversity;

# Planet at stake

Sowetan 29/5/92

(56)

- An Earth Charter - a 'bill' of rights for the planet that will define basic guidelines for balancing environmental protection and economic development and provide ethical standards by which to gauge follow-up actions to UnCED;
- A redefinition of roles and responsibilities for various United Nations agencies;
- Agreement on financial mechanisms necessary to implement new environment/development initiatives outlined in Agenda 21 and;
- An agreement on the transfer of environmentally sound technology throughout the world and on the related questions regarding development of human resources.

"The primary goal of the summit will be to lay the foundation for a global partnership between developing and more industrialised countries, based on mutual need

## ROOTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMN



By MUSA ZONDI

and common interest, to ensure the future of the planet," says Ms Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the conference.

"We need to find a viable and equitable balance between environment and development," she says. Other issues at the conference will be:

- Protection of the atmosphere (climate change, depletion of the ozone layer);

- Protection of land resources (combating deforestation, soil loss, desertification and drought);
- Protection of freshwater resources;
- Prevention of illegal traffic in toxic products and wastes;
- Improvement in the quality of life and human health, and;
- Improvement in living and working conditions of the poor by eradicating poverty and stopping environmental degradation.

The poor countries contend that it is not possible for them to do this with the massive debt hanging over their heads.

Unless the debt is written off, the "sustainability of our earth" will not be possible.

But the conference is fraught with other problems as well. At a

conference of South African non-governmental organizations in Durban recently, a lot of people voiced despair at the north's - the rich countries like US, Britain, Germany and France known as the G7 - insistence on imposing its will on poor countries.

The north, it is argued, wants the south to pay for its over-consumption by insisting that the south protect its natural resources. This is cushioned in the over-used term of "sustainable development" which the south believes is a dirty word.

All the eyes of the world are focused on Rio. The world wants to see if rhetoric can be translated into action.

In South Africa, negotiations on a future democratic society have clouded the issue of the environment.

The Government has been barred from attending the conference at the insistence of the Organisation of African Unity - which wanted the African National Congress to attend as well if any South African delegation was allowed.

We have again been reduced to spectators, to see what other world leaders will decide. Whatever comes out of Rio, we will be affected as well.

All we can do is to hope that serious decisions will be taken, and implemented, to avoid our world being reduced to a scrapheap.

# Air pollution in Vaal Triangle 'dangerous'

(56) ET 29/5/92

JOHANNESBURG. — Dust and smoke levels in the Vaal Triangle are a health threat.

Pollution levels in Vanderbijlpark, Meyerton and Sebokeng at times far exceed internationally acceptable standards, a study has found.

The preliminary findings were released by the Medical Research Council and the steering committee of the Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study.

The MRC said that dust and smoke pollution levels in Sebokeng were

more than five times higher in winter than the standard set by the US Environmental Protection Agency, and about 2½ times higher in summer.

US health standards should not be exceeded more than once a year, but dust and smoke pollution in Vanderbijlpark and Meyerton did so substantially five to six times in 1991.

Up to 70% of the 10 187 children aged between eight and 12 included in the survey had suffered from upper respiratory tract illnesses. — Sapa

10.16.1957 29/5/57 2

**Oil spill reaches coast**

THOUSANDS of holidaymakers may have their weekend ruined by oil being washed up on several beaches on the Natal South Coast.

The pollution appears to be worse than first thought.

The oil comes from Greek tanker Katina P which sank in the southern Mozambique channel about six weeks ago.

**Dam levels falling**

DAM levels were falling at a "disturbing" rate and by summer's end could reach critically low levels, authorities warned this week.

Water Affairs Department figures show the dam levels are falling at a rate of about 1% a week and this is certain to accelerate through the dry winter months.

56



Fm 29/5/92

AGRICULTURE

**Sasol and the salt**

*Seen*  
56

**Sasol's giant** Secunda synfuel plant last year released damaging quantities of saline water into the Waterval River in the eastern Transvaal, with serious consequences for irrigation farmers, says a former irrigation farmer on the river, Paul Reynolds.

He claims that he abandoned plans last winter to plant wheat and potato crops under irrigation because the salinity in the river at a critical time (the beginning of last May) would have destroyed the crops and inflicted long-term damage to his soil. He says his loss was some R220 000, for which Sasol denies any liability.

The water required for wheat and potato planting must not exceed a sodium content of 100 parts per million (ppm) or a chloride content of 100 ppm. The electrical conductivity (a measure of total dissolved mineral content) must not exceed 80 millisiemens per metre (ms/m). The sodium adsorption ratio (sar), which measures the extent to which the sodium present is available to plants, should not exceed 4.

Water passed a quality test on March 22 1991, so Reynolds decided to plant his wheat and potatoes. But on April 30 he found that the water quality had deteriorated so much that it was hazardous to plant either crop.

The sodium level at Reynolds's first irrigation pump, early in May, was 140 ppm and the chloride level 106 ppm. The sar was 4,8, while the conductivity was 98 ms/m. But the conductivity increased to 155 ms/m at the Sasol boundary on the Trichardspruit. At the Roodebank measuring point, above which the Trichardspruit enters the Waterval, the readings were sodium 145 ppm, chloride 142 ppm, sar 6 and conductivity 124 ms/m.

On May 6, Reynolds's consultants — Piet Hammes, professor in the department of plant production at Pretoria University, and John Harrison of Agri-Africa of Maritzburg — both advised him not to use Waterval River water for irrigation.

A late planting — which might have been theoretically possible when Sasol belatedly took steps to improve the water quality — would have interfered with Reynolds's plans to harvest teff from the same land as high-quality racehorse feed. There would have been further problems associated with a late planting — missing the best moment in the climatic cycle and labour problems at harvest time.

The outflow of pollutants during last May resulted from heavy rains that leached out the mineral content from an ash dump at Secunda — which Sasol does not dispute. Reynolds estimates

that the discharge must have persisted for at least six weeks to produce the volume of contaminated water detected.

Reynolds says he had suffered a previous loss of net income from irrigation farming in 1986-87. On that occasion he compromised, accepting about R46 000 on a loss he had estimated at some R120 000 when Sasol accepted its liability in principle.

Reynolds emphasises that saline water contaminates agricultural land: the water flowing from Secunda a year ago will take several years to leach out before the soil can be used again.

Worse still, says Reynolds, is the passive attitude of the Department of Water Affairs, which has not taken steps to control pollution in the Waterval River, even though it conducted an inquiry into water quality and commissioned detailed reports by consulting engineers Stewart Sviridov and Olivier (SSO).

Reynolds says he informed the department of the latest pollution episode, but claims it is reluctant to act. Sakkie van der Westerhuizen, director of water quality management at the department, says the department has given high priority to promoting good water quality in the Waterval River. He says SSO's reports indicate a dramatic improvement in water quality since 1989 in the Trichardspruit because of remedial measures taken by Sasol.

Nevertheless, the sodium and chloride contents remain a cause for concern from time to time. This is not acceptable to the department and will be addressed as part of the water-quality control plan for the area. Van der Westhuizen rejects summarily Reynolds's allegations of passivity, saying water-quality control has to be developed systematically over time — which the department is doing.

Sasol strenuously disputes most of Reynolds's version. Jan Krynauw, a Sasol spokesman, says that upon discovering the seepage,

it took steps to prevent further spillage and — with co-operation from the department — flushed the river with fresh water purchased from the Rand Water Board. This exercise was completed by the middle of June at a cost of about R300 000.

Sasol alleges that Reynolds — when informed of Sasol's intention to flush the Waterval River with fresh water — suggested it would be cheaper for it to pay his claim. Sasol pointed out to Reynolds that this would be prejudicial to other farmers down the river and to the environment generally.

Sasol further says the water was not poisonous but merely contained increased salt levels. Even when the salt level was at its highest, it could still be used for most irrigation purposes for a short period. Sasol says that, when its representative overflowed Reynolds's farm by helicopter, together with Reynolds, he saw that Reynolds was irrigating his farm with the very water at issue.

Sasol points out that one of SSO's reports states that wheat can tolerate salinity of up to 400 ms/m, while the maximum conductivity levels complained of ranged between 112 and 118 ms/m.

According to Sasol, the flushing process was complete by the middle of June, well in time for Reynolds's planting schedule. Indeed, the water quality by that stage was better than it had been for many years at that point in the season.

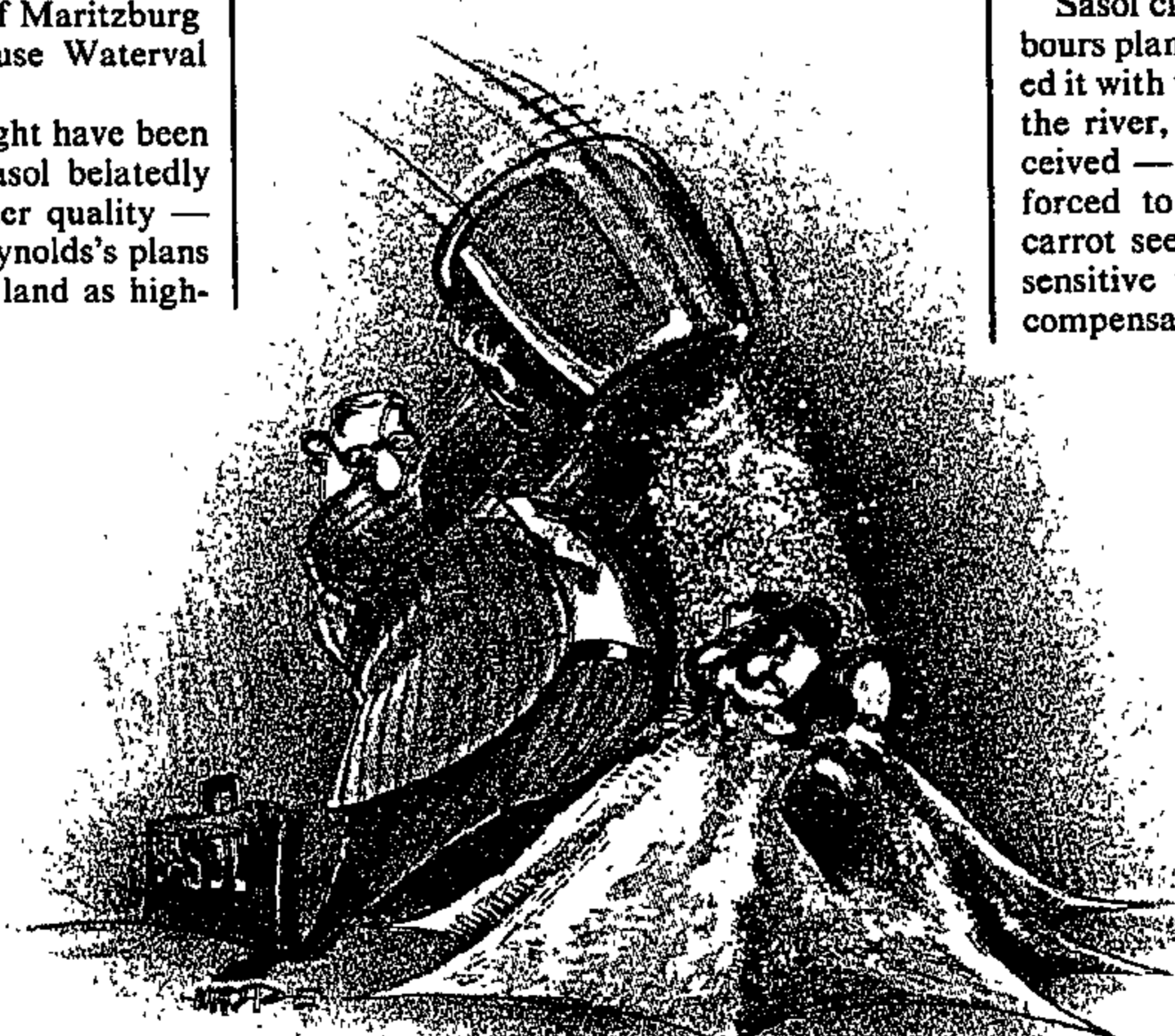
Sasol believes that Reynolds never had any intention of planting either wheat or potatoes. Sasol says Hammes considered that Reynolds could have planted wheat until the end of July and that the best time for planting potatoes was only in August. In any event, Sasol proposed to Reynolds that he should plant and that Sasol would reimburse him for any losses in yield caused by poor water quality.

It also claims that Reynolds threatened to dump a load of salt outside its Rosebank headquarters and to stage a demonstration there with his labourers.

Sasol claims that one of Reynolds's neighbours planted wheat and successfully irrigated it with the allegedly polluted water. Along the river, only one other complaint was received — from a farmer who found himself forced to use the saline water to irrigate carrot seedlings. As carrots are notoriously sensitive to salt, Sasol unhesitatingly paid compensation in this case.

Sasol says it consulted several agricultural experts, including Robin Barnard, a professor of soil science at Pretoria University, consulting engineers Watermeyer Legge Piesold & Uhlmann and various officials at the Potato Research Station of the Department of Agricultural Development.

There the matter is likely to rest, as Reynolds now says he has quit farming and will not continue to press his claim against Sasol. ■



# Again <sup>5</sup> NOx for breakfast

Staff Reporter

A POLLUTION guideline level was exceeded again in the city yesterday.

The nitrogen oxides (NOx) reading, which should not go above 1 504 micrograms per cubic metre if it is to remain within the internationally acceptable figure, was 1 737 at its maximum at 9am yesterday.

The other monitored substance, nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), was just within its limit. Yesterday's reading was 359 micrograms, while its guideline figure is 376.

Cold weather often leads to high levels of pollution in Cape Town because temperature inversions trap a layer of pollution-laden cold air close to the ground.

and it isn't easy to ignore the oil.

56 ARG 30/5/92

# Natal coast resorts fight oil on beaches

Weekend Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — A big clean-up is under way along more than 100 kilometres of Natal coastline as oil continues to wash ashore.

The oil — from the sunken oil tanker Katina P — has come at a bad time with up-country holidaymakers flocking in their thousands to the beaches at the long weekend.

Natal resorts from Umdloti on the North Coast to Wild Coast Casino in Transkei were battling to clean their beaches yesterday.

And oil has also come ashore again in the north at Banga Nek and Sodwana Bay on the Maputaland coast.

Marine scientists in Durban said yesterday it was impossible to say how long the oiling of the beaches was likely to last because of the complexity of the currents.

The oil has been coming ashore in various forms, from small blobs to pieces as big as a dustbin lid.

One of the places hit again yesterday was Durban's main beachfront where small pieces of oil washed ashore from Blue Lagoon to Addington — affecting thousands of holidaymakers who complained that it was ruining their holiday.

Mr Anton Molden, head of the pollution division of the Department of Sea Fisheries, has been monitoring the oil.

He said that the oil now hitting the Natal coastline appeared to come from the main slick which resulted after about 12 000 tons of heavy furnace oil leaked into the sea when the Katina P sank about 240 miles off Maputo nearly five weeks ago.

It was thought at the time the oil slick, which initially measured about 12 miles long and was about 200 miles offshore, would not cross the Mozambique current which appeared to be acting as a barrier.

Mr Molden said it now appeared that the slick had been broken up by the sea and was showing up along the coast in the form of small blobs. It was, however, difficult to say where the oil was coming from.

The Kuswag 7 would carry out a monitoring flight from the Transkei coast right up to Kosi Bay today, he said.

Mr Molden listed Umtamvuma (Wild Coast Casino), Glenmore, Southbroom, Ramsgate, Port Shepstone, Anerley, Southport, Pumula, Scottburgh, Amanzimtoti, Durban and Umdloti as beaches where clean-up operations were under way.

EARTH SUMMIT '92 ... a green light for the status quo

# Save the planet, or some more hot air?

56 ARG 30/5/92

WORLD LEADERS gather next week in Rio de Janeiro for a summit that is being billed as "our last chance to save Earth". It has little hope of succeeding. NICHOLAS SCHOON explains why

**I**T was to have been a great gathering of the chiefs, putting environment and development together at last in order to save the planet. Instead, the Earth Summit may push them further apart.

The likely consequence is that the environmentalists' bluff — if bluff it is — will be called for years to come. Rising emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases, explosive population growth, the clearing of tropical forests and mass extinctions of species will carry on into the next century, as they have done in the post-war decades.

Moderate greens warn that continuing the assault on nature will spread poverty and make economic growth more difficult to sustain. The eco-fundamentalists say that, within a generation, it will lead to an environmental meltdown and vast loss of human life.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development — the summit's full title — is the child of the Brundtland Commission.

Chaired by Norway's Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the commission's 1987 report, *Our Common Future*, argued that development in both rich and poor nations had to become sustainable. This meant that the creation of wealth today should not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The argument that environmental degradation was a price which had to be paid for economic growth was stood on its head. The commission found the pell-mell over-exploitation of natural resources was retarding economic growth and

blighting the prospects of the poor.

Poverty was result of environmental degradation — and a cause.

Combined with soaring populations, social injustice and ignorance, it made people torch forests for farmland, chop down trees for firewood and crowd into shanty towns, drinking lethally polluted water.

The commission concluded that the only way out of the vicious circle was rapid, but environmentally benign, economic growth in the Third World. Important resources such as forests, rivers and clean air would have to be protected or exploited gradually and rationally.

In December 1989, the UN General Assembly voted to hold a conference on environment and development based on the Brundtland agenda.

Great hopes were raised. "People everywhere look to 1992 as our best chance, perhaps our last chance, to save the Earth," said Mostafa Tolba, Director of the UN Environment Programme.

After two years of slow, sometimes ill-tempered preparatory negotiation between national delegations, that kind of rhetoric is heard no more. Instead, the summit's organisers and delegates speak of it as being "only the start of a process".

**B**UT THAT WAS SAID 20 years ago about the only previous great green summit, the UN Conference on the Human Environment, in Stockholm in 1972. It debated almost all the environmental problems and North-South tensions which will be on the agenda at Rio de Janeiro and came up with an action plan and a declaration of principles — as Rio will. It even had the same secretary-general, the Canadian Maurice Strong.

Stockholm achieved some "aware-



ness raising", creation of the UN Environment Programme (a well-intentioned but powerless and under-funded agency) and the setting up of environment ministries in many developed nations.

The Earth Summit is guaranteed enormous press coverage because more than 100 presidents and prime ministers will attend. Having come all that way and invested their prestige in it, they will have to make agreements and hail it as a success.

But deals struck in Rio will be strictly limited. This is partly because it is the wrong forum. Serious talk about aid and debt write-offs — which lie at the heart of the Rio agenda — happen at World Bank occasions and gatherings of finance ministers.

It is also because of the gulf between developed and developing nations. The governments of the rich North wanted the summit to persuade large, rapidly industrialising Third World countries such as China and India not to become big-league emitters of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (an inescapable by-product of burning coal, oil or gas).

They also wanted to stop the destruction of tropical forests, mainly

because this too adds to global warming.

But the developing nations took this to mean that at last the boot was on their foot. If the North wants to protect the forests and limit greenhouse gas emissions then it will have to pay. They saw Rio as a chance for a great leap forward towards a long-awaited new international economic order — to have debts written off, trade terms improved and aid increased.

They also had a strong moral case because the North has caused the bulk of greenhouse gas pollution.

Last month in Kuala Lumpur Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, told a pre-Rio meeting of developing country ministers: "There will be no development if the poor countries are not allowed to extract their natural wealth... fear by the North of environmental degradation provides the South with the leverage that did not exist before.

"If it is in the interest of the rich that we do not cut down our trees then they must compensate us for the loss of income".

**T**HE WORDS show that the guiding principle of sustainable development — that long-term economic growth and environmental protection must go hand in hand — has been marginalised. To many developing nation leaders, environmental protection is a luxury only the developed world can afford.

The North, strapped by recession and new aid commitments to the former Warsaw Pact nations, will not come up with substantial increases in aid. And the developing world will be far more vulnerable to global environmental problems such as changing climates and rising sea levels.

The North has the technology and capital to protect its peoples and economies; the South does not. — The Independent News Service, London

# Billions needed to clean up SA industry

By CIARAN RYAN

STRICTER world environmental standards will add billions to SA industry's capital expenditure bills.

Two developments in particular — the Schillerman Bill in the US and a carbon tax for exceeding acceptable carbon dioxide emissions — will force mines and manufacturers to conform to onerous environmental standards.

SA will find it increasingly difficult to shrug off its environmental responsibilities on the grounds that it is a developing country.

The Schillerman Bill in its proposed form will require companies which export to the US to prove that their manufacturing processes are environmentally sound.

Companies that do not meet environmental standards may find their products banned by the US. The Bill would also apply to suppliers of raw materials and energy.

The Bill was initiated after some banned US-made herbicides were exported to Mexico to be used on crops.

Imports of the harvests were later banned by the US.

Several versions of the Bill have been rejected by the Senate. But a watered-down version is expected to be pushed through.

Companies such as Sasol, Alusaf, Samancor and steel makers are likely to be affected. Waste gases are flared into the atmosphere at Sasol and Samancor, contributing to noxious emissions in the Vanderbijlpark area.

## Clear

The huge cost of filter-bag technology and electro-static precipitators — they collect dust from tall stacks before they are flushed into the atmosphere — will translate into higher manufacturing costs.

The move to uniform environmental laws is also an attempt to level the playing field between trading nations, says CSIR director for energy technology Dieter Krueger.

"One country can export to another at a lower price because it has less stringent en-

vironmental requirements and this obviously causes unfair disadvantages."

The new laws would also impede SA's efforts to attract foreign investment. Government officials are trying to attract foreign smoke-stack industries hide-bound by tough environmental requirements in Europe and the US.

Sappi already conforms to environmental standards in Europe and the US. It has the benefit of new, environmentally friendly technology, such as that used at its Ngodwana mill. Ngodwana has one of the lowest levels of water use and effluent emissions in the world.

But both Sappi and Mondi may be required to move to thermo-mechanical pulping to clean up the front end of their manufacturing processes. A switch from chlorine to ozone bleaching would add to their capital expenditure.

Iscor recently spent more than R40-million to clean up its furnaces, at Vanderbijlpark. Another R25-million has been approved to reduce pollution of underground water chambers.

"We are not particularly concerned about the US Bill," says Kevin Robertson, general manager of Iscor's steel division.

## Earth

"If US environmental standards in its steel industry form the basis of the Bill, we already meet them."

Eskom deputy manager in charge of technical research and investigations Cliff Lewis has talked to one of the Bill's writers, Alf Rosenfel. Mr Lewis says Eskom's electrification programme is regarded as environmentally positive.

"The US authorities were sensitive to our situation, but the message was clear that we would have to start meeting world environmental standards."

One of the worst areas for carbon dioxide emissions is Soweto where many residents still use coal fires because they have not been connected to the electricity grid. These noxious emissions will be reduced as a result of Eskom's electrification programme.

The controversial carbon tax — due to be debated at the Earth Summit conference in Rio de Janeiro — will make SA increasingly accountable for pollution control.

# Group to protect environment

By EVE VOSLOO

LAWYERS concerned with protection of the environment have got together to form the Western Cape branch of the Environmental Law Association.

Stimes (Cape Metro) 21/5/92  
About 60 to 70 attorneys, advocates, students and legal advisers involved in different aspects of the law are to launch the branch on Thursday, the day before World Environment Day,

Friday June 5. (56)  
A spokesman for the Environmental Law Association said this week that South African common law gave very little assistance to those wishing to protect the environment.

This has meant that environmental controls have been brought about mostly through legislation introduced on an ad hoc basis "which has resulted in a plethora of laws at different levels of government being administered by different departments".

Knowing how the different laws interrelate has also been a particularly difficult task for lawyers, the spokesman said.

"They have had to search

for controls at national, regional and local levels" and have sometimes found that a certain ruling laid down at one level says the opposite of another ruling applicable at another level.

Among the aims of the association are to:

- Promote the enhancement and conservation of the environment;

- Advance the education of members and the public in all aspects of the law relating to the environment;

- Collate and disseminate information relating to environmental law;

- Identify, review, advise and comment on issues of environmental law and its application;

- Hold discussion forums and workshops to promote self-education of members and the public in environmental law, and

- Lobby government and policymakers broadly for appropriate legislation.

"We feel the environmental ethic could eventually provide a set of principles that would be applied to improve the drafting, administration, implementation and enforcement of environmental law," the spokesman said.

# Woodstock alleys a health hazard

By KURT SWART

THE lanes and alleys of Woodstock have become a health hazard with uncontrolled dumping of refuse threatening typhoid and other diseases as well as causing a large rat influx to the area.

And the main culprits in the dumping of household waste are the residents themselves, says Mr David Oliver, a city council environmental health officer.

Mr Oliver is also a B Admin (Development Studies) honours student at the University of the Western Cape and is researching community participation in the maintenance of Woodstock's alleys.

"Every day a council team cleans the lanes. On Wednesday the whole labour force is used to clear the lanes. For health inspectors dirty lanes are a priority, but not it seems for the residents," Mr Oliver said.

He said the problems with the lanes, particularly in lower Woodstock, were increased rodent activity in the form of rats, bad smells emanating from the lanes because of the amount of refuse dumped there, and a

large vagrant population, many of whom defecated in the lanes.

"The rats are brought to the lanes by the refuse. Despite being cleaned every day, the refuse in the lanes contains enough food for the rats to be there on a daily basis. We have free rodent control for residential premises and we have received quite a number of complaints.

"Flies breed in faeces and in refuse. For example when a rotten fish lies in the lane for a day, flies will breed in it, bad smells will emanate, and the risk of disease is increased.

"Children are vulnerable to diseases like typhoid and diarrhoea carried from the refuse into households by flies who settled on food and babies' milk."

Residents were largely to blame for the situation, said Mr Oliver.

"Residents know council will do the cleaning-up, so they just throw their garbage over the walls of their property into the lanes.

"When a law enforcement officer goes along to enquire who has dumped the refuse, nobody knows."

ENVIRONMENT - 1992

JUNE - JULY



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# Poo! City pool too dirty

SB 07/16/92

Municipal Reporter

THE faecal level in Camps Bay's tidal pool is too high for swimming there, according to an annual city council report on water quality.

The pool has failed to meet accepted quality standards for bathing water in either winter or summer.

It is polluted with an unacceptably high level of faecal

coliforms, which are found in human and animal faeces and indicate the likely presence of harmful viruses and bacteria.

The reason for the unacceptability of the water quality at Camps Bay tidal pool "is unclear at the moment", according to a report from acting city engineer Mr Henk Beekman.

Coliform levels at Mouille Point beach and in front of the

broken Green Point undersea sewage pipeline were again about 10 times the guideline figure. This was expected, however, as work was proceeding on restoring the pipeline.

All four sampling points between Three Anchor Bay and Graaff's Pool also failed to meet the standard, but in these cases urban stormwater runoff was blamed. These had been

problem spots last year too.

The stormwater system at Rocklands Beach had recently been diverted, and recent sampling has shown that in the absence of stormwater, the sea water was not polluted there.

Water tested at the beach beside Kalk Bay harbour failed to meet the guideline standard "as a result of the polluted harbour environment".

01

Klerk said the visit was proof that communi...



# Oil threat pollutes river water

58 CT 11/6/92

## Diesel spill 'pollutes' river water

By IVOR CREWS  
and BRENT SIMONS

THOUSANDS of litres of diesel oil have been washed into the Molenaars River at Du Toit's Kloof, posing a major pollution threat to the area's drinking water and fish farms.

Mr Graeme Watson, owner of the Devor Trout Farm near the Huguenot Tunnel, said a large quantity of diesel oil — he estimated it at thousands of litres — from the Concor Construction site on the Molenaars River had polluted the pristine river.

More than 70 000 trout in dams on his farm supplied by the river were in danger of being poisoned, he said, and he stood to lose R250 000.

Residents of Rawsonville used the water for drinking and the poisonous diesel fuel could contaminate their source of supply, he said.

Mr Watson said he intended taking legal action against the company.

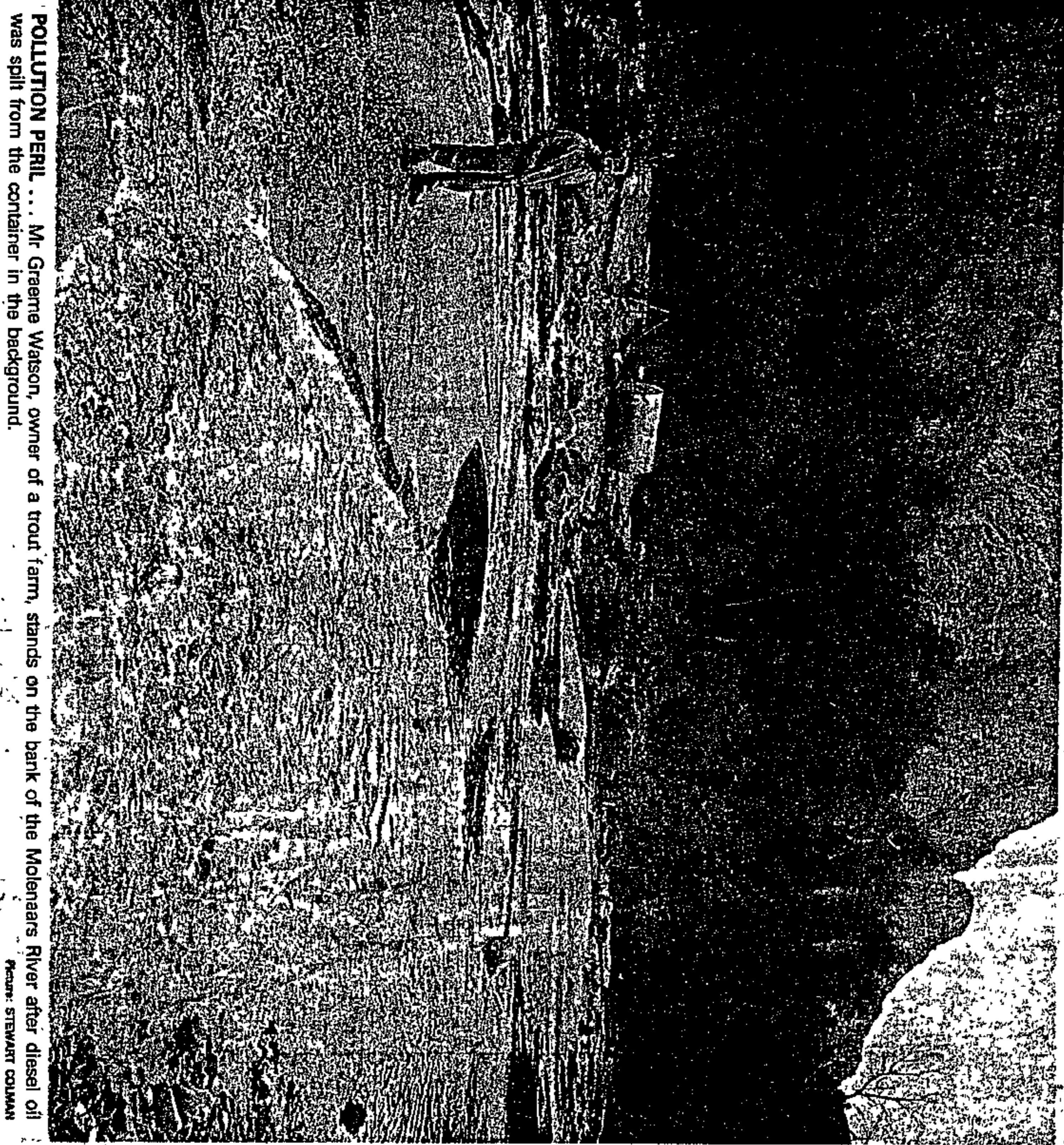
"I have been in contact with the consulting environmental engineering company Hill Kaplan Scott and warned them of the danger of diesel pollution but was informed that all necessary precautions would be taken," he said.

Mr Watson said he had found unsealed oil drums in the river, which he believed had been washed into the water when the river rose on Saturday night after heavy rains.

Mr Watson said two bridges were being erected over the Molenaars River to link up the N1 between Worcester and Du Toit's Kloof. The project was expected to take four years, he said.

Mr Neil Carter, a director of Hill Kaplan Scott, said last night that the diesel oil came from a tank that collapsed when the river overflowed its banks after Saturday's rain and washed away the tank's foundations. He said the diesel oil was a "small amount" compared to the amount of flood water.

The mayor of Rawsonville, Mr Willie De Waal, was phoned yesterday to hear that the river had been polluted. He said if the water was undrinkable "we will have to use available boreholes."



POLLUTION PERIL... Mr Graeme Watson, owner of a trout farm, stands on the bank of the Molenaars River after diesel oil was spilt from the container in the background.

Picture: STEWART COWMAN

and Oriental  
the government  
institutions to

The spokesman said the transport and environment ministries were looking to move and "Docklands is an area that is being considered." — Sapa-Reuter.

## World leaders descend on Rio for 'earth summit'

NEW YORK — This week, environmentalists and diplomats from 160 countries will gather in Rio de Janeiro for their version of Brazil's carnival: a chaotic, 12-day negotiating marathon and an ecological festival.

As many as 100 presidents and prime ministers will be among the 40 000 foreign visitors flooding Rio between now and Wednesday, when the meeting — the UN "Earth Summit" — begins.

Years from now, historians might look back on the meeting as a historic occasion marking the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a "green war".

Or it might turn out to be simply a dud — a conference which tried to do too much too soon.

The conference's organisers have certainly not been shy about tackling large problems.

The long Earth Summit agenda includes protection of the atmosphere, the oceans, forests, threatened species, fresh water and the cleanup of toxic wastes.

As if that were not enough to keep negotiators busy, the conference will also address the issues of poverty, population growth and restructuring of the world's economy.

Diplomats hope to devise a way of transferring money and technology from the wealthy industrialised countries to the poor developing countries.

The Daily Telegraph reports the World Wide Fund for Nature suggests environmental concerns must be given priority over the uncontrolled expansion of world trade.

The Earth Summit draft agreement on trade calls for policy makers to recognise the need for environmental protection and sustainable development to set the limits on free trade, rather than the reverse.

The fund said there should be no conflict between the strengthened GATT and the summit's agreements.

It also called for environmental costs to be incorporated in the market price for commodities.

(56)

Monday 11/6/92



# Focus shifting to environment-friendly flying

RIP way 11/6/92.

## LINDEN BIRNS

ANYONE living near Jan Smuts Airport will have noticed an increase in air traffic in recent months. After years of relative isolation, South Africans are beginning to find out how important commercial air transport is to a developing economy.

For residents close to airports the situation promises to get worse as more foreign airlines and charter firms recognise the importance of Johannesburg as an African hub.

Taking an average of air industry forecasts, passenger air transport is expected to grow at a rate between 5% and 6% a year in the short to medium term. Similarly the world's airliner fleet is also going to swell.

In Europe stringent measures are being taken to reduce the levels of noise, waste and air pollution caused by airliners. But in SA there are very few regulations governing aircraft pollution.

Overseas carriers are mostly using 1980s and 1990s aircraft on flights to SA, chiefly because they have been compelled to bring less noisy, smoky and smelly planes onto their inventories to be able to continue flying to airports in Europe, the US and Far East.

SAA and other African airlines can still get away with operating older, dirtier planes on inter-African and domestic flights because the regula-

tions are not as stringent. Lufthansa's technical and environmental executive, Franz Josef Darius believes that sooner or later, SA aviation will develop an environmental conscience.

"Here in Germany it started with noise pollution at Frankfurt, Munich, Dusseldorf and Hamburg airports," he said in a recent interview. All of these airports have imposed noise curfews and no big jetliners are allowed to land after 11pm unless they are experiencing an emergency.

Last week Munich's Riem Airport, which has been in operation since 1938, was closed down, and everything was moved to a new facility 30km away. One of the major reasons behind the move was that more than 250 000 people were in audible range of Riem, while less than 20 000 were within earshot of the new airport, which is twice as large.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), which governs airline operations, drafted mandatory regulations on the phasing out of airliners built between 1958 and the mid-1980s. All two and three jet-engined planes built between 1958 and 1970 were to be retired by 1983, and all four engined aircraft by 1985.

Aircraft built between 1970 and the mid-1980s were to be phased out at a rate of 10% of an airline's fleet a

year from April 1995.

ICAO exempted developing nations from the regulations resulting in most of these old aircraft having found their way into active service with African airlines. Typical jet aircraft in this category include Boeing 707s, 727s, 737-100s, McDonnell Douglas DC-8s and Convair 880s and BAC 1-11s.

Several African airlines, SAA included, could be inclined to keep operating these aircraft as they will not fetch a resale price high enough to offset the cost of having to replace them with new planes.

Darius says that, as a flag carrier, Lufthansa realised the commercial importance of being seen to lead the way in environmental awareness.

"If a noisy and smoky old Aeroflot Ilyushin flew over someone's house, they were likely to say 'Goddamn Lufthansa', without even looking out the window to see which airline it was," he explains.

Darius said in recent years Lufthansa had noticed a trend where potential passengers had begun to ask what type, how old and how environmentally friendly the plane was they would be travelling in.

Technological progress has led to

the "thrunder birds" being replaced by the "whispering jets". For example, the Airbus A320, the most up-to-date jet in service, emits 40 decibels — it is 16 times quieter than a Boeing 707 built in the 1960s.

SAA and Fli-tester have recently purchased some modern planes with modern engines.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, engineers in Europe and the US found that modifications to the jet engine could result in substantial reductions in noise and emissions.

"Aircraft exhaust emissions currently account for less than 2% of man-made emissions. The problem is that they are made in the most sensitive part of the atmosphere. Airlines and manufacturers must prepare for more restrictions before they're forced to do so by law," Darius says.

At the same time, people forget that it is currently impossible to build a commercial airliner that does not make a noise and has no engines. They must accept the fact that everything that flies is dangerous to the environment, he added.

"Air traffic is necessary if you don't want to swim to Majorca for your holidays, or to Los Angeles for business, or if you want to eat fresh SA oranges or develop your economies. At the same time, the public

could reasonably expect all airlines and operators to behave in a responsible way," he says.

"If your aircraft fleet is 15 years old, you stink and make a lot of noise. Third World carriers get exemptions but these won't last long."

Engine designers are also continuing refinements that will lower fuel consumption. This will also bring about a linear reduction in carbon dioxide production. The current equation is that an aircraft produces 3,1 tons of carbon dioxide for each ton of fuel consumed.

But concern that the predicted doubling of passenger volume by the early 2000s would mean a doubling in fuel consumption was ill-founded, Darius said. "Because of design improvements, the amount of fuel it took to fly one passenger in 1970 can now fly two, and will fly three by the year 2000."

The down side is that modern, more fuel efficient engines run at higher combustion temperatures and therefore produce more nitric oxides per pound of thrust than older engines, he added.

"Manufacturers are already looking at engines which will produce 80% less nitric oxide than today's power plants, but research and development will take at least another 10 to 15 years," Darius says.

## BOOKS



# Africa demands fair share

NAIROBI - African countries attending this week's Earth Summit in Brazil will fight to end what they see as exploitation of their natural resources by the developed world.

Delegates to a two-week United Nations meeting which ended in Kenya at the weekend said they would use the Rio gathering, starting on June 3, to mount a campaign to get a bigger share of profits from their plants, animals and other natural resources.

"We want the developed nations to know that we are at par. We have the raw materials, they have the technology and finance. We must share these equitably," said Zambian delegate Frigal Siame.

"The industrialised countries will have to pay for the resources which they so much cherish in the Third World. Nothing must ever be taken without the owners getting some benefits," Siame said.

He was speaking after delegates to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) meeting drafted a treaty to protect the planet's animal and plant life for future generations.

The treaty is to be submitted to world leaders for approval in Rio de Janeiro but six Western countries, including the United States, have registered reservations which could block its adoption.

Western countries want more control over any new spending on protecting "biological diversity" and say they fear the treaty is being rushed through too quickly.

Sowetan 1/6/92

**'We need one another. They must give recognition to the fact that Africa is useful for the planet's existence.'**

Countries that sign the treaty make a commitment to take legislative and administrative steps to ensure companies give Third World governments and companies access to their research.

But the treaty recognises that the sharing should be within the framework of national and international legislation on patents and other property rights.

Djibouti's Saleh Farah Dirir, Africa's spokesman at the UNEP meeting, told Reuters that the industrialised world had to realise that sustainable development did not lie in "continued exploitation of parties known to be weaker".

Africans say they ought to gain more from, for example, a possible drug for cancer discovered from plants on a remote island, instead of all profits accruing to industrialised countries.

Developed countries, especially the United States, say they have no direct control over the large drug companies.

"We want developed nations to know that we are not a burden to them. We need one another. They must give recognition to the fact that Africa is useful for the planet's existence," Farah Dirir added.

Governments, environmental organisations and scientists are all worried that unless stringent measures are taken to protect the world's plants and animals, the Earth will lose much of its "biological diversity".

(56)

UN experts say many species face extinction from the destruction of their habitat, pollution, human population growth, non-sustainable exploitation and the unlawful plundering of wild species.

"No one knows what cures for terrible diseases like cancer and Aids or what seeds of plants for new or improved foods are to be found in the forests and deserts, the wetlands and the coral reefs of the planet," said Mostafa Tolba, UNEP's executive director.

"But variety is the price of life," he added. Farah Dirir said Africans would urge the Earth Summit to make developed nations cancel the debts of the least-developed African countries as part of a programme to ensure the release of resources for environmental conservation.

He said the developed world would have to revitalise commodity agreements, guaranteeing minimum prices and enhancing the income-generating ability of producing countries.

"They also have to withdraw all subsidies that are propping up the non-sustainable agricultural sector in the developed countries and then prohibit the dumping of hazardous wastes in Africa," he added.

A strategy that protects the people as they strive to save the planet is the essence of the African approach," Dirir said. Sapa-Reuters



# Alarm over potential ecosystem

## overload (56)

STAR 2/6/92

CONSIDER a world in which half a billion new Chinese refrigerators spew ozone-depleting chemicals into the atmosphere and millions of newly purchased Indian cars cough out a continent-worth of new pollution.

Imagine, too, a global economy five times as great as it is today, with its accompanying leap in toxic industrial waste and a doubled world population demanding food and shelter.

Although some people dismiss such scenarios as apocalyptic, an increasing number of scientists, demographers, politicians and even industrialists are looking with concern at the expected effect of unfettered growth on the world.

The concern has translated into renewed interest in a 20-year-old concept called sustainable development.

At its most basic, sustainable development means environmentally sound growth or, in the words of the World Conservation Union, "improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems".

However, the simplicity that is sustainable development's strength is also its weakness: it means widely different things to widely different people.

Some environmentalists, for example, hold near-utopian views of sustainable development, involving high levels of yet-to-be-invented technology. Some argue that sustainability means putting the environment first, even if that means stifling economic development.

By contrast, a number of business groups and governments are embracing the term to mean environmentally sound industry, involving concepts such as trading pollution rights and pricing resources to reflect ecology's needs.

In a recent book, the Washington-based World Resources Institute argues that the concept must have four ingredients: economic growth to eliminate poverty; development that does not degrade the environment; investment in human development; and a focus on technology. — Sapa-Reuter. □

# Summit to study PAC paper

55

CT2/6/92

DELEGATES to the Earth Summit, opening in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow, will study a Pan-Africanist Congress document calling for a large-scale nuclear power programme in South Africa.

The document is part of the PAC's new energy policy for the country and is a follow-up to their attendance at the UN Convention on Climatic Change conference. Dr Solly Skosana of Daveyton will represent the PAC in Rio.

The document proposes a huge clean-up of coal power stations by installing the latest technology to remove sulphur from flue-gas, the building of nuclear plants to replace the stations and research into nuclear waste disposal and shutting down plants.

PAC information secretary Mr Barney Desai said uranium offered the chance to promote the quality of life, particularly among blacks, by providing more and cheaper energy.

South Africa will not send a government delegation to the summit as it is doubtful whether the UN would accept the country's political credentials, a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs said yesterday.

Apart from the PAC, two Capetonians will represent the youth of Africa. They are Mr Warren Conradie, 22, projects liaison manager for Leadership South, and Ms Bridget van Rensburg, 26,

executive director of an educational trust which runs environmental camps at Suurbraak near Swellendam.

Organisations like Eskom, Sasol and Engen have sent observers.

Meanwhile, President George Bush planned to announce yesterday an increase of \$150-million (about R420m) in aid to help developing countries conserve their forests. — Staff Reporter, Sapa-AP

# Du Toit's Kloof pollution probe

Staff Reporter

56 CT2/5/92

**ENVIRONMENTAL** engineers are investigating possible negligence after a tank of toxic diesel was washed into the Molenaars River from a Concor site at Du Toit's Kloof on Sunday.

Mr Neal Carter, a director of Hill Kaplan Scott who are monitoring the environmental effect of the Concor project, said yesterday that environmental officers had "requested Concor on numerous occasions" to move the tank.

But Concor's Western Cape chief Mr Rod Stallebrass denied responsibility.



**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Peace secretariat**

STATUTORY provision for the establishment of the national peace secretariat and a special directorate to provide it with administrative assistance has been provided in a new Bill, which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The Internal Peace Institutions Bill also makes provision for certain justices of the peace to be able to issue orders to combat violence and intimidation when peaceful relations in a community are disturbed.

B 12 am 2/6/92

**Law for public entities**

PUBLIC entities such as Transnet, Eskom and the CSIR would have to report to Parliament on their activities and financial matters in terms of a Bill tabled for debate, State Expenditure Minister Amie Venter said yesterday.

The Reporting by Public Entities Bill was drawn up following recommendations by the Browne Committee of Inquiry.

B 10 am 2/6/92

**Environment looked at**

DEFICIENCIES in existing legislation regulating the protection of the environment were redressed in the Environment Conservation Amendment Bill, Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

B 10 am 2/6/92

**Federal lobby**

POLITICAL risk consultant Wim Booyse, provisional chairman of a new five-member lobby advocating federalism, said yesterday the aim of the Coalition for a Federal Democracy was to encourage Codesa participants to think in terms of a federal framework.

REPORTS: Political Staff, Sapa.

# Private firm to probe phone taps

B 10 am 2/6/92

CODESA's management committee agreed yesterday to employ a private company to investigate whether ANC phones were tapped during Codesa II last month.

Chairman Pravin Gordhan said the company would evaluate information collected by the ANC on the bugging to establish where the taps were placed and to propose preventive measures.

The management committee would then decide how responsibility for the bugging should be assigned.

The ANC yesterday claimed to have incontrovertible proof that three of its Codesa telephone lines were tapped.

In a document submitted to Codesa's daily management committee yesterday, the ANC blamed government for the tapping and suggested possible complicity by a Telkom technician.

Telkom last night said it regarded the allegations in a very serious light and would investigate the matter thoroughly.

A Telkom spokesman stressed that in terms of the Postal Act, no application to have a tap placed on a telephone could be made without the explicit permission of the president, the National Intelligence Service, the Law and Order Minister or a senior official named by the Minister.

"Telkom is very strict about the tampering with its telephone service and does not allow any unauthorised equipment to be linked to its network," the spokesman said.

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ra-

**PATRICK BULGER and  
STEPHANE BOTHMA**

ramphosa stated in the document that tests by a private investigation agency had shown that three lines were bugged.

A second opinion by Ineq private investigation firm technical director Andy Grudko, who had been supplied with computer printouts made by the first agency, confirmed the tapping, Ramaphosa said.

The document did not disclose the identity of the first agency.

The check revealed no suspicious devices inside the World Trade Centre — the venue of Codesa. However, technical experts said the devices were placed on three lines outside the building, probably at the Isando exchange, the document claimed.

The alleged culprit, the ANC stated, would have to have had technical equipment and resources at its disposal and unimpeded access to the Isando exchange.

The ANC submitted that the check made by the private company hired by the ANC and the expert opinion of Grudko provided incontrovertible evidence that three of its lines were being monitored.

Ramaphosa said: "Furthermore, the issue must be placed in the context of accumulating evidence as to how the different agencies of the state have been and are still operating. Without labouring the point, it is our considered view that one or other agency of the SA government is involved with the use of state funds and resources and activities aimed at destroying the ANC."

## Viljoen's return scotches resignation rumours

CAPE TOWN — State Affairs Minister Gerrit Viljoen assumed his new portfolio yesterday after a month's rest from exhaustion — putting to rest rumours that he would resign under the cloud of the Development Aid scandal.

Refusing to react immediately to allegations of theft, corruption and bribery uncovered in his former department by Judge Benjamin Pickard, the former Constitutional Development and Development Aid Minister said he was orienting himself to his new job.

Viljoen's doctor ordered him to bed

**BILLY PADDOCK**

just days before the Pickard report was released. Rumours were rife in Parliament that he would resign.

Government sources said Viljoen would, in due course, react to the Pickard findings and the furore over his rejection of an advocate-general's suggestion that there was corruption in the Development Aid Department and that an investigation should be conducted. Viljoen was Minister from 1985 to 1989, the period most criticised by Pickard.

Viljoen's spokesman said he had given no indication that he would make any statement on the matter.

He said rumours of Viljoen resigning were "rubbish". While he was not moving into Tuynhuis because the Parliamentary session was almost over, there were preparations being made for him to occupy an office in the Union Buildings.

Viljoen's new job was seen by parliamentarians as a sideways shift to take him out of administrative functions and negotiations and make him more of a backroom strategist and adviser on negotiations.



**LINDA GALLOWAY**  
Staff Reporter

**TROUT** polluted when diesel spilled into the Molenaar River at Du Toitskloof at the weekend will have to be tested for long-term effects.

A 2 000ℓ fuel tank on the river's flood plain was ripped from its platform and more than 500ℓ of diesel flooded through a trout farm and contaminated Rawsonville's drinking water.

While oil pollution experts assessed the river damage as "slight", the long-term effects of the diesel on the trout have still to be determined.

Environmental advisers to the engineering contractors, Concor, building a bridge across the river said they had repeatedly advised the company to move equipment stored on the flood plain because of the dangers of flooding.

The Molenaar is a special standards river because it is a pristine catchment area with no outside threat of pollution.

A spokesman for Hill Kaplan Scott Inc, advisers to the engineering consultants, said environmental control officers on site had asked that equipment be moved from the floodplain because of the consequences of flooding.

"The tank was not removed and the foundations were undermined in the flood. The tank, containing 500 to 600ℓ of diesel, collapsed into the river," he said.

The spill was regarded as small and most of the diesel had been dispersed. The remaining diesel on the soil and plants in the valley would be washed away in the next spate.

On Monday there was still a strong smell of diesel and plants in the valley were coated with the oily substance.

Downstream, trout farmer Mr Graham Watson said the worst "superficial" effects were over, but samples would have to be taken to determine the long-term damage.

"The most devastating is the volatile component of the diesel which may have dissolved in the water, or evaporated.

"We have had to close our shop and cannot sell any fish until the effects of the diesel have been established. About five or six fish died overnight."

Mr Watson said at the height of the spillage, when diesel was washing through the ponds, the fish were visibly distressed.

"They are naturally coated in slime but when they are distressed they excrete more and the ponds were foaming with the stuff," he said.

The spillage was discovered by fishery employee Mr Spook Hanekom.

"I went out to take a photograph of the waterfalls on the mountain, and I smelt the diesel. I looked at the ponds and they were covered in a thick film," he said.

The oil company which supplied the diesel to the building contractor had sent representatives to assess the damage and offered absorbent booms to mop up the oil, Mr Watson said.

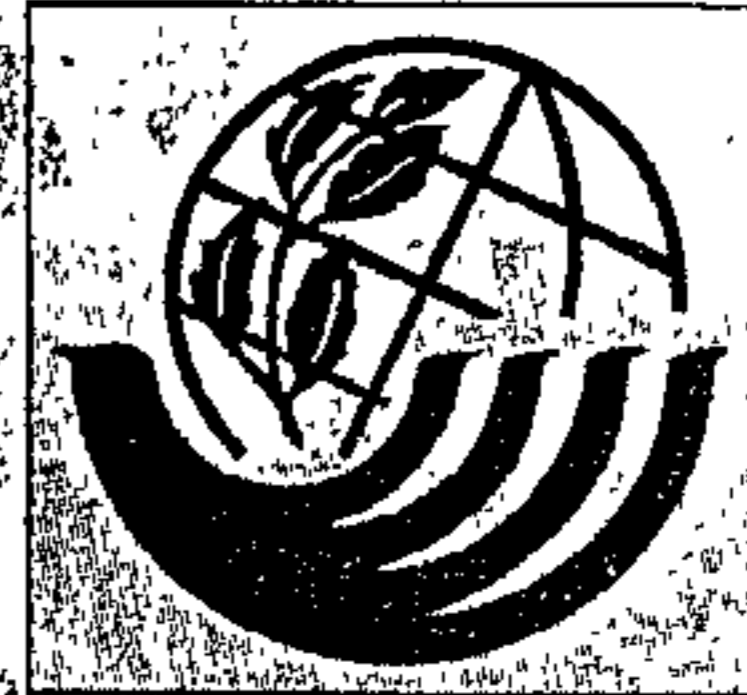
# Long-term fears for trout after diesel spill in river

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# Optimistic note at earth talks

ARG 3/6/92

(56)



EARTH SUMMIT '92

## Delegates make show of unity at opening

JOHN YELD in Rio de Janeiro

THE official UN Conference on Environment and Development (UnCED) starts in the vast Rio Centre today with UnCED's secretary-general, Mr Maurice Strong, sounding a more optimistic note about the summit's possible outcome than had many of the non-government organisations during the past few days.

Mr Strong said 78 heads of state or government would be attending next week. Consensus had been achieved on about 98 percent of the "most complex and substantive agenda ever".

Mr Strong predicted: "This will be a very historic step forward in establishing the principles for sustainable behaviour in the future."

He refused to be drawn into publicly criticising the United States, which has been roundly attacked for its alleged spoiling role during the preparations for the summit.

"This conference will look as though it's going to collapse before it comes together. I think you're going to see lots of these controversies right up until the last."

He emphasised that much of the summit's success would depend on whether governments actually implemented programmes and policies approved at the conference.

● Not all Brazilians are keen on the summit taking place in their country. "Ecologists go home!" reads a huge billboard — appropriately in green — on the route to the conference centre 35km south of Rio.

● Youth delegates delivered a stinging attack on the UnCED process, alleging it had been paid for and delivered into the hands of big business.

The youth leaders said some of the world's worst environmental offenders — including the giant British chemical company ICI and the Brazilian company Petrosbras which polluted Rio's Gua-

nabara Bay — had paid for research done by the summit's staff during the preparation for the conference and had also helped fund the Global Forum.

● Malaysia's ambassador to Italy and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Mr Ting Wen Lian, delivered a blistering attack on the developed nations of the north during a briefing to explain why a forest convention had not been achieved for signature at the earth summit.

Malaysia is accused of being one of the worst culprits of indiscriminate and unsustainable logging of tropical forests, with most of the felling being done by giant Japanese trans-national companies such as Mitsubishi.

● The World Wide Fund for Nature — probably the biggest non-government conservation body in the world and represented in South Africa by the SA Nature Foundation — has challenged world leaders to take radical and concerted action to ensure the future health and stability of the planet.

## Food prices could jump 45%

ARG 3/6/92

The Argus Correspondent and Sapa

JOHANNESBURG. — The prices of some staple foods including bread, maize meal, sorghum and edible oils could increase by an additional 19 to 45 percent this year, says Foodcorp chief executive Mr Dirk Jacobs.

Further price rises this year for staple foods could lead to a national disaster, he said yesterday.

He said the increases would be mainly the result of an expected rise of between 30 and 40 per cent, since many basic foodstuffs would have to be imported this year because of the drought.

This meant the price of maize meal could increase by a further 20 percent, sorghum by just over 45 percent and oil seed by about 30 percent.

A further bread price rise was also expected, Mr Jacobs said.

It was also feared this year's wheat yield would not meet expectations

and the Wheat Board had already intimated that a million tons of wheat would have to be imported.

Consumer Union Chairman Ms Lilibeth Moolman said the government should subsidise some costs, particularly the transporting of imported grains inland from the coast.

Mrs Sheila Lord, a Housewife's League vice president, said while the drought inevitably resulted in price increases, she suspected collusion in some of the increases.

"Why do bakeries all charge the same price? Why are they not vying with other companies in an attempt to sell more?" she asked. "All bread is the same price, but you don't find that with something like a can of beans."

"Obviously we are going to see some increases from the drought, but I just hope people don't jump on the bandwagon and increase prices unless it's absolutely necessary," said Mrs Lord.

## Some rent defaulters pay up

Municipal Reporter

ABOUT 42 percent of housing rent defaulters handed over by the city council to debt collectors had paid up by April, a housing committee report said.

In Mitchell's Plain, Manenberg, Valhalla Park and Retreat arrears totalled R3 149 817 by March 31.

Of these, 704 tenants — owing a total R815 975 — were handed over to debt collectors, and by April 296 had paid.

This earned the city council R24 942, the report said.

## Seagulls to blame for dirty pool?

CT 3/6/92 Municipal Reporter

(56)

SEAGULLS may be responsible for the high levels of faecal coliform pollutants detected at the Camps Bay Tidal Pool, acting city engineer Mr Henk Beekman said yesterday.

This was one possibility that was still being investigated, he said. Coliforms were found not only in the digestive tracts of humans and dogs, but in seagulls as well.

Another possibility was that polluted stormwater was finding its way into the tidal pool.

years of service are projected until age 65 years. In addition to the gratification and yearly amount which is payable out of income, the member or his next-of-kin is also compensated from the Pension Fund.

(3) No.

**THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:** Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is he able to tell the House how many policemen have been attacked while not wearing bullet-proof vests?

**THE MINISTER:** Mr Speaker, I cannot give the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition the answer to that. I would appreciate it if he would place that question on the Question Paper.

**MR M RAJAB:** Mr Speaker, further arising . . . I yield to the hon member

**MR SPEAKER:** Order! I did not see the hon member for Springfield. The hon member for Malabar may proceed

**MR K PADAYACHY:** Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he tell us how many policemen lost their lives this year? I know that last year 137 members paid the highest price in the execution of their duties. Three weeks ago a young policeman who was known to me was shot and killed in Port Elizabeth, and according to newspaper reports over the past two days . . . [Interjections.]

**THE MINISTER:** Mr Speaker, I do not have the exact figure, but I believe it is well over 70.

**MR M RAJAB:** Mr Speaker, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, he indicated that the Department had made provision for a financial package to be paid to the next-of-kin of a member of the Force who is killed on duty. I would like to ask the hon the Minister whether he is referring to a package by way of insurance cover to which all members of the Force contribute, or whether this is something that is provided over and above that particular provision? My second question, which arises from my first one, is whether the hon the Minister has considered putting into effect an insurance package for all members of the Force for which the Department would pick up the tab.

**THE MINISTER:** Mr Speaker, as I have already indicated, compensation is paid out of State funds from the income account. I cannot tell the

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terms of national acts or provincial ordinances.

Moreover, the Department of Environment Affairs also initiated a wetland conservation programme which will, *inter alia*, determine the need to promulgate any additional legislation. The programme is based on past endeavour to protect wetlands in South Africa, whilst giving consideration to the sustainable use of resources.

Of the 64 Contracting Parties only 7, of which South Africa is one, have established a national committee to guide wetland conservation activities in terms of the Convention.

In pursuance of the objectives of the Convention a national policy on wetland conservation is at present being developed in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989). The first draft of this policy has been presented to a subcommittee of the Committee for Environmental Management and is currently being circulated to relevant departments for comment.

Once the policy has been adopted, any additional legislation, as may prove necessary, will be promulgated.

(2) No.

#### INTERPELLATION

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation indicates the original language.

#### Own Affairs:

**Housing Development Board: shops sold at cost price**

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(1) Whether he and/or any of his predecessors gave any undertakings to the effect that shops owned by the Housing Development Board would be sold at cost price to tenants who are resettlement cases; if so,

(2) whether he intends honouring these undertakings; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

D185E INT

**THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:** Mr Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is no. With regard to the second part, as far as can be ascertained no undertakings were ever given. However, from records held by the Administration it appears that a previous Minister of Community Development had intimated that the premises would be sold at a reasonable price, taking into account the cost plus interest to date and all other relevant factors, such as the cost of maintaining the premises, administrative services, and so forth.

The Administration therefore resolved to give existing tenants the first option to purchase the shop complexes which they are occupying at present. Furthermore, to ensure that the prices were reasonable, the department obtained market values which I then discounted to compensate for the loss, hardship and trauma suffered by the affected traders.

**THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:** Mr Speaker, I want to be very critical of the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture, because the question asks "whether he and/or any of his predecessors" gave any undertakings. Of course the present hon Minister did not give any undertaking, but he is not sure whether or not his predecessors gave any undertakings. This matter was raised in this House from time to time and was not disputed.

Of course, there is a contradiction in the hon the Minister's reply when he says that according to the records a previous Minister of Community Development has given certain undertakings. I shall name that Minister. He was the Minister of Community Development, Mr S J Marais Steyn, who was succeeded by Mr Pen Kotzé. He gave the undertaking that all the shops where victims of the Group Areas Act had been resettled would be sold to the occupants, who were resettlement cases, at the cost at the date of construction. There are witnesses to this promise. We would like the hon the Minister to tell us in his reply where these records are and what the details are as far as the records are concerned, because I was present when that particular Minister gave this undertaking.

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hon member whether insurance policies exist which are paid for out of the Police Force's own funds, because that is purely in the hands of the SA Police. There are organizations to which all policemen belong. However, I do not know whether they have policies of that nature, because that matter does not fall under me.

As far as whether we are considering a package deal from an insurance point of view is concerned, may I say that it must always be remembered that policemen fall under the Commission for Administration and that therefore their emoluments and salaries are part of the salary package of the State as a whole. As far as I am aware no provision has been made for such a package. However, I am able to inform the hon member that I have called for an inquiry within the department to establish the salary structure and all the fringe benefits of the SA Police. We intend to have a very close look at that, but unfortunately I cannot give the hon member any information at this stage because the investigation is still under way.

#### Protection of wetlands

\*2. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department, as a signatory to the International Wetlands Convention (Ramsar Convention), has given or intends giving legislative effect to its commitment to the protection of wetlands; if not, why not; if so, how;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D177E

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

(1) Yes. As signatory to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), South Africa undertook to respect its provisions. It is well known that wetlands registered as such with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention have no legal status. Existing legislation does however provide for the protection of resources and/or ecological processes and it is so that most of South Africa's Ramsar-registered wetlands are already enjoying conservation status, either in

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

preservation commodities. Possible losses may be revealed. The investigation is also of a technical nature and may be time consuming.

(4) No.

†Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he let us know, just in respect of Land Rovers, how many Land Rovers that have covered less than 30 000 km were scrapped in the past two years, because proper preservation had not been applied?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, on my third day in office I have not yet counted the Land Rovers in the SA Defence Force, but I think the hon member should just wait until the investigation has been completed, then we shall know how many Land Rovers and other things are involved. [Interjections.]

#### Children orphaned as a result of Aids

\*5. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether her Department keeps statistics on children orphaned as a result of their parents having died of Aids; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many such children are there in South Africa and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;
- (2) whether the State has formulated a policy to deal with children orphaned in this way; if so, what are the details of this policy?

B685E

#### The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (1) No, because the final diagnosis is often unknown or not disclosed by health care workers or surviving family members.

To say that the parents had died of Aids could lead to discrimination and stigmatization of the children;

(2) no.

†Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I just want to ask—there is a whole series of Aids-related illnesses—whether she does not think it necessary that routine Aids tests ought to be carried out in those cases, in order to be able to compile statistics like this.

Short term monitoring is also done to investigate problems and complaints.

(2) Yes.

- (a) by the Department of National Health and Population Development the various local authorities and the other institutions involved in monitoring; and

- (b) results are mainly made available on request. Results will also be presented at conferences and similar meetings as well as specially arranged public meetings. Results of the Vaal Triangle, Kempton Park, Edenvalle and Modderfontein monitoring are made available in the form of press releases on a six monthly basis. Results are also given in annual reports, complete or in summarized format.

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I clearly hear the hon members for Wynberg and Houghton talking. I have called them to order twice now. I am not going to do so again.

#### Disposal of toilets

\*7. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

- (1) Whether any plans have been made to dispose of the toilets to the value of approximately R15 million which were purchased by the former Department of Development Aid and are allegedly not in use at present; if not, why not; if so, what plans;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B691E

†The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Department is not of the intention to sell the toilets. Preliminary surveys indicate that all the unused toilets will be utilized within governmental context. The majority of the toilets which have originally been purchased have already been utilized at approximately 30 sites such as for example at: Botshabelo, Letlhabile,

Frischgewaagd, Craig, Tshame and Inanda.

- (2) The utilization of approximately 4 600 toilets which are not being used presently and of which the initial purchase value amounted to approximately R2 900 000, is being investigated and it will, according to needs, *inter alia* be allocated to the following instances:

— The Provincial Administrations of Transvaal, Natal and the Cape.

— The Government of KwaNdebele.

Decisions have also been taken regarding the utilization of toilets at the following areas:

— Elandsdoorn  
— Zaalpaats  
— Hartheestfontein  
— Langkloof.

†Adv C D DE JAGER: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he thinks he now has enough toilets for governmental use, or does he need more?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, such intense interest in toilets to my opinion takes the population growth into account. There will always be more people, therefore there will always be a need for toilets.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to ask him the following question. When he has provided for those which are necessary for use in the Government context, would he then consider making the surplus toilets available to informal communities, communities living in informal settlements throughout the country? I am aware of the fact that there is a great need for them in those communities. [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I have already indicated that all toilets would be utilized. Some will be allocated to the provincial administrations of the Transvaal, Natal and the Cape Province, as well as the KwaNdebele government service. These will be utilized for informal settlements.

†Mr C J W BADENHORST: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to know from him whether the

# Uncertainty over Earth Summit

Southern 3/6/92

56

**RIODE JANEIRO** - The Earth Summit opening here today has become overshadowed with doubt.

Delegates and activists - some 30 000 of them - are swarming through this cloud-swept city under the watchful gaze of soldiers with fixed bayonets and the avaricious eyes of Rio's thieves.

News has surfaced of divisions abroad likely to rob the summit of much of its potential effectiveness.

Japan has emerged as a leader in the push to clean up the world after an April "Eminent Persons" conference in Tokyo.

Mr Maurice Strong, the Canadian chairman of the Earth Summit, described that as "a major step within Japan to help crystallise political and public opinion".

"Japan's potential for leadership is critical to the success of the conference but also in the longer term to our overall success as a global community dealing with these issues," he told the official Earth Summit Times.

Many delegates see US President George Bush as a traitor after the United States yanked the teeth from a draft convention to limit carbon dioxide emissions, leaving it a statement of aspirations, and then refusing to sign a draft treaty to protect the world's animal and plant species.

Delegates had expected the United States to take the leading role in drafting environmental issues onto "the new world order".

In the European Community, divisions among member countries underscore the refusal of EC Environment Commissioner Mr Carlo Ripa di Meana to attend a summit where "everything has been arranged in advance to deliver only lip-service".

Developing countries are split over money - the key which will keep summit decisions locked on paper, or open them up to action. Countries in the former communist empire, for example, need more money than industrialised countries have available to lend to modernise heavily polluting factories.

The sheer size of the June 3 to 14 conference - 131 heads of state and governments are to attend, along with 12 000 representatives of non-governmental organisations - means this UN Conference on the Environment and Development, as it is officially known, is raising the level of global awareness 20 years after the first such conference in Stockholm.

The centrepiece of the summit is Agenda 21, a programme for the environment designed to reach into the 21st century.

Strong says agreement has been reached on 98 per cent of Agenda 21.

But the two percent of issues remaining is where the major problems are, and most concern money.

Fifty-five developing nations meeting in Kuala Lumpur in late April issued a declaration demanding that Rio summitters establish a fund to pay for projects approved there, mainly because those countries resent the control developed nations exert over the finances of the Global Environment Facility, set up two years ago and now with an annual budget of about R3.6-billion.

Strong estimates the North needs to provide an extra R196-billion a year to help the South ecologically, and developing nations need to provide about R1 400-billion a year. - Sapa-AFP.

**'News has surfaced of divisions... likely to rob the summit of ... its potential effectiveness'**



# Pollution: SA 'worst' — report

CT4/6/92 (56)

PRETORIA. — South Africa submitted a 250-page report to the World Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro detailing a deteriorating water supply, huge waste piles and some of the worst air pollution in the world.

Billed as the most momentous environmental event this century, the summit will be launched today — World Environment Day — with the theme "One Earth One Chance". It was opened yesterday by UN secretary-general Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

For 12 days, the UN Conference on Environment and Development, as the summit is formally known, will discuss issues like poverty, pollution, agriculture and the atmosphere.

The report, compiled by the Department of Environment Affairs, said was released yesterday.

On air pollution, it said: "Emissions from coal and other fuel sources in South Africa amount to an estimated 308 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, about 1,6% of man-made releases worldwide and perhaps twice the world per capita average."

On waste, the report said 428 million tons of waste were created annually.

Commenting on this figure, Group for Environmental Monitoring spokes-

man Mr David Cooper said only 50% of South Africa's industrial waste reached official dumps.

The country's large amount of mining waste, included in this figure, contributed to a high waste quota per head by international standards, said Mr Cooper.

Referring to water quality and supply, the government report said 65% of the country received less than 500mm of rain annually.

Coupled with this was an estimated 53,5 billion cubic metres of water wasted in run-off each year. Linked to this, about 300-400 million tons of land was eroded annually.

On the depletion of forests, which stabilise topsoil, the department said only 250 million hectares of indigenous forest were still left in South Africa, most of it in small patches.

According to Mr Cooper, 30% of South Africa's indigenous forest disappeared over the last 15-20 years.

Regarding the marine environment, the report said severe declines in three key fish species — pilchard, hake and kingklip — occurred in the past three decades.

South Africa will not attend the summit as it is not a full member of the UN, deputy environment affairs director Mr Theuns van Rensburg said. — Sapa, Sapa-Reuter



# SA's environment officials to attend summit in private

By Day 4/6/92

SC

PRETORIA — An SA Environment Affairs Department delegation to the Earth Summit would attend in a private capacity only, deputy director Theuns van Rensburg said yesterday.

SA is not a full member of the UN, which is why government will not be there officially, "We didn't want to create diplomatic embarrassment," Van Rensburg said.

He said his department had no problem with the ANC reportedly sending a delegation to Rio, as the organisation would also be there in a private capacity and its environmental goals did not differ markedly from those of government.

Van Rensburg's department has submitted a 250-page report to the summit which details SA's deteriorating water supply, huge waste piles and some of the worst air pollution in the world.

A summary of the report says: "Emissions from coal and other fuel usage in SA include an estimated 308-million tons of carbon dioxide a year, about 1,6% of total world man-made releases and perhaps twice the world per capita average.

"The likely implications of global warming and ozone depletion for SA are poorly understood."  
The report said 428-million tons of waste

were created annually.

Referring to water quality and supply, the report said 65% of the country received less than 500mm rain annually, the amount usually regarded as the minimum for successful dryland farming.

Coupled with this was an estimated 53,5-billion m<sup>3</sup> wasted in runoff each year.

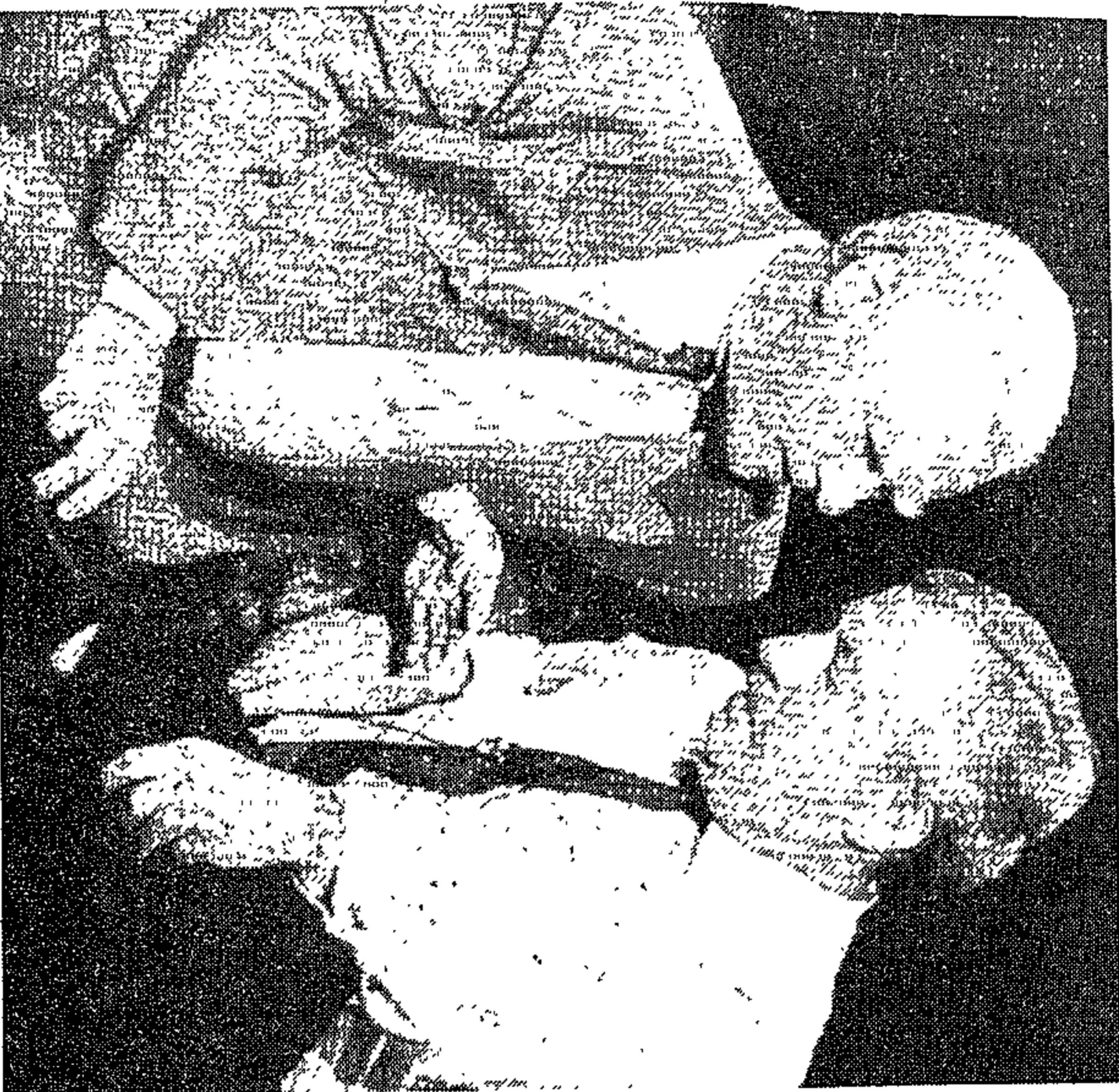
"It is estimated that about 33-billion m<sup>3</sup> of annual runoff and 5,4-billion m<sup>3</sup> groundwater annually could potentially be exploited economically," the report says.

"Runoff and the discharge of effluents has led to a progressive deterioration in water quality," said the report. Linked to runoff problems, SA lost 300-400-million tons of soil to erosion annually.

On the depletion of forests, the department said only 250 000ha of indigenous forest were still left in SA, most surviving in small patches.

Linked to both air pollution and deforestation, the report estimated that Karoo scrubland had encroached eastwards into grassland areas by more than 140km this century.

Invasive plants had infested about 4-million ha of land and posed a serious threat to ecosystem stability. — Sapa.



Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, left, and Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen during a parliamentary debate after the referendum on the Maastricht Treaty.

Picture: AP

# Report lists damage to SA environment

STAR 4/6/92. (56)

South Africa has submitted a 250-page report to the current World Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro which details a deteriorating water supply, huge waste piles and some of the worst air pollution in the world.

In a summary of its report, released in Pretoria yesterday, the Department of Environment Affairs said SA would find global direction and new environmental partners at the Earth Summit.

On air pollution, the report said: "Emissions from coal and other fuel usage in SA include an estimated 308 million tons of carbon dioxide a year, about 1.6 percent of total world man-made releases and perhaps twice the world per capita average."

The report said some 428 million tons of waste were created annually.

Group for Environmental Monitoring spokesman David Cooper said this figure should be evaluated in the know-

ledge that only half of SA's industrial waste went into official dumps. The large quantity of mining waste included in this figure contributed to an extremely high waste quota per capita by international standards.

The report said 65 percent of the country received less than 500 mm of rain annually — the quantity regarded as the minimum for successful dryland farming.

An estimated 53 500-million cubic metres of water was wasted in runoff annually.

Linked to runoff, 300 to 400 million tons of soil was lost to erosion.

Only a quarter of a million hectares of the country's indigenous forest was still left. Mr Cooper said 30 percent of indigenous forest had disappeared over the last 15 to 20 years.

Affected by these threats to the environment, 118 plants, eight fish species, five amphibians/reptiles and three land mammals were endangered. — Sapa.

● Who will pick up tab for Earth? — Page 21

# SA Govt kept out of Earth Summit

S6

Sowetan 4/6/92

**Sowetan  
Correspondent**

THE South African Government is not sending an official delegation to the United Nations-organised Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro which started yesterday.

This was confirmed by a spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The African National Congress will, however, be sending a delegation and it is expected that ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela will

attend the conference which is the largest gathering of world leaders.

It is understood that a senior official of the Department of Foreign Affairs had contacted the ANC last week requesting the organisation to intervene with African members of the UN to support South Africa's participation.

The ANC denied the request.

The spokesman, Mr Rafique Gangat, said yesterday: "Senior officials on both sides have talked from time to time about the meeting and both sides made soundings about participation."

He said South Africa's ambassador to Brazilia had been asked to monitor the proceedings and the country's report on environmental issues had been submitted to the summit.

South Africa is unable to attend the conference as the UN has refused to accept its credentials since 1977. The ANC has been invited because of its official observer status at the UN.

## Gold Fields the 'greenest'

KATHRYN STRACHAN

GOLD Fields received the Green Trust Environment Award's top prize in Johannesburg yesterday.

The awards, sponsored by Nedbank, were presented to winners in five categories by Green Trust Board of Trustees member Enos Mabuza. *20/5/92*

Gold Fields Foundation administrator Willie Jacobsz said his company's project aimed to teach people to produce food in a way least harmful to the environment. *Bl Day 4/6/92*

The winner of the individual category was farmer and teacher Ian Garland.

The John Bisseker Secondary School won the schools category and the media award went to reporter John Yeld.

Winners of the organisation category were Ecological Clubs for Children Organisation and Metropolitan Open Space System.

## Rusfurn to retrench 988 employees, says union

DIRK HARTFORD *20/5/92*

RETAIL group Rusfurn plans to retrench 988 employees from its Wanda-Frazer furniture stores as part of its restructuring, says a SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) official.

Saccawu will be holding nationwide lunchtime demonstrations at Wanda-Frazer stores today to protest against the retrenchment plans.

Saccawu said yesterday it had been told the stores — which employed about 8 000 people — had lost R78m in bad debts. The company had made an offer of a R100 across-the-board pay increase for Wanda workers on the condition that the union accepted its restructuring plans. *Bl Day 4/6/92*

The Saccawu spokesman said the retrenchments were part of an overall assault on retail workers which included wage freezes and mass layoffs.

He said there would be national mass demonstrations by its 100 000 members on Monday to protest against these attacks. Saccawu was planning to meet all retail employers in two weeks' time to discuss the crisis in the industry. The union wanted a moratorium on retrenchments.

Rusfurn spokesmen yesterday declined to comment on the retrenchment claims.

Meanwhile, wage negotiations at Edgars and Dion have been finalised, with R200 across-the-board increases bringing minimum monthly wages within the companies to R1 200 and R950 respectively.

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## Move to get water to parched areas

(56)  
DURBAN — The water shortage in some areas of southern Natal is so severe people are digging for water in dry river beds and drinking polluted water treated with bleach, says Southern Natal Joint Services Board chairman Prof Khabli Mngoma.

Mngoma said most of the main supply rivers for rural southern Natal had dried up. Many springs had also run dry, and boreholes were delivering mostly sandy water.

Acute water shortages were being experienced from about 10km from the coast into the hinterland.

Mngoma said it had been decided, at an emergency meeting on Tuesday to discuss the drought in the region, that joint services boards would tackle the problem of the water shortage there. This would involve urgent measures to transport water to critical areas. *B10day 4/6/92*

A statement after the meeting said it had been accepted that although dams in the area were on average about 70% full, rural areas were totally parched and a concerted effort was needed to obtain funds and resources to get water to the areas.

In the Vulamehlo district near Scottburgh, for instance, women stood for hours at night waiting to draw water from a spring. — Sapa.

an association of diamond dealers. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA CONTRACTS. Documents not stamped

# Business cycle 'not at lowest point yet'

*B10day 4/6/92*  
THE lower turning point of the SA economy's business cycle has not yet been reached and no upturn is expected before the last quarter of the year, says First National Bank's personal asset management arm.

In its latest investment review, First National Trust says the upturn in the economy is expected to be slow and hesitant in the early stages and primarily based on higher government spending, increases in export earnings and a slowdown in the de-stocking cycle.

"Fixed investment will remain depressed this year against the background of high interest rates, shrinking profits and political uncertainty. Improving financial and political conditions are required before this ... will improve."

The prime overdraft rate could average about 19% in 1992 and about 17% in 1993, the review predicted. A further cut in the Bank rate was not expected until the third quarter.

The review says the main reason for the diverging rates of consumer and producer inflation is very high food prices and the fact that VAT is

Business Day Reporter

reflected in the consumer price index (CPI) but not in the producer price index (PPI).

"What is encouraging, however, is that the increasing CPI cannot be attributed to excess monetary demand. In addition, the prices of imported goods are making no contribution to inflation at present.

"The favourable trend of the PPI, the absence of excess monetary demand, together with factors such as lower increases in wages should start to impact positively on the CPI. The CPI inflation rate is expected to fall below 13% by year end."

The contraction of investment expenditure is disturbing because a reasonable rate of investment is the basis for long term growth.

"The challenge which lies ahead for the authorities is to implement policies which allow and encourage domestic savings and foreign investment. The finance necessary for a rate of investment expenditure which will sustain long term growth will then be in place."

# Green summit quarrel

56  
Sowetan 4/6/92

RIO DE JANEIRO - The largest meeting of world leaders in history began yesterday, its promise to save the planet shadowed by a bitter north-south struggle over how to protect the earth.

The Earth Summit, formally the UN Conference on Environment and Development, officially got underway after two years of hard negotiating on issues ranging from climate changes, forest protection to pollution.

Its goal is to set the economic stage for the next century, fusing the growing needs of a threatened planet with the ever-increasing demands of development.

The outcome was uncertain on the eve of the summit because of a split between developing nations and industrialised ones.

The United States said it would not sign a convention widely supported by developing nations to protect plants, animals and natural resources.

Washington objects to provisions it believes could hurt its bio-technology industry by threatening intellectual property rights and patents on products gleaned from natural resources.

The decision was seen by developing nations as a sign that rich countries were not prepared to help poor countries. - Sapa-Reuter.

COMPANIES

# Comex gold futures trade at 13-year low

By Day 5/6/92

## WHAT little investor interest there is in gold is confined mostly to the Far East, and the amount of gold futures traded on New York's Commodity Exchange (Comex) in the past year is the lowest since 1979, says Anglo American gold and uranium division chairman Clem Sunter.

However, Sunter said yesterday, gold prices had withstood the dearth of investor interest and large sales of Soviet reserves between 1989 and 1991 relatively well.

In his annual review of Freegold's operations in the year-ended March 1992, he said 200 tons of Soviet gold, deposited on swap with Western banks, were a real danger for gold prices. The disposal of such swaps during the attempted Soviet coup knocked prices to about \$340 from \$370 an ounce in September last year.

## Prepaid meter

### market soaring

THE market for prepaid electricity meters is growing rapidly and SA electronics companies are gearing themselves to supply the large quantities needed when Eskom's "electricity for all" programme gets off the ground.

Purchases from Eskom, local authorities and the homeland have already reached an estimated 200 000 units, with Eskom taking more than half of those.

But Conlog, Plessey Tellumat and Spectrom — the companies who pioneered the technology — are experiencing demand soon to reach hundreds of thousands every year. Eskom plans to eliminate the backlog of 3-million households needing electricity by 1996, and bring electricity to 90% of the population by the decade's end.

Conlog, which has the largest installed base in the country, is already producing 800 units a day (nearly 200 000 a year), Plessey MD John Temple says his company is expecting production to reach "the hundreds of thousands" in the near future.

At nearly R400 a unit the potential financial rewards are great and other companies in the industry, including electronics giant Altech, are getting involved. Export potential is immense, industry sources say.

## Sunter

"It is in the interests of all concerned that the code be signed and formally implemented as soon as possible," Sunter said.

It was vital the realism and creativity which typified 1991 wage negotiations prevailed in the current wage talks. Productivity and gold price related bonuses remained an essential part of the year's wage settlement.

Sunter said the decision not to abolish ring-fencing in the 1991 Budget was "a major disappointment". He hoped undisclosed recommendations made by the Tax Advisory Committee would encourage the authorities to abolish "this artificial restriction", which would make it easier for gold mines to invest in new mining ventures once gold prices improved.

In the year under review, Freegold increased its earnings to R280m from R167m, as forward sales lifted the gold price it received by 4% and more than offset a marginal drop in gold production to 19,8 tons (21,3 tons).

