

INDUSTRIAL - Accidents

1985

131 R Dur 9/1/31

Employers and workers, it's illegal to work unsafely

FROM now on it is illegal to work unsafely.

The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosact), effective from last Saturday, places responsibility on almost all employers in SA to provide employees with a safe working environment.

Fines of up to R2 000, or 12 month's imprisonment, can be imposed on employers — or employees, under certain sections — not complying with the Act.

The National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) this month published a booklet setting out guidelines for managers in interpreting the new Act.

Every company which employs more than 20 workers shall, in terms of the Act, appoint a safety representative. Factories and industrial concerns have to appoint a safety representative for every 50 employees.

FRED STIGLINGH

Shops and offices are required to appoint an additional representative for every 100 employees.

Mosact will operate in place of the Factories, Machinery and Building Work Act of 1941.

The old Act provided only for protection of employees in factories and buildings. The new Act covers all people in commerce and industry. Exclusions are workers who fall under the Mines and Works Act, and the Explosives Act.

Employers of domestic servants and farmers do not have to appoint safety representatives, but are compelled to supply safe equipment and train workers to carry out their tasks.

According to the Act, machinery or safety equipment offered for sale must comply with prescribed standards.

Bosses take note: Safety first — or else

Sewer
11/2/85
131

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

MORE trade unions, especially the newly-established black unions, are to put pressure on employers for better health and safety measures on factory floors this year. And a failure to do this could result in industrial actions.

This view was expressed by participants during a "Seminar on Safety" called by the Institute for Industrial Relations to discuss "key issues in collective bargaining" at a Johannesburg hotel on Friday

Mr Clive Thompson, an attorney attached to the Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies, said safety and health issues

had been ignored by most managements, who often "dismissed" injured workers or those who contract diseases on the plants, in particular the migrant workers

Bargaining

Trade unions have decided to fight these issues through bargaining, industrial action or legal action in the Industrial Court. Unions will also ask for more compensation for their members from the Workmans' Compensation Fund

In terms of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act implemented last October, an employer who employs more than 20 people is

expected to appoint one safety representative for every 50 workers. In companies in which two or more representatives are appointed, a safety committee must be created

Mr Thompson contended that in the pre-Wiehahn period, the labour scenario in SA was one in which management controlled all factors with a strong-arm

Wages

In the post-Wiehahn era trade unions had established themselves at plants and demanded better wages, working conditions, and union recognition, forgetting health and safety issues

Mrs Lucy Mvubelo,

leader of the National Union of Clothing Workers, said migrants were often repatriated to their "homelands" without compensation after injury or contracting diseases

SA Boilermakers' Society's Frik Oosthuizen said unions and employers should commit themselves to the safety and health of workers. Compensations received by workers after accidents was inadequate and needed to be increased

Don't miss
SUNDAY
MIRROR
The paper you can trust

Mercury 20/2/85 (131) (802)

PFP call for inquiry into high death rate at work

Mercury Reporter
AN AVERAGE of six people were killed and 68 permanently disabled every day during the normal course of their work in South Africa, and the PFP's spokesman on manpower, Dr Alex Boraine, has called for an immediate inquiry to seek ways of preventing 'this ghastly loss to the country'

The 1981 figures — the latest available — were quoted by the Minister of Manpower, Mr PTC du Plessis, in response to questions by Dr Boraine in the House of Assembly last week

He revealed that more than R62 million had

been paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund in 1981 and 3 630 329 man-days had been lost

The overwhelming majority of those killed or injured was black.

Dr Boraine said nothing had been done since he had called for an inquiry more than a year ago into the causes of the problem and ways of preventing it, and he had renewed the call last week

'The tragic story of accident, injury, death and wastage just goes on,' he said

The spokesman for the National Occupational Safety Association, Mr

Ron McKenna, said while the organisation could not support a call for an inquiry by any particular party, it was in favour of any move which would reduce injuries

The incidence of injuries was steadily declining, he said

The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act passed last year was also expected to make a big difference

Various training programmes had also reduced injuries he said

'Workmen do need training to eliminate unsafe acts, which cause 88 percent of all accidents

The highest disablement frequency rate was found in the fishing industry followed by wood-working, transport and mining, he said

Mr W P McKenna, general manager of Irving and Johnson's deep sea trawling division, which runs the country's biggest trawling fleet, said work in the industry was inherently hazardous

'Fishermen work in very difficult situations and circumstances'

Injuries ranged from 'a fish bone in the finger which turned septic' to crewmen being washed overboard, he said

Asbestos: the true perspective

KDM 21/2/85 (131)

IT IS widely recognised that exposure to asbestos can be a danger to health and no responsible person would wish to underestimate the risks.

It is important, however, that discussion of the problem should be scientific and objective and that sensational public statements should find no place in the debate.

Unfortunately, well-meaning enthusiasts sometimes exaggerate the dangers by quoting statistics that they have not properly understood or which have been taken out of context.

An example of this is the use of statistics extracted from the annual reports of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases (MBOD). Several times recently figures have been quoted that make the asbestos problem appear more

DR F J WILES

Director: Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases

serious than is actually the case if the figures are properly interpreted.

Two instances will be given.

● An article in the Rand Daily Mail of October 12, 1984 (quoting the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union) stated that MBOD reports show that since 1967 a total of 5140 miners have been compensated for asbestosis.

This figure is approximately correct (The exact numbers are not readily available in some of the earlier reports).

It is misleading, however, to cite this figure without some explanation of what it really means. It is essential to take three important figures into account:

(a) Diagnosis of asbestosis depends mainly on the reading of an X-ray film of the chest.

All authorities agree that the reading may be controversial and that even the most experienced X-ray readers are often in doubt as to whether asbestosis is present in a particular case.

This is recognised in the International Labour Organisation classification of X-Rays of pneumoconiosis which makes provision for two border-line categories labelled 0/1 and 1/0.

A person whose X-ray falls into one of these categories is suspected of having asbestosis but may not actually have it.

It is the policy of the Certification Committee of the

MBOD (and in keeping with the spirit of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act) to give the worker the benefit of the doubt in a border-line case.

Thus many workers are compensated for asbestosis even though there is doubt whether they do in fact have asbestosis. Of all cases compensated for asbestos-related diseases 23% are in the border-line categories of 0/1 or 1/0.

(b) The Certification Committee also compensates workers who definitely have no asbestosis in the lung itself but only asbestos-related plaques on the pleura (the lining round the lung).

This condition is nearly always harmless and causes no disability. Of all cases compensated for asbestos-related diseases 34% fall into this group.

Taken together with the 23% mentioned in the previous paragraph this means that 57% of all compensated miners do not have a serious disease but only an abnormality on an X-ray film which is usually not associated with any disability.

(c) Of all miners compensated for asbestos-related diseases since 1967 at least 60% started work in asbestos mines before 1960. Fibre counts then were higher (sometimes as much as 50 times higher) than what is now considered safe.

Obviously the fact that pre-1960 miners have developed an asbestos related disease bears no relation to the conditions in the mines today.

It is illogical to cite compensation statistics which include such persons in any debate on the question of safety in asbestos mines now.

● The second example of a wrong interpretation of

statistics is a statement in the Sowetan of October 17, 1984 that MBOD reports show that between 1967 and 1983 a total of 704 miners died from asbestos-related disease.

This statement is a serious mistake caused by a misunderstanding of the tables in the MBOD reports.

The relevant tables show the number of persons who were certified after death (compensation being paid to their next of kin). This does not mean that all these persons died of an asbestos-related disease.

On the contrary, only 19% of the deaths were caused by asbestos-related disease.

The other 81% died from an unrelated cause (heart disease, accidents etc) and a slight degree of asbestosis was an incidental finding at the post-mortem examination.

It is clear, therefore, that the reports in the Sowetan gave a grossly distorted impression of the number of workers reported to have died as a result of exposure to asbestos.

The purpose of this article is to appeal to all concerned with the asbestos problem to make sure of the facts before they publish figures that may be quite misleading.

In the Press reports described above a lack of understanding of the MBOD statistics led to a considerable over-estimate of the risks of working in asbestos mines.

Nevertheless, even though the effects of asbestos on the health of miners are not as serious as these Press reports made them appear, this is certainly no cause for complacency.

Unrelenting vigilance to ensure that safe fibre levels are strictly maintained is a mandatory

TODAY IN HISTORY

TODAY is Thursday, February 21, the 52nd day of 1985. There are 313 days left in the year. Highlights in history:

1613 — Michael Romanov, son of Patriarch of Moscow, is elected Tsar of Russia, thus founding House of Romanov.

1652 — Treaty of Hildesheim between Sweden and North German Protestant states.

1795 — Freedom of worship is established in France.

1799 — Graaff-Reinet burghers in revolt.

1849 — British forces defeat Sikhs at Gujrat in India.

1885 — Cecil Rhodes resigns his official post in Bechuanaland after offering to administer the territories with 10 policemen.

1892 — Great fire at Cape Town, destroying exhibition buildings and other places.

1903 — A deputation of the Afrikaner Bond Party under J H Hofmeyer sees the Colonial Secretary Joseph Chamberlain in Cape town.

1904 — Dr Jameson forms a new ministry with himself as Premier and also in charge of Native Affairs.

1916 — Battle of Verdun in France begins in First World War, the longest and bloodiest battle of the war with more than one million killed.

1919 — Bavarian Premier Kurt Eisner is assassinated in Munich.

1922 — British protectorate in Egypt ends.

1934 — French troops combat Berbers in South West Morocco.

1943 — Britain's King George VI awards Sword of Honour to Russians for defence of Stalingrad in Second World War.

1947 — King George VI opens South African Parliament.

1963 — Soviet Union warns United States that an American attack on Cuba would mean world war.

1975 — UN Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland, accuses Israel of violating "basic norms of international law" in Arab territories it occupies.

1984 — US Marines start evacuating combat forces from Beirut, Lebanon, to Navy ships in Mediterranean.

TODAY'S birthdays: John Henry Newman, English cardinal (1801-1890), W H Auden, English poet (1907-1973), Leo Delibes, French composer (1836-1891) — Sapa-AP

Argus 20/2/85 131

Factory blast kills one and injures two

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A man died and two others were seriously injured after a gas furnace exploded at a factory in Benoni

The man, 27, died in spite of a mercy dash to the Baragwanath Hospital by the 702 Radio helicopter

A technical fault is believed to have caused the explosion which took place shortly after 4pm yesterday at the Benoni Engineering Works and Steel Foundry in Lincoln Avenue, Benoni industrial sites

Firemen said the explosion put out the fire in the furnace

The name of the dead man has been withheld until his next-of-kin are informed.

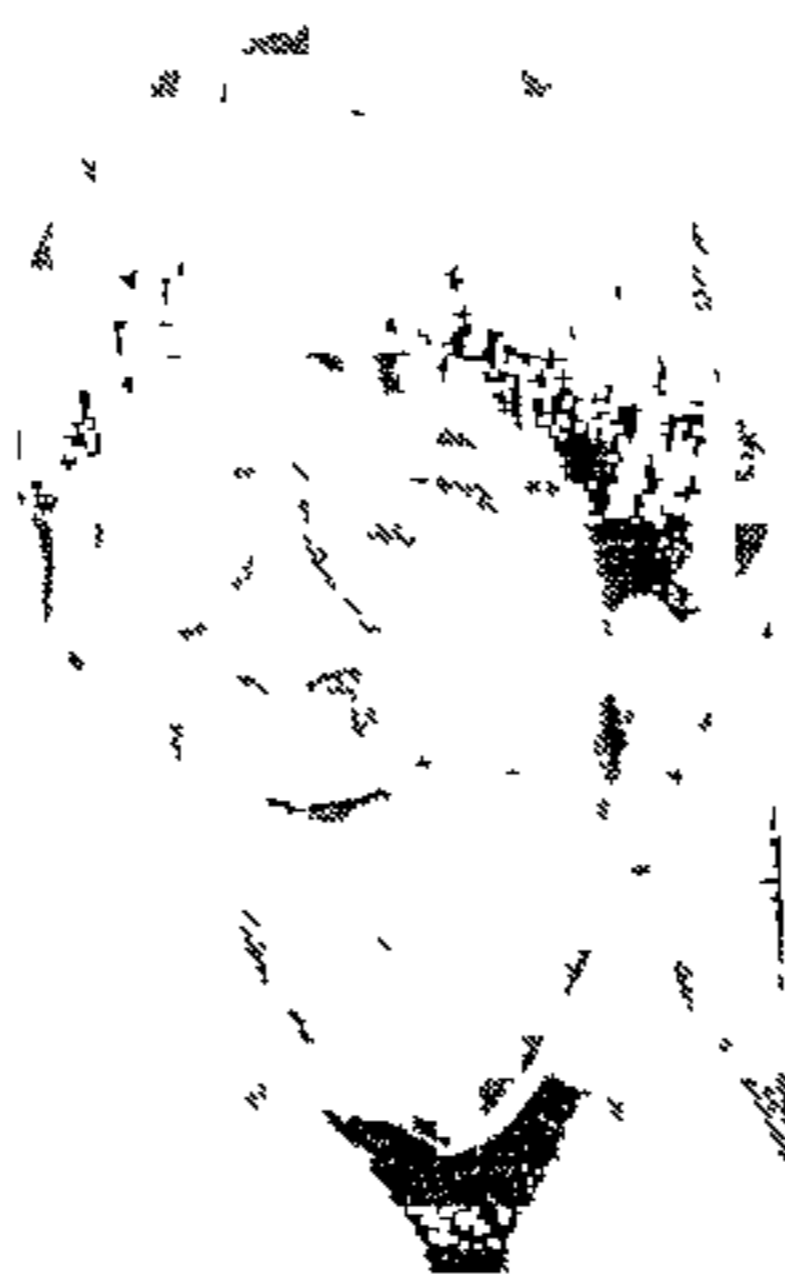
hey
are
at
risk



Mr DONALD RODGER
... librarian



BESSIE BOUWER
... journalist



Mr JAN VAN REE
... ad manager



Col ERIC STRYDOM
... policeman



ROBIN WILLIAMS
... actress



Rev BARRY GRAY
... minister

By JANE CONYNGHAM
MINERS, policemen and
journalists watch out!

People in these profes-
sions are the most likely to
suffer from stress and re-
lated symptoms, a British
survey has found

And construction work-
ers, prison officers and
advertising people follow
close behind in the stress
stakes

According to research
done by six stress research-
ers at the University of
Manchester's Institute of
Science and Technology,
who rated jobs on a scale
from 0 to 10, people in these
professions are the most
likely to suffer from heart
disease, alcoholism and
mental illness

They also run the risk of
early death

Miners came out tops in
the stress league, with a
rating of 8.3 on the scale,
policemen not far be-
hind with 7.7

Third highest were con-
struction workers, journal-
ists, pilots and prison offi-
cers with a rating of 7.5

And although politicians
rated quite high at 7.0, they
were beaten by dentists and
farmers

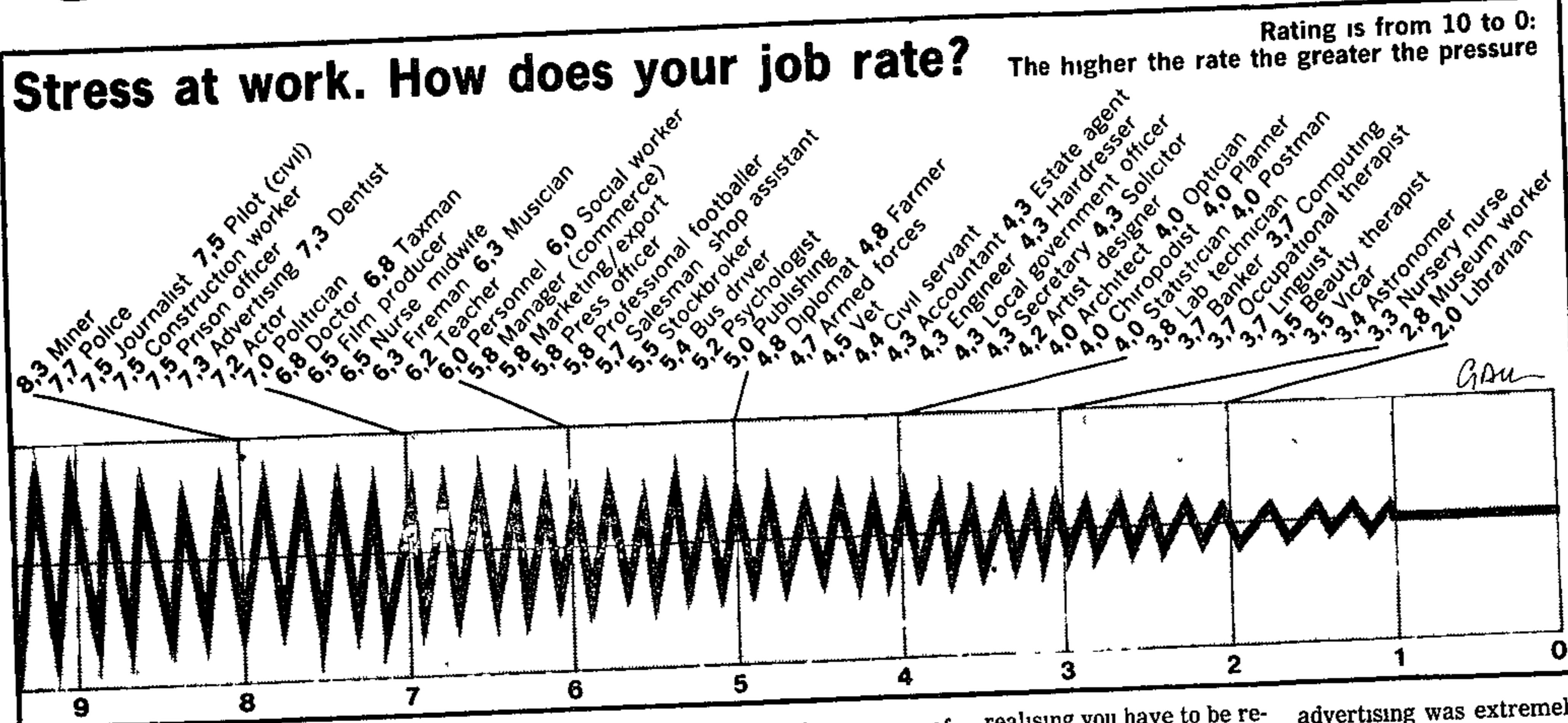
Farmers suffer from
more stress than account-
ants, estate agents and
engineers

But bankers and comput-
er operators can relax — at
7.0, their jobs are near the
bottom of the scale

And vicars and librarians
have virtually no chance of
developing stress-related
symptoms — their jobs
were shown to be the most
relaxing of all

Weekend Post asked sev-
eral professional people
about the stress exper-
ienced in their work

Stress scale shows threat to work lives



Those spoken to were
from among the highest
and the lowest stress-rated
professions

POLICEMAN: rated sec-
ond highest at 7.7

Colonel Eric Strydom,
head of the Port Elizabeth
murder and robbery squad,
said working against the
clock to solve cases was
particularly stressful

"Because we are dealing
with the public and their
demands are high, our staff
are put under a lot of stress
"Everyone thinks their case
is the biggest and most im-

portant one And while that
may be true for them, we
end up having numerous
'vital' problems to solve"

This, coupled with the re-
sponsibility of having to
make the right decisions,
made his job a difficult one

It was not made easier
by the press, he said

"When a murder is com-
mitted, the press harass
you continually until the
case is solved"

JOURNALIST third high-
est at 7.5

Bessie Bouwer, the Even-
ing Post's Municipal Re-

porter, said the pressure of
having to meet daily dead-
lines was extremely stress-
ful

She said reporting was
not like other jobs which
were routine

"A journalist is only as
good as his next story, so
one is continually trying to
prove oneself It is a very
competitive job"

One is constantly pre-
sented with a barrage of
information and a limited
time in which to process it
in, she said

"It is the pressure of

realising you have to be re-
sponsible and worrying
about whether you've writ-
ten the right thing that is
stressful," she said

"You have to be contin-
ually aware of and involved
with what is going on
around you It is very diffi-
cult to prevent your work
life encroaching on your
private life"

**ADVERTISING MAN-
AGER** rated fourth at 7.3.

Mr Jan van Ree, manag-
ing director of a PE
advertising agency and a
former journalist, said

advertising was extremely
stressful because one was
always working against
deadlines

"Unlike journalists, who
have intense periods just
before deadline, we are
continually working
against deadlines

"No job is given with
plenty of time to do it in
Everything has to be done
now, if not yesterday"

Working with other peo-
ple's money is stressful in
itself, he said

He said there were very
few introverts in the

advertising world

"Only extroverts can
cope with the stress by
demonstrating their emo-
tions"

ACTOR rated fifth at 7.2.

Robin Williams, one of
the most active theatrical
personalities in PE, said
there were two kinds of
stress involved in acting —
one pleasurable, one "hid-
eous"

"The opening night
experience is the most
frightening thing for me I
go to shreds," she said

"The stress involved
makes me physically ill the
day before"

However, stress helped
her to concentrate and
tighten up her perform-
ance

MINISTER rated fifth
from bottom at 3.5.

The Rev Barry Gray,
rector of St Cuthbert's An-
glican Church, who has pre-
viously worked in business,
said the ministry was no
less stressful than business
management

"Having to adapt to peo-
ple's problem situations,
which range from personal
marriage problems to los-
ing a loved one, in a mean-
ingful way, is stressful and
also very draining"

However, being able to
rely on God for help was a
means of coping with stress
that many people in other
professions did not have
LIBRARIAN rated bottom
at 2.0.

Mr Donald Rodger, Chief
City Librarian, said people
had a false perception of
what librarianship en-
tailed

"Dealing with the public
can get quite hectic at
times And librarians in-
volved in cataloguing are
continually working to
deadlines"

Worker death ^{Chick Times} report ^{24/1/85} by ILO ¹³¹

GENEVA — Every three minutes a worker somewhere dies of occupational injury or illness with Third World rates far higher than in the advanced countries, the International Labor Organization (ILO) reported this week.

Fatal accidents at work have fallen in the industrialized nations by as much as 30 to 50 percent with deaths in mining five to eight times higher than in manufacturing, an ILO report said.

But fatality rates are rising steadily in developing countries, it said.

Reasons include the import of new equipment and technology without adequate safety standards, poor maintenance and ignorance of hazards involved, the ILO said.

"Some 33 000 deaths and eight million non-fatal injuries occur in agriculture alone every year, excluding China," the report said.

"The source of the trouble is very often the tractor and many deaths could be avoided by the use of a safety cab," it said.

Greatly increased use of chemicals as pesticides, herbicides and insecticides "has brought additional danger into an area particularly ill-equipped to face it."

A survey in one Asian country showed that 40 percent of sprayers had toxic symptoms from pesticide poisoning. — UPI

CAAC. FMS 14/2/81
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Work accidents inquiry call

Political Correspondent

THE Official Opposition yesterday demanded that the government immediately appoint a commission of inquiry into the high rate of permanent disablement and death through injury among South African workers

The Progressive Federal Party's spokesman on manpower, Dr Alex Boraine, said in a statement that South Africa could no longer afford the human or economic costs stemming from work-related accidents

According to the latest available figures (1981), 68 workers suffered permanent disablement every day. Of the 24 820 people affected in this way during the year, 21 408 were black.

In addition, six workers died every day as a result of injuries received at work during 1981. Of the total of 2 334 for the year, 1 916 were black.

"This cost more than R62-million, which was paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund, and no less than 3,63 million man-days were lost. These figures are totally unacceptable."

Dr Boraine said he had highlighted "the sheer economic wastage and also the deplorable loss of human resources and the desperate impact on family life" during the Budget debate in Parliament in June last year.

At the time he had called on the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to institute a commission of inquiry but nothing had happened since then.

TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1985

amount has to be destroyed because it does not conform to the safety standards for functioning. Some of the ammunition which was used during the exercise would in any event have been used during annual training camps by participating units.

All these costs should therefore be considered as indirect expenditures on the exercise.

Commodore D Gerhardt: recruitment of personnel

3 The LEADER OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Defence

(1) Whether Commodore Dieter Gerhardt recruited any naval personnel for the South African submarine service from countries abroad, if so, (a) from what countries (b) in what categories of work and (c) how many persons were so recruited.

(2) whether any such persons are still in the South African submarine service, if so, how many.

(3) whether these persons were recently checked by security, if not, why not, if so, when.

(4) whether they were cleared, if not (a) why not and (b) what steps have been taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) Yes

(a) The United Kingdom and Belgium

(b) Technical musterings

(c) 26

(2) Yes—4

(3) Yes, three who are employed in posts for which security clearance is a requirement, were cleared during 1983. Although the fourth member is not

employed in a sensitive post, he is at present again being subjected to a security clearance due to a break in his service.

(4) Yes (a) and (b) Fall away

Commodore D Gerhardt: espionage activities

5 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether Commodore Dieter Gerhardt implicated any other South African Defence Force officers in his espionage activities, if so, how many,

(2) whether any (a) arrests have been made and (b) other steps have been taken as a result, if so, (i) how many arrests, (ii) what was the (aa) rank and (bb) length of service of each such arrested officer and (iii) what other steps have been taken to date,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) No

(2) Falls away

(3) No

12/2/85
Immorality Act
Hansard Q. 61.92
8 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked Minister of Law and Order

(a) How many suspected contraventions of section 16 of the Immorality Act were investigated in 1984 or the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available and (b) how many persons were charged as a result of these investigations?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

1984-01-01 to 1983-12-31.

(a) 207 Suspected contraventions
(b) 171 Persons

TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1985

131 Accident Fund 12/2/85
Q. 61.93
10 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in 1981 and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State, (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) assurance companies,

(2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, No 30 of 1941, and (b) what was the total amount paid out in compensation in this year.

(3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(1) (a) 316 166

(b) (i) R5 145 912

(ii) R62 710 261

(iii) R32 658 146

(2) (a) (i) 324 016

(ii) 316 466

(b) R111 076 588

(3) 3 630 329 man-days

Workmen's Compensation Fund

40 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in 1984,

(2) (a) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in 1984, (b) what amount was paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund in

respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

The latest available figures are for 1981 and are as follows:

(1) (a) Whites	1 719
Asians	196
Coloureds	1 568
Members of the Black-population groups	21 408

(b) Whites	204
Asians	31
Coloureds	183
Members of the Black-population groups	1 916

(2) (a) 316 466

(b) R62 710 261

(c) 3 630 329 mandays

12/2/85
Persons shot dead injured at road blocks
46 Mr P H P GASIRROW asked the Minister of Law and Order

(a) What are the names of the persons (i) shot dead and (ii) injured by the South African Police at road blocks in 1984, (b) on what date was each such person shot dead or injured and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding the shooting in each case?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(a) 1984

(i) Pat Khumalo	25 November
Nqwenso Lenhard	16 March
(ii) Julius Ntsasa	9 November
Amos Madleng	20 April
Fame Motane	16 March
Rochester Mlanga	4 November
Derrick Khumalo	25 November

8/11/87
**Labourer
buried
alive**

D. Dispatch
BEACON BAY — A 25-year-old labourer was killed when he was buried under several tons of sand at a building sand reclamation site here at the weekend.

Mr George Xolile was a member of a five-man team that was digging out sand when an overhang collapsed and buried him alive.

His colleagues took nearly an hour to dig out his body.

The men had been digging out and sifting building sand for an East London businessman, Mr D Sturgiss.

Mr Sturgiss was not at the site at the time and had the matter reported to him only after the dead man's body had been recovered.

Police are investigating — DDR

Picture page 2

Council of Unions urges asbestos mining ban

By Carolyn Dempster,
Labour Reporter

The 150 000-member Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa) has thrown its support behind the campaign to ban asbestos mining and manufacture in South Africa

The campaign was launched by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union last year after it was re-

vealed that thousands of Lebowa residents and mineworkers in the North Eastern Transvaal asbestos mining region of the Strydpoortberge were at risk

Inhalation of fine asbestos fibres in the form of asbestos dust can result in the crippling lung disease asbestosis, the fatal and rare cancer of the lung lining, mesothelioma, and lung cancer.

The old disused dumps in the NE Transvaal pose a severe health hazard to the local community, who, *The Star* found, were using the waste asbestos material to make bricks

It was also established that dust levels during 1980 to 1982 often exceeded the safety limits recommended by the Government Mining Engineer.

In the latest issue of *Izwelethu*, the Cusa newsletter, the union federation states that the campaign to ban asbestos in South Africa "cannot be dismissed as a case of political opportunism. Asbestos has already ruined the lives of many people"

Official statistics compiled by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases reveal that

there were 5 140 asbestosis victims between 1967 and 1983, 212 compensated cases of mesothelioma and 57 cases of bronchogenic carcinoma

But because the asbestos-related diseases take between 20 to 30 years before the symptoms become manifest, Government and health officers admit that the official records are unreliable indicators of the full extent of the health hazard.

LETTERS

The Editor, Rand Daily Mail,
Box 1138, Johannesburg 2000

RDM 17/1/85 (217) (131) (212) (85)
**Asbestos — lack of
concern for public**

IN a letter published on December 21, Mr L B Lewis, the Marketing Manager of Everite Ltd, a large asbestos product company, has once again underrated the deadly hazards associated with this mineral

Mr Lewis claims that asbestos cement products do not liberate significant amounts of respirable fibres

Numerous studies show that the effects of the weather, pollutants such as acid rain and handling of the products do cause considerable fibre release

For example, a concentration of 1 000 fibres per cubic metre was measured in the surrounding air of a wall faced with asbestos cement tiles (Studies in Environmental Science Vol 8)

Secondly Mr Lewis remarks that, in the photograph, the removal of the asbestos roofing from the Kromellemboog school is being done under adequate supervision. This comment further shows the lack of concern for the South African public displayed by the asbestos industry

The only supervision shown are two men wearing overalls. No equipment for dust

level measurement can be seen nor are any of the standard safety precautions visible

While moving the school is welcomed, the ongoing presence of a large asbestos dump remains a health hazard for the nearby communities

Finally Mr Lewis claims that consumers of asbestos products are encouraged not to do their own cutting or drilling, however there is little consumer warning of the health hazards associated with asbestos

Nowhere in two of the catalogues issued by Everite — "A Guide to (asbestos) Container Gardening" and "Handmade (asbestos) Plant Containers" — is mention made of how deadly this dust can be

The barest minimum exposure to asbestos can kill. A recent tragic example involved two sisters who both developed an asbestos cancer after cleaning a white asbestos cement roof (BMJ June 1984)

Evaluation of all available human data provides no evidence for a threshold for a "safe" level of asbestos exposure (US Department of Labour) — ASBESTOS RESEARCH GROUP, Berea, Johannesburg

Man crushed to death by engine

4/16/85
8/1/85
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Crime Reporter

A 31-year-old employee of an engineering firm was crushed to death in an accident at an Atlantis factory

Mr Nigel Graham Cupido, of Grosvenor Avenue, Atlantis, was part of a team inspecting moulded engines, said Major Nic Slabber, Boland police liaison officer

"The engines were being moved along an assembly line from the ovens to the cooling plant when Mr Cupido entered an inspection point and was crushed to death against the wall by one of the engines," he said

IN THE SHADOW OF BHOPAL

SHADOW

IKAGENG residents in Potchefstroom are living in the shadow of death.

By DANIEL DHLAMINI

They are frightened that the nearby Triomf fertilizer plant may produce a disaster similar to the tragedy in Bhopal, India — where a poison gas cloud killed thousands last December.

Ikageng has already suffered a similar incident

In July 1973, 19 residents were killed and more than 200 had to be treated in hospital when a 25-ton ammonia gas tanker burst at the Triomf plant

The wind blew a cloud of ammonia gas to the township — about 100m from the plant

The people who inhaled the gas were overcome by it

Now residents who live near the plant have been scared stiff by the Bhopal

disaster

They fear that a tanker may burst again

Some complain about the constant sharp, irritating smell of chemicals

Others say their sheet roofings don't last long because acids from the plant corrode them

Residents also blame Triomf because their fruit-trees don't bear fruit anymore

City Press contacted Triomf management to establish what precautions it had taken since the 1973 disaster to ensure the safety of Ikageng residents

Triomf Group production director J J Gerber said their ammonia tankers were of international standard

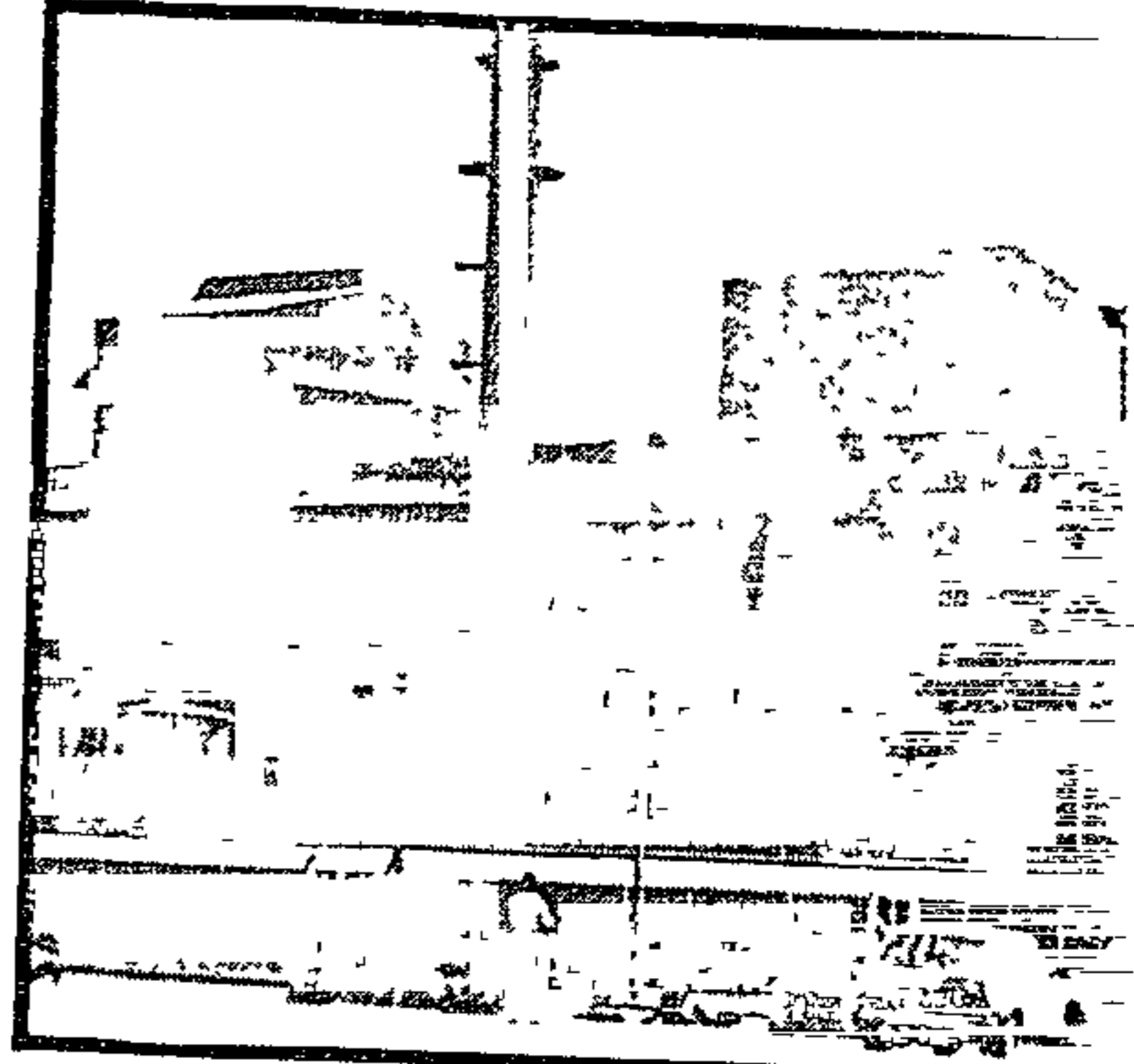
Under no circumstances would they burst — because they are "20 times

stronger than the previous ones"

Concerning pollution, Mr Gerber said Triomf had installed high chimneys "to ensure that the smoke is emitted far from the residential area"

He denied that some of the acids were toxic and could cause corrosion on sheet roofings

He said the amount of chemicals emitted was "so small that it couldn't pose danger to anybody"



The Triomf fertilizer plant at Potchefstroom, out of Ikageng residents after the Bhopal disaster

Ga-Rankuwa people win 'back-pay'

BOP'S Housing Department has to pay back thousands of rands to Ga-Rankuwa residents — because it "miscalculated" land prices more than a year ago

Local Government

By ANDREW

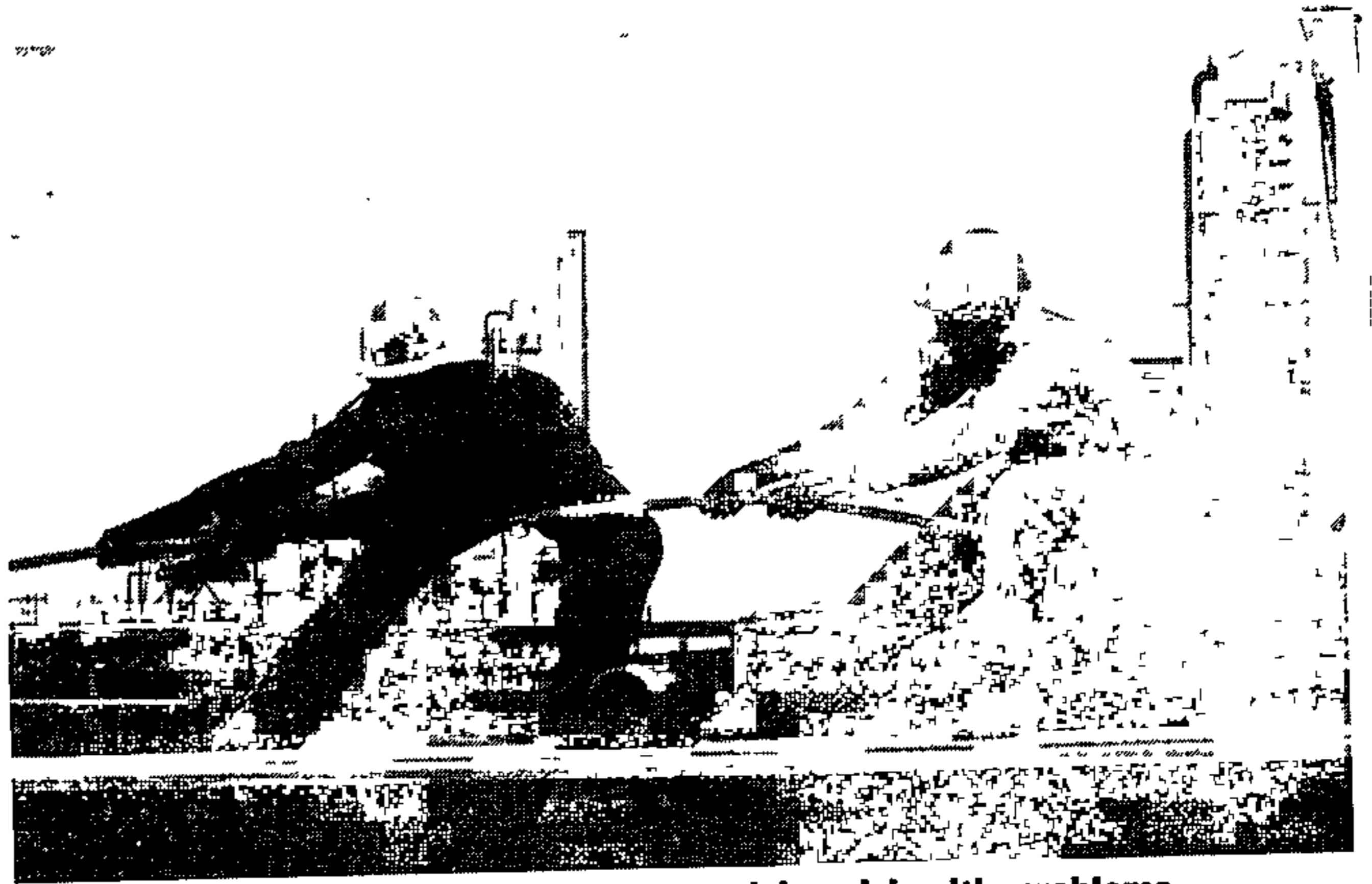
'I'm in'

THE UNITED Democratic Front Border region has been embarrassed and inconvenienced by the publication of a report about chairman Steve Tshwete last month

The report concerned the banning of Mr Tshwete's house-warm-

131
C. Press

109
C. Press
20/1/85



Shiftworkers ... serious social and health problems

lower rate of productivity And in a country like the US, where 26% of the workforce is employed on rotating shift schedules, an increased incidence of cardiac and nervous diseases, ulcers and hypertension has been noted

Careful scheduling

SA-born neuroscientists Dr Michael Brennan and Dr David Borsook, both now based in Boston, have conducted extensive studies into shiftwork patterns and human responses to them They have concluded that careful scheduling of shifts can decrease many adverse effects of shiftwork.

Brennan cites the results of an exercise carried out at a potash mining company in Utah. The company operated on a three-shift basis 8 am to 4 pm, 4 pm to midnight, and midnight to 8 am Employees were required to swop over to an earlier shift at the end of each week

The two doctors introduced a new sys-

tem whereby employees worked the same shift for three weeks and then switched to a later one Workers were also advised to change their sleeping hours as gradually as possible in the free days between shift changeovers Not only did 90% of the workers say they preferred the new system, but productivity showed a marked increase. During the first quarter, productivity was up by 12% compared to the same period the previous year In the next two quarters, productivity rose by 22% and 32% respectively

Brennan argues that the improvement occurred because the unbroken three-week routine allowed the workers' bodies to adapt to the change Further, he says that shift switches are easier if the worker goes to sleep later rather than earlier However, he stresses that there is no total panacea for the problems caused by shiftwork — although there is much room for ameliorating its ill-effects

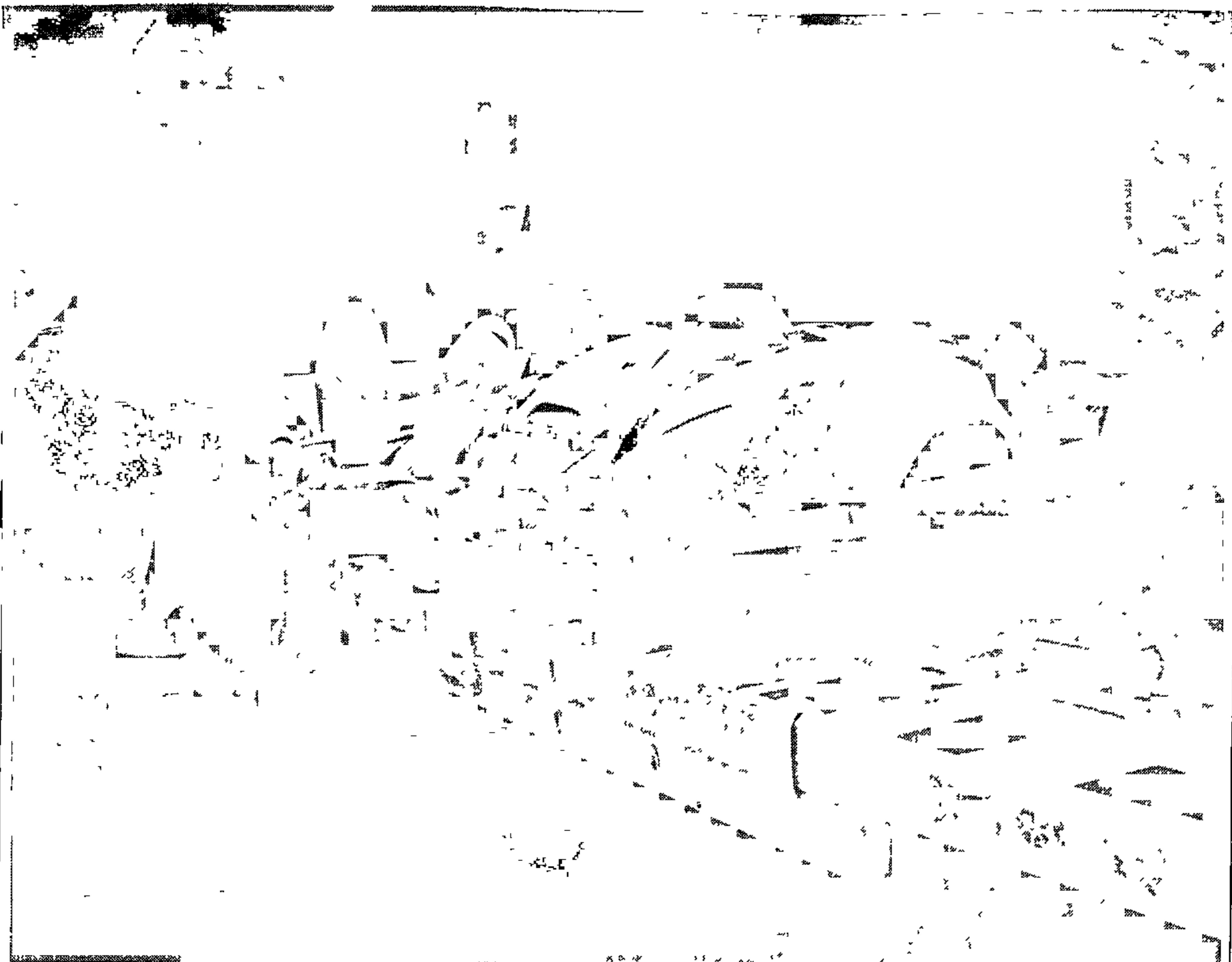
SHIFTWORK Making it easier

131

The trend towards increased use of shiftwork in highly industrialised societies is causing serious social, health and work problems. Shiftworkers constantly feel below par and it is known that their routine — or lack of one — is responsible for long-term medical problems. Most of the time their state can best be compared to chronic jetlag.

The basic problem is that shifts worked on a rotating basis disrupt the 24-hour cycle of the delicate section of the brain that controls sleep, temperature and hormonal changes.

In the short term, many shiftworkers suffer from disturbed sleep patterns, fatigue, reduced sexual activity, poor concentration and a reduced ability to learn new material There is low job satisfaction, appetite disturbances, and a general disruption of social life. At work, these problems manifest themselves in high absenteeism and staff turnover rates, more accidents and a



Mr Peter Jacobs is lowered down a ladder to firemen after he fell two floors from scaffolding which collapsed alongside a block of flats in Beach Road, Three Anchor Bay, yesterday

(131) C. Times
**2 hurt
in fall
from
building**
29/1/85

Staff Reporter

TWO roofing workers fell two floors yesterday when the scaffolding they had been erecting alongside Bay Point flats in Three Anchor Bay collapsed under them.

The workers, Mr Bernard Solomons and Mr Peter Jacobs, were injured and the Metro Emergency Rescue Service was called to get them down from the first-floor roof on to which they had fallen.

The incident was seen by two beach constables, who heard a crash and looked up in time to see one of the workers and some equipment fall.

"Something just gave way under their weight," said one of constables, Mr Jonathan Holmes.

He called the emergency services by radio and dashed up a ladder to attend to the two men.

Both men were taken to Somerset Hospital, where their condition was described as "satisfactory" yesterday.

Spokesmen for the police and the roofing company yesterday were not sure how the accident had happened, but are investigating the incident.

Murdered driver was 'unprotected'

(131) Crime Staff *Stan*

A construction company's truck driver, who was murdered and robbed of his company's payroll last Thursday, had been allowed to travel 250 km alone and unprotected with R30 000 cash in his possession

But since driver Mr Johannes Mazessi was found murdered at the side of the road near Lenasia last week, the company has decided to change its pay procedure

Stan There will be no more money runs to outlying building sites with the company pay roll — workers will be paid by cheque

Mr Mazessi, of Hammanskraal, was despatched last Thursday morning by his employers, J and B Mechanical Construction Erection, to deliver the R30 000 payroll and construction equipment to a site in Lichtenburg. He was a trusted employee who had worked for the com-

pany for 20 years

His charred body was found next to the abandoned truck near Lenasia later that day. The payroll was missing

The company's managing director, Mr Peter Johnson, said a different driver had been assigned to deliver the payroll every week

Delivery took place on a different day each week and the courier left at a different time of the day on each occasion, but

no protection was provided

However, Mr Johnson said, after this tragedy site workers would be paid by cheque at the nearest bank

Mr Mazessi had been insured in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (SEIFSA), and his Hammanskraal family would be compensated accordingly, Mr Johnson said

(31) S. Post
30/11/85

Worker's arm badly mutilated in conveyor belt

Post Reporter

A 23-YEAR-OLD worker at Distillers' Corporation, Struandale, who caught his arm in a conveyor belt, was admitted to the Livingstone Hospital in a serious condition yesterday.

The conveyor belt had to be dismantled to free the man whose arm was badly mutilated.

The head of the firm's security, Mr P Hing, said the man's family, who live out in the country, had not yet been notified.

In another incident at 7:30am today, the Cape Ambulance Service, Dias Local Authority Division, was called out to free a man trapped in a conveyor machine.

Mr Eric Jama, 20, a worker at Stutt Timber, Thornhill, was shovelling off-cuts from logs on to a conveyor belt when the spade he was working with got caught in the machine. Mr Jama had the ligaments and flesh torn off his hand and was admitted to the Livingstone Hospital.

● The body of a Despatch man, Mr Henry Miners, 20, who drowned in the Swartkops River near the railway sidings at Perseverance, was recovered by divers yesterday.

A spokesman for the Cape Ambulance Service, Dias Local Authority Division, said Mr Miners had tried to swim across the river when he got into difficulty.

It took divers, working without scuba equipment in deep water, two hours to recover the body while Mr Miners' family watched from the river bank.

(131)
Man dies,
boy hurt
by 'live'
4/2/85
pylon

GREAT BRAK RIVER —
A six-year-old boy who urinated against a "live" electricity pole at Tergmet near here on Saturday was taken to hospital with burns and a man who went to investigate was killed.

Mr Hendrik Storm, 36, a sawmill employee at Great Brak River, went to examine the pole soon after the boy, Brian Treurnicht, had been burnt

Mr Storm touched a cable and was electrocuted.

Police said insulators on the private electricity line had been damaged. The problem has now been repaired.

Brian Treurnicht was taken to hospital in George.

A spokesman there said he was in a satisfactory condition, with a badly burnt hand and "superficial burns on his arms, buttocks and elsewhere on his body".

— Sapa

Modderfontein blast death toll rises to five ^{131D Star} 14/2/85

The death toll in the Modderfontein dynamite factory blast has risen to five and could go higher.

Mr Murray Joubert, PRO for A E C I, said today the body of a fifth victim was not found until this morning as the area had to be evacuated immediately after the blast because of the possibility of further explosions.

"There may still be more," he said.

The injured count now stands at 27.

Fires were still smouldering this morning, which made a thorough examination of the area impossible.

Mr Joubert said 1,5 tons of explosives had been detonated and the cause of the blast was still not known. Sabotage had not been ruled out and an investigation was underway.

Of the injured, four late last night were in a critical condition in hospital and seven others were receiving treatment for minor injuries.

The other injured had been discharged after receiving treatment. The names of the dead have yet to be released.

Mr Joubert said the explosion occurred at about 5 pm in the blasting explosives area. Three people had died immediately and a fourth worker died after being admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

Shortly after the explosion the site was evacuated to prevent any other injuries in the event of further explosions. A fire which started after the blast was under control late last night.

The explosion was felt and heard up to 20 km away.

CRACKED WINDOWS

People told *The Star* the explosion cracked and rattled the windows of houses in neighbouring areas and a large cloud of black smoke could be seen rising shortly after the explosion.

It is believed three explosions might have occurred — the first one setting off two others almost simultaneously.

Workers at the complex said the explosion occurred in "Factory One" and was "the biggest in three years".

The last major explosion at Modderfontein occurred in February 1982, when eight factory workers were killed and a number were injured.

Two hours after yesterday's explosion strict security operations were still in progress on the entrances to the complex.

Traffic policemen and plain clothes security officials were controlling cars at the entrances. Near the N3 highway a queue of cars several hundred metres long was formed because of the delays at the accesses to Modderfontein.

Permission to visit the area of the explosion was turned down. "It is a key area and the media are not allowed in," Mr Joubert said.

CAPE TIMES 14/2/85

4 die in blast at AECI factory

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Four workers were killed and 27 injured — seven seriously — when a massive explosion rocked the Modderfontein dynamite factory near Kempton Park late yesterday.

Late last night firemen were still battling to contain the blaze which started after the explosion at 5 07pm — the second major blast at the plant in three years.

The factory's blasting explosives area was immediately evacuated "to prevent additional injuries in the event of further explosions", an AECI spokesman, Mr Murray Joubert, said last night.

Police cordoned off the area while Edenvale ambulance staff rushed the injured to hospital.

Peak-hour traffic in the area was held up for more than 90 minutes.

Damage

"It is impossible, at this stage, to assess the damage. Sabotage is not suspected," Mr Joubert said.

"The company regrets to advise that four people died in the explosion and that 27 are being treated for injuries."

Most of the patients were believed to have received burns.

Late last night seven patients were still in Modderfontein Hospital. Two others had been transferred to Baragwanath Hospital. All the other workers had been discharged.

"We believe, at this stage, that the explosion happened in the nitroglycerine issue house and that a chemicals-mixing plant was affected," Mr Joubert said.

He added that a commission of inquiry would investigate the accident and that the supply of explosives would not be affected by the blast.

An Edenvale woman said the explosion shook houses in her suburb.

In February 1982, three blasts ripped through the giant factory in the space of 24 hours.

The third blast left eight workers dead and 21 injured, three seriously. The initial blast killed one man and injured six.

3 die, 23 hurt as blast rips dynamite plant

By COLIN HOWELL
and KEVIN DAVIS

THREE workers were killed and 23 injured — seven seriously — when a massive explosion rocked the Modderfontein dynamite factory near Kempton Park late yesterday.

Late last night firemen were still battling to contain a blaze which started after the 5.07pm explosion — the second major blast at the plant in three years.

The shockwaves were felt as far away as Sandton.

The factory's blasting explosives area was immediately evacuated "to prevent additional injuries in the event of further explosions," an AECI spokesman, Mr Murray Joubert, said last night.

Police cordoned off the area while ambulance staff from Edenvale rushed the injured to hospital.

Peak-hour traffic in the area was held up for more than 90 minutes.

"It is impossible, at this stage, to assess the damage. Sabotage is not suspected," Mr Joubert said.

"The company regrets to advise that three people died in the explosion and that 23 are being treated for injuries."

Of the injured, one work-

er was in a critical condition, six were seriously injured and 16 had minor injuries, Mr Joubert said. They were taken to the company's hospital at Modderfontein.

Most of the patients were believed to have sustained burns.

"We believe, at this stage, that the explosion happened in the nitro-glycerine issue house and that a chemicals mixing plant was affected," he said.

Mr Joubert added that a commission of inquiry would investigate the accident and that the supply of explosives would not be affected by the blast.

An Edenvale woman said the impact of the explosion shook houses in her suburb.

"I am used to the minor blasts that occur at the factory from time to time, but this blast and its impact was abnormal," she said.

A Kelvin, Sandton, resident said the shockwave shook windows in his home.

In February 1982, three blasts ripped through the giant factory in the space of 24 hours.

The third blast left eight workers dead and 21 injured, three seriously. The initial blast killed one man and injured six

Modderfontein blast death toll rises to five

131 Star
14/2/85

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The death toll in the Modderfontein dynamite factory blast has risen to five and could go higher
Mr Murray Joubert, PRO for A E C I, said today the body of a fifth victim was not found until this morning as the area had to be evacuated immediately after the blast because of the possibility of further explosions.



on Griffin to show us

today

showed in this message from "Spook" to Dame von Backstrom "The worms can have me if you won't be my Valentine"
Tracy will have to brush up on her cooking, said sweetheart Cliff "Your chips are disgusting"

"There may still be more," he said
The injured count now stands at 27.

Fires were still smouldering this morning, which made a thorough examination of the area impossible

Mr Joubert said 1,5 tons of explosives had been detonated and the cause of the blast was still not known Sabotage had not been ruled out and an investigation was underway

Of the injured, four late last night were in a critical condition in hospital and seven others were receiving treatment for minor injuries

The other injured had been discharged after receiving treatment The names of the dead have yet to be released

Mr Joubert said the explosion occurred at about 5 pm in the blasting explosives area Three people had died immediately and a fourth worker died after being admitted to hospital in a critical condition

Shortly after the explosion the site was evacuated to prevent any other injuries in the event of further explosions A fire which started after the blast was under control late last night

The explosion was felt and heard up to 20 km away

CRACKED WINDOWS

People told *The Star* the explosion cracked and rattled the windows of houses in neighbouring areas and a large cloud of black smoke could be seen rising shortly after the explosion

It is believed three explosions might have occurred — the first one setting off two others almost simultaneously

Workers at the complex said the explosion occurred in "Factory One" and was "the biggest in three years"

The last major explosion at Modderfontein occurred in February 1982, when eight factory workers were killed and a number were injured.

Two hours after yesterday's explosion strict security operations were still in progress on the entrances to the complex.

Traffic policemen and plain clothes security officials were controlling cars at the entrances. Near the N3 highway a queue of cars several hundred metres long was formed because of the delays at the accesses to Modderfontein

Permission to visit the area of the explosion was turned down "It is a key area and the media are not allowed in," Mr Joubert said

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make a fast buck. Apparently... simple words... terrorism, said

T A L E O F

Seveter
15/2/85

131

S O R R O W

By **MONK NKOMO**

A YOUNG Mamelodi man — now paralysed and bedridden — claims he was paid R100 compensation by a major company after an accident at his place of employment that allegedly led to his disablement.

The company, Sun International, owned by magnate and impresario Sol Kerzner, has denied the claims and a spokesman said the man was definitely not injured while on duty.

Attorneys acting for Mr Sonnyboy Tshevula, of 16860, Mamelodi East, Pretoria told The SOWETAN that Tshevula broke his neck while on duty on August 5 last year. He was rushed to the George Stegman Hospital and later to the Kalafong Hospital near Attendgeville where it was established that he was paralysed.

He was discharged from hospital on August 11 and has, ever since, been cared for by his aged mother.

Neck broken

Mr Tshevula, was the breadwinner and stayed with his parents before the incident that broke his neck. He was a stage setter at Sun International in Bophuthatswana. He earned R515 a month.

His family was embittered when his father went to "Sun City" on January 30 this year to see his employers and to claim compensation for his disabled son. He was handed over a cheque of R100, The SOWETAN was told yesterday.

Mr Allen Lam, personnel manager at Sun City International in Bophuthatswana, said "That man did not fall here. He has been suffering from cancer for the past 10 or 12 months and we were paying him the full salary every month." Asked where Mr Tshevula broke his neck, he replied "Where did you get this information? Where the hell do you think I know where he got injured."

He also declined to say how much Mr Tshevula was paid for the 10 months while employed at Sun International and if he was insured against injury. "Don't waste my time", he said.

Damages

Mr Willie Seriti, spokesman for a Pretoria firm of attorneys confirmed that the damages claim against the company was on the cards. The company, he added would be sued for negligence.

FY 82/83

Rp 53/55/87

Report of AG for FY 82-83

NATIONAL HOUSING FUND

(Established under section 2 of Act 10 of 1957 and re-enacted by section 2 of Act 4 of 1966)

NASIONALE BEHUISINGSFONDS

(Ingestel kragtens artikel 2 van Wet 10 van 1957 en herbepaal by artikel 2 van Wet 4 van 1966)

1. Capital of the Fund, R2 257 505 040 (Statement 1)

(1) The Treasury exempted the Fund in terms of section 4 (3) of the Housing Act, 1966, from payment of interest on capital for the financial year

(10/9/10/1, TC 30/5)

(2) Loans and advances are made from the Fund at an interest rate of 9 per cent, whilst interest losses resulting from the application by local authorities of the differential rates of interest based on gross monthly incomes, are borne by the Fund. Total losses debited against the Fund during the year amounted to R13 771 305 as shown in Statement 5

(10/9/10/1, AO 50/4)

(3) The net interest earned and capitalised during the year amounted to R74 691 061 as shown in Statements 5 and 1 respectively

(10/9/10/1, AOX50/1/35, TX 4/3/3)

2 Loans to the Fund, R457 598 524 (Statement 1) — According to information furnished by the Accounting Officer, the Commission negotiated loans totalling R453 894 600 with various financial institutions during the year in terms of Section 3A of the Housing Act, No 4 of 1966. At 31 March 1983 the total debt, including finance charges, amounted to R457 598 524 of which R89 394 600 was in respect of long term and R368 203 924 in respect of short term loans

(10/9/10/1)

3 Housing loans to local authorities, R2 496 252 462 (Statement 1)

(1) Advances and interest — The advances outstanding and the rates of interest payable thereon at 31 March 1983 were as follows

(i) R1 648 690 626 in respect of economic projects at interest rates ranging from 3,5 per cent to 15,0 per cent,

(ii) R776 626 518 in respect of assisted projects at interest rates ranging from 0,75 per cent to 1 per cent which include loans totalling R7 763 000 in respect of infrastructure services in Black urban areas, the interest on which is subsidised by the Treasury for the first 5 years, and

(iii) R70 935 318 in respect of assisted projects for the aged, poor and totally unfit at an interest rate of 0,05 per cent

(10/9/10/1, TC 30/5)

(2) Conversions of loans made to local authorities — According to information furnished by the Accounting Officer 91 loans amounting to R9 898 504 were converted from an assisted to an economic basis and 3 amounting to R385 079 from an economic to an assisted basis

(10/9/10/1)

4. Building society loans, R638 679 (Statement 1) — During the year under review advances totalling R4 708 were made to building societies in terms of sections 22 and 23 of the Act. The loans to building societies outstanding at 31 March 1983 as shown in Statement 1, amounted to R638 679 compared with R719 319 at 31 March 1982

(10/9/10/1)

1. Kapitaal van die Fonds, R2 257 505 040 (Staat 1).

(1) Die Tesourie het die Fonds kragtens artikel 4 (3) van die Behuisingwet, 1966, van die betaling van rente op kapitaal vir die boekjaar vrygestel

(10/9/10/1, TC 30/5)

(2) Lenings en voorskotte word teen 'n rentekoers van 9 persent uit die Fonds voorsien, terwyl renteverliese wat voortspruit uit die toepassing deur plaaslike owerhede van die gedifferensieerde rentekoerse gebaseer op bruto maandelikse inkomstes, deur die Fonds gedra word. Totale verliese gedurende die jaar teen die Fonds gedebiteer het R13 771 305 beloop soos in Staat 5 getoon

(10/9/10/1, AO 50/4)

(3) Die netto rente gedurende die jaar verdien en gekapitaliseer, het R74 691 061 bedra soos onderskeidelik in State 5 en 1 getoon

(10/9/10/1, AOX50/1/35, TX 4/3/3)

2 Lenings aan die Fonds, R457 598 524 (Staat 1) — Volgens inligting deur die Rekenpligtige Beampte verstrek, het die Kommissie lenings ten bedrae van R453 894 600 by verskillende finansiële instellings gedurende die jaar, kragtens artikel 3A van die Behuisingwet, No 4 van 1966, aangegaan. Op 31 Maart 1983 het die totale skuld met inbegrip van finansieringskoste, R457 598 524 bedra, waarvan R89 394 600 ten opsigte van langtermyn en R368 203 924 ten opsigte van korttermynlenings was

(10/9/10/1)

3 Behuisinglenings aan plaaslike owerhede, R2 496 252 462 (Staat 1)

(1) Voorskotte en rente — Die uitstaande voorskotte en die rentekoerse daarop betaalbaar, was op 31 Maart 1983 soos volg

(i) R1 648 690 626 ten opsigte van ekonomiese projekte teen rentekoerse wat van 3,5 persent tot 15,0 persent gewissel het,

(ii) R776 626 518 ten opsigte van ondersteunde projekte teen rentekoerse wat van 0,75 persent tot 1 persent gewissel het, insluitende lenings van altesaam R7 763 000 ten opsigte van infra-struktuurdiens in Swart stedelike gebiede, waarop die rente deur die Tesourie gesubsidieer word vir die eerste 5 jaar, en

(iii) R70 935 318 ten opsigte van ondersteunde projekte vir bejaardes, armes en totaal-ongeskiktes teen 'n rentekoers van 0,05 persent

(10/9/10/1, TC 30/5)

(2) Omsetting van lenings aan plaaslike owerhede — Volgens besonderhede deur die Rekenpligtige Beampte verstrek is 91 lenings ten bedrae van R9 898 504 van 'n ondersteunde na 'n ekonomiese grondslag en 3 ten bedrae van R385 079 van 'n ekonomiese na 'n ondersteunde grondslag omgesit

(10/9/10/1)

4 Bougenootskaplenings, R638 679 (Staat 1) — Voorskotte van altesaam R4 708 is kragtens artikels 22 en 23 van die Wet gedurende die verslagjaar aan bougenootskappe betaal. Die lenings aan bougenootskappe wat op 31 Maart 1983 uitstaande was, het R638 679 bedra, soos in Staat 1 getoon, vergeleke met R719 319 op 31 Maart 1982.

(10/9/10/1)

Ray 15/2/85

~~131~~ 131

9 dead, 4 missing in blast

THE death toll in the blast at AECI's Modderfontein Dynamite Factory rose yesterday to nine, with four more workers still unaccounted for

A spokesman for AECI, Mr Murray Joubert, told Sapa last night that four more bodies had been found, and that a further four workers were still missing

"At this stage we cannot make a definite statement (on the missing men) as it is possible that some of them may have failed to report to security," Mr Joubert said

Rescue teams moved cautiously yesterday into a "devastated and still smouldering" area of the factory, near Kempton Park, reports

COLIN HOWELL

One and a half tons of nitroglyc-

erin exploded at the world's biggest dynamite factory at 5 07pm on Wednesday, killing at least three men instantly

Another worker died in hospital on Wednesday night and the body of a fifth man was recovered early yesterday. The names of the victims have not yet been released

Of the 27 men injured in the blast, only six were still in hospital, Mr Joubert said

Two men who had been transferred to the Baragwanath Hospital were now off the critical list and four at the Modderfontein Hospital were "progressing well"

The names of the dead would be announced once next-of-kin had been notified, he said

"The dead are all black people. It hasn't been easy finding their next-

of-kin"

Sabotage has been ruled out but the cause of the blast was still a mystery to experts yesterday

Mr Joubert said "The nitroglycerin issuing house, which is a fully automated section of Factory No 1, was blown up. A part of the same manufacturing unit, the Atlas mixing house, also went up, as did an ammonium nitrate store"

The final stages in the manufacture of dynamite took place in these buildings

Workers had reported hearing three explosions "almost simultaneously"

"A board of inquiry under the auspices of the Chief Inspector of Explosives will investigate the accident and the company itself will conduct its own inquiry — obvious-

ly in tremendous depth," Mr Joubert said

"But there is no way anybody will tell — perhaps ever — as to which of the units went up first. It is tremendously difficult at the moment to say what happened but we believe something like one and a half tons of explosives went off — the whole immediate area was devastated"

The blasts that claimed nine lives in February 1982 had taken place in a different part of the factory, he said

An inquiry had found that nitroglycerin had leaked into acid lines and a storage tank because of a "valve malfunction"

"Afterwards, all the acid lines in that area were detonated in case there were any traces of nitroglycerin in them," Mr Joubert said

15/12/95 Four still missing at blast site

The death toll in Wednesday's Modderfontein dynamite factory explosion today stood at nine with four people missing, believed to be buried under the tons of rubble.

Search parties began operating at first light today but their efforts are being hampered by the strong presence of nitroglycerine

The bodies of four men were found by proto teams during their search yesterday, bringing the toll to nine.

But, according to a spokesman for AECI, Mr Murray Joubert, four men who had been working in the area are still missing

It is presumed they are dead

● See Page 13.

BID TO CONTROL ASBESTOS POISON

By JOSHUA RABOROKA

report stresses. Moreover, ILO comparisons of legislation and regulations in different countries covering work with asbestos show an extreme imbalance in the type, extent and stringency of measures taken. All this underscores the urgent need for an attempt to create international standard based on the participation and constructive contributions of representatives of government, employers and workers. Bamcwu has welcomed the notion of the conference and says it will support any move aimed at fighting the killer disease.

BAMCWU Mr Phandellani Nefolohodwe

THE International Labour Organisation is to propose new standards, specially designed to protect workers exposed to asbestos, against its harmful effects, when it meets in Geneva in June this year.

Asbestos dust has been identified as a cause not just of asbestosis, a crippling illness which harms the lungs, but also of bronchial cancer and of mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura and peritoneum), maladies which are usually fatal.

In South Africa, trade unions have reacted strongly to the diseases which they claim have caused the deaths of many workers. They maintain that the occupational exposure to its dust may, in some instances, present a serious health hazard.

The general secretary of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union, Mr Phandellani Nefolohodwe, has claimed that hundreds of families close to asbestos dumps in rural northern Transvaal villages are ignorant of the possible death they face from inhaling asbestos fibres.

Crippling

Many are unaware of having already contracted the crippling lung disease and thou-

acts, and demolitions or removal of insulation material containing asbestos," the report says.

The scope of the problem can be gauged by the rise in world production of asbestos which increased from 675 000 tons in 1940 to well over 5 million tons today.

Over two-thirds is utilised in asbestos cement and their remainder as an ingredient for some 1 000 other industrial products.

"Why not replace this potentially dangerous substance by one which is harmless or less harmful? Or even better, why not ban asbestos in particularly hazardous conditions," the report says.

This view has been supported by Bamcwu in its campaign which is finally aimed at banning all asbestos mines in South Africa, according to the union's publicity secretary, Mr Motshumi Mokhele.

Hazards

The ILO report says such principles are generally accepted and put into practice whenever possible. But unfortunately no technologically suitable alternative materials have been suggested for the majority of industrial uses of asbestos.

The report notes that threshold limits vary from country to

which harms the lungs, but also of bronchial cancer and of mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura and peritoneum), maladies which are usually fatal.

In South Africa, trade unions have reacted strongly to the diseases which they claim have caused the deaths of many workers. They maintain that the occupational exposure to its dust may, in some instances, present a serious health hazard.

The general secretary of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union, Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, has claimed that hundreds of families close to asbestos dumps in rural northern Transvaal villages are ignorant of the possible death they face from inhaling asbestos fibres.

Crippling

Many are unaware of having already contracted the crippling lung disease and thousands of children growing up around asbestos dumps also face death within the next 20 years from inhaling the mineral's fibres.

The union has since started an anti-asbestos campaign which it claims has gained momentum when it was supported by most emerging black trade unions.

In its bulletin, the ILO says that the risk of lung cancer has shown to be particularly high in cigarette smokers among workers exposed to asbestos.

"It is its insidious nature that makes the asbestos hazard particularly dreaded. The clinical signs or related diseases may develop many years after exposure to asbestos has ceased.

Occupationally, millions of people are at risk of inhaling a significant amount of asbestos dust in their work. Such exposures occur mainly in asbestos mining, processing the mineral, manufacturing asbestos prod-

ucts utilised in asbestos cement and their remainder as an ingredient for some 1 000 other industrial products.

"Why not replace this potentially dangerous substance by one which is harmless or less harmful? Or even better, why not ban asbestos in particularly hazardous conditions," the report says

This view has been supported by Bamcwu in its campaign which is finally aimed at banning all asbestos mines in South Africa, according to the union's publicity secretary, Mr Motshumi Mokbine.

Hazards

The ILO report says such principles are generally accepted and put into practice whenever possible. But unfortunately no technologically suitable alternative materials have been suggested for the majority of industrial uses of asbestos.

The report notes that threshold limits vary from country to country as do methods of monitoring. The various methods need to be harmonised internationally in terms both of strategy and technique to ensure comparability in the establishment and implementation of basic protection measures.

The report stresses the importance of technical control measures such as prevention of formation of dust, effective control of dissemination of dust at the site of its formation and adequate ventilation of the workplace.

Attention also must be given to the control of possible secondary sources of airborne asbestos, such as dust settling on surfaces in the working environment or contaminating work clothes.

Medical supervision of all workers is also essential.

Workers should be informed about the dangers of the mineral dust and should also participate actively in the application of protective measures, the

POISON

By JOSHUA RABOROKA

report stresses.

Moreover, ILO comparisons of legislation and regulations in different countries covering work with asbestos show an extreme imbalance in the type, extent and string-

ency of measures taken.

All this underscores the urgent need for an attempt to create international standard based on the participation and constructive contributions of

representatives of government, employers and workers

Bamcwu has welcomed the notion of the conference and says it will support any move aimed at fighting the killer disease

131) 5 row

19/12/85
Five die
when crane
collapses

Five men employed by a contractor at Escom's Matimba power station in the north-western Transvaal were killed when part of a tower crane collapsed late yesterday afternoon

Escom said the accident occurred when the upper section of a 45 m tower crane belonging to one of the contractors collapsed while it was being moved to another part of the power station. The cause of the accident was being investigated.

No names or other details of the dead were supplied. Escom expressed condolences to the relatives of those involved in the accident.

A spokesman for the contractors said no more information on the incident could be given yet.

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19/12/82

Domestic wins her claim

A DOMESTIC worker has won R2 000 in compensation after she was burnt because of her employer's negligence. Gladys Govana was burnt in March 1982 while defrosting a freezer for her Constantia employer with boiling water.

She said the employer came in unexpectedly and shouted at her, causing her to spill the boiling water on her arms. The next day she went to hospital for treatment to her scalded arms.

"The doctor said I should stay in hospital for two weeks because of my diabetes. But I went back to my employer's house the following day to show her my injuries.

"She (the employer) said the job was finished and she had a new maid. So I went to the SA Domestic Workers' Association for help."

Sadwa took legal advice and her lawyer entered a R5 000 claim against the employer, claiming negligence and a duty of care owed by the employer to provide a safe system of work. In July, a court ruled in favour of Mrs Govana in respect of negligence. No ruling on the duty of care was made. - Sapa.

Passenger's death was 'an accident'

131 Herald 14/12/85
ON Friday, February 23 this year the strong wind played havoc with cars in Mitchells Plain, and led to the death of a factory worker, who fell out of a panel van when she tried to close the van door which had been blown open.

Myrna Jacobs, 17, of Parkwood Estate, and three other employees of Multifoil in Lansdowne, were being taken home after having worked overtime.

The van was travelling in De Duin Avenue when the side door of the van was flung open by a gust of wind.

Myrna got up to close it, but as

she turned to sit down, the door blew open and she fell backwards into the road.

Avril Jacobs, Myrna's cousin and also a passenger in the van, said in an affidavit: "We shouted to the driver to stop, and when we got to Myrna, she was still moving".

"But she had very serious head injuries."

Myrna died in Groote Schuur Hospital the next day.

Driver of the van Ernest Williams said he had been driving at 40 km/h, and inquest magistrate Mr B Carroll found that nobody could be blamed for Myrna's death.

ask *Travis* 2/12/85 (131)

Debate on VDU health risks

GENEVA. — Some of the world's most eminent physi- cians, psychiatrists and radi- ologists will debate this week whether personal computers, word processors and visual display units (VDUs) endan- ger health

The World Health Organiza- tion has summoned about 15 experts to a week-long private meeting opening here today.

“Abnormal pregnancies will be among the most con- troversial issues discussed,” said Dr Charles Xintaras, the

meeting co-ordinator

“It would in my opinion be a major breakthrough if we could solve the concerns of women and anyone involved with assessing the impact of VDUs on reproductive prob- lems,” he said in an interview.

The experts will study indi- vidual cases that have arisen in about 12 offices to try to determine whether VDUs were to blame, and will try to establish new guidelines for operators.

In the United States alone

more than 10 million workers use a VDU each day.

Trade unions say that by 1990 more than half the work force in industrial countries and a large segment of Third World labour will be using VDUs.

Public debate has mostly fo- cused on possible health haz- ards arising from electromag- netic radiation emitted by the terminals, including ultra- violet, infra-red and X-rays.

Manufacturers and many re- searchers say thick glass

screens or simple metal shielding almost entirely ab- sorb these, but others say there is no proof that VDUs are safe.

Most scientists agree that symptoms such as eye strain, headaches, sore neck, head or back muscles and tender wrists are caused not by VDUs alone but by bad office condi- tions.

Some researchers say that combined with stress, job en- vironment and the type of work, screens may carry a risk of causing health damage or

aggravate existing problems.

A report by more than 200 international trade union ex- perts from 20 countries last year said VDUs contributed to skin rashes, cataracts, abnor- mal pregnancies and epileptic fits set off by flickering lights.

Dr Xintaras added: “I can fully appreciate the concern of women over using the machines but how do I know that the woman working on a VDU is not also doing a dozen other potentially hazardous things?” — Sapa-Reuter

Dot Wilson, left, is still working, but her fellow sutterer Ena Penderis has died since this picture was taken.

Victim of the killer asbestos

KATE MCKINNELL
in Johannesburg

MRS Dot Wilson is dying from cancer caused by a substance she never handled — asbestos

Both her parents died from asbestos-related diseases. Her two brothers fear they too will be victims.

Recently, Mrs Wilson, of Pretoria, heard of the death of Ina Penderis, a friend with whom she formed Asbesta, an organisation for asbestos victims.

The dark rings around Mrs Wilson's eyes are the only clues to her illness. There is no self-pity, just steadfast acceptance — she refuses to make her cancer a major issue.

But she is determined to warn the public about the dangers of asbestos, and she is angry with company directors who claim that safety precautions have removed the deadly threat of the mineral

Protection

"I don't see how asbestos mining could ever be safe — asbestos affects the whole environment. It is not only people in direct contact with it who need protection.

"The fibres are barely detectable and the effects insidious," she says.

Her account of how asbestos infiltrated her life sounds like a science fiction horror movie.

Mrs Wilson's father was a mine supervisor. Her family first moved to an asbestos mine at Koegasbrug in the northern Cape when she was eight. Later they moved to another mine at Pomfret.

Mrs Wilson went to school in Kimberley, and only stayed in the mine home during school holidays. During the Christmas holidays the family would go to the sea.

Distinctive

"I don't think I ever touched the mineral. I never played on the dumps or went to the mine. When my father came home, he always had a distinctive smell.

"But the fibres in the air are hardly noticeable, although I remember seeing them mingling in the soil and sticking to fly traps hanging in homes."

In 1979 when routine tuberculosis tests were done at the Pretoria office where Mrs Wilson worked as a secretary, she was told she was suffering from TB and was treated for the disease for over a year.

"I cannot remember how often I told doctors I had lived on an asbestos mine, but I suppose they just

were't tuned in to the implications of this

"When TB treatment didn't help, I was referred to a thoracic surgeon, and after doing tests, the first thing he asked me was whether I had lived on an asbestos mine."

Mesothelioma

In 1981 she was told she was suffering from mesothelioma, an incurable cancer of the lung lining directly caused by asbestos.

"I seem to have lasted longer than most. I've even been able to work, although I do get very tired. I need a week to recover after cobalt treatment every month," says Mrs Wilson.

Her daughters, aged eight and 10, know their mother has cancer. Mrs Wilson says they and her husband are a great support.

Last year she met Ina Penderis and they formed Asbesta, to create public awareness about asbestos and to help sufferers from asbestos-related diseases.

They have heard from people who have had contact with asbestos and are now doomed with directly related illnesses. Not all have lived near mines — some are laboratory workers, others transporters who loaded the asbestos.

"Most of the response has been from people who need financial help. Mining companies only pay compensation to people they have employed — a small proportion of those who have been exposed to asbestos.

Alternative

"I wish we could create more awareness among people working at asbestos mines — how can those mothers take their children to live in places like that?"

Mrs Wilson says claims that safety standards have been improved and asbestos is safe to handle can only be proved after 20 years — the effects of asbestos can take decades to manifest themselves.

Asbesta is campaigning for alternative materials to be found for manufacturing items like heaters, plant pots, hairdryers and toasters.

"Who knows the danger of asbestos in these items? A report from overseas showed asbestos-related disease in someone who lived near a stop street — she had been affected by the asbestos fibres from car's brakes," says Mrs Wilson.

Asbesta's appeal for alternative materials aims to reduce mining of the material and therefore the number of people handling it.

(131)
22/11/85

Argus

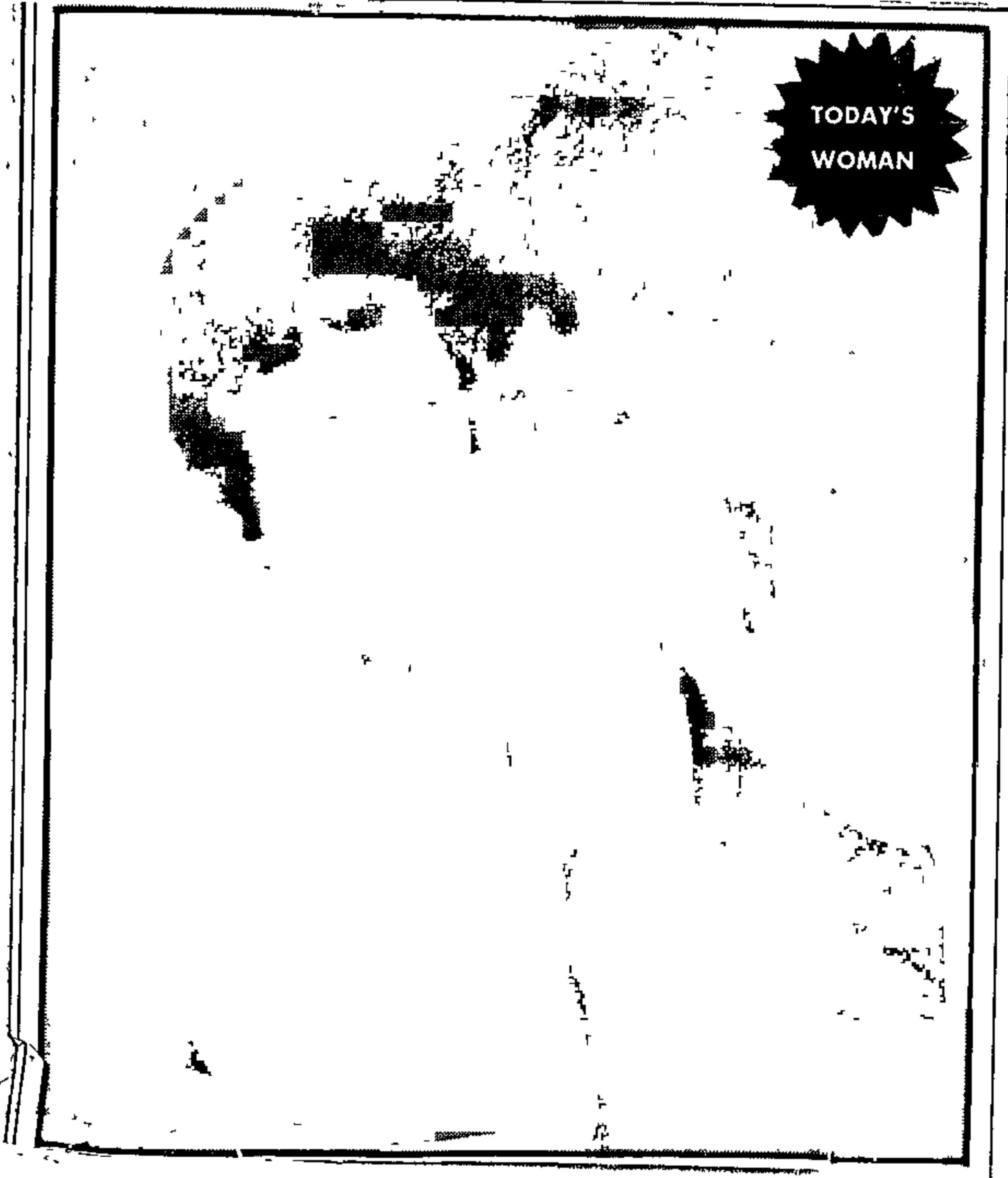
22/11/85

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131

22/11/85



Concern over colliery deaths

Inquiry into blast at mine

22/11/80
SOWETAN

THE National Union of Mineworkers and the Government mining engineer will today hold an inquiry into the incident at Witbank's Riet-spruit colliery in which two miners died.

The inquiry comes a week after the two miners, Mr Johannes Thoko, of Tafelkop near Groblersdal, and Mr Ivan Futshase of Colesberg were found dead.

A union spokesman told The SOWETAN yesterday that the workers died after a blast at the colliery last Monday. The incident has caused concern among the miners.

The concern deepened after workers discovered that Mr Thoko's body was found a few days after the search. They contend that management did not report his death to the union, according to the spokesman.

A spokesman for Rand Mines, which owns the mine, confirmed the incident and said that an inquiry would be held today.

Meanwhile NUM's general secretary, Mr

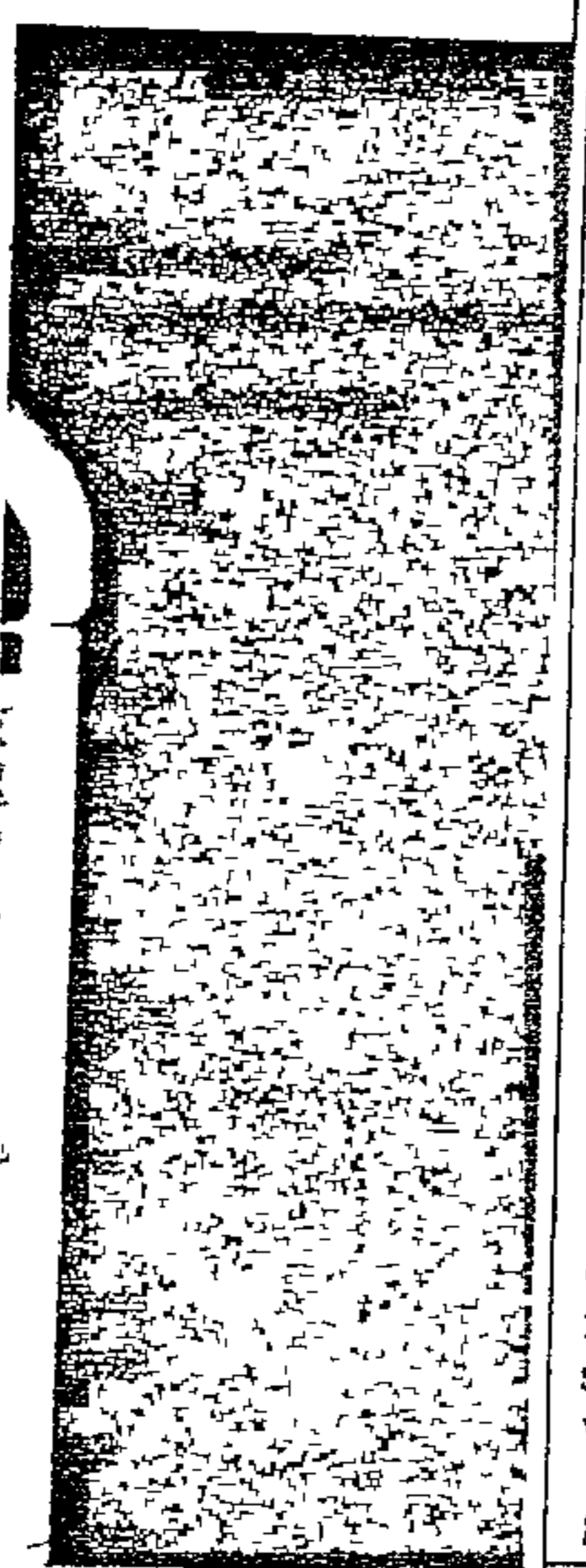
SOWETAN Reporter

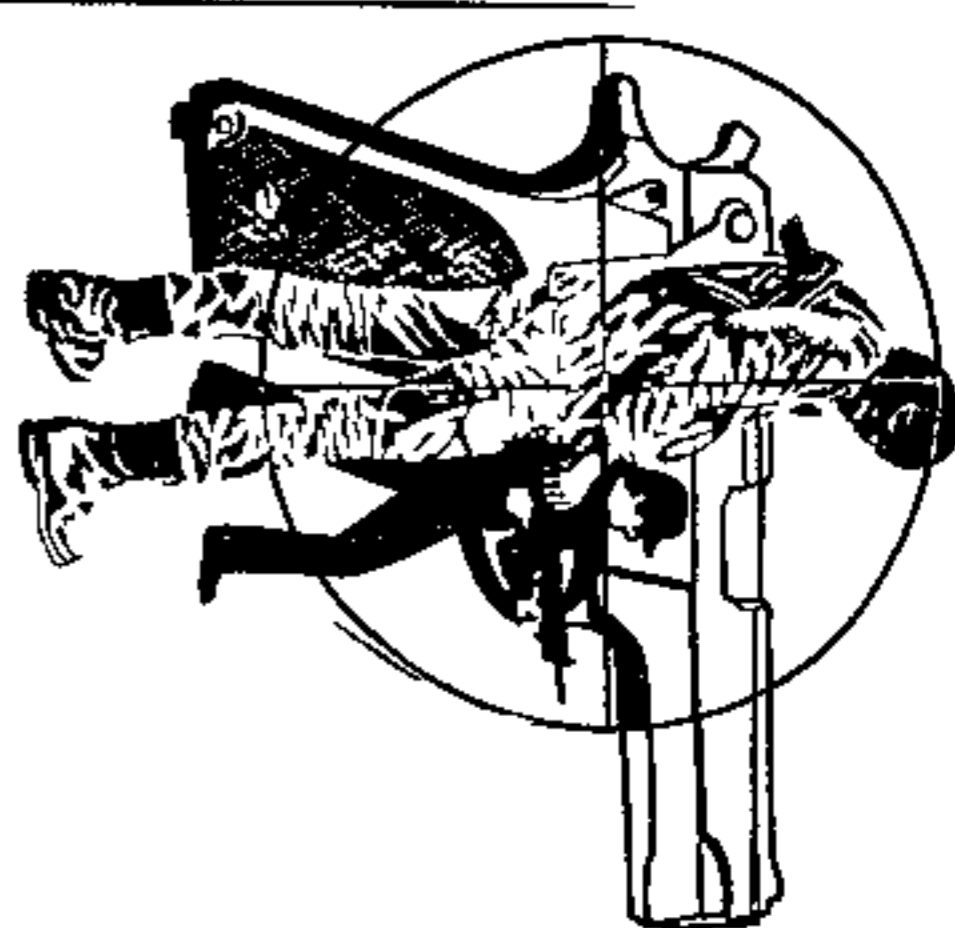
Cyril Ramaphosa has been elected president of the new federation of mine workers in Southern Africa. The election took place in Harare this week.

Unions from Zambia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe took part in the formation of the federation.

The federation also resolved to improve working, living, safety, health and education conditions for miners in member countries.

The formation of the federation comes in the wake of South African threats to expel as many as 1.5 million migrant workers, most of them employed in the country's gold mines.





So far this year there have been 118 attacks on petrol pump attendants at garages in the Peninsula and R70 000 has been stolen. STEPHEN WROTTESLEY and HENRI DU PLESSIS investigate the reasons why there are...

Gas-pump gangsters

No facilities, poor conditions

SEVERAL petrol pump attendants in Cape Town have been wounded this year in the spate of hold-ups that have followed the sharp increases in the price of petrol and the fact that filling stations are now permitted to sell fuel at night.

So far this year there have been 118 attacks at garages in the Peninsula and R70 000 has been stolen, according to the Peninsula murder and robbery squad.

The squad only investigates robberies in which firearms are used, so these figures do not include attacks with knives or other dangerous weapons.

In most of the cases, the lives of petrol pump attendants were at risk for a few rands. Shots were fired on at least four occasions and at least two attendants were hit.

Risk factor

The high number of attacks at garages in relation to other violent robberies can be gauged from the fact that the Peninsula murder and robbery squad has investigated only 37 bank and building society hold-ups in the same period this year.

Because of the risk factor to attendants, suggestions are being made that the manner in which petrol is sold at night should be changed.

Experts point out that if clients buying petrol outside office hours were forced to pay the exact purchase price and this money was deposited immediately in a safe, the attendants would have no change on them — and they would not be worth robbing.

problem to the investigation of the robberies — many of the victims leave their places of employment shortly afterwards leaving no forwarding address.

Suggestions have been made that some of the attendants have been fired after being attacked.

A spokesman for the Garage and Allied Workers' Union said the recently-formed body had, as yet, received no complaints about the dismissal of staff after robberies.

Cash shortage

However they had heard of an across the board levy being made on attendants salaries if there was a cash shortage — even if the attendant was not in charge of the money.

According to the union, attendants earned about R46 a week on average. A spokesman for one major oil company said the principle of paying the exact amount had been found to have a "lot of merit" by the company's marketing division.

However the division could foresee difficulties with the implementation and wondered about whether the measure would not an imposition on the right and freedom of choice of the individual.

Regulations

The firm's legal department had found that the idea would be easy to implement. All that would be necessary would be for the Motor Industries Federation to ask the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs to change regulations governing the sale of petrol.

A spokesman for the Motor Industries Federation said it was aware of

MOST night-shift petrol pump attendants at 24-hour service stations earn a weekly wage of between R70 to R85 — without tips.

Often the conditions under which they work are poor. Shelters are small and offer little comfort or warmth during cold nights.

According to the pump attendants at a Bonteheuwel service station that has been particularly hard hit by robbers this year, they are not members of a union and receive no benefits such as paid leave, paid sick leave or accident pay.

They work a 13-hour shift from 6pm to 7am the following day.

The men have no facilities except a toilet and are not even able to make themselves something warm to drink.

Told of the men's claims, Mr G M Henke of the Motor Industries Combined Workers Union said such conditions seemed highly improbable. Attendants have to contribute to a pension fund, he said, and it was required by law that they should get

workmen's compensation if injured at work. "There are garages, of course, that take chances," he said.

According to Mr Y Singh, owner of another service station in Bonteheuwel, hold-up gangs usually strike between 11pm and 3am after keeping their targets under observation for some time.

Mr Singh closes his service station at 9pm every night. He says he does not believe in exposing his pump attendants to dangers he would not face himself in what he terms a high risk area.

The situation is not bad at all 24-hour service stations, however.

At one filling station in Mitchell's Plain, pump attendants sit behind a bullet-proof window in the main building at night. The pumps are computerised and can be controlled from inside the building.

Customers help themselves to petrol at the pumps and deposit their money in a special drawer which is passed in under a bullet-proof window. They receive their change in the same way.

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22 Nov 1985

Police say the attacks on petrol pump attendants have become one of their greatest headaches and that there appears to be no way to stop the robberies.

Worst hit

There is no real pattern to where and when they happen. Worst hit have been garages in Grassy Park where there have been 14 attacks. But in Philippi there have been 12 robberies, Athlone 11, Mitchell's Plain and Bishop Lavis nine and Lansdowne and Woodstock eight.

There have also been attacks in Elsie's River, Parow, Steenberg, Kuilsriver, Bellville, Retreat, Kraaifontein, Manenberg, Mowbray, Claremont, Cape Town, Maitland, Durbanville, Guguletu, Goodwood, Diep River and Ravensmead.

Sunday, Monday

On average, most of the robberies occur on Sundays and Mondays but no day can actually be described as safe as can no hour of the night.

Police complain there is an added

the present situation but robberies had been happening for years.

Unemployment

"Possibly the recession, unemployment and the high price of petrol is resulting in an increase in this type of crime."

"Also stations that are open 24 hours a day are fairly easy to hit."

The spokesman said the problem had not been discussed as far as "no change" purchases were concerned but that this would now be brought up at a bi-monthly meeting of the executive committee of the Western Province division of the SA Motor Traders Association.

Dr L. Alberts, director general of the department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said he personally felt the suggestion was a "smart idea". However he felt there might be problems, especially if it led to automatic pumps and a subsequent loss of jobs.

He said that any attempt to change the regulations would have to come in the form of a request from the MIF.

Bad training blamed for work injuries

Pretoria Bureau

The expected acceleration in the urbanisation process in South Africa will lead to greater demands for training facilities in metropolitan areas, the Minister of Manpower, Mr P T C Plessis, said today.

Addressing a manpower conference in Pretoria, Mr du Plessis said employers would have to make a meaningful contribution to training schemes.

He said inadequate training contributed to work accidents. In 1984, more than 190 000 cases were reported to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner.

About R79 million was paid out in compensation for permanent disabilities.

In 1984, only 11 percent of workers in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, construction, commerce and finance, whose training could have been deducted as a tax concession, enjoyed the benefit of further training.

SA accused of politically motivated commercial aggression

Maputo port ignored

The Star's Africa News Service

MAPUTO — Mozambique has accused South Africa of practicing politically motivated "commercial aggression".

A senior official has claimed South Africa was deliberately undermining Mozambique's economy by directly and indirectly cutting the country's sea-port freight trade.

Nkomati Accord blamed for SA violence

By Mike Sijuma

The political violence in South Africa was to an extent a product of the Nkomati Accord, which had been portrayed as a defeat for the country by the revolutionary forces, according to the head of the department of international relations at Wits University, Professor Dirk Künert.

Addressing the Witwatersrand branch of the South African Institute of International Affairs last night, Professor Künert said that in a similar way the abortive intervention of South Africa in Angola in 1975 had contributed to the outbreak of the 1976 upheavals.

He said the motives which led Mozambique to sign the accord were similar to those that guided Russia to sign a series of peace treaties with hostile Western European countries in 1921.

And it is suggested this is an example of the kind of retaliatory action South Africa might take against its neighbours in response to major economic sanctions from the West.

Maputo's port director, Mr Francisco Diniz, says South Africa's commercial aggression takes the form of heavy discounting of rail, port and shipping charges for freight traffic from the Transvaal, Swaziland

and Zimbabwe.

The cheap rates, combined with sabotage of Mozambique's rail network by South African-backed guerrillas of the MNR, had led to a sharp drop in traffic using Maputo's port, he said.

Mr Diniz accuses the South African Transport Services (SATS) and Saffmarine of deliberately diverting traffic away from Maputo, the nearest port to the farms and industries of

The aim in both cases was to "make compromises with capitalism to preserve and rescue an embattled revolutionary base".

And just as Lenin had made a "strategic retreat" by agreeing to free trade with formerly hostile capitalist countries, Mozambique was willing to trade with South Africa.

Professor Künert said both actions were seen as expedient reactions to terrible situations.

But no sooner had the agreement been signed than the Mozambique Government portrayed it as a defeat for South Africa and a victory for Mozambique, he said.