## Sage Life premium income has grown 22% to R350m

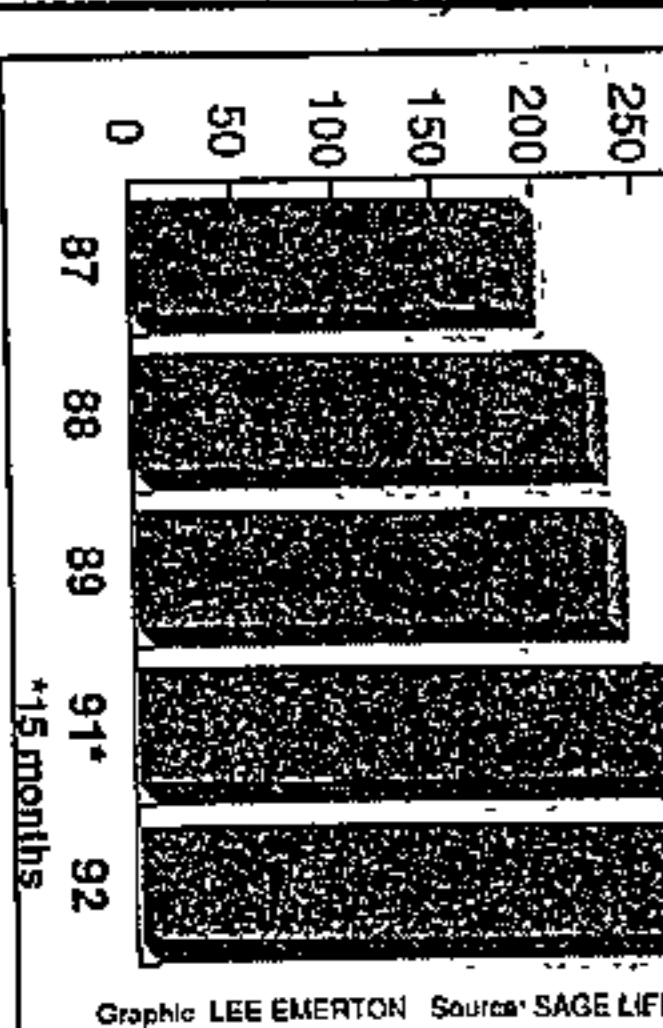
SAGE LIFE has maintained its good growth record, boosting premiums received by 22% to nearly R350m in the year to end-March 1992.

The results are compared with estimated figures for the previous 12 months as the results to March 1991 covered a 15-month period following a change in Sage Life's financial year-end.

Executive chairman Louis Shill said the company had made excellent progress on all fronts. It had expanded the scope of its activities and achieved accelerated new business growth, reaching two milestones — total assets exceeded R2bn and total income passed R500m for the first time.

The company's performance had improved significantly in 1991. The company significantly increased its internal reserves in spite of substantial technical strains resulting from the high level of new business.

Total income showed an 18,7% increase in income to R504,1m. Total assets rose 22% to R2,2m (R1,9m). Sage Life's total assets had shown an annual compound growth rate of 21,4% during the past five years. Shill and Isley said the expansion reflected Sage Life's continuing position as one of SA's top 10 life insurers.



## Anglo tops the list in mining world

LONDON — In spite of the weak gold price, the Anglo American group retains its position as the western world's biggest mining company — more than twice the size of its nearest rival Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ).

Anglo has held the position since 1984 when its output was worth 16% of the western total, but has lost nearly half of its share because of falling gold production. Anglo's output was worth 16% of the western total, but has lost nearly half of its share because of falling gold production.

## Umgeni Water to tap market for R100m

UMGENI Water plans to raise R100m during the 1992/93 financial year, the bulk of which will come from the capital market.

The water utility's annual report released today shows its funding requirements from the market over the next five years will be R850m. Umgeni's gross borrowings amounted to R148,5m at the end of February, but its total issued stock on the capital market is R1,5bn.

A senior dealer said the additional R100m would not affect the bond rates as this had been pre-announced. Total trade in the bonds on Wednesday was about R50m. "It is the most liquid stock on the capital market if turnover is taken as a percentage of total issue," he said.

The Umgeni 15% 1997 (UG30) ended at 15,510% on Thursday compared with 15,540% while the Umgeni 15% 2005 (UG35) ended at 16,175% from 16,220%. The dealer expected the gap between the UG35 and 21,7% to R348,6m.

Shill and MD B M Isley said the increases could be regarded as satisfactory because the economy was in recession, unemployment was rising and stubbornly high inflation was restricting savings potential.

The growth in business compared favourably with an increase in expenses of only 14,2%. Other salient features included a 20,2% increase in profits attributable to shareholders.

The company significantly increased its internal reserves in spite of substantial technical strains resulting from the high level of new business.

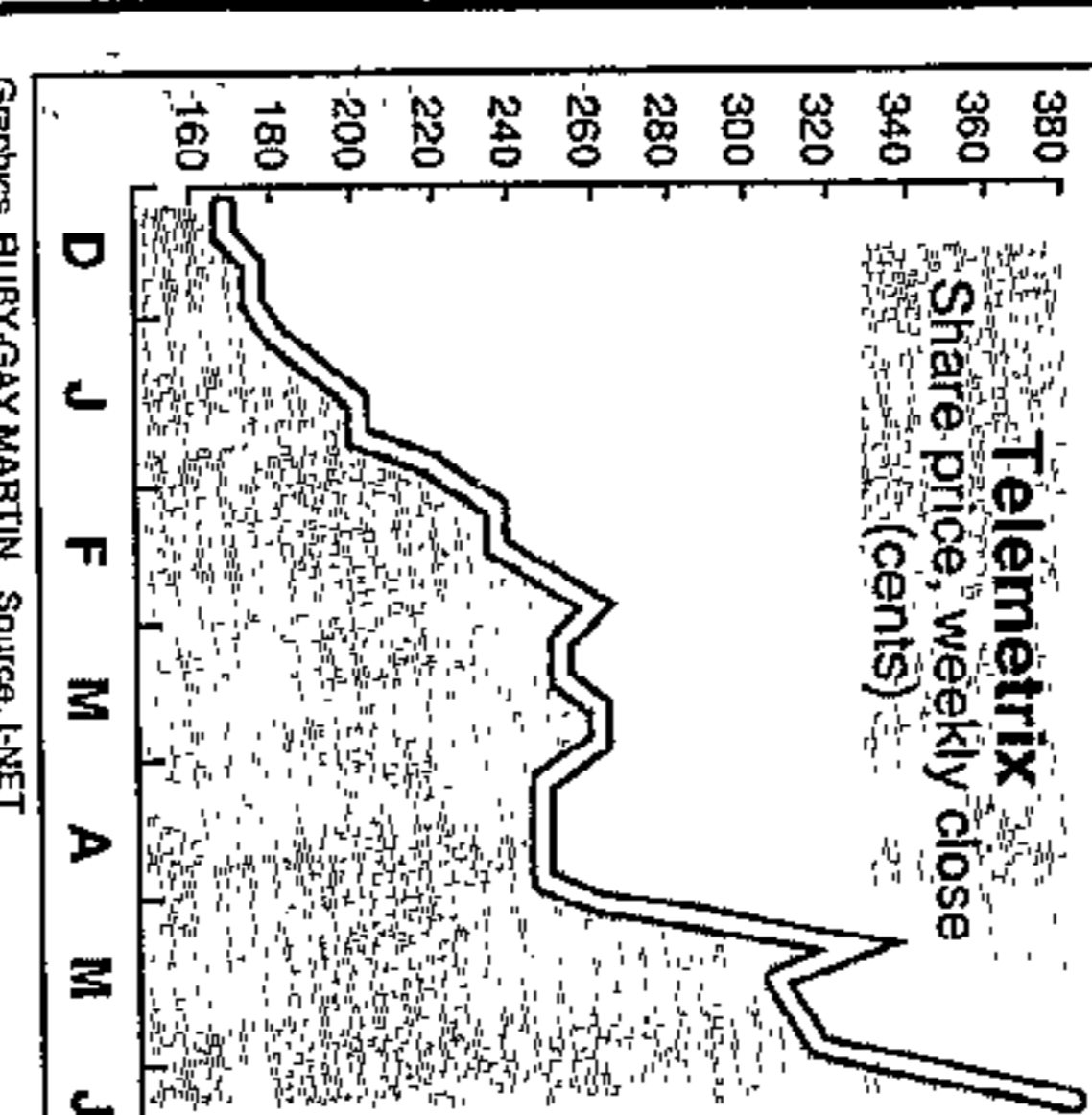
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## DIAGONAL STREET

THE market shrugged off financial volatility at the opening of trade to recon most of its early losses and continue its march to new highs.

After opening slightly softer, the JSE industrial index firmed 10 points to 4 689 for its fifth record close in less than two weeks as money continued to flow in for selected blue chips. The overall index edged up one point to a new closing high of 3 744, as mining shares tended mixed with the all gold index shedding 15 points to 1 087 after the metal failed to hold at the \$340 level on Wednesday.

The market was thrown into some confusion at the start of trading as the financial strengthened sharply on news that all interest on foreign investment would be exempt from tax. Its early strength pushed share prices lower, but the unit retraced all of its gains to end unchanged.



"This is the nature of the beast, but the news was good for the market as it opens up a range of possibilities by removing doubts which have hindered investment," a dealer said.

Platinum was slightly softer, slipping below \$773, as the metal attempted to consolidate on the back of this week's gains. Leader RUSPLAT rose 100c to a new year high of R83, and MESSINA bounced off its low with a 20c rise to 200c, but IMPLATS eased 29c to R52.

DE BEERS slipped 50c to go back below R90 and close at R89,50, while ANGLOS recovered half its early loss to end 25c off at R125. NEW WITS, the weak spot among mining financials, fell 9% or 90c to 900c.

Backed by generally firm overseas equity markets, dealers see little reason why blue chip industrials should come down. "People do not trust golds, and surplus cash should keep blue chips on higher ground," a trader said.

SARREN headed the most active value list as the shares rose 50c to go back to its May peak of R100 with a large parcel of scrip changing hands and shares worth a total of R6,5m traded in 21 deals.

TELEOY was steady at its peak of 285c, after reporting a 5% decline in earnings, but maintaining the dividend for the year to March. The shares are on a yield of 4,7% at the current price after rising from 215c a year ago.

## Tough economic conditions cited in Hicor's R2,7m loss

RETAIL company Hicor, the holding company of the Allwear clothing group, has reported a R2,7m loss before extraordinary items in the year to end-February.

These results, which compare with a R362 000 profit in the previous year, had been "materially affected by the prevailing poor economic conditions", directors said.

Last year Hicor sold its largest subsidiary, Harries, to Pep Stores for R18,4m. Directors pointed out that the current results included a R2,4m loss made by Harries Stores for March and April 1991, so figures were not directly comparable with the previous year.

## Market strides resolutely up to new highs

By William Wells and Jack Lindstrom

INSURE YOU NOTICED THAT AS WE GET OLDER, OUR CONVERSATIONS SEEM TO LACK ANY DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY?

MARKM.

THE NATIONAL DEBT... WHEN? RIGHT!

STOCK MARKET...

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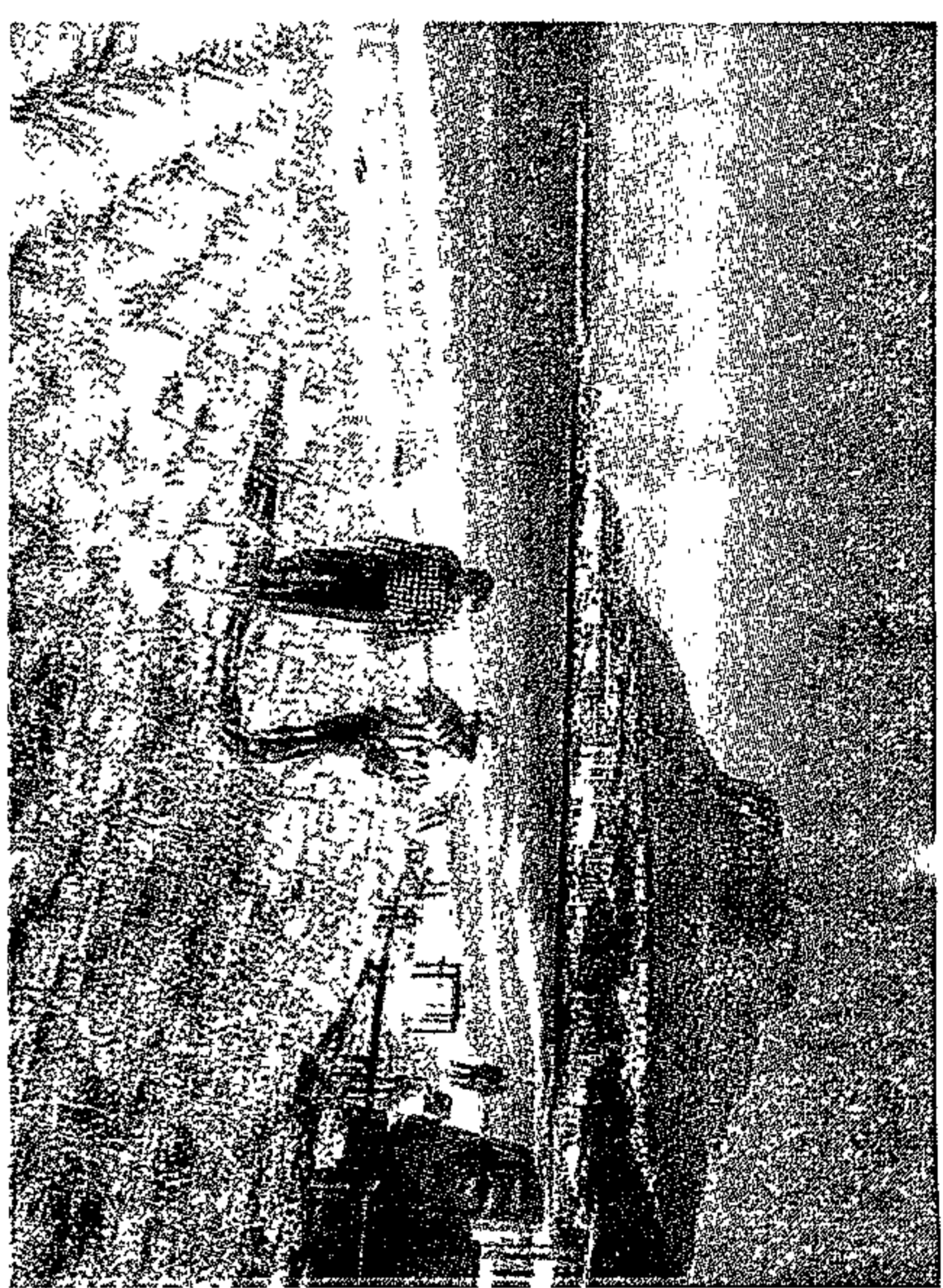
# Business Day SURVEY

Environmental regulations could be become as crippling to SA's exporters as sanctions once were. During the years of SA's isolation, emphasis on environmental sensitivity became a major issue in industrialised countries. If SA companies want to enter those markets, they need to know and comply with the regulations which affect them. GILLIAN HAYNE reports.

## A major plastic ogre rears its ugly head in the seas

PLASTICS, oil slicks and sewage are the three greatest threats to marine life, experts say. Oceanographic Research Institute's Tony de Feltes believes plastic pollution is "the major ogre" because it is so widespread. It is estimated that about two kilograms of plastic waste is thrown overboard each day for every sailor at sea. "Clear plastic bags are a major hazard to turtles, with them thinking they are jelly fish, and the plastic rings used as holders for packs of six cans kill fish which get caught up as they swim through them. Worst of all are the lost drift nets which continue to catch fish, dolphins, birds and other species for decades," he says.

SA has recently become a signatory to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, Annex 5, which disallows dumping of plastic waste overboard. Offenders can be fined up to R200 000 or 10 years in jail. SA has been a signatory to Annex 1 and 2, which relates to oil and chemicals carried in bulk, for some time. Oil slicks are a danger if



Dune rehabilitation at Hour Bay.

## Ivory ban ties down wildlife managers

POACHING is a very real problem, common to many countries in Africa, but opinions on how the issue should be tackled are poles apart. The Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) has tried to stem the destruction of the elephant for export, by banning the sale of ivory worldwide. Kenya Wildlife Services deputy director Joseph Kioko says the ban is essential to the success of its fight against poaching. "The ban was imposed in October 1989 and the last recorded elephant poached in Kenya was in March 1990. In the late 1980s when the price of raw ivory was as high as R172/kg, Kenya was losing 2-3 animals a day. Its elephant population dwindled from 130 000 animals in 1970 to only 20 000 by 1991. Johannesburg City Council conservation director Pat Condy says although the ban has been valuable for those countries where law and order had broken down, it will not solve the issue. The historical and cultural demands for ivory have been starved by the ban, but will not go away. In addition, the ban on ivory trade reduces the ability of conservation

agencies to help pay for themselves. Most conservation bodies in SA recognise that for conservation to work in the future it must pay for itself to the greatest extent possible and must also serve a useful economic purpose for the country. "How can you use the argument that the nature conservation is useful for its own sake when there are starving people on the boundaries of protected areas needing food, wood for heating and thatch for housing? The local populations must benefit from the parks," Condy says. Although Kenya Wildlife Services was a strong proponent of the ivory ban it too agrees that local involvement is essential for the long term benefit of parks. Kioko says: "Parks are not islands in isolation. They impact on local communities and we have decided to involve those communities in future plans." A portion of revenue collected by the parks is given to the individual communities and they are encouraged to begin tourism-linked activities — such as developing and running camp sites on the edge of protected areas.

# After sanctions, SA faces green barrier

THE demise of sanctions has exposed SA exporters to other, arguably more effective, barriers — environmental regulations. SA Foreign Trade Officer Rose Blatch says environmental regulations could be become as crippling to SA's exporters as during the years of SA's isolation, emphasis on environmental sensitivity became a major issue in industrialised countries. Not only do products need to be "environmentally friendly" but consumers expect the manufacturing processes to be efficient and generate less waste. Productivity and quality are no longer the only important factors, the whole process is under scrutiny. If SA companies want to enter those markets, or reserve their market share, they will have to find ways in which regulations affect their particular operation and change their systems to comply. "Strategic planning is essential. There is no way to escape the issue," Blatch stresses. But with the SA economy in turmoil, will many companies be able to afford expensive system changes? Buying new equipment, overhauling production lines, introducing new processes could be too costly for many.

## Many species are set to follow the dodo over next 30 years

CONSERVATIONISTS estimate that during the next decade or so, man will drive an average of 100 species to extinction every day. National Zoological Gardens of SA Pretoria director Willie Labuschagne says: "Our present age is characterised by an unprecedented explosion in the human population with the concomitant depletion of natural resources, the eradication of animals and plant species and the destruction of ecosystems. The breeding and upkeep of endangered species is therefore becoming an increasingly important role of zoos. "The problem is so enormous that zoos now have to

decide which breeds they should concentrate on trying to save and which they have to leave to die out." In an effort to co-ordinate and maximise each zoo's role, an international group called the Captive Breeding Specialist Group identifies and evaluates species to receive attention. The group is backed up by the International Specialist Information System which maintains data on every animal born in a zoo. The animals are therefore part of a large gene pool and constant exchanges ensure that new genetic material is added to zoos' existing collection of animals. Labuschagne says the inbreeding co-efficient is essential to ensure the animals they use for breeding have a chance for long



A monitoring station situated at Cape P... research efforts are moving specific... greenhouse effect. It is a co-operative... Division of the CSIR and the Fraunhofer

## Dirty airlines h

CURFEWS and inflated landing charges are the penalties placed on Third World airlines which do not comply with environmental regulations at major international airports. Airlines still using older planes with high engine noise levels and gas emissions are limited to daytime landing times and pay substantially more in landing fees. Lufthansa's Heinz Ruhnan captures the importance of environmental awareness among industrialists in his words: "If we tell the customers... that we do not care — then we will lose them." Lufthansa has spent millions updating its fleet to fulfil passenger expectations. Its fleet of Airbus A320s, which replaced the older Boeing 727s,

However, even that option could have a limited lifecycle. International aid organisations, which hold much clout in Africa, have placed environmental considerations high on their list of priorities. Saffo executive Paresha Pandya says aid organisations, such as the World Bank, no longer provide funding indiscriminately. One of the major components of their pre-investment feasibility studies is the environmental impact. The top priority for aid organisations is that the projects must be practical and sustainable. The second priority is that they must be conducive to the environment. One of the yardsticks for environmental compliance is the ISO 9000 series of standards required by the EC. To qualify for an ISO 9000 mark of approval the entire manufacturing process is scrutinised. The SA Bureau of Standards is able to give details of what is required.



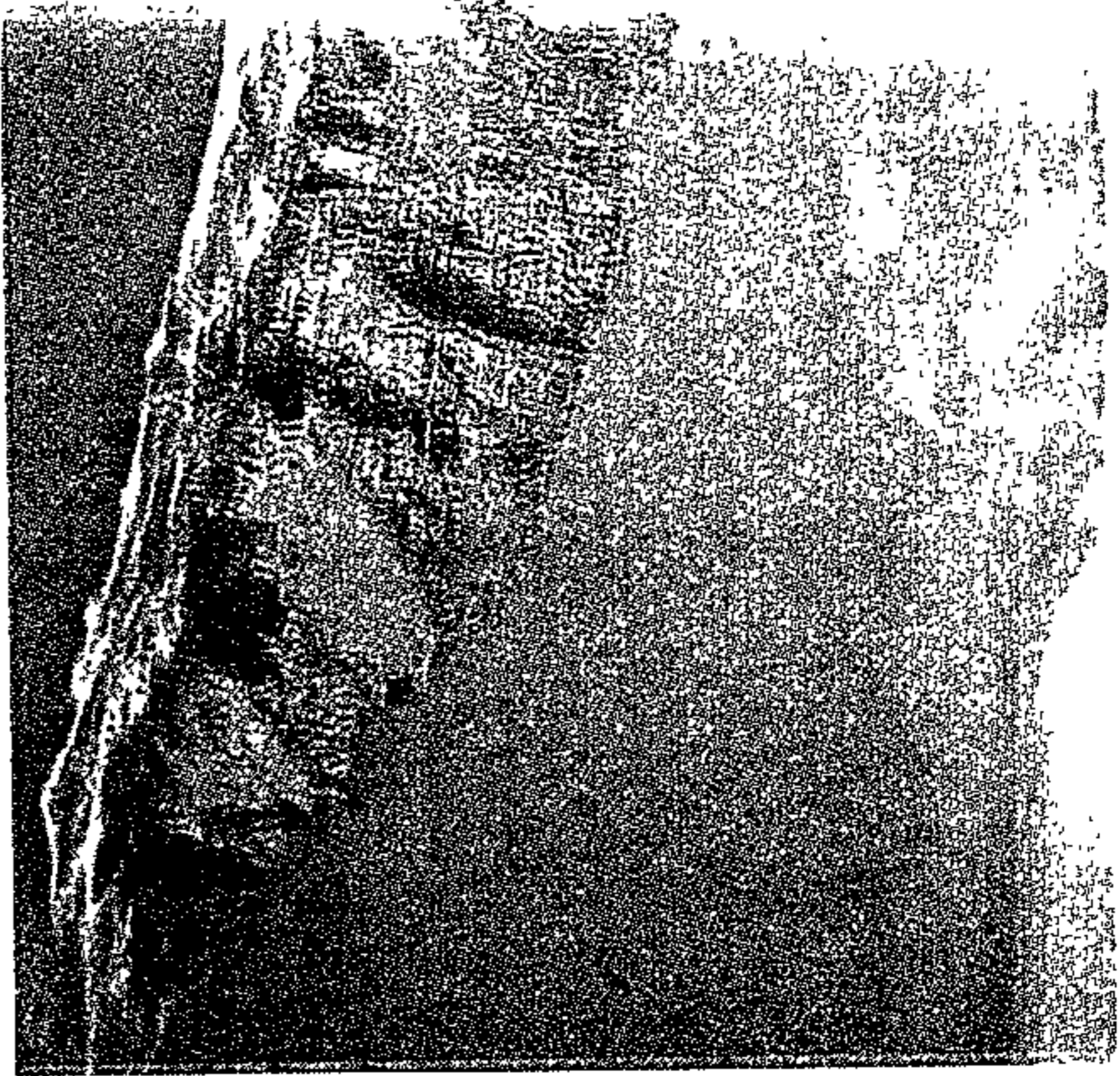
PAT CONDY

uses of conservation, make it something that they can feel and understand. There are an estimated 9-million people in the PWV area who, without zoos, would never have access to conservation. It is estimated that 750-million people visit zoos worldwide annually, making it one of the most important conservation forums in the world. "Only by teaching man how he fits into the whole picture will our conservation efforts succeed." Labuschagne says.

## Summit seeks

WORLD Environment Day is celebrated annually on June 5 and this year the theme is "One Earth, One Chance". It is the 20th anniversary of the day. Signifying the importance of environmental issues a conference is in progress involving most of the world's governments. Their aim is to find common solutions for the planet's ailing health. The summit, named Earth Summit, is taking place in Rio de Janeiro and is the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). On the agenda for Earth Summit are the following:  Negotiations for new international conventions dealing with





It is part of a network of baseline stations around the world. Its towers the growing Antarctic ozone hole and the looming venture between the Earth, Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Institute for Atmospheric Environmental Research in Germany.

## We to clean up their act

Similar performance have 40% less fuel, and their exhaust gases contain, per ton of weight, 90% less unburned hydrocarbons and 78% less carbon oxide. The Airbus A320s also use a noise "footprint" 90% lighter than that of the old jets. Modern jet engines burn fuel more efficiently than they produce proportionately fewer exhaust emissions than a car engine with free-way catalytic converter.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is pushing out the use of older aircraft — known as chapter 2 aircraft — and has given the pilot a deadline for a gradual phasing period up to the year 2002 to trade or replace them. The US Federal Aviation Authority has the limit at 1999.

Research is in progress on noise abatement procedures to be introduced at SA's airports. "Although there are procedures pilots follow on take-off to minimise disturbance to residents of suburbs surrounding airports, these are being re-examined. The results are not yet available," Huckwell says.

He says greater co-operation is needed between airports and local authorities.

## Solutions to ailing planet

Agenda 21, which is the implementation of principles defined in the Earth Charter to guide the 21st century. How to finance the actions, and objectives recommended at the conference; technologies which will provide sustainable use and production processes; how to strengthen or reform

mental adherence. Chief executives in the US can be sentenced for up to five years for environmental negligence. Parker says that in SA, where environmental legislation is diffuse and often not enforced, companies will probably be pulled into line by market forces demanding environmentally sensitive production processes and products.

# Exporters being caught out by EC regulations

THE new buzz-word in environmental circles is environmental audits, but if SA companies want to become players in the world market the words will have to become more than mere jargon.

CSIR product manager, environmental auditing Suzanne Parker says: "The need for environmental audits in SA has been driven by market forces. Many companies are rushing to export markets but are being caught short by European environmental expectations."

Environmental audits can also become a successful marketing tool. Environment audits, although new in SA, became an issue in the US about 15 years ago. They emerged out of a series of environmental disasters which indicated the need for stricter control.

Now, extensive legislation, with the help of severe penalties, ensures environmental audits are in progress on noise abatement procedures to be introduced at SA's airports. "Although there are procedures pilots follow on take-off to minimise disturbance to residents of suburbs surrounding airports, these are being re-examined. The results are not yet available," Huckwell says.

## Growing need for replanting forests

MUCH of Africa's forests have not only been denuded but also destroyed. The ultimate aim of all development projects should be to help communities to move into the First World. Breytenbach believes this mindset must be expanded to include all business sectors, even conservation. Conservation should not merely be environmental protection but should use natural resources under developed areas and make it work for the community.

CSIR programme manager development forestry Johann Breytenbach says although these groups have a role to play he believes a change in emphasis would see their funds more productively used. "Giving communities saplings to plant to provide firewood, solves one problem but keeps them dependent on aid organisations. Emphasis should be placed on establishing economic ally viable ventures which would allow the community to help themselves."

Organisations should have to work together for a rather look to establish nurseries that will meet local community needs for... The CSIR, in association

"Most companies would be put off by the cost of adopting complete new systems. Rather, they should make a start with something small, manageable and affordable. Environmental management should be integrated into current systems and re-structuring with the least possible disruption."

Advantages which can flow from an audit include: A basis for negotiating insurance premiums; The company would have the assurance that it is complying with the law; Minimising the risk of having to pay clean up costs for environmental damage; Environmental audits often reveal where systems are not working and shed light on weaknesses in other systems, not necessarily directly linked to the environmental issues; and Environmental audits often help to streamline production processes.

The CSIR is developing an environmental auditing blueprint. Using itself as a testing ground it has subjected its auditing procedures to stringent tests. Parker warns that many companies which hire external auditors must be careful. An inadequate audit means a company cannot use it as a defence for legislative compliance or for marketing credibility. Nor would it provide the quality information needed for making changes.

What does an environmental audit entail? Ideally the auditor takes a funnel approach from the top down, looking at the company's environmental policies, procedures, systems and implementation. However, many companies in SA do not have an environmental policy or management systems. In these instances, situation analysis audits are usually undertaken which establish a baseline for future audits.

"Environmental audits are an endless round of feedback loops," Parker says. One problem Breytenbach sees is the lack of an integrated science through which individuals are trained to make decisions which include all the elements. For example, in developing a tourist site management needs to study social, economic, political and environmental factors and integrate the information into a new management whole.

## Guidelines

The recently released white paper on tourism aims to give guidelines on how to manage natural resources in such a way that tourists will be attracted to hospitality experts will have to work together for the idea to succeed. The CSIR, in association

effort is bedevilled by spiritual beliefs and taboos. The Roman Catholic church, with its strong anti-artificial contraception stand is often in direct conflict with groups promoting small families. And it has the political sway to get its own way. Earlier this year, through pressure from the Vatican, the US government withdrew its financial support from the International Planned Parenthood Federation, a body which encourages family planning through artificial contraception to improve quality of life. Ledger says it does not make sense to stand in the way of family planning.

At the World Environmental Summit currently taking place in Rio de Janeiro, a major "session" on the human problem was apparently curtailed following threats from politically strong religious groups. Community leader Niatho Motlana says that in the old days large families were imperative to provide enough hands to help till the land and look after their parents in their old age. "Now parents need only two children — one lawyer and one doctor."

Experts agree that family planning will only have limited success if left in the hands of medical practitioners. SA needs role models which the young can look up to and emulate. The two-child family should be SA's major future goal, they say.

Wade-Chern and Waste-tech are two companies in SA with licences to deal with hazardous waste. Gillespie says in the past the disposal of toxic waste was poorly controlled and Companies with waste to dispose of have had to look to countries where legislation is lax, such as eastern Europe or Africa. The risk of Africa being abused as the major toxic waste dumping ground has increased following political change in eastern Europe. In an attempt to stave off the threat the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) has passed a resolution putting a blanket ban on the dumping of waste into Africa, whether for incineration or landfill disposal. In SA it is illegal to import waste for local disposal. Law enforcement on the treatment of hazardous waste created locally, however, has not been so carefully controlled.

Wade-Chern marketing director Ahnol Gillespie says dumping does not merely refer to hazardous waste. Africa is a dumping ground for companies whose products have been banned in industrialised countries. Wade-Chern and Waste-tech are two companies in SA with licences to deal with hazardous waste. Gillespie says in the past the disposal of toxic waste was poorly controlled and Companies with waste to dispose of have had to look to countries where legislation is lax, such as eastern Europe or Africa. The risk of Africa being abused as the major toxic waste dumping ground has increased following political change in eastern Europe. In an attempt to stave off the threat the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) has passed a resolution putting a blanket ban on the dumping of waste into Africa, whether for incineration or landfill disposal. In SA it is illegal to import waste for local disposal. Law enforcement on the treatment of hazardous waste created locally, however, has not been so carefully controlled.

## Businesses must carry the can

CONCERN for the environment has reached a stage where businesses face the risk of accruing, acquiring or inheriting environmental liability. In fact it has become a trend to apply environmental standards retroactively, and enact laws wherein the "polluter pays", Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten SA director Fanie Geldenhuys says. "It is therefore essential that businesses acquire the means to accurately assess and manage their exposure in the light of not only current, but also foreseeable environmental regulations," he says. For example, Govern-

many companies just dumped it. However, with the anticipated adoption of the "cradle to grave" concept in SA (that is, those that produce the waste are responsible for any environmental problems which it creates) companies are becoming more choosy about who they hire to deal with it. Wade-Chern is the first company in SA to be awarded a class I licence to deal with hazardous refuse. The company's site, near Springs, has been specifically chosen because of its geological formation. The clay soil is 46m thick, giving the site a 46m buffer between the waste and the water table. New technology has been used at the site which constructs cells above the ground (rather than working on a quarry system). A leakage detection system in the clay monitors the ground for leakage and a series of boreholes have been sunk to monitor pollution levels in the water near the site.

amended statutes. SDK Canada principal Dr Andy Robertson, who is currently visiting SA, suggests companies consider the following factors for minimising environmental risk: Take a long-term view; Adopt a spirit of cooperation between interest groups; Develop procedures for crisis management; Develop closure plans and financial assurance; Re-examine insurance policies; Anticipate future laws; and Analyse potential acquisitions.

Waste disposal becoming a toxic issue

Waste disposal becoming a toxic issue

Waste disposal becoming a toxic issue

Waste disposal becoming a toxic issue



Dr Ian Player with students from the Environmental Youth Congress held in July 1990.

## Eco-tourism protects threatened regions

WORLDWIDE, even in developed countries, parks and protected areas are under threat because of the dramatic expansion in human demands on the environment and natural resources.

Conservationists are realising that to overcome the threat a change in approach to protected areas is needed. One approach is the development of eco-tourism.

Eco-tourism links conservation with the development needs of local people. It aims to use tourism to the advantage of the local communities while also fostering an understanding between the two groups.

Management consultant John Fowkes outlines the main pillars of the changing approach towards eco-tourism:

□ No park is an island but is set in the social, political, economical and natural environment which surrounds it. Thus, tourism must be promoted which will have minimal negative effects to the environment or the local people. Similarly developers must maximize the participation of local communities in decision processes that determine the kind and amount of tourism that should occur.

□ Man should try to conserve bio-diversity rather than tracts of land. With the threat of global warming,

which will lead to changing patterns of vegetation, the practice of fixing boundaries by fences does not make sense. Many countries are changing their motto: "Don't try to conserve 10% — conserve the whole lot," and

□ Eco-tourism should aim to supplement or complement traditional practices (such as farming, fishing, social systems and the like) without overwhelming or attempting to replace them. In other words, eco-tourism should aim to make the local economy more robust and less susceptible to rapid change or world economic downturns.

### Overcome

Fowkes says in SA the various groups in the tourism and conservation sectors need to put aside their antagonisms to overcome the threat to the country's protected areas.

Endangered Wildlife Trust director John Ledger says true eco-tourism is not just looking at but also gaining an understanding of the people and places one sees.

One eco-tourism venture is visits organised by the Endangered Wildlife Trust to the Himba people in Namibia's Kaokovand region. The Himba escort tourists through their area teaching them their way of life.

## St Lucia comes under the CSIR microscope

CSIR is carrying out an extensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) — the most comprehensive one ever in SA.

It is assessing the impact of two options at St Lucia. The one is dredge-mining followed by nature conservation and tourism, and the other is nature conservation and tourism only.

CSIR environmental services project co-ordinator Alex Weaver says the CSIR's function is not to decide whether to mine, but to compile the information on which that decision is based. The final decision will be made by Cabinet.

CSIR product manager environmental auditing Suzanne Parker says Richards Bay Minerals' St Lucia

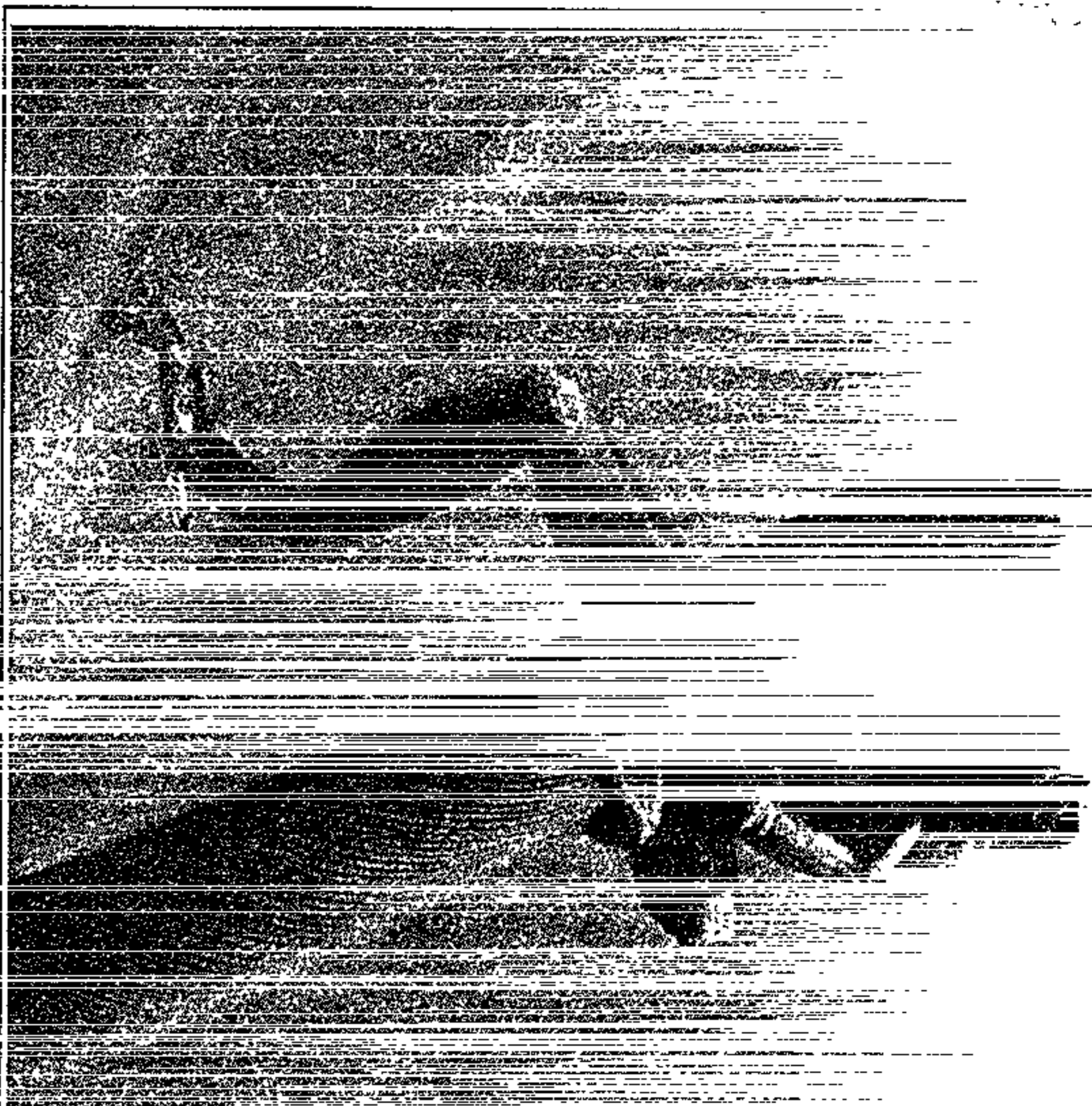
project is a test case for environmental audits in SA.

She warns that if the audit is disregarded purely because it is being undertaken internally, it has severe implications for the future.

Parker says a thriving and healthy environment are goals which need not conflict, provided the processes involved in attaining them is carefully managed.

"A company can be sensitive towards the environment and develop its business without long-term or wide spread impacts occurring," she says.

"Lay people cannot evaluate the real effects without knowing all the details — they must not be so judgmental," Parker says.



A Red Frog, one of many wildlife species found on the rehabilitated sand dunes.

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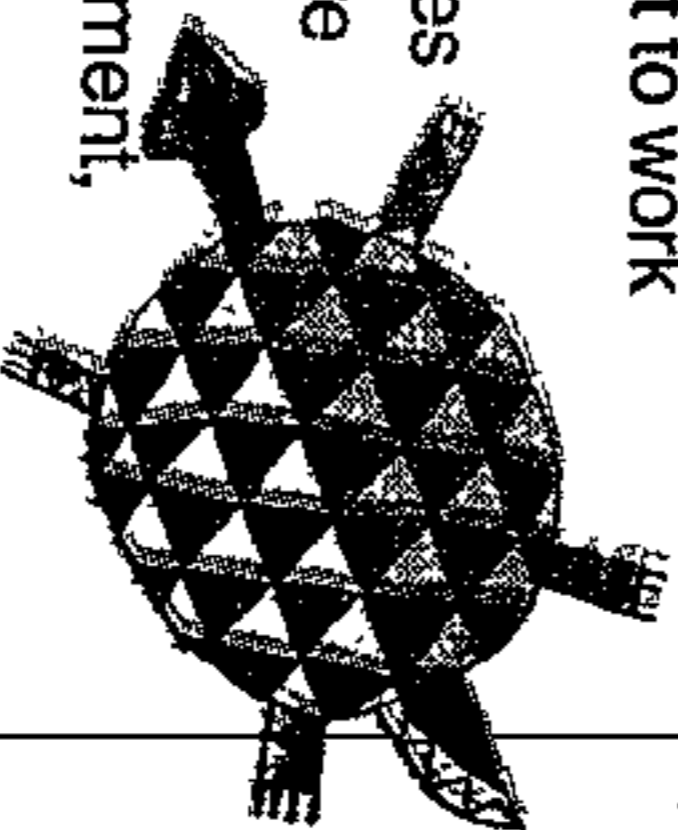
In this way, we are able to manage our natural environment effectively.

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**Mobil**

Whole page

**“Africa is frequently a harsh and unforgiving continent which forces people to opt for short-term survival, often at the expense of long-term sustainability. Yet, as business leaders, it remains our task to meet the developmental aspirations of millions of people within the environmental constraints imposed upon us.**

**We have to accept this responsibility. While circumstances may want to force us along a different path, our commitment to a healthy and productive environment must remain unquestionable. Sustained development is just not possible without the protection and wise management of our resource base.**

**Dr. Ian McRae**  
 Chief Executive of Eskom and member of the Executive Committee of the Industrial Environmental Forum of Southern Africa.



THE AGENCY 77/40



CONCERN for the environment is no longer restricted to conservationists and groups of “radicals” propounding a cause. It is a subject which taxes governments, large corporations and small businesses alike.

CSIR Environmental Services manager Dirk Grobler says: “Environmental concern has moved from a fashion trend to a primary value and it will not go away. As a result, in the Western world, it has become part of the political highground.”

A study by the EC shows that the three greatest political problems per-

### Govt and big businesses take up the sword

ceived by the electorate, in order of importance, are inflation, environment and unemployment.

In SA political parties are realising the importance of the environment and have comprehensive policies on the subject.

The ANC says environmental issues are as important to campaign around as the other strands of the national liberation movement.

ANC environmental spokesman Stan Sangweni says: “A new SA faces the challenge to forge a political democracy which will

breed an environmentally conscious society that needs to catch up and join the international community now 20 years into the green movement.”

But he says realising that environmental education is extremely important is one thing, but executing it at ground level is not easy.

“It is next to impossible to engage people who are concerned with bread and butter as a matter of life

or death, in any meaningful environmental dialogue,” he says.

“I think we ought to reach them with the kind of education that will liberate them by showing the causal relationship between environmental degradation and poverty.”

One method of spreading the awareness, Sangweni says, is to push environmental problems as part of the political education of the ANC.

“As a first step in this direction our leadership at the ANC have opened their minds and tuned them-

selves to learning from the people what the real environmental problem are.”

Grobler says in order to develop comprehensive and sustainable solutions to environmental problems one needs to address all the elements: the physical environment, available technology, economic, social, political and legislative issues.

The fear that environmental considerations will be disregarded in the new SA are unfounded. Environmental problems differ strongly between rural, urban, developed and under-

developed areas. Currently, government spending is focused on the developed areas.

Meanwhile, government is researching the need for new legislation. A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs says the department expects recommendations and legislation within the next few years.

The problems mainly under the spotlight are development control, pollution control, control over coastal development.

“There will not necessarily be new legislation, rather regulations or guidelines,” she said.

## A chilly tale of the war against global warming

GLOBAL warming — the greenhouse effect — is no longer a scientific theory, but a fact, according to the London-based Natural Environmental Research Council.

Whole climatic zones are expected to shift and it is predicted there will be more dramatic storms, more rain, more drought and that the sea will rise.

Research by the CSIR water technology department in Natal indicates that sea levels are rising. Although the precise rate has not yet been established, if it rises by one metre in the next 100 years, the shoreline will move inland by between 25-35 metres. In fact, 70% of the world’s shorelines are receding.

The risk of shoreline erosion is a very real problem

for coastal developers and town and regional planning bodies, not to mention insurers.

But the full implications of global warming through the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion are very poorly understood.

The Department of Environmental Affairs says what is known is that emissions from coal and other fuels used in SA include an estimated 308-million tons of carbon dioxide a year, about 1,6% of the total world man-made releases

and perhaps twice the world per capita average. The greenhouse effect is caused by carbon dioxide,

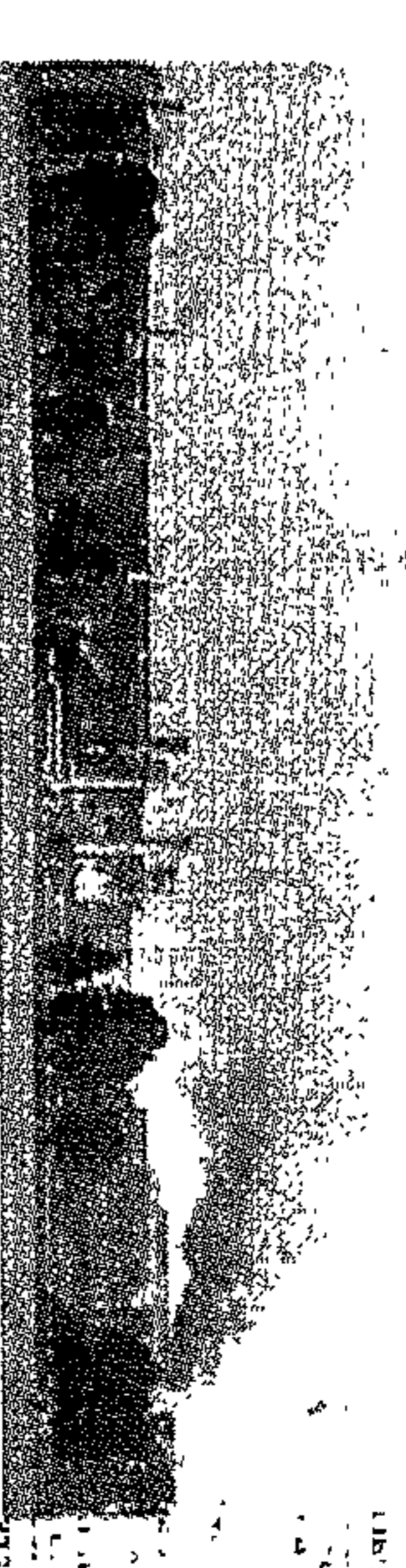
methane and nitrogen oxides. Methane’s main sources are ruminants — grazing animals, rice paddies and other wetlands,

which means its increase in the atmosphere is a direct consequence of the world’s rising food production.

Nitrogen oxides are one of the main contributors to smog found over large cities.

These gases lead to an increase in ozone near the earth’s surface, which in turn causes damage to plants and human tissue.

It is generally accepted that damage to the stratospheric ozone — hole in the ozone — has been brought



Smoke from industrial processing

about essentially by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs are used in aerosols, refrigerators and air conditioners, polystyrene and other industrial applications.

In 1987, after recognising the potentially catastrophic effects of widespread ozone loss, 24 nations signed the Montreal Protocol pledging to halve CFC production by the year 2000. Realising that even more drastic action was needed, 90 nations gathered again in June 1990 and agreed to ban CFCs entirely by the year 2000.

Developing nations have been given until 2010. In line with a worldwide strategy, SA usage has dropped from 13 195 tons in 1986 to 10 223 tons in 1989, about 1% of the world total.

The Aerosol Manufacturers’ Association has been quoted as saying more than 95% of all aerosols produced locally in the personal, food and household areas are CFC-free. Most CFCs in aerosols are in the paint and general industrial areas.

It is believed that the ozone layer can heal itself, although even if there was

an immediate CFC ban, it would not begin to recover before the year 2050.

But some researchers are beginning to suggest the thinning of the ozone layer is also part of a cyclical environmental phenomenon.

Johannesburg City Council conservation director Pat Condy says although the theory is currently based on circumstantial evidence it must be taken seriously.

It means that whatever action is taken against CFCs, it will not solve the problem.

### Grassland technique used to rehabilitate mine dumps

FRASER F Alexander Tailings (FFA) has signed an agreement with the Research Institute for Reclamation Ecology (RIRE), a unit of Potchefstroom University, to use its dryland grassing technique to rehabilitate old mine dumps.

The institute will do all the preliminary soil tests, provide the product (pre-sprayed mixture of lime,

and technical expertise, while FFA will concentrate on site establishment, provision of labour, equipment, planting and irrigation where necessary.

In a statement, FFA said the dryland grassing technique, once implemented, is a virtually maintenance free, and irrigation is only necessary should extreme periods of drought occur at the individual plantings which

“Because of the harsh and unsuitable conditions inherent on a tailings dam, this technique is a viable option for long-term rehabilitation success.”

The system makes use of only indigenous grass species which are naturally adapted to SA’s climate, and irrigation is only necessary should extreme periods of drought occur at the individual plantings which

of grass will most likely survive and complement the existing eco-system. The seed mixture — containing seeds of pioneer, intermediate and climax grass species — is then made up, an “instant turf” as the eco-system takes about three years to stabilise. But the would take nature up to 50 years to achieve the same

on to a certain which

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ENRICHING MAN THROUGH MINERALS

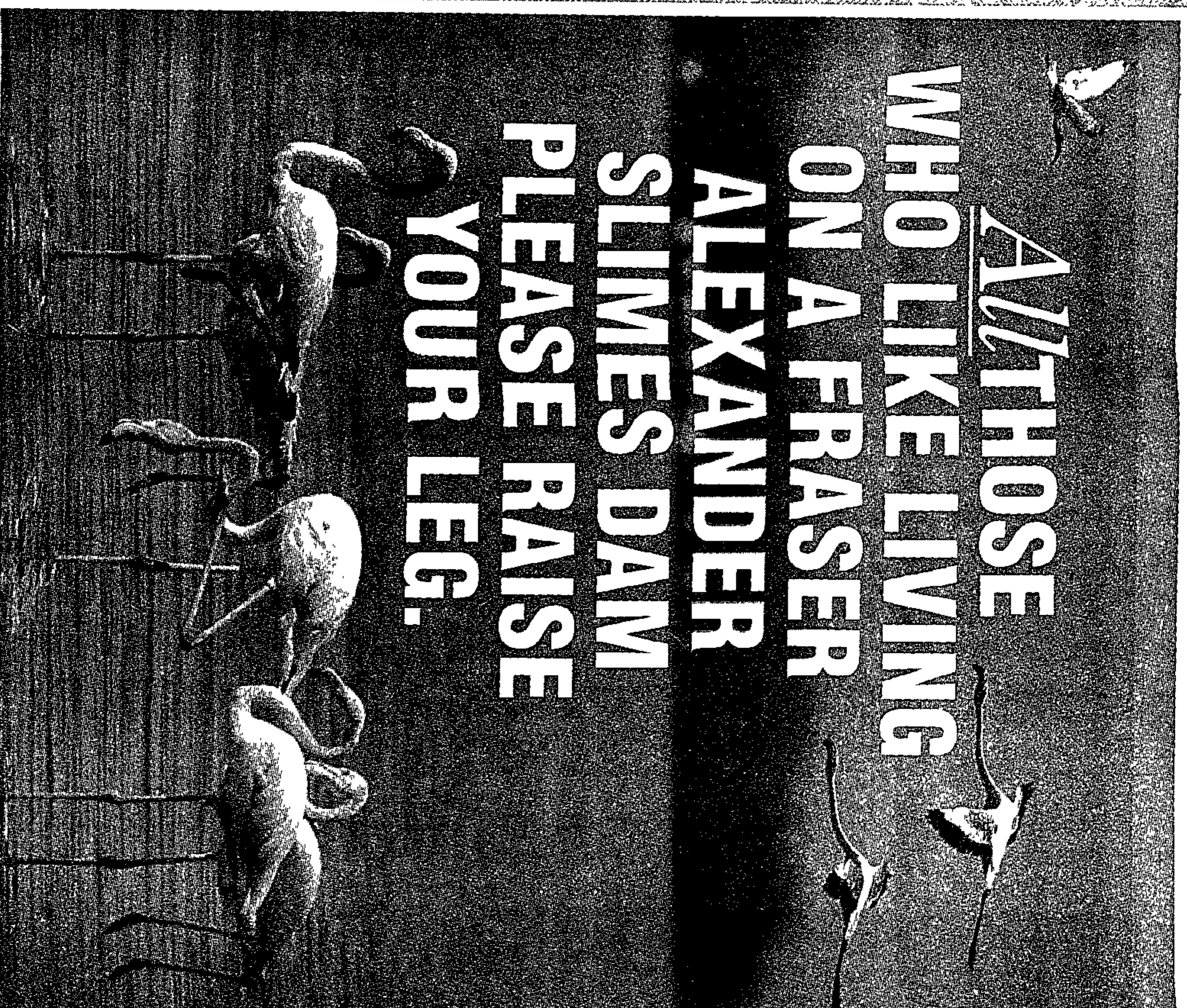


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The flamingoes have been joined by a Roberts book-load of birds, ranging from fish-eagles and cormorants to ducks and Egyptian geese. Fish swim through the fresh waters, steamhok and impala graze on the banks. Mountains of waste from the mines have been converted to a natural paradise. Meanwhile, poorly managed slimes dams are an environmental nightmare. They can leach poison into the soil and

underground rivers. They can pollute the air with a fine and deadly dust. It's your choice. Do it yourself and you could unknowingly be at risk. Or give the job to Fraser Alexander and be an ecological hero. Because when your green credentials are examined, a bird in the dam is worth two in the bush. **FRASER ALEXANDER GROUP** WE MOVE MOUNTAINS.

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# Express Earth on route to disaster

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(56)



The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro is important, but unless ideas of ordinary people change our attitude towards our planet, this effort is bound to fail, argues John Tinker of the Panos Institute in London. MUSA ZONDI reports.

**THE importance of the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit cannot be underestimated. It might be the first conference of the kind but all the issues which will be discussed at the conference have been heard before - and there is little chance that much will change.**

This is the view of John Tinker, head of the Panos Institute writing in the latest issue of Panoscope.

Tinker argues that the Summit will pay lip service to the critical issues facing our planet.

"There are two curious things about the Earth Summit. The first is the discrepancy between its analysis of the problems and the remedies which it proposes. It is rather as if the driver of an express train is told that the line is blocked a kilometre ahead, and instead of slamming on the brakes decides just to blow the whistle.

The second curious thing is the lack of attention to ideas and to information. It is obvious that if humanity is to make a fundamental change in direction, there must first be equally fundamental changes of attitude. But to change the ways people think, those people first must have greater awareness, greater understanding, greater debate and discussion. This requires information - a subject which the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environ-

ment and Development has hardly considered at all."

He goes on to lambast the Western countries which are responsible for most of the environmental degradation because of the consumerist attitude of the rich.

In the South, the soil is becoming less fertile every year and natural resources are dwindling, yet, this understanding is not widespread as it should be.

Ministers from both the South and North pay lip service to development. The gap between the rich and the poor has widened. "The richest fifth of the world's individuals now get at least 150 times more than the poorest fifth," he says.

At the Stockholm conference in 1972, there was a great feeling of excitement that at long last something was actually being done about the deteriorating environment.

"For the first, governments were individually and collectively looking seriously at the unsustainable impact of humanity on our planetary home.

"We realised we were drivers and passengers on Express Earth. We suspected a bridge was down, or the line was blocked, or the signals were out of order.

"So we blew the whistle at Stockholm, and it seemed as if the world was listening," Tinker says.

That hope and excitement has all but died, he says.

At Rio, the whistle will still be blown but no one will actually pull the brakes and stop the train from

crashing.

He says there are things that United Nations will realise needs to be done like:

- Deforestation is a serious global problem and major cause of global warming.

- The ozone layer is full of holes, that it is already dangerous, and that CFCs in aerosols and refrigerants are a major cause. It will decide we have to stop using CFCs, "but not yet, and maybe not until 2005 or 2010";

- Global warming could be disastrous to many countries, that it is almost certain to start soon, and that it may have started already, but no, it will refuse to discuss nuclear energy at all because this issue will be divisive.

- The word desertification will be avoided because the UN Conference on Desertification in 1977 laid down an action plan but it has not been implemented, and

- They will talk about population explosion.

But there is an acute lack of information about these things around the world. People may be aware of the problem, but if they don't understand it, not much can be done by people on the ground.

"So will we save the planet in Rio? No, I don't think we will, because not enough of us really understand how to do it. Reducing complicated issues to T-shirts slogans like *Save the Planet* is useful if the slogans are a stimulus to thought and debate. But it is positively counter-productive if the same slogans become a substitute for understanding," he says.

There has to be a change in the way that people think before any answers can be found.

"Ideas are what really change the world. The rich in the North (and the elites in the South, too) need a new frugalism, to replace the mind-

less consumerism with which they are currently mesmerised.

"And the poor in the South (plus the growing underclass in the North, increasingly of Third World origin) need new alternatives and new hope, ways of escaping from the poverty trap which forces them every day to damage and destroy their own environment, in which they must live and upon which their children will depend for their survival. These ideas will not come from governments at Rio and not from UnCED. They will come from ordinary people and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"Ideas, especially when shared by organised community groups, are the most powerful weapon in the world. To move towards new and more sustainable patterns of society, to bring about changes which will endure, we certainly need to think about what is ecologically sustainable: we need to protect, restore and maintain the wounded environment of our planet."

The voice of the NGOs and ordinary people will change attitudes to the environment and force governments to do something.

"From the Brazilian forests Indians to India's tribals, from the circumpolar Inuit to the 'small peoples' of Russia and the Masai of the East African plains, from these hundreds of cultures comes a knowledge of environmental management, and a wisdom about how humankind is an integral part of the earth, insights which our dominant consumerist culture seems to have forgotten.

"Express Earth will thunder through Rio, as it went through Stockholm 20 years earlier, full steam ahead on the route to nowhere. But whistling loudly," he says.

● See also page 21

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thlooe. Newsbills by Sydney Matihaku. Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Leaders must show courage, wisdom

# Summit polluted with pessimism

STAR 5/6/92

(56)

**W**HAT on earth can the Rio Earth Summit achieve?

The earth is not dying — not just yet anyway. But it is certainly a sickly planet.

Twenty years ago this month the first earth summit, the UN Conference on the Human Environment, was held in Stockholm. Two decades on, the environmental tide runs high once more as the second Earth Summit opened this week.

There has been progress: Global wealth production has more than doubled over those two decades and a greater proportion of the world's people are adequately fed, clothed and sheltered than in 1972 (even though the absolute number of the absolutely poor barely managing to stay alive has risen along with the global population).

None the less, the importance of the environment and development problems under debate in Rio over the next 10 days cannot be overstated.

Even before it starts, however, the event is polluted with pessimism, with talk of hopes having been raised too high, and fears of deadlock between rich North and poor South over a fairer share of the planet's natural and man-made wealth. In short, the received wisdom is that the Rio Summit will be a flop.

It would be much better for us, and certainly for our children and grandchildren, if the leaders gathering in Brazil show more courage and wisdom, if they go farther and faster, than they seem likely to do. In delaying we are only storing up greater problems and hardship for the next generation or two.

Two international treaties are expected to be signed.

One deals with the man-made global warming likely to change the climate in the next century.

The other is concerned with protecting biodiversity — the richness of the earth's plant and animal species found mostly in the forests, savannah and arid lands of the Third World.

But those conventions will have little impact for years, perhaps decades, because they are a first attempt at the task, bargained down to a lowest common denominator on which near-unanimous agreement could be reached.

For some the conventions already seem to go too far, too fast, but political leaders in their dithering are only holding a mirror up to the rest of us.

How many in this relatively rich, well-educated and influential country have substantially altered their lives to make them environmentally sustainable?

A little recycling of bottles, cans and newspapers is to be applauded, but what about carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels? How many have made substantial cuts in their energy use by, say, driving less or cutting down on annual vacation flights to the sun?

Environmental degradation is not the only global ill besetting humanity. There is modern Aids, old-fashioned malaria, crime, drugs, social breakdown and of course, war — the biggest and oldest of them all — responsible for so much of Africa's famine and wretchedness, and now returned to fractured Europe.

How could we dare to hope that two weeks in Rio could transform everything? Why should environmental problems have a monopoly on being solvable?

The best that we can do is to begin moving in the right direction ourselves and put pressure on our politicians to help.

The amount of environmental degradation that hinges on the huge and growing gap between the planet's rich and poor makes equity and redistribution unavoidable issues for the North, just as population growth is for the South.

Western aid must address the crucial and controversial issue of overpopulation. Raising the frequently wretched status of women in the poor South is the only way of making progress. Women with higher educational attainment and greater purchasing power are better able to choose for themselves the size of their families — and experience shows that they will usually choose to limit the number of children they have.

It may seem prosaic when measured against the scale of the threat to our planet, but there is probably no better way for aid to be spent than on girls' schools. — The Independent News Service. □

# Save planet for our kids - UN chief

RIO DE JANEIRO - The Earth Summit opened this week with an appeal by UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to save the endangered planet for future generations.

We are doing this not for us but for future generations, for our grandchildren," Boutros-Ghali, of Egypt, told delegates from 180 nations in his televised opening address.

The opening was delayed because of intense security checks of participants, who crowded into the RioCentro convention center on the outskirts of the city.

The summit, which aims to formulate new strategies for halting environmental destruction, takes place in a country whose rain forests are a major ecological battlefield.

The 12-day meeting is expected to be the largest-ever gathering of heads of state, with President Bush among more than 120 world leaders scheduled to attend.

President Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil was to help Boutros-Ghali open the summit, officially called the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Other keynote speakers were to include conference general secretary Maurice Strong of Canada, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, and President Mario Soares of Portugal.

Negotiators will address seven critical issues: global warming, technology transfer, ocean pollution, forest protection, population control, the preservation of species and environmentally safe development.

The summit at the RioCentro convention center on the city's southern edge begins a day after environmentalists launched their

own meeting under brightly coloured tents in a downtown park along the beach.

The vibrant atmosphere of the Global Forum, where delegates strolled among colourful booths, contrasted with the more sober mood among Earth Summit delegates.

The delegates have been struggling to salvage a number of key agreements threatened by disagreements between the wealthy industrialized countries of the Northern Hemisphere and developing countries of the south.

The southern nations, like Brazil, are demanding the north more generously help foot their cost of environmental protection.

The Brazilian government, for example, has come under pressure from industrialized countries to try to stop farmers and ranchers from hacking away at the oxygen-producing rain forest.

Like other developing countries, Brazil wants industrialized countries to provide the funds to help the Third World conquer poverty. The developing world argues that poverty is the root cause of environmental degradation.

Among agreements expected to be signed by the conclusion of the summit on June 14 include one to limit emissions of carbon dioxide that can lead to global warming, another to preserve the world's threatened plant and animal species.

Environmentalists and delegates from a number of countries have criticized the United States for severely weakening the global warming treaty and for announcing that it would refuse to sign the treaty to protect biological diversity.

Bush says stiff conservation legislation would hurt U.S. industry and stunt a recovery of the recession-mired American economy.

Earlier this week, however, Bush pledged R450 million toward preserving rain forests in developing countries if other nations join in the effort.

Environmentalists criticized his "Forests for the Future" initiative as a tactic to blunt criticism of U.S. actions on the treaties. "He wanted to have something to say to take attention away from biodiversity and global warming," said T. J. Gauthier, a policy analyst with the World Wildlife Fund.

Washington blocked an agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. European leaders reluctantly accepted a diluted draft that didn't mention levels or timetables.

Environmentalists say the United States had an obligation to curb emissions because it produces a quarter of the world's carbon dioxide, a gas some scientists believe adds to global warming.

On Tuesday, feminists, ecologists and native Indians gathered in a seaside park to kick off the Global Forum. The first of 12,000 expected participants met in the 36 green-and-white-striped tents set up in Flamengo Park.

British actor Roger Moore hosted an opening ceremony on a stage built on the beach. Behind him, a replica of a viking ship called the Gaia rode at anchor in Guanabara Bay.

Groups of every stripe and tendency have a voice at the forum: from Friends of the Earth International to the World Spiritual Assembly. A proponent of solar box cookers explained how peasants can use cheap, sunlight-powered ovens instead of wood-burners to heat food. - Sapa-AP

Soares 5/6/92

SC



# Earth summit on endangered list

W/m out 5/6-11/6/92.

(56)

**I**n an atmosphere of palpable tension between the earth's rich and poor, government officials and environmentalists from 178 countries opened a historic summit on the planet's future in Rio on Wednesday, the outcome uncertain despite two-and-a-half years of preparation.

With about 10 000 delegates, more than 7 000 journalists, and observers from a host of environmental groups on hand, leaders of the United Nations-sponsored extravaganza hailed the next week as a potentially pivotal moment in relations between the rich nations of the world and its increasingly poor majority.

"No place on the planet can remain an island of affluence in a sea of misery." Canada's Maurice Strong, secretary-general of the environmental summit told the opening session in a suburb 24km from Rio's fabled Copacabana and Ipanema beaches.

"We're either going to save the whole world or no one will be saved. We must, from here on in, all go down the same path. One country cannot stabilise its climate in isolation. No country can unilaterally preserve its biodiversity."

Although delegates were not inclined to challenge Strong's warning, the meeting opened amid certainty of bitter debate before more than 100 presidents and prime ministers arrive here for the grand finale next week.

In a news conference on the eve of the opening, Strong predicted that the summit meeting would seem to be on the verge of collapse before it ends on June 14.

The same thing happened at a summit on the environment 20 years ago in Stockholm, Sweden, he recalled. But that meeting eventually succeeded in making environmental protection an international issue for the first time, and inspired this summit in observance of its 20th anniversary.

Still, he said: "Success, I believe, is likely. But success will not come easily in the next two weeks and success is not inevitable."

The depth of the rift between rich and poor was illustrated as Pakistan's environmental minister, Anwar Saifullah Khan, spoke for the developing nations' caucus on Wednesday afternoon. "It is difficult," he said, "for a man scavenging on the garbage dump created by affluence and profligate consumption to understand that protecting a bird is more important than protecting him."

The open questions and certain conflicts notwithstanding, the summit opened with significant accomplishments in hand, or within reach.

In ceremonies on Thursday, the long-debated treaty designed to address the threat of global warming was opened for signature.

Brazilian President Fernando Collor, who was made the honorary president of the conference on Wednesday, was the first to sign.

It will remain open for signatures for another year before it is submitted to signing nations for formal ratification.

Despite reservations of the United States and Japan, it appeared that other world powers are prepared to sign a biological diversity treaty to conserve wildlife and its habitat.

Scott Hajost of the Environmental Defence Fund, an official observer of the proceedings, said efforts were under way to get the treaty reopened and bring the United States aboard.

Environmental sources also said plans were proceeding for British Prime Minister John Major to talk to US President George Bush and discuss a possible reopening of the agreement. In spite of environmentalists' insistence that a

*United action by all the world's nations is needed to save the environment, but in the first few days of the historic Earth Summit in Rio the rich and poor nations are already in disagreement.*

By **RUDY ABRAMSON** and **MAURA DOLAN**

reopening and US signing was still possible, US Environmental Protection Agency administrator William K Reilly said he was unaware of any such effort.

Reilly, who leads the US summit delegation, told reporters he expects the treaty to be opened for signature on schedule later this week, and said the US would stand by its announced intention not to sign.

Bush will arrive this week when world leaders gather for the summit highlight, but until then Reilly bears the burden of defending the US' controversial role in the global warming and biological diversity negotiations and fending off criticism that Washington is less than generous in its support of tropical forest protection. "The experience here today has been a character-building experience for me," he said after he was peppered with tough questions at a news conference.

In spite of the Europeans' unhappiness that the United States blocked their proposal in global warming talks to stabilise emissions of greenhouse gases by the turn of the century, Reilly called the treaty an "historic" accomplishment. — Los Angeles Times

●See Guardian Weekly, Page 1



World Environment Day ... ANC leader Nelson Mandela receives a report on efforts by business leaders to protect South Africa's natural resources.

Photo: GUY ADAMS

## Strong man controlling the conference

By JULIA PRESTON  
**MAURICE STRONG** was hunting the hallways outside his office, in search of a wastebasket.

As secretary general of the United Nations Earth Summit, which opened here on Wednesday, Strong will be the master of ceremonies at an event of global grandeur.

But last week when Strong moved into his offices at the conference site in the wetlands west of Rio, he had no wastebasket. No office supplies at all. So the secretary general went looking for a trash can. But he suggested, very gently, to members of his staff conferring in the hall, "Can someone take care of the supplies? I just don't think I'm going to have time."

It was a small display of "sophisticated modesty", the philosophy by which Strong says he lives and which he hopes to wield to maximum diplomatic effect during the 12-day UN conference. What Strong wants to emerge from Rio is nothing less than "historic civilisational change", he says, a transition in which both rich and poor will turn away from the craze for consumption and begin to live within their environmental means.

The 63-year-old Canadian is a mesh of contradictory pursuits. He's a businessman who became a millionaire in the dirty industry of petroleum exploration, as well as an environmentalist who speaks of the planet as though it were a child placed in his personal care. He chides the human race for being a "species run amok".

After calling on Strong to organise its first worldwide conference on the environment in Stockholm in 1972, the United Nations acknowledged his unique skills by tapping him again for the summit. Now he is the primary choreographer of the frenetic dance unfolding across Rio de Janeiro. It was he who pushed for a conclave of top leaders, even though he knew that the logistics and potential diplomatic mishaps would make it a planner's nightmare. It was Strong who made sure that the event incorporated non-government environmentalists, youth groups, religious leaders, native peoples, business executives — in short, a host of actors who thoroughly distrust one another in day-to-day life.

Born into a flat-poor rural Canadian family, Maurice Strong is self-taught and self-made. After leaving home at the age of 14, he worked as a fur trapper in Hudson Bay, where he learned to speak Inuit, the Eskimo language. Hanne, Strong's Norwegian-born wife, said that is where Strong learned "an extreme respect for nature". She said, "He was the one who went hunting for the food."

While still a teenager, Strong gravitated to the United Nations, before it had even settled in its current Manhattan headquarters. His first UN job was as a security officer.

Soon he moved back to Canada, founded an oil business and was rich before he was 30. The Canadian government called on him to create its first international development agency, and in

that role he caught the attention of UN officials before the Stockholm meeting.

Through his family holdings, Strong kept a hand in business while diving deeper into environment policy. But at least two of his enterprises — in Colorado and in Costa Rica — turned out to be painful lessons in the difficulties of achieving the sustainable development he so ardently preaches.

Strong deals with stress by meditating for 20 minutes every morning (even during the crush in Rio) and does yoga morning and night, his wife said. Hanne Strong said she once took her husband to Tibet to study meditation with a teacher there.

So it was that Strong could move with absolute ease in recent days from a gathering of multinational corporation executives, including Frank Popoff, the president of Dow Chemical, to a meeting organised by his wife of spiritual environmentalists. In every forum he soothed the participants with platitudes and praise for their contributions. Wherever he went, the sheer force of his optimism cheered people up.

"I ask you, what alternative is there to optimism?" Strong said. "The minute I start going with the pessimists, their attitude will be self-fulfilling. I say, as long as we have one chance in a million to save our planet, we have to go ahead and do it." — Washington Post



# Lowvelder's green fingers earn UN prize

By Clyde Johnson  
Lowveld Bureau *STAR 5/6/72*

A lowveld woman's achievements in soil enrichment, trench gardening and waste recycling has earned her a coveted international award.

Elsie Mpatlanyane (49) is the first South African — and one of only 75 people in the world — to be recognised by the UN Environment Programme and to receive the Global 500 award.

Established in 1987, it pays tribute each year to individuals or organisations whose actions contribute to the environment.

Mrs Mpatlanyane will accept her award tomorrow, World Environment Day, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Working for Eco-link — a non-profit, non-Government environmental educational trust — Mrs Mpatlanyane is a field leader. Her daily activities include trench vegetable gardening, low-energy cooking methods, litter recycling, and alcohol and drug abuse counselling.

She has taught hundreds how to cultivate trench vegetable gardens.

*instead*

# Mandela gets 'green' report

(56) STAR  
By Julianne du Toit 5/6/92

ANC president Nelson Mandela yesterday officially received a report on Business and Environment in South Africa, commissioned by Pick 'n Pay head Raymond Ackerman, at a function in Johannesburg.

The report, prepared by the International Business Council for Sustainable Development, points out that the present development status of southern Africa has been achieved mainly by selling off natural assets — irreplaceable min-

erals and almost irreplaceable wildlife and forests.

"With natural riches rapidly depleting, and severe degradation of agricultural potential, together with a wide range of both deliberate and ignorance-based assaults on the ecosystems of the region, the mostly unsuspecting population is facing catastrophe, yet is doubling every two decades."

The report says tourism, especially eco-tourism, offers the only large-scale opportunity for replacing mineral exports as a source of es-

sential foreign exchange, employment and economic survival.

Development of a national and regional ethic of informed environmental concern will be prerequisites not only for leaving something for tourists to see, but for feeding the population.

The ANC welcomed the report, saying it was strongly committed to an environmental policy to secure sustainable growth and create a safe, healthy environment.

The report is to be presented to President F W de Klerk on his return from overseas.

## New airline in wings

STAR  
Staff Reporter  
and Sapa 5/6/92

ist industry. (332)

"Under the present discount system, many

## Sergeant pulls trigger as girlfriend prays

# NEW countries told to make sacrifices

By Julienne du Toit

STAR 5/16/92

(56)

This week the world tried to get its act together when the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), known as the Earth Summit, began a 12-day conference in Rio de Janeiro.

It has been called the most momentous environmental event of this century.

For the first time most of the world's governments, 175 in all, are meeting to find common solutions to the planet's ailing health.

South Africa has no official representation there. Political reforms here were accepted as irreversible too late for an official SA delegation to be accepted.

But South Africa has submitted a 250-page report to the Earth Summit on "Building the foundation for sustainable development in SA". And a number of South African

are attending as observers. University of the Witwatersrand student Martine Usdin (21), who was chosen as a junior ambassador to the Earth Summit, will have 15 minutes to explain to the world South Africa's apartheid-linked environmental problems and ask for help to solve them.

Meanwhile, the US has been accused of adopting an "us and them" attitude to the conference, refusing to back down on key Third World demands.

These are: a mandatory ceiling on emissions of gases that contribute to global warming, and increased funding for environmentally oriented projects in poor countries.

## Blind eye

Third World countries have begun to question whether rich countries — which are telling them to stop cutting down rain forests — are truly willing to make sacrifices. European countries and the

US have been accused of turning a blind eye to the importation of timber from rain forest countries, while publicly criticising the chopping down of hundred-year-old forest giants.

Global warming — caused by the burning of coal, oil, wood, anything that produces carbon dioxide or methane gas and traps heat — is a hot issue.

The Bush administration has opposed an international agreement to limit carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000 to their 1990 levels, even though US analysis shows this could be done with little expense.

The White House says it fears that limitations on emission of greenhouse gases will hobble recovery from the recession by restricting the growth of US industry.

Global warming means even more people in Africa and the rest of the Third World will go hungry as climate changes diminish yields of maize, wheat, rice and soya-beans. According to the UN, more

than 500 million people in Third World countries are routinely hungry and undernourished.

Even without any climate changes caused by pollution, the number is expected to continue rising as the population grows.

Another priority issue is the ozone layer, currently under attack from industrial chemical as a refrigerant, for foam blowing and as a propellant for industry and aerosols.

The European Community is expected to call for the phasing out of CFCs by 1995, instead of the first agreed-upon date of the year 2000.

The other issue which was expected to receive priority, but which has been pushed to the bottom of the list, is birth control.

Leading British environmentalist Sir Crispin Tickell said he was amazed that the issue had been treated this way.

He criticised the Roman Catholic Church for its continued opposition to artificial birth control.

Our pr

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# dian Weekly

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ING REPORTS FROM *The Washington Post* AND *Le Monde*

## Bush jeopardises the Earth Summit 56

THE success of this week's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro is in jeopardy after one of its cornerstones, a treaty on preserving species, met with rejection by the United States, which had already forced emasculation of another key treaty on cutting emissions of global warming gases.

US economic interests must take priority over "extreme" environmental concerns, President Bush told a weekend campaign rally in California after the State Department in Washington fired a second torpedo into the summit by refusing to sign the bio-diversity treaty drafted by 98 countries over 15 months

to give legal force to the protection of endangered plant and animal species.

Washington's stance caused British ministers to reconsider whether John Major should sign the bio-diversity treaty. Before leaving for South America, the British Prime Minister gave a warning against over-optimism — "Some of the expectations . . . are higher than those that can be realistically achieved". The Environment Minister, Mr David Maclean, said the question to be resolved was whether the ambiguous wording of the treaty meant Britain would be signing an open-ended commitment on funding.

# The ups and downs of 'green' industry

EUROPE is out to beat its ever-increasing rubbish mountain. Last year, Germany adopted a dual waste-disposal scheme devised by environment minister Klaus Töpfer, which will eventually lead to all household waste being sorted, then either recycled or incinerated. The aim is to phase out rubbish tips completely by the year 2000. Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands (see article below) have also begun to go along the same road.

France is not lagging behind either, despite the recent change of government: the new environment minister, 39-year-old Ségolène Royal, has put her own seal of approval on the plans of her predecessor, Brice Lalonde, who now leads one of the country's two green movements, Génération Ecologie.

A bill regulating rubbish tipping, and based on the "polluter pays" principle, has been adopted by the French government and is due to be debated in parliament in June. A decree covering household packaging waste was already introduced in April. It requires manufacturers and importers to contribute to the cost of disposing of their products' packaging. It will be followed later, as promised, by a decree on so-called "ordinary" industrial waste.

Proof that the plastics industry and the paper and glass manufacturers have made their peace came on May 20 when Jacques Bouvet, former head of the French energy conservation agency, unveiled his plans for Eco-Emballages, a government-sponsored body designed

to encourage local authorities to collect and sort used packaging, and to provide for its disposal.

Brussels, too, is in on the act. A council of ministers for the environment has just examined a proposal for a directive on used packaging. The text requires that ten years after the directive has come into force the member states should recycle 90 per cent of their used packaging and 60 per cent of each of the materials going into its manufacture.

As French industry had hoped, the directive regards incineration with heat recovery as energy "exploitation," which German legislation does not. Non-exploitable packaging will purely and simply be banned.

But that does not mean the volume of used packaging will decrease. Manufacturers are not at all keen to go back to selling milk "by the ladleful," as one of them put it, or to give up the convenience of selling foods in individual, disposable packaging. "We can't be expected to go back to the Stone Age," says Antoine Riboud, head of the French food and glass giant, BSN.

The collection, recycling, and elimination of waste will no doubt be one of the key issues of the next decade or two. Every year the French throw away 400 kilos of rubbish per head; that figure will probably rise to 450 kilos by 1995.

In January, when Lalonde, then environment minister, presented his plans for the recycling of packaging, he put its cost at 17 billion

francs (10 francs = £1). But he pointed out there would be economic spin-offs, such as the creation in the near future of 10,000 jobs in the "eco-industrial" sector.

In 1989 that sector employed 95,000 people and had a turnover of 84 billion francs. The most promising area of the eco-industrial sector was already rubbish recycling, with an annual growth rate of 6 per cent.

The waste subsidiaries of Lyonnaise-Dumez and Générale des Eaux have been doing a roaring trade. The American giant, Waste Management, has muscled in on the

## By Pierre-Angel Gay

French market by taking over SPAT, a firm that runs some ten landfill sites.

Ecoplast, a subsidiary of the American chemical corporation, Cabot Plastics International, plans to increase its household and industrial waste treatment capacity in Europe from 7,000 to 40,000 tonnes a year, and hopes to start up a PVC bottle recycling plant at Andance in the Ardèche département.

Meanwhile, Germany's biggest manufacturer of plastic rubbish bins, Otto, is spending 200 million francs on a factory in Chalon-sur-Saône, in Burgundy, which will open next year. It will make bins with separate compartments, which enable householders to sort rubbish before it leaves the home. However, according to an envi-

ronment ministry spokesman, the collection and treatment of household waste remains an embryonic industry. The "green" companies with the biggest turnover and number of employees are still to be found in the traditional business of recovering, recycling and trading in ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper and textiles—in other words, scrap.

Along with glass and plastic recovery companies, they belong to the International Reclamation Bureau (BIR). At its congress in Paris in May, the BIR denounced the danger it was facing from new government legislation, and pointed out that the fate of hundreds of thousands of jobs, not to speak of several billion dollars worth of sites, warehouses, presses, cranes, compactors, and laboratories generating total annual sales of some \$40 billion, was hanging in the balance.

American scrap automobile merchants recycle some 9 million vehicles a year—more than the output of General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler put together. Their European counterparts compress between 150,000 and 200,000 vehicles a week. The world paper industry uses 92 million tonnes of waste paper.

Recycling industries in France alone employ 23,000 people and have annual sales of about 25 billion francs. Paradoxically, green-inspired government policies, far from helping such industries, have threatened them by upsetting the economic balance on which they rely. Last January, for example,

paper collectors were alarmed to see prices plummet as a result of imports from Germany, a country which, because of green legislation, produces more waste paper than its industry can use.

There is a similar situation in the French scrap metal industry, with eight companies going bust in the last few months. Even such a well-established firm as Compagnie Française des Ferrailles suffered a fall in sales of over 22 per cent, which resulted in its making a consolidated net loss of 77.7 million francs, three times the size of its loss the previous year. According to BIR's director, Jean-Pierre Lehoux, "it is a serious mistake for legislation covering the handling of waste to include recoverable materials which our industry processes and sells." This is not just a semantic controversy. In the BIR's view, the recovery industry is now regarded by the government purely as a waste operator, in other words a mere provider of services.

The environment ministry agrees: "The status of these middlemen is changing. They used to be brokers of materials who operated on a speculative market. There is no longer any room for that system in the waste management policy implemented by the EC, where recovered materials are offered for recycling at zero cost. It's up to the industries to adjust." It would indeed be a turn-up for the book if the prevailing ecological ethos sounded the death knell of "green" industries.

(May 19)

ARC 5/6/92 (5b)

# UN environment award for SA woman

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

**RIO DE JANEIRO.** — Mrs Gladys Mashinini, 49, a community worker from White River, will be honoured here today — World Environment Day — with a coveted United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 award, the only South African to be given such an award.

From hundreds of nominations around the world, a select few

are named each year to the Global 500 Roll of Honour for outstanding achievements in protecting and improving the environment.

There are 18 award categories which reflect virtually the entire range of environmental issues: toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, forests and ecosystems, soil and desertification control, human settlements, the child and the environment and others.

Mrs Mashinini works with veteran conservationist Sue Hart's Eco-Link in the Eastern Transvaal.

"We have lots of projects — environmental theatre, water management. I'm on the nutritional side, teaching people how to recycle their waste, so I teach them how to make trench gardens.

The Global 500 award came as a major surprise, she said."

# First step to curb global climate change

RIO DE JANEIRO. — World leaders began signing the first treaty designed to reduce man-made climate change at the Earth Summit yesterday, opening an era of global restrictions on energy use.

Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, chairman of the summit, placed the first signature on the Planet Convention at a special ceremony witnessed by UN secretary-general Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, British Prime Minister

Mr John Major will sign next week. The convention requires 50 countries to ratify it before it comes into force, a process that is expected to take up to two years.

But the text of the convention has attracted widespread criticism from non-governmental organisations. Miss Fiona Weir, climate campaigner of Friends of the Earth, said: "The convention will not bite on carbon dioxide. The environment will continue to heat up at twice the rate the world can

tolerate."

● The development status of Southern Africa has been achieved by selling off its natural assets, says a report by an international group of businessmen.

It was compiled by local supermarket tycoon Mr Raymond Ackerman, a member of the Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Presented to ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela yesterday, World Environment Day, the report said

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AT 5/6/92

the human population explosion was "central to the whole question of environmental care".

Southern Africa's human population explosion was central to the whole question of environmental care, it said.

Mr Mandela said a great deal of education was needed before the idea of population curbs could be introduced to black South Africans, without their resenting it. "They believe it is an attempt to cut down their majority," he said.

● Politics barred South Africa from the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro this week and could thwart the purpose of the meeting, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said on Thursday.

● Laura van den Berg, 15, and Thabiso Matabata, 16, are winner and runner-up, respectively, of the Fairest Cape Association Environmental Speech Competition, and have won trips to the US. — Sapa, Daily Telegraph, Staff Reporter

# Raymond Ackerman sends report to Rio

*B. Pienaar 5/6/92*  
A SOUTHERN African conference of development and environment ministers should be established to cut through the region's environmental malaise, says a report prepared by Pick 'n Pay's Raymond Ackerman for the Rio Earth Summit.

The report was compiled by Ackermann as one of four African council members of the Geneva-based Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Ackerman says the southern African region, with its 50-million people living on 300-million hectares, is characterised by a growing population and weakening economy.

The report was presented to ANC president Nelson Mandela yesterday and will be handed to President F W de Klerk when he returns from his travels.

Ackerman says it is feasible to set up large-scale, environment-friendly and self-sustaining developments.

"Success with comparatively small-scale, multi-participant schemes would pave the way for more ambitious schemes for agriculture, industry and tourism. An enlightened and open-minded approach by the various governments would be essential, particularly as multi-participant schemes tend to cut across ethnic, cultural and national traditions and the time-honoured practice of patronage.

"To overcome this difficulty it is suggested that something like a southern African conference of development and environment ministers be set up, with a small

*(56)*  
**PATRICK BULGER**

permanent secretariat and one or more professional environmental scientists, economists and social anthropologists as fulltime consultants."

It is suggested, also that "the Southern African Development Co-Ordination Conference could be made accountable to this additional body. With respect to its achievements to date, the SADCC appears to need tighter and more responsive links to top government and an increase in dynamism which such links, if elevated enough, could promote", the report says.

"The ministerial-level conference could be structured to reinforce the necessary resoluteness of governments facing allocation quandaries and weakened by in-house indifference to the real priorities. Further, it is realistic to suggest that this conference could well form the core of the transnational disaster management committee that the southern African region will require not many years hence."

Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday politics barred SA from the summit and could thwart the purpose of the meeting, Sapa-Reuter reports.

Pienaar told a businesswomen's conference in the Cape that the government was determined to keep environment issues above politics and to ensure that the use of resources and development programmes were sustainable.



**ANC man fighting for St Lucia**

THE ANC's Rob Haswell, the independent MP for Maritzburg south, has launched a campaign to stop proposed dune mining at St Lucia. <sup>8/12/92</sup> <sup>5/16/92</sup>

Haswell has submitted a draft Wetlands Conservation Bill, which has been referred to the joint committee on private members' legislative proposals. <sup>5/6/92</sup>

AROUND THE WORLD

# A cash poser for the Earth Summit

RIO DE JANEIRO - Delegates to the world's largest environmental meeting faced up to the big questions yesterday: how much will the Earth Summit's ambitious plans cost and who will pay?

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, as it is officially called, opened on Wednesday with strong pleas to world leaders to live up to their responsibilities and save the

planet from destruction.

Although almost all the participants from more than 170 nations agreed that something needs to be done, they differed sharply over what - and how.

Mr Maurice Strong, the tireless conference secretary-general, put Third World development to the fore in a passionate opening speech.

"No place on the planet can remain an island of affluence in a sea of suffer-

ing," he said.

Third World nations also emphasised the link between poverty and environmental destruction. Pakistan's Environment Minister Mr Anwar Saifullah Khan, told the conference:

"It is difficult for a man scavenging on the garbage dump created by affluence and profligate consumption to understand that protecting a bird is more important than protecting him."

*Sowetan* 576/92

UN officials have estimated the full cost of the Earth Summit's agenda for the next century at a breathtaking R1 687,5 billion a year, although Third World nations would have to find much of the cash themselves.

The only sum of money mentioned in the opening remarks by the United States was destined for trees rather than people.

Dozens of delegations have attacked the United

States for refusing to sign one of the summit's centre-pieces - a convention to protect endangered plants and animals and to share the profits and technology from new products derived from nature.

US officials say the treaty is "fundamentally flawed" because it does not guarantee American companies' exclusive patent rights over new inventions.  
- SA Press Association-  
Reuter.

# Rural folk desperate for water

Sowetan 5/6/92

Ben  
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**THE water shortage in some areas of southern Natal is so severe that people are digging for water in dry river beds and drinking polluted water treated with bleach**

Says Southern Natal Joint Services Board chairman Prof Khabi Mngoma, "There's an urgent need for the co-ordination of the supply of water to these needy communities.

Mngoma explained that most of the main supply rivers for rural areas in southern Natal had dried up. Many springs in this region had also run dry while boreholes were delivering mostly sandy water.

Acute water shortages were being experienced about 10km from the coast to the interior in many areas of southern Natal.

Mngoma said it had been decided on Tuesday at an emergency meeting to discuss the drought in the region that Joint Services Boards would take over the problem of the water shortage there.

This would involve urgent measures to transport water to critical areas.

A statement after the meeting said it had been accepted that although dams in the area were on

average about 70 percent full, rural areas were totally parched and a concerted effort was needed to obtain funds and resources to firstly get water to the needy areas.

Mngoma explained he was trying to arrange water tankers to transport water to the most critical areas.

In some areas people had to dig in dry river beds for their water, while in the Vulamehlo district near Scottburgh women stood for hours at night waiting to draw water from a spring.

Many of the springs and rivers that still held water were, however, heavily polluted and people were either drinking from these or - just as dangerously - applying a household bleach to the water with the mistaken idea that this would purify it.

Ninety out of 95 boreholes in the region were unusable because of the sand content in the water.

Mngoma said Murchison Hospital on the South Coast had informed him that 750 children from birth to five years old died there yearly from water-related diseases while another 16 000 people of all ages were treated every year for similar illnesses.

"The current shortage of water in the interior is a result of bad planning from the old apartheid structures," the professor said.

He explained that com-

mercial farmers in the area had planned for drought situations and were not facing the crisis that rural communities were. This was because these communities had never been involved in the development of their domestic water supplies but had been made to accept Government "handouts".

"The JSB needs to establish development committees among these communities and through them establish a culture of accountability and community involvement because they all come from a culture of handouts."

## Critical

The present problem, however, was that these committees were not in place and there was no structure in the communities to receive water that would be delivered there.

There was such a critical shortage of water that without proper co-ordination, the delivery of water to communities of desperate people could lead to chaos, said Mngoma.

There was also the fear of the drought leading to more disease, he added.

"If the problem of the shortage of domestic water is not addressed soon, these communities can become a health hazard to the region - with perhaps an outbreak of cholera. - Sapa.

# It's lethal living down on the fa

## QUID DANGER

Chemicals are used extensively in agriculture in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious but preventable health hazards. MARIKA SBOROS reports.



STAR 5/6/92

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**V**ISIT a farm regularly and the sight of labourers slopping hazardous chemicals around as if they were cool drinks will probably be familiar.

Many of these farm labourers unwittingly poison themselves and their families to possible later illness through carcinogenic or teratogenic

farms, through environmental contamination and pesticide residues on food-stuffs, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lesley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the

agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity

worker has left the land.

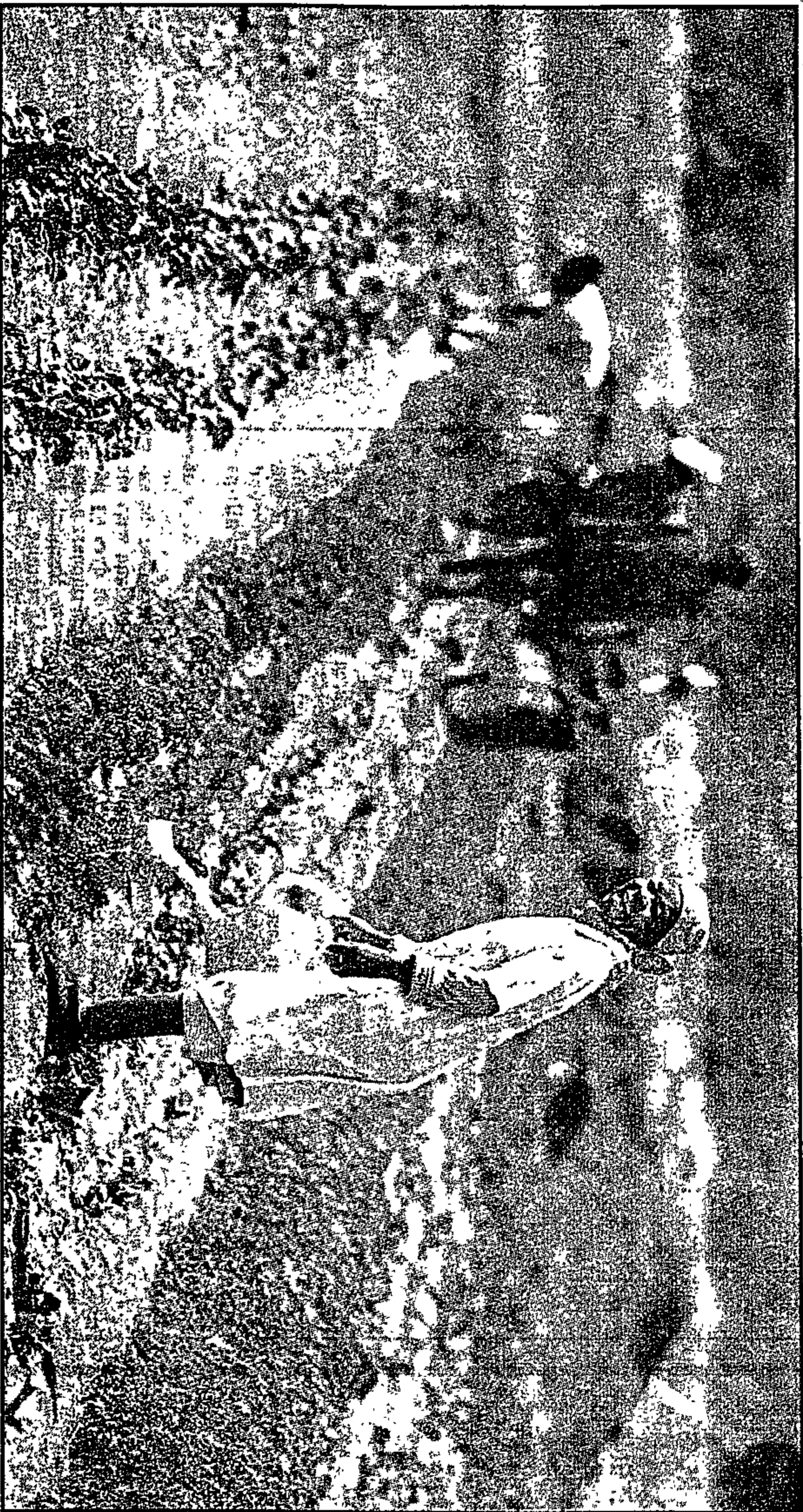
Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agrichemical poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a western Cape study has shown gross undernotification of between 50 and 500 percent, says Dr Lon-

dressed to date Cape study for safety training re-use and imp containers were

Problems of in the farming the context of of farmworker.

extensively in Africa and d, and may preventable ZIKA SBOROS



Lasting effect farm workers show health effects from chemicals long after they have left the land.

**V**ISIT a farm regularly and the slight of labourers slopping hazardous chemicals around as if they were cool drinks will probably be familiar.

Many of these farm labourers unwittingly poison themselves with these substances, and expose themselves and their families to possible later illness through carcinogenic or teratogenic (foetal abnormalities) effects, says Dr Nic Lee, editor of the South African Medical Journal (SAMJ).

Dr Lee has devoted the journal's latest edition to environmental health in the 1990s.

And before saying "Ag, shame" about the plight of farm workers, reflect for a moment that the use of agricultural chemicals can have much wider effects on populations far removed from farms, through environmental contamination and pesticide residues on foodstuffs, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lesley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the SAMJ.

The agricultural sector is one of the largest employers in South Africa, employing 1,18 million people on 62 050 farms in 1990 — 15 percent of the economically active workforce. As well, a large informal sector exists in agriculture and is likely to grow as the economy enters a transitional phase in the future.

The range of chemicals available for agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity does not take into account many crucial factors such as the presence of impurities from the production process, and frequent or repeated exposure, says Dr London.

The assessment takes no account of chronic health effects from long-term low-grade exposure, and it does not reflect acute (non-fatal) morbidity.

Many health effects of agrichemicals may manifest long after the farmer has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agricultural poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a western Cape study has shown gross undernotification of between 50 and 500 percent, says Dr London.

Other than notifications, it is clear that pesticide poisoning remains an important cause of admission to intensive care units at the major referral hospitals, and constitutes a large proportion of poisonings dealt with by poison centres at university teaching hospitals.

Safety measures in agriculture in South Africa have been poorly addressed to date, he says. A western Cape study found that low levels of safety training were practised and that re-use and improper disposal of empty containers were preventable hazards.

Problems of agricultural hazards in the farming sector must be seen in the context of the wider health needs of farmworkers, both occupational and non-occupational, says Dr London.

As important discussions over future health services are unfolding in South Africa, farmworkers' health must not remain the neglected stepchild of a future primary health care service.

"Agrichemical safety should be integrated in a comprehensive health service aimed at health promotion and disease prevention for all South Africans," he says.

STAR

18/6/92

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# ANC given eco-report

Sowetan 5/6/92



ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela yesterday officially received a report on Business and Environment in South Africa, commissioned by Pick 'n Pay head Mr Raymond Ackerman, at a function in Johannesburg.

The report, prepared by the International Business Council for Sustainable Development, points out that the present develop-

ment status of Southern Africa has been achieved mainly by selling off natural assets - irreplaceable minerals and almost irreplaceable wildlife and forests.

"With natural riches rapidly depleting, and severe degradation of agricultural potential, together with a wide range of both deliberate and ignorance-based assaults on the ecosystems of the region, the mostly unsuspecting population is facing catastrophe,

yet is doubling every two decades."

The BCSD report said that tourism, especially eco-tourism, offers the only large-scale opportunity for replacing mineral exports as a source of essential foreign exchange, employment and economic survival.

Tourists would not be attracted to slums, crime, disease, extinct animals, denuded veld and a ravished visual environment.

Development of a na-

tional and regional ethic of informed environmental concern will be prerequisites not only for leaving something for tourists to see but for feeding the population.

The ANC welcomed the report, saying the organisation was committed to an environmental policy that will secure sustainable growth and create a safe and healthy environment.

The report is to be presented to State President FW de Klerk on his return

from his overseas trip on June 18. The document is part of Southern Africa's private sector input to the Earth Summit.

Professor Stan Sangweni, the ANC's chief environmental spokesman recently said of the potential mining threat to St Lucia's eastern shores: "It is most dangerous and irresponsible to damage a very precious, internationally valued resource, which cannot be restored, whatever the miners say."



# Have South Africans missed the boat?

SOUTH 6/6-10/6/92

By Elfrieda Strauss

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**N**EVER before has Mother Earth been so central to international politics. For two years world leaders and experts on the environment have been preparing for what is believed to be the greatest gathering of world leaders ever.

Over the last two years great hopes were raised that the Earth Summit in Rio would save the world. These hopes are now sadly being replaced by increasingly cynical reports in the media that the summit has become little more than a festival of hypocrisy.

Meanwhile, as the drama unfolds in New York, Nairobi and Rio, where has South Africa been? At home, dealing with the power struggle at Codesa and township violence.

Activists here have been fighting apartheid during the years that those in other countries put their energies into environmental and development issues.

We have much to learn. At the moment the environment is very low on the list of priorities of those

struggling for power over this fast-degrading land.

It is still hard to get trade unions or political parties to attend environmental events.

The 15th World Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions met in Caracas, Venezuela in March 1992 to discuss their agenda for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). It included resolutions on occupational health and safety, the environment and international co-operation for development, employment and an end to poverty.

The congress insisted that the world's environmental and developmental problems be linked — not only with each other but with broader issues and in particular with the struggle for democracy, human rights, equity and social justice.

It also insisted that all governments accept their environmental obligations by adhering to national and international treaties, accords, protocols and conventions.

Shouldn't these concerns be on the agenda of trade unions in South Africa, too?

But there is no indication they have even heard of this comprehensive and relevant document.

**T**he South African government has not been invited to the conference and an invitation to the ANC surfaced only two weeks ago.

ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela will talk at the conference and an ANC delegation is attending. PAC environmental representative Dr Solly Skosana will also be present.

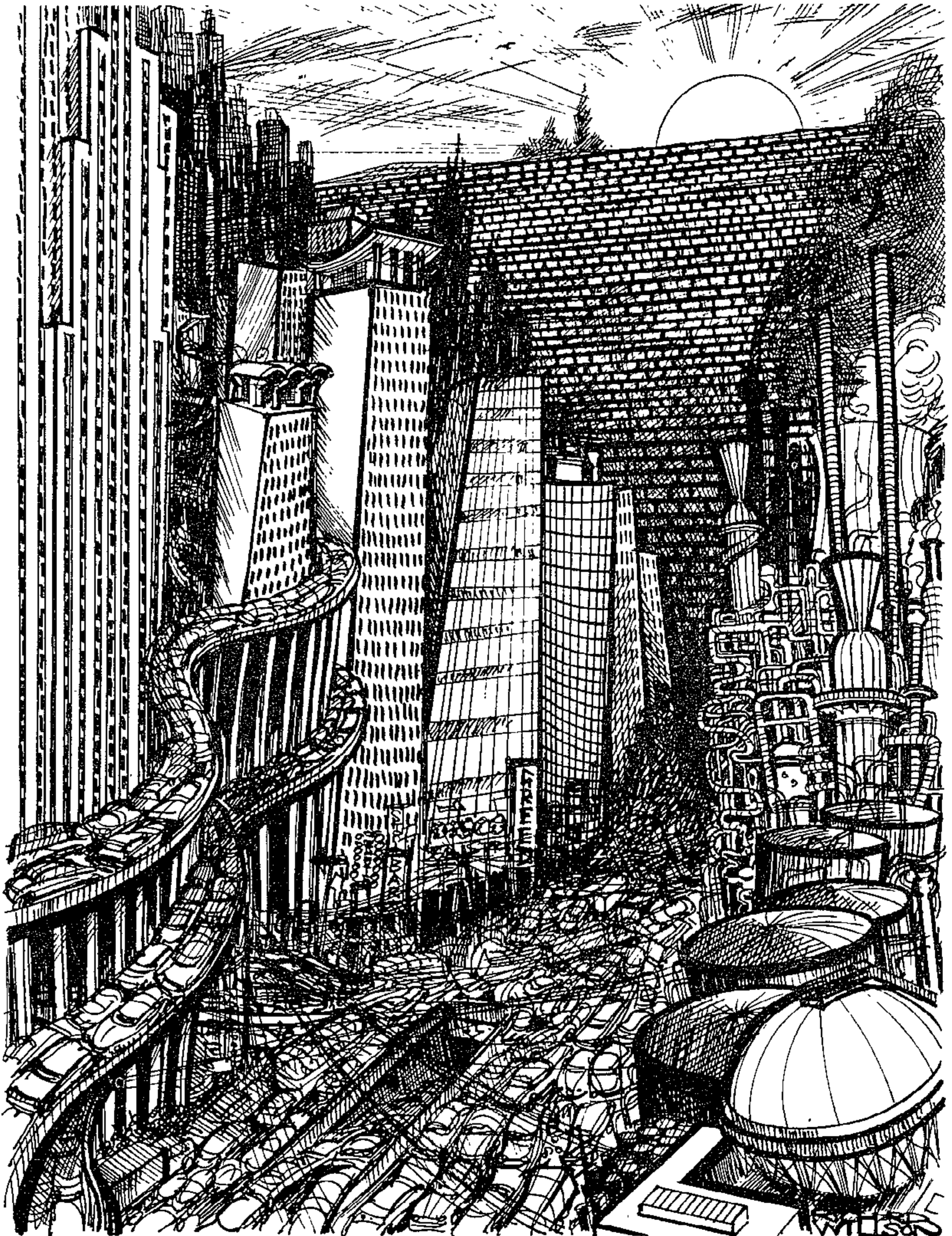
Various non-governmental organisations (NGO's) are sending representatives, but of all those attending only the youth delegation and the Industrial Environmental Forum can give any input.

We have missed the boat.

In an attempt to make the process more participatory, Eco-Programme organised a workshop in Cape Town and invited researcher Mr Dave Cooper to report back on the meeting. Cooper, who works for the Group for Environmental Monitoring (GEM), attended the last preparatory meeting in New York in March.

The workshop was aimed at giving delegates a focus that will be relevant to local organisations.

It was agreed that South Africa



**DEVELOPMENT'S BLIND ALLEY:** It is the year 2050. There are 10 billion people in the world, all consuming resources at the 1988 rate. Oil reserves will last just over four years and coal 51 years

would have exhibition space at the Global Forum.

Participation of the NGO's has raised the issue of what South Africa's international role is. It was agreed that this should be considered within the regional perspective.

Because of the negative press reports on UNCED, the cynical question has been asked if this is not a gross waste of time, energy and paper.

We cannot allow such a disempowering attitude to be the outcome of Rio.

We cannot be overwhelmed by the hypocrisy of politicians or the scale of environmental destruction.

We have to appreciate the extent of public consciousness UNCED has raised.

Possibly the most positive outcome from the preparations for Rio is that the environmental debate has

at last focused on where it should have years ago: corrupt governments in the South, poverty and — most crucially — over-consumption in the North.

Humankind wants to survive and cannot flee forever from the question of who is responsible for the well-being of Mother Earth.

(Elfrieda Strauss is co-ordinator of Eco-Programme)

# Glitterati flock to the Global Forum

Source 6|6-10|6|92

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WHILE world leaders confer at the Earth Summit, just down the road Britain's royal heir will rub shoulders with Amazon tribesmen and Hollywood stars will talk to the Dalai Lama.

With a mixture of creativity and campaigning fervour, more than 3 500 groups from around the world have organised a parallel meeting to the official event, called the Global Forum.

The Forum's organisers say they will complement the UN summit by working out what ordinary people are going to do to solve the planet's ecological crisis.

Renowned environmentalist organisations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, religious bodies like the World Council of Churches and charities such as Oxfam are all taking part.

Much of the flavour of the alternative summit will be given by smaller groups campaigning for the rights of women, children, ethnic minorities, religious beliefs and animals.

Nor have fringe groups been excluded from the gathering, which opened on Monday, two days earlier than the official summit. Meetings are planned on interests as diverse as yoga, meditation, solar

energy and Esperanto speaking, as well as subjects described as planetary synthesis and cosmobiology.

The alternative summit is being held in tents in a central Rio park, about 35 km from the official conference centre.

Children will also use a special section of the alternative summit venue to discuss issues such as homelessness, poverty and the environment.

The Global Forum is proving a magnet for the rich and famous.

Prince Charles will be there as a member of an environmental group. Hollywood stars like Liv Ullmann, Meryl Streep and Shirley

Maclaine will be there.

Sing, Elton John, Olivia Newton-John and John Denver have also confirmed their attendance.

Norwegian Prime Minister Ms Gro Harlem Brundland will be a regular participant, along with Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Globe-trotting environmentalist Jacques Cousteau and Brazilian football hero, Pelé, are also expected to attend.

Other events also scheduled to coincide with Global Forum include a concert featuring Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis.





# Green treaties are 'a start'

SOUTH 6/6-10/6/92

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Two environmental treaties of global importance are to be signed by world leaders this week. But are they genuine attempts to solve problems or political posturing? **Rehana Rossouw** reports:

**T**HERE IS nothing like an international treaty signed by world leaders to give the impression something is being done.

The Earth Summit in Brazil, which opened this week, is no exception.

Two treaties — one aimed at fighting global warming, the other at protecting the world's plant and animal species — will be the centrepieces of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which began in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday.

The result of two years' negotiating and sometimes bitter compromising, the treaties commit signatories to take action to solve two of the more urgent environmental problems facing the world.

Global warming is viewed with alarm by scientists who say rising world temperatures may lead to catastrophic climatic changes ranging from droughts to flooding.

Over-use of natural resources, in the meantime, threatens the world's biological diversity, from endangered species to rainforests and other ecosystems.

While governments and environmentalists are unhappy with aspects of the treaties — the United States particularly has been accused of watering down texts — both are, at the very least, a beginning.

The climate change convention to be signed in Rio commits industrialised nations and emerging ex-Communist countries of Europe to lower their so-called greenhouse-gas emissions, notably carbon dioxide.

cised the US for watering down the treaty on global warming, said. "I have decided not to go to a conference where it seems everything or virtually everything has been arranged."

In a clear reference to Washington's tactics in the global warming negotiations, Ripa said he believed in an environment policy "based on binding obligations and precise undertakings, not on words"

Whether the US and other industrialised nations will sign the biodiversity convention is likely to be one of the big issues at the summit.

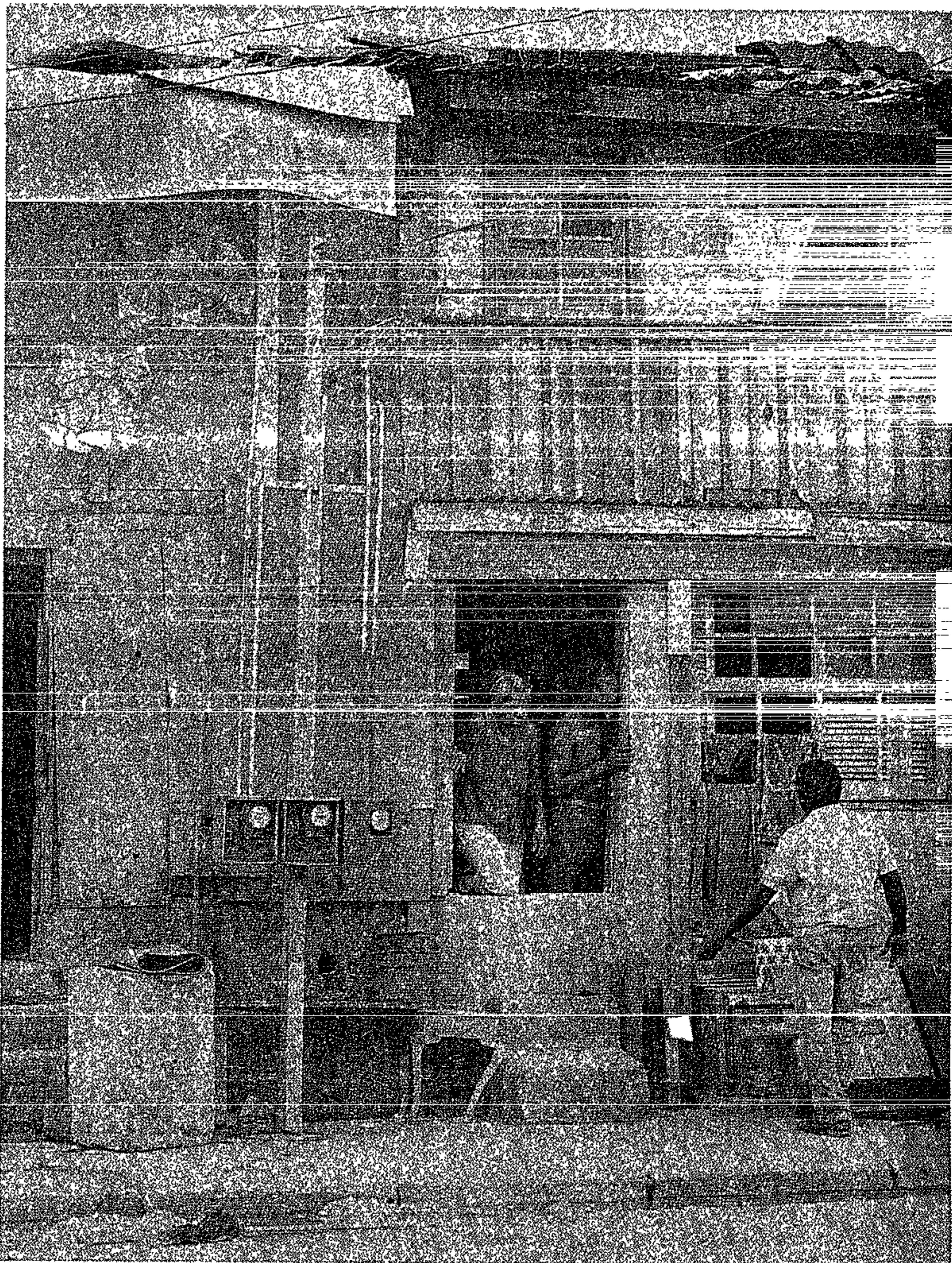
The treaty, agreed on two weeks ago in Nairobi, commits signatories to develop national strategies that include environmental conservation with economic development.

Significantly, the access of developed nations' to Third World resources is linked by the treaty to funds to help poor nations develop. It also sets the principle that something is due to owners of natural resources for the goods produced.

This is a particularly key section for the biotechnology industry, which could find itself producing genetically engineered drugs from, say, Brazil's rainforest and then having to pay royalties on sales.

The US, Britain, Canada, Japan, Australia and Malaysia have expressed grave reservations.

Poorer nations are going to the summit and so demand the right to industrialise to haul themselves out



**TREK TO THE CITIES:** The world's urban population has trebled since 1950 to 2,39 billion. This family lives on a hillside in the heart of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

of poverty. But they say they cannot avoid destroying the environment in the process unless they get help.

Some Asian delegates — representing the world's most populous continent, with the fastest-growing economies and a large percentage of its plants and wildlife — fear the

summit could turn into an event in which the Third World comes under attack, with little money to help develop their economies.

Generally, developing nations feel wealthier countries, with only 10 percent of the Earth's population, are responsible for most pollution

but do not really take to heart problems facing the Third World.

They warn they have to industrialise for their billions of poor but that the cost and technical expertise to make it environmentally sound must come from advanced countries and international institutions.

## North-South conflict is central to summit

By **Elfrieda Strauss**

SOUTH 6/6-10/6/92

**T**HE ROAD to Rio began 20 years ago when world leaders gathered in Stockholm for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

The United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) was formed and an action plan was adopted which recommended steps to be taken by governments and international organisations.

The Stockholm plan was considered a milestone in the development of international environmental law and in increasing public awareness.

However the plan was only partially implemented.

This was recognised at the 10th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference in 1982 when members of Unep convened in Nairobi.

The Nairobi Declaration recognised the interrelationships between

environment, development, population and resources and called for more management, assessment and co-operation.

Environmental issues became more politicised, particularly in developing countries.

Twenty years after Stockholm, environment and development have finally been placed on one agenda and the concerns of industrialised countries (the "North") and developing countries (the "South") are recognised to be interwoven.

When the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was conceived in 1989, countries agreed its purpose would be to stem destruction of the environment and set all countries on a path of economic development which would end poverty, while staying within ecological constraints and safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Consensus was reached that

UNCED should be a forum for addressing sustainable development.

Four UNCED preparatory committees have met over the last two years to try to reach consensus about a daunting range of issues.

Inputs have been received from an array of sources. These include conferences on water, agriculture, women and the environment, a world youth forum, indigenous people and the environment and the trade union agenda for the environment and development.

The Earth Summit has developed into a major economic and political summit because of fundamental differences between the North and South.

The South regards the environmental crisis as the fault of over-consumption and accuses the North of eco-imperialism. The North blames the South for mis-managing their economies.

The concern of environmentalists in the North is that the world is developed enough, that there should be a limit to development.

At the end of a New York preparatory meeting the very apt statement was made by an African delegate that the North should determine the standard of living and the rest of the world would aspire to it.

This is the essence of the deadlock between North and South which needs to be resolved at Rio.

The amount of money flowing to the South in the form of aid is only a third of the money flowing from South to North in the form of debt repayment, profit by transnational companies and the flight of capital to bank accounts in Europe.

If Rio does not address the issues of debt, aid, international environmental control and World Bank policy, it will not address the issue of sustainable development.

It also calls on rich nations to help finance Third World programmes to study the issue.

Reflecting the insistence of the United States that it will not sign a treaty containing specific goals and timetables for cutting emissions, the treaty only suggests that emissions be stabilised at 1990 levels by 2000.

The European Community had wanted such stabilisation to be mandatory for signatories, but Washington remained firm on the point throughout the negotiations. It was concerned that forcing its industries to meet set goals could threaten the US economy.

The European Community's top environment official announced last week that he would not attend the Earth Summit, saying its outcome was largely pre-arranged and implying it would be a disappointment.

Environment Commissioner Mr Carlo Ripa di Meana, who has criti-

...olly words, some cynical commen-  
tators have suggested, with little sub-  
stance. But the substance comes in  
Agenda 21 — a 490-page document  
which sets out in detail programmes  
for action that can be taken by govern-  
ment development agencies, UN or-  
ganisations and independent bodies to  
put the principles of the Rio Declara-  
tion into practical effect.

**M**R MAURICE STRONG, sec-  
retary-general of Unced,  
calls it "the most extensive,  
comprehensive international pro-  
gramme ever developed" — but  
there's something missing, and that  
is Chapter 33.

To put programmes into practice  
costs money. In the case of Agenda  
21 lots of money — and just who will  
pay, how much and when — is going  
to dominate debate at the Earth  
Summit for the next week.

While delegates and official observers  
with speaking rights sound off during the  
general debate in the plenary hall at Rio  
Centre, the real bargaining and discus-  
sion will be going on in negotiating ses-  
sions behind closed doors to try to re-  
solve the outstanding issues. Chapter 33  
has to be written.

Unced's director of programme inte-  
gration, Mr Joseph Wheeler, said this  
week at the media briefing preceding the  
conference that Agenda 21 was an action  
programme for the rest of the century  
and the first decade of the next.

"So far, it doesn't cover finance, but  
there is an empty space for that," he  
said.

In the 490-page text there are still 350  
paragraphs in brackets — and 150 of  
them have to do with finance.

"They were never seriously looked at  
(during the preparatory conferences) and  
they have to be dealt with here,"  
Wheeler said.

Not only does the conference have to  
decide on how to pay for the estimated  
\$125-billion (about R350-billion) yearly  
shortfall to put Agenda 21 into practice  
— the current aid rate to the developing  
countries is about \$55-billion (about  
R154-billion) — but it also has to decide

negotiations will be very difficult and  
will go late into nights. A lot is at stake  
and we will not see the results of that ne-  
gotiation until the last moment."

The negotiators have effectively until  
the 12th to reach a compromise — that  
is when the heads of state and govern-  
ment arrive for their meeting as part of  
the Earth Summit. At the latest count,  
about 115 were due to make an appear-  
ance.

In her address at the opening session  
of the Earth Summit on Wednesday, Mrs  
Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norwegian  
Prime Minister and head of the Brundt-  
land Commission which gave rise to the  
summit, told delegates they should not  
be surprised that developing nations  
were approaching the summit with open  
economic demands.

Mrs Brundtland said the UNCED sec-  
retariat's estimate of financial resources  
required for implementing Agenda 21 in  
developing countries amounted to about  
\$625-billion (about R1,75-trillion) a year.  
Eighty percent of this would have to  
come from the developing nations them-  
selves, while the remaining 20 percent of  
\$125-billion (about R350-billion) had to  
come from "concessional financing by  
the industrialised countries of the North.

**'W**HILE this may appear a  
very large sum, it is in  
fact equivalent to the  
amounts which would be raised if  
the industrialised countries met their  
long-established Overseas Develop-  
ment Aid target of 0,7 percent given  
the scale of the efforts needed.

"All donor nations should achieve this  
target by the year 2000 and industria-  
lised countries must make a significant  
start here in Rio towards full implemen-  
tation of Agenda 21, steadily increasing  
amounts yearly. We believe this should  
not be less than \$10-billion (about R28-  
billion) in 1993."

So will Chapter 33 be written to the  
Brundtland formula, or will President  
Bush force further concessions from an  
already anxious conference? "The mo-  
ment of truth has arrived," said Indian  
ambassador Mr Chandrask Chandrashe-  
kar Dasgupta, one of the key negotiators.

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Delegates must thrash out funding nightmare

# Just who will pay to

# go green?

**C**HAPTER 33. It has a biblical ring to it and perhaps that's just as well, for it's going to take a superhuman effort to get it written.

Chapter 33 is what's missing from Agenda 21, the document prepared for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Unced) — the Earth Summit — that started in the vast Rio Centre 35km outside the city this week.

The summit has been 2½ years in the making, and although there are still major disagreements over many issues, the broad outline has been settled. The convention to preserve bio-diversity — all life on earth — has been agreed on and is open for signature, although some nations have indicated that they won't sign.

There is also a convention setting out how to prevent further climate change. It is also open for signature and although many are angry with the United States for putting pressure on negotiators to produce a relatively weak text, others say it is at least a significant stride in the right direction.

Negotiators were defeated in their attempts to write a comprehensive Earth Charter for signature at the summit, but they did produce a Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, composed of 27 principles to fulfil the goal of "establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of co-operation among states, key sectors of societies and people ... and recognising the integral and inter-dependent nature of Earth our home".

SB ARG 6/6/92

## US proves biggest stumbling block

**A**FTER two days of debate at Rio's Earth Summit, the United States has emerged as the biggest obstacle to a global environmental strategy, while Japan and Europe try to entice the Third World toward cleaner economic development.

"The debate has less to do with North and South — rich and poor, and more with the United States and the rest of the world," several European delegates at the summit acknowledged.

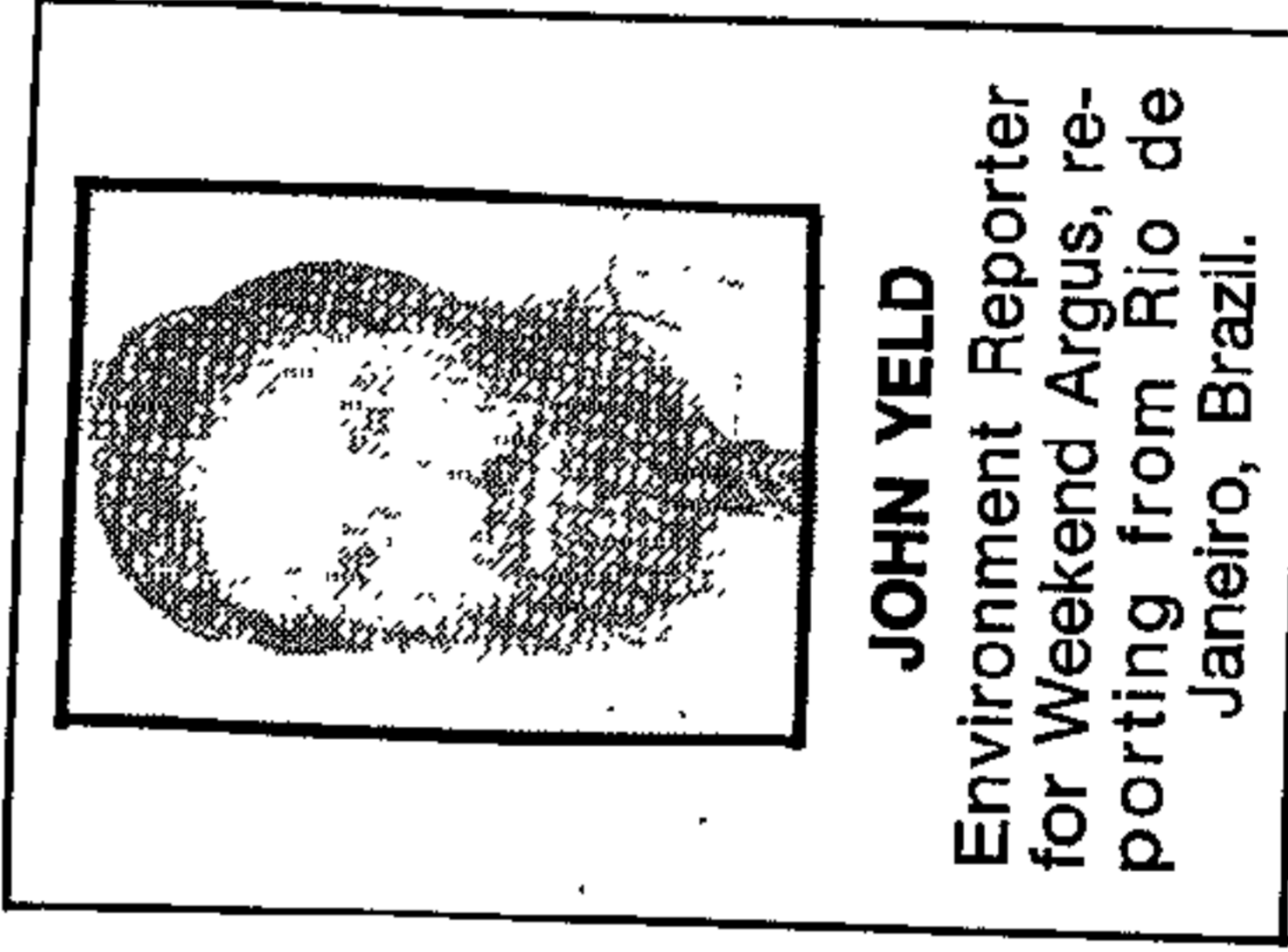
As the US appears to be the only country refusing to sign a treaty on bio-diversity and strongly opposes environmental goals called for in the Rio Declaration, Japan and the European Community are set to outbid each other as they vie for

leadership in world environmental policy.

A spokesman for the Japanese delegation said that Tokyo was on the verge of announcing a spectacular funding initiative on the environment.

Former prime minister Mr Noribu Takeshita, who heads the Japanese delegation as health problems and parliament retain the foreign minister and prime minister, respectively, in Tokyo, acknowledged that richer nations had a responsibility to shoulder.

"The destruction of the global environment has been caused in large part by the activities of developed countries," Mr Takeshita said.



**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter  
for Weekend Argus, reporting from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

what mechanism to use to channel this money.

The developed nations are largely in favour of using the Global Environmental Facility — a temporary institution set up 18 months ago by the UN Environment Programme, the UN Development Programme and the World Bank. The developing nations are highly suspicious of the connection with the World Bank, with its extremely poor environmental record, and want a special "Green Fund" to be established.

Y10121

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1992

## Coming clean on pollution

THOUGH South Africa is not an official delegate to the World Earth Summit in Rio, it has shown remarkable candour about the state of this country's environment in a 250-page report submitted to the Rio conference. Compiled by the Department of Environment Affairs, it discloses that emissions from fossil fuels in South Africa are twice the world's per capita average; that only 50% of South Africa's industrial waste reaches official dumps; that 53,5 billion cubic metres of water is wasted in run-off each year (this in a country devastated by drought); that 30% of South Africa's

indigenous forest has disappeared in less than two decades; and that marine food supplies have drastically declined.

Such examples of pollution and destruction of natural resources are not unique to South Africa, of course. All over the world massively escalating populations and/or industrialisation are putting severe strains on the ecologies of scores of countries. The whole planet is under siege. Already the summit has divided itself roughly between those nations of the northern hemisphere which consume a disproportionate share of the world's energy and generate the bulk of global pollution, and the developing nations of the south which consume irreplaceable

resources such as virgin rain forest. The problem is to persuade the first category to impose expensive restraints on pollution, and simultaneously make it economically worthwhile to the second category not to exploit what they regard as an important source of revenue.

South Africa falls somewhere between, suffering the worst of both worlds. The air pollution from the factories of the Vaal Triangle and the Transvaal highveld is internationally notorious, but it is compounded by the emissions from vast townships where the main source of heat for cooking is coal fires. Chemical and industrial waste pollutes the country's rivers, but so does faecal contamination from large sections of the population who

do not have access to proper sanitation. Even when proper sewerage exists, raw waste is often pumped straight into the sea.

So South Africa has little to be proud of, other than its awareness of the problem as shown by the voluminous departmental report. Having come clean, as it were, is this not the psychological moment to start cleaning up our air, our rivers and our coast in earnest as well?

100 years ago

From the Cape Times, June 8, 1892. In the South African Republic legal forms are apparently possessed of a singular elasticity... A case was re-

CT 6/6/92

(56)

cently tried by Mr Justice de Korte on circuit in which a powerful corporation was a party. The decision was against the powerful corporation and thereupon an appeal was noted... When the appeal came for hearing at Pretoria Chief Justice Kotze was absent, Mr Justice Morice was out of health and Mr Justice De Korte sat solitarily in the High Court... The learned judge listened to the argument of counsel and then bravely confirmed his own decision. Whatever may be thought of Mr Justice De Korte's modesty, he may at least claim credit for a moral courage in which no judge of the Supreme Court would think of competing with him.

From the Bible

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

(Gen 1:27)

# New bridge stirs up eco-troubled waters

By GLENDA NEVILL

AN environmental drama with far-reaching ecological repercussions began this week when hundreds of litres of diesel gushed from a fuel tank on a construction site into a pristine mountain river.

The Molenaars River, which winds between the serrated peaks of the Du Toit's Kloof mountains, was swelled by flash floods which tore through a construction site on the flood plain and wrenched the fuel tank from its platform.

Although oil-pollution experts rate the short-term diesel damage as "slight", the long-term effects of the construction work could be more serious.

The diesel spill flowed through the area's trout farms and contaminated Rawsonville's drinking

water before being swept towards the sea by another flood two days later.

"The short-term effects of the diesel weren't too bad," said Mr Graham Watson, a trout farmer.

"We have managed to drain the dams and suck out the remaining diesel.

"The Department of Sea Fisheries conducted the same tests as they did on the shellfish affected by the Kattina P disaster and sounded the all-clear."

The long-term effects have yet to be discovered. In the worst scenario, the fish could go blind and be struck with gill disease and digestive tract problems.

"It's not just the diesel spill which is causing the problem," Mr Watson explained, "there is the constant trouble of dirty water caused by the heavy machinery in the river."

## Emergency

Mr Watson said he had asked the Department of Transport and the construction company repeatedly to supply him with emergency water — to no avail.

"This building project is going to continue for another three to four years."

Mr Rod Stallebrass, general manager of Concor, the company contracted by the Department of Transport to build the road and bridges, said the spillage was "unfortunate" and that the company was "very concerned about it".

"At present there is not a great deal to be done as most of the diesel has vanished into the sea, but we will be watching the effect on trout farms."

Mr Stallebrass said Concor had been notified by insurers about possible compensation, but did not have details.

The construction company lost more than R3 million worth of equipment in the second flood and is trying to retrieve it from the river.

Responding to reports that environmental engineers contracted by the Department of Transport to oversee the construction had warned Concor repeatedly to move its equipment because of the likelihood of seasonal floods, Mr Stallebrass said that "in the time available" he hadn't had a chance to "go through all the correspondence" allied to the project.

## Serious

Mr David Susman, a landowner in the area, said he had warned the Department of Transport on "innumerable occasions" over three years of the danger of "15 to 16-foot (about 4.5 to 4.8-metre) flash floods".

"I have had a sympathetic response, but not a great deal of action," he said.

"A thorough ecological study was conducted before construction began and the Department of Transport took the recommendations very seriously.

"Unfortunately these are not being adhered to."

The Molenaars River is of environmental importance because it is in what is known as a pristine catchment area with no outside threat of pollution.

## Water off

THE water supply to a large section of Walmer Estate and University Estate will be cut off between 8am and 4pm today to enable the city council to carry out essential work on the system.

A council spokesman said the area affected was between Coronation Road and de Waal Drive, from Perth Road on the Cape Town side to Roodebloem Road on the Salt River side.



...orraine Meyer hugs TV star  
Picture: TIM ZIELENBACH

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S Times [Cape Metro] 7/16/92

**Party politics triumphed over world policy this week. CHARLENE SMITH reports on how South Africa failed to secure a seat at the Rio summit**

**POLITICAL** bickering prevented South Africa from taking its place at the Rio Earth Summit this week.

Because of UN isolation measures, South Africa could not be officially invited to the century's most important environmental conference. But the government tried to persuade the ANC to back its participation and that of South African environmental groups.

Telephone lines hummed between Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden and the ANC's Yussuf Saloojee last week. For a time it seemed the ANC would concede, sources said, but ultimately anger at home and within the Organisation of African Unity about continuing violence and the Codesa 2 stalemate, sealed the ANC's decision to refuse its blessing.

Wildlife Society head Tony Ferrar said his organisation spoke to the ANC: "We were told the government would participate over their dead body."

Instead, just a handful of South Africans are attending the conference, but not as official representatives. They include environmental and health specialists from Sasol, Eskom, the Chamber of Mines, the Rand Afrikaans University and the National Union of Mineworkers, as well as the mayors of Durban and Soweto.

As for the ANC, three days into the summit it was still dithering over its own participation. Political parties — the ANC and PAC among them — were invited to attend. The PAC sent spokesman Solly Skhosana, armed with a 15-page policy document advocating, among other things, more nuclear power stations for South Africa. But by Friday the ANC had yet to decide who it would send.

Initially ANC president Nelson Man-

# Dithering, bickering politicians keep SA from Rio summit

del and a 15-member delegation were scheduled to attend. Then on Wednesday, the ANC said it would send international affairs head Thabo Mbeki and environmental desk head Professor Stan Sangweni, of the University of Natal. By Thursday, it was considering sending Professor Sangweni, Dr Lyn Jackson of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute and Tebogo Mofolo, the ANC's UN representative. Contacted for comment, Dr Jackson said she had not been informed and Mr Mofolo said he was unable to attend.

Professor Sangweni, heading the three-member ANC delegation, finally left for Rio last night.

Gill Marcus, of the ANC's information department, said the delegation's departure had been hampered by the late arrival of air tickets.

The basis of South Africa's representation to the summit is a 250-page report, compiled at the request of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. Written by the CSIR after the views of environmentalists nationwide had been canvassed, it was submitted last October.

That report, along with thousands of documents from around the world, led to the compilation of Article 21, the environmental blueprint for the next century.

It painted a dismal picture for South Africa, showing for example that "emissions from coal and other fuel usage in South Africa include an estimated 308-million tons of carbon dioxide a year, about 1.6 percent of total world man-made releases and perhaps twice the world per capita average."

Dr Graham Noble of the CSIR, one of the report's authors, said South Africa had suffered less from not taking part in the summit than from not being involved in the three-year process leading up to it.

"All other countries were involved in a very long and thorough process over three years, including a number of preparatory meetings. Many people from neighbouring countries were part of that process, and by having to respond to questions and compile information, they became acutely aware of all sorts of environmental issues. The process put environment on the agenda in all those countries."

The environment is far down the list of priorities in South Africa. Dr Noble believes the top three environmental issues in South Africa should be, in order of importance, "soil erosion and everything that goes with it; the loss of species, whether plant or animal; and health problems accompanying industrial and urban growth."

MINING companies in Southern Africa are looking at a potential major energy source — coal bed methane (CBM).

CBM is natural gas trapped in coal seams and can cause explosions if not drained out of mines. However, when released into the atmosphere it may harm the environment by contributing to global warming.

The National Energy Council (NEC) — now incorporated in the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs — commissioned a study last year of the potential of CBM.

## Safety

The study pinpointed two areas with high CBM potential — the Waterberg Basin and Paardekop-Amersfoort in the south-eastern Transvaal.

The department's director of coal, energy and the environment, Jan Bredell, says there are three potential motives for the extraction of CBM before mining begins: safety, environmental protection and its use as an energy or chemical feedstock resource.

Quad/EPI — the Cape Town-based hydrocarbon (oil, coal, gas) exploration

# Methane may be fuel of the future in SA

By IAN ROBINSON

consulting company — has formed an association with international CBM consultant Advanced Resources International (ARI).

ARI pioneered much of the US CBM production and Quad/EPI has done work on CBM in Turkey and the UK.

The association with ARI has enabled Quad/EPI to implement a CBM resource appraisal and development service in Southern Africa. Although CBM offers great potential — a large coal mine can contain as much methane as a third of the Mossgas reserve — Quad/EPI stresses that much groundwork is still required to prove its profitability in SA.

A small company in Zim-

babwe — Trotter Exploration — plans to exploit CBM in the Chiredzi area in the south-east of the country as a feedstock for wax.

The wax facility will have an annual production capacity of 20 000 tons. Two US companies, ARI and Colorado Rentech, will provide technical assistance with the gas extraction and the wax production respectively.

The capital cost of the project has been estimated at US \$15-million to \$17-million for CBM extraction and \$20-million to \$25-million for the wax plant.

Trotter is talking to potential joint-venture partners in Australia, SA, the US and Canada. The project has a two-year lead time.

Commercial exploitation

of CBM requires not only a reliable source but a nearby market because gas is expensive to transport.

Research into the potential exploitation of CBM in SA is at a preliminary stage. Two major factors determine the ability of the coal seams to store methane: higher rank and greater depth increase storage capacity. Rank refers to the extent to which the original vegetable matter has been converted into coal.

## SS Paper

Several mining houses, including Rand Mines, Genmin and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI), are doing research on coal seams which contain methane. Shell is making "paper studies" of CBM resources in SA.

JCI technical director, coal and base metals, Con Fauconnier says holes being drilled to explore coal seams in the Standerton-Volksrust area will be tested for CBM. Seams in this area are at an average depth of about 400 metres, which indicates greater CBM potential than most in existing mines which are usually at depths of less than 200 metres.



DIETER KRUEGER: Lots to do

# Eskom pushes for sales

STANDARD (GWS) 7/6/92.

LOWER demand for electricity — which accounts for one-third of SA's energy consumption — has forced Eskom to mothball more than 5 000 of its 36 000-megawatt generating capacity.

It has come up with a variety of schemes to improve plant use.

Users are offered variable "time-of-use" tariffs for using electricity in off-peak times. To meet peak demand in the early morning and late afternoon, Eskom has to maintain considerable reserve capacity. This raises the cost of electricity. By smoothing demand throughout the day, cost benefits can be passed to consumers.

Eskom is also behind a scheme to market electrical

appliances to consumers and more efficient technology to manufacturers as a way of increasing demand.

A Southern Africa grid will enable more electricity to be exported. Eskom produces 60% of all the electricity generated in Africa and exports to neighbouring countries.

Eskom's "electricity for all" programme — it will electrify 700 000 homes in five years at a cost of R4,7-billion — carries a major economic benefit for SA.

Research by the University of Pretoria indicates that Eskom's electrification programme will create up to two million jobs in the informal sector.

Eskom is often unfairly blamed for polluting the Eastern Transvaal Highveld where most of its coal-fired power stations are located. Yet studies show that carbon dioxide emissions in the area are with-

in Department of Health guidelines.

The power stations are fitted with electro-static precipitators which collect the burnt ash before it is flushed into the atmosphere.

In addition to ash, horizons gases are released when coal is burnt. Eskom solves this problem with tall stacks which penetrate the inversion layer — a climatological phenomenon in the Transvaal Highveld which leads to trap pollutants below 300 metres.

New technology in power generation will radically alter the face of electricity utilities. Integrated gasification combined cycles (IGCC) — involving the gasification of coal, removing impurities in the process, and using the gas to drive a turbine — can achieve energy conversions rates of about 45% compared to 37% for conventional steam-driven turbines.

The problem is that there is little cost saving at present — both methods cost about R1 000 a kilowatt.

Eskom's newer power stations have a 16-year project cycle, cost about R13-billion and generate 3 600 MW. IGCCs have a two-year cycle, are highly modular, cheaper to commission and are capable of decentralisation, says Cliff Lewis, Eskom deputy manager in charge of technical research and investigations.

But development of fuel cells could eclipse anything seen so far in the power generation. Fuel cells are essentially sophisticated batteries. An electric current is generated by combining oxygen and hydrogen ions to produce water as a useful by-product. Oxygen is drawn from the air and hydrogen from a gas such as methane.

Kema, the Dutch research utility, Fujii and Toshiba all

have prototype laboratory fuel cells. The most likely technology to develop on a commercial scale is the molten oxide fuel cell which does not require purified gas.

Dr Lewis says: "The fuel cells are environmentally sound and a laboratory test cell has been able to generate 10 MW."

"The implications are enormous. There would no longer be a need for huge power stations, transmission lines and the infrastructure required to get electricity from the power station to the user."

Research into superconductors continues. They have the potential to vastly improve electricity storage and transmission systems.

Eskom is also investigating alternative energy systems known as remote area power supplies (RAPS). They include solar panels, batteries, micro-hydro generators, wind turbines and diesel-powered generators.

Eskom supplies RAPS systems to households not connected to its grid for a monthly tariff with no up-front fee.

CSIR's Division of Energy Technology (Enertek) has developed several products to improve the use of energy.

One is a lightning protection unit for Eskom's budget energy controllers (BECs) which are being installed in low-cost housing projects.

The BEC allows a user to pay for electricity in advance. The number of units bought is logged on a magnetic card, similar to a bus ticket. The card is inserted in the BEC and as electricity is used a meter indicates the amount still available.

Enertek was also instrumental in developing low-voltage reticulation systems and testing aerial bundle conductors — all of which enable Eskom to supply electricity more cheaply.

Much CSIR research has been concentrated on coal as a source of energy. It has developed a continuous ash analyser to enable coal preparation operators to run their plants more efficiently.

This unit, the Kampeia, is

on trial at Grootevlei coal mine which supplies Muthiwa power station at Ellis-Ras.

The development of a fluidised bed combustion (FBC) system has important implications for the energy market. The FBC system converts waste coal and other combustible discards, such as municipal refuse, into energy by injecting a stream of air into a chamber to improve combustibility.

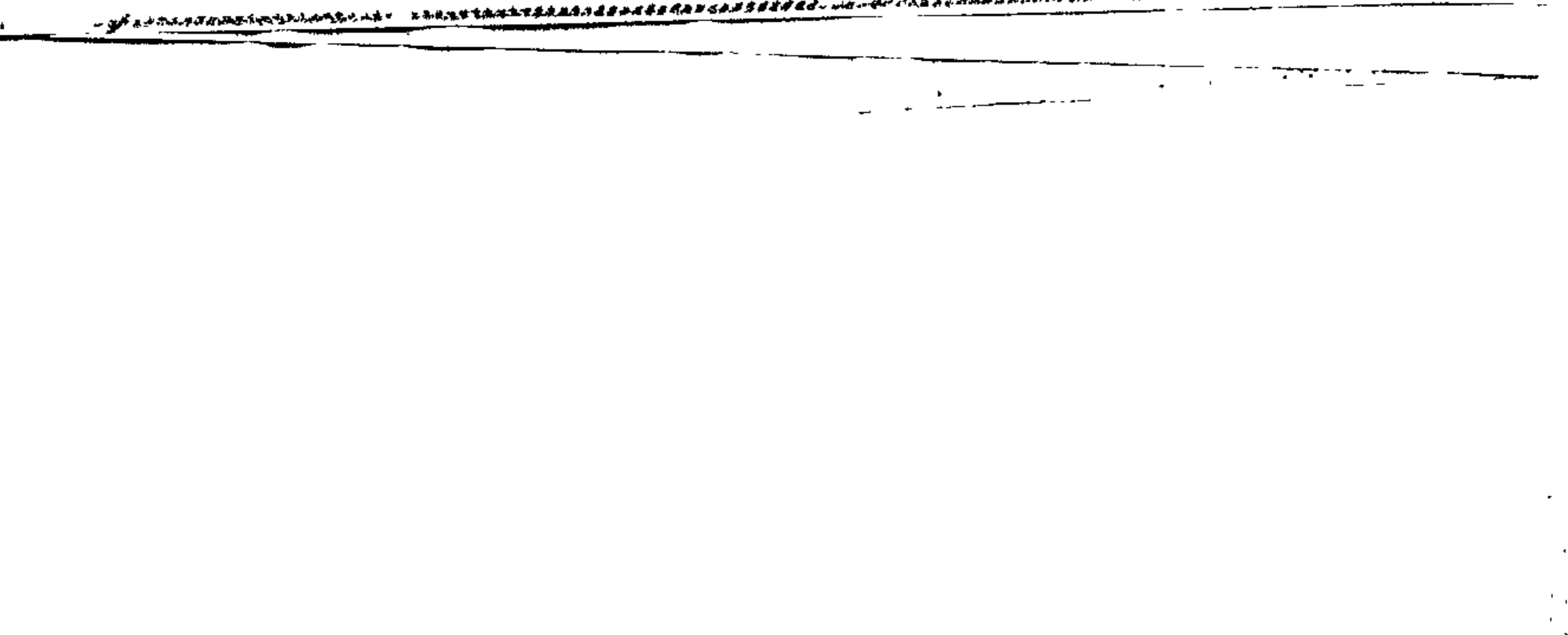
Enertek director Dieter Krueger says: "Apart from improving the efficiency of energy use in industry, many important matters to be considered in the rural communities.

Environmental issues are now the overriding factor in the energy debate. Deforestation is occurring on an alarming scale in some areas as the population grows and energy costs rise. Electrification must be the ultimate goal.

"Much work is being done with biogas, which is combustible animal waste."

CSIR gadgets do the trick

“Electrical energy is the common factor that binds us in our quest for a better quality of life for all our peoples. By concentrating on the positives, on common development factors, we are building bridges for tomorrow. I believe that electricity could be a catalyst not only for illustrating the interdependence of all Southern African states, but also for stimulating a new development in our subcontinent.”





# Mossgas pays on for expatriates

SITimes [BUS] 7/6/92

By CIARAN RYAN

**FREE-SPENDING** Mossgas forks out R620 000 a month — R7,4-million a year — to the Government's oil exploration arm, Soekor, merely because it once secured the services of 31 expatriate workers.

This is in addition to the packages of between R563 000 and R1,48-million a year which Mossgas pays to its most senior expatriate workers.

Soekor chairman Danie Vorster says the "service fee" merely defrays Soekor's costs in obtaining these services. Soekor used London-based specialised recruiting agency TM Services to recruit the expatriates.

Monthly salaries are paid to TM Services, which deducts its fees before paying the employees.

## Outrage

But, says Democratic Party energy spokesman Roger Hulley, this is another example of the Mossgas rip-off.

"What does Soekor actually do for this fee? They give the workers an office and that's about it. It's an outrage and Soekor is brazening it out.

"Why couldn't Mossgas recruit these people and save having to pay Soekor all that money?"

Mossgas managing director Bernard Smith says the service fees are not exorbitant when measured against the cost of downtime if anything goes wrong.

"We need experts, particularly at the start-up stage, and the people we have got are top in their field. Once the project is running properly we can look at cutting costs."

Mr Smith defends the decision to use TM Services on the grounds that this was the safest way to recruit top people.

Mossgas has come in for repeated criticism for cost-overruns and the huge pay going to its senior expatriate offshore workers. General manager of the offshore rig Noel Fitzgerald is believed to earn R1,48-million a year.

According to a Mossgas source, production manager Brian O'Keefe earns R719 000 a year, drilling manager Brian Hatton R597 000, and maintenance manager Ted Coombes R674 000.

A South African is being trained to replace Mr Fitzgerald, who completes his three-year contract in November.

Mr Vorster says that expatriate service fee packages cannot be compared with those of British subjects working in the North Sea. They should be compared with Britons working away from home.

Mr Vorster says: "Double taxation agreements between SA and other countries exist, in terms of which each expatriate is responsible for income tax on local earnings, depending on the duration of stay."

"Only in exceptional cases was it agreed that Soekor would be responsible for any SA taxes the individuals would have to pay."

Mr Vorster is chairman of Soekor, Mossgas and the Central Energy Fund (CEF). The CEF funds Mossgas and Soekor. It lent Soekor R216,6-million last year.

So far Soekor has spent R1,8-billion in its efforts to find oil and gas. Until 1988, the CEF received a levy of 4c a litre paid by the motorist. The levy was suspended in 1988 and the CEF is now funded by investment returns and interest on borrowings.

All cost overruns at Mossgas have been paid by the CEF. So far Mossgas has cost about R8-billion. It will cost more than R12-billion by the time it is finished. The projected cost was R5,5-billion in 1986.

## Another for Integro

Business Times Reporter

**SOUTH** African financial brokerage company Integro is to buy Amsterdam-based stockbroker Wouters & Son.

This is Integro's second purchase in Amsterdam. The first was Heerze Effecten.

Integro has been in Amsterdam since 1984 and is connected to Investec Bank in SA.

Nearly all shareholders are South African. The organisation has clients in SA, Australia, North America and Europe.

Integro intends expanding in Europe. Its value is estimated at 35-million guilders and it expects turnover of at least 15-million guilders this year, of which 40% is expected to be generated in the Netherlands.

# SA joins drive for better energy use

S/Times (BUS) 7/6/92

**ENERCONOMY '92** will deal with many issues relating to the more efficient use of energy.

The conference will focus on ways of improving energy use, which not only results in cost savings but conserves scarce non-renewable fuel resources with attendant environmental benefits.

The SA Institute of Energy is a private-sector organisation set up to promote awareness of energy use and production.

## Carbon

The conference comes at a time when the world is focusing anew on environmental issues, particularly the use of carbon fuels. The Earth Life Summit in Rio de Janeiro is the most serious attempt to establish environmental guidelines which will allow "sustainable development". It is defined as development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The solution to the world's environmental problems is related to the efficiency with which energy is used. Poor countries are less efficient users, richer countries are more efficient.

It is a consequence of economic development that the manufacturing sector seeks ways to improve production efficiency and reduce costs.

SA's energy bill is estimated at R30-billion a year, equal to 12% of gross domestic product — about the same as America's.

## Terms

Although the comparison looks favourable to SA, it is not. Because SA is a developing country, energy's share of the economy should be lower than in more developed nations. What the comparison actually reflects is that the US is more efficient in its use of energy resources.

Measured in terms of energy intensity (energy used per dollar of GDP), SA ranks alongside Hungary with 50 megajoules/\$ of GDP, compared with 16 for the US and seven for Japan.

Efficient use of energy not only benefits the environment but enables industry to compete more effectively by reducing one of its major cost components.

A TWO-DAY seminar, Enerconomy '92, begins at CSIR in Pretoria tomorrow. It is organised by the Southern African Institute of Energy and is billed as the first comprehensive analysis of the importance of effective use of energy. CIARAN RYAN reports

"Large savings can be made in the use of energy in SA," says Steve van Rensburg, president of the SA Institute of Energy and one of the organisers of Enerconomy '92.

"More efficient management of energy could save up to 10% without any capital expenditure. In overseas countries, environmental concern is the driving force behind the search for more efficient use of energy. But economics also plays a major part."

SA's energy supply is shared more or less equally between electricity (from mainly coal-fired power stations), coal (which feeds the power stations) and liquid fuels.

Great strides have been made in improving energy use in all three. New technology in motor vehicles has resulted in better use of liquid fuels. Eskom's newer "six-pack" power stations incorporate relatively new design technology.

Eskom pioneered the use

of low-grade coal for power generation.

But SA's manufacturing sector, by and large, has a long way to go. Sanctions and the cost of replacing old equipment have left many industries with obsolete equipment.

## Huge

Trade and industry Minister Derek Keys, says SA needs world-scale plants to compete in international markets. This implies huge expenditure on technology where energy use is optimised.

Indirect and direct cost savings can be made by better use of energy. Indirect savings are effected through obviating the need to repair an environment damaged by profligate energy use.

About half of SA's energy is used by industry, mining and commerce, 20% by the transport sector, 20% by households and 5% by agriculture.

Dr Van Rensburg says because SA has one of the cheapest sources of electricity and coal in the world, consumers are less inclined to consider the importance of using energy efficiently.

European Economic Community countries have decided on a 20% reduction in energy use. Although oil and coal prices are depressed by the poor state of the world economy, the next upswing will place new demands on world energy production, forcing up fuel prices.

The economics of energy use will compel the world to look for cheaper and cleaner sources of energy. The days of manufacturing processes which belch out carbon dioxide are ending.

How does SA start to improve its energy use?

Dr Van Rensburg says: "First, we need a database on energy sources and uses. This will give us a great deal of information about where improvements can be effected. Maybe a company or industry is not using the right kind of energy. Perhaps it should be using oil or coal rather than electricity."

"Second, we need more efficient equipment."

This, of course, is the difficult part to sell to users accustomed to cheap energy.

# Power from waste gas

S/Times (BUS) 7/6/92

DAVID Hall & Associates has devised a method to convert waste gas into electrical energy.

Millions of rands are wasted by smoke-stack industries which flare waste gases instead of using them.

A boiler above the heat source provides steam to drive a turbine, which generates electricity.

David Hall says up to a third of the wasted energy can be recovered.

"An enormous amount of energy is wasted by flaring combustible gases. At one plant in the Vanderbijlpark area the gas burnt has a thermal energy content of 120 megawatts. These gases have been burning for years. They equate to 15 tons of coal a day.

"By using the heat to drive a steam generator we can produce between 35 and 40 megawatts of electrical power."

This has particular application in synfuel and ferroalloy industries which burn large volumes of waste gas and are

heavy users of electricity. Power is one of their major cost inputs.

By converting the waste gas to electrical energy, power costs are reduced, enhancing industries' ability to compete in price.

The cost of installing a steam-power generating facility in a large ferroalloys plant is high — between R75-million and R100-million with a pay-back period of between five and six years.

There is no environmental benefit to the system, but a gas clean-up plant can be installed for the relatively modest sum

of between R2-million and R3-million.

A problem with the gas clean-up plant is that it reduces the energy content of the waste gases and the system produces less electrical power.

The system is attracting a much interest, says Mr Hall, particularly in view of the international drive to improve energy use.

One fact which may dampen enthusiasm for such a system is the fact that Eskom has surplus generating capacity and is offering negotiated tariffs to large users.

# Carrot for growth

S/Times (BUS) 7/6/92

SINCE 1979 the US economy grew 30% while energy consumption remained the same. The challenge facing SA is to expand its economy while improving the efficiency of its energy use.

Energy savings of up to 40% are possible through new tech-

nology and better management. Why is this not occurring in SA?

"Energy forms a small part of company overheads," says Johan Basson, director of electricity and energy efficiency of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, which incorporates the now disbanded National Energy Council.

"We want to see cost-efficient use of energy without a lowering of productivity, quality or standards. There are two ways that you can get this to happen: with a stick or with a carrot.

"We prefer the carrot — offering information and advice about what to do and possibly incentives and rewards for better energy use. But we would not rule out the possibility of legislation."



**AIRCONDITIONING**  
**LEADING IN THE MANUFACTURE OF**  
**AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT FOR**

# SA joins drive for better energy use

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A problem with the gas clean-up plant is that it reduces the energy content of the waste gases and the system produces less electrical power.

The system is attracting a much interest, says Mr Hall, particularly in view of the international drive to improve energy use.

One fact which may dampen enthusiasm for such a system is the fact that Eskom has surplus generating capacity and is offering negotiated tariffs to large users.

# Carrot for growth

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Energy savings of up to 40% are possible through new tech-

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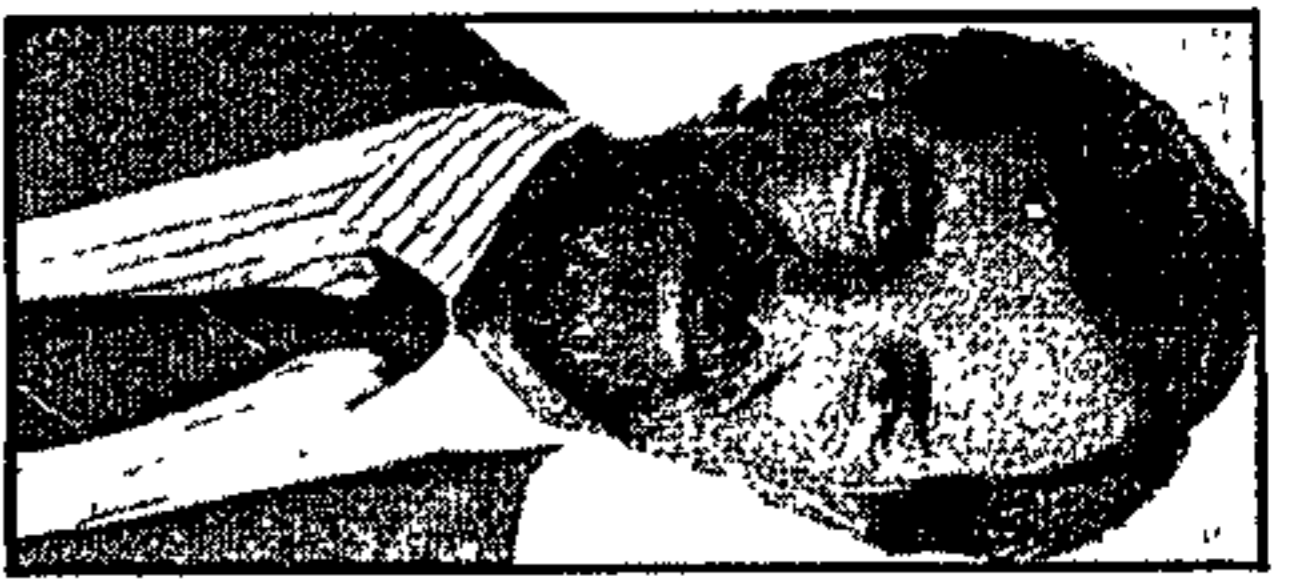
"Energy forms a small part of company overheads," says Johan Hasson, director of electricity and energy efficiency of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, which incorporates the now disbanded National Energy Council.

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**AIR-CONDITIONING**  
**LEADING IN THE MANUFACTURE OF**  
**AIR-CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT FOR**



DIETER KRUEGER: Lots to do

# CSIR gadgets do the trick

CSIR's Division of Energy Technology (Emetek) has developed several products to improve the use of energy.

One is a lightning protection unit for Eskom's budget energy controllers (BECs) which are being installed in low-cost housing projects.

The BEC allows a user to pay for electricity in advance. The number of units bought is logged on a magnetic card, similar to a bus ticket. The card is inserted in the BEC and as electricity is used a meter indicates the amount still available.

Emetek was also instrumental in developing low-voltage reclamation systems and testing aerial bundle conductors — all of which enable Eskom to supply electricity more cheaply.

Much CSIR research has been concentrated on coal mining. It has developed a continuous ash analyser to enable coal preparation operators to run their plants more efficiently. This unit, the Kangela, is

# Eskom pushes for S.A. ES

S/Times (GWS) 7/6/92

LOWER demand for electricity — which accounts for one-third of SA's energy consumption — has forced Eskom to mothball more than 5 000 of its 36 000-megawatt generating capacity.

It has come up with a variety of schemes to improve plant use. Users are offered variable "time-of-use" tariffs for using electricity in off-peak times. To meet peak demand in the early morning and late afternoon, Eskom has to maintain considerable reserve capacity.

This raises the cost of electricity. By smoothing demand throughout the day, cost benefits can be passed to consumers.

Eskom is also behind a scheme to market electrical appliances to consumers and more efficient technology to manufacturers as a way of increasing demand.

A Southern African grid will enable more electricity to be exported. Eskom produces 50% of all the electricity generated in Africa and exports Eskom's "electricity for all" programme — it will electrify 700 000 homes in five years at a cost of R4,7-billion — carries a major economic benefit for SA.

Research by the University of Pretoria indicates that Eskom's electrification programme will create up to two million jobs in the informal sector.

Eskom is often unfairly blamed for polluting the Eastern Transvaal Highveld where most of its coal-fired power stations are located. Yet studies show that carbon dioxide emissions in the area are with-

in Department of Health guidelines. The power stations are fitted with electro-static precipitators which collect the burnt ash before it is flushed into the atmosphere.

In addition to ash, noxious gases are released when coal is burnt. Eskom solves this problem with tall stacks which penetrate the inversion layer — a climatological phenomenon in the Transvaal Highveld which leads to trap pollutants below 300 metres.

New technology in power generation will radically alter the face of electricity utilities. Integrated gasification combined cycles (IGCC) — involving the gasification of coal, removing impurities in the process, and using the gas to drive a turbine — can achieve energy conversion rates of about 45% compared to 37% for conventional steam-driven turbines.

The problem is that there is little cost saving at present — both methods cost about R1 000 a kilowatt.

Eskom's newer power stations have a 10-year project cycle, cost about R13-billion and generate 3 800 MW. IGCCs have a two-year cycle, are highly modular, cheaper to commission and are capable of decentralisation, says Cliff Lewis, Eskom deputy manager in charge of technical research and investigations.

But development of fuel cells could eclipse anything seen so far in the power generation. Fuel cells are essentially sophisticated batteries. An electric current is generated by combining oxygen and hydrogen ions to produce water as a useful by-product. Oxygen is drawn from the air and hydrogen from a gas such as methane.

Kenya, the Dutch research utility, Fujl and Toshiba all

have produced a 100A or fuel cells. The most likely technology to develop on a commercial scale is the methane oxide fuel cell which does not require purified gas.

Dr Lewis says: "The fuel cells are environmentally sound and a laboratory test cell has been able to generate 100 MW."

"The implications are enormous. There would no longer be a need for huge power stations, transmission lines and the infrastructure required to get electricity from the power station to the user."

Research into superconductors continues. They have the potential to vastly improve electricity storage and transmission systems.

Eskom is also investigating alternative energy systems known as remote area power supplies (RAPS). They include solar panels, batteries, micro-hydro generators, wind turbines and diesel-powered generators.

Eskom supplies RAPS systems to households not connected to its grid for a monthly tariff with no up-front fee.

**“Electrical energy is the common factor that binds us in our quest for a better quality of life for all our peoples. By concentrating on the positives, on common development factors, we are building bridges for tomorrow. I believe that electricity could be a catalyst not only for illustrating the interdependence of all Southern African states, but also for stimulating a new development in our subcontinent.”**

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# SA joins drive for better energy use

S/Times (BUS) 7/6/92

**ENERCONOMY '92** will deal with many issues relating to the more efficient use of energy.

The conference will focus on ways of improving energy use, which not only results in cost savings but conserves scarce non-renewable fuel resources with attendant environmental benefits.

The SA Institute of Energy is a private-sector organisation set up to promote awareness of energy use and production.

## Carbon

The conference comes at a time when the world is focusing anew on environmental issues, particularly the use of carbon fuels. The Earth Life Summit in Rio de Janeiro is the most serious attempt to establish environmental guidelines which will allow "sustainable development". It is defined as development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The solution to the world's environmental problems is related to the efficiency with which energy is used. Poor countries are less efficient users, richer countries are more efficient.

It is a consequence of economic development that the manufacturing sector seeks ways to improve production efficiency and reduce costs.

SA's energy bill is estimated at R30-billion a year, equal to 12% of gross domestic product — about the same as America's.

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# Apartheid killed environment - writers

Sowetan 8/6/92

56

A BOOK showing how apartheid in South Africa played a major role in environmental degradation and pollution in the world has been published to coincide with the Earth Summit be-

ing held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The book, entitled Restoring the Land, shows how the environment is emerging as a central issue as South Africa debates its

political and economic future.

The writers examine key environmental issues across the region, from poor farming practices to energy policies, from the

legacy of asbestos dumps to laws about conservation.

"We are fighting to free the land, the sky, the waters as well as the people. We are calling for the restoration of the land, the forest

and the atmosphere: the greening of our country is basic to its healing," says Mr Albie Sachs, constitutional spokesman for the African National Congress. - Sapa.

# Apartheid's 'major role in pollution'

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(56) ARC 8/6/92  
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stitutional spokesman for the African National Congress.

The authors pointed out that participatory democracy was a vital pre-requisite for the upgrading of the environment, enabling people to reclaim control and to hold authorities accountable to the communities they claim to serve.

The idea for the book was developed by Benjamin Poggrund, deputy editor of the Rand Daily Mail before its closure in 1985. — Sapa.

# Hambros-led

## consortium

## looking at SA

By Garner Thomson

LONDON — A British-led consortium, headed by merchant bank Hambros, is about to embark on an investment programme in South Africa, which financial commentators believe could set the tone for others to follow.

Hambros, which has South African ties stretching back over more 50 years, has targeted the tourist trade as its point of entry.

It has raised £12 million (R60 million), which it plans to invest in environmentally friendly tourism.

About £5 million of the capital has come from Scottish and American trusts and funds and South African institutional investors have found the balance.

Much of the cash will find its way, through the Conservation Corporation, to Phinda game reserve in northern Natal, where luxury game lodges and extensive animal re-stocking are planned. JAN 28/6/92

Hambros executive Jonathan Klein, who spearheaded the fund-raising campaign, was hampered by investors' continuing reluctance to start investing in an uncertain South Africa and by the high-profile collapse of Masterbond, the property finance company which originally funded Phinda.

According to one financial source in London, the ANC appears to have given the Phinda project the go-ahead on the grounds that it will create jobs among the black community and return resources to the land.

Other observers say Hambros could be blazing a trail for a substantial upturn in investment — although a drop in tourism could effectively damage its plans.

Lower air fares are expected to boost tourism, but political uncertainties are still giving many investors and travellers cause for careful consideration.



South Africa's productive relationship with its long-time enemy, Angola, has grown quite remarkably. DALE LAUTENBACH of SOWETAN Africa News Service reports on the changes and the crucial role oil could play in speeding up the relationship further still.

# Oil - trigger that could benefit all

South Africa 6/92



VINDHOEK - As the relationship between Angola and South Africa develops and sheds old enmities, that strategic commodity, oil, remains the key which could open the way to a strong trade relationship to the benefit of the entire region.

"Oil could definitely be the trigger," says Mr Gertröbler, chief director for southern Africa in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

Interest in the South African business community got involved in Angola and its post-war development is great but financing remains a serious obstacle.

"South African access to Angolan oil makes sense on the basis of future supply it could facilitate credit lines," says Gertröbler. Angola produces over half a million barrels a day now, but the sale of this commodity to South Africa remains a political decision while the oil embargo against South Africa is still in place.

Grobler imagines that by the time an interim government in South Africa is in place the "trigger" might be activated. In the meantime the subject remains on the agenda between the two countries and has been, publicly at least, since as far back as September 1990 when the respective energy ministers of the day met in Luanda. But while the subject remains hypothetical and Angola's political decision on this, hostage to some extent to the ANC through

the OAU and the United Nations, the rate at which the relationship between the two former enemy countries has changed and grown is in many ways remarkable.

Grobler agrees: "There has been a lot of progress in the relationship in a relatively short period which we welcome given the past.

"It's very encouraging and in a sense astounding. We have a very frank and straightforward dialogue (with the Angolan government) and it has produced the first fruits."

From a Namibian perspective, it is fascinating to note that within as short a time as the past six months the level of exchange and productivity between

South Africa and Angola is far greater than it is between South Africa and Namibia.

Overtly, the DFA has been careful to construct a scrupulously non-partisan relationship with Angola.

When you talk to American diplomats you can still pick up the old Unita-US alliance in their thinking but with the South Africans it is hard to detect that until so recently they were fighting side by side with Jonas Savimbi's former rebels.

There remain Angolan and other suspicions, most recently from the ANC according to one report, that the old Savimbi-SA alliance cannot so magically have disappeared and that South Africa is now sup-

porting its old Cold War ally in the election campaign for Angola's scheduled September 29 and 30 poll.

Grobler concedes that he cannot speak for "individuals" in South Africa who have their hopes set on a Unita victory in the elections: "But we are going out of our way to adopt a balanced approach.

"We want a good relationship (with Angola) that does not support any one political party. We are supporting the process (of democratisation) and that is of overriding importance. It would be absolute folly to be caught dabbling with one side.

"That all belongs to the past."

A four-man DFA team is now installed in Luanda following the agreement in January this year to exchange diplomatic missions at the level of representation. Since then South Africa has been engaged in a number of supporting projects in Angola.

An SADF training team is concluding its work having trained 20 Angolan government army (Fapla) members and 20 Unita army (Fala) men in mine clearance, according to Grobler.

"We have also handed over a comprehensive inventory of landmines, mainly in the south of the country."

On a far larger scale though, South Africa is in-

involved in trilateral talks with the European Community and the Angolan government for a similar training project in which South Africa would make the know-how available with Europe providing the funding.

The SA-Angola connection is also talking about South African training of medical orderlies for the unified Angolan military.

"And another area we are still exploring is agricultural co-operation. Given Angola's potential and our similar conditions there is much we could do," Grobler says, giving the example of Onderstepoort perhaps being used to help in establishing Angola's cattle breeding lines again.

# Sea-water pollution <sup>56</sup> guidelines 'inadequate'<sup>CR 8/6/92</sup>

Staff Reporter

**NEW** water pollution guidelines are needed to protect bathers at South African beaches, says the latest issue of the SA Medical Journal.

The present guidelines — based on faecal coliform — were inadequate for assessing the health risk.

The journal reports conclusions drawn from a study made of Cape Town beaches in February and March 1990.

At beaches conforming to local guidelines the only swimming-related illness detected was "an acute but relatively benign gastro-enteritis".

On polluted beaches "gastro-intestinal, respiratory and skin symptoms were appreciably higher for swimmers than non-swimmers".

The report does not name the beach-

es where the survey was conducted.

The results suggested "a relationship between swimming associated illness and water quality".

In a continuing study of sea-water pollution it was "hoped to conduct a 'before-and-after' study at a beach where a marine pipeline is due to be constructed", the report says.

Urbanisation along the coastline, with more sewage disposal into the sea, increased the urgency of developing better guidelines for assessing the quality of sea water.

The journal also says that landfill sites fall short of internationally-accepted sanitary standards, and criticises the Department of Environmental Affairs for lacking the "political will" to punish environmental offenders.

## WORLD

# Natural adversaries on common ground

*BlDany 9/6/92* (S6)

RIO DE JANEIRO — Businessmen and environmentalists, natural adversaries, may be finding common ground at the Earth Summit.

The chairman of a group of 48 CEOs of major corporations, Stephan Schmidheiny of Switzerland, said big business realised it had to come to terms with nature.

"If the nations of the developing world pass through an industrial revolution as dirty and polluting as our own, then the resulting climate change is expected to do physical damage to industrial societies," he said.

"For the first time in history, the weak and poor can damage the powerful and rich," he said.

Schmidheiny's group, the Business Council for Sustainable Development, endorses manufacturing processes that require fewer resources and less energy, and generate less pollution.

He also advocates the transfer of technology from industrialised countries to developing ones that would help them grow economically while doing minimal damage to the environment — sustainable de-

velopment, he calls it.

Environmentalists say that is a good start.

"If we just eliminate waste, we could meet (environmental) targets" in treaties the UN summit is considering, such as carbon dioxide emissions, said Arno Rosemarin of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

"If US carmakers improve mileage to an average 17km/l from 13km/l, that alone would amount to one-third of the emissions target other nations want the US to accept," he said.

Peter Padbury of Canada's Council for International Co-operation listened to Schmidheiny's speech made to a group of legislators from many countries.

"We agree the free market is good," he said.

"The basic flaw is, short-term individual interests dominate long-term collective interests."