Encouraged by this, revolutionary forces had attempted to exploit the "precarious situation" faced by South Africa — and so the Nkomati Accord produced the ever-escalating violent situation in South Africa, Professor Künert added.

the northern and eastern Transvaal, Swaziland, southern Zimbabwe and Botswana.

South African traffic through Maputo has fallen from 6,5 million tons in pre-independence 1973 to only one million tons today, 75 to 80 percent of which is low-tariff cargo like coal.

While shipping officials say inefficiency and insecurity at the port and railway have been depressing traffic for years, Mr Diniz argues that SATS' practice of offering contract rates on selected Transvaal and Zimbabwe cargoes which are 20 to 50 percent cheaper than the normal rail tariff — coupled with preferential port and shipping rates — have substantially accelerated the decline.

The conclusion of the Nkomati non-aggression pact last year had led to hopes of increased revenues from South African traffic through Maputo, but according to Mr Diniz, SATS has actually stepped up its efforts at deliberate diversion.

Diplomats and shipping companies in Maputo largely confirm the Mozambican allegations.

~~1978 Times 16/11/81~~

Worker dies under tractor

¹³⁷
MOSSEL BAY — A Mossel Bay man died yesterday when he landed under a tractor carrying a load of bricks at the Reëbok brickworks near Great Brak River.

Mr Ockert Senekal of Bayview was killed when he tried to stop the tractor which started to move after he had parked it — Sapa

CAPT Tink 29/6/88
13/1

Worker dies on demolition site

Staff Reporter

A WORKER at a City demolition site was killed and two others suffered minor injuries when a large piece of masonry fell from a wall above where they were working yesterday morning.

The accident occurred on the old Waldorf site bounded by Burg, St George's, Hout and Shortmarket streets.

The two injured workers, Mr Kawumatimi

Atola and Mr Sibo Maimoyo, were discharged from Woodstock Hospital last night.

The dead man's name has not yet been released as he has yet to be identified by his wife.

Large crowds had to be confined to the pavement by police as the street filled with emergency vehicles and rescue workers worked to free the body from the rubble.

Mr R Gamble, managing director of Ovcon Cape Civil (Pty) Ltd, the company doing the demolition work, said yesterday the accident occurred during the demolition of a wall alongside an adjacent building.

"A large piece of masonry broke free and knocked aside some scaffolding on which the two men who were injured were working. It fell and crushed the dead man," he said.

He had no comment in reply to allegations by Mr John Brockwell, a City businessman whose fiancée works in a building opposite the site, that safety regulations were not adhered to on the site.

Mr Brockwell said yesterday it was only a matter of time before somebody was hurt on the site as workers did not wear hard hats and were not warned when walls were about to crumble.

Sewage workers

Star 4/7/65
gassed (131)

Three municipal workers were overcome by manganate gas at the Municipal Sewerage Works near Fourways this morning.

They were trying to pull a car from a four-metre deep sewerage hole.

One of the men was admitted to the Milpark Hospital and the other two were being treated at the Crown Mines Hospital.

According to a senior Randburg Fire Department spokesman, the incident happened about 11 am. The men were struggling to pull the car out of the hole when it became stuck.

A worker went into the hole and was overcome by manganate gas given off by the sewerage. A second worker went to bring the unconscious man to the surface but was also overcome.

A third worker, with a rope around his waist, was also overcome but was pulled to the surface and revived with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

The second man was then brought up and revived, and the Randburg Fire Department rescued the first man.

(131) D. Dispatches
5/7/35
**Workers overcome
by sewage fumes**

JOHANNESBURG —
Three municipal work-
ers trying to pull a car
from a four metre deep
sewer were overcome by
gas and rushed to hospi-
tal yesterday

The men were over-
come by manganate gas
at a municipal sewerage
works

Rescue officials said
the men were struggling

to pull the car out of the
hole when a worker went
into the hole and was
overcome by the gas.

A second worker went
to bring the unconscious
man out, but was also
overcome.

The third worker tied
a rope around his waist
and went down, but he
too was overcome —
Sapa

Union wants ILO to conduct asbestos probe

Sowetan 17/7/85

THE Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union has asked the International Labour Organisation to conduct surveys in South African mines and other industries for the control and elimination of hazards of asbestos dust.

Bancwu's publicity secretary Mr Motshumi Mokhimi told **THE SOWETAN** that the request has been made in order to step up their anti-asbestos campaign in the country

The survey has been called in the wake of video-spread reports of deaths and other hazards caused by diseases in the mines

Hazards

The union will be second to ask for survey to be conducted on hazards and accidents in South African mines. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) recently released a survey on the number of accidents caused in the mines

The ILO has resolved at a meeting in Geneva to intensify the interna-

By **JOSHUA RABOROKO**

tional campaign to control and eliminate the hazards of asbestos dust next year

Delegates drew up a draft convention requiring ILO member countries to enact laws protecting workers against asbestos-related diseases

The convention laid down measures for the treatment of asbestos-contaminated clothing and disposal of waste, containing asbestos, and calls for official authorisation for the demolition of plants or structures containing asbestos insulation

To minimise the exposure of workers to asbestos, the convention suggests that the material be used only when its risks can be prevented or controlled, the num-

ber of workers assigned to work involving asbestos be kept to a minimum, areas of activity connected with asbestos be clearly demarcated and the location of asbestos in construction be recorded in order to facilitate future repair or demolition without danger to workers

Referring to the issue of equal opportunities, the conference has recommended that the same criteria be applied to all workers in cases of redundancy or dismissal, without distinction based on sex, marital status or age

A further recommendation was made for equal remuneration for all workers and for job classification and evaluation that was free of sexual bias

Cape Times 25/7/85 (31) 183

Worker killed by falling tyre

A CITY dock worker, aged about 60, died yesterday afternoon after a large tyre fell on his head at Cape Town harbour's H Berth.

A South African Railways police spokesman said last night the man's name could not be released until his family had been notified.

The accident occurred when, together with other workers, the man was fastening tyres to the berth walls. The tyres were to act as buffers for ships harboured there.

25:06. D19. 131
Tyre kills man

CAPE TOWN — A dock worker, aged about 60, died yesterday afternoon after a large tyre fell onto his head at the harbour here — Sapa

this period, if not, why not, if so, (a) in what manner and (b) what is the minimum period they have to serve before they may leave the Force,

- (3) (4) what percentage of women who were trained at this college and who subsequently attested, remained in the Permanent Force after the expiry of their initial training period, during the latest specified period of five years for which figures are available and (b) in what capacities do or did they serve?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

- (1) Only other ranks are attested under oath in the Permanent Force Women who attest directly in the Permanent Force, i.e. not from the ranks of the SA Army Women's college, are not trained at the SA Army Women's College

- (2) (a) and (b) Permanent Force other ranks do not attest for a fixed period They can purchase their discharge at any time

- (3) (a) For the period 1980 to 1984—
15%

(b) Women are only utilized in the supporting services of the SA Defence Force such as personnel, stores and finance functions, signalers, etc

677 Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education

(a) How many applications for the subsidization of farm schools were received by his department in 1984 and (b) what number of pupils benefited from the subsidization of farm schools in that year?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

HOA

(a) 379 in respect of farm school buildings

(b) 468 619 pupils

683 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics

What was the (a) landed cost of each consignment of maize imported in 1983 and (b)(i) outflow of foreign currency and (ii) extra cost to the taxpayer as a result of these imports?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

(a) Figures are not available for the 1983 calendar year. The following contracts were concluded for the importation of maize during the period May 1983 to April 1984

600 000 tons at R172,74 per ton
100 000 tons at R160,09 per ton
500 000 tons at R171,09 per ton
225 000 tons at R188,91 per ton
275 000 tons at R192,15 per ton
300 000 tons at R206,20 per ton
150 000 tons at R196,02 per ton
230 000 tons at R194,71 per ton

The landed cost consists of the above-mentioned cif prices plus an average landing cost of R11,34 per ton

(b) (i) Total outflow currency until 30 April 1984 amounted to R427,9 million (Landing costs excluded)

(ii) The deficit on the import account until 30 April 1984 which was borne by the tax payer amounted to R44,5 million. With the inclusion of interest after 30 April 1984, the final deficit amounted to R49 million

692 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs

(1) Whether any employees of the South African Transport Services in the Cape Peninsula were victims of crimes of violence while on duty in 1984, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the nature of the crime in each case,

- (2) whether the South African Transport Services have had to pay any compensation to (a) employees and/or (b) passengers in 1984 as a result of their being victims of such crimes while performing their duties or traveling on trains in the Cape Peninsula, if so, what total amount was paid out in each case,

(3) at which stations in the Cape Peninsula are there South African Railways Police posts?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS

(1) Yes

(a) 76

(b) Attempted murder 1
Murder 2
Common assault 41
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm 23
Robbery 9

(2) (a) Yes, compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941, was paid in five cases

(1) R10 093 for total disablement

(2) R700 plus R276 per month compensation pension to widow,

(3) R875 for temporary disablement

(4) R63 for temporary disablement

(5) R105 for temporary disablement

The remaining cases are either of a very minor nature for which claims were not instituted or are still being investigated

(b) No such claims were instituted

(3) Cape Town, Table Bay Harbour, Salt River, Langa, Bontheuvel, Philippin and Bellville

Pharmaceutical/homeopathic medicines

705 Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

(1) What was the cost of (a) registration and (b) annual renewal of (i) pharmaceutical and (ii) homeopathic medicines as at the latest specified date for which figures are available,

(2) whether there is any difference in the registration of generic and individually specific medicines in these two categories, if so, what difference?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

(1) (a) (i) Compounded in entirety in RSA = R500 plus R60 at approval of registration
—not compounded in entirety in RSA = R1 000 plus R120 at approval of registration,

(ii) compounded in entirety in RSA = R500 plus R60 at approval of registration

—not compounded in entirety in RSA = R1 000 plus R120 at approval of registration,

(b) (i) compounded in entirety in RSA = R60,

(ii) not compounded in entirety in RSA = R120

(2) Currently, no.

HOA

R5 550-m offer over health problems from asbestos

Argus 5/8/85 (131)

Argus Foreign Service
NEW YORK. — An American asbestos producer has offered to pay R5 550-million to claimants in what is the largest health settlement yet made by a private company.

The company, Manville Corporation, once the largest asbestos producer in the world, has been grappling with the case for 15 years.

In 1982, it declared itself bankrupt to get around 16 500 lawsuits which

were filed against the company for asbestos-related health problems.

If the offer is accepted Manville will set up a fund and shareholders will surrender half the value of their stock. The company will also have to surrender much of its projected earnings over the next 25 years.

Asbestos, widely used in insulating materials, ships, clothing, appliances, and other products, has been the cause of fatal or debilitating lung

cancer. The disease takes up to 20 years to develop and the company had expected 60 000 claims, mainly from shipyard workers.

Manville used the bankruptcy as a tactic to protect the company financially while settlements were worked out, although it was still solvent. However, the plan backfired.

It will not be able to pay off the claims over time as it had hoped. Instead the bankruptcy court requires

that the company make provision for all future cases, based on statistical evidence.

The offer still has to be approved by shareholders, unsecured creditors, co-defendants, current health claimants as well as the bankruptcy court.

The largest fund previously set up by a company for health claims was R360-million for damage caused by an intra-uterine birth control device called the Dalkon shield.

her 2, For Women 8, Finance 9, Letters 10, Racing 12, Sport 13-14, TV programmes on Page 3 of Tonight.

CAPE TIMES

13/8/86

21 die in blast at mine

From COLIN HOWELL
JOHANNESBURG — At least 21 mine workers were killed and 29 injured in a massive methane gas explosion at the Middelbult colliery in Secunda soon after midday yesterday.

Late last night, rescue attempts by special Proto teams were hampered by what a mine spokesman described as "dust so thick, you can't go in looking for people"

In addition, because ventilation structures had been destroyed in the explosion, an accumulation of gas in the blast area had made it inaccessible

Earlier yesterday, the mine put the death toll at seven, with 22 men injured and 10 missing.

While "temporary ventilation structures" were being installed last night to restore the flow of fresh air, the toll rose to 21 while 29 men were taken to hospital

The spokesman could not say if all the mine's staff had been accounted for yet. Rescue operations were continuing last night

The names of the dead will be released once their families have been informed

Colliery blast death toll has risen to 29

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Mineworkers at Middelbult Colliery at Secunda, Eastern Transvaal last night still did not know how many of their fellow miners were dead and how many injured in Monday's methane gas explosion.

A statement from Sasol's management yesterday said a rescue team had discovered the bodies of eight mineworkers bringing to 29 the death toll from the explosion. Twenty-nine people were injured, eight

of whom were still in hospital, the statement said.

One of the workers said that when the methane gas in the mine exploded the mine "erupted".

"The accident took place at midday. By 2pm word had spread that 16 people were dead. The death toll grew to 21 by 1am on Tuesday. We are still not sure about the number of injured."

NOT FOUND

On Monday night about seven people were unaccounted for. By 2pm on Tuesday two more bodies were recovered from the shaft.

Security at the mine was strict and reporters were not allowed on the premises.

In a telex message a Sasol spokesman said the injured miners were in Sasol Two Hospital and Sasol Two Clinic. Three of the seriously injured were in hospitals on the Witwatersrand. Nineteen mineworkers had already been discharged.

Sapa reports that a Sasol spokesman said temporary ventilation structures were being installed to re-establish the flow of fresh air at the colliery in an attempt to gain access to the area of the methane gas explosion.

48165 (131)
**OK for white
asbestos** *B Day*

HARARE — There is no danger in the mining or handling of white asbestos, the only variety of the mineral mined in Zimbabwe, says a visiting authority on occupational health.

Dr Peter Elmes says there has been much controversy recently about chest diseases related to the inhalation of asbestos fibres

He says only the blue and brown varieties are dangerous and can cause lung cancer. — Sapa.

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WORK UNCOMPLETED AND
because of doubts about
security.

The fate of Englishman
Malcolm Blakey and
Irishman John O'Connell is
unknown.

Border faces Water crisis

WATER supplies in most
Border and Eastern Cape
Regions are poor, with
many areas still on the
emergency drought list.

In what is usually the
Border's rainy season,
little rain has fallen and
dam levels are dropping.
The situation in Albany
and Bathurst is described
as critical. Boreholes
have been sunk in the
Grahamstown area. —
Sapa.

Falling plank

injures worker

23/863
Staff Reporter

A WORKER was injured today when he was hit by a falling plank in a second accident this week at the site of the new Wooltru building near the City Hall.

He received emergency treatment from ambulance personnel at the site — on the corner of Corporation and Longmarket streets — and was then taken to Somerset Hospital.

His name is being withheld until his family have been told. Ambulancemen said the man had been working on the ground floor when the plank fell from scaffolding on the third floor.

On Monday Mr Columbus Somdyalo, 45, of Nyanga, was killed when he fell three floors on the site.

131

SA asbestos
is more ¹³¹
dangerous ^{STAR}

Science Reporter ^{26/8/85}

Dr. J Christopher Wagner, the South African scientist who first found the link between asbestos and the deadly cancer of the lung lining, mesothelioma, from studies in the Northern Cape, has warned that blue asbestos from South Africa is more dangerous than many other types of asbestos

Dr Wagner, who emigrated to Wales in the 1960s to head the British Medical Research Council's pneumoconiosis unit, recently won a R200 000 American award for his work in cancer research.

According to General Motors, which instituted the award, Dr Wagner's early investigations into asbestos exposure in South African miners, and later research into hazards of asbestos materials have had a major impact on the prevention of cancer.

It has made him the man behind many of the import bans on asbestos products, and regulations to protect workers from lethal asbestos dust in Europe and America

VDT (31)
by Day
'victims'
29/8/85
in US
cash in
on fear

W
10
312
GHERHARD PIETERSE

ALTHOUGH no definitive data is in yet from the several research studies that are underway to determine whether radiation emitted by video display terminals (VDTs) is harmful to humans, more and more legal actions are being instituted — and won — against employers in the United States.

With a chorus of complaints alleging that everything from skin cancer to deformed babies born to mothers who spend long hours working at VDTs, more and more workers are suing their employers for damages, and substantial sums have been awarded by courts

"The situation right now is completely chaotic," said an occupational therapy official attached to the US government's Occupational Safety Organisation

"There are a few studies that would seem to indicate that constant use of VDTs may cause eye strain, perhaps red eyes and possibly even high levels of stress.

"What is happening now, however, is that workers are blaming a veritable lexicon of maladies on computer monitors and, because there is a lack of definitive data, many judges choose to make awards working on the basis that they would rather err on the side of the worker who may have been hurt by the device"

131

Police probe bus-arson 'feud'

By CHRIS BATEMAN
Crime Reporter

POLICE are investigating the possibility that three recent arson attacks on buses in Langa and Guguletu in which a bus conductor died, are the work of feuding bus company owners.

The attacks, two of which occurred around midnight on Saturday, were aimed at the Transkei-based Elite Bus Services, the Guguletu-based Motale's Bus Service and the Brackenfell-based Blue Line Carriers.

The fatal attack in which conductor Mr Siphwe Vika, 24, of Langa, was burnt to death, came about midnight outside the men's single quarters in Nyanga East.

According to one bus company owner who declined to be named, Mr Vika and a colleague were asleep in the bus when a petrol bomb was hurled. The unidentified colleague escaped but

Mr Vika was overcome by fumes and collapsed. The bus, owned by Elite Bus Services, had been gutted.

Within an hour, a bus parked nearby was gutted as a second petrol bomb was hurled. This bus, belonging to Motale's Bus Service, was badly damaged.

About eight hours earlier in Langa, a bus belonging to Broadway Bus Services was set alight and extensively damaged.

The bus company owner claimed that he knew who was responsible for the attacks and that he had informed the police.



It took firemen nearly two hours to extinguish the blaze at a petro-chemical factory in Spartan yesterday.

Workers flee as chemicals explode in factory fire

By Don Holliday,
East Rand Bureau

STAR

131
8/10/85

cases each containing 28 cans of petro-chemical products

"The fire spread incredibly quickly, reaching the aerosol cans. One of the cans exploded, causing a chain reaction of explosions

"I shouted to everybody to get out quickly and we had to dodge these exploding missiles to get out of the factory," said Mr Fouche.

The factory as well as the adjoining office block were evacuated in less than five minutes. The explosions sent cans flying in all directions, some landing in neighbouring properties about 50 m away.

Five motor cars were also slightly damaged by the heat of the fire

Kempton Park's Fire Department battled for about two hours to get the blaze under control

Mr Fouche said the company should be back in full production in three to five weeks

Five workers at a Kempton Park petro-chemical factory had to run a gauntlet of flying and exploding aerosol cans to get to safety yesterday when a fire broke out at the factory

The fire started shortly before midday at Metropolitan Oils (Pty) Ltd in Plane Road, Spartan, and gutted the factory. One worker was treated for minor burn wounds on his hands

A company spokesman, Mr Tienie Fouche, said it was not possible to give an exact damage figure, but it would "run into millions of rands"

He said five workers had been in the factory mixing a solution of volatile chemicals when the mixture ignited spontaneously. The factory was filled with highly inflammable chemicals, including 3 800

A member of the Kempton Park Fire Department breaks through a factory window

Industry hails govt action

Tough new asbestos laws

13/1/87
B. Day
24/10/87

ALAN RUDDOCK

GOVERNMENT has stepped into the asbestos debate with a set of draft regulations designed to curb asbestos-related diseases.

Controversy has raged for years over the health hazards posed by asbestos. Campaigns to ban it have been waged in SA and overseas while statistics on deaths attributable to the mineral are hotly disputed by producers. Medical research continues but the dangers of overexposure to asbestos fibres are indisputable.

Draft regulations apply only to the industrial use and not the mining of asbestos. They have been warmly welcomed by the industry, which says the controls are tighter than those overseas, except in Britain.

They provide for a maximum exposure limit to asbestos fibres and detail requirements for the handling, disposal and processing of asbestos as well as the education and training of employees.

The draft regulations have been

welcomed by the Fibre Cement Manufacturers' Association, which represents all three SA asbestos manufacturers.

Chairman MC Pretorius said his members "have been operating under similar self-imposed controls for many years and the monitoring procedures suggested by the regulations will give our efforts added credibility".

The regulations allow for a maximum exposure limit of one asbestos fibre per millilitre of air (1f/ml). No differentiation has been made between the various types of asbestos. Experts disagree whether differentiation is necessary, but the bulk of opinion suggests white asbestos (chrysotile) is less dangerous than brown (amosite) and blue (crocidolite).

The EEC has announced new regulations effective from January 1987 of 0,5f/ml for blue asbestos and 1f/ml for all others. Britain's limits are 0,2f/ml on brown and blue and 0,5f/ml on white.

131
Labourer
dies after
falling
on rotavator
Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

A FARM labourer died yesterday after falling on to the blades of a rotavator on a farm in the Seven Oaks district near Greytown. 25/10/85

The accident happened on the farm Heidelberg at about 7 45 a m

Police said Mr Vusi Dlamini, 25, tried to jump on to the back of the moving tractor in a field but lost his grip and fell on to the rotavator blades

The tractor driver did not immediately realise there had been an accident and continued along the length of the field. When he returned he saw Mr Dlamini lying hurt.

At that stage Mr Dlamini was still alive. He was taken to hospital but died on the way.

Unions begin to question adverse effect of shift work

With the shortage of employment during the current economic crisis, few workers can turn down a job because of their dislike of working shifts

However, many shift workers and trade unions are beginning to question the adverse effect working which such hours have on their physical and psychological well-being.

This is the subject of a study recently completed by the Health and Information Centre in Johannesburg, an independent voluntary organisation serving the needs of trade unions and community groups on health-related issues

The study was completed in conjunction with the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union, both of which have expressed dissatisfaction with their shifts.

The major complaints reported by shift workers include sleep disturbances, nervous problems and digestive disturbances. There are also increased incidents of neurotic complaints among shift workers as well as social problems related to the disruption of family and social life

Exact figures on the extent of shift work in South Africa are not available

Those industries affected by shift work include hospitals, food products, primary metal industries, printing and publishing, postal, paper and allied products, wood products and tobacco.

Manufacturing industries requiring continuous production have the highest proportion of shift workers

In its study HIC reports that the quality and quantity of sleep is decreased among shift workers and sleep disturbances are the most common side-effect of shift work

Decreased sleep contributes to increased fatigue and higher incidences of neurotic behaviour. If the worker is tired he or she is more prone to sickness, irritability, depression and headaches. Boring jobs can aggravate such ailments.

ABSENTEEISM

Absenteeism appears to be greater among shift workers

Digestive disorders among shift workers are also common.

Much of the research into the psychological impact of shift work has focused on the Circadian rhythms — the body rhythms that vary in regular cycles over a 24-hour period, affecting heart rate, body temperature, and the secretion of hormones

With shift work, these rhythms attempt to adjust to some sort of routine, but different systems may become desynchronised because of the irregular hours, resulting in many of the physical ailments experienced by shift workers

An additional problem reported to unions since the declaration of the state of emergency and the implementation of curfews is that of shift workers being harassed by the police and SADF when they return to the townships after completing shifts

Shift workers are less able to take part in child raising, and other family members may feel limited in their activities because of the presence of a sleeping worker during the day

Sexual problems have also been reported by shift workers, who complain that fatigue affects their sex drive and ultimately leads to tension and frustrations in their relationships

● More frequent rest periods may be necessary at night to decrease the likelihood of accidents and fatigue

● Medical services should operate at the same level as during the day and transport should be available to get injured workers to hospital

How to minimise the adverse effects

These are some of the recommendations put forward by HIC and the unions concerned to minimise the physical and psychological effects of shift work

● The health of shift workers should be monitored. Workers should have medical check-ups when first placed on a shift system and at regular intervals afterwards

● Workers should have some say in the organisation of their shifts

● Shift workers and people working unsociable hours should be paid more than day workers

● The length of shifts should be related to the type of work. At least 24 hours of free time should be arranged after each night shift to prevent excessive fatigue. Single night shifts are better than consecutive ones as they do not affect body rhythms excessively

REGULAR

● In a continuous shift system certain factors should be considered. It is better to have a regular system of rotation than an irregular one. Short cycles and regular systems make it easier for the worker to plan his social life. As many free weekends as possible should be arranged, as this is the biggest section of time available for shift workers to be with their families

● People on shift work should be exposed to no additional health hazards such as increased concentrations of chemicals or noise

● Canteen and resting facilities should be available

● Transport facilities to get workers to and from work should be provided by the company

● The starting and finishing times of shifts should take the availability of transport and eating facilities into account

Wall collapses in city, man killed

ARW 28/6/85 (131)
Staff Reporters

A MAN was killed and two others injured when a wall collapsed today on the old Waldorf site in the city centre where buildings are being demolished.

The three men were working on a portion of wall facing Hout Street when a section broke loose and fell on them.

Demolition is under way on the site bounded by Hout, Burg, Georges and Shortmarket streets.

The operator of a mechanical scoop nearby jumped from his cab and ran to free the man who was killed when the rubble

Covered with mud

A large crowd stood in pouring rain as building workers and emergency service personnel remove the body.

The injured, Mr S Mayongi and Mr K Atoli, who had a head injury, received emergency treatment before being taken to Woodstock Hospital.

A shocked Mr Mayongi — who was covered with mud and gravel and had a fractured arm and other injuries — said he was working on the first floor near the other two men when a section of the wall on the upper floor collapsed.

Shopping arcades

The operator who helped see the dead man said "I do not know what happened I am still trying to find out."

"I do not want to say anything more."

● Demolition is under way to clear most of the old Waldorf site to make way for a R20-million 13-storey building due for completion in early 1987.

The new building, being developed by the Natal Building Society, will include shopping arcades and offices.

Right: One of the injured building workers, Mr S Mayongi, receives treatment from emergency service nursing sisters today before being taken to hospital.



Pictures JIM McLAGAN, The Argus

Firemen and Metro workers carry a worker's body from the Hout Street-Burg Street demolition site after a wall collapsed today.



Officer's or in 'ball of fi

Business Report, pages 10, 11

- Premier Group sees difficult year ahead
- NBS assets rise — profits up 11%
- Protea and Phoenix merger approved

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Own Correspondent

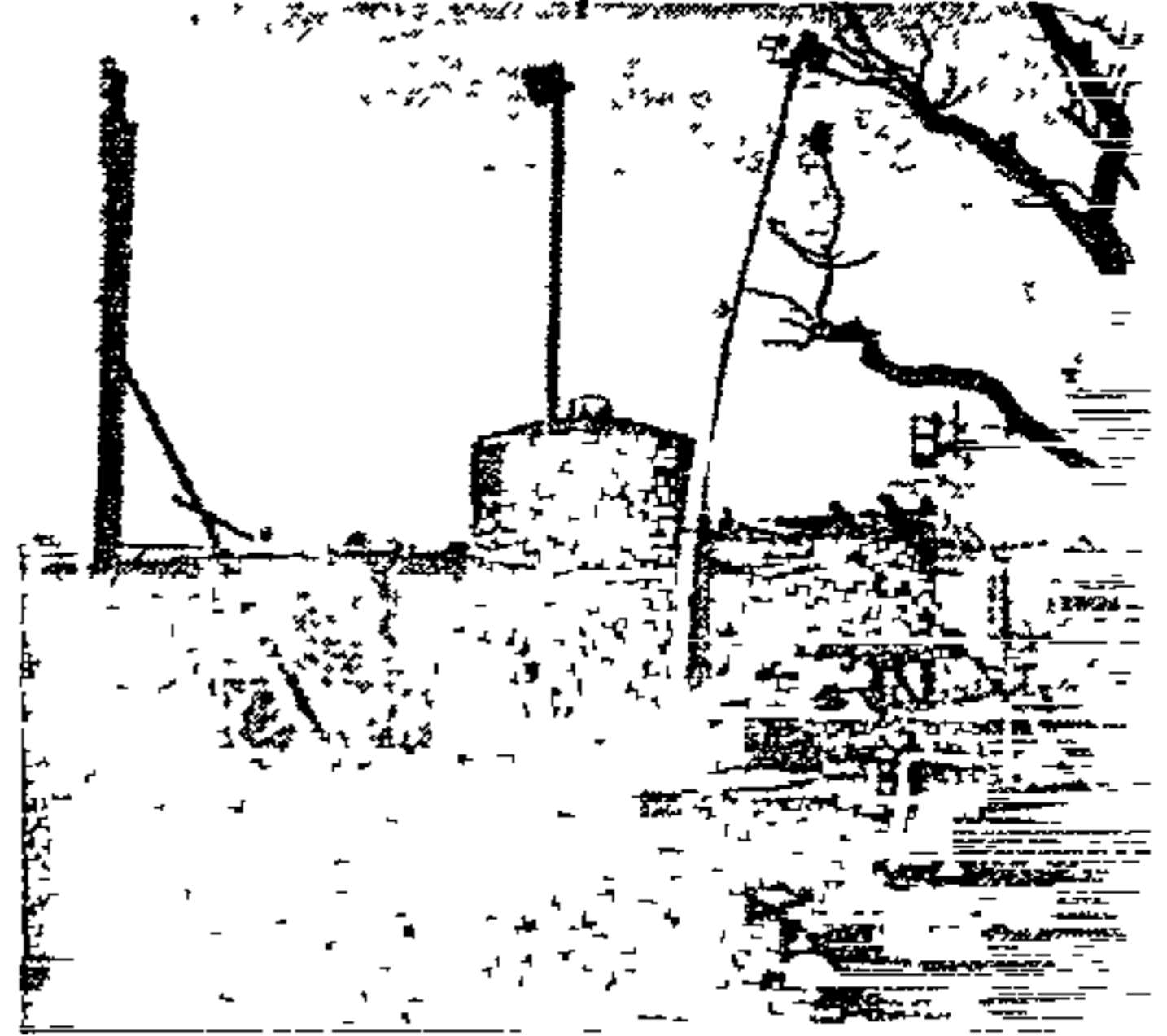
PRETORIA — An Air Force fire officer said yesterday that "a huge ball of burning petrol" shot out of the top of a burning tank at Sasol's Pretoria West petrol depot and landed on an SAAF fire tender, killing three of his men.

Commandant Victor Jacka later mistook one of the incinerated bodies for his son Christopher who survived the flash inferno which destroyed the R1-million Pathfinder fire tender

Three hours earlier — about 2am — a force of about 100 Pretoria firemen in 20 tenders and at least 40 ambulances raced to the petrol depot after a blaze broke out in a storage tank. SAAF units were called in to assist after a 5 000-litre supply of foam was drained

Three workers were seriously injured and 11 firemen were later treated for burns. Damage in the blaze, which also ravaged a one-storey brick office building and destroyed trees and telephone poles on a public road 100 metres away, is estimated at millions of rands

Police said initial investigations "revealed



A charred tree and bent telegraph pole mark the scene of the fire at the Sasol Pretoria West yesterday.

that the tank overflowed as a result of an industrial accident and it would appear as if a small fire on an adjacent property caused the gases from the escaping petrol to ignite"

The possibility of sabotage had been "completely ruled out"

The dead SAAF firemen are Sergeant W J "Shorty" Hawkins, 30 of Air Force Base Waterkloof, Corporal Donald Clench 22, of Air Force Base Swartkops, and Airman M S Knoetze 23 who was serving a two-month "camp" at Waterkloof

Only two members of

their team survived the fireball. Corporal 22, who received 100 per cent burns at a national service camp, and Airman C P van der Merwe 20 of Springs were seriously burned

Both are reported to be in a satisfactory condition at Pretoria's General Hospital

Commandant Jacka, who was in charge of the SAAF fire-fight at the depot, said he briefed his men at the depot before it was enveloped in flames. "They were ordered to use water to cool the

131

CAPE TIMES 22/5/85

Fire officer's ordeal 'ball of fire'

~~22/15/85~~ CAPT TIM'S 22/15/85

rt, pages 10, 11
difficult year ahead
profits up 11%
merger approved

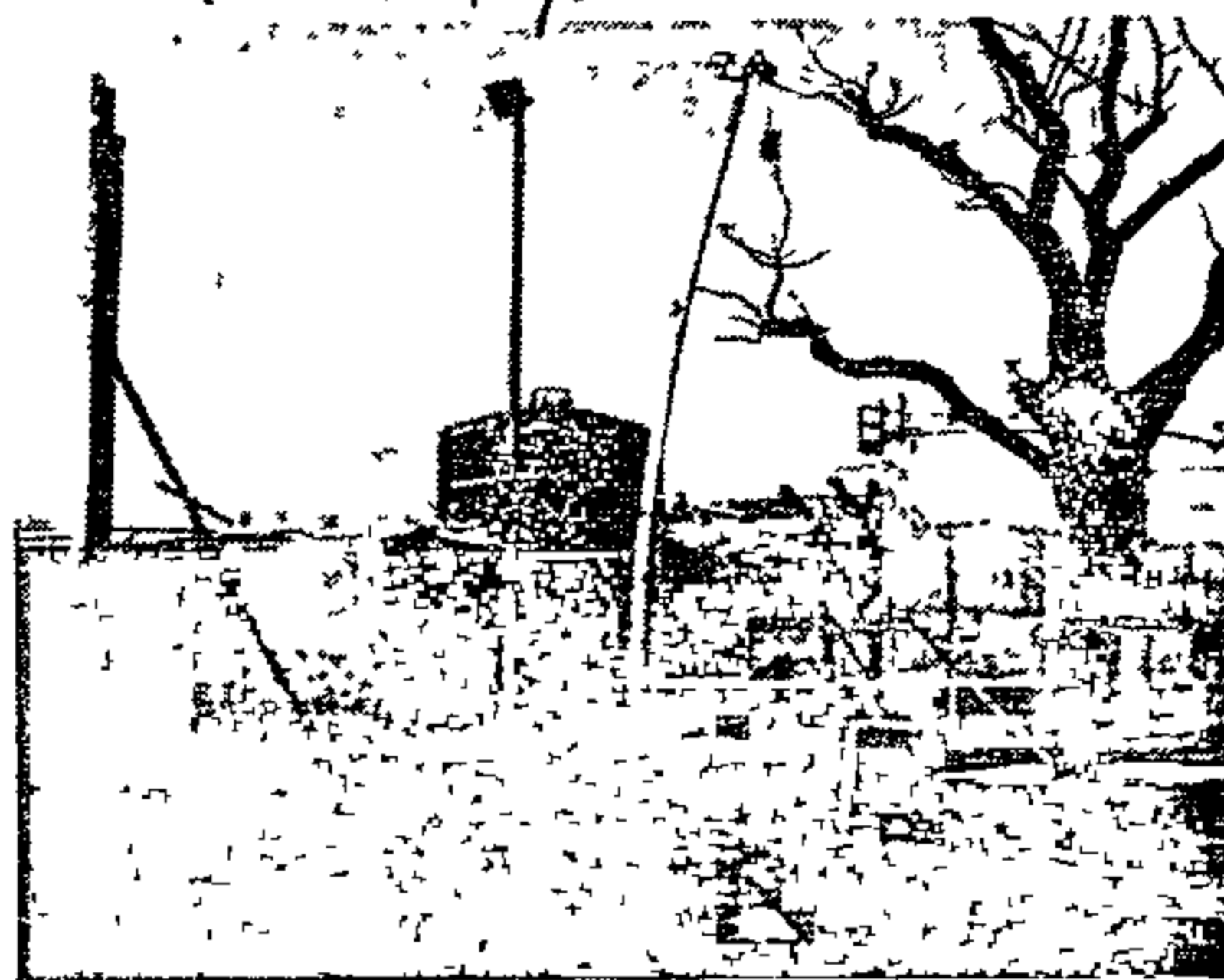
Own Correspondent
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Police said initial investigations "revealed



A charred tree and bent telegraph pole at the scene of the fire at the Sasol plant in Pretoria West yesterday

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The possibility of sabotage had been "completely ruled out"

The dead SAAF firemen are Sergeant W J "Shorty" Hawkins, 30 of Air Force Base Waterkloof, Corporal Donald Clench 22, of Air Force Base Swartkops, and Airman M S Knoetze, 23, who was serving a two-month "camp" at Waterkloof

Only two members of

their team survived the fireball Corporal Jacka, 22 who received 18 per cent burns and a national serviceman, Airman C P van den Heever, 20, of Springs who was seriously burnt

Both are reported to be in a satisfactory condition at Pretoria's 1 Military Hospital

Commandant Jacka, who was in charge of the SAAF fire-fighting units at the depot, said he had briefed his men at the ill-fated fire tender "seconds" before it was enveloped in flames

"They were applying water to cool the shell of

the tank," Commandant Jacka said "We didn't know that the tank was overfilled, that there was no expansion space

"I was with another team of firemen about 100 metres away when petrol blew out of the top in a huge ball of flame. There was an incredible heat blast. I turned my back but it was too hot and I had to flee with the other firemen

"The ball of fire came right down on the fire tender and we couldn't help the men. The whole place was under fire"

Commandant Jacka found three bodies near the burnt-out tender after the fire had been brought under control

Relief

"I believed one of them was my son's — but I could only judge from the shape and size of the remains. Later, I heard that two of my men had been removed to hospital. I found out that Christopher was one of them — it was an incredible relief"

The managing director of Sasol's marketing division, Mr G G Botha, said the storage tank fire spread when petrol flowed from the burst sides of the tank, which has a capacity of one million litres

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LOW
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when you
need it most

DIANA

Watchman's fire may have caused big blaze

Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA — The killer blast which claimed three lives and left at least 16 people injured was apparently ignited by a nightwatchman's brazier on adjacent premises

The nightwatchman, Mr David Mketi of Denilton, received 50 per cent burns and is in a

serious condition in Kalafong Hospital

It is understood that petrol was pumped from one storage tank to another, causing an overflow. The spilled petrol apparently came in contact with Mr Mketi's brazier

Detectives, the Pretoria Fire Department and Sasol officials were today probing the se-

quence of the disaster, including the nightwatchman's fire and exactly how petrol leaked from the 200 000l storage tank

According to a Sasol statement, damage at the depot was estimated at R1,5-million. This figure does not include the burnt petrol, damaged powerlines and cars

A R1-million Path-

finder fire-tender belonging to the Air Force fire-fighting team was destroyed. A tipper lorry from the Pretoria Fire Brigade that was ferrying foam to the site was badly damaged

Two Air Force firemen, Corporal Christo Jacka, 22, of Wierda Park and Airman C P van den Heever, 20, of Springs were today in a

satisfactory condition at 1 Military Hospital

Corporal Jacka was on the destroyed Pathfinder manning the foam nozzle when the tank erupted into a fireball

Initial reports said he died in the blast. His father, Commandant Victor Jacka, identified his son's body minutes after the explosion. Hours later it was learnt that he was still alive and in hospital with burns to his face, hands and legs

Those killed have been identified as Sergeant Wynand Hawkins, 30, of Waterkloof Air Base, Corporal Donald Clench, 22, of Berea Park and Airman M S Knoetze, 23, of Westering, Port Elizabeth

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HORROR

ONE of the victims in the fire that extensively damaged a Sasol fuel storage depot and left three people dead in Pretoria West yesterday described how he escaped being roasted to death.

Mr Ishmael Lephuting of Thokoza, Alberton, who is a security guard at the Sasol depot in Industria Road, told The SOWETAN from Kalafong Hospital that he was sleeping in a room inside the premises together with his colleague from Thokoza, Mr Paulos Ketsise, also a security

By
MONK
NIKOMO

guard They heard "a loud and deafening explosion" at about 4 30am

"We both woke up and rushed for the door and ran outside We were confused and the whole place was a ball of fire We were both caught in the blaze but we managed to run outside the premises where I collapsed I only woke up here at the hospital at about 6am," Mr Lephuting said

Injuries

Talking from a wheelchair at the hospital, Mr Lephuting sustained injuries to the neck, head

FIRE

Sowetan 22/5/85
and right hand Mr Ketsise also sustained injuries to the head, his colleague said "We are lucky to have survived," added Mr Lephuting who told The SOWETAN that he had been working for the company for the past three years

A spokesman for the police in Pretoria yesterday said three people, believed to be members of a South African Air Force fire-fighting team, were burnt beyond recognition during the battle to bring the blaze

under control

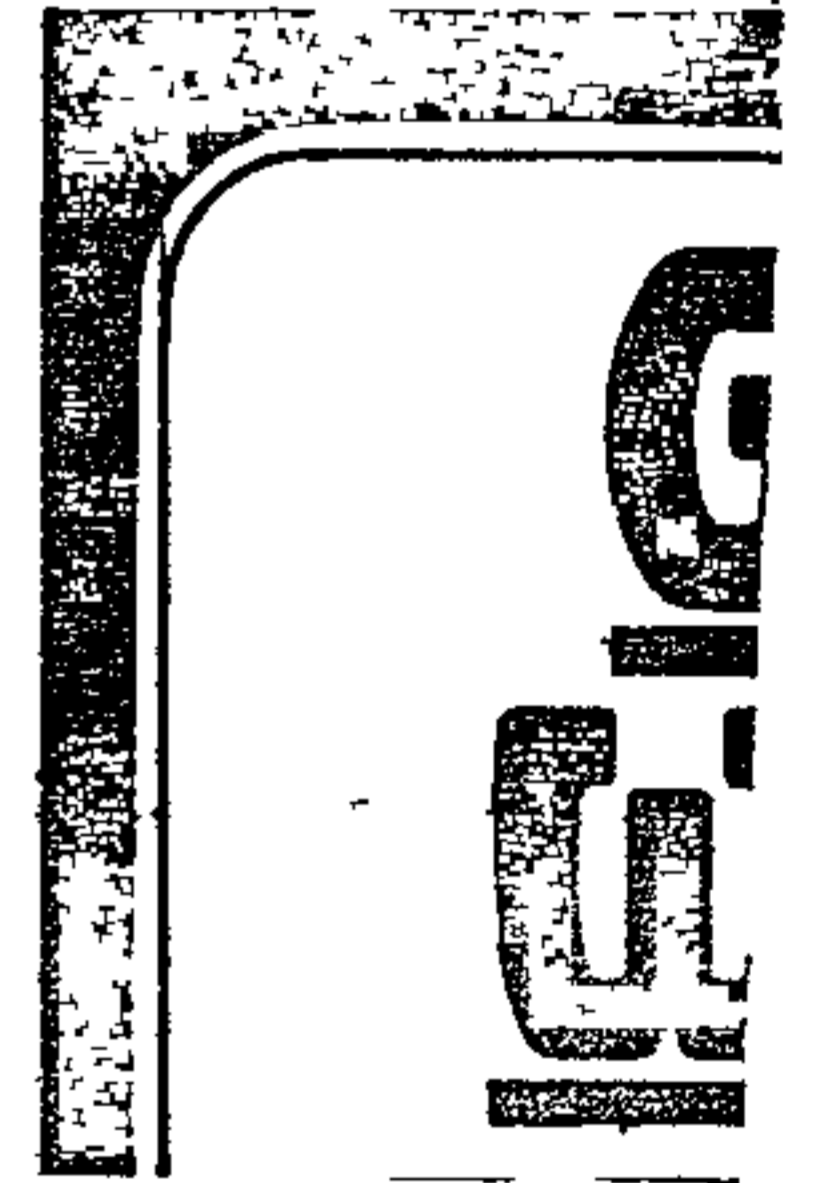
Lieutenant J Jefferson of the police directorate in Pretoria said the charred remains of the dead men were found on the scene and seven men, including four whites, were rushed to the Pretoria West and Kalafong hospitals after sustaining injuries

When The SOWETAN arrived the area was cordoned off by police and traffic officers -A tipper truck was destroyed, the depots steels structures had col-

lapsed, three petrol tanks damaged and nearby powerlines were melted by the fire A number of vehicles were also damaged

131

Sowetan



Sasol blast : Police open inquiry

ARGUS

23/5/85

(131)

Argus Correspondent

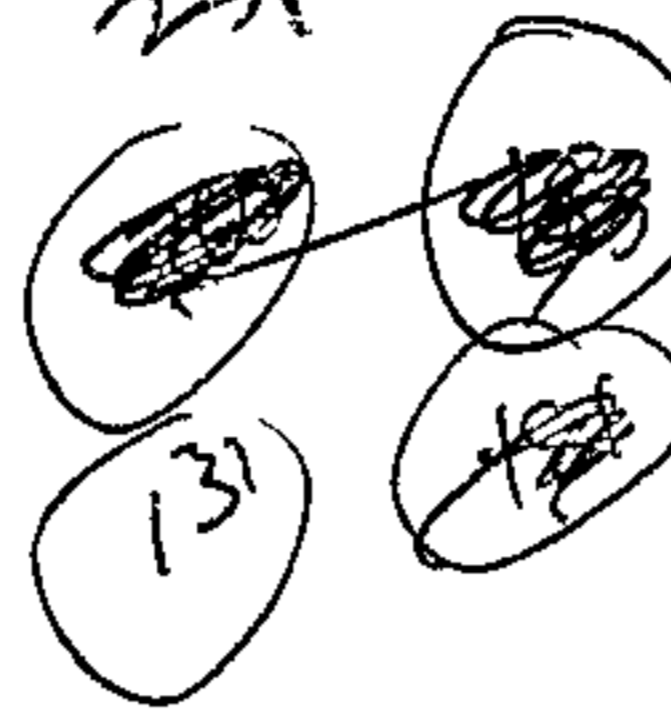
PRETORIA. — Police here are investigating a case of culpable homicide following the blast at Sasol's Pretoria West fuel depot which claimed the lives of three Air Force firemen.

The CID chief for the Northern Transvaal said police were investigating the possibility of negligence.

The three men, Sergeant Wynand Hawkins, Corporal Donald Clench and Fireman M S Knoetze, burnt to death when a fuel tank exploded. At least three men were seriously injured. A security guard, Mr David Mketi, is still in a serious condition.

Two SAAF fire-fighters, Corporal Christo Jacka and Airman C P van den Heever, are satisfactory.

Sowela
23/5/87



Sasol victims discharged

TWO of the victims who sustained injuries when a Sasol fuel storage depot in Pretoria West was gutted by fire leaving three people dead, have been discharged from the Kalafong Hospital.

Mr Ismael Lephuting and Mr Paulos Ketsise, both from Thokoza in Alberton and security guards at the depot were treated and discharged late on Tuesday afternoon, a spokesman for the Kalafong Hospital near Atteridgeville said yesterday. Both men suffered 10 percent burns in the head, neck and hands, the spokesman said

Another victim, Mr David Nkete from Denilton who sustained 50 percent burns, is still in a critical condition in the hospital's intensive care

Lt H J Beck of the Police Public Relations Directorate in Pretoria ruled out sabotage and said the fire was started by fuel overflowing from the petrol tank and ignited by fire from the adjacent property

Damage caused by the raging fire has been estimated at R1,5-million Petrol deliveries however had not been affected by the fire, a spokesman for Sasol said

Asbestos pupils get a new school

CHILDREN using a hostel next to the disused Kromellenboog asbestos mine in Lebowa were last week moved to a new school sponsored by Gefco.

Gefco is one of South Africa's largest asbestos producers and owner of the property.

The children's proximity to potentially deadly material created international news last year and renewed the debate about the effects of asbestos on health.

The Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), which also owns the nearby Penge mine, gave R80 000 towards the new school, built by pupils' parents and mine workers over the last four months.

It was opened on Wednesday and will cater for 600 pupils — most of whom were at school 5km from the old controversial site.

Asbestos dust has been identified as a cause of asbestosis, a crippling illness which harms the lungs, and bronchial cancer and mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura and peritoneum), diseases which can prove fatal.

Consequently, controversy arose around the discovery by a reporter last year of some young black school children playing on asbestos dumps abandoned by mining companies in that region. Local people were also said to be using abandoned dumps to build asbestos cement houses.

Gefco, MD Pat Hart said last week that Gefco had bought the Penge mine in 1981 and with it a scattering of abandoned

workings. This included the old Kromellenboog mine, where the previous owners had allowed the school to use the abandoned hostels.

Hart conceded during an interview that media pressure last year had hastened plans to move the school, but argued that Gefco had already ensured the adequacy of dust control measures taken at Kromellenboog.

He said the major reason for the move was that bulldozers would be used during securing operations in the area, so Gefco had decided to help Lebowa authorities in providing a facility off the mine because it was "obviously undesirable for a school to be housed there".

Children living in a hostel next to a disused asbestos mine in Lebowa were moved to a new school last week. CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE reports.

He said Gefco had embarked on an extensive clean-up programme at the Penge mine, mill and village, after acquiring the properties and had been covering all old dumps with sand and vegetation.

"The other precaution was to fence the dumps off. We established a priority list of most hazardous dumps — those closest to concentrations of

people — which we covered first and now all our dumps are fenced or on mine property which is effectively fenced"

He agreed there were other abandoned dumps and old mines in the Northern Transvaal area — not Gefco's responsibility — which still presented a hazard to people because securing measures had not been taken.

"The Lebowa government lacks funds and old owners cannot be traced, but most of these abandoned workings were smaller pick-and-shovel operations"

Hart said that because Gefco was in the area, it had offered to assist relevant government departments if they took responsibility for securing these areas.

The Technical Advice Group — professionals concerned with industrial health — have estimated 200 000 people are exposed to the asbestos hazard in the north-eastern Transvaal alone due to the nature of their jobs and the prevalence of unprotected workings.

However, some people like Hart believe the problem has been grossly overstated because safety measures have improved enormously at mines and most abandoned dumps are sited in remote areas.

They argue that workers are safe as long as they obey safety measures. Because the effects of asbestos-related

diseases might only emerge 20 or 30 years after sustained contact, victims today are usually the result of infection in the past when asbestos hazards were not well known.

Government mining engineers check dust counts in the mines on an almost monthly basis to ensure managers are keeping levels well below the limit — 2 fibres per ml in working areas and 0,02 fibres per ml in residential areas.

The Penge milling area's most recent dust count was 1,2 fibres per ml, (below the limit) but Hart confirmed the mine had been found to exceed the limit in certain designated mask areas last year. They had been compelled to reduce dust levels immediately.

Worker compensation for occupationally-related diseases or accidents is a controversial issue throughout the mining industry and white workers receive a final settlement of R26 000, coloureds R24 000 and blacks just over R2 000.

He said his company favoured the current Niewenhuizen Commission proposals that greater parity be introduced in the compensation of the various races.

But asked why Gefco had not raised them anyway, Hart said this was because the problem had to be solved by the industry as a whole as all the mines paid into a central compensatory pool, and payouts were allocated by government's Medical Bureau of Occupational Diseases.

In 1983 Penge mine paid out 140 worker compensation allowances, 70 in 1984 and about five to date this year, half of which were possibly asbestos-related, Hart said.

Once workers are paid

out they are precluded from making further claims from employers, but Hart adds that SA is the only country where the benefit of the doubt is given in diagnosis, and some were capable of resuming other jobs.

There is also no black miners' pension scheme at Penge and Hart charged that although management had considered implementing one, workers throughout the mining industry had not proved keen.

Experts who believe the prevalence of asbes-

tos-related diseases is vastly exaggerated are quoted in a newsletter published by Gefco and Msauli companies.

But conflicting schools of thought prevail and asbestos remains an emotive issue in many countries — particularly the US — where total costs of claims against asbestos producers are set to top \$12bn.

In Sweden asbestos mining is banned and Luther Jooste, chairman of Gefco, said this week that Gefco's financial performance last year had been affected by the campaign against asbestos by many overseas countries, the recession and last year's strike at Penge.

The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU), which has an access agreement at Penge mine, is pursuing a campaign for the banning of the asbestos industry in SA.

The union intends holding an international conference on asbestos in Johannesburg at the end of the month.

Asbestos

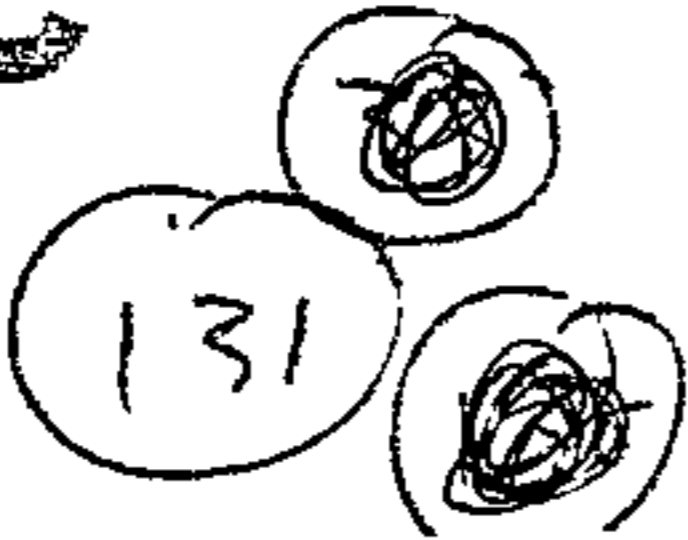
could claim

Sowetan

3/6/85

more

lives



By JOSHUA
RABOROKO

THOUSANDS of people in urban and rural areas in South Africa may die in future after contracting asbestos fibres, unless dramatic measures are taken to save them.

The president of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu), Mr Letsatsi Mosala, told delegates at a meeting in Soweto at the weekend that they have resolved to intensify their anti-asbestos campaign at schools and among community organisations in these areas.

The two-day conference at the Diocesan Centre, attended by delegates from all parts of the country, also heard messages of support from Britain, New Zealand, Australia, United States, West Germany, Canada and from local trade union movements.

In a dramatic message from the United States, Dr Barry Castleman, said he was unable to attend the conference because the South African government refused him a visa. However, he pledged solidarity with delegates.

In his address, Mr Mosala said mine managements have neglected the "killer disease" for over 30 years and more people were likely to die in the northern Transvaal and Cape Province.

He said blacks who contracted the asbestos diseases were often given "poor remuneration" while their white counterparts earned more.

"White people receive R24 000 and an additional R400 monthly payment for life as compared to only R1 700 for blacks who are often dismissed after contracting the disease.

"Our union is going to fight that our members get the same as whites. The lives of our people are exposed to this danger everyday. We are going to intensify the campaign until mine

managements do something about the asbestos in the country," he said.

The following resolutions were also taken:

- A committee was elected to mobilise the campaign.

- Students should be urged to spread the campaign.

- So-called "homeland" chiefs should be contacted and meetings held with other leaders to conscientise them about the disease.

- Trade unions should be consulted to alert their members.

Meanwhile Bamcwu's publicity secretary, Mr Motsomi Mkhine, left yesterday to attend the anti-asbestos conference called by the International Labour Organisation in Brussels, while the union's Mr Mbulelo Rakwena (vice-president) returned from overseas at the weekend.

accompanied a television film crew of the South African Broadcasting Company to Mathopestad in May 1985, if so, (a) when, (b) what is the (i) name and (ii) rank of this official and (c) what was the purpose of their visit to Mathopestad,

- (4) whether (a) he, (b) this official and/or (c) any member of his Department or any Development Board obtained permission from the leaders of the residents of Mathopestad for this visit, if not, why not, if so, (i) when, (ii) what is name of the leader who gave this official the necessary permission and (iii) what was the nature of the request made to these leaders,

- (5) whether the official concerned (a) gave any instructions and/or (b) made any suggestions to the film crew regarding whom they should interview, if so, (i) why, (ii) what was the nature of the instructions or suggestions and (iii) what are the names of the persons who were recommended or suggested for interviews,

- (6) whether any of these persons have agreed to move to the resettlement site near Onderstepoort, if so, how many of these persons (a) have and (b) have not agreed to move,

- (7) whether he or the previous Minister of Co-operation and Development was informed of the establishment of a liaison committee by the residents of Mathopestad, if so, when,

- (8) whether he or any member of his Department has met with this committee, if so, (a) on what dates, (b) where, (c) what matters were discussed and (d) what was the outcome in each case, if not, why not,
- (9) whether he intends meeting with this committee, if not, why not, if so, when,

- (10) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

HOA

†THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS

- (1) and (2) During discussions with a deputation of Mathopestad on 21 May 1983 it was agreed that visits to Mathopestad will be arranged by Government officials. This arrangement has not been cancelled

- (3) and (4) Yes. In view of the many press reports about Mathopestad a television filming unit visited the area in April 1985 in order to inform the public about the factual situation. The team was accompanied by Mr W J Pretorius, Commissioner at Rustenburg in whose area Mathopestad is situated, and Mr T A du Preez, an Administrative officer

- (5) and (6) No suggestions were made to the film crew nor were they given any instructions. The crew did however conduct brief general discussions with individuals in Mathopestad

- (7) to (9) I am not aware of the existence of an official liaison committee. The community did indeed establish a Planning Committee. The intention is that discussions will be held with the Planning Committee

- (10) No *Handwritten: None on d*
Police stations; protection/security
8. Col. 1664 4/6/85
Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order.

- (1) Whether the protection of and security at police stations in the Republic have been upgraded, if so,

- (2) (a) what total amount was spent in this regard in the 1984-85 financial year or in the latest specified year for which figures are available and (b) in respect of how many police stations was this amount spent?

†THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes

- (2) (a) 1984-1985—R4 372 047

(b) 108

Handwritten: Defoliants/herbicides 1311 Handwritten
†THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Defence

Handwritten: 4/6/85 Q. 61/1665

- (1) Whether the South African Defence Force or any agency or person connected with the South African Defence Force has made use of defoliants or herbicides to eliminate vegetation in any areas in (a) South West Africa, (b) the operational area and/or (c) Angola, if so, (i) where, (ii) on what dates, (iii) why, (iv) on whose authority in each case and (v)(aa) what was the chemical content of the defoliant or herbicide used and (bb) from whom was it obtained, if not,

- (2) whether it was at any time the intention of the South African Defence Force to make use of any defoliants or herbicides in any of these areas, if so, (a) when, (b) where, (c) why, (d) what were the circumstances surrounding these plans and (e) why was it decided not to carry out these plans,

- (3) whether any tests have been carried out to determine the effects of such herbicides or defoliants on (a) people, (b) animals and (c) vegetation, if not, why not, if so, (i) when, (ii) by whom and (iii) what were the findings,

- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes, a herbicide was used as part of defensive measures

(c) No

- (a) and (b) (i) On the cutlines and the so called Yati strip

- (ii) In 1981, 1983 and 1985

- (iii) To facilitate the location of enemy crossings of the strips they have to be free of vegetation. The most cost effective method to eradicate vegetation is by means of the use of herbicides

- (iv) The General Officer Commanding SWA Territory force with the approval of the Territorial Security Council

- (v) (aa) and (bb) It is not in the public interest to divulge this information. I am, however, willing to supply it to the hon Leader of the Official Opposition on a confidential basis

- (2) Falls away

- (3) No. Because the herbicide is a commercially available product which has been tested world wide by the manufacturers and found to be harmless to humans and animals if it is applied according to the directions. It has been applied according to the directions at all times

- (4) No

Mr D J N MALCOMESS Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is he aware of the problems that have arisen in the USA as a result of the use of defoliants in Vietnam? May I ask him if he has studied those reports to ensure that our troops who apply these defoliants or work with them are properly protected in their own interests?

†THE MINISTER Mr Speaker, the reply to the question is "yes". We have studied the reports concerned

HOA

TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 1985

1664

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251? Home on d
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 Q. 1664 4/10/85
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The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes

TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 1985

1666

- (2) (a) 1984-1985—R4 372 047

(b) 108

Defoliant/herbicides
1312 Heuser of
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4/6/85 Q. 1665

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The MINISTER Mr Speaker, the reply to the question is "yes". We have studied the reports concerned.

Mr Speaker

AR665 28/6/85
City printing
workers 131
badly burnt

Staff Reporter

TWO employees were severely burnt today by an electrical short-circuit flash in a machine room of the printing plant of the Cape Times at Paarden Eiland

The workers, who were not named, were taken by ambulance to Woodstock Hospital

"EXPLOSION"

Their injuries were described as serious by ambulance personnel who said an "electrical explosion" had apparently occurred.

Mr Les Williams, manager of the Cape Times, said the injured men were "badly burnt when a short occurred across the main power distribution board in the machine room".

4 killed, 14 hurt as blast hurls 200m 'curtain of fire' over Sasol depo

ARGUS 21/5/85

131

Petrol fireball

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — Four firemen from the South African Air Force were burnt to death and 14 firefighters injured when a Sasol petrol storage tank in Pretoria West exploded in flames early today

The blast erupted into a fireball which destroyed everything in its path causing million of rands damage

Investigations at the scene disclosed that the tank overflowed as a result of an industrial accident. It seems that a small fire on an adjacent property caused the gases from the escaping petrol to ignite

Pretoria fire chief Mr Willem du Plessis paid tribute to his men, who narrowly escaped death when a 200 000-litre petrol storage tank burst into flame, throwing a fire curtain into the air and killing three men

A fourth man ran from the scene in flames. Firemen grabbed him and rolled him in water. He was placed in an ambulance but died on the way to hospital

Atom bomb

Mr du Plessis compared the explosion to an atom bomb

"A mushroom-like cloud rose and the blast made a fire curtain covering an area of 200 metres by 55 and scorching everything in its path," he said

When the fire brigade arrived at the storage depot in Industria Road, Pretoria West at 2am, the roof of the storage tank on the south-eastern side of the depot, was burning

SADF firefighting units were called about 4am. The fire aged for at least three hours before the tank exploded

Mr du Plessis said the concerns among officers was that the area was safe. The tank had been solidly welded and the firefighters were keeping it cool

"As the petrol tank exploded I thought all my men had been killed, but they managed to clear the area and save lives and valuable equipment. Everybody who got out alive was given a second chance this morning," he said.

Melted

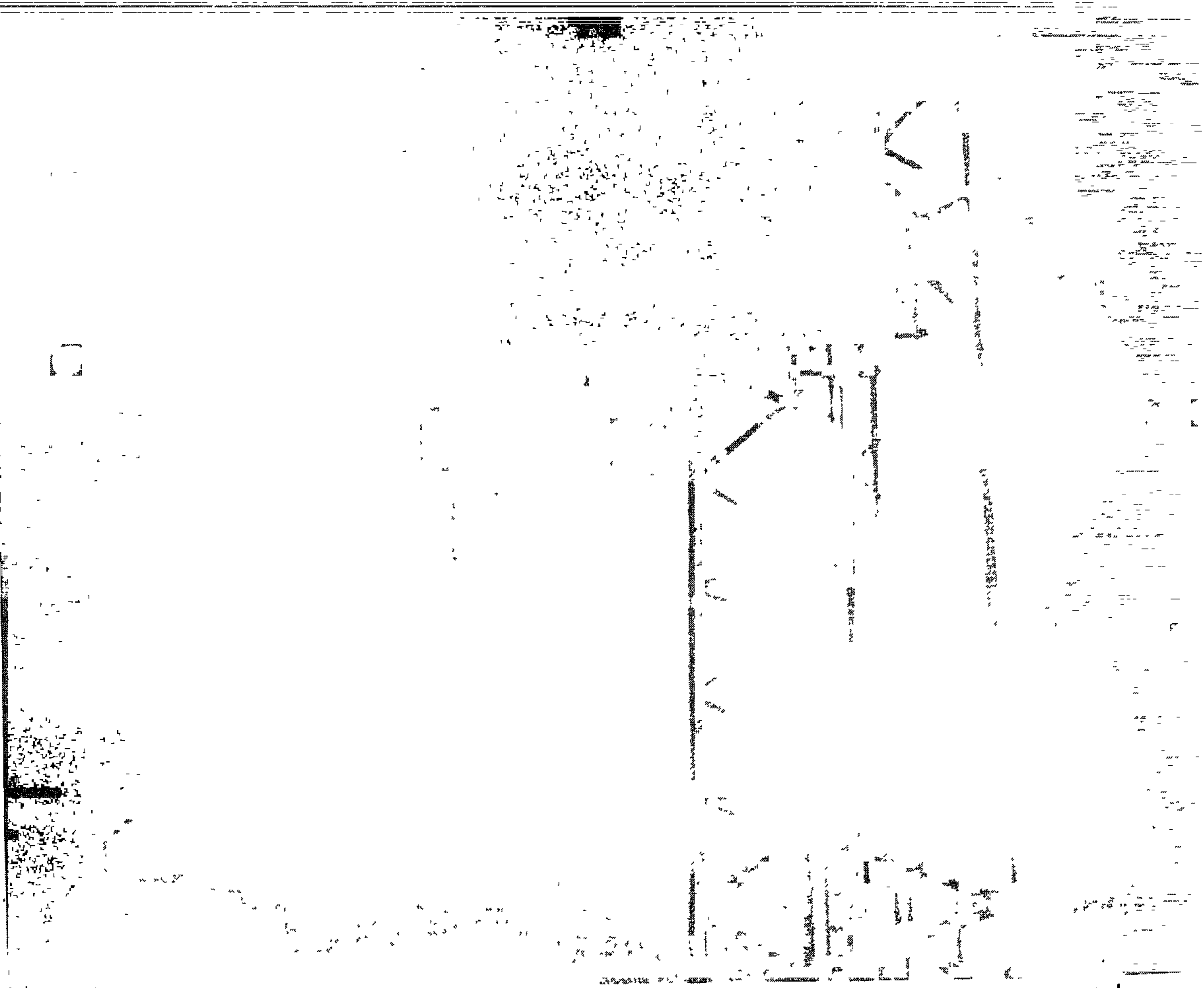
Mr du Plessis expressed his deep sympathy with the families of the men who died

A sophisticated R1-million fire tender, known as a Pathfinder, was destroyed in the blaze. An office and cars parked across the road from the depot melted in the fireball

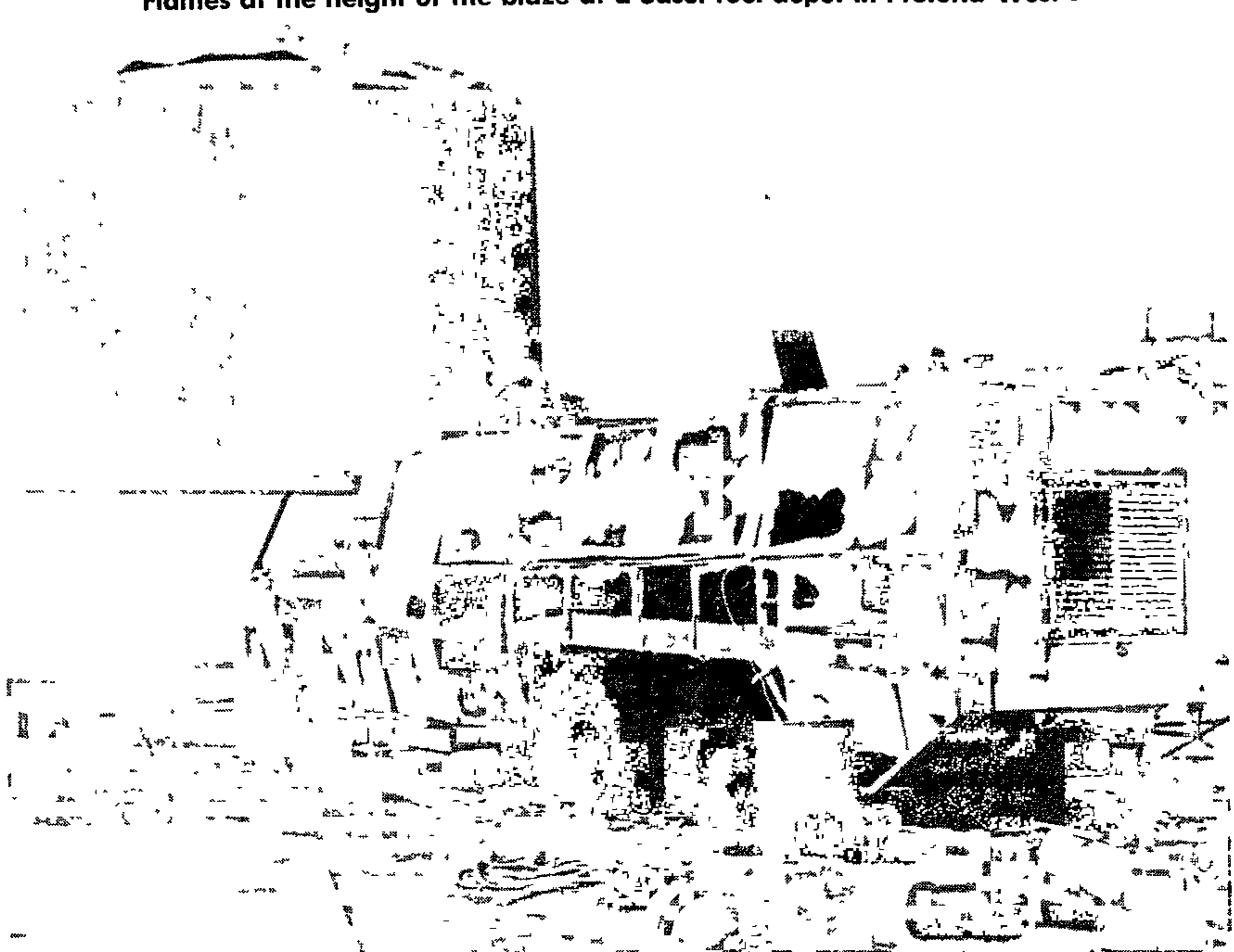
Powerlines collapsed and aorry ferrying foam to fight the blaze was destroyed. Another was damaged

Quick action by members of the Pretoria Fire Brigade saved other equipment

Mr du Plessis described how one man hacked at hoses with an axe and then drove Pretoria's new R200 000 fire engine to safety



Flames at the height of the blaze at a Sasol fuel depot in Pretoria West's industrial area shortly after 5am today.



The Pathfinder fire tender destroyed by a fireball at the Sasol depot today.

ARGUS
Fireball 21/5/85

Cont from Page 1

(131)
The Pretoria fire department has a mutual assistance agreement with SAAF firefighters who were called in when more sophisticated equipment was needed

The SAAF sent 18 men and three Pathfinders Mr du Plessis said they were highly sophisticated vehicles used mainly for aircraft crashes

Members of emergency services, including traffic officials, commando members and police, sealed off the industrial area, urging motorists over the radio to stay away

About 100 firemen, 20 fire tenders and 40 ambulances went to the scene Pretoria firemen pumped thousands of litres of foam on to the flames

A spokesman for Kalefong Hospital said three men were admitted with shock and burns One man was in a critical condition in the intensive-care unit with 50 percent burns

A Pretoria West hospital spokesman said several people were treated for burns and shock Eleven of them were firemen

Baboons' death row is a box

Cape Times 14/5/85

136

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — On the roof of a government building in the heart of Johannesburg is an "illegal" corrugated-iron box — a smelly, humid death row for more than 20 baboons

The baboons have been left to cower in the corners of their tiny cages until they die of natural causes. Their "barking" can be heard in the streets. Concerned city-dwellers describe it as "screaming"

These luckless animals have already survived the "Dust Room", a section of the Department of Health's

National Centre for Occupational Health where, for years, they were made to inhale asbestos fumes and other mining dusts

"The hard facts of this business is that progress in medical science is based on experiments like these," says the Centre's director, Professor Tony Davies

"We are keeping the baboons for the rest of their natural lifespan — to monitor what eventually happens to them. Hundreds of baboons have been involved in these tests

"One has survived more than 10 years, one over five years, three between one and five years and 27 have been there for longer than six months

"But that excludes the time of the actual experiment, which by and large is something like two years," he said

During this period, the animals inhale asbestos and other mining dusts in a "very carefully controlled environment". Researchers said the baboons are in a "splendid physical condition"

After their stint in the "Dust Room", they are anaesthetized and pieces of their lungs are removed for tests. The "guinea pigs" are eventually caged in the big

black box on the building's roof

Professor Davies said of the iron shed "Yes, it's illegal — you're not allowed to put animal houses on the roof of a building. It contravenes the by-laws — the baboons should be in a proper animal house

"The major problem is the temperature inside, which is very high in part of the summer and low in the winter

"Conditions are not ideal but we can't move them at the moment. If we could, we would, but they're going to be moved in the end," he said

"They're in individual cages but they do socialize — you socialize not necessarily by hugging somebody, but you can exchange verbal communication — that's what they're doing"

Professor Davies would only allow the Transvaal News Bureau to photograph about 10 baboons in a ground-floor room in the building

Most of the animals huddled into the corners of their tiny cages, lined up on the urine-soaked floor. "They are scared — they don't know you," staff said

Of the baboons' capture by trappers, Professor Davies said "It's a source of income for a few people who are real characters"

THE COMPONENTS OF AFRICAN
AND OTHER RELATIVELY 'HID
EMPLOYMENT IN A PERI-URBA

Norman Bromberger

The central question is w
several income-recipients
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livestock - especially goat
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**Campaign
to reduce
number of
injuries
on farms**

12/5/83
Finance Reporter

(131) S. Wilson
THE National Occupa-
tional Safety Association
(Nosa) has launched a
campaign called "Halve
the Toll" to reduce the
incidence of injuries on
farms

About 23 000 people are
injured on farms each
year

The general manager
of Nosa, Bunny Matthy-
sen, said *Agricultural
Accident Prevention
Guidelines* was a do-it-
yourself kit which would
help farmers to meet
their legal, moral and fi-
nancial responsibilities
under the new Machinery
and Occupational Safety
Act

Nosa's manager of re-
search and development,
Lewis Thorpe, said the
kit was being mailed to
farmers throughout
South Africa this week. It
would assist them in top
management leadership,
identifying unsafe condi-
tions and acts, and in set-
ting up an accident rec-
ording system

"The programme is di-
vided into six modules of
two months each. These
are electricity, machine
guarding, workshop safe-
ty, fire preventions, poi-
sons, vehicle safety and
'good housekeeping'"

The accident preven-
tion kit for farmers is the
first of its kind in South
Africa and is an innova-
tive approach in fulfilling
the need to assist the
agricultural community

V VULINDLELA: SUBSISTENCE
ATION TO INCOME FROM WAGE
JLU

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ise incomes have sufficient
them above expected levels.

etermaritzburg, 20 - 30 kms
in Natal, it is now part of
res and retains 'tribal'

over a lengthy period since
n addition to that on wage-
duction - including an attempt
reen maize, 2) production in arable
th 'Betterment' planning, 3)
ttle, 4) incomes from other
) incomes from local 'small
also available on wood-
gh it is more fragmentary.

on average wage-incomes
ions will be aimed at those

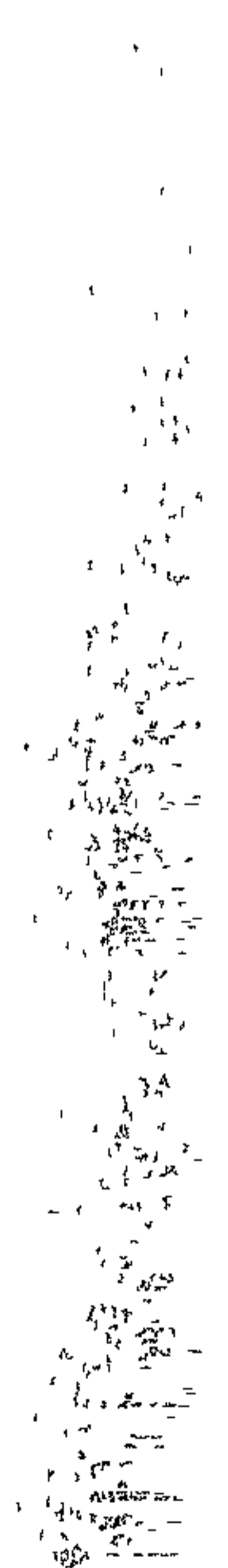
(131) ~~131~~ F. Press
Conference delayed 2/5/85

SOUTH AFRICA'S first major anti asbestos conference, organised by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union for this weekend, has been postponed to next month

Bamcwu publicity secretary Motsomi Mokhe said this week the unavailability of a suitable venue and visa delays for overseas speakers were the main reasons for postponing the conference

The new conference dates are now June 1 and 2

11/13/85
 (31) **Death fall**
 A BLACK construction worker died after falling from scaffolding at Boscombe Place in Windermere Road, Durban, yesterday. The worker, aged about 20, has not yet been identified.



Footnotes Printing - See

Area
 Republic of So
 of Malvis
 Trade Union: I
 Union of
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 parties

ARUR" 089RKRKUNSU MORFNEWSRPP BK AMRUS'NOYLGESKNITACILPUD



Rescue workers attend to a demolition worker, known to the foreman on the site as "Kapok", who was injured when the floor of a Woodstock house collapsed yesterday. Cape Times Newscour Pierre Schoeman



Ms Eva Collins and Mr Jacob Lee with their baby born in Woodstock yesterday while rescue workers were attending to two victims of a demolition accident nearby

Baby born in rescue drama

Cape Times 7/5/85

CB30 131 By RENEE MOODIE

IN the middle of attending to two demolition workers injured in a house in Pine Road, Woodstock, yesterday afternoon, rescue workers were called to attend to a woman who had given birth to a baby down the road

The two demolition workers were apparently working on the second floor of the house yesterday afternoon when the wooden floor beneath them collapsed, causing the two men to fall to the floor below, according to Mr Pieter van Zyl, the foreman of the building contractors demolishing the house

One of the men, known to Mr Van Zyl only as "Kapok" suffered internal injuries, head injuries and a fractured leg. The other man, known as "Cow", suffered minor injuries

While rescue workers were working on removing the two men from the site, a nursing sister was called by a traffic policeman to attend to a woman down the road who had just had a baby

The woman, Ms Eva Collins, gave birth to a little girl while attended by women from the neighbourhood. "Marianne" seemed to be a popular choice for a name for the new baby

Mother and child were taken to the Peninsula Maternity Home, where a hospital spokesman yesterday afternoon said both were doing well

The two injured workers were taken to the Woodstock Hospital

3 000 NM

volts

24/4/85

kills

2/13/

SATS man

Mercury Reporter

A 32-YEAR-OLD South African Transport Services worker was electrocuted on Monday afternoon while working on live 3 000 volt overhead track equipment at the Dannhauser station yard

Mr Mauritz Wessels, of 10 Eaton Road, Amiel Park, Newcastle, was carrying out maintenance work on a section insulator when the accident happened, the regional electrical engineer, Mr M L Whitehead, said yesterday

He was working on 'normally safe' overhead lines when he 'unthinkingly reached across the insulation' and was killed, Mr Whitehead said

Mr Wessels was a traction tradehand and had a short while to go to qualify as a linesman, Mr Whitehead said

A board of inquiry has been appointed to investigate the circumstances of the accident.

Mr Wessels leaves his wife, Susan, two daughters and a son

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

(1) NIL.

(2) Falls away

900 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and order

How many persons in possession of South African reference books were arrested by the South African Police on suspicion of being illegal immigrants in each month from 1 January 1984 up to the latest specified month for which figures are available?

January	1984—	30
February	1984—	19
March	1984—	22
April	1984—	31
May	1984—	58
June	1984—	39
July	1984—	54
August	1984—	43
September	1984—	34
October	1984—	34
November	1984—	33
December	1984—	263
January	1985—	180
February	1985—	102
March	1985—	69
April	1985—	43

Reference books/influx control

903 Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Law and Order

What total number of Black persons was arrested by the South African Police in the area of the Eastern Cape Development Board for offences relating to reference books and influx control from 1 September 1984 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

1 September 1984 to 30 April 1985

911. Mr P C CRONJE asked the Minister of Trade and Industry

(1) Whether any applications have been received for the extension of factories in terms of section 3(5)(c) of the Physical Planning Act, No 88 of 1967, if so, (a) how many, (b) from whom, (c) in respect of how many Black employees and (d) when in each case,

(2) whether any applications were refused, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the reason for the refusal in each case?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Section 3(5)(c) of the English text of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 contains only a definition of the word "extension" and it is assumed that the honourable member requires particulars of applications in terms of section 3(1) of the Act, which are as follows for the period 19 January 1968 to 14 May 1985

(1) Yes

(a) 15 452 of which 11 applications are under consideration at present

(b) Apart from the fact that the information is of a confidential nature, the honourable member will appreciate that it would be an impossible task to furnish the particulars in respect of 15 452 applications

(c) 429 818

(d) The information is not readily available for the reasons mentioned in the reply to (1)(b)

(2) Yes

(a) 1 495

(b) Information in respect of individual cases is not readily available. In general, the applications were refused because of an unacceptable labour ratio or proposed extensions on non-industrial land

915. Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Law and Order

(1) How many national servicemen (a) rendered their national service in the South African Police in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available and (b) were accepted by the South African Police from the 1985 intake,

(2) (a) how many members of the South African Police are currently rendering their national service and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

1 (a) 1980—234
1981—343
1982—235
1983—167
1984—161

(b) 61

2 (a) 294

(b) From July 1983 to date

Own Affairs

Amount spent on schools/pupils

75 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

What amounts were spent by his Department on (a) school textbooks, (b) li-

brary books, (c) hostel accommodation subsidies, (d) pupil transport subsidies, (e) school audio-visual equipment, (f) school buildings, (g) stationery and (h) school furniture during the latest specified period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

It is not possible to furnish the information since records are not being kept of expenditure items, in the form requested

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 1985

+Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs Q. 61. 1566

800 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether his Department keeps statistics on the incidence of (a) kwashiorkor and (b) marasmus in the Republic, if not, why not, if so, (i) how many patients suffering from (aa) kwashiorkor and (bb) marasmus were admitted to hospitals in the Republic in 1983 and 1984, respectively, and (ii) what other statistics in this regard are kept by his Department?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

No This would have to be based on notification. It is regarded that such procedure would not give scientifically usable data

Occupational diseases: claims
804 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

(a) How many claims in respect of occu-

pational diseases in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, No 78 of 1973, were (i) received, (ii) granted and (iii) rejected by the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases in each of the latest specified 10 years for which figures are available and (b) in respect of which (i) disease category, (ii) industry and (iii) province was each claim submitted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE.

(a) Number of claims—
(i) Received:

(b) (i) Disease category	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
<i>(ii) Mining Industry</i>					
1975-76	696	52	2 267	949	1 230
1976-77	857	79	2 642	1 179	1 300
1977-78	794	58	2 620	1 221	1 094
1978-79	684	42	3 938	929	743
1979-80	617	59	3 071	803	590
1980-81	693	41	3 274	824	982
1981-82	636	41	2 942	791	907
1982-83	588	36	2 994	788	801
1983-84	585	62	3 263	822	828
1984-85	668	65	3 423	795	795
<i>Works</i>					
1975-76	28	2	39	5	5
1976-77	25	2	62	8	7
1977-78	24	3	49	13	17
1978-79	45	6	46	2	3
1979-80	26	6	37	1	—
1980-81	15	2	37	5	5
1981-82	28	1	59	—	—
1982-83	33	2	98	—	—
1983-84	17	5	82	—	—
1984-85	19	1	92	—	—

(a) (ii) *Granted*

<i>Mining Industry</i>	677	52	2 240	949	1 230
1975-76	833	77	2 617	1 179	1 300
1976-77	766	51	2 587	1 221	1 094
1977-78	672	41	3 901	929	743
1978-79	602	56	3 035	803	590
1979-80	643	37	3 246	824	982
1980-81	602	35	2 926	791	907
1981-82	571	32	2 971	788	801
1982-83	582	61	3 243	822	828
1983-84	662	64	3 410	795	795
<i>Works</i>					
1975-76	28	2	39	5	5
1976-77	25	2	62	8	7
1977-78	24	3	49	13	17

Disease category	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
1978-79	45	6	46	2	3
1979-80	26	6	37	1	—
1980-81	15	2	37	5	5
1981-82	26	1	59	—	—
1982-83	31	2	97	—	—
1983-84	17	5	82	—	—
1984-85	19	1	92	—	—

(iii) *Rejected*

<i>Mining Industry</i>	19	—	27	—	—
1975-76	24	2	25	—	—
1976-77	28	7	33	—	—
1977-78	12	1	37	—	—
1978-79	15	3	36	—	—
1979-80	50	4	28	—	—
1980-81	34	6	16	—	—
1981-82	17	4	23	—	—
1982-83	3	1	20	—	—
1983-84	6	1	13	—	—
<i>Works</i>					
1975-76	—	—	—	—	—
1976-77	—	—	—	—	—
1977-78	—	—	—	—	—
1978-79	—	—	—	—	—
1979-80	—	—	—	—	—
1980-81	—	—	—	—	—
1981-82	2	—	1	—	—
1982-83	—	—	—	—	—
1983-84	—	—	—	—	—
1984-85	—	—	—	—	—

(b) (iii) No statistics of claims in respect of the provinces can be compiled from records as beneficiaries may have worked in various mines or works in one or more provinces

Note 1 "CD" denotes compensatable disease of the category stated and "TB" denotes tuberculosis

Parliament: extensions anticipated that they will be completed.

826 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Public Works

- (1) (a) What total amount was budgeted for the construction of the extensions to Parliament, (b) from what account will this money be taken, (c) what specified facilities will be provided in these extensions and (d) when is it
- (2) whether this project was put out to tender, if not, (a) why not, (b) who is undertaking the construction of these extensions and (c) how were these contractors selected to do the work; if so, (i) when, (ii) who submitted tenders, (iii) what was the amount of

Mine plunge

NM 19/4/85
JOHANNESBURG—An
underground locomotive
and material truck fell
approximately 400 m
from the 28th level to the
bottom of the Buffels-
fontein Gold Mine in the
Klerksdorp area on April
16 Nobody was injured
— (Sapa)

131

(b) Yes (i) and (ii) The requested information is unfortunately not available at a central point as injuries sustained by prisoners are noted in registers at 244 prisons countrywide while detail regarding the way in which it was dealt with, is only available on the files of prisoners concerned

(3) Yes (a) and (b) All prisoners who sustain injuries immediately receive the necessary medical treatment and all such injuries are departmentally investigated. The steps which the Prisons Service institute as a result of departmental investigations, depend on the outcome of each investigation and could include correctional, preventative and/or disciplinary measures. If a prisoner's earning ability has been reduced as a result of an accident or an injury sustained in a prison, an *ex gratia* compensation can be made to the prisoner, providing that the accident or injury was not caused by his own negligence or fault.

(4) Yes All documents pertaining to departmental investigations (which include sworn statements of all parties and medical reports on the injured) become part of the official records as mentioned in (2)(b)(ii)

(a) and (b) Fail away

X ~~(1) (2) (3) (4)~~ *Howard* *Q. Ciskei: subsidies from South African Government 19/14/85* *541. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

(1) Whether any entrepreneurs/companies have received subsidies from the South African Government to encourage them to establish industries in the Ciskei, if so,

(2) in respect of each such entrepreneur/company, (a) what is its name, (b) where is it located, (c) what is the nature of its operation, (d) what amount in aid did it receive in 1982, 1983 and 1984, respectively, and (e) for how many years is the South African Government committed to subsidize it,

(3) whether any procedures have been laid down for (a) monitoring the activities and (b) auditing the finances of such entrepreneurs/companies, if so, what procedures?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Injuries which prisoners have sustained at construction sites, work-

(1) Yes	(b)	(c)	(d)
Name of Company	Where situated	Type of Industry	
King Knitting Co	Dimbaza	Knitted garments and outerwear	20 750 83 252
		RSA Contribution Rand	1982-83 1983-84 1984-85

(2)(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Name of Company	Where situated	Type of Industry	RSA Contribution Rand 1982-83 1983-84 1984-85
Ranger Carpets	Montage	Carpets	64 381 24 585
Edward Frank Mnf	Sada	Protective outerwear	53 625 76 183
Lantern	Alice	Pottery	13 501 17 336
Trustor Mnf	Sada	Clothes	286 790 204 570
Oltan Carpets	Dimbaza	Hand woven wool and mohair carpets	34 424 72 910
Kei Carpets	Wesley	Hand knotted carpets	18 648 70 095
Zapha Industres	Dimbaza	Leather safety products—gloves and aprons	45 431 72 219
Associated Leather	Dimbaza	Splitting of leather hides for glove manufacturing	17 160 90 750
Zandla Mnf	Dimbaza	Clothes, toys, knitting, motorcar seats, pottery	2 633 2 748
Khandla Workshop	Dimbaza	Textile products for hospitals, hand made products	11 880 19 643
Ciskei Core Mnf	Dimbaza	Radiator cores and oil coolers	58 905 120 078
L K Hurwitch Cycles	Dimbaza	Bicycles	99 330 171 435
Ciskei Saw Mills	Keiskamma-hoek	Saw milling and prefab wood housing	107 018 145 385
Timon Steel	Dimbaza	Furniture	36 795 107 415
Tribal Hand Weavers	Dimbaza	Hand woven karakul carpets	36 135 83 490

Regulation Act, 1972 (Act 59 of 1972) Both charges were taken together for purpose of sentence and he was in terms of section 294(1) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977) sentenced to 6 strokes

Port Elizabeth. Supreme Court

776 Mr T ARONSON asked the Minister of Public Works

Whether his Department intends erecting a building to house the Supreme Court in Port Elizabeth, if so, (a) what stage has been reached in the planning of this building, (b) what is the estimated cost and (c) when is it anticipated that the building will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

Yes

- (a) The sketch plans have been completed
- (b) R5 515 000
- (c) End of 1988

Private hospitals

784 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

- (1) How many registered private hospitals had been established in (a) the Transvaal, (b) the Cape Province, (c) Natal and (d) the Orange Free State as at 31 March 1985,

- (2) (a) how many approved private hospitals have been commissioned since that date, (b) where is each located and (c) how many beds are provided at each hospital,

- (3) whether any applications for registration as a private hospital have been approved but not yet commissioned, if so, (a) how many, (b) where is it planned to locate each hospital, (c) how many beds will each provide and

on alterations that have been made to the office of the Director-General of the SABC in Johannesburg, if not, why not, if so,

- (2) whether any (a) alterations to (i) the said office and (ii) the office furniture and (b) other specified alterations were recently made, if so,

- (3) (a) what is the nature of the alterations, (b) by whom was the work carried out and (c) what was the cost (i) in total and (ii) per specified item?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In terms of article 3 of the Broadcasting Act, No 73 of 1976, as amended, the affairs of the South African Broadcasting Corporation are managed and controlled by the Board of Corporation

I would therefore suggest that the Honourable Member submit the question to the Chairman of the Board of the SABC for an answer

FRIDAY, 19 APRIL 1985

† Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Prison warders/prisoners: killed/seriously injured

Q. Col. 1149 19/4/85
Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Justice

- (1) Whether any prison warders were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by prisoners in 1984, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons,
- (2) whether any prisoners were (a) killed and (b) seriously injured by fellow prisoners in that year, if so, (i) how many and (ii) in which prisons,

- (3) whether injuries to prisoners are reported to the relevant authorities, if not, why not, if so, (a) in what manner and (b) what steps are taken in this regard,

- (4) whether these reports are retained by prison authorities, if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are taken in respect of these reports, if so, where are these reports kept?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

- (1) (a) None (i) and (ii) Fall away

- (b) Yes

(i) Eighteen (18)

- (ii) Durban 2
- King William's Town 2
- Kroonstad 1
- Leeuwkop 1
- Obiqua 1
- Pietermaritzburg 1
- Pollsmoor 2
- Port Elizabeth 2
- Portchesterroom 2
- Pretoria 1
- Stellenbosch 1
- Victor Verster 1
- Zonderwater 1

- (2) (a) Yes

(i) 32

- (ii) Durban 1
- Goedemoed 1
- Groenpunt 1
- Johannesburg 2
- Kandaspunt 1
- Leeuwkop 3
- Modderbee 4
- Pollsmoor 4
- Pocheftroom 1
- Pretoria 1
- Rawsonville 1
- St Albans 2
- Victor Verster 1
- Voorberg 1
- Waterval 4
- Witbank 2
- Pietermaritzburg 1
- Paardeberg 1

(b) Yes (i) and (ii) The requested information is unfortunately not available at a central point as injuries sustained by prisoners are noted in registers at 244 prisons countrywide while detail regarding the way in which it was dealt with, is only available on the files of prisoners concerned

(3) Yes (a) and (b) All prisoners who sustain injuries immediately receive the necessary medical treatment and all such injuries are departmentally investigated. The steps which the Prisons Service institute as a result of departmental investigations, depend on the outcome of each investigation and could include correctional, preventative and/or disciplinary measures. If a prisoner's earning ability has been reduced as a result of an accident or an injury sustained in a prison, an *ex gratia* compensation can be made to the prisoner, providing that the accident or injury was not caused by his own negligence or fault.

In the case of injuries which are related to complaints of alleged assault, a suitable entry is made in a complaints register and/or a register of injuries and besides the necessary medical treatment which may be administered or prescribed by the medical officer, a departmental inquiry into the alleged assault is instituted. Where such complaint is found to be substantial, suitable action is taken in terms of Prisons Regulations 71 and 99 in the case of minor assault, while complaints of serious assault are reported to the South African Police without delay for investigation and for the legal process to take its normal course.

Injuries which prisoners have sustained at construction sites, work-

shops, agricultural activities on prison farms, abattoirs, butcheries, kitchen, etc, are dealt with in terms of the provisions of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983 and the Regulations promulgated in terms thereof

(4) Yes All documents pertaining to departmental investigations (which include sworn statements of all parties and medical reports on the injured) become part of the official records as mentioned in (2)(b)(ii)

(d) and (b) Fall away

Howard
Ciskei: subsidies from South African Government 19/4/85
541 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) Whether any entrepreneurs/companies have received subsidies from the South African Government to encourage them to establish industries in the Ciskei, if so,

(2) In respect of each such entrepreneur/company, (a) what is its name, (b) where is it located, (c) what is the nature of its operation, (d) what amount in aid did it receive in 1982, 1983 and 1984, respectively, and (e) for how many years is the South African Government committed to subsidize it,

(3) whether any procedures have been laid down for (a) monitoring the activities and (b) auditing the finances of such entrepreneurs/companies, if so, what procedures?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

(2)(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Name of Company	Where situated	Type of Industry	RSA Contribution Rand
King Knitting Co	Dimbaza	Knitted garments and outerwear	1982-83 1983-84 1984-85
			20 750 83 252 —

(2)(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
Name of Company	Where situated	Type of Industry	RSA Contribution Rand
Ranger Carpets	Montage	Carpets	1982-83 1983-84 1984-85
Edward Frank Mnf	Sada	Protective outerwear	64 381 24 585 —
Lantern	Alice	Pottery	53 625 76 183 —
Truster Mnf	Sada	Clothes	13 501 17 336 —
Olsatan Carpets	Dimbaza	Hand woven wool and mohair carpets	286 790 204 570 —
Kei Carpets	Wesley	Hand knotted carpets	34 424 72 910 —
Zapha Industries	Dimbaza	Leather safety products—gloves and aprons	18 648 70 095 —
Associated Leather	Dimbaza	Splitting of leather hides for glove manufacturing	45 431 72 219 —
Zandla Mnf	Dimbaza	Clothes, toys, knitting, motorcar seats, pottery	17 160 90 750 —
Khandla Workshop	Dimbaza	Textile products for hospitals, hand made products	2 633 2 748 —
Ciskei Core Mnf	Dimbaza	Radiator cores and oil coolers	11 880 19 643 —
L K Hurwitch Cycles	Dimbaza	Bicycles	58 905 120 078 —
Ciskei Saw Mills	Keiskamma-hoek	Saw milling and prefab wood housing	99 330 171 435 —
Timon Steel	Dimbaza	Furniture	107 018 145 385 —
Tribal Hand Weavers	Dimbaza	Hand woven Karakul carpets	36 795 107 415 —
			36 135 83 490 —

Foreman to blame for deaths

131 star
18/4/85

A former general foreman at the Uncle Charlie's bridge construction site, Mr Stephanus Olivier, was yesterday found to blame for the death of three workers who suffocated when the trench they were excavating caved in on them.

Johannesburg inquest magistrate Mr CG de Lange ruled that the foreman, employed by E T A Civil Engineering (Pty) Ltd, was responsible for the deaths of Mr Simon Johan Matona (23), Mr Abel Louis Seodiseng (26) and Mr Piet Matsepe Mohlala (23) on July 27 1983.

The court was given the report of an inquiry held by an occupational safety inspector showing the accident occurred while the three men were clearing loose rubble from behind a machine digging a trench.

According to statements the sides of the trench were not shored up at the time and no supervisors were near.

Mr Olivier had earlier told the team leader, Mr Seodiseng, to find two labourers to go to the excavation.

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Cottage industry restrictions criticised

By TESSA COURTENAY

EAST LONDON — The strictures imposed by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act on the establishment of cottage industries have been criticised by businessmen in the Border area.

With employment running at more than 60 per cent in the Border, individuals attempting to establish cottage industries have come up against a brickwall of restrictions imposed by the Act.

The Department of Manpower's chief factor, Mr B Vorster, said the Act applied to all employer/employee situations. Once seven or more people were employed, the operation concerned would have to register as a factory and would then be subject to the regulations pertaining to factories under the Act.

The regulations imposed often created the need for costly alterations to the premises used for the operation and often caused the closure of cottage industries unable to meet the requirements of the regulations and still employ the people needed to run the operation.

Mrs Adele Cutten of Albany is one prospective small industrialist faced with this problem. Two years ago she trained some of the women on her farm to spin and knit. More women from neighbourhood farms expressed their interest in her project.

Mrs Cutten said she had then had some of the outbuildings on her farm converted for the purpose and was able to employ up to 75 people.

According to the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act she was allowed to employ only seven people. Once she employed more she was no longer a cottage industry and would fall under the legislation of the Act.

To comply with the Act, Mrs Cutten would have to build new premises or alter the existing outbuildings on her farm extensively. Flush toilets would have to be installed, the roof would have to be raised to a determined height and a ceiling put in. There were also other costly alterations which would have to be completed.

The Cuten's farm falls into a decentralised area, placing Mrs Cutten in a position to apply for various concessions for the first seven years of her operation.

The wage concession which Mrs Cutten would be entitled to would give her 80 per cent up to a maximum of R80 a month of the wages she would be able to pay her employees.

To legally remain a cottage industry she would have to restrict the number of her workers, turn away aspiring trainees and inhibit an operation which she hoped to expand.

Mr Vorster said he understood the problems that many cottage industries were faced with because of the regulations imposed on an operation employing seven or more people, but said it was up to the individual entrepreneur to decide whether or not to close or register as a factory. "We have to draw the line somewhere, and it is difficult", he said.

In Ciskei cottage industries were thriving as a result of the government's decision to deregulate the small business sector.

The PFP MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft, has visited many of these "mini-factories" in Ciskei.

"The people are comfortable they are accommodated and they are producing the goods," he said. "As far as I am concerned, the more people who can provide employment, the better. While I think that workers' accommodation should comply with certain minimum health standards, unnecessary restrictions should be relaxed."

Business Development Corporation has opened an office here to encourage and advise small business operations in the area," he said.

The president of the Border Chamber of Industries, Mr Mike Strong, said cottage industries were part of the "total mix" and were very important to the country's and region's economy.