Schmidheiny's position "assumes that technology will save the Earth, that it will be in the right place, in the right quantity and on time. Well, that's a high-risk strategy," Padbury said. — Sapa-AP.

# Education on environment 'priority No 1'

Sowetan 9/6/92 (56)

By IKE MOTSAPI

EDUCATING people about environmental policies should be a priority in a future government, Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show callers said yesterday.

Callers said once this had been done, people would become aware of the need to preserve "our land".

They said the authorities should urgently address the environmental problem.

Hope of Cape Town blamed newspapers for not making people aware of the need to preserve the land.

He said: "At present newspapers are ignoring the point that the ANC is represented at the Rio conference while the Government was denied entry.

"This is not good. The masses want to know about this education which is vital for development in the country."

Pat of Hillbrow said the environment affected the way people lived.

"You are the way you are because of the environment," he said.

**SOWETAN**  
Building the Nation

**RADIO METRO**  
**TALKBACK**

"There are people who live in townships, squatter camps and hostels because of the policies of this country.

"I want to stress that the environment and politics cannot be divorced."

Kleintjie of Durban said the environment was part of the broader social development of people.

But the infrastructure did not cater for this, he said.

"If you look for newly-developed areas you will find that there are no trees. People are made to plant them.

"People should also be taught how to preserve and conserve nature.

"The Government has to take responsibility for educating the people, the local authorities and the planners about nature conservation," he said.

# Power of women at Earth Summit

*Sowetan 11/6/92*  
RIO DE JANEIRO - Women from Amazon Indian tribes, Asian slums and Washington offices have forged a coalition to make their voices heard at the Earth Summit.

Despite the wide difference in their backgrounds, they have succeeded like never before in making women's views heard, officials and women's leaders say.

Ms Bella Abzug, a former member of the US Congress and adviser to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development - the Earth Summit - told a parallel summit of non-governmental groups during the meeting of world leaders:

"Women are the primary environmental caretakers... They have to be more visible in the decision-making process."

The women argued that excluding women - the main growers of food in Africa and Asia and often the first to deal with problems of health, education and nutrition - would con-

demn any debate on development and environment to failure. (56)

Earth Summit general secretary Mr Maurice Strong praised the women.

Their drive ensured that issues of special concern be included in Agenda 21, a blueprint of environmental actions by nations as the 21st century begins.

They have produced an alternative agenda to ensure that polluters pay more emphasis on social needs and less on economic growth and the use of armies as environmental watchdogs.

Ms Rosalie Bertell, a public health specialist, said: "They think they're taking care of the world's children, but they're killing them. When your survival strategy is killing, then you are a dinosaur or you wake up."

Kenyan human rights and environmental campaigner Ms Wangari Maathai said: "It is the women who will make the difference." - *Sapa-Reuter*.

# Chair, nameplate mark SA's <sup>(56)</sup> 'presence' at Rio Earth Summit ARG 9/16/92

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

RIO DE JANEIRO. — A lone chair and nameplate mark the spot where South Africa should have taken its place at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — the Earth Summit.

South Africa had its accreditation withdrawn by the United Nations in 1974 and has yet to resume its seat at any official UN function.

An olive-green jacket hanging over the chair in the vast plenary session conference room at the Rio Centre suggested South Africa may have managed to sneak back to the global stage — but it belonged to a Spanish delegate in the next seat. On the other side, South Africa's "non-presence" was flanked by Somalia.

But South Africa's interests are not being entirely ignored. Ambassador to Brazil Mr Johan R von Gernet, members of his staff and an official from the Department of Environment Affairs are watching proceedings from the area reserved for accredited observers.

The Pan-Africanist Congress and the African National Congress have official observer status and seats are reserved for them alongside other "non-nations" such as Palestine and the American territory of Samoa.

Dr Solly Skosana is the sole PAC delegate and the ANC has apparently not yet put in an appearance.

There was a rumour that ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela would attend, but ANC spokesman Mr Saki Macozoma said the

summit was not on Mr Mandela's diary.

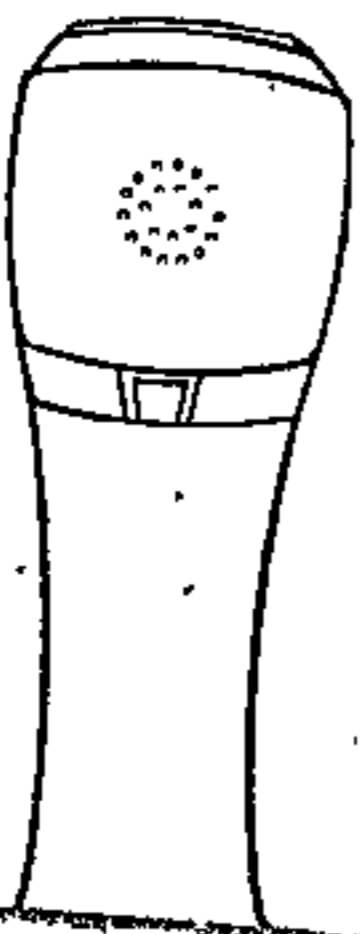
In an interview Mr Von Gernet said he had access as "head of the delegation" to all conference facilities and plenary sessions, but not to the closed sessions where agreements and compromises were being hammered out before more than 100 heads of state start arriving on Thursday.

He said South Africa had the right to sign the conventions on biodiversity and climate change, although he did not have the status to sign personally and had not been given any instructions on the matter.

Dr Skosana told South African journalists the PAC's presence at the summit showed the organisation was taken "very seriously" in efforts to resolve South Africa's internal political situation.

HELLO... I'VE  
JUST HAD AN  
ACCIDENT!  
WHAT MUST  
I DO NOW?

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lazy, too honest

# City pollution sky high again

Municipal Reporter **5**

THE city's maximum nitrogen oxides (NOx) pollution level reading of 3 223 micrograms per cubic metre yesterday was more than double the guideline figure of 1 504. The nitrogen dioxide reading, at 477, was also over its guideline figure of 376. *ET 9/6/92*  
The NOx reading also exceeded the guideline figure — by one microgram — on Saturday morning when a brown haze was visible.

**BUSINESS BRIEF**

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Amounts paid in *ad valorem* excise duty

285. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Finance:

What amounts were paid in each of the latest specified five years for which information is available in *ad valorem* excise duty on (a) locally manufactured and (b) imported (i) cosmetics and (ii) toiletries?

B712E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

*Ad valorem* duty on cosmetics and toiletries

	(a) Locally manufactured goods	(b) Imported goods
1986/04/01-1987/03/31		
(i) and (ii) Cosmetics and toiletries*	89 114 520	7 750 664
1987/04/01-1988/03/31		
(i) and (ii) Cosmetics and toiletries*	105 474 742	12 059 550
1988/04/01-1989/03/31		
(i) Cosmetics	30 418 261	8 647 014
(ii) Toiletries	88 095 154	6 533 740

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INTERPELLATION

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

St Lucia/Ramsar Convention: legislation

\*1. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether he will take steps to initiate legislation in terms of which prospecting and/or mining activities on the eastern shores of St Lucia will be prohibited if the delegation of the Ramsar Convention which recently visited the area finds that mining activities in that area are not desirable, regardless of the possible findings of the environmental impact study being undertaken at present?

B764E.INT

\*The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: Mr Charman, the hon member for Pretoria West wanted to know whether I would take steps to initiate legislation that would prohibit any prospecting and/or mining activities in the eastern dunes area of St Lucia if the delegation of the Ramsar Convention, that recently visited the area, should find that mining activities are not desirable in that area, regardless of the possible findings of the environmental impact study being undertaken at present.

In terms of section 3.2 of the Ramsar Convention, member countries are expected to notify the Bureau of the Convention if the ecological nature of any registered wetlands may be in danger of being harmed as a result of development or human behaviour. As a result of the proposed mining activities the government gave such notification in respect of the St Lucia wetlands, and serious concern was expressed at the triennial Ramsar Convention of 1990 about the possible effect thereof on the wetlands area.

In order to be of assistance to member countries, the Convention created a so-called monitoring mechanism. The delegation to which the hon member referred was invited, in terms of the

monitoring procedure, to acquaint itself, on behalf of the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention, with the area as well as the procedures that are being followed at present in order to obtain a thorough environmental impact study.

Hon members will be aware that the Cabinet issued instructions on 13 September 1989 for a comprehensive environmental impact study to be carried out before a final decision was made. The thoroughness of the study is generally and also internationally acknowledged. A draft report should be available later this year.

For the sake of fairness all interested parties should refrain from making statements on whether or not mining activities at St Lucia will be permitted before the results of the environmental study are known.

The same applies to the Ramsar Bureau. Any finding such as the hon member mentioned would be inappropriate, the more so because the Ramsar Bureau or Conference in terms of article 6 2(d) only acts in an advisory capacity and only makes recommendations. It does not have any prescriptive authority.

It goes without saying that the Ramsar monitoring process creates an opportunity to determine international reaction to the mining proposals. The Government will take this into consideration as well when making the final decision.

If the environmental impact study should indicate that the proposed mining activities will cause irreparable damage to the ecology of the wetlands, the Department of Environment Affairs and I will do everything in our power to prevent mining being proceeded with.

\*Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Charman, the reply of the hon the Minister that anyone should refrain from commenting until the impact study has been completed just does not make sense. Only on Sunday night the hon the Minister said on the TV programme *Agenda* that South Africa was so serious about environment conservation that we were signatories to various international conventions.

If there is one thing that the Government should understand, it is the fact that if a country is a signatory to an international convention, this by its very nature also entails international respon-



sibility, interest and concern. The Ramsar Convention, that considers wetlands of international interest and has already been signed by more than 70 countries—including South Africa—discussed implementation problems in certain identified areas in 1990. As the hon the Minister quite correctly pointed out, great concern was expressed in respect of St Lucia. What did they find? I quote what they state regarding problems:

The method of mining would involve huge quantities of water and would destroy existing soil structures.

They recommend:

The Government of the Republic of South Africa should—

1) take action so that it and Richards Bay Minerals follow measures which retain the St Lucia wetland as a protected area because of its natural and international conservation importance, and

2) prohibit any mining activity which will damage the ecological character of the site.

Richards Bay Minerals is the company to which the Government granted prospecting and mining rights in the mid-seventies in spite of the Kriel Report of 1966 which strongly recommended nature conservation in that area.

This Government has built up a record of paying lip service only to environment conservation and in reality are bent solely on maximizing the return on our raw minerals in the short term. Because a British company has a large share in Richards Bay Minerals and the South African Government had paid no heed to the Ramsar Convention's recommendations, I wrote a comprehensive letter to the British Prime Minister on 27 September 1990. On 15 October, only a few days later, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister at that time, replied as follows:

Dear Mr Chiolé

I am sure that the South African Government will act in accordance with the recommendations of the recent meeting of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance which made particular reference to St Lucia. Both Britain and South Africa joined in the consensus on the relevant text.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

[Interjections.] Even Ramsar are so worried now that they have accepted the invitation and have sent a delegation to South Africa [Interjections.] Hon members should understand that the proposed mining activities at St Lucia will soon cause this place to figure internationally on the same level as the South American rain forests. [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, I agree that it is not a bit of good making decisions before the results of the environmental impact assessment are made known. [Interjections.]

\*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I am not going to call the hon member for Sasolburg to order again. He is wasting the hon members' time. [Interjections.]

†The hon member for Bryanston may continue.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, I hope I am going to get injury time for that!

I think the hon the Minister must accept that most South Africans feel that it was a mistake ever to have granted prospecting rights for the eastern shores of St Lucia in the first place. The excuse was made that there was no great awareness of environmental matters in those relatively recent times, the middle seventies. It now seems that, having granted these rights in law, the right to mine is automatic.

In other words there are only two ways of stopping the mining. The first is for the Government to stop it and pay the mining company compensation. The second is to pass a law, as suggested in this question on the Question Paper, forbidding mining in the area. I gather that we may soon be considering a Bill which would forbid mining in any wetland area designated to be of international significance in terms of the Ramsar Convention to which we are a signatory.

Stopping mining in this manner would cost the Government nothing, but to pass such a Bill might not seem to be totally moral because we would be taking away the rights of the mining company without compensation. I want the House to look at those rights. When prospecting rights were granted all those years ago, a normal mining activity was envisaged. Richards Bay Minerals are not conducting a normal mining operation: they are conducting what is really a

dredging operation, involving the use of huge quantities of water which cannot be sea water. [Interjections.]

In this case the water would have to come from the Mfolozi. I do not believe that any commitment has ever been made to supply excessively large quantities of water from the Mfolozi. The mining company does not have an automatic right to such water. I would also point out that at present there is no water at all in the Mfolozi. There are others in the Mfolozi valley who I think should have preference before the mining company. Perhaps when it comes to negotiations on the subject of compensation this could be a major bargaining point when it comes to paying out. I believe that one has to pay for mistakes.

\*The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Pretoria West clearly did not listen to what I said. He fabricated his own story without paying any attention to what I said. The Government really has a proud record in regard to the honouring of its international obligations in terms of conventions and international agreements, whether it involves Ramsar, Antarctica, the Whale Commission or the 28 other conventions to which we are bound. We have a proud record in that regard.

The fact of the matter is, South Africa was one of the first seven signatories to the Ramsar Convention. South Africa honoured its obligations in terms of that convention by firstly informing the Bureau that mining activities were being envisaged which could possibly have an effect and secondly by setting the monitoring procedure in motion by inviting these people to South Africa to come and have a look. They acquainted themselves with the circumstances in loco and we were also able to inform them of the thoroughness of the impact study that is being made.

It would be completely wrong to throw that impact study overboard at this stage. It seems to me as if the hon member for Pretoria West would like to ignore it totally and just listen to what the Ramsar Bureau are going to do in regard to this matter. The Ramsar Bureau will also be acting incorrectly if they ignore this impact study. [Time expired.]

\*Dr W J BOTHA: Mr Chairman, this hon Minister reminds me of the saying, "I am convinced. Don't confuse me with facts."

As long ago as October 1989 the leader of the CP, Dr Treurnicht, visited the proposed dunes

area known as "eastern shores", and he expressed his opposition to any mining activities in the area [Interjections.] This Government is still deciding. Dr Treurnicht did this because he was concerned that this unique natural heritage may be damaged and even destroyed. I share in his concern and should like to plead with the Government to join forces with the CP and the DP across party-political lines in order to preserve a unique heritage for posterity.

What is so unique about St Lucia? Firstly, it comprises more than 60% of the estuarine surface area of South Africa. Secondly, it is the largest and only ecological system of its kind in Africa. Thirdly, in international terms it appears to be the largest coastal lagoon area in the world which has been left almost completely undamaged by development.

As was mentioned, St Lucia was recognized by the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance as long ago as 1986. The CP is justly concerned that the Government is not in touch with international developments regarding nature conservation when mining and industrial considerations become involved. The CP believes that an impact study cannot accurately determine primary and secondary development that will necessarily follow on mining activities. No matter how expensive it may be.

The preservation of an ecological system such as that of St Lucia is in the national and international interests, and mining activities there are as unacceptable as mining activities in the Kruger National Park. The mineral development of the important nationally and internationally recognized dune area of St Lucia, as well as any other similar ecologically protected area, cannot be considered under any circumstances, and we will fight it as far as we can. [Time expired.]

\*Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Chairman, the fact that mining activities can create problems and that Ramsar has been invited because of it, just does not make sense. Why, then, were the Kriel recommendations of 1966 then ignored?

I should like to tell the hon the Minister, while international conventions have been signed and this Government is bound by them, the CP will continue to make the rape of the environment known to the whole world when it is ignored.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The problem is that this hon Minister, on behalf of the Government, is hiding behind an impact study in an attempt to obtain international acceptance for the mining activities at St Lucia.

We ask that the Environment Conservation Act now be amended to make provision for a general prohibition on mining in areas recognized by Ramsar, that elephant and rhinoceros be re-established in the eastern dune area, and that Greater St Lucia be developed by means of imaginative hiking tours, boat rides and snorkelling excursions, for example. St Lucia could become a second Kruger National Park for South Africa, it could become a unique tourist attraction in the world, earning as much foreign exchange for South Africa in the medium term as the total titanium supply in the dunes. *(S)*

\*The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon members of the CP really do not have to try to give the Government lessons on how to deal with the environment. While they want to get on the handwagon and ride along and raise a popular issue and make a noise about it and get emotions all churned up, we do the work that must be done and see to it that proper impact studies are carried out.

The hon member will be aware of—I also refer to the hon member for Bryanston—the fact that when the first impact study became available the Government was not satisfied with it. The Government asked for a second impact study. The Government intervened in this situation.

Therefore I must say in all fondness that I think that hon members are really going too far. The Government is acting in a responsible way here and it will examine the impact studies carefully, as well as other circumstances and the international reaction. All these factors will be fully taken into consideration when a decision is made one day.

\*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! If hon members continue to use the Interpellations to indulge in a screaming match every week, then they must not be surprised if half of the House are sent out of that door one day. We cannot carry on like this with the Interpellations.

Debate concluded.

reprimanded. (In some instances more than one penalty had been imposed.)

In respect of the twelve officials implicated by the Pickard Commission for serious offences, appropriate steps had already been taken in December 1988 and February 1989, shortly after the allegations came to notice. This action included suspension from duty, reporting of cases to the South African Police for criminal investigation; the bringing of charges of misconduct, as well as the institution of compensatory claims. In one instance the SA Police reported lack of evidence and the charge was withdrawn. In a further case the official resigned and the departmental charge lapsed. In five cases in which the officials had been suspended and were subsequently found not guilty in the ordinary courts of law, claims to the value of R2,7 million against the State were instituted, and, on recommendation by the State Attorney, the matter was settled for an amount of approximately R160 000. In respect of three of these officials and two former officials criminal charges are still pending.

Since the Pickard report no criminal actions have been instituted and the law will take its normal course as soon as the Police dossiers have been taken into consideration by the Attorney-General.

The Pickard report was referred to all recipient departments, with the request that in pursuance of the findings and recommendations thereof, all projects and actions be reviewed from a financial management point of view in order to accomplish remedial action within government context. Specific steps are also being taken in order to recover stores to be utilized elsewhere. The request is that systems of control and procedure be reviewed with a view to obviating any future irregularities.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, I want to say I am not satisfied that sufficient steps have been taken to recover the considerable sums of money referred to by the judge in his report.

I want to ask whether the leading article in yesterday's *Business Day*, commending the Witwatersrand Attorney-General for the idea of fighting white-collar crime and suggesting that the Government should use the same strategy against the crooks in its own ranks, has been

brought to the hon the Minister's attention, and if so, whether he would comment on it, and say whether he is going to follow up this matter.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the reference to a considerable sum of money that was stolen is not really clear. In the report references to theft can be found, but only in connection with misconduct, fraud and bribery as examples of cases in which financial privileges were effected by persons for themselves. The extent of losses suffered as a result of such conduct is, however, not determinable. The Chairman of the Pickard Commission himself pointed out that it would be impossible even to endeavour to give an estimated figure and that it would not be worthwhile trying to trace all such losses. In the 24 cases the total loss to the State was recovered, and this sum of money amounted to approximately R171 000. That does not cover the cases pending.

With regard to the leader in *Business Day*, I want to point out that I will attend to it. I must say I have not read it yet.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, I would like to know whether, as the judge said it would be costly to pursue these matters, the public of South Africa must now accept that billions of rands must be written off as having been stolen and misappropriated by officials in the Department.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, "billions" of rands is a rather loose figure. I would suggest, because the judge mentioned "millions, if not billions" having been involved. In that sense I must draw the hon member's attention to the fact that between 1984 and 1992 a total of less than R2,4 billion was allocated to this Department in the Budget. I really think that "billions" is an exorbitant figure, and the use of such superlatives should not be repeated in this House.

HSRC: recruiting of researchers abroad  
\*2. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of National Education:†  
Whether the Human Sciences Research Council recruits any researchers abroad; if so, (a) how many were recruited during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, (b) what are their names and (c) for what posts were they recruited?  
B706E  
*cont'd*

# Environmental legislation hinders protection

SA HAS a complex variety of overlapping environmental legislation which can obstruct economic development and hinder good environmental protection.

This is one finding of a CSIR study on waste management and pollution control in SA.

The Department of Environment Affairs commissioned the CSIR in March 1990 to do the study, report-

ing on waste management and pollution control, relevant organisations and their actions and responsibilities.

It also had to investigate and report on legislation, legislative enforcement and judgment. Deficiencies were to be identified and remedial measures to be recommended.

A 420-page report, supported by a literature data-

base of some 700 pages was submitted to the Department in January, and a 12-page brochure produced.

A major finding was that penalties for environmental offences vary greatly. Maximum fines for certain offences were seen as totally inadequate in relation to the environmental damage which may occur.

It was found that access to information on waste

management is often difficult, sometimes even being restricted by law.

Distribution of the brochures and reports will be followed up by information sessions, with interested parties being informed.

Feedback will be used to generate ideas about waste management and environmental policy, and further investigations which may be required.

Bibany 9/6/92

(56)

## Careful planning saves river mouth

THE lure of the Great Brak River will probably be preserved for residents and visitors to this popular estuary resort.

There were grave misgivings among home owners and regular visitors about plans to build the Wolwedans Dam upstream in the river, because the dam reduces the flow of water downstream.

There were fears that as a result, the estuary, on which the resort is situated, would become stagnant. The estuary's healthy functioning depends on the regular opening of the mouth which occurs naturally during river floods.

When the building of the dam was announced, the Department of Water Affairs formed a local environmental committee representing homeowners, farmers, nature conservationists and the CSIR's division of earth, marine and atmospheric science and technology (Ematek).

### Managing (56)

The committee investigated ways in which the dam would affect the estuary and drew up plans for managing the release of water from the dam so there would be as little change as possible to the estuary's environment.

Water would be reserved in the dam each year for the Great Brak estuary.

Ematek's study shows the environment will benefit from mechanically opening the estuary's mouth.

Negative effects of the dam on the estuary can be counter-balanced and the overall management objective of ensuring the estuary's environmental conservation can be met.

The management plan makes provision for handling drought conditions when dam users will get less than their allocated water quota.

The CSIR's report recommended that the effect of the management plan should be monitored and refined if necessary.

Cape Town University was subcontracted to investigate the socio-economic effects of the new dam.

# New emphasis on environmental management

THE environmental services industry has been likened to the PC industry, which saw growth of up to 50% in its early years.

With this in mind, the CSIR has set up a special unit to co-ordinate and integrate environmental work being done by the organisation's 13 divisions.

Environmental services unit manager Dirk Grobler says the focus is on harnessing the enormous breadth and depth of skills in the individual divisions and pulling these together so the CSIR can provide solutions to environmental management problems.

## Skills

"We're drawing on the skills from almost all our divisions, depending on the project and the type of skills required. As expected, divisions which contribute most regularly include water, information technology, forestry, energy, textile, earth, marine and atmospheric science and transport technology."

He says for environmental projects to be properly addressed, and sustainable solutions found, it is vital to include perspectives on socio-political factors, eco-

economic issues, as well as legislation and the physical properties of the environment such as its carrying capacities, while also considering engineering and technical solutions.

"Being a science and engineering-based organisation, we don't have all the skills necessary, with legal skills being a good example, so our unit was created to pull these into the projects done by the CSIR."

"We have involved people outside the CSIR in many of our projects."

One project currently attracting widespread attention is the environmental impact report for Richards Bay Minerals for mining the dunes at St Lucia.

"A final report will be ready before the year-end. Specialist reports are complete, and key issue reports are being completed."

"The main aspect prolonging the study is the very elaborate system for involving all interested parties."

"This system is designed to encourage maximum input to the report from as wide a range of the public as possible."

"Two options being investigated are mining followed by rehabilitation and

eco-tourism without mining.

The unit has done a project for De Beers Northern Transvaal Venetia mine, and another project is the proposed expansion of the aluminium smelter at Richards Bay.

"We're comparing four or five sites, looking at the various impacts on each."

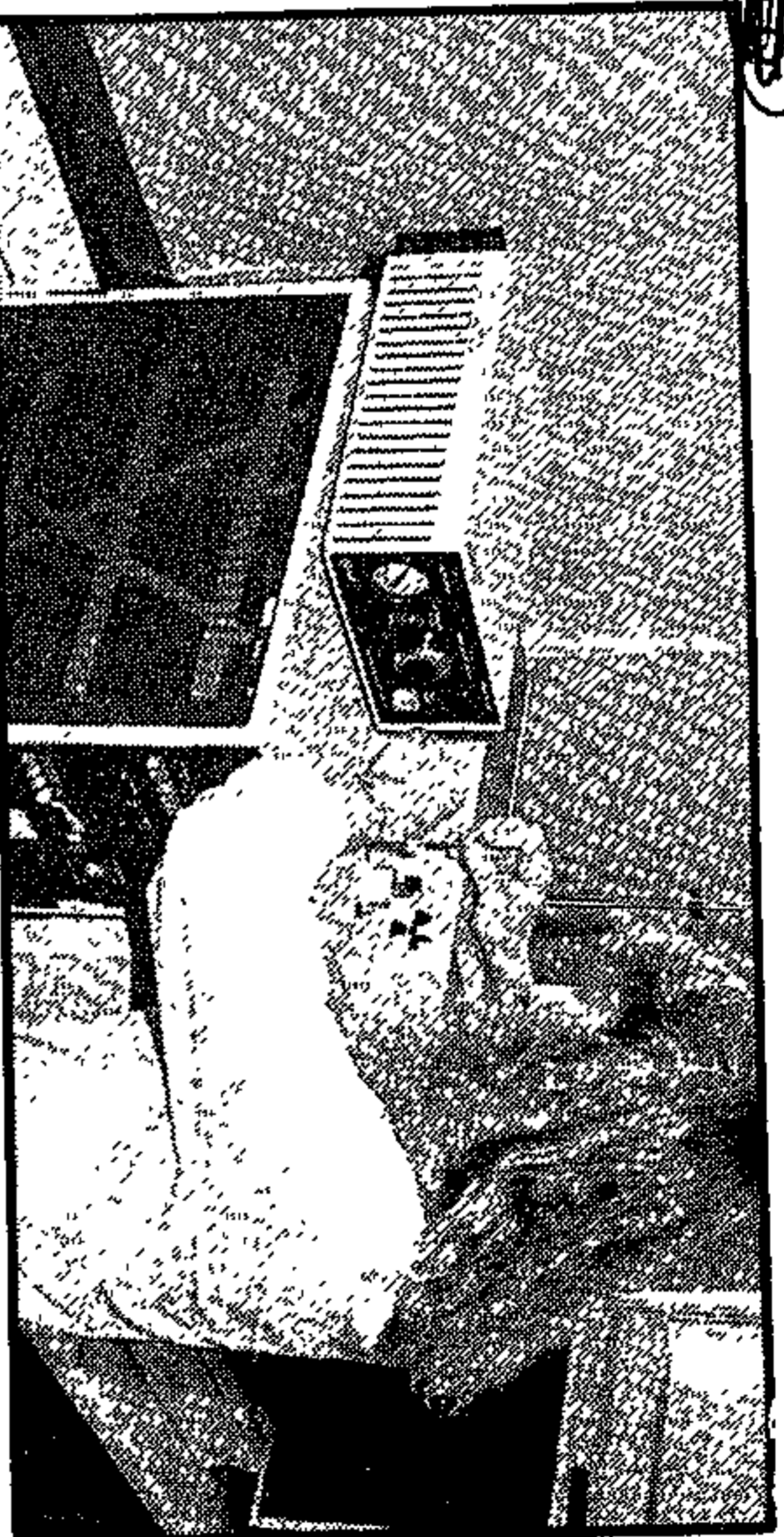
## Impact

Grobler says impact studies comprise about one-third of the unit's work, but significant efforts are also placed in the field of environmental management and development policy analysis and assisting government departments such as environmental and water affairs.

Typical work here will involve hazardous waste management, waste management and pollution control in general.

Outside SA, the unit has worked for a pulp company in Swaziland, and is now involved in other projects in that country, where it is developing an environmental management policy programme for a company.

"Most of our work is in services, using many different technologies such as



Wool greases being identified and quantified using gas chromatography at the division of textile technology in Port Elizabeth.

mathematical modelling. We also provide environmental information services.

"We recently examined the feasibility of developing an 'environmental potential' atlas on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs, which is constantly being asked about the environmental impact of moving people into new areas."

"The atlas will demarcate environmentally sensitive areas so all aspects can be considered, including hydrological, geological and cultural, among others, to evaluate the sensitivity of areas from an environ-

mental point of view."

A major growth area is environmental auditing, where the environmental performance of companies is actually audited.

## Certify

"Many large groups worldwide are already looking at this. For exports, companies may have to certify that they operate in an environmentally friendly manner, before being allowed to export to certain countries."

He says many companies in SA are poised between being environmentally

aware and doing something about it.

"We're now getting many requests from companies asking how to do things, and steps they must take to introduce proper environmental management."

"This is in line with stricter law enforcement on the part of the authorities, and the need for companies to stay out of the public eye with non-environmentally friendly actions," he says.

Grobler says local fines are not high, but the damage which can be done to a company's image if it does not comply can be very costly.

## R59m raised to salvage Phinda

SHARON WOOD

THE UK-based Hambros Bank yesterday formally announced R59m had been raised by SA and offshore investors for the Conservation Corporation. *BID*

The announcement is the final step in salvaging the Conservation Corporation subsidiary, Phinda Game Reserve. The Corporation owed Phinda debenture holders R43m, raised by Masterbond prior to its collapse. *916192*

At a meeting on May 22, Phinda debenture holders approved the release of R43m to Masterbond curators for distribution to debenture holders.

Of the R59m raised, foreign organisations had invested 40% and local investors 60%.

Foreign investors were Scottish fund management company Martin Currie, the Getty family and Hambros Bank, while local investors were the AECl Pension Fund, Anglo American, Fedlife, Southern Life, Metropolitan Life, De Beers, Investec and Harry Oppenheimer.

The funds raised offshore had been used to buy a tranche of SA Reserve Bank debt, Hambros Bank director Jonathan Klein said.

An investment company on the Isle of Man — Conservation Corporation International — had bought the Reserve Bank debt and lent it to the Corporation.

Wynberg MP still trying to bring a halt to housing development

56 ARK 10/6/92

# Debate on future of Peers Cave

CLIVE SAWYER, Staff Reporter

CONTROVERSIAL plans to develop single and group housing near Peers Cave in the Silvermine River valley in Fish Hoek — opposed by a coalition of 14 groups — are to be debated in the House of Assembly today.

The matter is to be raised in an interpellation debate when Wynberg MP Mr Robin Carlisle asks the Minister of Local Government, Mr Leon Wessels, questions about the development.

Mr Carlisle, who first challenged the plans in parliament in May, has called on Mr Wessels and the Minister of the Environment, Mr Louis Pienaar, to turn it down.

The area is a Protected Natural Environment in terms of the Environmental Protection Act and ministerial permission is needed to develop.

Appeals against rezoning, approved in April by Fish Hoek Town Council, are pending.

Those who have appealed include the Cape Town City Council city planner, the Wildlife Society, and five other conservation and residents' groups.

Mr Carlisle said he expected squatters in the bushy dunes were a "hidden issue" because it was likely developers would argue formal housing would drive them from the area.

In April, the Fish Hoek Town Council approved an application, in the name of the Fish Hoek Land and Estate Company, to rezone part of the landmark sand-dunes for housing.

An investigation by The Argus revealed that the Fish Hoek Land and Estate Company was linked to the Ryan Group of Fish Hoek.

Yesterday, Ryan Group general manager Mr Tommy Knoesen said managing director Mr Sean Ryan was the only person authorised to talk about the development, and he would be overseas until June 22.

A 1986 bid to build houses was approved by the council, but blocked by then-Minister of Environment Mr John Wiley.

Mr Carlisle said the key issues were whether the development would be environmentally acceptable and whether the process of approval — though legal — had included the public sufficiently.

Mr Carlisle confirmed Mr Ryan was one of those who had called him after his attack in parliament.

In May, he told the House of Assembly that big business and government were "ganging up" on Fish Hoek so that developers could "make a fast buck".

Fish Hoek officials have refused to release consulting engineers' reports, legal advice and an environmental impact assessment.

Town clerk Mr Doug Smit was not available for comment, but has been reported as saying the council does not want to release the documents in case the matter goes to court.

Some observers felt developers could claim up to R7 million if the rezoning application failed.

Meanwhile, the Silvermine Coalition said it would invite all parties to a public meeting in Fish Hoek on June 18.

Coalition co-ordinator Mr Andy Gubb said all parties, including the town council and the developers, would be invited to what was intended as an information and not a protest meeting.





# Cost to clean up the environment a snag

*Souefam 10/6/92* (56)  
**RIO DE JANEIRO - In the last three days of the UN Earth Summit, delegates are turning their attention to who will pay to clean up the environment and protect it.**

That issue is the touchstone for most disputes, and is partly responsible for the US refusal to sign a treaty to protect animal and plant species.

Developing countries want industrialised nations to pay for the clean-up and protection, and allow recipient governments to decide how funds will be spent. The Bush administration opposes such requests.

Delegates from all 178 UN members resumed sessions following the weekend recess. They are racing to complete three treaties by today so they are ready for signing by the more than 116 heads of state, including Bush, due to arrive on Friday.

Delegates also are crafting the Rio declaration of environmental principles - for example, that polluters be made to pay for pollution they cause - and a document called Agenda 21 that spells out how the principles would

be enacted and enforced.

The summit's chief co-ordinator, Mr Maurice Strong of Canada, said the clean-up cost could top R338,85 billion a year.

Delegates also lobbied for signatures for two treaties finished last week, one on global warming and the other to protect plant and animal species in danger of extinction.

## Opposition

Both almost certainly will receive the minimum number of signatures by heads of state, including those from Europe and Japan. That made the opposition to the latter by Bush, who insists it might hurt US business, hard to explain even to allies.

Australia signed.

Ros Kelly, Australia's environmental minister, urged the United States to sign the treaty.

The United States produces a quarter of the world's carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas. - *Sapa-AP*

Sunday to midnight between the following Saturday and Sunday).

- 4.3 A maximum number of hours equal to 20% of the official hours may be spent on limited private practice. In respect of full-time personnel it is 8 hours per working week of 40 hours and 11½ hours per working week of 56 hours.

- 4.4 Additional control measures aimed at achieving the goals and in order to comply with the conditions in this document, may be laid down by departments/administrations (The South African Defence Force is naturally also a department) after consultation with the supervisory board where applicable.

- 4.5 The type of limited private practice or combination of practices (faculty group practice, departmental group practice/unitary group practice and individual private practice) is the option of the relevant department/administration in consultation with the supervisory board and the faculty where applicable. A faculty group practice is recommended where possible. Limited individual private practices at academic hospitals should only be permitted if the Policy Council for Academic Hospitals approves the principle thereof.
- 4.6 The supervisory board of each academic complex must itself manage and finance the implementation and operation of limited private practice. At non-academic hospitals/institutions the relevant department/administration must ensure that the principle of non-involvement by the government is maintained.

- 4.7 Private practice may in special circumstances and in the discretion of the department/administration, be performed outside the own institution at private institutions or other state institutions. In respect of academic hospitals the supervisory board must be consulted beforehand.

- 4.8 Participation in limited private practice will be with retention of salary, compensatory payments (including the non-pensionable professional allowance) and other conditions of service including future adjustments/improvements of the dispensation.

- 4.9 Because of the possible implications of limited private practice on the private sector, this should be discussed with local

interest groups in the health sphere prior to the implementation of limited private practice.

- 4.10 Private patients who are prepared to serve as training cases will not receive any discount.

#### Preconitions

- 5.1 Personnel must submit applications to operate a private practice for consideration in accordance with the provisions of section 24 of the Public Service Act, 1984 (Act 111 of 1984).

- 5.2 Limited private practice is a privilege and not a right. The continuation thereof will be considered from time to time to determine whether its objectives are still being met. The first such evaluation for the period ending on 31 March 1993 must be done by the submission of a report to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

- 5.3 Neither the care of state dependant patients, nor the training of personnel or research may in any way be curtailed and may under no circumstances be jeopardized by private practice.

- 5.4 Expansion related to the administration of limited private practice—financial or otherwise—may not be defrayed from state funds. State revenue may not be sacrificed and no resources/facilities may be utilized without the necessary levy. If levies other than those already approved occur, motivated requests must be referred to the Department of National Health and Population Development for co-ordination and submission to the Department of State Expenditure.

- 5.5 Private patients must still be able to exercise a free choice regarding their medical practitioner, dentist or specialist and in respect of treatment by the limited private practice.

- 5.6 It is not the intention that the financial needs of health authorities regarding treatment of state dependant patients be offset against funds generated by limited private practice.

- 5.7 Limited private practice must be administered within the current scale of benefits which is determined by the Representative Association of Medical Schemes.

- 5.8 At hospitals where limited private practice is in operation, the 30% levy on profes-

sional fees applicable to patients who are treated by participants of the scheme, is discontinued.

#### 6. Legal requirements

- 6.1 The legitimate rules and regulations of the hospital/institution/clinic where limited private practice is in operation must still be observed by the relevant personnel.

- 6.2 Personnel who participate in limited private practice are accountable in respect of that practice and all resulting claims will consequently be the responsibility of the persons concerned.

- 6.3 Registration of the group practice with the SA Medical and Dental Council and the Association of Medical Schemes is the responsibility of the faculty/personnel.

- 6.4 Existing agreements between health authorities and universities must, where necessary, be adjusted.

- 6.5 The measures contained in this document may at any time be adjusted, amended or revoked.

#### Kaolin mine at Noorhoek

\*12. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Government has inspected the site of the proposed kaolin mine at Noorhoek to determine whether protected trees and other flora are growing on the site; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) what are the findings;
- (2) whether he has taken any steps to safeguard any such protected trees and other flora; if so, what steps?

B739E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS.

- (1) The Department of Environment Affairs itself did not undertake a vegetation survey on the site. Such a comprehensive vegetation survey was however done by the consultants, Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten with the assistance of personnel of the National Botanical Institute at Kirstenbosch, as part of the environmental impact study which accompanied the application. This report clearly states that no rare or endangered plant species in terms of the Red Data book occur on the site itself. But even if that were the case,

the conditions pertaining to the authorization to mine require that appropriate measures shall be applied to protect and conserve non-alien flora on the site.

Moreover, the said conditions oblige the mining company to rehabilitate the land and, if required to do so by the monitoring committee, to introduce fynbos on the rehabilitated land.

- (2) Falls away.

#### Publications Appeal Board: new appointments

\*13. Miss M SMUTS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether new appointments are to be made to the Publications Appeal Board; if so, when;
- (2) whether he is taking or intends taking any steps to ensure that the said board will in future be more representative of the South African population than it is at present; if not, why not?

B740E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS.

- (1) Yes. New appointments will be made in the forthcoming month or two.
- (2) Section 35(3)(b) of the Publications Act, 1974 (Act 42 of 1974), requires that persons designated must be persons who by reason of their educational qualifications and experience are fit to perform the functions entrusted to the appeal board. The Act does not specifically require appointments to be representative of the South African community, but every reasonable effort will be made to designate properly qualified persons to reflect as far as possible the norms of the entire South African community in all its variations.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, he says that every effort will be made to achieve the desirability of having a representative board, for which we are grateful, but will he consult those parties and organizations involved with Codesa to ensure representativeness?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not have any intention of doing so, because I am ade-

quately advised by the Department and by other bodies [Interjections.] ~~Chairman: further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, will he consider following up a suggestion I made in the debate, that is to consult the universities at least? They comply with the educational requirement and are representative of society. I suggest that is one way of achieving greater representativeness.~~

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*

**Water restrictions: Vaal River supply area**  
\*14. Mr T GUNNING asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

- (1) Whether, in view of the serious drought, he is considering steps to have water restrictions imposed in the supply area of the Vaal River, including the PWV area and the Vaalharts irrigation scheme: if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;
- (2) whether he is considering taking any steps in respect of other supply areas; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B746E

**THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:**

- (1) No. No restrictions are foreseen for the coming year and are also unlikely for the year thereafter should the drought persist. Even though the levels of the storage dams in the Vaal River proper are relatively low, there is sufficient water in storage in the Sterkfontein, Zaaihoek and Heysoppe Dams to ensure an adequate supply of water to all consumers including irrigation farmers who rely on the Vaal River as their water source
- (2) (a) Yes. Water restrictions and stricter abstraction control have already been applied in some areas whilst

thereof depends on the utilization of the water resources of a river system. It must also be realized that the law of diminishing returns applies to water resources development. The more dams are built in a river system the bigger and costlier they will have to be to achieve a comparable increase in yield until a stage is reached where the potential of the system makes further development impossible. Another question that has to be answered is whether the incremental yield is warranted in terms of the cost thereof and whether more economical results could not be achieved through proper demand management such as more efficient use and restrictions. (56)

I can announce today that as from 22 June 1992 water will be released from the Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismith at a rate of 40 cubic metres per second to supplement the water supply in the Vaal Dam, which is currently only 35% full. This decision has been taken as a result of the low level of the Vaal and Bloemhof Dams and bears testimony to the good planning by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the far sightedness of this Government to allocate funds at an early stage for the creation of Government Water Schemes to meet future demands.

The Sterkfontein Dam, which is slightly larger than the Vaal Dam, with a storage capacity of 2 529 million cubic metres is at present full for the first time. Since November 1974 water has been pumped from the Tugela River to the Sterkfontein Dam. Water is held back in the Sterkfontein Dam for as long as possible as losses through evaporation are considerably lower there than from the Vaal Dam. In this manner flood absorption is also created in the Vaal Dam. The water that is released flows along the Nuwejaar Spruit and the Wilge River to the Vaal Dam. The distance from the Sterkfontein Dam to the Vaal Dam is approximately 320 km. It takes seven days for water which is released from the Sterkfontein Dam to reach the Vaal Dam.

**INTERPELLATION**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

*Own Affairs:*

**Fish Hoek Municipality: development of "Dunes Area"** (56)

1. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Local Government:

- (1) Whether he will oppose the development of Section 7, Part C, of the so-called Dunes Area of the Fish Hoek Municipality as a residential area; if not, why not; if so, by what means;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B795E INT

**THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Mr Chairman, during April 1992 a portion of land known as Extension 7, Zone C, was rezoned by the Fish Hoek Municipality from undetermined purposes to subdivisional purposes for residential use. A large number of objections were lodged against the proposed rezoning, and a number of objectors have now appealed to the Ministerial Representative in terms of section 42 of Ordinance 15 of 1985 against the rezoning.

The appeals are at present receiving attention in accordance with procedure set out in appeal regulations. The matter is therefore at present sub judge, and I am consequently unable to comment on the merits of the rezoning. The Ministerial Representative, who acts in terms of powers assigned to him by the Minister of Local Government, House of Assembly, under section 28(2) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, Act 110 of 1983, will finally decide whether to uphold the appeal or grant permission for the rezoning.

Mr R V CARLISLE: Mr Chairman, I find the response of the hon the Minister disappointing. The hon the Minister has to apply his mind, whether he delegates to an agent or not. What we would like to do is to assist him in that process and to assist him in recognising that this is an area where he must not only apply his mind, but

also become involved. He cannot delegate away the responsibility in this respect

He knows that Zone C comprises some 35 hectares north of the proposed bypass road. It borders on the Silvermine River and on the Skidlersgatkop sand dune ridge. The area has been a symbol of the Fish Hoek residents' determination over many years to preserve the Silvermine River corridor.

In 1982 Zone C was declared a nature area, so two permissions are required here, one from the hon the Minister's department, and one from the hon the Minister of Environment Affairs's department. Repeated attempts by the owners to develop the land led to a mass meeting of Fish Hoek residents in 1986, which overwhelmingly rejected any change to the status of the area.

There are four major problems with this affiliation. The first is that the people of Fish Hoek do not want the development. This was demonstrated in that mass meeting and has been repeated again and again. I want to tell the hon the Minister that the Fish Hoek Residents' and Ratepayers' Association is very representative. Their candidates regularly sweep the board in local elections. In addition, they have been supported in their objection by the so-called Coalition, a group of six conservation societies, which includes the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa. They have a clear mandate to oppose the development, which flies in the face of democracy and is in clear conflict with the will of the people.

Secondly, the developers are asking for a blank cheque. The developer, according to his impact study, says he intends to erect single and group housing. He claims he will preserve the sand dunes, wetlands and other elements of significance, but he does not say how. He does not give the detail. If permission is given by the hon the Minister's department for the development to proceed, there are no administrative or judicial procedures to stop it, should the developer subsequently fail to do what he offers to do in very broad and vague terms. The hon the Minister is therefore being asked to give a blank cheque in respect of this important environmental area.

Thirdly, the Fish Hoek Council deliberated this matter in secret. The council debated on green paper and they have refused to make public two

crucial opinions they have obtained in respect of the development.

People have a right to know what is discussed and decided and how it is decided on in respect of their environmental heritage. As I said earlier, secrecy arouses suspicion of sinister motives.

The most cogent argument—I would like to take the hon Minister to the Silvermine valley to see this—lies in the fact that we have here a river, one of only two in South Africa, which is protected from its source to its mouth. [Time expired.]

\*Mr P J GROENEWALD: Mr Chairman, we want to ask the hon the Minister, in view of the fact that this is already a proclaimed area, to reconsider the request for further development and not to grant it.

We must also view this situation in a broader context. Consideration must, for example, be given to legislation in connection with this type of area. What are the realities? In many of these areas people have holiday homes or flats, but they are not physically present there. The developers are indeed complying with the requirements of the law. Notices of the intention to carry out certain developments are put up, but the residents are not there. In terms of the provisions of the ordinances, advertisements also have to be placed in certain newspapers, but it happens that many private developers take the time of year into account before they place their advertisement in the newspaper so as to remain within the regulations prescribed by law.

We want to request the hon the Minister to critically examine these matters. Where this type of situation arises, people should, for example, be notified of such a development by means of their water and electricity accounts. The notice should be sent to wherever they live in another part of the country. It must reach them so that they can lodge an objection if they wish to do so. In this case only six objections were lodged, but I am convinced that if notice had been given on a wider scale or if the opportunity to do so had been more readily offered, more objections would have been lodged.

Another deficiency was indicated by the hon member for Wynberg. When the description of the specific development to be undertaken is handed in, we want to have more details on the matter, for example what the development com-

prises and what the consequences will be. [Time expired.]

\*The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the arguments raised by the hon member for Silfontein are, I think, arguments which are stimulating and useful and which can indeed be considered against the background of existing legislation. One can certainly weigh up his arguments against the existing legislation when the relevant investigations are done. I will thus not reply to him as far as the detail is concerned.

†The hon member for Wynberg, it seems, has an argument with somebody other than me. The fact of the matter is that if he has a quarrel with the local MP, the local council, the developers or whomever, I cannot assist him in that quarrel.

Mr R V CARLISLE: You are not answering me. The MINISTER: I am not answering the hon member now, because he did not listen when I did answer! [Interjections.] I stated clearly that there is a matter of procedure that there are appeals pending. The appeal is not in my hands. I therefore do not have a judicial obligation to apply my mind here and now as I participate in this particular debate. [Interjections.]

This particular matter has been delegated to the Ministerial Representative, so what do I have to apply my mind to? I have to apply my mind to the arguments raised by the hon member as he put them forward here this afternoon. I have listened to him and I cannot take the matter further than to say I have listened to the debate and the arguments and that this matter has to take its normal course according to the procedures of appeal.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, the frankly somewhat aggressive answer by the hon the Minister is not going to help in this matter. When asked for ministerial assistance in a matter in which he as the responsible Minister should be taking action, we would hope that he would apply his mind a little and do something about it.

I just want to tell him that one of the most disgraceful and nonsensical aspects of the application for rezoning is that one of the major reasons given in the environmental impact assessment for the granting of the application is that a housing development would preserve the area against environmental decay resulting firstly, from alien vegetation which should have

been pulled out by the owner of the property in any case and secondly, from the possible influx of squatter communities.

This is a most unlikely event. In other words, the options have been made to appear to be either wall-to-wall housing development or squatters. These are not the only two options, however. One of them is very unlikely indeed. This is a sensitive area, along one of the last remaining uncluttered rivers in the Peninsula, which must be preserved for reasons of sound environmental management.

An attempt has been made to make us feel sorry for the developers, who say they only want to develop their own property, and that maintenance of the area is a financial burden. I do not feel sorry for them, because they seem to have admitted that they originally bought the land with a view to developing the site, but did so in the full knowledge that it was not zoned for residential development, and they are now trying to destroy a protected natural area, against the advice of the many responsible conservation bodies which act as watchdogs with regard to environmental protection.

The "Swart gevaar" tactics with regard to the unlikely takeover by squatters are quite despicable. The whole episode makes one very much aware of the fact that municipal bodies such as the council in Fish Hoek do not have the expertise to exercise judgment when it comes to environmental matters, and it should be in the hands of that hon Minister over there and his department.

Mr R V CARLISLE: Mr Chairman, the last thing I want to do is to fight with the hon the Minister. I actually want to soothe his savage breast this afternoon. I accept that he cannot give us a decision this afternoon, but he will accept that although he delegates authority, in the end the responsibility rests with him.

I want to say to the hon the Minister that the decision is going to land up on his desk. I know that he is taking note of the arguments. I also want to say to him that I do not want to fight with anyone else. The hon member for Simon's Town, I happen to know, feels exactly the same way I do on this issue. We are united on that, and we are even joined by the CP, and that is nice. I

*Hansard*

suspect we are also joined by the party on the other side of the House [Interjections.]

I want to point out that this is a most important environmental asset. It is a pristine river, the only one we have in the Peninsula that is protected, as I have said, from source to mouth, and it is essential that we maintain buffer areas along the river. That is what Zone C is. It is a buffer area ~~(12)~~ (56)

It is essential that we protect the wetlands, some of which are in Zone C and others that are affected by Zone C.

It is so that the whole population of greater Cape Town in coming to use more and more areas like the Silvermine Reserve, the Silvermine valley and the wonderful heritage we have here. We have a responsibility in this House to ensure that those environmental gems are handed on. It is not just the responsibility of the people who elected us. It is a broader responsibility we have to all of the people of the Peninsula—all two and a half million of them—and to the people of South Africa as a whole.

I commend this case to the hon the Minister with confidence. I am sure he will not let South Africa down.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Wynberg put his case more correctly than he did with his interjection. It was the incorrectness of his statement that drew the aggression. If I am busy answering a question to the best of my ability, and somebody tells me by way of interjection that I am not answering, when I have as yet not completed my response, I believe it is unfair.

However, I want to say to the two hon members that I have certainly taken note of the messages which they seek to convey. Arguing the case for the environment and its sensitive areas as they have, I want them to know that we certainly take that to heart. However, I also appreciate—as the hon member indicated in his last response—that I am not in a position now to apply my mind to this matter.

Debate concluded.

## QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

## Rationalization of music centres at schools

\*1. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether his Department has taken a decision on the possible rationalization of music centres at schools; if not, why not; if so,

- (2) whether music teachers whose posts are abolished will be given the opportunity to retire on early pension; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B719E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) Only the Transvaal Education Department has a few music centres attached to specific schools and although a final decision has not been taken, some rationalization is under consideration;

- (2) yes, they would enjoy all the benefits attached to the abolishment of posts as determined by the Education Affairs Act, Act 70 of 1988, read together with the stipulations of the Government Service Pension Act;

- (3) no.

## College of Education for Further Training

\*2. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) (a) On what date, (b) in terms of what measures and (c) (i) at the request of and (ii) by whom was the College of Education for Further Training opened to all races;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B720E

*Hansard*

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) (a) 17 October 1991;
- (b) authority delegated by the Minister to the rectors of colleges of education;
- (c) (i) on the advice of the College Council,
- (ii) the Rector of the College;
- (2) no.

## Re-employment of retired teaching staff

\*3. Mr L LOUW asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

- (1) Whether it is his Department's policy to re-employ in an administrative capacity any teaching staff member who has accepted a retirement package; if not, why not; if so, why;
- (2) whether a certain person, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, was employed at a regional office of his Department; if so,

- (3) whether employees at this regional office had earlier been informed that no appointments would be made there; if so, why was the person concerned employed there;

- (4) whether the prescribed procedure was followed before the post concerned was filled; if not, why not;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B744E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (1) No, as it is policy to give persons who have not yet received a retirement benefit, the opportunity of following a career in exceptional cases, however, for instance if a suitable candidate is not available, the re-employment of somebody who has already accepted a retirement package, cannot entirely be ruled out;

- (2) yes;
- (3) no;

- (4) yes;
- (5) no.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, arising from the answer of the hon the Minister, can he indicate whether it is his intention to make regulatory commitments that the person who is receiving or is in receipt of an early retirement package shall not be employed in his Department for a three-year period after receiving such a package?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I have not given attention to a definite period, but we have given some thought to it, even though we have not yet reached a final conclusion.

†Mr L LOUW: Mr Chairman, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister to paragraph (1) to which his answer was no, I want to ask whether this will also apply in the case where such a teaching staff member wants to return to teaching.

†The MINISTER: I gave a very clear reply to the question. The answer is no. I also put certain qualifications in respect of that. I think the hon member should study my reply properly, then it will be clear to him. I know he is thinking about a specific case. He is welcome to discuss it with me in my office.

# Former foes now forge strong ties

STAR 10/6/92



estimated 120 000 demobilised soldiers of both Fapla and Fala into the Angolan economy.

Mr Grobler said the first group of 30 Angolans would soon be installed at two training centres in Angola, teaching mainly construction skills. Another group was due to arrive in South Africa shortly.

On a far larger scale, South Africa is involved in talks with the European Community and the Angolan government for a similar project in which South Africa would provide the training and the EC the funding.

This training would initially take place in Luanda, but between 10 and 20 more manpower centres elsewhere in the country are envisaged.

There is also talk of South Africa training medical orderlies for the newly unified Angolan military.

"Another area we are still exploring is agricultural co-operation. We have already had an exchange of visits in the area of agriculture and we hope to send a fishing delegation to Angola soon," Mr Grobler said.

The idea of marine co-operation from Angolan through Namibian to South African waters has already been enthusiastically expressed by Angolan Fishing Minister Fatima Jardim.

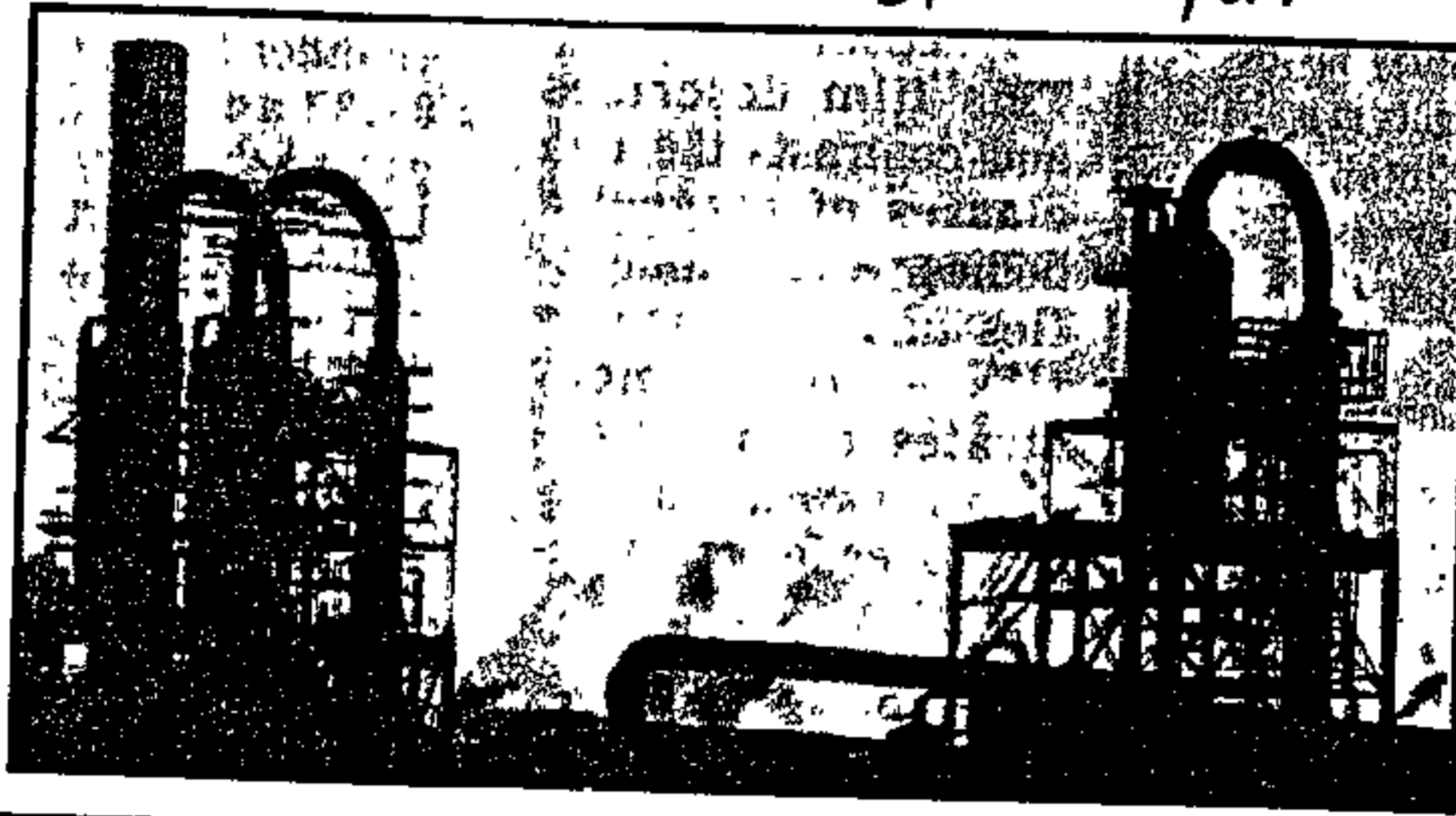
Co-operation will, however, depend on whether an election takes place in September and whether a viable government is installed.

"It is important that the elections take place so that the situation can normalise; so that we can build ties between our two countries not just for our mutual benefit but in the interests of the whole region," Mr Grobler said.

The road to the elections is being built, albeit imperfectly. Registration of voters has begun. The rest depends on whether the MPLA government and Unita retain the will to implement and accept a political solution to their long conflict □

Co-operation between the formerly warring South African and Angolan governments has reached levels that one top official has described as "astounding", reports DALE LAUTENBACH of The Star Africa Service in Windhoek.

STAR 10/6/92



of Foreign Affairs has been careful to build a scrupulously non-partisan relationship with Angola.

When you talk to American diplomats, you can still detect the old Unita-US alliance in their thinking. But with the South Africans, it is hard to believe that until recently they were fighting side-by-side with Jonas Savimbi's former rebels.

Suspensions remain in Angola and elsewhere. The ANC was recently reported as feeling that the old alliance between Dr Savimbi and Pretoria could not have disappeared magically and that South Africa was now supporting Unita in its campaign for the Angolan election in September.

Mr Grobler conceded that he could not speak for "individuals" in South Africa who hoped for a Unita victory.

But he said: "We are going out of our way to adopt a balanced approach. We want a good relationship (with Angola) that does not support any political party. We are supporting

the process (of democratisation) and that is of overriding importance. It would be absolute folly to be caught dabbling with one side. That all belongs to the past."

The SA Department of Foreign Affairs has stationed four diplomats in Luanda following the agreement in January to exchange diplomatic missions at "representative" level.

Since then South Africa has been engaged in a number of aid projects in Angola.

An SADF training team has trained 20 Angolan army (Fapla) members and 20 Unita army (Fala) men to clear the thousands of landmines that were buried in the country during the war.

"We have also handed over a comprehensive inventory of landmines, mainly in the south of the country," Mr Grobler said.

South Africa is also training Angolan instructors at manpower centres in South Africa for similar centres in Angola which would aim to help absorb the

ANGOLAN oil sales to South Africa could open up strong trade between the two countries that would benefit the entire southern African region — if only the oil could be sold.

Angola produces more than half a million barrels a day but cannot sell any to South Africa while the oil embargo against Pretoria is still in place.

"Oil could definitely be the trigger," says Gert Grobler, chief director, southern Africa, in the South African Department of Foreign Affairs.

There is strong interest in the South African business community in Angola's post-war development, but financing remains a serious obstacle.

"South African access to Angolan oil makes sense and on the basis of future supply it could facilitate credit lines," Mr Grobler said in an interview.

He thought the "trigger" might be activated by the installation of an interim government in South Africa.

But while Angola's decision on whether to sell oil to South Africa is held hostage by the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations — and, through them, by the ANC — the relationship between the two countries has grown remarkably.

"There has been a lot of progress in the relationship in a relatively short period which we welcome — given the past," said Mr Grobler.

"It's very encouraging and in a sense astounding. We have a very frank and straightforward dialogue and it has produced the first fruits."

It is ironic, given the past referred to by Mr Grobler — when South Africa was at war with the Angolan government — that in the past six months, trade and other exchanges between South Africa and Angola have far exceeded those between South Africa and Namibia.

Overtly, the SA Department

STARZ 11/6/92  
**OFS water to  
be released** (56)  
**into Vaal Dam**

CAPE TOWN — Water from the Sterkfontein Dam, near Harrismith in the Free State, would be released from June 22 to supplement the supply in the Vaal Dam, Minister of Water Affairs General Magnus Malan announced in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to a question by Tom Gunning (NP Vereeniging), he said there were no prospects for water restrictions for the PWV area for the next 12 months.

General Malan added that there would probably not even be restrictions for the year after that.

The Sterkfontein Dam was full for the first time since 1974 and would pump water to the Vaal at a rate of 40 cu m a second.

It would take seven days for water released from the Sterkfontein Dam to reach the Vaal Dam which is 320 km away. — Sapa.

(56)  
AUG 11/6/92

## Mining in wetlands may be prohibited

### Political Staff

A BILL prohibiting mining in unique wetlands such as Lake St Lucia may soon be brought before parliament, says Mr Rupert Lorimer, DP spokesman on environment affairs.

He told parliament yesterday most South Africans thought it had been a mistake when prospecting rights for the eastern shores of St Lucia were granted in the middle 1970s.

The government could stop the mining and pay the mining company compensation, Mr Lorimer said, or else pass a law forbidding mining in the area.

"I gather we may soon be considering a Bill which would forbid mining in any wetland areas designated to be of international significance in terms of the Ramsar Convention to which we are a signatory."

Stopping mining this way would cost the government nothing, Mr Lorimer said, but to pass such a Bill might not seem to be totally moral "because we would be taking away the rights of the mining company without compensation".



# Government mum on housing plan for Silvermine

MICHAEL MORRIS  
Political Correspondent

51  
ARC 11/6/92

GOVERNMENT has made it clear it will not intervene at this stage in the controversy over plans for housing in the environmentally sensitive Silvermine River Valley, Fish Hoek, but is sympathetic to conservationists.

Minister of Local Government Mr Leon Wessels — who was challenged in an interpellation debate yesterday by Democratic Party MP for Wynberg Mr Robin Carlisle to step in and save the valley — said he was unable to intervene or discuss the merits of the case because a large number of public objections were being assessed by a Ministerial Representative and the matter was sub judice.

Mr Wessels said that while he had no judicial obligation to intervene and that the task of assessing appeals had been delegated to the Ministerial Representative, "we take (points raised in the debate) to take heart."

Mr Carlisle told parliament a powerful and representative lobby in Fish Hoek was strongly opposed to the development.

He said that while the developer had claimed he would preserve the dunes, wetlands and other environmentally sensitive elements of the site, "he does not say how."

He warned "there is no administrative or judicial procedure to stop it" if development went ahead.

The wholly unpolluted Silvermine River, he said, was the only river in the Peninsula that was protected from source to mouth. It was "pristine."

# Fertilizer company denies smog charges

56 Oct 11 6 1992

Staff Reporter

THE high smog level in Cape Town is 'not' being caused by a Milnerton fertilizer company, it says. Kynoch Fertilizer Ltd says it is responsible for only about 3% of the nitrogen oxide pollution level in the city area.

This was said at a meeting this week between the company and

Earth South Africa representatives.

A spokeswoman for Earth South Africa said they had asked for the meeting as they believed that Kynoch was partly responsible for the city's smog.

The Earth SA spokeswoman said they were disappointed that no real figures were disclosed at the meeting.

## Forestry industry boosts exports to R2bn

*B/Dam 11/6/97*  
THE SA forestry industry had increased exports to offset the effects of the weak economy, SA Timber Growers' Association (Satga) director Bruce Ferguson said yesterday.

Ferguson said exports, which had climbed steadily since 1988, had topped R2bn at end-March.

Far Eastern countries such as Japan and Thailand were the biggest importers of SA timber, and Satga had received inquiries from

*10/1/97 (56) (97)*  
**MEREDITH JENSEN**

western European countries, the Ukraine, Middle East and Finland.

The drought had affected the industry in the short term, but the industry was expecting a 3% increase in pulpwood sales next year from 8,834-million cubic metres to 9,1-million.

Ferguson said: "The Department of Forestry has proposed transferring the state's forests to a private

company, to be formed under the Companies Act. The state will initially be the sole shareholder, though it is believed shares will be offered to the public eventually."

However, a spokesman from the SA Sawmillers' Association said the current monopoly of supplied timber was not as threatening as it would be if it were private. "A government monopoly behaves differently from a private company.

"We are in favour of commercialisation, but if you give the forests to one company, it could be dangerous."

**JOHANNESBURG** — Environment awareness criteria are now so highly geared in Europe, the United States and Japan that companies there are becoming reluctant to do business with South Africa unless they are satisfied that local manufacturers, processors and mining companies are practising internationally acceptable environmental measures.

This comment comes from Mike Genard, product manager of Risk Management SA, a specialist member of First Bowring and Associates, which has become increasingly involved with environmental auditing, research and advice on legal implications.

"Now that our SA businesses are busily seeking and exploiting post-sanctions export opportunities," con-

# Stringent 'enviro' checks on exporters

tinues Genard, "it has become a crucial issue for company operations to be seen as environmentally acceptable. Simply stated, either we meet international environmental standards or lose the business."

Environmental auditing has become a guideline in helping South African companies to chart new environmental courses — not only locally but, importantly, in expanding or opening

up their exports.

Environmental concern has developed into a big issue locally, says Genard, but "we are still not educating people sufficiently about it."

"A decade ago mining and industrial firms just complied with regulations and left it at that. Now a fish goes 'belly up' in a river and there is an immediate major outcry from pressure groupings who quickly gain pub-

stall attention.

"The environmental slogan today is: 'Think globally, act locally'. Businesses have to feature the environment and conservation on their agendas to remain successful and profitable even if they have much radical re-planning to pursue. Political parties have also got into the act and it is interesting to note that the ANC, IFP and PAC have the 'promote conservation' theme featured in their manifestoes.

"Yet, conversely, organisations who have shown themselves to be environmentally conscious and have done their level best to 'clean up' operations and satisfy 'green' requirements, frequently find it good business."

# River plan: Minister is (56) 'powerless'

By ANTHONY JOHNSON  
Political Correspondent

LOCAL Government Minister Mr Leon Wessels said yesterday that he was powerless to act on the growing objections from the public and opposition parties to the planned housing development on the banks of the Silvermine River in Fish Hoek.

He told Parliament during a mini-debate that the proposed rezoning of the declared nature had been referred to the ministerial representative and was "sub judice". He was unable to intervene.

The representative in whose hands the fate of the environmentally sensitive dune area now apparently lies is Mr Koos Albertyn, who has recently allowed Dr Chris Barnard to build two homes on a single plot in Table View, and Mimi Coertse to build a house in Bloubergstrand which drew complaints from neighbours.

Mr Robin Carlisle (DP Wynberg) said the river was the only one left in the Peninsula which was protected from source to mouth.

● A row erupted between Mr Carlisle and the ANC MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg, over whether it was appropriate for an MP outside his constituency to sponsor a debate over the issue.

Mr Momberg said in a statement that it was "amazing" that Mr Carlisle had raised the issue in Parliament without prior consultation with the local MP or the mayor of Fish Hoek.

## 'No rare plants' at kaolin site

**THERE** were no rare or endangered plant species on the proposed kaolin mining site at Chapman's Peak, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

He told Parliament a vegetation survey had been done by consultants Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten with help from the National Botanical Institute.

(56) Act 11/6/90

# Gardens boss calls on city for R1m grant

Municipal Reporter

DEVELOPING Kirstenbosch over the next five years will cost more than R25 million, and it is a great disappointment the gardens do not get more support from the city council, says chief director Professor Brian Huntley.

The city council this year increased its annual grant to the National Botanical Institute to R22 800.

Professor Huntley is to meet the city council executive committee today to lobby for a R1 million grant.

He said Kirstenbosch generated several hundred million rands of tourist income to Cape Town and the Western Cape each year.

"My board finds it difficult to accept that the city council with a budget of more than R1 billion cannot make a bigger contribution to this major tourist destination and income generator," he said.

"I understand the council recently gave R1 million to the University of Cape Town, which serves a very small sector of the community."

Kirstenbosch, which gave education, recreation and inspiration to more than 400 000 visitors every year, wanted a similar grant, spread over several years.

## Call to end delay on electrification

SS DUMA GOUBULE

MAJOR low-cost housing and township electrification programmes cannot be delayed indefinitely and must be implemented to stabilise the socio-political situation, says Powertech executive chairman Peter Watt in his company's 1992 annual report. 8/20/92 11/6/92

When these programmes get off the ground and the political negotiation process bore fruit the power electrical industry and Powertech in particular, would face a bright and challenging future, he said.

Watt did not expect any early solutions to the difficult trading conditions and forecast a 0,3% to 0,5% decline in GDP for 1992.

He gave a number of factors that would benefit the group, including the many proposed capital expansion projects. These include upgrading of Saptref, Genref, Caltex Sasol 2 & 3, the Columbus Stainless Steel project and extensions to Alusaf.

Another factor was the opening of doors to Africa where involvement would be sought with overseas partners on projects supported by the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

Powertech ended the year to end-February with a cash pile of R46m after investing more than R30m in modern plant and equipment for the expected upturn in the economy and to enhance export competitiveness.

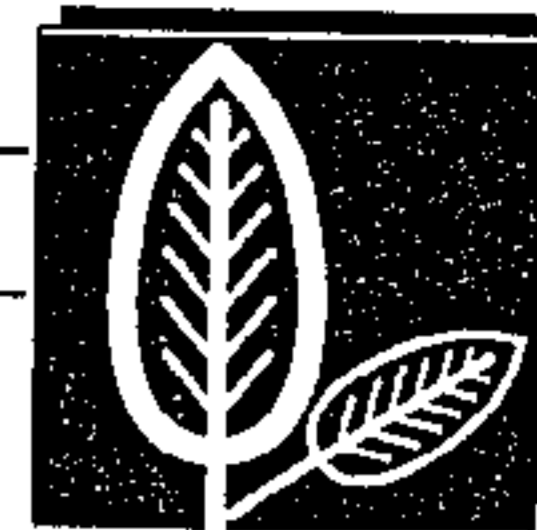
Watt said acquisitions were a high priority and would be actively pursued.

Powertech showed a 5% increase in earnings to 32,3c (30,8c) a share although turnover at R1,15bn, was marginally lower.

A dividend of 9,7c (9,3c) was declared.

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# Managing the bush like a business

For years, the National Parks Board was well known for the "gardeners of Eden syndrome" of some of its staff — visitors in the parks were tolerated but not welcomed.

But, with the possibility of a new government that might not be receptive to conservation, and soaring demands on the Budget for health, education and other pressing needs, that attitude will no longer do. The board must become self-sufficient and that means operating like a business; treating visitors like customers and finding new ways to raise revenue.

In the just over a year since Robbie Robinson took over as chief executive director, the board has moved rapidly in this direction. Head office management has been restructured, slimmed down and decentralised, with line management powers delegated to the various park wardens. The board's corporate culture has been tackled head-on, with Robinson insisting that the organisation become more customer friendly because it will stand or fall on revenues generated by its visitors.

Gate, office and restaurant hours have been revised to suit the visitors, not the staff, while management is involved in an intensive study to see what other attractions can be provided. Four-wheel-drive trails, more hiking trails and guided night drives are being introduced in several parks, while innovations such as camel safaris in the Kalahari are being considered. New ground was broken in April when the board leased the Ngala Lodge and access to 14 000 ha of Kruger to the Conservation Corp, a private game-park operator.

The goal is to eliminate the need for government subsidies. The board got 30,1% of its R109,9m in income from government in the year to March 1991, up slightly from the 28,5% share of the R87,4m in board income that government contributed the year before. Robinson wants to reverse this trend and make the board self-sufficient in three years.

Kruger National Park has long overshadowed the board's other parks; boosting the patronage of the 16 lesser-known parks is one of the keys to a balanced budget. In total, the parks cover 3,2m ha, with Kruger accounting for 2m ha. The number of visitors in the year to March 1991 totalled 1,05m, with Kruger attracting about 700 000 of them.

It will be some time before the impact of the sweeping changes can be assessed. "Frankly, it's too soon to comment meaningfully on the changes at the National Parks Board," says Dick Parris, the Natal Parks Board's deputy CE. He says his organisation carried out an exercise that included the

decentralisation of management three years ago and is still assessing the effects.

But whatever the outcome, Parris is sceptical of the national board's approach. "I don't think that nature conservation agencies at provincial and national levels should even try to become totally self-funding because of the dangers involved in swinging management's attention to generating funds at the expense of conservation, which is its primary function."

The Natal Parks Board is much more reliant on State funding than is the national board. Subsidies will provide about R69m for the current year to April, while the board will generate only R40m on its own.

Parris says the key to keeping State funding for conservation is to stress to government the enormous benefits to the local and national economies through tourism and other activities generated by the reserves.

The attitude towards conservation of the



National Parks Board . . . self-funding is a tall order

major black political parties, the ANC, PAC and Inkatha, is favourable, judging by position papers published in late 1990. The ANC says it is committed to conservation and the rational use of SA's natural resources.

But Robinson is cautious. "I am concerned about the sincerity of all the political parties, including the present National Party government, towards environmental policies. I do not believe that environmental and conservation issues are receiving the serious thought they deserve."

The crux of the issue is the drive for sustainable use of the environment. Nobody has stated this more bluntly than conservationist Ron Thompson who, at an Endangered Wildlife Trust seminar in 1988, said: "Only by adopting the attitude that wild animals are 'products of the land' and not 'sacred cows' to be set upon a pedestal, will many species survive this century, let alone the next one."

Some State conservation bodies, such as the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board,

and private companies such as the Conservation Corp, which runs Phinda and Londolozi, have adopted this attitude wholeheartedly. Bophuthatswana allows controlled hunting in its national parks; the Natal Parks Board allows the harvesting of thatching grass, reeds and fish in its reserves; while Conservation Corp MD Dave Varty sets up businesses in partnership with blacks from local communities to supply as many of the needs of his luxury lodges as possible.

The National Parks Board takes a narrower, more purist approach. Robinson's view is that Kruger and the board's other parks are "core" sanctuaries and will continue to be managed with as little deviation from the natural ecological processes as possible. On the other hand, a wider range of activities can take place outside their borders and in the new contractual national parks being set up, such as the Richtersveld. This means no trophy hunting in Kruger — though game for hunting could be transferred to bordering areas, such as the private reserves. Robinson sees education as the crucial issue in winning over black communities and Kruger, in particular, has embarked on various projects and programmes to reach its immediate neighbours. The board has been heavily supported on its education drive from the Gold Fields Foundation, which has built education centres in a number of parks.

Robinson says steps to get qualified blacks into senior positions in the board are also crucial. Last year, he picked Ben Mokoatle as head of human resources, making him one of the board's "Big Six" — the six executive directors running the organisation. And the first black warden has been appointed, to manage Zuurburg National Park.

The board has more plans. One is to encourage help from the private sector. Rand Mines Properties recently donated 20 000 ha in the Langkloof Mountains to add to Tsitsikamma National Park.

Next up is the conclusion of agreements between Kruger and the private reserves on its western boundary, which will see the fence between them come down.

Ultimately, the board would also like to see the fence on Kruger's eastern boundary with Mozambique come down. The World Bank is lending US\$24m to Mozambique for the initial work on a huge new national park that would be established adjacent to Kruger. It would cover about 4m ha — twice the size of Kruger, which is already the largest national park in Africa.

Robinson also wants to get bank funding for the Kruger-Mozambique superpark and other projects. But this depends on an interim government being in place. To be sure, a giant trans-national reserve is years away, but an organisation that manages thousands of elephants, rhinos and hippos is certainly entitled to think big.

Brendan Ryan



# Old Fashioned Nationalism In Control

By Julia Preston, Eugene Robinson, and Joel Achenbach

RIO DE JANEIRO — The simple fact that virtually all the world's nations have come together at the U.N. Earth Summit shows they recognize that environmental problems have transcended borders and are hurting the whole globe.

The talk from the public podiums here is of global partnerships and planetary solidarity. But behind closed doors, in the hard bargaining over the agreements to be signed, a more old-fashioned and political sentiment is influential: nationalism.

"The world is not at a state yet where we are ready to take measures to preserve the whole which override the interests of national states," said Mark Valentine of the U.S. Citizen's Network, an environmental group monitoring the conference. "It's like a pinball machine. Whenever you push the sovereignty button, all the red lights go off."

Negotiators so far have made virtually no progress on the issue that has caused the most friction over sovereignty: protection of the world's forests. Developing countries have argued that a distinction should be made between natural resources like the atmosphere, which clearly are shared by the whole world, and those like forests, which fall within national territories. "Trying to globalize forests is like saying that oil is a global resource," argued Kamal Nath, India's Environment and Forests Minister.

Even before the summit, negotiators gave up the idea of a binding convention on forests and instead decided to seek a "statement of principles."

A key country opposing the proposed forest convention was Malaysia, which has one of the world's largest tropical forests and earns 40 percent of its income from timber sales. The agreement would have committed nations to limiting development of their forested areas. Deforestation leads to devastating soil erosion, watershed damage that produces flooding, and irretrievable loss of species of flora and fauna.

"By no stretch of the imagination are we going to keep our forests in custody for some other nation," said Ting Wen Lian, a member of the Malaysian delegation.

Developing countries particularly dislike the idea that they should slow their logging so their trees would be available to absorb and recycle carbon dioxide spewed by industrial nations into the atmosphere. The United States accounts for 22 percent of the world's emissions of carbon, the main gas thought to be causing global warming. "You can't tell us what to do with our forests so you can run your cars in Los Angeles," objected India's Nath.

Even the search for agreement in principle on deforestation has not gone well. "We thought we would get a declaration of forest principles," said a member of the British delegation familiar with the talks. "Now, it's hard to say what's going to come out of that . . . What hap-



— CARTOON BY AUSTIN

pened today was that people were adopting postures and making speeches at one another."

By contrast, developing nations supported a binding convention on biological diversity — the panoply of species of animal and plant life — because it includes provisions that could give them royalties from firms that use their natural resources, such as medicinal plants, to make commercial products.

Bipartisan delegations of U.S. senators and congressmen found themselves in the middle of a dispute over the U.S. role at the Summit. "We are in a tremendous position of influence. I think the world is hungering for real leadership," Rep. John Porter, R-Ill., said Saturday. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said he encountered "a sort

of sorrow," even among traditional U.S. allies, over the Bush administration's reluctant role.

Sen. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn., predicted that President Bush will be walking into a foreign policy debacle of the order of Bush's ill-fated trip to Japan last January, when the president was criticized for weak leadership and for bringing auto executives along.

"It's like Greek tragedy. Everyone can see it coming," Gore said. "The only thing left is for him to invite the executives of a few coal companies to come along with him."

"One of the biggest nations of the world . . . does not have the right to apply the brakes to the enormous and fantastic undertaking of an Earth Summit," French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said in Paris Saturday.

Meanwhile don't say "population control" around here. "Control" bespeaks coercion, forced sterilization, and supposed First World fears of a dark-skinned planet. Don't even say "population" too much — it's the word that never got credentials at the official Earth Summit.

Join the Campaign Against Population Control, says a leaflet posted inside the women's tent at the "Global Forum" alternative summit on Flamengo Beach. A poster nearby says population control is "a phrase reminiscent of 'pest control.'"

A throng jams into another tent to hear more horror stories about the dangers of population control. A Brazilian senator says such programs have resulted in the involuntary sterilization of Brazilian women.

The sponsor of this panel discussion, the State Council of Women's Rights, distributes a flier arguing that the sterilizations emerge from a conspiracy by Henry Kissinger and the National Security Council to limit the birthrate in the Third World "so as to not degenerate the Anglo-Saxon race."

There are quieter voices. But the orthodoxy at the Global Forum — the huge gathering of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) at Flamengo Beach — is that environmentalists from northern countries should spend less time worrying about population growth, and more time addressing the inequities of global wealth.

# Strict controls to protect public and the eco-system

**MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Political Correspondent

THE controversial Noordhoek kaolin mine was finally approved by the government today.

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett said Serina would get its licence today to begin excavations under strict environmental conditions.

The Regional Services Council, which claims Serina needs planning permission before it can mine, will not be approached for additional approval.

Mr Bartlett said the advice of the State Attorney was that this would be unnecessary.

The mine has a potential lifespan of 16 years. The expected yield of 30 percent of the 3,2 million ton deposit has a potential foreign exchange earnings value of R48 million.

The site is destined to become a residential area once the mine closes.

## Impact assessment

Mr Bartlett also announced a monitoring committee would monitor development and ensure rehabilitation took place.

The committee will include environmental experts, representatives of residents, the landowner and government authorities.

Mr Bartlett said today's final go-ahead followed an environmental impact assessment (EIA) by the international firm of consulting engineers Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten which concluded that "if the impacts of the proposed mining operations on the environment were properly controlled, these could be successfully overcome".

He said the government had sought to balance economic with ecological interests and hoped the public would appreciate this. He hoped there would be no protests.

Under the Mineral Act Serina will have to draw up a rehabilitation programme for government approval and rehabilitation will have to be carried out "as an integral part of the mining operations".

Serina will also be obliged to set up a trust fund, safeguarded against sequestration, to cover the costs of rehabilitation.

Mr Bartlett said it was clearly stated in the Act that he would have "no option but to suspend or cancel the permit or authorisation (of the mine) if any aspect concerning the rehabilitation of the land is not complied with".

He said stringent conditions had been drawn up, based on the recommendations of the environmental impact assessment, by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs in conjunction with other State departments, the landowner, De Goede Hoop Development Company and conservation bodies.

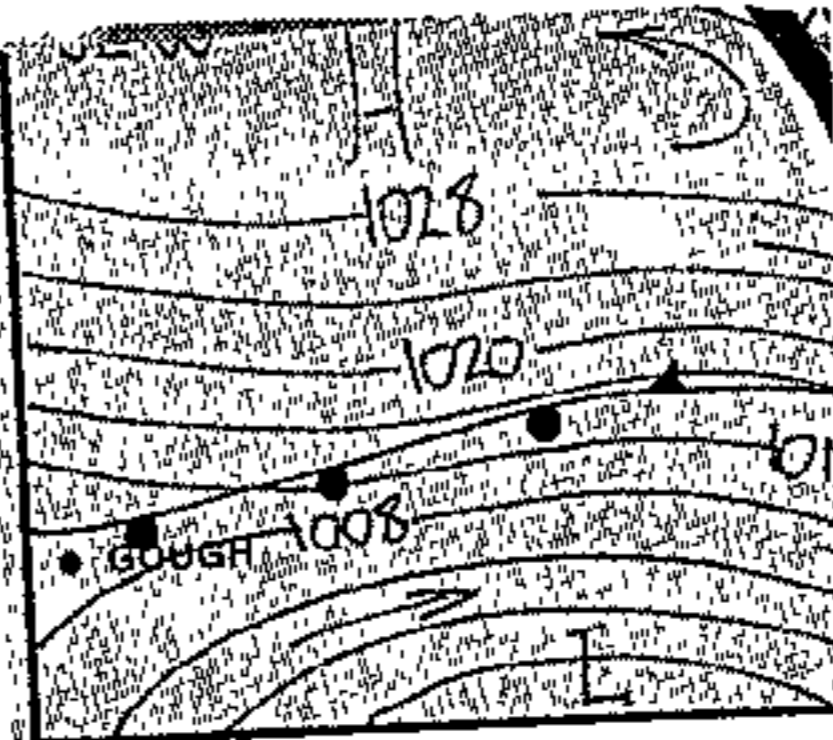
In terms of these, the 11,3 ha mining area will be mined by means of a "moving pit" which will be limited to 200m by 200m and not exceeding 30m in depth at any time.

## No explosives

Backfilling and rehabilitation of excavated areas will be conducted simultaneously and must keep pace with the forward movement of the excavation.



**MINING GO-AHEAD**  
Pienaar, left, and George Bartlett



It will be partly cloudy

## Cloudy and

Forecast for the Cape Peninsula

- Partly cloudy and cold.
  - Wind, moderate westerly
  - Temperature forecast a 18 deg C maximum and
- There were 6,1 hours of sun

THE MOON

- Full moon .....
- Last quarter .....
- New moon .....
- First quarter .....

THE SUN

Sets today: 1743. Rises tomorrow

# Move in SA's 'best interests'

**MICHAEL MORRIS**

MINISTER of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett said today he was convinced the approval of kaolin mining at Noordhoek under strict environmental conditions was in South Africa's best interests.

"I believe my department has done the most thorough investigation into mining and rehabilitation ever done — not only in South Africa, but perhaps throughout the world."

The government had sought to balance environmental concerns with economic factors such as the need for jobs and wealth "so that the greater population has a quality of life that does not cause them to degrade their environment".

He said he hoped the public would consider all the facts before rushing to protest.

"Of course, every clear-thinking person must equate what is important here: can you sterilise R1 billion worth of clay in that valley at a time when this nation is crying out for jobs, for development and the creation of wealth?"

The mining operation will start at the south-eastern boundary of the site and move towards the north-west.

Topsoil will have to be removed and kept aside, in piles of limited height landscaped to blend with the surroundings. Topsoil may be removed only at the pace of the moving pit.

Clearance of vegetation in advance of the moving pit will be restricted to one hectare at a time to reduce the visual impact.

No explosives may be used.

Noise and dust control measures will have to be implemented.

While the processing plant may operate on a 24-hour basis, pit operations will be limited to the period between 7am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Pit operations will not be allowed on public holidays or weekends.

A buffer zone of vegetation will have to be maintained inside and along the boundary of the mining area to screen the mine.

The processing plant building will have to blend, architecturally, with the character of the area. It must also be screened by vegetation.

# SERINA

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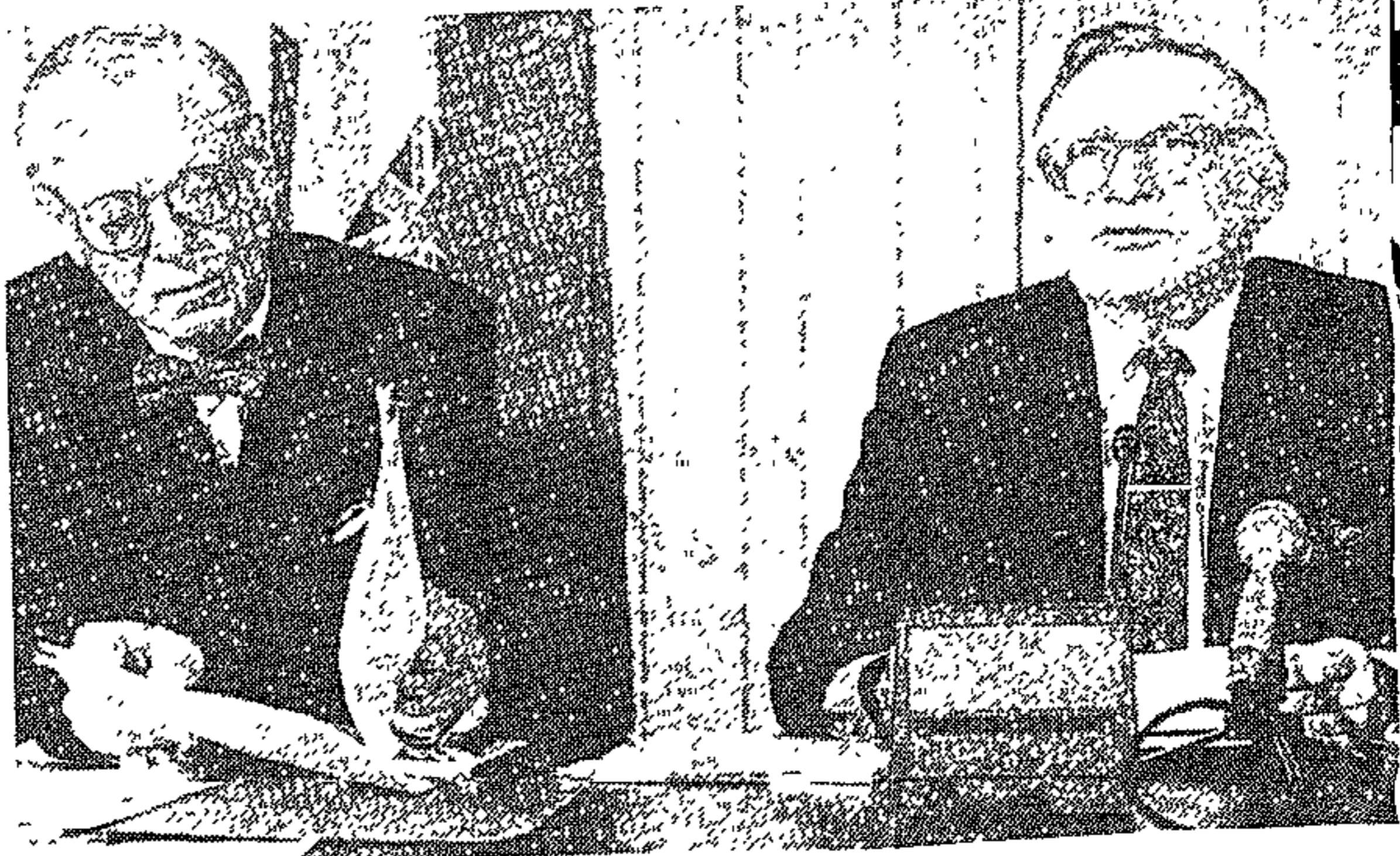
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Picture: ROY WIGLEY, The Argus

**MINING GO-AHEAD:** Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar, left, and Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett announce final approval for mining of kaolin at Noordhoek today.

## Move in SA's 'best interests'

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**DRINK**

## Kenya, SA urged to co-operate on tourism

KENYA and SA could form the basis of a lucrative tourism network in eastern and southern Africa. Kenyan deputy director of tourism and wildlife Steven Marisin said recently.

Marisin said the two countries were ideal holiday spots for tourists looking for multi-destination packages similar to those expected by visitors to Europe.

He said modern tourists wanted to see as much as possible for their money. A tour could start in Johannesburg, move to the Victoria Falls, on to Kenya before heading back to their own countries, he said.

Great potential existed for a cruise ship route from Durban to Mombasa.

3/10/92 12/16/92  
GAVIN DU VENAGE

"SA and Kenya have different attractions to draw tourists, and should co-ordinate efforts so these differences complement each other," he said.

Marisin said Kenya had sophisticated tourism industry training programmes that SA hotels and tour operators could benefit from, and they could learn from the Kenyan experience.

Marisin added that environment protection was an important priority, with the Kenyan government having appointed an advisory body to look into the carrying capacity of reserves and the general effect of tourism on the environment.

## Underground water falling

GERALD REILL *SR*

PRETORIA — Repeated droughts in the past decade have taken a heavy toll on scarce underground water resources which continue to fall to levels causing serious concern.

Water Affairs deputy director geohydrology Eberhard Braune said two or three summers of above average rainfall were urgently needed to restore the heavy drain on ground water in the drought years.

Irrigation farmers had been particularly hard hit, but many were over-exploiting diminishing supplies, which would have serious consequences if last summer's drought was followed by another this year.

Braune said farmers in some parts were being advised by the department on how best to manage ground water extraction to avoid over-exploitation.

A survey carried out 12 months ago showed boreholes were drying up and the quality of water deteriorating. *By 12/6/92*

Conditions since then could only have worsened.

A survey found that in four of the country's seven agriculture regions, water yields were declining fast.

□ Sapa reports the drought along SA's northern and north-western borders was creating tension between governments as game and livestock streamed across from Botswana and Zimbabwe in search of food.

# Bush Says 'I Won't Sign'

Guardian [w/in w/mail] 12/6-18/6/92  
By Ann Devroy (S6)

PRESIDENT BUSH, ending a weekend meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, said Sunday he would not budge in his refusal to join the leaders of most nations in signing a biodiversity treaty at the Earth Summit later this week. "I'm not going to change," he said.

Although Britain had some problems with the financial conditions imposed by the treaty, which is aimed at preserving the diversity of plant and animal life worldwide, Major said he believed most concerns could be solved. The United States stands virtually alone in rejecting the treaty, primarily because the administration wants to protect the U.S. biotechnology industry, which it feels would be hurt by some technology transfer requirements, and is unwilling to make "open-ended" financial commitments to help poorer nations protect their animal and plant life.

Bush and Major made their comments about the Earth Summit, which is being held in Rio de Janeiro, during a news conference

concluding two days of talks at the presidential retreat at Camp David. The two also pledged to maintain strong sanctions against Yugoslavia for now as the only possible way to help end the civil war there.

On Rio, Bush said the biodiversity treaty demands outlays that could exceed U.S. capabilities and he would not make a commitment the United States was unable to keep. "We do not have an open pocket-book," he said.

The United States announced last week that it would not sign the treaty, one of two major accords to be signed in Rio. The signing nations will pledge to preserve the diversity of their native species. It would require richer nations to give financial and other assistance to the poorer ones to help them preserve their species.

The United States objects to treaty language giving poorer nations some special access to biotechnology developments in the industrialized nations. Despite ef-

forts by senior administration officials, led by Environmental Protection Agency administrator William K. Reilly, to work out a compromise, the White House has been unmoving in the face of strenuous criticism by other nations. "I have nothing to be apologetic for. I also have to be the one at this conference that is responsible for jobs and people being at work," Bush said.

The president said his message in Rio would be that the United States will be a leader in protecting the world's forests to maintain biodiversity. The White House announced last week it would more than double its aid to poorer countries to help them preserve their forests and called on other industrialized countries to do the same.

"We think that a good forestry program will take care of a lot of the . . . biodiversity needs," Bush said. "And so though I will not sign that treaty as it sits on the table now, we will continue to be the leader, or a leader, in terms of forests and in terms of environmental technology."

# Go-ahead, then kaolin firm sold

58  
CT 13/6/92

## Staff Reporters

THE company that is to mine kaolin on Chapman's Peak was sold yesterday.

The surprise announcement came soon after the government officially gave the company, Serina Kaolin, the go-ahead for the controversial venture.

Serina Kaolin's new owner is Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, who bought the company from Federale Volksbeleggings, a Sanlam subsidiary.

A spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group which opposes the mine, Mr Ian Brownlee, yesterday accused Sanlam of "dumping" the mining company.

Mr Emel Linde, Sanlam's chief legal officer, said last night: "There is no basis or truth in speculation that we initiated the sale to get rid of public pressure."

Johannesburg-based Mr Van der Spuy, who also controls Partnership Acceptances, said mining would go ahead with the "the widest possible community involvement in the company's mining activities and in its rehabilitation of mined land".

The announcement of the sale of the mine came yesterday afternoon after Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett announced in Parliament yesterday morning that Serina Kaolin was to be issued a licence under "the most stringent mining conditions yet".

Serina chairman Mr Klaus Zirker yesterday said the company would not



**NEW BOSS** ... Mr Sybrand van der Spuy (left), the new owner of Serina Kaolin, with chairman Mr Klaus Zirker on their Noordhoek site.

start mining for at least two years. It would in the meantime prepare the site for mining by erecting a fence, planting a line of trees or shrubs as a screen and putting up an earth wall.

Meanwhile, Serina could face a legal battle with the Regional Services Council, whose legal adviser believes that the company still has to apply to the RSC for permission to mine.

Mr Bartlett said the mineral deposits were worth R600 million.

Mr Brownlee said yesterday that the campaign against the mine would continue unabated and that opposition had intensified over the past six weeks.

The MP for the area, Mr Jannie Momberg, called for cool heads but said he was still opposed to the mining.

● Fed Volk sheds Serina — Page 5

# Hazardous waste action plan

PRETORIA. — A recently-completed study that will form the basis of a plan of action for the disposal of South Africa's hazardous waste in an ecologically-friendly manner was handed to Deputy Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Wynand Breytenbach here yesterday.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said the study, which took 2½ years to complete, was the most comprehensive of its kind in the country and was initial-

ly undertaken by the Foundation for Research Development and later continued by the CSIR.

He said hazardous waste disposal was likely to become one of the most difficult global environmental issues during this decade.

"This study enables us to develop a strategy and management plan that will ensure the existence of expertise, facilities, legislation and regulations to deal with hazardous waste safely," he said. — Sapa (5b)



## fraud probe

and Mr Lombard —  
of Reserve Bank  
Professor Jan Lom-  
holders in the four  
during the restruct-  
while at the same time  
at Natprop.

the value of the  
was grossly in-  
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a land-use econo-  
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and Townlands Project  
was R12 million. They  
valued at R16 million  
The State alleges  
was bought for  
was worth substan-  
Dr Oberholzer stated.

# Fish Hoek's dune scheme short-sighted: City Council

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

(51)  
APR 13/6/92

THE City Council believes hous-  
ing development on the dunes  
near Peer's Cave, a protected na-  
ture area, should be resisted —  
and has told Fish Hoek Town  
Council so in a letter.

The letter was one of two sent  
to the town council before its de-  
cision to rezone the dunes for  
housing, a decision which has  
sparked anger in the town.

The Silvermine Coalition, a  
loose grouping of 14 environmen-  
tal and residents' associations  
sworn to protect the valley, have  
challenged developers and the  
town council to a public debate  
next Thursday.

The Fish Hoek Land and Es-  
tate Company, which is linked to  
the Ryan Group, plans to build  
single and group housing on the  
shifting sands.

Environmentalists fear the  
flood danger in the estuary will  
worsen, threatening homes.

The city council is one of five

bodies, including the Wildlife So-  
ciety, which have appealed  
against the rezoning.

In a letter dated November 19  
last year, deputy city planner Mr  
Jock Schoeman said the develop-  
ment would bring pressure on the  
natural environment.

There should be no develop-  
ment north of the proposed Fish  
Hoek bypass.

Mr Schoeman said develop-  
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the area should instead become a  
nature reserve.

It is understood the city council  
is investigating extending the Sil-  
vermine Nature Reserve as far  
as the False Bay coast.

Town planning official Mr Rod  
Young said development in the  
Cape Peninsula Protected Nature  
Area was not in keeping with in-  
tentions to use the area for re-  
creation, and should be resisted.

Silvermine Coalition co-ordina-  
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conference there were fears de-  
velopment could mean breaking

up of Table Mountain sandstone,  
mass bulldozing of the dunes, and  
encroachment on the river.

Vociferous public opposition to  
this and a 1986 bid to develop in  
the area made it surprising that  
opponents were forced to go to  
great length to stop it, he said.

Coalition member Mr Ian  
Brownlie said the idea of devel-  
opment contradicted a govern-  
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which advocated Western Cape  
mountains should be "sacrosanct"  
attractions.

Mr Gubb said an integrated  
study of the catchment area  
should be done.

He said it was likely develop-  
ers would try to make shack  
dwellers an issue by arguing that  
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move them.

"There are other ways of solv-  
ing the problems of socio-econ-  
omically deprived people," Mr  
Gubb said.

Ryan Group director Mr Sean  
Ryan was unavailable for com-  
ment because he is overseas.

# Green controls urged for 'dirty' industries

SOUTH 13/6-17/6/92, (56)

**T**HE ANC wants to run a government that is accountable, fair and "green".

In a welcome development, the new ANC policy guidelines devote no less than three pages to environmental policies in all areas of the economy to ensure that South Africans live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The guidelines say the ANC's objective is to reverse the trend of exploiting non-renewable resources in South Africa. Production and consumption patterns need to be adjusted in order to create conditions conducive to sustainable development.

"It is essential to ensure that a future growth strategy is compatible with ecological and human rights principles, and that growth is geared towards the provision of basic needs for the whole commu-

nity, and is not seen as an end in itself," says the ANC.

It wants to see the development of environment-friendly industries. Where "dirty" industries are unavoidable, they should be subject to strict controls. This will affect industries that process minerals and metals.

"South Africa should also be careful not to accumulate a debt burden which will place it in a position where it is forced to undertake projects that are environmentally unsound in order to service these debts."

It is concerned about the environmental degradation caused by inefficient white farmers who use too many fertilisers and pesticides and black farmers who have been crowded together in the homelands.

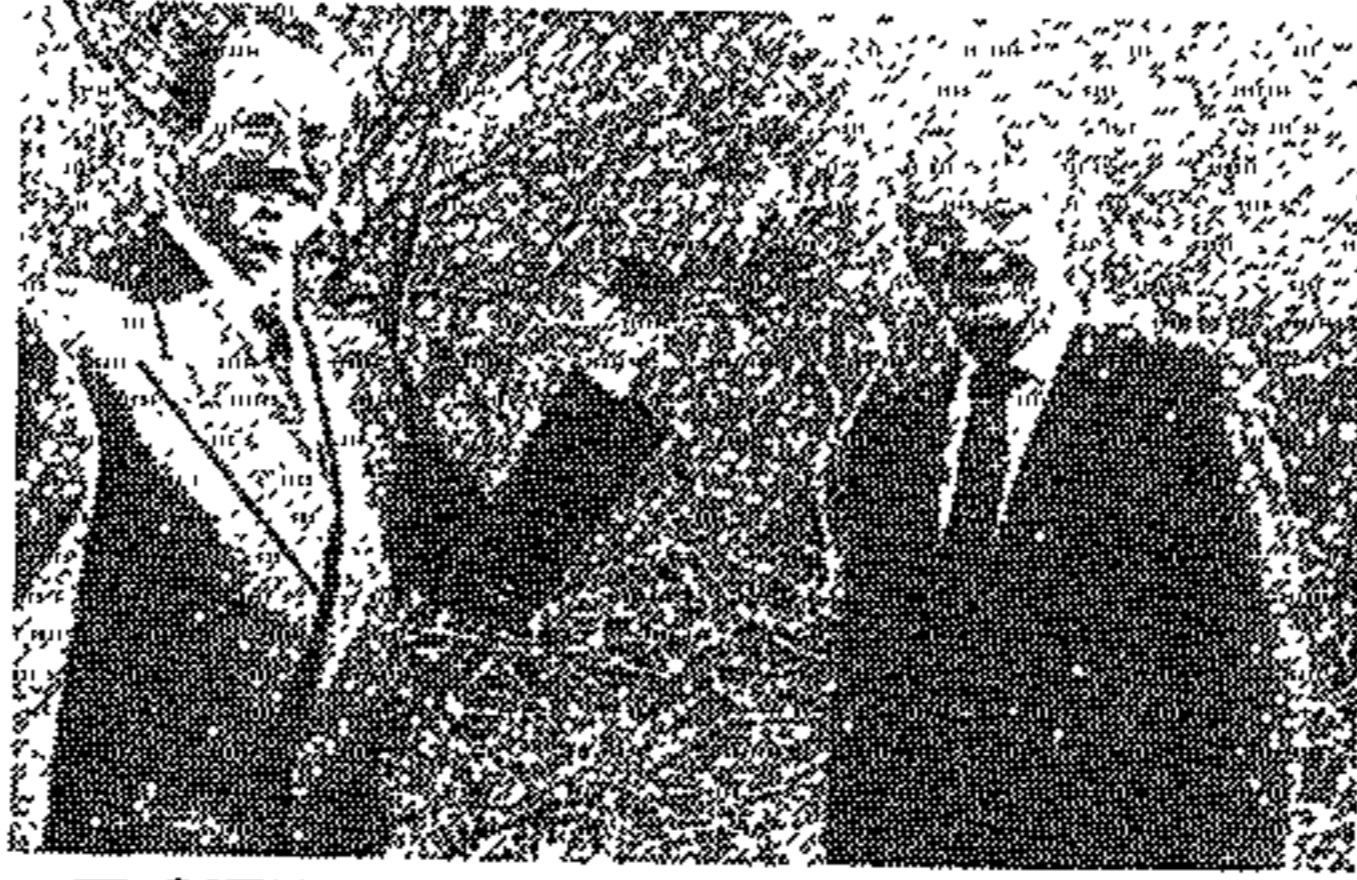
The forestry sector is criticised for its massive afforestation pro-

grammes which use alien species in unsuitable areas.

This calls for a restructuring of agriculture to move away from large-scale, single species agriculture and forestry towards a diversified, small-scale system. This should be supported by new services in agricultural education and extension, marketing and credit supply.

But perhaps the worst damage to the environment is caused by mining. The ANC wants to lessen the dependence of the economy on this sector while ensuring that what mining is necessary, takes place under strict controls.

The guidelines provide no details on how this is to be done, but mining houses will be asked to help communities dependent on mining to find alternative means of earning a living.



□ **SITE INSPECTION:** Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, left, the new owner of Serina, with the chairman, Mr Klaus Zirker, on the Noordhoek site where kaolin will be mined. (5b)

ARG 13/6/92

## Serina sells Noordhoek kaolin mine

■ Kaolin mining company sold after government grants licence to mine Chapman's Peak.

**PATRICK FARRELL**

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE controversial Serina mining company, which owns the kaolin deposits in the Noordhoek Valley, has been sold to a Johannesburg businessman for an undisclosed sum.

Serina, which was owned by Federale Volksbeleggings — a Sankorp subsidiary — has been sold to Mr Sybrand van der Spuy's Partnership Acceptances company.

The sale was signed on June 4 but backdated to April 1 this year.

Serina will not go through any internal changes. Mr Van der Spuy said the mining in the Noordhoek Valley will continue as planned.

"I want to give the assurance that we will comply with every respect of the mining licence and mine the valley with responsibility.

"The trust fund to ensure the rehabilitation of the mine will be set up as outlined and it will be open to scrutiny by the public."

Mr Van der Spuy said he thought long and hard before buying rights to the kaolin mine and he had visited Britain and Germany to inspect kaolin mines there.

"Apart from the financial viability of the project I was intrigued with the challenge that mining could be carried out in harmony with the protection of the environment," he said.

He also announced that Mr Klaus Zirker, former chairman of Continental China Holdings, the holding company for Serina, will stay on as chairman of Serina for a year.

Last night Mr Zirker said a fence would be built around the site within four weeks and building operations would begin soon after.

"We will start mining in about two years," he said.

"This mine will serve as a blueprint for all future environmentally sensitive developments so it is up to us to handle it sensibly," he added.

STAR 13/6/92

**DIFFERENCES between developed and Third World countries over who will pay to clean up the environment remained a stumbling block at the Earth Summit last night writes NICHOLAS SCHOON.**

S6

RIO DE JANEIRO — At the largest gathering in history of presidents and prime ministers which convened in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, an impasse over Third World aid was still blocking final agreement.

Developing countries continued to hold out for stronger commitments to aid to finance a shift to ecologically sustainable and less environmentally destructive economic growth.

Small groups of Ministers from rich north and the poor south have been negotiating over a few crucial phrases in a paper on finance. A late-night plenary session at the Riocentro conference centre on the outskirts of the former Brazilian capital was being organised in the hope that it would break the deadlock.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development heard yesterday from British Prime Minister John Major, President George Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Major said the UK stood ready to give extra aid for environmental projects in the Third World. He announced that the UK favoured the developed countries putting \$2 billion (R5,6 billion) to \$3 billion (R8,4 billion) into the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility. Britain's share, he told reporters, would be £100 million (R500 million) spread over several years.

Kohl, who spoke immediately

afterwards, trumped Major by saying Germany wanted a \$4 billion (R11,2 billion) replenishment of the facility. Germany's share of that sum would be about £260 million (R6 300 million).

The facility is intended to meet the extra costs in Third World countries of protecting the global environment. It could finance projects to reduce emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases, protection of tropical forests and conservation of habitats.

Major had been expected to dwell heavily on the need to stop explosive population growth. In the event, he only gave the issue a brief mention.

He told the plenary session: "On our efforts are pinned the hopes of billions of people. It falls to us to try to reconcile their diverse and sometimes divergent needs.

"The contrasts are striking. In today's world more people are healthier and live longer than ever before. And yet more people than ever before, one billion of them, live in abject poverty."

Although the quarrel over aid continued, last night it looked as if agreement would be reached over a set of forest principles. Those principles were intended to highlight the planet's trees as a crucial global environmental resource, and call for their rational exploitation and conservation. — The Independent.

# EC pledges billions for 'green' aid

Star 13/6/92  
JEREMY GAUNT

RIO DE JANEIRO — The European Community told the Earth Summit yesterday it was committing more than \$4 billion (about R11.2 billion) for specific environmental projects, launching a day of speeches by world leaders at the global meeting.

The pledge, some of which was completely new funding, was the first significant cash offer from the rich world in a conference plagued by divisions over how to pay for environmentally sound development.

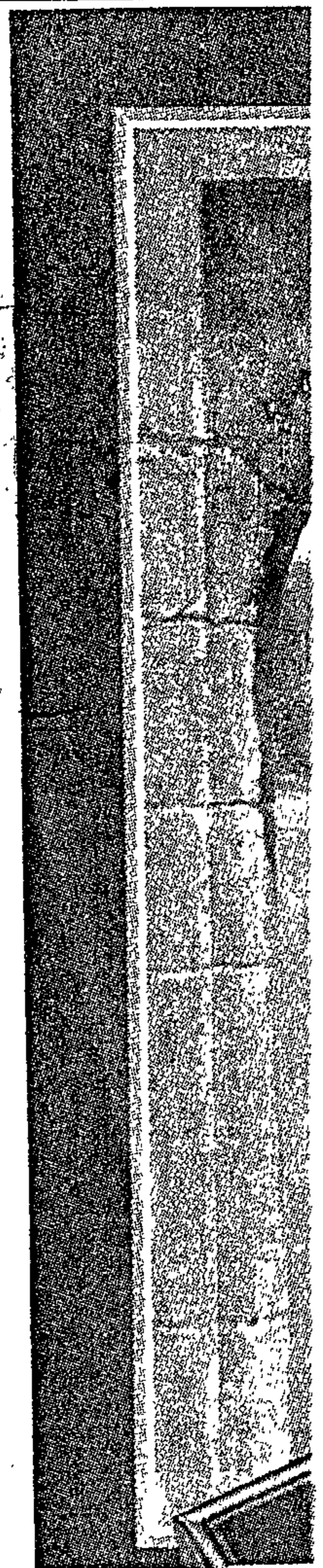
Meanwhile, as world leaders began their long-awaited speeches to the Earth Summit, negotiators reported they were close to agreement on a plan to protect the world's forests. "We are very close to the end," said main summit committee chairman Tommy Koh.

Koh, from Singapore, said talks through the night on a series of principles on how to protect forests had made significant progress, but that an accord to draft a treaty after the summit had eluded negotiators. Forest protection has been one of the trickiest problems facing the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Yesterday most attention was to be focused not on negotiating, but on a series of high-profile speeches from as many as 60 world leaders.

United States President George Bush arrived in Brazil early yesterday but made no formal arrival statement. The US has been heavily criticised by other nations and environmentalists for the positions it has taken at the summit.

EC leader, Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva of Portugal, said the EC would allocate the \$4 billion, including new and additional sources, as quickly as possible. — Sapa-Reuter.



# Kaolin saga peaks as battle lines are drawn

ARG 13/6/92  
56

■ The kaolin mine row could lead to a court battle over who has the final say — the central government, or the Regional Services Council.

**PATRICK FARRELL and MICHAEL MORRIS**  
Weekend Argus Reporters

CONFLICT over the kaolin mine in Noordhoek could lead to a Supreme Court battle between the government and the Cape Regional Services Council.

As the tide of protest grew against yesterday's final government approval of the mine, RSC land-use chairman Mr Clive Keegan insisted the mining company Serina still needed RSC approval to go ahead.

This amounts to a direct conflict with the central government.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Mr George Bartlett dismissed the RSC's right to have a say over whether the mine should go ahead or not.

He said the chief state law adviser held the view that kaolin mining could proceed without the permission of the RSC, while the council believes that the Noordhoek Valley, incorporating

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**Controversial Serina mining company  
sold to Johannesburg businessman** —  
report and picture, page 3.

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the mine site, is zoned as rural and therefore falls under their jurisdiction.

"On the advice of our legal advisers the council believes Serina cannot mine before an application is brought before us," said Mr Keegan.

"No such application has been received and if we continue to differ then the matter could land up in the Supreme Court."

Mr Keegan would not comment on the RSC's likely response to an application, but it is reported that the Cape regional government is opposed to the mine.

In parliament Democratic Party environment affairs spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer slammed the government's "disgraceful" decision to allow mining to go ahead.

Speaking in the second-reading debate on the Environment Conservation Second Amendment Bill, he said Mr Bartlett had shown himself to be an enemy of conservation:

"Big business comes first over the environment."

He said he had hoped the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, would use his power to prevent the kaolin "desecration of the Peninsula" but that he had failed to do so.

# Fish Hoek's dune scheme short-sighted: City Council

CLIVE SAWYER  
Municipal Reporter

51  
RPG 13/6/92

THE City Council believes housing development on the dunes near Peer's Cave, a protected nature area, should be resisted — and has told Fish Hoek Town Council so in a letter.

The letter was one of two sent to the town council before its decision to rezone the dunes for housing, a decision which has sparked anger in the town.

The Silvermine Coalition, a loose grouping of 14 environmental and residents' associations sworn to protect the valley, have challenged developers and the town council to a public debate next Thursday.

The Fish Hoek Land and Estate Company, which is linked to the Ryan Group, plans to build single and group housing on the shifting sands.

Environmentalists fear the flood danger in the estuary will worsen, threatening homes.

The city council is one of five

bodies, including the Wildlife Society, which have appealed against the rezoning.

In a letter dated November 19 last year, deputy city planner Mr Jock Schoeman said the development would bring pressure on the natural environment.

There should be no development north of the proposed Fish Hoek bypass.

Mr Schoeman said development would be "shortsighted" and the area should instead become a nature reserve.

It is understood the city council is investigating extending the Silvermine Nature Reserve as far as the False Bay coast.

Town planning official Mr Rod Young said development in the Cape Peninsula Protected Nature Area was not in keeping with intentions to use the area for recreation, and should be resisted.

Silvermine Coalition co-ordinator Mr Andy Gubb told a Press conference there were fears development could mean breaking

up of Table Mountain sandstone, mass bulldozing of the dunes, and encroachment on the river.

Vociferous public opposition to this and a 1986 bid to develop in the area made it surprising that opponents were forced to go to great length to stop it, he said.

Coalition member Mr Ian Brownlie said the idea of development contradicted a government White Paper on tourism, which advocated Western Cape mountains should be "sacrosanct" attractions.

Mr Gubb said an integrated study of the catchment area should be done.

He said it was likely developers would try to make shack dwellers an issue by arguing that housing development would remove them.

"There are other ways of solving the problems of socio-economically deprived people," Mr Gubb said.

Ryan Group director Mr Sean Ryan was unavailable for comment because he is overseas.

# Third World plea for cash

ST. PAULS 14/6/92  
RIO DE JANEIRO: Third World leaders at the Earth Summit yesterday pleaded with their colleagues from industrialised nations for a long-term program of economic assistance.

On the summit's penultimate day, Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif said economic growth was necessary to alleviate "the poverty that is the cause and consequence of environmental degradation".

Delegates said Britain and Japan have resisted a commitment to donate 0.7 per cent of gross national product in aid by the year 2000.

"It would be a disaster if we didn't get

an agreement on financing," one European delegate commented.

Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe said the international community had to formulate new financial and technological transfer policies in favour of Third World countries to enable them to overcome poverty and contribute to environmental development.

Mr Mugabe said: "An international economic system, which limits the economic activities of the south to the extraction and export of natural resources, is completely inconsistent with the values which we seek to implement today."



FROM 4am to 8pm the best coffee in town is available at Soweto's New Canada police station, with large dollops of homespun wisdom and surrounded by a lethal assortment of hand-lewn weapons seized on the trains. Captain Thys du Plessis, 36, head of the New Canada crime prevention unit, is a coffee addict. He is also responsible for the safety of more than a million Sowetans who whiz past his fern-filled office window each day.

During the morning or evening three-hour rush, 318 trains with 2 441 coaches hurtle through 16 stations under his command.

At least once during the rush hour he will fill the coffee machine with fresh water and grounds, switch it on and take his lanky frame on to one of the trains. He may choose the train at random, or it may be one, like 9025 from Verbanking, that has a reputation for violence.

By the time he gets back the coffee will have dripped through and he'll pour a steaming cup.

Captain Du Plessis is the key link in a new train-violence task group that has seen the police increase force numbers stationed on Reef trains, and pump in vast resources in efforts to curb violence. His own unit, as an example, previously had just over 50 policemen. That number has now swelled to 911.

In March, the 60-odd members of his unit worked an average of 174 hours overtime each — or a combined 10 400 hours overtime. They don't get paid overtime, nor do they get the danger pay which members of the riot squads get for township duty. This year seven members of the unit were in hospital after falling victim to train attacks.

It is too early to tell if the new system will restore safety to the Soweto trains in which 13 people were killed in the first four months of this year. Violence plummeted in May, but this week in scattered attacks more than 14 people have been injured and four killed.

As Tuesday's 16th anniversary of June 16 1976

# SUNDAY

## PROFILE

### Thys is winning

### his fight to keep

### Soweto's train

### thugs at bay

STWives 14/6/92

looms, Captain Du Plessis and his men are bracing themselves for what is traditionally one of the year's most violent days.

Captain Du Plessis has after open-air meetings 17, and he knows it is unlikely that violence will be heaped this easily. "I think violence is down because people heard rumours of the new task force, but there will always be someone who will test the system," he says.

If there is ever a book written on township trains, Captain du Plessis would be an essential source.

He recalls how in the 70s, karate supremo Bruce Lee was the craze and karate the favoured assault on Soweto train commuters. Then gangs came to the fore. They would shoot at opposing gangs as trains pulled out of stations, though nowadays some commuters take barrowloads of stones on to trains to hurl at passing opponents.

Women would be gang-raped and commuters thrown off trains after

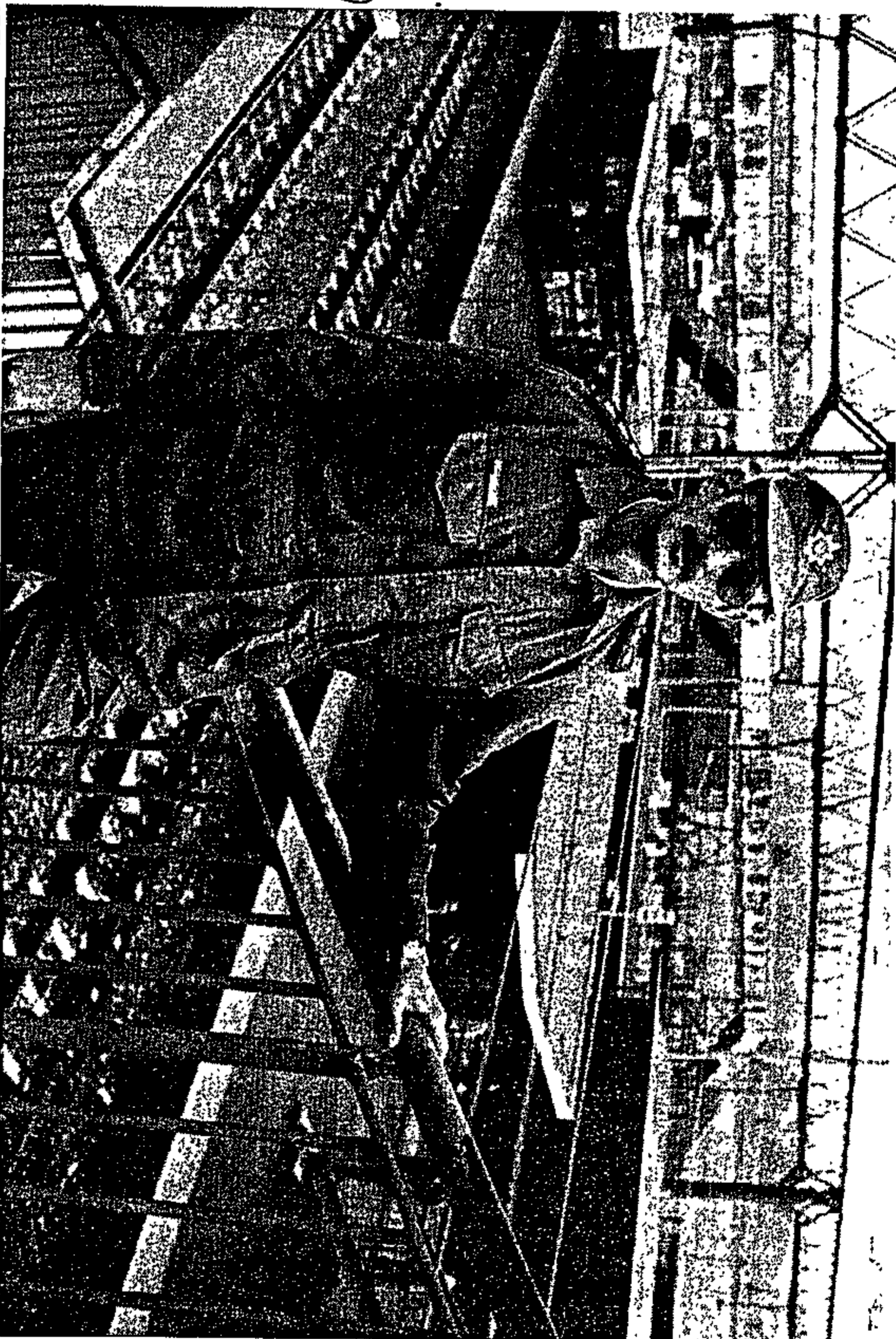
says conventional crime has ceased completely on the trains. "Now it is just killings," he says.

Recently, he recounts, a thug thought he could buck the trend and stole a wallet when the train halted. "Everyone jumped off the train and beat him to death when they caught him. And yet those same people say nothing when they witness an attack."

"There is something wrong with our society when material possessions become more important than life."

One of the roots of the present train violence began about three years ago when activists from rival groups would tell an ideological opponent to lift his union or politically sloganmed T-shirt above his head, and then stab him.

Result: no one now wears a T-shirt with a political slogan. Captain Du Plessis



AT THE READY: Captain Du Plessis who says train violence is down 'but there will always be someone who will test the system'

Picture: JOE SEFALE

## Sunken oil tanker 'a menace'

STWives 14/6/92

By RYAN CRESSWELL (56)

SCIENTISTS believe the sunken tanker Katina P will be an oil pollution menace to South Africa for many months to come.

This is the finding of the Marine Geoscience Unit of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs which analysed the sinking, 160km from the Mozambique shore in mid-April.

They say the chance of the Katina P not breaching up underwater is "remote" as it would have been travelling about 48km/h when it hit the seabed — with a force 30 000 times that of a car hitting a brick wall at the same speed.

They said water pressure would keep the oil in place and low temperatures 20km under the sea would freeze the oil. They assured the public

the tanker had probably reached the bottom in one piece.

Professor Tom Mason, Dr Peter Ramsay and Dr Alan Smith of the Geoscience Unit say that no matter how low the temperature, oil will rise to the surface if it leaks from ruptured tanks, as its density is less than sea water.

Considering the Katina P's hull condition, we believe that most of the oil tanks will be damaged, and that the ship will be an oil pollution source until her cargo disperses — the wreck still holds about 53 500 tonnes," said the marine geologists.

The Department of Environment Affairs has reported that about 500 tonnes of oil from the tanker has landed on SA beaches.

Oil from the Katina P is already killing seabirds but crabs are eating the sticky stuff. Oil-covered animals have been found along the South Coast at Pennington, Amanzimtoti and Basley.

only him to talk. Eventually you reach a situation where he understands you, and you him, and everyone calms down.

His father was a detective, and his eldest brother, Johannes, is assistant district police commissioner in Greytown, Natal; a younger brother is in the army. In his 18-year career Captain Du Plessis has policed trains from Krugersdorp to Merbank, Worcester to Ermelo, but Soweto is his most challenging assignment.

His staff say he is easy to work for, though many work the long hours — from 4am to 7pm — that he often puts in. He had no ter-

tiary education, though for a while he lectured in criminal law and police administration at the police college.

Despite his long hours, he obviously makes time for an active social life. Captain Du Plessis has been married three times. He and his third wife, Hannelle, have seven children.

After hours he devotes himself to his large family and dabbles in oil painting, engravings and calligraphy. "That is why I don't suffer from stress, when I'm doing those things I don't think of work."

Charlene Smith

AROUND

# Leaders are disappointed with Summit

Sowetan 15/6/92

**RIO DE JANEIRO - World leaders on Saturday said the Earth Summit had not lived up to its expectations, but still marked a historic change towards a safer and cleaner planet.**

"Expectations for this conference have not been fully met," Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif told a roundtable meeting of up to 100 world leaders.

"But we leave Rio with a new sense of urgency and purpose, determined to work for a more equitable and environmentally sound world order," Sharif said on behalf of Asian nations.

The roundtable meeting, called a unique gathering by Brazil's President Fernando Collor de Mello, was billed as leaders' only debate at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in contrast to formal conference speeches.

But with leaders on tight travel schedules, Collor de Mello selected five leaders as representative speakers; four from the developing world and one for industrialised states.

All echoed the same message - UNCED or the Earth Summit as it is known - did not achieve the dramatic changes needed to avoid global environmental and social dis-

aster.

But at least it has set world nations on the right track.

"UNCED has achieved a lot. It was historic in its importance but, I regret to say, it has also failed in some respects," said Botswana President Ketumile Masire, speaking for Africa.

More than 175 countries attended the summit, whose main achievements are a treaty to curb global warming and a biodiversity treaty to preserve the world's animals and plants.

The United States has been criticised for refusing to sign the climate treaty until it was watered down and precise targets for the emission of greenhouse gases were removed. It has also refused to sign the biodiversity treaty.

President George Bush was not at the meeting. Aides said he had not been scheduled to go due to his travel plans.

Developing nations have also been disappointed by low commitments by developed nations to fund environmentally acceptable development in the South.

"The elimination of poverty is a primary and formidable task before us," Sharif said. — Sapa-Reuter.

See also pages 9 and 11.

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 Your box 4

# Fine words, but little cash

*Sowetan 15/6/92* (56)

By DAVID LASCELLES and CHRISTINA LAMB  
In Rio de Janeiro

DOZENS of world leaders pledged their political backing yesterday for a global action plan to clean up the environment.

But they hung back from making the heavy financial commitments which the Earth Summit organisers said were needed to make it work.

As 117 heads of state and government gathered in the vast Riocentro to endorse a series of accords to put the world economy on a more sustainable path, their ministers were engaged in hectic last-minute negotiations to finalise agreements, including one to conserve the world's forests.

President George Bush challenged other nations to draft specific plans to implement the Earth Summit's global warming treaty and called for a global meeting on the issue before January.

He said: "We must leave this earth in better condition than we found it."

The two-day heads of state gathering, the largest of its kind, marked the end of the two-week summit which was supposed to put the environment at the top of

the political agenda.

But all the accords which were due to be agreed fell short of their original aims, although many political leaders stressed yesterday that Rio must mark a beginning not an end.

The summit opened amid expectations that industrial countries would pledge money to aid the poor south improve its environment, an issue which dominated the debate. But the rich countries made modest commitments, laying most of their stress on non-financial initiatives.

The first leader of these countries to speak was Mr John Major, the UK prime minister.

## Enlargement

He said he would support an enlargement of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the fund administered jointly by the UN and the World Bank to help the Third World from its present level of R3,51 billion to between R5,4 billion and R8,1 billion.

This would imply an increase in the UK's contribution from

R112 million to about R280 million. However, the UK had already announced that it would support an enlarged GEF.

Although Major said the UK would support other new initiatives, he declined to put any figures on them because the UK's next spending round had not been agreed.

Invoking the UK's strengths in scientific research, Major also announced a Darwin initiative to support studies of world species and habitats.

He said the UK would also hold a Global Technology Partnership conference early next year to improve access by developing countries to the UK's environmental technology.

Mr Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said Germany would support a GEF of just over R11,2 billion. But he cited the heavy cost of cleaning up East Germany for not making more general pledges of aid.

With the exception of a handful of smaller European countries, all the industrial nations are

resisting pressure from the Third World to pledge 0,7 percent of their GNP to aid by the year 2000.

Kohl only said Germany would do this as soon as possible, the form of words favoured by most industrial nations.

Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, the president of Portugal, which holds the EC presidency, said Community countries would give R11,2 billion to finance Agenda 21, the Earth Summit action plan extending into the next century.

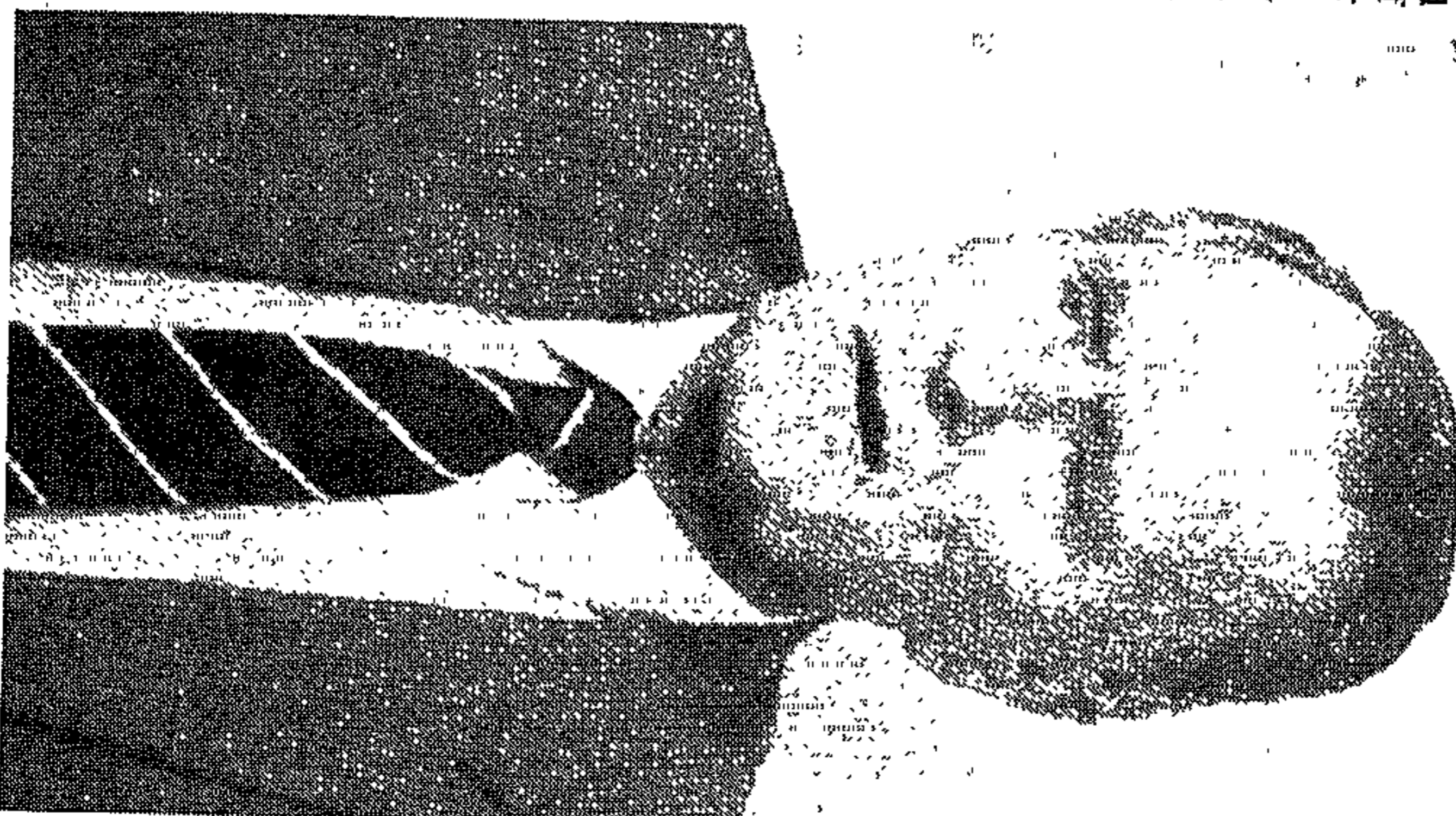
However, EC officials were unable to say how much of this represented new money.

## Commitment

The largest aid commitment is likely to come from Japan. Japanese officials have indicated that it may make a multi-year pledge of R14-28 billion.

However, all these sums fall far short of the R350 billion a year which the summit's UN organisers have said the Third World needs. This reinforced the sense of anti-climax yesterday.

But there was also a concerted effort to stress the positive. - Financial Times



GEORGE BUSH

# Indaba seeks drought aid solutions

By Julienne du Toit

Widely divergent organisations at the weekend put aside their differences to work out a national drought relief strategy.

The Rev Frank Chikane of the SA Council of Churches, who opened a conference on the drought at the University of the Witwatersrand, urged for solutions to avert possible mass starvation.

A food coupon system for the very poor might be implemented, he said.

Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu of the Independent Development Trust

(IDT) said funds available for drought relief were not adequate and the need to co-ordinate them was a major issue.

The drought should not be hijacked as a political issue, as this could only be counter-productive.

The conference, hosted by the IDT and the Kagiso Trust, included political organisations such as the ANC and IFP, various church groups, trade unions, government departments, homeland governments, embassies, agricultural unions and representatives from the business sector.

In total about 68 or-

ganisations, including Operation Hunger and World Vision, worked out a co-ordinating strategy between parties involved in drought relief.

The conference set up a consultative forum of about 30 members, with a national steering committee, which will meet soon.

Consultative council priorities were:

- To fit drought relief into longer-term development planning, especially at regional level.

- The current commercial agricultural sector should not be propped up

by drought relief.

- Aid that farmers got specifically for farmworkers should be subject to control by representative drought committees.

- Existing protocols between the Government and self-governing states regarding water planning and provision should be reviewed.

The consultative forum's functions would be to exchange information between participating organisations, match needs with resources, establish priorities, and lobby for aid internationally and nationally.

# Agreement on resources

(56) CT 15/6/92

## 178 world leaders sign action plan

RIO DE JANEIRO. — Leaders of 178 countries yesterday concluded the largest summit ever held by signing Agenda 21, an 800 page action plan for protecting the world's natural resources, and began a political process which is to be followed up by a new UN body.

A deal was finally agreed on financing the package of measures which, while it put no additional resources on the table for developing countries, said that the UN aid target of seven percent of GNP should be reached as soon as possible.

The Earth Summit was able to agree on all its agenda items, including a watered-down set of principles for the management of the world's forests.

The spirit of the summit, enshrined in the Rio Declaration on sustainable development and Agenda 21, will now be

taken forward by the UN Sustainable Development Commission, to be set up by the General Assembly later this year.

The commission will be responsible for encouraging countries to produce national plans for alleviating poverty, battling pollution and overpopulation, and implementing proper accounting procedures to show the decline of non-renewable resources in their national budgets.

The commission will have about 50 members, representing different regions of the world, and including representatives from the World Bank,

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund.

Other achievements of the summit include: Conventions on reducing the impact of climate change and on protecting the widest range of life forms — bio-diversity — which by yesterday had been signed by 150 and 152 countries respectively.

Negotiators also agreed the first authoritative global consensus on a set of principles for managing the world's forests. They failed to reach agreement on a timetable for turning these principles into a

convention, but a forest convention is expected to be a priority goal of the new Sustainable Development Commission.

The forest principles say that countries should retain as much of their forest cover as possible and manage it on sustainable lines. They provide for aid to be given to bring about good forestry practices.

The summit also agreed on the first steps towards the setting up of a convention on preventing the spread of deserts.

The summit also agreed that there should be an international conference on the state of the world's fish stocks.

Ministers and heads of government yesterday signed the Rio Declaration, which establishes the idea of sustainable development as the future basis of international trade, taxation and regulation to protect the environment. — Daily Telegraph

# African states scramble to lure foreign tourists

(56) GAVIN DU VENAGE (2222)

AFRICA was spending vast sums of money developing a tourism infrastructure and was becoming more desirable as a destination, the German magazine Afrika-Post reported recently. *5/10 day 16/6/92*

It said tourism was likely to topple the motor industry from its international number one spot. African countries were scrambling to get a piece of the market.

The payoff had been a doubling of German tourist travel to Africa between 1987 and 1990.

Seychelles had made itself particularly attractive, drawing 90 000 holidaymakers annually, almost all from Europe.

Countries along the Mediterranean coast had always proven popular. Visitors to Morocco increased 48% in 1991, but more and more tourists were heading south of the Sahara, the magazine said.

The Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Gabon and Cameroon had tourism industries that were close behind traditional foreign exchange earners such as sugar and textile production. Even SA, "the only industrial country on the continent", was recognising the importance of tourism for economic growth, Afrika-Post said.

An indication of the importance African countries were giving tourism, was the creation of new ministries devoted exclusively to the industry and an increasing environmental sensitivity to hordes of visitors.

Tanzania had earmarked a third of its territory for reserves and nature parks, and planned to spend \$70m on building and renovating hotels. It hoped to treble the size of its tourist industry.

Ghana and Togo were also developing tourist infrastructures. Senegal had billed itself as "the gateway to Africa".

SA was the fourth highest earner of foreign exchange from tourism in Africa.

Tunisia was way ahead of the rest, earning DM736m in September last year.

Kenya was the top sub-Saharan tourist earner on DM185m. SA earned DM133m in that period.

# SA takes small step on hazardous waste

By Julienne du Toit

South Africa generates 2 million tons of hazardous waste every year and the country has no laws or strategy for handling it.

Last Friday, however, the CSIR handed over a five-volume document on the state of hazardous waste in South Africa.

Morkel Steyn of the Department of Environment Affairs, which commissioned the report, said he hoped that within two years laws would be promulgated governing the dumping, handling and transporta-

tion of hazardous waste.

The report, which focused on mining and industrial waste, pointed no fingers at any industry, said Dr Graham Noble of the CSIR.

This was partly because of a law which does not allow citizens to know what industries are polluting their water, air or ground, or with what substances. And many industries co-operated with the CSIR on the report on condition that specific facts remained secret. But the report found that:

● Of all the areas of environmental management in South Africa, waste management has received least attention.

● There is almost no transport management of hazardous waste. Malpractice is common.

● There is a shortage of waste disposal sites, and hazardous waste is sometimes disposed of at sites not suited for the purpose. At more than half the sites inspected, conditions could lead to contamination.

● Waste treatment facilities are the exception rather than the rule, and are, in most cases, fairly primitive.

● The majority of the companies who generate the most hazardous waste spend the minimum on waste management.

● South Africa's interna-

tional trade could be harmed if the management of hazardous waste does not improve.

● The gold mining industry is the biggest generator of hazardous waste, producing about a million tons a year. The non-metallurgical manufacturing industries are next, with 0,45 million tons, followed by the metal and metallurgical industries (0,33 million tons) and electricity producers (less than 0,01 million tons).

The CSIR said a regulatory system for hazardous waste is needed.

It recommended that the policy be based on the principle of "the polluter pays".

(56) STAR 16/6/92

# Rio: one step down a long road

STAR 16/6/92

(56)

NICHOLAS SCHOON reports from Rio de Janeiro.

THE FINALE of the Earth Summit on Sunday leaves the pressure groups who came to Rio, and who did so much to set the conference's agenda, in an awkward position.

The environmentalists and organisations that campaign against Third World poverty are deeply disappointed. They never had very high hopes and now feel they were right not to.

Privately, some of the participants regard the conference as an almost obscene waste of time and money.

But they are glad the summit did get some of their issues aired — even if the public became a little confused about what was actually meant to happen in Rio and why it was taking so long.

The pressure groups cannot afford to be pessimistic or defeatist — that would not help their cause. So they have to accept that the summit is only one step on a long road.

About 1300 members of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were accredited to attend the summit. Many were part of national delegations. In Rio, thousands more — including some bizarre fringe groups — flocked to the Global Forum, which was intended to be an alternative, all-NGO summit.

That is not being regarded as a success, either. It spent two weeks fighting off bankruptcy

and allegations of financial malpractice.

Meanwhile, the real summit failed to tackle the issues which the pressure groups see as of great importance — Third World debt, unfair terms of trade for poor countries, and large increases in overseas aid.

"We need a paradigm shift," said Jeremy Leggett, science director of Greenpeace. "I saw no sign of that happening in Rio. Of course, we have to welcome any progress, but it has been microscopic."

Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth

UK, said: "The Earth Summit has exposed the enormous gulf that lies between what the public want and what their leaders are willing to do."

Joan Davidson, Oxfam's policy director, who was part of the UK delegation, pointed out that Third World aid was a fraction of the debt payments that developing countries were paying back. "What we need is a massive and immediate debt reduction to stop the haemorrhage of money from the poor south to the rich north."

T J Glauthier, a lobbyist with the US arm of the World Wide Fund for Nature, was more optimistic. "This conference established a lot of momentum," he said. — The Independent News Service. □



# Kaolin: 'New era' in mining

MICHAEL MORRIS  
Political Correspondent

5b  
16/6/92  
STRINGENT environmental conditions at the developing Noordhoek kaolin mine introduced a new era in mining rehabilitation and could turn South Africa into a world leader.

This is the view of the National Party MP for Caledon and chairman of the Joint Committee on Environment, Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Lampie Fick.

While acknowledging that action groups had made a substantial contribution to generating greater sensitivity on the issue, Mr Fick warned "emotional supporters of action

groups" to consider an alternative to the "misplaced belief that there is a choice between economy and environment".

An awareness of the need for a balance between the two was needed.

He said the perceived choice between the economy and the environment "might turn out to be an illusion with awesome consequences for job creation and poverty in the Western Cape, for which such action groups will assume no responsibility".

"The strict conditions for mining in Noordhoek might become a model in the hands of balanced environmentalists in the monitoring committee."

## Kaolin conditions <sup>or 16/1/82</sup> 'model'

THE strict conditions laid down for the mining of kaolin on Chapman's Peak introduced a new era in mining rehabilitation in which South Africa could become a world leader, the Nationalist MP for Caledon, Mr Lampie Fick, said yesterday.

Mr Fick, chairman of the joint parliamentary committee on environmental affairs, said the strong conditions for mining at Noordhoek could become an environmental "model instrument".

Action group supporters should find an alternative to a misplaced belief that there was a choice between the economy and environment (5b)

# Noxious gas level above average

*B/Daw 16/6/92*  
 SA accounted for 1,6% of the world's carbon dioxide released through the burning of coal and other fuels, an Environmental Affairs report said at the Rio de Janeiro Earthlife Summit last week.

The report said SA emitted about 308-million tons of carbon dioxide a year which was about twice the world per capita average. However, the amount of CFCs dropped from 13 195 tons in 1986 to 10 223 tons in 1989 forming 1% of the world total.

Total emissions included 3-million tons sulphur dioxide and 890 000 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.

The report, also referred to socio-economic problems and unviable farming lands, high malnutrition levels, increasing poverty and a 27% increase in food demand in the coming decade.

Of the 101-million ha used for agriculture, only 17-million were considered arable. Of these, 14-million were cultivated and only 1,2-million were under irrigation.

There were only 250 000ha of indigenous forest, mostly in small scattered patches and SA was threatened by desertification.

*(S6)*  
 KARIN FRANKEN

Karoo scrubland had expanded more than 140km during the century. Scrubland growth was aggravated by overgrazing and the invasion of Karoo vegetation.

"Invasive plants have infested about 4-million ha and pose serious threats to the ecosystem stability in some areas."

Statistics gathered by the department indicated soil was being eroded at a rate of 300-million to 400-million tons annually.

The report expected waste disposal would become a major concern of municipal and mining authorities. SA produced 428-million tons of waste annually. Mining contributed the most while domestic refuse totalled 6-million tons.

Marine resources and coastline conservation had suffered severe harm during the past three decades.

The report warned that frequent oil slicks and spills on SA's coastline constantly threatened its ecosystem. Stormwater run-off from metropolitan areas was another major source of pollution.

er 16/6/92  
**Forty oily  
penguins  
rescued** (5)

FORTY oil-soaked jack-ass penguins were brought to the Rietvlei Sea Bird Centre in Table View in poor condition last night.

Sanccob Foundation public relations officer Ms Sannette van der Mescht said the origin of the oil spill which had contaminated the penguins, who breed on Dyer Island, could not be traced.

She said 43 penguins had been brought to the centre last week, adding that the oil slick seemed to occur every year at this time.

Colin Legum reports on relations between developing countries and oil multi-nationals

# EC may promote oil industry

STAR 16/6/92

**T**HE European Community commissioned a series of studies covering the possibilities of its co-operation in promoting the oil industry with the 69 members of its associates in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific area (ACP), the environmental case against the oil industry, and the relationship between developing countries and multinational oil companies.

A survey of the oil industry and of its potential for development in the ACP shows that only 12 produce any oil. Nine of these are in West Africa (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Zaire). The remaining three are Caribbean countries (Barbados, Suriname and Trinidad/Tobago).

Exploration for oil and gas has been carried out in a number of other ACPs, more recently in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The most important recent discoveries have been in Papua New Guinea. Nigeria is the giant of the ACP in the oil sector, producing

almost 1.5 m barrels a day. Just over 2 percent of the world's known oil reserves are to be found in ACP countries. Their production represents less than 4 percent of total world output.

The possibility of EC-ACP co-operation in oil development to the benefit of both is explored in a paper by Rui Alvim de Faria. He suggests that a solution might begin by setting up a new economic partnership in which the Europe-ACP oil industry trio would work for the consolidation of EC interests and ACP reconstruction.

The advantage to the ACP oil exporters is that their cyclical and structural problems would be eased in the medium and the long term. There would be a snowball effect vis-a-vis the neighbouring countries within the group.

Maria Kielmas, an independent analyst who specialises in the oil sector, writes critically of the problems of oil development in the Third World. She argues that for the developing nations the last 30 years have been an aberration

in their approach to the oil industry. She writes:

"There are two ways in which governments can build up an oil industry in their countries; through foreign investment and by encouraging their own nationals to start up companies. These days, the only substantial foreign investment in Third World countries comes from oil and mining companies. They do so because the political risk of investing potentially huge funds in a country with a short constitutional history is offset by that country's petroleum or mining legislation. This effectively overrides national law in such matters as foreign exchange controls, profits, repatriation and arbitration of disputes.

"Such is the competition these days for investment funds, that companies in some parts of Africa are able to write their own terms. They expect new governments installed after civil wars to honour contracts signed with them by the deposed administrations, something known as 'sanctity of con-

tract', otherwise they will walk away. No one is interested in investing purely for the sake of worldwide democracy."

She concludes that in countries with little or no oil, new local supplies are an obvious life-saver

"The solution is clear. What is needed is a more realistic adoption of the currently much discussed idea of self-sufficiency. A country's economic wellbeing depends first and foremost on its own people investing in it, starting perhaps first by repatriating flight capital, then foreign investment follows. Oil development needs the kind of funding most African countries do not possess, but the principle is the same."

Dr Jeremy Leggett of Greenpeace — a former geologist at the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London, and a former oil consultant in Britain, Japan and Pakistan — expresses the viewpoint of environmentalists.

He writes that environment-dictated energy conservation and fuel-switching drives are on the

way in the 1990s, and that societal feedbacks may, in short order, come to impose the management of a paradigm shift on the energy industry and policy makers. Seeds of encouragement for the optimist abound.

For example, of the 23 industrialised OECD countries, 22 have accepted that there is a severe policy problem with global warming, to the extent of having agreed targets and deadlines for either freezing or cutting carbon dioxide emissions. The exception is the United States. He goes on to say:

"The corollary is that the long-term winners in the oil business will be those with the prescience today to see the writing on the greenhouse wall. The admission to the Royal Society of Chemistry by Sir John Cardogan, BP's director of research, that if solar technology breakthroughs continue at their present pace, water, not oil, will be the fuel of the future, is but the tip of the iceberg of the corporate changes that are inevitable, one way or the other."

Looking at the future of Ango-

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Agum reports on relations between developing countries and oil multi-nationals

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STAR 16/6/92

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la's oil industry. Alexandra Pégado points out that, as the only major producer of oil in the Southern African Development Co-operation Conference (SADCC), the country can play a key role in the region's economic development.

He points out that Angola has a high level of production and produces light crude which fits in with the needs of the region. The transport routes involved are short, communications are good and prices are competitive. The same opportunities exist for Angola in South Africa.

The possibility of using the African can refineries to process Angolan oil for use in the SADC region may prove to be an interesting option.

Another interesting aspect, he writes, is the possibility of co-operation with neighbouring countries, Namibia and Zambia, in the exploration of oil basins which extend across the national boundaries, using the principle of international utilisation agreements. □

# SAA boosts <sup>(5b)</sup> wildlife trust by R500 000

<sup>ARG 17/6/92</sup>  
DURBAN. — The African Wildlife Heritage Trust has been boosted by a South African Airways donation of R500 000 for wildlife preservation.

A statement said the donation was in line with SAA's conviction that governments, big business and the public were responsible for preserving Southern Africa's wildlife heritage.

The gift was received by representatives of the Southern African Nature Foundation and the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation who will benefit.

The AWHT has already helped these organisations with numerous projects, including the establishment of a nature reserve in the Eastern Cape Baviaanskloof area, environment management programmes on Madagascar and Mozambique's Bazaruto Island, a series of conservation lectures, work on the huge "Peace Park" involving Mozambique and the Kruger National Park and a project aimed at preserving Botswana's Okavango delta. — Sapa.

# Kaolin boss battles with protesters

Staff Reporter

THE chairman of Serina Mining, Mr Klaus Zirker, was shouted down several times during a live SATV programme when he tried to convince a Fish Hoek audience that kaolin mining in the Noordhoek valley was desirable. Mr Zirker, together with Mr Ian Brownlie of the Save Chap-

man's Peak Action Group (SAG) appeared last night on the "Firing Line" programme broadcast from a packed Fish Hoek civic centre.

The audience indicated by a show of hands that a big majority was against kaolin mining. A significant part of the crowd were Serina employees and a fair num-

ber supported mining.

One of the audience asked Mr Zirker how he could justify the mine "to a world that doesn't need you and a smaller community that patently doesn't want you".

Serina would "leave the area in a better condition than it is now," Mr Zirker said to loud groans and

boos from the crowd.

Asked why Serina wanted to proceed with mining in Noordhoek when there were so many other kaolin deposits, Mr Zirker said that the Noordhoek kaolin deposits were of a very high grade not found elsewhere.

Mr Brownlie said the Peninsula did not have heavy industries,

gold or diamond deposits but that its wealth was in the beaches, sea and mountains. To have a mine the size of six rugby fields scar-ring the mountain was unacceptable, he said to applause.

He also said that the heavy industrial nature of the mine in a rural and semi-agricultural area

was undesirable.

A Serina employee asked Mr Brownlie if SAG would provide jobs for the more than 900 Serina employees if mining was not allowed.

Mr Brownlie replied that while SAG was sensitive to this issue a government white paper had

identified tourism as the main industry in the Western Cape.

The question of the Serina employees therefore had to be looked at in the broader context as thousands of jobs would be lost if the despoiling of the environment were to be allowed to continue.

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# 40 oil-covered penguins brought in from island

SORCHA VASEY  
Staff Reporter

ARG 17/6/92

BLACKENED by oil and weak from hunger, 40 jackass penguins are waiting patiently for members of Sanncoob to nurse them back to health.

A Sea Fisheries boat brought the birds from Dyer Island, near Gansbaai, to the coastal bird conservation organisation's rehabilitation station in Table View this week.

They will stay there for about six weeks until their weight increases and they have recovered enough to be released.

"We will have to force-feed the birds or they will starve. Some of them have lost a lot of weight and are in a serious condition," said station manager Mrs Carol Walton.

The birds are washed by hand in a strong detergent and hot water. Some are washed several times to remove hard patches of oil.

"When we get large groups of birds we rely on volunteers

to wash them," Mrs Walton said.

The centre gets one or two oiled birds every day throughout the year, but in winter the birds arrive in big batches.

"We get large groups of oiled birds from Dyer Island every winter. No one knows why it happens, but every winter numbers increase dramatically," she said.

More than 40 birds were brought from Dyer Island last week and more are expected this week. About 300 were brought from Dyer Island between June and August, 1990.

"When the birds are covered in oil they lose their waterproofing and can drown. They have to leave the water and often starve unless they are cleaned," Mrs Walton said.

"The birds are traumatised but they will eventually be released on Robben Island."

Six birds from a previous batch of oiled birds were released on Robben Island yesterday.

Argus.  
ydom

in other countries ~~that are~~ just as high as ours [Interjections.]

†Dr P J GOUS Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon Minister that we are, indeed, a highly taxed country, is it not wise, at this early stage, to give the economy an indication that he is not going to use this source of income as a basis to plan what his expenditure will be, and that he has already decided to live within limited sources of income? Can the present income be sufficient for that or not? [Interjections.] Does he not want to give the taxpayer in this country such an indication at this stage?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I did not confirm that we are a highly taxed country. I only confirmed that our taxation is not low. [Interjections.] At this stage it would be completely premature to give the taxpayer any indication at all. It is far too early in the budget year. [Interjections.]

### Research on greenhouse effect

\*3. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether any research has been done in connection with the influence of the greenhouse effect on weather and/or climatic conditions in Southern Africa, if so, what are the findings in respect of the incidence of drought conditions in Southern Africa,
- (2) whether South Africa will make any contributions or have any contributions made on the greenhouse effect at the Earth Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992; if not, why not; if so, what will the nature of these contributions be?

B752E

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes; South Africa has an active programme of research on global environmental change which addresses the greenhouse effect and the possible influence thereof on terrestrial and marine systems, water resources, agriculture and forestry. Several State departments, universities and other research bodies are involved in this research. Preliminary results suggest that

some parts of South Africa could become drier, other parts wetter, under conditions of climate warming. However, there remains much uncertainty about global warming and its consequences.

- (2) No. South Africa was not officially represented at the Earth Conference in Rio de Janeiro and therefore could not make contributions on any subject at that conference. South Africa, however, made a contribution beforehand in the form of the report: *'Building the foundation for sustainable development in South Africa'*—pp 78-80 and p 109 of this report refer to the greenhouse effect.

†Mr J CHIOLE: My Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, in view of the research that has been done and the acknowledgement that certain areas will become drier and that certain areas may become wetter, are those findings sent to the various agricultural unions before the time or on an annual basis, in order to enable them to report back to the farmers in that area?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have already told the hon member that this research is very preliminary. It is not conclusive and it would be misleading to relay this information to the different agricultural unions.

†Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, I would like to know from him what amount South Africa spends on this research annually.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, if the hon member will have the question put onto the Question Paper, I shall reply to it later.

### Number of self-defence units: ANC

\*4 Mr C E HERTZOG asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

- (1) Whether the South African Police has any information on the number of self-defence units established in the Republic by the ANC to date; if so,
- (2) whether he will disclose this information, if not, why not; if so, (a) how many such units are there in the Republic and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

- (3) whether the Government intends taking any steps in respect of these units; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when? B756E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The South African Police is aware of the existence of eighty five (85) units in the Republic of South Africa
- (b) 5 June 1992
- (3) (a) and (b)

No steps have been taken against the self-defence units, as no law makes provision for such action. However, steps are being taken against individual members of the units who commit criminal offences.

†Mr C E HERTZOG: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, does he not think that it is a dangerous situation that is developing?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, there are several organizations that we regard as dangerous and that may become dangerous. This is just one. We also regard the Wenkcommandos and the Ystergarde, of whom the hon member is, no doubt, aware, as dangerous. [Interjections.]

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*

### Task force to Zaire

\*5. Mr W A BOTHA asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether the government sent a task force to Zaire during the past year to renovate certain naval bases in that country, if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) what naval bases and (d) what was the cost involved;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B757E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) and (2) No.

### Buying-up of smuggled weapons

\*6. Mr W A BOTHA asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether the Government has voted any money for the buying-up of arms smuggled into South Africa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what amount was voted for this purpose and (b) in respect of what date or period is this information furnished.

gled into South Africa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) what amount was voted for this purpose and (b) in respect of what date or period is this information furnished.

- (2) whether such arms are being bought-up so that they may not reach *inter alia* the ANC; if not, why are they being bought up;
- (3) whether the Government intends taking any steps in respect of the brokers and buyers of such arms; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B758E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Money has not been voted for the SA Defence Force for the buying-up of smuggled arms. There is, however, a fund which is used to reward persons for handing in arms
- (2) and (3) fall away.
- (4) No

SADF involvement in death of two persons: Noenleput

\*7. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Defence:†

- (1) Whether he will furnish information on whether any members of the South African Defence Force were in any way involved in an incident during which two persons, whose names have been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, were killed at or near Noenleput in the Kalahari in November 1991; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what way and (b) what are the names of these two persons;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B768E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) The SA Defence Force was not involved in the incident.
- (2) No.

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Mrs Pare has long experience of floral presenta-  
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Queen when she celebrated her 21st birthday in  
Cape Town during the royal tour in 1947.

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# 'Early days' on kaolin plan

56 AUG 18/6/92

Municipal Reporter

SPECULATION on the Western Cape Regional  
Services Council's attitude to kaolin mining in  
Noordhoek is premature, says chairman Mr Pietie  
Loubser and land use planning committee chair-  
man Mr Clive Keegan.

In a joint statement they said no final decision  
had been taken on the matter.

The RSC was waiting for legal opinion from se-  
nior counsel on whether Serina had to apply to the  
council for permission to use the area for mining.  
The matter would be considered once the legal  
opinion was available, they said.

Vineyard Co.

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CT 18/6/92

# Coalition sets off for the 'war-zone'

A COALITION of 12 environmental groups and residents' associations has been formed to challenge the proposed re-zoning of Extension 7, Zone C in Fish Hoek. They will hold a meeting in the Fish Hoek Senior High School hall tonight at 7.30pm.  
Mr Wouter van Warmelo of the Habitat Council

will chair the meeting while the coalition and the municipality will each give a presentation. The developers have also been asked to address the meeting.

Afterwards, a panel including an ecologist and an earth scientist will answer questions.

The coalition includes the Botanical Society of South Africa, the Cape Wetlands Trust, the Silvermine River Society, Captrust, Fish Hoek Alien Vegetation Control Group and the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

Approval was recently granted for rezoning for development on the land which falls within the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment.

Mr Andy Gubb of the Wildlife Society said one of the tasks of the Silvermine Valley Coalition was to ensure that a broad spectrum of the public was involved and "contributes significantly in the decision-making process which determines land-use planning and development in the Southern Peninsula".

For more information, call Mrs Kim Kruyshaar on (021) 782-2192.

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# It is time that we cleaned up our act

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*Sowetan 18/6/92*  
LAST week there was a massive gathering of the nations in Rio de Janeiro to discuss and debate the earth's environment and to seek ways of protecting it.

Man has been guilty of pollution of the earth for thousands of years. However, the level of this pollution has risen sharply since the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century and, in particular, since the invention at the turn of the century of internal combustion which today powers all those minibus taxis which pollute the air with fumes and our ears with noise.

In the former communist states of Eastern Europe, the environment has been wrecked by inefficient factories daily spewing forth filth into the air in the vain pursuit of some mad five-year plan designed by some apparatchik who had never been near a mill or a furnace.

## Debris of human activity

Here in South Africa we have our own environmental problems that urgently need to be addressed.

One of these problems which I cannot remember seeing addressed anywhere is that of littering. All over our country the streets, pavements, gutters and passageways are strewn with the debris of human activity.

Plastic bags, old newspapers, bottles, tin cans, half-eaten food . . . the list goes on of items which our people seem to feel free to drop anywhere they choose, which is quite often close to an empty and convenient rubbish bin.

What is it that makes people disregard the cleanliness of their surroundings? Were we not taught that cleanliness is next to Godliness? My Oxford English dictionary tells me that litter is "Odds and ends, fragments and leavings lying about, rubbish; a state of confusion or untidiness; a disorderly accumulation of things lying about." Sounds just like Jeppe Street.

**The STEVE MULHOLLAND Column**



In many countries it is a serious offence to litter. In California the fine is US \$500 or almost R1 500 in our shrinking currency. If you so much as throw a matchbox in the gutter you are liable to be quickly apprehended and dealt with by the law.

Surely we should be proud of the streets of our cities just as we are of the living rooms in our homes.

There is no excuse for littering. It is as bad environmentally as a factory belching sulphur into the air. We should each of us resolve not to litter and to discourage others from doing so. This would be an easy way to make a valuable contribution to the New South Africa. Let's clean up our act.

# 'Abuses' in hazardous waste transport found

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

ROUTINE abuses occur during the transport of hazardous waste in South Africa and more than half the country's disposal sites could contaminate the environment.

These are among the findings of a 2½-year study by the Foundation for Research Development and the CSIR on behalf of the Department of Environment Affairs.

The study, formally handed over recently, was commissioned after a major controversy over plans to establish a R400 million plant for processing local and imported waste at Alexander Bay in the Northern Cape.

About two million tons of hazardous waste, including a wide range of non-radioactive byproducts from chemical and manufacturing processes, were produced in South Africa each year, the study found.

About half is generated by the gold mining industry followed by non-metallurgical manufacturing industries (450 000 tons), metal and metallurgical industries (330 000 tons) and electricity producers (less than 10 000 tons).

The study says waste pro-

cessing plants are the exception rather than the rule in South Africa and processing is mostly conducted in a "relatively primitive manner".

Among its main findings are:

- There is a shortage of waste disposal sites and some waste is disposed of at unsuitable sites;

- Most generators of hazardous waste spend a minimum on waste management;

- Of all areas of environmental management in South

Africa, hazardous waste has received the least attention; and

- Some South African industries have lost markets because of their inability to comply with clients' requirements for proper waste practices.

The study found that a proper regulatory system was urgently needed and said the most urgent problems of hazardous waste disposal had to be tackled immediately.

It recommended that legislation for a regulatory system be implemented urgently and that

policies be based on the "polluter pays" principle.

"Accountability for the results of carelessness or malpractices must be laid at least partly at the door of the polluter, even if the waste or the site concerned has already changed hands," the report recommended.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said the study would enable his department to tackle the disposal of hazardous waste effectively.

## Penguins: Oil being tested

SAMPLES of the oil found on penguins earlier this week were sent to the Sea Fisheries Department yesterday for analysis.

However, a spokeswoman said it would be "difficult to pin-point the oil to any specific vessel which might have passed South Africa".

If weather conditions improve, more oil-covered penguins are expected to be brought to the Rietvlei Sea Bird Centre in Table View from Dyer Island today. About 40 penguins were taken to the centre earlier this week.

# Boost for measure to stop wetland mining

CAPE TOWN — In a breakthrough for those opposed to the mining of St Lucia's eastern shores, independent MP and ANC member Rob Haswell's private member's Bill designed to outlaw wetlands mining has been given a green light.

Haswell's Wetlands Conservation Bill — specifically designed to prevent mining at St Lucia's dunes — was unanimously supported by Parliament's joint committee on private member's legislation.

It will now go to the departments of Environment Affairs and Mineral and Energy Affairs for consideration and possible amendment.

An elated Haswell said after the committee meeting: "The concept of conserving the wetlands received the support of all the political parties represented in each of the three Houses.

"With the prospect of Parliament reconvening in October, there is therefore a further 11th-hour opportunity for Parliament, and government in particular, to enact the legislation necessary to prohibit mining at St Lucia and thus protect an international asset."

Haswell has pointed out that even if the environmental impact assessment currently being undertaken at St Lucia found the mining to be undesirable, there was still no legislation to prohibit it.

The Natal MP said he was grateful for the support his Bill received from Rupert Lorimer, DP MP for Bryans-

ton, and Joseph Chiolo, CP MP for Pretoria West, in the committee.

He urged "all South Africans who care deeply about our environment and St Lucia to contact their MPs or political organisations and indicate their support".

Sapa reports that Chiolo said the development and marketing of St Lucia as "a second Kruger National Park" would mean more foreign exchange, prestige and job opportunities for SA than unsightly and environmentally damaging mining.

He said the CP had reaffirmed its view in the joint parliamentary committee meeting yesterday that legislation should be introduced to prohibit any mining activity in the vicinity of wetlands designated by the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance.

It appeared that all parties supported this proposal with the exception of a few people in the National Party, who favoured the development of the area.

Chiolo pointed out that the Kriel report had recommended in 1966 that a policy of nature conservation should be pursued in the St Lucia area — long before the allocation of prospecting and mining rights to Richards Bay Minerals.

He said the CP renewed its call on government to regard St Lucia as unassailable and to take steps to ensure it was protected.

Political Staff

B/Daw 18/6/92 (56) (11)



## Kaolin: RSC statement

THE RSC is awaiting legal opinion from senior counsel on the application by Serina to start kaolin mining in Noordhoek. (5) CT 18/6/92

This was said in a joint statement released by Mr P J Loubser, chairman of the Western Cape RSC, and Mr Clive Keegan, chairman of the council's land use planning committee.

The statement follows "divergent interpretations" that have been put on the RSC's position.

The council admits that the commit-

tee for land use planning has commented on the conditions imposed on issuing the permit but says that this was done "in general and purely for noting by the above department".

Unfortunately the comment did not reach the department before the permit was issued.

The statement added that the feasibility of "such activities has not been debated by either this council or any of its committees; therefore, no final decision has as yet been taken".

# Major payroll cuts at Eskom on the cards

55  
CT 18/6/92  
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Eskom reduced the voluntary retirement age of its employees to 45 years from 50 years ahead of what unions believe are imminent major payroll cuts.

The offer is generally available to employees with at least ten years' service.

National Union of Metalworkers of SA national organiser Tony Kgobe said it had been estimated Eskom planned to cut employee numbers to 33 000 over the next five years. At the end of 1991 the electricity utility's payroll totalled just fewer than 47 000, down from 65 000 in 1987.

Eskom spokesman Bongani Khumalo acknowledged yesterday that Eskom had surplus staff on its payroll, but added that redundant employees who did not volunteer for early re-trenchment would not be made to go. Final numbers had not yet been decided on and re-trenchment proposals would be put to the trade unions once this had happened.

Another spokesman said talks with unions were scheduled for July.

Last week messages were sent to the computer screens of the utility's generation division warning of possible redundancies and assuring workers that Eskom would act compassionately and provide all possible assistance to those under threat.

The 10-year service period could include bonus service and any potential service that the employer wished to award the worker.

# Eskom set to go ahead with zero-coupon issue

55  
APR 18/6/92

JOHANNESBURG. — State-owned electricity utility Eskom would go ahead with its planned zero-coupon bond issue despite the government's poor showing this week in bringing its RSA issue to the market, Eskom treasury manager Willem Kok said today.

Mr Kok said the issue would take place on July 1, but no minimum prices would be set as was the case in the government issue.

The government issued only R130 million worth of zero-coupon bonds out of a total of R600 million offered in five and seven-year paper.

Analysts said the RSA zero-coupon issue was overpriced, as was indicated in the poor response from the market.

They said government pension fund administrator the Public Investment Commissioner (PIC) was more than likely responsible for taking up the bulk of the issued R130 million.

"We don't believe in setting minimum prices," Mr Kok said.

Also, he said, the issue was not necessarily being undertaken to raise money, but to meet market demand.

Further details of the open-ended issue would be announced on June 29, Mr Kok said. — Reuter.

**EARTH SUMMIT: Report from Rio**

# Beyond the non-plans to save our planet

*While the Earth Summit in Brazil may have failed to deliver the goods, organisations at the unofficial summit went ahead and drew up their own treaties. By JAN ROCHA in Rio de Janeiro*

**D**ISAPPOINTED with the results of the official talks, thousands of environmental and anti-poverty organisations from all over the world have been drawing up their own blueprints for saving the planet.

To show how and why they disagree with what has emerged from the official talks, the organisations at the unofficial summit — the Global Forum — have drawn up 33 treaties.

"The treaties are designed as working documents for a post-summit era. The whole undertaking has been done because people feel there is no meat or substance in the government process," said Hector Soliman, from a Philippines conservation movement.

The treaties set out alternative proposals for subjects dealt with at the official summit — climate change, forests, biodiversity, and the financing of environmental protection and development. They also look at issues such as military spending, the role of transnational corporations, the right to food, and environmental education.

They talk about "ecological debt", using language normally applied to the financial debt owed to the rich nations by the developing countries. The ecological creditors are the ethnic groups, communities, countries or regions affected by the exhaustion of resources, and the ecological debtors are those responsible for environmental and social deterioration.



UN police arrest a demonstrator protesting against United States environmental policies ... or lack thereof

Photo: AP

The treaty on fresh water suggests a "holistic" approach. "All inhabitants of the world should be guaranteed equitable access to potable water and sanitation as a fundamental right ... short-term solutions that aim to privatise and fragment the hydrological cycle worsen the existing situation."

Another treaty deals with food security: the right of everyone to enough food. It says that dramatic increases in food production have not led to less hunger and quotes Food and Agricultural Organisation estimates of more than 15-million

deaths due to hunger-related problems in rural areas of the developing world in 1990.

The treaty proposes that food security can be achieved by a mixture of self-reliance through fairer access to resources such as land, credit and information, and less concentrated trade practices.

"Four multinational corporations control 90 percent of the world's trade in cereals," it says.

A simultaneous and rapid reduction of arms spending in all countries is proposed, with

resources transferred to meet human and environmental needs.

The many women's organisations which met in Rio during the official summit drew up their own declaration, which blames poverty on economic policies. Women from industrialised countries disagreed with those from the developing world on the population issue, but said they had reached a broad consensus on all other questions. — The Guardian

## Losers ... but not all was lost

*Vested economic interests prevented any significant moves at the Earth Summit to address the underlying issues of environmental degradation and the United Nation's intended "fundamental shift of resources" from rich to poor never stood a chance. By JOHN VIDAL in Rio de Janeiro*

### THE WINNERS

**Biodiversity:** Weak but legal agreement reached on protecting plants and species. The United States refuses to sign. Success will depend on how far developing countries are paid to protect their resources.

**Climate Change:** Legally-binding treaty to avoid global warming now signed by 110 countries but weakened by the US which refused to allow timetables and targets. Most countries are politically committed to holding atmospheric emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Scientists say that 60 percent reductions are needed immediately.

**Desertification:** Late agreement reached on the need for a future convention to protect arid lands. This was a sop to African countries who received little from the conference. A convention will eventually commit more world aid to affected countries.

**Agenda 21:** The 800-page blueprint of action to lead development into environmentally sound areas was agreed to and retains a series of admirable guidelines for governments to adopt at their own pace.

It covers everything from population strategies to the disposal of hazardous waste, recycling and the role of unions and women in environment and development. Success depends on funding and political commitment.