"The majority of organised industry probably doesn't give as much thought to cottage industry as it should," he said.

The Ciskei director of communications, Mr Wessel van Wyk, said the small business sector was recognised worldwide as one of the major creators of employment in modern times.

In accordance with this belief Ciskei had deregulated its small business sector, stimulating the growth of cottage industries and employment.

Mr Van Wyk said Ciskei's definition of a small business was any industry or company employing 20 or less people, irrespective of its size or turnover.

"The small business sector is and must be a major creator of jobs. It should be allowed to take its natural course and should be stimulated. Ciskei has done this by deregulating the small business sector."

Mr Van Wyk said that small businesses should not be subjected to the "prohibitive" regulations normally applicable to organised business and industry.

"South Africa's prohibiting regulations controlling the growth of small businesses will eventually kill it," he said — DDR

Act, Mrs Cutten would have to build new premises or alter the existing outbuildings on her farm extensively. Flush toilets would have to be installed, the roof would have to be raised to a determined height and a ceiling put in. There were also other costly alterations which would have to be completed.

The Cuten's farm falls into a decentralised area, placing Mrs Cutten in a position to apply for various concessions for the first seven years of her operation.

The wage concession which Mrs Cutten would be entitled to would give her 80 per cent up to a maximum of R80 a month of the wages she would be able to pay her employees.

To legally remain a cottage industry she would have to restrict the number of her workers, turn away aspiring trainees and inhibit an operation which she hoped to expand.

Mr Vorster said he understood the problems that many cottage industries were faced with because of the regulations imposed on an operation employing seven or more people, but said it was up to the individual entrepreneur to decide whether or not to close or register as a factory. "We have to draw the line somewhere, and it is difficult", he said.

In Ciskei cottage industries were thriving as a result of the government's decision to deregulate the small business sector.

The PFP MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft, has visited many of these "mini-factories" in Ciskei.

2 crewmen killed ¹³¹ by poisonous gas

^{COM 13/4/85}
DURBAN — Two men on the 4 290-ton MV Nahoon, berthed at Durban's Island View, died on Thursday after being overcome by poisonous gas in a cargo hold

The Chief Navigating Officer, Mr Christopher Carrington, 28, died about 4pm as he unsuccessfully tried to save navigating Cadet Arthur Keller, 22

As fumes from the edible oil slop tank spread through the pump recess of the cargo hold and crewmen began

to collapse, Mr Carrington tried to shove Mr Keller out

Captain D de Wet, marine director of Unicorn, owners of the cargo ship, said the incident occurred after Navigating Officer K Brown, Cadet Keller and Mr Carrington were sent to the cargo tank pump recess to blank off a line to the edible oil slop tank

When the line was disconnected, fumes from the slop mixture flowed into the pump recess — Sapa

to him by the South African radio League — a hand

Probe into gassing of two men on ship

Mercury Reporter

THE fatal gassing this week of two Unicorn Lines' officers on their ship in Durban harbour is being investigated by the Department of Transport.

Mr Bill Bricknell, acting principal officer of

131
13102
NM 13/4/85
the Department of Transport's Marine Division in Durban, said yesterday chemical samples had been taken from the freighter Nahoon's edible oil slop tank, where the deadly gas is believed to have originated

Surveyors of the de-

partment had been at the ship since Thursday night trying to establish what had happened. A report would be sent to the Minister of Transport, he said.

The deaths of the men have been a tragedy for two Natal nautical families.

Chief navigating officer Christopher Carrington, 28, was the son of the port captain of Richards Bay, Capt Peter Carrington, and navigating cadet Arthur Keller, 22, was the son of W/O Peter Keller of the Navy base at Salisbury Island.

Both men were described by Unicorn Lines marine director Capt Dave de Wet as 'promising young men — top-class people'.

He said they had been overcome by a gas during a routine operation when they and others had disconnected a line from a slop tank which held waste edible oil — washed-out residues of normal cargo, such as sunflower oil.

They had intended to

blank off the line so that fresh cargo would not leak into the slop tank.

'When the line was disconnected, a gaseous slop mixture entered the cargo tank pump recess where the men were working.

'The pump recess, at the front of the engine room, was ventilated by a forced-draught air fan. Mr Carrington ordered second officer K Brown and Mr Keller out of the recess and instructed the third engineering officer present in the engine-room, Mr P J Tremlett, to pump out the slop tank,' Capt de Wet said.

'Mr Brown left the recess and collapsed in the engine-room. Mr Tremlett called the greaser, Mr M Mmembe, and ran to help. He tried to pull out Mr Keller, who by this time was unconscious and being pushed up by Mr Carrington.

'All three were overcome by fumes.' Mr Brown and Mr Tremlett, however, regained consciousness and were helped out.

Sowetan 9/4/85

BAMCWU to intensify campaign

The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union will intensify its anti-asbestos campaign at a two-day special conference to be held in Johannesburg, starting on May 10.

The anti-asbestos campaign was started by the union following reports in the Northern Transvaal that exposure to its dust, may in some instances, present health hazard, according to BAMCWU's publicity secretary, Mr Motshumi Mokhine

Asbestos dust has been identified as a cause of not just of asbestosis, a crippling illness which harms the lungs, but also of bronchial cancer and of mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura and peritoneum), maladies which are usually fatal

Mr Mokhine said since the campaign was started it has received country-wide support, including Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland

Support

The campaign has also been supported by several emerging black trade unions which have been invited to the conference — the first to be summoned since the campaign

He stressed "It is its insidious nature that makes the asbestos hazard particularly dreaded. The clinical or related diseases may develop many years after exposure to asbestos has ceased"

Occupationally, millions of people are at risk of inhaling a significant amount of asbestos just at their work. Such exposure occurs mainly in asbestos mining, processing the mineral, manufacturing asbestos products and demolitions or removal of insulation material containing asbestos

Standard

"It is in the light of these circumstances that the union demand that the asbestos mines be closed," the union spokesman added. No technologically suitable alternatives have been made by the mining house for the majority of industrial uses of asbestos

The BAMCWU conference precedes the meeting called by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva in June. The ILO is to propose new standards, especially designed to protect workers exposed to asbestos effects

(131)
2 Post
9/9/85

Loss of memory after assault

Post Reporter

A PORT ELIZABETH petrol pump attendant is suffering from loss of memory after he was hit over the head with a half-brick while on duty on Friday night

Mr Richard Non-gongewa, 55, an employee at Park Motors, Rink Street, was on duty at 11pm on Friday when a bakkie carrying five people drove up

According to Lieutenant Colonel Gerrie van Rooyen, police Press liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, the men filled up the truck's petrol tank

They then hit Mr Non-gongewa over the head and robbed him of the garage takings, about R130 in cash, and drove off

National servicemen in navy uniform nearby gave chase and arrested five men and confiscated the R130 in cash, pangas and knives

Where ¹³¹ ^{Star} they aim ^{15/2/85} to keep a blast to itself

By Anna de Jager
East Rand Bureau

The Modderfontein Explosives Factory, where a blast killed at least nine and injured 27 on Wednesday, is the largest in the world

It is designed so that all the magazines are self-contained

It is also designed so that, in the event of an explosion, the blast is deflected upwards and cannot trigger off explosions in surrounding magazines

Yesterday Mr Murray Joubert, public relations manager for AECL, said that to absorb shock waves and deflect blast upwards each magazine was surrounded by concrete or sand and trees

On Wednesday the blast extensively damaged a nitroglycerine mixing house and a store

It was felt in Kempton Park and Edenvale

But Modderfontein township, which lies at the foot of the factory, was left almost unruffled

A resident who moved to the township as a bride more than 30 years ago said "When I heard an explosion for the first time, I thought my home and everything else were going into the sky

"One eventually becomes accustomed to the blasts

"And although the earth trembles and there is a terrific noise, you just carry on working"

She said that her home, built at the turn of the century, had only one minor crack which had not been affected by the many explosions over the years

A grandmother who has lived in the township for 20 years, said the explosions did not bother her

"One gets used to them," she added "The first one leaves you a bit shaken but you learn to live with them"

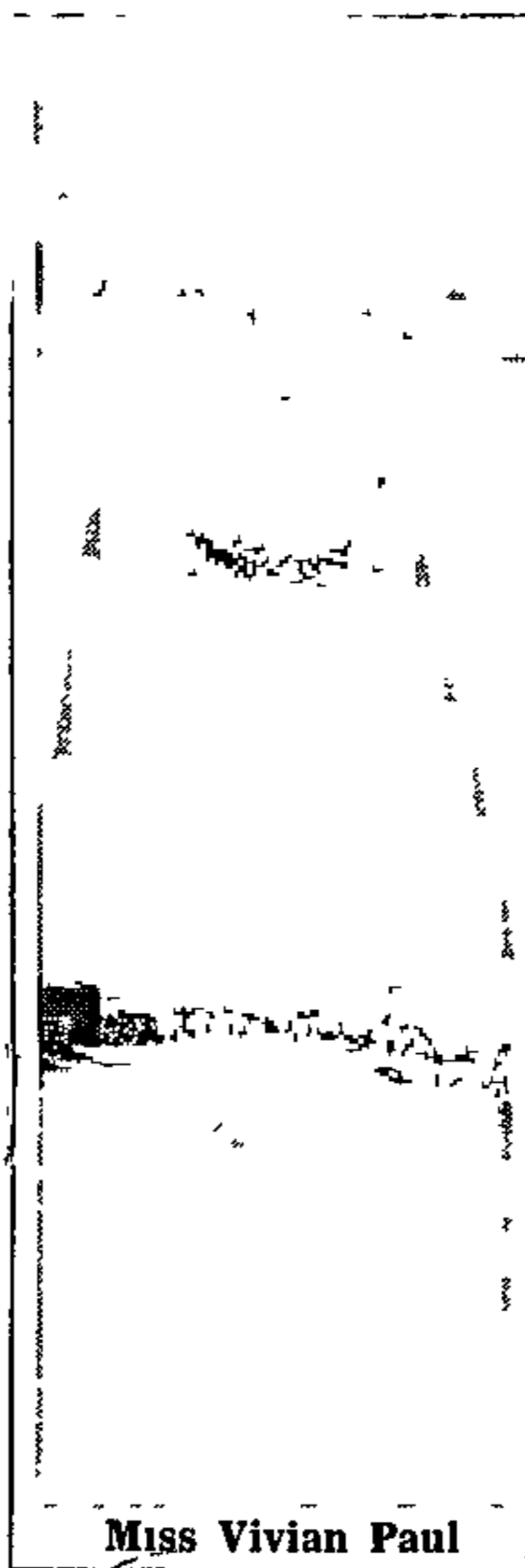
A factory employee who was at home at the time of the blast said his main concern was for his fellow workers

Yesterday children turned up as usual at Modderfontein nursery school.

Although the school is just a stone's throw from the factory there is no danger to outlying property or buildings, said the school principal

He added that the children were perfectly safe

(131)
**Woman
D. Dispatch
dies in
5/4/85
factory
panic**



Miss Vivian Paul

MDANTSANE — A woman employee at a Fort Jackson factory died last week when fellow workers rushed to leave the premises

The panic rush, during which Miss Vivian Paul, 24, is believed to have been trampled to death, followed incidents outside the premises

The general manager of Disa Garments, Mr Gerald Owen, said workers at the factory had reported for duty as normal. At lunch-time that day, however, a group of people at the gates of the factory shouted there was a fire and the factory was to be bombed

Stones were then thrown and workers inside the factory panicked and ran, Mr Owen said

Miss Paul, the mother of a child, fell after being pushed by persons behind her and was trampled

She was taken to Cecilia Makwane Hospital where she was certified dead on arrival

Mr Owen said four other workers, including two women, were also taken to hospital for treatment. They were later discharged

It was a pity that Miss Paul had lost her life during such an uncalled for incident, Mr Owen said

He added that the management had arranged to assist in the funeral costs. He expressed condolences to her family — DDR

Missile attack

TEHRAN — An Iraqi missile hit a residential area of the Iranian city of Bakhtaran yesterday, killing 25 people and injuring more than 70

The attack came hours after Tehran said it had halted strikes on Iraqi cities — SAPA-RNS

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SOWETAN, Friday, March 29, 1985

Page 5

Tragedy at explosives factory

A CONTRACT worker doing maintenance at the strike-torn African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI) plant in Newcastle was killed on Wednesday when a gasholder exploded in the factory.

The death of Mr Jan-ela Nkomo (32), no address given, was confirmed by an AECI spokesman, who added that no other workers were affected. Mr Nkomo's family

has been informed about the tragedy, which is being investigated by the authorities. He was not an employee of AECI, although the accident occurred on our plant, the spokesman said. No funeral arrangements have been made.

Meanwhile the legal strike by about 600 AECI employees continued yesterday while the SA Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu) and management were locked in

negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute.

The workers downed tools last Friday after three conciliation board meetings aimed at averting the legal strike failed to settle the wage dispute that started last year.

The workers earlier held a strike ballot — one of the requirements for a legal strike — and most of them voted in favour of industrial action.

This is the second time that AECI has been hit by a legal strike over wages within two years. Last year several plants of the factory were hit by legal strikes.

The workers are demanding a R100 across-the-board increase in their wages which will give them a minimum wage of R480, while management is offering R370 — a 9,5 percent increase.

Company spokesman Mr Bokkie Botha said that the company's offer was reasonable, considering the country's economic climate.

"We are not prepared to change our offer. We hope the workers will realise our position and come back to work soon. We have not given the workers any ultimatum nor victimised anybody," Mr Botha said.

Man impales himself in bid to escape

THE TIMES
26/3/85
131

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A suspected pass offender impaled himself on a gardening stake yesterday while trying to hide from police who wanted to see his identity documents

Mr Kind Moyo, 32, of Mongwesi Road, Emmarentia, died minutes after leaping over the wall of an Emmarentia house and landing on one of several metre-long spikes in the ground

The spike severed the main artery in his leg and Mr Moyo bled to death in spite of a policeman's desperate attempt to stop the bleeding after calling an ambulance

Mrs Gladys Motsamai, who was the first person to find Mr Moyo after hearing a crash in the backyard of the house in Louw Geldenhuys Street, said yesterday, "I found

the man in my bathroom"

Mrs Motsamai said, "I asked him who his was but he just said, 'Sssh—the police' I ran to my employer. We were frightened and called the police

"When a policeman arrived the man was rolling on the ground in a pool of blood in front of the bathroom. The policeman immediately called an ambulance and then tried his best to stop the bleeding," she said

A police spokesman said yesterday that Mr Moyo had run away from Crime Prevention Unit policemen when they called him over to see his identity documents

Police later established that Mr Moyo worked as a painter in Mongwesi Road

she thought President P. to Mr. W Botha might

MONDAY, 25 MARCH 1985

820

	Summer 83/84	Winter 84	Annual average
Bombay Road	17.1	50.4	33.8
Joliffe Swimming Pool	12.1	42.3	27.2

(2) No Determinations are within acceptable limits

(3) No

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(c) (i) and (ii) Falls away

131 *Hemum and*
Pesticidal poisoning: deaths
636 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Health and Welfare.

(1) Whether deaths from pesticidal poisoning are required to be (a) reported to and (b) registered with his Department, if not, why not, if so, what are the regulations governing the reporting and/or registering of these deaths.

(2) whether any deaths from pesticidal poisoning were reported to and/or registered with his Department since 1979, if so, how many such deaths (a) occurred (i) during the five-year period 1979 to 1983 and (ii) in 1984 and (b) were recorded by the National Chemical Research Laboratory during the period 1979 to 1983?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

(1) (a) Yes

(b) No Health Act 1977 (Act 63 of 1977), sections 28, 32 and 45 Regulations No R1802, 24 August 1979

(2) Yes

(a) (i) 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983
17 6 9 10 10

(ii) 1984 8

HOA

MONDAY, 25 MARCH 1985

822

sociated with all squatter camps

(b) Ongoing action by health authorities of the Division Council

(3) Yes, A family planning clinic Additional clinic facilities supplied by Divisional Council in both Crossroads and neighbouring townships

(4) (a) No,

(b) falls away,

(c) falls away

(5) No

Tanderil

641 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare.

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 24 on 30 May 1984, the Medicines Control Council has reached a decision regarding the drug Tanderil, if not, (a) why not and (b) when is it anticipated that a decision will be reached, if so, (i) when and (ii) what is the nature of this decision,

(2) whether his Department intends to take any action as a result, if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when,

(3) whether any action has been or is to be taken regarding any other drugs, if so, (a) which drugs, (b) what action and (c) why, in each case?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

(1) and (2) Medicines Control Council reached the following decision with regard to the drug Tanderil (OXYPHENBUTAZONE) on 22 June 1984

1 1 The indications and period of use for PHENYLBUTAZONE

and OXYPHENBUTAZONE preparations must be restricted to "Ankylosing Spondylitis" and a maximum period of use of 7 days,

1 2 all package inserts for these products must be amended as follows

1 2 1 Indications—the claims must be limited to "Acute Exacerbations of Ankylosing Spondylitis",

1 2 2 Warnings (to be in prominent type and boxed)—the following must be included

(i) Because of potentially serious and occasionally fatal adverse effects, use should be restricted to a maximum of 7 days and the maximum recommended dosage should not be exceeded",

(ii) "Caution against repeated short-term use is advised, due to the possible danger of sensitisation",

(iii) "Haematological disorders are potentially fatal",

1 3 In view of the restricted indications

1 3 1 All dosage forms of PHENYLBUTAZONE and OXYPHENBUTAZONE, other than oral dosage forms, must be withdrawn,

1 3 2 All combination products containing PHENYLBUTAZONE and OXYPHENBUTAZONE must be withdrawn

(3) Due to the Medicines Control Council's concern based on overseas and local reports of a small number of deaths in which a cause and effect relationship has not been established the use of the drug DICYCLOMINE

HOA

this period, if not, why not, if so, (a) in what manner and (b) what is the minimum period they have to serve before they may leave the Force.

- (3) (a) what percentage of women who were trained at this college and who subsequently attested, remained in the Permanent Force after the expiry of their initial training period, during the latest specified period of five years for which figures are available and (b) in what capacities do or did they serve?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

- (1) Only other ranks are attested under oath in the Permanent Force Women who attest directly in the Permanent Force are not from the ranks of the SA Army Women's college, are not trained at the SA Army Women's College

- (2) (a) and (b) Permanent Force other ranks do not attest for a fixed period They can purchase their discharge at any time

- (3) (a) For the period 1980 to 1984—
15%

- (b) Women are only utilized in the supporting services of the SA Defence Force such as personnel, stores and finance functionsaries signalers, etc

677 Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Co-operation, Development and Education

- (a) How many applications for the subsidization of farm schools were received by his department in 1984 and (b) what number of pupils benefited from the subsidization of farm schools in that year?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

HOA

- (a) 379 in respect of farm school buildings
(b) 468 619 pupils

683 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics

- What was the (a) landed cost of each consignment of maize imported in 1983 and (b)(i) outflow of foreign currency and (ii) extra cost to the taxpayer as a result of these imports?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

- (a) Figures are not available for the 1983 calendar year The following contracts were concluded for the importation of maize during the period May 1983 to April 1984

600 000 tons at R172,74 per ton
100 000 tons at R160,09 per ton
500 000 tons at R171,09 per ton
225 000 tons at R188,91 per ton
275 000 tons at R192,15 per ton
300 000 tons at R206,20 per ton
150 000 tons at R196,02 per ton
230 000 tons at R194,71 per ton

The landed cost consists of the above-mentioned cif prices plus an average landing cost of R11,34 per ton

- (b) (i) Total outflow currency until 30 April 1984 amounted to R427,9 million (Landing costs excluded)

- (ii) The deficit on the import account until 30 April 1984 which was borne by the taxpayer amounted to R44,5 million With the inclusion of interest after 30 April 1984, the final deficit amounted to R49 million

692 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs

- (1) Whether any employees of the South African Transport Services in the Cape Peninsula were victims of crimes of violence while on duty in 1984, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the nature of the crime in each case

- (2) whether the South African Transport Services have had to pay any compensation to (a) employees and/or (b) passengers in 1984 as a result of their being victims of such crimes while performing their duties or travelling on trains in the Cape Peninsula, if so, what total amount was paid out in each case.

- (3) at which stations in the Cape Peninsula are there South African Railways Police posts?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS

- (1) Yes
(a) 76

- (b) Attempted murder 1
Murder 2
Common assault 41
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm 23
Robbery 9

- (2) (a) Yes, compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941, was paid in five cases

- (1) R10 093 for total disablement

- (2) R700 plus R276 per month compensation pension to widow

- (3) R875 for temporary disablement

- (4) R63 for temporary disablement

- (5) R105 for temporary disablement

The remaining cases are either of a very minor nature for which claims were not instituted or are still being investigated

- (b) No such claims were instituted
(3) Cape Town, Table Bay Harbour, Salt River, Langa, Bontheuwei Philippi and Bellville

Pharmaceutical/homeopathic medicines

705 Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

- (1) What was the cost of (a) registration and (b) annual renewal of (i) pharmaceutical and (ii) homeopathic medicines as at the latest specified date for which figures are available

- (2) whether there is any difference in the registration of generic and individually specific medicines in these two categories, if so, what difference?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

- (1) (a) (i) Compounded in entirety in RSA = R500 plus R60 at approval of registration
—not compounded in entirety in RSA = R1 000 plus R120 at approval of registration.

- (ii) compounded in entirety in RSA = R500 plus R60 at approval of registration
—not compounded in entirety in RSA = R1 000 plus R120 at approval of registration.

- (b) (i) compounded in entirety in RSA = R60.

- (ii) not compounded in entirety in RSA = R120

- (2) Currently, no

HOA

	Summer 83/84	Winter 84	Annual average
Bombay Road	17.1	50.4	33.8
Joliffe Swimming Pool	12.1	42.3	27.2

(2) No Determinations are within acceptable limits

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(a) Falls away

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17 6 9 10 10
(ii) 1984 8

Hoa

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(b) Ongoing action by health authorities of the Division Council

(3) Yes. A family planning clinic. Additional clinic facilities supplied by Divisional Council in both Crossroads and neighbouring townships

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(2) whether his Department intends to take any action as a result, if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when,

(3) whether any action has been or is to be taken regarding any other drugs, if so, (a) which drugs, (b) what action and (c) why, in each case?

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Hoa

He died in his best job

131
C. Press
17/3/85

By **TEBELLO RADEBE**

CHAMPION cleaner Elias Mokoena this week drowned in a tankful of beer while cleaning it.

Mr Mokoena, 60, had been lauded and awarded a trophy by his employers, the East Rand Development Board, for being the best cleaner at their Katlehong beerhalls.

This week, on the second day Mr Mokoena resumed work after his annual leave, he fell into one of the huge tanks used to store the beer while he was cleaning it.

A co-worker, who declined to be named, said Mr Mokoena "may have been overcome by the smell of the beer from the top of the tank and it made him drunk until he lost his balance and fell into it".

"He fell into the beer — when we rushed to his rescue, he died hardly two minutes after we pulled him out."

Mr Mokoena, who lived at 46 Nhlapo Section, is survived by his wife Minah.



Elias Mokoena holding the trophy he won for being a champion cleaner



AR643 9/2/85
Injured seaman
in mercy flight
to Tygerberg 131

Staff Reporter

A SERIOUSLY injured seaman was flown 250km from Mossel Bay to Tygerberg Hospital by helicopter early today.

Mr Dirk de Vries, second engineer, on the Smit Lloyd 111, was injured last night. A chain snapped and hit his head as his vessel was moving an anchor on the oil rig Actinia off Mossel Bay.

He was taken to George Hospital before the transfer to Tygerberg.

The helicopter landed about 1:30am at Tygerberg's helipad.

Mr de Vries's condition was "critical" late this morning.

RAM 4/3/85 (131)

THE lack of adequate protection for working mothers and pregnant workers is increasingly being seen by the emerging union movement as a high priority issue

The Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Cawusa) has moved into the forefront of this struggle over the rights of women who wish to work at the same time as having children and leading a normal family life

Last week Cawusa signed a pioneering maternity agreement with Metro Cash and Carry, providing up to 12 months maternity leave, seven of them paid leave

This makes it the second paid maternity leave agreement, the first being signed between the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) and NCS Plastics of Pinetown last year

An important feature is a section which could be the country's first health and safety agreement for pregnant employees, ensuring "comprehensive health and safety" while at work

The agreement includes the payment of medical aid contributions by the company for the leave period, and the payment of wages for seven months, which adds up to 78% of the women's salary when Unemployment Insurance payouts are included

Another advance is that the agreement is highly flexible, allowing women to take their leave and pay as it suits them

There is a paternity leave section for male employees who will be entitled to three days paid leave before or after the birth of the child — and as a bonus, the company will provide employees who give birth R100 worth of baby food



Man dies after falling off loader

AF645 28/2/85 (131)
Tygerberg Bureau

AN Escom employee was killed when he fell in front of a moving mechanical loader in Worcester.

He was Mr Johan du Toit, 55, of Mimosa Street, Worcester

Major George Kershoff, police liaison officer, said the incident happened at about 2pm yesterday at the Escom premises

He understood Mr du Toit was checking the machine and fell into its path when it started moving

The driver had not seen Mr du Toit, Major Kershoff said

A 10-year-old girl, Leah Carelse, of Goedemoed farm, Worcester, was knocked down and killed by a vehicle on the N1 freeway near the town yesterday afternoon.

RIVER

A man was killed when his bakkie landed in a river at Klipheuwel

He was about 40 and has not yet been identified

He was trapped inside the cab in water about a metre deep when the vehicle landed upside down in the Mosselbank River near Klipheuwel Road about 6pm yesterday

RAM 23/2/85

**Blast
company
workers
return**

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

ABOUT 1 600 workers at the AECI plant at Modderfontein — members of the SA Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu) — have ended their strike over safety conditions after management agreed to pay workers in certain areas a R60 a month danger allowance

The strike, which began on Monday, was sparked by the blast at the factory 10 days ago which killed 14 workers

Search for missing trawlermen called off

CHL Tiris 22/2/85 131

Staff Reporter

THE SEARCH for the missing crew members of the sunken fishing trawler, Southern Explorer, was called off about 7.15 last night.

Major Frank Alton, who is co-ordinating the search, said police would decide this morning if the search should be continued.

Spokesmen for the National Sea Rescue Institute and Southern Air Command confirmed earlier yesterday that the sea and air searches had been abandoned.

All four crewmen who were rescued at sea by helicopter on Wednesday have died in hospital. Two died in Groot Schuur early yesterday

morning and two in Tygerberg on Wednesday evening after initially being reported dead on arrival.

A Groot Schuur spokeswoman explained that this was "probably" because of the difficulty in detecting signs of life in people with acute hypothermia.

The ship, with crew of 13, had apparently run aground on a reef near Bok Point, a spokesman for the Atlantic Fishing Company said.

"Eleven people managed to get on to the life-raft, but in the confusion no-one seems to know what happened to the skipper and the cook, who were still on board," he said. "Three of the crew who were on the life

raft had life-jackets and decided to swim for shore. They were later found in the water."

He said it appeared that no distress signal had been sent because the vessel had begun to break up almost immediately.

He identified three of the dead men as Mr J Moreira, the skipper, his brother Mr J Moreira and Mr J de Lima. Neither the cook nor the fourth man may be identified as their next-of-kin have not yet been informed.

The eight survivors are Mr Donald Matontsi, Mr Elias Tawani, Mr Jeffrey Tabo Mokhachani, Mr Michael Wakeni, Mr Nelson Sitholi, Mr Peter Zikhali, Mr Michael France and Mr Moses Mbomba.

City trawler sinks: 4 die

AKG:us 20/2/85

(4) (131)

Staff Reporters

EAGLE-eyed aircrew on a routine flight along the West Coast saved the lives of eight shipwrecked trawlermen today by spotting their drifting liferaft 600m below.

The bodies of four drowned crew members have been recovered off Dassen Island by an SAAF helicopter and an NSRI rescue boat. Another crew member is believed still missing.

The trawlermen abandoned the sinking Cape Town-registered Atlantic Fishing vessel Southern Explorer after it ran aground off the island last night.

According to an SAAF spokesman at Southern Air Command's Silvermine headquarters, the two-man crew of a 25 Squadron Dakota on a routine flight from Langebaanweg to Ysterplaat spotted the drifting liferaft about three miles from Bok Point from an altitude of about 600m shortly before 10am today.

"Thank goodness that guy did spot them," said Colonel Jimmy Kotze, senior staff officer, operations, at Southern Air Command. "They saw them from quite a long way off. It was a pretty good show on their part."

Ran aground

The rescue co-ordination centre at Silvermine was alerted and a Puma helicopter from 30 Squadron, Ysterplaat, was scrambled.

The helicopter crew found the raft and winched up the eight survivors who told the flying crew they had abandoned ship after the 13m Southern Explorer ran aground and began sinking off Dassen Island last night. They said some crewmen had tried to swim ashore.

The Puma crew found three bodies washed ashore on Dassen Island and recovered them before taking the survivors to Tygerberg Hospital. They were admitted to the trauma unit.

Alerted NSRI

An Albatross reconnaissance aircraft from 27 Squadron based at DF Malan took over the search. The Albatross crew located another body in the sea and alerted an NSRI vessel which recovered it.

Surviving crew told the helicopter pilot that another more fisherman was probably missing.

Another SAAF helicopter joined the Albatross in the search near Dassen Island late this morning.

Worker seriously hurt after plunge into tanker hold

11664 Staff Reporter 20/2/85 131

A METRO emergency team rescued a seriously injured worker who fell from scaffolding on a tanker being repaired in Cape Town harbour

Mr Moses Ishuba, of NY 32, Guguletu, was taken to Woodstock Hospital with head and internal injuries after the accident yesterday afternoon

He fell several metres from scaffolding into a hold, according to Lieutenant-Colonel H J Small, a railways police liaison officer, and was hoisted out carefully to avoid further injury

Metro personnel gave him emergency treatment before taking him to hospital. His condition today was satisfactory.

SA leaders out of UK debate

Own Correspondent

LONDON — A member of the South African cabinet, the Rev Allan Hendrickse, and the Kwazulu leader, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, have withdrawn from an Oxford University debate on the new constitution following a political storm on the campus

Organizers of the March 7 student debate confirmed yesterday that Mr Hendrickse, who was to have argued against the motion that the new constitution entrenches apartheid, had indicated his withdrawal in a telegram from Cape Town

Chief Buthelezi, who was to have argued in support of the motion with the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, indicated his withdrawal during a visit to the United States, the organizers said

Their withdrawal follows a political storm on the campus about the wording of the motion and the choice of participants

Mr Hendrickse was to have been supported by the New Republic Party leader, Mr Bill Sutton

The Oxford Union, which is organizing the debate, and its vice-president, South African Rhodes scholar Gareth Penny, have been the target of vitriolic attacks in the campus newspaper

Mr Hendrickse said in a telegram that he had been motivated by the opportunity of debating against Dr Allan Boesak, who turned down an invitation to take part

Dr Boesak is due to take part in an alternative debate at Oxford organized by the Anti-Apartheid Movement for the same night as the union debate, and will deliver the Oxfam memorial lecture the night before the debate as part of a week of focus on South Africa

According to campus sources, it has now been decided to abandon the original motion and to substitute it with one which would be a debate between the government and the United Democratic Front or African National Congress rather than between opposing participants in the government system

SAMDCZ to hold Biko inquiry

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — The executive committee of the South African Medical and Dental Council will meet on March 1 to appoint a disciplinary committee to establish whether the two "Biko doctors" are guilty of improper or scandalous conduct

The two doctors, Dr Benjamin Tucker and Dr Ivor Lang, treated black consciousness leader Mr Steve Biko shortly before he died in security police detention in 1977

The council decided at an extraordinary meeting at the weekend not to appeal against a ruling by Mr Justice W G Boshoff, Judge-President of the Transvaal, that an inquiry should be held into the doctors' conduct

The council had previously decided against such an inquiry

The registrar of the council, Mr NM Prinsloo, said yesterday that the disciplinary inquiry would be open to the public

Workers want danger money

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — More than 1 000 workers at the AECI dynamite and chemical plant at Modderfontein stopped work yesterday to voice their dissatisfaction with safety conditions at the factory, following the death of 14 people in a blast last week

And at the Rietspruit colliery near Witbank the strike by more than 1 000 workers entered its fourth day with management threatening to fire those who do not return to their jobs this morning

A spokesman for the Cusa-affiliated South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu) said the AECI workers were striking because they questioned the safety of the plant

An AECI spokesman said the workers were striking over wages, but the Sacwu spokesman said the only wage issue was that they were demanding a danger allowance for working at the plant

At Rietspruit, the mine has been declared under

curfew, replacement labour is already being sought and Rand Mines has warned that its agreement with the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has been placed in jeopardy

This follows an incident at the mine late on Sunday night when mine security staff fired tear-smoke and rubber bullets on a group of about 150 workers who were marching on the white village

Mr Allen Cook, deputy head of Rand Mines' coal division, said 28 alleged "agitators" had been taken into custody by mine security and an internal inquiry was being held at the mine yesterday

He said 192 of the total day shift of 612 reported for work yesterday and that unless the others returned to work today, they would be dismissed "on the turn"

Gold Fields of South Africa has applied to the Rand Supreme Court for an urgent order to evict hundreds of workers fired from the East Driefontein goldmine at the weekend for striking

Modderfontein blast death toll now 14

JOHANNESBURG — The five people missing after Wednesday's explosion at the Modderfontein Dynamite Factory must be presumed dead, the deputy managing director, Mr Ted Smale, said yesterday

This brought the total number of dead to 14, he said

"It is with great regret that we must assume that the five missing people from Modderfontein factory did not survive the accidental explosion last Wednesday evening and that the total number of fatalities is now 14"

Mr Smale assured families of the dead of the company's concern for their future well-being

The names of the dead are Mr Clarkson Mahlati, Mr Alpheus Phosele, Mr Jack Monyebodi, Mr William Latisani, Mr Lazarus Mello, Mr Obed Malanga, Mr Jacob Mokwatedi, Mr Setuso Sibobi, Mr Richard Sikasungana, Mr Frederick Rangaka, Mr Nelson Moetji, Mr Elias Rigale, Mr Fred Mokhudu and Mr Daniel Manamela — Sapa

Worker crushed by ^{16/2/85} loader ⁽¹⁷¹⁾

Mercury Reporter

A CONSTRUCTION worker was seriously injured when he was crushed by a payloader at the new La Mercy Hotel construction site on Natal's North Coast yesterday

According to onlookers the payloader rolled down a bank, trapping Mr E Ngomo beneath it and crushing his head

Apart from serious head injuries, Mr Ngomo also sustained burns from leaking oil

He was taken to King Edward VIII Hospital where his condition has been described as satisfactory

Mr John Bannerman, chief of Umhlanga Protection Services who attended the case, has urged the public not to move an injured person

'An injured person should never be moved because it can be harmful if he has spine injuries but if it is necessary, please inform the ambulance where he has been moved to,' he said

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS & HEALTH

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2 Cape Times, Wednesday, January 29, 1986

Blast damages AECI Modderfontein plant

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — One man was slightly injured and a building extensively damaged in an explosion at AECI's Modderfontein factory yesterday evening

An AECI spokesman said an employee received a slight laceration on the back of his head. He was treated in hospital and discharged.

A fire after the explosion was extinguished within minutes by the factory's emergency services.

AECI's publicity manager, Mr Murray Joubert, said no foul play is suspected.

However, an inquiry will be held, he said. Last night a spokesman from the Police Public Relations Directorate said that the explosion would not be investigated by police as it was "not a police matter".

The AECI spokesman said that production at the plant would not be affected and no evaluation of the damage could be made until further investigation.

REPORT ON HIC ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1986

This report is divided into the following sections:

- * Introduction
- * research
- * self education
- * conferences and other meetings attended by HIC
- * general project work
- * publications and media
- * one off requests

INTRODUCTION

Over the last three months we have run a number of seminars in which we have tried to incorporate new ideas on teaching methods. Last year we had a discussion among the office employees on these. So far we have experimented with role playing situations and designing media around various health and safety problems. We have received positive feedback from people attending seminars on these methods.

Both of our longer term research projects, the grain milling survey and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act survey, are continuing. The grain milling survey is in its final stages. The pilot survey of the MOSA project has been completed. We are now setting up interviews with unions in various industries. After that the information will be compiled and made available to unions.

Bafana Seripe was employed from the beginning of January to replace Barbara Klugman who remains a member of the management board. The other office employees are Mapheti Leeuw, Sharon Fonn and Karen Cooper. We have also incorporated more people into our project work.

RESEARCH**1. FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS UNION. GRAIN DUST SURVEY**

This survey is entering its final stages. The survey began in the last quarter of 1984. During 1985 negotiations with management on the running of the survey took place and in March the field work began. This continued through its various stages until July 1985. There after the results were computerised and the analysis began. The analysis is now in its closing stages. During this last period there has been regular contact with the union organisers and one report back meeting, with the shop stewards at the factory, has been held.

Details of the survey have been written up in our previous project reports and they can be referred to for further information.

2. MACHINERY AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY ACT SURVEY

We have completed our pilot survey in which three unions, the Food and Canning Workers Union; the United Mining Metal and Workers Union of South Africa; the Sweet Food and Allied Workers Union, were interviewed.

The pilot survey was successful and because it shows certain trends we have decided to extend the project to verify these.

We are now in the process of setting up interviews with various unions organising in the following industries: metal, food, catering, building and construction, chemical, municipal and general.

The final questionnaire is divided into three sections which are aimed at union organisers, shop stewards and a general section on Mosa.

Also included in the survey is a questionnaire for management. So far only two of these have been returned.

One person employed in the office is coordinating the survey. An advisory group has also been established to oversee the project.

3. MENSURATION

Since the Health Information Centre was started we have had requests for information on the effects of working conditions on the menstrual cycle. Little information is available and so we are investigating the possibility of doing longer term research on this problem.

SELF EDUCATION

As part of our self education programme a medical student, who recently did his elective at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, gave us a talk on the school and how health and safety issues were being taken up in Britain. He also spent time helping draw up an Asbestos Policy for a hospital.

At the moment we are busy working through a worksheet, designed for medical students, on basic epidemiological concepts.

Other session we are planning include:

- * talk on occupational health law by a lawyer who recently spent time researching the topic.
- * discussion on educational materials and techniques.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER MEETINGS

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

We attended and participated in an industrial health conference in February. This conference is organised on an annual basis and groups similar to ourselves participate. Ideas and knowledge are shared amongst the various organisations. Topics that were discussed this year include compensation, productivity, MOSA etc.

HEALTH WORKERS ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We were invited to attend the HWA AGM which was attended by approximately 100 people. The meeting was addressed by Amanda Kwadi from Fedasaw and focussed on education and workers. Various resolutions were passed at the end of the meeting.

The meeting was a valuable learning experience for HIC people

GENERAL PROJECT WORK

NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION.

1. SHIFT WORK

The National Automobile and Allied Workers Union are investigating taking up the issue of shift work in their factories. HIC supplied the union with copies of our shiftwork document for the organisers to use and copies of our shiftwork pamphlet for shop stewards.

2. SOLVENTS

Spray painters at an automobile factory, organised by Naawu, requested information on chemicals they are using. After discussion with the union they also requested that we run a seminar for them.

The seminar looked at what chemicals can do to your health, what issues the union can negotiate for to improve their working conditions eg protective clothing, engineering controls etc. This seminar was attended by approximately 30 workers.

3. MATERNITY

We were requested by NAAWU to collect information on maternity agreements in South Africa. We sent letters to union Head Offices and the responses we have received so far were passed back to NAAWU.

4. CHILD CARE

Naawu requested information on child care. We gave them a copy of the pamphlet we originally drafted for the Federation of Transvaal Women.

NATIONAL UNION OF MINeworkERS

1. INSPECTION OF WORKS

A reclamation plant, organised by the union, requested that a doctor from HIC visit the plant and evaluate the medical centre on site. An inspection was organised where both management and shop stewards were present. There after a meeting was held where a report to the workers on the medical centre was given. This second meeting was attended by all the shop stewards in the plant. Here general problems on health and safety in all sections of the plant were discussed. At this meeting HIC was requested to provide information on certain chemicals. This was drawn up for the union as well as a report on suggested improvements to the medical services. They are in the process of drawing up a health and safety agreement with management and the information supplied by HIC will be used to inform some of their demands.

2. NOISE

The National Union of Mineworkers is conducting a noise-induced-hearing loss survey. This is being done in conjunction with the Technical Advice Group. HIC was requested to participate in this survey to give medical input. We have given input on medical causes of deafness besides noise in an effort to decrease the confounders in the survey. HIC participated in drawing up the questionnaire administered to workers. HIC also gave input on the medical section of the survey protocol.

Once the protocol of the study had been defined a HIC doctor attended the weekly meetings during which the study details and practicalities were discussed.

To develop the medical examination a pilot study was conducted where all the doctors participating in the study examined workers at the union office. This was done to test the medical protocol as well as "inter-examiner variability".

The survey field work has begun. A HIC doctor goes out to the mines to examine workers' ears. The field work is done on the weekends, and it is anticipated that the field work will take roughly 10 weekends to complete.

3. MEDICAL SCREENING

The National Union of Mineworkers requested HIC's help in drawing up a protocol to be followed by the mines' for pre-employment screening. This was prepared for the union by a HIC doctor and was done in conjunction with the unions health and safety officer. The union is presently negotiating this with the mines.

4. RADIATION

NUM is looking into the possible effects of radiation on workers' health in a mine, organised by the union, in the Northern Transvaal. One of our doctors recently visited the mine and drew up a report which has been given to the union.

SOUTH AFRICAN ALLIED WORKERS UNION.

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY SEMINAR

We ran a general health and safety seminar for SAAWU who are organising at Nampak in Pretoria. The workers are making toilet paper and the union requested a seminar to discuss health problems and maternity rights.

The seminar was attended by approximately 90 people. We ran a general discussion where various problems, eg. dust, shift work and heat were discussed and used our slide tape show to introduce the seminar. Because of the large numbers attending we prepared worksheets on maternity, heat, solvents, basic working conditions, noise, shift work etc beforehand. The worksheets gave basic information on the problem, a list of questions and a task. Workers were asked to design posters, displays, write a pamphlet or do a play around the issue they had chosen.

The workshop was very successful. We drew up an evaluation sheet, which people filled in afterwards, to gauge whether or not this was a good way to run seminars. Generally it was felt that some kind of practical exercise was a good way to learn and also encouraged participation.

Throughout the seminar we tried to make use of our education materials like our anatomical model, slide tape show, posters and diagrams.

Lack of space and the large numbers were problems throughout this particular seminar.

2. CHEMICALS

SAAWU workers at Medunsa, a medical school, requested information on the chemicals they are using. They are laboratory assistants and work mainly with formaldehyde.

FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS UNION.

1. FACTORY VISIT

We were requested by the FCWU to visit a milling plant. A number of workers had been operating a machine and recently the workforce had been reduced. The remaining workers now felt their job to be highly stressful.

The union wrote a letter to the management requesting that we be allowed access to the factory. Management had already called in an inspector and felt that one inspection was enough.

2. INFORMATION PACKAGE

As a result of the visits to the grain mill during the grain milling survey FCWU requested that we draw up an information package on the health hazards of working in the grain milling industry. This will be used as a guideline during preparations for negotiation on a nation wide level.

This package is still in a draft form and has been given to the union for comment. The issues covered are:

- * grain dust
- * lifting
- * temperatures
- * effects of chloride and mythel bromide

3. COLD AND HOT WORKING CONDITIONS

FCWU requested information on working in cold conditions as some of their workers are employed in a frozen chicken factory. We sent them information on what cold work does to your health and what issues the union can negotiate for.

The union also requested information on working in hot conditions. We compiled a package which included problems of working in the heat, protective clothing and its problems, rest breaks, washing facilities, etc.

UNITED MINING METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS OF SOUTH AFRICA. HEAT

We conducted part of our Mosa survey with UMMAWSA. During discussion on health and safety the shop stewards complained of working in very hot conditions. They are not provided with any form of protective clothing and there is little protection against the heat.

We prepared a pamphlet for the union which looked at the following:

- * the health hazards of working in hot conditions
- * protective clothing and its problems
- * ventilation
- * isolation of heat sources and isolating workers from the source of heat.

SWEET FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION. COLD WORK

We ran a seminar for the SFAWU workers working in a frozen food factory. This was attended by 15 shop stewards and observers from two other factories. The seminar dealt with the effects of working in the cold, protective clothing, pregnancy, noise etc.

After the main discussion the shop stewards broke up into two groups. The first group prepared a list of issues to negotiate around and the second group prepared a report back to fellow workers with the aim of raising consciousness around health and safety problems.

TEARGAS MOVIE

A film and drama student approached HIC for ideas of health issues that could be made into a movie. We would work closely with her and at the same time would be taught basic film making skills. It was decided that a movie on teargas would be made. The idea was discussed with people living in Saulsville and Ateridgeville, townships near Pretoria and it was felt that there was a definite need for such a movie.

BLACK ALLIED MINERS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION.

We gave advice to BAMCWU on how to gain access to medical records on an asbestos mine. They are also planning to hold two conferences on health and safety, one looking at the mines and the other will focus on the building and construction industry.

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

1. Shiftwork.
A workers booklet on shift work has been produced. It is written in such a way as to give information on the health hazards of shiftwork. This is followed by ideas for negotiation as well as backup information to substantiate the demands. This was produced in consultation with the Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union. The pamphlet has been distributed to various unions and as soon as the second printing is ready, it will be systematically distributed to all unions we have worked with.

2. Milk pamphlet
A short pamphlet explaining that milk is a very good food but doesn't prevent occupational diseases has been written.

3. Stresses.
A rough draft of a pamphlet on stress has been written. It looks at what stress does to your body and why working conditions in South Africa are so stressful. This research will also be used in a section of the NUM training manual.

4. Law Booklet
The law booklet which simplifies the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and the regulations is being checked by a lawyer for accuracy prior to final layout and printing.

5. Building and Construction Booklet
We are awaiting feedback on the booklet, prepared for the Building Construction and Allied Workers Union, which looks at the health hazards of the building and construction industry.

6. Slide Tape Show
This was shown to other health groups at the industrial health conference. Feedback from this conference is being incorporated in the slide tape show.

ONE OPE REQUESTS

1. We have referred workers with occupationally related health problems to the National Centre for Occupational Health from:
* Fedcrow
* National Union of Mineworkers
* Transport and General Workers Union
* General and Allied Workers Union

2. We have given information to the following:
* Food and Canning Workers Union - health hazards of poultry farming
* National Union of Mineworkers - Mine related diseases
* Sweet Food and Allied Workers Union - creams for allergies
* Industrial Aid Society - mine star rating
* Community Health Department, Drb. - chemicals
* Weekly Mail - Tokyo Declaration
* United Mining Metal and Allied Workers Union of South Africa
* Basic Conditions of Employment Act

3. We have also had numerous requests for copies of our publications from individuals, unions and other organisations.

Petrol-pump man robbed

Staff Reporter

AKGUS 3/2/86 (131)
ARMED robbers snatched R251 cash and a radio from a Mitchell's Plain petrol-pump attendant

Mr Charles Brewis, 38, is the 20th late-night pump attendant to be robbed this year in the Western Cape.

He was threatened by three men about 11pm on Friday while on duty in Eisleben Road.

Most of the victims have been confronted by three armed men. Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, police liaison officer, declined to comment on whether the same gang is suspected of being responsible for the robberies.

No arrests have been made, he said.

Three injured in bus stonings ¹³¹ *Cape Times* 7/2/86

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THREE people have been injured in the stoning of five City Tramways buses over the past two days, bringing the number of attacks on Tramways buses to 29 this year.

In Guguletu yesterday two buses were attacked, the first near the notorious "Majuba Hill" in NY1 and the second in NY 108. Total damage was estimated at R240.

On Wednesday afternoon a bus driver was hit in the stomach by a rock at the corner of NY108 and NY115 and an unidentified passenger cut his hand on jagged glass while leaping from the bus, police said.

A spokesman for City Tramways said the driver was given time off to recover.

A woman was slightly injured when a bus was stoned in Lansdowne Road, New Crossroads yesterday evening. Two hours later, in Pine Road, Mitchells Plain, another City Tramways bus came under attack.

Damage was described as "minimal".

No arrests have been made.

Spokemen for both the police and City Tramways declined to identify the victims, "for their own safety".

This brings the number of people injured in attacks on buses this year to 12.

The latest spate of attacks comes in the wake of a heated public debate between Mr Nick Cronje, managing director of City Tramways, and two township taxi associations over who is to blame for the stonings.

Mr Cronje has supported anonymous allegations made to the Cape Times that illegal taxi drivers were responsible for the stoning of buses.

It is alleged the taxi drivers wanted to force buses from the townships.

The taxi drivers' associations hotly deny this, saying they would invoke the wrath of the township communities by doing so.

(31)

Police seek two suspects

Crime Reporter

POLICE yesterday released pictures of two men, one of whom is believed to be responsible for at least eight recent petrol station robberies in the Peninsula and both believed to have been involved in the murder of a hawker in Kensington on Saturday.

The hawker, Mr William Lamberts, died of a gunshot wound in Grootte Schuur Hospital after he was attacked and shot by two men while collecting money in Loods Plein, Kensington, about 7.30am.

Police believe the two suspects teamed up after Mr Kevin van den Heever, alias Kevin Josias, escaped from Athlone Magistrate's Courts on January 12 by allegedly using another su-



Mr Gary King, alias Gary Heldsinger.



Mr Kevin van den Heever, alias Kevin Josias.

spect's name and being granted bail.

Mr Van den Heever had been awaiting trial for allegedly robbing a bus driver in Manenberg last month.

He can be identified by a fresh gunshot wound on his right forearm.

The second suspect, Mr Gary King, alias Gary Heldsinger, was last known to be living in

Bokmakierie, Athlone. Detectives believe he is the mastermind behind at least eight of this year's 22 petrol station robberies in the Peninsula.

Both men are armed and considered dangerous.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police radio control at 10111.

Men snatch R1 400 in 26th garage raid

Staff Reporter

LATE-NIGHT petrol station robbers snatched more than R1 400 in the 26th such robbery in the Western Cape this year

Three armed men threatened an 8th Avenue, Kensington, attendant on Wednesday night and fled with R1 404

The attendant, Mr Skosana Matzikula, 35, was not injured, said Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, police liaison officer

This year armed men have robbed late-night station attendants of about R3 000 and at least four attendants have been shot and wounded

Several methods of stopping the robberies have been suggested by bodies connected to the petrol industry.

The Garage Workers' Union has said it supports the proposal that garages demand exact payments for petrol sold late at night.

Recently Mr George Beckman, chairman of the Western Province division of the South African Motor Traders' Association, said he felt most garage owners did not feel a need to act because only a small percentage of the total number of garages had been robbed

"If three out of 1 000 have hold-ups, it is difficult to convince the remaining 977 until they, too, get robbed," Mr Beckman said recently.

Police have asked customers to pay with credit cards or the exact amount after hours to enable pump attendants to deposit cash in night safes.

ARGUS 18/2/86

R650 taken in two petrol station robberies

Staff Reporter

FOUR armed robbers fled with R400 today after holding up a petrol station attendant.

Mr Wellington Naukidiku, 28, an attendant at a station in Jakkalsvlei Road, Bonteheuwel, was robbed soon after midnight, said Lieutenant Attie Laubscher, police liaison officer.

Last night a Philippi pump attendant was robbed of R250 by two armed men, bringing the number of station attendants robbed in the Western Cape this year to 28.

Mr S Bondele, 27, was robbed about 7.45pm while on duty at a Lansdowne Road service station.

No arrests have been made.

● A 62-year-old Simondium woman is in a serious condition in Paarl Hospital after being beaten with an iron pipe.

Mrs Magdalena Klein, owner of Vredelust Farm, was attacked about 10.15am yesterday by a man who surprised her as she walked through her back door, said Major Frank Alton, Boland police liaison officer.

Mrs Klein was beaten on the head and arms.

Shortly before the attack she had chased two youths out of her garden, he said.

An undisclosed sum of money was missing from the house. No arrests had been made, Major Alton added.

CAP T. B. 21/2/86

Workers exposed to radiation

Staff Reporter

131

FOUR employees of a French contracting firm attached to the Koeberg nuclear power station Town were exposed to "minor levels of radiation" on Wednesday afternoon during the annual re-fuelling maintenance, an Escom spokesman said yesterday.

The incident took place when seals were removed from a reactor head and "stringent operational guidelines were not closely followed", communications manager Mr E H Thal said in Johannesburg.

The contamination was immediately detected by "normal monitoring procedures," Mr Thal added.

"The levels of radiation were less than one percent of the permissible annual exposure for radiation workers according to very conservative limits set by the Atomic Energy Corporation." He said there would nonetheless be an inquiry.

company in the centre since last November

ing internal develop-
ments during the next 12

City CBD open to all soon

Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN'S Central Business District will be opened to free trading "within weeks", the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said yesterday

Mr Heunis said in an interview that the proclamation document was in the final stages of preparation before being submitted to the President for his signature

However, unlike in Johannesburg and Durban, more than one business district in Cape Town could well be opened to free trading

The Director General of Constitutional Development and Planning, Dr Adries van Wyk, yesterday said the Cape Town municipal area comprised more than one "higher order business district".

"Therefore, it is quite conceivable that more than one free trading area will be opened within the next few weeks in Cape Town," he said

He indicated that, in addition to the downtown business district in Cape Town, areas such as Wynberg could also be opened to all races for business, commercial, professional or religious purposes

Slabbert's version of talk with NIS chief

By CHRIS ERASMUS
DR Van Zyl Slabbert last night released his version of his conversation last year with the head of the National Intelligence Service, Dr Niel Barnard, and criticised the government for trying to "impugn" his credibility over the affair

The full text of Dr Slabbert's statement appears on page 11

In a telephone interview from Swaziland, Dr Slabbert also disclosed that he had no intention of joining or starting any extra-parliamentary group, but may teach courses at all three universities in the Western Cape

He also intends writing for newspapers and a book on political events in South Africa "over the last year or so"

Dr Slabbert said his

mind had not changed since he resigned from the leadership of the PFP and from Parliament two weeks ago and that he would like to meet and speak to as wide a range of people as possible

"I have been in parliamentary politics for so long, I would like to meet people involved in the whole spectrum of extra-parliamentary politics, from the Broederbond to the ANC," he said

Dr Slabbert denied any intention of joining or starting any specific extra-parliamentary organization and said rumours that he was moving closer to the UDF in this respect were entirely false

"Whatever role I will play will ultimately crystallize out as a result of my research"

Workers exposed to radiation

Staff Reporter
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The contamination was immediately detected by "normal monitoring procedures," Mr Thal added

"The levels of radiation were less than one percent of the permissible annual exposure for radiation workers according to very conservative limits set by the Atomic Energy Corporation" He said there would nonetheless be an inquiry

Buthelezi 'betrayed' in talks

BONN — The release of the taped discussion between Mr PW Botha and Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert has angered Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, currently on a European trip

Chief Buthelezi, Kwa-Zulu Chief Minister and President of Inkatha, said in a statement last night "I can only regretfully conclude — after studying the text of the taped conversation relating to myself — that Mr Botha and Dr Slabbert were acting like two whites pontificating about an uppity, difficult kaffir"

He said the two men had done a "veritable hatchet job" on him

The statement added "This is a matter of deep concern to me Not only on a personal level but because the widespread publicity given to the transcript of the tape will alienate a great many blacks — including of course my own supporters"

The "utterances" of the two men could not have come at a worse time, the chief said

"I have no illusions about the world of politics and — in particular — politics in South Africa But this time I am feeling betrayal as never before"

The taped conversation referred to the chief as wanting to be "the only bull in the kraal" — Sapa

CR



"It's
Van
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ARGUS 4/3/86

131

International move to end the use of asbestos

THOMAS LAND of the London Observer Service reports from Geneva on an international convention aimed at the replacement wherever possible of asbestos in industrial processes.

A GLOBAL code of industrial practice for the protection of workers from asbestos dust is nearing completion. It is intended to save lives — but it will make asbestos and its products far more expensive.

The United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) is expected soon to publish a set of proposed industrial standards. They are to be incorporated in a convention that will form the basis of national legislation by the member countries.

The proposal is the result of much research, debate and compromise since 1981 when industry first admitted the magnitude of the problem at a historic conference. Asbestos has been used over the decades as an insulating agent in ships and port facilities to such a great extent that the concentration of its airborne particles at many seaports is significantly greater than elsewhere.

The proposed industrial standards prescribing a minimum safety code may well be adopted by the forthcoming International Labour

Conference in Geneva. Most of the 76 governments which have replied to an ILO questionnaire favour a convention.

The proposed convention will provide, among other things, that exposure to asbestos should be limited by national regulations providing the following measures:

□ Replacement of asbestos by harmless, or less harmful, substances wherever possible

□ Prohibition of the use of asbestos in many work processes

□ Making the remaining uses of asbestos subject to authorisation.

Each employer will be made responsible for the establishment and implementation of a programme of practical measures for the prevention and control of the exposure of workers to asbestos. The draft text sets out the conditions of establishing exposure limits and measures to ensure that they are observed. The proposed code prescribes compulsory surveillance of the working

environment and the health of workers and it provides for the education of workers in relevant aspects of industrial safety and health.

These proposals reflect the conclusion reluctantly drawn by the ILO policy makers that industry simply cannot afford to phase out asbestos entirely despite the inherent health hazards. But the convention may well limit the use of asbestos severely, and increase substantially the cost of its application.

World production of asbestos has risen steadily from 675 000 tons in 1940 to well over 5-million tons in the 1980s. More than two-thirds of it is used in the form of asbestos cement and the rest as ingredients for a great variety of industrial products.

Asbestos fibres are doubly harmful, says the ILO working paper. They can cause asbestosis — a form of fibrosis of the lungs — or provoke cancer, particularly of the respiratory airways, or other diseases. Occupationally, millions of workers are at risk of inhaling significant

amounts of asbestos dust. And the industrial use of asbestos may increase its concentration in the environment and pose a potential threat to the health of the general population.

A specialist spokesman for the ILO adds: "The control of asbestos-related risks poses extremely complex problems and the experts disagree over numerous vital points. For one thing, it is difficult to measure precisely the concentration of asbestos dust in the air; for another, there is some uncertainty as to whether any safer threshold exists."

Moves towards a global industrial safety code spring from a Montreal conference attended by representatives of the medical and scientific communities, labour movements and industry from 60 countries. Organised by the Canadian and Quebec governments and the European Community, the meeting sought a common direction for future research as well as global criteria for regulation.

AR 605 4/3/86 (131)

Worker dies after attack by 'upset' bull

Staff Reporter

A FARM worker died in Tygerberg Hospital after being trampled by a bull, police said today.

They believe the bull was being led into a paddock when it charged Mr Sezi Action Mayika, 39.

Major Frank Alton, Boland's police liaison officer, said Mr Mayika died about 11am yesterday, 17 hours after he was trampled.

Major Alton said that Mr Mayika, who worked on Vredenburg Farm near Stellenbosch, was leading the bull into a paddock between 5pm and 6pm on Sunday.

He opened the gate and the bull "got upset", Major Alton said. The animal charged Mr Mayika and knocked him over. "We believe the animal then stood on his head."

After the incident Mr Mayika walked to the farmhouse and was taken to Stellenbosch Hospital. He was transferred to Tygerberg Hospital.

~~News 8/3/16~~
**1 dead, 3 hurt
in explosives
factory blast**

Staff Reporter **131**

ONE person was killed and three were injured, one seriously, in an explosion at an Armscor subsidiary in Somerset West today

An Armscor spokesman said the blast at Somchem at 9 20am was an "industrial accident" during "normal manufacturing activities"

"The matter has been reported to the inspector of explosives and a full investigation has been launched into the incident in conjunction with him," he said

The spokesman said the company made explosives and propellants

The names of the dead and injured have not been released as their relatives have not yet been told

3 radiation incidents at Koeberg last month

C.T. 12/3/86

(13)

Political Staff

WORKERS attached to the Koeberg nuclear power station had been exposed to radiation in three incidents last month, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, said yesterday.

Controls had been tightened after all three cases, supervisors had

been informed and re-training of staff was taking place, Mr Steyn said

He said in reply to a question, tabled in the House of Assembly by Mr Brian Goodall (PFP, Edenvale), that two incidents occurred on February 19 this year and a third on February 27

He said five radiation workers of a contracting firm assisting with refuelling removed a seal from the reactor head without conforming to laid-down requirements stipulating that radiators be worn during this operation "As a result of inhaling the contaminated air, these workers received between one and 10 millirem radiation dosage"

In the second incident, five contractors' staff who were removing lagging from pipework were subjected to "unnecessary exposure" of between five and 150 millirem from an adjacent

tank containing radioactive material, Mr Steyn said

"They were working without a 'permit to work' which would have restricted their access to the area until after the tank had been drained"

In the third incident, radioactive material was lifted above water level in the fuel pool due to a spacer not being used on the crane

"When the mistake was realized, the staff concerned immediately lowered the material back into the water and the health physics team investigated, after which the staff stopped work"

"Health physics safeguards were in place at all times during the operation"

"Three Escom employees received between 10 and 15 millirem exposure, roughly the same as they would normally receive during a full shift on work of this nature," Mr Steyn said.

quantities have they been imported and (b) where have these substances been stored or disposed of;

(3) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

(1) (a) No

(b) No.

(2) and (3) Fall away

(3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

(1) (a) 289 052.

(b) (i) R 8 019 485.

(ii) R68 155 338.

(iii) R37 722 912

(2) (a) (i) 296 714

(ii) 289 052

(b) R124 500 952.

(3) 3 475 627 man days

Labour Relations Act
454. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

(a) How many applications for the (i) establishment of conciliation boards in terms of section 35, and (ii) appointment of a mediator in terms of section 44, of the Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, were (aa) made and (bb) approved in 1985 and (b) in respect of what percentage of the approved applications were the disputes settled, in each case?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(a) (i) (aa) 514
(bb) 101

(ii) (aa) Nil
(bb) Nil

(b) Conciliation Boards—27,7 per cent
Mediators—falls away

(1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in 1982 and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State, (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) assurance companies;

(2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, No 30 of 1941, and (b) what was the total amount paid out in compensation in this year,

(3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

(1) (a) 289 052.

(b) (i) R 8 019 485.

(ii) R68 155 338.

(iii) R37 722 912

(2) (a) (i) 296 714

(ii) 289 052

(b) R124 500 952.

(3) 3 475 627 man days

Trade unions
458. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) How many registered trade unions confined their membership to (a) White, (b) Coloured/Asian and (c) Black persons as at the latest specified date for which figures are available,

(2) (a) how many racially mixed registered trade unions were there at that date and (b) how many (i) White, (ii) Coloured and Asian and (iii) Black persons are members of trade unions?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(1) (a) 46

(b) 24

(c) 26

(2) (a) 100.

(b) (i) 458 110.

(ii) 295 987.

(iii) 511 171.

Note The figures are as at 31 December 1985.

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Factory death: (131) 14/3/86 man fined

By Inga Molzen

Vivian George Alexander Skelton (38) was fined R200 (or three months' jail) by the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday as the result of one of his part-time employees being killed and another injured in a factory accident.

Skelton, of Windsor Park, Randburg, was sentenced for contravening the Machinery and Occupational Act.

He was acquitted on the main count of culpable homicide relating to the death of Miss Eugenia Mbanjwa (19) on August 2, 1984 at a factory in Doornfontein.

The court heard that Skelton allowed three part-time labourers to travel in a goods hoist not intended for passenger use, and operated it from the outside because there were no controls within.

Miss Mbanjwa died after being trapped between the lift shaft and the hoist platform. Miss Christina Sibanyoni (38) had to be treated in hospital for injuries.

Anti-asbestos campaign

Labour snippets

stepped up

SQWETIAN
9/2/86

THE Black Allied Mining and Construction workers Union (Bamcwu) is to intensify the anti-asbestos campaign. This is the main resolution adopted by Bamcwu's national council at a meeting recently. The union has resolved to appoint a committee to monitor and spearhead the anti-asbestos campaign. The committee will also be charged with the task of compiling a booklet on asbestos. Bamcwu's national

council also resolved — among other things — to:

- Demand the recognition by management of June 16 and May 1 (Labour Day) as public holidays.
- Call for the release of all political prisoners
- Demand the dismantling of "racist legislation" entrenched in Mines and Works Act, as well as call on the

Chamber of Mines and other mining companies "to scrap racist laws on their own"

- Call on the Government to scrap the migrant labour system. Condemning the migrant labour system, Bamcwu called on the private sector and the Government, to build "workers' villages" where migrant labourers would stay with

their families.

The migrant labour system should be phased out by the end of 1987, Bamcwu's resolution read.

- THE 8 000-member General Workers' Union of South Africa (Gwusa) has moved into new offices in Pretoria.

The new offices are at Struport Building, corner Struben and Potgieter streets.

OUR REGULAR column, Workers' Diary will appear next week. Our labour reporter LEN MASEKO, was off for a number of days. To publish your items for the Workers' Diary please telephone him on Thursdays and Mondays and the article will appear the next Wednesday. Remember that we publish even meetings of shop stewards councils in our Diary. Just telephone Maseko and you will be surprised. Our telephone number is 673-4160.

Wage agreement

THE National Union of Clothing Workers recently concluded a wage agreement with Dorian City Factory in Johannesburg.

The union negotiates an annual agreement with the company, which employs about 180 workers.

In terms of the agreement, all workers' categories will be given the same increase of R9 a week, made of a rise of R5 a week in March 1986 and R4 a week in September 1986.

Self-rescue equipment on way for all miners

By Sven Lünsche

Gencor specialist mining supplies company Conway Johnson has finalised a sole distributor arrangement for marketing the safety product range of Kawasaki Safety Service Industries (KSS), a subsidiary of the giant Kawasaki Heavy Industries Limited of Japan.

First product from KSS to be marketed in South Africa is a compressed oxygen self-rescue unit for underground mining, to meet standards set by the Government Mining Engineer (GME).

In terms of safety legislation expected to be introduced soon, coal, gold and base metal mineral mines are to equip all underground workers with emergency breathing apparatus over the next three years.

According to Mr Kobus de Jonge, MD of Conway Johnson, the self-rescuer market in South Africa is expected to be worth about R500 million over the next

three years. The Conway-Kawasaki rescuer goes on sale this week, but the product has not been finalised in all its aspects.

"While the preliminary requirements of the GME have been met, we still have to meet their final standards and those of the Chamber of Mines. We hope that these standards will be met within four to six months by new developments and improvements," Mr de Jonge said.

The safety requirements will be introduced in three phases - the coal mining industry will have to satisfy the safety standards this year, followed by the gold mining industry in the following year and the base metal mines will have to fulfil the safety requirements by the end of 1988. Conway-Johnson hopes to improve the design of self-rescue units with the introduction of each phase.

When the regulations are formally introduced every miner will be required to wear a self-rescuer underground.

24/3/86

131 STAT

from repatriation on the ground of long service as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a) Zimbabwe 2 939
- (b) Lesotho 460
- (c) Swaziland 399
- (d) Botswana 195
- (e) Mozambique 20 522
- (2) (a) Zimbabwe 532
- (b) Lesotho 260
- (c) Swaziland 8

Religious objectors
 HANSARD 25/3/86 736
 430 Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (a) How many persons classified as religious objectors were placed in employment during the period 1 July 1985 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available, (b) in which specified government Departments and bodies were these persons placed and (c) how many such persons were placed in each Government Department or body?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (a) 116 religious objectors were placed in employment during the period 1 July 1985 to 28 February 1986

- (b) and (c) Administration: House of Representatives 1
- Administration: House of Representatives 2
- Department of Agriculture 1
- Department of Agriculture and Water Supply 1
- Department of Agriculture, Economics and Marketing 3
- Department of Education and Training 1
- Department of Finance (Receiver of Revenue) 3
- Department of Manpower 50
- Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs 1
- Department of National Health and Population Development 4
- Department of Public Works and Land Affairs 3
- Department of Water Affairs 3

- Cape Provincial Administration 5
- Natal Provincial Administration 2
- Orange Free State Provincial Administration 1
- Transvaal Provincial Administration 12
- Divisional Council of the Cape 2
- Municipalities and City Councils 21
- TOTAL** 116

25/3/86 HANSARD
 445 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

How many Black contract workers were working in the Cape Peninsula in 1985?

HOA

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

17 884 Registered Black Contract workers were employed in the Cape Peninsula in 1985.

Industrial accidents
 HANSARD 25/3/86 737
 456 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work during the latest specified year for which figures are available,

- (2) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in that year, (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

The latest available figures are for 1982 and are as follows

- (1) (a) Asians 207
- Coloureds 1 508
- Members of the Black population groups 20 518
- Whites 1 687
- (b) Asians 26
- Coloureds 128
- Members of the Black population groups 1 578
- Whites 183

- (2) (a) 289 052
- (b) R68 155 338
- (c) 3 475 627 man days

25/3/86 HANSARD
 457 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many trade unions applied between 1 January and 31 December 1985 for registration in respect of (a) Black employees only, (b) White employees only, (c) Coloured employees only and (d) employees of more than one population group?

HOA

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (a) Three.
- (b) One.
- (c) None.
- (d) Five.

Unemployed persons
 HANSARD 25/3/86 738
 459 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many Whites, Coloureds and Asians, respectively, were registered as unemployed in each inspectorate area as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

	Whites	Coloureds	Asians
Bloemfontein	1 901	763	—
Kaapstad	3 030	11 801	—
Durban	4 833	2 931	12 189
Oos-Londen	707	472	21
George	364	867	—
Johannesburg	10 637	4 298	832
Kimberley	267	1 370	15
Port Elizabeth	2 904	5 758	63
Pretoria	2 203	308	88
Total	26 846	28 569	14 208

These figures are as at 31 December 1985

25/3/86 HANSARD
 461 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many males and females, respectively, were registered at labour bureaux as work-seekers in terms of the Guidance and Placement Act, No 62 of 1981, as at the end of each specified month in 1985?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:
 Figures as per attached schedule.

Asbestos twins in search of a clean bill of health

By David Carte

FOR those who like a high-risk, high-return gamble, Gencor's asbestos twins, Msauli and Gefco could be an option.

The first reason one could be interested is that asbestos, like nuclear power, appears to be less dangerous than everyone fears, at least if it is handled properly.

Turnaround

There is a world oversupply of asbestos, but if fears were laid to rest and the US Environmental Protection Agency got off the industry's back, demand would quickly exceed supply and both counters would move decisively. This may take time.

A shorter-term prospect is that because of the health panic, large Canadian producers may close, so benefiting Msauli, which competes with them in white asbestos. Gefco produces blue fibre.

Thanks largely to a rand that ended the year on \$0,37, Msauli last year

returned from a loss of R551 000 to a profit of R5,5-million, and Gefco's taxed profit leapt from R10,9-million to R16,8-million. Both companies are extremely cautious because of lower dollar prices and a stronger rand since the last accounting period.

Earnings of Msauli were 85,5c a share and of Gefco 46,9c. Msauli failed to pay a dividend as it has to reduce debt. Gefco paid 25c.

The two have been neglected by disillusioned investors, Msauli in particular. At 140c, it is only 1,6 times earnings. Gefco has a PE of 3,4 and a historical dividend yield of 15,6%.

Sceptical

Msauli's bombed-out rating suggests value. Only poor old Zimbabwean counter Coronation Syndicate is more lowly rated among mining stocks. Investors have taken their pessimistic cue from a less than sanguine management.

One shareholder is sceptical of all this pessimism and wonders if there may not be a bid for the minority

before asbestos gets a clean bill of health. He has asked how Msauli could fail to pay a dividend, ostensibly because prospects are so bleak, and yet have the confidence to splash about R3-million on expanding capacity.

The answer is that the capex was necessary to reach a new orebody merely to stay in production. Capex was funded with debt, which must be repaid (to Gencor) before dividends can be forked out.

Lesser threat

The Msauli balance sheet is hardly a disaster. There is only R3,1-million of long-term debt compared with shareholders' funds of R23,1-million.

Stocks — useful in the event of a strike — have more than quintupled to R2,44-million and debtors have soared from R2,3-million to R4,1-million.

Another reason that Msauli looks more interesting is that although management insists there is no difference in health risk between white and blue asbestos, popular opinion reckons white is the lesser threat.

13/4/86

S. P. M. C.

131

107 died
in work
accidents

Medical Reporter

There were 105 deaths — 68 immediately fatal — in working accidents among black workers on Rand Mines gold mines in 1984 — a mortality rate of 1,6 per 1 000.

The mortality rate among black workers through working accidents in 1984 on Rand Mines coal mines was 0,3 per 1 000 — or two dead.

On the group's gold mines, 7 486 blacks were injured in accidents connected with work, an incidence of 115,5 per 1 000, and 3 980 were injured in accidents unconnected with work. Of the latter, 105 died.

These figures are contained in the Rand Mines annual medical report released last week.

(31) (19) (MARKTOWN) C7 16/9/86.
SADF men ill after locust combat

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY — Three members of the SADF became ill after being involved in applying the poison BHC to combat locusts. The three men had shown symptoms of stomach cramps, coughing and headaches similar to 'flu, the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, told Mr Roger Hulley (PFP Constantia). The Minister of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said four thousand tons of BHC had been used to combat locusts in the Eastern Cape recently.

S.M. 17/1/88
131

Doctor criticises industrialists' contribution to health services

Medical Reporter
Industrialists put little time, money and organisation into the prevention of occupational disease, doctors attending the Fifth General Practitioners' Congress in Johannesburg were told yesterday.

A doctor representing unions said in a paper on "What Unions Expect of Occupational Health Services" that the provision of an occupational health

service was often motivated by health professionals, or by management itself, on the basis of profits above health.

"When doctors place profit above health, they are no longer healers," the doctor said.

Health services were usually curative and did not address the issue of occupational health.

"Added to this is the fact that health service has no relationship to the

workers — its only channel of communication is with management."

There were instances where workers on sick leave were instructed to return to work after 12 days, even if not fully recovered.

This was to prevent the time off work reaching the 14-day reportable level, thereby keeping down the official accident rate and reducing the amount the company pays into the Workmen's Compensation Fund, the doctor said.

"It looks better for National Occupational Safety Association records, but has little to do with adequate health care."

She said unions should be consulted on running a health service and equal access to health services by "management" and workers.

'Inequalities in compensation'

Heard at the Fifth General Practitioners' Congress at the Johannesburg Sun yesterday:

"There is still room for improvement in the laws providing compensation for miners.

"Compensation is racially determined where maximum payment for silicosis is concerned — whites receive R33 207, coloureds R17 711 and blacks R2 052.

"We have to ask the question: is suffering on the part of whites worth more than suffering on the part of blacks?" — a doctor in a paper on occupational health services.

CMB Times
21/4/86 (131)

City welder escapes death

Staff Reporter

A CITY welder narrowly escaped being burnt to death after sparks from a grinder he was using set paint vapour alight in the basement of a city computer company building yesterday.

Mr Cedric Mellem was almost overcome by fumes as he battled to quell the blaze using a fire extinguisher. He stumbled from the basement to phone the fire brigade from a cafe.

Three tenders responded within minutes and firemen wearing breathing equipment brought the flames under control.

A paint spraying booth was destroyed and a section of the basement badly damaged.

Mr Mellem said that sparks from the grinder "must have bounced off a wall behind him".

8 coal miners hurt in methane gas fire

By Craig Kotze

Eight miners were injured in a methane gas fire at Sasol's Middelbult coal mine near Secunda yesterday

A Secunda Collieries spokesman, Mr Stan Booth, said today the eight injured were admitted to the mine hospital and were in a stable condition. Their names have not yet been released.

Last August 30 miners died and 29 were injured in a methane gas explosion at the Middelbult mine

But Mr Booth stressed the latest incident was not an explosion but a fire

He said "If it had been an explosion it would have caused

massive damage and many deaths. But only 19 miners were in the area when the fire broke out"

After last year's blast, Sasol said it had been awarded five stars for safety standards under the International Institute of Loss Control's monitoring scheme

Mr Booth said "Our safety record is as good as any and we are intensively rechecked with safety"

But Ms Chris Bonner, Transvaal branch secretary of the Chemical Worker's Industrial Union, said the union was appalled at the second accident and seriously questioned Sasol's safety standards

At the old
W Mail 2/5/86

red brick court in PMB

145A

... Meanwhile in Pietermaritzburg, the lonely trial of four once-powerful unionists continues. TONY OOSTHUIZEN reports

FOUR leaders of a large trade union, who once led thousands of workers, have for months now met quietly every day at the old red brick Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg

Thozamile Gqweta, Sisa Njikelana, Samuel Kikine and Isaac Kgcobo, all of the SA Allied Workers Union, are facing charges of treason and two alternative charges of terrorism and of furthering the aims of an unlawful organisation

Far from their homes in the Eastern Cape and Durban, and out on bail, the four have become dependent on supporters who put them up, feed them and provide them with their only company.

With them are their two lawyers, Clifford Mailer and Marino Moerane.

The College Road Supreme Court is not only the venue of a lengthy and technical legal tussle between the state and the four trade unionists. It has also become the venue of four men's lonely struggle against fading spirits in the face of diminishing public support as the trial continues day after day, week after week, month after month

An empty gallery bears testimony to the lack of visible support for the men who once spoke for so many.

Ocasional problems at the entrance to the court, where policeman have said they are under orders not to allow anybody to attend the open trial, also led to a number of unsuspecting supporters being turned away before the matter came to the attention of the defence advocates

With the general lack of visible support, the lack of public interest and the scarcity of journalists, this treason trial has become another routine trial with countless expert and secret witnesses

Before charges were withdrawn last year against 12 co-accused United Democratic Front leaders, countless supporters and interested members of the public were present every day. Now this buzzing atmosphere has been replaced with a hollow echo of abandonment

Only one party has remained strongly represented in the daily routine at the red brick building: the security police

The toll on the lives of the four accused has been heavy. One was abandoned by his wife and children because of the breakdown of family life. His car was retrieved by creditors who could not wait any longer

But these four men manage, at least in public, to maintain high spirits. They are often seen joking and laughing — even with the men who brought them

Factory worker burnt

By RONNIE MORRIS

A 20-YEAR-OLD Steenberg woman suffered 40 percent burn wounds on her chest, arms and legs when her clothing caught fire while she was operating a machine in a shoe factory on Saturday.

The accident happened at the Pride Style Shoe Manufacturing Company in Warrington Road, Claremont, on Saturday morning.

Miss Daphne Frieslaar, of Sonata Road, Steenberg, was admitted to Woodstock Hospital where her condition was described yesterday as "stable and she's in no danger".

The spokesman said she had severe burn wounds on her right hand, lesser burn wounds on her left hand and both thighs were burnt.

According to her 22-year-old sister Athlonia, she was working alone in an enclosed area on a machine used to paste the upper parts of shoes on to the soles when the machine caught fire.

Miss Frieslaar said she worked some distance away from her sister but she had established that her sister's clothes had caught alight from the hemline of her dress. Her sister had tried to extinguish the flames with her hands, she said.

A foreman and a fellow worker put out the flames and her sister was taken to hospital, she said.

11645 7/5/86

Four die in sleep after inhaling heater gas

Staff Reporter

FOUR men died today after inhaling gas from a heater while sleeping at a spice factory in Athlone Industria

The men, employed by Hot Spice, were dead on arrival at Groote Schuur Hospital

Their names are being withheld until their families have been told

They were unconscious when they were found in their quarters at 7.45am — a steel container converted into a room.

The manager, Mr Hamid Adams, said he went to the plant after receiving a telephone call saying that "something was amiss".

"They seemed to be unconscious and appeared to have passed out from fumes from a gas heater which they had apparently forgotten to switch off"

Mr Adams called a doctor, who summoned an ambulance and the Metro emergency service

"I found the windows of their room closed when I arrived," the doctor said

"I tried to revive two of the men who appeared to show slight signs of life. I put them in the first ambulance"

"Another man appeared to be too far gone to be saved and Metro personnel tried to revive the fourth. They were also taken to hospital"

Mr Adams said he had bought the steel container for R3 000 and had it converted into quarters for his workers who had had difficulty finding accommodation and because he was hoping to introduce a night-shift at his factory to coincide with the start of the Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan

SAP 'assaults' investigated

PARLIAMENT — Allegations were being investigated that SAP members helped burn houses and assaulted residents in Alexandra Township on April 23, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis le Grange, said yesterday.

Answering a question by Mr David Dalling (PFP Sandton), he said the allegations had been made in Press reports.

He said police had been sent to the township on April 22 after various incidents of stonethrowing and arson. — Sapa

Man held after fatal shooting

Police have arrested a white man after the shooting of a black man by two gunmen in the Eastern Transvaal on Monday.

The man was killed when the micro-bus he was in was shot at from a car.

A Toyota car matching the description given by the mini-bus driver was found by police yesterday and a man was arrested soon after.

He is expected to appear in court tomorrow on a murder charge.

Inquiry into city site row

The Johannesburg City Council management committee is deliberating on the terms of reference for a judicial commission of inquiry called by the PFP into alleged irregularities in tenders for a city parking site.

A dispute arose over the council's rejection of an offer which would have given it R4 million and 840 parking bays on Marshall Square, in favour of an offer for about R3,7 million providing only 550 bays.

Masked men kidnapped me, claims union woman

By Mike Siluma

An organiser of the South African Allied Workers' Union employed by a Lichtenburg firm has described how she and a colleague were kidnapped and assaulted by three men, one of whom is alleged to have been a senior employee of the firm.

The unionist, Ms Dorothy Morobe, spoke to *The Star* after being released from the Leratong Hospital near Krugerdorp last Friday where she had been since the attack on April 14.

This followed a report in *The Star* that the body of Mr William Olifant (35), the unionist with whom Ms Morobe had allegedly been kidnapped, had been found.

Ms Morobe said on the day of the attack workers at Noordfed Pty Ltd had had negotiations with a director of the firm, Mr R J Hayward, who is also mayor of Lichtenburg.

Ms Morobe said that at about 4.45 pm she and Mr Olifant were called to the foreman's office where two white men introduced themselves as detectives.

They took them to the police station

where, said Ms Morobe, a policeman said problems at work were no concern of the police. They were allowed to go at about 7.45 pm.

A police spokesman confirmed Ms Morobe's version and said when they were discharged that was the last the police had heard of them.

A few metres from the police station, said Ms Morobe, she and Mr Olifant were bundled into a car by two masked white men.

She said she recognised the driver — who also wore a mask — as a senior Noordfed employee by his clothes.

She said she was gagged, bound and blindfolded, and presumed the same had happened to Mr Olifant.

After a long journey the men took her out of the car, kicked her and hit her with what seemed to be a sjambok before driving off.

This week Mr Hayward said he could not comment on the matter because all he had heard were rumours.

Lawyers for the union confirmed yesterday that they had been instructed to take civil action for damages against the Minister of Law and Order on behalf of Ms Morobe.

GRUESOME DEATH OF UNION LEADER

Olifant to be buried in Lichtenburg tomorrow

THE death of Mr William Olifant, chairman of the South African Allied Worker's Union's Workers' committee at Noordfied in Lichtenburg, Transvaal, was described in a statement from the union as a "deliberate campaign to intimidate an organisation that caters for workers' interests."

Mr Olifant and the vice-chairman of the worker's committee, Miss Dorothy Morobe, were allegedly taken from their workplace by police "with the assistance of the factory foreman" on April 14.

The Saawu statement said Mr Olifant and Miss Morobe were released at about 8pm that night and told by police they would have to find their own way home.

While they were walking home they were apprehended by two white men travelling in a private vehicle. They were both kidnapped and badly assaulted. Miss Morobe was thrown out of a moving car. She was rescued by passers-by and rushed to hospital, the statement said.

Mr Olifant was not seen again until police were apparently alerted after children found a corpse while playing on a farm near Lichtenburg.

On April 29, Mr Olifant's widow was asked by police to identify a body at the mortuary. She identified the body as her husband.

What emerged was that he was brutally assaulted and died as a result of this assault, or was killed after being assaulted," the Saawu statement said.

It is with great concern that we note this brutal treatment by the agents of evil meted out to our members in Lichtenburg. This tactic has failed in the past and has very little chance of ever succeeding.

The workers shall not be intimidated by faceless agents who carry out their evil deeds in the corridors of darkness," it added.

Instead, the statement said, the workers would take effective measures to counter this trend and would use whatever methods they have at their disposal to defend their humanity and guarantee their safety.

A word of warning to the employers who co-operate with and sponsor these evil deeds is necessary. The workers shall use their united power to bring to the attention of these employers the need to deal with their grievances, rather than trying to avoid them by intimidating through death and detention," it said.

Mr Olifant's funeral will be held at the Anglican Church in Itsoeng, Lichtenburg, tomorrow from 9am and will leave for the cemetery at 1pm.

—Sapa.

'Dangers' of VDUs: Debate goes on

GENEVA. — Visual display screens have become standard equipment in millions of offices around the world, but despite the most intensive research there is still widespread debate over whether they pose a health hazard

Trade unionists say that by the end of the decade more than half the workforce in developed countries and a large segment of Third World labour will be using them.

Over the past 15 years, as their use has become more and more widespread, there have been persistent reports of eyestrain, wrist and arm injuries, and worries about possible radiation hazards.

Committees of the Interna-

tional Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva in the past year found the most common complaints among VDU operators were eyestrain and muscular pains in neck, shoulders and wrists.

There was no evidence to confirm fears that radiation from video terminals could cause hazards for pregnant women, but more research was needed on this issue, the committees said

The latest research on all the health issues will be studied at a major international conference on VDU safety in Stockholm this week

In Britain, a five-year survey of its employees by the big

telecommunications firm British Telecom last year showed there was no evidence of permanent eye damage.

But short-term eyestrain remains a problem. Experts said workplace design, including lighting and atmosphere controls, might be as much to blame as the screens

Also the type of work — varied or monotonous, high-pressured or interspersed by breaks — was crucial in determining whether stress aggravates existing health problems

Manufacturers and many scientists insist that Visual Display Units (VDUs) are safe, but research collected by the ILO and the WHO is not conclusive.

Latest tests from Sweden show that electromagnetic radiation caused severe defects and even death among mice. Male rats developed smaller testicles.

Clusters of reproductive problems were noticed as early as 1978 when four women working with VDUs in Australia were announced as having suffered miscarriages.

Many such clusters have been reported around the world, but scientists, governments and manufacturers say they are coincidental.

The ILO is the main body expected to set guidelines. But its next meeting on the subject is not scheduled until late 1986. — Sapa-Reuter

TYRE and RUBBER MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY - EASTERN PROVINCE

Parties Employer Organisation: The Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association

Trade Union: S.A. Yster-, Staal- en Verwantenwerkhede - Unie; National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union

Area Magisterial Districts of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage

Footnotes

1. Overtime pay - If a worker does not work 2.5 hours overtime per day, or a total of ten hours for the week, then the overtime rate may be reduced to 1.33.

Security policeman attended union meeting, court told

14/5/86

Staff Reporter

SAME

DELMAS — A meeting to show solidarity with the South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU) and the people of Ciskei, held shortly after the union was banned in the homeland in 1983, was attended by a security policeman who yesterday gave evidence at the treason trial here

The fourth video recording to be presented as an exhibit to the circuit court was taken at the meeting, which was held on September 22 1983

It showed Constable Nadaraj Naidoo of John Vorster Square in the audience.

Constable Naidoo was instructed by State advocate, Mr P B Jacobs, to point out people he recognised

Among them were Mr Popo Molefe, general-secretary of the UDF, who is one of 22 accused. They have all pleaded not guilty to high treason

He was identified as the man who introduced speakers at the meeting

Among the speakers identified were the Rev Frank Chikane, vice-president of the Transvaal UDF, Mr Piroshaw Camay, general-secretary of the Council of Trade Unions of South Africa and Mr Herbert Barnabas of SAAWU

Constable Naidoo also pointed out a man wearing a hat with the colours of the banned African National Congress, who stepped out of the audience to speak about conditions in Ciskei

He also brought it to the court's attention that Mr Molefe and Mr Chikane announced that members of the audience should distribute pamphlets

The meeting was held in Khotso House, which the court heard also housed the offices of the UDF

Mr K S Tip, the advocate representing the 22 men, will start cross-examining Constable Naidoo today

ic
New Amendment c: Q
Current Main Agreement c: Q
Beginning Date c: Q
Expiry Date; c: Q
Increments Due c: Q
ND

Argus 16/5/86
3 fall into furnace
The Argus
Correspondent *(131)*
JOHANNESBURG — Three workers at the Kelvin power station in Kempton Park were badly burnt when scaffolding broke and they fell into an anthracite furnace.

By Sheryl Raine

Quest to create jobs has hazards for workers,

131

Governments which cut red tape in order to boost job creation in the small and medium business sectors must also ensure adequate protection for workers, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has warned.

At the International Labour Conference in Geneva next month, the ILO will focus on finding a balance between the need to free small and medium-scale enterprises from excessive bureaucratic constraints, but also provide workers with adequate protection against occupational hazards.

The debate has particular relevance to South Africa. The Government has announced plans to deregulate the small business sector in an effort to create much-needed jobs.

An ILO report has pinpointed the fact that poor working conditions and health hazards exist in many small and medium sized enterprises worldwide.

"In both industrial and developing countries, these enterprises tend to have higher rates of occupational accidents and diseases and less satisfactory working conditions than larger undertakings."

South African union leaders and some employer bodies have expressed concern that the quest for jobs through deregulation will override all other considerations such as health, safety and a living wage.

Warns ILO

Statistics collated by the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) indicate that businesses with fewer than 50 employees in South Africa record higher accident frequencies than larger concerns.

Nosa general manager Mr Bunny Matthysen said that of the 37 432 factories registered in South Africa in 1984, 30 492 had 50 employees or fewer. However, the other 6 940 companies employed 75 percent of the total workforce.

For this reason, Nosa tended to concentrate more on larger concerns, which had the resources to improve safety in the workplace. But this did not mean smaller businesses were neglected. A self-help package was made available to help them comply with safety laws.

Mr Matthysen said that at the time the Government made known its plans for deregulation, Nosa approached the Department of Manpower for assurances on occupational safety. "We were given assurances that while certain standards may be compromised, such as the number of toilets or windows in a factory, critical safety standards would be strictly maintained," he said.

The ILO noted that in developing countries, which were often restricted by shortages of entrepreneurial talent, managerial experience, capital and skilled labour, promotion of small and medium-sized businesses was an important aspect of national development.

Apart from providing primary and secondary employment, such businesses needed less capital, helped reduce income disparities, developed skills for future industrial expansion, and were a breeding ground for entrepreneurial talent.

In the European Community, about half the entire working population is employed in enterprises with 500 employees or less. In the United States, such enterprises comprise 99,7 percent of all undertakings, employing 47,8 percent of total non-government, non-farm labour.

1971

TUESDAY, 27 MAY 1986

1972

tion The hon member is quite right. It was a good question.

HAN SWMS Bophuthatswana
*7 Mr P A MYRBI asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force took any action in Bophuthatswana in May 1986, if so, (a) on what dates, (b) for what purpose, (c) what specified (i) personnel and (ii) equipment was used on each occasion and (d) what is the rank of the person who was in charge of the operation,

- (2) whether the Bophuthatswana Government (a) requested that this action be taken or (b) was informed that such action would be taken, if not, (i) why not and (ii) who took the decision in this regard, if so, (aa) which member of the Bophuthatswana Government requested that this action be taken or gave permission for it to be taken and (bb) when,

- (3) whether any (a) persons were arrested, (b) arms were discovered or (c) action was taken to combat unrest, if not, what specified action was taken, if so, (i) how many persons were arrested, (ii) (aa) where were arms discovered and (bb) what specified arms were discovered and (iii) where was action against unrest taken,

- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

- (1) No
- (2) and (3) Fall away
- (4) No

*8. Mr P G SOAL—Law and Order [Withdrawn]

HoA

1973

TUESDAY, 27 MAY 1986

1974

any other specified causes, if so, what are the particulars of these movements;

- (3) whether tests have been conducted into the possibility of an earth tremor damaging the Koeberg structure to such an extent that a release of radiation may result, if so, what would have to be the intensity of such a tremor?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes

(b) (i) A number of fault-zones inland of Koeberg were identified. They trend north-west to south-east. The nearest is the Saldanha-Franschoek fault-line which passes within 18 km of the Koeberg site. In addition there is some evidence to suggest a parallel fault-line passing through the Milner-ton area about 8 to 10 km off-shore of Koeberg.

The Saldanha-Franschoek fault-line involves granite and has sheared ultramylonite in the fault-zone north of Darling and involves deformed granite and felsite south of Darling.

(ii) Some twelve significant earthquakes have been recorded in the South-western Cape region in the past 350 years. The most severe was the Ceres earthquake in 1969 which measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. It is not possible to associate these shocks with any particular fault-line. The epicentre of the Ceres quake was approximately 90 km north-east of the Koeberg site. No surface displacement was observed at the site. It may be added that the

South-western Cape is seismically a stable area relative to areas such as Japan, Italy and California where suitably designed nuclear power stations are operating

- (2) (a), (b) and (c) No

(3) Yes, the seismic design of Koeberg was based on very conservative assumptions. An earthquake of magnitude 7 (far greater than that at Ceres), was assumed to occur 9 km from Koeberg on the nearest possible fault-line. Such an event would set up forces on the site which have a calculated probability of occurrence of less than once in a million years.

However, to ensure that there would be no release of radio-active material in such an event, Koeberg was provided with a specially-designed aseismic foundation. The safety margins incorporated in the design of the station are such that it could probably withstand an event significantly greater than the design basis earthquake of a magnitude of 7, nine kilometres away without a substantial release of radio-active material.

Tests were performed on models of the station to verify the design of the aseismic foundation. The performance of equipment within the station, in the event of a major earthquake, is verified either by calculation or, where possible, by shaking the equipment in suitable test facilities.

Koeberg nuclear power station

*11. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) Whether any cracks have appeared in the (a) foundations and (b) containment of the Koeberg nuclear power station since the coming into operation of the first reactor, if so, what is the (i) nature and (ii) cause of these cracks,

- (2) whether any steps have been taken to repair these cracks, if so, what steps,

HoA

1765 28/1/86
45th garage robbery in W Cape
Crime Reporter 131
A LENTEGEUR petrol pump attendant was held up by two men who threatened him with a gun and stole R30.
The attack brought to 45 the number of hold-ups at garages in the Western Cape this year
Police said Mr Basie Dwagi was on duty at the Lentegour service station about 4.30am yesterday when he was robbed. No shots were fired and there were no injuries

CAPL Links 9/6/86
131

Industrial sabotage rife'

JOHANNESBURG — Black workers are so antagonistic to the free-enterprise system that industrial sabotage is becoming a major cause of low economic productivity in South Africa

This is one of the warnings sounded by top business leaders in a report released yesterday by Project Free Enterprise

The report said interviews with black managers had made it clear that covert industrial sabotage was taking place on a large scale in many, if not most, industrial plants in South Africa

It mentioned incidents in which metal objects were dropped into moving machinery, kilometres of conveyor belt were ripped apart by the attachment of a sharp object at one end of the system and vehicles were derailed by modern-day Luddites

"A potentially life-threatening situation occurred when highly inflammable gas escaped through an outlet which was supposedly sealed by welded plugs. In another instance scheduled medicines were purposefully mixed up," the report said

Workers do not stand to gain

Go-slows, not reporting mechanical problems and the loss or destruction of company property such as overalls and stationery were also symptoms of negative attitudes by workers to the private sector

A black manager quoted in the report said those in the black workforce knew they could work faster and better "But they ask themselves why they should contribute to organizational efficiency if they do not stand to gain from it as well

"The social frustration that we (blacks) are experiencing due to the years of discrimination is now being vented on the companies. The latest reforms have done nothing to alleviate this frustration"

The report contains a comprehensive programme of political and economic reforms designed to counter the negative perceptions that workers have of the business sector and to promote an identification with the system of free enterprise — Sapa



victims of the blast at the Rustenburg Platinum Mine arrive at the Johannesburg Hospital by helicopter last night.

11/6/86
S...
131

Two burnt in platinum mine blast

By Sue Dobson and Craig Kotze

Two electricians were badly burnt yesterday in what was apparently an accidental blast at the Rustenburg Platinum Mine in the Western Transvaal

Mr M Oosthuizen (43) and Mr M Bornmann (46) were injured while working on an electrical transformer

Both men were admitted to the Rustenburg hospital but were airlifted by emergency helicopter to the Johannesburg Hospital last night.

A mine spokesman said the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs had launched an investigation

Mr Oosthuizen sustained burns over 11 percent of his body, while Mr Bornmann suffered 90 percent burns. A hospital spokesman said Mr Bornmann's condition was critical

Mrs Susie Oosthuizen said last night her husband had told her the blast had been caused by the power being turned on while they had been working on the transformer

The mine spokesman said it was thought that the men had been injured when transformer oil caught alight.

CME Times 24/6/66
Farm worker electrocuted

Staff Reporter

(131)

A BOLAND farm worker was found dead in a farm dairy on Sunday after she was electrocuted. A Boland police spokesman, Major Frank Alton, said yesterday that Ms Lena Jantjies, 28, who lived and worked on the farm De Glebe, near Piketberg, had been cleaning the dairy when she died. "It is suspected that she touched an electrical wire and was electrocuted," he said. Police are investigating.

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the times

AUGUS 30/6/86

Mining most stressful of jobs

(131)

— survey

LONDON — Miners endure the greatest stress at work and librarians the least, according to a survey by Manchester University

The police are second to miners. Then come people in four jobs which all have a similar degree of stress: construction workers, journalists, civil aviation pilots and prison officers.

The university's Institute of Science and Technology compiled the stress survey, with ratings from 10 to 0 for 58 different jobs. Miners were rated 8,3, police 7,7 and the next four categories at 7,5.

The institute said that other top categories were advertising employees and dentists 7,3, followed by actors 7,2, politicians 7,0, doctors and tax collectors 6,8.