The proposals are not legally binding and are therefore easily avoided.

**Free Trade:** The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) was the winner after all attempts to have trade put on the summit agenda were rebuffed and no direction was given by the summit to Gatt to address environmental issues.

**Multi-nationals:** Northern countries succeeded in erasing all mention in the texts of the environmental responsibilities of large industry. Self-regulation was preferred by governments despite much criticism from pressure groups.

**United States:** Successfully defended the right to consume one quarter of the world's resources.

### THE LOSERS

**Aid:** Most donor countries again jugged their long-standing UN commitment to raise Official Development Assistance to 0.7 percent of gross domestic product, preferring to work towards the figure "as soon as possible".

Japan will contribute \$7.7-billion over five years to world bodies and other countries for environmental assistance.

**Debt:** No joint commitment by rich nations to reducing debt (current flow in interest payments from poor to rich countries stands at \$50-billion a year.) Individual countries pledged to work to reduce debt burdens over various periods and with qualifications. Britain, not owed much, seeks "further progress".

**Forests:** The world's first joint forest principles were saved only by avoiding all mention of a future convention which India, Malaysia and the G77 developing countries had resisted throughout.

Other underlying issues of environmental degradation such as the role of the military, nuclear testing, the trade in radioactive waste and the consumption patterns of the rich were forced off the agenda by the US and other rich nations.

The 43 Least Developed Nations, together generating less than four percent of world trade and dependent mostly on aid, receive the least from Rio.

**Indigenous Peoples:** Changes in wording of documents maintained their rights as individuals but not as nations.

**Unctad and UNCTC:** New powers for the World Bank and the SDC will hasten the demise of the two UN bodies most sympathetic to Third World concerns. The UN Conference on Trade and Development, the poor countries' response to Gatt, has no role now.

The UN Centre on Transnational Corporations, the world body monitoring multinational corporations which control up to 80 percent of world trade and investment, was axed earlier this year by UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali. — The Guardian

## DO YOU HAVE A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?



**DUE AUGUST 1992**

### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Edited by Richard Fuggle and André Rabie

This book deals with man's impact on the natural environment and tackles the problem of conserving South Africa's resources.

The 31 chapters of the book deal with virtually all aspects of environmental management, including air and water pollution, solid waste, pesticides, radiation, noise, environmental health and of particular concern, chapters specifically on mountains and rivers, the coastal zone, protected areas, land-use planning and agriculture. The legal aspects are dealt with in some detail in a non-technical but authoritative manner.

The book includes contributions from 52 authors, all of whom are experts in their different disciplines. They include: Michael Bruton, JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology; John Hanks, South African Nature Foundation; Tim Hart, Urban Foundation; Ray Lombard, President Institute of Waste Management; Yasmin Von Schirnding, Johannesburg City Council; John Milton, University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg.

This book is highly recommended to all those involved or concerned with conservation of our environment.



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# New Ground

The Journal of Development and Environment

A project of the Congress of SA Writers (COSAW), the Panos Institute and the Environmental and Development Agency (EDA).

WRITERS' WORKSHOP  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND DEVELOPMENT IN  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

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#### WHAT?

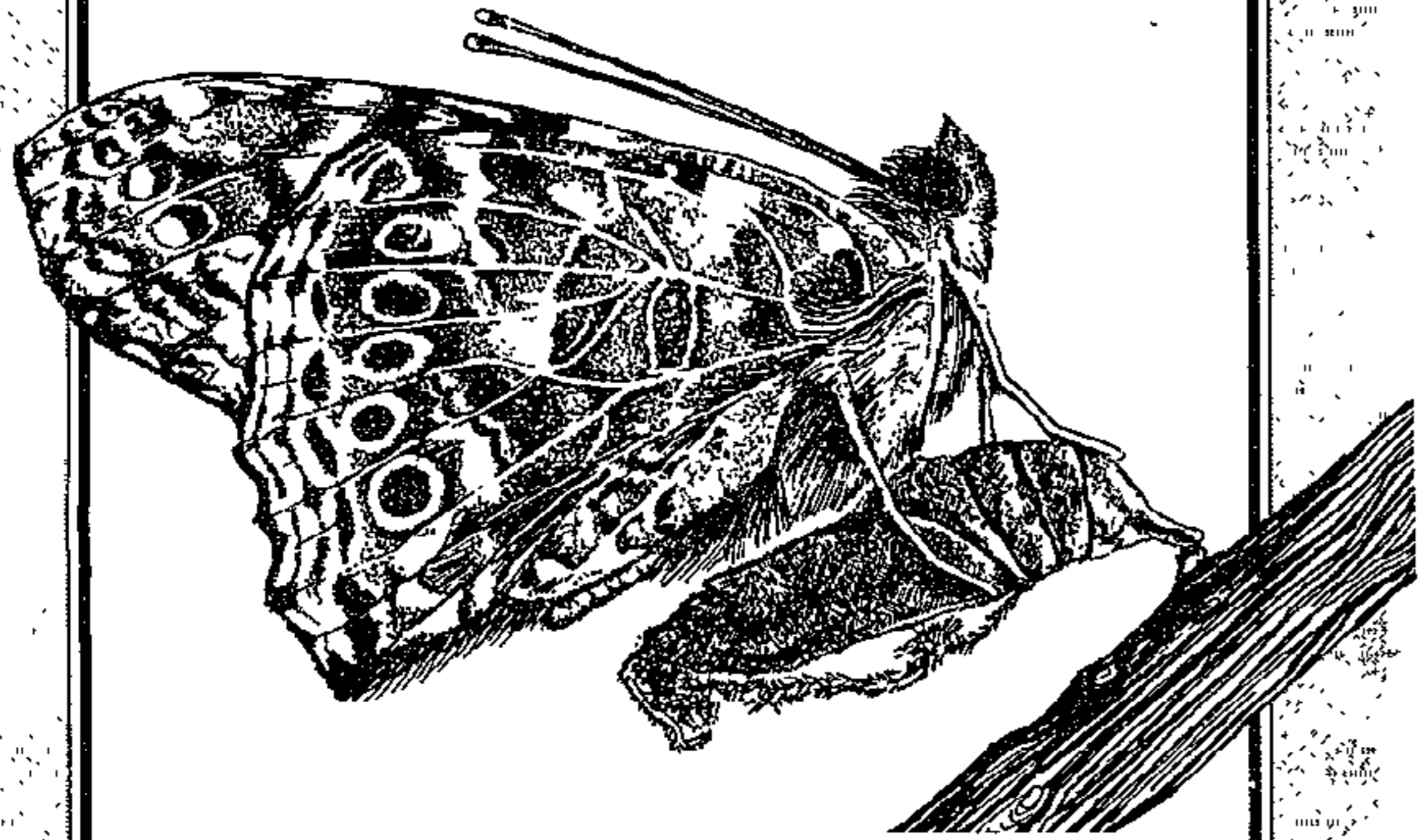
A workshop at Koinonia Centre in Johannesburg from 30 September — 2 October 1992. After this the 10 participants will be guided in writing feature articles for publication in New Ground, Panoscope or elsewhere. The workshop, accommodation and meals will be free of charge.

#### HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

Selection of participants will be based on proposals for articles submitted by applicants. The deadline for your application is 8 July 1992.

Contact Victor Munnik for further details:  
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## EARTH SUMMIT: REPORT FROM RIO

# World trundles down the road to tragedy

W/Mail 19/6-25/6/92

While governments approved new principles of environmental stewardship, they failed to cough up the money or pass the tough laws necessary to curb the excesses of man. By  
**MICHAEL WEISSKOPF**  
and **JULIA PRESTON**

**A**MID self-congratulatory speeches by Earth Summit delegates, Maurice Strong, organiser of the 12-day United Nations conference, criticised the outcome as "agreement without sufficient commitment".

"When we thought we did it in Stockholm, we didn't," said Strong, choking back tears as he recalled the 1972 environment conference. "And we don't have another 20 years now. I believe we are on the road to tragedy. As we leave Rio, we have not satisfied that concern."

"The current level of commitment is not comparable to the size and gravity of the problems," UN secretary general Boutros Boutros-Ghali told delegates as he bade farewell to the plenary session.

The conference, a gathering of 178 nations that split North from South — and the United States from nearly everyone — resulted in a number of environmental agreements.

Treaties were signed to control global warming and the loss of rare plant and wildlife species. Non-binding agreements were reached on a statement of forest conservation principles, the Rio Declaration of environmental ideals and Agenda 21, a blueprint for combating toxic waste, ocean pollution and energy inefficiency.

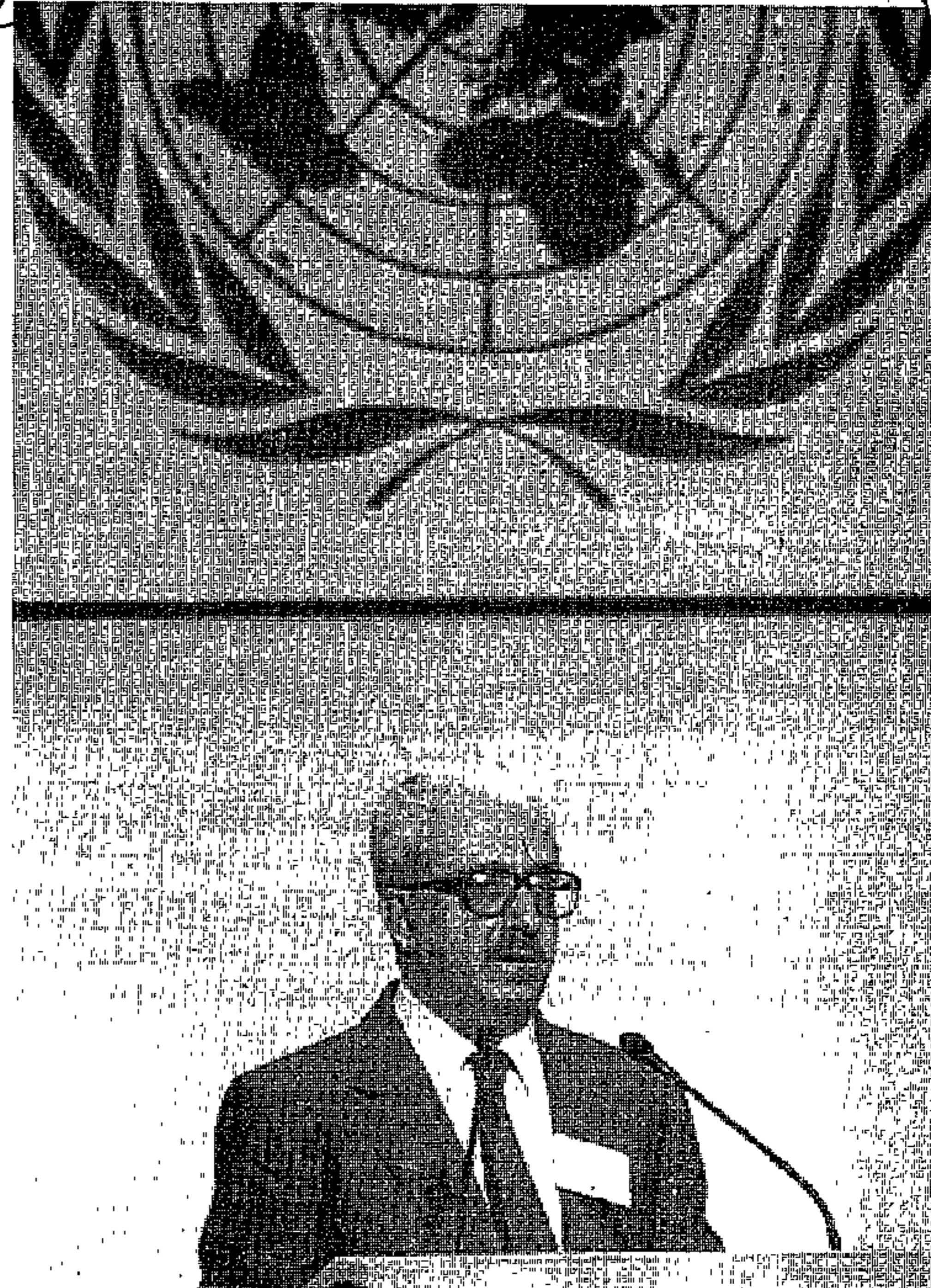
Uniting nations of varying living standards, the accords are the first to try to harmonise the inherent clash of development and environmental interests, acknowledging the mutual interests of rich and poor.

Despite the pessimistic UN assessments, others said they found progress in the outcome. Environmental Protection Agency chief William Reilly, head of the US delegation, said the agreements "will serve as standards against which performance will be measured". With the frameworks left to be fleshed out later, the agreements call for studies and plans that could serve as the basis for periodic reviews by signatory nations.

The agreements fall short of the tough medicine many experts advocated. For example, no new controls will be placed on emissions of "greenhouse" gases that some scientists say threaten to overheat the earth's surface in less than 50 years, with dire consequences.

No new limits will be placed on exploitation of natural resources, despite the annual worldwide loss of forests equal in size to the state of Connecticut — and warnings that continued deforestation will eradicate 20 percent of the species of tropical forests in 30 years.

Nor will developed nations open their treasuries and technology banks as generously as UN organisers had hoped, to save the Third World from the excesses of industrialisation encountered until now.



More talk and little action ... Deputy prime minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, addresses the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Photo: AP

More than \$6-billion a year in new funds was pledged here for "green projects" in developing nations, a seven-fold increase over the pool of money that the Global Environment Facility (administered under the auspices of the World Bank) now dedicates to environmental programmes. Strong had sought \$125-billion in annual aid.

The Earth Summit was intended to broaden the scope of past conferences, where primary attention was focused on natural resource protection within national boundaries. Threats such as global warming and depletion of the protective ozone layer, being worldwide in reach, have provoked calls for international responses.

The global reach of these issues gave unusual bargaining power to the Third World. With their dense forests serving as sponges for greenhouse gases and a biological cornucopia for pharmaceutical houses, developing nations were in better position to extract compensatory aid from the West. And because their modernisation plans threaten to boost greenhouse emissions, they intensified demands for energy-conservation technologies.

Once the world's environmental standard-bearer, the US refused to go along with what a White House official called the guilt-ridden responses to Third World demands for concessions.

Only the US boycotted the forest biodiversity treaty, citing its open-ended financial obligations and the extra regulatory burden: it could pose for US biotechnology interests. Washington, alone among industrialised nations, opposed specific targets and schedules for reducing greenhouse emissions because of

the costs to heavy industry.

Japan was tentative in negotiations and less generous than many had predicted. Its contribution of \$1.4-billion a year in environmental aid marked a 50 percent increase over past funding.

The US increased its environmental aid by the same percentage, pledging \$750-million for next year.

Germany's delegation pushed the European Community to reassert its pledge to stabilise greenhouse gases in 2000 and brokered a compromise on forest-conservation principles. Bonn has pledged to triple its multilateral aid for green projects.

The Rio Declaration leaned more to rhetoric than actual commitment. The agreements only vaguely map out a future course:

- The global-warming accord requires industrialised nations to submit reports six months after the treaty takes effect to describe their policies "with the aim of returning" their emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels. But no deadline is given for returning to 1990 levels.

- In the biodiversity treaty, nations are required to inventory their species to set a base line for conservation. But there is no timetable for completing the survey, no guidelines for posting the findings and no requirement to follow up the survey to determine how endangered they are.

Although a developed nation is supposed to share with host countries the benefits of products derived from their tropical forests, the treaty does not specify the terms of partnership beyond calling for "fair and favorable" rewards.

- The forest declaration calls for environmental management of timberlands, but avoids standards for measuring such conservation and sets no deadline for compliance. The Washington Post

(B) Lutonlughawe, Bedfordshire, Engeland LU2 9ND.

(C) (i) Gatwick — Mombasa — Kaapstad — Mombasa — Gatwick.  
Gatwick — Mombasa — Durban — Mombasa — Gatwick.

(ii) Boeing 767 G-BKVZ, G-BNCW, G-BKPW, G-BNYS, G-BOPB, G-BPFV, G-BRIF, G-BRIG, G-BYAA en G-BYAB.

(iii) Inklusiewe toerpakket.

(iv) *Een weeklikse vlug—*

Gatwick/Kaapstad: Vertrek Gatwick 1530 Mombasa 0040/0140 (Woensdae) Kaapstad 0705/2015 Mombasa 0125/0225 (Donderdae) Gatwick 1200, vir die tydperk 2 Februarie tot 27 April 1993.

Gatwick/Durban: Vertrek Gatwick 1530 Mombasa 0040/0140 (Dinsdae) Durban 0545/0715 Mombasa 1115/1215 Gatwick 2150, vir die tydperk 1 Februarie tot 26 April 1993. Landing in Mombasa slegs om tegniese redes.

(v) Vervoer van passasiers.

(19 Junie 1992)

#### KENNISGEWING 558 VAN 1992

##### ESKOM: VOORGESTELDE WYSIGING VAN LYS VAN STANDAARDPRYSE

Eskom voorsien elektrisiteit vir huishoudelike doeleindes aan 'n steeds toenemende getal klante en het 'n voorafbetaalstelsel met aansienlike voordele vir ons klante suksesvol in gebruik geneem. Die tarief wat tot dusver op sulke toevoere van toepassing was, naamlik Tarief S1, bestaan uit 'n energieheffing van 20,72 sent (insluitende BTW) vir elke kW.h elektrisiteit wat gebruik word.

Hierdie tarief is egter gebaseer op sekere aannames, veral dat die totale koste van die voorsiening van elektrisiteit aan 'n groep klante deur middel van die tarief van die klante self verhaal sal word. Daar bestaan egter situasies waar die kapitaalkoste van die plaaslike elektrisiteitsnetwerk óf gedeeltelik óf ten volle betaal word deur die klante wat daarvandaan voorsien moet word, of deur 'n ander party soos die ontwikkelaar van die woongebied. Dit skep die behoefte aan laer energieheffings wat voorsiening maak vir 'n kleiner kapitaalbedrag wat deur middel van die tarief verhaal moet word.

Met die oog hierop word hiermee kennis gegee dat Eskom, ooreenkomstig artikel 15 (3) van die Eskomwet (Wet No. 40 van 1987), beoog om sy Lys van Standaardpryse wat tans van krag is, wysig deur die vervanging van die bestaande Tarief (S1) deur die nuwe tarief soos hieronder uiteengesit, met ingang van 30 dae vanaf publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing:

##### TARIEF (S): KLEIN TOEVOER—VOORAFBETALING

Vir 'n enkelfase elektrisiteitstoevoer aan 'n klant binne 'n gebied wat deur Eskom aangewys is as 'n gebied waarin 'n voorafbetaalmetingstelsel van

(B) Luton Airport, Bedfordshire, England LU2 9ND.

(C) (i) Gatwick — Mombasa — Cape Town — Mombasa — Gatwick.  
Gatwick — Mombasa — Durban — Mombasa — Gatwick.

(ii) Boeing 767 G-BKVZ, G-BNCW, G-BKPW, G-BNYS, G-BOPB, G-BPFV, G-BRIF, G-BRIG, G-BYAA and G-BYAB.

(iii) Inclusive tour packages.

(iv) *One weekly flight—*

Gatwick/Cape Town: Depart Gatwick 1530 Mombasa 0040/0140 (Wednesdays) Cape Town 0705/2015 Mombasa 0125/0225 (Thursdays) Gatwick 1200, for the period 2 February to 27 April 1993.

Gatwick/Durban: Depart Gatwick 1530 Mombasa 0040/0140 (Tuesdays) Durban 0545/0715 Mombasa 1115/1215 Gatwick 2150, for the period 1 February to 26 April 1993. Landing in Mombasa is for technical purposes only.

(v) Conveyance of passengers.

(19 June 1992)

#### NOTICE 558 OF 1992

##### ESKOM: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE OF STANDARD PRICES ~~(S1)~~ (SS)

Eskom is supplying electricity for domestic purposes to an ever increasing number of customers and has successfully employed the use of a prepayment system with substantial benefits to our customers. Up to now the tariff applicable to such supplies has been Tariff S1 which currently consists of an energy charge of 20,72 cents (inclusive of VAT) for each kW.h of electrical energy consumed.

This rate is however based on certain assumptions and especially that the total cost of providing electricity to a group of customers will be recovered from the customers themselves by means of the tariff. Situations however exist where the capital cost of the local electricity network is paid for either partially or in full by the customers to be supplied therefrom or another party such as the developer of the residential area. This gives rise to the need for lower energy charges which provide for a lesser amount of capital which has to be recovered by means of the tariff.

To this end notice is hereby given, in accordance with section 15 (3) of the Eskom Act (Act No. 40 of 1987), that Eskom intends to amend its Schedule of Standard Prices currently in force, by the substitution of the existing Tariff (S1) with the new tariff as set out below, with effect from 30 days from the date of the publications of this notice:

##### TARIFF (S): SMALL SUPPLY—PREPAYMENT

For a single-phase supply of electricity to a customer within an area designated by Eskom as an area in which a prepayment measurement system

toepassing is, met die klant vooruit vir elke kW.h elektrise energie wat voorsien word teen een van die volgende koerse betaal:

S1—20,72 sent (18,84c + BTW) in gevalle waar die totale koste van elektrisiteitsvoorsiening deur middel van die tarief van die klant verhaal word en waar die verwagte maandelikse verbruik laer as 500 kW.h is.

S3—15,54 sent (14,13c + BTW) in gevalle waar die klante of enige ander party die kapitaalkoste van die plaaslike elektrisiteitsinfrastruktuur vooraf ten volle betaal het.

Energiekoerse tussen die S1- en S3-koerse mag na Eskom se oordeel toegepas word in gevalle waar die kapitaalkoste van die plaaslike elektrisiteitsinfrastruktuur slegs gedeeltelik deur die klante of enige ander party betaal is.

Almal wat besorg is oor hierdie voorgestelde nuwe tarief of wat besware daarteen het, moet hul toepaslik gemotiveerde voorleggings stuur aan die Sekretaris, Elektrisiteitsbeheerraad, Privaatsak X03, Lynnwoodrif, 0040, om hom te bereik nie later nie as 60 dae na die datum van hierdie publikasie, met 'n afskrif daarvan aan die Uitvoerende Direkteur (Bemarking en Elektrifisering), Eskom, Posbus 1091, Johannesburg, 2000 (Megawatt Park, Maxwellrylaan, Sunninghill, Sandton, 2199).

(19 Junie 1992)

## RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

### RAADSKENNISGEWING 131 VAN 1992

#### STADSRAAD VAN BRONKHORSTSPRUIT

#### HERROEPING VAN VERSKEIE VERORDENINGE

Die Stadsklerk van Bronkhorstspuit publiseer hierby ingevolge artikel 101 van die Ordonnansie op Plaaslike Bestuur, 1939 (Ordonnansie 17 van 1939), soos gewysig, die verordeninge hierna uiteengesit:

Die volgende verordeninge van die Stadsraad van Bronkhorstspuit word hierby in totaliteit herroep:

1. Bywette vir die Regulasies van Koffiekamers, ens.: Administrateurskennisgewing 318 van 10 Augustus 1922.
2. Mark Bywette: Administrateurskennisgewing 202 van 4 Mei 1923.
3. Dipbak Bywette: Administrateurskennisgewing 326 van 1 September 1921.
4. Bywette vir Reël en Lisenseer van Slagterswinkel: Administrateurskennisgewing 281 van 25 Julie 1922.
5. Abattoir Bywette: Administrateurskennisgewing 77 van 8 Februarie 1928.
6. Kapitaalontwikkelingsfondsverordeninge: Administrateurskennisgewing 590 gedateer 5 Junie 1968.

is applicable, the customer shall pay in advance for each kW.h of electrical energy supplied at one of the following rates:

S1—20,72 cents (18,84c + VAT) in the case of the total cost of providing the supply is recovered from the customer by means of the tariff and where the monthly consumption is expected to be less than 500 kW.h.

S3—15,54 cents (14,13c + VAT) in the case where the capital cost of the local electricity infrastructure has been fully paid for in advance by the customers or another party.

Energy rates between the S1 and S3 rates may in Eskom's discretion be applied in cases where the capital cost of the local electricity infrastructure has only been partially paid for by the customers or another party.

All persons who may have concerns about or objections to his proposed new tariff, should forward their appropriately motivated submissions to the Secretary, Electricity Control Board, Private Bag X03, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, to reach him by no later than 60 days after the date of this publication, with a copy thereof to the Executive Director (Marketing and Electrification), Eskom, P.O. Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000 (Megawatt Park, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton, 2199).

(19 June 1992)

## BOARD NOTICES

### BOARD NOTICE 131 OF 1992

#### TOWN COUNCIL OF BRONKHORSTSPRUIT

#### REPEALING OF MISCELLANEOUS BY-LAWS

The Town Clerk of Bronkhorstspuit hereby, in terms of section 101 of the Local Government Ordinance, 1939 (Ordinance 17 of 1939), publishes the by-laws set forth hereinafter:

The following by-laws of the Town Council of Bronkhorstspuit are hereby repealed:

1. By-laws for the Regulation of Tearooms, etc.: Administrator's Notice 318 of 10 August 1922.
2. Market By-laws: Administrator's Notice 202 of 4 May 1923.
3. Dipping Tank By-laws: Administrator's Notice 326 of 1 September 1921.
4. By-laws for Regulating and Licensing Butcher Shops: Administrator's Notice 281 of 25 July 1922.
5. Abattoir By-laws: Administrator's Notice 77 of 8 February 1928.
6. Capital Development Fund By-laws: Administrator's Notice 590 of 5 June 1968.

## DEPARTEMENT VAN STREEK- EN GRONDSAKE

No. 1691

19 Junie 1992

KOMMISSIE VAN ONDERSOEK NA DIE DISPUTE TUSSEN DIE REGERINGS, PLAASLIKE REGERINGS, TRADISIONELE LEIERS EN DIE MENSE VAN GAZANKULU EN LEBOWA IN VERBAND MET DIE ONDERSKEIE GEBIEDE WAAROO HULLE WETGEWENDE VERGADERINGS EN STAMOWERHEDE JURISDIKSIE HET

Hierby word vir algemene inligting bekendgemaak dat dit die Staatspresident behaag het om sy Edele P. J. Rabie, DVD, voormalige Hoofregter van Suid-Afrika, as Voorsitter en enigste lid van 'n Kommissie van Onderzoek na die dispute tussen die Regerings, Plaaslike Regerings, Tradisionele Leiers en die mense van Gazankulu en Lebowa in verband met die onderskeie gebiede waaroor hulle Wetgewende Vergaderings en Stamowerhede jurisdiksie het.

Die Kommissie se opdrag lui soos volg:

Om ondersoek in te stel, verslag en aanbevelings te doen oor die dispute tussen die Regerings, Plaaslike Regerings, Tradisionele Leiers en die mense van Gazankulu en Lebowa in verband met die onderskeie gebiede waaroor hulle Wetgewende Vergaderings en Stamowerhede jurisdiksie het, met die oog op die oplossing van die dispute.

## SUID-AFRIKAANSE RESERWEBANK

No. 1692

19 Junie 1992

WET OP DEPOSITONEMENDE INSTELLINGS, 1990  
MINIMUM RESERWESALDO WAT DEUR DEPOSITONEMENDE INSTELLINGS IN STAND GEHOU MOET WORD

Ingevolge artikel 71 (3) (b) van die Wet op Depositonemende Instellings, 1990 (Wet No. 94 van 1990), maak ek hierby bekend dat die President van die Suid-Afrikaanse Reserwebank, kragtens artikel 71 (3) (a) van genoemde Wet en met die instemming van die Minister van Finansies en van Handel en Nywerheid, vir die doeleindes van artikel 71 (2) van genoemde Wet met ingang van 21 Julie 1992 'n verdere persentasie van 1 persent van 'n depositonemende instelling se korttermynverpligtings teenoor die publiek vasgestel het, benewens die persentasie van 4 persent wat by Goewermentskennisgewing No. 632 van 22 Maart 1991 afgekondig is.

Die kredietsaldo wat deur 'n depositonemende instelling gehandhaaf sal moet word uit hoofde van die bovermelde vasstelling van genoemde verdere 1 persent moet aldus gehandhaaf word in 'n spesiale depositorekening by die Suid-Afrikaanse Reserwebank, en rente teen 'n koers van 'n halfpersent laer as die koers van toepassing ten opsigte van die jongste weeklikse tenderuitgifte van 91-dae Skatkiswissels sal aan die depositonemende instelling betaal word op die daaglikse kredietsaldo's in sodanige spesiale depositorekening.

**J. H. VAN GREUNING,**

Registrateur van Depositonemende Instellings.

## DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS

No. 1691

19 June 1992

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE DISPUTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF GAZANKULU AND LEBOWA REGARDING THE RESPECTIVE AREAS OVER WHICH THEIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES AND TRIBAL AUTHORITIES HAVE JURISDICTION

It is hereby notified for general information that the State President has been pleased to appoint the Honourable P. J. Rabie, DMS, former Chief Justice of South Africa, as Chairman and sole member of a Commission of Inquiry into the disputes between the Governments, Local Governments, Traditional Leaders and people of Gazankulu and Lebowa regarding the respective areas over which their Legislative Assemblies and Tribal Authorities have jurisdiction.

The Commission's terms of reference are as follows:

To investigate into, report on and make recommendations regarding the disputes between the Governments, Local Governments, Traditional Leaders and people of Gazankulu and Lebowa regarding the respective areas over which their Legislative Assemblies and Tribal Authorities have jurisdiction with the view of resolving the disputes.

## SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK

No. 1692

19 June 1992

DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1990

MINIMUM RESERVE BALANCE REQUIRED TO BE MAINTAINED BY DEPOSIT-TAKING INSTITUTIONS

In terms of section 71 (3) (b) of the Deposit-taking Institutions Act, 1990 (Act No. 94 of 1990), I hereby give notice that the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank has, under section 71 (3) (a) of the said Act and with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance and of Trade and Industry, for the purposes of section 71 (2) of the said Act determined with effect from 21 July 1992 a further percentage of 1 per cent of a deposit-taking institution's short-term liabilities to the public, in addition to the percentage of 4 per cent published under Government Notice No. 632 of 22 March 1991.

The credit balance a deposit-taking institution will be required to maintain by virtue of the above-mentioned determination of the said further 1 per cent shall be so maintained in a special deposit account with the South African Reserve Bank, and interest at a rate of half a per cent below the rate applicable in respect of the latest weekly tender issue of 91-day Treasury bills shall be paid to the deposit-taking institution on the daily credit balances in such a special deposit account.

**J. H. VAN GREUNING,**

Registrar of Deposit-taking Institutions.



environment

All that grows isn't green, reports **Claire Keeton** on the threat posed by commercial forestry:

# Progress may take its toll on NE Cape flora and fauna

Escarpment, an important water catchment area for South Africa and Transkei.

The disruption of water resources is particularly worrying to Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) officer Mr Jan Vlok.

"The streams flow into three perennial rivers in Transkei. It is important to maintain these rivers as people downstream do not have waterholes or pumps. I am worried

about the vleis and marshes. They could dry up and disappear"

Conservation officials fear large plantations of exotic trees will also crowd out indigenous species, create a fire hazard, irrevocably destroy the natural grassland, and squeeze out communities.

Large-scale forestry arrived in the area with the Mondi Paper company, which bought 167 farms in the Elliot and Maclear districts. Local

farmers are keen to sell, since stock theft is increasing and the costs of transporting stock to far-away markets are rising constantly.

Mondi may shift its focus from high-profile forestry development in the eastern Transvaal to concentrate on the north-eastern Cape. While the region welcomes the investment, conservation officials are wary of Mondi's track record in the eastern Transvaal, where the company was

accused of putting profits before concern for the environment

North-East Cape Forests (NECF), managed by Mondi, plans to plant 80 000 hectares over the next 10 years. The rolling hills and valleys of the region, now covered with water-conserving veld, will be covered by thirsty trees.

NECF regional manager Mr Gawie van Wyck said Mondi had learnt from mistakes in Transvaal. Two rivers flowing into the Kruger National Park no longer run in the dry season, after the upper catchment area was forested.

"There were no rules when that was planted over 40 years ago. Now there are conservation norms," he said

**EXTENSIVE FORESTRY** development in the north-eastern Cape is threatening rivers and indigenous plants.

The planting could extend as far as the southern Drakensberg

Besides the 167 farms bought by NECF, local farmers have applied for forestry permits, covering 25 000ha.

"The problem is we don't know where it will stop. If we know it is 100 000ha we can plan for it. We don't know if it will be 300 000 and we can't plan.

"Our biggest problem is we don't know the limit," said an officer from CNC's regional office in Port Elizabeth, Mr Jan Briers.

Conservation officer for NECF, Ms Felicity Weir defends the company's environment record.

For example, she says progress was made concerning the removal of alien vegetation like wattle and poplar, while farmers did not root out exotic species

A study of the fish, birds and mammals indigenous to the area is being completed. Buck species have been re-introduced to the natural heritage sites at Prentjesberg and Rush Valley Endorheic Pan.

"In the field it is difficult to see that seepages, where most of the rare species are found, are not planted," Mrs Weir concedes

The Department of Forestry, which does inspections, said NECF has a fair track record though they made some mistakes. Initially they planted too close to streams, drove lorries through wetlands and their tenting broke, exacerbating erosion.

Mr Briers warns the trees reduce the minimum flow of water in the dry season.

"All systems depend on the minimum flow. Apparently it is already lower, even with young trees that have been growing for a few years," he said.

Before it is too late, there must be proper planning of land use, nature conservation officials warn. They have appealed to all parties from the Departments of Water Affairs and Forestry and Agriculture, the company and the farmers to plan the region's future together.

E!news



Planet Earth as seen from 36000 kilometres.

## Earth: The biggest saving we can make.

What does it take to destroy a planet that's been in healthy existence for about four-and-a-half billion years?

Human beings.

Only we can save the earth from its only enemy: ourselves.

We've been doing it for over 15 years, by supporting a wide range of environmental and ecological conservation programmes.

By getting involved in projects that help not only the land, but also the communities that depend upon it for their existence.

Because our planet's the only one we have, we are helping to keep it the way we'd like it to be found in a few thousand years.

**BP. Striving to develop South Africa's natural resources. Working today. For all our tomorrows.**



We like to keep you moving.

## Air pollution a demon for Vaal Triangle kids

SOUTH 2016-2416192 (56)

Children in the Vaal Triangle suffer from an unusually high incidence of respiratory tract illnesses.

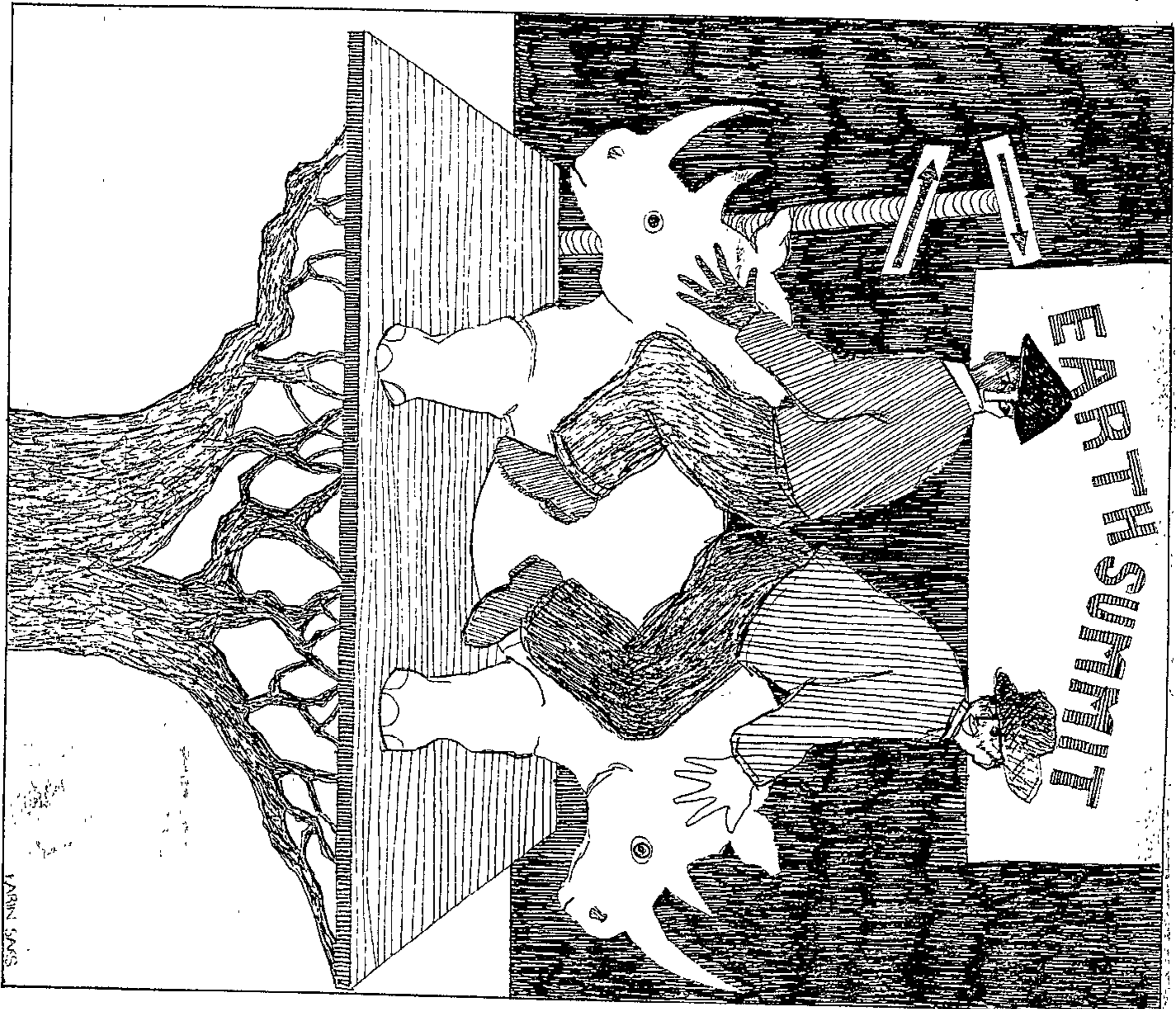
According to a MRC report, this is linked to the excessive levels of air pollution in the region.

In Sebokeng, researchers recorded the amount of pollution to which children were exposed by issuing a group of children with personal monitors.

These electronic devices were carried around by the children and recorded exactly how much pollution each child was exposed to during the day.

Each child was found to be exposed to levels of pollution in excess of United States health standards.

Researcher Dr Pedro Terblanche said some children were exposed to pollution levels five times the health standard.



# Agenda 21: a plan

## for development

South - 24/6/92

THE EARTH SUMMIT generated a sea of paper with a series of international agreements aimed at ensuring the future protection of the environment.

But because of disagreements over the content of many documents, the conference ended with a bewildering mixture of conventions, declarations and statements of principle.

The summit ended with the adoption of the Rio Declaration, a 27-point document laying down guidelines for seeking lasting development, reducing poverty and protecting the environment.

But the summit also saw the signature by 154 countries of two conventions on preserving endangered species and protecting the earth's atmosphere.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change lays the basis for an international effort to combat the threat of global warming by obliging signatories to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

The Convention on Biodiversity aims to conserve and promote non-destructive use of the world's biological riches and achieve a fair share-out of their benefits.

The treaty lays the basis for developing countries to obtain easier access to technology needed for sustainable use of their resources.

Companies in industrialised nations have to share royalties on products, including biotechnology inventions, with the country which

provided the material from which they were made.

Washington signed the convention on climatic change, after ensuring that specific targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions were excluded, but refused to sign the biodiversity agreement.

It saw the provisions on biotechnology in the convention on biodiversity would stunt growth of its booming domestic industry.

Other countries are refusing to sign the climatic change treaty, with Gulf oil-producing countries saying it places too much of the blame for the deterioration of the earth's atmosphere on oil.

The Earth Summit also produced Agenda 21, a weighty 800 pages designed as a blueprint for lasting environment-friendly development — and ways to fund it into the 21st century.

The document lays down courses of action to protect the earth's atmosphere from greenhouse gases, to protect the ozone layer, to slow deforestation and ensure better management of forests, and to stop erosion of arable land, desertification and drought.

Agenda 21 also lays down a programme to protect the oceans, marine resources and coastal areas.

It stresses the need to protect fresh water and manage it better to curb transmission of diseases, and to treat dangerous nuclear and toxic waste.

— Sapa-AFP

YARN: SASS

environment

# 'All things to all men' pact ends summit

South 20/6-24/6/1992

There was plenty of wrangling in Rio to produce the environmental blueprints, but at least something came out in the wash.

and the first major world gathering since the end of the Cold War.

Delegates saw a shift of power centres, with European Community (EC) nations — in disarray earlier over the bloodbath in a disintegrating Yugoslavia — acting in unison.

The EC nations promised an extra \$4 billion (R11,2 billion) for environmentally responsible development and pledged to reduce their own carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels after the United States had forced the removal of that goal from a convention signed here.

Japan had been expected to play a major role, but gave up its candidature for a committee chairmanship to retain unity within the Asian bloc and kept a low profile.

Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa — forced to remain in Tokyo by a debate on sending troops abroad — received a diplo-

matic slap in the face.

United Nations secretary-general Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali refused to allow him to address the summit via a television hook-up, fearing the precedent would weaken the UN.

Russia succeeded in having the eastern European countries recognised as being as much in need of funds as the developing countries. But the conference was basically a North-South one, delegates said.

The United States, clearly the sole superpower, arrived with a huge delegation and a combative stance, challenging much of the language in conference documents. It sent diplomatic notes to western European countries it judged to be planning to embarrass President George Bush by their going it alone on the carbon dioxide target, and refused to sign a convention on protection of species.

The US was isolated in many of its positions, but as the world's leading aid donor — giving \$11 billion (R30,8 billion) a year — it was courted by nations which saw the need for US participation in the projects envisaged by Agenda 21, an 800-page charter on development agreed on after marathon committee sessions.

In one of the longest negotiating sessions, Malaysia and India joined with other Third World forestry nations to rebuff a move by the US, Britain and other countries to introduce language envisaging a binding treaty on forest conservation.

One Third World delegate said decisions taken by consensus among 178 disparate countries would inevitably be "all things to all men" compromises. But the delegates were unanimous in saying the summit had raised environmental

awareness among government leaders and people of the world.

Thousands of members of action groups — all voters in their home countries — arrived in Rio to lobby the delegations. Many condemned the outcome of the conference, with friends of the liath slamming the North's "irresponsibility" and "short-term economic expediency" but acknowledging "important progress".

Non-governmental organisations were given official status, and looked set to play an important role in implementing conference projects.

Boutros-Ghali believed the summit had created momentum.

That appeared to be the consensus among delegates, with many saying its results would become apparent years down the road. — Sapa-AFP

THE DELEGATES of 178 nations roared away from the Earth Summit in a swirl of exhaust fumes on Sunday after they agreed to a compromise environmental plan criticised by many as lacking teeth.

The 12-day summit was the biggest in the history of conferences

# Fearless fighter for the planet and its citizens

STAR 20/6/92

(56)

**I**N POPULIST circles she is called the lion of women. In parliament, the government refers to Professor Wangari Maathai as a "subversive, an opportunist and a puppet of foreign masters".

The 51-year-old environmentalist, political trouble-shooter and crusader for women's rights has been verbally abused, physically assaulted and psychologically tortured since she broke into the public arena as founder of the Greenbelt Movement in 1977.

She is Kenya's first woman university professor and is enjoying international recognition as a celebrated environmental guru and stinging President Daniel arap Moi's government as an opposition activist, populist agitator and, undoubtedly, the country's most well-known female personality.

Maathai addresses the Economic History Society's and the Environmental Education Association's environment and development conference in Martizburg on July 17.

*'She is a crusader who has been physically assaulted, verbally abused and psychologically tortured since she broke into public life.'*

"If Kenya had more Wangaris," one opposition leader said, "the Moi regime would have been gone long ago."

A former head of veterinary anatomy at the University of Nairobi, Maathai founded the Greenbelt Movement at a crucial time when the world was just waking up to the realities of environmental destruction. From there, working with only a small team of workers, she has built up a membership of



**TWO Kenyans will be addressing a national environmental meeting in Natal next month: Richard Leakey and an oft-imprisoned woman activist, Professor Wangari Maathai (above), whose visit The Star is sponsoring.**  
**JOE KHAMISI reports.**

● Photograph: JOE LOUW

50 000. She has also established a huge tree nursery and planted more than 7 million trees in 22 districts throughout Kenya.

In the process she has been garnering international awards in recognition of her work in conservation. In 1984 she was honoured with the Right of Livelihood award, Sweden's top citation, comparable only to the Nobel prize.

She is also a member of the prize selection committee of one of the world's most prestigious environmental awards — the Unep prize — funded by the Sasakawa Foundation of Japan. But her proudest award is the Africa prize for leadership in sustainable agriculture.

Maathai has fought many environmental battles. She led and won an acrimonious campaign to stop the construction of a 60-storey building at a central Nairobi park, claiming

that the structure would distort the city's landscape and deprive people of a recreational facility.

She has protested against the subdivision and allocation of a 26 ha animal sanctuary in Nairobi; campaigned for the closure of a chemical plant; and is currently engaged in a battle with the Kenyan Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, Dr Philip Leakey.

In this confrontation, she claims that hundreds of trees and shrubs are being destroyed in the Nairobi suburb of Langata to make way for a 45 ha rose farm. "Just because one is rich, powerful and a landlord does not give him the licence to destroy our environment," she said in a letter to the farm owners.

"The Langata project," she added, "is a perfect example of non-sustainable development which the world is concerned about." Leakey countered by accusing Maathai of being used by some Americans, whom he did not name.

"What existed there was bush and, contrary to Maathai's claims, the trees were exotic and not indigenous."

While the Greenbelt Movement provided her with a platform to campaign for nature, it also opened political doors for her. In 1982 she con-

tested the Nyeri parliamentary seat and lost, but left behind an indelible mark in what, in Kenya at least, is predominantly man's domain.

"She is many people rolled up in one, a tremendous asset to the opposition," said an insider in the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), of which she is a leading member.

Maathai, someone else said, has the no-nonsense personality of Margaret Thatcher, the fearless courage of Benazir Bhutto and the resilience of Winnie Mandela.

Several years ago, Maathai was embroiled in a matrimonial scandal similar to the one that befell Winnie Mandela. She was married to a politician, and the "other" man mentioned in the scandal was also a public figure. The matter hit the headlines and many thought this would signal the end of the environmentalist's public life. But that was not to be. The scandal, however, led to her divorce.

Maathai's greatest political coup came a few months ago when she led the Release of Political Prisoners pressure group in a series of protest street marches and hunger strikes in which

*'She has protested against the subdivision of a 26 ha animal sanctuary in Nairobi and campaigned for the closure of a chemical plant.'*

several people were injured in confrontations with heavily armed riot police.

Maathai collapsed after inhaling teargas and spent two weeks in hospital. A few weeks later, armed police cordoned off her house for 20 hours after she refused to open the door. "I would rather die of hunger than open the door and risk being arrested".

The police eventually climbed over the fence, broke the door and dragged her out. She spent that night in a cold cell floor, triggering an old rheumatism ailment.

Maathai faced a charge — along with nine other FORD activists — of allegedly spreading a rumour that the Kenyan armed forces planned to take over the government. She is now out on bail of R10 000.

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## Refinery emits

### 'clouds of gas'

5b Staff Reporter  
of 2/6/92

MILNERTON's Caltex oil refinery closed yesterday morning after an electrical fault caused an emission of gas.

A Caltex spokesman yesterday said they had received "one or two" complaints from residents about "dark gas clouds" in the air.

After restarting the plant following the electrical short, excess gases were burnt off, resulting in unusually "heavy emissions" from the refinery stacks.

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# Chalk one

56

AUG 20/6/92

## up for

# Mr Kaolin

■ Boardsailing entrepreneur Mr Sybrand van der Spuy maintains Serina, the kaolin mining company he has bought from Federale Volksbeleggings, will mine kaolin in the Noordhoek Valley responsibly. PATRICK FARRELL spoke to him

**S**YBRAND van der Spuy, new owner of the controversial kaolin mine site in the Noordhoek Valley, has made a promise he believes he will never have to carry out.

"If a single tourist is lost because of the kaolin mine in Noordhoek, I'll eat my hat."

Bold words indeed from the man who has just bought Serina, the company with rights to mine kaolin in the picturesque valley.

While the dust has still not settled over the government decision last week to grant a licence to Serina to mine the deposits, Mr Van der Spuy is moving into top gear to prove he can "mine with responsibility".

"We will work very closely with the people in the valley and

in fact I will bend over backwards to accommodate them.

"This is an emotive issue and I think Serina has got a bad deal from the public over the mine. The company has been mining responsibly in Sun Valley for 25 years and I will make sure the new deposit is mined just as responsibly."

Responsibility is a word the quietly-spoken Mr van der Spuy, 37, uses a lot.

He is a Free State-born chartered accountant who lists boardsailing as a passionate interest.

He completed a B Comm Hons degree at the Rand Afrikaans University in 1978 and qualified as a chartered accountant the following year. He spent some time with the Industrial Development Corporation, before starting Partnerships Acceptances, his own investment company, in 1983.

This is the company which bought control of Serina for an undisclosed sum a week ago.

He says he is content to stay in the background but if his latest acquisition puts him into the spotlight then "so be it".

"Let me say that the buck stops with me and I'm not going to avoid that."

Mr Van der Spuy says he "thought long and hard" before buying the company.

"I visited kaolin mines in Germany and England, where they co-exist in popular tourist areas, and I talked to the tourist authorities in Cornwall, which has three million tourists a year, and saw how they have incorporated the kaolin mines into the tourist structure very successfully."

Mr Van der Spuy says he has studied the environmental impact assessment and believes the mine will be a "golden opportunity to prove that sensible development can take place in harmony with the environment".

"Let me assure people the conditions of the mining licence laid down by the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs will be obeyed to the letter."

Mr Van der Spuy will not take on the day-to-day running of Serina — which is in fact what he prefers to do with all his companies — but will leave it to the existing management team.

The only change in the company structure will be the new chairman, Mr Klaus Zirker, the former chairman of Continental China, Serina's old holding company.

Mr Van der Spuy is big on investing in people. "I believe in a blend of good management and profitable ventures."

With that in mind he has created an employees share structure for Serina so the workers will share in the company profits.

## ■ Should South African conservation bodies have made more of an effort to attend the Earth Summit in Brazil last week?

IN the sea of disagreement which eddied around the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last week, one point of agreement stood out like a beacon: Ordinary citizens and their non-government organisations (NGOs) would determine success or failure.

It was a theme which was repeated over and over by, among others, Mr Maurice Strong, the chief organiser of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Unced).

Calling the event 'an unprecedented parliament of the planet', Mr Strong said he attached "immense importance" to the NGOs.

"This is the largest summit and the most important, I believe, in both the issues it is addressing and the level at which they are being addressed ... I feel their (NGOs) contribution is absolutely indispensable to this process and also is indispensable in ensuring governments carry out their commitments."

Even allowing for some hyperbole, the conference WAS undoubtably one of the major events of the century.

So did the major South African NGOs blunder by not attending? They included the Wildlife Society, SA Nature Foundation, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Earthlife Africa, Habitat Council and the Botanical Society.

It was clear there was an immense cross-pollination of ideas and thinking in Rio. The Global Forum '92 — the NGO sector of the Earth Summit proceedings — hosted about 370 meetings and 700 exhibitions, with more than 6 500 institutions from 165 countries being represented by nearly 15 000 participants.

In spite of the carnival-like atmosphere and vibrant commercialism — at times the forum resembled a giant "Eco-Greenmarket Square" — there was a sober and highly industrious side to it.

"Serious people are coming to talk serious issues in a serious fashion," said joint co-ordinator Warren Linder. "Governments don't have a monopoly of solutions, they don't have a monopoly of insights."

For example, one of the most important achievements of the forum was the creation of an International Council for Environmental Education, which emerged from a workshop attended by some of the major players in the NGO movement.

At Unced itself, 741 organisations were accredited, including 516 NGOs from developed countries and 230 from developing countries.

Mr Strong even suggested in his closing address to the plenary session that, since the role of NGOs had assumed such importance in international environmental politics, the United Nations would have to restructure itself to be able to take proper account of NGOs' views in future.

Mr Charles de Haes, director-general of the influential World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said in his concluding statement that Unced had led to a strengthening and broadening of the roles and capacities of NGOs in international negotiations.

Mr Larry Williams of the Sierra Club of the United States said the Unced process had forced NGOs to deal with their own ideological differences and, as a result, had strengthened the bonds among them.

"I think that is one of the hopeful things that has come out of this conference. Never before have we had citizens so closely united on a single objective."

Kenyan environmentalist Professor Wangari Maathai, who founded her country's Green Belt Movement, said she was not overconfident about the success of the official summit.

"As a person who's been working at the grassroots level, and trying to hit at a hard wall called 'government', I can say only it is the people who will change the course of the planet's destiny."

One of the handful of South Africans taking part in the Global Forum, Mr Dave Cooper of the Transvaal-based Group for Environmental Monitoring, said there would have been both positive and negative impacts for local organisations taking part in the Global Forum.

The absence of an official South African government delegation would have "dampened the enthusiasm" of those NGOs working closely with the state system — "It's quite a difficult issue."

However, Mr Cooper was critical of the African National Congress, which is officially represented at the United Nations, for not taking part in the four Unced preparatory conferences.

"The ANC missed the opportunity to use its representation to encourage involvement in the NGOs that trail along with it," he said.

One lesson from the Earth Summit could be this: As the nation emerges from its long, apartheid-induced, isolation, South African environmentalists should seize every opportunity to expose themselves to world opinion and to argue their own, sometimes internationally controversial, policies like sustainable hunting or ivory trading.

# SA Enviro-boycott?

Story and Picture: JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter.

ST ARF 20/6/92



# AEC looking to a rich atomic future

THE Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) has restructured to embrace business principles in all divisions except its nuclear division.

Its newly-established business development unit, operating for only one year, hopes to be financially self-sufficient within two years and become profitable within four years.

State funding for this unit decreased during the past financial year by 31%, from R22,1-million to R16,9-million. Sales are projected to increase by 52% in the current year.

But the nuclear division, with annual state financing of about R450-million and total sales of R150-million, remains heavily dependent on state aid.

## Reduced

For the first time, details of AEC's financial operations have been released. In the past financial year to March, sales of industrial products to the local and export market surged to R35,8-million and are expected to rise by a further 52% in the current financial period to about R55-million.

During the same period, expenses have been reduced.

The financial position is expected to improve further in the following year, with income forecast at R72,3-million, while development expenses should be totally eliminated. This should substantially reduce the state's contribution to the business unit.

The success has been spurred by the establishment of the business unit under the leadership of executive GM Anthony Jackson, who foresaw a possible drying up of state funding in years ahead.

"By 1988 the commission-

By DON ROBERTSON

ing of the nuclear fuel process had been completed and enrichment and fabrication had started. At that stage, the considerable brain power employed by the AEC was underutilised and we anticipated reduced funding from the government.

"As a result, we embarked on a programme of commercialisation to evaluate how the technologies developed to enrich uranium could be used for industry," says Dr Jackson.

Dr Jackson hopes that sales of industrial products will be assisted by a major export drive into Australia, Pacific Rim countries, South America and the Far East. The AEC is consolidating this export drive and is evaluating the types of products which would meet niche markets overseas.

It is also eager to share its technology with groups such as the CSIR and Mintek, as well as international groups.

In a parasatal environment, this took longer than expected and it was only in the past financial year that the unit became effective.

As a result, the AEC was drastically restructured with

the establishment of 12 separate divisions, each one responsible for its own technology and, in some cases, the manufacture of industrial products.

The goal of the business unit is based on the maximisation of net present value of each division in the longer-term, says Dr Jackson.

## Funding

"Deficits incurred from April 1 1991 will be accumulated by each individual business unit to be 'repaid' over the period of the net present value determination.

"However, given the uncertainty of continued government funding, all businesses have been made aware of an additional survival constraint — that of achieving break-even or a reduction of direct costs as soon as possible."

A major contributor to the future viability of the corporation is the development of a world-first uranium enrichment process.

A pilot plant for molecular laser isotope separation (Mlis) for the enrichment of uranium has been in operation for some time and the AEC is now establishing a de-

● To Page 3

## AEC's rich future

From Page 1

monstration unit.

Sales of enriched uranium from this process are not expected until towards the end of the century, but would be substantially cheaper than any other method of production.

Dr Jackson believes this could be a substantial money-spinner for AEC, but warns that government funding could end before the manufacturing process has been established. In this case, it might be necessary to approach the private sector for finance.

The largest of the new divi-

sions is the fluorochemicals division, which is expected to earn R19-million in the current year. The manufacture of hydrogen fluoride was necessary for the eventual enrichment of uranium and has enabled this section to produce other industrial products based on hydrogen fluoride.

The AEC has one of only four hot cell complexes in the world able to mechanically and chemically test spent nuclear fuel rods as well as carry out other sampling services. Utilisation of this service by international nuclear countries is expected to increase.

# Prof: SA electricity still among cheapest in world

SI Times (Cape Metro) 21/6/92

(SS)

THE price of electricity in South Africa will remain below that of most countries until around the year 2020, when a significant increase in nuclear power will be required, says Prof R K Dutkiewicz of the Energy Research Institute at the University of Cape Town.

Speaking on energy efficiency indicators at the Enerconomy '92 seminar held at the CSIR in Pretoria by the Southern African Institute of Energy, he said electricity in South Africa was generated mainly in coal-fired power stations and so the price of electricity was related to the basic coal price.

"In real terms, the price of electricity was falling until the mid-1970s, when there was a large increase.

"This increase was similar to the increase in general energy prices worldwide.

"Since mid-1980s electricity prices have again been falling. Part of this decline is due to the large surplus capacity on the Eskom sys-

tem which has limited the need for capital expenditure.

"This over-capacity will continue until the end of the decade and, while additional capacity will need to be started before the end of the decade, no large purchasing orders are envisaged in the near future."

Prof Dutkiewicz pointed out that Eskom had undertaken to decrease the real price of electricity by 20 percent over the next five years.

"In view of the present over-capacity it is likely this can be achieved. South African electricity is currently one of the cheapest in the world, due partly to the low coal cost and partly to economies of scale.

"Even with the increase in coal cost that is forecast, electricity in South Africa should remain one of the cheapest in the world until coal becomes scarce and a move has to be made to nuclear power."

Another speaker at the seminar, Dr E W Lees, executive director of the Energy Technology Support Unit in Britain, said the European

Community was considering the possible introduction of taxation on the burning of fossil fuel.

The implication for South Africans was that if people were not prepared to make a contribution by using energy efficiently, they would have to pay in time, in some way or another, for methods to protect the endangered environment.

Dr Lees said it was possible to save up to 20 percent on the energy bill of a community. In Britain it had been demonstrated that such savings were sufficient to recoup capital expenditure within two to five years.

He said the Energy Technology Support Unit had achieved spectacular successes in recent years with programmes aimed at the promotion of efficient energy consumption.

British industries that became involved had achieved energy savings of R1 750-million.

"We recently started a second programme which involves much higher target figures," said Dr Lees.

# SA exports oil to Madagascar

SOUTH AFRICA has reduced its oil imports by drawing down its strategic oil stockpile and has also made its first export shipment of crude oil — to Madagascar.

By IAN ROBINSON

The Amsterdam-based Shipping Research Bureau (SRB) reports in its latest newsletter that crude oil imports in recent months appear to corroborate official Department of Customs and Excise figures which show a decrease in "unclassified imports" by SA.

It is generally assumed that oil accounts for the bulk of these imports.

In October 1991 this figure was R628,6-million, but figures over the next four months remained below R400-million.

The SRB findings indicate

that the country has been importing about half of its estimated crude oil import needs.

Identified tanker calls declined from about four a month in October to about two in February and March this year.

## Brokered

Provisional figures for the monthly volumes imported have dropped from more than 900 000 tons in October to about 550 000 tons in February/March 1992.

In February the Geneva-based commodities firm Addax brokered the sale to Madagascar of 60 000 tons of oil every 40 days from SA, the SRB newsletter says.

# Reinsurers anxiously await end of drought conditions

B/Dun 22/6/92

(56)

MICK ELLINGHAM

FAR from being worried by the drought, SA's R783m reinsurance industry's main concern is what happens when the dry conditions break.

Industry spokesmen said resultant hail and floods were likely to result in heavy claims.

SA Reinsurance Officers Association (Saroa) chairman Lenz Keel said:

"The industry has not suffered directly because of the drought, although it has, of course, suffered from the overall drought-related recessionary conditions."

Of more concern to reinsurers was when the drought ended, with floods likely because rainfall would be less easily absorbed into the ground.

Research had shown also that the hail which fell immediately after a period of drought was more damaging and more frequent, he said.

Keel, who is also Swiss-SA reinsurance MD, said reinsurers insured against "catastrophes", the main ones being hail, fire and floods.

Keel said: "Reinsurance is by its nature a cyclical industry — premium rates are currently low because there have not been any major fire or weather-related claims for some years."

However, extensive flood or hail damage claims would probably cause rates to harden.

The seven non-life reinsurance companies which operated in SA showed a total profit of R51,7m in 1990, despite making a R27,5m underwriting loss.

Cologne Reinsurance GM Herbert Ingenillem said: "The drought has been good for us, as it has meant no flooding and little hail damage."

## Costly

"The worst months for hail damage to cars on the Reef are normally November and February, but this year comparatively little hail damage occurred."

No major "catastrophe" claims were made last year, reflecting well on Cologne's bottom line.

However, if rain were to follow the current drought, the consequences would be costly for reinsurers, Ingenillem said.

Hollandia Reinsurance MD Steve Murphy, too, was concerned as to the implications of possible flooding after the country's drought ended.

UNBEL

FAMOU

TQWIA



# Parliamentary alliance in bid to save St Lucia

Political Staff



STAR 22/6/92

CAPE TOWN — Parliament may come to the rescue of Lake St Lucia and save it from the bulldozers of Richards Bay Minerals, thanks to an initiative of African National Congress MP Rob Haswell.

A common concern to protect the 12 wetlands in South Africa, identified as important by the Ramsar Convention, has meant that ANC members in Parliament and Conservative Party MPs find themselves fighting the same battle.

Mr Haswell introduced a Private Members' Wetlands Conservation Bill, which proposes to prohibit prospecting and mining in the wetlands, including the St Lucia system.

Mr Haswell said the Bill went before Parliament's joint committee on private members' legislative proposals last week.

"The concept of conserving these wetlands received the support of all the political parties represented in each of the



Rob Haswell . . . fighting to save Lake St Lucia.

three Houses. Consequently it was unanimously decided to urgently refer the Bill for consideration, and possible amendment, to both the Department of Environment Affairs and the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs," he said.

"With the prospect of Parliament reconvening in October, there is therefore a further 11th-hour opportunity for Parliament, and the Government in particular, to enact the legislation necessary to prohibit mining at St Lucia, and thus protect an international asset.

"I am grateful for the support the Bill received from in particular Rupert Lorimer of the Democratic Party and Joseph Chiole of the Conservative Party.

"I urge all those South Africans who care deeply about our environment and St Lucia to contact their MPs and/or political organisations and indicate their support," Mr Haswell said.

Speaking on behalf also of CP MPs Jurg Prinsloo, W J Snyman and Louis Stofberg, Mr Chiole (Pretoria West) said in a statement that the CP wanted a law introduced to prevent any mining activity near wetlands identified by the Ramsar convention.

The CP believed that the greater Lake St Lucia area should be developed as an ecotourist attraction.

The CP said in the parliamentary committee that Lake St Lucia should be developed and marketed as a second Kruger National Park. This would generate more international value, prestige and jobs than mining activity, which would damage the eco-system.

# Boost for Vaal as dam overflows

STAR 23/6/92

By Shirley Woodgate

The sluice gates of the Sterkfontein Dam opened yesterday to release a thundering stream of water to the ailing 33 percent-full Vaal Dam.

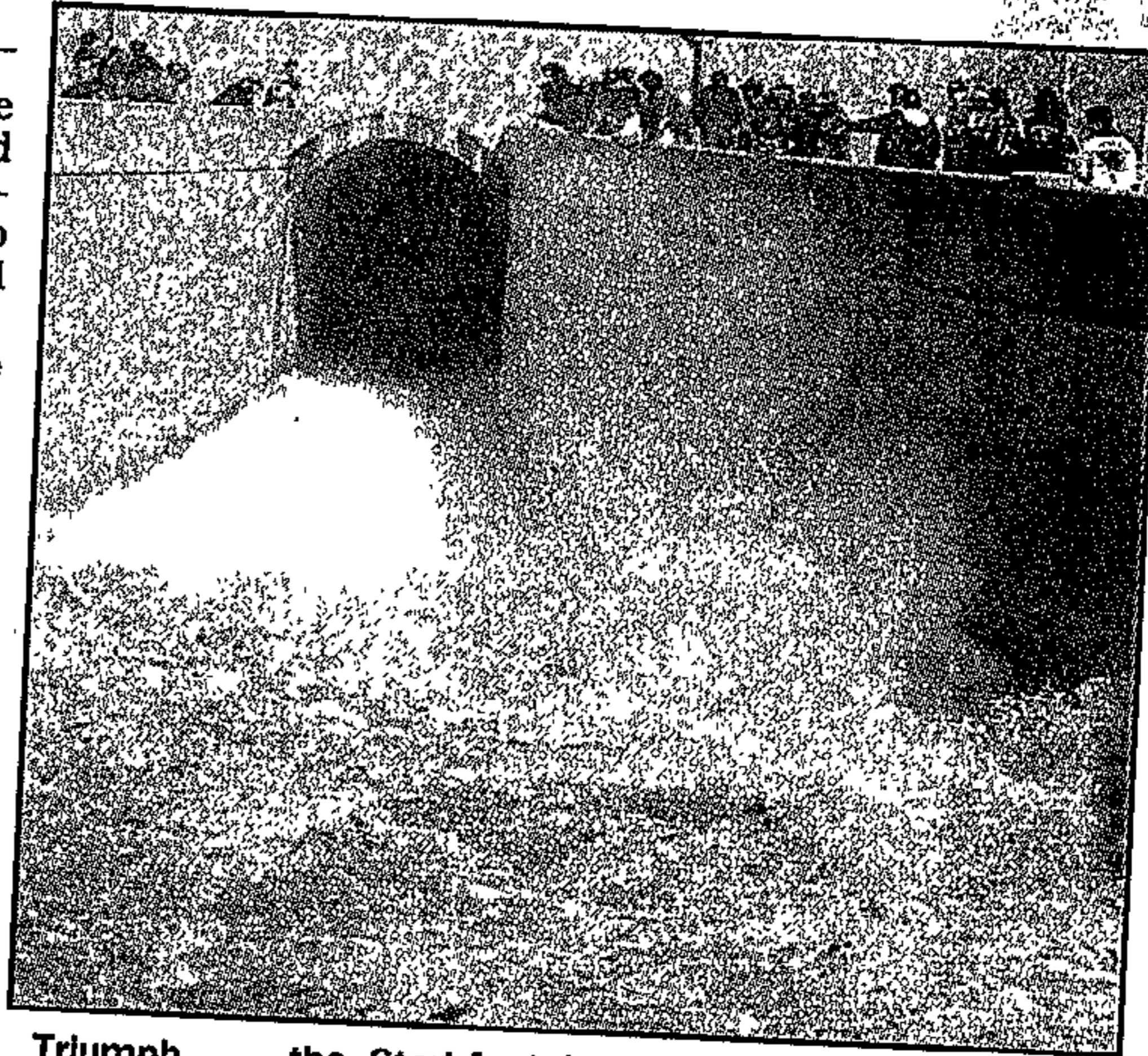
Water engineers toasted the multimillion-rand plan which had come together 25 years after the scheme was hatched.

The real cause for the celebration was not the release — the fifth since 1983. It was the 2 600 million cubic metre dam itself, which was brimful and overflowing for the first time since its completion in 1974, said Department of Water Affairs managing engineer, water resources, Claus Triebel.

When scheme manager Jannie Hough (53) pressed the button that sent foaming water pouring down the Nuwejaarspruit, then into the Wilge River and finally the Vaal Dam, the real triumph was the reservoir that had taken 17 years to reach the full mark.

Water is pumped up from the Tugela River into the Kilburne and then the 82 m-deep (almost 30-storey) Sterkfontein Dam, where it is stored until released to the Vaal Dam 320 km away.

In this case, said Mr Triebel, despite the drought which had hit large areas of the country,



Triumph . . . the Sterkfontein Dam has reached the full mark.  
Picture: Karen Fletcher

the release was simply to make space for more water to be pumped up from the Tugela.

What the major water transfer project — purportedly the biggest of its kind in the world — had achieved was ensuring the water supply to the PWV industrial heartland, the Free State goldfields, the Vaalharts irrigation scheme and eastern

Transvaal power stations, said Mr Triebel.

About 42 cumecs is drawn from the Vaal Dam and 40 cumecs is being released.

But despite the devastating drought, there will be no water restrictions for at least two years, by which time the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will be due to come on stream.

# Tobacco smoke a blow to kids

Sowetan 23/6/92



**AN Environmental Protection Agency report concludes that secondhand tobacco smoke poses severe health risks to children, causing thousands of respiratory illnesses annually, sources familiar with the study say.**

It offered no conclusive proof.

The report, which is based on an examination of dozens of scientific studies and aims to assess the health risks from tobacco smoke to non-smokers, has been under review at the EPA for more than a year.

Agency spokesmen said they could provide no details about the draft study until it was presented to the advisory board, which reviewed a preliminary draft previously and asked that the section on impact to children be expanded.

More than a year ago, the advisory panel generally endorsed the study's findings that secondhand tobacco smoke should be classified as a carcinogen and a known cause of lung cancer.

The preliminary study estimated that tobacco smoke in the air may account for as many as 3 800 cancer deaths, but sources said that figure was being revised in the latest draft.

They said the new study concludes that secondhand tobacco smoke is believed to account for more than 200 000 serious respiratory ailments in children annually, including bronchitis and pneumonia.

The report also suggests a direct link between secondhand tobacco smoke and asthma, an affliction that affects tens of thousands of children.

It says children are twice as likely to develop asthma if they live in homes where at least 10 cigarettes are smoked daily. Previous studies have

suggested that passive smoke may pose serious health problems for children.

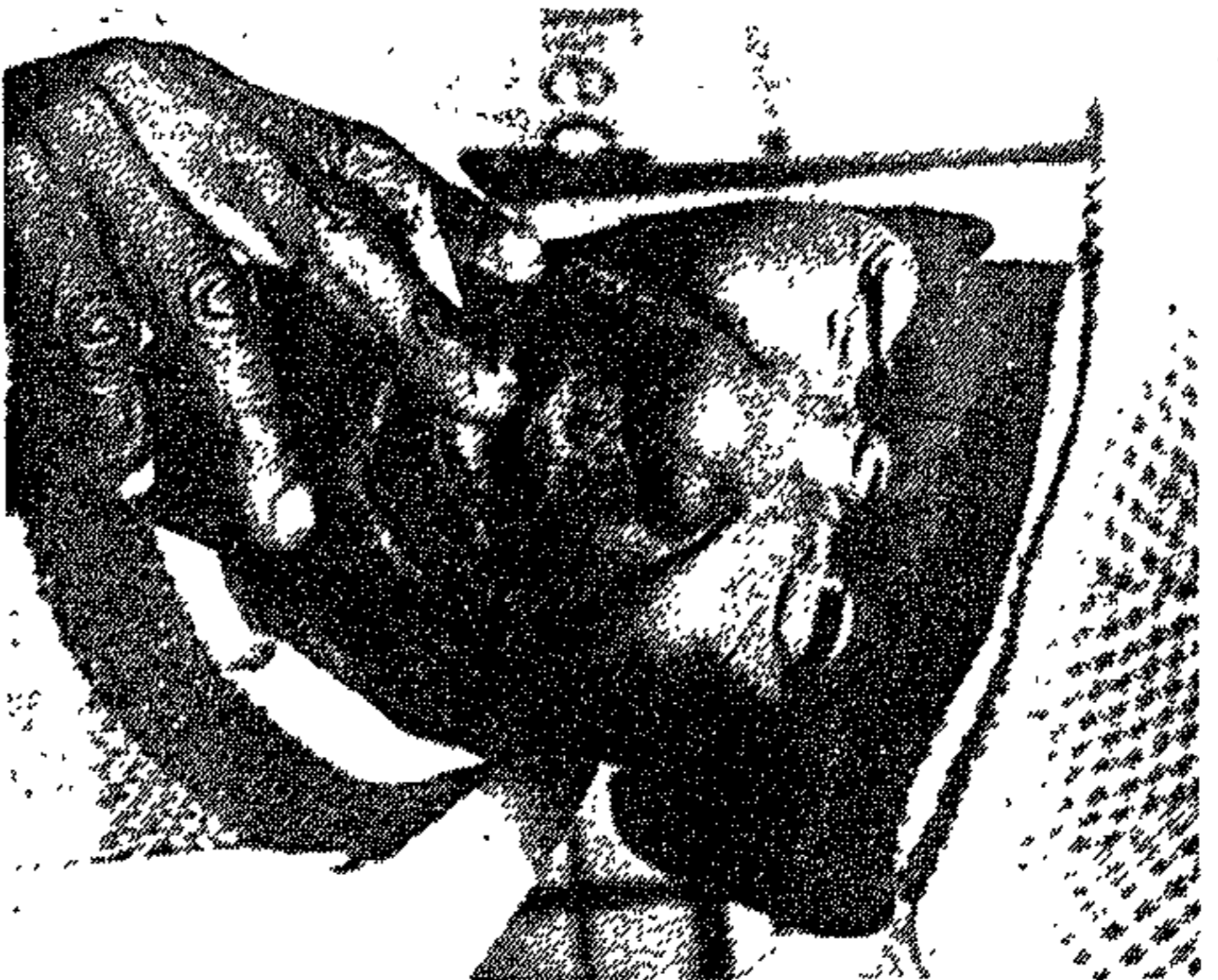
A study last year by the government's National Centre for Health Statistics found that children in non-smoking households were likely to be healthier than children who live with smokers.

That study found 4.1 per cent of young children in households with current smokers were in fair to poor

health, compared with 2.4 per cent of children who were never exposed to tobacco smoke.

The Tobacco Institute, an industry group, dismissed the study at the time as inconclusive.

The industry group also criticised the EPA's preliminary findings in April 1991 when its early draft report on secondhand tobacco smoke was submitted to the science advisory panel. - *Sapa-AP.*



Passive smoking is a serious health risk to children.

The draft EPA report, being presented to the agency's science advisory panel on Thursday, also raises concerns that tobacco smoke may be linked to mysterious sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS.

The cause of SIDS is not known, but the EPA study suggests there may be a relationship between infants' exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke either before or after birth.

# Firm suited to meet power needs

<sup>B(Day) 23/6/92</sup>  
ROSHERVILLE Engineering believes it is ideally placed to serve Africa's power industry.

Since the early 1900s, Johannesburg-based Rosherville Engineering has dealt with the complex maintenance of power generating equipment, including turbines, transformers and switchgear.

Recent visits to and from neighbouring countries have shown that there is a keen interest in establishing co-operation agreements or joint ventures with SA companies like Rosherville.

It says the recent World Energy Council meeting highlighted the fact that the

eyes of the First World are focused on eastern Europe, forcing African countries to acknowledge their interdependence.

They have also realised that the costs of using overseas expertise are enormous.

It has therefore become vital to use local resources and develop local skills.

Rosherville is the perfect partner, having realised early on that rehabilitation of well-tried equipment to prolong its life held advantages over buying new equipment.

Rehabilitation costs a fraction of the cost of capital goods and existing staff do not need to be re-trained.

Spares can be manufactured locally, again at greatly reduced costs. And spares can be upgraded by using more sophisticated materials.

Rosherville has created a large infrastructure of equipment and skills.

It has also developed a pool of diverse experience in problems relating directly to the African environment, for example unique weather conditions.

Rosherville hopes that its ideal positioning to service southern African needs will allow it to play a role in maintaining heavy power equipment but also in upgrading the sub-continent's skills levels.



# Plan for regional electricity grid starts to pay dividends

Bl Day 23/6/72  
ESKOM CE Ian McRae is starting to see the rewards of five years of "slog" trying to sell his idea of an electricity grid for sub-Saharan Africa.

"Things are starting to move quickly now, it's very exciting," he says.

Ten days ago Eskom signed a co-operation agreement with Zambia's Electricity Supply Corporation, involving the supply of services and exchange of technical information.

Eskom and the Ivory Coast's Energie Electrique de la Cote d'Ivoire have also reached agreements. The two utilities will not only co-operate regarding services and information but will team up on construction projects, maintenance and training.

Other developments bringing the grid a step closer include a feasibility study into linking Zaire, SA, Angola and Namibia under SA co-ordination.

Negotiations are going ahead to try secure funding for the rehabilitation of the

Cahora Bassa Dam System.

Mozambique has secured an SA government-guaranteed loan from the Italian government for Cahora Bassa's rehabilitation but is still \$40m short. The World Bank, African Development Bank and European Investment Bank have been asked for assistance.

He says agreement has been reached on links between Cahora Bassa and Zimbabwe and tenders will probably go out in August.

SA is looking at taking up excess capacity from a hydro-electric project on Angola's Namibian border. A project under construction on Angola's Capinda River will have to link into the grid for full use.

The possibility of a coal-fired station in Botswana is being investigated and work is being done to link Kenya and Tanzania to Owen Falls in Uganda.

McRae says it will probably take eight to ten years before the grid is a reality.

But important elements have begun to be put into place. Behind the idea of a

regional power grid is McRae's belief that power is central to economic growth. The region, comprising the 18 countries from Zaire, Uganda and Kenya southwards, has a population of about 200-million but less than 10% have access to electricity.

On the positive side the region is blessed with a wealth of power generating sources, he says.

The idea is to develop viable power-generating projects in all countries. A grid is essential for smaller countries which need to export power to make electricity affordable.

McRae says the drought has highlighted the need for power connections between countries.

Zimbabwe is in dire straits because it imports power from Zambia, which is conserving its resources as the water level of Zambezi River and its dam drops. A power link between SA and Zimbabwe would have been tremendous help, he says.

# Tanker secrecy: Law protecting oil imports may be abused

55  
APR 23/6/92

**STEFAANS BRÜMMER**  
Shipping Reporter

THE possibility that oil supply secrecy laws are being abused has come to light after a government denial that it "coded" a damaged oil tanker which visited Cape Town under an apparently self-assumed cloak of secrecy.

Tankers supplying South Africa in defiance of the oil embargo are coded under the Petroleum Products Act and it is an offence to publish information about them.

Earlier this month the Panama-registered supertanker World Hitachi Zosen — with obvious fire damage and another vessel's anchor embedded in its mangled bow — called at Cape Town for repairs and to refuel en route East.

Inquiries to port authorities and the ship's agent were met with "What ship?" and claims that the vessel was protected by the Act. No information was given.

But a spokesman for Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett, whose department administers the Act, said the ship was not coded.

Sturrock Shipping, agent for the World Hitachi Zosen, was approached again.

Asked who had coded the tanker, a spokesman said: "The owners. . . They just say it's coded."

A spokesman for the energy division of Mineral and Energy Affairs confirmed that inquiries in the industry had shown that shipping operators "seem to use their own coding system for their own purposes".

But he said: "They cannot hide behind our law. Only a ship that brings us things (oil) do we want to protect. Others we do not want to protect."

A shipping source, who spoke to the captain of the World Hitachi Zosen before it left Cape Town last week, gave details of the high-seas drama that caused the damage and claimed a life.

On April 18 the 280 000-ton tanker, off the Canary Islands in the North Atlantic, collided starboard bow to starboard bow with a 10 000-ton

cargo ship.

It was about 4pm and, according to the captain, visibility was good.

He allegedly admitted that no one had been on watch and the radar was switched off. The ship was on auto-pilot.

A full forward tank ruptured on impact, spilling tons of oil into the sea. A crew member fell overboard and drowned.

The oil ignited, spewing flames that badly damaged the ship. The blaze was put out 18 hours later by the crew, assisted by the Royal Navy ship HMS Cambelltown, which happened to be nearby.

The cargo of light and heavy crude was transferred to another tanker belonging to the same operators, Worldwide Shipping of Hong Kong.

Damage has been estimated at \$7-million (about R20-million) and includes a gashed and mangled bow and the deck buckled by heat. The cargo ship's anchor remained embedded in the tanker's bow.

The tanker, built in 1976, will be repaired or scrapped in the East.

Democratic Party mineral and energy spokesman Mr Roger Hulley slammed the "abuse" of the law to suppress information "which has no bearing on our oil supplies whatsoever".

He said: "It's an example of how a bad law — which is overprotective anyway — has been abused to frustrate the public's right to know."

Mr Hulley called for a "long overdue" review of the Petroleum Products Act.

A Mineral and Energy Affairs statement said: "Crude oil-carriers carrying crude oil for South African destinations are coded for obvious reasons. This will continue as long as there are crude oil and crude oil shipping sanctions against South Africa."

"The Act's secrecy provisions can change only after the oil sanctions of the United Nations and the Arab League are lifted."

While in Cape Town, the World Hitachi Zosen was known as OWW38 only.

## Roger Hulley calls for 'overdue' review

# Earth warmer — if not in Cape Town

(56)  
ARG 24/6/92

**JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter**

IT might not seem so in a wintry Cape Town this week, but the Earth is becoming warmer as a result of the "greenhouse effect", most scientists accept.

This is because of the huge increase in the amount of gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and CFCs being pumped into the atmosphere.

What effect these higher alien gas levels will have on food production is being studied at Rhodes University's botany department using Africa's first controlled environment cabinet (Conviron).

The Rhodes researchers, who form the Stress Ecology Group with colleagues at the universities of Cape Town, Wits and Natal, will cultivate important food crops in the cabinet.

As successive generations of plants grow under strictly controlled conditions, any genetic changes will be analysed.

Professor Ted Botha, head of the botany department, said: "Our research is being carried out using elevated carbon dioxide levels that are predicted within the next 10 to 15 years for the Earth. It's indeed an exciting prospect," he said.

In addition to changes in crop yields and growing patterns, scientists predict the greenhouse effect could, among other effects:

- Cause more extreme weather such as hurricanes, storms, droughts and heatwaves;
- Change rainfall patterns and expand desert and arid areas;
- Cause extensive flooding of low-lying areas such as those in Bangladesh and many Pacific islands;
- Lead to mass extinctions as biological communities are disrupted;
- Disrupt agriculture as arable land patterns change and new pest and weed problems develop; and,
- Change ocean circulation patterns, which would in turn create vast and unpredictable climate changes throughout the world.

# Eskom takeover meeting

*Sowetan 24/6/92*  
SOWETO traders are to meet at the Jabulani Standard Bank Hall today to discuss various issues relating to electricity supply in the townships.

The meeting, which starts at 11am, is a joint venture of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Soweto Independent Shopkeepers Association.

## Electricity arrears

The chamber's executive director, Mr Max Legodi, said at this meeting Eskom and the Soweto Civic Association would explain the take-over of the administration of the electricity supply in Soweto.

*(127) 30*  
By JOSHUA RABOROKO

Traders would also get an opportunity to ask questions about the electricity arrears of business people since the boycott started in 1985. *(SS)*

He said the business fraternity had been excluded in the Soweto Accord, in terms of which rent arrears by residents were scrapped by the authorities.

The general secretary of Soinsa, Mr Thami Skenjana, appealed to their members to attend the meeting so that they should understand the electricity takeover and other problems.

# Deadly cargo off Cape

## Armed escort for Japan-bound plutonium

ARC 25/6/92

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE world's deadliest cargo — about one ton of plutonium — is likely to be shipped around the Cape within the next few months.

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It will be used in Japan's breeder reactor development programme.

International and South African conservation organisations and the African National Congress are concerned about the shipment — due some time this spring — and South Africans could have their first sight of protest vessels like Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior which are likely to dog the Japanese convoy.

The route has not been disclosed, but observers believe the only realistic passage is the

Cape sea route.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman confirmed that the issue was being discussed with the Japanese government.

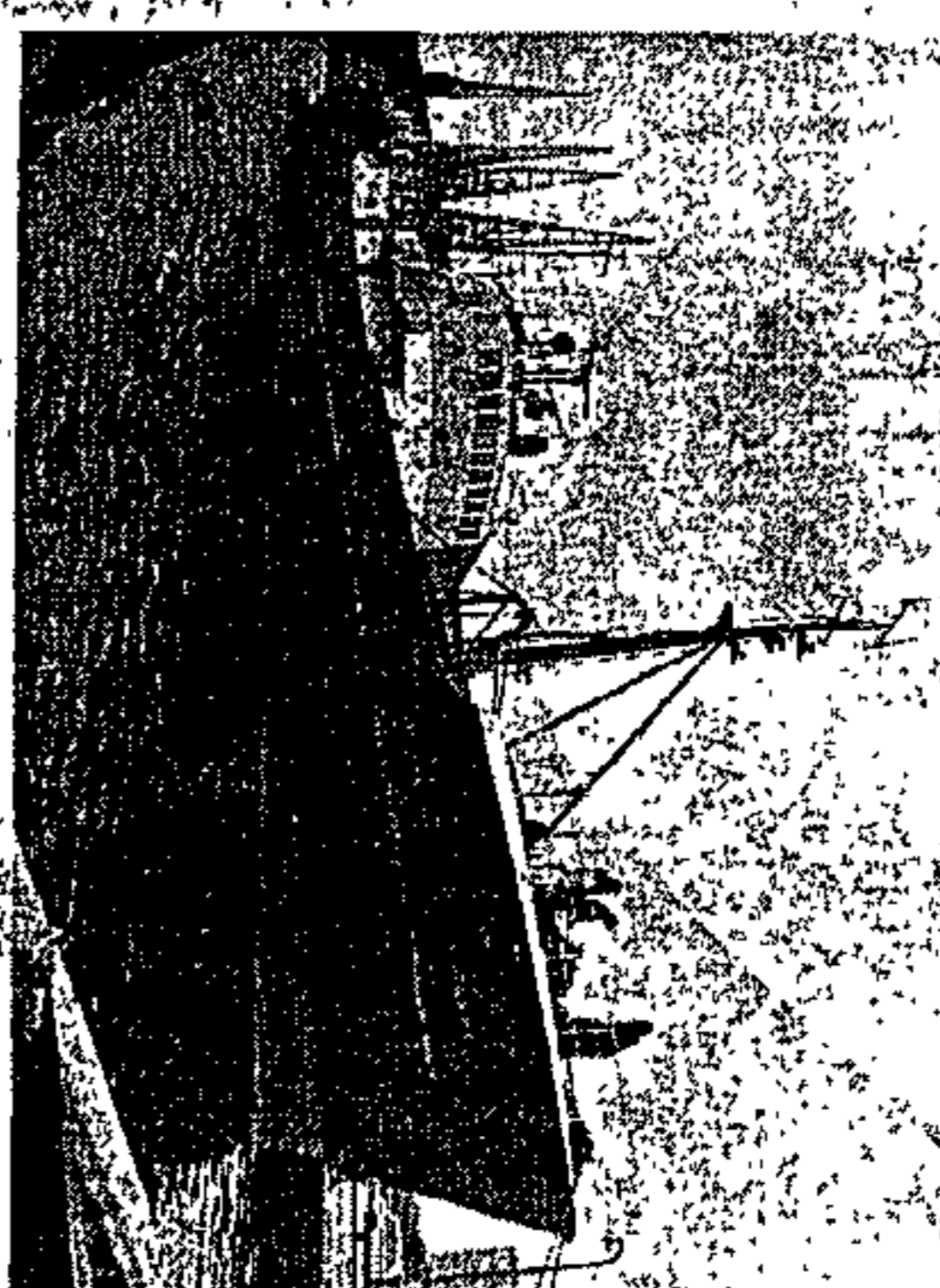
"Obviously we have raised our concerns (about the environment) in this matter," he said yesterday.

In his speech to the Earth Summit plenary session earlier this month, ANC environment spokesman Professor Siban Sangweni appealed to Japan to consult the ANC and the South African government about the shipment.

"The summit must be aware that the high seas are not risk free, and an accident could expose millions of people to radioactive contamination," he said.

Questioned about Professor Sangweni's remarks at a press briefing afterwards, Japanese delegation spokesman Mr Sa-daaki Numata declined to answer directly.

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It is armed with dual, rapid-fire 50mm gun turrets fore and aft and 20mm Vulcan guns on either side. It has two helicopters and two fast boats.

The casks carrying the plutonium have been certified by Japan and France and tested water-tight to a depth of 10,000m.

According to the United States State Department, the casks meet or exceed all international transport standards and safety

guidelines.

"The sea transportation arrangements will meet applicable provisions of the International maritime dangerous goods code, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency transport guidelines," it said.

The department also revealed that several routes for the plutonium shipment were being considered and that one would be chosen just before departure.

"The possible routes have been selected so as to keep on the open seas and avoid coming close to land as much as possible."

"The physical protection system to be employed for the sea transport segment provides a comparable level of protection to that for land transport and storage and use segments.

"The system utilises multiple barriers, alarms, armed guards and armed response forces, and is consistent with the level of protection provided (for) similar material in Japan, France and the US against internal and external threats," it said.

## 'Little doubt' land can be cleaned

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

NITROGLYCERINE-based explosives were manufactured on AECI's Somerset West site between 1963 and 1989.

During this period contamination occurred in manufacturing areas, although it was cleaned up routinely using existing technology, the company said.

Responding to queries by The Argus, AECI said it believed there was "little doubt" that with improving methods of detection and decontamination, the land would be rehabilitated in the future.

But a professional environmental scientist warned that this was a long and expensive process.

An AECI spokesman said the company had built new plants in parts of the area and demolished old ones without any incidents.

"AECI has accepted the standard that any land to be developed will be uncontaminated and safe. Until the company is certain that there is no contamination, the land will not be developed."

There had been decontamination of plant, buildings and land since the explosives plants were closed in 1989, and possible underground contamination was presently being investigated.

If such contamination was found, internationally accepted rehabilitation plans would be applied.

"It should be noted that the area in question is not available for alternate development at this stage. It is still being used for industrial purposes and this will continue for some time."

ARC 25/6/92

## Plots 'useless' after chemical poisoning

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Municipal Reporter

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There is no successful method of decontamination, according to a Western Cape Regional Services Council report.

The contaminated area is near the Groot Paardevlei Dam, and near the site of a proposed 60 hectare "village development."

The development is to include a shopping centre, hotel, Ultra City service station, office park, entertainment facilities and a retirement village.

The contaminated area is part of 164 hectares inside the

Somerset licence circle, controlled by the explosive manufacturer and now used mainly as a magazine storage area.

Contamination happened in the "early years" of the factory operations, the report said.

An adjoining 60 hectare piece of land has been expropriated by Strand Town Council for a golf course.

The RSC report said large parts of the AECI site at Somerset West had been frozen for development for years.

Changes at AECI meant a structure plan for development could be drawn up and one was commissioned in August 1990.

The plan proposes using 25 percent of the 167 hectares for housing, 18 percent for industry, 15 percent for open space, roads

and rail, and divides the rest among hotels, shops, schools, and an industrial park.

Among the comments tabled on the structure plan was a proposal by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs that the site would be "ideal" for a prison or police complex.

Strand and Somerset West town councils said the commercial area around the Paardevlei Dam should be enlarged to link up with the beach area.

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The report says that the daily sexual acts cause around 910 000 conceptions of which 50 percent are unintended and 25 percent are "definitely unwanted".

Some 150 000 abortions are performed every day worldwide.

The WHO report, its second on the subject, stressed the importance of family planning in containing the world population explosion.

It noted that the 100 million daily acts of sexual intercourse also caused 356 000 bacterial and viral infections, and WHO director general Dr Hiroshi Nakajima commented that "the picture of reproductive health in the world today appears to be gloomy".

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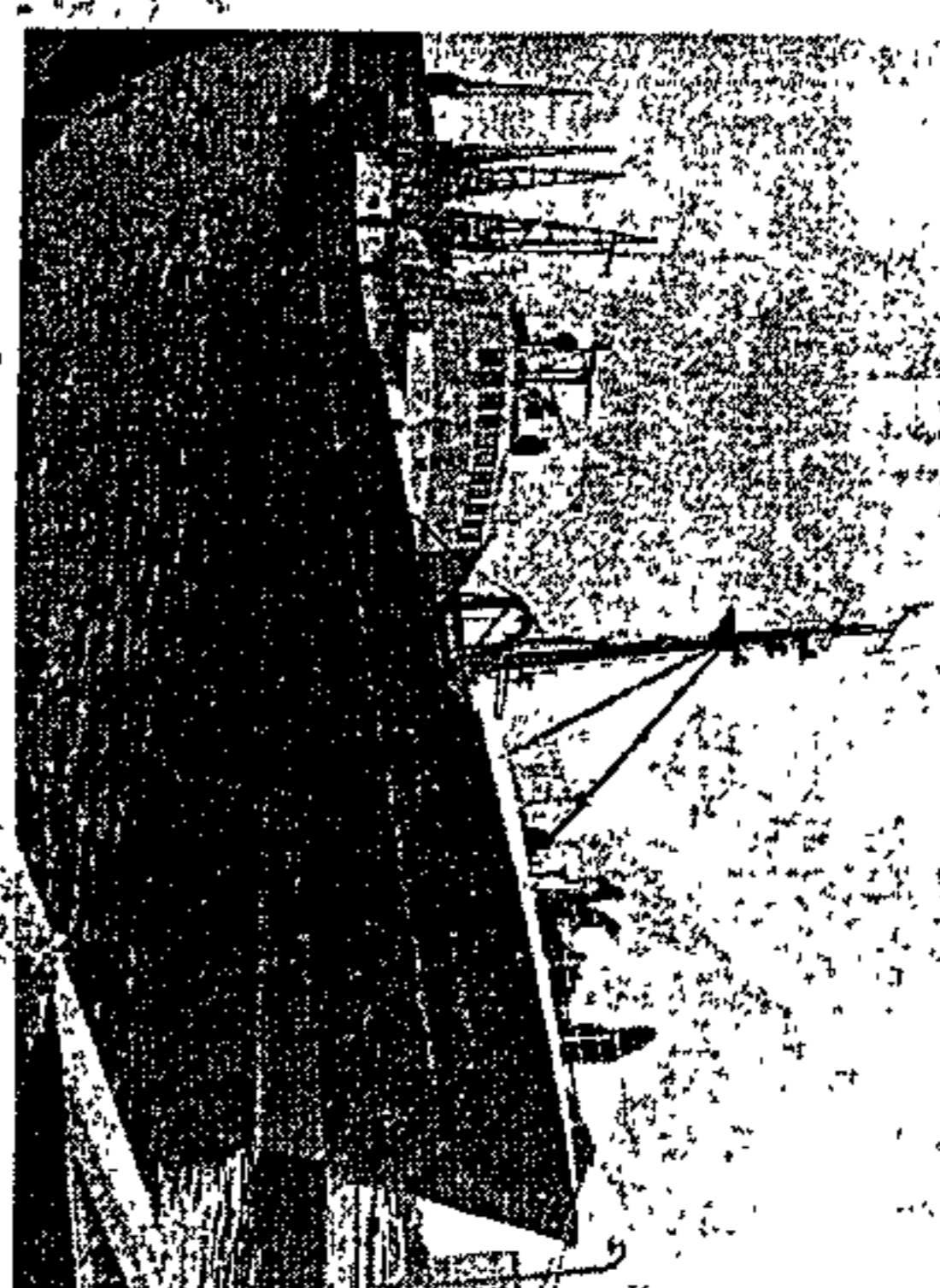
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# Chemical spill caused wasteland

56

CT 25/6/92

A VAST tract of land near Somerset West will remain a chemically contaminated wasteland for an indefinite period because of a nitroglycerine "spill" that occurred there several years ago.

The incident did not make headlines at the time, apparently because the 164-ha tract of land was part of a high-security area. Explosives were apparently manufactured in that vicinity.

The 164ha have now been designated a "special" area which will remain undeveloped.

A report to the Regional Services Council yesterday said: "It would appear that there is currently no successful method available to ensure decontamination."

This limited the implementation of any land-use proposals, according to the report entitled "AECI site — local structure plan". Otherwise, the land would by now have been earmarked for housing.

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STAR 25/6/92

## SA poachers

### threat to Bop

MMBATHO — South African poachers are threatening the conservation efforts of tribal communities in Bophuthatswana, a statement by the Bophuthatswana Parks Board said yesterday.

Board resource ecologist Rich Davies said time and effort had been devoted to conserving game on tribal land where communities were now marketing surplus animals to earn money for projects such as clinics and boreholes.

The controlled use of the wildlife resource was, however, being seriously threatened by South African poachers using off-road vehicles and spotlights in cross-border night raids. — Sapa.

# SA to allow deadly cargo past Cape

By EDDIE KOCH

26/6 - 21/92

THE government has decided to allow a ship loaded with enough plutonium for 120 nuclear bombs to sail around the Cape from Europe to Japan despite warnings that an accident at sea could cause an ecological holocaust.

Top-level sources told *The Weekly Mail* this week that an official decision to support the controversial shipment was taken soon after President FW de Klerk returned from his recent trip to Japan, where he was notified of the plan to transport the deadly cargo.

Earthlife Africa, a local green activist group, and the international environment organisation, Greenpeace, are planning a huge protest campaign to stop the deadly ship sailing in South African waters.

request details from the Japanese government of the plan to transport the dangerous material. The shipment will be the first of 50-tonnes of plutonium that Japan plans to ship from France and England over an 18-year period, ostensibly for its civilian nuclear energy programme.

allowed to go around the Cape if the Japanese government chooses this route. The decision to cooperate with the Japanese government was allegedly taken at a meeting convened by the Department of Environment Affairs and attended by a range of other government departments soon after De Klerk returned from his trip to Japan.

Asked to comment, Foreign Affairs representative Naude Steyn said his department did not want to issue any statement other than to say that it was aware of the planned shipment. "Nobody is yet aware what route the ship will take. We are studying the matter and cannot say anything else at this stage."

Earthlife representative Chris Albertyn said his organisation was working closely with Greenpeace on preparations for a unprecedented protest campaign to stop the shipment.

pub eart tsauri ur tpijsip terevstew  
Kipdth...

innoc in nainhal aw yati Sauri au i ...



# Forests threaten water resources

W/Mail 26/6-27/92  
By CLAIRE KEATON

HUGE forestry development in the north eastern Cape is threatening rivers and indigenous plants.

The planting could extend as high as the southern Drakensberg Escarpment, which is an important water catchment area for South Africa and Transkei.

The disruption of water resources is particularly worrying to Cape Nature Conservation officer Jan Vlok. "The streams there flow into three perennial rivers in Transkei. It is important to maintain these rivers as people downstream do not have water holes or pumps.

"I am worried about the vleis and marshes. They could dry up and disappear," he said.

Conservation officials fear large plantations of exotic trees will also crowd out indigenous species, create a fire hazard, irrevocably destroy the natural grassland, and squeeze out communities that have farmed the land for decades.

Large scale forestry has come to the area with Mondi Paper Company, which has bought 167 farms in the Elliot and Maclear districts.

North East Cape Forests (NECF), managed by Mondi, plans to plant 80 000ha of land over the next 10 years. Local farmers have also applied for forestry permits, covering a further 25 000ha.

NECF regional manager Gawie van Wyck said Mondi had learnt from mistakes made in the Transvaal. Two rivers flowing into the Kruger Park no longer run in the dry season, after the upper catchment area was forested. — Eena

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# Teach reading skills and fight youth crime — expert

53  
APR 26/6/92

**JOHN VILJOEN**  
Education Reporter

THE high crime rate among the youth of the Western Cape should be fought by heeding the link between juvenile delinquency and illiteracy, a visiting educationist has suggested.

Professor Roger Saunders, professor of psychology at Maryland University, is in South Africa on a lecture tour to promote the recently founded Marion Welchman Dyslexia, Literacy and Educational Upliftment Trust.

He is accompanied by Mrs Marion Welchman, co-founder of the British Dyslexia Association.

Johannesburg reading expert Mrs Edna Freinkel, principal of the Rebecca Ostrowiak School of Reading, recently registered the trust. It will provide bursaries for children and adults and finance centres countrywide where educators will learn to teach reading skills.

Mrs Freinkel believes South Africa is fast approaching "a des-

perate situation" regarding illiteracy.

About half the adult black population was illiterate, with a further nine million functionally illiterate, while a third of the white population was functionally illiterate, Mrs Freinkel said.

"Literacy is fast becoming the single most important aspect of our future. Regardless of how much overseas money is invested in our economy, job opportunities will only go to those who can read and write satisfactorily," she said.

In an interview in Cape Town Professor Saunders said he had identified a link between juvenile delinquency and illiteracy and reading problems.

The 23 million functionally illiterate people in the United States included over 50 percent of prison inmates and 85 percent of the juveniles appearing before the courts, he said.

In a programme in Professor Saunders's city of Baltimore,

courts screened first offenders aged 14 to 18 for dyslexia or learning disabilities.

The court assigned young offenders who were illiterate or who had dyslexia or learning disabilities to tutoring.

Professor Saunders said offenders who improved their education in prison were less likely to commit crimes again.

He suggested a major thrust in the Western Cape to prevent illiteracy which would reduce crime.

Once the reason for a person's illiteracy was identified the individual should be taught according to his or her learning style.

To do this, teachers had to be educated in appropriate instruction methods.

This would cost the state money but Professor Saunders argued that the expense would be covered by the reduced spending on prison inmates — it cost the United States government \$40 000 (R112 000) to imprison an individual for a year, he said.

ARC 26/6/92 (58)

# More funding needed for landmark beauties

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

PROPER state funding for the Cape's internationally acclaimed natural resources like Table Mountain, Kirstenbosch and Cape Point nature reserve is "absolutely vital", says the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce.

Commenting in its latest bulletin on the government's white paper on a national tourism policy, the chamber noted the emphasis on the need to develop further the country's "unique selling features" — the natural environment, fauna and flora.

The government had to provide proper funding so that these features could be conserved, managed and developed to their full potential, the chamber argued.

Noting that Robben Island — "another unique selling feature of the Western Cape" — would be transferred to the National Parks Board, the chamber called for local interest groups to be included on the island's management board.

The Department of Correctional Services should not be allowed to de-

lay development of the island as a tourist resort, it added.

The white paper's proposals for further deregulation of the tourism industry were welcome, and the chamber reiterated its call for the removal of restrictive legislation which affected tourists.

"Specifically, (we) asked that Sunday trading be formally allowed, liquor laws be relaxed and that gambling be permitted under controlled conditions."

The chamber said it had also raised strong objections to the government's insistence on retaining protective tariffs on imported luxury coaches.

"The best inducement to the local industry to raise the standard of its own coaches is to expose it to competition from abroad," it argued.

Noting the deregulation of air travel, the chamber said add-on fares for flights to Cape Town and Durban needed to be dropped.

"In view of the acceptance of (these cities) as alternate 'gateways' to Johannesburg, there can be no justification for the continuation of add-on fares, and these should be abolished."

Mini Earth  
B/Dany 26/6/92  
(56)  
summit to  
plan policy

A MINI Earth summit along the lines of the international environmental indaba held in Rio earlier this month will soon be staged to map out an environmental policy for Pretoria.

The conference, to be held on October 7 to 9 in Pretoria, will be a planning an action conference during which guidelines for the management of the environment will be drawn up.

The aim is to develop an effective conservation strategy with the biggest possible support from all interest groups.

A statement by the organisers says a democratic work method is one aim of the conference.

For this reason any person or organisation involved in the environment in general and in the area of cultural resources, as well as members of the public are actively being sought.

The conference will be presented by the council's cultural development committee, while an organising committee has been appointed, chaired by Gerhard-Mark van der Waal of the HSRC.

The conference will be preceded by a survey of environmental resources.

THE Pretoria International Show later this month is expected to be the biggest yet, with attendance likely to top the 800 000 mark.

Organisers say inquiries about taking part have been received from as far afield as Russia, Hungary, Poland and Pakistan.

Last year the show attracted more than 700 000 visitors and it is now recognised as the largest retail sales show in the country.

## Russians are set to come to the show

*Biday 26/6/92*

The 53rd show, which starts on August 26, will be followed in October by the first international wildlife and outdoors expo of its size in southern Africa — the Wild Expo '92.

A spokesman for the organisers said that like the Pretoria International

Show, the expo was expected to draw huge crowds.

Game catching exhibitions are expected to be among the major attractions. The expo will focus on nature conservation, wildlife, hunting, fishing, the outdoors life and southern Africa's flora and fau-

na. It takes place from October 27 to November 1.

The spokesman said the expo would be run in conjunction with the third international wildlife ranching symposium to be held at CSIR's conference centre.

Although still in the planning stages, overseas interest in the expo had been "tremendous", the spokesman said. Inquiries had been received from Europe and the US.



## Pollution 'threat to fertility'

LONDON. — Contaminated air, food and water may be partly responsible for infertility in young couples, a British environmental medicine specialist said yesterday.

"Pollution of air, food and water is becoming so high that sperm counts are plummeting," Dr Mark Payne told a health conference here. Infertility is now affecting one in six couples in Britain.

He said humans could be facing a severe threat to their existence before the turn of the century because of pollution by traffic fumes, pesticides sprayed on farms and poisonous emissions from incinerators. — Sapa-Reuter (5) CT 26/6/92

# SA gives nod to plutonium ships

56 CT 27/6/92 Own Correspondent

**DURBAN.** — The government has allegedly allowed Japan to ship 48 consignments of lethal and radioactive plutonium over the next eight years from France to Japan by sailing round the Cape.

This is according to Earthlife Africa spokesman Mr Chris Albertyn, who said President FW de Klerk apparently organised the deal while he was visiting Japan earlier this year.

Mr Albertyn said almost 100 tons of plutonium — more than the entire US nuclear arsenal — would be shipped from Europe to Japan, with the first consignment leaving the French port of Cherbourg in August.

He said the shipments were capable of giving cancer to the world's population "one thousand times over" and of "rendering vast stretches of land uninhabitable for 20 000 years".

Director general of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs Dr P J Hugo said that when a dangerous cargo like plutonium or spent nuclear fuel was transported it would be encased in a steel and lead-lined container.

A statement from the company involved with the shipment, British Nuclear Fuels PLC, said the shipment would be in "full compliance with the International Atomic Agency's regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials".

# Toxic waste battle ends on barren ground

51  
MKG 27/6/92

**DAVID CUMMING**  
Weekend Argus Correspondent

■ A bitter legal dispute, overlaid with intrigue, between two of the country's major disposers of toxic waste, has ended in the dismissal by the Supreme Court of an application by one against the other

AN application in which Waste Tech, a Fraser Alexander subsidiary, sought to

prevent competitor Wade Refuse and associate Wade Chem from using "confidential" information to "filch" its clients has been dismissed with costs by Mr Justice L Serrurier in the Witwatersrand Division of the Supreme Court.

The case related to allegations that Wade-Chem had acquired information about Waste Tech's clients from a chemist formerly in Waste Tech's employ and subsequently employed by Wade-Chem.

According to papers before the court, the chemist, Mr Steven Alan Elliot, joined Wade-Chem in December 1991.

Fewer than two months later the company discovered Mr Elliot had approached one of its

most important clients to place its business with another company at which he had been offered a job.

Wade Chem said he was dismissed as a result. Subsequently he approached Waste Tech and alleged Wade Chem disposed of toxic waste irresponsibly and dangerously and that he had passed on confidential information regarding Waste Tech's business.

In papers before the court Mr Elliot alleged that in the course of the dispute he had received death threats from Wade-Chem executives. The judge found, however, that his version of the events should be "taken with a pinch of salt."

Wade-Chem operates the only toxic waste landfill site in South Africa with a permanent

Class 1 licence at Holfontein near Springs.

Wade Chem says its commissioning of this plant made inroads into what had previously been a virtual Waste Tech monopoly and saw Mr Elliot's allegations as an ideal opportunity to curb its activities.

It was granted an urgent application authorising the sheriff to attach the documents concerned. The hearing concerned was held in camera, but details were later "leaked" to the Press and M-Net.

A Department of Water Affairs investigation of the Holfontein site followed, again after a "leak" of an affidavit made by Elliot.

Subsequently a helicopter carrying a photographer and video-cameraman hovered

over the site, which Waste Tech acknowledged was for the purpose of gathering evidence on Wade-Chem's activities. The pilot said afterwards he had been chartered under the impression that the plant belonged to Waste Tech and the filming was for purposes of a promotional brochure.

Wade-Chem put before the court affidavits from clients it had allegedly "stolen" from Waste Tech. These said, among other things, that they had become Wade Chem clients because of dissatisfaction with Waste Tech's service, and that in one case Wade-Chem's prices were 75 percent lower than Waste Tech's. Wade-Chem suggested it was unthinkable that a company would reduce its price by so great a margin simply to secure business.

# Concern as Govt puts out tender for banned DDT

START 27/6/92

JULIENNE DU TOIT

56

THE Government has put out a tender for 213 tons of DDT insecticide, a banned substance in South Africa and most other countries.

Although it is banned, the banning notice makes provision for its use in malaria control, as long as it is not used outdoors where it can harm the environment.

But according to a recent thesis done through the University of Potchefstroom, it has been detected in the environment, and in the breast milk of mothers living in the areas sprayed.

Since the 1950s the insecticide, which stays in the food chain almost indefinitely and causes cancer and deaths in certain animals, has been used against malaria-carrying mosquitoes in South Africa.

It is sprayed in the mud huts of people living in northern Natal and KwaZulu and northern Natal by authorities linked to the Department of National Health. "DDT has never killed a single person," said Dr Edmund Hartwig, specialist scientist at the Department of National Health.

He said it was essential to use DDT because it was the best alternative and, if it was not used, the incidence of malaria would shoot up.

## High levels in breast milk

But Dr Henk Bouwman at the University of Potchefstroom has just done research on DDT levels in humans and nature in KwaZulu, and has found very high levels in breast milk and babies' blood serum, and lower levels in the region's fish.

He acknowledged that no human had ever died of DDT poisoning since no one could ingest enough of it. And it did not cause cancer in humans.

But it does cause liver damage in children and adults very similar to that caused by alcohol. And the effects on babies, whose neurological functions are not fully developed, has not been studied.

DDT is used because it is cheap and because it breaks down extremely slowly. This is bad news for the environment, because it persists in the food chain and becomes more and more concentrated as it passes through the different animals, until there is a lethal dosage and predators start dying.

According to Hartwig, DDT is the only substance effective in mud huts, because all other insecticides soak in, while DDT eventually crystallises out of the mud.

But new research, being done overseas and in Natal by the Medical Research Council, is showing that synthetic pyrethroids could be the answer.

# Only crumbs for the needy

City Press 28/6/92

56

WHILE 117 world leaders, 30 of them African, ate dove eggs wrapped in salami and roast veal *a la Diplomate* at the earth summit in Rio, southern Africa – suffering its worst drought in more than 100 years – came away with crumbs.

This was because the needs of northern governments, northern corporations and the northern media dominated the recently concluded UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Grassroots activists from Africa and the Third World found little concern about democracy at the summit.

Southern African officials were clearly frustrated at the limited resources rich countries were willing to commit to poorer countries' efforts to preserve the environment.

"UNCED has achieved a lot. It was historic in its importance but, I regret to say, it has also failed in some respects," Botswana President Sir Ketumile Masire said in his speech on behalf of African countries

## Africa's silent agony brushed aside by concerns of the rich

at the summit's closing plenary.

"It's a step – it's not a solution – but it is a positive step," commented Mozambique's Mineral Resources Minister, John William Kachamila.

"But what the developing countries need is something a lot bigger," he added.

Tanzanian president Ali Hassan Mwinyi told world leaders the global environmental crisis consists of two kinds of emergencies: "loud" ones such as global warming, and "silent" ones which affect the daily lives of billions of the world's poor.

His remarks underlined the wide gulf between the priorities of the rich, industrialised north and the urgent needs of the poor in the south.

Southern African officials and activists alike were angered by richer countries' dismissal of issues such as fuelwood ex-

haustion, toxic waste disposal, or the dumping of dangerous pharmaceutical products, as "local" concerns less important than the "global" issues – such as climate change and ozone depletion – pre-occupying the North.

Some were clearly frustrated by US intransigence on issues of concern to both Africa and the world.

### Bush

"It's not possible to believe President George Bush's election campaign considerations are more important than the contents of the biodiversity treaty," Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe told a press conference in Ecuador while en route to the earth summit.

Despite appeals made by several presidents of SADCC member states, the conference ignored one of southern Africa's most pressing problems:

reconstruction of rural and urban environments devastated by white South Africa's wars of destabilisation against its neighbours.

In fact, the US pressed consistently to exclude mention of war as a source of environmental degradation.

Hence there was no discussion of possible funding for converting the region's "surplus armies", after decades of Cold War-fuelled conflict, into "green battalions" which could help repair the massive war damage in countries like Angola and Mozambique.

Usually at odds in domestic arenas, southern Africa's heads of state such as Tanzania's Mwinyi found common ground with the region's activists in stressing the primary importance of poverty as the most critical factor fueling environmental degradation.

"The loud emergencies

have yet to affect many people," Mwinyi told summit leaders.

"But the silent emergencies – the more immediate issues of human survival – are already wasting many lives. Some 1.5-billion people in developing countries do not have access to health services.

SADCC country delegations had arrived in Brazil sharing a common position thrashed out last year in a series of UN Economic Commission for Africa and Organisation of African Unity meetings.

A central priority was to ensure the issue of increasing desertification – a scientifically contentious subject – be recognised as a global problem rather than just an African concern.

African delegates were clearly pleased when the conference agreed to set up an Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to negotiate an international convention on drought and desertification control.

But the failure to deal with the southern African drought was the most depressing feature for this region. – AIA

# Wade in the clear

## Business Times Reporter

THE long-simmering dispute between toxic-waste management rivals Waste Tech and Wade Refuse Group has been resolved in the Witwatersrand Supreme Court.

Mr Justice Serrurier discharged with costs the interim order obtained by Waste Tech against Wade Refuse, and an application by Steven Alan Elliott, formerly employed by both companies.

The case arose after allegations that Wade-Chem had handled toxic waste in an "irresponsible" manner at its plant at Holfontein near Springs. (56)

It was also alleged that Mr Elliott had been threatened with death and that he had provided Wade-Chem, with whom he was then employed, with confidential documents that allowed it to compete with Waste Tech.

These allegations were reported in Business Times on April 5. 51 Times (6155)

Salt 28/6/92

Mr Justice Serrurier also found that the interim order obtained by Waste Tech was served on Wade Refuse, whereas the company competing with Waste Tech was Wade-Chem, a member of Wade Refuse Group.

He found that that Waste Tech had not established that the information allegedly given to Wade-Chem was confidential.

As far as Mr Elliott's allegations were concerned, Mr Justice Serrurier remarked that his allegations ought to be taken with a "pinch of salt".

An application by Mr Elliott against certain Wade Refuse directors and officials restraining them from threatening him or otherwise harassing him and heard simultaneously with Waste Tech's application, was dismissed with costs.

# Drought grips the dry land

By MOSES MAMAILA

VILLAGERS at Maungani, one of the Northern-Transvaal villages wake up as early as 4 am to queue for the most potent and simple of all life-giving mutis - water.

Taps in the drought-devastated village outside Thohoyandou are only opened between 7 am and 10 am following "very strict" water cuts introduced in Venda.

Villagers reserve space

in the long queue carrying their 25-litre containers.

The situation in areas such as Muswodi village has dramatically worsened and residents there depend entirely on the supply provided by the government tankers.

Venda government spokesman Lt-Col Brian Du Toit could not say how much this was costing.

"We have bought many water tankers and we are improving 94 bore-

holes. Fifty more will be drilled soon," he said.

The drought has eroded the chauvinist view that it is a woman's job to fetch water. Men now take water containers with them.

A resident of Muswodi village recently told radio Thohoyandou that in his area they no longer wash themselves as the available water was used for cooking and drinking.

56  
CIP/MW 28/6/72

By SMITH RADINGWANA

PRAYERS made them feel better, but they didn't bring rain.

Now the people are putting their hopes in a fancy rain machine.

Meanwhile, areas neighbouring the homeland are holding on to water reserves which the people of Sekhukhuniland desperately need.

Vast areas of the homeland have been brought to breakpoint by the drought.

Attempts to pray for rain failed.

People are eagerly looking forward to crank up the rain machine bought by the late Dr CN Phathudi.

Residents in areas such as Mphanama, Radingwana, Madibaneng and

# No water for the people to drink

Malegale have to walk many kilometers to dig the ground to find water.

Mphanama villagers are forced to pay R2,50 for 25 litres.

A spokesman for Mphanama Civic Association, a Mr Segala, blamed the Lebowa government for being ignorant.

"We strongly urge the Lebowa government to feel sympathy for the Sekhukhuniland people. Without water we cannot eat, walk or perform our daily work. Without water we cannot survive. Water is life," he said.

In a letter to the De-

partment of Agriculture, the MCA asked the minister to act quickly.

In response, the minister informed the civic that their letter had been referred to the deputy general director of the Department of Water Supply and Forestry.

In a meeting at Schoenot, it was suggested that the Lebowa government pressure the Groblersdal municipality to supply residents with water from Loskop Dam.

It was suggested that the Arabi, Olifant and Nkadimeng Dams should supply Sekhukhuniland with water.



# Eskom power cheapest despite large price hike

B/day 29/6/92

EDWARD WEST

EVEN though SA's 9,28% electricity price increase in 1992 was the highest of 14 countries surveyed, its 11,26c a kilowatt hour average price was the cheapest in the world, a National Utility Services (NUS) survey has shown.

NUS, which specialises in analysing energy tariffs, projected a possible 60% increase in SA's industrial and commercial electricity rates within five years despite Eskom's commitment to reduce electricity costs in real terms over the period.

Eskom, which saw its prices fall 14% over the past five years, planned to reduce its prices by a further 20% in real terms over the next five years, its 1991 annual report said.

The reduction would help many of its energy-rich customers compete on international markets, the report said.

In contrast, NUS director Rob Mac-

kenzie said: "The impression may have been gained that we can expect electricity prices to drop. That is incorrect."

"While SA will still enjoy inexpensive electricity by 1998 compared with many other countries, it is likely that we will have moved up the price ladder and we could find our electricity more expensive than many of our trading partners which would reduce SA's international competitiveness."

Eskom's pricing policy manager Andries Calitz said if the inflation rate remained static over five years, the prices of all consumer goods would double.

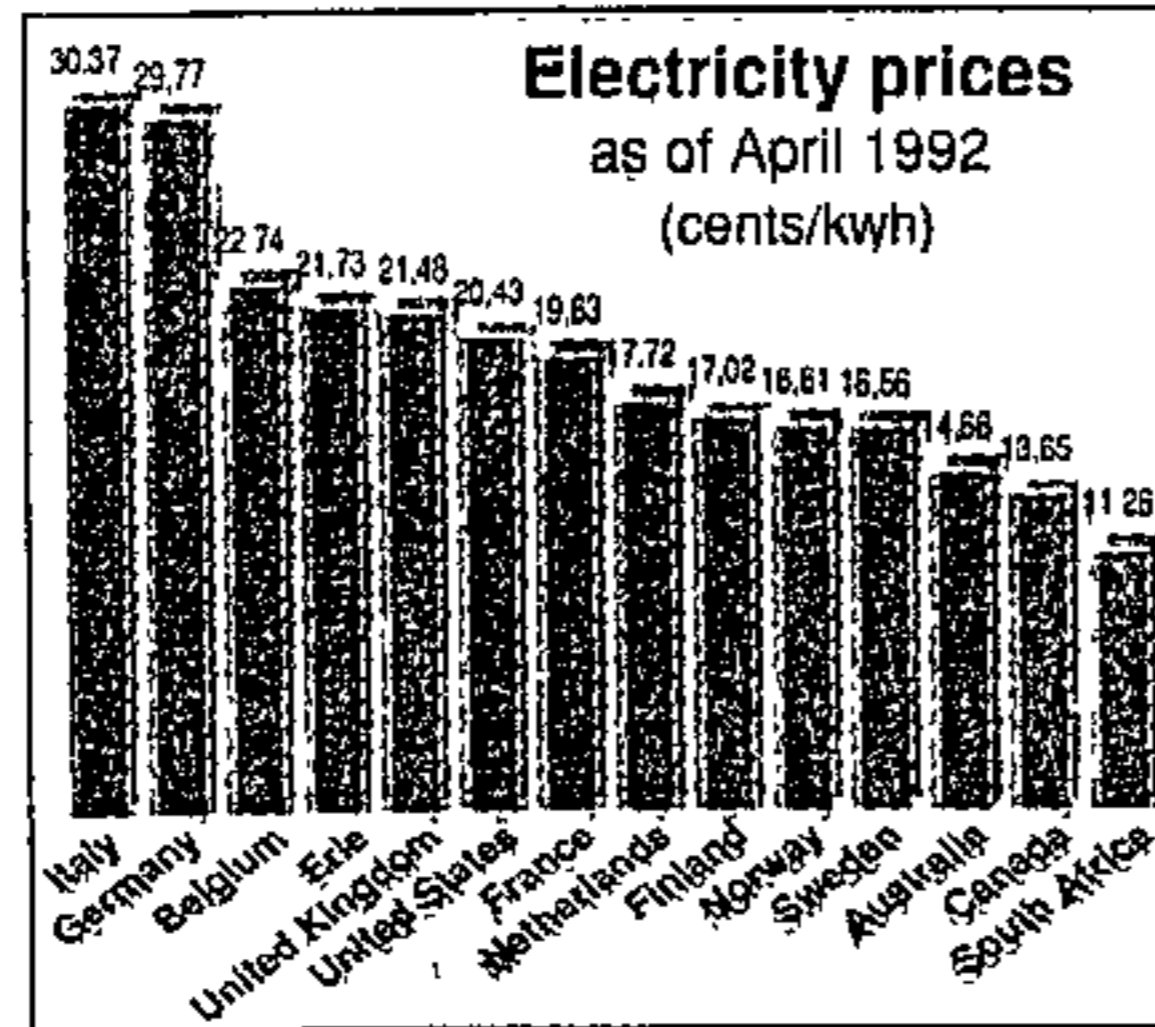
Eskom's prices had remained the lowest in the world during the past five years in spite of the NUS's earlier predictions that the situation would change, he said.

The NUS said the UK, Finland, Italy and Australia experienced percentage price increases in excess of their inflation rates, but SA, Sweden, France, Canada, US and Belgium had percentage increases below inflation rates.

Ireland maintained its prices while Germany, Netherlands and Norway reduced their electricity prices.

On a city-to-city basis, Durban was the most expensive supplier of electricity at 11,95c a kilowatt hour followed closely by Johannesburg at 11,79c.

Cape Town and Pretoria supplied electricity at 11,25c and 11,54c a kilowatt hour respectively while Eskom was the cheapest supplier at 9,79c.



Graphics RUBY-GAY MARTIN Source NUS SA

# Fish Hoek residents to fight mountain homes

5b 30/6/92

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

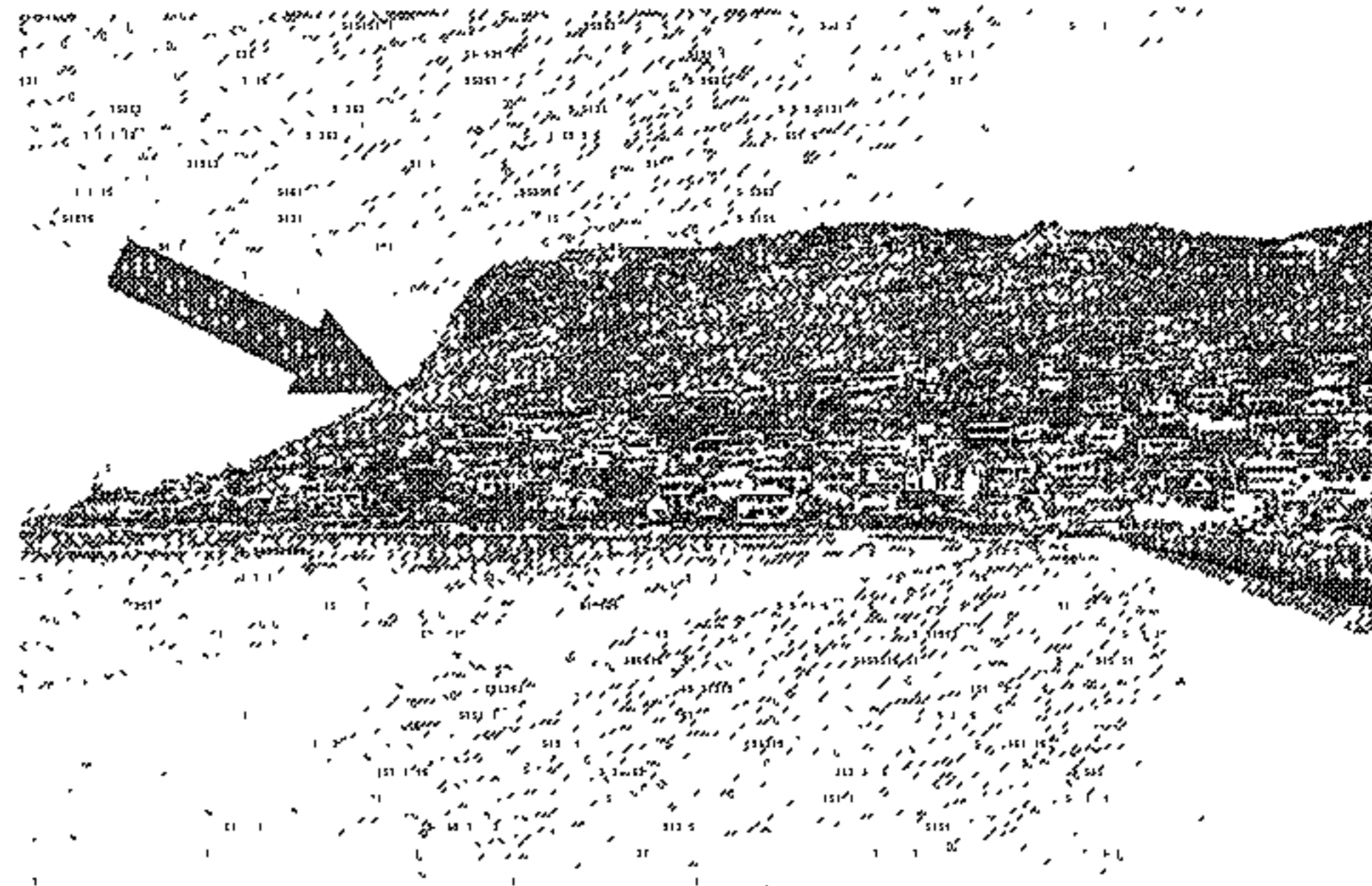
**EMBATTLED** Fish Hoek faces yet another environmental onslaught as developers apply for permission to change the familiar face of the town's famous landmark, Elsie's Peak overlooking False Bay.

A proposed sub-division for 41 luxury houses high on the slopes of the mountain is before the town council, and has drawn a number of objections from residents before today's closing date.

The 4,1 ha site between the as yet unbuilt Mountain and Cliff roads is approved for township purposes, although it extends 50m above the normal upper building limit in the Peninsula and 80m above most building in Fish Hoek.

"For unknown historical reasons the approved township extends above the 152m contour, which has traditionally been used to define the limit for development," says an environmental assessment report by a landscape architect.

"... The elevation of the property lies above the general line of existing development, plus-minus 120m contour, in the Fish Hoek Valley, so that any development on the site will be visually prominent."



**MILLIONAIRES' VIEW:** The arrow shows the spot on Elsie's Peak in Fish Hoek where developers propose to build 41 luxury houses.

The report recommends that no building takes place on the eastern section of the site, directly below the vertical Elsie's Peak sandstone cliffs, while the rest could be developed as a unified housing scheme with strict building restraints.

The report says neighbouring erven would not be visually affected by the proposed development, but there would be a visual impact on areas in the "middle distance" — the Fish Hoek valley, beachfront and opposite mountain slopes — as

well as on more distant areas such as St James and parts of Muizenberg.

"The development will be visually prominent, emphasised by the convex, exposed nature of the site, with no topographic or vegetation enclosure to provide any screens.

"The form of development and treatment of buildings and boundary walls therefore becomes critical and mitigating measures are required to reduce the visual impact."

The report suggests that building and landscaping measures be regulated by a homeowners' association and the municipality during the building plan approval stage.

It also recommends a detailed building and landscaping design manual be drawn up, with any restrictions being included in the title deeds.

Objections from Fish Hoek residents include:

- The subdivision conflicts with the original architect's plan for a single building unit;
  - The development will be visually and aesthetically degrading to Fish Hoek's natural environment and scenic beauty;
  - Additional stormwater run-off will necessitate upgrading of the existing installation lower down and will also affect the marine reserve along the coast;
  - The "already overloaded" Simon's Town Road sewer will need upgrading; and
  - Building poses considerable danger to neighbouring houses because of the steep slope.
- A botanist who inspected the site recorded 83 species in one morning. He suggested that a detailed study would reveal at least twice that number, although he pointed out that few of them were seriously threatened.

## Eskom in union accord

*ARC 30/6/92*  
JOHANNESBURG. — Eskom has reached agreement with the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa and the Electricity Workers Union after talks between representatives of 3 000 employees and company management. — Sapa. **55** 

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REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

# STAATSKOERANT

## GOVERNMENT GAZETTE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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VOL. 325

KAAPSTAD, 1 JULIE 1992  
CAPE TOWN, 1 JULY 1992

No. 14085

KANTOOR VAN DIE STAATSPRESIDENT

STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

No. 1778.

1 Julie 1992

No. 1778.

1 July 1992

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Staatspresident sy goedkeuring geheg het aan die onderstaande Wet wat hierby ter algemene inligting gepubliseer word:—

It is hereby notified that the State President has assented to the following Act which is hereby published for general information:—

No. 91 van 1992: Tweede Wysigingswet op Nasionale Parke, 1992.

No. 91 of 1992: National Parks Second Amendment Act, 1992.

## ALGEMENE VERDUIDELIKENDE NOTA:

Woorde met 'n volstreep daaronder, dui invoegings in bestaande verordeninge aan.

## WET

Tot wysiging van die Wet op Nasionale Parke, 1976, ten einde verdere voorsiening te maak vir die inbetaling van geld in die Nasionaleparke-grondverkrygingsfonds; en voorsiening te maak vir aangeleenthede wat daarmee in verband staan.

(*Afrikaanse teks deur die Staatspresident geteken.*)  
(*Goedgekeur op 18 Junie 1992.*)

**D**AAR WORD BEPAAL deur die Staatspresident en die Parlement van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, soos volg:—

Wysiging van artikel 12A van Wet 57 van 1976, soos ingevoeg deur artikel 1 van Wet 60 van 1979 en gewysig deur artikel 4 van Wet 23 van 1983, artikel 8 van Wet 43 van 1986 en artikel 7 van Wet 28 van 1992

1. Artikel 12A van die Wet op Nasionale Parke, 1976, word hierby gewysig—

- (a) deur die volgende paragraaf by subartikel (2) te voeg:  
 “(e) geld verkry by wyse van lenings wat deur die raad vir die doeleindes van die fonds aangegaan word.”; en
- (b) deur die volgende subartikel na subartikel (2) in te voeg:  
 “(2A) 'n Lening bedoel in subartikel (2)(e) word slegs met die goedkeuring van die Minister, verleen met die instemming van die Minister van Finansies, aangegaan.”

## Kort titel

2. Hierdie Wet heet die Tweede Wysigingswet op Nasionale Parke, 1992.

## GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.

## ACT

To amend the National Parks Act, 1976, so as to make further provision for the payment of moneys into the National Parks Land Acquisition Fund; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

(*Afrikaans text signed by the State President.*)  
(*Assented to 18 June 1992.*)

**B**ET ENACTED by the State President and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Amendment of section 12A of Act 57 of 1976, as inserted by section 1 of Act 60 of 1979 and amended by section 4 of Act 23 of 1983, section 8 of Act 43 of 1986 and section 7 of Act 28 of 1992

1. Section 12A of the National Parks Act, 1976, is hereby amended—

- (a) by the addition to subsection (2) of the following paragraph:  
 “(e) moneys acquired by means of loans raised by the board for the purposes of the fund.”; and
- (b) by the insertion after subsection (2) of the following subsection:  
 “(2A) A loan referred to in subsection (2)(e) shall only be raised with the approval of the Minister, granted with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance.”

## Short title

2. This Act shall be called the National Parks Second Amendment Act, 1992.

# Waste disposal areas picked

Staff Reporter

56

CT 1/7/92

THE University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit has determined two target areas for the disposal of non-toxic solid waste — in the Paarl and Stellenbosch areas.

One site in each area will be recommended.

The unit in association with GFJ Incorporated, a Stellenbosch firm of consulting engineers, undertook the study for the Western Cape Regional Services Council to find and assess the two sites.

### Likely impact

Studies for each sub-region were undertaken in two phases. The target areas were identified in the first phase.

The most suitable site will be identified in phase two.

Biophysical and socio-economic criteria will be used to identify and assess potential sites.

The study will also identify the likely impact associated with using each of the preferred sites and will recommend mitigatory measures to ameliorate these impacts.

Phase one of the study has been completed and released. A period until July 13 has been set aside for the public and all interested and affected parties to comment on the potential sites.

Copies of phase one's report will be available at all public libraries in the Paarl and Stellenbosch areas.

All comments should be in writing.

Office Computer Effic



# Major ivory racket cracked

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN and  
JOHN YELD

Staff Reporters ARG 3/7/92

POLICE have made a major breakthrough against an international ivory smuggling network that has seriously embarrassed South Africa.

The endangered species protection unit yesterday arrested a 38-year-old American citizen, Mr Kenneth Karner, of Bo-La-Motte farm in Franschoek, and said further arrests were expected soon, both locally and abroad.

Mr Karner was held after months of intense detective work. Japanese customs officials discovered a false compartment in a container filled with Korean-style medicine chests in January.

The compartment, found during an

inspection in the port of Kobe, contained 27 raw elephant tusks weighing 372kg and worth an estimated R500 000 on the black market.

Police believe the tusks were mainly from Zaire and Zambia.

The find was made during the annual meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites), at which the Southern African countries appealed for the international moratorium on the ivory trade to be lifted.

But opponents argued that South Africa was a major conduit for smuggled ivory and was unable to control the trade. The customs find added weight to their charge.

Police said their investigation involved only the "tip of the iceberg" of an international ivory smuggling racket going back as far as 1990.

# No protected trees found on kaolin mine site

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

5b

FORESTRY officials investigating the proposed kaolin mining site on the slopes of Chapman's Peak have found seven tree species — six of them aliens. **ARC 3/7/92**

The only indigenous tree species recorded was the bastard ironwood *Olea capensis ca-*

*pensis*, not a protected species.

The investigation was held after Glencairn resident Mrs Sharon Povey reported finding several young milkwood trees on the site. Milkwoods are protected under the Cape Nature Conservation ordinance and a permit is needed to remove or destroy them.

In a letter to the kaolin min-

ing company Serina, the regional guidance officer of the department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Mr Pierre Combrinck, said they had not found any protected trees on the site.

"Four of the species are acknowledged intruders which have already limited the growth of indigenous trees and fynbos," his letter said.

Serina — which has been criticised for "rehabilitating" its Brakkloof kaolin mining site at Sun Valley with alien kikuyu grass — has indicated that it will rehabilitate the Chapman's Peak site, after mining, with indigenous trees and fynbos.

Mrs Povey said she was surprised at the forestry officials' finding.



CF 417192  
Deadly cargo:

Greenpeace (5)  
reps for SA

Staff Reporter

THE environment movement Greenpeace is to send representatives to South Africa in a campaign to prevent a ship carrying one ton of plutonium from sailing in Cape waters.

The Japanese ship, due to leave France for Tokyo next month, contains enough plutonium to make 500 atom bombs. Mr Theuns Theron, of the Department of Environmental Affairs, said: "About the best we can do is to get the navy and air force to keep a close watch on the ship when she sails around our coast."

# Confusion over toxic chemicals

S/Times [Cape metro] 5/17/92

(S6)

**CONFUSION** surrounds two rival schemes to store hazardous chemicals in Cape Town.

Witney Chemicals, a Durban-based company, wants to build a pipeline to convey the chemicals Styrene Monomer and Vinyl Acetate to storage tanks in Paarden Eiland.

Cape Town Bulk Storage, a partnership between Portnet and Richards Bay Bulk Storage, wants to build a tank-farm for several chemicals on reclaimed land in the harbour.

The Cape Town City Council first agreed to the pipeline, then decided in favour of the Portnet scheme and this week decided to wait for an environmental assessment report before making further recommendations.

**By CHIARA CARTER**

However the council seems unaware that the report will cover only the Portnet plan and not the pipeline.

Earlier this year, the Cape Metro reported that the council had agreed to the Witney plan but had received objections that it could be environmentally unsafe.

The Metro reported later that a rival group, Cape Town Bulk Storage, planned to build storage tanks for hazardous chemicals in the harbour and that this was also being criticised as ecologically unsound.

## Refuse

Meanwhile Portnet informed the council that it had refused to give Witney permission to convey toxic chemicals in the pipeline which would run through Portnet property.

The Department of Environment Affairs then wrote to the council expressing concern over the safety of the pipeline.

Following another council investigation, the city engineer recommended that the council change its mind and refuse permission for the pipeline in favour of the Portnet scheme.

This week the council decided to await the findings of a report commissioned by Cape Town Bulk Storage from the Environmental Evaluation Unit at UCT.

But the report does not look at the pipeline at all.

Ms Heather Campbell from the Environmental Unit said the unit had been commissioned by Cape Town Bulk Storage to do a risk and site assessment analysis of the company's proposed sites in Cape Town and Saldanha Bay.

She said the unit was examining the transport and storage of five chemicals including Styrene Monomer and Vinyl Acetate.

She said the unit had so

far identified "visual and risk factors that could be problematic" and were investigating further.

The council appears to be under the impression that the unit's report will also cover the pipeline.

When told the report only examined the Cape Town Bulk Storage plans, the city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton, said he could not comment further.

Council spokesperson Ms Yolanda Marsh said the council was waiting for the report, which she claimed did cover the pipeline. She said the council's decision depended on Portnet.

"Most of the land involved belongs to Portnet. We are only minimally involved," Ms Marsh said.

Mr Mark Witney, MD of Witney Chemicals, said the company could not make further decisions because of Portnet's opposition.

He said he was convinced the pipeline was environmentally sound and he would be happy to have the plan scrutinised by environmentalists.

## Interest

Objections to the pipeline applied equally to Portnet's scheme, he said, since Portnet intended storing chemicals in the harbour where there was a risk of pollution of the city and bay.

"The council can't decide on the basis of Portnet's recommendation as Portnet is an interested party."

Portnet's financial manager, Mr Martin Swanepoel, said the company was not motivated by self-interest but by the "long-term needs of Cape Town".

"We need to take the chemical industry as a whole into account," he said. "Witney's plan is for two products. We are looking at storing a range of chemicals without a lengthy pipeline."

# A real crowd pleaser

5 Times 51192

(5)

The Economic Advisory Council's new economic strategy wants to be all things to all people. KEVIN DAVIE reports

MANY will be pleased that much of the economic strategy of the Economic Advisory Council, released this week, will become government policy, Finance Minister Derek Keys has said as much.

Those who believe exports are our salvation will beam; others, who want redistributive spending to increase, will also be happy.

Liberalists who want more open trading regimes will be content. But so will protectionists who believe South Africa will be slaughtered if it opens its markets to the big bad world out there.

Those who hanker after the old South Africa will be pleased that import replacement remains a key to a stronger economy. Those unsure whether the export promotion or import replacement route is correct will be reassured by statements such as "care should be taken to avoid a conflict between export promotion and import replacement policies".

Critics of high interest rates will like phrases which suggest the Reserve Bank is

curtailing growth ("stabilisation policy is inhibiting economic growth in the short term"). But others will be pleased to read that "the primary function of the Bank is to protect the internal value of the country's currency".

Businesses which are supported up to their eyeballs in the name of self-sufficiency will rejoice that the EAC believes "strategic considerations may still influence industrial development policy". Supported industries will like the new industrial development plan that targets "support industries with competitive advantage" and promotes "export-based SA resources and technologies".

This plan also wants support for "the beneficiation of local resources and technological pipelines through which value can be added".

The last phrase is not explained: does it mean hundreds of millions should be pumped annually into Moss-gas because it takes gas from under the ocean and converts it into a higher value product which can be sold to the

motorist? The EAC is also confusing on the issue of import duties or tariffs as a means of protecting local industries.

One paragraph calls for import protection to encourage import replacement, while another says import tariffs cannot be of a permanent nature and should be terminated after a fixed period.

Two points are relevant here. First, will support for industries with "technological pipelines" also be terminated after a fixed period? Or are these industries in the import replacement category which need continuing support? Second, while low tariffs are used worldwide as an acceptable form of protection, the EAC appears to be arguing that in some cases all import protection will go after a time.

The EAC report is peppered with references to the informal sector, the need to provide more housing and assist in socio-economic upliftment. But while most businessmen will find at least a phrase to latch on to, the

previously disenfranchised may wonder why the EAC is silent on cost-affordable schemes to make land available to small-scale farmers.

Those who feel deregulation will bring cheaper prices will be disappointed that the D-word is hardly mentioned in the 38-page report. Others who believe big is beautiful only when there are no barriers to entry may have wanted stronger powers for the Competition Board.

The present EAC report, the revised long-term economic strategy, updates an earlier version published in 1986. That version had economic growth and the combating of inflation as its points of departure. A draft version — circulated last year — of the present document added socio-economic upliftment as a third leg.

Numerous submissions have been added so that the tabled version appears designed to please everybody. As such, it is an unworkable mix of the old and new which will satisfy nobody.

# Natal Parks Board gets R18m slice of R600m for ecotourism

By MANDY JEAN WOODS

THE Natal Parks Board (NPB) is to become the first beneficiary of some of the R600-million set aside by the Government to help ecotourism development.

The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has been given responsibility for allocating the funds. The IDC confirms that the NPB applied for an R18-million loan to upgrade its Hilltop camp in Hluhluwe nature reserve. Approval of the loan is expected to be given on July 13 by the IDC board.

IDC senior general manager Jan de Bruin says six other applications for a total of R150-million are being processed and 300 inquiries have been received since the Government announced its plan.

Mr De Bruin says: "Most of the inquiries are from private and public game parks near the Kruger National Park."

IDC rules say projects have to be either the development or the upgrad-

ing of accommodation with the specific intention of attracting foreign tourists.

Funding for new parks or reserves will be considered only if they cover more than 10 000 hectares. In addition, new projects must cost more than R3-million. Owners or shareholders have to put up at least 30% of the money.

The 30% provision falls if the money is for projects which are being upgraded. No money will be lent for the purchase of land or game.

Mr De Bruin says that although he expects most of the money will go to national parks, applications from private reserves are also being considered.

NPB administration head Phil Evans says the development at Hilltop — the NPB's oldest camp — will increase the number of beds avail-

able from 68 to 220. The upgrading will include the construction of restaurant facilities, self-contained units, simplexes and improvements to existing rondavel and abutment facilities.

The project will cost R22-million and is expected to be completed by the middle of next year.

## Happy

Mr Evans says that with dwindling funds from the Government it has become necessary for the NPB to explore other avenues of revenue. Because of growing enthusiasm internationally for ecotourism, the development of tourist facilities in the parks seems the best way to earn money.

"Last year we made R1.3-million from tourism in our parks and this year we expect R1.6-million."

With improved facilities to attract not only the lucrative foreign tourist trade but increase domestic trade,

this figure could improve.

Mr Evans says the NPB is not aiming to attract the top level of foreign tourist as do private reserves like Londolozi and Mala Mala.

"We believe that many tourists will be happy with something a little less glamorous and expensive. Those are the tourists we hope to attract."

Hilltop is the NPB's second development project to be undertaken in the past year.

Last year, the Nishondwe camp in Itala nature reserve was completed. It includes restaurant and conference facilities.

Traditionally, NPB camps do not have restaurant facilities and accommodation ranges from rustic to comfortable camping. The move to upgrading accommodation to include en-suite ablutions, self-contained units and restaurant facilities is an indication the NPB hopes to capture a large slice of the foreign tourist trade.

# Move to single leisure unit

Municipal Reporter

ARC 7/17/94  
56  
~~56~~  
THE amalgamation of the city council parks and forests and civic amenities branches must begin next month, the amenities and health committee has resolved.

Municipal unions will be consulted about the move, aimed at setting up a single leisure unit or department.

Mr Arthur Wienburg chaired a sub-committee that probed the merits of the integration of the two branches.

The council organisations and methods branch said integrating the branches would yield savings and ensure centralised planning of council leisure services.

Previously, director of human resources Mr David Beretti noted the project could be at risk because of union opposition.

The SA Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) was strongly opposed to being left out of decisions on internal reform or rationalisation.

## Plutonium carrier 'to be barred from SA waters'

RAY HARTLEY

(56)

GOVERNMENT yesterday denied ANC allegations that it had approved the shipment through SA waters of a large quantity of plutonium destined for Japan.

Environmental Affairs Minister Louls Plenaar said government was in contact with the Japanese government with a view to preventing the ship from passing within 360km of the SA coast.

"In terms of SA legislation, no ship with such a dangerous cargo can use our territorial waters without a permit. Such a permit has not been asked for or considered," he said.

Council for Nuclear Safety spokesman Jonathan Cooper confirmed the Japanese ship was "planning a non-stop voyage on the high seas" and would not dock at a SA port. *Blind 8/7/92*

He said the ship would have to apply to the council for a licence to travel in SA waters or to dock at an SA port, and no such application had been received.

Earlier, an ANC statement claimed government had apparently given permission for the plutonium to be shipped along the SA coast. It said the US, Panama, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Portugal refused to allow the shipment through their waters.

"Given the number of shipping disasters along SA's coastline every year, we believe that this decision places the country and all its citizens at unacceptable risk," the statement said.

ANC economic planning head Trevor Manuel would not comment on government's denial, but said he would "consult legal advisers" to find ways of preventing the ship using international waters off SA.

# Plutonium ship told to give SA wide berth

ANC 8/7/92  
JOHN YELD (56)  
Environment Reporter

JAPAN'S plutonium-carrying ship will have to remain outside South Africa's 360 km exclusive economic zone if it is routed around the Cape, Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar has announced.

Replying to strong criticism from the African National Congress and environmental groups about plans to transport one ton of highly toxic plutonium from France to Japan by sea — possibly around the Cape — Mr Pienaar said the shipment would require a permit from the South African authorities.

"Such a permit has not been requested or considered," he said. The government was well aware of the dangers of the "potentially deadly" cargo.

"The route which the ship is to take has not been finalised, and the South African government is in contact with the Japanese government with a view that, should the route around the southerly point of Africa be selected, such a ship will not once sail in South Africa's economic zone, which stretches 360km from the coast."

Launching a public campaign against the shipment in association with Greenpeace International, South Africa's Earthlife Africa said plutonium was the deadliest substance known to science.

"Just one ton is enough to give every human being cancer one thousand times over," said spokesman Mr Chris Albertyn.

"Once released into the environment, as happened at Chernobyl, the radiation is lethal for tens of thousands of years."

Before Mr Pienaar's statement, the ANC hit out at the "veil of secrecy" surrounding the plutonium shipment.

Its economic planning desk said safety concerns over shipments had led the United States House of Representatives and 30 American states to ban such shipments from all US waters.

Also, opposition had been expressed in many countries.

"Given the number of shipping disasters along South Africa's coastline every year, we believe that this decision (to allow the ship around the Cape) places the country and all its citizens at unacceptable risk," the ANC said.

It demanded that any ships carrying plutonium be banned from South African waters until there was global agreement about their safety.

## Probe into cause of Ndabeni pong

THE cause of bad smells wafting from the Ndabeni industrial area to Maitland is to be investigated by the city health department.

56 APR 18 1972  
The amenities and health committee adopted a motion by Mr Gerry Sullivan asking that MoH Dr Michael Popkiss investigate in co-operation with residents and industrialists. — Municipal Reporter.



## Environment plan for SA <sup>(5b)</sup>

A DRAFT White Paper on a national environmental management system, for South Africa would be presented to the government for approval, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday <sup>CT 8/7/92</sup>

Opening the 29th annual congress of the Southern African Society of Aquatic Scientists, he said the White Paper followed the President's Council report of October 1991 on a national environmental management system for SA. — Sapa

## Sewage: Govt 'forced' to review regulations

Staff Reporter <sup>(5b) CT 8/7/92</sup>

PRESSURE from the public sector had forced the government to review and tighten regulations on effluent discharge into the sea, a Department of Water Affairs and Forestry expert, Miss Antonia Belcher, said yesterday.

Miss Belcher spoke at a conference for the South African Society of Aquatic Scientists, being held at the UCT Zoological Department this week.

She said her department felt marine waters were able to absorb processed effluent effectively, and in coastal cities this was the most economically viable way to dispose of effluent.

"Marine waters are able to receive and absorb effluent discharges without adverse environmental effects, provided that the outfall is of sufficient length and properly sited and designed."

The effluent must also be controlled.

## SA restricts Japanese plutonium ships

*STAR 8/17/92*  
The Government said yesterday it would bar ships carrying plutonium for Japan's nuclear reactors from sailing within 200 miles of South Africa's coast.

Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said in a statement that the route for the shipments from Europe had yet to be finalised.

"The South African Government is in contact with the Japanese government to make sure that if the Cape sea route is chosen, such

ships will not enter South Africa's economic zone which extends 200 miles from the coast. We are fully aware of the dangers that these cargoes pose to the environment," he said.

South African conservationists have said Japan planned to ship the plutonium via the Cape after being barred from using the Panama Canal.

The ANC yesterday expressed "great concern" at the Government's position

*(56)*  
over the international controversy surrounding the plutonium shipment, saying it appeared the shipments would be routed around the South African coastline.

Given the number of shipping disasters along South Africa's coast every year, a decision to allow the shipment to take place on this route placed the country and its citizens "at an unacceptable risk", the ANC said in a statement. — Sapa-Reuter, Staff Reporter.

# Levels <sup>(36)</sup>

## of dams

STAR

## plummet

9/17/92

Staff Reporter

With the exception of western Cape dams, the level of all dams in the country is well down compared with this time last year, according to the Department of Water Affairs.

The overall total now stands at 50 percent, whereas in July 1991 dams were 76 percent full.

Worst hit is the eastern Cape, where last year's 34 percent mark in July has dropped to 29 percent, but western Cape dams are up from 51 to 74 percent.

The Vaal River system, which serves the PWV region, is down from 84 percent to 57 percent.

The Vaal Dam has dropped to the 30,3 percent mark — despite the inflow of water released from the Sterkfontein Dam last week — due to increased demand, now pushed up by 18 percent because of the ongoing drought, according to the Rand Water Board.

# 'Lives at risk' as dams and rivers dry up

DISASTER conditions loomed in several regions as dam levels sank below the critical 20% capacity level, the Department of Water Affairs said yesterday.

Life-threatening situations were expected to develop soon in some areas.

Areas worst hit were the far northern Transvaal, the western Transvaal, the eastern Cape and the Little Karoo. Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu were also "very critical", a Water Affairs statement said.

Emergency measures, including the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines, were being taken in some areas.

"The situation is particularly critical in the eastern Cape's Gamtoos River Valley

B/Dan 9/7/92  
ADRIAN HADLAND

(10% of capacity), the Komati River and in the Njelele area (near Messina)."

A Water Affairs spokesman said lives would be at risk in these areas.

Rivers which had become virtually stagnant because of the drought included the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal, Orange, Riet, Modder and the Caledon. Most of the major metropolitan areas had satisfactory water supplies.

While almost all regions had experienced significant decreases in average rainfall levels since last November, a lack of infrastructure in some areas was exacerbating the crisis.

(S6)  To Page 2

An emergency scheme to pump water from the Sundays River to Port Elizabeth was completed in February, but the scheme supplied only up to 20% of demand.

All dams to the west and north of Port Elizabeth were drastically depleted, while many government dams across the eastern Cape had low levels.

In the Free State, the Smart Syndicate and Kaffer River dams were "practically empty", while the Caledon River and Orange River upstream of the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam had practically stopped flowing, the statement said.

## Dams B/Dan 9/7/92

Dam levels were also critically low in the far northern Transvaal, where either no water at all was available or strict restrictions were being applied.

Water restrictions had been imposed on a number of Natal rivers, with rural areas suffering severe shortages.

The Nungwane Dam, serving Amanzimtoti and Kingsburgh, was expected to have dried up by September, Sapa reports. Black residential areas near Amanzimtoti and on parts of the Natal north coast were already being supplied by water tankers.

Unless there was rain soon, two dams near Umzinto on Natal's south coast would be dry by next month.

Water supplies to industries and townships in the western Cape were adequate at present, but many irrigation dams were close to empty.

Restrictions were not expected in the short term in the PWV, Durban, East London, Bloemfontein or Cape Town areas.

The Rand Water Board would spend an estimated R1,5bn on infrastructure during

(S6)  From Page 1

the next seven years to ensure adequate water supplies to the PWV region, RWB CE Vincent Bath said this week.

With the completion earlier this year of a R309m extension to the RWB's purification plant in Vereeniging, the PWV was unlikely to suffer any water restrictions for at least the next 12 months, he said.

Bath indicated that restrictions would come into effect in the PWV only if the drought continued into this year's rainy season. With Sterkfontein Dam full and the Vaal dam at 32%, the region had up to three years' water supplies in reserve.

The plant extension at Vereeniging, which would be opened officially by Water Affairs Minister Magnus Malar in August, boosted capacity of the current plant from 670 megalitres a day to more than 1 500ML.

Regional water consumption would catch up with current supply capacity by 1995, Bath said, but new infrastructure and the opening of the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme would ensure the PWV had enough water well into the next century.

# Drought may be worst in history

STAR 1017192

22/06/92 56

By Monica Oosterbroek

Human lives are being threatened and thousands of animals will have to be culled as rural areas in South Africa face critical water shortages and possibly the worst drought in this country's history.

According to statistics released by the Department of Water Affairs, the situation is critical in the Njelele and Albasini areas in the far northern Transvaal and the Gamtoos River Valley in the eastern Cape.

Major rivers such as the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal, Orange, Modder and Caledon have already stopped flowing.

Disastrous conditions threaten rural communities living beside dried-up rivers.

Apart from the danger of starvation and dehydration, the lack of flowing water could cause fatal diseases like cholera and dysentery, a spokesman for

the Department of Water Affairs said.

The situation, caused by very low rainfalls and a particularly long and hot summer, had also critically affected Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu and emergency measures were being implemented.

Emergency steps, including the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines, were being taken in some areas.

## Culling

Technically, it would be possible to supply water by means of transfer schemes but, apart from the socio-political problems that would arise, the cost was prohibitively high, the spokesman said.

Game farmers in the northern Transvaal have been advised by the Department of Agricultural Development to cull up to 80 percent of their animals to prevent starvation and erosion.

A spokesman for the department, Dr Hym Ebedes, said there was no grazing left and artificial feed supplies were dwindling fast. Fodder and lucerne were being snapped up by cattle and sheep farmers and there was little left for game.

If not culled now, the animals could die in the critical months of August and September before the first rains, Dr Ebedes said.

Animals in search of food were already trampling topsoil, raising the possibility of severe erosion when the rainy season begins late in the year, he warned.

The exclusive Sabi Sabi game reserve in the parched north-east plans a major culling operation and has sold 20 of its 40 white rhino because of the drought.

The PWV area is not expected to suffer any water restrictions in the foreseeable future. The dam levels of the Vaal River system are lower than usual but still 61 percent full.

**ENVIRONMENT** *Eco-disaster is due to man's assumption that he is above nature's rules*

# Exposing the brutal arrogance of mankind



Sustainable development is a term widely used by environmentalists and development people. But what does it mean? Green activists of the developing countries hate it. To them it means we must save our resources so that the rich countries of the North will continue plundering them. BEVERLY GEACH gave a talk for second-year economics students at AIESEC Winter school. This is what she had to say:

*Sowetan 10/7/92*

The thinning of the ozone layer, depletion of fish stocks, extinction of plants and animals, oil on the beaches, cancer and severe stress are things that all of us will live with for some time, even if we resolve today to be good citizens of planet Earth.

So, if development is the cause of so many problems, why do we need it?

In this country today, 80 percent of our people are functionally illiterate and innumerate. There are eight million young people with no schooling at all, and the figure is rising. There are several million with only a primary school education.

Since 1988, there have been seven million people living in informal or squatter communities, half of them in the PWV, where we live. That means ordinary people living in shacks with no clean water, no toilet, no refuse removal, no proper roads, no schools, no clinics and so on.

To redress the existing inequalities in this country by bringing educational, health and housing provisions to the levels enjoyed by whites is not a realistic goal in the short term - it has been calculated that this will require an investment programme of not less than R20 billion annually for a period of 10 years.

Even if a new government did away with all the waste - duplicate government departments, corruption, costly white elephants like Mossgas, the military - it will be hard pushed to provide for people's basic needs.

We need development, but we need to try alternative models of development. Development that does not destroy the resource base it is built on. The term sustainable development was coined in the 1970's, in an attempt to link environmental concerns with economic or development needs. But, while the concept makes sense, putting it into practice, is another matter.

Sustainable development means so many things to so many people that it is very difficult to put an action plan into effect. The greatest obstacle is undoubtedly the economic stranglehold that the North has on the south, the excessive consumption of the industrialised countries (and industrialised sectors of otherwise third world countries - such as ourselves) and the unwillingness of the haves to give anything up. By the time they (or we) realise they may have to give everything up - that is when the Earth's ecosystems are unable to cope with the intolerable strain - it may be too late.

**‘We need development that does not destroy the resource base it is built on’**

There are no problems that are unique to South Africa. Generally, the world over, these problems relate to greed, to the desire for power, and unequal access to resources such as land, energy and money.

What are these problems? Top of the list is violence. The military machine in the United States generates more toxic waste than any other industry. The world spent close to R2 070 billion in 1991 on the military. The South African Government is said to spend R1 million a day on military activities, although no one knows for sure.

The SADF is the largest landowner in this country, just to demonstrate its power.

There is a strong connection between violence against the people - even one's own children - and violence against animals we share the planet with, violence against oceans, the mountains and other. All are due to mankind's arrogance and selfish uncaring attitude - the assumption being that he is somehow above nature, somehow exempt from the rules that govern nature.

The air quality over large urban areas like Cape Town and the PWV is disgusting. The Eastern Transvaal Highveld, where 80 percent of South Africa's electricity is produced, has one of the world's worst climates for dispersal of pollutants. The acidity of rainfall in this area is equivalent to that of industrialised areas of Europe and north-east America, yet 50 percent of South Africa's high-potential arable land, of which we don't have much, is in this region. Farm fences in the area only last two years. The acidity of the rainfall and rivers is posing a grave threat to natural areas like the Kruger National Park.

Some experts say that soil erosion, which occurs both in the overcrowded homelands and so-called self-governing states, as well as on white-owned farmland, is our biggest environmental problem.

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# Foreshore (5) plutonium protest CT 10/7/92

**Staff Reporter**

MEMBERS of Earthlife Africa, the Wildlife Society and the Eco-Programme yesterday staged a demonstration on the Foreshore to protest against the possible transportation through Cape waters of 50 tons of Japanese plutonium over the next eight years.

An Earthlife spokesman said it could be "catastrophic to the environment and the fishing industry if a single ship sunk off the Cape".

An Environmental Affairs spokesman said the government was trying to persuade Japan not to use the Cape route.

# Statue used in atom

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A SHROUD over the statue of Jan van Riebeeck in Adderley Street with the message "SA says no to plutonium death ships" marked the opening salvo in a campaign against the planned shipment of one ton of the deadly chemical — possibly around the Cape sea route.

The Japanese government has announced plans — but has given no details of shipping routes — to transport about 20 tons of plutonium over the next eight years from France for use in its nuclear programme.

The move has been widely condemned, and a protest campaign involving Greenpeace International, the ANC and South African conservation groups has been launched.

Yesterday a handful of protesters hung a shroud over the

# protest

statue of Van Riebeeck:

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said earlier this week that the plutonium ship would not be allowed within South Africa's 200 nautical mile (360km) exclusive economic zone.

But conservationists warned that the chemical would spread through "artificial barriers" in the event of a disaster.

In a joint statement, conservation groups Earthlife Africa, the Wildlife Society and Eco-Programme and the ANC appealed to the South African government to publicly condemn the planned shipments and to ban all logistical and contingency support for the plutonium vessel and its armed escort.

56

ARG 10/7/92



## Deal on kaolin mine 'possible'

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

(56) ARCT 10/7/92  
A COMPROMISE agreement that would effectively end much of the protest against the planned kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak may be announced later today.

Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group have called a joint Press conference this afternoon.

Although they have declined to release any details beforehand, speculation is that they may have agreed that a pipeline should take the Chapman's Peak kaolin to Serina's existing processing plant at Brakkekloof in Sun Valley.

An on-site processing plant at the Chapman's Peak kaolin mine has been one of the Noordhoek res-

idents' major objections, because of the potential noise, dust and visual impacts.

The planning team of the firm of consulting engineers which drew up the comprehensive environmental impact statement on the proposed mine favoured an on-site plant at Chapman's Peak. Review consultant Professor J Lazarus preferred an off-site plant fed by an hydraulically-driven pipeline.

Kaolin travels easily in water and does not settle in a pipeline.

According to the impact statement, noise, dust and visual intrusion are relevant factors at both the Brakkekloof and Chapman's Peak sites because they are (or would be) located in the vicinity of residential suburbs.

# SA safety council <sup>57</sup> rules on 'nuke ship'

ARG 11/7/92

Weekend Argus Reporter

**THE** proposed shipment of plutonium oxide from Europe to Japan has given rise to concern about the potential hazard the shipments might present to South Africa and its people, according to the Council for Nuclear Safety.

The council said in a statement yesterday that as South Africa's nuclear regulatory authority for the transportation of radioactive material within the country, "the council wishes to clarify the situation regarding such shipment".

It said plutonium oxide fell within the definition of nuclear hazard material in terms of the South African Nuclear Energy Act.

"In terms of the Act, no vessel which has any such material on board may enter South African territorial waters to call at a port, or to anchor or stay in such waters, except under the authority of a nuclear

licence granted by the council."

In addition, said the council, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials, under which such shipments were made, required certain multilateral approvals from the national authorities of all the countries through which the shipments were made.

Passage through a country included passage through its territorial waters.

To date, no application for licensing or multilateral approval had been made to the council and the detailed information needed to assess the potential risks had not been made available.

The council said: "The Japanese authorities are aware of the legal requirements for entry into South African territorial waters and the necessity for addressing such requirements in advance." — Sapa.

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# Bitter kaolin battle over

56  
 ARG 11/7/92

■ Anti-kaolin mine protestors and the Serina mining company have reached an agreement over the new kaolin mine in the Noordhoek Valley.

**PATRICK FARRELL**, Weekend Argus Reporter

## THE kaolin war is over!

Yesterday, the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group reached a compromise with mining company Serina over the proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek Valley.

In terms of a resolution adopted by Serina directors on Monday, the company will build a 6km underground pipeline at a cost of R6 million to transport kaolin slurry from the mining site to the company's Brakkekloof processing plant in Sun Valley.

This means a new processing plant will not be built on the scenic slopes of Chapman's Peak, avoiding the noise, dust and visual impact of an on-site plant that had worried the action group, residents and the tourist industry.

At a joint news conference yesterday, Mr Ian Brownlie of the action group said Serina's concessions would "greatly diminish" the impact of the proposed mine.

"While our group is still of the opinion that open-cast mining is unacceptable in the Cape Peninsula, the concessions will go a long way towards lessening the impact of the mine."

Mr Brownlie said certain people might say the action group had "sold out" the environment by negotiating the concessions, but "any reasonably-minded person would agree with the new standpoint".

Last month, the government gave the go-ahead to Serina to begin mining Chaplin's Estate under strict environmental controls. The same day, the company was sold by Federale Volksbeleggings to a Johannesburg businessman, Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, for an undisclosed sum.

Mr Brownlie said his group had approached Mr Van Der Spuy with the proposals soon after Serina was sold.

"The new owner has been happy to compromise and both sides win on this deal," said Mr Brownlie.

He said the action group had canvassed people in the area, receiving a favourable reaction, before agreeing to the concessions.

The action group still would monitor the new mine, but would adopt a "low profile" attitude.

The proposed mine covers 11,3 ha on the Chaplin's Estate site and contains one million tons of kaolin with a "mining life" of about 13 years.

Details of Serina's concessions are:

- Serina will not build a processing plant on the new site, but will retain their existing Brakkekloof plant across the valley near the four-way stop on the Kommetjie Road. The Brakkekloof mine and its plant have been operating for 25 years;

- Serina will build two underground pipelines from the new site to carry kaolin slurry (kaolin mixed with water) to the plant;

- A small washing plant of about 1 000 sq m, operated by four people, will be built on the new site. After the kaolin ore is removed from the mine, it will be washed in the plant and the kaolin clay will be extracted. This will be pumped to Brakkekloof and the remaining mica and silica will be replaced in the mine pit;

- Serina will investigate alternative methods of removing kaolin from the pit, such as a conveyor belt, to further reduce noise and pollution;

- The rehabilitation fund, part of the government's environmental controls, will be in the form of a guarantee from an approved financial institution; and

- Serina will guarantee that only kaolin-free water will be discharged into the De Goede Hoop stream.

The action group will help Serina get permission from the local authorities to have the pipelines approved.

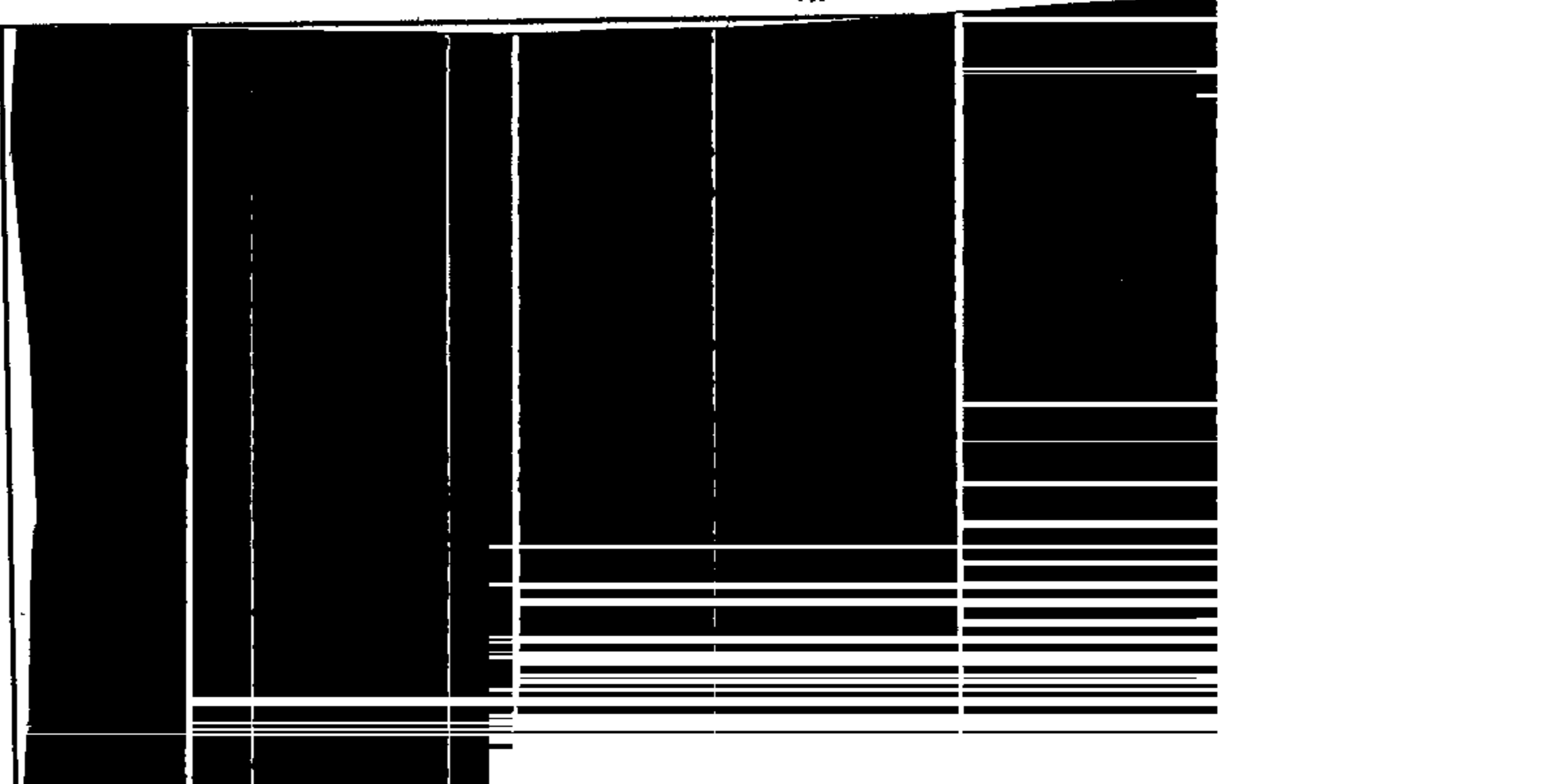
Mr Brownlie said the concessions meant there would be no job losses at Serina and

■ Turn to page 3



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, Weekend Argus.

■ **BEST BUDDIES:** Former adversaries in the kaolin battle, Sybrand van der Spuy of Serina, left, and Ian Brownlie of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, shake on it.



# Kaolin war agreement

Aug 11 1992 (56)

## ■ From page 1

the noise and dust levels at the new site would be minimal.

"Furthermore, the visual intrusion of buildings will be negligible."

Mr Brownlie thanked people for their support and said his group could not have negotiated the concessions "had it not been for the public's support".

Mr Van der Spuy said the pipeline would cost about R6 million to build, with operational costs of R1-million a year.

"I said after takeover that I wanted to achieve community involvement in the mining activities. The action group has valid concerns and we are happy to act on their proposals."

He said the action group would be consulted before new phases of mine development were carried out.

Mining at the Noordhoek site would start within "two or three years" after site-clearing and other preparatory work. The company did not plan to acquire and mine any further sites in the Noordhoek area.

# R7m deal sets kaolin mined

56  
CT11/1/92

Staff Reporter

**THE Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, in an about-face, has agreed to stop its opposition to the planned Serina kaolin mine and in exchange the mining company has undertaken not to build a R6 million extraction plant on the scenic mountainside.**

The two parties announced at a joint press conference yesterday that Serina would mine the site and transport the mineral in two underground pipes, to be installed at a cost of R6m, to the existing Brakkeklouf plant six kilometres away.