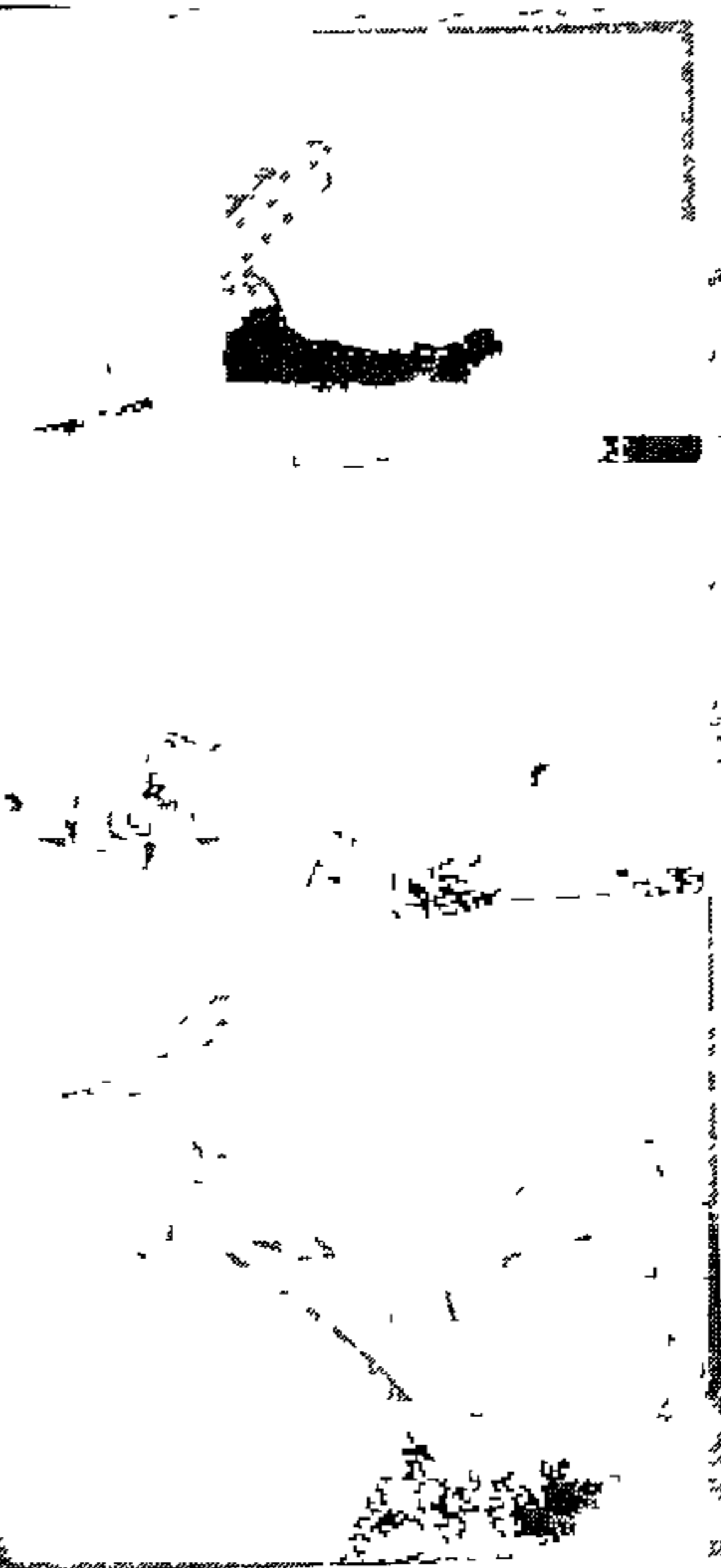
Stockbrokers were 5,5, higher than bus drivers at 5,4.

Librarians were rated 2, museum workers 2,8, nursery nurses 3,3, astronomers 3,4 and clergymen and beauty therapists 3,5.

Diplomats were about midway down the list at 4,8, the same as farmers — Sapa-AP

Future of occupational health probed

131 9/2/86



The president of the SA Society of Occupational Health Nurses, Mrs Yvonne Campbell, left, with the chairlady of the Border Occupational Health Nurses Group, Mrs M. B. Brady, and the medical director of Nissan SA, Dr Braam Mouton, at the occupational nursing seminar held in East London yesterday.

Dispatch Reporter
EAST LONDON — The Border Professional Society of Occupational Health Nurses held its fourth annual seminar here yesterday

Over 80 delegates from throughout the Border area attended the seminar, which dealt with the topic 'The Occupational Health Demands of the 1990's — Are You Up to It?'

Guest speakers at the seminar were the society's national president, Miss Yvonne Campbell, and the medical direc-

tor of a motor manufacturer, Dr A J Mouton of Pretoria. The society's national vice-president, Mrs A Aukett, said all the lectures delivered during the seminar were geared towards different facets of occupational health

Topics discussed were the past, present and future of occupational health, delivered by Miss Campbell, the unionised workers' expectations of occupational health, by Mr L Kopolo, the physiological effects of stress and

stress management, by Dr Mouton, the psychological effects of stress, overall rehabilitation, and the importance of company

**Man killed
in car plant
press shop**

Post Reporter

AN employee at Volkswagen in Uitenhage died today in an accident in the plant's press shop

In an interview VW's public affairs manager, Mr Ronnie Kruger, said the name of the man who was killed in the accident could not be disclosed until his next of kin had been informed

The accident occurred just before 10am in the press shop

The company's safety officer and the police were investigating the accident, he said

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11/17/86

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Injured man was moved from hospital to hospital

14/7/88 SPM
131

By Anna Louw and Craig Kotze

A deaf mute who lost his forearm in an accident at a Germiston factory last week was moved from one hospital to another and it took three hours before he received proper medical attention

An employee at General Erection in Wadeville, Germiston, told *The Star* that Mr Wilson Moloï (37) lost his forearm when it was caught in a machine on Thursday

He was given an injection for shock by a nursing sister on the premises

Mr Moloï was first taken to a Johannesburg clinic where he was referred to Baragwanath Hospital

NO RECORD

The sister who accompanied him was told because it was a work-related accident, Mr Moloï would have to be taken to the Lesedi Clinic, 2 km from the hospital

A Baragwanath Hospital spokesman said today that as no record was made of Mr Moloï being referred to the Lesedi Clinic, the hospital could not confirm the allegation

At the clinic Mr Moloï was referred back to Baragwanath Hospital

AVAILABLE

This was done, said a clinic spokesman, because the skills necessary to sew back Mr Moloï's arm were not immediately available

After informing Baragwanath Hospital of the matter, Mr Moloï was sent to their specialist hand unit for treatment

He was taken to an operating theatre where he received the necessary medical treatment

"According to the surgeon's report, Mr Moloï's arm could not have been saved even if there was no delay," the Baragwanath Hospital spokesman said

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Mine safety at Harmony

An Orange Free State gold mine has reached new safety heights — completing 12 million fatality-free shifts and winning its fourth major safety award

Harmony Gold Mine of the Rand Mines Group this year accomplished 2 million fatality-free shifts, making it one of South Africa's safest gold mines.

M1 off-ramp to be closed

The Moor Street off-ramp of the M1 Motorway will be closed on Sunday July 20 while catchpits are being cleaned.

Only the fast lanes on the M1 North and South will be affected.

Motorists are also warned that on the following Sunday, July 27, traffic will be disrupted on the off-ramps of the M2 East and West motorways.

Bank workers want security vehicles to transport cash

AKG 29/7/86
Labour Reporter

BANK officials want to move to and from agencies and other outlets in security vehicles only

This follows approval of a resolution at the recent annual conference of the South African Society of Bank Officials (Sasbo).

Delegates were told of an incident when a teller had to transport agency cash in the boot of his car down a street littered with burning tyres

Topping the list of issues debated by delegates was salaries but it was decided to delay approaching the management about "substantial" increases until after the annual meetings of Sasbo branches

The conference also instructed the general council to continue negotiations on the "units off" issue which arose from the banks' scrapping early closing on Wednesdays

The resolution called for the introduction of a five-day week.

Other resolutions passed for negotiation with the banks included

● Obtaining housing loans for women who are breadwinners or who qualify on salary or service criteria, and

● The removal of sex discrimination from all aspects of benefits available to staff.

Shift work said to be cause of many ailments

By Mike Siluma

Insomnia, aggressive behaviour and gastric ailments are just some of the conditions caused or exacerbated by shift work

This is according to an article in the current issue of the *South African Labour Bulletin*, written by unionist Mr Taffy Adler and based partly on discussions held by three trade unions organising in the tyre and rubber industry. The industry is characterised by shift work.

Asserting that hours for shift work had increased in recent years, Mr Adler cited the findings of a 1981 survey conducted by the Department of Statistics for the Federated Chamber of Industries.

Covering a total of 701 799 workers in 8 706 concerns throughout South Africa, the survey found that 23 percent of the establishments looked at were working on shift. About 57 percent of the shift hours worked were worked by employees on a two-shift system, while workers on a three-shift system accounted for 43 percent. The figure would have been even higher had the survey included mineworkers, Mr Adler said.

In the tyre and rubber industry in particular, he said, 56,8 percent of the working hours were worked on shift.

Four guidelines to ease problems

Three Congress of SA Trade Unions affiliates — the National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union, the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union and the Metal and Allied Workers' Unions — met in February and formulated guidelines for proposals relating to shift-work.

The unions represent workers involved in shiftwork in the rubber and tyre industry and have submitted the proposals to some of the industry's employers.

The proposals are:

- Hours of work: Given that "the most serious problems are posed by a three-shift system", the unions oppose the shift system in principle. Overtime work should be on a voluntary basis.
- Financial compensation: Monetary compensation should in the first place ensure that shift workers, usually working shorter hours than regular day workers, get the same pay as day workers.
- Health compensation: "As shift work does impose additional risks on the worker", medical aid cover should be provided entirely at company expense. Shift workers injured at work should be paid an amount equal to that paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Act.
- Shift workers should be entitled to additional compassionate leave to be able to attend to domestic duties which would normally require attention during day-time. Such workers should be provided with transport to and from work.

On the basis of these figures, South Africa, with a much smaller economy, would rank in the same league as developed countries such as the United States, Britain and West Germany, where a substantial number of people did shift work.

Even though a large proportion of South African workers worked shifts, the emergent union movement had not made it a major item during collective bargaining. This, explained Mr Adler, was due partly to a South African economy "characterised by under-represented and unskilled workers in a low-wage economy with high unemployment".

Health problems

Workers' priorities had been the recognition of their unions, wage improvement and job security — a trend likely to be changed by the emergence of a stronger union movement.

A lack of information on shift work in South Africa made it difficult to highlight or combat the numerous social and health problems occasioned by the shift work.

However, recent research in Australia and the United States had discounted suggestions that the body may adapt to an alternative cycle if shift work is done over a long time.

"While shift workers may appear to have the same amount of non-working time, it is clear they sleep less, and the sleep they do get is of poorer quality. This is especially true for workers on night shift.

"In the South African context, one study found that 64 percent of the sample of women office cleaners working at night got less than four hours' sleep," wrote Mr Adler.

He added that the problem would be compounded by the enforced residential segregation in South Africa.

Facilities for sleeping during the day were limited, a factor which contributed to fatigue, poor digestion and irritability.

Fatigue, Mr Adler said, is one of the reasons for the higher accident rate and poorer productivity of shiftworkers.

Shift work caused or worsened a range of physical ailments. In addition, the practice caused "night workers' neurosis", with symptoms of physical weakness, insomnia, aggression and depression. There was evidence that shift workers tended to smoke and drink more than permanent workers, especially during hours off work such as weekends.

Dealing with social problems of shift work, Mr Adler said because their entire lifecycle ran counter to socially accepted norms, shift workers had problems in their daily relationships with other people.

Star 5/8/86

131

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Was R89,95..... NOW R59,99

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City Menswear Claremont

2 nuclear station men die

can't find it 5/8/86
(131)

JOHANNESBURG. — Two men died and two more were seriously injured in an industrial accident at South Africa's oldest nuclear reactor. The accident happened at the weekend at the Pelindaba nuclear research station about 50km north-west of Johannesburg.

The chairman of the state-owned Atomic Energy Commission, Dr Wynand de Villiers, said: "It was not a radiation accident and radioactivity was in no way involved."

"The accident occurred in a building in which technical supporting services are rendered," he said.

A plant spokesman, Mr Peter Haskins, said the four men were seriously injured when a fire broke out while they were cleaning the floor of the workshop, which lies about 500m from the small Oakridge-type reactor.

"We still don't know exactly what happened,"

he said. "We don't know what it was that caught fire."

He said the four men were taken to a hospital in Pretoria where Mr P S Hoffman and Mr J H Janse van Vuuren, both members of a cleaning team, died.

Mr Haskins said the accident was not in any way related to the plants' nuclear functions. "It was an industrial accident and had nothing to do with the reactor," he said

'Non-military'

The Pelindaba reactor was commissioned in 1965 and is the oldest nuclear facility in South Africa

Mr Haskins said it was capable of a 20 megawatt thermal output, which was far lower than the 920 megawatt thermal output of the nation's two commercial reactors at Koeberg

He said the reactor was used for non-military nuclear research. — UPI

9 killed,
15 injured,
in mine blast

Nine miners died and 15 were injured in a blasting accident at Deelkraal gold mine yesterday, according to a spokesman for Goldfields

Mr Nick Killian, developer, was one of the men killed. The other eight names are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed, the spokesman said

The condition of one of the injured is serious, but not critical. The injured were all being treated at the Leslie Williams Memorial Hospital near Carletonville, he said

The explosion occurred at about 12 15 pm yesterday, at a depth of about 2 km.

NUM discusses disaster

19/1/86 BUD DAY
THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has convened an urgent meeting of its national executive to discuss what action to take in the wake of Tuesday's underground fire at the Kinross Gold Mine, which claimed 177 lives.

The meeting was to begin last night and continue today.

Commenting on speculation that the union may stage a protest work stoppage, NUM spokesman Marcel Golding would only say members had responded angrily to the disaster.

Golding also slated management at De Beers' Finch Diamond Mine for refusing to allow its national executive committee member to attend the meeting.

Gencor said 14 black workers injured in the accident were in a satisfactory

HAMISH McINDOE
and ALAN FINE

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condition in the Winkelhaak Mine Hospital yesterday. As well, all but one of the workers reported missing had been accounted for.

The 55 injured white workers have all been discharged from hospital.

Gencor said the No. 1 Shaft at Kinross was in operation, but No. 2 Shaft, where the accident occurred, would remain closed "for as long as it may be necessary to assure that it is safe again".

The Kinross disaster came a week after the Chamber of Mines reported sharply reduced accident figures for the industry.

Fatalities in gold mines in the six months to June fell for the first time to one person per 1 000 employees.

Job injuries: call for care

Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — The out-going Ciskei Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation, Mr Wimpy Grobler, has appealed to employers not to summarily discharge workmen who had sustained work-related injuries

Employers should rather do everything in their power to retain the services and skills of such workers, and if the employer found he could not do this, he should try to secure employment for him, he added

Mr Grobler was speaking at National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA) meeting here at the weekend

Mr Grobler said, that if selectively employed, a handicapped worker would not be a risk to an employer

He said employers who had safety programmes, reaped the benefits

"They have a constant workforce, and have not lost man-hours as a result of accidents", he said

Mr Grobler will be replaced by Mr Cliff Mane on December 1 when he moves to Windhoek to take up another position

Mr Mane, who was previously a senior personnel officer in the Ciskei Department of Works, is at present an understudy to Mr Grobler

Five 'fool's gold' miners
killed, others trapped

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Five people have been killed and an unknown number are trapped in a tunnel on the banks of the Insuse River near Kranskop in northern Natal, following a rush of Zulu prospectors mining "fool's gold"

Brigadier A J M Laas, Commissioner of Police for KwaZulu, said last night that KwaZulu police would work through the night to rescue the trapped miners.

Mining engineers had been called in to offer technical advice, but bulldozers and other heavy machinery were expected to reach the scene only early this morning because of the rugged terrain

The brigadier, who flew to the scene by helicopter yesterday, said the site was highly dangerous for any more prospecting and those who went there under present circumstances were "asking for trouble".

Thousands of Zulus have flocked to the site in the past two weeks to seek their fortunes, but gemmologists and

geologists have confirmed that what the prospectors are mining is only iron pyrites or "fool's gold".

Brigadier Laas said there was a deeply-held conviction among the people that the wealth at the site represented an ancestral fortune associated with the legendary King Shaka

However, he said last night that the frenetic mood of the people had changed since the tragedy and many were now leaving the scene

An ambulance and doctors were sent to the accident site yesterday by the authorities at Nkandla Hospital. Five bodies had been recovered by late last night and a seriously injured victim was taken to the hospital.

A spokesman for the hospital said many more people were feared either dead or seriously injured

Before yesterday's accident, two were killed and four injured in their fruitless search for gold

Hundreds of women and children have been sleeping in the veld while their husbands mine the bank.

Vol-D

REPUBLIEK
VAN
SUID-AFRIKA



REPUBLIC
OF
SOUTH AFRICA

Staatskoerant Government Gazette

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**Regulasiekoerant
Regulation Gazette**
No. 3991

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Vol. 254

PRETORIA, 22 AUGUSTUS 1986
AUGUST

No. 10397

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG

No. R. 1757 22 Augustus 1986

WET OP MASJINERIE EN BEROEPSVEILIGHEID,
1983

ALGEMENE ADMINISTRATIEWE REGULASIES.—
WYSIGING

Die Minister van Mannekrag publiseer, op aanbeveling van die Adviesraad vir Beroepsveiligheid, die wysiging aan en byvoeging tot die Algemene Administratiewe Regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R 2206 van 5 Oktober 1984, soos vervat in die Bylae tot hierdie kennisgewing, vir algemene inligting en kommentaar

Enige kommentaar of vertoe daaromtrent moet binne 90 dae vanaf die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing skriftelik en in duplikaat by die Direkteur-generaal Mannekrag, Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001, ingedien word.

BYLAE

Wysiging van regulasie 4 en 16 (a) van die Regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R. 2206 van 5 Oktober 1984

1. Regulasie 4 van die regulasies word hierby gewysig deur die invoeging van die volgende subregulasie.

“(5) Die in subregulasie (1) bedoelde werknemer ten aansien van 'n Staatsdepartement of 'n Staatsinstelling word geag die Direkteur-Generaal van daardie departement of die ekwivalente hoof uitvoerende beampte van sodanige instelling te wees”.

2. Regulasie 16 (a) van die regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R 2206 van 5 Oktober 1984 (hierna die regulasies genoem) word hierby gewysig deur die invoeging van die syfers “18” en “19” na die syfer “15(5)”.

Wysiging van die regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R. 2206 van 5 Oktober 1984 deur die byvoeging van die volgende nuwe regulasies

Aanmeldbare stowwe

18 Elke gebruiker van masjinerie wat op sy perseel in een enkele geïnstalleerde opgaarhouer enige stof vermeld in kolom I van Bylae A of 'n mengsel daarvan het en waarvan

73—A

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

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DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER

No. R. 1757 22 August 1986

MACHINERY AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY ACT,
1983

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS —
AMENDMENTS

The Minister of Manpower, on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety, hereby publishes the following amendment of and additions to the General Administration Regulations published by Government Notice R 2206 of 5 October 1984 as contained in the Schedule to this notice, for general information and comment

Any comments or representations thereanent should be lodged in writing and in duplicate with the Director-General Manpower, Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001, within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice

SCHEDULE

Amendment of regulation 4 and 16 (a) of the Regulations published by Government Notice R. 2206 of 5 October 1984

1 Regulation 4 of the regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following subregulation

“(5) The employee contemplated in subregulation (1) with respect to a Government Department or a State Institution shall be deemed to be the Director-General of that department or the equivalent chief executive officer of such an institution”

2. Regulation 16 (a) of the regulations published by Government Notice R 2206 of 5 October 1984 (hereinafter referred to as the regulations) is hereby amended by the insertion after the figure “15(5)” of the figures “18” and “19”

Amendment of the regulations published by Government Notice R. 2206 of 5 October 1984 by the addition of the following new regulations

Notifiable substances

18 Every user of machinery who has on his premises, in a single fixed storage vessel, any substance specified in Column I of Schedule A or a mixture thereof in a quantity

10397—1

die massa te enige tyd gelykstaan aan die massa wat in Kolom II van Bylae A verstrekk word, of dit oorskry, moet die Afdelingsinspekteur binne 60 dae nadat hierdie regulasie in werking getree het daarvan in kennis stel in die vorm van aanhangsel 5. In die geval waar die gebruik van so 'n stof gestaak word of 'n nuwe stof van die lys in Bylae A in die toekoms op die perseel in gebruik geneem word, moet die Afdelingsinspekteur onmiddellik daarvan in kennis gestel word.

Aanmelding van bouwerk

19. (1) 'n Werkgewer wat voornemens is om bouwerk te verrig moet, voordat daar 'n aanvang met die werk gemaak word, die Afdelingsinspekteur skriftelik in kennis stel van—

- die adres van die perseel waar die werk verrig sal word;
- die aard van die werk;
- die verwagte datum waarop die werk 'n aanvang sal neem; en
- die verwagte datum waarop die werk voltooi sal word.

(2) Die bepalings van subregulasie (1) is van toepassing slegs ten opsigte van—

- die maak van 'n uitgraving wat dieper as 1,5 m is, of
- enige bouwerk wat verg dat mense werk verrig op 'n hoogte van meer as 6 m bokant die grond of vloervlak; en
- waar sodanige bouwerk meer as drie maande sal neem om te voltooi

(3) Herroeping van regulasie A6 van die Regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R 929 van 28 Junie 1963.

20 Regulasie A6 van die regulasies afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing R. 929 van 28 Junie 1963 word hierby herroep.

BYLAE A

AANMELDBARE STOWWE

Verenigde Volke Organisasie identifikaasienommer	Stof Kolom I	Massa (Ton) Kolom II
1005	Ammoniak (watervry, vervloeiende en oplossings wat meer as 50 % ammoniak bevat)	20
1001	Asetileen (opgelos)	2
1010	Butadien	25
1017	Chloor	10
1154	Diethylamien	20
1155	Diethyl Eter	20
1033	Dimethyl Eter	20
1032	Dimethylamien (watervry)	20
1160	Dimethylamien (oplossing)	20
1035	Etaan (saamgepers)	15
1961	Etaan (verkoelde vloeistof)	15
1962	Etileen (saamgepers)	15
1038	Etileen (verkoelde vloeistof)	15
1036	Etilamien	25
1040	Etileenoksied	5
1076	Fosgeen	2
1055	Isobutileen (Isobuteen)	25
1969	Isobutaan	25
1131	Koolstofdissulfied	20
1971	Metaan (saamgepers)	15
1011	n-Butaan	25
1012	n-Butileen (Buteen)	25
1978	Propaan	25
1077	Propileen	25
1079	Swaeldioksied (vervloei)	15
1829	Swaeltrioksied (vervloei)	15
1083	Trimethylamien (watervry)	25
1075	V P G (vloeibare petroleum gas)	10
1086	Vinylchloried	25
1050	Waterstofchloried (watervry)	10
1051	Waterstofsianned (watervry)	10
1052	Waterstofluoried (watervry)	10

which at any time may be equal to or in excess of that specified for that substance in Column II of Schedule A shall notify the Divisional Inspector thereof in the form of Annexure 5 within 60 days of the date on which this regulation shall come into operation. In the event that the use of such a substance is discontinued or a new substance from the list in Schedule A is introduced to the premises in future, the Divisional Inspector shall be immediately informed thereof.

Reporting of building work

19 (1) An employer who intends to perform building work shall, before the commencement of such work, inform the Divisional Inspector in writing of—

- the address of the premises on which the work will be performed;
- the nature of the work;
- the anticipated date on which the work is to be commenced; and
- the anticipated date on which the work will be completed.

(2) The provisions of subregulation (1) shall apply only with respect to—

- the making of an excavation of which the depth exceeds 1,5 m, or
- any building work which requires persons to work at a height exceeding 6 m above the ground or floor level, and
- where such building work will take more than three months to complete.

(3) *Withdrawal of regulation A6 of the Regulations published by Government Notice R 929 of 28 June 1963*

20 Regulation A6 of the regulations published by Government Notice R 929 of 28 June 1963 is hereby withdrawn

SCHEDULE A

NOTIFIABLE SUBSTANCES

United Nations Organisation Identification number	Substance Column I	Quantity (Ton) Column II
1001	Acetylene (dissolved)	2
1005	Ammonia (anhydrous, liquified and solutions containing over 50 % ammonia)	20
1010	Butadiene	25
1131	Carbon Disulphide	20
1017	Chlorine	10
1154	Diethylamine	20
1155	Diethyl Ether	20
1033	Dimethyl Ether	20
1032	Dimethylamine (anhydrous)	20
1160	Dimethylamine (solution)	20
1035	Ethane (compressed)	15
1961	Ethane (refrigerated liquid)	15
1962	Ethylene (compressed)	15
1038	Ethylene (refrigerated liquid)	15
1036	Ethylamine	25
1040	Ethylene oxide	5
1050	Hydrogen Chloride (anhydrous)	10
1051	Hydrogen Cyanide (anhydrous)	10
1052	Hydrogen Fluoride (anhydrous)	10
1969	ISO-Butane	25
1055	ISO-Butylene (Isobutene)	25
1075	L P G (Liquid Petroleum Gas)	10
1971	Methane (compressed)	15
1011	n-Butane	25
1012	n-Butylene (Butene)	25
1076	Phosgene	2
1978	Propane	25
1077	Propylene	25
1079	Sulphur Dioxide (liquified)	15
1829	Sulphur Trioxide (liquified)	15
1083	Trimethylamine (anhydrous)	25
1086	Vinyl Chloride	25

R228 000 'handshake'

Own Times 26/8/86

DURBAN. — Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Delegates, Mr Amichand Rajbansi, will receive a 'golden handshake' of twice his annual salary — R228 000 — and a tax-free monthly pension of more than R6 000 when he quits politics, according to high-placed sources in the House.

Mr Rajbansi will also retain his South African Airways golden pass which allows him free flights within South Africa for the rest of his life.

A senior member of the House yesterday confirmed the pension benefits, but added that all Cabinet ministers received similar benefits on retirement.

He said Mr Rajbansi would be paid out double his present annual salary of R114 000 because he would have served two terms of office — as chairman of the executive committee of the now-defunct South African Indian Council and as a Cabinet minister.

The chairman of the opposition Solidarity Party, Mr Ismail Omar, also confirmed that Mr Rajbansi would be paid two-thirds of his present monthly salary for life.

Mr Rajbansi was tight-lipped yesterday about his announcement to his



Mr Rajbansi

party's caucus that he may quit politics.

Mr Rajbansi said the statements made by the "highly-placed sources" were "not correct", but declined to elaborate.

He said the 'poison letter' row or family pressures had nothing to do with his announcement.

But in political circles Mr Rajbansi's move was strongly speculated to be a tactic to draw sympathy from NPP loyalists and Nationalist political quarters, while serving to allay increasing family pressure on him to opt out — Own Correspondent and Political Reporter

Thankful for his tankful

Own Times 26/8/86

Staff Reporter

A MOTORIST was given a nasty scare — and a "free" tank of petrol — when he found himself in the middle of an armed robbery at a Kraaifontein service station yesterday.

The motorist, a bearded man driving a white Renault, pulled into the petrol station while four robbers — one pointing a firearm — were holding up two pump attendants about 6 10am.

The gang ordered one of the attendants to fill up the man's car, the owner of Kraaifontein Motors, Mr J Barnard, said yesterday.

Quickly

Then, not allowing the attendant to demand payment for the petrol, they told the motorist to drive away. He did — quickly.

Mr Barnard said the robbers had then locked the two attendants in their cubicle before entering the building.

Inside, they threatened Mr Jan Verkerk, 31, and forced him to hand them the keys to the safe.

Taking the weekend's takings of R10 000, they made their getaway in a Peugeot.

Police said the car had been reported stolen in Sea Point in July.

TV tonight

TV's highlights supplied by the SABC

- 00: Hoekie vir Eensames. Sofa
- 05: Fabels van Lafontaine. Die Muis wat té Veel Geeft Het
- 10: Die Klein Brakkie Die Posduif
- 15: Wiele Walle
- 20: Pierewieriepark
- 25: Langs die Pikkewyne Die Speurders
- 30: Nuus
- 35: Kompas
- 40: Dumélang. Noord-Sotho-kursus.
- 45: Potpourri
- 50: Spioen Die Rekenaar-kalant
- 55: News and Weather
- 00: Dallas Hello . . . Good-bye . Hello Mandy
- 05: Yul Brynner star-night's feature "Future World" TV4 at 9 33
- 10: tries to ruin JF's relationship with Sue F... moves by the cartel; Ben Stivers's presence off strange memories for some of the
- 20: Network
- 25: Fifty Years of Broadcasting Documentary to commemorate the SABC's 50th anniversary, with emphasis on the history of radio in South Africa, featuring interviews with well-loved radio personalities
- 30: Late News
- 35: Take a Stand. Jane experiences an emotional



Yul Brynner star-night's feature "Future World" TV4 at 9 33

NEWS

Chamber of Mines puts the record straight on ILO 'shock' labour report

By Sheryl Raine

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released a report on labour practices on South African mines which makes some shock claims about safety standards, assaults and continuing discrimination against black mineworkers.

The Chamber of Mines however slammed the report claiming it is factually inaccurate in most major respects, quotes data which is outdated and presents a distorted picture of the industry.

In its report, which has been circulated worldwide, the ILO said black miners in South Africa were still discriminated against in wages, living conditions and compensation for occupational diseases. Despite moves to abolish job reservation, black career advancement was still hampered by the reservation of 13 key job categories exclusively for whites.

The Chamber has responded vigorously to ILO allegations and has put the case for the employers.

The ILO report noted that black workers received significantly lower amounts of compensation for disability compared with white workers.

The Chamber said compensation was related to earnings not race. Formulae for compensation gave workers in the lower earnings band proportionately higher percentage disability earnings (from 75 percent) than workers in the higher earnings band (60 percent). "These parameters exceed the standards laid down by the Employment Injury Benefits Convention 1964 of the ILO," said the Chamber spokesman.

Quoting figures from 1973, the ILO said white miners who contracted occupational diseases were paid more in compensation than coloured, Indian or black workers.

The Chamber conceded laws governing compensatable diseases were blatantly discriminatory and said it had been urging the Government for years to deracialise its legislation.

According to the ILO, the average wage of a black mineworker was about R286 compared to R1 601 for a white doing the same work.

"While there has been some improvement in wages, the ratio of white to black wages is still five to one," said the ILO.

FRINGE BENEFITS

A Chamber spokesman said: "The average monthly earnings of the lower skilled black mineworkers last year ranged from R380 to R458 a month, and more, depending on the mining sector."

These earnings did not take into account recent wage rises of between 15 and 20 percent implemented on Chamber mines on July 1 this year nor fringe benefits such as food, accommodation, medical attention, sport and recreational facilities worth the equivalent of R147 in cash each month.

"The mining industry strictly adheres to a policy of equal pay for work of equal value, regardless of race. Where blacks have moved up the ladder and are now doing the same work as whites they receive the same pay."

The 5:1 wage gap referred to by the ILO was a gap based on skills, not race, the Chamber argued. Further, the gap had been reduced from 21:1 in the early 1970s to 5:1 today and compared favourably with figures in the rest of Africa where the wage gap based on skills varied between 6:1 and 11:1.

Despite a drop of 20 percent in fatality rates and a 50 percent decline in serious

injury rates during 1973-1984, the ILO noted, more than 8 500 miners were killed in the mines over the same period

The Chamber attacked the ILO for making no attempt to put the number of mineworkers killed into perspective by referring to the size of the South African mining industry, its labour intensiveness, the depth of the country's gold mines and difficult operational conditions.

The ILO report said the urge to maximise productivity often leads to white supervisors pushing their crews to dangerous extremes.

"The casualty rate, fatalities and serious injuries combined, has been reduced by 48 percent during 1977-1985, while for the same period production per man per month has increased by 15 percent on gold mines."

On coal mines the casualty rate reduction was 70 percent while production per man per month had increased by 33 percent over the same period.

Assaults by white miners on blacks continued to occur frequently said the ILO, but there had been improvements. An increase in black-on-black assaults gave cause for concern.

"There are unfortunately, and rather surprisingly, no central records on assaults but there appears to be some evidence of a slight decline. White-black assaults were particularly high in the mid-1970s during a period of high labour turnover.

"A worrisome trend is the increasing number of black-black assaults often perpetrated by the team leader who is frequently under heavy pressure from white miners to maximise production to increase their bonus payments," the ILO said.

Mine safety, productivity 'have to improve'

IF GOLD mines were to meet the challenges of deep-level mining, safety and productivity had to be improved, the newly elected SA Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (SAIMM) president, Horst Wagner, said in Johannesburg last week.

Wagner, research director for the Chamber of Mines, told SAIMM members that mining and stope facing technology would have to be improved to enable a higher output from each metre of stope face mined.



● WAGNER

The industry should accept that rising labour costs must be matched by increases in overall productivity. He said, "Developments aimed purely at improving labour producti-

vity without an accompanying improvement in production a length of face will fall short of achieving the goals of the industry.

"The low level of face utilisation is the major stumbling block for progress in deep level mining."

Recognising that mechanisation remained a key to higher productivity, Wagner said large scale mechanisation of deep level stoping operations would only be possible if the rockburst problems were eliminated.

The use of stabilising pillars and backfill would improve underground safety, and backfill would also contribute to a more favourable underground thermal environment.

Wagner said Deep level mining has a relatively low level of mechanisation, a low degree of face utilisation and is labour intensive. "This will have to be changed if

CHERILYN IRETON

the industry is to meet the challenges of the changing socio-economic and political environment."

To accommodate mechanised mining techniques, rock fracturing and hazardous mining conditions would have to be controlled through the use of elaborate support measures.

Until now the restricted mining height in the stopes, together with the hard and abrasive nature of the rock that had to be mined in hot and humid conditions, had prevented any large scale mechanisation of stoping operations.

Other hurdles had been the depths at which the ore-bearing reefs were situated and the irregular distribution of gold.

That had made mine planning and

grade control difficult, resulting in mines favouring mining methods with a high degree of flexibility.

Another problem had been that transport and communication lines increase with depth, resulting in high costs and a loss of effective working time.

Wagner said the key to many of those problems remained an improvement in productivity.

He said "Nearly 50% of working costs are labour related. Demands for higher wages can, in the long run, be met only by a higher output by the worker."

And while labour costs were the mine's major cost component, their economic viability remained highly dependent on wages and wage demands.

Stoping was the most obvious area for productivity improvement. Wagner said "Nearly half the total un-

derground labour force is employed in stoping where the level of mechanisation is low."

However, in the past poor environmental conditions had prevented the introduction of mechanisation on the stope faces.

Corrosion caused by the hot humid environment and the high proportion of dissolved solids in the mine water had stood in the way of mechanisation. Abrasion from the rock hardness and the high quartz content in deep mines had also been a problem.

However, through the Chamber of Mines, the industry was continuing to search for suitable materials for use underground.

"Two approaches are being followed to overcome this problem. The one is through the treatment of the mine water and the other is to develop materials that are both corrosion and abrasion-resistant."

INDUSTRIAL REL. - ACCIDENTS

1986

Sept. — Oct. — Dec

The image shows a large grid of graph paper. A vertical line is drawn on the left side, creating a margin. A horizontal line is drawn near the top, creating a header space. The grid consists of approximately 10 columns and 15 rows of small squares. There are some faint markings and a vertical line of small marks on the right side of the grid.

this connection, if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) what was the town council's reaction?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- (1) (a) and (b) No
- (2) No, complainants are referred to the SA Police
- (3) No, because no cases have been brought to my or my Department's attention

Occupational Diseases
131
 *15 Mr J LE ROUX asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development

interest in the proposed legislation, a comprehensive list is at presently being compiled

Pietersburg: NP meeting

*16 Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 9 on 10 June 1986, the police investigation into the events during a meeting of the National Party on 22 May 1986 in a hall in Pietersburg has been completed, if not, why not, if so, what were the findings,

(2) whether the Divisional Commissioner of the South African Police Force Northern Transvaal Division, received any complaints in connection with these events if so what were the particulars of the complainants,

(3) whether the said Divisional Commissioner received any instructions in connection with the vacation of the hall, if so, (a) what was the nature of the instructions and (b) from whom did he receive them?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes the police docket was handed to the Attorney-General for his decision who declined to prosecute

(2) All complaints which were received from persons concerned were put in writing and were incorporated in the docket which was handed to the Attorney-General. Because this official declined to prosecute I do not deem it in the interest of the public to divulge the particulars of the complainants at this stage

(3) (a) and (b) Because a departmental investigation concerning the matter is not yet completed and as this aspect forms part of such an investigation, it is not desirable to divulge the particulars at this stage

+Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, will he allow hon members of the opposition parties access to the report when the departmental investigation in connection with this issue has been completed?

+The MINISTER No, Mr Chairman, I will not be prepared to do that, it is not practice, and I do not think that it is desirable to do something like that. If I can be of assistance to the hon member by means of a private conversation in this regard, then we can discuss the matter. Further than that I can unfortunately not go

+Dr W J SNYMAN Mr Chairman further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is it the general accepted policy in the Police Force to use teargas canisters in a hall which is partially closed? [Interjections]

+The MINISTER Mr Chairman, I am not sure, but I think that somewhere on the Question Paper there is a question in this regard. I do not have it in front of me but I will supply the hon member with an answer at the appropriate time

Pietersburg post office

*17 Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Communications

(1) Whether any extensions or alterations were recently made at the Pietersburg post office, if so what was the nature thereof.

(2) whether tenders were invited for this work, if not, why not, if so (a) who was the successful tenderer and (b) what was the amount of the tender.

(3) whether the tenderer has completed the work, if so, when, if not, why not?

+The MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

(1) No,

(2) and (3) fall way

Mobil Oil SA (Pty) Ltd.

*18 Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

(1) Whether he or his Department has (a) taken note of and (b) received complainants or representations about remarks about South Africa's internal affairs alleged to have been made recently by a certain foreign oil company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, if so, what is the name of this company,

(2) whether he has reacted or intends reacting to these remarks, if so, (a) when and (b) in what manner, if not, why not,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) (a) Yes

(b) No

Mobil Oil SA (Pty) Ltd

(2) No

(a) and (b) In the first instance this matter does not resort under me

(3) No

*19 Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development

(1) Whether a certain social worker, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, was recently dismissed from the service of the South African National Council for Alcoholism, if so,

(2) whether he will furnish the reasons for her dismissal, if not, why not, if

Fewer gold mine deaths

The gold mines' accidental death rate has fallen below one for every 1 000 employees, according to a statement from the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines. The figure referred to the first half of the year.

The figure projected over a year of 0,88/1 000 was an improvement of almost 40 percent over 10 years.

Mr C T Fenton, the chamber's mine safety division chairman, said: "We have achieved a major goal."

He said the industry was making a concerted drive to reduce accidents and the figures were the result of dedicated effort in research and development, safety management and education and training.

The fight to tame the killer asbestos dumps

By Sheryl Rame

Wild asparagus and dwarf aloes will soon be used to cover killer asbestos dumps in the north-eastern Transvaal and could save thousands of people from incurable asbestos-related diseases.

During a tour of the Penge asbestos mine yesterday the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco) revealed a new approach to the rehabilitation of asbestos dumps in the homeland area of Lebowa.

The method, which costs more than R3 000 a hectare, aims to bring dust levels well below Government limits of two asbestos fibres a millilitre of air.

The asbestos-mining industry worldwide has been at the centre of a health controversy for decades and mining companies have been criticised for asbestos dust levels on mines, in mills and mining communities.

Recent legislation here has tightened controls on dust levels, packaging and processing. However, dust levels in South Africa are still way above those tolerated in many western countries. The United States which currently has a two-fibre a millilitre limit is about to reduce this to 0,5 fibres a millilitre.

There is undisputed evidence that prolonged inhalation of large quantities of respirable asbestos is related to three incurable diseases.

● Asbestosis, a hardening of the lungs which reduces lung elasticity and causes shortness of breath.

● Mesothelioma, a fatal cancer of the lung lining.

● Lung cancer

The diseases can take up to 40 years to develop, a factor which has made it difficult for migrant workers to claim compensation. Compensation is still racially determined with white miners being paid up to R33 207 and black workers only R2 052.

The system of compensation is under review and is expected to be salary related in future, a formula

which will help blacks little in the short-term because they remain largely locked in to unskilled and semi-skilled jobs which pay low wages.

At Penge so far this year, 18 workers have been diagnosed with asbestosis at the mine hospital. Last year there were 50 and in 1984, 150. There have been no cases of mesothelioma, associated largely with blue asbestos which is not mined at Penge.

Asbestosis cases are expected to surface at Penge for at least the next 50 years as the local community inherits the effects of past inadequate controls.

As recently as ten years ago, local fibre limits were set at 45 fibres a millilitre.

Around the still-active Penge mine and at the exhausted Kromellenhoog mine, asbestos dumps have lain open to the elements for decades, spreading potentially deadly fibres whenever disturbed.

TWO PLANTS MEET THEIR NEEDS

Now with the help of the Ecological Research Unit of Potchefstroom University, Gefco is exploring ways to cover the dumps and reduce fibre counts in the area even further, says Gefco's newly appointed chairman and chief executive, Mr Pat Hart.

"We need to cover the dumps with a mixture of soil and rock and find plants which are veld-fire proof, drought resistant and inedible to animals. Two plants meet our needs. The wild asparagus (cat-thorn) acts as a soil cover and the dwarf aloes as an impenetrable thorny shrub," said Professor Koos van Wyk of the research unit.

"We have already flattened and begun covering the dumps at Kromellenhoog and planting will start in earnest in November. Steep dumps at Penge have not responded well to grassing and we are still working on this problem.

"It is vital that what we plant is a long-term solution and needs no special maintenance. We are also investigating various types of grasses."

Mr Hart conceded that controls in the industry had not been good but that improvements were currently being made in virtually all spheres.

The Kromellenhoog school with 600 pupils has been moved from the foot of an asbestos dump to safer ground. Millions of litres of water are used at Penge to keep dust levels down. Induction courses including sophisticated video material, have been developed to tell would-be employees of the dangers of working on an asbestos mine.

Workers use masks in trouble areas. The air throughout the region is monitored by the mine every three months and rechecked independently by the government mining engineer.

"The average dust count at Penge in a working area over eight hours is 1,8 fibres a millilitre," said Mr Hart. "In domestic areas it is around 0,2 fibres a millilitre and lower. In the last year the highest reading we have recorded in a trouble or mask-designated area is four fibres a millilitre."

There are many who still believe the mining of asbestos, particularly blue asbestos, should be banned altogether.

Mr Hart believes it is neither in the producers' nor the public interest that the health risk be exaggerated. If controlled properly, asbestos cannot put workers or the public at risk.

Despite concerted efforts by the industry to educate the public and air its point of view, demand for asbestos has fallen dramatically in the last decade due to consumer resistance and the worldwide economic recession.

In its heyday Penge employed 400 whites and 7 000 blacks. It produced 7 000 t of asbestos a month. It now produces only 3 500 t and employs 150 whites and 2 000 blacks. There is hope that the situation will improve when the economy picks up.

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Lead alert for workers in heavy traffic

By CHRIS ERASMUS

TRAFFIC policemen and newspaper vendors working in heavy traffic should have tests every six months to ensure that the build-up of lead in their bodies from petrol fumes is not reaching dangerous levels

This is one of the recommendations made by Cape Town researchers who, in a study of lead levels in newspaper vendors, have found that lead in petrol can reach dangerous levels in people exposed to heavy traffic

The researchers, under Professor Maurice Kibel, UCT/Red Cross Children's Hospital Professor of Child Health, studied two groups of vendors. One from central Cape Town, which has high lead levels in the air, and one from Bellville, which has lower levels

Both groups had higher body-lead levels than

comparable groups of children not exposed to traffic fumes for long periods and the Cape Town group had higher levels than those from Bellville

Professor Kibel said the study proved conclusively that lead in petrol contributes directly and significantly to increased lead levels in people exposed to traffic fumes thereby settling a long-standing international dispute about the role of lead additives in petrol

The levels in some of the children approached the internationally accepted limit of 30 g/dl of blood

But there was no cause for panic — even the highest levels found were not dangerous

Since the study was conducted last year, the government had reduced the lead content of petrol at the coast from 8,6 g/l to 6 g/l

But this was still three times as high as lead in overseas petrol and should be further reduced, said Professor Kibel

HOPE FADES FOR 14 HYPERKINROSS BLAZE. 170 DEAD 235 HURT IN MINE DISASTER

Biggest mining tragedy since '60s

Staff Reporters

The death toll in the Kinross Gold Mine disaster in the Eastern Transvaal has risen to 170.

Fourteen workers are still missing underground. Hopes for their survival are fading. There are 235 men in hospital.

The catastrophe is the worst gold mine disaster and the second worst mining accident in South Africa's history.

As injured were ferried to the Evander Hospital early today a sobbing woman waiting for news of her husband said "I can't say what I feel. There's nothing to say — just to wait and wait."

Fire and poisonous gases swept through underground chambers in the massive subterranean complex at 9.30 am yesterday.

Toxic fumes from the fire 1.6 km underground spread over a 50 km area.

A spokesman for Gencor, Mr Neil Ackerman, told *The Star* today that 235 survivors were still receiving treatment.

He said 165 of the dead were black migrant workers and the others white.

South Africa's worst mine disaster was at the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook in 1960, when 435 miners died after a massive cave-in.

The general manager of Kinross, Mr Kobus Olivier, said toxic fumes caused the deaths yesterday.

"No one would have died if it weren't for the toxic substances, and no one died in the fire."

"We found the last person alive at 8 pm last night. We are not optimistic about the lives of the 14 others still missing."

In Evander Hospital, 52 whites are being treated, but none has serious injuries. In the nearby Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, 183 black miners are "under observation."

When the fire broke out, 2,400 people were working underground and about 2,200 were evacuated successfully.

Addressing a Press conference at the mine this morning, Mr Olivier explained how the deadly gas swept through the mine.

"At times we have to seal certain areas, and make use of a sealing substance."

It is a liquid which turns into foam and is used to make water and air-tight seals.

"At the time of the accident, it was being sprayed on a tunnel wall to prevent corrosion."

There were flame-cutting operations going on to repair broken underground rail when a gas cylinder is said to have caught alight.

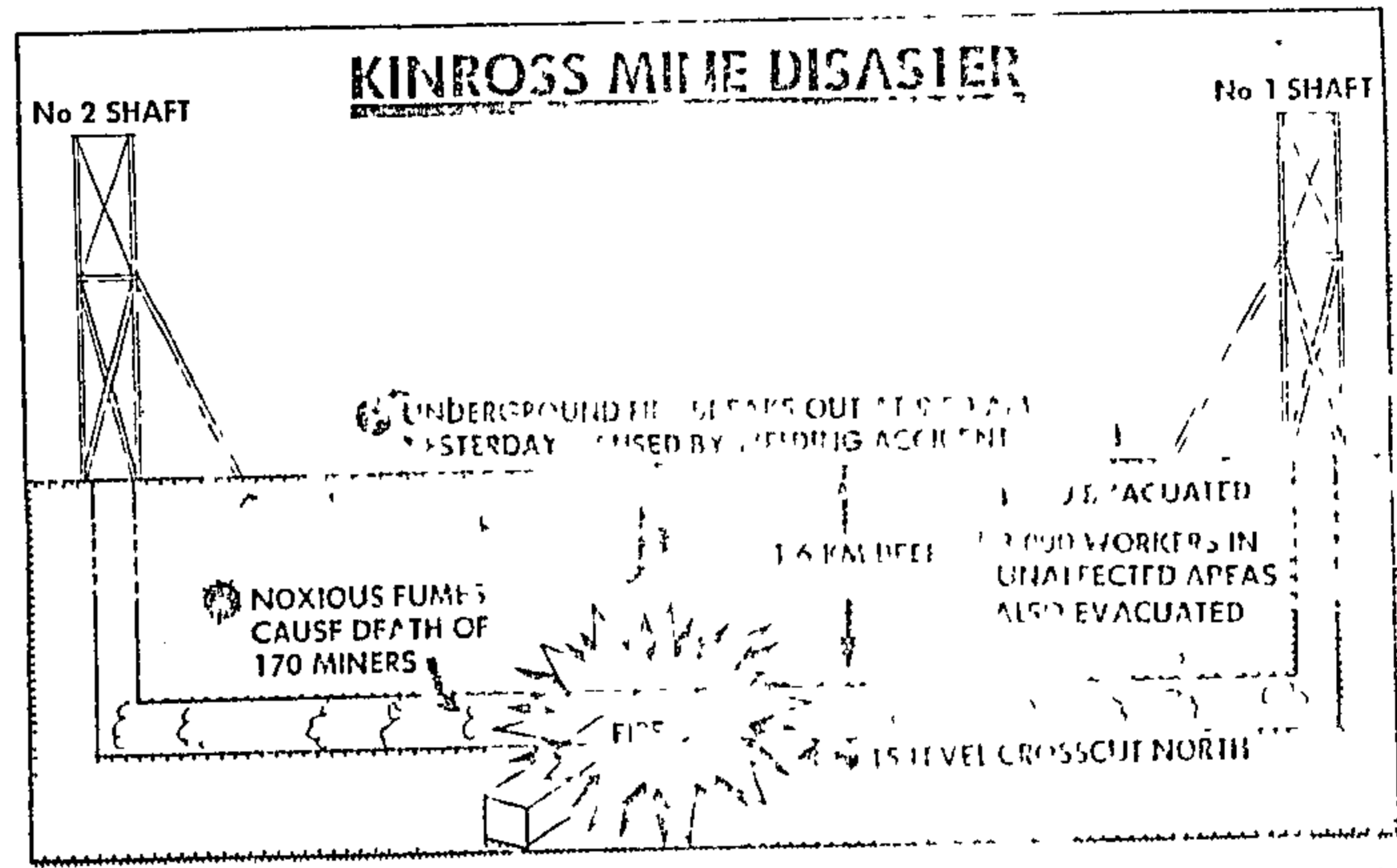
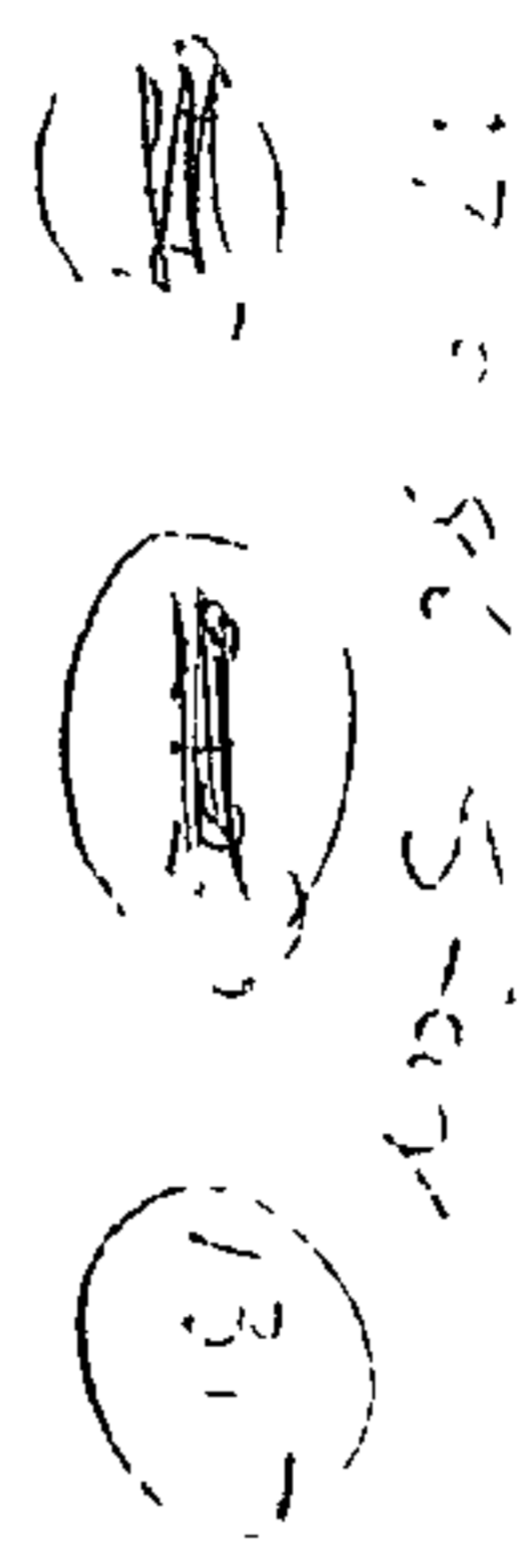
"Cables and other material caught fire."

The workers were overcome by toxic fumes from burning sealing substance.

All the people who were killed were on the 14th and 15th level. The lowest level on the mine is the 18th level, which is 1,900 m underground.

Reporters from *The Star* who were on the scene last

- 1977 Blyvooruitzicht gold mine, 32 dead
 - 1969 Buffelsfontein gold mine 60 dead
 - 1960 Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook 435 dead when the mine collapsed, burying many alive. The disaster attracted worldwide attention and remains the greatest mining tragedy in South Africa's history. Rescue teams battled for two weeks to reach trapped men, snaking boreholes and micro-phones in vain.
 - 1928, ERPM gold mine, over 50 dead.
- A recent International Labour Organisation report said that despite significant improvements in safety, 8,500 miners were killed in South African mines between 1973 and 1981.
- In its defence, the mining industry points out that South African mining conditions are among the most dangerous in the world, one reason being the depth, at which ore is mined.



night reported that as the frantic search for survivors continued rescue teams had to cope with toxic gases spread by the fire.

The gases were later cleared so that rescue work could go ahead faster.

Mr Olivier said many of the people rescued owed their lives to pockets of oxygen in the tunnels.

Long after midnight ambulances and mortuary vans were still ferrying the dead and the injured to the two nearby hospitals.

A number of victims of the noxious fumes were treated

and discharged.

There were no indications of any rock falls as a result of the fire.

A rescue team was sent down within an hour of the explosion and 10 probe teams, consisting of a leader and five other members, were brought in from neighbouring mines. They were equipped by about 80 miners on the surface.

By 9 pm last night the fire had been extinguished and most of the trapped miners were rescued.

A police van at Evander Hospital carried the first batch of bodies to the hospital.

At 10 am about two hours after the first rescue team had been sent down.

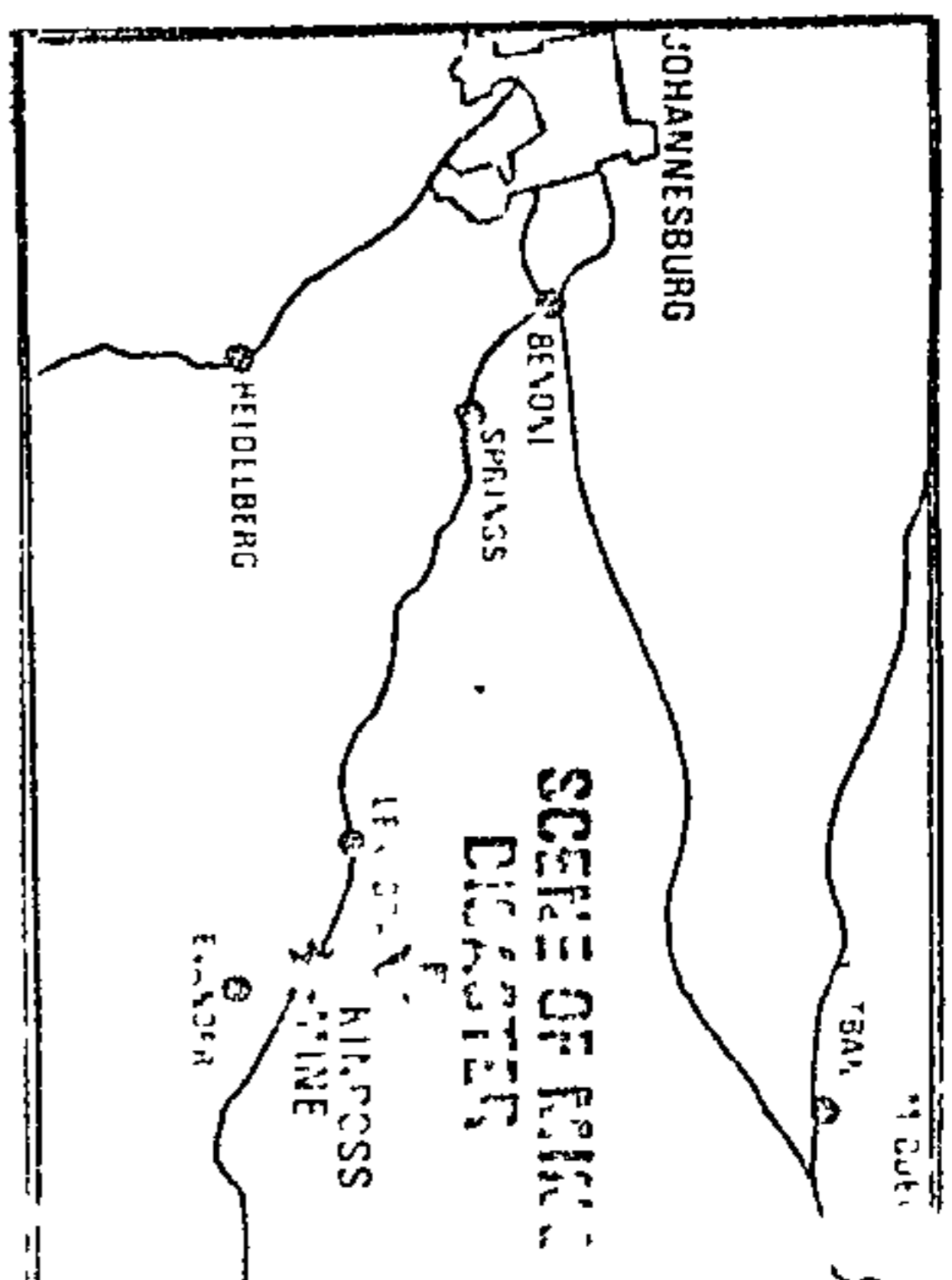
A miner who escaped about 15 minutes after the fire broke out told *The Star* at Evander Hospital that he could not say what the conditions were like underground.

Soon after the fire I found my team and we just got out.

Further witnesses near the security gate of Winkelhaak Mine Hospital reported that ambulances had already picked up more than 20 bodies for carrying the dead to the hospital.

170 14 dead, 235 hurt after Kinross mine disaster

170 14 dead, 235 hurt after Kinross mine disaster



Probe under way

An investigation into cause of the underground fire at the Kinross gold mine was launched by the Government Mining Engineer last night.

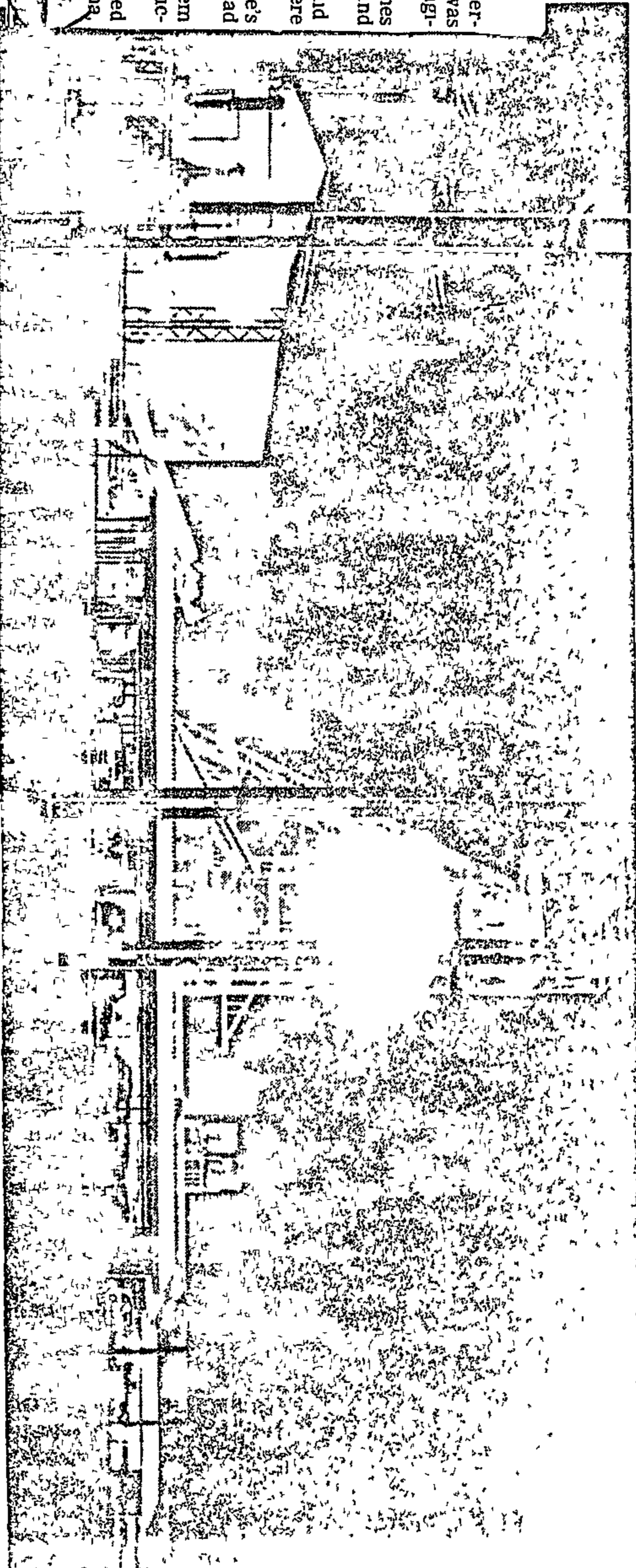
This was in accordance with the Mines and Works Act, said Gencor's East Rand mine manager, Mr Kobus Olivier.

Speaking at a Press conference, he said "At this stage I cannot say whether there was any negligence involved."

The fire was the first accident in the mine's 20 years of operation in which a fire had cost the lives of mining employees.

Mr Olivier said that only a post-mortem would reveal the cause of death of the victims.

Many of the deceased had been recruited from as far afield as Lesotho and Botswana, he added.



Beneath the headgear of the Kinross Gold Mine 170 workers died as toxic fumes swept through the underground complex. Fourteen are still missing.

EMERGENCY detainees held at Johannesburg Prison (Diepkloof) have accused the Department of Education and Training (DET) of brainwashing, indoctrinating and depoliticising detainees at its controversial youth camps.

The accusations were made in a letter smuggled out of the prison this week, giving the first response to the camps from detainees and the first details of how prisoners are being approached about the camps while in custody.

The detainees also accuse the DET of sowing seeds of division and blackmailing detainees by offering conditions such as release after 10 days of attending the camps and the promise of better food and accommodation during training, or the chance of a lengthy detention if they refuse.

In the letter, the detainees, all members of organisations affiliated to the United Democratic Front, give details of their first encounter with officials from the camps.

In late July, according to the letter, detainees were divided into groups, one group consisted mainly of youths.

When they sought an explanation, the head of the prison allegedly told them this was done on command from Pretoria for the purpose of introducing certain recreational facilities for the different groups and TV and videos for the youth.

Later a certain Chris Coetzee, who claimed he was from the DET, came to see the youths, the letter notes, and when he was asked whether he had consulted with "people's organisations", lawyers and parents he said he was not a politician and could not contact political organisations.

He also explained his mission was to help the youths to be "responsible leaders" and that the youths would be released after 10 days of training. The training would be run outside prison at a very comfortable venue and during the training period they could be visited by their parents as often as possible.

Detainees here immediately

Detainees accuse DET of 'blackmail' in smuggled letter

By SEFAKO NYAKA

which the system disregards and undermines people's commitment to their organisations and democratic struggle," the document reads.

A second man, apparently from Victory Park, a Keith Furner came but was — and still is — ignored by the detainees, according to the letter.

"We want to assure all progressive organisations and people that our freedom and commitment is not compromised for the venomous niceties dangled by the system," the detainees said.

In the letter, they demand their freedom, the release of all prisoners and detainees, the immediate handing over of education to the people and the launching of people's education, the removal of the SA Defence force from the townships and the immediate resignation of all councillors who have occasioned the killing of our people.

"How can the government expect us to accept its offer while they're locking us up in their dungeons,

indiscriminately killing our people, evicting our families and closing our schools?"

"It is our strong belief that as long as the government ignores the above-mentioned demands the present socio-political crisis in the country will exacerbate and lead to more unnecessary conflict."

Meanwhile, the hunger strike involving more than 60 Emergency regulation detainees at the Diepkloof Prison outside Johannesburg is expected to end today.

The group has been on strike since Wednesday in protest against their continued detention.

Major S.J. Jacobs, liaison officer of the Prison Services, confirmed yesterday that a number of detainees were on a hunger strike.

"It is interesting to note that several enquiries were received on the same morning that the so-called hunger strike commenced and serve to strengthen the belief that these hunger strikes are orchestrated propaganda stances."

"Prisoners, who refuse to eat are provided with three meals a day. They are treated strictly in accordance with the internationally accepted guidelines pertaining to the handling of those persons as is embraced in the Tokyo Declaration," he said.

In a memorandum sent to the Minister of Law and Order, Louis le Grange, and Commissioner of Police General Johan Coetzee two months ago by the detainees now on hunger strike, they say their continued detention is not only a "gross violation of our common law rights but is also disruptive of our social, familial educational and/or financial positions. Our continued detention must also be adversely affecting the economy of the country at a time when it is in dire straits."

"The State of Emergency was apparently passed to contain any activity that would endanger maintenance of law and order in the country during the period June 16 and June 26, which period has since passed without such apprehension being realised or being in any way connected to our usual rightful public political activity," the memorandum reads in part.

The detainees say Le Grange and/or Coetzee did not exercise his mind properly when he detained them or extended their detention "and we therefore demand our immediate release and the lifting of the State of Emergency."

They also called for the withdrawal of Security Forces from the township

Infringements up

LINDA ENSOR

12/9/86
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PROSECUTION of companies falling short of the stringent new safety regulations is on an upward trend. So claims Ian Douglas, chairman of Price-forbes Federale Volkscas's specialist division, Corporate Risk Management

He expects the trend to continue as the web of regulations promulgated in terms of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosa) becomes more intricate and complicated

The average businessman, says Douglas, is finding it difficult to keep track of what is expected of him in terms of Mosa regulations, which are being applied strictly by Department of Manpower inspectors.

A departmental spokesman confirms the increase in prosecutions. He says special attention is being given to transgressions of exposure levels of high-risk substances such as asbestos, lead, chrome and silica

Miner

2/14/81



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JOHANNESBURG—At least 100 miners are feared dead and many others trapped in a disastrous fire that started at the Kinross gold mine yesterday.

A witness at the scene of the disaster, who declined to be named, said he had 'personally counted more than 100 bodies'

And a protection services officer said they had been asked to handle a 'massive number of corpses'

About 400 miners were earlier reported unaccounted for and the toll is expected to rise as Proto teams are still apparently searching for bodies and survivors in the Number One and Two Shafts of the mine

But Gencor, owners of the mine, would only say in an official statement that 13 workers had been killed by 'noxious fumes' as a result of a fire sparked by a welding accident.

'Some 60 persons who have been affected by fumes are being treated in hospital,' the statement added.

Gencor said that the underground fire broke out at 9.30 a.m. yesterday on a major connection between Number One Shaft and Number Two Shaft.

The company said later that the fire had been extinguished by the afternoon.

The head of Evander's Protective Services and Civil Defence, Mr Kobus van Zyl, said he was at the scene of the disaster during the day but was also unable to give any details.

'The mine management has totally clammed up about the accident. They don't want to speak to us. In fact they don't want to speak to anybody. All I can say is that there has been a very serious disaster,' he said.

Evacuated

'We have been asked by the Evander hospital to help with the care of patients who have been sent to hospital and we have been asked to handle a massive number of corpses,' he added.

Of about 2 200 miners in the affected area, 1 800 had been evacuated safely, the Gencor statement said.

'Eight Proto teams are assisting in the operation. Some 60 people who have been affected by fumes are being treated in hospital. Their condition is satisfactory.'

Another 3 000 workers in unaffected areas were also evacuated as a 'precautionary measure', Gencor said.

Mr DJ Ackerman, spokesman for Gencor, said he did not know how many of the miners killed were black or white.

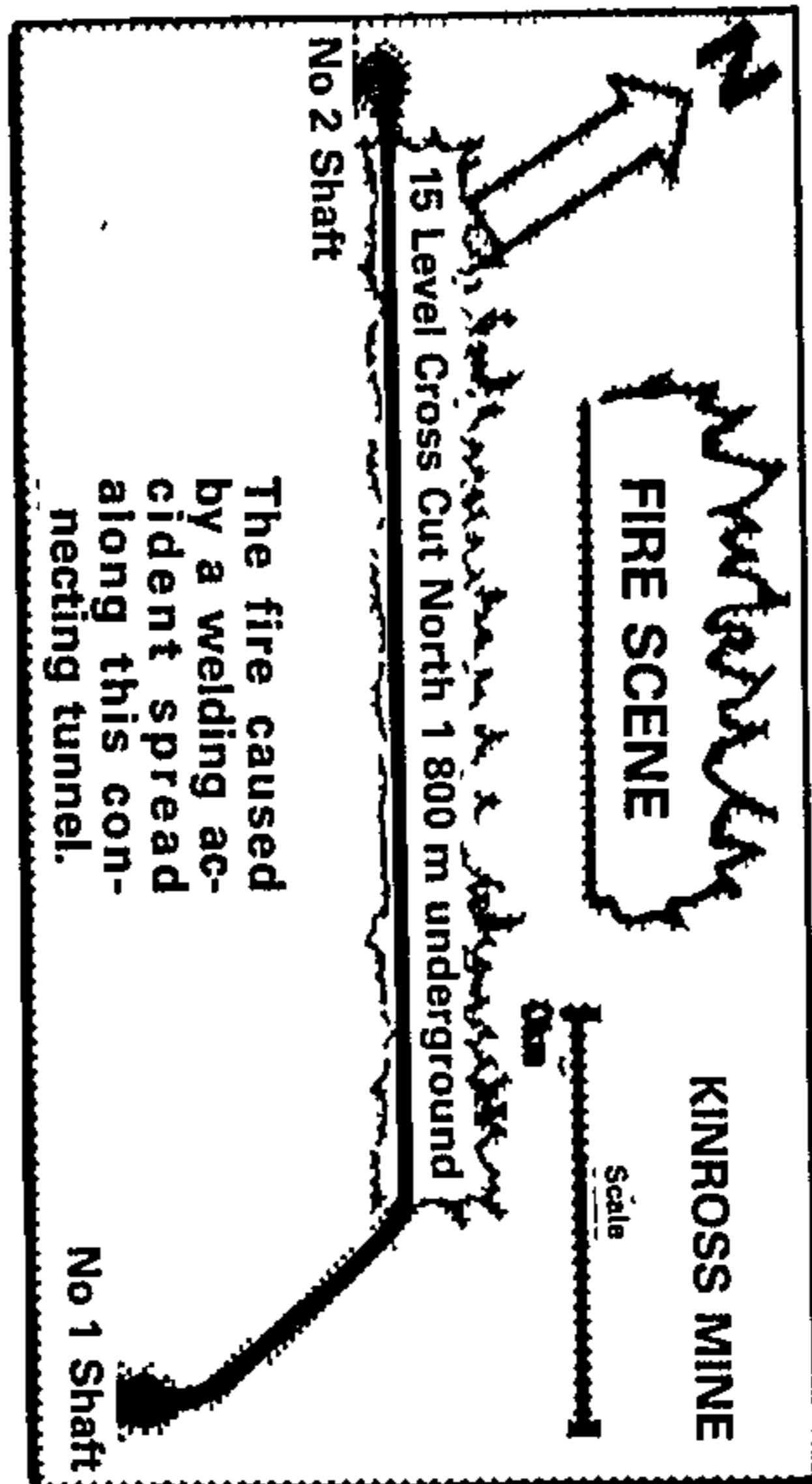
Casualties

A matron at the Evander Provincial Hospital, who did not want to be named, said so far 52 white miners had been admitted suffering from noxious gas poisoning. She was unable to say if any white miners had been killed.

She said Proto teams were still looking for people trapped underground and the hospital was expecting to treat more casualties as victims were evacuated.

She said black workers injured in the accident had been sent to a hospital on the Winkelhaak mine, a few kilometres from Kinross.

A Winkelhaak spokesman also declined to give any details — (Sapa)



Hospital expects poison gas toll to rise

3. Mine blaze kills 13 5. Gas rescue goes on

17/9/82

BLEDAM

(13)

Business Day
Reporters and Sapa

6. PROTO teams are battling to evacuate 400 miners after a lethal gold mine fire

The Kinross blaze killed 13 and injured at least 60 others

An Eastern Transvaal hospital was last night prepared for more casualties. About 2 200 miners were in the area when the fire, caused by a welding accident, flared at 9 30am

Gencor said 1 800 miners were evacuated safely

Another 3 000 workers in unaffected areas also got out

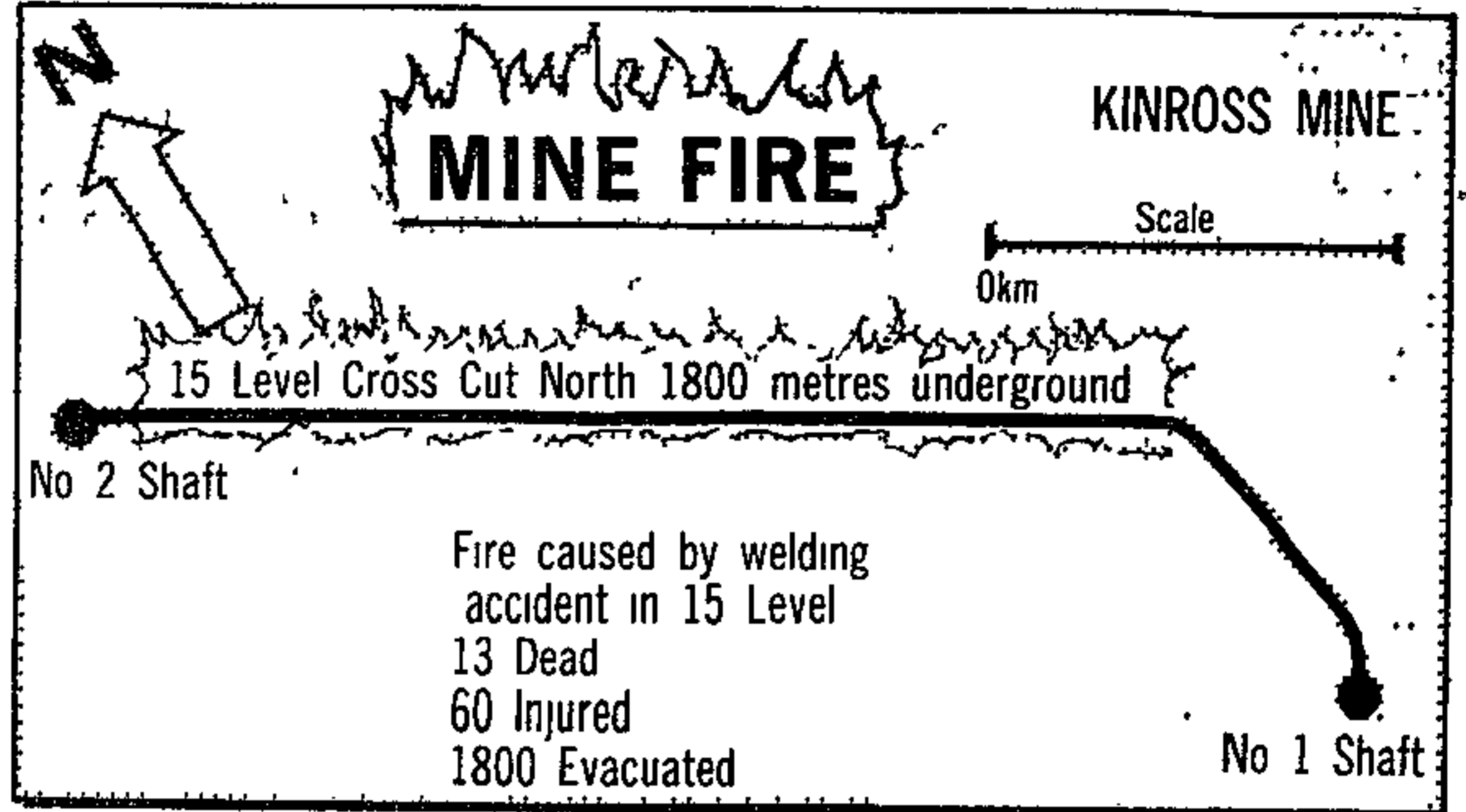
The 13 were killed by noxious fumes "caused by burning cables and other material, entering the (number) 2 shaft workings," Gencor said

The fire broke out on the 15 level cross-cut north, a major connection between Number 1 shaft and Number 2 shaft at Kinross, near Secunda, in the Eastern Transvaal.

The fire was extinguished but by late last night it was impossible to determine the situation

Many calls to the mine went unanswered and, when staff did answer, they said those in a position to issue statements were busy with rescue operations

A matron at Evander Provincial Hospital said proto teams were still looking for people and the hospital was expect-



ing more casualties

She said so far 52 whites had been admitted with gas poisoning.

The condition of those injured was said to be satisfactory

The matron had no details about injuries nor fatalities regarding black miners. She said black workers injured in the accident had been sent to a hospital on the Winkelhaak mine, a few kilometres from Kinross

A Winkelhaak spokesman declined to give details

A spokesman for the fire station at Secunda said the station was on alert but had not been called

Gencor spokesman Neil Ackerman said he did not know how many of the miners killed were black or white.

A Gencor public relations team last night flew to the mine, about 100km east of Johannesburg, to be able to supply first-hand information

The fire was the worst mining accident since the Hlobane colliery disaster which killed 65 workers in September 1983, NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said last night

He added "Our union will have to take some decision about this accident. The accident rate on our mines is getting out of hand"

Worst mine accident since 1960 collapse

JOHANNESBURG — The fire at Kinross gold mine is the biggest mining disaster in South Africa since 435 coal miners were buried alive at the Clydesdale colliery in January 1960.

Ironically, it comes just one week after the Chamber of Mines announced accident rates had fallen to record lows on gold mines.

As a country which draws vast wealth from the earth, South Africa has recorded its tragic share of mining deaths over the decades.

A recent International Labour Organisation report noted that despite significant improvements in safety, 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines between 1973 and 1984.

In its defence, the industry claims South African mining conditions are among the most dangerous in the world, one of reasons being the depths at which ore is mined. Further, the industry is one of the biggest in the world employing over 500 000 people.

"Gold mines which are members of the chamber have reduced their fatality rate to below one for every 1 000 people employed," said the chamber last week. The annual fatality rate of 0,88 for every 1 000 workers

was a 14 per cent improvement on figures for the previous year and a 40 per cent improvement over the last decade.

Kinross belongs to the Chamber of Mines.

The country's worst mining disasters include

- 1983 Hlobane Colliery — 68 dead after a methane gas explosion. An inquest found the owners of the mine, Iscor, criminally responsible for the death of the miners. The NUM emerged as a safety watchdog in the industry and instituted civil action against Iscor on behalf of the victims' families.
- 1980 Vaal Reefs — 31 dead in lift cage fall.
- 1978 Vaal Reefs — 41 dead in underground fire.
- 1977 Blyvooruitzicht gold mine — 32 dead.
- 1969 Buffelsfontein gold mine — 60 dead.
- 1960 Clydesdale colliery near Coalbrook — 435 dead when the mine collapsed, burying miners alive.
- 1928 ERPM gold mine — more than 50 dead — Sapa.

Disaster could have been prevented Ramaphosa

EVANDER — The general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday he believed the Kinross accident could have been avoided.

"It was completely unnecessary," he told journalists after a three-hour inspection of the site where the fire occurred.

Mr Ramaphosa said more safety precautions should have been taken to prevent such accidents, especially when workers were welding.

He said the NUM had established that the welder whose acetylene cylinder had caught fire and set alight underground cables and pipes, had not had a fire extinguisher "immediately near him.

"We believe this is very irregular."

Mr Ramaphosa said NUM members were "very angry" at the "terrible disaster" and the union's executive would meet this morning to decide on possible action nationwide and at Kinross mine.

He said it was "anybody's guess" what action might be taken by the union. However, in 1983, after another mine disaster, 30 000 workers had gone on a 30-minute work stoppage.

He could not say whether the accident would affect wage negotiations, but he was doubtful whether talks scheduled for tomorrow would continue.

Asked whether the NUM was contemplating any court action, he said the union had asked its lawyers to pursue the case.

"It goes without saying that when an accident of such proportions happens, we have to take action to protect our members' interests."

Mr Ramaphosa said the union was opposed to the mine's compensation scheme, which would pay the equivalent of two years' salary to the next of kin of miners killed in such accidents, and would take action to try to obtain increased compensation.

He said most of the black miners earned only about R340 per month and two years' salary therefore did not amount to much.

So far, Mr Ramaphosa said, the management's version of events appeared to be correct. The NUM had only been able to interview two people underground and the union would have to take further statements from other miners involved.

Mr Ramaphosa said that from the accounts the NUM had heard, it appeared the flames had spread from the acetylene cylinder to the walls, pipes, cables, and rubber equipment on the rails and lighting system in the shaft.

A sealant that had been used on the walls, caught fire and caused fumes that killed the miners.

He said the NUM was not satisfied with the type of materials used in the shaft.

The union had identified four dangerous materials, including PVC cables, rubber cables and the sealant, which it believed should not have been used.

However, he could not say whether other mines were using better equipment. He said the NUM was unhappy with Gencor's attitude on safety requirements. The union believed that safety stewards should be appointed from its ranks but Gencor believed that safety was management's responsibility.

Mr Ramaphosa said Gencor had been declared "an enemy company" by the NUM because of "intransigence" over union recognition and "repressive measures".

However, the management had been very cooperative during the accident and had allowed a NUM inspection, and had promised to keep the union up to date with the latest information.

He said the NUM delegation would meet the mine management again after a visit to the mine hospital to interview victims of the fire. — Sapa

0018978

Names of five dead released

JOHANNESBURG
Gencor has released
the names of five
white mineworkers
who were killed in the
disaster

They were a shiftboss,
Mr Johannes Dor-
ling, 27, who was mar-
ried with two chil-
dren. He has worked
at Gencor since July
1978. Mr Raymond
John Smith, 42, em-
ployed since February
1972 as a stoper. He
was married with
three children. Mr
Stephanus Christoffel
Adendorff, 27, em-
ployed from Novem-
ber 1984 as a surveyor
grade 1. He was un-
married.

Mr Frederick Johannes
Prinsloo, 32, employed
as a developer since
January 1986. He was
married with two chil-
dren. Mr Stephen An-
thony Latchford, 19,
employed as a sur-
veyor since July 1985.
He was unmarried.

A statement released by
Gencor yesterday said
the names of the other
deceased could only
be released pending
the notification of
their next of kin.

This was being done, but
as they came from
various parts of South
Africa as well as
neighbouring coun-
tries, it might take two
or three days to con-
tact all concerned.

They are, however, of
the following origins:
Sotho 45, Zulu eight,
Shangaan (Mozambi-
can) 21, Pondo 20,
Hlubi (Transkei) six,
Swazi eight, Tswana
one, Xhosa 29, Venda
14, Malawi 15, Pedi
one.

The origin of four more
persons has not yet
been established, the
statement said.
It is estimated that pro-
duction at No 2 shaft
will be interrupted for
a week, although the
shaft will remain
closed as long as it
might take to ensure
that conditions there
were absolutely safe
again.

One week's production
at the shaft is equal to
about 25 000 tons out
of the mine's total
milling rate of 180 000
tons — Sapa

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Mine safety row after 177 killed

Dispatch Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — A row over safety measures at Kinross gold mine in the Eastern Transvaal broke out yesterday as the death toll from Tuesday's disaster climbed to 177.

More than 235 were injured and five workers are still missing

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, announced yesterday a judicial inquiry would be held. Mr Steyn, accompanied by the government mining engineer and a team of mine inspectors, went underground to assess the damage.

The mine recently lost two of its five stars, it was disclosed yesterday, after a national safety body found it lacked "certain elements to do with safety".

While mine officials confirmed this, they refused to elaborate on which safety measures were lacking.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said conditions at the mine, particularly on level 15 of shaft two where the fire broke out, were "highly irregular".

No fire extinguisher was available near the welder who apparently caused a spark from his welding torch which ignited a methane gas cylinder and set alight highly inflammable materials lining the walls.

The deadly gas which was emitted from ma-

terials lining the tunnel walls should also have been checked, he said.

The mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, said samples of the materials used in the tunnels, particularly in that section of the mine, to provide support and prevent corrosion, were being investigated.

He denied earlier statements that a highly toxic substance was painted on the walls, and suggested yesterday that a polyeurothane material may have caused the deadly fumes.

The mine had not known before yesterday that the substance was inflammable and had not felt there was a need to check on this aspect when it was first used.

He agreed mine officials would have to strive for better safety precautions but would not say what steps would be taken before the mine was re-opened.

Sapa reports a NUM delegation visited the Withaak Hospital where 1900 of the approximately 2200 men brought to the surface were treated, mainly for gas inhalation and respiratory problems.

A member of the delegation said about 44 were still in hospital, some of them so badly

burnt that their faces were unrecognisable. Two had severely swollen faces and cuts which they sustained when the men ran away from the flames, the spokesman said.

Addressing a press conference at the mine yesterday morning, Mr Olivier explained how the deadly gas swept through the mine.

"At times we have to seal certain areas, and make use of a sealing substance."

It is a liquid which turns into foam and is used to make water and air-tight seals.

This substance had been applied to tunnel walls six years ago and was thought to be fire-resistant, he said.

The disaster occurred when welding operations were going on to repair broken underground rail when a gas cylinder is said to have caught alight.

Cables and the coated tunnel walls caught fire.

The workers were overcome by toxic fumes from burning sealing substance.

All the people who were killed were on the 14th and 15th level. The lowest level on the mine is the 18th level, which is 1900 m underground.

Mr Olivier said many of the people rescued owed their lives to pockets of oxygen in the tunnels.

● More reports, P4

Picture at the back



Members of a prototeam clean a mine cage used in rescue operations at the Kinross gold mine yesterday

Witnesses tell of horror

Chilling accounts of death underground

JOHANNESBURG — A pall of death and shock hung over Evander yesterday where 177 Kinross miners lost their lives in the worst mine disaster in 26 years

Mr Isaih Siphon, an underground worker who saw the accident happen, said, "It was about 9 30 am yesterday. A worker was using the cutting torch. The torch broke and caused a big explosion. I only saw smoke and fire. I went as fast as I could down to a lower level to get away from the smoke. There I waited until about 1 pm when we were taken out."

The wife of a survivor of the disaster gave a chilling description yesterday of the horror and panic below ground when toxic gasses swept through the mine.

Mrs Barbara Tarran said her husband, Billy, had described the terror to her.

"My husband said there were bodies piled up on the tracks. Men were lying with blood coming out of their mouths."

"My husband had to punch his friend in the chest to make him breathe again. He saw a lot of men fall down the shaft because they panicked when the cage came down and did not pick them up."

An injured miner said his father, a shift boss, warned him to get out of the mine when he smelt smoke.

"I smelt smoke and knew immediately there was a fire somewhere," Mr Wiets Pretorius, 26, said from his hospital bed in Evander.

"To be safe I phoned my father, Piet. He said we had to get out at once, because there was smoke at level 15. I went straight back to my workers. We took our things and ran back to the station."

"If we had not got to level 11 so quickly, we would have been at least badly hurt. All my workers were luckily unharmed," he said.

Another miner, Mr Komiti Mmereko, 20, said "We were trapped. We held our hands to our mouths and noses in desperation. I saw my colleagues being overcome by the gas and fall."

"It is the worst I have seen or heard of in the 23 years I have worked at the mine," said Mr Ntoloza Thangane of Transkei.

Mr Mmereko, who works as a driller, was one of about seven survivors from the 15th level.

"Only about seven of us made it to the surface. When the gas leaked we tried to escape to the 14th level but it was too strong for us."

"One Swazi citizen continued going up but he was overcome by the gas between the two levels and fell and died," said Mr Mmereko.

● The Withaak Mine Hospital, 8 km from the scene of the disaster, treated 1 900 miners, of whom 44 were still there, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said yesterday.

Mr Ramaphosa visited the injured after a 50-minute delay at the hospital's entrance before he was allowed to proceed.

● Kinross lost two of its five safety rating stars in June last year.

The mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, said the stars had been lost because of "lesser elements" in the list of 21 safety criteria used to grant the stars.

"It was, certainly not because of materials or work methods," he claimed — Sapa.

Kinross dead now number 177

The death toll at the Kinross Gold Mine at Evander has risen to 177

Five white victims have been identified. They were

● Shiftboss Mr Christoffel Johannes Dorfling (27), who had worked at Gencor since July 1978. He was married with two children.

● Stoper Mr Raymond John Smith (42). Married with three children.

● Surveyor Mr Stephanus Christoffel Adendorff (27). Married

● Déveloper Mr Frederick Johannes Prinsloo (32). Married with two children.

● Surveyor Mr Stephen Anthony Latchford (19). Unmarried

The names of the other dead cannot be released until next of kin have been informed.

They are of the following origins: Sotho 45, Zulu 8, Shangaan (Mozambique) 21, Pondo 20, Hlubi (Transkei) 6, Swazi 8, Venda 1, Xhosa 29,

Tswana 14, Malawi 15, Pedi 1.

The origins of three more persons have not been established.

A statement said Gencor was grateful that some 2 200 workers had been evacuated safely, for the effort by the rescue teams and the support of the doctors, Evander community and the police.

Production at No 2 shaft will be interrupted for about a week. One week's production is equal to about 25 000 tons out of the mine's total milling rate of 180 000 tons

The president of the Chamber of Mines, Mr E P Gush, said "that the entire mining industry was overwhelmed by the tragedy.

"Our most heartfelt sympathies to the families of the dead and injured miners. We have a commitment to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again."

● See Pages 4 and 19.

Saved by unknown hands

By Hannes de Wet

If it were not for a group of unknown black workers who dragged an unconscious Mr Tol Sadler to a running tap, he would be dead today

"I have no doubt in my mind that they saved my life. The water cooled me down and brought me back to consciousness," Mr Sadler (32), a surveyor at Kinross Gold Mine, told *The Star* yesterday.

The father of three said he was trapped for six hours by the underground fire in the mine

"I decided to climb up to a higher level but I was too weak. My hands slipped and I lost consciousness. When I came to I was lying under a running tap.

"Eventually I shifted inch by inch to the opening of another tunnel.

"I don't know how long I was sitting there before a bossboy came along. I told him that I was paralysed and that he should help me.

"He left and returned with a few other black workers. They carried me to a spot where the ventilation was better. I stayed there until a proto team took me to the surface.

"The next morning I heard that it was a group of black workers who had dragged me to the tap and left the water running before making a break themselves"

Critical questions remain unanswered

By Mike Situma and Glenda Spiro

At about 9 am on Tuesday, 2 400 mineworkers were working underground at the 1 900 m Kinross gold mine when a fire broke out, leading to the death of nearly 180 men

While there is some consensus between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and management about what happened on that fateful morning, several critical questions remain unanswered

According to versions given by both sides, events would have followed this pattern

● A gas cylinder ignites starting a fire Pandemonium breaks out as panicking workers try to escape the deadly fumes Some fall while fleeing, hurting themselves in the process Management becomes aware of the unfolding disaster about 10 minutes later Rescue teams are sent down Bodies of the dead and others overcome by fumes are found over an

area of about 1.5 km Some are found huddled in groups and others are scattered over the affected area

The consensus ends here leaving a number of questions unanswered even after several Press conferences held by management

Questions like how the incident could have happened and how strictly were safety regulations adhered to

The mine's general manager, Mr Kobus Olivier, has defended its safety performance

PRECAUTIONS

When asked why the mine had been stripped of two of its five stars accorded in terms of an international mine safety system, Mr Olivier attributed this to certain elements governing the ratings system. He could not remember which of the elements it was his mine lacked

Mr Olivier said the miners would return to work before

the outcome of the inquiry He said additional precautions had been taken

NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa claimed welders at Kinross did not have fire extinguishers with them He said a pathologist would conduct post-mortems on the union's behalf

Workers from Kinross decided at a mass meeting last night that action taken in protest at Tuesday's incident would have to occur in conjunction with workers at other Eastern Transvaal mines

The Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Dame Steyn, visited the disaster area yesterday

He said a judicial inquiry would be conducted

"South Africa mourns with the families of the dead miners," he said "We should be proud of the high quality of the South African miner and the courage of the proto teams who saved hundreds of lives this week"



● Fatality Free Shifts — 0 reads the sign outside Number Two shaft at the Kinross disaster mine As the search continues underground for the last men still missing from the tragedy, only an ambulance at the minehead indicated the continuing drama underground as rescue teams searched for the five workers not yet found. They are feared dead. ● Picture by Kevin Carter

Payments due to families

The families of the miners who died in the Kinross mine accident this week are entitled to certain benefits

In July 1981 a new de-racialised death benefit scheme for miners was introduced. It created a salary-related formula for death benefits

Although the system is equitable in principle, black wages are much lower than whites' so black benefits are also lower

Dependants of workers who die receive 24 times their monthly salary, and in the case of black mineworkers, a further sum equivalent to the current value of food and lodgings allocated to them on the mine for two years.

In addition, dependants are paid benefits by Rand Mutual Insurance, calculated according to salary, years of service and qualification.

Relatives of black Kimross victims may be robbed of death benefits

By Sheryl Raine

Ignorance, administrative red tape and corruption could rob the relatives of black mineworkers killed in the Kinross mining disaster of much-needed death benefits

Relatives most likely to lose out on benefits paid to mineworkers who died on duty are those living in neighbouring states such as Lesotho and Mozambique

An International Labour Organisation report on migrant labour released this year noted there was evidence of corruption and inefficiency in the administration of benefits paid to relatives as well as ignorance on the part of beneficiaries

A breakdown by origin of black workers who died at Kinross this week showed a significant number from Lesotho, Malawi and Mozambique

In most cases, The Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA), the Chamber of Mines recruitment wing, administers successful payouts, but in Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi, the government play a part in the administration

Sources in the mining industry say there are lingering suspicions that money is misappropriated, particularly in Lesotho from which South Africa draws 130 000 mineworkers

"In general we do not have any problems," a spokesman for TEBA insisted, but he noted that in Lesotho, TEBA recruitment agencies through which relatives lodge claims for death and other benefits, try to keep the claim payouts within their control to ensure the benefits are paid out

One of the problems identified by the ILO and confirmed by TEBA is the assessment of which relatives qualify for benefits and the lack of available appeal machinery

Ignorance is a major problem Relatives do not lodge claims for death benefits because they do not know they are entitled to them Others lodge claims and never collect the money Such funds are kept in trust and lists of beneficiaries who have not collected their benefits appear in the South African Government Gazette from time to time

The ILO noted that in 1979 less than one-third of those eligible for various types of compensation received their awards

The ILO noted that in 1979 less than one-third of those eligible for various types of compensation received their awards

Mine rescue hero recalls the horror

Glenda Spiro

Several heroes emerged from the Kinross mine tragedy Mr Billy Tarran (28) is one — but now he wonders if he will ever want to take another step underground

He is one of three men still being treated at Evander Hospital In nearby Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, 38 miners have not yet been discharged

In "intense heat and smoke so thick" he could not see past his hand, Mr Tarran climbed 6,5 m with a man on his back and returned to carry to safety another miner who had collapsed

Mr Tarran said he was about to leave level 13, where he was working, when he smelt something. He went to see if there was a problem and "told people to get out"

THOUGHTS OF LOST FRIENDS

But he does not dwell on his own heroism His thoughts are dominated by the friends he lost

He said he could not express the feelings of pain at the loss of close friends, killed in South Africa's worst gold mine disaster.