Mr Sybrand van der Spuy, vice-chairman of the company that bought a controlling interest in Serina last month, said the additional operating cost of the piping option would be about R1m a year.

## 'Turncoats'

There would be a small washing plant on the mining site, manned by four people, he said.

Mr Ian Brownlie, chairman of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, which has been vociferous in its opposition to the mine, said that both parties had accepted "second prize".

Some people would regard him and the majority of his executive as traitors and turncoats, "but there will be others who will say that we have done a good job", he said.

The campaign would continue but "will not be as high-profile as in the past". The group still believed that open-cast mining was an "unacceptable activity for the Cape Peninsula".

Mr Brownlie said the reason the campaign was not wound down completely was that if the agreement was breached "we reserve our right to our course of action, involving passive resistance or whatever".



**NEGOTIATORS** ... Mr Ian Brownlie (left) of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group and new kaolin mine owner Mr Sybrand van der Spuy address a press conference together on a compromise solution they have reached.

Picture: BEWY GOOL

Meanwhile there would be no lines of protesters linking arms and resisting the preparation of the site.

Asked if his organisation would be able to control the wilder elements among its supporters, he said "We have appealed to all reasonable-minded people. Provided the conditions are met, I can't see a problem."

Had it not been for the tremendous public support of the campaign "we would not have been in a position to negotiate these concessions", Mr Brownlie said.

He conceded that the group's decision, taken at an executive committee meeting on Thursday evening, had not been unanimous.

Over the past couple of weekends he had been out informing the people of Noordhoek Valley of the options with a bakke-load of youngsters with pamphlets. This had been followed by a telephone poll.

Mr Van der Spuy said at the press conference: "The R6m capital cost and the R1m operating expense a year are both entirely additional costs. We would have built a new plant on the site at a cost of about R6m, but we would have recovered this cost by converting the existing plant into a shop and office complex."

One of the pipes to be installed would be 15cm in diameter and the other 20cm. One would carry kaolin in water, and the other just water in the other direction, in a circular process.

Asked why he was making such a costly compromise, he said "Money is not everything in life. You have to live with your conscience, you have to sleep at night. Their (the group's) concerns were valid, so were their suggestions. We were happy to compromise."

There would also be a pipeline from the Bonanza kaolin site, in the Noordhoek Valley when that one is mined. Serina would investigate methods such as conveyor systems to take kaolin out of the Chapman's Peak mine site.

**'Few tricks'**

These could reduce noise and dust pollution further.

The agreement between Serina and the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group comes nearly one month after Mr Van der Spuy bought the mine. On the day the sale was announced the government granted approval for the mine.

Serina was previously owned by Federale Volksbelegings — a Sanlam subsidiary. Some Sanlam insurance policyholders threatened to cease dealings with the company because of its links with the mine. The insurance giant said it had not sold the mining company for this reason.

Mr Brownlie vowed last month that the action against the mine would continue unabated, saying "We have a number of irons in the fire and a few tricks up our sleeve."

Mr Van der Spuy has promised to eat his hat if one tourist is lost because of the mine.



**MARCHING ORDERS . . .** conservationist Ian Player in his natural element **Picture: JIMMY HUTTON**

# Ousted from Natal Parks Board over strong opposition to mining claim

By ROY RUDDEN

**WORLD-RENOWNED** ecologist Ian Player has been kicked out of the Natal Parks Board in a move which has rocked national and international conservationists.

Although Dr Player refused to comment yesterday, sources close to him said: "Ian has no doubt that a major factor is his relentless opposition to the St Lucia mining."

Also removed from the NPB is another staunch opponent of the proposed mining operation on the shores of St Lucia, Dr Nolly Zaloumis, former president of the Wild-



**GEORGE HUGHES**  
Parks Board boss

life Society of SA.

Dr Zaloumis was dropped after 18 years on the board, and Dr Player after eight, although he was an NPB employee for 22 years.

One of their replacements is Durban attorney Graham Cox whose firm, Cox Yeats and Partners, acts for Richards Bay Minerals, the conglomerate that wants to do the mining.

# take a hike

# Ian Player told to

Famous author and environmentalist Sir Laurens van der Post, in London, reacted with "a consternation that will be shared by a wide circle of world conservationists".

Sir Laurens, who is a patron of the Campaign for St Lucia (Player and Zaloumis are committee members), said: "I don't know the reason for the outrageous removal of Ian Player, but I don't believe any reason is good enough."

"What astounds me perhaps most is the stupidity of getting rid of the services of such a man who represents the history of conservation in South Africa since the last war as no one else does."

## Threats

"I also feel great unease at learning that one of the consequent vacancies on the NPB has been filled by someone linked with vested interests representing one of the greatest threats to conservation in South Africa that we have experienced this century."

DP deputy spokesman for environmental affairs Mike Ellis said he was "shattered" by the men's removal.

"If there is any political intrigue behind this it must be exposed — and I will make it my business to do so."

A senior conservationist in the public service, who asked not to be named, said there was a strong feeling among officials that, although most NPB staff were vigorously opposed to St Lucia mining, certain members of the hierarchy felt differently.

Parks Board executive director Dr George Hughes denied any hostility towards Dr Player or Dr Zaloumis and dismissed suggestions of Richards Bay Minerals involvement in the board's affairs "with contempt". Appointments were not made by him, but by the Administrator.

## Incorrect

Natal Administrator Con Botha said it was with great reluctance that certain people had not been reappointed. He denied any antagonism towards Dr Player.

"There were other considerations," he said. "We wanted young blood, we wanted a woman on the board and we wanted an Indian too. We already have two blacks. Then it's

our practice to have lawyers and businessmen represented. In any case, we've left Dr Player on our museums body."

New board members include the first woman, Natal Wildlife Society chairperson Mrs Jean Senogals.

A spokesman for RBM said there was nothing sinister in Mr Cox's appointment to the board, which it had been unaware of.

Mr Cox said he was a frequent visitor to game parks.

By ROY RUDDEN

ROY MACPHERSON, the man at the helm as Richards Bay Minerals heads into the stormy waters of the Lake St Lucia mining controversy, is understandably hurt over perceptions of the company as a ruthless pirate bent on ravishing one of the world's great natural beauties.

The issue, as most South Africans know by now, is whether the mining of heavy metals on part of the eastern shores of the lake should be allowed.

RBM, of which Mr Macpherson is managing director, holds the right to mine there and fully intends to do so. Unless, that is, a current environmental impact assessment predicts irreparable ecological damage, or Parliament approves an opposition private member's Bill (backed by CP, ANC, DP and even some Nat MPs).

### Scarring

What makes Mr Macpherson's hurt understandable is that RBM really does seem to be as ecologically sensitive as it is possible for a big mining company to be.

Even its critics acknowledge that no one could have done more to ensure that the scarring caused by its mining is temporary, and



ROY MACPHERSON  
Hurt by bad press

that natural rehabilitation is a prime objective.

They also acknowledge that RBM has brought substantial material and sociological benefits to the indigenous people in the Richards Bay area, already one of SA's foremost development centres.

Mr Macpherson points with some pride to the social upliftment programme that has accompanied RBM's R4-billion investment in existing operations, which already produce exports worth more than those of the entire sugar industry.

"I don't know of any more extensive private industry citizens' welfare programme in South Africa," he says.

Among RBM's educa-

tional provisions are three creches, seven rural schools, the R5-million Tisand Technical High School at Esikaweni and valuable endowments, including an impressive computer centre, at the University of Zululand (on whose executive council Mr Macpherson serves).

The revenue produced in the projected 17 to 20 years of St Lucia mining would be about R6-billion. The tax payable on this would be about R1-billion and the royalties R100-million.

Although only about 160 people would work at St Lucia itself, the extended mining would mean jobs for about 700 at Richards Bay where smelting would take place.

### Fishing

Mr McPherson produces a prognosis, backed by Industrial Development Corporation estimates of the multiplying effect of St Lucia, that the mining operation would generate another 9 470 jobs and benefit a total of 66 000 people.

Mr McPherson loves fishing. "That's one of the reasons why, apart from its sheer beauty and ecological importance, I love St Lucia and would hate to see it harmed. I genuinely believe that our limited and superficial mining plans will have no long-term adverse effect.

"If we don't go ahead, though, I wonder what hope there is for the poor people of St Lucia. Eco-tourism would supply some jobs, but eco-tourism needs money for development, and where is that to come from when the Natal Parks Board is already strapped for cash?

"We now pay royalties of up to R25-million a year. If the government of the day could be persuaded to allocate some of these funds for the purpose, real eco-tourism could become a reality.

### Benefit

"That's the realistic way of preserving St Lucia. If our mining goes ahead it will be short-term, will be only in a small part of the area and will leave the shores in arguably a better state than now.

"I believe that, with goodwill, the Natal Parks Board and RBM could jointly enhance the cause of eco-tourism and promote the lasting future of St Lucia for the ultimate benefit of South Africa and the world."

St Lucia, 12/1/92  
**We're not rogues,**  
**says RBM chief**

# Mine opponents win half the battle

51 Times 2/7/92

56

"A HALF loaf is better than no bread at all," is the way Save Chapman's Peak chairman Ian Brownlie described the compromise which was reached this week to defuse what had threatened to escalate into the most strident environmental campaign ever seen in South Africa.

The bad news for environmentalists is that a controversial open pit kaolin mine will be dug on the slopes of Chapman's Peak in the Cape Peninsula. The good news is that it will be dug under the most stringent conditions ever imposed on a mining company in South Africa.

"Money isn't everything," said Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd owner Mr Sybrand van der Spuy. "I'm a windsurfer, I also enjoy the environment.

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

I was delighted to be able to reach this compromise with the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group."

Mr Van der Spuy whose company, Partnership Acceptances, recently bought control of Serina from Federale Volksbeleggings, said the company welcomed the "constructive criticism" it had received.

Serina will build a 6km underground pipeline at a cost of R6-million to transport kaolin slurry from the mining site to the company's existing Brakkekloof beneficiation plant in Sun Valley. One of the major objections by Noordhoek residents has been the expected noise, dust and

visual impact of an on-site processing plant.

The mining company will also consult the action group and other local organisations before embarking on any new phases in the development of the mine, which is expected to be operational within three years and to last 13 years.

Mr Brownlie said the compromise had been reached in a series of meetings in the last few weeks with Serina executives, following the granting of a government permit.

He said "reasonable people" were happy with the compromise. The campaign would remain in existence to ensure Serina kept its promises, he said.



# Conservationists put out to grass in

CT 13/7/92

(5b)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Two leading conservation spokesmen have queried the motives of both the central government and the Administrator of Natal, Mr. Con Botha, in the shock removal of Dr Ian Player and Dr Nolly Zaloumis from the Natal Parks Board.

Dr Player, world famous conservationist and founder of the Wilderness Leadership School,

and Dr Zaloumis, former president of the Wildlife Society of South Africa, are known to be opponents of the mining of the eastern shores of St Lucia by Richards Bay Minerals.

Democratic Party conservation spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said this was no reward for people who had given their lives to conservation.

He said it was known that Dr George Hughes, director of the Natal Parks Board, and

most members of the board, were totally opposed to the mining.

"If there is a separate agenda, it must stem from the Administrator's office and not from the board," Mr Lorimer said.

Mr Roeland Goetz, director of the Wilderness Leadership School, queried the conservation credentials of Durban attorney Mr Graham Cox, one of the new appointees to the board, whose firm, Cox Yeats and Partners,

acts for Richards Bay Minerals.

Mr Cox said yesterday that he felt quite comfortable about the appointment. "I don't think anyone on the board was aware that my company acts for RBM. I have never had dealings with the company in my life."

Mr Cox said he did not think he had been appointed because he was "God's gift to conservation" but because of his business experience.

Cape Times, Monday, July 13 1992 3

Dr Player said yesterday that the fact that he was no longer on the board would not stop him from continuing to serve the cause of conservation and, in particular, the struggle for St Lucia.

Dr Zaloumis said he had no ill-feelings. In a statement at the weekend, the Administrator said: "We wanted young blood. We wanted a woman on the board and we wanted an Indian, too. We already have two blacks."



'WON'T STOP FIGHT'  
Dr Ian Player

mining row

# Player to continue <sup>(5b)</sup> save St Lucia fight

## The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Top conservationists Dr Ian Player and Dr Nolly Zaloumis have vowed to continue their battle to prevent mining along the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia, in spite of their dismissal from the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

Commenting yesterday on his shock dismissal, Dr Player said he had accepted his discharge "without rancour."

Conservation sources believe the renowned ecologist was dismissed because of his ardent opposition to St Lucia mining.

Dr Player's was on the NPB for eight years, after being an employee for 14 years.

Dr Zaloumis, former president of the Wildlife Society of SA, was on the NPB for 18 years.

Both conservationists are committee members on the Campaign for St Lucia, which ardently opposes proposed mining by the Richards Bay Minerals company.

Dr Player said yesterday: "I am proud to have served on the board to the best of my ability. The discharge is quite a relief; I can now devote my time to really speaking out against the mining of the St Lucia dunes."

"Richards Bay Minerals has conducted a smear campaign against us, saying we are against all mining in the area. We are against the mining of the sand dunes on the eastern shore of the lake."

"I believe the full wrath of the public is yet to be felt. The St Lucia issue has become a catalyst for a more powerful amalgamation of non-government conservation groups. Our fight has attracted national and international concern."

Backing Dr Player's view, Dr Zaloumis said: "We are moving into a new age. Caring for the earth, sustainable development and real conservation is important."

"There must be better alternatives to the mining of St Lucia. Short-term and long-term priorities must be balanced. Mining is not as relevant as it used to be," he said.

NPB executive director said yesterday the board was officially against mining.

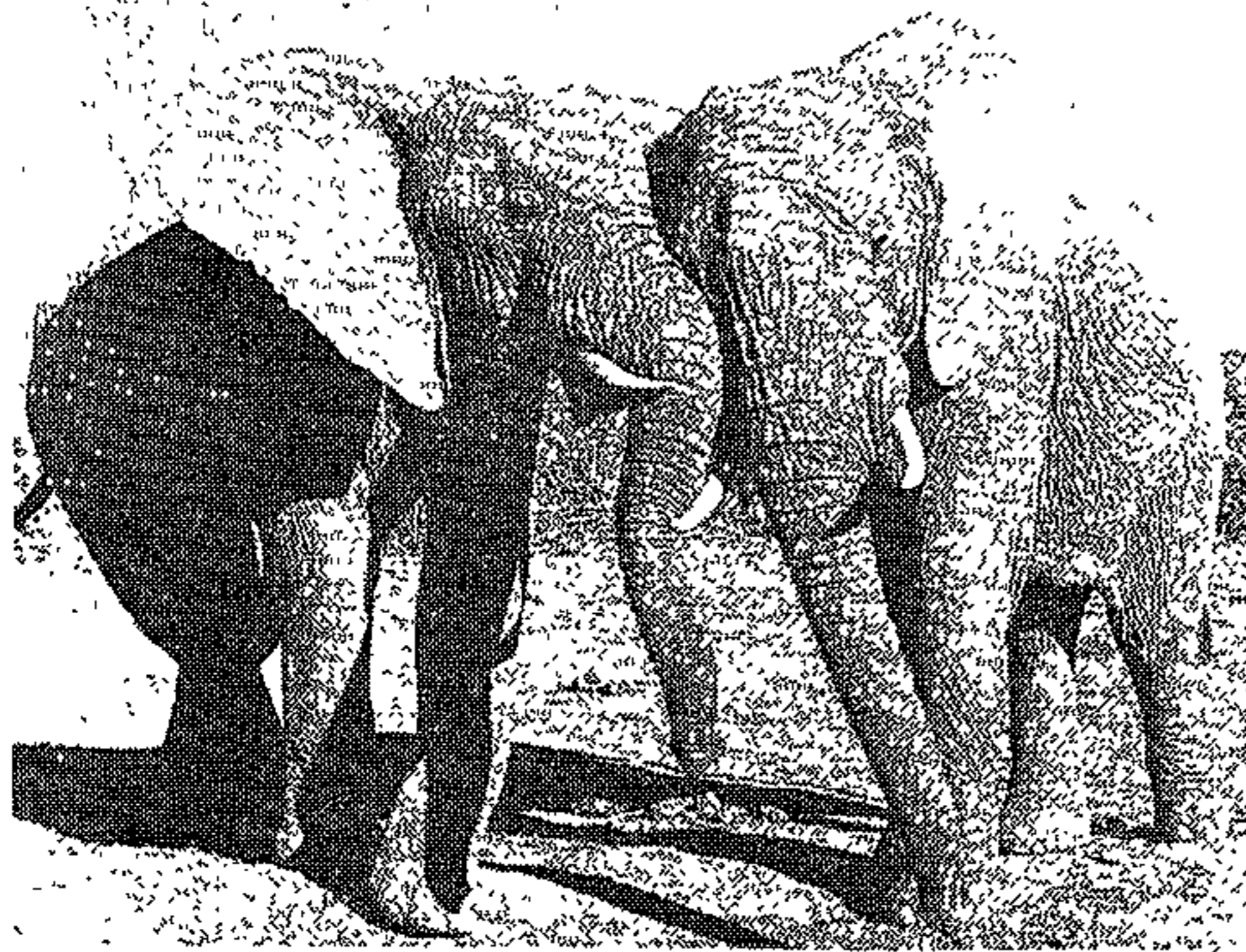
"We have used enormous energy to ensure a high quality environmental impact assessment," he said.

In a statement earlier, Natal Administrator Con Botha said it was with reluctance that certain people had not been re-appointed.

Durban attorney Mr Graham Cox, whose firm Cox Yeats and Partners acts for Richards Bay Minerals, is one of the replacements for the sacked conservationists.

# And now, steroids for jumbo problem

Too many elephants, too little land <sup>(5b)</sup>



**EYE TO EYE:** Romance in the air? But the problem in South Africa is that there are too many elephants for the land they live on.

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

ARG 13/7/92

FIRST it was athletes, then rugby players — now elephants may be taking steroids!

Not for increased strength, obviously — your average jumbo has more than enough muscle power at his or her disposal — but as a humane alternative to the problem issue of culling.

Because southern Africa's elephant populations are well managed and largely free of the ravages of poaching, their numbers are constantly increasing.

But, like over-population in others species, too many elephants cause increasing ecological damage to their habitat, threatening both their own survival and that of many other species which live in the same area.

Because of this, conservation officials are forced to cull large numbers of elephants regularly.

Now scientists are looking at alternatives to culling, and birth control through the use of steroids appears to be viable.

An Australian scientist, Professor Roger Short of Monash University in Melbourne, will visit South Africa later this year as part of his research into the possible contraceptive use of the steroid RU486.

Professor Short's visit has its origins in a meeting in Kenya in May, when a group of distinguished international scientists met to discuss research strategies for regulating fertility in wild elephant populations.

Professor Richard Leakey, head of Kenya's wildlife service, told the meeting an alternative method of controlling elephant numbers had to be found urgently.

"The increased knowledge of elephant social behaviour, intelligence and sensitivity has resulted in growing world-wide opposition to the killing of elephants," he said.

"To conserve the habitat in their remaining range, some form of elephant population control will need to be found. We are in agreement that periodic slaughter of a proportion of the population is ethically unacceptable, a method of last resort, a fate that these noble, sentient, social animals do not deserve to die at the hand of man."

Professor Short is investigating the use of RU486, which could be fed to elephants in food like bananas. The steroid may prevent elephants from conceiving for up to two years.

The Australian scientist needs the lining of an elephant uterus for his research, and will probably visit South Africa during November when Kruger Park elephants are culled.

The uterus will be removed from an elephant within minutes of its being culled, and packed in dry ice or frozen with liquid nitrogen before being sent Australia or to a pharmacological laboratory in France.

Professor Johan Dommissie, head of UCT Medical School's department of obstetrics and gynaecology, has been given a small grant by the SA Nature Foundation to assist Professor Short with his research.

Now about those drug tests at the animal Olympics ...

# Fired wildlife duo to fight for St Lucia

By David Katz (56) (40)

Top conservationists Dr Ian Player and Dr Nolly Zaloumis have vowed to continue their battle to prevent mining along the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia, despite their dismissal from the Natal Parks Board (NPB).

Commenting yesterday on his shock dismissal, Dr Player said he had accepted his discharge "without rancour".

Conservation sources believe the renowned ecologist was dismissed because of his ardent opposition to St Lucia mining.

Dr Player was on the board for eight years, after being an employee for 14 years.

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ing by the Richards Bay Minerals company.

Dr Player said yesterday: "I am proud to have served on the board to the best of my ability. The discharge is quite a relief. I can now devote my time to really speak out against the mining of the St Lucia dunes."

"Richards Bay Minerals has conducted a smear campaign against us, saying we are against all mining in the area. We are against the mining of the sand dunes on the eastern shore of the lake."

## New age

"I believe the full wrath of the public is yet to be felt. The St Lucia issue has become a catalyst for a more powerful amalgamation of non-government conservation groups. Our fight has attracted national and international concern."

Backing Dr Player's view, Dr Zaloumis said: "We are moving into a new age. Caring for the earth, sustainable development

and real conservation are very important.

"There must be better alternatives to the mining of St Lucia. Short-term and long-term priorities must be balanced. Mining is not as relevant as it used to be," he said.

NPB executive director Dr George Hughes yesterday said the board was officially against mining. "We have spent an enormous amount of energy to ensure a high-quality environmental impact assessment."

In a statement earlier, Natal Administrator Con Botha said it was with great reluctance that certain people had not been re-appointed to the board.

"There were other considerations. We wanted young blood, we wanted a woman on the board and we wanted an Indian too," he said.

Durban attorney Graham Cox, whose firm Cox Yeats and Partners acts for Richards Bay Minerals, is one of the replacements for the sacked conservationists.

STAR 13/7/92

# Society fears <sup>(56)</sup> Silvermine development

ARCT 14/17/92  
Environment Reporter

BURNT vegetation in the Silvermine nature reserve has been cleared "in a very heavy-handed fashion", causing such severe soil erosion that Fish Hoek bay has been discoloured, says the Wildlife Society.

In a letter of complaint to the city council's parks and forests department, the society's conservation ecologist, Mr Andy Gubb, asked for assurances that the "drastic clearing and levelling" did not mean development in the reserve.

"As a result of this use of heavy earth-moving machinery, immediately followed by the volume of rain we have experienced, a massive amount of silt has been washed off the steep slope and down into the (Silvermine) river, from thence to the estuary and into Fish Hoek bay where it is plainly seen in the water," he said.

Mr Gubb also wanted to know whether there was any truth in rumours that a dam was to be built in the Silvermine valley.

● The parks and forests department has been asked to comment.

# Fish Hoek Yes to development plan 'is illegal' (5)

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

ARC 14/7/92

THE Fish Hoek Town Council has been advised that its rezoning approval for a residential development on sand dunes is illegal as it has not applied for an amendment to the Cape Peninsula's Guide Plan.

This is the opinion of the Western Cape Regional Services Council, which confirms legal advice given to the Silvermine Valley Coalition opposing the controversial housing development.

In a letter to the Fish Hoek council, RSC chief executive officer Mr Chris Mocke said they had learned that the rezoning of Extension 7 had been approved in April, subject to certain conditions.

The Guide Plan for the Cape Peninsula clearly indicated that a large part of this property was within a designated nature area, the letter said.

In terms of Physical Planning Act, the approval of the rezoning was *ultra vires*, "in that it involves both an amendment of the zoning scheme and change in use of the land which is contrary to the provisions of the Guide Plan".

In a separate letter to the coalition, the RSC said applications for amendments to the Guide Plan had to be made to the minister of Regional and Land Affairs.

"No such application has yet been received, and the Fish Hoek municipality will only be empowered to approve the application if the Guide Plan is amended."

# Mayor: Kaolin deal a severe breach of faith

56 CF 16/7/92

By CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

FISH HOEK'S mayor, Mr Malcolm Wallace, says he regards the recent deal clinched between the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group and the kaolin mining company, Serina, as a "severe breach of faith".

The agreement — which ended a bitter dispute between the groups — stipulated that the kaolin mined from the Noordhoek sites would not be processed there but transported to the Brakkloof plant in Fish Hoek via two underground pipelines.

Speaking at this week's ordinary town council meeting, Mr Wallace said the move was a clear indication of the extent to which Serina management believes it has to take the council seriously.

He said representatives of Serina had earlier told the council that an agreement may be reached with the Group if it agreed to pipe pure kaolin to the Brakkloof plant for drying.

The processing was still to be done in Noordhoek.

"It said it would still honour its agreement to give four and a half hectares back to Fish Hoek in three years' time," he said.

"I said my constituency should be allowed to consider the proposal and asked it to submit it to us in writing so it could be tabled in open council and referred to the Residents Association. It said it would but we have not received a letter yet."

Speaking to the Review yesterday, deputy chairman of Serina Mr Sybrand van der Spuy said Mr Wallace's comments were due to a misunderstanding.

He said: "In our joint press release we stated that the arrangements were subject to the approval of all the relevant local authorities."

This was reported in the local Press.

"We've also dispatched a letter to the council in which we offer to give it four hectares of land for recreational purposes."

He said he thought the letter had reached the municipality too late for the last council meeting.

Mr Wallace also questioned the credibility of the Save Chapman's Peak campaign.

He said: "After all the radio advertisements about 'soon there won't even be one peak' the organisers turned out to be Nimbys — the not-in-my-back-yard syndrome."

## One small corner

"The kaolin drying plant and not the mine appear to be their real concern."

Speaking to the Constantiaberg and False Bay Review this week, SCPAG chairman Mr Ian Brownley said the residents adjacent to the Brakkloof site would not be inconvenienced by the new measures as the processing is done in one small corner of the property.

He said: "One of the conditions of the agreement was that the rest of the land at Brakkloof would be rehabilitated and given free to the Fish Hoek municipality."

Council

Best walls by R65,000

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## BIG FIVE COUNTRY

# A splendid view of tourists

FM 17/7/92

(56)

Part of the Kruger National Park's fence will probably be shifted westward within a year. So private game farm owners west of the Phalaborwa-Orpen Gate fence are planning for an influx of foreign tourists.

Properties affected are in Big Five country (named after game in the area), either in areas recognised by Kruger Park as party to the fence agreement or further west and not yet included in agreements. Park authorities stress they are involved in discussions with only four private nature reserves. But each represents a number of private game farm owners. The reserves are:

- Timbavati (comprising 34 landowners in 62 000 ha);
- Sabi Sand (30 owners in 58 000 ha);
- Umbabat (28 farms — four of which are shareblock schemes — in 15 000 ha); and
- Klaserie (69 farms — some with shareholders bringing the total number of owners to 107 — in 62 000 ha).

They have all reached final draft stage in an agreement which would bring affected farms under the eco-management system of the Kruger National Park.

Kruger Park executive director Salomon Joubert says the draft could be approved by next month. The next step would be to submit the agreement to relevant government departments for approval. These include: Environmental Affairs, Mineral & Energy Affairs, Agriculture; Veterinary Science; and Water Affairs.

Many private game farm owners west of Timbavati and Klaserie — east of the Hoedspruit-Phalaborwa road — believe they should be included in the larger Kruger-managed area. But their Independent Landowners' Association is only now being constituted — and their inclusion would have to wait for the agreement between the park and the four reserves to be finalised.

Association chairman Trevor Jordan — a well-known shareblock and resort developer in the eastern Transvaal — wants to form a union of more than 100 landowners in a 100 000 ha block, including his own Thornybush Lodge and the Kapama Lodge, which includes the Cheetah Research Station.

The Industrial Development Corp is also taking an interest in the commercialisation of the region. It has made R600m available for various projects offering developers access to capital at attractive rates. The funds are aimed mainly at providing more upmarket accommodation for foreign tourists. Land and game purchases in general do not qualify.

The IDC says inquiries have been received from six owners in the four reserves under consideration. Schemes range from construction of corporate bungalows to the reno-



Jordan ... less fences,  
less culling

vation of camps.

Of the four reserves, Sabi Sand Wildtuin — with 14 commercial lodges — is the only one without commercial development restrictions. Its chairman, Michael Rattray, owner of Mala Mala, says just over 90% of the surface area of the 28 farms that make up the block is used for commercial game viewing. He stresses the environmental benefits of having a fence between wildlife and agriculture — not between wildlife populations.

Commercial benefits come from exclusivity. Sabi Sand developer Ravenscourt Ranch, represented by Luke Bailes, is negotiating to erect a corporate camp on part of the Ravenscourt farm to accommodate only 10 people. Ideally, Bailes would like to lease the camp annually to a single entity — an individual or a company — or to two six-monthly. Prices have not been determined but users would have traversing rights over the Castleton and Ravenscourt farms which together make up the second biggest block of land in Sabi Sand after Mala Mala.

One developer wanted to put up a 50-bed lodge on a farm in the Timbavati — but the reserve's constitution limits accommodation to 15 beds per 850 ha. Timbavati landowners' representative David Griesel says two farms are being upgraded and one has applied to the Timbavati committee to set up a new operation.

A month ago, Jaap Rabie, who owns an hotel near George, opened Kambaku Lodge to sleep 15 in the Timbavati. He has an option to buy the 850 ha farm but has so far bought only the business of Cheetah Trails.

Rabie converted the derelict trails camp into a game lodge, added three new chalets to the existing three, a swimming pool, lounge and bar. Daily rates are R195-R230.

Two other schemes in progress are the well-publicised R2,5m Ngala revamp (42 beds), managed by Conservation Corp, and a possible new lodge on the 1 500 ha farm Sumatra where owner Tokkie Scoltz has applied to convert his camp to a 12-bed conference centre.

Klaserie's constitution does not allow commercial development by individual landowners but the reserve permits overseas hunters and allows the Endangered Wild Life Trust to conduct walking trails. Klaserie warden Erwin Leibnitz says: "Obviously, we're looking at the possibility of the reserve commercialising. By that I mean the possibility of developing a combined hunting, game-viewing and trail lodge — to be financed by our central reserve fund whose income is derived from game sales, hunting and membership fees."

A plan is being drawn up by Klaserie's elected committee for such a lodge — but it has yet to be put to members, according to Klaserie Private Nature Reserve chairman Daantjie du Preez. Leibnitz says a decision has not been reached on how luxurious the lodge should be and chances are that only 12 people would be accommodated at a time.

Leibnitz says Klaserie wants to buy a farm within the reserve or on its boundaries, that could then be incorporated. Hunting does not pose a problem, he adds, but no final decision has been reached.

Land prices in the four reserves vary but appear to be from R5 000/ha for prime land and from R2 000/ha for the rest. Prime land is found in the Sabi Sand area where more water is available and the vegetation is better for game — and because commercialisation possibilities are greater there. Sabi Sand owners say land has escalated from R4 000-5 000/ha to R7 000/ha over the past two years.

In Umbabat — where a few land swaps are said to be taking place among owners to create larger farms — the latest sale recorded to an outsider was a 430 ha farm at R2 300/ha. Shareblock resale prices, according to Umbabat landowners' chairman Brian Thomson, are R250 000 to R500 000.

Some question the validity of land prices being touted, saying farm owners tend to inflate prices to deter outsiders. One agent says he has three farms in Klaserie for sale but prices are only around the R2 400-R2 500/ha mark — with river frontage. Perhaps prices are lower because of the commercialisation embargo. The same agent says one small farm in the Timbavati — still



## PROPERTY

FM 17/1/92

(56)

under negotiation — was offered at R4 000/ha six weeks ago. Rabie says he is negotiating at well below R5 000/ha on his Timbavati farm option.

Most of the reserves' constitutions bind sellers to offer land first to fellow reserve members. Yet there is the possibility that owners might consider changes to their constitutions to allow greater flexibility. ■

## WESTCLIFF RIDGE

### In the pink

**Marketing of** Tiber Bonvec's townhouse development on Johannesburg's Westcliff Ridge, the exteriors of which are painted a Mediterranean pink, is scheduled to begin in September. A formal launch will follow in October. The project with panoramic views over Johannesburg Zoo has attracted considerable attention in recent weeks as it nears completion.

A Tiber Bonvec spokesman says his com-



Westcliff Ridge ... *la vie en rose*

pany is reluctant to comment on the development. "We have deliberately kept a low profile on this project," he says, and has referred all inquiries to Marketing Concepts, which specialises in property marketing.

"The project is difficult to define because it does not fit into the accepted norms for either cluster homes or townhouses," says Marketing Concepts Sandy Davey. "The de-

velopment could best be described as townhouses on a grand scale."

Eight units are nearing completion and five are under consideration. Accommodation varies from between three to five bedrooms. The number of reception rooms in each can be tailored to fit buyers' specifications and each unit comes with either a swimming pool or plunge pool.

Prices have not been set but the "highest standard of finishes," and construction and engineering on steep gradients, are expected to add to the costs.

Tiber Bonvec says it has gone for the best. Noted architect Michael Sutton, now resident in Greece, drew the original design which has a Mediterranean flavour. "We did this because we felt the austerity of the predominantly Victorian-type buildings on the ridge needed to be softened," says the Tiber Bonvec spokesman. Louis Karol was appointed as supervising architect and to give final form to Sutton's original proposals.

The development hasn't met with universal approval. Westcliff Residents' Association

chairman Charles Macphail says there is a long history of struggle against the flat rights on the 14 ha property.

"This goes back to 1919 when the land was endowed with flat rights because of administrative bungling." When the Murray Gordon Mansion was demolished in 1975 Westcliff residents attempted to procure the revocation of flat rights but were

overruled by the Administrator.

"There's not much we can do about things now," says Macphail. But he adds that the Sutton concept was the best of many presented to the association.

"We didn't bank on the pink they've adopted. That came as a nasty surprise." Davey takes issue with the description of the colour as pink. "Actually," she says, "it's

terra cotta red, a colour used frequently throughout the Mediterranean." ■

## EAST LONDON

### Smacks of the sea

**Even East London's** doing it. Time Development's Lantern Bay project in the sleepy harbour city which serves the Transkei, Ciskei and Border areas is set to replicate — on a smaller scale — the famous Victoria & Alfred development in Cape Town.

Initial plans for the East London project call for a three-phase development starting with a 3 600 m<sup>2</sup> refurbishment of a building and adjacent factory formerly used by Irvin & Johnson and the construction of a new two-storey building. The cost of the first phase will be about R11m, says Time Developments MD Colin Taylor.

The project is set in East London's picturesque Buffalo River harbour. It will comprise restaurants, bars and speciality boutiques. Taylor says about 60% of the available space has been taken up. He expects construction and refurbishment to begin in September when the necessary finances will be in place. "We are placing the project with various institutional investors, all of whom recognise its inherent viability. I'm very confident we'll raise the monies."

First phase is expected to be complete by June 1993.

The Lantern Bay scheme is 1 km from East London's famed Orient Beach. Taylor believes it will be ideal for families and tourists. East London, he says, is underrated. It has a mild climate, magnificent beaches and extraordinary scenery. Even the feared winds have been catered for in this development: Lantern Bay is tucked away in the Buffalo River valley and is, according to Taylor, "protected."

Future plans — the second and third phases — include hotel developments and the inclusion of Signal Hill as a focal point for outdoor exhibitions. Phase 2 of the project is estimated to cost about R12m, but Taylor says he's not in a hurry to launch it. "I think we'll wait and see," he says. ■

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# Green issues are not only the concern of whites

Southern

1/15/192

ONE OF THE MOST important books to come out concerning the environment in South Africa is *Restoring the Land*, edited by Dr Mamphele Ramphele with Chris McDowell and produced by Panos Institute of London.

The book details the history of apartheid and the damage it has wrought to our environment.

One of the chapters in which I took particular interest is the one about life in the township and is written by Nomavenda Mathiane.

The introducing paragraph to the chapter asks questions about what it is like to live in the township and why do urban blacks see the environment as remote, academic, and concerning white people only.

Mathiane says most blacks who stay in townships are faced with the day-to-day struggle of surviving in overcrowded, unhealthy conditions and they see environmental issues



## Musa Zondi's ROOTS

such as the greenhouse effect and climatic changes as academic topics that whites take part in.

She argues the problems of townships can be traced back to their origins when blacks were regarded as sojourners in the towns.

"Minimal planning was undertaken to cater for the natives, who were expected to go back sooner rather than later to where they had come from

People simply erected very basic dwellings and dug holes in the ground to serve as toilets. The local authorities provided little or nothing in the way of infrastructure and services. This pattern is much the same today in squatter camps.

She goes on to say one of the biggest problems in the townships is the pollution. In winter, the townships look like they are covered in a thick blanket of smoke.

"Almost all township homes have coal stoves, and the chimneys compete for space. Coal fires are used in winter for heating as well as cooking, and even people with electric heaters and other appliances still use coal stoves."

These townships are disease incubators, she maintains.

"One toilet becomes blocked and the entire area becomes a health hazard. Water runs down into the streets, carrying sewage, toilet paper and the whole mess. As there are no playgrounds, children playing in the street often contract diseases and suffer from diarrhoea."

She goes on to talk about squatter camps where there are often no toilets and no running water; let alone refuse removal services.

"Most townships are as bare as deserts. There are no trees to beautify the environment, give shade and help prevent soil erosion.

"Some people argue that not all the blame should be placed at the Govern-

ment's door and that the people themselves can do something about their own situation. There are communities, especially in Soweto, who have tried to improve their townships by cleaning dumping grounds and creating parks. But they soon become discouraged because of the lack of resources. Parks can't be maintained, for example, and being unlit soon become hunting grounds for murderers and rapists.

"As you enter a black area one of the first things you see are notices about how to kill mosquitoes and rats. You would never see notices like these in the white areas. There is no way one blocked toilet in a white area could affect an entire street. There is no way refuse could be around uncollected for weeks. There is no way a white suburb could be built next to a fertilizer plant.

This is a must for all those interested in our environment.

## St Lucia row hits minister

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Cabinet members — including Environment Minister Mr Louis Pienaar — have been accused of being "obstructive and unhelpful" towards the Lake St Lucia anti-mining lobby. **5 OCT 17/92**

The claim was made by the Campaign for St Lucia this week.

Outgoing chairman Mr Oliff d'Oliveira said Mr Pienaar had been asked to introduce a bill which would give legal protection to St Lucia.

"But it is with regret that the campaign found his (Mr Pienaar's) response unfavourable," the group said.

## Industrial waste can mean cheaper housing

BIDAY 17/1/92 (22) 56  
A LEADING SA mining corporation has found a way to save money, provide cheaper housing and protect the environment by using its industrial waste to make building materials.

Details of the breakthrough were carried in a paper delivered on Tuesday at a Johannesburg environmental symposium focusing on recycling, at the SA Institute of Mineral and Technology.

Genmin Mining Corporation engineer B E Dowling said the process had begun with a Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) report which concluded that chrome, copper and platinum slag (metal waste) was suitable for making concrete.

Genmin began making "cement bricks", experimenting with different proportions of platinum slag and cement mixed with water, and testing them. It was also found that chrome slag could be used instead of sand in mortar for bricklaying or for plastering.

Slag is being incorporated into Genmin's employee housing scheme at its Impala platinum plant, and two entrepreneurs are making bricks using platinum slag. A special mould has been invented to make brick units to replace steel window frames and door frames, further reducing costs.

Manufacturing from waste was no miracle cure for housing, since the most expensive ingredient was the cement, Dowling said.

"However, using the waste material will contribute to savings in brickmaking costs and simultaneously reduce pollution of the environment."

In another paper, SA companies were warned that they would be forced to keep pace with foreign achievements in recycling.

The paper, presented by consulting engineers Dr Robert Muller and Dave Hojem, said the most recent legal requirements in Europe demanded that recycling take place if it was technically and environmentally feasible. Waste which filled these criteria could not be dumped.

Although SA had the most advanced technology for processing and recycling plastics, it still lacked stringent legislation for waste treatment. — Sapa.

# 1988 township killing: policemen suspected

By Guy Jepson <sup>STAR</sup> 17/7/92

Police are investigating a murder case against three current and two former municipal policemen in connection with the killing of a Daveyton resident nearly four years ago.

The murder of Aaron Moshokoa may never have been discovered without a tip-off.

An inquest court found that he had died of natural causes in September 1988.

Acting on information received, investigators subsequently established that he had been murdered, said SAP spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman.

"Mr Moshokoa was a private citizen. He was apparently picked up as a suspect on September

26 1988. His body was found the next morning in Tlokwa Street, Daveyton.

"On February 22 1989 an official inquest found that he had died of natural causes.

"Police received certain information and after investigations were completed, cases were opened against three members of the Daveyton municipal police and two ex-members."

Captain Opperman said on Wednesday that two of the three municipal policemen under investigation had been suspended from the force. The two former municipal policemen had previously resigned from the force.

The cases against the five men had been referred to the Attorney-General for a decision.

# Legal access to Malawian

## activist denied

<sup>STAR</sup> HARARE 17/7/92. Lawyers have been refused access to detained Malawian democracy activist Chakufwa Chihana, one of his defence team said yesterday.

Harry Chiume said he had confirmation that Mr Chihana had been re-detained by police but that attempts to see him had been unsuccessful.

He said he believed Mr Chihana, who had been on bail on charges of sedition, was being questioned in Blantyre.

Mr Chihana was arrested on April 6 when he returned to Malawi. He was released last Saturday and on Monday was committed for trial on charges involving seditious documents. On Tuesday he was again taken into custody. Sapa-AFP.

# Fired pair join St Lucia campaign

Dr Ian Player and Dr Nolly Zaloumis, recently dropped from the Natal Parks Board, have joined the Campaign for St Lucia.

In a special meeting of the campaign, Dr Zaloumis was elected as the new chairman of the year-old campaign and Dr Player agreed to join its board of patrons.

Outgoing chairman

Cliff d'Oliveira said he was disappointed that Natal Administrator Con Botha saw fit to remove "two champions of enlightened environmental conservation". "If this is intended to thwart the campaign and to smother the voices of Dr Player and Dr Zaloumis, it will not work."

Mr d'Oliveira's future role in the campaign

would be to focus on the Wetland Conservation Bill, which is being supported by the ANC, CP, DP, members of the House of Delegates and individual NP MPs.

At the meeting, members welcomed new Parks Board chairman Pat Goss's statement that the board was opposed to the mining of the eastern shores.

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STAR 17/7/92

(56)

# Campaign for St Lucia hots up

By EDDIE KOCH

THE campaign to stop the shores of Lake St Lucia being stripmined for titanium stepped up this week as a powerful consortium of conservationists vowed to block all mining on wetland sites in South Africa.

This follows the abrupt ousting of Ian Player and Nolly Zaloumnis, respected anti-mining activists, from the Natal Parks Board (NPB), and their replacement by a lawyer whose company represents Richard's Bay Minerals (RBM), in what is widely seen as a crass attempt to pave the way for mining.

Members of the Campaign for St Lucia believe a decision has been taken at government level not to buckle under demands for tight curbs on mining activities that damage the environment.

They point to the recent government go-ahead for kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak in the Cape Peninsula, as well as Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett's statement in May that the government was in favour of mining at St Lucia, as evidence that the government is desperate for large foreign exchange ventures like these to go-ahead.

These two developments have galvanised a powerful anti-mining lobby.

Player said 120 organisations affiliated to the Campaign for St Lucia would now press for legislation to ban all mining on South Africa's protected wetlands.

"The public outrage here is now so strong that it looks like a spirit of environmental activism in the classic sense — people throwing themselves in the path of bulldozers — has finally come to South Africa," a member of the alliance told *The Weekly Mail*.

Player was reluctant to speculate about Natal administrator Con Botha's motives for ousting him.

No feet of clay on Chapman's Peak

# 'Cells' on alert to hit kaolin

By Andy 18/1/92

**PATRICK FARRELL**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

IAN Brownlie is proud that his small "ad-hoc" action group has prevented a "single spade of earth" from being turned on the kaolin mine site in Noordhoek.

Mr Brownlie is one of the hardcore members of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, the protesters who have been campaigning to stop the Serina company's proposed kaolin mine on the Chaplins' estate site in Noordhoek.

Last week the group came to an agreement with the new owner of Serina, Mr Sybrand van der Spuy.

Under the agreement Serina will not build a processing plant on the new site, but will pipe kaolin across Sun Valley to Serina's existing Brakke-loof mine for processing.

Mr Brownlie this week gave details of the "biggest environmental campaign the country would have seen" which he said his group had planned but called off when they became

□ **Compromise between anti-kaolin mine protesters and the Serina mining company shelved the "biggest environmental campaign ever" in South Africa.**

aware that Serina was about to be sold.

He gave an insight into the workings of the group, but was quick to say nothing would have been achieved without the help of the public.

The campaign cost the SCPAG about R10 000 and was to have been run by "cells" the group had formed across the country.

The aim was to gather 250 000 signatures in four weeks, "and if that was not enough we would have got 500 000 more for the government".

The "cells" would have worked in major centres with kits containing petition forms, answers to questions the public might ask and photographs of the proposed mine site.

Nearly 170 kits were prepared when the group decided to halt the campaign.

Now it has adopted a "softer" approach towards Serina.

"We are monitoring the situation and we plan soon to get a mandate from the public to gauge whether to re-start the battle or continue with the present course," said Mr Brownlie.

Beginning with a handful of concerned residents five years ago, the SCPAG has grown into an organised group whose strategies, objectives and names of sympathisers were all on computer.

Despite military jargon in the group's leaflets, Mr Brownlie is adamant the action groups' strategies were based on "normal marketing principles".

"Standard marketing procedures can be applied to anything in life and I think the group has used them very successfully."

□ **CAMPAIGN:** Ian Brownlie of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group with some of the campaign kits ready to be sent to group "cells" around the country.



# Kruger Park workers not wild about wages

SOUTH 18/7-22/7/92  
By Rehana Rossouw

MOST tourists visit the Kruger National Park in Skukuza to see the wildlife. A popular haunt for international visitors to the country, the Park enjoys international acclaim for its four-legged bounty.

It's safe to assume that not many visitors take time during their stay at the Kruger Park to watch the workers who keep their cabins clean or provide food after a hard day's game watching.

But a Cape Town visitor, Mr Jeff Geffen, did that recently and was shocked at their working conditions.

"The toil and unhappiness on the workers' faces was self-evident," Geffen said.

Geffen said the workers he interviewed told him they worked nine hours a day, seven days a week for three months. They then get two weeks off.

The workers he spoke to said their average wage was R300 a month. They also received a bag of mielie meal, beans and canned "buffalo" meat.

Most of the black workers were housed in staff accommodation and are not allowed to receive visitors at the Park — not even their families.

"The workers told me R6,50 was deducted for union levies every month but they did not know the name of the union and had never seen an organiser," Geffen said.

"The wild animals are revered by tourists who return to their cabins every day utterly blind to the people who clean their toilets and prepare their food."

"Some workers spend their evenings watching people eat more food in one night than they probably eat in a week."

Geffen said when he interviewed the workers many spoke of their dreams of getting more education and occupying more skilled positions at the Kruger National Park.

"There is a perception among the workers that becoming a game ranger is a job for white people," Geffen said. "But there are some who could do that kind of work if they were given the chance."

The executive director of the Kruger National Park, Dr S C J Joubert was asked to comment on Monday but at the time of going to press had not done so.



# 'Eco-terrorists' may have killed director, says Thor chairman

SI Times 19/7/92

By RYAN CRESSWELL (56)

THE gruesome murder of a chemical company sales director whose dismembered body was smeared with mercury could have been carried out by international environmental terrorists.

The claim was made this week by Mr Des Cowley, British chairman of the holding company of Thor Chemicals.

After giving evidence at an inquiry into the running of Thor at Camperdown in Natal, Mr Cowley said he believed the death of 48-year-old Mr Alan Kidger was linked to a mercury substance used in the company's chemical plant.

Mr Cowley said Mr Kidger's death could have been at the hands of "eco-terrorists" — an international radical group of environmentalists.

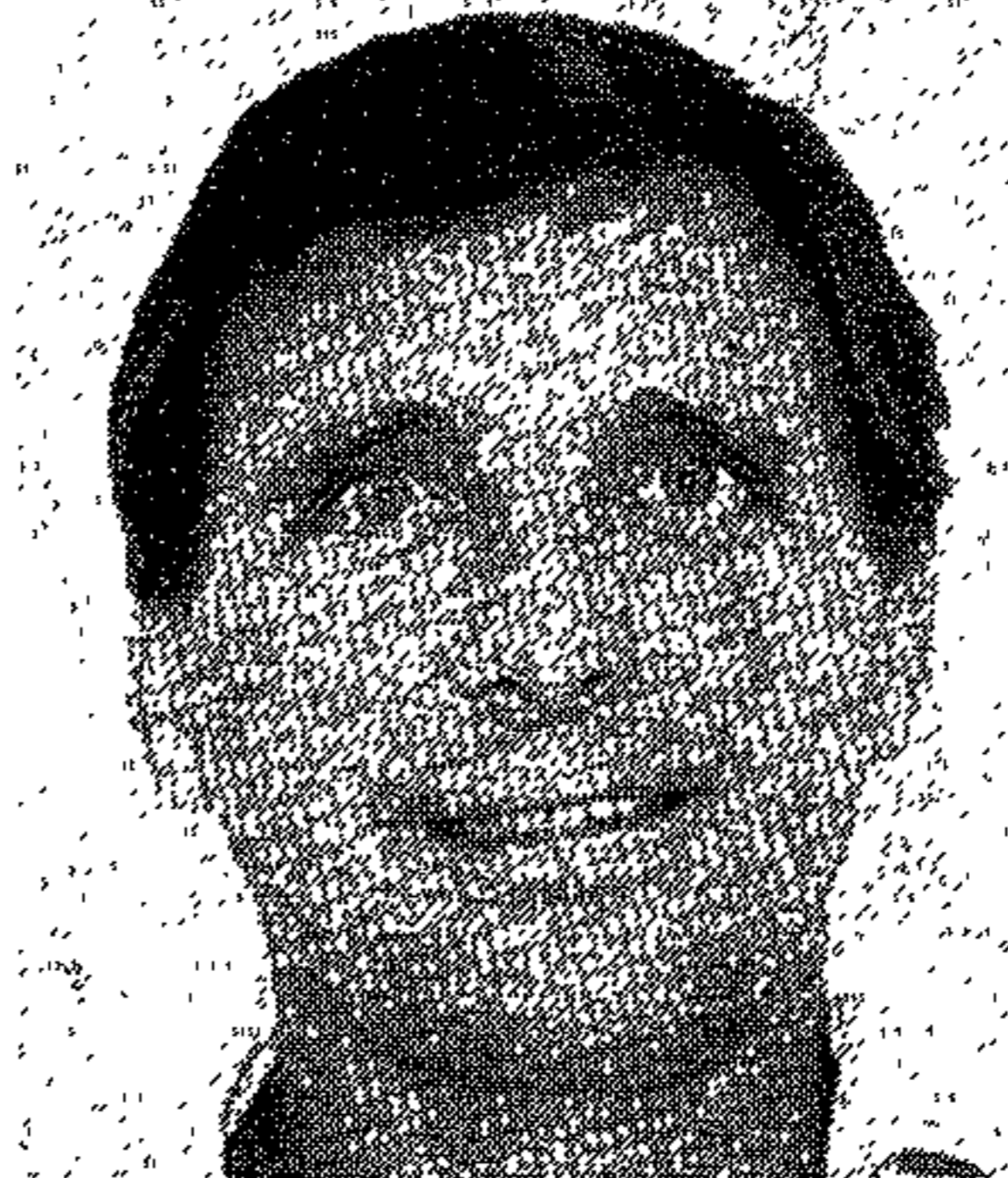
## Coma

Mr Kidger's body was found in the boot of his luxury car in Soweto last November. His arms and legs had been cut off and he was covered with a substance containing mercury.

Kent-based Mr Cowley made the amazing claim after giving evidence at the inquiry in the Camperdown magistrate's court.

The three-day inquiry, presided over by a Department of Manpower official, was held to look into why two former employees at the Cato Ridge plant had lapsed into comas in April. Mr Engelbert Ngcobo, 40, and Mr Peter Cele, 21, were found to show symptoms of massive mercury poisoning. Both are still in a coma.

Mr Cowley told the inquiry that he believed an act of sabotage was responsible for the poisoning of the men,



ALAN KIDGER: Smeared with mercury

saying that Thor had a "long history of sabotage".

Later Mr Cowley said Mr Kidger's murder appeared to be "linked" to a number of acts of sabotage at the Natal plant.

He had come to his conclusions about the murder after Thor examined the substance that covered Mr Kidger's body. It could have been sludge imported for recycling at Thor in South Africa.

"Somebody was trying to make a point, which was why it was done in such a horrific manner and why his body was covered in mercury," Mr Cowley said.

A Reef police spokesman said the police were looking into the possibility of an environmental murder.

## Fund started for the Cape Point reserve

(56)  
(Times [Cape Metro])  
A SPECIAL fund has been established to raise money from public and private sources to improve amenities for visitors and educational groups at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve — with the emphasis on conservation and education.

And, to start the ball rolling, Times Media Limited — owners of the Sunday Times — have donated R5 000 to the fund in appreciation of the role played by the administrators of the reserve in allowing the R1-million prize in the recent Finder's Keepers competition to be hidden in the reserve at the tip of the Cape Peninsula.

The reserve contains one of the most stunningly beautiful areas of fauna and flora in the world, stretching from the untamed ruggedness of the Cape Point promontory across vast plains of delicate fynbos.

1979 2  
Conservation of the reserve, which has a limited budget from the Western Cape Regional Services Council, has become increasingly expensive — which has motivated the decision to form the trust, known as the Cape Point Nature Conservation and Education Foundation.

The Foundation is a private initiative, independent of central and local government. It aims to collect and administer funds from private and public sources within and outside South Africa to promote the interests of the reserve.

● Donations can be made to the Cape Point Nature Conservation and Education Foundation, c/o Fairbridge Arderne & Lawton Inc. Attorneys, P O Box 536, Cape Town 8000.

# It's not tokenism <sup>(S6)</sup> Parks Board man

By Rochelle <sup>STAR</sup>  
Gosling-Hughes 20/7/92

A new Natal Parks Board (NPB) appointee, who threatened last week to resign if his appointment to the board was due to racial tokenism, said yesterday that he would stay.

Dr Premchund Brijlal,

a University of Durban-Westville economics lecturer, said he was satisfied that he had been chosen for his skills and not as a "token Indian".

Dr Brijlal said at the weekend that he would review his appointment if he found he had replaced renowned conservationist Dr Ian Player.

Dr Player said yesterday he felt no rancour or bitterness about the new appointments. "I have served the Natal province for 40 years in conservation and will continue to do so."

He said Dr Brijlal had much to contribute because of his expertise in economics and tourism.

NPB chairman Patrick Goss explained that the board did not appoint its own members. "The Administrator, Con Botha, and the Executive Committee are the selectors," he said.

Those serving on the board were from wide-ranging fields including education and law.

# Clean-burning South African coal a winner

STAR 217192

56

South African coal in world export markets is likely to escape costly environmental legislation because of its relatively low sulphur content and clean burning properties, according to Syfrets mining analyst Peter Major.

In the Syfrets Economic Review, Mr Major says in the event of a carbon tax, currently being mooted in European Community anti-pollution policy, South African coal producers should get off fairly lightly.

"Should the tax be imple-

mented, South Africa's low-cost, low-sulphur production would be less affected than most other countries' producers," he says.

Total world coal production of 4.7 billion tons a year is split 70/30 between hard, cleaner-burning "black" coal and soft, dirty and inefficient "brown" coal.

"Continued growth of over two percent per annum is forecast for the next decade, with overall production of brown coal set to fall dramatically for

environmental and economic realities," Mr Major says.

"Demand for the low-cost steam coal from the world's main exporters — the US, Australia and South Africa — should grow well over two to three percent as most European production is highly uneconomic."

Another major South African mining industry set to benefit from increased environmental awareness is the platinum group metals industry.

The platinum group metals —

platinum, rhodium and palladium — are used in the manufacture of autocatalysts, which reduce motor vehicle exhaust pollution.

"Platinum group metals probably show the best fundamentals of all minerals in the world today," Mr Major says.

"Both jewellery and autocatalyst offtake set new highs in 1992 and should continue to grow with better world economies and increased clean air regulation," he says. — Sap...

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# Eskom to spend R200m on cleaning up power stations

8/Day 217192

56  
MEREDITH JENSEN

ESKOM will spend R200m over the next few years to clean up air pollutants emitted from Duvha and Majuba, two of its power stations in the Transvaal.

Duvha power station in Witbank had consistently exceeded the pollution limits set by the Health Department's Chief Air Pollution Control Officer (Capco), an Eskom spokesman said.

The clean-up contract for Duvha, awarded to Johannesburg-based BBT Flakt, called for the replacement of electrostatic precipitators with bag filters. The filters would collect the fine ash particles which accumulated as a result of burning coal.

Duvha deputy manager Roy Bailey said Eskom had opted initially to test the bag filters at its flagship power station because of mechanical problems with precipitators, which made it difficult to maintain acceptable emissions.

Duvha was expected to be fitted with three units, the first of which would be completed in early 1993. An individual unit would contain four compartments for dust, each equipped with 6 000 filter bags. They would reduce emitted particles to less than

50 milligrams a cubic metre.

Eskom manager for boiler plant engineering John Begg said the company planned to spend an additional R100m on bag filters for its planned Majuba power station, to be built in a few years time.

Begg said all of Eskom's 10 fossil-fired power stations were receiving attention to rectify emission problems.

Prof Dieter Holm of the International Solar Energy Society said yesterday pollution levels in the PWV area were six times greater than internationally acceptable levels.

GAVIN DU VENAGE reports that Holm, who returned recently from the world environment forum in Rio de Janeiro, where he was appointed the society's African representative, said the cost of SA's cheap coal-fired energy was paid for in the long term through excessive air pollution.

Holm said society studies had shown that by 2020 about 36%-45% of world energy needs would come from renewable resources.

## Tastic gets interdict against strikers

8/Day 217192  
SUSAN RUSSELL

TASTIC Rice obtained an interdict in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday against about 200 striking workers allegedly involved in acts of sabotage and intimidation against the company and other employees.

The workers, who voted to go on strike on June 4 after wage negotiations broke down, are all members of the Food and Allied

Workers' Union. Judge J Lazarus granted an order prohibiting striking workers, except two shop stewards and three other workers at a time, from coming within 250m of the company's Industria premises.

They were also interdicted from unlawfully inter-

fering with or obstructing the normal operation of Tastic's business and from intimidating, assaulting or harassing other employees.

The union did not oppose granting of the interdict.

Tastic's human resources manager Peter Lawrence Latta said in one incident the braking air-pipes of four transport trucks were found to have been severed.

STAIR 2117192

# UK engineers to help fight drought crisis

(56)

By Jo-Anne Collinge

An emergency strategy to bring water to drought-stricken villages in the Transvaal and Natal and to head off mass migration shifted into gear this week with the arrival of five British engineers.

The five are only the first group of experienced foreign engineers to be recruited by the Water Supply Task Force of the National Drought Relief Consultative Forum — launched by a wide range of development, political and community organisations a month ago.

Another three British engineers are due within a fortnight. They could

be joined by American and European engineers at a later stage.

Task force leader Len Abrams said between 2,5 and 3 million people would either have to move or perish within the next three months. It would result in the transfer of poverty from rural to urban areas with "resultant dislocation and hardship".

The aim of the task force was to make it possible for people to survive in their villages, he said.

All five engineers who arrived this week have had substantial experience in water provision in Africa, the Middle East and south-east Asia.

Mr Abrams said there were villages in the far

northern Transvaal where families were receiving a mere 25 litres of water every four days — too little even to mix their dry rations.

Four of the British experts — Ian Johnson, Tim Grayling, Geoff Alison and Robert McAdam — have been funded by the British government's Overseas Development Agency and are members of Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief. The fifth, John Adams, is attached to the French organisation Medecins Sans Frontiers.

● The sugar industry yesterday launched "Operation Amanzi", under which at least 30 million litres of water will be transported to rural areas in the sugar belt.

# Weatherman sees good rain coming

B1044 2217192

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The great drought which devastated millions of hectares of SA's farmlands last summer is almost certainly over and a season of good rains ahead is a "probability", according to authorities.

Pretoria University's meteorological department head Prof Johan van Heerden said although the weather was still influenced by El Nino, a high pressure system off South America's western coastline, the "event" appeared to be in a decaying phase.

This century there had been 16 El Nino episodes and only once had it happened that the phenomenon had occurred in consecutive years.

Van Heerden stressed, however, that El Nino was not the only cause of droughts. Records confirmed an El Nino event was usually followed by average or above-average rainfall.

"The probability is the coming summer will be a wet one," Van Heerden said. However, it would be until end-September before it could positively be said that El Nino "has either left us or still lingers".

The probability of normal rainfall in the coming summer is great news for the economy. Last summer's drought, according to official estimates, cost the country R2,5bn in lost exports. To be added, economists say, is the enormous cost of importing grain to supplement crops destroyed by drought.

To rehabilitate distressed farmers government has allocated R3,8bn in drought aid. The foreign exchange loss is not the only drought-associated loss to the economy, economists point out. The plunge in farmers' incomes rippled through to adversely affect other sectors of the economy.

□ The sense of urgency brought about by the drought has led to the

Public Works Department speeding up work to eliminate congestion of heavy vehicles at Beit Bridge border post.

A R12m upgrading of the post, which will allow it to cope with the traffic for the next 10 years, has already begun.

A Public Works spokesman said in Pretoria the drought in Zimbabwe — the worst in living memory — and improved commercial relations had resulted in a sudden and dramatic increase in traffic, reversing a decision to postpone the upgrading until 1994.

A new border post on the Zimbabwe side is also nearing completion.

Sapa reports the emergency fund of the SA Agricultural Union grew to R3m yesterday with a donation of R1,5m by the Pretoria City Council.

Of the donated amount, R1m is to be paid into the fund. The rest is to be spent on a study into a report by the Human Sciences Research Council on the marketing of fresh produce.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said the donation would help the union provide assistance to drought-stricken farmers and farm workers for another three months.

□ About 30 000 tons of dry beans, shipped to SA as part of the biggest consignment of the commodity imported to the country, has landed in Durban. About 90 000 tons of beans are to be imported because of drought-related shortfalls in the local crop.

Our Durban correspondent reports the millionth ton of maize was unloaded in Durban Harbour yesterday since the start of the drought relief import programme.

## Water tariff increase 'is in the pipeline' <sup>(56)</sup> govt

BIDAY 23/7/92

RAY HARTLEY

INCREASED tariffs and re-allocation of dwindling water resources based on need may become necessary, the Water Affairs Department said in its latest drought review document released yesterday.

Although it would technically be possible to supply water to drought-ravaged areas by means of transfer schemes, the cost would be too high for the consumer or Water Affairs to bear, the department said.

"The alternative would be certain adjustments — higher tariffs, greater efficiency or use, re-allocation according to importance — however painful.

The natural flow of rivers, among others the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal, Orange, Riet,

Modder and the Caledon Rivers, is almost stagnant or has ceased completely."

The situation in the far-northern Transvaal and eastern Cape was particularly bad, and frequent shortages were regarded as natural.

Although dam levels in the PWV area were lower than usual and abnormally hot and dry weather was being experienced in the Transvaal, Water Affairs said it was not considering water restrictions there in the immediate future.

Below average rainfall was recorded at all measuring points, with the exception of Zeerust, since November 1991, the department said.



# SA petrol lead levels 'significantly high' <sup>(5b)</sup>

ARG 23/7/92

**JOHN YELD**  
Environment Reporter

FINDINGS from a repeat survey into blood-lead levels in children in the inner city areas of Cape Town have been interpreted differently by the government and the study team.

The initial study in 1981 and 1984 by Dr Yasmin von Schirnding, then of the Medical Research Council, indicated that children in inner city areas who attended schools on heavily travelled roads had demonstrably higher blood lead levels than other children.

Lead is highly toxic and high blood lead levels in children have been found to cause intellectual and development delays, smaller physical stature, anaemia and even death.

Dr Von Schirnding's study showed that a high percentage of the children at certain Woodstock schools had blood lead levels of 25

micrograms a decilitre or higher — above what was then considered safe.

Last year, Dr Von Schirnding was commissioned by the Department of National Health and Population Development to conduct a follow-up study in the same area, to determine whether the lower lead content in South African petrol — reduced in 1989 from 0,836 to 0,4 grams a litre — had had any effect on children's blood lead levels.

The main finding was that there was no measurable impact. Also, the differences in blood lead levels between different schools and suburbs was lower than expected.

According to the department, the findings were similar to those of studies overseas.

"This study again indicates that the contribution to the body burden of lead from petrol is extremely low, and that the elevated levels of lead in some of the

children tested could probably be due to other causes," it said in a statement.

But Dr Von Schirnding, now the Johannesburg City Council's director of environmental health, said the study team believed the lead level in South African petrol was still "significantly high", and may not have been reduced sufficiently to have shown a positive reduction on the children's blood-lead levels.

She also pointed out that lead in petrol accumulated particularly in dust.

"That's always been the major point of concern as far as children's exposure to lead is concerned, and so the period over which lead in petrol was reduced (from 1989-1991) may not have been long enough to have had a significant impact on the level of lead in the environment," she said.

● Lead-free petrol should be available in South Africa in 1995.

# Veld fires to be set across Southern <sup>STX</sup>Africa

JOHANNESBURG. — Veld fires will be ignited throughout Southern Africa from September in one of the most comprehensive international experiments into global pollution the African continent has ever seen.

"Veld fires are now known to be an important source of atmospheric pollution," said Dr Janette Lindesay, deputy-director of the Climatology Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Nasa, Brazil, Britain, Germany, France and Canada, as well as from Southern Africa, are going to set parts of the sub-continent on fire in the spring in a bid to find out more.

The research group is participating in SAFARI '92 — the Southern African Fire-Atmosphere Research Initiative.

"To monitor the effects of controlled burning in parts of the Kruger Park and Zimbabwe, the scientists will be using orbiting satellites, flying laboratories (airplanes) and remote ground sensing stations equipped with state-of-the-art analytical instrumentation," Dr Lindesay said.

The experiment is to investigate the emissions from savanna fires, their transport across the African continent, and the relationship between fires and savanna ecology. It also ties in with the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry programme.

Scientists have become concerned since the discovery of significantly elevated ozone concentrations over large parts of the tropics, particularly over the southern tropical Atlantic Ocean between South America and Africa.

These concentrations are not to be confused with the hole in the stratosphere which lets in ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

Scientists hypothesize that "biomass" burning emissions, and subsequent photochemical processes, may play an important role in atmospheric chemistry over a large region of the earth.

The veld burning in Southern Africa is

to take place under controlled conditions at a time when the bush would be burned normally.

The Nasa flights will come from South America, where similar experiments are taking place.

"Veld, bush and forest fires may influence the acid content of the atmosphere and the photochemical reactions in the plumes of these fires may be responsible for as much as a third of the input of ozone into the lowest layer of the atmosphere," Dr Lindesay said. — Sapa

24/7/92  
Africa

**A** VAST "megapark" incorporating nature reserves, national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in four states could soon become a reality — if the civil war in Mozambique is brought to an end.

A crescent of land, stretching over millions of hectares and including the Kruger National Park, has been identified for this ambitious conservation project which environmentalists believe could provide a model for the rest of the world.

The proposed megapark consists of core areas of proclaimed reserves or national parks, linked by thinly populated corridors of largely unspoiled "wildlands" where small numbers of rural people use natural resources and practise sustainable forms of wildlife uses.

The concept could provide a conservation blueprint by demonstrating how wildlife and ecosystems can be protected in harmony with the economic upliftment of rural people, through activities like eco-tourism, safaris, hunting, fishing and outdoor adventure tours.

The area incorporates the Bazaruto archipelago, most of northwest Mozambique, parts of Zimbabwe, the Kruger National Park in Transvaal, the Lebombo mountain watershed, reserves in Swaziland and protected areas in Natal such as Mkuzi and St Lucia.

Ecologists have already started preliminary planning and the head of Mozambique's wildlife service has been sent to the United States for a three-year training programme.

The World Bank has committed \$12 million (R33 million) for the project, with another \$12 million in the pipeline.

All that's missing is peace in the region.

Conceptual proposals for what is formally known as the "Kruger-Banhine trans-frontier natural resource area" have been drawn up by ecologist Dr Ken Tinley and landscape architect Professor Willem van Riet.

Commissioned by the SA Nature Foundation and Mozambique's Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife, their proposal has five main components:

■ The creation of a huge new national park or resource area in Mozambique between the east boundary of the Kruger National Park and the Limpopo River. If fences between the two are taken down, the effective size of South Africa's premier national park, which has already reached saturation point, could be doubled. The new park could also be extended north across the Limpopo to link with the Banhine National Park.

■ A core area consisting of the Gona-Rezhoa National Park in Zimbabwe, linked via new natural resource areas with the Zinave National Park in north Mozambique, the Banhine National Park farther south and the Kruger National Park. The link between Gona-Rezhoa and Banhine national parks would protect the important catchment basin of the delta within Banhine.

■ Linking the Zinave National Park with the controlled hunting area north of the Save River and along the north Mozambican coast to include the Bazaruto National Park and Pomene Game Reserve.

■ Creating a huge new resource area in south Mozambique/north Natal by linking four

Plans for the world's biggest conservation area, over four southern African countries, are on the drawing board. But this exciting project, which will also demonstrate how to reconcile the development needs of poor rural communities with wildlife protection, hinges on a peaceful settlement in Mozambique. This report by **JOHN YELD**, Environment Reporter.

core areas: the Ndumu nature reserve, Tembe Elephant Park and Coastal Forest Reserve in Natal, and the Maputo Elephant Reserve in Mozambique.

■ Creating a Lebombo Watershed Reserve, linking the Kruger National Park via the Swaziland nature and game reserves of Hlane, Mlawula and Ndzindza with the north Natal reserves of Mkuzi and St Lucia and the Phinda Nyala Resource Reserve.

The report points out that extensive areas adjoining many political boundaries between the four countries are sparsely populated, with large parts empty except for seasonal pastoral or hunting/gathering use.

The Mozambican conflict has made many of these border regions no-go areas, coupled with the a huge displacement of rural people.

Planning should continue in spite of the conflict, the authors say.

"Due to the fact that the prospects for peace are improving and the potential for people to return to their ancestral lands, it is important that the planning instruments and strategies for their return be completed as soon as possible ...

"The intrinsic wilderness qualities of the natural areas will be the values which attract specialist or exclusive tourism — adventure, exploring, hunting, fishing — the profit from which should be shared with the rural community whose lands and resources are used ...

"Wildlands will thus contain core areas of the highest ecological value which may be water catchments, forest resources or national parks, surrounded by zones of decreasing protection and increasing modification by human activities."

The authors warn that any realisation of this "vast concept" is dependent on co-ordination and co-operation between governments and conservation authorities.

Dr Robbie Robinson, head of South Africa's National Parks Board, said he was "really thrilled" at the proposal, although it was unlikely to get off the ground before the end of the civil war in Mozambique.

The board had learnt that Renamo, the Mozambican resistance group, was "upset and worried" by the concept, Dr Robinson added.

"Their headquarters is slap-bang in the middle of the northern area of the proposed conservation area."

"The politicians have to sort out the aggression and political problems before anything can be done.

"I'm very pleased the World Bank is moving on the issue and doing proper planning so it can kick off on a pro-active system once there's peace in the area."

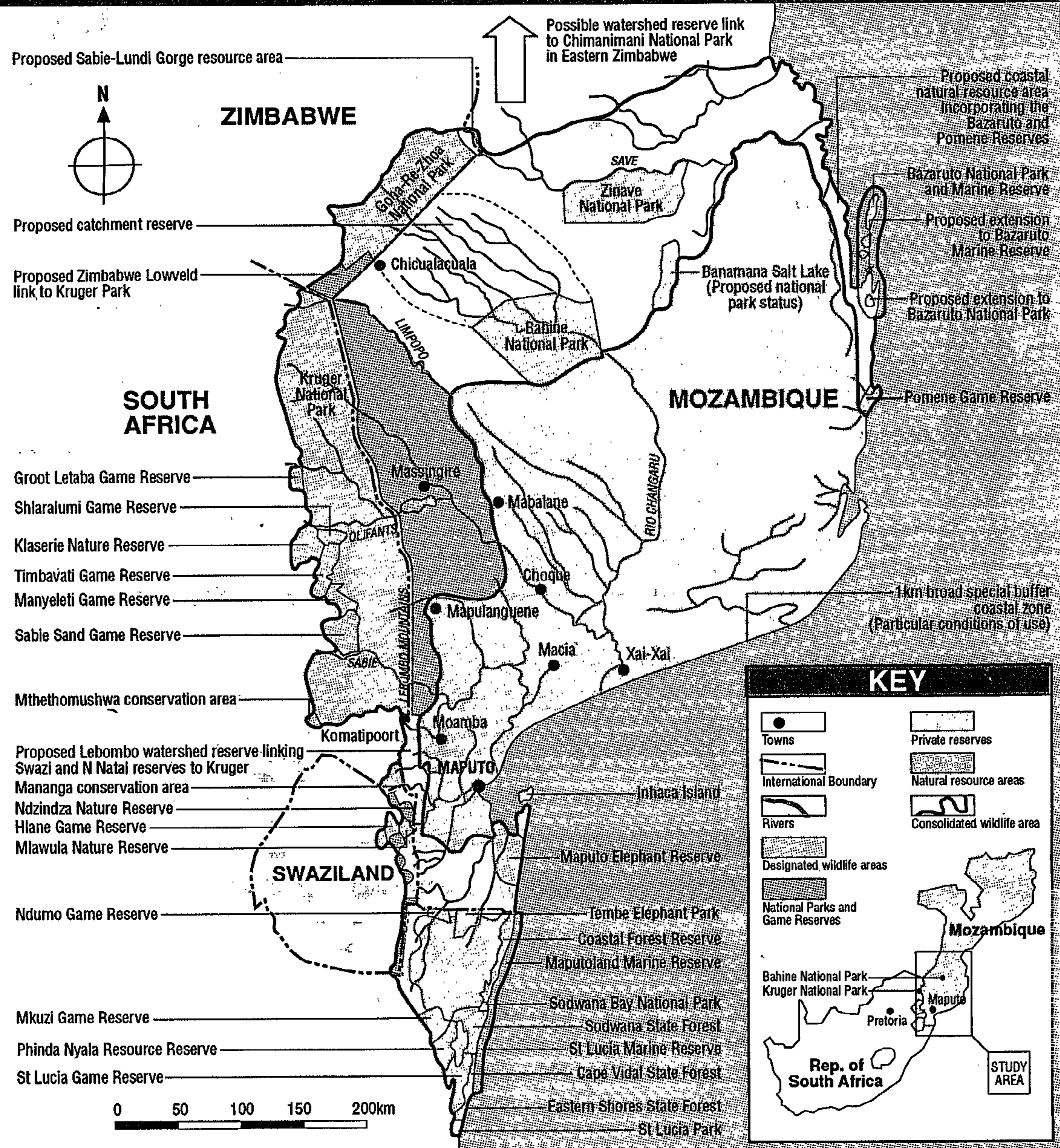
# The world's biggest park

SATURDAY FOCUS 2

56

P.T.O. for Map.

# Alternative proposals for The Kruger / Bahine natural resource area



## 'But war zone is problem'

# Hazards if SA fails to clean up waste

S/Times [BUSS] 26/7/92

By ZILLA EFRAT

COMPANIES which do not plan their hazardous waste management now may pay dearly in the future.

So says director of environmental protection at the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) Koos Stander.

The groundwork is being laid for legislation to improve SA's hazardous waste management system. A Bill could be tabled in Parliament by mid-1994.

A report on a CSIR investigation initiated by the DEA is being circulated for comment.

It says SA's waste management laws and strategies are inadequate. The loss of resources and expense to be met by future generations is rising.

After the WasteCon '92 conference in November a workshop will take place in the first quarter of 1993 where proposed legislation is expected to be decided on.

The changes could cost companies billions of rands.

Mr Stander says the CSIR report stresses that any haz-

ardous waste policy must be affordable — both to the polluters and the environment.

The DEA has received excellent co-operation from business.

"Many responsible companies realise that what is coming is necessary and are tackling the problem."

CSIR says few industries have waste management strategies.

## Common

A survey of 542 waste disposal sites found that conditions which could lead to contamination exist at more than half of them. As long as current practices persist, the number and danger of these sites will grow.

The investigation found there is almost no control of the transport of waste and malpractice is common. Treatment facilities are the exception rather than the rule and most are fairly primitive.

Some industries have lost business because they were

unable to meet the environmental requirements and waste policies of foreign customers.

CSIR says most hazardous waste in SA is generated in industrial processing and mining.

Gold mines generate a million tons of hazardous waste a year. But most high-hazard waste comes from manufacturing industry. The greatest concentration of waste is in the Transvaal.

The report says a regulatory system for hazardous waste is urgently required. It recommends that any policy be based on the principle that the polluter pays.

This is likely to have an effect on the price consumers pay for goods and services, but costs should be tied to the quantities and hazards of waste associated with the products.

The choices made by consumers are then likely to provide waste generators with an incentive to reduce it at source.

The report proposes that the liability for the results of negligence or malpractice should rest with the waste generator.

It recommends that the Government's costs in introducing and maintaining the regulations be covered by registration and permit fees paid by waste generators, transporters and operators of facilities.

It also advises the Government to encourage the setting up of private-sector hazardous waste collection, transport, treatment and disposal facilities. They should be driven by market forces, but reinforced by legal requirements.

## Start

Mr Stander says companies may have to change their raw-material inputs and process technologies.

CSIR waste management manager Graham Noble says the cost-effective way of meeting the challenges is by reducing waste generation at source.

He calls on the Government not to wait until it has perfected the details of a regulatory system, but to start introducing essential controls under existing legislation.

# Parks Board's retirees all performed 'brilliantly'

STAR 28/7/92

Own Correspondent

(56)

DURBAN — The Administrator of Natal, Con Botha has placed on public record that the members of the Natal Parks Board who retired at the end of June had acquitted themselves brilliantly.

"I have in fact on more than one occasion publicly expressed the highest praise to them for their outstanding achievements," he said yesterday.

Mr Botha was commenting on the appointment of new members to the board and said it was a matter of great regret this had been the subject of so much controversy "and frankly, uninformed

opinion in the media".

He said: "The facts of the matter are that the board and the boards of other provincial statutory bodies are reconstituted every three years.

"Appointments are made after in-depth consultations and a wide range of views and opinions are considered. New appointments are in no way a reflection on retiring members."

Mr Botha said in respect of the new board that "the Executive Committee felt — given the current emphasis being placed in the board on eco-tourism, visitor facilities and generating own income sources — that expert skills in the fields of business and financial administration and of tourism would be needed at this critical stage of

the board's development, in addition to the traditional conservation skills".

The new board consisted in every instance of highly competent and qualified experts in their particular fields.

He said it was regrettable that the appointment of a woman, Jean Senogles, a leading conservationist in her own right and an Indian, Premchund Brijlal, an expert in the field of tourism, should be described in media reports as mere "tokenism". They had been appointed on the basis of the expertise and experience, he said.

"Finally it should be noted that the final decision on St Lucia dune-mining will be taken by Central Government and not by the Natal Parks Board."

# British team begins bushveld water project

A TEAM of five British engineers had begun working with local colleagues to bring emergency water supplies to northern Transvaal communities, Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Simon Forster said yesterday.

The team began work in five highly specialised "field teams" in drought-stricken Venda and Gazankulu.

The field teams included local engineers, community liaison people and interpreters.

Their operations room was set up in Pietersburg by the Water Affairs Department, but was run by the task force. The task force represented non-governmental service groups

RAY HARTLEY

and representatives of the Northern Transvaal Development Forum.

Forster said the teams had been involved in a reconnaissance mission to assign priorities to the worst areas and to establish the best means of supplying water. They were now ready to begin supply work, which would include drilling and installing pumps and tanks.

Forster said they had been astounded by the engineers' "tremendous expertise". "We are on a learning curve which the (Water Affairs) department realises may stand us in

good stead in the future." (56)

He said there was no shortage of volunteers who wanted to work alongside the foreign engineers.

One of the engineers — John Adams — recently spent several months helping Iraq's Kurds rebuild their infrastructure after the Gulf War.

The other four engineers were attached to the British agency Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief and funded by their government.

Plans were being laid to establish more regional operations rooms in the eastern Transvaal and Natal in the near future with the aid of engineers from the US and Europe.

810AM 29/7/92

# Council approves policy to shape urban environment

56

~~2010/07/29~~

THE Johannesburg City Council approved an urban environment policy last night which will be incorporated into each of its departments' operating procedures.

The policy aimed to protect the city's open spaces, identify and conserve areas of historic or cultural interest and generally improve the quality of the built and natural environment.

A public participation

## ADRIAN HADLAND

and information campaign tackling environmental issues would begin shortly, the council heard.

A steering directorate has been established to ensure all the council's departments adhere to the policy while all planning or construction projects would be examined for potential environmental impact by a newly created committee.

The council also indicated its willingness to take responsibility for primary health care in the city.

In a report submitted to council last night, however, it was pointed out that local authorities could not "take responsibility for services currently rendered by the different houses of parliament, the provincial administrations and other authorities" unless these were matched by the transfer of the necessary funds, facilities and staff.

The council last night formally endorsed its housing department policy of using a single, nonracial waiting list. There are 53 000 families on the Johannesburg municipal area waiting list.

"We will continue to urge government to establish a national funding policy as a matter of urgency," said housing committee chairman Marietta Marx.

The council also agreed to spend more than R4m on the upgrading of council-owned hostels, including R2m for the development of family accommodation.

Further measures adopted by the council last night included a redevelopment plan for Melville which stresses the retention of its residential nature.



# Game farmers battle to save animals as drought tightens grip

By Dirk Nel (S6) Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Game farmers in the drought-ravaged northern Transvaal now face crucial decisions as they consider ways to save thousands of vulnerable animals, while conservation officials are hard-pressed to deal with drought-related environmental issues over a wide area.

Kudu and giraffe are among the most recent species to succumb to the drought, and even the hardy warthog is threatened in some areas, ranchers say.

"It is not simply a matter of letting nature run its course," said Letsitele game rancher Piet Vorster. "We have inter-

ferred with the wildlife cycle, and now have the task of managing the game under our control, because their movements are restricted by fences."

Mr Vorster, owner of a herd of sable antelope, said he would soon have to capture these animals and feed them in specially constructed enclosures in order to ensure their survival.

He is a member of the local sable study group, established to work for the conservation of this species in the Letsitele-Gravelotte area, regarded as one of their prime habitats.

The Star observed that antelope in the bush were being fed lucerne on a large scale by many ranchers, particularly in the Letaba and Soutpansberg districts, because of the declining water supply and deteriorating grazing conditions.

More hunters are being

brought in to facilitate culling operations, but the profits for game ranchers are meagre, as most of the hunting proceeds are going into the feeding of the remaining animals.

Meanwhile regional nature conservation chief Dr Feltus Brand has expressed optimism about the survival of hippos in the rapidly drying Limpopo River, where a systematic feeding scheme has been in progress for two months with the aid of the Northern Transvaal Hippo Survival Fund.

He said the success of the scheme had been largely due to excellent teamwork between the provincial directorate of nature conservation, the SA Defence Force and the public.

During a briefing at Sterkloop farm near Groblersbrug, Dr Brand thanked the media for their role in publicising the plight of the hippos.

STAR 30/7/92



# El Nino cuts city pollution

56

CT 30/7/92

## Municipal Reporter

THE El Nino effect is keeping Cape Town's air cleaner than usual this winter, say experts.

Air pollution guidelines have been exceeded on far fewer occasions in June and July this year than in the same period last year — thanks to El Nino.

Cape Times air pollution records show that six times in those two months last year guidelines for NOx and NO<sub>2</sub> were exceeded. The concentration of these two pollutants in the air is monitored daily by the city council.

There were eight other occasions on which just the NOx guideline was exceeded in the same two months last year, records show. By contrast, only once this year have both been

## Air cleaner than usual this winter

exceeded, and on three other occasions just one was surpassed.

Air pollution control officer Mr Derrick Oxley said this was because there had not been as many temperature inversions this winter. A temperature inversion — in which air temperature increases with height rather than decreases — traps the pollutants relatively close to the ground.

"I have been assured by meteorologists that the El Nino effect is responsible for the unstable

weather," he said. "We are waiting for pollution episodes for research purposes. They are not happening very often, although the number of cars and the factory plume output are roughly the same as last year's."

Meteorologist and oceanography lecturer Dr Mark Jury, of UCT, said the El Nino effect had moved the westerly winds further northwards than they usually were. "We therefore have a continuous supply of cold fronts sweeping past Cape Town, bringing colder and cloudier weather.

"Dry, calm conditions are required for the land to release its heat, which then (later) results in an inversion that traps the pollutants. The land draws heat out of the lower atmosphere at night, and this forms the inversion."

# 'Green Party' will be launched today

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A SOUTH African Green Party is being launched in Cape Town today.

The move has come as a surprise to some of the region's prominent environmentalists and it is not clear at this stage who is involved in the new political party.

Planning is believed to have taken place over the past few months.

It will be the second attempt to launch a "green" party in South Africa.

In November, 1989, the Ecology Party was launched in Jo-

hannesburg and reached a maximum of about 1 800 paid-up members before going into decline.

The Ecology Party did not contest elections at any level.

Environmentalists have pointed out that unless a green party can attract the support of black South Africans, it is doomed to failure.

And as democracy, justice and freedom of information are cornerstones of green politics, many South African "green" activists have been closely involved in supporting the "liberation struggle" — particularly the ANC — and are unlikely to switch allegiance at this stage.

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ARG 31/7/92