"It's a loss to the whole community We are all good friends in this town"

As a surveyor, he hopes there is a lot of work for him above ground "I'm scared to go back under and my wife doesn't want me to," he said

One of the things he feels saved him was the

fact that he tore off his shirt to cover his face from the toxic fumes which claimed the lives of nearly 200 fellow workers

He described the panic on level 14

"Everyone was trying to run, but in the heat it was practically impossible to walk My legs were numb, they felt like rubber"

Because he spent three hours ferrying several people to underground stations away from the gas, Mr Tarran's condition is still being monitored

● Mr Jeremy Lewis (24) is lying opposite Mr Tarran and Mr Koos Green (29)

He told *The Star* he did not know at first there was a fire He first noticed an acrid smell and only realised something was wrong when he saw shift bosses waiting for a cage to take them out of the mine

Mr Lewis is still confused about what happened, but feels something should have been done to prevent the tragedy

He added "The rescue procedures seemed first class, but we were so busy trying to get everyone out, we didn't realise the extent of the task"

Mr Lewis, a Briton, is a surveyor who was working on level 12 He went to see what was happening on levels 14 and 15 when workers rushed from these areas Although he went above ground soon after that, he was still badly affected by fumes

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Unions call for probe into safety at mines

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called on the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr Danie Steyn, to appoint a commission of inquiry into safety in the mining industry

The call is backed by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu)

In a statement, the NUM said the deaths and injuries at Evander were "a tragedy unparalleled in mining history"

The NUM's president, Mr James Motlatsi, the general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, regional chairman, Mr E Vala, regional organiser, Mr T Mothupi, and safety adviser, Mr J Leger, went underground at the mine yesterday to investigate the disaster

The national executive committee of the NUM has convened an urgent meeting to decide on appropriate action to be taken by its membership

"This disaster takes us back to the Dark Ages and demonstrates clearly the unacceptable low safety standards practised in South Africa's mining industry," the union says in the statement

Referring to reports that wire cables underground caused a fire and toxic fumes were inhaled by workers, the NUM says it has repeatedly called for an end to the use of such cables underground and has waged a consistent campaign to expose the unsafe work practices in the industry

"It has required tragedy after tragedy and the loss of many lives before the industry and government pay attention to safety standards. This disaster is a clear indictment of the industry and makes its claims of having the lowest fatality rate in the world absurd"

Calling for a "complete overhaul of safety standards on the mines", Cosatu says the fatalities at Kinross are a "national tragedy" and "a telling example of the price black miners are expected to pay for the super profits of the South African mining industry"

Cosatu says calls to improve safety standards have met with a "lukewarm response and boastful safety claims from the industry"

"Are the mine bosses too busy pursuing profits to care about the lives and safety of black miners? Are they too busy trying to fend off the just demands of workers for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?" Cosatu asks

"Meanwhile, the disasters continue with horrendous frequency. Between 1973 and 1984, more than 8 500 miners were killed

"The continuing tragedy of the mining industry is that black miners are paying with their lives for the wealth and profits in which they do not share"

— Sapa

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THE SIGN atop the room where miners at the Kinross gold mine wait before descending into the earth reads "Fatality-free shifts 0" a tragic epitaph to the worst disaster in the history of the South African gold mining industry

The underground fire that sent poisonous fumes spewing into the mine's shafts 1,6km down left at least 177 dead

Prior to this week's disaster the worst gold mining catastrophe was in 1900, when 152 workers drowned in a flooded mine

SA's worst mining disaster was in 1960, when 437 were buried alive in a coal mine collapse

According to Kinross Mines general manager Kobus Olivier, the fire — which broke out at 9.30am on Tuesday — started after welding work in a section between the mine's No 1 and No 2 shafts "An acetylene cylinder caught fire and set alight underground cables and pipes"

Olivier also said an anti-corrosive sealing substance fuelled the blaze and caused a toxic reaction which filled areas between the mine's No 1 and No 2 shafts and went to levels 15, 16, 17 and 18

Of the 177 dead, five were white miners two surveyors, one shift boss and two miners

They were Christoffel Johannes Dorfling (27), Raymond John Smith (42), Stafanus Christoffel Adendorff (27), Frederick Johannes Prinsloo (32) and Stephen Anthony Latchford (19)

Both Dorfling and Adendorff — who died on his birthday — were members of a mine proto team and died while helping rescue miners underground

The mine said the names of the dead black miners would not be released until their next of kin had been notified

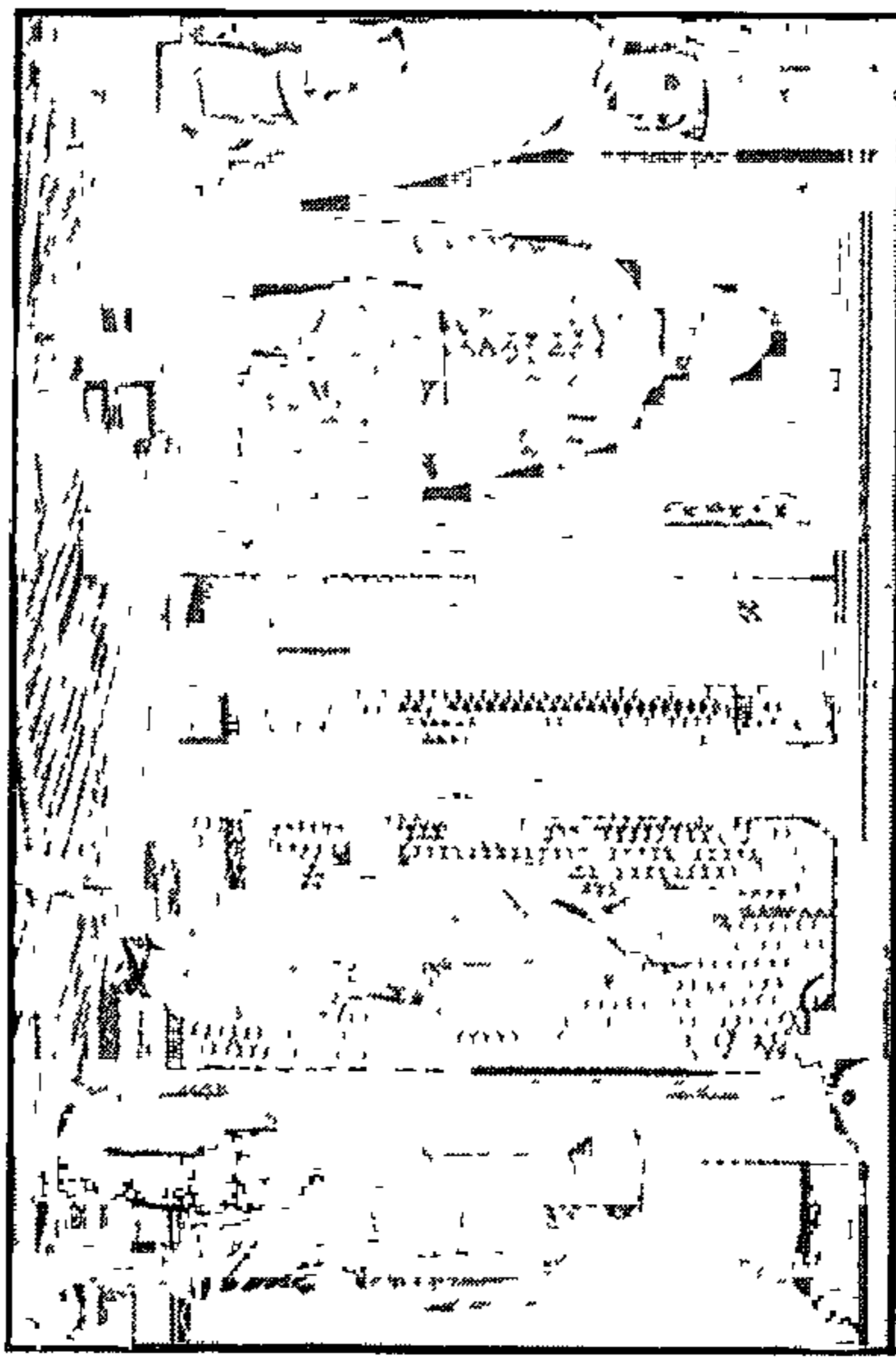
Rescue teams brought a total of 2 200 miners to the surface, some 44 are still in hospital

A member of the National Union of Mineworkers' legal team, who was not named, said four people were still in intensive care The majority of the workers treated suffered from gas

Tension mounts at disaster gold mine

18/9/86

(131)



Miners from other local mines in the Eastern Transvaal arrive at Kinross to help rescue workers evacuate the dead and injured

inhalation and respiratory problems

"Some of them were on drips we interviewed a few, but very cursory, because they were all suffering from heavy shock and under sedation," he said

He added that one of the men told him that some miners brought to the surface were so badly burnt that their faces were unrecognisable

Tension at the mine rose yesterday morning as a white bakkie and several security guards — some armed — separated a barrage of Press members and about 150 miners sitting huddled in the morning sun. However, as more and more jour-

nalists arrived at the scene and were refused entry to the mine shaft and permission to approach any of the miners, the number of miners grew

One foreign journalist claimed he was almost run over by the bakkie when he tried to speak to miners

Several times guards warned journalists that the police would be called to remove them if they persisted in their attempt to interview miners

Truckloads of miners were ferried in and out of the mine, apparently being taken for tests at local hospitals

- MAJOR MINING DISASTERS.**
- 1942: 1 572 miners die in coal dust explosion at Chinese coal mine;
 - 1963: Methane gas explosion at Japanese coal mine kills 452;
 - 1913: At coal mine in south Wales, 439 perish;
 - 1960. Cave-in kills 437 miners at SA's Coalbrook North colliery,
 - 1985 Landslide at gold mine kills 56 in southern Philippines;
 - 1984: Cave-in at mine in northern Taiwan traps and kills 72;
 - 1983: 100 bodies recovered from Turkish coal mine after gas explosion.
 - 1900: 152 workers drown in flooded SA gold mine. — Sapa-Reuter.

A spokesperson at the Winkelhaak Hospital told journalists that access to patients was being denied to "avoid conflicting reports"

Early yesterday morning there was waiting from miners hostels at No 2 shaft

As journalists tried to find out what was happening, a security guard said "That's nothing unusual — it happens every day"

A miner later commented "We are very angry None of this need ever have happened It is going to take us a long time to get over the sadness this has caused"

Kinross disaster toll reaches 177

Mine deaths probe amid safety row

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

GOVERNMENT announced a judicial inquiry into the Kinross disaster yesterday as a row erupted over safety measures at the Gencor gold mine

The official death toll has climbed to 177. More than 235 miners were injured and five are missing

The inquiry was announced by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn. Accompanied by the government mining engineer and a team of mine inspectors, Steyn went underground yesterday to assess the damage

The mine recently lost two of its five safety stars, it was disclosed yesterday, after a national safety body found it lacked "certain elements to do with safety"

Mine officials confirmed this but refused to elaborate on which safety measures were lacking

National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa, who spent three hours investigating underground yesterday, said "We believe this accident could have been avoided. It was completely unnecessary"



NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa interviews an injured miner

He charged that conditions in the mine, particularly on level 15 of Shaft 2, where the fire broke out, were "highly irregular"

No fire extinguisher was available near the welder who apparently caused a spark from his torch which ignited a

● To Page 3 →

Kinross disaster probe

methane gas cylinder and set alight highly-inflammable materials lining the walls, Ramaphosa said

The deadly gas emitted from materials lining the tunnel walls should also have been checked, he said

NUM members were, Ramaphosa said, "very angry" at the "terrible disaster"

Ramaphosa said the NUM executive would meet tomorrow morning to decide on possible action nationwide and at Kinross

Kinross GM Kobus Olivier said samples of materials used in the tunnels, particularly in that section of the mine, to provide support and prevent corrosion, were being investigated

He denied his earlier statements that a highly toxic substance Rigiseal was painted on walls, and suggested yesterday that a polyurethane material might have caused the killer fumes

The mine had not known before yesterday that this substance was inflammable and the mine had not felt there was a need to check on this aspect when it was installed

He agreed mine officials would have to strive for better safety precautions but would not say what steps would be taken before the mine was re-opened

"It is NUM opinion, not management, that we put production before safety," he said

"We are continually striving for better conditions"

NUM safety officer Hawlzy Sibanyoni, who was refused entry to the mine's shaft, said his union had suffered an uphill battle in negotiations with Gencor's management on safety issues

Despite Gencor's claim of a "clean accidents slate" for 1985, Sibanyoni and other miners claimed many accidents at the mine were not reported

After his meeting with mine management yesterday, Steyn said procedures for holding a thorough judicial inquiry would be expedited

He added "The Government Mining

Engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that the responsible union representatives have been assisted as far as possible by management to investigate the incident

"Mine management will keep the union representatives informed of developments in the investigations which have already commenced"

Production at the No 2 Shaft is likely to be interrupted for a week, although the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are safe again

One week's production at the shaft is equal to approximately 25 000 tons out of the mine's total milling rate of 180 000 tons, according to a Gencor statement.

Five who died were white, 45 Sotho, 21 Xhosa, 20 Pondo, 15 Malawi, 14 Tswana, 21 Shangaan, six Hlubi, eight Zulu, eight Swazis and one Venda and one Pedi. The origin of three others could not be established

Two of the five whites who died, Christoffel Johannes Dorfling, 27, a shift boss and father of two, and Stefanus Christoffel Adendorff, 27, a surveyor who had been married for two months, were members of a mine proto team. They were killed trying to rescue miners underground

The other white miners who died were Raymond John Smith, 42, a stoper and father of three; Frederick Johannes Prinsloo, 32, a developer and father of two, and Stephen Anthony Latchford, 19, a surveyor

The names of the black miners who died will be released when their next of kin had been notified, Gencor said in a statement

Condolences from the British government, President P W Botha, Opposition leader Colin Eglin and Chamber of Mines president Peter Gush, were expressed yesterday

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Miners describe panic as they tried to escape

PANIC spread amongst Kinross miners as they desperately tried to escape the toxic fumes spreading through the underground tunnels.

Some of the survivors yesterday told of their horror as they realised "something had gone horribly wrong".

Billy Tarran, 28, described how he smelt the fumes, noticed smoke pouring into the tunnel where he was working and then desperately tried to ensure that he and others would be safe.

"I went down to the 13th level and found nobody there could breathe. I shouted to them to get out because I realised something was wrong. I went to the nearby stope and phoned the station in case we didn't make it.

As miners collapsed around him, he felt he could take no more, he said. "Our legs turned to jelly. I had to walk in the darkness and thick smoke holding the walls. I could feel my chest burning so bad I couldn't breathe. Then a miner collapsed and I managed to get him on to a stretcher," he said.

He described his three hours of trying

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

to rescue people while struggling to stay on his feet

"I half-dragged and half-carried some of them out. But eventually the smoke was too thick and I could do nothing."

"Nothing as bad as this (the Kinross incident) has happened before. You start running out of chances and now I think it is time to get out," he said.

Yesterday Tarran said he suffered headaches, sore eyes, sore throat, and a burning chest.

Another miner who managed to escape, Jeromy Lewis, 24, described the panic underground as the toxic fumes spread through the tunnels.

"Everybody just started running around, not knowing what was going on," he said. "It was obviously a freak accident. But then when one goes underground you can expect some kind of hazard," he said.

He believed that his condition, which is relatively stable would have been worse if he had stayed another half-an-hour.

Fatality rate up in past 6 months

Safety records kept over the last decade indicate that the Kinross gold mine generally compared favourably with the rest of the gold mining industry. However, certain of the most recent statistics give cause for concern. As far as injury rates are concerned, only in 1985 did Kinross records show that the injury rate (29,32) was higher than that for the gold mining industry generally (25,14). Significantly, the statistics show that the reportable injury rate for the last six months is the highest for the last decade — 39,87. As far as fatality rates are concerned only in 1978 and significantly in the last six months, has the Kinross average fatality rate exceeded the average for the mining industry as a whole. In the period September 1985 to August 1986 the fatality rate at Kinross was 0,96 workers for every 1 000 workers underground. The industry rate was 0,88.

Kinross toll up prior to disaster

By Sheryl Raine

The Kinross gold mine had recorded a significant increase in deaths and injuries in the months immediately prior to this week's disaster

Records show that the latest reportable injury rate on the mine is the highest in 10 years

The mine, which lost two of its five stars after a rating on the advanced International Mine Safety Rating System in June this year, boasts an impressive safety record (see graphic)

But, an examination of the records shows that, during the period September 1985 to August 1986, the average fatality rate for every 1 000 underground workers on the mine had jumped to 0,96 — higher than the gold mining industry average for the same period of 0,88

Kinross for years recorded an average reportable injury rate well below the industry average, but spoiled its record in 1985

The injury rate again rose in the first half of this year. Latest injury statistics are higher than at any time in the past 10 years (see graphic)

Records show that the injury rate for 1985 was 29,32 for every 1 000 underground workers. This figure is higher than the 25,14 average for the gold mining industry generally. The figure for 1986 so far is 39,87 which is higher than the Kinross mine's 1978 high of 39,40.

The rating system was first implemented at Kinross in 1980 when the mine was awarded three stars on the advanced schedule. By 1981 it had won four stars and kept its rating for 1982 and 1983. In June 1984 it was awarded five but in June this year was down-graded to three

● A reportable injury is one in which a limb is lost or a person incapacitated for 14 days or longer

Apartheid blamed for high fatality rate

The Star Bureau

LONDON — South African mines have a "disastrous record," says the South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu)

In a statement from Lusaka, it claims that an average of almost two miners are killed and 10 injured every day in accidents on gold mines.

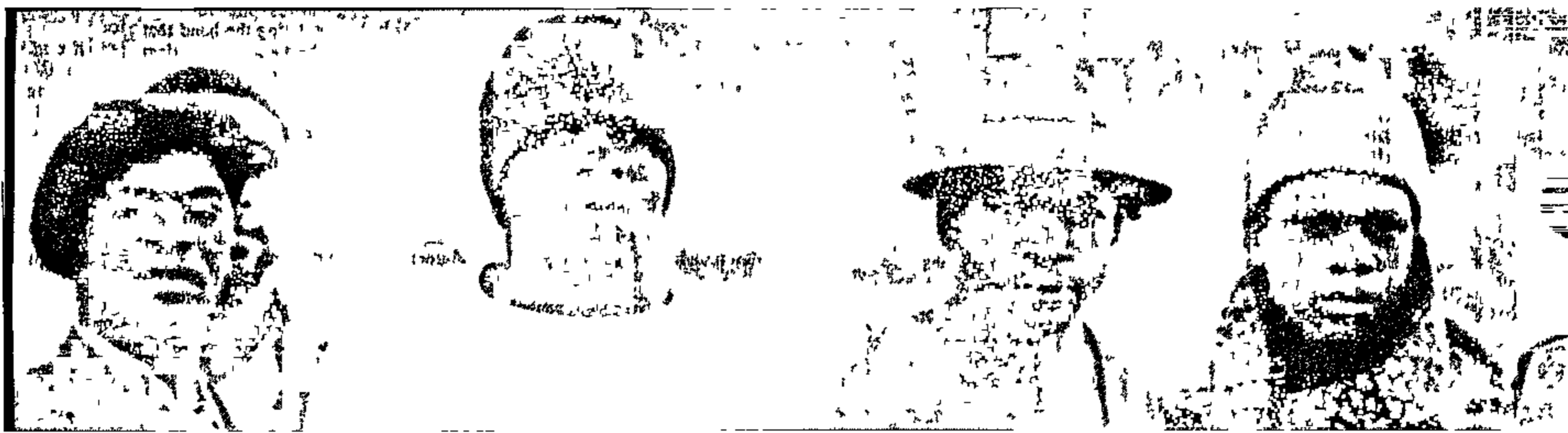
"This high fatality and injury rate stems from apartheid. It is the racist and exploitative conditions in the pursuit of super-profits that makes mining in South Africa one of the most dangerous occupations in the world"

Sactu condemns Gencor, saying its health and safety record is "among the worst in the international rating system".

It calls on all miners to demand recognition of the National Union of Mineworkers at their workplace as the first step towards ensuring adequate health and safety standards

The horrified faces of miners watching the bodies of 177 co

It could so easily have been one of them Kinross miners who weren't underground that tragic Tuesday morning
Picture Wendy Schwegmann, Reuters



TUESDAY'S disaster at the Kinross mine inspired an uncomfortable sense of déjà vu

On September 17, 1983 — almost three years to the day before the Kinross disaster — 68 mineworkers died in a methane gas explosion underground at the Hlobage coal mine near Vryheid in Northern Natal

After an inquest-inquiry revealed hair-raising lapses in safety standards at the mine, its owners, a subsidiary of Iscor, were prosecuted and fined R400 for contravening the Mines and Works Act

A member of the National Union of Mine Workers' legal team at the inquest inquiry described Hlobage as a "disaster waiting to happen"

A total of 14 machines underground were not flameproof and could have sparked an explosion, no proper testing had been done for methane gas on the morning of the explosion, the ventilation system, which should have dispersed any build up of gas, had never worked properly and a hoisting operation a few days before had short-circuited it, and so on

A white miner — who died in the blast and who was identified by the inquest-inquiry as the major culprit — had found methane gas in the mine a week before

This, however, was scratched out of the production book by the mine captain who — it was alleged at the inquiry — believed it would reflect badly on the mine's safety record

Yet the mine continued to boast a four star safety

rating, even after the accident, and the local government inspector — himself a former manager of Hlobage — did not think the mine was much worse than others around it

The relatives of the deceased are still waiting for increased compensation, though some have now brought individual suits against mine management for pain and suffering

On Wednesday Kinross' mine manager, Kobus Olivier, under a grilling from the local and international press, refused to answer questions about the cause of the blast because, he said, it was "sub judice"

The "thorough investigation" launched into the accident by the government would, Olivier implied, ensure that justice would take its course

In the light of the fact that some 50 000 workers have died in mine accidents in South Africa since the turn of the century, 8 500 of them between 1973 and 1984, and that management has never been held responsible, can one reasonably make that assumption?

The mining industry has consistently blamed the

high death and injury toll on "acts of God — accidents which they could not help — but under pressure in recent years has been successful in restricting the number of acts of God

Despite the scanty information available several key questions have emerged about the Kinross accident

●Was there a fire extinguisher around at the time of the accident?

Olivier said it would have been normal practice for there to be an extinguisher at the scene of the welding operation which sparked the fire but refused to comment on whether there had in fact been one

Cyril Ramaphosa, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said after investigating the scene of the disaster on Wednesday that the union's main concern was that welders did not have fire extinguishers

According to Olivier, the gas cylinder which started the fire did not explode but started flaming and, according to eyewitnesses, a black worker had tried to put out the blaze. If there had been an

This week's mine horror came three years, almost to the day, since the last major mine disaster. After an inquiry, the mine owners were fined R400 for lapses in safety leading to 68 deaths. What kind of safety system hands out high ratings to mines, while disasters continue to happen? PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports

A GRIM SENSE OF

A sharp NUM critique of shaft safety

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

ONE of the cruel ironies of this week's mine disaster at Kinross is that the National Union of Mineworkers was due to launch a new booklet for workers on mine safety today. It is called "A Thousand Ways to Die"

The title comes from a quote from an old miner who said "There are a thousand ways to die in a gold mine"

Billed as a report "for the workers, by the workers", the booklet, here summarised, sets out a black miner's critique of safety in the industry

"There are a thousand ways to die underground. The biggest reason is having to work in working places that are not safe. Many accidents happen which should not and need not happen

"White miners do not spend much time in the stopes anymore. They are not doing what the law says they must do. They no longer make safe and do inspections. They no longer mark off drill holes and remove musfires. They don't even work with explosives anymore

"Team leaders are now doing the work of white miners — and they are the ones who are now looking after the safety of the team in the stopes. But team leaders do not have the same training as white miners. They can't tell the team to leave the working place if it is dangerous

"The government says the law will change in 1987. But what will happen to team leaders? Will they get better training — and will they get the power to pull the team out when conditions are dangerous?

"The Mines and Works Act says workers must call a white miner if conditions are dangerous. The white miner must then 'make safe'. But workers do not often call the white miner. They know he will not come

"Team leaders are the ones who 'make safe' when conditions are dangerous. A team leader will only call a white miner if he can't make a place safe — and if conditions are very dangerous

"The mines use threats and punishment to make the work go faster. If workers stop because the



A mines ambulance carries bodies from the scene of the disaster
Picture Wendy Schwegmann, Reuters

working place is not safe, they may get charged — and sometimes even fired. The fear of punishment makes workers take more chances in the stopes — and when workers take more chances, they have more accidents

"Most workers say that training for new workers is not good enough. Workers believe that bosses are in a hurry to send them underground. This is bad for safety. Workers also say that they hate fanakalo. It is time for workers to decide on a new language for underground"

The booklet lists a miners' bill of rights which the NUM is struggling to get accepted by the Chamber of Mines. Included in this charter are

- 1 The right to elect safety stewards and safety committees
- 2 The right to refuse dangerous work.
- 3 The right to call and go with inspectors on all inspections — without the loss of pay
- 4 The right to proper health and safety training
- 5 The right to get all information about health and safety
- 6 The right to protection from punishment when demanding your rights
- 7 The right to have a say in the running of the mine — and in all future plans

The black dead: Just faceless mine statistics

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

IN 1945 a black academic and poet, BW Vilakazi, wrote a poem about black mineworkers

*My brother is with me, carrying
His pick and shovel on his shoulder,
And, on his feet, are heavy boots
He follows me towards the shaft,
The Earth will swallow us who burrow
And, if I die there underground,
What does it matter? Who am I?
Dear Lord! all around me, every day,
I see men stumble, fall and die*

After this week's disaster at Kinross, the question "Who are they?" — the 177 dead black miners — is a very real one

As was usual after disasters of this kind, the names of the five dead white miners were released and the SABC had moving footage of interviews with their families

A statement from Gencor said however that the names of the 177 — all black migrant workers — could only be released once their next of kin were informed

Instead, this was what the press was told of their origins: Sotho 45, Shangaan (Mozambican) 21, Pondo 20, Illubi (Transkei) 6, Swazi 8, Venda 1, Xhosa 29, Tswana 14, Malawi 15, Pedi 1

One knows the circumstances of their death. Eyewitnesses described how they were trapped by the gas and how workers fell all around them. Those that survived had held their noses and mouths and walked slowly so as not to inhale the poisonous fumes

Bodies were found spread out over a one- and a half kilometre radius. Some workers unable to get into the cages to be hoisted to the surface were reported to have jumped down the lift shafts, which are several kilometres deep

The families of many of the men who died — scattered in far-flung rural areas of the Southern African subcontinent —



Battered but alive, an unidentified survivor in hospital hours after the fatal accident
Picture AFP

might not know for more than a week that their loved ones are dead

When workers die on the mines, the recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, The Employment Bureau of Africa, which has offices in the rural areas, attempts to trace their next of kin. It could take a long time to contact relatives in the isolated mountain villages of Lesotho or the Transkei

But who were these men who died? What were their aspirations, their likes and dislikes? How many children were orphaned and how many wives became widows?

It is unlikely we will ever know. It is likely, in fact, that — as in the case of previous mining disasters — their names will never be published in the South African press

For most people the Kinross disaster will remain forever just a statistic: the death of five whites and 177 faceless, nameless blacks

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This week's mine horror came three years, almost to the day, since the last major mine disaster. After an inquiry, the mine owners were fined R400 for lapses in safety leading to 68 deaths. What kind of safety system hands out high ratings to mines, while disasters continue to happen? PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK reports

extinguisher, he would surely have been able to use it to put the fire out
●Why was there no alarm system underground warning workers of danger?
The poisonous fumes spreading through an area of one and a half square kilometres caught workers by surprise
NUM president James Matlatsi said the people involved at the source of the fire where the welding took place managed to escape
Had the others — who were much further from the fire, some on different levels of the mine —

been alerted, many more would probably have been able to get out in time
●The third, and most obvious, question is what highly inflammable toxic material was doing underground in the first place
At first Olivier blamed the toxicity on a chemical sealant used on the wall, but he later corrected himself and said this was a polyurethane type foam and that samples had been sent for testing
The source of the poisonous gas which killed some 182 workers could have been any of the materials said by Ramaphosa to have burnt underground: the plaster used to firm the tunnel walls, the insulation around the underground cables and rubber equipment on the rails and lighting system in the shaft
What tests were these materials subjected to before being used underground?
●Finally, what good is the international mine safety rating system if such disasters continue to happen at mines with high ratings?
Kinross had recently lost two of its stars but this,

according to Olivier, was not for matters related to Tuesday's fire
On Olivier's telling, if it were not for certain mysterious yet minor shortcomings Kinross would still be a five star mine
Thus the lack of an underground warning system, for instance, is not considered to be a drawback in acquiring points for the star rating system
Coming within a week of the Chamber of Mines' proud statement that there had been a decline in deaths in the first six months of this year to the lowest rate ever, the Kinross disaster has clearly been a setback
The Chamber has not been unresponsive to pressure from the NUM on safety and since the Hlobane disaster there has been a marked improvement in safety statistics
But still, hundreds of workers die every year — three times more than died in the Kinross disaster — and thousands of them are injured on South African mines. This is seldom written about because death on the mines is a daily occurrence

Now — with fresh concern being expressed over safety in the wake of the Kinross disaster — the NUM has called for a commission of enquiry to examine not just Kinross but the whole question of mine safety in South Africa
A repeat of Hlobane could provoke anger among black workers, who are already questioning what they see as collusion between mine management and the government
It would be an opportune moment for such an enquiry because the Mines and Works Act — which is supposed to be framed in the interests of worker safety — is in the process of being amended to scrap racial job reservation
The situation which has evolved — in which black miners, without the same pay or adequate safety training, are doing the jobs of white miners — could be addressed by amendments to the law scrapping mining apartheid
The disaster could also lend impetus to the NUM's demands for safety stewards and safety committees and for greater safety rights for workers
"When the NUM started in 1983," Ramaphosa said in an interview conducted shortly before the disaster "604 workers were killed in the gold mines. Last year, in 1985, 539 workers were killed. So we can see that we are slowly winning the struggle
"But we have a long way to go. We will not rest as long as our people are dying underground. For us, every death is one too many"

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Battered but alive, an unidentified survivor in hospital hours after the fatal accident Picture: AFP
might not know for more than a week that their loved ones are dead
When workers die on the mines, the recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, The Employment Bureau of Africa, which has offices in the rural areas, attempts to trace their next of kin. It could take a long time to contact relatives in the isolated mountain villages of Lesotho or the Transkei
But who were these men who died? What were their aspirations, their likes and dislikes? How many children were orphaned and how many wives became widows?
It is unlikely we will ever know. It is likely, in fact, that — as in the case of previous mining disasters — their names will never be published in the South African press
For most people the Kinross disaster will remain forever just a statistic: the death of five whites and 177 faceless, nameless blacks

Gencor's censors can teach the government

By PAT SIDLEY and ANTON HARBER
THE accident at Gencor's Kinross mine took place at 9.30am on Tuesday. The first announcement of the incident came after 3pm
In delaying the news for eight hours — and in its subsequent treatment of reporters and photographers — Gencor has shown it is even more adept than the South African government at blocking journalists and controlling the flow of information
Gencor also ignored a long standing agreement — although little known and less used — between the Chamber of Mines and the Conference of Editors
Although dwarfed by the tragedy of 177 unnatural deaths, another victim of the incident was the public's right to know
Most mining companies have always been protective of their territory and reluctant to allow journalists to move around mine property and talk freely to employees. With Gencor, however, the control of information this week was more extreme
The agreement between the Chamber and the press is meant to ensure that news organisations are kept informed of accidents on mines and sets out principles behind the agreement, procedures for dealing with the press and procedures for major accidents or disasters
This agreement is certainly unknown to most working journalists and observed largely in the breach. Neither editors, nor Sapa, nor the Chamber have seen fit over the years to refer to it or update it (the agreement does not deal with union activity, for instance)
Nevertheless, Gencor has not kept to even its own agreed standards
Under the section on major accidents the first rule to follow reads
On receipt of first news of an accident in the above category, the Group Press Liaison Officers will issue immediately a message to Sapa stating that a major accident or disaster has occurred and giving such few details as are immediately available
"Sapa will be informed that further details will follow as soon as possible"
In this case, Sapa was not notified until some eight hours after the disaster. Even then, the full scale of the disaster was not revealed until much later, with the company originally standing by a



A photograph taken from a helicopter reveals an ambulance leaving the mine shaft. Picture: WENDY SCHWEGMANN, REUTERS

death figure of 13
In principle, according to the agreement, "mines, members of the Chamber, accept that newspapers have a legitimate interest in the reporting of mine accidents. Mines, therefore, are willing to accord facilities to newspapers to report mine accidents and to give every reasonable assistance"
Reporters on the scene of this week's disaster say mine management was decidedly uncooperative and failed to allow access to any useful information
Reporters were barred from going anywhere near the disaster area and were not allowed near the hospital to interview survivors. In scenes reminiscent of attempts to report on the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union, reporters were forced to hire helicopters and use third parties to sneak pictures of the scene of the accident
Gencor's attitude could be confirmed by anyone who heard a representative of the mining house on radio broadcasts. He claimed repeatedly that he could not comment as the matter was *sub judice*, while at the same time admitting that no legal procedures had been instituted. Radio listeners heard the representative refuse to comment while a reporter's tape recorder was switched on and abruptly terminate the interview when faced with some hard questions

Foreign experts for Kinross inquiry

Staff Reporters

South African mining standards will come under international scrutiny when the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) brings international mining experts from Britain and Germany to assist it in the judicial inquiry into the Kinross mine disaster.

The NUM is also briefing a team of leading advocates to represent the families of the victims at the inquiry, the inquest and during possible criminal prosecution, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said today.

Civil action which could demand thousands of rands on behalf of the families could follow the inquest, depending on its outcome.

The issue has now taken on political dimensions. West Germany's Foreign Minister, Dr Hans Dietrich Genscher, has issued a statement saying experts from other countries with deep-level mining experience might be able to propose improvements to prevent tragedies similar to the fire at Kinross.

Mr Pk Botha has invited Dr Genscher and the "best German experts" to South Africa for a look at safety standards in the South African gold mining industry.

Mr Botha said that Dr Genscher was "apparently not aware of the standards which exist in the South African mining industry".

He claimed that South African safety standards were internationally accepted as the highest standards practised.

And a major row has erupted between the NUM and the Chamber of Mines over compensation for the families of those killed.

The Chamber of Mines has claimed that compensation paid to victims was nonracial and exceeded standards laid down by International Labour Organisation.

The NUM has rejected the claim. The union's Press officer, Mr Marcel Golding, said that, while compensation for black mineworkers was officially based on salary not race, the final outcome was a racially determined structure of compensation because of the "appallingly low wages paid to black mineworkers who work under the most dangerous conditions in the mines".

Praise for SA safety

The Star Bureau

LONDON — Mining safety experts in Britain and the United States have acknowledged that South African mines are fitted with some of the most advanced safety equipment in the world.

But they say this reflects the fact that working conditions are among the most difficult and dangerous anywhere, since South African gold mines are the deepest in the world, and miners frequently have to work in cramped conditions.

Mr Sam Stafford, an official at the US Government Mine Safety and Health Administration, is reported as saying "We consider that South Africa has some of the most advanced safety-conscious equipment and safety training we have seen".

• The South African Congress of Trade Unions said mines have a "disastrous record", with close on two miners killed and tens injured every day.

One miner still missing, 14 stable in hospital

JOHANNESBURG — The official death toll at Kinross Gold Mine on Tuesday afternoon, when toxic fumes were released after a gas cylinder caught fire during welding work, was 177, Gencor said yesterday.

"With one exception, all employees previously reported missing have now been accounted for," Gencor said in a statement.

"The majority of the workers that were in hospital have been discharged, although 14 are still receiving treatment in the Winkelhaak Hospital. Their condition is satisfactory.

"The No 1 shaft system at the mine is in operation again, but as reported previously, No 2 shaft, where the accident occurred, will remain closed for as long as it may be necessary to assure that it is safe again.

"The names of the deceased, which have not been released yet, will be released as soon as possible, after their next of kin have been informed.

"Unless circumstances warrant it, no further statements, other than the names, when possible, will be

released," the statement said.

In a Sapa report it emerged, that if it were not for a group of unknown black workers who dragged an unconscious Mr Tol Sadler to a running tap, he would be dead today.

"I have no doubt in my mind that they saved my life. The water cooled me down and brought me back to consciousness," Mr Sadler, 32, a surveyor at Kinross, said.

The father of three said he was trapped for six hours by the underground fire in the mine.

"I decided to climb up to a higher level but lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying under a running tap.

"Eventually I shifted inch by inch to the opening of another tunnel.

"A bossboy, with a few other black workers, carried me to a spot where the ventilation was better. I stayed there until a proto team took me to the surface.

"The next morning I heard that it was a group of black workers who had dragged me to the tap and left the water running, before making a break themselves."

The 55 white miners admitted to the Evander Hospital after the accident, were allowed home after treatment, the report said.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn disclosed yesterday, that West Germany has urged South Africa to allow an international commission of deep-level mining experts to assess conditions at the disaster-hit Kinross gold mine.

It said the Foreign Minister, Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, had asked Pretoria to allow an immediate inspection of the mine, to determine if poor safety standards contributed to the deaths of the 177 workers poisoned by the toxic fumes from the fire.

The statement expressed West Germany's condolences for the disaster.

Mr Genscher, who held talks in Bonn yesterday with South African churchmen, Dr Beyers Naude and Dr Wolfram Kistner, said experts from other countries with deep-level mining experience might be able to propose improvements to prevent similar tragedies.

—Sapa-RNS

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is to bring in international mining experts to help in the judicial inquiry into the Kinross mining disaster

The union's general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said the union would soon bring in mining experts from Britain and Germany

The Chamber of Mines said yesterday the South African mining industry would be happy to open its doors to any team of international mine safety experts

The chamber was responding to an announcement from Bonn

Experts barred claims NUM

that the West German Foreign Minister, Dr Hans Dietrich Genscher, had asked the South African Government to permit a commission of deep-level mine experts to inspect the Kinross Mine to determine if poor safety standards contributed to the disaster there this week

However, according to a report late last night, Mr Ramaphosa said Gencor, the owners of the mine, had refused NUM's mining experts

access to the Kinross mine to conduct an inspection

He said that on the day after the accident Gencor had agreed to allow NUM experts from Germany, Sweden and Great Britain to inspect the mine

Yesterday afternoon "they called us to say they could not see their way clear for our experts to inspect the mine" The experts were already on standby to

visit the mine, he said

Mr Ramaphosa also accused Gencor of "going against their promise" to stop production at Kinross mine

He said workers had been "compelled" to go underground on Thursday but yesterday refused to do so

The NUM has called for a national day of mourning on October 1 to honour the 177 victims

Mr Ramaphosa said the union had approached the chamber to close all mines on October 1 He said NUM members would still observe the day should the chamber refuse — Sapa

By Mike Siluma, Sheryl Raine and Colleen Ryan

Facts are being revealed about the Kinross gold mine tragedy which are causing shock throughout the industry. They have raised serious questions about safety standards.

The owners of the mine admitted that they did not know whether polyurethane sealing foam suspected to have caused Tuesday's disaster — in which 177 workers were killed by toxic fumes — had been tested for safety.

Heads of the General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor), which owns Kinross mine, told a Press conference that they were not aware of any tests on polyurethane used in the shaft where the accident occurred, according to Sapa.

They said the company tended to rely on tests conducted by overseas chemicals manufacturers.

Unprecedented admission

In an unprecedented admission, Gencor — South Africa's second largest mining group and owners of the mine where the worst accident in gold mining history occurred — said a major rethink on safety was necessary.

The victims are believed to have died as a result of inhaling fatally poisonous fumes from burning sealants.

The Chamber of Mines has admitted that these substances have been used extensively in South Africa's mines.

Gencor chairman Mr Derek Keys said yesterday at the Press conference that confidence about reducing deaths on his company's mines had "been blown away".

"It's start again and think again time in Gencor safety management," he said.

Vital issues raised yesterday included:

- The chief suspect product in the Kinross disaster — a polyurethane insulating foam — had not been tested by the South African mining industry before being used underground, but was now being ripped out at the mine.

The insulating foam has been banned in Britain for years, and an alternative insulator with a non-flammable base has been developed.

Gencor has refused to give the product's trade name, claiming it has not yet established the name.

(From the first intimation of the tragedy a brand name has been common knowledge, but the Press has withheld publication until an inquiry is held.)

- Despite a recommended deadline by the Government Engineer for the introduction of life-saving, self-rescue masks on gold mines by this year, and coal mines by last year, Chamber of Mines research is still in the "testing" stage.

A top mining engineer told *The Star* that these masks, which give miners a 30-minute oxygen supply, could have averted the loss of so many lives at Kinross.

In reply, Gencor's head of mining, metallurgical and medical services, Dr Con Fauconnier, said conditions unique to mining in South Africa required a special adaption of the masks used overseas and extensive research.

- An independent Government inspector had visited Kinross the day before the accident.

'No extinguisher'

- Although permission has to be granted for operations such as welding underground, and a full inspection carried out by the welder concerned, the Kinross fire has been attributed to a "welding accident".

Gencor officials at the Press conference refused to answer questions on any aspect relating to the welding incident, saying that it was under investi-

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) claimed there was no fire extinguisher at the scene of the accident.

But Gencor officials refused to comment, saying this was part of on-going investigations.

Mr Keys said "We owe it to the living to critically re-examine our existing procedures and materials throughout the group with a view to ensuring, as far as humanly possible, that such a tragic occurrence — on any scale — cannot occur again." ● See Page 2.

mines

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Big safety shake-up needed in the gold mines

After Kinross tragedy, management admits...

NUM calls for day of mourning for mine victims

By Mike Siluma

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a work stoppage on October 1 on all mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines in memory of workers who died in the Kinross mine disaster.

At a Press conference yesterday, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said an emergency national executive meeting of the union had decided to call on members to observe the day.

The union's request to the chamber was due to be conveyed by telex

"We expect them to agree to our request, but if they do not our members will observe it," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Other unions belonging to the Congress of SA

Trade Unions (Cosatu), to which the NUM is affiliated, would be approached on the October 1 call

The chamber could not be reached for comment

The NUM will hold a memorial service for the dead workers at Secunda on Wednesday

Mr Ramaphosa said the union had not been invited to a management service for the Kinross victims, but would "obviously consider it"

Reacting to the establishment of a fund to supplement compensation for the families of the dead workers, Mr Ramaphosa said the NUM had not been approached on that either, but would be willing to discuss participation if invited

The union had long been fighting for the improvement of compensation for the mineworkers, he pointed out

Union members are to decide on a course of action regarding the access to Kinross Mine to a team of experts, due here on Monday to help during investigations.

Sapa reports that Gencor management denied that the NUM approached them to have the union's experts conduct an inspection at the Kinross Mine.

The NUM also claimed management was forcing workers at the Kinross mine to return to work, despite fears that the affected No 2 shaft was unsafe.

NUM safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said workers who refused to go down the shaft were being threatened with docking of pay and disciplinary action.

Gencor has denied that Kinross workers were being forced to return to work

● Accidents on South African gold mines have killed more than 46 000 workers and seriously injured more than 1 million since the beginning of the century, according to a study released yesterday by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva. The study, commissioned by the NUM, said the fatality rate on the country's gold mines was among the highest in the world — Sapa-Reuter

MINE TRAGEDY AFTERMATH

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG—Gen-
cor executive chairman
Derek Keys, other senior
company personnel, and
Kinross mine manager
Kobus Olivier faced a bar-
rage of questions on the
Kinross disaster at a Press
conference yesterday

Much of the questioning
revolved around the fall of
the mine's international
safety rating from five to
three stars in June, and
the use of the polyure-
thane foam thought to be
responsible for the emis-
sion of deadly fumes be-
lieved responsible for
many of the fatalities

Mr Olivier and the
group's head of mining,
metallurgical and medical
services, Mr Con Faucon-
nier, explained that
Kinross's safety rating had
fallen two-and-a-half
months ago, after an in-
spection by the mine safe-
ty division of the Chamber
of Mines

The inspection ad-
judged that Kinross's pro-
cedures had fallen below
the 80% rating level in
three of the 21 elements
used to determine levels
of safety standards

Mr Olivier said steps
were taken to correct the
situation within a week of
receiving the chamber's

Kinross officials face the Press

report. None of the report-
ed deficiencies was relat-
ed to the events that
caused the accident, he
added

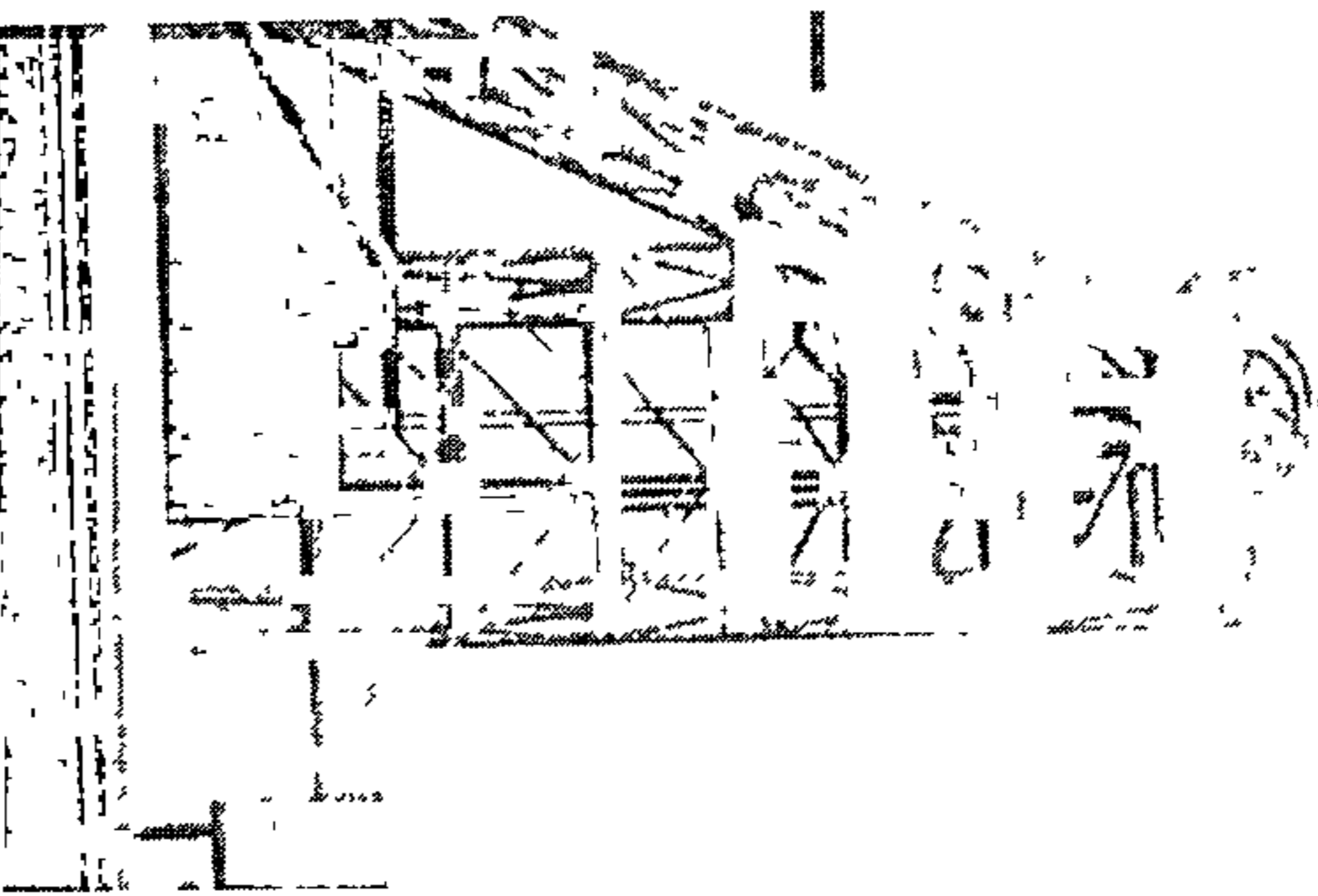
Company spokesmen de-
clined to comment on cir-
cumstances directly sur-
rounding the accident, on
the grounds that it was for
the official inquiry to de-
termine the precise cause

Sapa reports that the
National Union of Mine-
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national day of mourning
on October 1 to honour the
177 miners who died at the
mine

Accidents in South Afri-
can gold mines had killed
more than 46 000 workers
and seriously injured
more than 1 000 000 since
the beginning of the cen-
tury, a study released in
Geneva yesterday said —
(Sapa-Reuter)

(125) (A) 14 20/9/86

THEY COULDN'T GET



**SUNDAY
TIMES
SPECIAL
REPORT**
by CAS
St LEGER
Pictures
by HORACE
POTTER

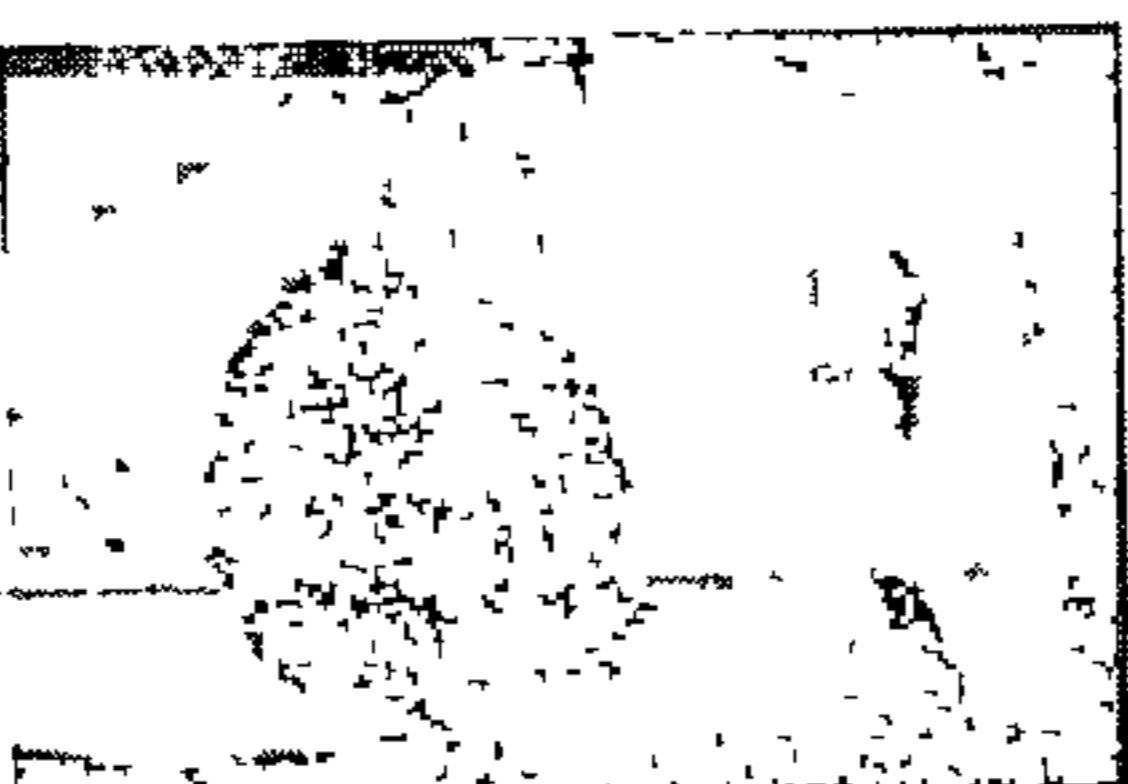
CURTAINS are drawn and doors are shut in the gold-mining town of Evander. Families angrily close their ranks as their personal tragedy is turned into political capital in the outside world.

The Eastern Transvaal town serves Kimross, the Gencor mine where 177 men lost their lives a kilometre beneath the flat, dusty veld in one of South Africa's most serious mining accidents

The cause of the accident, which started a fire at 9.30am on Tuesday, is now the subject of an official inquiry, but miners say the toxic fumes that killed most of the victims were created when the flame from an oxy-acetylene cylinder came into contact with polyvinyl chloride.

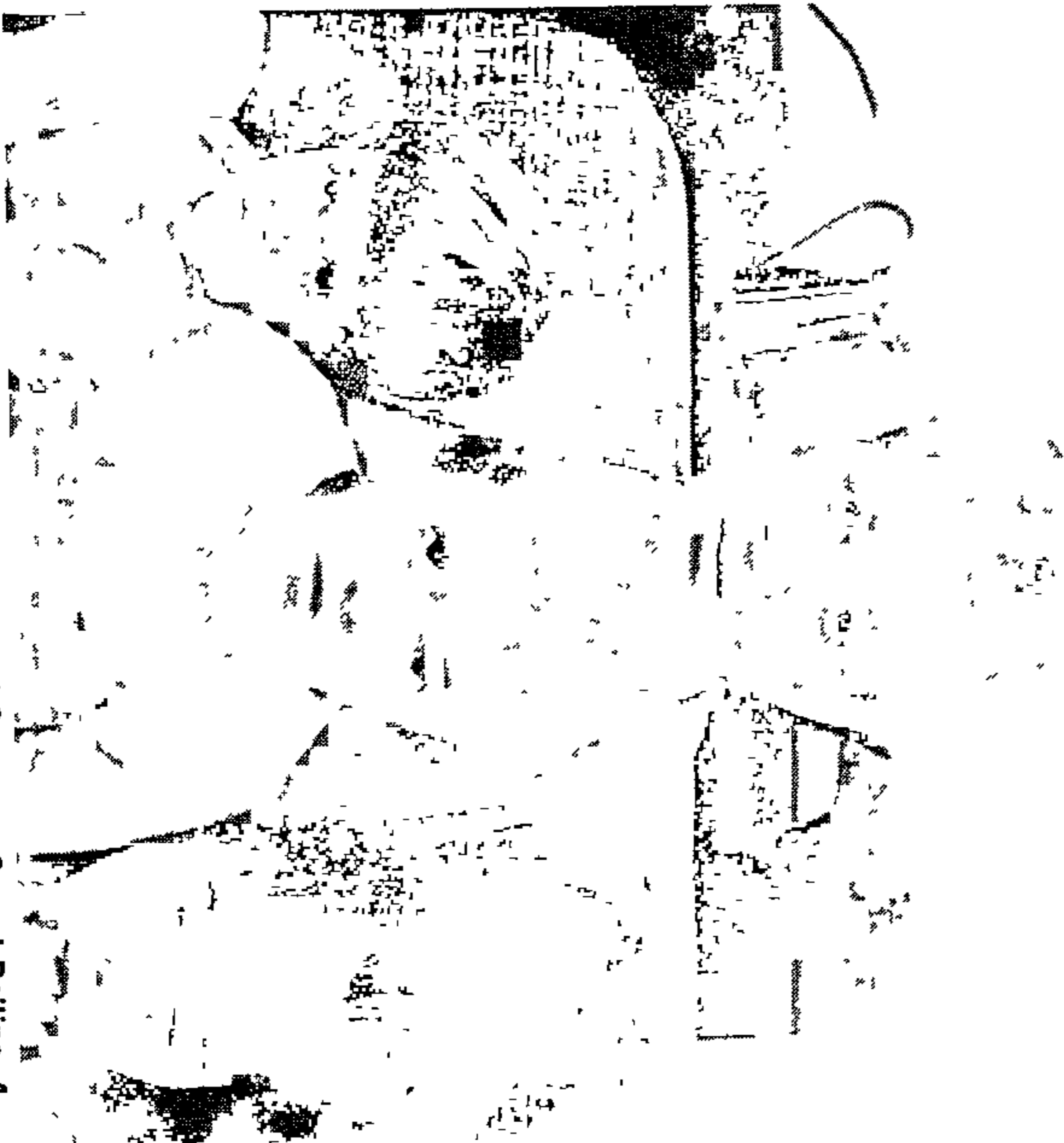


Mine widow Linda Dorfling with son Christo and father-in-law Jan Oosthuizen

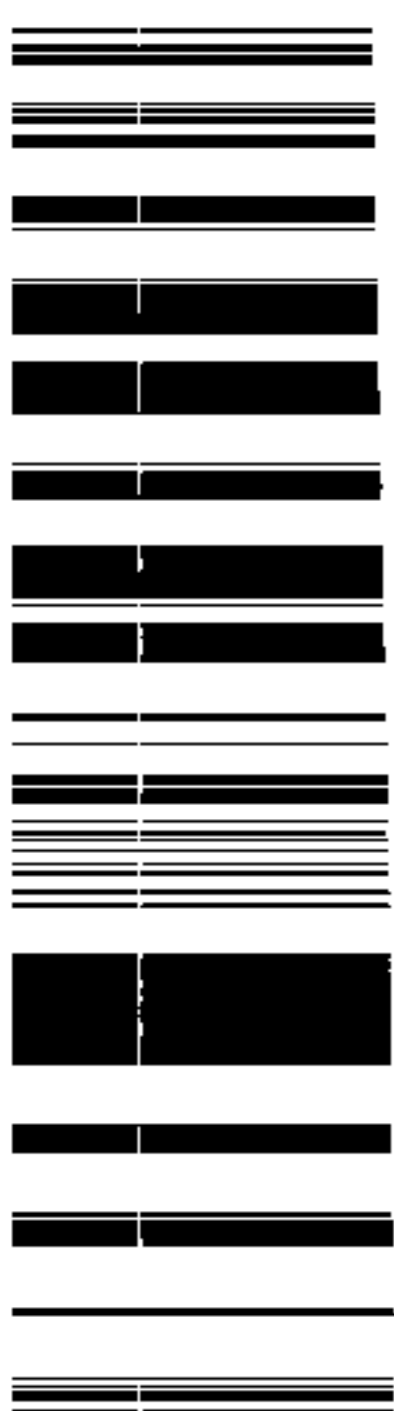


RAYMOND SMITH
Stopper who died

CHRISTOFFEL DORFLING
Dead shift boss

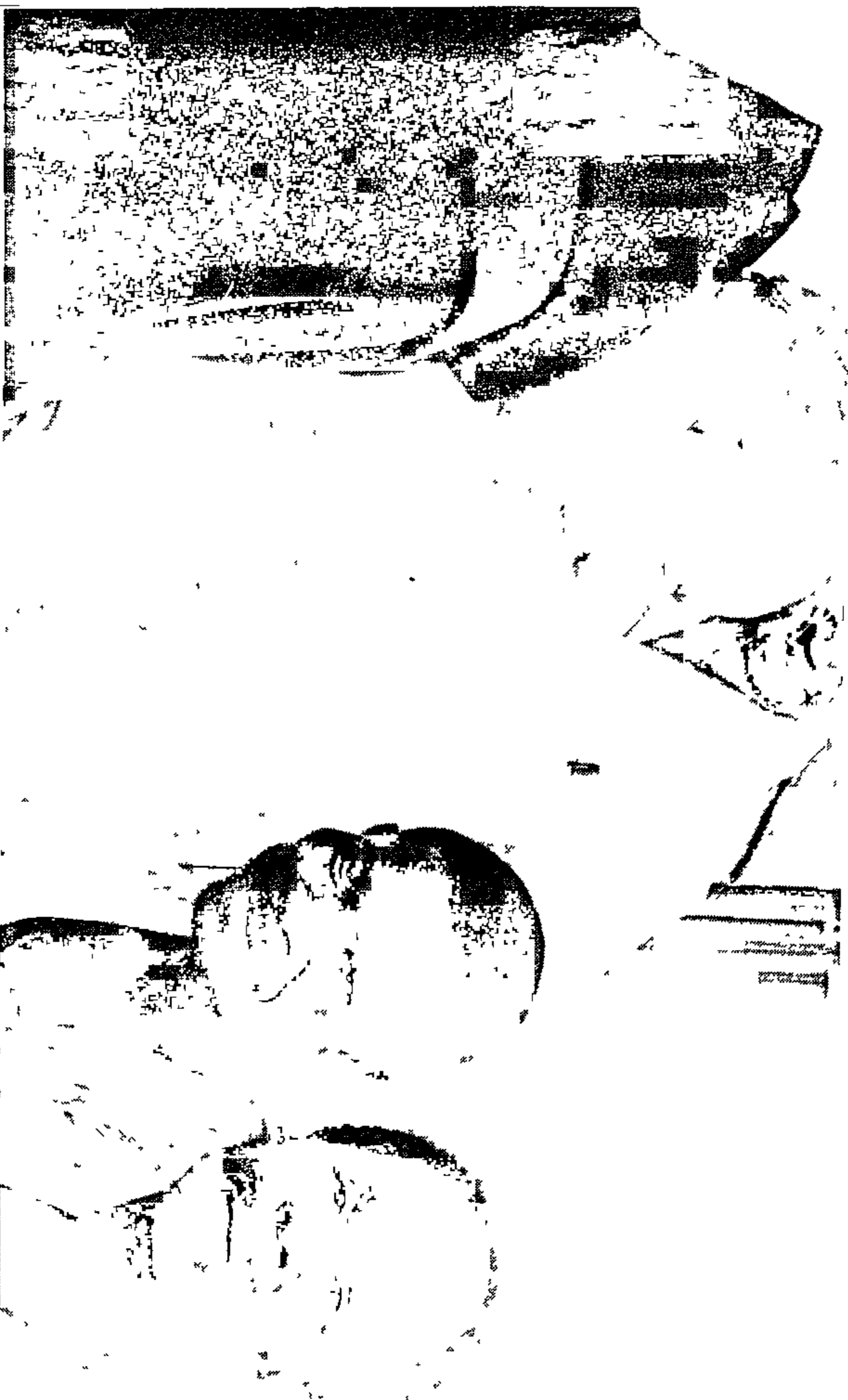


Widow Ria Smith with twins Jurgens and Serverus, 2, and Dailine, 4



OPEN MINERS

THE STARK FACTS OF LIFE AND DEATH UNDERGROUND...



A priest, Father Kentgerrn, and a male nurse try to make it easier for two of the survivors — Bhekilizwe Kheswa and Calestuse Kabebi

MINING DEATHS AND INJURIES*							TOTAL WORK-FORCE		
	GOLD		COAL		OTHER				
1st ½	DEATH	INJURY	DEATH	INJURY	DEATH	INJURY	DEATH	INJURY	
1986	0,88	21,70	0,30	6,70	0,34	9,30	0,76	18,80	675 000
1985	1,03	25,10	0,42	7,06	0,38	10,75	0,89	21,56	655 000
1984	1,18	27,08	0,67	7,81	0,38	9,32	1,04	22,81	648 000
1983	1,30	29,90	1,49	8,97	0,37	9,79	1,24	25,37	624 000
1982	1,25	32,00	0,99	8,66	0,65	8,33	1,15	26,22	632 000

*Rate per 1 000 employees per annum. Figures are those requiring 14 days hospitalisation.

BEFORE this week's Kinnross mine disaster, the mining industry had slashed its fatality rate dramatically

According to Chamber of Mines statistics in 1983, out of 1 000 miners employed for a year, 1,24 died in accidents

In the first half of this year, the annualised number had declined to 0,76 — so the death rate fell by no less than 38 percent

The reportable injury rate in the same period fell by 25,8 percent

But even in the first half of 1986, an uncommonly good period, mining was a dangerous occupation

In this period, the industry employed 675 000, which through simple calculation means that in a good year more than 500 miners die and 12 690 are injured badly enough to stay away from work for 14 days

In a bad year, such as 1983,

the statistics imply 774 died The worst year was 1960 when, after the Coalbrook disaster, the rate shot to 2,3 per thousand

In coal mining that year, the fatality rate was 10,96 Another bad year was 1978, when the fatality rate was 1,48 per thousand

The National Occupational Safety Association has published figures based on Workmen's Compensation statis-

tics showing that there is a bigger percentage of injuries in the fishing, wood and transport industries

The National Union of Mineworkers alleges that South Africa's safety record compares badly with that of other countries

The Chamber of Mines argues that nowhere else is mining undertaken at the depth, heat, pressure and labour intensiveness of SA gold

mines "The gold mining industry digs 1 000 km of tunnels, raises and ore passes, and advances 300 km of stope faces by 600 m a year It mines 100-million tons of gold-bearing rock a year There is simply nothing to compare

The Chamber maintains that comparisons are more fair in coal mining, where the US and UK experience was largely in line with that of

Gencor to review safety procedures

2/9/86 (131)

GENCOR's Kinross Mine lost two of its five Chamber of Mines safety rating stars last year, falling down in three categories. And the mine's fatality rate this year — before this week's tragedy — topped the industry average.

This was confirmed by Dr Con Fauconnier, senior vice-president of the Chamber of Mines and Gencor's head of mining, metallurgical and medical services, in Johannesburg on Friday.

"We owe it to the living to critically re-examine our existing procedures and material throughout the group with a view to ensuring, as far as humanly possible, that such a tragic occurrence — on any scale — doesn't happen again," said Gencor's executive chairman Mr Derek Keys.

Inspections

"Until Tuesday, we thought we were winning the battle against fatalities, and the record will show that there were objective grounds supporting that belief. This has been

Sunday Times Reporter

blown away," Mr Keys said.

The areas in which Kinross lost points, scoring less than 80 percent, were planned inspections — which would have included welding operations and fire control, planned task observations and mine rules and regulations.

Gencor's senior director, mining division, Mr Carl Netscher, director corporate services, Mr Naas Steenkamp, acting chief executive of the gold and uranium division Mr George Krafft, and others, could not say whether there had been a fire extinguisher in the vicinity of the Level 15 fire.

That was a subject for the official inquiry.

Neither could they say whether the 600 m of polyurethane foam which caught alight, giving off toxic fumes, had been tested before being installed underground six years ago.

The "fire retardant" foam had not been used in general application since 1981.

Mine manager Mr Kobus Oli-

vier was appointed to Kinross six months ago and he said none of the present senior executives had been at the mine at the time.

He said that when the safety rating, reflecting the loss of two stars, was given at the end of June, measures to correct the situation were taken immediately.

Pay

Mr Netscher said that of the 310 km of development on the mine, only two other sections, totalling another 15 m of the foam existed and this was now being replaced with gunnite.

Similar substances were used in two other Gencor mines and were now also being replaced.

The assurance was given by Gencor management that none of its Evander mining staff, nervous about returning underground, would be forced to do so and all would be paid, whether underground or not.

Kinross was awarded the Millionaires Safety Shield in 1968, 1970 and 1984 and achieved the lowest fatalities in the industry in 1984.

World reacts as mine denies safety claims

Sunday Times Reporters
ALLEGATIONS of both sabotage and poor safety standards at the Kinross gold mine have been categorically denied by mine management.

But the disaster this week which claimed 177 lives will still have international ramifications.

The Chamber of Mines yesterday extended an invitation to international mining experts to come and study South African safety standards following a challenge by West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher.

And the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a one-day stoppage in all mines on October 1 in memory of those killed at Kinross — the worst gold mining accident in history.

NUM's entire executive met in Johannesburg yesterday to discuss, among other



JAMES MATLATSE
British TV row

business, how the 177 people died in the Kinross disaster.

"As a sign of respect for the dead, we are calling on all mines in the country to close shop on October 1, with full pay for the workers," said Mr James Matlatse, president of the NUM.

Meanwhile, a row has en-

gulfed the NUM leader after claims by a British television producer that he had threatened to disrupt South African mines by sabotage.

Mr Matlatse denied that he had implied workers would sabotage mines in what he is reported to have described as "their war against the South African Government".

In Britain this week, speaking to ITV reporter Julian Mannon, Mr Matlatse told viewers in the TV programme "The Price of Gold".

"If the international world won't impose gold sanctions, we have got another remedy. But I won't tell you what it is. It's too early at the present moment."

Interviewed in Johannesburg, Mr Matlatse said:

"It would have been very irresponsible and naive of me to have said we would sabotage mines."

Dominees decide to 'mix it'

By SYBRAND MOSTERT

THE rings of the Stellenbosch Ned Geref Church for whites and the coloured Ned Geref Mission Church have decided to combine as a first step towards their ultimate aim of amalgamating the two churches "at the highest level".

And, in making this landmark decision, dominees have effectively begun the process of ending apartheid between white and coloured congregations in their area.

Clerics from two branches of the largest Afrikaans church, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Church, decided this week that a racially segregated church was out — and said that their ultimate aim was to amalgamate the two branches at the highest level.

"Verligte" Stellenbosch and Cape Town Dutch Reformed ministers — in opposition to a more conservative faction in the north — are in the vanguard of a movement within the church to withdraw the NG's scriptural support for apartheid.



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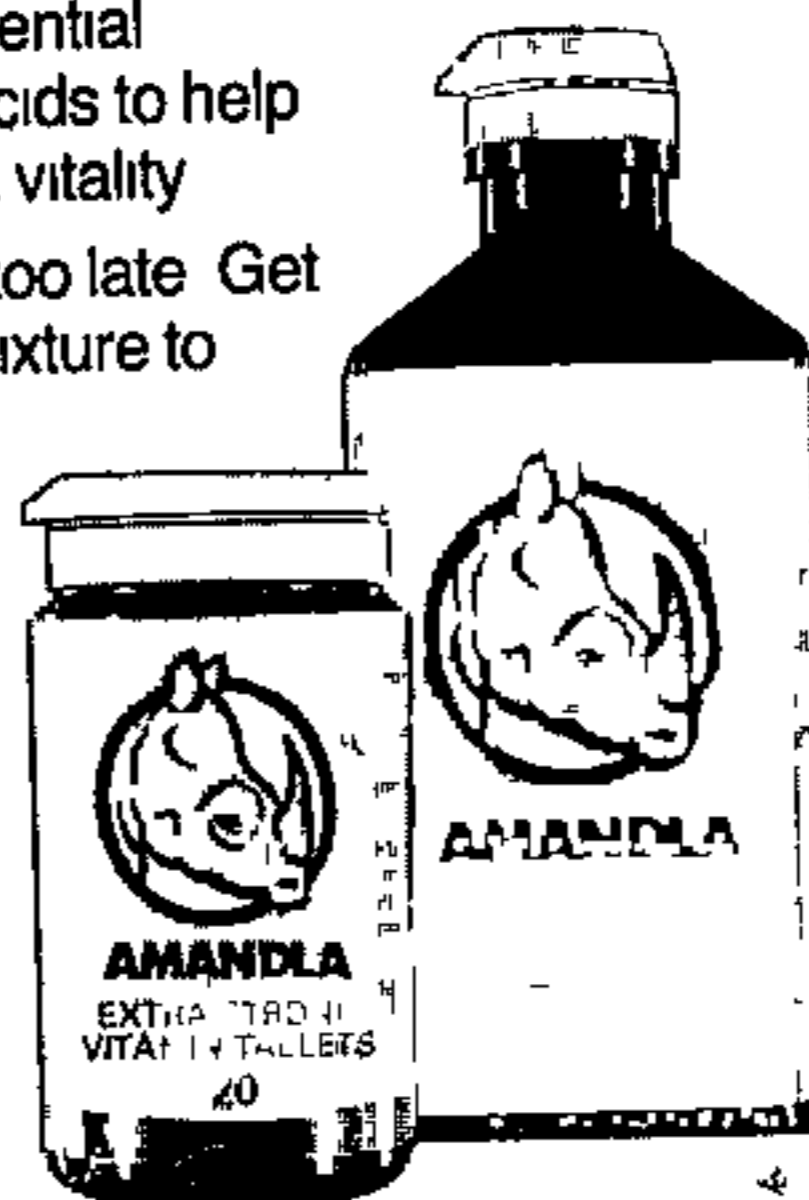
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Gencor's executive chairman, Mr Derek Keys, said the section that caught alight, where welding was taking place in level 15 of the No 2 shaft, consisted of 600m of wire mesh covered for anti-corrosion purposes with "fire-retardant" polyurethane foam

This material is now being replaced with gunnite — and so is another similar 15m section at Kinross

"It's start-again and think-again time in Gencor's safety management," Mr Keys said

All survivors were treated for carbon-monoxide poisoning

Friends

There are many quiet heroes of Kinross — men who braved toxic gas and great heat deep underground, working nearly 24 hours without a break to pass up in relays the unconscious or the dead. Without them, the disaster would have been worse. They helped save 2 200 of their fellow-miners.

Shift boss Mr Willie Meyer stayed on duty overnight on Tuesday. He lost count of the bodies he helped to pass to the surface 1,6km above.

Among them he recognised three of the many friends he made in his 18 years on the mine — shift boss Mr Christoffel Dorfling, 27, stoper Mr Raymond Smith, 42, and surveyor Mr Stephen Latchford, 20.

"Black friends, too. We are all the same underground," he said.

The other whites who died were surveyor Mr Stephanus Adendorff, 27, who married Yvonne, 22, only two months ago, and Frederick Prinsloo, 32, who leaves his wife and two children.

Shift boss Mr Jan Oosthuisen waited all night at the pithead, removing the blankets from the faces of about 50 bodies to see if one was his son-in-law, Mr Dorfling.

Afraid

Mr Dorfling had gone down with the proto teams to help. He did not return alive.

In an Evander pub, a man with strained eyes sits clutching a beer bottle. The level of the beer remains the same but the man — a young proto team member who asked not to be named — does not want to go home.

He is afraid to sleep. "When I close my eyes, it all comes back."

"We found 13 dead, all within about a kilometre of each other."

"The men had huddled into little groups as if for comfort."

"A stretch of about 400 metres was burnt and here we found five badly charred bodies. The heat had buckled the rails."

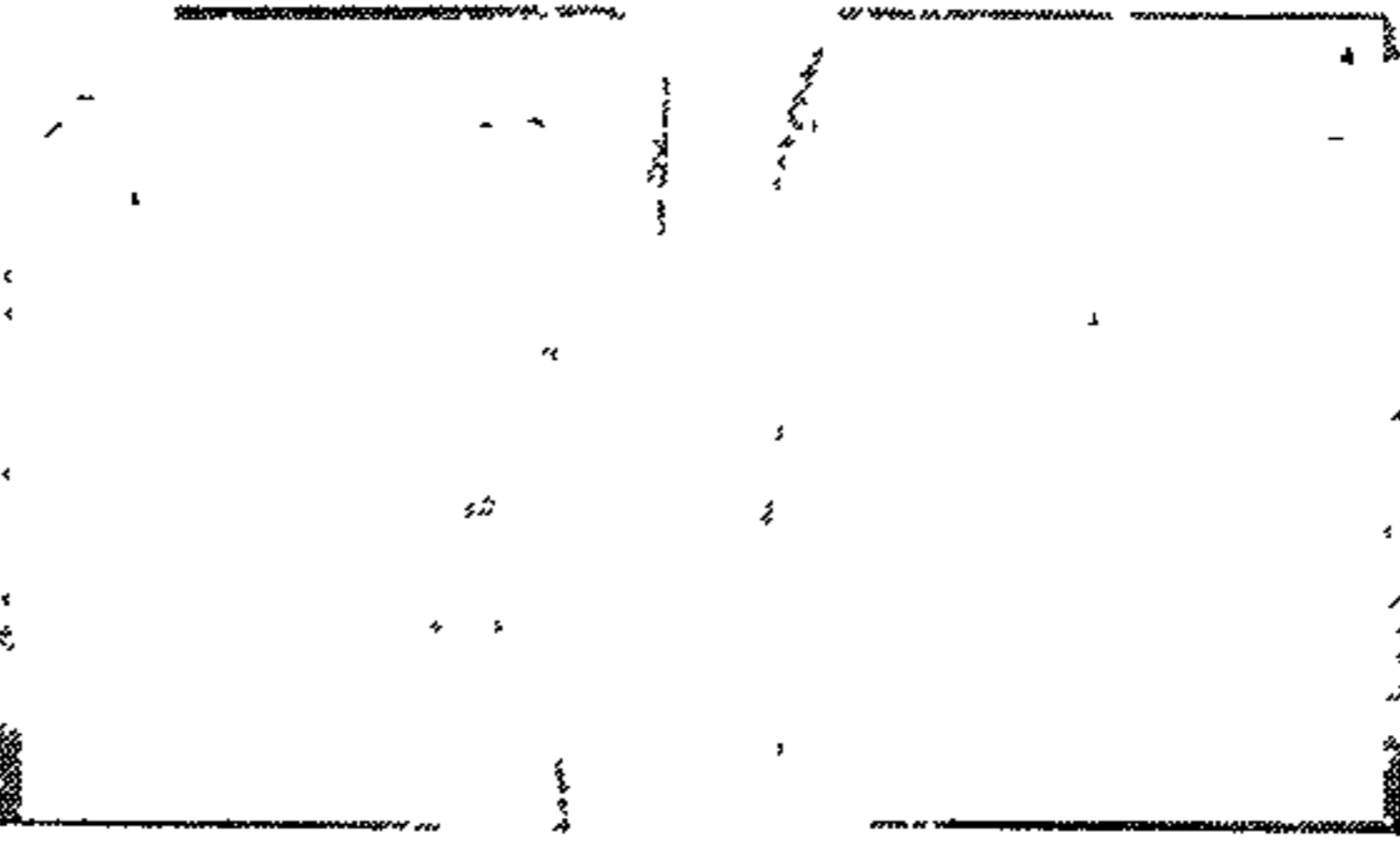
"Some were struck down by the gas while they were walking. Others within a few metres of the main shaft. They didn't have a chance."

Huddled

"One man was found alive under a heap of dead bodies. He must have been in a pocket of oxygen. He stood up and said, 'All my brothers are dead.'"

Survivors, families angry at overseas criticism of safety measures

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21/9/86



ELLIOT TUIS
One of the survivors

ANDRIES MARITSHI
"We were all running"

"Another was killed by his own humanity. He was sitting holding an air hose. Five men were huddled round him. If he had stuck his own nose in the hose, he would have been saved," said the miner, who has taken early leave to avoid returning to the scene.

He was underground for 23 hours and is particularly bitter at overseas criticism of safety measures and discrimination.

Two members of the Chamber of Mines proto team went to Utah in the United States this year to share their expertise.

"They needed us and felt we were good enough then," he said.

The white hospital in Evander dealt with 55 survivors, all released by Wednesday evening. It was the small black hospital at Winkelhaak, about 5km from Kinross No 2 shaft, that was under the most pressure.

Batches

"We examined 2 161 patients. We did not lose one," said a senior male nurse who, like his fellow-nurses and the hospital doctors, asked not to be named. "At one stage, we had over 1 000 people lined up on the lawn waiting to be treated."

"The horror of what happened is only beginning to strike us now."

"Patients were arriving by ambulance or mine bus in batches of 80 or 90."

"There were 170 patients on drips. We got medical supplies from anywhere and everywhere. A truck was sent out and met the vehicle carrying medical supplies from Johannesburg halfway. Medical staff from other mines came to help."

By the end of the week only 15 patients were still at Winkelhaak, being treated for the after-effects of bronchospasm and heart strain.

Most serious, but now mobile, is a man known only as Mlahlwa, whose wife and two children live in Transkei.

He "died" twice when his heart stopped.

Smoke

He remembers little of the disaster — a fortunate occurrence common to carbon-monoxide victims, according to the medical staff — and complained only of his bitten tongue and the drip in his arm.

Mr Andries Maritshi, 30, of Schweizer-Reneke, who has four children, remembers the smoke. "We were all running. I remember falling. My two brothers were working with me. I don't know if they are dead."

"Now I want to take time to think about whether I will go down the mine again. I am afraid," Mr Maritshi said.

Mr Calestuse Katedi, of Maseru, was working on the fatal level 15 when he saw smoke.

"I tried to run. I got tired and opened the water tap to cool my body. I crawled till I got to the ventilation shaft. I thought I was alone, but I found somebody who had already died there. I will go back down the mine. It is my job," he said.

Worry

The list of the blacks who died has not yet been released, some came from remote villages in Malawi or Mozambique, and their families have not yet been informed.

One worry is in the back of the minds of wives and families — how they will manage financially.

Mrs Ria Smith, whose husband, Raymond, died in the mine, has two-year-old twins Jurgens and Serverus, and Dailine, 4, to care for. "All our parents are dead. How do I bring them up without their father?"

On Friday Gencor gave the assurance that dependants — irrespective of colour — would be assisted through the Kinross Trust, allocating an initial R2-million for this purpose.

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21/9/86 CITY PRESS

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THE KINROSS DISASTER

1 000 WAYS TO DIE

AS thousands of miners were battling for their lives 1 600m underground at Kinross on Tuesday, a book highly critical of mine safety was being printed in Johannesburg

A thousand ways to die, published by the National Union of Mineworkers, is due to be launched at NUM's Cosatu House headquarters this afternoon

The booklet, produced for NUM by Learn & Teach Publishers for the union's 250 000 rank-and-file membership - almost half the country's 600 000 miners - is based on an extensive report on mine safety by Wits University sociologist Jean Leger

It includes NUM's "Bill of Rights" - or Miners' Charter - which demands for miners the right to

- Elect safety stewards and safety committees
- Refuse to do dangerous work
- Call inspections and accompany inspectors on all inspections - without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- All information on safety on their mines
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights - among them the right to refuse dangerous work
- To a say in the running of their mines, and to participate in planning

Both *A thousand ways to die* and Leger's *Towards safer underground mining* are highly critical of existing mining safety regulations, and of other regulations they say seriously affect miners' safety

High on this list, they say, is the system of racial segregation on the mines - which puts black "team leaders" in charge of underground safety, but does not give them the authority to ensure it is carried out

The booklet argues that white miners - who no longer share their black colleagues' immediate danger at the stopes - have been given the authority to ensure safety measures are carried out

But white miners have effectively been encouraged by mine bosses to ignore safety requirements, they say, by a system of highly-lucrative bonuses - not paid at the same rate to black miners - linked to productivity. If production halts to enable miners to "make safe", the bonuses shrink. Black miners are forced, they told researcher Leger, to "work now, complain later"

"When you complain before the job (because the area is not safe), they say you make a strike, you don't want to work," one of the 90 miners interviewed told Leger. "The bad thing is I have to complain at the end of the shift. Either I leave or I die"

CP Reporter

Quoting from other research Leger indicates that mine bosses also believe that "safety regulations are ignored in pursuit of bonuses"

According to the Chamber of Mines' own Technical Advisory Committee "The miner, in order to secure maximum face advance which will guarantee high earnings, is under pressure to organise and motivate his workforce. His aim may not necessarily coincide with those of the mine. Scant respect is often paid to regulations"

And Leger points out that changes in the colour bar restrictions imposed by the Mines and Works Act - which until two weeks ago banned black miners from becoming "scheduled persons" able to get blasting licences - could put black "team leaders" in the same position

as white miners. They would have the authority to ensure the safety of their team members, but income linked to productivity may make them less interested in doing so

And pressure to do so is backed by an internal mines' "legal system", under which miners can be charged if they do not complete their work

With two out of every 1 000 miners dying every year - 64 000 since the year 1900 - and more than four miners out of every 100 involved in some sort of accident, the fear of working in unsafe conditions is a real one. The title of the book is taken from a quote from a miner. There are a thousand ways to die on a gold mine

More than half the workers involved in accidents believe they were avoidable - but occurred because safety regulations weren't followed

Miners interviewed say high noise levels and inadequate ear protection do not only damage their ears - they make it impossible to hear the sound of rock movements, or shouts of warning from colleagues

Another problem is the generalised use of *Fanakalo* - miners interviewed said new miners did not always understand the language, and therefore did not respond to warnings

The publications are also critical of clothing given to miners. With one out of every four miners killed underground dying from a head injury, miners are obviously concerned about helmets

The biggest complaint is about how easily they fall off

"Many of the standard hard hats do not have brims - so even a small rock can cause an injury, like cutting your ear"

Mine-issue boots also come in for criticism. According to *A thousand ways to die*, boots with steel toe-caps cost just R2 more than the R15 mine bosses pay for normal boots - but most miners don't get them

Other improvements were also mentioned such as foot guards - workers call them "crash helmets for feet" - and non-slip soles. About 60 miners a year die after slipping on the stopes

Mine's safety rating downgraded in 1985

KINROSS gold mine's safety procedures are already under heavy fire

It has been revealed that the mine's star safety rating was drastically downgraded last year

Mine bosses were unaware that a foam used in the mine was able to burn - or that it caused poisonous gas when it did burn

There was allegedly no fire extinguisher at hand to help put out the fire once it started

Mine manager Koos Olivier admitted late yesterday that Kinross had lost two of its five safety rating stars in June 1985 - and conceded that this was "a major event" for a mine

He said the safety rating was downgraded because of "lesser elements"

in the list of features used to grant stars

"It was certainly not because of materials or work methods," he said

Asked to give details, he said he could not recall them

Later, he said the matter was confidential

Olivier would not comment on National Union of Mineworkers allegations that there was no fire extinguisher near the welding equipment responsible for the fire

He said the accident was being investigated by the government mining inspector and there was a possibility of legal action

Olivier said samples had been taken of all material that burned during the fire, and these had been sent for testing

He said it had been found that an anti-corrosive sealant, originally thought to have created the fumes that killed the miners, was not in the mine

The substance was in fact, a polyurethane foam - and the mine had not known before Tuesday that this substance was inflammable

He did not know if the polyurethane emitted toxic gas when it burnt, he said, and the mine hadn't felt there was a need to check on this when the polyurethane was installed

He said the fire was caused by a gas bottle which caught fire. There had been no explosion, he said



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FISTS OF FURY FOR THE MINES MINISTER



Angry Kinross miners let their feelings show about this week's mine disaster when Mines Minister Danie Steyn arrived to see the damage

Pic

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A DISAST...
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WITS academic Duncan
called for a full inquiry
conditions on the mines

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mining experts

"It needs repre...
community organisations
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told City Press

He said the

THE SMELL OF DEATH

By DERRICK LUTHATI

THE SMELL of death is something Komiti Mereke will never forget

First he smelt the noxious fumes which swept through level 15 of Kinross Gold Mine early on Tuesday morning

Then, as he and his colleagues tried to escape, to level 14, he smelt death - a man fell next to him and died

"We were engulfed in smoke. We closed our noses and mouths with our hands and tried to rush through the central guard. Only about seven of us managed to reach the exit.

Tears streamed down Gilbert Mphahle's cheeks as he described the incident.

"I saw people with burn marks, some the skin was peeling off and some were just

lying there unconscious. It was a very painful experience for me."

For 23 years Elias Mashaba worked in the mines but it only dawned on him this week that his job was the most dangerous as he saw the dead and injured being removed from level 15.

"At about 10am I was at work at level 16 when gas fumes came through the tunnel. We rushed to the hoist lift and we were evacuated to safety.

"Those working at level 15 tried to evacuate the area but the gas was too strong for them," said Mashaba.

Tolosa Thangane 33 said he was working at level 17 when they smelt gas fumes and "decided to run to safety".

"When we reached the sur

face I saw a lot of people some whom I knew were either dead or injured and others had difficulty in breathing.

I counted about 12 bodies and rescue teams were bringing out more," said Thangane.

Hundreds of relatives of the dead and injured who had converged at the mine were transported in big trucks to the hospital and the mortuary at the Winklaaak Mines.

Mine security kept the Press away from the disaster area and refused entry into the hospital to see the injured.

The death toll of 182 and 235 injured - is the highest on a gold mine in SA and second highest mining disaster toll.

It is surpassed only by the 1960 tragedy on the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook when 435 died when the mine

collapsed burying the miners. Coalbrook and Kinross are owned by Gencor which owned Hlobane Colliery until just three months before a disaster there in 1983 in which 68 miners were killed. It sold the mine to Iscor.

Yesterday mine management said the five white miners killed were Christoffel Dorling Raymond John Smith, Stephanus Christoffel Adendorff Stephen Anthony Latchford and Frederick Johannes Prinsloo.

Names of the dead black miners will be released after their next of kin have been notified.

Gencor spokesman JE Olivier said they estimated that production at shaft 2 will be interrupted for a week at

though the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are absolutely safe again.

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn visited the area yesterday and said a thorough judicial inquiry will be conducted.

"The (government mining) engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that union (NUM) representatives have been assisted as far as possible by the mine management to investigate the incident.

The engineer will have discussions with the Justice Department on procedures which could be followed in order to finalise the inquiry as quickly as possible," said Steyn.

WITS academic Duncan called for a full inquiry conditions on the mines.

The commission should tal access to all mines and says, and shouldn't be mining experts.

"It needs repre... community organisations following like trade and academic succ told City Press.

He said the

COALBROOK: THE WORST TRAGEDY EVER

The worst disaster ever in SA mining history happened on January 21 1960, when 291 ha of the Coalbrook coalmine collapsed - trapping 435 men.

Though desperate efforts were made to rescue them, no-one survived.

Five bore-holes, including one big enough to haul up a man, were sunk but at last the trapped miners were given up for dead. Mine bosses said they must have died instantaneously.

The disaster led to an intensive investigation by the coal mining industry into the stability of mine workings and the imposition of stricter control measures.

Lest we forget

PROGRESSIVE Federal Party leader Colin Eglin has backed calls for a mining inquiry.

He said incidents like the Kinross catastrophe "make us mindful of the debt we owe to those thousands of fellow citizens who go down deep underground daily to

bring to the surface the gold on which the economic prosperity of our nation is so dependent."

Eglin said he hoped a thorough probe would be made into the causes of the tragedy, and extended his condolences to the families. - Sapa



Cosatu's Jay Naidoo

'The price of super-profits'

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions says the Kinross catastrophe is a national disaster and a telling example of the price miners are expected to pay for the gold industry's super profits.

Like the National Union of Mineworkers Cosatu

called for an in-depth inquiry into mining safety.

Cosatu asked: Are the mine bosses too busy trying to fend off workers demands for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?

Cosatu says there is a

continuing tragedy in the mining industry - black miners are paying with their lives for profits they never see.

All the bosses are concerned with is maximising production, it said in a statement.

THE KINROSS DISASTER

HLOBANE: NUM JOINS THE FIGHT FOR MINE SAFETY

CP Reporter

WHEN 68 miners died in a methane gas explosion at the Hlobane coalmine in September 1983 - almost exactly three years before this week's horror disaster at the Kinross Gold Mine - the National Union of Mineworkers emerged strongly as a guardian of miners' safety

From the start the inquest and inquiry assumed an added importance with NUM's direct involvement

NUM then a year old and already a formidable force in the mining industry targeted mine safety as an area of priority interest. Acting on behalf of the families of the dead men the union brought in a skilled legal team to hold a watching brief at the inquiry

During the first three days of the inquest, evidence pointed to gross negligence. Breaches of regulations, faulty machinery, lax management, and inadequate measures to detect and prevent the accumulation of methane gas were highlighted in court

● Ironically the Iscor-owned Hlobane mine had been regarded by mining officials as a very good mine as far as machine safety went and had a four star safety rating from the Chamber of Mines

The mine had twice won the Chamber of Mines 'Million Shift' competition for going a million shifts without an accident. The target was reached for a second time weeks before the disaster

But at the inquest several shocking facts emerged

● A week before the explosion the miner in charge of Section 5 TJ Bezuidenhout filed a report of 4 percent methane gas being present. This was scored out of the report and the Inspector of Mines was not called in to investigate

● Two days before the explosion the ventilation system used to clear gas and supply air to the working faces of a mine - was short-circuited when a miner holed through into a return air passage. The hoing was not stopped up and there was a drop in ventilation leading to an accumulation of gas

● The coal scoop identified as the source of the spark which ignited the gas - was not flameproof

● After the blast another 14 pieces of mine equipment were found not to comply with regulations. All could have resulted in explosions

● There were not enough flame safety lamps in the section. Only one out of the four found after the explosion was fitted with a gas probe - essential when testing for gas in elevated areas such as Section 5

● Bratticing, used to regulate the air flow in a coal mine was of inferior quality

In his findings, Vryheid Chief Magistrate NJ Reynders said that if Bezuidenhout had not tested for gas on the fatal morning, it was the last link in a chain of negligence

The general impression gleaned from the findings was that on the face of it Hlobane was a safety-conscious mine with many safety programs and meetings on safety measures

But the practices employed below ground, and the scant notice paid to Mines and Works Act regulations belied this image and ultimately contributed to a disaster which could not be cast into the category of fatal accidents attributable to "an act of God"

At least 98 percent of fatal mining accidents in South Africa currently fall within this casual sphere

● Since the disaster NUM has attended many inquiries into accidents in coal and gold mines and has tackled the industry as a whole on the issue of safety

It raised the central question whether mining accidents are "acts of God" or whether, with more expenditure on better equipment, training and safety methods, and receptiveness to advances in safety overseas many accidents could be avoided and many lives saved each year



Miner's mine disaster when Mines Minister Danie Steyn arrived to see the damage

Pic EVANS MBOWENI

MELLOF DEATH

R20 000 start for fund

By SELLO SERIPE

A DISASTER fund has been set up to help families of the miners killed in the Kinross goldmine disaster this week

Specialised Exhibition - currently holding the Flectra Mining exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre - has donated R20 000 to start the fund

The fund will be known as Electra Mining Relief Fund

We were appalled by the disaster said Specialised Exhibition chief executive Howard Bell

We will ask all our exhibitors for donations, Bell said

The Chamber of Mines has been asked to administer the fund

Specialised Exhibition Press officer Aaron Ngema said an address will be made available next week where the public can send donations

Whatever people can spare will be gratefully accepted - the families need all the help they can get," he said

unconscious. It was experience for

Elias Mashaba the mines, but it only him this week that the most danger saw the dead and removed from

10am I was at level 16 when gas through the tunnel to the hoist lift evacuated to safe

working at level 15 the area but too strong for Mashaba Thangane; 33, said at level 17 smelt gas fumes and run to safety" reached the sur-

face, I saw a lot of people, some whom I knew were either dead or injured, and others had difficulty in breathing

"I counted about 12 bodies and rescue teams were bringing out more," said Thangane

Hundreds of relatives of the dead and injured who had converged at the mine were transported in big trucks to the hospital and the mortuary at the Winklehaak Mines

Mine security kept the Press away from the disaster area and refused entry into the hospital to see the injured

The death toll of 142 - and 235 injured - is the highest on a gold mine in SA and second highest mining disaster toll

It is surpassed only by the 1960 tragedy on the Clydesdale Colliery near Coalbrook when 435 died when the mine

collapsed burying the miners

Coalbrook and Kinross are owned by Gencor which owned Hlobane Colliery until just three months before a disaster there in 1983 in which 68 miners were killed. It sold the mine to Iscor

Yesterday mine management said the five white miners killed were Christoffel Dorfling, Raymond John Smith, Stephanus Christoffel Adendorff, Stephen Anthony Latchford and Frederick Johannes Prinsloo

Names of the dead black miners will be released after their next of kin have been notified

Gencor spokesman JE Olivier said they estimated that production at shaft 2 will be interrupted for a week at

though the shaft will remain closed as long as it might take to ensure that conditions are absolutely safe again

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn visited the area yesterday and said a thorough judicial inquiry will be conducted

The (government mining) engineer and I have had the opportunity to ascertain for ourselves that union (NUM) representatives have been assisted as far as possible by the mine management to investigate the incident

The engineer will have discussions with the Justice Department on procedures which could be followed in order to finalise the inquiry as quickly as possible said Steyn

'The price of super-profits'

THE Congress of SA Trade Unions says the Kinross catastrophe is a "national disaster" and "a telling example of the price miners are expected to pay for the gold industry's super-profits"

Like the National Union of Mineworkers, Cosatu

called for an in-depth inquiry into mining safety

Cosatu asked 'Are the mine bosses too busy trying to fend off workers' demands for a living wage to pay proper attention to decent working conditions?'

Cosatu says there is a

continuing tragedy in the mining industry - black miners are paying with their lives for profits they never see

"All the bosses are concerned with is maximising production" it said in a statement

WITS academic Duncan Innes has called for a full inquiry into safety conditions on the mines

The commission should have total access to all mines and shafts he says and shouldn't be restricted to mining experts

It needs representatives of community organisations with a mass following like trade unions, lawyers and academic specialists Innes told City Press

He said the International Labour

'Get unions on commission'

Organisation recently found South Africa has the highest death rate on its mines - to which the Chamber of Mines replied that its mines are among the safest in the world. The disaster at Kinross Mine showed the ILO was right - and the chamber wrong he said

NUM miners may strike in protest

THE National Union of Mineworkers executive held an urgent meeting late yesterday to discuss worker action in response to the Kinross catastrophe.

NUM sources said a work stoppage by the union's 250 000 members was one of the options being considered.

"It is clear there is mass dissatisfaction among mineworkers at working conditions," one source said.

"NUM has repeatedly called for improved safety, and incidents like Kinross only highlight the need for revisions."

The source pointed out that NUM organised a 30-minute work stoppage after

the Hlobane disaster, in which 68 miners died

A NUM spokesman confirmed that the exec met yesterday to discuss "appropriate action"

● Earlier this week NUM general-secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said NUM members were "very angry at the terrible disaster"

Ramaphosa said it was "anybody's guess" what action might be taken by the union

● Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Danie Steyn - who went underground with a government mine engineer and mine inspectors to assess the damage - announced on Thursday that a judicial inquiry into the disaster will be held

21/9/86 CITY PRESS

THE KINROSS DISASTER

AS thousands of miners were battling for their lives 1 600m underground at Kinross on Tuesday, a book highly critical of mine safety was being printed in Johannesburg

A thousand ways to die, published by the National Union of Mineworkers, is due to be launched at NUM's Cosatu House headquarters this afternoon

The booklet, produced for NUM by Learn & Teach Publishers for the union's 250 000 rank-and-file membership – almost half the country's 600 000 miners – is based on an extensive report on mine safety by Wits University sociologist Jean Leger

It includes NUM's "Bill of Rights" – or Miners' Charter – which demands for miners the right to

- Elect safety stewards and safety committees.
- Refuse to do dangerous work
- Call inspections and accompany inspectors on all inspections – without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- All information on safety on their mines
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights – among them the right to refuse dangerous work
- To a say in the running of their mines, and to participate in planning

Both *A thousand ways to die* and Leger's *Towards safer underground mining* are highly critical of existing mining safety regulations, and of other regulations they say seriously affect miners' safety.

High on this list, they say, is the system of racial segregation on the mines – which puts black "team leaders" in charge of underground safety, but does not give them the authority to ensure it is carried out

The booklet argues that white miners – who no longer share their black colleagues' immediate danger at the stopes – have been given the authority to ensure safety measures are carried out

But white miners have effectively been encouraged by mine bosses to ignore safety requirements, they say, by a system of highly-lucrative bonuses – not paid at the same rate to black miners – linked to productivity. If production halts to enable miners to "make safe", the bonuses shrink. Black miners are forced, they told researcher Leger, to "work now, complain later"

"When you complain before the job (because the area is not safe), they say you make a strike, you don't want to work," one of the 90 miners interviewed told Leger. "The bad thing is I have to complain at the end of the shift. Either I leave or I die"

Mine's safety rating downgraded in 1985

KINROSS gold mine's safety procedures are already under heavy fire

- It has been revealed that the mine's star safety rating was drastically downgraded last year
- Mine bosses were unaware that a foam used in the mine was able to burn – or that it caused poisonous gas when it did burn
- There was allegedly no fire extinguisher at hand to help put out the fire once it started

Mine manager Koos Olivier admitted late yesterday that Kinross had lost two of its five safety rating stars in June 1985 – and conceded that this was "a major event" for a mine

He said the safety rating was downgraded because of "lesser elements"

in the list of features used to grant stars

"It was certainly not because of materials or work methods," he said

Asked to give details, he said he could not recall them

Later, he said the matter was confidential

Olivier would not comment on National Union of Mineworkers allegations that there was no fire extinguisher near the welding equipment responsible for the fire

He said the accident was being investigated by the government mining inspector and there was a possibility of legal action

Olivier said samples had been taken of all material that burned during the fire, and these had been sent for testing

1 000 WAYS TO DIE

CP Reporter

Quoting from other research, Leger indicates that mine bosses also believe that "safety regulations are ignored in pursuit of bonuses"

According to the Chamber of Mines' own Technical Advisory Committee "The miner, in order to secure maximum face advance which will guarantee high earnings, is under pressure to organise and motivate his workforce. His aim may not necessarily coincide with those of the mine. Scant respect is often paid to regulations"

And Leger points out that changes in the colour-bar restrictions imposed by the Mines and Works Acts – which until two weeks ago banned black miners from becoming "scheduled persons" able to get blasting licences – could put black "team leaders" in the same position

as white miners. They would have the authority to ensure the safety of their team members, but income linked to productivity may make them less interested in doing so

And pressure to do so is backed by an internal mines' "legal system", under which miners can be charged if they do not complete their work

With two out of every 1 000 miners dying every year – 64 000 since the year 1900 – and more than four miners out of every 100 involved in some sort of accident, the fear of working in unsafe conditions is a real one. The title of the book is taken from a quote from a miner "There are a thousand ways to die on a gold mine"

More than half the workers involved in accidents believe they were avoidable – but occurred because safety regulations weren't followed

Miners interviewed say high noise levels and inadequate ear protection do not only damage their ears – they make it impossible to hear the sound of rock movements, or shouts of warning from colleagues.

Another problem is the generalised use of *Fanakalo* – miners interviewed said new miners did not always understand the "language", and therefore did not respond to warnings

The publications are also critical of clothing given to miners. With one out of every four miners killed underground dying from a head injury, miners are obviously concerned about helmets

The biggest complaint is about how easily they fall off

"Many of the standard hard-hats do not have brims – so even a small rock can cause an injury, like cutting your ear"

Mine-issue boots also come in for criticism. According to *A thousand ways to die*, boots with steel toe-caps cost just R2 more than the R15 mine bosses pay for normal boots – but most miners don't get them

Other improvements were also mentioned, such as foot guards – workers call them "crash helmets for feet" – and non-slip soles. About 60 miners a year die after slipping on the stopes

CALL FOR MOURNING

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called for a work stoppage on October 1 on all mines affiliated to the Chamber of Mines in memory of workers who died in the Kinross mine disaster.

At a Press conference, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said an emergency national executive meeting of the union had decided to call on members to observe the day. The union's request to the chamber was due to be conveyed by telex.

"We expect them to agree to our request, but if they do not our members will observe it," Mr Ramaphosa said.

Other unions belonging to the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), to which the NUM is affiliated, would be approached on the October 1 call. The chamber could not be reached for comment.

The NUM will hold a memorial service for the dead workers at Secunda on Wednesday.

Mr Ramaphosa said the union had not been invited to a management service for the Kinross victims, but would "ob-



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

viously consider it". Reacting to the establishment of a fund to supplement compensation for the families of the dead workers, Mr Ramaphosa said the NUM had not been approached on that either, but would be willing to discuss participation if invited.

The union had long been fighting for the improvement of compensation for the mine workers, he pointed out.

Union members are to decide on a course of action regarding the access to Kinross



MORE lives could be lost in the mining industry unless mineworkers "are able to exercise their right to determine that the work conditions they are exposed to are safe," the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union has warned.

Bamcwu, which has members in the industry, said in a statement it had gathered information showing the Kinross gold mine disaster — which claimed 177 lives — could have been averted "had it not been for the carelessness of the local management and its safety officers".

The union is to decide on its role in a commission of inquiry into the disaster, publicity secretary Mr Motsumi Mokheane said.

"As the union has stated before, more lives could be lost unless workers are able to exercise their right to decide on whether the conditions they are exposed to are safe," the unionist said.

Service

The union held a

Miners must have right to decide — union

of a system of capitalism," the organisation said. Meanwhile, a relief fund has been established by Specialised Exhibitions for the disaster victims. The company last week hosted a mining trade show at the National Exhibition Centre at Crown Mines. More than R20 000 has already been donated to the fund, launched a day after the accident. Specialised Exhibitions have approached the Chamber of Mines to administer the fund.

memorial service in honour of the Kinross victims at the weekend.

The Canadian Embassy in Pretoria has sent a message of condolence to the National Union of Mineworkers.

The Azanian National Youth Unity has also expressed sympathy with families of the dead miners. "The entombment of workers in the mine is a clear manifestation of the cruel effect



A huge crowd of singing, chanting miners disrupted yesterday's official Kinross memorial service for the 177 men killed in last week's mine disaster, before convening their own meeting

Miners disrupt service for Kinross dead

By Jo-Anne Richards

"We have never prayed with whites, and we don't intend to start today," a Kinross miner told workers

He spoke through a hand-held loudspeaker to a huge crowd of miners gathered some distance from the mine's snubbed memorial service

Yesterday's official service at shaft No 2 was intended to mourn the 177 killed in last week's disaster. Gencor and mine management attended, but no National Union of Mine-workers office-bearers were present

The NUM say they were not invited, but Mr Harry Hill, spokesman for Gencor, said the union "was verbally invited"

FANAKALO

The prayer service began in Afrikaans "Speak fanakalo", called one or two voices from the crowd

Shortly afterwards, a vast moving column of men waving branches and hard hats moved into the small arena. The praying voice of the Rev DS Nell disappeared altogether as hundreds of stamping feet and singing male voices passed by

Various church ministers ignored the increasing commotion and continued the service. The crowd continued several times around the arena. Seated miners joined them on each round

Gathering finally at the foot of a sandy embankment, they held their own meeting

While the memorial service

ground to a finish before rows of empty chairs — a line of management and small numbers of scattered miners remained — the thousands-strong chanting crowd was momentarily without direction

In the following lull, crowds of men broke away and swarmed over the refreshment tables, grabbing food and drink

"Comrades, what are you doing? Please, comrades, you

are not to do that," yelled a Union shaft steward into his loudspeaker as the men moved away from the trampled sandwiches

Within minutes of the prayer meeting ending, mine management disappeared. The crowd toppled the pulpit and its flower-covered backdrop as they filled the arena

The newly-arrived NUM Safety Officer, Mr Hazy Sibanyoni,

addressed them on matters affecting them following the tragedy and reprimanded them for their behaviour

All shifts would work today, he said, but a union memorial service would be held tomorrow when no-one would go underground

He added "Those were our brothers who died underground. You shouldn't do things as though you don't care"

Chamber of Mines knew of polyurethane foam danger

The Chamber of Mines has now admitted that several circulars warning of the dangers of using polyurethane foams underground were circulated from 1968 onwards

At first the Chamber told *The Star* polyurethane had — until the Kinross disaster — been regarded as safe

Immediately after the Kinross mining accident, *The Star* requested from the Chamber information on polyurethane foam and its uses underground

After 24 hours of investigation a Chamber spokesman replied

"The polyurethane and other products used in mines have until now been regarded by mines as safe. But the Kinross tragedy clearly puts a huge question mark over this, which the Chamber of Mines research organisation will be investigating once their role in the events at Kinross is known"

Asked how widely the products were used on mines in South Africa the spokesman replied "It would be fair to say these substances are in general use in mines

here and overseas"

Since then it has been established that the products have been banned in British coal mines since the early 60s and in the United States since 1980

Asked whether in view of the disaster the Chamber would examine these products or check up on members who may have used the chemical sealers, he said "It is a matter of priority"

Asked whether the Chamber had ever carried out any tests on the substances in their laboratories the spokesman said "No" He also said the Chamber did not have the address of the local manufacturer of the product

Now the Chamber's technical adviser, Mr David Gaynor, says that for the past 18 years the Chamber repeatedly warned about the potential toxicity of polyurethane foam underground

Mr Gaynor said *The Star's* initial questions had not been put to him. He also said the Chamber had sufficient knowledge of the products to identify their hazards

He said the polyurethane substances were used by gold mines for sealing chilled water columns and also to seal ventilation systems in the event of fire

Mr Gaynor revealed that information on polyurethane hazards was circulated in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1982 and discussions about the substance, and dangers during fire, were held with the Chamber's safety, environmental and ventilation subcommittees

After a fire at Gencor's biggest gold mine Buffelsfontein, in May 1977, polystyrene and polyurethane were identified as inflammable materials

DD 23/1/86 (131) (131)

Miners boycott Kinross service

EVANDER — Thousands of workers at the Kinross mine held a short service and meeting yesterday after boycotting a company-organised memorial service for the 177 miners who died in an underground blaze last week

At the start of the service, about 400 miners, chanting and ululating, circled the area marked out for the proceedings

When the Reverend J. Nell started reading the lesson, all the miners in stands facing the makeshift pulpit left and joined the chanting crowd

About 2000 miners stood to one side chanting they would not "pray with whites" as they had never done so before

During the commotion, the service went on for the benefit of a handful of mostly white dignitaries

The dissident miners then converged on two refreshment tents and ransacked them, despite entreaties by National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) officials

A few minor incidents of stone-throwing occurred before the miners, who were joined by about 1500 other workers, regrouped at the site set aside for the service — with their backs to the damaged make-shift pulpit

They were addressed by NUM officials and, after a short tribute to those who died in the country's worst gold mine accident, were told a memorial service organised by the union would take place in Secunda tomorrow.

The miners were told to ask management how the dead were going to

be buried and what transport arrangements had been made for the funerals

They were also told all those who were involved in last week's fire should not think they were safe from danger and should report for medical examinations

Before the meeting ended, the NUM officials asked the men to put what sticks they were carrying down and not to interfere with any mine property as "the world is watching"

Meanwhile, another major mining house has ordered its mines to remove all polyurethane foam underground and review fire-control procedures

A spokesman for Rand Mines confirmed yesterday all standing fire-protection instructions were being reviewed and investigations were underway to find an alternative material to replace polyurethane foam

"Rand Mines has standing instructions on a groupwide basis on fire prevention," a company spokesman said "These are reviewed on an on-going basis

"The particular polyurethane material referred to in the Kinross accident is used on the mines on quite a limited scale in the sense that it is used as lagging for cooled-water columns and is also used in sealing off ventilation systems in the event of fire

"In the light of what happened at Kinross an instruction has gone out that the limited amounts of this material have to be removed. Alternative materials are being investigated" — Sapa

See also page 13.

Kinross ignored chamber's warning

23/9/86



JOHANNESBURG — The Kinross mine disaster — in which 177 men died — might have been avoided had the mine management fully heeded repeated warnings from the Chamber of Mines.

It has for 18 years repeatedly highlighted the perils and potential toxicity of polyurethane foam when used underground

Most mining houses have reduced its use to limited sealing applications

Kinross used the foam over a 600 metre area of No 2 Shaft's 15 level

Gencor spokesman Harry Hill pointed out that Kinross had a shaft area of about 350 kilometres, so its application could well be considered limited

Polyurethane foam is used by gold mines for sealing chilled water columns, sealing off small fires temporarily and fill-

ing cracks in ventilation doors

The chamber distributed information on the substance's hazards in 1968, 1969 and 1982. In 1970 an article, "The dangers of polyurethane foam", was circulated, says chamber technical adviser, Mr David Gaynor

He said that subsequent discussions on the use of polyurethane and the fire dangers of the foam were held with the safety, environmental and ventilation subcommittees of the chamber

Mr Gaynor said that, while the chamber had kept the industry informed of the perils of the foam, responsibility for its use must rest with mine managers

● The chamber said today it would not discuss safety at the Kinross Mine, with the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) as it is "dealing with the

National Union of Mineworkers on that issue," a spokesman said

He said the chamber was also dealing with the NUM on a memorial service for the dead

The NUM has called for a national day of mourning for the dead on October 1, and the spokesman said today the chamber had "so far not made any decision" concerning the call

Following the mine disaster, the United Democratic Front (UDF) said it joined the NUM and Cosatu in holding the owners of the Kinross gold mine — Gencor — responsible for the deaths. The UDF also pledged its support to the NUM in "whatever call it makes to mourn and pay homage to those gallant miners who died"

● Rand Mines has ordered its mines to remove all polyurethane foam materials — Sapa

Kinross rips out polyurethane

Lethal foam warnings not fully heeded

23/9/86
BUDDY
131

THE Kinross mine disaster — in which 177 men died — might have been avoided had the mine management fully heeded repeated warnings from the Chamber of Mines on the hazards of polyurethane foam.

The Chamber of Mines has for 18 years repeatedly highlighted the perils and potential toxicity of polyurethane foam when used underground.

Most mining houses have reduced its use to limited sealing applications only.

Kinross used the foam over a 600m area of No 2 Shaft's 15 level.

Gencor spokesman Harry Hill pointed out that Kinross had a shaft area of about 350km, so its application could well be considered limited.

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CHERILYN IRETON

on the use of polyurethane and the fire dangers of the foam were held with the safety, environmental and ventilation subcommittees of the chamber.

Gaynor said that, while the chamber had kept the industry informed of the perils of the foam, responsibility for its use must rest with mine managers and not the industry.

Since the disaster at Kinross, Rand Mines has ordered the foam be removed from its mines.

Gencor, Goldfields, Anglo American and Anglovaal are assessing the extent to which the substance has been applied underground and will probably also insist it be stripped from their mines.

Last night Anglo American Corporation said the mines it administered used a polyurethane mixture which reduced the flammability of the foam and risk of generating carbon monoxide.

Gencor spokesman Con Fauconnier said the substance was being removed from the Kinross mine. Other mines in the Gencor stable are examining old locations to determine where the substance had been used.

UDF slams 'special' police

SPAL
23/9/86
Political Reporter
The United Democratic Front says the plan to send 1 000 "half-baked policemen" into the townships "deserves condemnation from all right-thinking South Africans."

"This is nothing more than an act of desperation on the part of a Government that has resolved that brute force is the only way out of its dilemma," said a statement released by the UDF.

"The Government must be warned that this highly provocative move can never contribute towards peace in this country. Instead it will serve to convince more and more of our youth that the only way to defend themselves will be to arm themselves as well."

"In the end, the Government will have to carry full responsibility for any escalation in violence that this foolish move will encourage," the statement added.

Mines to consider closure call

SPAL
23/9/86
The Chamber of Mines is today expected to consider the call by the National Union of Mineworkers for a closure of the chamber's mines to mourn the Kinross mine disaster victims.

The NUM, declaring October 1 a national day of mourning, has called on members not to go to work on that day and for the chamber to close its mines. A chamber spokesman said it would probably discuss the NUM call today.

NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa warned that should the chamber reject the union's request, workers would observe the day anyway.

Yesterday, the UDF said it pledged its support to the NUM in whatever call it made "to mourn and pay homage to those gallant miners who died in Kinross."

The NUM is to hold a memorial service for the Kinross victims at Secunda tomorrow.

US award for Jo'burg association

By Michael Chester

The radical moves launched several months ago by the Johannesburg Central Business District Association to make the city an open trade zone have won world acclaim.

In the United States last night, honours were showered on the association for its efforts to remove apartheid from city trade when it was awarded a special citation by the International Downtown Association at its annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

The citation was in recognition of its "sustained efforts to open trade, industry and commerce in Johannesburg's CBD to entrepreneurs of all races."

Its leadership role had in turn also benefited other CBDs and South Africa as a whole, the IDA added.

The Johannesburg CBDA emerged as one of only eight organisations in the world to win special honours.

Woman's skull found in Sandton

Crime Staff

A woman's skull was found in a Linbro Park, Sandton, tree plantation on June 10, close to the spot where the body of Airman Hendrik van Zyl, of the South African Air Force, was found last week.

Police said the two discoveries were not linked.

The skull was discovered by a horse-rider. Government pathologists said it was that of a woman aged between 18 and 20 years. She has not been identified.

She died of a bullet wound in the head, after which she was apparently decapitated.

A search of the area revealed no trace of the body, leading police to believe she was murdered elsewhere, probably about two years ago.

Anyone who can help the police investigation should telephone Detective Warrant Officer Olivier of the Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad at (011) 839-3322.

More than 2 000 at NUM service

By Mike Siluma and Mudini Maivha

Mineworkers gathered at the Embalenhle Stadium, near Secunda, today for the memorial service of the 177 miners killed in the Kinross Mine disaster last week

By 11 am more than 2 000 miners had converged on the stadium where the service organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) was being held

On Monday black miners refused to take part in a management-organised service at Kinross and disrupted it

US miners to aid Kinross families

The Star Bureau

WASHINGTON — The United Mine Workers of America are raising money for the families of Kinross mine disaster victims and offering help with mine safety.

A union spokesman said response to the appeal, much of it from coal-mining communities in West Virginia, was enthusiastic but he declined to say how much had been raised.

Money had been sent before by the UMWA to the SA Miners' Aid Fund, and the new appeal was an extension of that effort, he said.

UMWA president Mr Richard Trumka said: "This tragedy demonstrates the unacceptable working conditions to which SA mineworkers are exposed and the disregard the mining companies and the SA Government have for their health and safety."

up is
g and
group

See pages 9 and 13.

Today's service started with the singing of the black anthem "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika"

A moment's silence was observed for the dead miners

Placards bidding farewell to their fallen colleagues read "Goodwell, heroes of Kinross", "Bonuses are like apartheid itself and are not equal" and "We demand safety stewards."

Braving clouds of dust miners sang and danced in the stadium, joined by township residents

A spokesman for Gencor said that at the Bracken mine only 31 percent of the morning shift had reported for work

"Between 500 and 1 000 left the Bracken mine hostel on foot in the direction of Langverwagt, where the memorial service was to take place

"At the Kinross mine the absenteeism rate was in the region of 10 percent, which is slightly higher than normal.

"At the Winkelhaak gold mine this morning between 500 and 600 of the usually workforce of 6 000 failed to report for duty"

NUM shaft steward arrested at Kinross

A senior shaft steward of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at the Kinross Mine has been arrested after an incident at the mine.

"We understand there was an alleged assault on the Kinross mine on Monday afternoon after which an employee was hospitalised. The employee has laid a charge of assault against another employee. This is a matter between two employees," a spokesman for Gencor said.

22 injured
as boiler
explodes

East Rand Bureau

Twenty-two people were injured, three seriously, when a boiler exploded at the Protectolne Coatings factory in Benoni at 8 am today

A spokesman for the Benoni Ambulance Department said the boiler was blown through a wall to another factory, Alan Gillat

The three seriously injured workers suffered head injuries. The others were treated for shock and cuts and bruises

They were taken to the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital

A police spokesman said it was not yet known what had caused the explosion, but foul play was not suspected

46 000 miners have died, claims NUM

Forty-six thousand workers have died in accidents in the gold mines in South Africa this century, according to a safety booklet issued by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM)

The booklet is entitled "A Thousand Ways to Die — the Struggle for Safety in the Gold Mines" It was released on Friday, four days after the Kinross gold mine disaster had claimed 177 lives

The publication, to be circulated among mine-workers, is part of the NUM's national mine safety and training campaign It is based on information gathered in interviews with 90 long-serving team leaders and drillers who work at the rock face on four gold mines

Apart from the 46 000 workers who died, the NUM said, "nobody knows how many hundreds of thousands of workers have been crippled and hurt or have died young from various diseases"

In the period 1973 to 1984 more than 8 500 miners were killed in South African mines, according to the International Labour Organisation

In recent years, the mining industry has boasted of dramatic declines in fatality and injury rates

Latest Chamber of Mines figures show that, in the first six months of this year, accident rates fell to record lows The latest fatality rate for every 1 000 underground workers is 0,88, an improvement of nearly 15 percent over the previous figure of 1,03 per 1 000 and a 40 percent improvement in the past decade

Nevertheless, the NUM believes more can be done about safety on the mines

"Since the NUM started in 1982, the struggle for safety has been on the top of its list," says the union's booklet

In it workers talk about pressure bursts and rock falls and other dangers, including noise, alleged poor training and the production bonus which, they say, spurs those in charge to sacrifice safety for production

'Trouble and hardship'

The booklet contains interviews with NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa and NUM president Mr James Motlatsi

"Since Johannesburg was born, more than 50 000 workers have been killed in the gold mines," says Mr Ramaphosa "For thousands of people, Johannesburg means struggle and trouble and hardship

"We will not rest as long as our people are dying underground For us, every death is one too many"

Mr Motlatsi, who comes from Lesotho, has worked on the mines since 1970 He was trapped underground after a rock burst at Western Deep Levels gold mine in 1974 and suffered a fractured skull

In his interview he said the mining companies did not spend enough money on safety because "they want big profits"

He said "When I visited Sweden, I saw they don't use wooden props — they use special hydraulic props In Germany, they support all the haulages with steel and cement Our haulages are not supported unless the place is very dangerous The mines must also spend more money on ventilation Workers get dizzy and sick from bad ventilation — and then they have accidents

Since 1982, mine safety has ceased to be an issue exclusively debated by the mining houses and high-powered academics. It has become a top priority of the biggest trade union in the country, the National Union of Mineworkers, which has launched a national safety campaign. SHERYL RAINE reports.

"The bosses give each other stars for safety. A mine with four stars sounds like a good, safe mine. But this is not so. For example, the ERPM gold mine near Boksburg has four stars. In 1985, 53 workers were killed in the mine. In 1984, 52 workers were killed"

He wished to see the mine owners agree to full-time union safety stewards and safety committees.

Mr Motlatsi said the Chamber of Mines, funded by the mining houses, spent some of its money trying to find ways to make the mines safer each year

"But the chamber spends a lot more time and money finding ways to get more gold out of the ground and how to make more money"

He accused the Chamber of "keeping secrets"

"They do not share what they know with other people. The NUM asked to see 42 of their safety reports to help with our own report. The chamber refused"

THE National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has accused Gencor of obstructing attempts by a British health and safety expert to visit the Kinross gold mine, scene of last week's disaster

Safety expert is blocked - claim

ALAN FINE

The expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, arrived in SA yesterday on an expected one-week visit.

NUM legal representative Clive Thompson told a Press conference last night that, after an initial blunt refusal, Gencor had now agreed in principle to Eisner's investigation. But the company has refused to specify a time and date.

Eisner previously assisted the NUM in the inquiry into the Hlobane colliery disaster in 1983.

Eisner said that in visits to several mines during an earlier trip, he had seen nothing to suggest SA mines were any less safe than their American and European counterparts. The same applies to rules and regulations for local mines.

But, he added, it is a question of "accident experience". SA gold mining conditions are not comparable with mines anywhere else in the world.

Polyurethane foam, thought to be responsible for many of the Kinross deaths, had been banned from British mines since the late '60s, he said. "All other

combustibles" are also banned.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said the NUM has also invited a Swedish expert, Dr Peter Westerholm, to assist in investigations. A German expert is expected to complete the team.

Ramaphosa told the Press conference that two top NUM officials had been detained near Kinross yesterday. One had been released after being questioned about arrangements for today's planned commemoration meeting. Ramaphosa expects that most of the 25 000 workers from five mines in the vicinity will attend.

Late last night Gencor denied it was hedging on the question of the visit by Eisner to the mine. "We have asked the union to wait until the memorial services are over. We are busy formulating an invitation to a number of overseas experts, including the NUM's. And we have agreed with the union that we will talk further about the matter," said spokesman Harry Hill.

1012.049 131

Cwiu still waiting for mine inquiry

WITH all parties anxiously awaiting the inquiry into the Kinross mine disaster, another mine accident inquiry has yet to be finalised more than a year after the event

On August 12 last year, 30 miners died in a methane gas explosion at Sasol's Middelbult Colliery near Secunda. The Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (Cwiu), which represents most of the mine's 8 700 workers, said yesterday it was contemplating legal action

ALAN FINE

24/9/86

However, Government Mining Engineer Badie Badenhorst said his department submitted information to the AG of the Transvaal soon after the accident

A spokesman for the AG's office said he received the documentation only about a week ago from the Occupational Safety Court prosecutor. A decision should be taken within two weeks

'Mines must know of danger'

JOHANNESBURG — A British fire and explosives expert, who has so far been refused access to the site of the Kinross mine disaster, said it was "inconceivable" that South African mines were unaware of the dangers of polyurethane

The substance was outlawed in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s, Dr Herbert Eisner, here at the request of the National Union of Mines (NUM), said at a Press conference in Johannesburg last night

"South Africa regularly attends a biannual world mining conference. There is much collaboration between the mining bodies and the recommendations are taken up by other countries," he said

The general secretary of NUM, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said the Foreign Minister, Mr P W Botha, the State President, Mr P W Botha, and the Chamber of Mines had invited "any international expert in mines to conduct an inspection" of the mine, where 177 miners were killed in a fire last week

"Now Gencor says they are not prepared to allow anyone to visit the underground works of the place of the accident," Mr Ramaphosa said

Dr Eisner will be joined by two more experts from Sweden and Germany. The Swede, Dr Peter Westerholm, has not yet been granted a visa to SA

NUM attorney Mr Clive Thompson said he was still negotiating with Gencor attorneys for the team to go underground

Mr Ramaphosa said legal action would follow the inquiry and investigations were under way to track down a United States firm, Mobay, which the union believed was a parent company of a local subsidiary who supplied polyurethane to the mine. The company could be held responsible for the deaths of the miners, he said

● At Secunda today a large portion of the crowd of several thousand people attending a memorial service for the 177 dead miners, rose and cheered as Mrs Winnie Mandela arrived at the stadium — Sapa



131

24/9/86

Union gives long list of safety shortcomings

You tell me about danger!
What about my bonus?
Maak 'n plan, man!



An illustration from the NUM booklet 'A thousand ways to die'

Various safety shortcomings are alleged by the NUM in the safety booklet

The main reason given for accidents is having to work in places which are unsafe

It is claimed that white miners spend little time in the stopes these days and often do not do what the law requires. They are accused of not carrying out inspections, not marking off drill holes, not removing misfires and not working with explosives

The booklet says black team leaders are doing the work of white miners without the training. But team leaders do not have the authority of white miners and cannot tell teams to leave the workplace if it is dangerous

White miners are supposed to make dangerous conditions safe. Yet, the NUM alleges, team leaders seldom call in the white miner because he rarely responds and has a "work now, complain later" attitude. White miners

are only called in if conditions are extremely dangerous

The booklet also says the mines use threats and punishment to make work go faster. If workers stop because the working place is not safe, they may be warned, charged and sometimes sacked. Fear of punishment makes workers take chances

WAGES DROPPED BY HALF

When charged, a worker must stand before a mine manager's "court". One team leader claimed he was charged after failing to finish the work allocated for a day. He was demoted to a team member for nine months and his wages dropped by half

In 1983, 17 workers were fired at West Driefontein gold mine after refusing to work in dangerous conditions. The NUM went to the Industrial Court and got their jobs back

The bonus is not a big part of black workers' wages, but forms a big part of white pay. Workers claim mine bosses pay white miners bonuses to "chase production"

"A white miner chasing a bonus is one of the biggest reasons for accidents," the booklet says

Noise underground results in noise deafness and is a serious danger. Workers cannot hear warnings nor the sound of moving rock

The booklet adds "Because workers need to listen for danger, ear plugs are not the answer. The answer is quieter working places and machines, even if this costs more money"

Workers claim the hard hats they are issued with fall off easily in dangerous conditions. They also want stronger boots.

The NUM has drawn up a bill of rights which includes the right to

- Elect safety stewards and committees
- Refuse dangerous work.
- Call and go with inspectors on all inspections without loss of pay
- Proper health and safety training
- See all information on health and safety
- Protection from punishment when demanding rights
- A say in running the mine and planning

The NUM says the bonus system must be changed to ensure safer working conditions. It believes the Mines and Works Act, due to be deregulated next year, must not only be changed, but steps taken to ensure black miners who take on jobs previously held by whites do not behave in the same way over safety matters

Better training is called for and more money demanded to find out why accidents happen and how to stop them

Payout for bereaved

The Star's Africa News Service

MBABANE — The families of the 14 Swazi miners killed in the Kinross disaster are to receive the financial equivalent of two years' pay.

The Employment Bureau for Africa (Teba) representative in Mbabane, Mr John Olivier, said yesterday that, in the case of victims who had large families, this payment might be increased.

He said relatives had been informed of the deaths but the official list of all 177 killed in the disaster would be released in a general list by Gencor.

NUM shaft steward arrested at Kinross

A senior shaft steward of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at the Kinross Mine has been arrested after an incident at the mine.

"We understand there was an alleged assault on the Kinross mine on Monday afternoon after which an employee was hospitalised. The employee has laid a charge of assault against another employee. This is a matter between two employees," a spokesman for Gencor said.

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OUR S... O... A...

Payout for bereaved

SAF 131 The Star's Africa News Service

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22 injured
in boiler explosion
25/9/86

East Rand Bureau

Twenty-two people were injured, three seriously, when a 3 m high boiler exploded at a rubber processing factory in Benoni yesterday.

Damage of about R100 000 was caused when the lid of the boiler flew through the wall of the Protectoline Coating factory and hit another wall outside.

Workers were hit by flying debris.

Factory manager Mr Albertus Booyens, sustained head and back injuries when part of a wall fell on him. Two other workers had head injuries.

The three are in a satisfactory condition in the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital.

The other injured were discharged yesterday after being treated for shock and minor injuries.

The owner of the building, Mr John Small, said it was believed a faulty valve had caused the accident.

N/M 25/9/81 (B) (S)

Union tells miners of right to refuse

Mercury Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG—Any miner asked to work in an area he believes to be dangerous should refuse to do so, as is his right

This was the message from National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) regional chairman Eric Vala to about 3 000 Eastern Transvaal miners who flocked to a windswept and dusty football stadium in the eMbalenhle township near Kinross yesterday

The meeting was called by the NUM to commemorate the deaths of the 177 victims of last week's disaster

Feelings at the meeting ran high

A large police contingent

in about 20 vehicles kept a low profile outside the stadium

An SAP helicopter flew over a few times earlier in the day and, as people began leaving at the end of the meeting, used its loudspeaker to order people to disperse within five minutes

Mrs Winnie Mandela, the only non-union speaker at the meeting, was mobbed as she arrived at the stadium by car

Later, saying she was speaking on behalf of the ANC and its leaders, she said they all felt the pain of South Africa's rural mining communities. She told the crowd her imprisoned husband had worked as a miner in the late 40s

25/9/80
BUSON

Mines get low safety rating ¹³¹

JOHN BATTERSBY

LONDON — SA mines have been rated significantly safer than those in Third World countries, but fairly badly when compared with the developed world.

Professor CT Shaw of the Royal School of Mines and an international expert on safety says it is difficult to make comparisons between SA mine safety and that in other countries because of different statistics.

Some comparisons, however, are valid. Shaw, employed by JCI until 1977, says Britain has the safest mines. SA rates fairly badly, compared with Europe and the US.

FROM now on any miner asked to work in an area he believes to be dangerous should refuse to do so, as was his right, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) regional chairman Eric Vala told about 3 000 Eastern Transvaal miners in the eMbalenhle township near Kinross yesterday.

The meeting was called by the NUM to commemorate the deaths of the 177 victims of last week's disaster

Feelings at the meeting ran high. A large police contingent in about 20 vehicles kept a low profile outside the stadium. And a police helicopter flew over a few times earlier in the day.

Miners told to refuse to work

ALAN FINE

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa alleged that some Kinross miners had been prevented from attending the meeting. He said they had been forced to work at gunpoint yesterday.

He said "The time has come to take

● To Page 2 →

NUM urges miners to down tools

control of the mines so as to ensure no more miners fall victim to accidents"

And he demanded that polyurethane foam, thought to be responsible for many of the Kinross deaths, be removed immediately from all mines

Ramaphosa said union-appointed medical experts would be examining survivors of the accident. And NUM would ensure that those whose health had been affected by the inhalation of fumes would be compensated

Messages of sympathy and support had been received from the United Democratic Front (UDF), the SA Congress of Trade Unions in Lusaka, union organisations in the UK, Ghana, Chile, Zimbabwe, Zambia and West Germany, and from the Prime Ministers of Sweden and Australia.

Winnie Mandela, the only non-union speaker at the meeting, was mobbed as she arrived at the stadium by car. Man-

dela said she felt the pain of SA's rural mining communities

She referred to the NUM call on miners to refuse to work on October 1, saying they might one day be called upon to make a greater sacrifice. She said "It is the gold you dig that buys the Casspirs, uniforms and guns"

Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) general secretary Jay Naidoo said the mines should be nationalised "because bosses are more interested in profits than in saving our lives"

Gencor has denied Kinross miners were forced to work yesterday. A spokesman said that all Gencor employees wishing to attend the meeting were permitted to do so

← ● From Page 1

25/9/86 BUD DAY

131
25/9/86

Commemoration service for Kinross dead passes quietly

25/7/86 STAR

Workers demand more control of mine safety

By Mike Siluma and Mudini Maivha



Miners in the crowd at the Embalehle Stadium, near Secunda, yesterday raised placards at the memorial service for the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mine disaster last week.

Speakers at yesterday's commemoration service for the 177 miners who died in last week's Kinross disaster demanded increased worker control of safety matters on the mines

The service was organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and held at Embalehle township, near Secunda

The speakers repeatedly expressed the workers' determination to stop work next Wednesday to mourn the Kinross dead

NUM leader Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said "We will not allow a single miner to die because we care about each other. Our message to the Chamber of Mines is that, from today, we will not allow workers to be killed as they were at Kinross"

Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who was mobbed by chanting workers, reminded them that next week's proposed stoppage was just the beginning of the long battle against the "racists" in Pretoria

'Only five were whites'

"The gas that killed our brothers in that tragedy was not used by two countries who are Pretoria's closest allies — Britain and the United States. Pretoria used that gas because it does not care about workers' lives. Out of 177 dead only five were whites," she said

Pretoria's actions had shown the time for talking was over

"We accept the challenge," said Mrs Mandela

Money derived from gold and diamonds dug up by workers was used by the State to buy guns, bullets and uniforms and freedom would only come the day miners stopped digging gold

Workers at the service chanted slogans such as "Down with Le Grange's dogs" and sang songs praising Mr Ramaphosa and ANC leaders Mr Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela

The service went without incident despite the attendance of thousands of miners and many police. Police in helicopters circled the stadium and, towards the end of the service, gave dispersing workers five minutes to leave

DD 25/9/86 (131) (12)

Mine victims named

JOHANNESBURG — The names of 168 miners killed in the Kinross mining disaster were released yesterday.

Among them are 44 from Transkei, four from Ciskei and four from the Eastern Cape. A mine spokesman said the names of another two Transkeians were being withheld until confirmation was received that their next of kin had been informed.

About 5 000 miners braved heat and clouds of dust near Kinross

yesterday to hear union and community leaders pay tribute to the disaster victims — and berate the mining industry for low safety levels and unequal pay.

The service was organised by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

The speakers included the NUM president, Mr James Motlatse; the NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa; and anti-apartheid activist Mrs Winnie Mandela.

— Sapa

Victims' names P21

Lessons from Kinross

FY 26/9/86 (131)

"Until Tuesday . we thought we were winning the battle against mine fatalities and the record will show that there were objective grounds supporting that belief This has been blown away and it's start-again and think-again time in Gencor safety management "

A grim-faced Derek Keys said this last Friday at a press conference where several top Gencor executives answered questions about the Kinross gold mine disaster Keys told the media "We owe it to the living to critically re-examine our existing procedures and materials throughout the group with a view to ensuring as far as humanly possible that such a tragic occurrence — on any scale — cannot occur again "

Gencor's new executive chairman could hardly have said anything else about the worst accident in South African gold mining history, which killed 177 miners and injured over 200 Regardless of where blame for the accident is finally placed — and it will be for the official inquiry to determine that — the fact is that, despite a plethora of rules and regulations for ensuring mine safety, something went very wrong at Kinross last Tuesday This is a sobering consideration not just for Gencor, but for the mining industry as a

The tragedy at Kinross has focused the spotlight on SA's mining safety standards. Commendably, Gencor management has shown extreme sensitivity over the issue, and the industry as a whole has expressed determination that the disaster should never be repeated.

whole

Days after the event, details are still somewhat sketchy But the general consensus is that the disaster was precipitated when a welding operation in a tunnel on the 15th level of the mine went awry, igniting a 600-metre length of polyurethane foam coating Noxious fumes from this, and the PVC insulation on a power cable, which the mine's ventilation system helped spread, killed the miners

Like the fire itself, the incident sparked a chain reaction in the industry The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has made a great deal of capital from the disclosure that Kinross's rating in the International Safety Rating System (ISRS) dropped from five stars to three at the last audit in June



Raymond Preston

Gencor's Keys ... a time for reappraisal

The union has also called on mineworkers to observe October 1 as a day of mourning It claims that Gencor has reneged on a public undertaking to allow a group of overseas

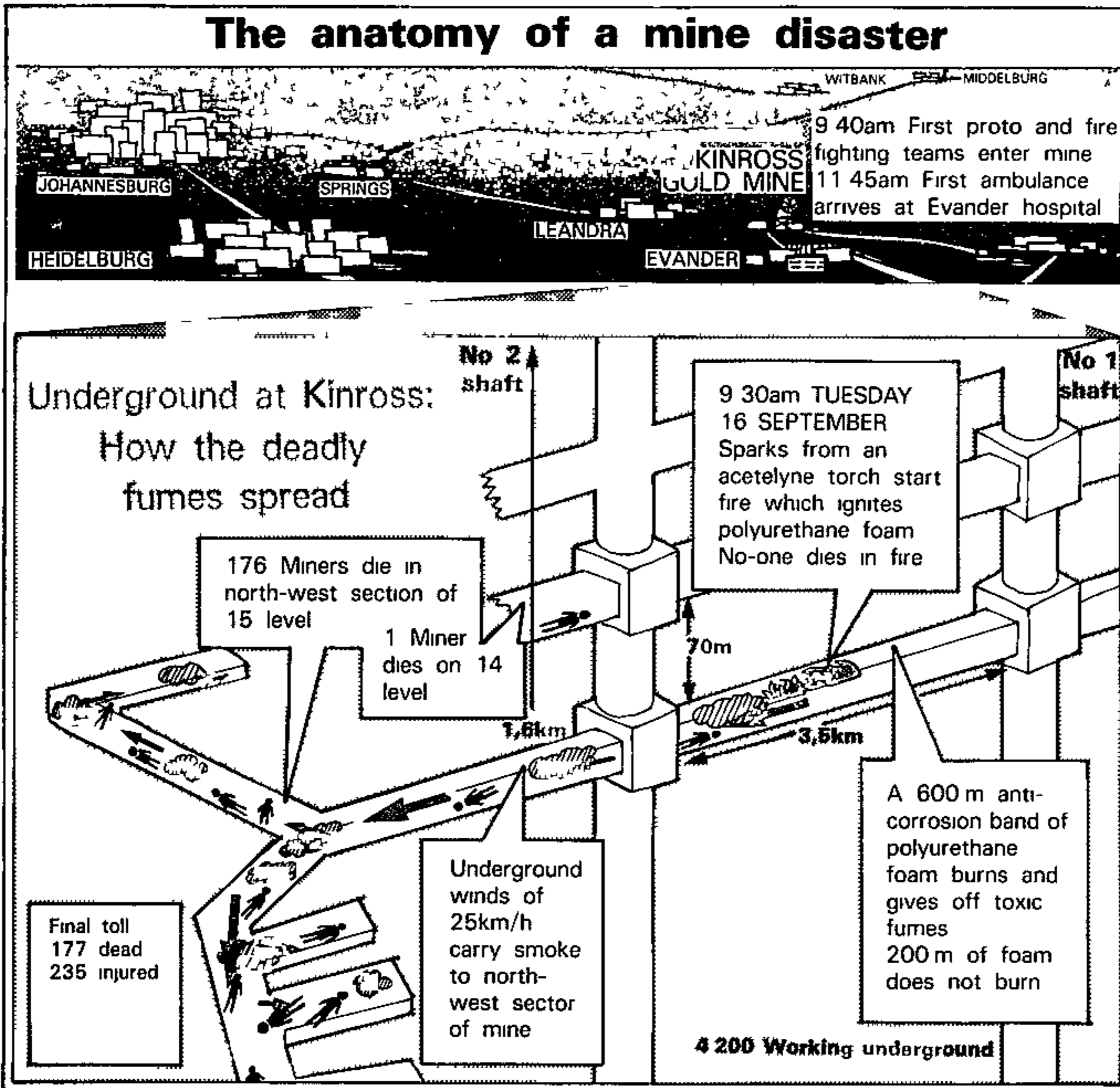
experts, invited to SA by NUM, access to the mine Gencor says it is still talking to NUM about such a visit.

Much controversy about the incident centres on the polyurethane foam coating, which was applied in 1980 to prevent corrosion Polyurethane is known to be a hazardous substance, and has reportedly been banned by mining authorities in some countries

Management says that the compound was used at Kinross on the understanding that it was flameproof Events, however, showed that it certainly was not fire-resistant And Gencor has not been able to say whether any tests on the compound were conducted before it was introduced into the mine

Chamber sources say the mining industry has been aware of the hazards associated with polyurethanes since at least 1981 Gencor, according to Con Fauconnier, head of its mining, metallurgical and medical services, has not used the compound for general application since that year

But polyurethanes are still used for chilled water pipe insulation, for ventilation control, and for sealing off areas during fire-fighting It is not at all clear how much polyurethane material there is in South African mines Clearly, as the chamber said last week, the Kinross disaster has thrown "a huge question mark" over its con-



ate operations in SA in an embarrassing spotlight

One irony in all of this is that another Atlanta force, Coretta Scott King, returned from SA last week with what appeared to be a less-than-firm commitment to sanctions. The widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King told reporters that sanctions must be complemented by massive economic aid to SA's neighbouring states if they are to work. Reagan might go along with this.

Reagan, as much as he is opposed to US withdrawal, cannot stop the US corporate exodus, but he can try and halt a weakening of Washington's official connections. By September 25, the president must either veto the House and Senate sanctions legislation, or sign it. The congressional sanctions bill includes a total cutoff in future US investment in SA, and prohibits South African imports of uranium, coal and textiles, among other punitive measures.

Chances are that Reagan will veto the measure, and at the same time announce a series of mild additions to his executive sanctions order, which

few believe will be strong enough to dissuade enough members of Congress from voting for an override.

The president is expected to limit SAA landing rights and impose a few other harmless sanctions, as well as appointing a black foreign service officer — Liberian Ambassador, Edward J Perkins — as the new US envoy to SA, and send Secretary of State George Shultz to Pretoria next month.

The Shultz stopover and the appointment of Perkins are designed to underscore the Reagan administration's commitment to dialogue with the Pretoria government and its desire to increase talks with black opposition leaders. The symbolic sanctions, which may follow the EEC's watered-down version, will add to the executive order Reagan signed last year banning Krugerrand sales in the US. The president's aides, however, indicated that he has still not decided whether to include, as the Common Market package did, a ban on South African iron and steel imports.

Congressional sources say the president must include all the measures approved by the EEC and more, or he will be overridden. For one, Republican Senator Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, promised House leaders earlier this month that he would fight for an override even if Reagan strengthens his

executive order. House Democrats cast aside their own tough piece of sanctions legislation and adopted the Senate's milder version only after Lugar agreed to work for an override should the President veto the bill.

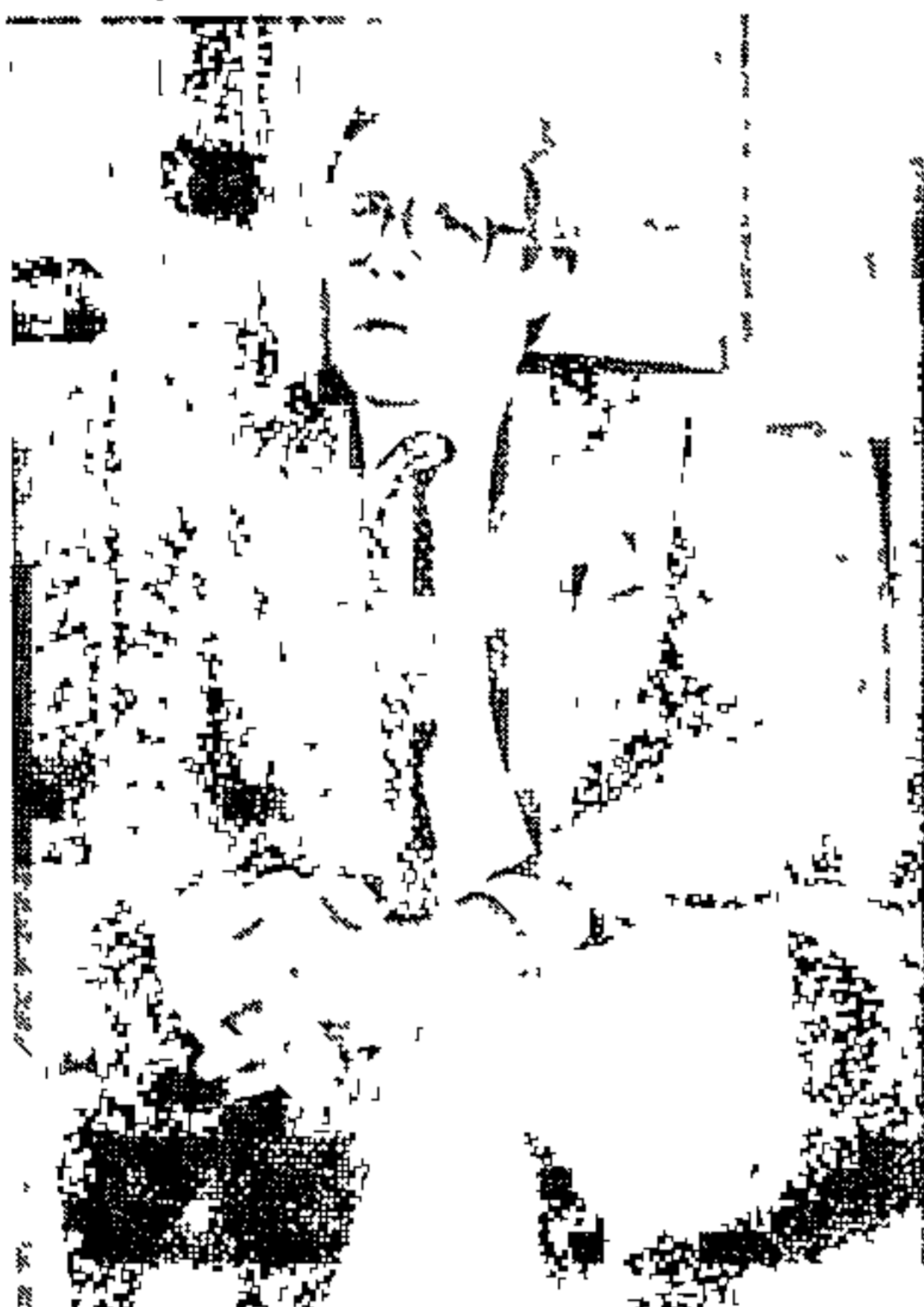
Certainly, Congress appears to have the two-thirds majority needed to throw out Reagan's veto — the Senate originally passed the bill 84-14, while the House mustered a 308-77 landslide — but this is an election year and anything could happen between now and October 3, when Congress adjourns for the campaign season.

Reagan feels so strongly about sanctions against SA that even his aides cannot convince him to give up the fight against what everyone else perceives as a losing battle. However, his instincts have served him well before and may do so again. With the help of a little election year arm-twisting, the president may be able to convince enough Republican senators to back him.

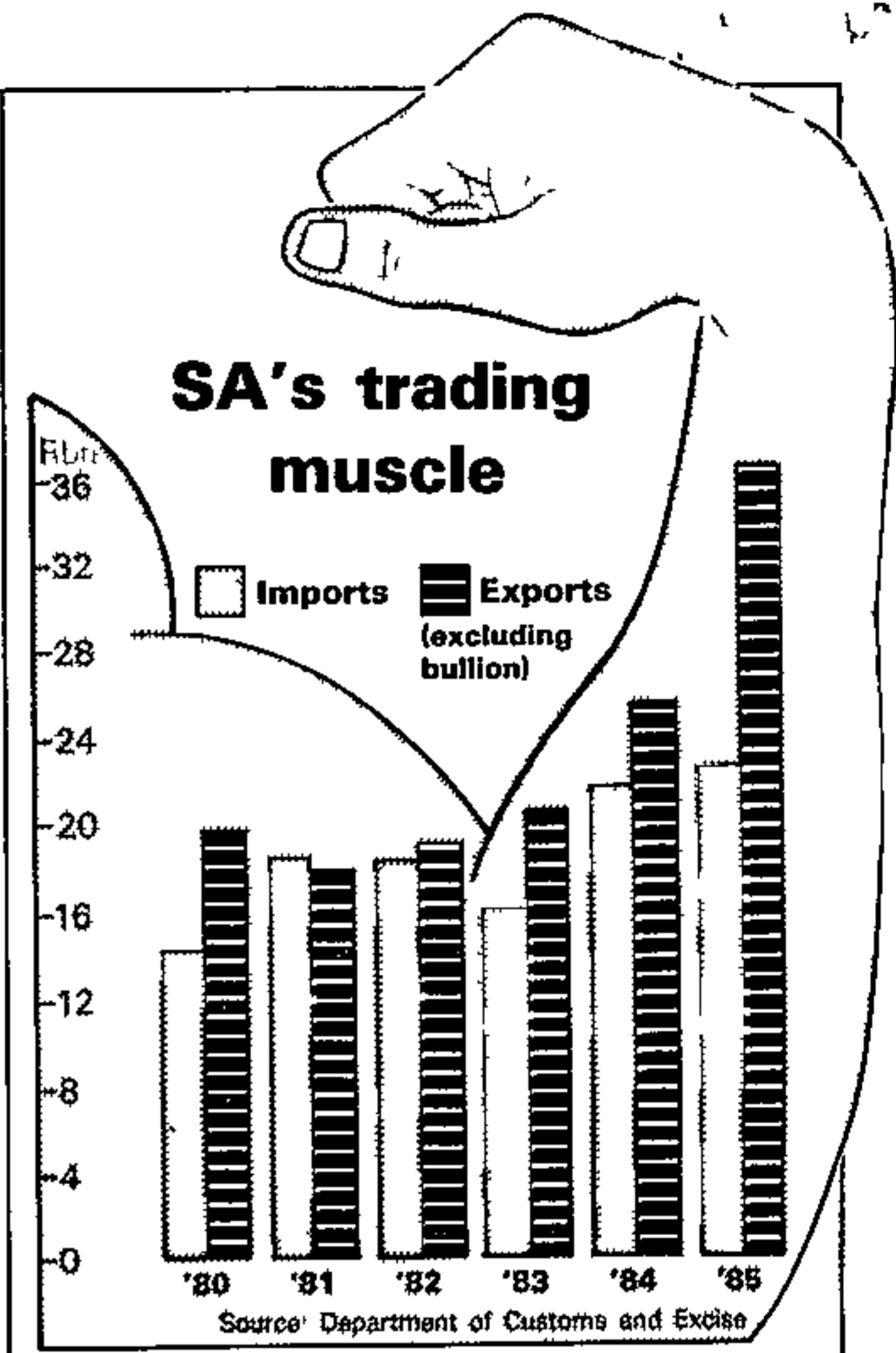
Locally, it has come as some relief to coal producers that Japan announced its sanctions moves, in broad outline, immediately

after the EEC decision rather than wait for the US. If the US decides to ban coal imports from SA, exports of some 600 000 t a year will be hit. But if Japan stopped its coal imports, sales of 7 Mt a year would be lost.

Certainly Transvaal Coal Owners Association MD Les Weiss sees the EEC's decision to review the situation on coal imports in six months as providing some breathing space. "Provided nothing dramatic happens in SA, the chances are that we will be able to



TCOA's Weiss ... business as usual?



continue business as usual to a large extent."

Weiss believes that foreign buyers with the threat of sanctions hanging over them will be unlikely to increase purchases at this time because of the short-term view they'll inevitably take of the trade. But at least coal producers still have a foot in Europe.

The EEC takes about half of SA's total coal exports, which were worth nearly R3,2 billion last year. The loss of this market would push the cost of sanctions to SA into the billions bracket, but it would also put the jobs of 40 000 miners, and the living standards of 200 000 dependants on the line.

The imponderable remains: we now know Pretoria's schedule of limited reforms, and may have a general election which could give P W Botha, and his successor, a wider mandate than even he may expect. But will that be enough for the world? It seems unlikely. And if sanctions pressure intensifies, the prospect for peace in southern Africa will diminish. We have not yet seen the wrath of the bitterenders of the Eighties. ■

THE FINE PRINT

The US Congress decision could include

- A ban on agricultural products, iron, steel, uranium, coal and textiles,
- An embargo on the export to SA of crude oil and refined petroleum products from the US,
- No new investment in South African companies, although short-term trade credits are allowed and profits from ongoing business in SA can be re-invested,
- Imports from companies owned or controlled by the government or State corporations will be barred,
- Landing rights for SAA would be cancelled, and

□ Use of US banks by South African diplomatic and government personnel in the US would be restricted.

Additional measures to be implemented, if no significant progress towards the elimination of apartheid is made, could include prohibition of US military aid to countries that supply SA with military goods, and a ban on US imports of strategic materials.

All sanctions would be terminated should SA free Nelson Mandela, lift the State of Emergency, legalise democratic political parties, and release all political prisoners.



Hospitalised workers, and Gencor press conference ... industrywide concern

tinued usage

The Kinross disaster happened days after the chamber triumphantly released figures for the first six months of 1986 showing that mining fatalities and reportable accidents had dropped to record lows. For the first time fatalities on gold mines dropped to 0,88 per thousand people employed, prompting Colin Fenton, chairman of the mine safety division, to proclaim "We have now achieved one of our major goals — to bring the gold mine rate below the psychologically important level of one per thousand"

The accident has altered that picture dramatically, rekindling a long-standing debate over the merits of the ISRS. The ISRS, which has been specifically adapted for South African mines, enables managements to determine the effectiveness of loss control programmes by measuring certain criteria. Critics claim that the ISRS is fatally flawed. The chamber, however, stoutly defends it.

Questions have also been raised about whether the miners would have had stood a greater chance of survival had they been equipped with self-rescuers, portable "aqualungs" providing individual air supplies to miners in an emergency. They were not, and now there are recriminations.

The *FM* understands that on the recommendation of the chamber's collieries committee, the Chamber Research Organisation has since 1983 been engaged in investigation into the desirability of introducing self-rescuers on the mines.

A year later, in the wake of the Hlobane colliery disaster, the

Government Mining Engineer (GME) signalled that he intended amending the Mines and Works Act to make it compulsory for all persons working underground to carry self-rescuers capable of supplying air for half an hour, an advance on existing self-rescuer technology. Initially, the GME set the end of 1985 as a target date for collieries to be equipped, the end of this year as the target date for gold mines, and the end of next year for other mines.

According to the chamber's technical adviser, David Gaynor, the GME subsequently dropped the deadlines when it became apparent that sufficient quantities of approved self-rescuers would not be available in time, saying instead they would be introduced to

specific mines and works when he deemed fit.

In point of fact, says Gaynor, only two manufacturers have come up with suitable units so far. He expects that with some minor modifications, the models will be approved for use soon.

The incident has also aroused international concern — not all of which has been appreciated by government. Foreign Minister Pik Botha appeared quite put out by the telegram of condolence sent by West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which suggested that German experts might be able to make some constructive suggestions. Botha's response was to invite Genscher himself to visit SA, saying

Genscher was apparently not aware of the high standards of safety in the mining industry.

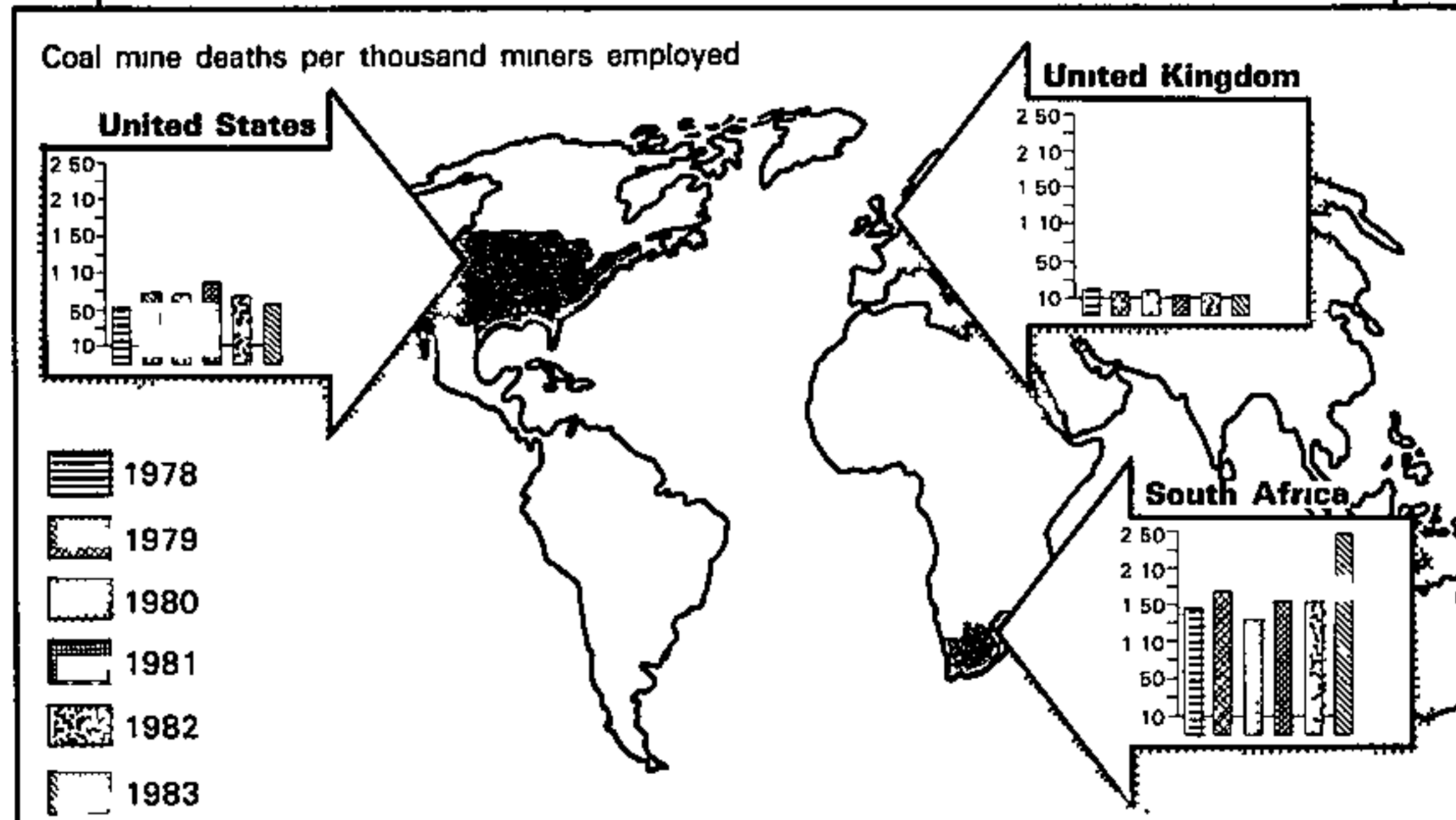
Industry sources expect that it could take as long as a year for the inquiry into the accident to come out with its findings. That will do little to furnish answers to the questions the accident has raised, or to improve relations between NUM and Gencor.

Against this background, government would do well to consider speeding up the process

— a delay of 12 months will not be in anybody's interest.

Reported accidents in SA are more serious than cold statistics suggest. An accident only becomes "reportable" (included in statistics) if it prevents a man from returning to work in 14 days. In the US, by contrast, it becomes reportable if it prevents the man from doing his next shift, while in Britain the period is three days.

How we rate against the US and the UK



Source: Wits University

MONITORING MINE SAFETY

Death and reportable injury rates per 1 000 employees pa

Year	Death rates per 1 000 pa				Reportable injury rates per 1 000 pa			
	Gold	Coal	Other mines	All members	Gold	Coal	Other mines	All members
1976	1,38	1,06	0,82	1,27	51,89	22,72	21,65	44,29
1977	1,41	1,32	0,73	1,32	47,56	23,59	21,19	41,04
1978	1,48	1,08	0,56	1,32	47,47	21,64	20,28	40,80
1979	1,25	1,11	0,67	1,16	42,66	14,98	17,62	35,94
1980	1,32	0,94	0,47	1,17	37,66	12,46	12,80	31,39
1981	1,26	1,05	0,60	1,16	32,42	11,61	11,54	27,21
1982	1,25	0,99	0,65	1,15	32,00	8,66	8,33	26,22
1983	1,30	1,49	0,37	1,24	29,93	8,97	9,79	25,37
1984	1,18	0,67	0,38	1,04	27,06	7,81	9,32	22,81
1985	1,03	0,42	0,38	0,89	25,08	7,06	10,75	21,56

Source: Chamber of Mines

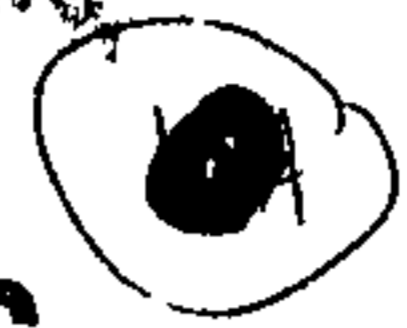
THE Pan Africanist Congress of Azania has called on all Azanian patriots and all their organisations to fully support the National Union of Mineworkers' call for a day of mourning for the Kinross gold-mine victims on October 1.

The PAC was reacting to the call made by NUM that on October 1 be a day of mourning for the 177 miners who died at the mine last week

The NUM has also called for a Commission of Inquiry into the deaths of the miners

Support miners' call - PAC

On Tuesday a British mining expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, who is in the country for a week at the invitation of NUM, was refused permission to inspect the disaster hit gold mine by Gencor officials
The NUM is expecting two other experts from overseas to inspect the gold mine



Sowetan

26/9/86



Names of dead Kinross miners

FOLLOWING are the names of 168 employees who died in the accident at the Kinross Mine on September 16

The names of another four employees, two from Lesotho and two from Transkei are being withheld until confirmation is received that their next of kin had been contacted

The names of five other employees have been released earlier

Osupeng Israel Lentswe, Taung, Bophuthatswana, Hans Moholonyane Tlhabanelo, Rooikop Farms, Schweizer Reineke, Aupanyane Jan Makati, Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana, Tsetsi William Montsiso, Wildhoe, Bloemhof, Mpitimpi William Sompondo, Alice, Ciskei, Manduleli Headman Mzongwana, Middledrift, Ciskei, Thembsile Thembsile Bazi, Alice, Ciskei, Reckson Mfokeng Mashego, Mhala, Gazankulu

Mufundisi Mashele, Ritavi, Gazankulu, Levis Boy Mpenyane, Ritavi, Gazankulu, Masilo John Moloto, Bobobedu, Lebowa, Joseph Khana Mashapu, Mokebong, Lebowa, Matuba Stanford Mashamute, Bochum, Pietersburg, Mafodi Lawrence Mathabatha, Thabamooop, Lebowa, Alpheus Magalengake Mhlakulu, Naphuno, Lebowa, Seshaba Joshua Tiro, Mopolop, Bophuthatswana, Jonas Maputla Mashego, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Solomon Sarel Monareng, Mapulaneng, Lebowa

Million Bernard Moshwane, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Albert Rasanang Chikane, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Seropolane Aaron Shai, Seshego, Lebowa, Tseke Abram Seboka, Sekhukhune, Lebowa, Donald Seeletjane Thobela, Praktiseer, Lebowa

Mahlakweng Caprus Kgoedi, Praktiseer, Lebowa, Lephchane Makhtseane, Mokhotlong, Lesotho, Abel Young Mpesi, Mokhotlong, Lesotho, Matela Mouti, Leribe, Lesotho, Augustinus Mafate, Leribe, Lesotho, Karabo Manyakalle, Mafeteng, Lesotho, Qetelo Ntjolo, Quthing, Lesotho, Johannes Mosuoa Sakoane, Leribe, Lesotho, Gobilawu Tweswe, Tabankulu Transkei, Mkhululi Rumpu, Ken-

tam, Transkei, Zamiqhinga Nxathule, Flagstaff, Transkei, Simon Kolisi Nchakha, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Danile Ngxongo, Engcobo, Transkei, Paulo Justinus Maseru, Butha Buthe, Lesotho

Ngvea Mayekiso, Tabankulu, Transkei, Somandla Ndobem, Umtata, Transkei, Tembani Maqokolo, Ngqeleni, Transkei

Mosoue Philip Thabane, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Dodile Ernest Mpingwana, Matatiele, Transkei, Komokholo Clarence Maqelepo, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Nkosinam Ntoba, Butterworth, Transkei, Mnikelwa Zwemi, Ngqeleni, Transkei, Joseph Qumba, Flagstaff, Transkei

Leonard Tshintshakile Maga, Kentane, Transkei, February Namba, Mqanduli, Transkei, Mncedisi Matwa, Mqanduli, Transkei, Mantshingilane Dlutu, Willowvale, Transkei, Armando Uisse, Massinga, Mozambique

Albert James Nobela, Kamhlushwa, Kangwane

Bigone Amos Msimango, Kamhlushwa, Kangwane, Milion Solomon Sambo, Schoemansdal, Barberton, William Gwazilandi Ngwenyama, Magogeni, Barberton, Jobe Victor Manyile, Kwamhulshwa, Kangwane, Sipho James Ndlovu, Phaphazele, Barberton, Aron David Sibiyi, Pinaar Enkomem, Nelspruit

Limited Mangulenge, Thyolo, Malawi, Odile Nyalungwe, Zomba, Malawi, Michael Jembe, Blantyre, Malawi

Mphangeni Bistoli, Stutterheim, Cape, Jas Magano Motlhoare, Taung, Cape, Alphas Shithelane, Langverwacht, Evander, Milion Fanyana Sambo, Mapulaneng, Lebowa, Phineas Johannes Raganya, Praktiseer, Lebowa

Mbulalemi Mandemlosi Gumede, Ubombo, KwaZulu, Joseph Elphas Mathenjwa, Ingwavuma, KwaZulu, Amos Mkhahlela Mngomezulu, Ingwavuma, KwaZulu, Mpipi Buthelazi, Mahlatabini, KwaZulu, Petros Ndawo, Mnambithi, KwaZulu

Mofaseng Daniel Mooki, Dutsobotla, Bophuthatswana, Macks



THE general secretary of the Council of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) Mr Jay Naidoo (left) and a NUM official listen to speakers during a service held for the dead miners

Sontaga Tshella, Naphuno, Lebowa, Petrose Mahlon Booi, Quthing, Lesotho, Lekhotla Mapei, Quthing, Lesotho, Mqokeleli Zazini, Khulile, Port Elizabeth, Natal James Silubane, Bosfontein, Barberton, Jackson Gontsemodimo Botakwe, Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana

Josaya Mahlobo Nkosi, Amersfoort, Transvaal, Katiti Simeon Sambo, Kamhlushwa, Kangwane, Selalome Solomon Modirwa, Mopolop, Bophuthatswana, Matome Joshua Moagi, Naphuno, Lebowa

Kamoho Moloi Mojaki, Quthing, Lesotho, Qayle Summer Rain Sibobo, Tsolo, Transkei, Mzukisi Mbondle Mbondle, Tsomo Transkei, Lindikhaya Joka, Tsolo, Transkei

Tsumbo Daniel Tlou, Boberwa, Louis Trichardt, Zacharia Dumisani Ntuli, Mtubatuba, KwaZulu, Zandisile Sandlana, Bathurst, Cape, Freddy Munyai, Sibasa, Venda, Phangumusa Mchunu, Tugela Ferry, KwaZulu

Bonginkosi Mthembu, Hlabisa, KwaZulu, Mosabi Mafodi Peter Mathabatha, Thabamooop, Lebowa, Peter John Gadama, Zomba, Malawi, Wedison Menadi, Blantyre, Malawi, Wicknala Kamputa, Lilongwe, Malawi,

Gidione Khombe, Dedza, Malawi, Benart Chimalizeni, Ntcheu, Malawi, Kidney Magwira, Ngumbe, Malawi, Zinaumaleka Banda, Lilongwe, Malawi

Denis Thukani Lyndocock Farm, Bedford, Mchutshwa Reuben Dlamini, Manzini, Swaziland, Obed Thobela Mkhonta, Shiselweni, Swaziland, Sempe Mphuthi Qopo, Berea, Lesotho

Ntutuzelo Welsh Sontodoshee Tsomo Transkei, Lungisa Mgqatsa, Lusikisiki, Transkei, Plaas Spungu, Engcobo, Transkei, Moe ketsi Machili, Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Zuzile Bollhvia Yose, St Marks, Transkei, Magunggo Mahotyana Lusikisiki, Transkei

Leyo Mbendela, Mulanje, Malawi, Mapeмба Chelimbembe, Mwanza, Malawi, James Saidi Dedza Malawi, Berson Mwawa, Chiradzulu Malawi, Dines Mosses Mosses Mulenje Malawi, Joao Josse Nguenha Bie, Bilembu, Mozambique

Fernando Jacob Bie, Panda, Mozambique, Elias Uisse Matsinhe MASSINGA Mozambique, Lote Antonio Bila Xai-Xai Mozambique, Gabriel Zefanias Chiungo Massinga Mozambique Pazimane Bande Mazive, Massinga Mozambique

John Magoda Pisana, Emoyeni, Nelspruit, Ronnie Aaron Nkosi Nsikazi, Lebowa Elmon Reckson Dlamini, Acornhoek, Transvaal, Vusi James Dlamini Shiseleni, Swaziland, Mthandeni Madikane, Tsolo, Transkei, Nya wuzakhe Mlembelele Lusikisiki Transkei

Bennet Matanda Libode Transkei, Nayi Vayeka Lusikisiki Transkei, Jacob Vusumzi Mlenzana Mount Fletcher, Transkei, Mhlabutshona Mquyne Port St Johns Transkei

Mzuzwana Mwelu, Qumbu Transkei, Lungisa Rozani Libode, Transkei, Thomas Bonginkosi Phonca, Flagstaff, Transkei, Galeka Bebeza Mount Fletcher Transkei

Tobolela Mpho Lechela Mokhotlong, Lesotho, Zakia Ntwelho, Rangoanana, Mafeteng, Lesotho, Nephtally Moruti Khoete, Maseru, Lesotho, Ralchase Machaba Outhing, Lesotho, Joseph Khosi Beleme Mohaleshoek Lesotho

Plo Napo Nathaniel Semoko, Quthing Lesotho, Velile Kwinana, Quthing, Lesotho Lifalane Rannane, Quthing, Lesotho, Molatsa Simon Molatsa, Leribe Lesotho

Kadefunwa Govane Xalanga, Transkei, Oehile William Kenosi, Kudumane Bophuthatswana Motima Willem Johnson, Lehurutshe, Bophuthatswana, Daniel Hendrick Motswagole Ganyesa, Bophuthatswana

Malusi David Maphela, Mopolop, Bophuthatswana, Dinkwana Nkgakae Mompolai, Molepolole, Botswana Tlhaloganyane Kapaletse Kapaletse, Ngwaketse, Botswana, Gosiememang Montsho Lefutswe, Ga Lekota,

Botswana, William Mzwandile Dano Alice, Ciskei, Andries Belfast Mzima Mapulang Let-Thompson Dizetla

Ngobeni Bolobedu, Lebowa, Mokhetli Nathaniel Majoro, Leribe, Lesotho, Ishmael Lesmanyane Mporoane, Mafeteng, Lesotho, Ntsiu Samuel Lerata, Leribe Lesotho

Mzayivuka Ndude, Tabankulu, Transkei, Mbindelwa Mathenjwa, Lusikisiki Transkei, Mlungisi Mato, Glen Grey, Transkei Motlatsi Paul Ntja Mokhotlong, Lesotho

Booi Tyumze Butterworth, Transkei, Joseph Thimothy Nkosi, Eerstehoeck Bushbuckridge, Ngqweqwe Tana, Lusikisiki, Transkei Sapopo Tshentshine Lusikisiki, Transkei Khoete Ralekhetla, Mohaleshoek, Lesotho and Bulane Pascalis Nonce, Mohaleshoek, Lesotho

• See Pages 22, 23.

MME!

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SUNME
28/9/86
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CHILLING WARNING THAT FACED GRIEVING KINROSS MINERS

By CAS St LEGER

THIS was the moment when the unpleasant face of township politics invaded a memorial service for the Kinross dead

The open-air service on Monday was disrupted by 400 chanting miners and ugly mob scenes as pulpit flowers and refreshment tents were destroyed and ransacked.

Meanwhile, open house is to be held tomorrow at the mine, scene of last week's underground tragedy in which 177 miners died. All "interested parties" — but not the Press — have been invited to inspect the scene of the disaster.

After a stormy week, with relationships between the owners of Kinross, Gencor and the Chamber of Mines on the one hand, and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on the other, at their lowest ebb, the union regards the granting of an "open day" as a victory, albeit a belated one.

Expert

"We hope it is in response to the NUM's request but we're disappointed it has come late in the day," the NUM information officer, Mr Marcel Golding, said yesterday.

The NUM organised its own memorial service for the Kinross victims at Embalehle near Secunda on Wednesday, attended by 5 000 and addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela.

On Thursday, the NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said that a British expert, Dr Herbert Eisner, invited by the NUM to inspect Kinross in response to the Chamber of Mines' invitation to overseas experts to visit South Africa's deep-level mines, had been denied access by Gencor.

Now Dr Eisner, a former director of the British Explosion and Flame Laboratory, which is specifically involved in investigating mine fires, will join the NUM party of six, led by president Mr James Motlatsi and Mr Ramaphosa, due at Kinross's fatal No 2 shaft at 10am tomorrow.

The deadly necklace — an angry reminder to the mourning crowd

Gencor aware of foam danger

By Sheryl Raine

Gencor, owners of the Kinross mine where 177 men died last week, says it was aware of the potential dangers of polyurethane foam

The Chamber of Mines technical adviser revealed this week that several circulars concerning the dangers of polyurethane foam materials had been circulated to chamber members over the past 18 years

The chamber also said that in May 1977 information concerning a fire at Gencor's Buffelsfontein gold mine was distributed after the flammable materials underground were identified as polystyrene and polyurethane

A Gencor spokesman confirmed that Gencor

was aware these were potentially dangerous but said in all mines, a large number of potentially dangerous materials had to be used

Asked if Gencor took any steps regarding the use of polyurethane and whether, after the Buffelsfontein fire in 1977, the company acted on the information circulated about polystyrene and polyurethane, the spokesman said

"Yes As with other potentially dangerous materials their use was restricted and precautions were taken to manage the risk At Kinross, for reasons that still have to be established, these proved tragically inadequate and this has prompted Gencor to re-assess its safety practices and procedures with regard to flammable materials completely"

DD 29/9/86

Safety experts ^(B) to visit Kinross

JOHANNESBURG — A large party of mine safety experts is scheduled to visit the Kinross gold mine today to investigate the location of the September 16 disaster in which 177 miners died

A spokesman for Gencor, the owners of the mine, said the group would include representatives of the Chamber of Mines as well as experts and officials of mining industry trade unions, including the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the Mine Surface Officials' Association and the white Mineworkers' Union

Two overseas experts invited to SA by the NUM — a Briton, Mr Hubert Eisner, and Mr Peter Westholm of Sweden — will be in the group.

In a related development, the NUM national executive met last night to consider its attitude towards Gencor's and the chamber's proposed arrangements for October 1

Gencor said it would permit any employee to take a day's leave on Wednesday, while other chamber members said they would observe five minutes silence from noon. However, the NUM called on its members throughout the industry not to work at all on Wednesday

In a statement, the chamber stressed that heat and air had also contributed to the underground tragedy and said the use of polyurethane foam should be seen in perspective. — DDC

POLYURETHANE
foam was only one component leading to the Kinross mine disaster and the death of 177 miners, says the Chamber of Mines

Chamber defends its use of polyurethane

At a weekend Press conference, the chamber said heat and air were two other components which would have contributed to the tragedy

The chamber confirmed that Kinross was the third SA mine fire in which the sealant foam was involved

The mining industry has been slated for not following overseas examples by outlawing underground use of the foam

Defending its continued use, chamber executive Kennedy Maxwell said polyurethane was one of more than 20 inflammable substances used underground

A large party of mine-safety experts is

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BUD DAY 29/11/86
CHERYLN IRETON

scheduled to visit Kinross today to investigate the location, reports ALAN FINE

A Gencor spokesman said the group would include Chamber of Mines representatives as well as experts and officials of mining-industry unions, including the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the Mineworkers' Union

The NUM's national executive met yesterday to consider its attitude towards the chamber's proposed arrangements for October 1, the day the NUM has declared a day of mourning for the Kinross victims.

Cosatu unions to mourn mine victims

NUM 20/9/81 (31)

JOHANNESBURG—Unions belonging to the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) will remember tomorrow the miners who died in the Kinross disaster, the organisation said in a statement yesterday

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has called a day of mourning and their members nationally will not be going down the mines tomorrow

Some unions are pushing for a two-hour service

Cosatu said all unions were demanding that no worker suffer loss of pay or victimisation for taking part in commemoration activities

Soweto businessmen have agreed to close their stores in a show of solidarity with the NUM day of mourning

In a statement, Mr Sydney

Mahlangu, secretary of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said all stores would in the area would close at 1 pm in a show of solidarity (Sapa)

Services for mine victims

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THOUSANDS of miners are expected to attend a memorial service at the Kinross gold mine near Evander tomorrow, where 177 miners died a fortnight ago

National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa told the *Sowetan* that, besides the main service at Kinross, different mines will organise their own commemoration services

The Chamber of Mines has said its member mines will allow their workforce

By LEN MASEKO

to participate in a five-minute period of silence to be observed in honour of the dead miners at noon tomorrow

The Chamber, writing in its mouthpiece, *Mining Sun*, said it acknowledged that the Kinross disaster was a very serious accident "which had profoundly shocked employees and managements" throughout the industry

Production is expected to come to a halt at a number of mines as black miners observe the Num call for a day of mourning

Num has said its members will stay away from work for the whole day as a sign of respect for the dead Kinross miners

Gencor, which manages the Kinross mine, is to allow mineworkers "who wish to do so" to take a day's leave to

tomorrow to mourn the victims of the disaster

The United Democratic Front has pledged its support to the Num in whatever call it makes to mourn and pay homage to those miners who died in Kinross

The Congress of SA Trade Unions, Num and UDF were due to meet late yesterday, to discuss arrangements for tomorrow's day of mourning

The Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) has supported the call for a day of mourning. The organisation would observe this day "knowing that tens of thousands of our people have died in the mines forced to dig for a living", Azapo said in a statement yesterday

"The sadness we feel at the death of so many of our kind is increased by the knowledge that their death could have been avoided had the necessary precautions been taken to ensure the safety of the mine," the statement read

- Black workers — including domestic workers — were told at all Port Elizabeth township bus stops yesterday morning to stay away from work on Wednesday, October 1

BUSINESS DAY 11/10/86

Expert questions safety at Kinross

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ALAN FINE

A SWEDISH expert invited to SA by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to assist investigations into the Kinross Mines disaster has attributed the accident to a failure of the mine's safety system, a function he sees as the responsibility of management. He also questioned the use of polyurethane foam underground.

Dr Peter Westerholm, medical adviser to Sweden's trade union federation — the LO — made these comments after a visit to the mine on Monday, together with a number of other labour representatives.

Westerholm said that, based on what he has been told of the fire, he expects the cause of most of the deaths to be found to be asphyxiation and exposure to cyanide and carbon monoxide fumes normally given off by burning polyurethane foam.

He says visitors were specifically asked not to remove samples of the foam from the mine because the matter is under official investigation. However, Westerholm says he didn't consider this a major problem because he assumes the material will be subjected to "major and valid tests" prior to the inquiry.

According to Westerholm, in Scandinavia the foam is considered to be combustible. "We try to avoid the use of any plastic material underground as far as possible," he says. Westerholm says that mines cannot rely entirely on devices like breathing equipment and fire extinguishers to avoid accidents.

For him the key is a comprehensive safety system, which should include training, education, equipment maintenance, adequate routines for the handling of materials (like fuels) and the existence of escape routes and alarm systems.

There must also be adequate work practices designed for welding and cutting operations, responsible for about 30% of mine accidents in Sweden.

The NUM, meanwhile, has objected to the conditions under which Monday's visit to the Kinross Mines by labour and management representatives was conducted. It says the visit was too long after the accident, was hastily conducted, the group too large and little opportunity for questioning mine management.

SPAR

October 2 1986

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Stayaway seen as buildup to safety row

By Sheryl Raine

The one-day strike which affected many of the country's gold and coal mines yesterday reflected the growing confrontation on the mines over health and safety issues, according to the independent Labour Monitoring Group (LMG)

The LMG, comprising a group of academics who monitor labour matters, said that by any standards the strike was significant not only because of its impact on the mines but as a national, industry-wide stoppage over safety conditions

Yesterday's action called by the National Union of Mine-workers (NUM) could have a significant impact on the current wage dispute between the union and the Chamber of Mines an LMG spokesman said

"Yesterday's response to the union's call was the biggest the NUM has ever received and it comes at a time when there is union talk of a strike ballot following deadlocked pay talks"

The gold mining industry had a long history of bitter industrial conflict

White miners brought the industry to a halt in 1907, 1913, 1914 and hundreds died in fighting with security forces in the 1922 Rand Revolt

MOTIVATION

In 1946, 60 000 black miners out of 350 000 struck for five days for higher wages. Significantly, part of their motivation was a high accident rate

"Since the formation of the NUM there have been strikes in pursuit of wage claims in 1984 and 1985 with 70 000 and up to 40 000 being involved respectively

"Although the strikes focused on wages, health and safety issues have figured prominently in negotiations with the Chamber of Mines

"For example, during the 1986 negotiations, agreement was reached that employers would increase the allowance to cover the cost of transporting the bodies of dead miners back home

"Yesterday's strike involved between 250 000 and 275 000 people and is the largest ever to occur"

There had been a number of big mine accidents which had received publicity but by far the most deaths — on average 600 to 800 a year — occurred in small, fatal accidents

"It is not then surprising that NUM has declared health and safety a priority for the union"

A feature of the emerging black trade union movement was the ability of certain unions to organise stoppages on a national scale

According to LMG figures yesterday's stoppage was the largest national industrial stoppage yet to take place

131 DD 2/10/86

Workers heed solidarity call

Dispatch Correspondents

PORT ELIZABETH — Township pupils staged a mass stayaway yesterday to commemorate the death of 177 gold miners killed in the Kinross disaster two weeks ago

The Labour Monitoring Group (LMG) of the industrial relations unit at the University of Port Elizabeth reported a varied response in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage to work stoppages called for by the Council of South African Trades Unions (Cosatu)

The LMG said a preliminary survey of Cosatu-organised workplaces in Port Elizabeth showed workers at almost 50 per cent of them had observed a work stoppage

In Uitenhage, workers at the majority of Cosatu-organised workplaces responded to the call

The Universities of Cape Town (UCT) and the Western Cape (UWC) also held memorial meetings yesterday in commemoration of the mining disaster

About 1 000 students attended a joint National Union of South African Students and Azanian Students Organisation meeting in the Molly Blackburn Memorial Hall at UCT, while Dr Allan Boesak spoke at UWC

Workers at many factories in Natal heeded a call by the Congress of South African Students and stopped work at midday

Several Indian-owned shops in the Grey Street complex in Durban also shut down between 12 and 1 pm in response to a call by the Natal Indian Congress for solidarity with the National Union of Mineworkers, which demanded October 1 be declared a national day of mourning

NATIONAL PARTY

Who will succeed P W Botha?

FIN MAIL 3/10/86

P W Botha's decision to step down after 20 years as Cape leader of the National Party (NP) will undoubtedly intensify the struggle among aspirant successors to the State presidency

His move, announced at the Cape NP

While Viljoen and Pk Botha are not the major contenders, their supporters could be crucial to the final outcome — in much the same way that Pk Botha's supporters backed P W Botha to keep Connie Mulder out in the last party leadership contest

ceived by Gencor, the owners of the mine, which has indicated its willingness to allow employees on gold and coal mines to take a day's paid leave to mourn their colleagues.

The Chamber of Mines announced that its member mines would observe five minutes of silence — "the universal and time-honoured method of paying respect to the dead" — at noon on Wednesday. It was not clear whether the chamber's response would provoke a showdown with NUM.

Meanwhile, the disaster continues to be a source of conflict between NUM and Gencor. The union's most recent complaints relate to the underground tour of the scene of the accident, which Gencor arranged on Monday. NUM representatives were accompanied by two foreign mine safety experts.

Although the visit was useful, says NUM, its worth was diminished because

- About 13 days had elapsed and the site had been substantially cleared,
- The party was too large. It consisted of some 60 people, including representatives of trade unions which have no members at Kinross, such as the Inkatha-backed United Workers' Union of SA and the African Mine and Allied Workers' Union,
- The visit was hastily conducted and the union's technical advisers did not have the opportunity to take basic measurements,
- Although management indicated that questions would be allowed after the visit, this did not occur, and
- The union is dependent on the company's favour for access underground.

"This state of affairs clearly impairs the union's ability to prepare for the inquiry and to protect the interests of workers generally in regard to safety," says NUM.

In response, Gencor spokesman Dawie de Beer told the *FM* "NUM is not the only interested party in the mining industry. We received requests from many trade unions which wanted to know more about what happened at Kinross. We sincerely and honestly tried to afford all the visitors the opportunity to talk to management and, afterwards over snacks, they had full opportunity to speak to senior Gencor directors as well. If anybody wants further investigation or discussion, they are welcome to contact us."

FIN MAIL 3/10/86
GENERAL ELECTION *Botha*

Keep 'em guessing

President P W Botha's decision to cool speculation about an early general election was probably influenced by a number of factors. Not least of them was the expected opposi-



Botha



Heunis



Viljoen



De Klerk

congress in East London this week, clearly aimed to give Cape NP chairman Chris Heunis — who was elected leader to replace him — a stronger base from which to make his running for the top job.

It is also the clearest indication yet that Botha is seriously considering retiring. Some observers believe he may step down within the next 18 months.

Botha gave pressure of duties as the main reason for his decision to quit as Cape leader, but it was clearly also a strategic move to help Heunis.

Rivals for the presidency are now expected to draw their battle lines even more clearly.

Transvaal NP leader F W de Klerk remains the firm favourite. Heunis, now with the apparent public blessing of Botha, must rank second, with Gerrit Viljoen running third — although he could be chosen as a compromise between De Klerk and Heunis to avoid a party rift. Pk Botha looks very much an outsider at this stage.

Indications of De Klerk's preparations for the leadership struggle include his insistence that constituencies be redelimited before the next general election. Transvaal has more than half the country's 3m white voters, and some gerrymandering of previously loaded platteland seats must be a priority for De Klerk given the Right's strength in them.

The new delimitation could give the Transvaal up to 10 new seats; the Cape could lose about six. In theory, this would give De Klerk a possible 10 extra caucus votes and deprive Heunis of six. Obviously, some Transvaal seats could go to opposition parties, but De Klerk is apparently willing to take that chance.

Heunis is now expected to become more high profile than ever, while De Klerk, who seems to prefer low-key working behind the scenes, is likely to step up his lobbying.

Heunis' biggest problem is likely to be his relative unpopularity in caucus, which chooses the party leader. He is also the architect of government's esoteric reform programme, which seems to be crumbling.

P W Botha's decision to step down as Cape leader and, by implication, give his backing to Heunis, might help his position.

But De Klerk remains the man most likely to succeed.

FIN MAIL 3/10/86
KINROSS DISASTER *131*

Miners in mourning

The call for a day of mourning in the mining industry on October 1, to mark the deaths of 177 miners in the Kinross disaster, was expected to receive massive backing as the *FM* went to press.

Preparations for the commemoration by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which called on all mineworkers to observe the day, appeared to be well advanced on Tuesday.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the United Democratic Front and the National Education Crisis Committee backed NUM's stand.

According to Cosatu, most of its affiliates called on their members to stage hour-long services, with some pushing for two-hour services at factories where they have a strong presence. The worker federation has demanded that no employees should suffer loss of pay or be victimised for participating in the commemorations.

On Tuesday, the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries announced that all stores in the area would close at 1pm "in a show of solidarity" with NUM.

NUM's call has been favourably re-

Living dangerously

By HENRI du PLESSIS
Tygerberg Bureau

PERCHED precariously 25 metres from the ground on a pylon loaded with live, high-voltage electricity cables may seem like a decidedly risky way of earning a living

But for Escom's "live-line" technicians it's just another routine job

Since 1974, Escom maintenance teams have been repairing main power lines loaded with up to 400kv without disconnecting them and interrupting the power supply.

Team members have been trained to use special equipment and techniques imported from the United States to repair the "live" lines

Mr Harold Visser, head of the lines section at Escom's Kraaifontein distribution department, said the main object of the service was to cause as little inconvenience as possible to clients while repairs were done.

Extensive repair and maintenance work using conventional methods can take several days.

A 130-kilometre-long 220kv main transmission line supplying power to a diamond company in the North Western Cape recently needed urgent maintenance and repair.

Five Escom live-line teams of six men each were sent to replace corroded components on the line conductors of each of its 354 towers. The job would have taken 14 working



Picture PIERRE OOSTHUYSEN

Mr Fanie Olivier wears the R2 000 gauze suit used in the "bare hands" technique. Attached to his stick is the "tail" with which he is charged with the same voltage as the line.

days if done on a dead-line basis, and which would have cost the company an estimated R1-million a day in lost production.

Most of the live-line work is done by means of glass-fibre "sticks" to which hooks and other instruments made of a special aluminium alloy can be attached.

Technicians are sent up a tower to the level where the

repair work has to be done. One man remains on the ground to supervise and a back-up team of assistants then passes equipment to the man working on the line by means of a block and tackle.

Larger instruments such as clamps and yokes to fit on the lines are placed into position with the sticks which are marked according to how

close the men may come to the line

It is a job where problem solving becomes a fine art. Men have to balance on the pylons, entrusting their lives to a leather safety belt around their waists while handling the heavy equipment.

Stringent safety measures are enforced and it takes a new recruit four years to reach the required level of competence, according to Mr Visser.

The live-line course can only be done by qualified technicians and takes seven weeks — two of theory and five practical.

The equipment used by live-line men is expensive — a special suit worn while using the "bare hands" technique costs R2 000.

The suit is made of a coarse gauze incorporating silver wire and is used when a technician has to work on a live line with his hands.

Attached to the suit is a long "tail" of the same material. A short stick is attached to this and the man strikes the stick against the line to charge himself with the same current as the line.

He is suspended between heaven and earth on an insulated ladder which is swung out from the pylon to the line by his colleagues to avoid contact with any "earthed" object.

The men do not earn special danger pay.

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CITY PRESS
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'We won't stand for another Kinross - ever'

By MONO RADELA
"THERE was no need for any of the 177 miners to have died in Kinross gold mine," SA Council of Churches general secretary Beyers Naude told hundreds who gathered at Cosatu Hall in Johannesburg on Wednesday

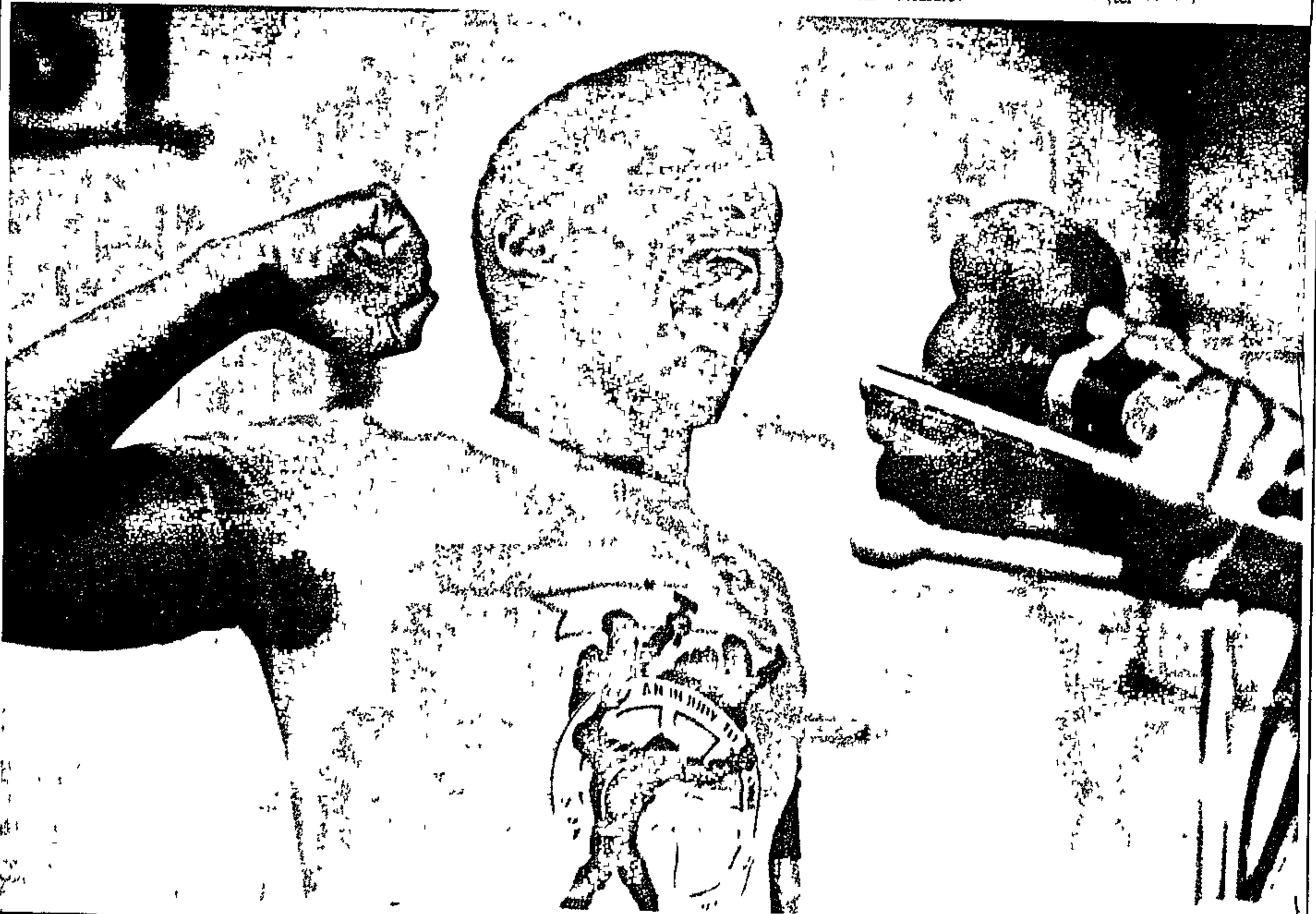
Naude said he could not believe such a tragedy could happen
"It must never happen again," he told the crowd at the emotional service
Naude called on the government to allow experts to conduct a thorough investigation into the mine disaster

Even if it costs an extra half-million rands it is worth it to send experts to South Africa to investigate the disaster," he said
A coffin, draped in black and inscribed *Safety before Profits*, was carried shoulder high by members of the

National Union of Mineworkers
They entered the hall singing *Sechaba Sa Bolawa* (The nation is being killed)
The service was characterised by the singing of freedom songs and the chanting of slogans
Chants of "Down with

capitalism" and "Down with Gencor" and "Up with the workers" were the order of the day
Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said the whole means of production should be under the control of the working class to ensure effective safety and health measures

Naidoo said workers had gathered in the hall not only to mourn the dead, but "to rededicate ourselves to the liberation struggle"
NUM safety officer Hazzey Sibonyile said the mining houses should not "victimise or dismiss" workers who had survived the disaster



Leading the singing at this week's Kinross memorial service at Cosatu House East Rand shaft steward Albert Godongwana

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600 000 mourn miners

By MONO RADELA
ABOUT 600 000 people either stayed away from work on Wednesday or observed a one to three-hour work stoppage - called by the National Union of Mineworkers to mourn the 177 miners killed in the Kinross mine disaster
NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa told a Press conference that the stayaway was a "huge success"
"It was the biggest (stayaway) in the mining history," he said
Several mines from Namaqualand to Phalaborwa came to a halt on Wednesday as miners heeded the call to mourn the dead
The stayaway affected not only gold mines, but platinum, diamond, coal and other mines
The stayaway cost the mining houses about R8-million in lost profits, a spokesman for the La-



One of the 250 people who attended NUM's Cosatu House memorial
bour Monitoring Group told City Press
Ramaphosa said as many as 325 000 miners - more than half the total number of mineworkers in the country - stayed away in answer to the call made by their union
He said the support by unions affiliated to the Congress of SA Trade Unions raised the figure to more than 600 000 people
This figure excludes

thousands of schoolchildren who stayed away from school in sympathy with the dead miners
And according to information supplied by various mining houses at least 225 000 miners failed to report for duty
Cosatu spokesman Jay Naidoo said that as many as 275 000 Cosatu members observed the call by NUM
He said most of these people attended memorial services throughout the country
Wits University officially observed a one-minute silence at noon on Wednesday
Lecturers were asked by the university authorities to interrupt their lectures for the one-minute silence
And the Soweto Chamber of Commerce closed all shops in the township to mourn the miners
The UDF and Azapo

had called on Soweto residents to observe the day of mourning
Ramaphosa alleged at the conference that there had been arrests of mourners at some of the memorial services, but in terms of the emergency regulations details of his allegations may not be published
According to the Bureau for Information the police have no record of any arrests at any memorial services
"As far as allegations concerning police action are concerned, we refer you to Schedule 2 of Regulation 7(1) of the emergency regulations as promulgated in Government Gazette No 10429 of September 3, 1986," the bureau said
"However in Welkom and Witbank some people were removed by the police from a scene but they are not being held" it added

300 000 miners in stayaway - LMG

AS MANY as 300 000 miners heeded Tuesday's stayaway call by the National Union of Mineworkers with massive support by Congress of SA Trade Unions affiliates the Labour Monitoring Group said this week
Non Cosatu unions which supported the day of mourning included the African Mine and Allied Workers Union and the Media Workers' Association of SA
The United Democratic Front and the Azanian People's Organisation called on township residents to observe the day in some way
Gencor owners of Kinross gold mine said 70% of their 97 000 gold miners and 50% of their coal miners availed themselves of the offer to take Tuesday off as leave
In Witbank Anglo Vaal reported no abnormal ab-

senteeism" while East Rand Proprietary Mines had a 3% stayaway of their 85 000 workers
Services were held at various mines and telegrams of sympathy for the families from church and political organisations were sent to NUM
NUM spokesman Marcel Golding said "This worker action is unparalleled in SA labour history and demonstrates the importance of worker safety at the work place"
The LMG report said
A feature of the growing trade union movement has been its willingness to take strike action in support of other workers
In 1982, 100 000 took action at the death in detention of Neil Aggett
In 1985 107 000 took action in protest against the death of Andries Raditsela
Sapa

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Contract manager Mr Vic Earle, left, and area manager Mr Richard Willshaw demonstrate the protective gear while the city council's watchdog, contract supervisor Mr Owen Smorenburg, monitors the air for lethal asbestos dust.

Safety comes first in asbestos removal plan

By PETER FABRICIUS
Staff Reporter

A YEAR-long project to remove potentially-lethal asbestos lagging from the old Table Bay power station has begun, under stringent safety conditions

Airborne asbestos fibre can cause fatal lung diseases and fears of a health hazard to workers and to the public in the city centre delayed the start of the contract for several months while safety measures were considered

No similar project has been undertaken in South Africa

RAIN-FOREST

The building has been sealed off and working in a "rain-forest" of water spray which precipitates dust out of the air, workers wearing protective clothing and masks with filters have begun the removal of the asbestos which must be complete before the demolition of the power station proceeds

Work was suspended once at the start because airborne asbestos levels rose above the acceptable standard inside the building

However, according to city council officials monitoring the asbestos dust, there has been no public health hazard as levels outside the building have not exceeded the safe limit

Cape Contracts, which has experience of asbestos stripping through its British parent company, started removing the cladding early in August, and contractually is due to finish in twelve months

Only then will the main contractor, Chicks Scrap Metals Cape, be allowed to remove the metal followed by Ross Demolition, who will demolish the building

The whole project could take three years

This is the first time that asbestos has been removed on such a large scale in South Africa. Mr Richard Willshaw, Cape Contracts area manager, estimates that safety precautions will account for about 20 percent of the costs

The asbestos-containing turbine hall and boiler rooms are sealed off and workers enter and leave them only

through "triple airlocks," where vacuum cleaners remove all traces of asbestos fibre

They must wear masks, special overalls, hoods, gloves and boots. Every time they leave the area, even if for a smoke, they have to go through the airlocks and take a shower

The asbestos is soaked before being removed with hand tools to minimise disturbance. It is sealed in two plastic bags before also going through triple airlocks where vacuum pumps remove any residual dust

It is then placed in steel skips with seals and carted to the industrial dump at Vissershoeek where the bags are buried

Cape Contracts monitors asbestos fibre levels in the air every day and the city council's scientific services do their own checks twice a week

Mr Owen Smorenburg, the council's contract supervisor, said that within the building the aim was no more than one fibre per millilitre, although with workers wearing special equipment, it would be safe to go as high as five

LUNG CANCER

Most daily levels had been below one except for one occasion on the second day when they had reached 3,5 and work had been stopped

Workers had to be checked for signs of lung disease every year. Asbestos fibre could cause mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer which sometimes took up to 30 years to develop and all of which could be fatal

Outside levels could not rise above 100th of the inside level and had not so far done so. The highest level recorded was .002 fibres per millilitre

Mr Bill Weckesser, Athlone power station manager, said that to lay down the safety standards, the council had consulted Escom, the Government's draft asbestos regulations, the standards of the Asbestos International Association, the Department of Manpower, and Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health

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By Udo Rypstra

Kinross spurs work safety

THE Kinross mining disaster, which is going to cost the insurance industry R5-million in material and consequential losses, and the State Accident Fund another fortune to compensate the injured and dependants of the 177 dead, has spurred at least two more organisations into action.

First, the National Occupational Safety Association of South Africa (Nosa), which has declared 1987 the Year of Occupational Safety, and intends starting a publicity drive to get the small-business sector more involved in occupational safety and health practices

Secondly, the country's largest insurance broking group, Priceforbes Federale Volksskas (PFV), has called on companies with questionable occupational safety and health records to clean up their act.

Safest

More prosecutions for violations of the statutory provisions of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosact) can be expected, PFV has warned.

Apart from opencast mines such as Foskor and Rossing Uranium, which are among the world's safest, Nosa has no "jurisdiction"

with only 2% of the workforce being injured annually. This compares with 3,4% for the US, 6,3% for Canada and 10% for Australia.

Australia has recently adopted Nosa's safety programmes on a nationwide scale to bring its injury frequency rate down.

Nosa managing director Bunny Matthysen says that, with 300 000 people suffering a disabling injury in South Africa every year, there is no room for complacency. He is particularly worried about small industrial concerns which his organisation cannot reach on a person-to-person basis because of the manpower this would require.

Regulations

"Big industry has set the example, but there are still a lot of small businesses around breaking the rules," he says

Ian Douglas, chairman of PFV's specialist company, Corporate Risk Management (CRM), agrees, but adds that it is the promulgation of new regulations which is making it difficult for the average businessman to keep track of developments.

He confirms that an increase in prosecutions is taking place in South Africa with summonses for minor transgressions of some of the more obscure regulations.

over underground mines, and has so far refused to comment on safety programmes run by the safety division of the Chamber of Mines.

But being involved with only 6 000 of South Africa's estimated 37 000 registered factories — effectively covering most of the South African labour force — Nosa is obviously concerned about South Africa's international reputation as a safe working environment.

Insurance spokesmen say that foreign reinsurers, who have suffered major losses from their South African involvement during recent years, are now also looking at occupational safety factors as result of the Kinross disaster.

Ironically, the South African industry in general is one of the safest in the world,

COMPANY ROUND-UP

INTERIMS	Turnover (Rm)	% change	Pretax profit (Rm)	% change	Earnings (c)	% change	Div (c)	% change
Farm-ag	33.7	+38.8	2.64	+29.4	34	+30.7	12	+20
Score	330.6	+73	6.414	+54	23.2	+48	7.5	+50
Davgra	n/p	—	961	+92	8.9	+141	0	—
Mashold	n/p	—	1725	+10	8	+29	4	—
Anamint	n/p	—	24.7	+32	245	+33	240	+33.3

n/p — not applicable

Asbestos is still dirty word

12/10/86 *summary* *131*

ACCORDING to a recent report, asbestos is still a dirty word in most of the Western world. The fibre's market has fallen rapidly over the past seven years.

Between 1979 and 1985 Canada's output has slumped 50% from around 1,400-million tons to 700,000.

The main reason for this drop has been a 500% fall in US offtake, down to 100,000 tons in 1985.

In January this year the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a ban on asbestos, saying "No level of asbestos is without risk."

Premysl Pelnar, a medical consultant at Canada's Asbestos Institute, says that the EPA is ignoring recent studies which show no increased incidence of disease at low levels of exposure.

The producers further argue that the costs of a total ban outweigh the benefits.

Counters

The EPA estimates that banning asbestos would save 1,900 lives over the next 15 years, but the producers say the cost of replacing asbestos would be \$2-billion, and they suggest the price is too high.

Irving Selikoff, a professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, counters that at many industrial sites such as shipyards and car plants where asbestos is still used there is no proper protection.

Business Times Reporter

As the market for asbestos collapses in the US, it is the developing countries which suffer, argues Gary Nash, president of the Asbestos Institute.

Mr Nash claims that the World Bank is refusing to fund construction in developing nations where asbestos has been specified as a building material.

Producers view the EPA ban abroad as an example of environmental imperialism.

The ban would hurt economic growth in many poor countries where asbestos cement is popular because it is a practical alternative to iron and PVC, which require

a steelmaking capacity or petroleum industry to manufacture them.

Nash says a United Nations report claims that 25,000 people die each day for lack of drinking water and that banning asbestos would do great harm to the Third World.

Statistics for the worldwide production of asbestos indicate that Russia produced 2,300-million tons of asbestos in 1984, though this figure is unconfirmed.

This compares with a figure of 0.84-million tons for Canada.

Zimbabwe's production for 1985 is claimed to be 0.24-million tons, though this, too, cannot be verified.

The most recent figure for South Africa is 0.2-million tons in 1984.

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Ventilation changes due at Kinross after disaster

VENTILATION changes involving capital spending on shaft sinking are likely at Kinross mine where 177 men were killed by noxious fumes during an underground fire last month.

Better ventilation will be obtained with the sinking of another surface shaft which Gencor was considering for production reasons before the disaster.

Increased development is taking place in the higher-grade northern sector of the lease area and Gencor says that eventually, a new shaft will have to be sunk to exploit this area fully.

In an examination of the ventilation network after the disaster, London stockbrokers James Capel say the noxious fumes emanating

ADAM PAYNE

from the fire on September 16 were swept down No 2 Shaft by the ventilation flow, which incasts along 15 level from No 1 Shaft. No 1 and No 2 shafts are about 3,9 km apart.

Below the 15 level connection, there is no second exit at No 2 Shaft other than via the reef horizon. No 2 Shaft is a bratticed shaft, hoisting rock for transfer on 15 level.

Capel says: "Although the 4 000 tons a day production at No 2 Shaft has been restored, we are certain that Gencor and the Mining Inspectorate will now be looking closely at the ventilation.

"It may well be decided that a separate ventilation district is required to exploit the reef below 15

Level. Planners must focus on a new surface shaft for Kinross to alleviate the problems associated with No 2 Shaft

"The new shaft, designated No 3 Shaft, may well be positioned outside the existing north-west boundary of the lease area. While an increase in capital spending will be incurred, such an announcement would help to calm the tense situation and could provide incremental tonnage at Kinross at an earlier date than might otherwise have been expected."

A borehole in the north-west of the lease area recently gave results ranging up to a satisfactory 1 506cm (10,8 g/t at a stoping width of 140cm) and Kinross also extended its prospecting rights in the area

BUSDAY 13/10/86

Genkor's donation is 'blood money'

NUM line on Kinross 'hostile'

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ALAN FINE

THE National Union of Mineworkers' (NUM) response to the Kinross mine disaster has been marked by uncompromising hostility towards Gencor — owner of Kinross — and the mining industry in general.

Union spokesmen have described the accident in harsh terms and referred to Gencor's donation of R2m to a trust fund for families of victims as "blood money".

The union criticised arrangements made by the company for union-appointed experts to investigate the scene of the accident, and alleged that Kinross miners wanting to attend a memorial meeting a week after the accident were forced to work at gunpoint.

There is also a belief that NUM orchestrated the disruption of the memorial meeting organised by the company.

The accident and its aftermath have placed severe strains on a relationship which had been at a low ebb for more than a year. The dismissals of NUM members at Gencor mines during the 1985 wage strike, and the mass dismissals at Impala Platinum in January this year, led the union to cite Gencor as an "enemy company" at its annual confer-

ence in April.

Ironically, the disaster occurred only 16 days after a new top-management team — which appears to support a less hard-line industrial relations approach — took over the reins at Gencor.

There is a feeling within Gencor management that many NUM statements since the disaster have over-stepped the line between a legitimate expression of anger and an attempt to make political capital of the disaster.

"We understand the union's anguish at the deaths. But they do not have a monopoly on it. Kinross was an unmitigated disaster for us too," says Gencor corporate services director Naas Steenkamp.

Steenkamp says Gencor does not plan to respond specifically to recent union statements. "Gencor has signalled that it views the union as a legitimate interested party regarding safety matters, and would like calm and reasoned interaction with it on these issues," he says.

He believes the two should have a "co-operative" relationship on safety matters, rather than using the issue for "scoring points over one another in public."

Mine safety rating system defended

The Chamber of Mines has strongly defended the internationally devised safety rating system used on its member mines

Last night, a British television company, Granada Television, showed a film to millions of viewers in Britain on the Kinross mine disaster, which claimed 177 lives last month

The film alleged the International Safety Rating System (ISR) was bogus and used nowhere in the world except at a few mines in the United States

A spokesman for the Chamber of Mines said today that since the ISR was introduced on

member mines in the late 1970s, injury rates had more than halved and there had been a dramatic reduction in fatalities.

Asked why mines with a five-star ISR rating sometimes had a higher fatality rate than mines with fewer stars, the spokesman said that the system was devised to measure mine managements' safety efforts

"A five-star mine with extremely difficult mining conditions may well have a higher fatality rate than a three-star mine, but the safety measures exercised at the five-star mine far exceed those at the three-star mine," the spokesman said.

● See Page 19.

TV film harshly critical in Kinross probe

SA mining's safety rating system slammed

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2/10/88

By Michael Morris, The Star Bureau

LONDON — Millions of British television viewers have been told there are "fatal flaws" in the safety procedures in South Africa's gold mines and the industry's safety rating system is "bogus".

The disaster at Kinross mine last month came after warnings about safety had been ignored and risks taken "to win the maximum output of gold".

Shown on independent television last night, the Granada television company's documentary, "Death is Part of the Process" (the title of a recent television drama about the formative years of the ANC's armed struggle), said the miners who died at Kinross "paid for the price of gold in a different currency — their lives".

It alleged black victims of the disaster suffered indignities spared the white victims. The film claimed that while the white victims underwent normal post-mortem examinations, the bodies of black miners were "opened up with industrial bolt cutters and then piled up in a heap".

While white miners injured in the accident

were taken to one hospital, the blacks were taken to another where some had to wait on the grass outside to be treated.

In a very critical assessment of the disaster, the film said the owner of Kinross mine, Gencor, could have used a cement-based substance to seal tunnels, but this would have meant bringing heavy machinery into the mine and interrupting production.

The company, it claimed, opted for highly-flammable polyurethane foam insulation.

The fire was started when a welding team "using poorly designed equipment" was doing repair work.

Mr Kisisi Mathumba, a member of the welding team, described in the film how the gas cylinder a white welder was using caught fire.

"The white man ran away and the others followed him, but I stayed there and tried to grab the bottle."

The disaster highlighted a "long list of deficiencies", the film alleged, including the fact there were no tests for methane gas before the welding began, the absence of fire extinguishers or portable ventilators, and deficient welding equipment and power supply.

'Gencor knew the risks'

Focusing on the ban in Britain and elsewhere of polyurethane foam in mines, and two polyurethane fire disasters in Scotland in the 1960s and in America, the film suggested Gencor decided to use the foam knowing the risks and ignoring widely-published warnings.

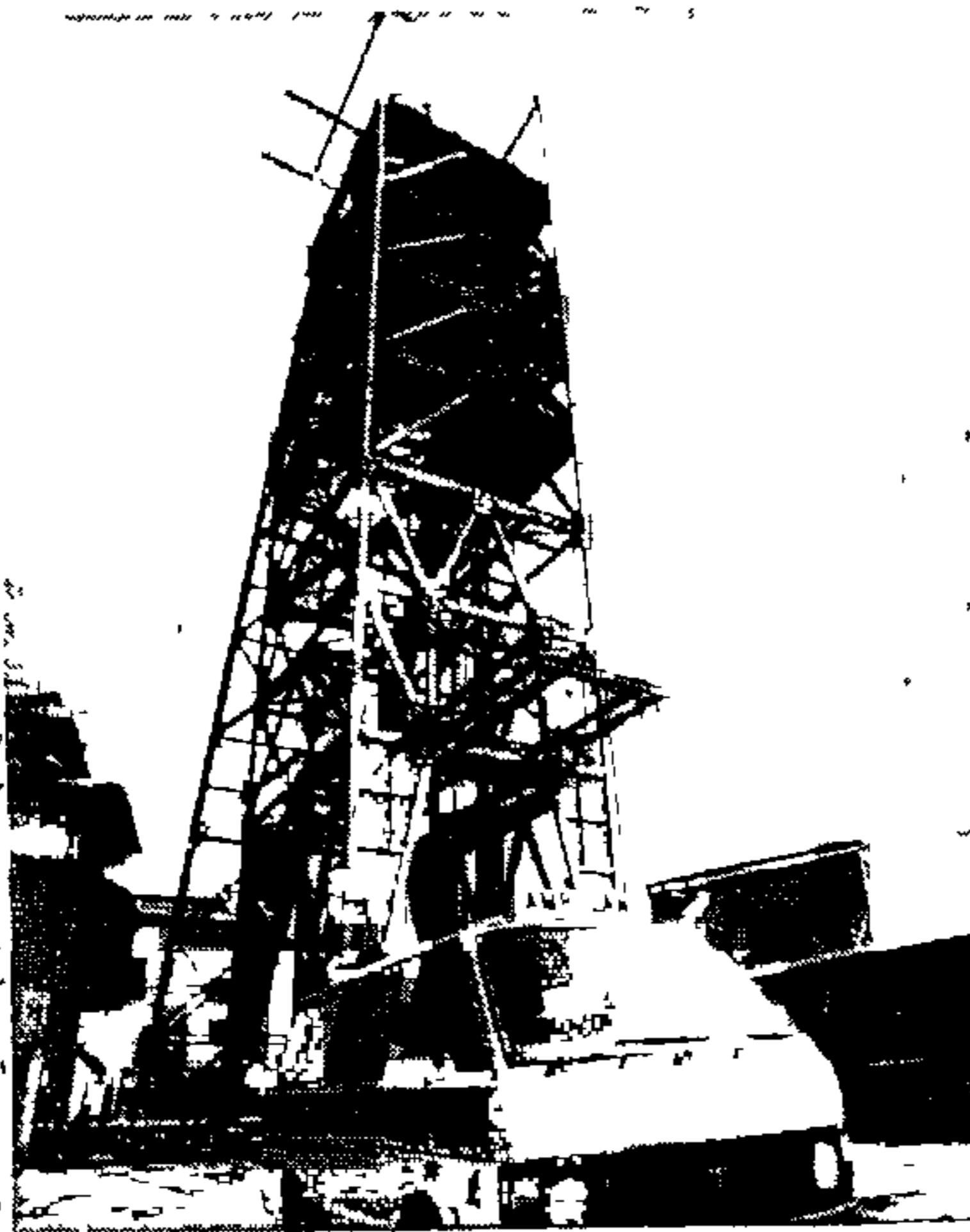
A retired director of the Safety in Mines Research Establishment in Britain, Dr Herbert Eisner, said in view of the many reports and experiments on polyurethane foam, "it is very difficult to understand how this (the Kinross disaster) could have happened".

The film also cast doubt on the repute of South Africa's mine safety rating system.

Mr Ken Maxwell, a member of the executive of the South African Chamber of Mines, told the film-makers it was an international safety rating system drawn up by an organisation based in Chicago.

The film-makers said they found no such organisation in Chicago, though they did speak to the founder of the system, Mr Frank Bird from Georgia.

He initially told the Granada team "there was a mine in France which used the system. He later withdrew that, but was sure a mine in Chile definitely used the system".



Kinross . . . Gencor has been severely mauled by a British TV film's allegations following the disaster last month.

One dead, 25 hurt in accidents at refineries

By Mike Siluma

A worker died and more than 25 had medical attention after accidents at two East Rand platinum refineries yesterday

Gencor confirmed that Mr G C Fourie (49), a process operator, died — apparently from a heart attack — after the accident at the Impala plant and 25 other workers were kept under observation for a few hours.

Two other employees involved in the accident were still in hospital today

A Gencor spokesman said a spill of processing liquid was involved but the accident had minimal effect on production.

At Matthey Rustenburg Refineries, Wadeville, eight workers were affected by chlorine fumes from a burst pipe, the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) reported

CWIU spokesman Miss Chris Bonner said eight workers were

affected and three of them were sent to hospital

Miss Bonner said evacuation procedures at the plant were inadequate and had been raised with management about a month ago. Nothing had been done to correct the situation.

She said tight security at the plant allowed only security personnel to open exits. Workers wanting to escape would not be able to do so because they had to wait for security men to open the doors.

A company spokesman confirmed the accident but declined to comment on the allegations about evacuation procedures.

The spokesman said three workers were affected

●Late editions of *The Star* yesterday wrongly reported Miss Bonner's comments about safety as concerning the Impala refinery. In fact she was referring to the situation at Matthey Rustenburg

PWV area. As Reef gardeners at -
"It's generally a hot but short period
of 10 days to two weeks and con-

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BUD DAY 15/10/86

A British TV company's claim that the safety rating system used in SA mines was bogus and not widely used elsewhere were dismissed yesterday by the Chamber of Mines.

The chamber's mine safety division's head, Anthony Gill, said: "Bogus is an ugly word to give to something which prevents people being killed."

Since the introduction of the safety system in the late 1970s, injuries on SA mines had halved and there had been a dramatic drop in the number of fatalities.

Gill was reacting to the screening on Monday night of Granada TV's programme blaming the Kinross mine disaster on management negligence and describing the safety rating used by SA mines as bogus.

The programme said the system was not used in European mines and was employed by only a few mines in the US.

Chamber dismisses TV claim

Gill said the system, known as the international safety rating system, was used by the Canadian mining industry, which was the world's second-largest.

It was also used in Chile and in about 35 mines in Australia.

Gill said that in the first six months of 1986 chamber-administered collieries had recorded 0,24 fatalities a 1 000 workers, compared with 0,62 for all SA collieries and 0,64 in the US. — Sapa.

Maize dust inferno ^{SMK} victim dies ⁽¹³¹⁾

By Abel Mabelane

One of 13 people injured when maize-meal powder exploded at the Jabula Food factory in Springs has died.

Colleagues identified her as Ms Ellen Madonsela (25)

She suffered third-degree burns and died in the Far East Rand Hospital, where the injured were taken after the explosion on Monday

Two of those hurt have been discharged. The remaining 10, some still in critical condition, were transferred to a Johannesburg hospital.

Springs fire chief Mr Johan Venter said the explosion was caused by static electricity igniting the fine powder suspended in the air

Mr Jabu Ngwenya, who escaped with burns on the wrist and temple, told *The Star*: "I was in the mill tower when the explosion occurred. There was a loud bang followed by thick black smoke and fire."

"We all ran for the exit and in the process almost tripped over each other in our rush to get away from the inferno."

The building where the explosion occurred was badly damaged

NUM demand shaft closure after new Kinross fires

16/10/86 By Mike Siluma

SPML

The National Union of Mineworkers today demanded the closure of the Number Two shaft at the Kinross Gold mine, where two underground fires forced the evacuation of 2 000 mineworkers yesterday

The fires, described as "minor", broke out at the 15th level, the scene of last month's mining disaster which claimed 177 lives

A spokesman for Gencor said "two separate minor fires of unknown origin" had broken out yesterday at the Number Two shaft

"There was no danger and no persons were affected, but in consideration of possible employee sensitivity following last month's accident at the mine, some 2 000 men were removed to surface," he said

The spokesman said the fires broke out at about 11 am but were "immediately extinguished" and all miners safely evacuated. He added that "a small amount of smoke" from burning rubber had entered underground workings

A senior mineworker who helped put out both fires told *The Star* that a disaster was averted because the fire and smoke were noticed by morning shift workers reporting for duty

"As the we came into the 15 level to start work we noticed the smell of something burning, and then saw the fire

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"Many of the workers ran back to the lift, fearing a recurrence of last month's accident. The night-shift workers who were due to stop work in the morning were busy at their work stations and were not aware of what was happening," said the worker, who declined to be named

"Another senior worker and I quickly fetched fire extinguishers and put out the fire. By that time there was smoke all over the place," the worker said

After the first fire, he said, most morning shift workers refused to go underground. Some did, however, report for duty

Decrying accidents such as yesterday's as "an atrocity being perpetrated against the workers", NUM general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said: "We call on Gencor to close the Number Two shaft until the enquiry into last month's disaster is concluded and its results are known."

"Our members have lost confidence in the way management in general, and Kinross management in particular, are dealing with the observation of safety measures on mines"

The NUM reiterated its call for the appointment of a judicial inquiry into last month's accident

● It is understood that two of the workers involved in putting out the fires had been given portable radio/television sets as an expression of management's gratitude

2 000 miners
evacuated
after fires
at Kinross

ALAN FINE

ABOUT 2 000 miners were evacuated from the Number 2 shaft at Kinross goldmine at 11am yesterday after two "separate and minor" fires broke out at 15 level near the scene of last month's disaster in which 177 people died.

A Gencor spokesman said the fires were extinguished immediately and that workers were not in any danger. However, in view of "possible employee sensitivity" after last month's disaster, the shaft's entire workforce was removed to the surface.

The cause of the fires has not been ascertained. The spokesman said the rubber cover of overhead electric locomotive lines ignited and a small amount of smoke entered some underground workings.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said last night it was "deeply shocked" at the incident, and called for the closure of the shaft until the inquiry into last month's disaster was concluded. However, the Gencor spokesman said he did not see why operations should not resume almost immediately.

The NUM described management's "neglect" of safety issues as "an atrocity" and reiterated its call for a judicial commission of inquiry.

Sick kids riddle in C

A SHOCK report just released claims that children in Sasolburg have grave health problems because of air pollution in the oil town.

The University of Pretoria scientific study says children in Sasolburg have worse lungs and are generally smaller than those outside the area

The town council is contesting the report, but many local doctors agree with the research and two have called for an official investigation into the possible link between air pollution and lung cancer

The superintendent of the local hospital says 80 percent of the patients are being treated for air pollution related ailments

He says the town council is deliberately "wasting time" not probing the issue.

The findings of the research by the University of Pretoria also suggested that the air pollution limits applied in Sasolburg are too high and should be revised

"Terrible"

By Friday, feelings were running high between the supporters of the university probe and those who reject it

Sasolburg's deputy town clerk, Mr A J "Jock" Jordaan, is adamant that the town does not have an air pollution problem

He is supported by many of the large industries in the area, including Sasol

However, seven doctors in the town — contacted this week by the Sunday Times — all agreed that the town has a "terrible" air pollution problem

Several estate agents have also confirmed that residents are leaving the district because their families cannot stand the pollution and its effect on their health

The research at Sasolburg — the site of South Africa's first Sasol oil-from-coal plant — was carried out by Professor A M Coetzee of the Department of Community Health at the University of

Doctors call for probe of shock report on pollution dangers in Sasolburg

By NEIL HOOPER

Pretoria, assisted by three other academics

The findings have just been published in the South African Medical Journal

Mr Jordaan says that while individual members of the town council have read the Coetzee report, it has never been officially considered by the council

"Industries in Sasolburg spend millions each year to combat air pollution, and we do not believe we have a problem," he said

The Department of Health confirmed that it was aware of the Coetzee report but said that the only official who could comment was the head of the air pollution control division, Mr S M Lloyd, who was not available

Professor Coetzee said "As far as officials of the Department of Health are concerned, they are aware of the report because I gave Mr Lloyd a copy of it several months ago as soon as it was printed

"Everything relevant to the Sasolburg town council and the Department of Health is in the report

"Sasolburg was chosen as being the centre of the area in which air pollution is found in the Pretoria, Johannesburg and Vereeniging districts

"Nonsense"

"Sasolburg children — chosen to be tested because they were not yet smokers, and so that smoking would not affect the findings — had a worse lung function than those outside the area this is clear from the report"

Two Sasolburg doctors said they believed there was a link between the air pollution and lung cancer among residents

The superintendent of the local hospital — who asked not to be identified because he also has a local practice — described the Sasolburg council's denial that it had a pollution problem as "nonsense"

A Sasol spokesman yesterday questioned the accuracy of the Professor Coetzee's report

To support his argument he quoted from the report "From a statistical view point the sample was extremely small in comparative studies in Europe information was gathered on thousands of children

"Even there, with the air pollution level being several times higher, the results were barely conclusive"



Naas's manager Okkle Oosthulzen gives Andrea Stelzer a quizzical look after Naas refused to talk

Little Miss Lulu gives pensioner a winning bonus

By SAMKELO KUMALO

WHEN Mrs I P Watson, a Zimbabwean pensioner living in Kempton Park in the Transvaal, saw the face of five year-old Lulama "Lulu" Mshumpela, she knew that in this case black was definitely beautiful

So Mrs Watson voted for Lulu in the Sunday Times/OK Miss Ladybird competition and became one of 12 winners of R150 shopping vouchers from the OK

There were 3 000 entries in the competition The 11 other winners are

Mrs J Dolley, 41 Winterhoek Drive, Levysvale, Uitenhage 6230

Mrs Eve Harrison, Box 908425, Montana, Pretoria

0151

Mr R W Schaffer, Box 211, Doonside 4135

Mrs D Armstrong, Box 581, Carletonville 2500

Mrs M Lindsay, c/o 581 Tonga Street, Elardus Park, Pretoria 0181

Debbie Good, 6 Montrose Place, Westville North 3630
Jone Radebe 5235 Mota Street, PO Orlando East, Soweto 1804

W Chan Henry, 15 Fitchat Street, Grahamstown 6140

Miss N Meribuko, 2449 Protea North, PO Chawelo, Soweto 1818

Miss M Daniels, 32 Leander Street, Lentegew, Mitchell's Plain 7785

Farhana Mahomed, Box 856, Pietersburg 0700

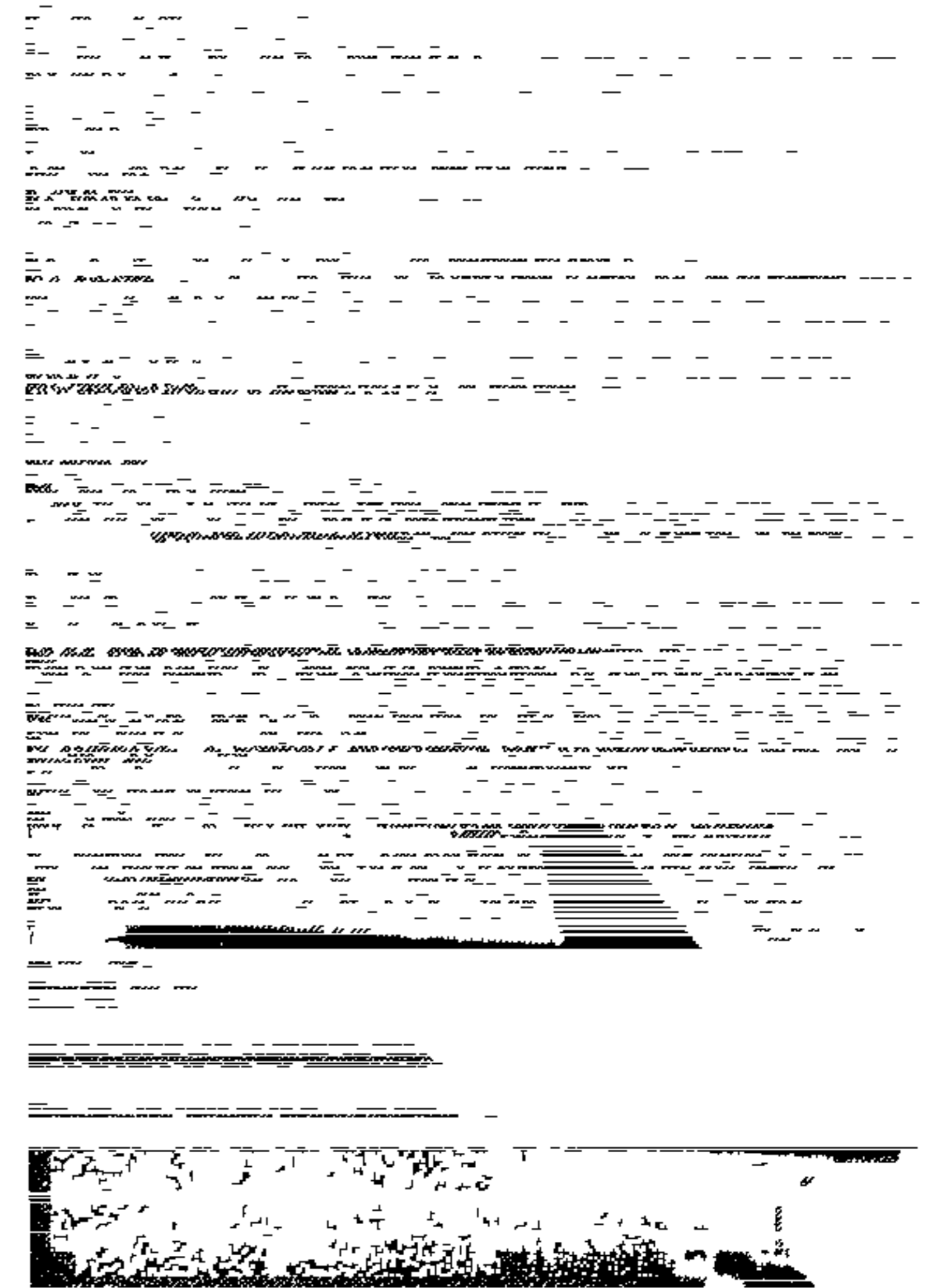
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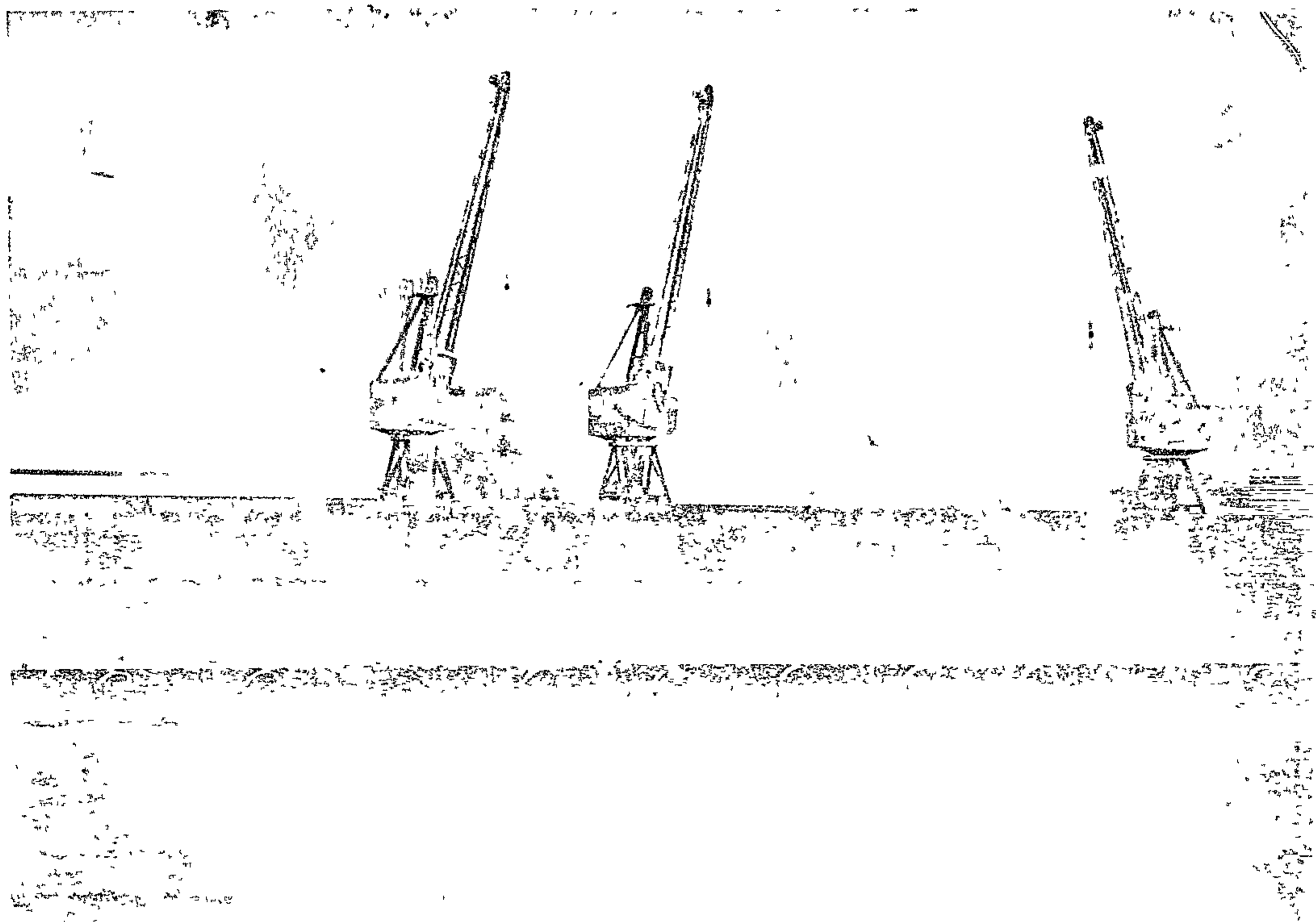
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Every cloud a silver lin-



Men trapped in dockyard fire



Heavy black smoke rises from the D-Berth pre-cooling sheds in Table Bay docks at lunchtime yesterday as fire sweeps through new experimental cooling rooms on the upper floor. The fire did not reach the main cooling chambers on the ground floor. Picture. Richard Bell

Twenty rescued in dockyard drama

CAF- Tris 28/10/86 (131)

By **ROGER WILLIAMS**
Chief Reporter

MORE THAN 20 trapped workers, some of them almost overcome by smoke-inhalation, were rescued by firemen when a section of the precooling sheds in the Table Bay dockyards was gutted by fire at midday yesterday. Sixteen of the men, brought to safety through billowing clouds of thick black smoke, were taken

to the nearby Somerset Hospital for examination and treatment. The fire, which caused an estimated R350 000 damage, began about 12 50pm on the first floor of the precooling sheds at D Berth in the Duncan Dock, where the Deciduous Fruit Board (DFB) has been removing outdated structures and building five new experimental precooling rooms. It is believed that heat from

welding torches ignited polystyrene panels used as insulating material. The fire spread quickly, and the wind swept blinding black smoke through the D Berth installation and into the adjoining sheds at E Berth. The fire was brought under control during the afternoon by units of the harbour and City

To Page 2

P.T.O.

Gencor mines win safety competition

By Sheryl Raine

Gencor's Unsel and Stilfontein mines have been declared winners in their respective classes in the Chamber of Mines' quarterly safety competition, Gencor has announced.

Safety on the mines has become a major issue in recent years since the formation of the National Union of Mineworkers.

In a statement yesterday Gencor said the Unsel Gold Mine near Welkom won Class II of the competition with a 44 percent improvement on its previous performance.

Stilfontein Gold Mine came first in Class III with an improvement of more than 67 percent.

The competition was established in 1973 and 47 gold mines, which are members of the Chamber of Mines, participate. The competitors are ranked in order of the highest percentage improvement shown in their casualty rate for falls of ground, over a period of three months.

Since its inception Gencor mines have won the competition 53 times out of a possible 105 times, said the company.

The trophies will soon be presented to the respective general managers, Mr Clive Archer of Unsel, and Mr Trevor Holmes of Stilfontein.

Stilfontein also recently recorded one million fatality-free shifts.

FINAL

MINE SAFETY

20/9/86

Randfontein riddle

The key question to be answered at the official inquiry into the shaft-sinking disaster at Randfontein Estates gold mine, in which six miners were killed, is what happened to the various automatic safety devices installed to prevent the overwind which caused the accident

Cages, or kipples in the case of a shaft-sinking operation, are raised and lowered in a mine shaft by a hoist situated at surface level. The hoist is controlled by an operator, the hoist driver. The hoist is connected to the cage by steel cables which run from surface to sheavewheels at the top of the shaft headgear, some 50 m above ground level, and then down to the cage.

An overwind occurs when the cage being raised is not stopped in time but is, instead, pulled by the hoist to the top of the headgear, rather like the overwind inexperienced fishermen suffer when using a centre-pin reel. This can occur through human error or through technical problems with the hoist.

To prevent this, there are a number of automatic safety features built in to all shaft-sinking hoisting operations. These include an overwind prevention device, an underwind prevention device, an overspeed device, a slow/fast braking switch, which automatically controls the braking rate depending on where the kibble is in the shaft, a deceleration device, and an ultimate limit switch in the headgear which switches off the hoist if passed.

At a press conference this week, Eric Brerton, MD of Shaft Sinkers which is carrying out the work, declined to comment on why the various devices had not prevented the accident. He said this had to be determined by the official inquiry.

The accident occurred after the five-deck sinking stage had been lowered to a position just above the bottom of the 792 m shaft to start removing the rock on the shaft bottom after it had been blasted.

Workers on the various decks of the stage

line and equip the bare rock walls of the shaft, while below them the broken rock is loaded into the steel kipples, each weighing about 2,3 t, and hoisted to surface on guide-rails which run through the sinking stage.

Kibble tandem

The hoist works in tandem with one kibble going down as another comes up. When the accident happened, an empty kibble was going down while on the other side the steel crosshead, which attaches the rope to the kibble, was being raised to surface so that it could be attached to another kibble for lowering underground.

The crosshead was overwound, hit the crashbars at the top of the headgear and the rope snapped, while the descending kibble plunged to the bottom of the shaft. The crosshead then fell back down the shaft onto the sinking stage which, in turn, collapsed onto the bottom of the shaft. The stage weighed about 100 t. Then some 3 200 m of steel rope fell on top of the stage. These ropes weigh about 20 t.

A National Union of Mineworkers' spokesperson said the NUM would be represented at the inquiry into the accident. It had also requested access to the accident site during the investigation to be carried out. ■

Self-rescue devices for miners may become compulsory

By Sheryl Raine

New mine safety regulations have empowered the Government Mining Engineer (GME) to make compulsory the wearing of self-rescuing devices by mineworkers

The self-rescuer — a life-saving device — is worn by miners in several countries to provide a limited emergency air supply

The devices can be carried by a miner at all times and during an emergency can provide him with sufficient oxygen for about 30 minutes, at a breathing rate

of 30 litres a minute.

At the time of the Kinross mine disaster, which claimed 177 lives, considerable criticism was levelled at the mining industry for its delay in developing local self-rescuers

And after a notice in the Government Gazette regarding the new regulations, the Chamber of Mines said in a statement yesterday that research over the last 18 months, which cost R400 000, had produced a self-rescuer that could be introduced in South African coal mines, once back-up systems were in place

But because the locally developed

self-rescuers were unique it would take some time for them to be manufactured in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the South African mining industry

The back-up systems might include refuge bays supplied with respirable air and other facilities for life support

The chamber said its research had been tailored to meet the requirements of the GME as set out in Government regulations first drafted in 1984, revised by the GME last year and finally gazetted last Friday.

A major obstacle to the introduction of self-rescuers was the absence of any

unit here or overseas that was practical to wear on the body while working, and which would also provide a self-contained life-support system

While progress towards the introduction of self-rescuers on collieries is at an advanced stage, in-depth investigations are also being conducted into the requirements needed to protect gold miners in the event of fires and explosions

The chamber is confident its pioneering research will lead to a successful conclusion in the short-term to meet the need, the statement said

12/11/86
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Harmony mine tops safety record

Rand Mines' Harmony mine in the Free State has become the first gold mine in South Africa to work a million fatality-free shifts three times in a year

A statement from Rand Mines said Harmony scored its third 1986 million a few days ago.

The mine employs more than 33 000 people and mills over eight million tons a year from which more than 30 tons of gold are produced

"This achievement adds another jewel to the safety crown of the Rand Mines Group, which has had a particularly good year on the safety front," the statement said

Harmony has now worked a million fatality-free shifts 13 times. Only one other operating gold mine had bettered this record, said MD Mr Mike Watson.

DD 28/11/86

Employers should take special measures to safeguard expectant mothers against possible radiation hazards at their workplaces, according to a code of practice on industrial radiation protection to be published by the International Labour Organisation

Pregnant: call for protection

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retardation between the eighth and 15th week, the code says

The code, covering work in hospitals, industry, universities, research institutions and other sectors, says pregnant women should not be employed on jobs where radiation exposure might exceed three-tenths of acceptable limits

The document, approved at a Geneva session last week of the ILO's 56-member executive board, provides guidance for governments, employers and workers, but has no legal force and is not binding on the ILO's 150 member states

These women need to be protected against substantial irregularities in the dose rate because a foetus is particularly vulnerable to the risk of severe mental

The code sets annual radiation dose limits, adding that exposure should be kept "as low as reasonably achievable, economic and social factors being taken into account". — Sapa-AP

Union to meet after workers' death fall

MEMBERS of the Building Construction and Allied Workers Union are to meet at the weekend to formulate what action to take following the death of a shop steward who fell from the roof of a building while on duty on the East Rand.

The worker whose name has not been released because the next of kin has not been informed, fell to his death while employed by Management Services Company in Kempton Park this week.

A union organiser, Mr Narus Moloto, confirmed the death and said another employee has been admitted to Boksburg Hospital where his condition has been described to be serious after he also fell from the roof of the same building.

He said their attempts to meet management have drawn a blank because the company was "a union buster" as it had refused to negotiate with them earlier. Workers will meet at Lekton House, Johannesburg, tomorrow to discuss strategies.

The Metal and Allied Workers Union (Mawu) has applied for mediation to resolve their dispute with Graylight Batteries in Benoni following the dismissal of 129 of their members. The workers were

Labour Briefs

sacked after going on strike over the dismissal of five of their colleagues by management. The company's managing director, Mr J Saunders, confirmed that the union has applied for mediation to resolve the issue.

• About 140 workers at Skaal Transport in Brakpan are still on strike over demands for a pay rise, improved working conditions and the recognition of their union (the African Miners and Allied Workers Union). The *Sowetan* could not contact the company's manager, a Mr Snyman, as he was said to be out of town.

• Members of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) in the Transvaal yesterday protested against the continued detention of their organiser, Mr Vusi Mavuso. He has been in detention for five months.

• About 2 000 mine-workers who went on strike at Gencor's Matla Colliery were locked out this week, according to a spokesman for the National Union of Mine-workers.

Demofa

(131)

28/11/86

(131)

New NUM report links gold mines' safety records with company profits

By Mike Siluma

In the wake of several accidents, some fatal, that have plagued several South African gold mines in recent months, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has released a new report into accident statistics and has expressed disquiet at the situation.

The report says that between 1980 and 1984, 3 031 died on South African mines, an average of about 600 a year

Researchers studied accident rates at mines belonging to six South African companies, as well as their profits per worker

The companies are JCI, Anglo American, Gencor, Gold Fields, Rand Mines and Anglovaal

According to the report, Gold Fields, with

the highest profit per worker (R20 150), had the highest fatality rate of 1,43 per 1 000 workers

This is followed by Anglo American with a fatality rate of 1,30 (R12 470 profits per worker), Rand Mines 1,23 (R5 510 profits), Gencor 1,22 (R9 440), Anglovaal 1,09 (R10 030) and JCI 1,08 (R9 310)

NUM safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni repeated his union's stance that the international safety-rating system used in South Africa was far less than adequate

In the light of the above information, it was clear, he said, that "the belief that the international safety-rating system is a solution is devoid of truth"

A case in point, Mr Sibanyoni said, was Rand Mines' ERPM gold mine. ERPM had

recently been awarded a five-star rating "despite the fact that last year more than 54 workers died on the mine and that the mine had a fatality rate of 2,01 between 1980 and 1984"

"The other irony is that Gold Fields made the highest profits per worker between 1980 and 1984 (yet) it had the worst accident record

"It is only through the involvement of workers in matters affecting safety that there will be a decline in the number of accidents. It is time that more money is spent in making the mines safer, than on security, as Gold Fields is doing"

Major accidents in recent months include the one that claimed 177 lives at Gencor's Kinross Gold Mine.

Man killed in tar factory blast **STAK**

3/12/86

East Rand Bureau

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A man was killed and another slightly injured in an explosion at a tar factory in Chloorkop, Kempton Park, yesterday

Police last night said the name of the dead man will be released as soon as his next-of-kin have been informed.

The other man, Mr Tommy Crossman (33), was admitted to the Kempton Park Hospital with minor injuries and severe shock.

A Kempton Park Fire Department spokesman

said the explosion occurred at about 2 15 pm at Industrial Furnace Fuel Systems.

According to the police the top of one of the large tar storage tanks, which are about 10 m high and five metres in diameter, was blown off

The two men, employed by a Johannesburg firm, were trying to cut a hole in one of the tanks to insert a pipe so that excess oil could be drained

The heat from the cutting torch apparently ignited the fumes in the tank, causing the explosion.

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BUSDAY
4/12/86

'No basis' for safety-profit link on mines

ALAN FINE

THE Chamber of Mines has rejected attacks by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) on the industry's safety record and its International Safety Rating (ISR) system

It was apparently reacting to allegations last week by NUM safety officer Hazy Sibanyoni, who linked accident rates to profits.

A chamber spokesman said yesterday there was "no scientific basis whatsoever" for this link. He said profitability was largely determined by the grade of ore mined.

Accidents "could be influenced by numerous factors including the geological strata of a mining area, the depth of mining and human error".

The spokesman accused the NUM of "consistently and deliberately" ignoring the improved safety performance on SA mines since the introduction of the ISR system.

He said the system was not an end in itself but an organised way of focusing on safety. He pointed to a 42% drop in the fatalities on chamber mines from 1978 to mid-1986.

"Regrettably, these achievements have been overshadowed by the Kinross disaster which would naturally distort the industry's safety figures for the second half of this year," the spokesman said.

Asbestos levels in SA mining towns dropping

27/11/86 By Jaap Boekkooi *SPM*

During the past two decades dangerous asbestos fibre concentrations around certain asbestos mines have decreased by 88 percent, according to samples taken for studies by the National Centre for Occupational Health.

Dr R S J du Toit of the Centre told the Air Pollution Symposium in Pretoria yesterday that such concentrations had plunged from 85 000 fibres per cu/m of air in the middle 60s to about 10 000 in the early 80s.

Dr du Toit pointed out asbestos fibres floated in the air all over South Africa. However, in traditional asbestos towns such as Kuruman and Prieska, where many people died of asbestos-related diseases, samples varied from 50 to 700 fibres per cu/m.

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Protecting against disablement

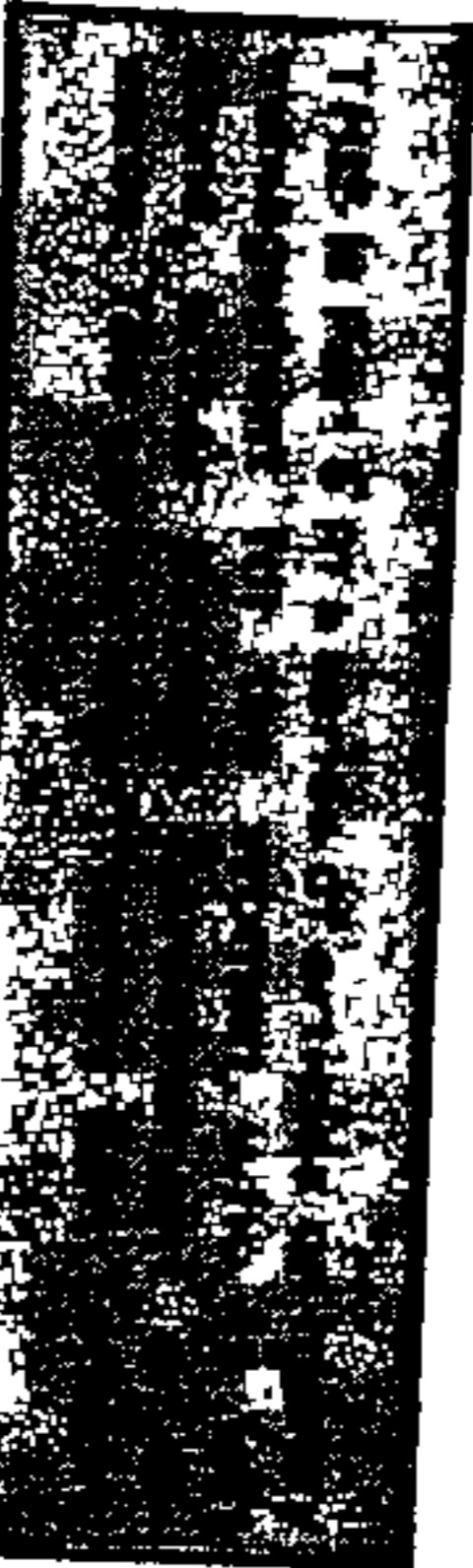
ONE of the risks most frequently overlooked when drawing up a financial plan is that of disablement, either temporary or permanent.

Temporary disablement is the one ignored most frequently. This is because most people don't think that they will be prevented from working by sickness or injury for more than a week or two at most.

Most employers are happy, either as a condition of service, or *ex gratia*, to pay an employee for up to two weeks' absence for sickness (or injury) each year. Most employers are markedly unhappy about having to pay more, although there are special circumstances which could persuade them to do so.

Consider, therefore, that an employer is not obliged to do more than required by the agreed conditions of service. Consider further that many fairly common illnesses may have a duration of several weeks, that major surgery may require a recuperation period of a month or more and that a major illness, such as a heart attack, could well mean not work-

WOMEN AND MONEY



ing for several months.

Apart from Workman's Compensation Insurance, for injuries sustained in the course of employment, and unemployment insurance benefits, there is no statutory assistance for people who find themselves unable to work while temporarily disabled.

Some, but very few, pension funds have a built-in temporary disablement benefit which provides for payment of, say, 75% of the member's pay while disabled. If your pension fund provides this benefit, then your consultant should not duplicate the protection.

It won't do you any good in any case as there is an agreement between the life insurance companies which limits the

payment of disablement benefits — you cannot in total receive benefits in the form of income of more than 75% of your income at the time you became ill or disabled.

If, however, you do not belong to a pension fund which provides this benefit, then apart from lobbying the trustees to improve the fund in this respect, you will have to consider insurance to protect your income. This insurance is variously known as permanent health insurance, non-cancellable sickness and accident insurance, income replacement insurance, income security insurance or income protection insurance.

It is simply an insurance up to age 60 or 65 which, in return for a monthly

premium, will pay you a monthly income while you are unable to work through illness or injury.

Typically, a policy to age 60 to provide R1 000 of income a month would cost a woman in her mid-30s about R30 a month, or R24 with a three-month waiting period.

Permanent disablement protection is easily provided by paying an additional premium on a life insurance policy. This can provide for the payment of the proceeds as a capital sum (again there are limitations on the amount that can be paid in this way) or a waiver of premium benefit may be bought.

Temporary disablement is common, its duration for a month or more is far from unusual. Permanent disablement is as great a risk as death. The main point in this discussion is, therefore, that disablement protection must form part of the overall financial plan.

In Part 7 tomorrow, the discussion will be on insurance against loss or damage to possessions.

INDUSTRIAL RELATION - ACCIDENTS

1987

Soviet grenade; 2 in court (3)

DURBAN — Two young Lamontville men appeared in a Durban Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the possession a Soviet hand grenade. Mr Protas Taula (19) and Mr Patrick Makhaya (21) are alleged to have contravened the Arms and Ammunition Act by possessing the grenade at Lamontville on June 12 last year.

An alternative allegation is that they contravened the Explosives Act by possessing the grenade in circumstances giving rise to a reasonable suspicion that they intended to use it to injure some person or to damage property.

They were not asked to plead before Mr H W Weitz. The case was postponed to January 15 and the men were given bail of R1 000 each — Sapa.

231187 1005 DM

Conflict over death probe

ALAN FINE

IN a novel move on industrial safety, the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) has set up its own commission of inquiry to investigate an accident in which one of its members died.

But it has accused the victim's employer of failing to co-operate.

The deceased, who worked for chemical cleaning firm Hydrochem, lost his life while cleaning a tank at the Silicate and Chemical Industries (S & CI) Maydon Wharf plant in Durban. It appears he suffocated after inhaling concentrated hydrogen gas.

The commission is made up of shop stewards from Hydrochem

and S & CI, the CWIU Natal branch health and safety officer and the union's general secretary

A union statement says Hydrochem management has refused to release the shop stewards to sit on the commission

Hydrochem MD Mike Buchel says he does not see why it is necessary for the union to hold its own inquiry when investigations are being carried out by "competent authorities" — the SA Police and the factory inspectorate.

The CWIU believes S & CI will co-operate.

Union tells of grisly death

131
182
143

MISS Truster Hlatshwayo, an employee of Empire Paper Waste, was killed on Friday when she slipped and fell into a shredding machine, the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers Union said yesterday.

miss Hlatshwayo
27/11/72

Miss Hlatshwayo, a shop steward, died apparently from multiple injuries, the unions said in a statement

Inquiry

Phawu has asked to be present at the factory inspection which was expected yesterday, as well as at the subsequent inquiry into her death, it said

It said workers had stated they would not wish to resume work until all the trucks and other machines had been inspected to make sure they were safe —
Sapa:

APG Times 27/11/87

Shredder kills woman (131)

JOHANNESBURG. — Ms Truster Hlatshwayo, a shop steward and employee of Empire Paper Waste, was killed on Friday when she slipped and fell into a shredding machine, the Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Pwawu) said yesterday. The union, which has asked to be present at the factory inspection, said workers had stated they would not wish to resume work until all the trucks and other machines had been inspected to make sure they were safe.

Such representations should reach the National Monuments Council, P O. Box 4637, Cape Town, 8000, within three weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

C. J. LOEDOLFF,
Director: National Monuments Council.

No. 245

6 February 1987

BUREAU OF HERALDRY

CORRECTION OF THE DESCRIPTION OF A
HERALDIC REPRESENTATION

The Bureau of Heraldry gives notice that the relevant part of the blazon of the arms of the South African Institute of Engineering Geologists, as contained in Government Notice 1863 of 23 August 1985, has been corrected as follows.

Arms: Bendy sinister of fourteen, Or and Gules, per pale counterchanged, surmounted by a pale, also Gules, charged with a pallet Argent, a chief per fess embattled Argent and Gules.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
HEALTH AND POPULATION
DEVELOPMENT

No. 219

6 February 1987

DECLARATION OF CONTROLLED MINES AND
RISK WORK

The delegate of the Minister of National Health and Population Development, in terms of section 10 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973 (Act 78 of 1973), has declared the following mines to be controlled mines with effect from 1 April 1987.

- (a) The mine known as Daben Quarry, on the farm Roodepoort 40 IS, situated in the Magisterial District of Bethal, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by Messrs Murray and Roberts Quarries (Tvl) (Pty) Limited, P O Box 31800, Braamfontein, 2017.
- (b) The mine known as Honingklip Serpentine Quarry, on the farm Honingklip 178 IQ, situated in the Magisterial District of Krugersdorp, Province of the Transvaal, which at present is worked by Messrs Samancor Limited, P.O. Box 8186, Johannesburg, 2000.

The following work at the said mines has been declared risk work by the delegate of the Minister in terms of section 13 of the said Act with effect from the same date

Excavations: Any work in underground or open workings.

On the surface: Any work—

- (i) where the moving, transfer or handling of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place;
- (ii) where the crushing, screening or classification of stone, rock, ore or other minerals takes place, except where this is carried out under water;
- (iii) on or at waste dumps, ore dumps or slimes dams, except where the materials are being deposited in the form of slime;
- (iv) in drill-sharpening shops or at any other place where drills are sharpened,
- (v) in change-houses where persons performing risk work change their clothing,

Sodanige vertoë moet die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede, Posbus 4637, Kaapstad, 8000, binne drie weke vanaf die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing bereik

C. J. LOEDOLFF,
Direkteur: Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede.

No. 245

6 Februarie 1987

BURO VIR HERALDIEK

VERBETERING VAN DIE BESKRYWING VAN
'N HERALDIESE VOORSTELLING

Die Buro vir Heraldiek gee kennis dat die relevante gedeelte van die blasoenering van die wapen van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut van Ingenieursgeoloe, soos vervat in Goewermentskennisgewing 1863 van 23 Augustus 1985, soos volg reggestel is:

Wapen: Links geskuinsbalk van veertien stukke, goud en rooi, paalsgewys van die een in die ander, daaroorheen 'n paal, ook rooi, belaa met 'n versmalde silwer paal; 'n skildhoof kanteelvormig deursnede, silwer en rooi.

DEPARTEMENT VAN NASIONALE
GESONDHEID EN BEVOLKINGS-
ONTWIKKELING

No. 219

6 Februarie 1987

VERKLARING TOT BEHEERDE MYNE EN
RISIKOWERK

Die gedelegeerde van die Minister van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling het kragtens artikel 10 van die Wet op Bedryfsiektes in Myne en Bedrywe, 1973 (Wet 78 van 1973), die volgende myne met ingang van 1 April 1987 tot beheerde myne verklaar:

- (a) Die myn bekend as Daben Quarry, op die plaas Roodepoort 40 IS, gelee in die landdrostrik Bethal, provinsie Transvaal, wat tans deur die firma Murray and Roberts Quarries (Tvl) (Pty) Limited, Posbus 31800, Braamfontein, 2017, ontgin word.
- (b) Die myn bekend as Honingklip Serpentine Quarry, op die plaas Honingklip 178 IQ, gelee in die landdrostrik Krugersdorp, provinsie Transvaal, wat tans deur die firma Samancor Limited, Posbus 8186, Johannesburg, 2000, ontgin word.

Die volgende werk by genoemde myne is met ingang van dieselfde datum kragtens artikel 13 van genoemde Wet deur die gedelegeerde van die Minister tot risikowerk verklaar:

Uitgrawings: Enige werk in ondergrondse of oop delplekke.

Bogronde: Enige werk—

- (i) waar die verskuiving, oorplasing of hantering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind;
- (ii) waar die vergruising, sif of klassifisering van klip, rots, erts of ander minerale plaasvind, uitgesonderd waar dit onder water geskied,
- (iii) op of by afvalhope, ertshope of slykdamme, uitgesonderd waar die materiaal in die vorm van slyk gestort word,
- (iv) in boorslyp-winkels of by enige ander plek waar boor skerp gemaak word,
- (v) in klee huise waar persone wat risikowerk verrig hul verkleed,

- (vi) where samples of crushed ore or other minerals are graded in a dry state, and
(vii) where rock drilling is done

- (vi) waar monsters van vergruisde erts of ander minerale in 'n droë toestand gegradeer word; en
(vii) waar rotsboorwerk gedoen word.

No. 244

6 February 1987

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND POLITICAL OFFICE-BEARERS PENSION SCHEME ACT, 1984

The State President has, under the powers vested in him by—

- (a) paragraph (d) of the definition of "office-bearer" in section 1 of the Members of Parliament and Political Office-bearers Pension Scheme Act, 1984 (Act 112 of 1984), approved the office of Member of an Executive Committee contemplated in section 7 (1) (b) (ii) of the Provincial Government Act, 1986 (Act 69 of 1986), as an office for the purposes of the first-mentioned Act; and
(b) section 1 (2) of the first-mentioned Act, determined 1 July 1986 as the date of coming into operation of this notice.

No. 244

6 Februarie 1987

WET OP DIE PENSIOENSKEMA VIR PARLEMENTSLEDE EN POLITIEKE AMPSBEKLEERS, 1984

Die Staatspresident het, kragtens die bevoegdheid hom verleen by—

- (a) paragraaf (d) van die omskrywing van "ampsbekleer" in artikel 1 van die Wet op die Pensioenskema vir Parlementslede en Politieke Ampsbekleers, 1984 (Wet 112 van 1984), die amp van Lid van 'n Uitvoerende Komitee, bedoel in artikel 7 (1) (b) (ii) van die Wet op Provinsiale Regering, 1986 (Wet 69 van 1986), as 'n amp vir die doeleindes van eersgenoemde Wet goedgekeur; en
(b) artikel 1 (2) van eersgenoemde Wet, 1 Julie 1986 as die datum van inwerkingtreding van hierdie kennisgewing bepaal.

No. 250

6 February 1987

FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND DISINFECTANTS ACT, 1972 (ACT 54 OF 1972)

ENFORCEMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—AKASIA AND FRANSCHHOEK

The Deputy Minister of National Health and Population Development, in terms of section 23 (1) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), hereby authorises the Municipalities of Akasia and Franschoek, with respect to any article falling within the provisions of the said Act, to enforce the pertinent provisions thereof within their respective areas of jurisdiction and through their duly authorised officers, subject to the furnishing of such returns and reports as the Minister may require regarding the administration of the said Act or action taken thereunder.

No. 250

6 Februarie 1987

WET OP VOEDINGSMIDDELS, SKOONHEIDSMIDDELS EN ONTSMETTINGSMIDDELS, 1972 (WET 54 VAN 1972)

TOEPASSING DEUR PLAASLIKE BESTURE —AKASIA EN FRANSCHHOEK

Die Adjunk-minister van Nasionale Gesondheid en Bevolkingsontwikkeling magtig die Munisipaliteite van Akasia en Franschoek hierby kragtens artikel 23 (1) van die Wet op Voedingsmiddels, Skoonheidsmiddels en Ontsmettingsmiddels, 1972 (Wet 54 van 1972), om binne hulle onderskeie regsgebiede en deur middel van hulle behoorlik gemagtigde beamptes die toepaslike bepalings van genoemde Wet uit te voer ten opsigte van enige artikel wat onder die bepalings daarvan ressorteer, behoudens die verstreking van sodanige opgawes en verslae as wat die Minister verlang in verband met die uitvoering van of optrede kragtens genoemde Wet.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

No. 260

6 February 1987

LIQUOR ACT, 1977

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIQUOR BOARD.—PROVINCE OF THE ORANGE FREE STATE

In terms of section 9 (2) of the Act, notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Liquor Board for the consideration of applications which emanate from districts in the Province of the Orange Free State, particulars of which were published in *Government Gazette* 10591 (General Notice 35) of 23 January 1987, will be held in accordance with the particulars specified in the Schedule hereto.

Place: Pretoria.

Date: 1987-02-02.

T. B. VORSTER,
Chairman of the Liquor Board.

DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID

No. 260

6 Februarie 1987

DRANKWET, 1977

KENNISGEWING VAN JAARLIKSE VERGADERING VAN DIE DRANKRAAD.—PROVINSIE DIE ORANJE-VRYSTAAT

Kennis word hierby ingevolge artikel 9 (2) van die Wet gegee dat die jaarlikse vergadering van die Drankraad vir die oorweging van aansoeke afkomstig van distrikte in die provinsie die Oranje-Vrystaat waarvan besonderhede in *Staatskoerant* 10591 (Algemene Kennisgewing 35) van 23 Januarie 1987 afgekondig is, gehou sal word ooreenkomstig die besonderhede wat in die Bylae hiervan gespesifiseer word

Plek: Pretoria.

Datum: 1987-02-02.

T. B. VORSTER,
Voorsitter van die Drankraad.

Los Angeles hotel room in October had murdered 10 men in the month before he died.

Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates told a Press conference last week he had closed investigations into the death of Mr Michael Player and serial murders of 10 men from September 4 to October 8.

Mr Gates said ballistic tests had proven Mr Player (26) had killed the men, most of whom were homeless.

Mr Player, who had a criminal record, tried to kill his eleventh victim the day before he was found dead in a hotel room, Mr Gates said.

The victim of that attack identified Mr Player from photographs.

Mr Gates added that the serial killings had ended after Mr Player died. — Sapa-Reuter.

tion of essential industrial raw materials reports that some of the contaminated powder was destined for Egypt. — Sapa-Reuter.

Asbestos warning endangers jobs (131)

MBABANE — An international campaign warning people of the health hazards of using asbestos products threatened to throw thousands out of work at Havelock Asbestos Mine at Bulembu in Swaziland.

A spokesman for the mine management said the campaign had resulted in a decline in markets for the company's products.

The deputy labour commissioner, Mr Robert Nxumalo, confirmed his department had been informed of the situation by the company, but said they could do nothing.

He suggested that the company contact the Minister of Commerce and Industry to seek help in finding new markets. — Sapa.

U/C - 10/12/10 15/12/10

Missing fisherman presumed dead

Supreme Court Reporter

A FISHERMAN who "disappeared" in a small inflatable dinghy 60 miles off the Plettenberg Bay coast in June last year was presumed dead by order of the Supreme Court yesterday.

Deck-hand Mr Griffith Williams, 34, of St Helena Bay, was last seen on the afternoon of June 28 by the captain of the trawler Harvest Orion. He was in the dinghy picking up loose fish about a kilometre from the trawler.

He was not visible at 5pm and searches by air and sea failed. His dinghy had no supplies.

His wife, Geraldine, who last saw him on June 16 before the trawler left Saldanha Bay, will receive a lump sum of about R18 772 in pension, UIF, accident fund and life insurance payments.

She will also receive R7 102 a year in workmen's compensation for herself and two small children.

Mr Justice E L King presided. Mr J Marais, instructed by Field and Sims, appeared for Mrs Williams.

131

Bogus sick certificates the bane of industry

DD 26/2/87
(131)

JOHANNESBURG — The malaise which is the bogus or misleading sick certificate continues to haunt South African industry

Concern over the growing rate of illness absenteeism has prompted industry and the medical profession to engage in a major rethink

On the one hand the medical profession is concerned about transgressing ethics relating to confidentiality, while management is concerned about poor sick certificate practice leading to lost productivity

Several industrial medical aid funds are now stipulating that a medical certificate should state the exact nature of a sick employees illness

A circular from the Southern Transvaal Chamber of Printing and Allied Industries says a member firm was presented with a medical certificate in which the doctor stated that he was "informed" the em-

ployee had been unfit for a certain period, and he could recommend three days leave

"The back of this certificate explained that the words "as I was informed" meant the employee visited the doctor after his incapacitation

"It was agreed that medical certificates using the words "as I was informed" and "could recommend" were not acceptable in terms of the Employee Benefit Fund and the Labourers' Benefit Fund"

The National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) has also laid down guidelines to help the medical profession and management in industry and commerce

"Both employers and the SA Society of Occupational Medicine (Sacom), doctors who work in industry believe that a diagnosis should be stated on the certificate

"Industry has no desire to pry into an employee's affairs and the majority of sick notes are of no concern to the employer. But some are vital, not only to the well-being of the employee, but also for that of other employees," says Nosa

Incapacity is defined as "inability to work owing to any sickness or injury other than sickness or injury caused by an employee's own misconduct"

The report, which was adapted by Nosa from a study by Sacom and the Medical Association of SA, says the major concern of the medical profession revolves around the diagnosis. Certain diagnoses may jeopardise present and future employment opportunities of the patient or

even result in disciplinary action

"Doctors are worried that if this were the case there might be breaching professional secrecy under Section 16 of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act of 1974"

The controversy over "diagnosis" and "nature" of the illness is also giving rise to concern

"Diagnosis is specific, whereas nature is a more general phrase, viral myocarditis v viral infection, or gonorrhoea v urinary infection. This interpretation is open to question as another legal opinion has stated that this provision of the Act clearly implies that the employers may insist on an express indication of the diagnosis"

This could, in theory, expose the doctor to litigation if as a result of his identifying a disorder in general terms rather than stating a specific diagnosis, an accident occurred in which other employees were injured

An example given of this would be where a stomach problem was diagnosed instead of gastritis due to alcoholism

"In this situation the employee certainly would have gastritis, but his real problem is that of alcohol abuse. If the employee continues to drink, and many do so at work, he or she could cause an accident involving other employees or company property"

Industry spokesmen say a great deal of poor sick certificate practice by workers' own doctors has been seen and forg-

eries (not the fault of the doctor) have become increasingly common

The kernel of the issue appears to be a lack of knowledge about industrial occupations on the part of the medical profession, they say

Examples given of cases where the exact cause of illness should be given includes one whereby an employee who develops epilepsy cannot return to working at heights. Another cites an instance where an employee in a food processing plant should not be allowed to return to work after a bout of diarrhoea until a stool has been cultured

Dealing with legal aspects the Nosa report says it should be realised that the duty of professional secrecy, whether viewed from the purely ethical perspective or from a legal perspective is not absolute

"In term of Section 16 it is ethically not permissible for a doctor to divulge information which ought not be divulged. This indicates that there may be circumstances in which otherwise confidential information may in fact be divulged to others

"Certainly, there will be a moral duty for the doctor to disclose information in some circumstances, a bus driver who fails or refuses to take his medication to control his epilepsy could endanger the lives of others"

It is also possible that the circumstances are such that there may be a

legal duty on the doctor to speak. There are legal precedents for this in which the principle of legal liability for a mere failure to warn have been established. —DDC

Premiums for fire insurance to go up

LINDA ENSOR

PREMIUMS for industrial fire insurance are likely to be increased to take account of the dramatic 145% rise in claims during the last three months of 1986 compared to the same 1985 period.

Claims for large losses during this period rose from R44m in 1985 to R108m last year. They included the largest fire claim in SA's history — that of Heinemann Electrical which is estimated at between R46m and R51m.

In November last year claims of R71m (R6,5m) were lodged and in December R22,5m (R1,5m).

The overall figures for 1986 showed a 14,6% rise in claims over 1985, though for the first nine months there was a drop of 43% over 1985.

"Although difficult to prove, arson is suspected as being the cause of many of these fire claims," says Lenz Keel, chairman of the South African Reinsurance Offices Association (Saroa).

Keel predicts that with the current economic and political situation, industrial arson is likely to increase. Management, he says, will have to become much more aware of risk management.

He believes industrial fire premiums are about 25% lower than what they should be. At present, industrial fire premiums for SA total R450m.

Although heavy hailstorms this summer caused several millions of rand damage, they largely missed the major industrial centres thus limiting the overall consequences for reinsurers.

However, Keel stresses the need for catastrophe reserves to be built up to make up for the large claims in 1985.

Work-seekers

423

384 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

How many Black males and females, respectively, were registered as work-seekers in the White areas of the Republic in each month of 1986?

Month	Male	Female
January	50 942	26 881
February	81 188	44 323
March	64 356	33 061
April	58 836	29 176

424

Month	Male	Female
May	48 608	23 553
June	42 317	18 842
July	36 301	15 154
August	40 029	16 223
September	39 036	15 878
October	39 704	15 710
November	39 815	13 599
December	31 754	10 121

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

Male and Female Blacks registered as work-seekers in White Areas during 1986 are as follows

Month	Male	Female
January	50 942	26 881
February	81 188	44 323
March	64 356	33 061
April	58 836	29 176

385 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

How many males and females, respectively, had been registered at labour bureau as work-seekers in terms of the Guidance and Placement Act, No 62 of 1981, as at the end of each specified month in 1986?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

Figures for 1986 are as follows

REGISTERED AS WORKSEEKERS 1986
ALL RACES

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Johannesburg	22 911	15 747	37 118	22 102	31 823	19 054
Cape Town	11 796	6 249	13 252	7 776	12 742	8 281
Durban	29 504	16 055	36 225	22 018	38 128	10 893
Pretoria	10 525	6 687	16 424	9 201	13 630	7 750
Port Elizabeth	13 683	6 088	17 228	8 683	14 602	6 140
Bloemfontein	3 465	2 286	4 526	2 692	3 820	2 530
East London	3 106	2 186	4 667	3 644	2 398	2 350
Kimberley	2 406	1 005	3 839	1 291	2 293	1 051
George	1 214	793	1 290	722	1 320	728
Total	98 610	57 096	134 569	78 129	121 603	58 825

REGISTERED AS WORKSEEKERS 1986
ALL RACES

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Johannesburg	19 962	12 584	20 811	12 972	20 971	13 061
Cape Town	14 753	8 718	16 969	8 564	17 083	8 136
Durban	25 010	13 625	28 162	14 279	26 295	13 316
Pretoria	8 805	4 234	8 799	3 937	9 525	3 858
Port Elizabeth	12 908	4 621	13 067	4 507	11 357	4 087
Bloemfontein	2 566	1 814	2 368	1 693	1 693	1 791
East London	3 385	1 818	3 348	1 681	3 312	1 869
Kimberley	2 016	855	1 938	834	1 940	895
George	1 836	686	1 995	657	1 800	622
Total	91 261	48 955	97 357	49 124	94 656	47 635

Trade unions

386 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

How many trade unions applied between 1 January and 31 December 1986 for registration in respect of (a) Black employees only, (b) White employees only, (c) Coloured employees only and (d) employees of more than one population group?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (a) 4
- (b) Nil
- (c) Nil
- (d) 12

Industrial accidents

387 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in the latest specified year for which figures are available.

(2) (a) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in that year (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year?

- (1) (a) 46
- (b) 17
- (c) 23
- (2) (a) 109
- (b) (i) 487 002
- (ii) 333 829
- (iii) 823 620

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

Note The figures are as at 31 December 1986 The figures under (2) (b) pertain to members of all registered trade unions There were also 53 706 members in respect of whom no classification was made according to population groups

Conciliation Boards

389 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

Trade Unions

388 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) How many registered trade unions confined their membership to (a) White, (b) Coloured/Asian and (c) Black persons as at the latest specified date for which figures are available.

(2) (a) how many racially mixed registered trade unions were there, and (b) how many (i) White, (ii) Coloured and Asian and (iii) Black persons were members of trade unions, as at that date?

- (1) (a) 139
- (b) 22
- (c) 116
- (d) 1 414
- (2) (a) 139
- (b) (i) 487 002
- (ii) 333 829
- (iii) 823 620

Conciliation Boards

389 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

(b) Whites 139
Asians 22
Coloureds 116
Blacks 1 414

Coal deaths down

Somehow
26/5/83
(31)

SOUTH African coal mines achieved their lowest ever fatality rate in 1986, according to the Chamber of Mines.

The fatality rate on the Chamber's member collieries in 1986 was almost half that of the United States coal mining industry during the same year, Chamber of Mines president Mr Peter Gush announced last Friday

"Every year for the

last three years the Chamber's member coal mines have succeeded in reducing their fatality rate, and last year's figure of 0,33 fatalities per 1 000 people in service is the lowest ever in the industry and less than half that of the 1984 rate," Mr Gush said

The 0,33 figure was almost half the United States coal mining industry's rate of 0,60

Mr Gush added "In

fact if one excludes the Hlobane disaster in 1983 the downward trend for both fatality and injury rates has been maintained for the past four years "

However, Mr Gush said, the gold mining industry had not achieved the same results with incidents such as the Hlobane and Kinross disasters having given the industry "a bad image in regard to safety"

Hurt man dies *Cape Times 28/2/87 131*

A 28-YEAR-OLD Escom employee who was seriously injured when he fell from a high-tension pylon near Swellendam on February 23, died in Tygerberg Hospital on Thursday. Mr Eddie Ward was injured in the fall in which a colleague, Mr Jan Meintjes, died.

Kinross mine, director and employee to be charged

Pretoria Bureau

The director of the Kinross mine, Mr Hugh Smith, another Kinross employee and the mine itself would face charges of culpable homicide following the disaster in which 177 mineworkers died last year, a spokesman for the Attorney-General's office said today.

The spokesman said Mr Smith, Mr Ignatius Olivier and Kinross gold mine would be tried in Witbank Regional Court "probably in May or June".

The three main accused will also face alternative charges related to alleged contraventions of the Mines and Works Act, he said.

Four other Kinross employees will be charged with contravening the regulations.

Most of the 177 mineworkers died after inhaling toxic fumes from polyurethane foam which caught alight underground, experts employed by the National Union of Mineworkers and mining group Gencor said after the tragedy in September last year.

~~131~~
131
SMR
5/3/87

Ill absentees a worry

A CHRONIC malaise — the bogus or misleading sick certificate — continues to plague SA industry. Concern over the growing rate of illness absenteeism has prompted industry and the medical profession to engage in a major rethink. The medical profession is concerned about transgressing ethics relating to

MICK COLLINS

confidentiality, while management is concerned about poor sick certificate practice leading to lost productivity. The National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) recently drew up guidelines to help the medical profession and industry management.

It says "Both employers and the SA Society of Occupational Medicine (Sacom — doctors who work in industry) believe a diagnosis should be stated on the certificate."

The report, adapted by Nosa from a study by Sacom and the Medical Association of SA, says the medical profession's main concern revolved around the diagnosis.

"Doctors are worried they might be breaching professional secrecy under Section 16 of the Medical, Dental and Supplementary Health Service Professions Act of 1974," it says

The controversy over "diagnosis" and "nature" of the illness also gives rise to concern.

"Diagnosis is specific, whereas nature is a more general phrase. Another legal opinion says this provision of the Act implies employers may insist on an express indication of the diagnosis," the report says

This could expose the doctor to litigation if he identified a disorder in general terms rather than stating a specific diagnosis and an accident in which other employees were injured.

Some industrial medical aid funds stipulate that a medical certificate must now state the exact nature of a sick employee's illness.

A circular from the Chamber of Printing and Allied Industries says a member firm was presented with a certificate in which the doctor stated he was "informed" that the employee had been unfit for a certain period.

"It was agreed that medical certificates using the words 'as I was informed' were not acceptable in terms of the Employee Benefit Fund."

DUCEN 11/71

Fisherman severs foot — airlifted from trawler

From KEN VERNON
Argus Bureau

ARGUS 9/3/87
131
PORT ELIZABETH. — A National Sea Rescue Institute paramedic was airlifted on to the deck of a trawler in rough seas off Cape St Francis to treat a Cape Town fisherman whose foot had been severed.

The fisherman, Mr Thomas Logan, of the Cape Town-based Southern Avenger, was winched to the helicopter from the trawler when it reached calmer water yesterday and is reported to be in a satisfactory condition at Greenacres Polyclinic.

Mr Logan's foot was torn off when it became entangled in a rope as he was laying crayfish pots yesterday afternoon.

The NSRI paramedic, Mr Peter Roux, was flown to the trawler by a South African Air Force helicopter and winched to the deck of the Southern Avenger with a stretcher and medical supplies.

NEARLY IN FUNNEL

Mr Roux said the trawler deck was tossing wildly in rough seas as he was being lowered. At one stage he "nearly fell into the ship's funnel".

Mr Logan was severely shocked, with the stump of his leg covered with a blood-soaked cloth.

"I gave him liquid to treat the shock and, later, morphine for the pain," he said.

As he worked on Mr Logan the trawler raced for the sheltered waters of St Francis Bay, where the seaman was airlifted from the trawler to hospital.

● Picture, Page 3.

Non-asbestos brake linings

1765 10/3/87
(31)
FITTING of non-asbestos brake linings to commercial vehicles as original equipment is well established and this has now created increased demand in the aftermarket

Having already offered selected applications for some time, Lucas Girling has now launched a full all-makes truck and trailer range for the UK

The material used is Duron P2001 which is compaction moulded and rigid

It has medium to high friction characteristics which have been developed specifically to achieve a well-balanced range of properties in relation to performance factors.

These include resistance to fade, speed and lining-pressure consciousness, compatibility with ferrous mating surfaces as well as wear resistance.

Lucas Girling's latest lining range accounts for all models of trucks, trailers and buses operating in the UK

"The demand for non-asbestos linings has been rapidly escalating over the last year or so," says the company's commercial vehicle service product manager, Peter Twigg

Kinross: NUM wants official inquiry

137
11/31/82

By Mike Siluma

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), noting the decision by the Attorney-General to bring charges against Kinross mine and two of its employees, on Tuesday called for an official inquiry into South Africa's worst gold mining disaster.

NUM safety officer Mr Hazy Sibanyoni said while accepting that criminal prosecution was the forum for determining the guilt or otherwise of the mine's management, wider issues concerning the Kinross accident needed to be debated.

Calling on the Government Mining Engineer to establish an early inquiry in terms of Section 5 of the Mines and Works Act, Mr Sibanyoni said: "The NUM hopes the institution of criminal proceedings will in no way be used to relieve the mines' inspectorate of its obligation to hold an inquiry — a forum the union believes will help to unravel all the facts of the accident."

The union believed a commission of inquiry should be appointed to investigate questions of health and safety in the mining industry.

Meanwhile, the Kinross mine management said no formal documents regarding prosecution had yet been served. Draft charge sheets had, however, been sent by the Attorney-General's office to the company's legal representatives.

Lesser
is bla

By Jo-An

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Inquest finding on gates fatality

(131)
EPOST
13/3/87

By MNCEDISI SALISO
Court Reporter

THE death of a man whose head was crushed by the hydraulically-operated gates at Louis le Grange Square was brought about by an omission on the part of the operators of the gates, the Port Elizabeth Inquest Court has found.

The inquest was on Mr Willem Billet, 38, a pedestrian who died when he was squashed by the gates on January 26 last year.

At a previous hearing, the court was told the control operator of the gates was expected to watch them during the closing process until they were completely closed, because of the inherent danger of trapping vehicles between the closing bars.

The gates opened and closed by means of a hydraulic ram, activated by persons in the control room.

The gates were visible from the control operator's desk.

The court heard that the control room had an additional window for the operator to observe public access through the gates from the road.

The only way to stop the gates while they were closing was by turning the control switch to the stop position.

An emergency stop switch was also provided, which stopped the gates immediately.

Mr P R Rothman, the inquest magistrate, made an inspection *in loco* before giving his finding today.

He found that Mr Billet's death was brought about by an omission on the part of those who had to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety of pedestrians passing through the gates.

His finding will be referred to the Attorney-General of the Eastern Cape for a decision.

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2.2
Jan 1986

Screen between VDT user and radiation

ST 22/3/87 131

THE first detachable anti-radiation screen for video terminals has been launched in South Africa.

The screens come in various sizes and are made of the material used for protection in nuclear plants and X-ray rooms

Some big computer companies already offer protection, but this is the first time VDT users have been offered the easy-to-fit protection against so-called radiation leakage

Softwave managing director Nico Taylor says about a million South Africans use VDTs.

Mr Taylor says, "We are not trying to cause alarm among VDT users, but there is growing concern worldwide about safety levels for radiation leakage

"Regular VDT users complain of eye strain, blurred vision, aching back, neck and head, skin rashes and stress"

Although scientists are still studying the health hazards of VDTs, fear has been expressed about the long-term effects of using them

There have been reports of an increase in the number of babies with congenital defects born to VDT users

Some scientists say research has been inconclusive

and the low-frequency emissions are not highly dangerous

A booklet on the hazards of VDTs — published by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union — calls for several control measures, including anti-radiation shields and regular checking of machines for radiation leaks

A booklet published by SA's Department of Health

says VDTs can produce several types of radiation, including X-rays, radiofrequency, microwave, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet and ultrasound

The booklet concludes that under normal operations VDTs emit little or no harmful radiation, but more research should be carried out to determine the best working conditions for operators

Deadly legacy of Chernobyl

131
EPOST
24/3/87

LONDON — About 1 000 people in the European Economic Community will die of cancer over the next 50 years through exposure to radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union

A report this week by Britain's State-funded National Radiological Protection Board says most of the deaths will occur in a small group of regional "blackspots" — with the southern part of West Germany the worst affected area, followed by Greece and northern Italy

But the report, carried out for the Brussels-based Executive Commission of the EEC, says that, during the same 50-year timespan, about 30 million people in the 12-nation community will die from cancer caused by other sources

As a result, it will be impossible to detect which cancer deaths would have been caused

1 000 will die in the nuclear 'blackspots'

by the release of radioactive material from the Chernobyl power station in the Ukraine last April

The board said the report is the first complete assessment of the effects on the EEC of the Chernobyl disaster — the world's worst civilian nuclear disaster, which killed 31 people in the Soviet Union in the first seven months after its occurrence

An explosion inside a reactor at the Chernobyl sent clouds of radioactive cesium-134, iodine-131 and strontium into the atmosphere

Carried by the wind, the radioactive pollution spread across the Ukraine, Western Europe and eventually around the world

Doses grew weaker the further the pollution was carried from the stricken plant

The total EEC population is 320 million

The report said people in the southern part of West Germany were exposed to the highest average Chernobyl radiation doses in the EEC, each adult receiving an average of 380 microsieverts — a measure of radioactivity

The report said that figure compared with average doses of 300 microsieverts in Greece, 200 in northern Italy and 50 in Britain

It said the findings showed strong regional variations when pessimistic assumptions were made about the few people who may have spent time outdoors and eaten above average amounts of contaminated food

The effective dose to these "critical groups" was as high as 1900

microsieverts in southern Germany, 1 300 in Greece, 1 100 in northern Italy, 970 in eastern France, 840 in the western part of mainland Britain and 520 in Northern Ireland

The average dose over a year from so-called "natural background" radiation from rocks and other material is between 1 000 and 2 000 microsieverts

One of the authors of the report, Mary Morrey, said in a radio interview with the BBC "There is a great degree of variation in the doses, due to different weather conditions in each country as the radioactive cloud passed overhead

"In particular, where it rained heavily, doses are higher, for example, parts of southern Germany, northern Italy, and Greece

"These doses may be compared with the lowest doses we estimated, for Portugal, of 0.3 microsieverts"

Asked how Chernobyl radiation in the EEC compared with natural background radiation and radiation from other sources, she said "Generally, throughout the EEC, people receive between two and four times the dose from natural background as the highest average doses we have estimated from the radiation from Chernobyl"

But she said Chernobyl radiation was enough to cause health problems in the long term

Asked how many non-fatal cancer cases could result from Chernobyl radiation in the EEC in the next 50 years, she said "For this study, we considered only non-fatal thyroid cancers and we estimate about 2 000 of these cancers will occur"

Several EEC nations prohibited the sale of fresh vegetables, milk and other contaminated foods to counter the radiation risk

The British environmental pressure group Friends of the Earth said it regarded the board's figure of 1 000 cancer deaths as a significant underestimate

Worker killed in gas blast

CMC Times
27/3/87
131

By CLARE HARPER

A WORKER at the Gant's Foods factory in Strand was killed and another man injured yesterday morning when a gas cylinder exploded, ripping through the gate of an enclosed area.

The cylinders were being filled with gas in an enclosed encampment area attached to the factory, which is on the border of Strand and Somerset West.

A Boland police spokesman, Lieutenant Neil Bower, said the 59-year-old dead man, whose next-of-kin in the Transkei had not been notified by last night, died instantly when he was struck on the head by the exploding 45kg cylinder at 11 05am.

Another worker, Mr Alfred Mshudulu, 45, was taken to Hottentots Holland Hospital after receiving three fractures in his left leg in the explosion. He was later transferred to Jan S Marais Hospital in Bellville.

A hospital spokesman last night described his condition as "satisfactory".

Police are investigating but no crime is suspected.

Mines to spend ⁽¹³¹⁾ R1,6-bn on safety

The gold mining industry is to spend, on a macro scale, about R1,6 billion on safety and safety-related activities this year, said the President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr Peter Gush last night.

Addressing the annual meeting of the Association of Mine Managers, Mr Gush said:

Pointing out that this was equivalent to 34 per cent of total working profits after tax Mr Gush itemised some of the areas in which the money would be spent. They included

- "Support of underground workings R650 million,
- "Environmental control R720 million;
- "Training R200 million,
- "Clothing R10 million,
- "Research (short and long-term implementation) R42 million

Mr Gush pointed out that the Chamber of Mines Research Organisation, with a total budget this year of R55 million is the largest privately-funded mining research establishment in the world

He added that the mining industry is embarking on a programme to introduce self-rescue equipment underground at a cost of more than R1 billion.

"Dr Horst Wagner, head of the Chamber's Research Organisation, points out that international mining experience shows that the development of new mining methods and equipment is the most effective approach to improving safety in underground mines.

"In this regard it is interesting to look at the history of safety in other mining industries. The British coal industry is a good example and shows that while or when it was labour intensive the fatality rate was comparable to what ours is now — despite our severe physical conditions. It was only when large scale mechanisation took

place that their fatality rate dropped significantly.

"The experience in our South African coal industry — where mechanisation has been significant — is very similar

"Our breakthrough in safety in the gold mines has, however, come through better organisational management and discipline and the downward trend has been encouraging. But following the results in coal the Chamber's research programme is also very much aimed at improving gold mining technology

RESEARCH

"At present about R16 million is spent on research which has a long-term impact on the mining industry and in particular, safety. Much of this effort is devoted to changing basic mining technology and increasing the level of mechanisation," Mr Gush said

"In addition about R11 million a year is spent on research aimed at overcoming the problems caused by the high rock pressures which exist in the very deep South African gold mines by way of better mine design and better mine support systems

"A further R5 million a year is spent on improving environmental conditions in deep mines.

"Other research in this area is aimed at overcoming the physiological effects of heat and noise and most importantly we are, post-Kinross, investigating the risks associated with the use of various materials in mines through the newly formed hazardous materials unit

"There are other projects in the pipeline including a review of the role and functions of the Prevention of Accidents Committee and a more formal system of worker representation in safety at the work place as well as at industry level — Sapa!

Factory workers collapse

Dispatch Correspondent

DURBAN — About 20 workers collapsed and went into convulsions at a shoe factory here yesterday morning

Mr Graeme Steele, director of Budget Footwear in Jacobs, is mystified by the sudden collapsing of the workers

A worker said one of the women collapsed on the floor and then, "one by one" the others were affected.

"It took six or seven others to hold the first one down — she was kicking and screaming — and then the workers holding her down also collapsed," he said

Two doctors were summoned to the factory where the women were given injections which subdued them.

Mr Steele said some workers were sent home, while others were able to get back to work soon after

He said one of the doctors told him of a similar incident at a clothing factory where workers collapsed and also went into convulsions

Mr Steele said he could not begin to guess what had caused the workers to collapse — it was definitely not chemical poisoning — but "mass hysteria" or spiritualism could have played a part.

A doctor who attended to the workers said that when he arrived at the factory one woman was having difficulty in breathing and was given sedative

"I think it was a form of mass hysteria. In rapid succession the others complained of similar symptoms but nothing could be found wrong with any of them"

Cause of Sasol gas explosion still unknown

(131)

DD 19/4/87



SECUNDA — The exact cause of the methane blast that injured 16 people at Sasol's Bosjespruit colliery at Secunda on Wednesday remains unknown, Sasol said yesterday

The company said in a statement that of the 16 hurt miners, three were in a serious condition and two were listed as critical

The five more seriously injured men had been transferred to private clinics in Johannesburg, while the rest were admitted to the mine hospital

The general manager responsible for collieries and personnel, Mr Peter Cox, who was on the scene immediately after the incident, said the explosion occurred in a secondary area some 180 metres underground and 6,5 km from the shaft. All miners had been evacuated by 4.30 pm

The Chemical Work-

ers Industrial Union (CWIU), were notified immediately and they were being kept informed of developments

Although the exact cause of the incident was not yet known, the mine inspectorate had already visited the scene, Mr Cox said in the statement

Meanwhile, the CWIU said in a statement yesterday the explosion "once again" demonstrated the "appalling" safety standards on South African mines

"This takes place at a time when Sasol is shortly due to appear in court on charges relating to the methane gas explosion which occurred in August 1985, killing 33 workers

"Sasol's productivity record is not matched by the safety record. There have been a series of concerns and incidents raised by workers over the past month," CWIU said — Sapa

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(131) *16/4/87*

Poison gas probe begins

THE underground inspection to launch the official investigation into the Ermelo mine accident in which 36 miners died would begin today, the managing director of Transnatal Mines, Mr Graham Thompson, said yesterday.

A team of officials from the Department of the Mining Engineer, Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, will spearhead the investigation

Thirty-six miners died and 16 were injured in a suspected methane gas explosion last Thursday. One of the prime objects of the investigation is to establish what caused the explosion.

Mr Thompson said it was unlikely that the underground inspection would be completed within a day

Seven unions have been invited to attend the inspection.

They are the Mine Workers' Union, the National Union of Mineworkers, the Electrical Workers' Association of South Africa, the Amalgamated Engineers Union, the Federated Miners' Union, the Metal and Allied Workers' Union and the United Workers' Union of South Africa.

Mr G A Haasbroek, deputy chief mining engineer, said it was not policy to comment on mine accident investigations.

He said it had not yet been decided when the investigation into the Randfontein Estates gold mine accident, which killed seven miners, would be held

Dangers of chemicals

PEOPLE who work with chemicals may experience several severe long-term effects, according to Critical Health

The effects include. Liver damage, cancer, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, blood damage, bone marrow damage, nervous system damage, and reproductive hazards (miscarriages and damage to babies before birth)

Working with chemicals of any kind requires many safety precautions. For example, Measures must be taken against spilling and leaking of chemicals, chemicals must be stored so that they do not become a fire hazard and when you work with chemicals it is important to see that there is enough flow of fresh air.

Dangerous chemicals come in different forms, such as liquid, dust, paste, powders or vapours.

They can cause damage by entering the body through the mouth and nose when a person breathes or swallows

Demand to know

"Workers should demand to know what chemicals they are working with," Critical health says, "for some of these chemicals, there is a legal exposure limit"

The union and other organisations can help by finding out if the chemicals used at the workplace go over the legal limit and arranging for independent health checks

These checks won't prevent ill-health but at least they can find signs of illness early and can therefore make the treatment more likely to succeed

Such health checks may include blood and urine tests, and tests of the lungs, liver and kidneys

15-21/4/87 (131) SOUTH



SHOCKED: Mr Terence Lackay sits near the body of the sailor stabbed to death in a parking lot on the Foreshore. Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus

Pump attendant shot dead in Philippi service station hold-up



Picture: PETER STANFORD, The Argus

GARAGE-KILLING. Manager Mr Bransby Sompeta at the spot where one of his employees was shot dead during a robbery

By **STEPHEN WROTTESELEY**
Crime Reporter

A **PETROL** pump attendant was shot dead on the forecourt of a Philippi garage today in the latest in a spate of attacks at service stations

A colleague fled as the gunman fired shots in the air. About R40 was stolen

A seaman was stabbed to death on the Foreshore last night

Police said the seaman had not been identified and the name of the attendant would be disclosed when his family had been told

Robbers have netted nearly R1 000 in six garage hold-ups in the four days. A robbery at a seventh garage was thwarted by police

Mr Bransby Sompeta, manager of the Thanduxolo Service Station in Lansdowne Road, said the shooting happened about 3.30am

The garage is opposite Nyanga and close to Crossroads

Two robbers approached two attendants on duty

NIGHTCLUB

The surviving attendant said he saw one of the robbers pushing his colleague, who staggered backwards across the forecourt

The other robber rushed to join his accomplice and the attendant heard a bang

The office was looted and R40 was stolen

The killing on the Foreshore happened just before 10pm.

It is understood the seaman met Mr Terence Lackay, 17, at a city nightclub and asked him to accompany him to his ship in Cape Town docks

While crossing a parking lot on the Foreshore they were ac-

costed by three men wearing balaclavas. The men threatened them with a knife and demanded money

Mr Lackay ran for help and saw the seaman being stabbed in the stomach. When he returned the seaman was dead

A murder docket has been opened. No arrests have been made

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective-Warrant Officer Harold Rossouw at 45 7324

EASY CASH

A police spokesman said the spate of attacks on petrol attendants showed robbers viewed garages as a ready source of cash

● A 7.15pm on Saturday Mr Atwell Mongwana, 37, was approached at the Maitland garage where he worked by three men who threatened him with a gun. The men stole R200

● At 10pm on Sunday three men robbed Mr David Fredericks of R150 at Klipfontein Motors in Klipfontein Road, Manenberg

● About 11pm on Sunday Mr Mathews Lonzi, 19, was robbed of two tins of oil by four armed men who attacked him at a Lansdowne garage

● Mr E Mjole, 45, was attacked by an armed man at an Athlone garage about 3am on Monday and robbed of R100

● Early yesterday police thwarted a hold-up at a garage in Kenridge after a tip-off

● At 10.40pm yesterday, Mr Albert Soman, 45, was held up by two armed men at a Surrey Estate garage and robbed of R250

● Twenty minutes later an attendant at a garage in Voortrekker Road, Kensington, was robbed of R100

VDU users more prone to ailments

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Workers using visual display units (VDUs) suffered more ailments than other employees, said a case study published here yesterday.

The study of more than 3 000 workers — the most detailed UK survey of health aspects of VDU use yet published — was commissioned by a white-collar union.

Conducted in the London borough of Newham, the study found VDU users took more leave and complained of more muscular aches and pains, headaches and stress than other employees.

White-collar staff of Newham were theoretically covered by an agreement which restricted VDU use to a maximum of four hours a day and provided for a break after every 50 min.

However, the survey found more than a fifth of them were using VDUs for longer than five hours. Three quarters were using their terminals for longer than 50 min at a time.

More than 80% of users reported vision problems, including eye ache and difficulty in focusing. There was also a high rate of psycho-social problems such as depression and irritability, particularly among women workers.

on Tuesday, north of the border with Namibia. — Sapa-AP.

Criticism for new safety regulations

27/4/87 B Day

131

NEW safety regulations for asbestos have been criticised by the Industrial Health Research Group (IHRG), part of the University of Cape Town's sociology department.

The newly-gazetted regulations, which apply to manufacturing firms using the product, are framed in terms of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosa), and are the first applicable to the manufacturing sector.

The IHRG criticises the regulations on several grounds:

- The exposure limit of one fibre/ml is too high — five times the limit for crocidolite and amosite in the UK. Crocidolite is the most common form of asbestos produced and used in SA;
- It gives no role to employee representatives' safety committees set up in terms of the Act in enforcing the regulations;
- They exempt employers who use asbestos only incidentally or occasionally — terms which are undefined and could be very broadly interpreted;
- The regulations state exposure

ALAN FINE

readings should be taken monthly. However, when four consecutive measurements are below 0,5 f/ml, readings are then required only once a year. When four consecutive readings are between 0,5 and one f/ml further testing is required only once every six months.

- Users of asbestos should be obliged to have the health of employees regularly monitored;
- The regulations say that when levels exceed one f/ml personal protective equipment should be used. The IHRG says protective equipment used in most SA plants is inadequate, and work with it should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances; and
- The IHRG thinks the maximum penalty for contravention of the regulations — a R1 000 fine — is inadequate.

Fibre Cement Association manager Brian Gibson said recently the regulations represented a sensible and realistic starting point control of the hazards of asbestos.

EMPLOYERS could save millions of rand by devoting time and money on the health of their employees, says Dr Mark Gillman, director of the SA Brain Research Institute.

8/5/87
Employers 'will benefit from a healthier staff' (31)

Introducing policies to combat addictions and to improve the health of employees has, he says, been shown overseas to be extremely cost-effective in the long term, although this was not the prime intention of their being embarked upon.

"The payback prospects are getting better all the time as medical aid and other health care costs escalate," says Gillman, who assists companies with their problems.

"One small US firm in the timber business cut absenteeism by 50%, its accident rate by 60%, saved over R150 000 on insurance costs, and showed substantial improvements in productivity and training costs."

Gillman will be visiting the US over the next two months and will examine corporate health programmes initiated to improve staff morale, increase productivity or because the boss became conscious of staff needs through overcoming a similar problem himself.

LINDA ENSOR

He sees employer participation as important for success, believing it does wonders in boosting morale.

"South African companies have been slow to recognise just how much alcohol and nicotine abuse are costing them. Over half of American employers have, or are considering, bans on smoking at work, and regard it as a good investment to spend as much as R50 000 on treatment for an alcoholic employee."

Alcoholism is a particular problem for SA companies, he says, because it cuts productivity, aggravates absenteeism, increases accident rates and inflates training costs to a "frightening degree".

"Every Monday morning SA industrial efficiency takes a nose-dive as a consequence of heavy weekend boozing," Gillman claims.

R277 163
Foreign Investor was

Injured divorcee sues Truworths for R508 000

By SHAUNA WESTCOTT
Supreme Court Reporter

FASHION giant Truworths is being sued for over half-a-million rand by a young divorcee, still employed by the company but unable to work, who was severely injured in a motor accident while on duty in January 1984

Speaking in a voice that often quavered, Mrs Ursula Feyder told the Supreme Court yesterday "I just want to get better I don't want pain, I can't handle the pain

"I want to be like I was in December 1983 I had such a nice social life and work environment and Mr Doug Peters said I had a future with the company I had such a nice projection of my life"

The court heard that Mrs Feyder was injured while she was employed as an internal auditor and travelling in a company car driven by a colleague, Miss Annette Elliott

The car went into a skid while overtaking a bakkie on a dirt road, went down an embankment and overturned

Since then Mrs Feyder says she has been in almost constant pain

She was off work for about four weeks after the accident but when she returned "no one could understand the pain, there were snide remarks" and her boss told her she was feeling sorry for herself

A neurosurgeon then discovered a fractured vertebra and entrapped nerve and an orthopaedic surgeon advised surgery She delayed the operation for two months to help a new boss learn the ropes

She returned to work after the operation in an iron brace "from my nose to my waist" She had been made an administrative controller before surgery and when she returned, her workload — responsibility for six small stores and the big Cavendish Square store — was increased by the addition of the big Adderley Street store

She said a driver promised to her before the operation never materialized and she could not cope because of constant pain

Finally in April 1986, a psychiatrist put her off work "for the foreseeable future"

Mrs Feyder said Truworths were fully aware when they employed her — she felt honour-bound to tell them — that between 1980 and 1981 she received treatment for a mental state that was "not good at all"

This state followed the break-up of a "terrible" marriage "I never knew when Barry was going to leave me I'd come home every day and look in the cupboard to see if his clothes were there

"He'd book himself into an hotel and phone me and tell me what room he was in and say he was just sorting himself out It was like a game"

She said there were other severe problems in the marriage — sexual problems and abuses.

The suit — in which Mrs Feyder is claiming R508 293,63 from Truworths and Miss Elliott — continues.

Miss Justice L van den Heever presided Mrs J H M Traverso, instructed by Reillys, appeared for Mrs Feyder Mr W G Thring SC, with Mr F Brand and instructed by Sonnenberg Hoffmann and Galombik, appeared for the defendants

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Concern grows at cancer risk in synthetic fibre works

Staff Reporter

GROWING concern is being voiced about the possible link between lung cancer and working with glass fibre and other synthetic materials.

The SA Asbestos Advisory Committee has released a statement giving details of recent research conducted in the United States.

The research, based on the mortality records of workers in North America, indicates that those who work with synthetic fibres show a higher rate of lung cancer than normal.

However, local medical experts believe that the evidence is far from conclusive

SMOKING

A senior Cape Town pathologist said "We really cannot tell at this stage if there is or isn't a risk involved with working with glass fibre and other such materials. We just do not have enough evidence.

"But one thing is for sure — it's not nearly as important a factor as smoking, for example."

He advised people who worked with dust-producing substances to use a mask so as not to inhale what more extensive research could eventually prove to be cancer-causing dust

His view was backed up by another medical expert, who pointed out that for years asbestos workers had been exposed to harmful dust before research had shown asbestos to be dangerous.

"So it makes sense to be careful with glass fibre

"But there's no conclusive evidence at present about whether it causes lung cancer"

The Department of Manpower insists that employees who work with synthetic materials like glass fibre are provided with respirators (masks), hot and cold water so that they can wash themselves frequently, and barrier cream for any exposed areas of skin.

The SA Asbestos Advisory Committee's statement quotes an official of the US Environmental Protection Agency as saying that synthetic fibres should be "treated as a serious health problem and regulated like asbestos".

Off the bottom

After bumping along the bottom for three years, Atlantis Diesel Engines (ADE) is back on the recovery trail. It should break even this year "and may even do better," says MD Hartmut Beckurts.

While refusing to discuss earnings, Beckurts says the 13 500 engines it expects to make this year should put it back in the "comfort zone" of 12 000-16 000 units a year.

In addition, ADE no longer relies purely on engine manufacture for its income. Export of components, sale of spare parts to local outlets, its grey iron and aluminium foundries which are now operating comfortably on full shift, day are now also contributing meaningfully to revenue.

ADE hit an all-time low last year of 11 400 units — 6 500 truck engines, 4 000 tractor engines and 900 "other engines."

The forecast for this year is 13 500 units — 9 200 for trucks, 3 200 for tractors and 1 100 "other."

"Ideally, we would like to ship more than 20 000 units a year," says Beckurts. "We should be there soon. Our long range forecast shows that demand will rise to 25 000 units by 1990-1991. Obviously, this will depend on the extent of the recovery in the economy and the automotive industry."

"More good news," says Beckurts, referring to engines ADE makes under licence to Daimler-Benz of Germany, "are the recent buying signals from the market indicating that the cost premium has diminished and that the ADE engine is now priced close to or lower than similar imported truck engines."

This is because the value of the rand against the D-mark (DM) dropped from 2,5:1-2,1 some years ago to less than 1:1. It now costs a lot more in rands to import engines from Germany.

"Had there been no premiums, we could have still brought in the Japanese engines

given the investment that's been made." BMW MD Walter Hasselkus says the local company came out of the red last October, and is now making a small profit. Market share for the first quarter of the year rose

New car and commercial vehicle sales could strengthen in unit terms by 8%-12% in 1987 compared with 1986, to a grand total of somewhere between 190 000 and 196 000 units overall.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY (13)

Making it work

Improved safety in the workplace is saving businessmen money.

Statistics released by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner show either reductions in, or the maintenance of compensation insurance premiums for the past 13 years, coupled with record merit rebates to employers with favourable claims experience.

National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) MD Bunny Matthysen released the latest figures from the commissioner in his annual report last week.

He said there had been a drop from 4% to 2% in the number of workers suffering disabling injuries and a reduction in assessment rates for 77 of the 105 designated classes of industry and commerce insured under the State Accident Fund (which does not include members of the Chamber of Mines insured under the Rand Mutual Fund).

A further 12 classes remained constant, while 16 increased.

The average (unweighted) assessment rate for all industry dropped from R1,15 to R0,85/R100 wages. Merit rebates of more than R39m were a new record, with R60m earmarked for the new year.

These figures paint a much brighter picture.

Matthysen attributed the favourable results to the upgrading of managements' safety-related skills, the input of various government inspectorates to employers and the optimum maintenance of Workmen's Compensation claims costs and overheads.

Both Matthysen and Nosa president Don Carroll, general operations manager of Afrox, stressed the need for improved safety education, saying that safety should be a mandatory subject in the curricula of all schools.

Only in this way could SA significantly reduce its enormous annual cost of accidents, including its road traffic accident rate which is among the highest in the world.

TOURISM

Foreign help

SA's tourism industry is alive and well — whatever sanctioners may believe.

Evidence abounded in Durban last week at Indaba '87, the SA Tourism Board's (SATB) fifth annual shopwindow on the country's tourist attractions. A cross-section of the 300 international visitors interviewed by the *FM* were unanimously confident that

CAPE TIMES 11/6/77 (131) Terre Blanche

Proposed rise in IOD benefits

PARLIAMENT. — A bill providing for increases in benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act — including pensions that are currently being paid out — was published here yesterday.

The benefits were last revised in 1984.

The Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act also empowers the Minister of Manpower to fix future increases by notice in the Government Gazette. Up to now this has been done by proclamation by the State President

The bill proposes that the wage limit

for compulsory cover of workmen be raised from R18 000 to R24 000

The maximum lump sum payable to dependants on the death of a workman is to be raised from R600 to R840, though the proviso remains that this payment shall not be more than twice the workman's monthly earnings

There is to be a 25% increase in all pensions payable in respect of workers injured on duty in accidents which happened before April 1 1981 For accidents that happened between that date the rise in pensions would be 10% — Sapa

AK6W (131)
**Wine worker drowns
in fermenting must**

Staff Reporter

A wine-cellar worker at Rooi-
berg Cellars, Robertson,
drowned when he lost his bal-
ance and fell face downwards
into 6cm of fermenting must.
His identity is being withheld
until his family has been noti-
fied.

Battle of Chernobyl is not yet won

By Christopher Walker
of The Times

Plagued with radiation hotspots more than 100 times the level to be found only a few kilometres away, and now the centre of a hazardous clean-up operation involving thousands of Soviet troops, the Chernobyl plant still resembles a battle-ground nearly 14 months after the world's worst nuclear accident.

Once a proud part of the Ukraine's verdant countryside, the crippled station now has the eerie appearance of a semi-desert.

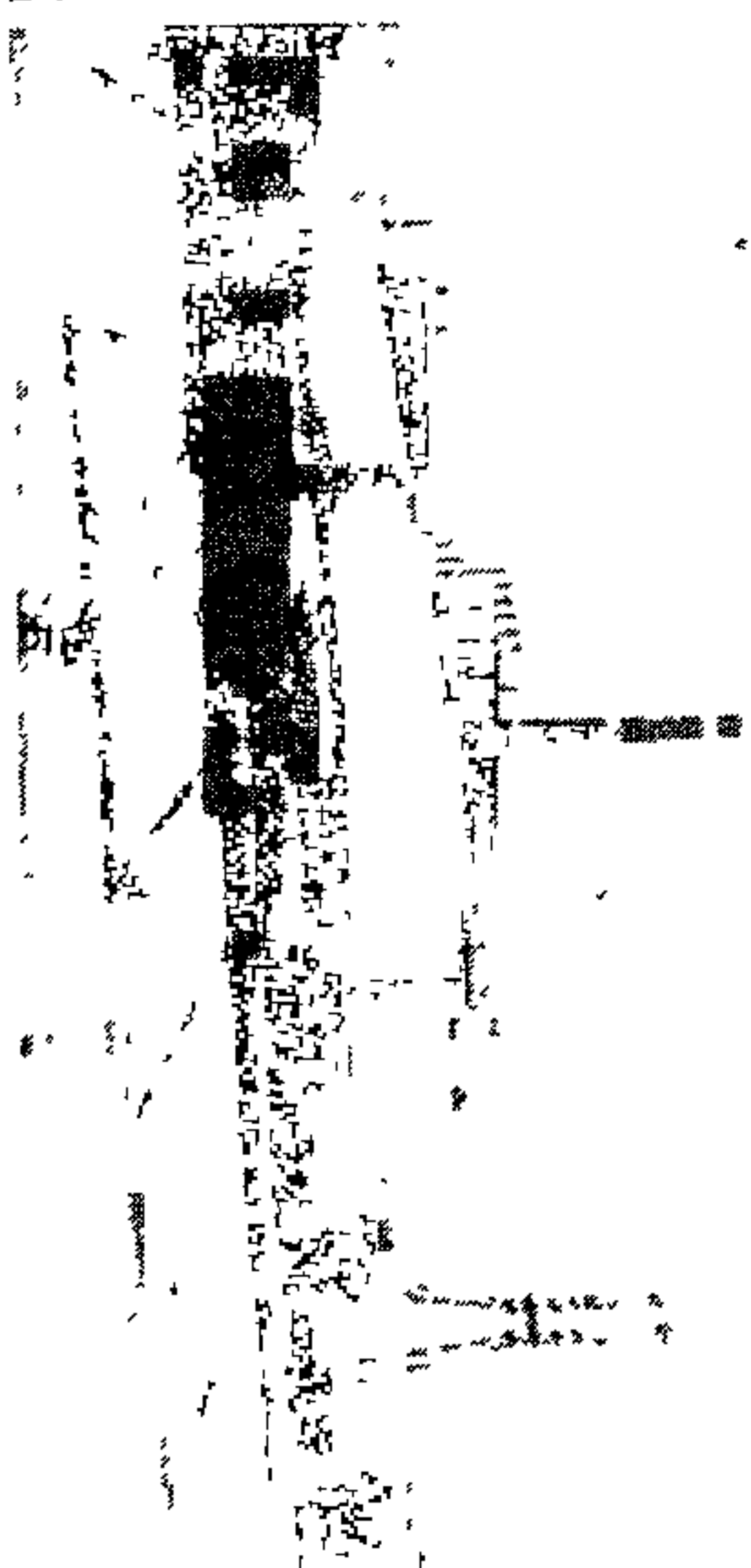
Contaminated forest and a thick layer of topsoil, for nearly 2 km on every side, have been stripped and buried in concrete-lined pits, while those pine trees still standing on the distant approaches are withered, burnt-looking and ominously dead.

Last week, for the first time since the explosion on April 26 1986, a handful of Western reporters were allowed to inspect the rescue work.

The continuing dangers were quickly brought home when we were required to sign special forms and warned never to open bus windows or smoke in the 28 km exclusion zone surrounding the plant.

We were also ordered never to step on to roadside verges, nor to drink water, and we had to wear dark glasses "if the sun shines brightly", which it did.

In the shadow of the giant concrete tomb now encasing the crippled number four reactor, I watched as an expert used a geiger counter to take a ground reading of a disturbing 12.8 milliroentgen, compared with 0.1 in the town of Chernobyl 16 km away and 0.02 in Kiev.



Scene of the tragedy, where danger still lurks.

144 km to the south

Most of the 10 correspondents present resolved to throw away their shoes later.

Loud and mawkish Soviet pop music was blasting from loudspeakers at the plant (where staff work for 15 days before taking an equivalent break at a safe distance), in the words of one Soviet official, "to try to keep everyone relaxed".

Close to a decontaminated statue of Lenin at the main entrance was a large poster stating incongruously in Russian "No to nuclear madness". All around, the sand poured in tens of thousands of tons over the stripped earth was being churned to mud by fleets of military water-sprayers fighting the never-ending war against radioactive dust.

Inside the control room of one of the two reactors now back in operation, it suddenly became possible to grasp the situation as it occurred in

the early hours of April 26 in a similar room not far away

Although rigid new safety procedures have been introduced since, I was surprised at the lack of concern shown when two or three visitors lost their special protective footwear because it did not fit.

The tension of those working inside the exclusion zone — 10 000 of them army reservists above the age of 35 — contrasted strongly with the unsuccessful attempts of the authorities to convey an atmosphere approaching normality.

LITTLE KNOWN

"The trouble is that we still know very little about the effects of radiation," said a Ukrainian official.

Throughout the exclusion zone, to which only 300 of the 135 000 evacuees have been allowed to return,

houses are becoming overgrown and many bear the triangular sign warning of excessive radiation.

Among those 10 000 civilians also working in the zone (6 000 back at the plant), jokes about infertility are common.

According to official figures, some 90 percent of the staff before the accident have now returned to their old jobs in what appear to be appallingly difficult conditions.

But in addition to the bravery of individuals, there is an air of fatalism combined with a dash of straight machismo — "What sort of dose did you get?" is a frequent question to those who have just returned.

Some 5 km from the plant is the ghost town of Pripyat, which once housed 50 000 people. The remainders of the mass evacuation, which began at 2 pm on April 27 last year, are still to be seen everywhere.

In the highrise buildings which line the weed-covered boulevards, washing still hangs in lines on balconies in a strangely moving silent witness to the forced exodus.

Although one third of the flats have been decontaminated, there is little chance that the town will ever be habitable again.

Special contempt is reserved for those who deserted their posts and for those whose foolhardy experiments caused the initial explosion.

On July 5 the plant's former director, Mr Viktor Brukhanov, the former chief engineer and his former deputy, will be brought back into the zone from a Kiev jail to stand trial on charges of criminal negligence.

B31
14/6/87

Blast kills Vaal worker

131

By STAN MHLONGO

AN explosion ripped apart a Vanderbijlpark company, killing one worker and seriously injuring three others

28/6/87

Davsteel director B Eras said the explosion occurred at 10 40am on Monday - instantly killing Samuel Selelane

CP Press

Other workers - Gabriel Maduna, W Dofling and Grans Liebenberg - had to be treated at the Sebokeng and Vanderbijlpark hospitals after sustaining injuries

Eras said an investigation was being conducted by the Department of Manpower to establish the cause of the explosion

"Davsteel's safety record was exceptionally good before the accident," said Eras

The explosion took place in the 60-ton electric arc furnace

rigus on Saturday.

~~AR 65 9/7/87~~
**Man hurt in fall
at Cape Town docks**

Staff Reporter 131 (2)

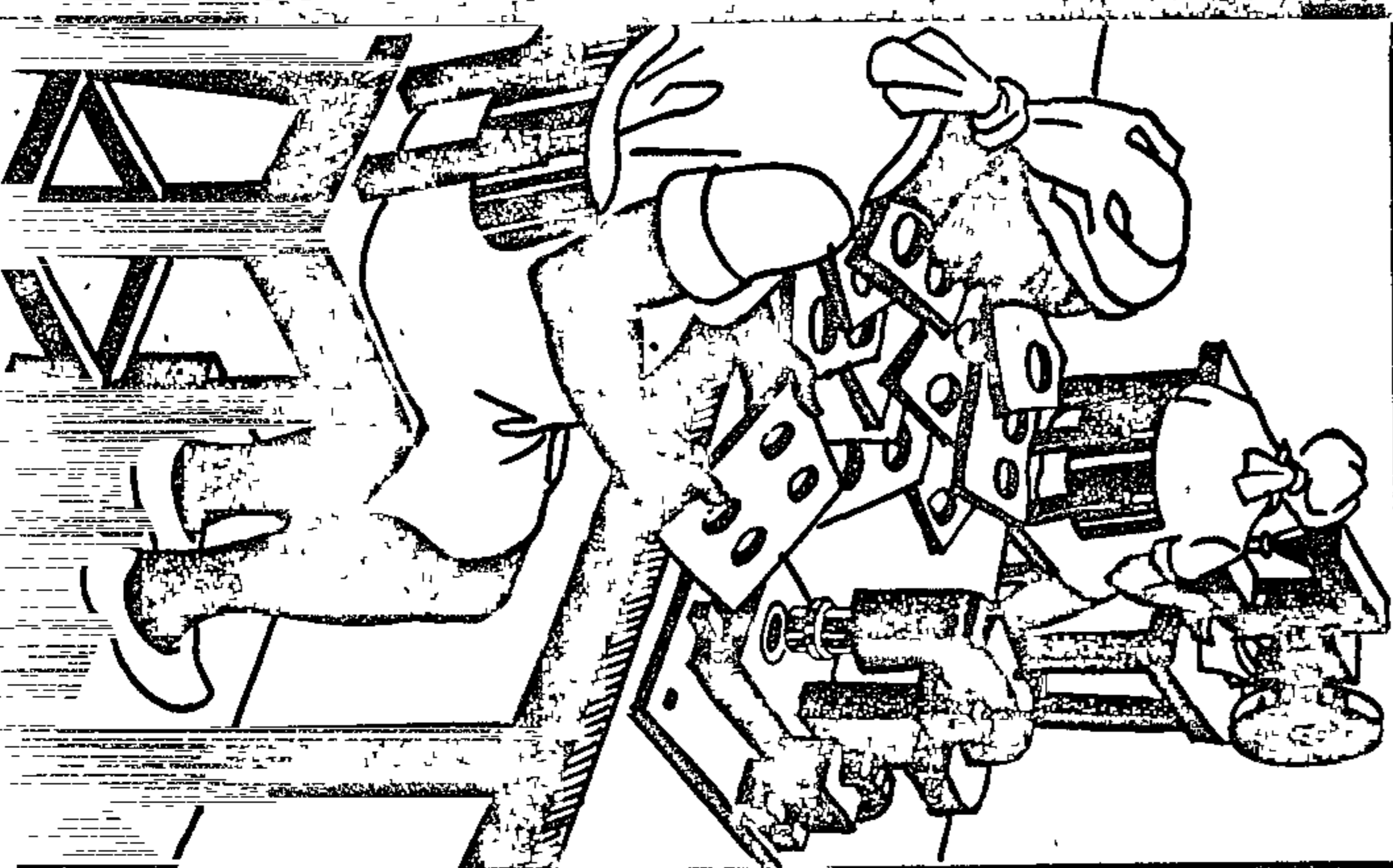
A KHAYELITSHA man is making good progress in Groote Schuur Hospital after being seriously injured in a four-metre fall at Cape Town docks.

Mr Jackson Phosa fell from his perch above a jetty on Monday while working with crayfish traps being unloaded from a trawler

MATERNITY RIGHTS FOR WORKING WOMEN

We demand the right to:

- work when we are pregnant
 - work in safe conditions
 - time off to attend ante-natal clinics
 - look after our babies for at least 6 months
 - get paid while we are away
 - come back to our jobs without loss of benefits
 - paternity leave for working men
- (when their babies are born)



HEALTH INFORMATION CENTRE.
1 Melle House, 31 Melle St.,
Bramfontein.
PO Box 30869, Bramfontein, 2017

Kod

Outcry over Natal nuclear spillage

8/7/89 (3)

DURBAN — Decontamination operations at the scene of the spillage of about 500 kg of radioactive material on Majuba Pass, in Northern Natal, continued yesterday as an anti-nuclear group expressed shock at the accident

Even contaminated topsoil was being removed from the roadside where three 210-litre drums of a consignment of 60 burst open after the lorry carrying them was involved in an accident on Sunday afternoon.

Technicians from the South African Nuclear Fuels Corporation (Nufcor) were washing the Newcastle-Volksrust road with acid and water yesterday.

"The accident has come as a shock to many people in Natal who thought the province was unaffected by nuclear developments," said a spokesman for the Society Against Nuclear Energy (Sane) and an ecologist at the University of Natal's Institute for Natural Resources, Mr Mark Gandar

Uranium spillage is no health threat says AEC

31/7/82
2005

The uranium oxide spillage that occurred earlier this week at Majuba Pass posed no health risk to occupants of vehicles which used the road, the Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC) said yesterday

In a statement, the AEC said that over the past two days it had monitored 54 vehicles for uranium contamination. All the vehicles had used the road shortly after the accident

Of those 54, 52 had showed no signs of contamination and the remaining two tests revealed "small but insignificant traces of uranium"

The amounts of uranium identified were so small that they posed no risk to the occupants of the vehicles.

"The number of vehicles monitored is regarded as a representative sample and confirms that the effects of the accident pose absolutely no health risk to occupants of vehicles which used the road or to residents in the vicinity," the AEC statement said

Examination of the vehicles was performed by qualified AEC staff at the Volksrust and Newcastle monitoring stations and at the AEC's Pelindaba site — Sapa.

328
101
107

(2) whether there have been any further developments in this regard, if so, what developments?

THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

(1) Yes

(a) Documents dated 2 and 17 April 1987, respectively which contained particulars of proposed transactions affecting certain newspapers, were submitted to the Competition Board. The documents were submitted for the purpose of consulting with the Competition Board at the request of the parties concerned with a view to obtaining the Board's advice on the likelihood of the existence of circumstances which do not justify the acquisition in the public interest. This procedure is provided for in section 6 (1) (d) of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act, 1979, and several consultations took place during April and May 1987. It may be added that such advice is not binding. If the advice is negative, it does not prevent the parties from proceeding with the transaction.

- (b) (i) Particulars of the proposed arrangements are confidential, and in terms of section 17 of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition Act, 1979, the Board is bound to preserve confidentiality. However, the parties concerned are at liberty to disclose the information.
- (ii) The Competition Board may also not disclose the advice which it conveyed promptly to the parties after each consultation.
- (c) The legal provision concerning confidentiality also applies in this instance.
- (2) In terms of section 10 of the Maintenance and Promotion of Competition

HoA

Act, 1979 the Competition Board may on its own initiative and shall, on the directions of the Minister, make an investigation contemplated in that section. To date I have not given such an instruction nor has the Board initiated an investigation affecting the industry concerned.

Pretoria Portland Cement

*10 Mr K D SWANENPOEL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development +

(1) Whether any tests have been carried out to ascertain the extent of the deposit of cement dust in Capital Park and other surrounding residential areas from a certain cement factory, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, if so (a) what is the extent of the deposit (b) in what residential areas have these tests been carried out and (c) what is the name of the factory.

Howard

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

- (1) Yes
- (a) The average concentration of suspended dust in air measured in the area was less than 50 micrograms per cubic metre.
- (b) The tests were conducted in Pretoria Gardens.
- (c) Pretoria Portland Cement in Hercules.
- (2) As the results of the measurements proved that the dust concentration in the area was well below the standard of 150 micrograms per cubic metre for city environment, together with the fact that the dust originating from

the cement factory does not contain cement as is generally believed but is very similar to ordinary agricultural lime dust. The dust levels in the area are not considered to present any health hazard. Analysis of the dust collected during the sampling period February 1988 to March 1986 also showed that at no stage did the factory contribute more than 10% to the total dust burden in the environment. The rest was from other sources.

(a) Falls away

(b) No steps are considered since the cement factory in question is equipped with the most sophisticated abatement equipment available and the management is committed to maintaining dust emissions to a minimum.

Informers recruitment

*11 Mrs H SL ZVIAN asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether any branch of the South African Police approached and/or recruited a certain person whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply in or about 1985 in connection with information on student organisations at the University of Cape Town, if so (a) when (b) (i) for what purpose was this person approached and/or recruited and (ii) what is his name and (c) (i) what was the total amount spent in this regard and (ii) over what period was it spent.
- (2) What is the policy of the South African Police regarding the recruitment of students for the purpose of supplying information on fellow-students, whether he has been approached by any person regarding this incident, if so, (a) by whom, (b) when and (c) what was the outcome in each case.
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes, like all police forces across the

HoA

work, the South African Police also use informers to gather information of security interest. I wish to emphasise that such persons are expected to gather information and not to act as agent provocateurs.

The South African Police is not interested in mobilising lawful student activities.

(a) I wish to refer the hon member to my press statement of 12 August 1987 which I attach for reasons of clarity and which I regard as sufficient.

I refer the hon member to my reply to paragraph 1 and 1 (a) to (c) above.

(b) I do not regard these discussions as confidential and am not prepared to comment on the matter before me.

No letter has been submitted to my reply to paragraph 1 and 1 (a) to (c) above.

PRESS RELEASE

MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER MR MORRISON 12 AUGUST 1987

ALL GENPOLICE SPY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

would be naive to believe that the South African Police like all police forces does make use of intelligence sources

Genpolice forces rely heavily on information of all kinds to assist them in the prevention and combating of crime, to curb violence, and to obtain information on matters regarding the security of the State

While it is standard procedure not to divulge identities of sources or to provide any comment on matters of this nature, I find it this regard necessary to reveal that Mr Samuel Pretorius is attached to the South African Police

It was posted at the University of Cape Town for specific reasons. The South African

Howard
25/8/87

21/8/87 ~~Star~~

Everite to cut down on use of asbestos

131

By Teigue Payne

From 1992 Everite, South Africa's leading maker of asbestos cement products will replace asbestos with synthetic fibre in all building materials which formerly contained asbestos, except asbestos cement piping

Due to negative customer perceptions, Everite's Swiss parent company, Eternit, a leading world asbestos maker, imposed the 1992 deadline in "a message from Hosea" which in essence said that although asbestos is still the best material for the purpose, it must be replaced regardless of cost.

In making this decision for its 30 factories of subsidiaries and associated companies world wide, Eternit has tacitly conceded that the asbestos-related industry cannot win the debate over the health hazards of asbestos and resurrect the image of the "miracle mineral"

The decision will not immediately affect South Africa's main producers, Msauli and Gefco, since Everite obtains most of its supplies from Sawiland and Zimbabwe. Msauli and Gefco export most of their production to other customers and can find other clients locally for the small amounts sold to Everite

Gefco and Msauli say that con-

siderable substitution of asbestos by synthetic fibre has already taken place world wide, and they believe that the bottom of the market has been reached. They say production cutbacks have brought supply and demand into equilibrium and prices have stopped declining — and in some cases have even risen slightly

Since most of their production is used in piping, for which no synthetic fibre substitute is in sight, they feel they will be relatively inured if other companies follow Eternit's strategy

Nonetheless, moves like that of Eternit must ultimately create more competition and be a psychological blow to the South African companies. In the long term they can only hope that the substitution movement remains "in control"

The decision does not mean that Everite admits that asbestos is dangerous, as asbestos critics would have it. Everite, like the rest of the asbestos industry, still asserts that, handled correctly, asbestos is safe

The ability of asbestos to transform brittle cement into a tough, elastic material which could be used for thin-walled modern buildings and pipes, was discovered at the turn of the century

The mineral's notoriety stems from the frantic activity associated with preparing ships for military service during the Second World War. Workers had no respiratory protection when ship bulkheads were sprayed with asbestos insulation. After the fibres had been lodged in their lungs for 20 or 30 years, however, there was an outbreak of asbestos related diseases (ARDs) — asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma

Initially, asbestos industry executives closed the door on the criticism, taking the attitude that

the industry would clean itself up. Since then, at great cost, fibre levels on mines, plants and factories have almost universally been reduced to levels deemed safe by Government regulation

But some further research indicated that high concentrations of fibre were not necessary, and that relatively low exposure might cause disease. So concern about high fibre concentrations in the work place cascaded as far down as housewives worrying about using fibre-cement products

Public controversy about asbestos increased, and as the image of the mineral plunged, the industry had to make a supreme effort to defend the mineral's image

Today the industry can point to safe conditions in asbestos-related work places, and to research showing that the concentration of asbestos fibres in the atmosphere does not increase close to asbestos cement products

Authoritative British research shows that in an environment with the concentration of fibres there are Johannesburg — which are similar to concentrations in other centres in Europe and the United States — the risk of death from sharing an office with a smoker is 90 times greater than the risk of dying of an asbestos related disease

These conclusions are challenged by researchers critical of asbestos, and far from abating, the debate has become increasingly fierce in the 1980s

Everite will still be using asbestos in making its pipes, which make up 30 percent of its asbestos-related production. To justify this, it points to research, including a review by the World Health Organisation, which found no evidence of any health hazard where fibres are ingested with water

131

SOWETAN - Wednesday, August 26, 1987

LUNGS

(Those of blacks)

ARE NOT SMALLER

IF the results of an extensive lung function survey recently completed in Johannesburg are as the chief investigator of the research project, Dr Jonathan Goldin, expects them to be, medical opinion throughout the world may well have to do an about-face.

The survey, co-sponsored by First National Bank and conducted by doctors from the University of Cape Town's respiratory clinic, set out to challenge a long-accepted medical theory on the disparity between the lungs of black and white people

Medical surveys conducted throughout the Western world in the last 50 years on the comparative lung functions of blacks and whites have indicated that black lungs are smaller in size than their white counterparts

Western scientists believe that this factor is due to a genetic predisposition and have established a 15 percent average difference in the predicted normal lung volumes of black and white lungs.

Diseases

This finding has severe repercussions in countries with a large mining workforce. High percentage of chest diseases exists among miners, with miner's pneumoconiosis (or "miner's dust disease") a common condition in South Africa.

Miner's with a clinical diagnosis of the above disease are eligible for compensation, providing their lung function testing is 13 percent lower than the predicted normal

Hence, a black miner seeking compensation for lung damage is at a serious disadvantage as his lung function has to read a full 28 percent lower than the white predicted normal in order to qualify for compensation. Researchers from the medical faculty of the

Doctors challenge Western belief

University of Cape Town believe that it is possible that the 15 percent disparity might well be due to socio-economic factors rather than genetic.

Reasons for this belief are:
(1) No research has been published in South Africa on a broad cross-section of healthy lungs
(2) No research has ever

been conducted investigating the specific relationship between socio-economic factors and lung function
(3) Until recently, black children were thought to grow more slowly than white children — however, researchers discovered that this growth retardation was due to poor diet.
(4) It would not be

unreasonable to say that until recently, most blacks in the Western world have come from socio-economically deprived backgrounds
Dr Goldin believes that eventual lung function potential is determined by environmental and dietary conditions during childhood

Thus, in order to obtain a truly objective analysis, it was necessary to find a cross-section of working middle-class people from both the white and black communities
The logistics involved almost made the project impossible, until First National Bank came to the rescue
In addition to a cash donation of R10 000,

First National Bank offered space in Barclaycard House as a home for the research project. They provided statistics of staff members of which some 900 were selected as suitable subjects
The bank provided transport to the lung function unit and the chest X-ray unit in Hillbrow. A complete test per person takes roughly 3 hours, so the manpower cost to the bank was considerable.

Black and white lungs under the microscope

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The survey, co-sponsored by First National Bank and conducted by doctors from the University of Cape Town's respiratory clinic, sets out to challenge a long-accepted medical theory on the disparity between the lungs of black and white people.

Medical surveys conducted throughout the Western world in the last 50 years on the comparative lung functions of blacks and whites have indicated that black lungs are smaller in size than their white counterparts.

Western scientists believe that this factor is due to a genetic predisposition and have established a 15 percent average difference in the predicted normal lung volumes of black and white lungs.

This finding has severe repercussions in countries with a large mining workforce.

A high percentage of chest disease exists among miners with miner's pneumoconiosis or "miners' dust dis-

ease", a common condition in South Africa

Miners with a clinical diagnosis of the this disease are eligible for compensation, providing their lung function testing is 13 percent lower than the predicted normal.

Hence, a black miner seeking compensation for lung damage is at a serious disease disadvantage as his lung function has to read a full 28 percent lower than the white predicted normal in order to qualify for compensation.

Researchers from the medical faculty of the University of Cape Town believe that it is possible that the 15 percent disparity might well be due to socio-economic factors rather than genetic. Reasons for this belief are:

- No research has been published in South Africa on a broad cross-section of healthy lungs.
- No research has ever been conducted investigating the specific relationship between socio-economic factors and lung function.
- Until recently, black children were thought to grow more slowly than white children. However, researchers discovered that this growth retardation was due to poor diet.

● It would not be unreasonable to say that until recently, most blacks in the Western world have come from socio-economically deprived backgrounds.

Therefore, in order to obtain a truly objective analysis, it was necessary to find a cross-section of working middle-class people from both the white and black communities.

In addition to a cash donation of R10 000, First National Bank offered space in Barclaycard House as a home for the research project.

The bank provided statistics of staff members of which some 900 were selected as suitable subjects.

Subjects were required to complete an extensive questionnaire with the primary focus being on environmental factors during childhood.

They then had to undergo numerous lung function tests, utilising some of the most technologically advanced equipment in the world.

Preliminary results of the research should be available in December, with the final conclusive results scheduled for publication in February 1988.

A staggering 40-60 percent of all medicine consumed in the Western world is for chest problems.

: All
: Yes
: Yes

what extent and (b) what quotas are applied at each of these technikons, (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- (1) Yes, talks are currently in progress with the rectors regarding a policy for the admission of non-Whites to the technikons which is in accordance with the provisions and the spirit of the Constitution and which serves the interests of the country. The discussions have not been concluded.
- (2) Yes, subject to the policy of admission
- (3) No, pending completion of the discussions on policy in this regard
- (a) and (b) Fall away
- (4) No

TUESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1987

Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

Newspaper proprietors/publishers: talks

*1 Mr D J DALLING asked the State President

Whether he or any person delegated by him recently held talks with any representatives of newspaper proprietors or publishers, if so, (a) when were these talks held in each case and (b) (i) who was present at, (ii) what was the purpose of, and (iii) what resulted from, the talks in each case?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION (for the State President)

I refer the hon member to my address in the House of Assembly on 17 August

Hoa

1987 I have no further comments, considering that I do not supply details of my conversations with other parties, unless prior agreement has been reached with those parties

Mr P G SOAL Or they have been taped

Ministers

Waterport Police Force: representations

*1 Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order +

- (1) Whether the South African Police has received any (a) complaints and (b) representations in connection with certain members of the Police Force at Waterport, if so, (i) when, (ii) what was the nature of the (aa) complaints and (bb) representations and (iii) what was the response to the representations,

(2) whether the complaints have been investigated, if so, (a) when and (b) what were the ranks of the investigating officers,

(3) whether he has received a report on this investigation, if so (a) when, (b) what was the purpose thereof and (c) what were the findings,

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

*The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes

(i) 23 June 1987

(ii) and (iii) The complaints and representations dealt with departmental policy which I regard as an internal matter. I am therefore, not prepared to furnish this information

- (2) Yes

(a) From 7 until 31 July 1987

(b) The Divisional Commissioner of the Far Northern Transvaal Police Division investigated the complaints and representations

- (3) Yes

(a) 21 August 1987

(b) I refer the hon member to my answer to paragraph (1) (ii) and (iii) above

(c) The complaints and representations were false

(4) Yes. The policy of the South African Police determines that members of the Force should serve all groups of the community impartially, irrespective of race, colour, religious and political affiliation. The security of South Africa and all its people is an absolute priority with the South African Police and it is for this reason, therefore, that I disapprove in the strongest terms of any attempt, whatsoever, to involve the Force or any member of the Force in petty party politics. In any event, Standing Orders prohibit members of the Force from becoming members of any leftist or rightist radical organizations such as the ANC or AWB and from participating in party politics

Neuwenhuzen Report

*2 Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development +

(1) Whether any amendments have been effected to the White Paper on the Neuwenhuzen Report, if so, (a) when, (b) by whom and (c) what amendments,

(2) whether these amendments are to be tabled in the present session of Parliament, if so, when, (a) why not and (b) when they are expected to be tabled,

(3) whether all employers' and employees organizations will have an opportunity to discuss and/or comment on the proposed amendments, if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

- (1) Yes

(a) 19 March 1986

Hoa

(b) Cabinet

(c) That

(i) the instruction by the Government in the White Paper that the uniform occupational diseases dispensation should be based completely on the principles of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, 1973, be amended,

(ii) the Interdepartmental working committee be authorised to prepare draft legislation whereby the administration of the compensation of irrevocable and incurable occupational diseases could be in tandem with the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941 of the Department of Manpower, and

(iii) if necessary separate draft legislation for occupational medicine be prepared

- (2) No

(a) As the amendments have a small effect on the work of the Interdepartmental Committee and as the draft legislation prepared by the committee will be published for discussion by employers and employee institutions, tabling of these minor amendments to the White Paper were not necessary

(b) Falls away

- (3) Yes

-Mr F J LE ROUX Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I should like to ask him whether he is aware that in the original Neuwenhuzen report the recommendation was that that payments in respect of accidents and so forth should be based on the pneumoconiosis legislation of 1973, and secondly whether he knows that this matter now has been outstanding since the end of 1980

+The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, it is true that this proposed legislation has been outstanding since 1980, but the inter-depart-

Howard 1/9/87

mental committee experienced problems in preparing legislation to fit in with the original decision. In order to obtain a reply and to get legislation to this House, this decision has been taken by the Cabinet

Sam Bloomberg

*3 Brng J F BOSSMAN asked the Minister of Law and Order +

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purposes of the Minister's reply, is a Police reservist, if so, (a) what is the name of this person and (b) what salary does he receive from the State,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- (1) Yes
 - (a) Mr Samuel Gabriel Bloomberg
 - (b) In accordance with the conditions of service a reservist is not entitled to any remuneration and therefore he does not receive remuneration of any nature
- (2) Yes Mr Sam Bloomberg who is also the hon member for Bezuidenhout is a member of the Reserve Police Force of the South African Police since 21 September 1961. As such he serves under the command of the Commissioner of the South African Police in terms of section 34 (2) of the Police Act of 1958 and is assigned to the District Commandant Johannesburg for duty and discipline. When he is on duty he is empowered with the same authority and renders the same duty in terms of section 5 of the Police Act 1958 as permanent members of the Force.

I wish to emphasize that members of the Reserve Police Force provide voluntary service without remuneration. They do indeed receive uniforms to enable them to perform their duties in uniform. When a reservist terminates his services, however, these

Items of uniform must be returned. When under specific circumstances, essential expenses in respect of transport and meals are incurred, such expenses can be claimed, for example, where there is insufficient public transport and a reservist resides further than 5 kilometres from a police station and has to make use of private transport, etcetera.

However, provisions determine that in exceptional instances and for specific reasons, members of the Reserve Police Force may be called up for special duty. Although such a member still has a choice and cannot be compelled to perform this duty, it is possible that in such instances remuneration and subsistence allowance can be paid at prescribed tariffs.

I wish to emphasize that in this particular case, according to the records of the South African Police, the hon member received no remuneration for his services and submitted no claims in respect of subsistence allowance meals and/or transport.

The hon member for Bezuidenhout has since his appointment in the Reserve Police Force rendered excellent service. Consequently the State President awarded him the honorary rank of Colonel on 1 November 1983. Since his election to the House of Assembly on 6 May 1987, he still renders excellent service without remuneration when his circumstances and time permit.

From the aforementioned it is clear that under no circumstances can this instance be regarded as an office of profit under the Republic in terms of section 54 (e) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983, Act 110 of 1983.

†Mr F J LE ROUX Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, I should just like to ask whether police reservists are insured against accidents.

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, unfortunately I do not know that I shall have the

matter investigated and furnish the hon member with a reply

National security management system

*4 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services

- (1) Whether the Commission for Administration is at present involved in a review of the national security management system, if so, (a) what is the purpose of this review and (b) when is it anticipated that the Commission will report on this matter.
- (2) whether the (a) findings and (b) recommendations in this regard will be made available to the public, if not, (i) why not and (ii) who will have access to this information?

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (for the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services

- (1) No
- (2) Falls away

Waverest township development project

*5 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning

- (1) Whether the Cape Provincial Council commissioned an inquiry during the previous decade into the Waverest township development project in Port Elizabeth, if so (a) when and (b) (i) who were the members and (ii) what were the terms of reference of this commission of inquiry,
- (2) whether this commission reported to the Administrator of the Cape, if not, why not, if so (a) when, (b) what were the findings and (c) what action was taken as a result,
- (3) whether this report has been made available to the public, if so, when, if not, why not,
- (4) whether he will make this report

available to the public, if not, why not, if so, when, (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

- (1) (a) A Committee to enquire into the Waverest development project at Jeffrey's Bay (not Port Elizabeth as suggested in the question) was appointed by the Administrator on 8 June 1973
- (b) (i) MPC's Messrs J H Heyns (Chairman), T Aronson, D H Rossouw, O A Saaman, P H S van Zijl
- (ii) The terms of reference were
- (aa) To determine whether there was any non-observance of any law procedure, principles policy or precedents relating to town planning and the authorisation of the establishment of a township, and if so
- (bb) to establish which persons were parties to such non-observance and
- (cc) to recommend what steps if any, should be taken in the matter "

- (2) Yes
- (a) February 1974
- (b) The following are the conclusions, findings and recommendations of the Committee
- (1) Your Committee completed the inquiry as a Departmental Committee and came to the conclusion and also found that there was no non-observance of any law, procedure, principles or policy relating to town plan-

ing.

1/9/87



Howard

Everite phasing out asbestos

Carl Tivis

12/9/87

Financial Editor

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FORMER journalist Brian Gibson now specializes in handling public relations for industries with an unpopular image. But at a presentation in a Sea Point hotel this week he admitted that asbestos was "a lost cause".

Fear of the three illnesses — asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma — caused by breathing asbestos fibres is so great that its use has been forbidden in West Germany and it is being phased out everywhere else.

Now Everite, one of the major producers of asbestos cement in SA, is switching to the use of a cellulose fibre in building products.

But this will take time. It will not be until 1992 that a complete switch to the new product, Fibrecem, has been achieved.

Meanwhile, Gibson insists, use of asbestos cement is perfectly safe if the proper tools provided by the industry are used.

He warns against the use of an angle-grinder on asbestos cement by building workers, which produces harmful dust.

"We provide, at cost, tools that can safely be used."

Gibson said Everite was spending approximately R1,50m on acquiring "know-how" from an Australian firm, James Hardie, and its British research partner, Cape Industries, on producing cellulose fibres.

More than R30m had been spent on the local development of Fibrecem products.

Forum to explore radiation hazards

Post Reporter

A FORUM for radiation protection has been launched by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to act as an independent advisory body on aspects of protection against radiation in South Africa.

"Public anxiety about radiation hazards in SA has highlighted the need for a national referral point that can give an authoritative opinion on various aspects of radiological protection," says Dr P van Heerden, who is deputy president of the MRC.

Ionising radiation, which is a form of hazardous radiation, is the process whereby energy is emitted either as waves (gamma rays and X-rays) or as particles.

These emissions, although medically useful in many instances, can be harmful to human beings.

"People must be protected from unnecessary or excessive exposure," the MRC says in a statement.

"Nuclear power stations, as well as medical and industrial applications of radiation, are possible sources of such over-exposure."

"The forum's main task will be to identify areas where present regulatory measures are either inadequate or unrealistic."

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SAB worker dies in fall into beer tank

131

A worker has been killed in an incident at South African Breweries' malting plant at Alrode, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) said yesterday.

According to a Fawu spokesman, Mr Michael Kumalo died after falling into a malting tank on Friday. He said the union had been refused access to the plant to conduct an investigation.

SAB public affairs manager, Mr Gary May, confirmed the death but denied the union had been barred from the plant.

"Arrangements are being made for a set time for an inspection to be made with all those concerned present. There is no objection to the union conducting its own investigation," said Mr May.

**Worker injured in
20m fall in dry dock**

MAGUS 8/10/87
Staff Reporter

AN ENGINEERING firm worker was seriously injured today when he fell about 20 metres in the Sturrock Dry Dock at Cape Town harbour.

Mr L Limgamiso has multiple injuries.

He apparently lost his balance and fell from a shelf near the quayside, according to port officials.

Firemen and Metro personnel strapped him to a stretcher and gave him emergency treatment before taking him to Groote Schuur Hospital by ambulance.

~~300~~
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October 20 1987

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Kinross: lack of 'costly' safeguards

Tests on fire gear at SA mines not up to scratch — magistrate

By Duncan Guy

WITBANK — Fire testing of equipment for underground mining conditions seems to be done in a haphazard and non-scientific way, regional magistrate Mr J W R Pietersen remarked yesterday during the trial of seven Gencor employees following the Kinross mine disaster in September last year in which 177 miners died.

This was after evidence by State witness Mr Hans Theo Horst Vannenveld, senior engineer in the Fire Engineering section of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).

Mr Vannenveld said that while such tests were carried out in underground tunnels in overseas countries they were not generally practised in South Africa.

LABORATORY TESTS 'LIMITED'

He said, however, that only one mine in South Africa, near Krugersdorp, had such facilities in the form of an unused mine shaft stope.

"It is a cumbersome and costly method of testing. It requires frequent cleaning-up to return conditions to normal and it is also time consuming."

Mr Vannenveld added that the laboratory testing of how equipment would cope with fire under-

ground, which was done, only gave "small scale results".

He further testified that in Germany and the United States, it was compulsory for fire extinguishers to be present in mines where foam had been applied to the walls.

NO EXTINGUISHERS AT FIRE

The court has heard that no extinguishers were known to be available nearby when the foam caught fire after one of the accused, Mr Fredrick Christoffel Viviers, was using a cutting torch, 1 000 m underground shortly before a tunnel set alight.

Mr Vannenveld said that, in his opinion, if such work was done near foam, a screen made of non-combustible materials should have been used to shelter the foam.

The seven accused pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide, alternatively 13 charges under the Mines and Works Act and Mining Regulations.

The hearing continues.

● Fire extinguishers are now in place along the underground haulage where the fire broke out.

This emerges from the notes of magistrate Mr J W R Pietersen who conducted an inspection in loco at Kinross Mine last week. The Star was barred from the inspection.

Blast at factory

JOHANNESBURG — An explosion occurred at Modderfontein dynamite factory east of Johannesburg last night, slightly injuring one worker, a spokesman said

A building overseer had his ankle "slightly injured" and was admitted to hospital for observation. Extensive damage was caused to the building.

The spokesman said production had not stopped, and sabotage was not suspected — Sapa

(131) DD 20/10/87

Call for mine safety

THE National Union of Mineworkers yesterday reiterated its call for a commission of inquiry into South Africa's mine safety measures following the weekend death of six miners in a rock fall in Boksburg.

Num assistant general secretary Mr Marcel Golding said in an interview yesterday

By **THEMBA MOLEFE**

that the disaster at H shaft of the REPM mine on Saturday confirmed the union's belief that the country's mines were the world's most dangerous

"This incident was totally not unexpected. Not enough precau-

tions are being taken to decrease mine deaths in South Africa.

"The Num has repeatedly called for a commission of inquiry into mine safety measures in the industry in order to address the problem. Very little is being done," Mr Golding said.

Two miners injured in the rockfall 3km underground at ERPM were "out of danger" but still fairly serious, a company spokesman said yesterday.

The miners were killed at the 80m level of the shaft.

- Sixty-three mine-workers were killed in August when a lift cage plunged to 1370m below surface at Gencor's St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom.

- A total 800 mine-workers have died in mine disasters in 1986.

Album 26/10/87

Sea search for Plain fisherman called off

Shipping Reporter

THE search for a Mitchell's Plain fisherman who disappeared after an inflatable boat capsized off Cape St Francis has been called off.

Mr Cecil Bernard Soudom of Beacon Valley, Mitchell's Plain, and a colleague, Mr David Moses of Eastridge, Mitchell's Plain, were manning the boat yesterday near I&J's long-line fishing vessel Pioneer 1.

Fleet supervisor Mr Rob Whitehead said today Mr Soudom's duty was to pick up larger fish that fell into the water while 10m of baited line was being hauled on board the Pioneer 1.

The sea was rough and the boat capsized.

After Pioneer 1's crew pulled Mr Moses back on board the vessel, they got hold of Mr Soudom but lost their grip and he fell back into the water.

"They saw him disappear beneath the water. His lifejacket and a buoy were found later," said Mr Whitehead.

"The water is quite cold out there and a man could not live in it for longer than five hours.

"There will be a full inquiry when the Pioneer 1 returns to Cape Town tomorrow."

3 hurt in harbour workshop accident

Staff Reporter

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26/10/72

THREE workers were injured today, one seriously, when a piece of iron slipped from a hoist and struck them in the workshop of a marine engineering firm in Table Bay harbour.

A spokesman said one worker had a broken leg while the other two had superficial injuries

Page 3 of Tonight.

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90 3/10/87

Creeping killer strikes

Asbestos, used extensively between 1950 and 1975, is beginning to take its toll, says a Giesen (West Germany) University medical specialist.

"It will be a killer avalanche of cancer caused by asbestos dust. It is still in its early days and nowhere near its peak."

"The alarm has been sounded by Professor H. Weitowitz, a specialist in labour and social medicine."

As a malignant tumour can lie dormant in the chest for up to 30 years, he feels a massive increase in deaths, due to a malignant mesothelioma, or chest cancer, is imminent.

He says doctors must always consider the possibility of a tumour in unexplained cases of fluid between the diaphragm and the lung in patients who have come into contact with asbestos at work.

This tumour is a variety that is rare among the general public but 100 times more common among patients who have been exposed to asbestos dust.

They include an enormous range of trades: tilers, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, pipelayers and ventilation workers, auto mechanics, carpet-layers and workers in trades exposed to heat, such as welders, insulators, electricians, shipyard carpenters and chemical workers.

The risk extends to members of their households who wash overalls containing asbestos dust, for instance.

"The only effective precaution apart from dust control," Professor Weitowitz says, "is the total replacement of asbestos by harmless substances."

CAPE TIMES 30/10/87

Worker critical after 7-floor fall

131 Staff Reporter

A CONSTRUCTION worker was last night fighting for his life in Groote Schuur Hospital after suffering multiple injuries when he fell from the ninth floor of a Darling Street building yesterday afternoon.

The man's fall was broken when he crashed through a skylight on the second storey of the Old Mutual Building, opposite the city's main post office.

As part of a three-man team, the unidentified worker had been working on a gondolier — but without a harness.

While his fall had been broken by the skylight, it had also hampered rescue operations by firemen and Metro rescue workers. According to rescue workers interviewed at the scene of the accident, it had been a "risky operation" to remove the unconscious man from where he lay as it was feared he could fall through the skylight at "any minute".

After he was safely brought down from the building, he was rushed to Groote Schuur, unconscious, where a hospital spokesman described his condition as "critical" and "serious".

The spokesman also said the identity of the man, whom he described as "youngish", was unknown.

Attempts by the Cape Times last night to contact representatives of the construction company who had employed the man were not successful.

● Picture — Page 2

2 killed as roof at factory collapses

By CHRIS ERASMUS

TWO women died yesterday and 10 others were injured, one seriously, when the metal-lined ceiling of a month-old cooling room collapsed at the Harvest Dawn fish factory in Epping Industria.

The incident happened about 12.30pm when a group of women were inside the cooling room packing fish.

According to a police spokesman, some women were also stacking boxes on top of the refrigeration room at the time of the incident.

Killed in the incident were Miss Pamela Daniels, 23, of Pecos Way, Manenberg, and a 28-year-old New Crossroads woman whose next of kin could not be reached last night. Both died of head injuries.

Mr Louis Penzhorn, general manager of Sea Harvest, which owns the factory, said he had "no idea" why the ceiling collapsed.

CAPL T. 13/11/87
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"The factory's inspectors have been at the scene. It is their job to determine the cause of the accident."

Mr Penzhorn said the newly-constructed cooling room had been commissioned only a month ago.

The rescue operation, mounted by Metro workers and factory employees, had been hampered by the weight of the metal-lined ceiling designed to maintain the low temperature in the room, he said.

"The dead and most of the injured received head injuries from the falling ceiling. The dead women were crushed by its weight," Mr Penzhorn said.

An employee, Mr Lawrence Adonis, who was working within metres of the room at the time of the accident, said it was "terrible. There was a lot screaming and the women outside nearly panicked".

Worker hurt as fumes ignite

Staff Reporter

AN engineering worker was injured today when fumes in an empty fuel tank exploded as it was being welded at a factory in Paarden Eiland.

The worker had slight burns to his neck and was treated at the scene, and then taken to Woodstock Hospital.

A fire brigade spokesman said vapour inside the detached fuel tank of a boat were ignited by the welding torch. The explosion blew a hole in the tank but caused no damage to the workshop.

Blast: Man 'blown into air'

CM+ Times 18/11/87 Staff Reporter 131

TWO men are in a stable condition in Woodstock Hospital after being injured when a tank containing refined gas exploded at the Cape Oil Products factory in Maitland yesterday

The men, Mr Anthony Mohamed and Mr Cedric Christoffels, had been welding the tank when a spark ignited the gas, causing the tank to explode

One of the men is believed to have fractured limbs after being "blown into the air" by the explosion

A spokesman for the Salt River Fire Department said that except for the damage to the tank there was no serious damage to the building

A hospital spokesman last night described the men's condition as "stable".

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WORLD NEWS

Bhopal poisoning: lawyers talk about a payout of \$500m

BHOPAL — Lawyers trying to reach a settlement in the Bhopal gas disaster case are discussing a payment of more than \$500m, sources close to the case said yesterday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said no agreement was likely before today, when lawyers for the Indian government and the Union Carbide Corp are due in court in Bhopal. India has sued US-headquartered Union Carbide for \$3bn, charging it was responsible for the gas leak from a pesticide plant that killed more than 2 600 people in Bhopal on December 3, 1984, in the world's worst industrial accident.

The Indian government says at least 40 000 others were injured when lethal methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the plant owned by a Union Carbide subsidiary.

The government maintains the accident resulted from negligence. Carbide says it was caused by sabotage.

The sources said the format being discussed for a settlement would award \$2 000 a year for 10 years to relatives of the dead and \$1 000 a year over the same period to 20 000 people seriously injured.

Another 186 000 people affected by the gas leak would receive a single payment of \$500 under the arrangements being discussed, the sources said.

That amounts to \$346.2m, but one source said other compensation was still under consideration.

"The total payout would be more than \$500m over 10 years," the source said. However, sources in Bhopal and New

Delhi denied any final settlement had been reached or was likely before today.

The compensation figures given by the sources in Bhopal would represent a considerable reduction of the number of people who claim to have been victims. A total of 531 770 claims have been filed.

India has declared itself the sole representative of all victims.

The sources in Bhopal said other possible compensation being discussed included financing of a hospital to be built in Bhopal and an overall payment to the Indian government.

Bhopal District Court Judge M W Deo had given the lawyers until October 30 to reach an out-of-court settlement, saying he would then begin trial of the case. But he extended the deadline until today.

The Indian government is under pressure to refuse an out-of-court settlement. Yesterday 40 leading Indian citizens signed a statement opposing any settlement for "an amount reportedly as low as \$600m or thereabouts".

There also have been demonstrations against a settlement and a statement issued by leading lawyers. The lawyers argued that an out-of-court agreement would fail to establish an important point of law — that multinational companies should be responsible for their Third World operations.

In March 1986, India rejected a \$350m out-of-court settlement, then filed its \$3bn suit.

But the Indian court system is notoriously slow, and it could take up to 10 years for the case to proceed through the courts if it goes to trial. — Sapa/AP.

(131) 8/0009 20/11/87

48 workers hurt in blast

MICK COLLINS

FORTY-EIGHT workers were injured slightly yesterday in an explosion at Sappi's Ngodwana Mill, a company spokesman said.

He said the cause of the explosion was unknown but sabotage was not suspected. Two people were hospitalised but nobody was seriously hurt.

Many of millions of rands of damage was done to plant. The control centre for the number two fibre line was extensively damaged but it was too early to assess the time to recommission that plant.

The spokesman said, "A small amount of mill effluent entered the river system but no chlorine was released. While some foaming may be noticed in the Crocodile River, the Department of Water Affairs is satisfied that there is no damage to the river system."

"There was extensive damage to sheeting on all the buildings and the office block, and virtually all glass was broken. The damage is, however, of a superficial nature and it is expected the paper machines and the number one fibre line will be back in operation in a few days' time."

APR 15 20/187

**Massive blast
rocks Sappi mill**

OHANESBURG

Forty-eight people were injured in a 'massive explosion' at Sappi Limited's Ngodwana mill at about 3am. Sappi said yesterday.

A statement said 47 people received 'minor injuries', while one person was hospitalized. No one died in the blast.

The cause of the explosion, which caused millions of rands' damage to the mill, was still unknown, managing director Mr Eugene van As said. He ruled out sabotage.

Six injured — three in serious condition

Massive dynamite factory blasts kill 4

(B1)
25/11/87

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

Four men were killed and at least six injured last night in two massive explosions at the National Explosives dynamite factory north of Bronkhorstspuit.

The men killed were apparently investigating a fire at the factory from which they had earlier been evacuated, witnesses said.

Three of the injured men were admitted to hospital and their condition is said to be "fairly serious". Three others were discharged after treatment. The names of the dead and injured will be released as soon as the next-of-kin have been informed.

Explosives experts said today that the blasts had apparently been caused by "Explogel" — a modern commercial water-gel explosive. It contains no nitro-glycerine.

The plant, in the kwaNdebele homeland's industrial area, Ekandustria, was commissioned only six months ago.

'Hole as big as rugby field'

The blast left a hole the size of a rugby field, said the town clerk of Bronkhorstspuit, Dr H B Senekal.

Dr Senekal said the first explosion, which was heard more than 30 km away, was at 8.15 pm and was followed by a second blast about 15 minutes later.

The entire area was cordoned off while police explosives experts combed the building and its surroundings. Early today they were still investigating the cause of the explosions.

A National Explosives company spokesman said today that "nothing had yet been released" by the company on the explosion.

"It's classified information — even we in Johannesburg don't know anything," the spokesman said.

Residents of Bronkhorstspuit, 15 km away, said their houses were shaken by the force of the explosions. Windows were shattered in the residential township of Ekangala, 5 km away.

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, said today that he would ask for a full report on the incident.

He described the explosions as "tragic" and expressed his condolences to the families of those who died.

BRIGDYNAMITE

BRONKHORSTSPRUIT — Five people were killed and six injured when eight tons of dynamite exploded at a dynamite factory near Bronkhorstspuit last night.

Two blasts, at the National Explosives factory in Ekandustria, Kwandabale, blew a hole the size of a rugby field into the earth, the Bronkhorstspuit Town Clerk, Dr Hennie Senekal, said.

It was thought that the dynamite was struck by lightning, which started a fire. "We experienced some very heavy weather from about 7.30pm, lots of lightning and rain," he said.

The explosions were heard and felt more than 15 kilometres away and rocked the factory, the first at 8.15pm and the second about 20 minutes later, Dr Senekal said.

Two of the injured were still in hospital today. The names of the dead and injured will be released after their next of kin have been informed.

Dr Senekal said there was little chance that more people were still trapped in the wreckage. "We are fairly sure that everybody at the factory at the time of the explosion, has been accounted for."

The general manager of Kwanabele National Development Corporation, Mr Philip Kotzenberg, said today that the blast destroyed the factory's mixing plant and damaged other buildings on the factory's 360-hectare terrain.

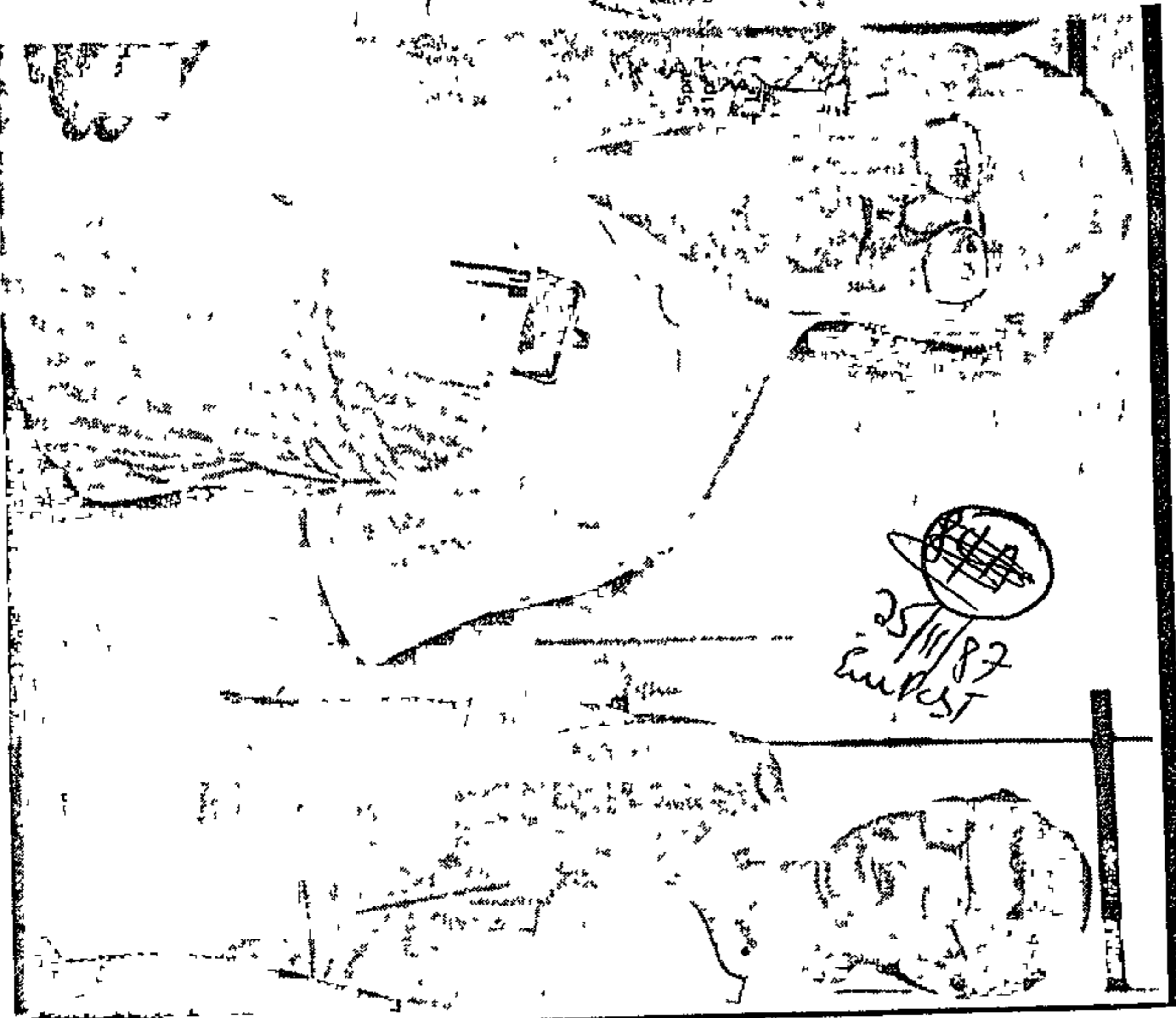
It was not clear how production would be affected.

Dr Senekal said several neighbouring factories had also been damaged, with windows shattered and doors blown off.

Fire brigades and ambulance services from Pretoria, Witbank, Middelburg and Bronkhorstspuit rushed to the scene to assist in rescue operations.

The fire caused by the explosion had been extinguished and everything was under control.

15/8/87
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25/11/87
enquest

Arrivals

THE WIMBORNE

OPHEL KADETT

.. ARGUS 25/11/87
131

Dynamite plant blast kills 4, hurts 6 in Tvl

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Four men have been killed and at least six injured in two explosions at the National Explosives dynamite factory north of Bronkhorstspuit

The men killed were apparently investigating a fire at the factory last night. They had earlier been evacuated because of the fire.

Three of the injured men were admitted to hospital and their condition is said to be "fairly serious." Three others were discharged after treatment. The names of the dead and injured will be released as soon as their next-of-kin have been informed

Big hole

Explosives experts said today the blasts appeared to have been caused by "Explogel", a modern commercial water-gel explosive. It contains no nitro-glycerine.

The plant, in the Kwandebele homeland's industrial area, Ekandustria, about 15km north-east of Bronkhorstspuit, was commissioned only six months ago

The explosions left a hole the size of a rugby field, said the Town Clerk of Bronkhorstspuit, Dr H B Senekal

Dr Senekal said the first explosion, heard more than 30km away, was at 8 15pm, followed by a second about 15 minutes later

Emergency and rescue teams were joined by their counterparts from Witbank and Middelburg shortly afterwards. The rescue operation consisted of seven ambulances, three fire engines and three emergency vehicles

The entire area was cordoned off while police explosives experts combed the building and its surroundings

It is believed that six employees who had earlier been evacuated from the burning plant were injured by flying debris in the first explosion as they stood outside the security fences

A National Explosives company spokesman said today that "nothing has yet been released. It's classified information. We ourselves in Johannesburg don't know anything"

Residents of Bronkhorstspuit 15km away said their houses were shaken by the explosions, and windows were shattered in Ekangala 5km away

A witness who asked not to be named was only a kilometre away from the dynamite factory. She said the first she knew that anything was wrong was when she heard sirens about 7 30pm

Glass shattered

"Apparently a fire had started in the factory, although at first I thought it might be an exercise"

About 7 45pm there was "an enormous explosion" that shattered her office's glass door, and parts of the ceiling fell down

● The Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, said today he would ask the Government mining engineer for a full report.

He described the explosions as a "tragic situation" and offered his condolences to the families of those who died

131 26/4/87

No sabotage in plant blast

By Don Holliday and Therese Anders

Tight security was in force last night around the National Explosives factory north of Bronkhorstspuit as police continued to investigate the cause of the huge explosions in which three men died, two were listed as missing and five were injured, one seriously.

The dead were production manager Mr Cornelius van Aswegen (42), security officer Mr Jan Johannes Theron (21) and machine operator Mr Joseph Seleme

Those missing, presumed dead, are assistant manager Mr Eugene Cilliers (37) and plant serviceman Mr Caslett Cody

Mr Johan de Klerk is in a serious condition in the H F Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria. The other four injured are Mr Samuel Molebasi, Mr Ronnie Ramokopelwa, Mr Alfred Mashanango and a man identified only as Petros.

A witness who was working late in her office a kilometre from the factory on Tuesday said that the first indication that something was wrong at National Explosives was when fire sirens went off about 7.30 pm.

She said the fire brigade went to the gates but was not allowed in, probably because of the danger of explosions. At about 7.45 pm there was an enormous blast.

The force was so great that the glass door of her office shattered and parts of the ceiling fell down.

"I was very scared — at first I thought it was lightning but then I ran outside and saw huge flames high above the factory."

The witness said the second explosion occurred some time later but was not as serious as the first.

'Too scared to go to work'

A National Explosives employee, who did not wish to give his name, said quite a number of workers failed to turn up for work yesterday "because they are now too scared of this place"

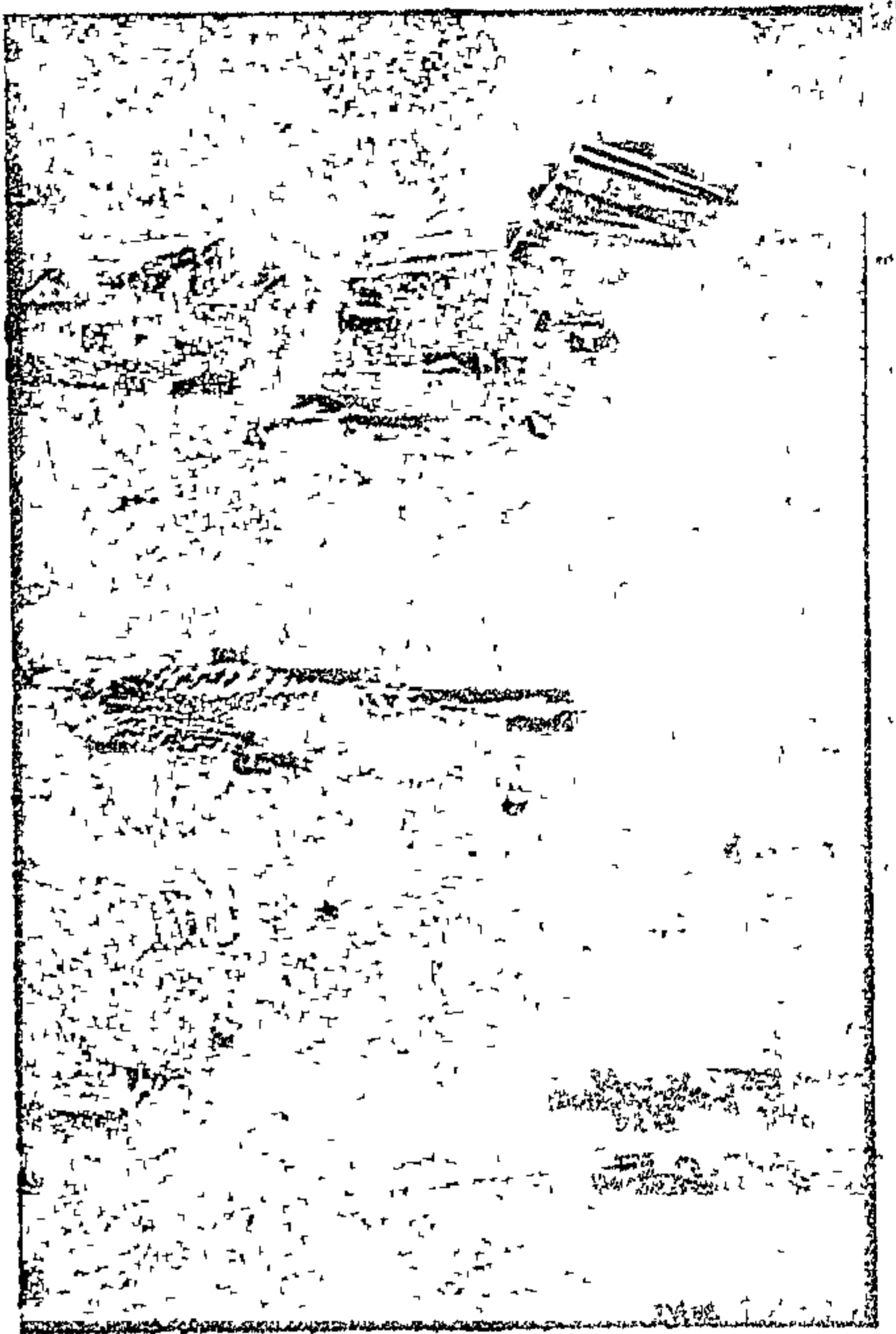
He said about 30 of the factory's 235 employees were on the Tuesday night shift which, normally, would have ended at 10 pm.

It is believed that Mr van Aswegen, Mr Cilliers and two security men entered the plant to investigate the fire.

Local emergency and rescue teams were on the scene within minutes and were soon joined by teams from Witbank and Middelburg.

The police spokesman for the Northern Transvaal, Lieutenant Hennie Crowther, said that Security Police had become involved in the investigation and that sabotage had been ruled out.

The shock waves from the blasts caused damage estimated at R150 000 to other factories in the area.



The scene of devastation after two massive explosions blew out a crater "the size of a rugby field" at an almost brand-new explosives factory near Bronkhorstspuit in kwaNdebele, killing four people. A number of others were injured in the blasts.

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20/32 PIETERSBURG
 20/32 NELSPRUIT
 16/32 NELSPRUIT
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 19/26 LADYSMITH
 DURBAN
 19/25
 EAST LONDON
 16/21
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undershowers, except in
 yesterday, max 28 deg
 5 mm; so far this year
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Max	Min
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8	2
25	14
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30	23
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16	8
6	6
10	8

Spy ring operating for five years — Harare

Argus Africa News Service

HARARE — South African Military Intelligence had been running a spy ring in Zimbabwe for the past five years, Zimbabwe's Security Minister, Mr Emmer-son Munangagwa, has said.

The Minister was confirming reports of the detention of six white Zimbabweans.

He said that for periods vary-

ing up to five years they had "constituted themselves as a spy ring working against the government of Zimbabwe for the military arm of South African Intelligence"

The Minister said the six had passed on information of a very sensitive nature.

"Owing to the immense sensitivity of this case any further elaboration may prejudice cur-

err Times (131)
26/4/87

Sabotage 'possible' in Natex blasts

JOHANNESBURG. — A fifth person was found dead yesterday in the rubble of KwaNdebele's dynamite factory as police explosives experts moved in to discover the cause of the blasts.

The fifth victim was found in the rubble of the "mix house" where chemicals were combined to produce explosives. The double blast demolished the "mix house" shortly after 8pm on Tuesday night.

The blasts caused extensive damage to the National Explosives (Natex) plant at Ekan-dustria near Bronkhorstspuit, about 100km north-east of Johannesburg.

Police said yesterday they had not yet discovered the cause of the blasts but confirmed they were looking at the possibility of sabotage.

The plant was a R17,5m investment which represented the homeland's biggest industrial venture.

Police said yesterday explosives experts attached to the security branch were conducting an investigation "to ascertain if a crime was committed".

Natex marketing manager Mr Derek Conroy said last night the company had no idea as to the cause of the explosions.

ARBUS 26/11/87

CITY/NATIONAL

'Necklace' not the ANC's method, terrorism trial told

Staff Reporter

THE "necklace" was not a method of execution endorsed by the African National Congress but a "people's initiative", Mr Mxolisi Edward Petane, 29, of KTC told the Supreme Court.

Mr Petane, a member of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, is on trial on three charges of terrorism and two of attempted murder.

One of the terrorism charges relates to a car bomb found outside the Dion Shopping Centre in Parow last year. Mr Petane told the court that the bomb did not have a primer and could not explode.

Asked yesterday whether the "necklace" was a method used by the ANC to deter collaboration with the State, Mr Petane said it was not.

"It's the people's initiative and not the policy of the ANC. In fact the president (Mr Oliver Tambo) has just endorsed this at the recent Harare conference," said Mr Petane.

"Our people"

"Then how do you justify necklace murders?" asked State counsel Mr D Rothwell SC.

Mr Justice Conradie disallowed the question, saying this was a collateral issue.

Mr Petane told the court he had returned to South Africa after ANC military training in Angola and the Soviet Union.

"I returned to defend our people against the State's terror by attacking Casspirs, Hippos, collaborators and any other military targets," he said in cross-examination.

Mr Petane described himself as a soldier of Umkhonto we Sizwe who took orders like any soldier. He had no regrets about joining the ANC and felt "no remorse" about shooting at Constable Johann Kotze or detonating a handgrenade near four policemen.

Mr Rothwell: And if the Dion bomb had gone off, would you have had any remorse about that?

Mr Petane: Yes sir.

Mr Rothwell: The ultimate aim of Umkhonto we Sizwe was to fight a war?

Mr Petane: Yes sir.

Mr Rothwell: And if you win the war what happens?

Mr Petane: We defend our victory.

Mr Rothwell: And the first thing you do is kick out the present Government?

Mr Petane: Correct sir.

Mr Rothwell: And what government will replace it?

Mr Petane: A democratic government.

Mr Rothwell: There are democracies and democracies. A socialist government?

Mr Petane: No sir. We have a programme for the takeover, the Freedom Charter, that does not promote socialism.

Mr Rothwell: You know the Freedom Charter then it was part of your political indoctrination?

Mr Petane: It was part of my political education, yes.

Mr Justice Conradie is sitting with assessors Mr L P Francis and Mr W R Vivier. Mr Rothwell is assisted by Mr M Stowe. Mr M Donen, instructed by R Vassen and Co, appears for Mr Petane.

Worker crushed to death

131

39/11/87

Inquest

AN ELDERLY employee of the South Africa Blood Transfusion Association was crushed to death when a mini goods lift plunged on his back at the association's office last week.

Mr Charlie Mbatha (59), who was about to retire after working for the association for more than 35 years, died on the spot.

Mr Allan Kaplan, secretary of the association, said, Mr Mbatha, who came from Natal, was using the hoist to move boxes from the ground floor to the first floor. He said the hoist got stuck between the two floors, but it allowed the door to open from where Mr Mbatha was standing.

Jammed

"He apparently did not know that the hoist had jammed. He opened the door to remove the boxes when it came down on him," Mr Kaplan said.

He denied that the lift was defective. He said this was the first time it had jammed. Manufacturers conducted tests on the same day to establish the cause of the accident and a statement is expected to be released soon.

Funeral arrangements for Mr Mbatha have not yet been made.

REUTERS

cut times 17/12/82

Farm worker electrocuted

Staff Reporter

131

A BANHOEK farm worker who was investigating the cause of a veld fire died instantly yesterday morning when he touched a live electric wire

A powerline which had been brought down during high winds on the farm Zeven Rivieren apparently set fire to a number of pinetrees, Mrs P G van Breda, of Zeven Rivieren, said yesterday

Mr Tommy Lutuli, aged about 60, and another worker were walking near a tree when Mr Lutuli jerked and collapsed



Asbestos is now a dying threat

RENOWNED for its non-flammable properties, it's ironic that asbestos has been instrumental in fanning the emotive fires of public health debate over the past 10 years

The first half of the Eighties saw the asbestos/health question rage across the world. Medical and scientific researchers bandied terms such as "threshold level" and "dose-response relationships" while housewives worried about the use of fibre-cement products in their homes

Rural communities discovered themselves to be living on asbestos mine dumps, labour unions campaigned for an outright ban on the material and mesothelioma victims encouraged the media to record their slow and agonising deaths

While spraying the bulkheads of ships being built during the Second World War with asbestos as insulation, workers were not given respiratory protection — with the result asbestos dust accumulated in the lungs of shipbuilders, laying dormant for as long as 30 years

There followed an outbreak of asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma — termed asbestos-related diseases (ARDs)

In the Fifties and Sixties evidence began to build that it was not even necessary for workers to be exposed to the high concentration of the shipyards for ARDs to manifest themselves

In some isolated cases, relatively low exposure of just a few years was enough to initiate a problem

A reluctance on the part of mining and manufacturing concerns to make known the full extent of asbestos hazards saw bitter debates waged between worried health authorities and commercial interests.

"We thought it was our problem to solve and resented outside intrusion," says an executive of Everite — a company which manufactures fibre-cement building materials and pipes

One of the key decisions by the company in the early Eighties was



Parents help demolish a school at Krommellenboog to rebuild it away from an asbestos mine

to try to repair the historical perception that executives had deliberately down-played the risks and were indifferent to occupational health hazards

"I guess we were not very good at communicating our concern or our achievements to the outside world. Perhaps it was anxiety about the future of our business that caused us to be less than cooperative with outsiders," he says

After a period of intense self-examination, and having the advantage of seeing the inevitable progress of the debate overseas, Everite agreed to regard all criticism as important and adopt an open door policy

Strategy

"In short, the industry decided to recognise anybody with even the vaguest interest in asbestos, particularly fibre-cement, as a potential partner in solving the problem."

The strategy has not only resulted in former adversaries being seen as constructive critics but helped the industry to come to terms with the inescapable fact that the future of one of its important raw materials was uncertain

But what of the mining of asbestos in SA? A peculiar "environmental exposure" condition exists in SA, where ARDs have been record-

MICK COLLINS

ed among those who lived close to mines and were exposed to abnormally high concentrations of asbestos dust

According to the mines, this situation no longer exists and environmental dust concentrations are at acceptable levels

A study recently published by the University of Cape Town's Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru), says one company — Gencor — has a monopoly of South African-produced asbestos and controls significant sectors of its mining through two partly-owned subsidiaries. The controlling shareholder of Gencor is Sanlam, through Federale Mynbou

The two UCT researchers responsible for the study, Janine Aron and Dr Jonny Myers, say there are too many unfavourable factors for the asbestos industry to return to its productive apex in 1977, even in the long-term

"Since the amalgamation of the two major asbestos producers in 1981, substantial cost savings have been achieved through the rationalisation of operations and tough production, exploration and rationalisation," the researchers say

This resulted in the closing of

uneconomic mines as market conditions required, but they could be brought back into production without incurring additional capital costs

But asbestos comprised only 3.5% of Gencor's income in 1984. Between 1960 and 1980, production of asbestos fibres increased by 74% but production rates declined in keeping with reduced world demand for fibres

"The number of mines in operation has decreased from 43 in 1972 to seven in 1983, and the labour employed from 21 324 to 5 664," the UCT report says

Late starter

In 1984, only 7.5% of the total production in SA was used locally and the bulk exported, and local sales dropped by 56% between 1981 and 1984

"There seem to be too many unfavourable factors currently and potentially influencing the SA asbestos industry to anticipate a return to the productive apex of 1977, even in the long-term"

While Gencor is the major mining concern, Everite — as the largest manufacturer — was a late starter at winning credibility

"What progress has been made has been due to control of the facts — including acknowledgement of the uncomfortable facts — an open door policy and absolute determination to stay abreast of the state-

of-the-art-of knowledge-and-control," Everite management says.

All 264 workites at the company's factories in Kliprivier, Brackenfell and East London are below the recently-introduced statutory exposure limit of one fibre per millilitre (f/ml). Despite this, face masks are compulsory

As a demonstration of its new policy, the company has opened its books and says in the time it has been active in SA (since 1942) 25 000 employees have been engaged

"As of April 1987, 178 people (or 0.7%) have contracted ARDs, 21 employees have died as a result of these diseases. Health records at Turnall, recently acquired by Everite, show a further 34 ARDs"

The company has now implemented a disability pension plan which allows those certified as being unable to work because of an asbestos-related disease to take early retirement and to receive a full salary (with increments) up to age 65, after which they enjoy normal pension benefits

While there is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that environmental exposure to asbestos can cause ARDs, there is no scientific evidence as yet

Measurement across a broad spectrum of metropolitan environments show low asbestos readings. A report by the Health Department of the Federal Republic of Germany states "Basing all relevant calculations on very conservative suppositions and calculations, the cancer risk incurred with a permanent (24 hours) and lifelong exposure to 1 000f/ml is in the same order of magnitude as the cancer risk from smoking two cigarettes a year"

Readings taken in Johannesburg and central Soweto were found to be between 0,0001f/ml and 0,001f/ml, or similar to the values found in studies in Switzerland, the US and Austria

The statistics prove South Africans not to be at risk — but the asbestos debate, although dying, lingers on

Sloppy work at Chernobyl causes 36 more accidents

(12) SML 7/12/87

MOSCOW — Sloppy work, poor discipline and safety violations at the Chernobyl nuclear plant have contributed to 36 accidents in the past 10 months according to the daily *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya*

The paper said on Friday that the accidents, three of which were fatal, were reported in a recent speech by the communist party head in Slutich, a new town for plant workers about 50 km from Chernobyl

The official said Chernobyl workers lacked a feeling of responsibility for their work and incidents of radiation overdose were still occurring

The newspaper did not elaborate on what kind of accidents had occurred nor state whether any had led to a radioactive leak.

In a separate report the official news agency Tass said the Chernobyl plant's third reactor, badly damaged in the April 1986 explosion and fire was back in operation

About 31 people were killed and more than 200 others were stricken with radiation sickness from the world's worst civilian nuclear accident.

The author of the *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya* article, criticised the Kiev communist party leadership for a complacent approach.

He implied that the present situation was being ignored and concluded. "Some of our leaders view these alarming facts as small change, but the Chernobyl explosion and fire also began with practically unnoticeable small things." — Associated Press.

RIGHT and left-wing unions are showing a rare unanimity in their opposition to proposed changes to the laws governing health and safety in the work place

Unions, from the right-wing white Mine Workers Union (MWU) to the militant National Union of Mineworkers (Num), have slammed the Occupational Medicine and Occupational Diseases Bill and the Compensation for Occupational Diseases Bill.

The unions say the laws will narrow the criteria used to decide if workers qualify for compensation remove the right of miners who think they are sick because of their work to be examined for free at any time, and abolish compensation for tuberculosis while it is still being treated and for mild cases of pneumoconiosis, a lung disease caused by dust.

The two bills, released for comment earlier this year, appear to remove vast discrepancies in the amounts paid out to black and white workers for chest and heart diseases. Instead of using racial criteria they link the amounts paid to wages.

But the unionists say the real intention is to remove rights that white workers have already won in trade union struggles over the years with a less expensive, and therefore less adequate, system of industrial health.

Piet Ungerer, general secretary of the right-wing MWU, says the changes amount to "a step backwards that will deprive white workers of their vested rights in order to incorporate blacks in the cheapest possible way". His union, supported by seven other all-white affiliates of the Council of Mining Unions, has mounted a mass signature campaign against the Bills.

Cosatu's Num, with about 250 000 members in the mining industry, has a different perspective.

"The previous occupational health laws represented a victory for the white unions," says Dr Dennis Rubel, head of the union's health and safety department. "Num would like to have these victories broadened to include all workers. The new bill, on the one hand, is a step forward because it removes the racial element. At the same time it fails to extend the rights white miners have enjoyed to all workers."

Most unions agree that by pegging payouts to wage levels the Bills will not guarantee diseased workers a decent level of compensation.

Dr Liz Floyd, of the Workplace Information Group (Wig), notes that compensation for serious lung diseases is explicitly racist, paying black miners R2 052 while white miners with the same degree of disability receive R33 207 — nearly 13 times more.

"These discrepancies appear quite crude because of their racial nature but given the vast gap in black and white wages in some industries, there is no reason to expect that differences under the new system will be any different," says Floyd.

Nactu secretary general Piroshaw Camay adds: "When compensation is paid out it must be paid out equally to all workers who suffer equally from the disease and the amount must be equivalent to a living wage with extra consideration for the extra care and family needs that a sick worker may be involved in."

The Bills provide for the system of pre-employment and periodic medical examinations now used on the mines to be extended to all industries that involve "risk work".

Unionists have welcomed the expansion of such screening processes

For once, right and left agree: The new health Bill is ailing

A new Bill to regulate work-place safety takes one step forward (racial criteria are scrapped) and several steps back, complain unionists ranging from the white far-right to Cosatu EDDIE KOCH reports



Health care at a union project
Picture CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix

but warn this will expose employees to retrenchment unless it is accompanied by a comprehensive system of rehabilitation.

"These tests should be made to check the health of workers and not to be used to get rid of those who are too ill to work," says Camay.

At present white and "coloured" miners with compensatable diseases qualify for training bursaries to prepare them for alternate jobs. Instead of extending these to all, the new laws will eliminate them.

The Bills also make medical check-ups the responsibility of employers rather than government bodies. Unionists fear that doctors in the pay of

a company are more likely to be biased than those employed by government bodies such as the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases.

"Our experience is that workers are often crudely treated during medical examinations," says Camay. "One recalls the spectre of municipal workers standing naked in their compounds for mass examinations. The tests must be carried out with strict regard to medical ethics."

At present miners and former miners who believe they are ill because of their work have the right to free medical examinations. This will now fall away, all workers will have to pay for such examinations and will only

be refunded if the illness is found to be work-related.

"This is like granting workers a lottery they cannot win," says Rubel. "The new laws say either workers must pay for an examination in which they are proved healthy or not pay and then find that they have a serious disease."

The controversy around the proposals has prompted service groups which advise unions on health and safety issues, such as Wig and the Industrial Health Research Group (IHRG), to hold seminars with unions and draft critiques of the Bills for submission to the government.

Num, in its official response on the

Bills to the government, has already endorsed the comments made by IHRG.

Other criticisms made by the two groups include:

- There is no clarity in the Bills as to which government officials will be responsible for detecting industrial conditions that cause disease. The draft laws make the Department of Health responsible for deciding which factories involve "risk work" and for administering compensation, while Manpower Department inspectors will continue to monitor conditions that cause disease. The IHRG and Wig are calling for a less cumbersome and bureaucratic system.

- Wig points out that the Bills only cover a narrow range of chest and heart diseases and that the definition of "risk work" excludes workers in the chemical, retail, transport and security industries who often suffer the effects of long night shifts, exposure to dangerous chemicals and noisy machines, as well as maternity problems linked to the work environment.

- The Bills allow for a certification committee made up of two doctors nominated by employer organisations and two appointed by the minister to examine applications for compensation. Wig notes that the health minister will have the final say over which union representatives to appoint and that these representatives will be in a minority position. "Anyway our position is that we will only sit on such government committees when there are equal political rights for all in the country," says Camay.

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Asbestos is now a dying threat

Special correspondent: Johannesburg

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"We thought it was our problem to solve and resented outside intrusion," says an executive of Everite — a company which manufactures fibre-cement building materials and pipes

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Dramatic rescue after boat capsizes

3 die in heavy seas

CAPE TOWN 30/12/87 (131)

By KEN NELSON, CHRIS ERASMUS
AND CLARE HARPER

THREE local fishermen drowned — one a 15-year-old boy — and two others were saved from almost certain death yesterday when their skiboat capsized in heavy seas and a strong south-easter just off Strand beach.

The accident happened shortly after dawn, in front of hundreds of helpless holidaymakers, as the skiboat, Misty, was returning to the jetty through a channel between the rocks leading to the open sea.

The Misty, owned and operated by Mr Abdullah Adams, 52, of 18, 13th Avenue, Ravensmead, capsized in the wave-line and "went down very quickly", according to Mr Ian Strachan, commander of NSRI Station 1, which launched a rescue boat.

None of the five people on board the skiboat was apparently wearing a lifejacket.

Those drowned were Adams, Mr Mogamat Amin Fritz, 39, of 44 Gladstone Street, Beacon Valley, Mitchells Plain, and 15-year-old Webner primary pupil Abraham Cloete, of 32 14th Avenue, Ravensmead.

Two of the fishermen, Vincent Hoorn, 17, of 8 Coplar Street, Ravensmead, and Shafiek Jacobs, 18, of 64 Jasmine Street, Bonteheuvel, were plucked from almost certain death by Mr Jean le Roux in his skiboat, Chips.

Vincent, a pupil at Ravensmead Senior Secondary School, described yesterday how his first fishing trip with his best friend, Abraham Cloete, turned into a nightmare after the boat toppled.

He said he grabbed Abraham and managed to pull him back towards the overturned boat, but



Abraham Cloete, 15



Abdullah Adams, 52



Sahfiek Jacobs, 18



Vincent Hoorn, 17

when he swam underwater to retrieve a lifejacket for his friend, he surfaced to find Abraham was missing.

Vincent said all he could do was cling to the lifejacket and wait for help.

All five fishermen were wearing heavy clothing, which limited their movement in the water, he said.

Shafiek was swimming to the beach, about 150m away, while Vincent was rescued by Mr le Roux

and his friend Mr Danny Warren near the place where Misty went down.

They were taken to Hottentots Holland Hospital but were discharged soon afterwards.

Mr Adams, a technician at Escom, was the father of eight children. His wife, Mymoena, was treated for shock last night by the family's doctor. The couple had been married for 27 years.

A witness, Mr Leon de Klerk, from Wellington,



THE FAMILY Five of Mr Abdullah Adams's children heard the news of their father's death yesterday. From left Cassiem, Jasmína, and Moerida. Sitting in the front are Mymoena and Faried, with the family dog, Fifi.

Picture ANN LAING

who was fishing from the jetty at the time, said the sea was "relatively calm" when Misty sank.

According to Mr Eddy Cassar, PRO for the Western Province Surf Lifesaving Association, the drowned fishermen had probably been dashed against the rocks in the channel, known as

"the Poort"

"The John Rolfe helicopter team was on the Strand beach at the time and heard the calls for assistance to the NSRI on the radio. They responded immediately but could see nothing in the surf-line," he said.

"They searched for a while but the chopper

was running low on fuel and had to return to the docks to refuel."

Surf lifesavers, in a "rubber duckie", also assisted in the search but no sign of the missing men could be found.

The John Rolfe, piloted by Mr Ken Whittal, returned to the scene after refuelling and saw

Swimming warning to locals, tourists

Staff Reporter

THE tragic triple drowning off Strand Beach in unusually heavy swells has led to a stern warning being issued yesterday to holidaymakers and locals.

Mr Eddy Cassar, PRO of the Western Province Surf Lifesaving Association, said everyone who ventures into the sea should take obvious precautions to prevent drowning — especially visitors from up-country unused to local conditions.

Mr Cassar pointed out that one of the three who drowned off Strand Beach yesterday was an experienced fisherman.

"But the swell was heavier than normal and, combined with a 15-20 knot south easter, the fishermen lost control," he said.

The three deaths yesterday bring to 10 the number of people who have drowned around the Western Cape coastline since the end of November.

Yesterday a spokesman for the weather bureau predicted a trend for a generally smaller swell.

The south easterly to easterly wind expected in the next few days means there is no real reason for the swell to develop, the spokesman said.

a piece of the damaged skiboat, possibly the bow, attached to the anchor in the surf-line where it "could be a hazard to other boats".

The damaged boat was taken to the Strand police station. The unused lifejackets were still attached to the wreckage.

1563

TUESDAY, 21 MAY 1985

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Nil

(2) Falls away

Handwritten: 21/5/85

900 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Law and order

How many persons in possession of South African reference books were arrested by the South African Police on suspicion of being illegal immigrants in each month from 1 January 1984 up to the latest specified month for which figures are available?

January	1984—	30
February	1984—	19
March	1984—	22
April	1984—	31
May	1984—	58
June	1984—	39
July	1984—	54
August	1984—	43
September	1984—	34
October	1984—	34
November	1984—	33
December	1984—	263
January	1985—	180
February	1985—	102
March	1985—	69
April	1985—	43

Reference books/influx control

903 Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Law and Order.

What total number of Black persons was arrested by the South African Police in the area of the Eastern Cape Development Board for offences relating to reference books and influx control from 1 September 1984 up to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

1564

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

1 September 1984 to 30 April 1985

Handwritten: 21/5/85
911 Mr P C CRONJE asked the Minister of Trade and Industry

- (1) Whether any applications have been received for the extension of factories in terms of section 3(5)(c) of the Physical Planning Act, No 88 of 1967, if so, (a) how many, (b) from whom, (c) in respect of how many Black employees and (d) when in each case.
- (2) whether any applications were refused, if so, (a) how many and (b) what was the reason for the refusal in each case?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Section 3(5)(c) of the English text of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 contains only a definition of the word "extension" and it is assumed that the honourable member requires particulars of applications in terms of section 3(1) of the Act, which are as follows for the period 19 January 1968 to 14 May 1985

- (1) Yes
- (a) 15 452 of which 11 applications are under consideration at present
- (b) Apart from the fact that the information is of a confidential nature, the honourable member will appreciate that it would be an impossible task to furnish the particulars in respect of 15 452 applications
- (c) 429 818
- (d) The information is not readily available for the reasons mentioned in the reply to (1)(b)

1565

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 1985

(2) Yes

(a) 1 495

(b) Information in respect of individual cases is not readily available. In general, the applications were refused because of an unacceptable labour ratio or proposed extensions on non-industrial land

Handwritten: 21/5/85
915 Mr P R C ROGERS asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) How many national servicemen (a) rendered their national service in the South African Police in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available and (b) were accepted by the South African Police from the 1985 intake.
- (2) (a) how many members of the South African Police are currently rendering their national service and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

- 1 (a) 1980—234
1981—343
1982—235
1983—167
1984—161
- (b) 61
- 2 (a) 294
- (b) From July 1983 to date

Own Affairs

Amount spent on schools/pupils

75 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture.

What amounts were spent by his Department on (a) school textbooks, (b) li-

HoA

1566

brary books, (c) hostel accommodation subsidies, (d) pupil transport subsidies, (e) school audio-visual equipment, (f) school buildings, (g) stonemasonry and (h) school furniture during the latest specified period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

It is not possible to furnish the information since records are not being kept of expenditure items, in the form requested

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 1985

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

Handwritten: Q. 61. 1566

Handwritten: 22/5/85
800 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether his Department keeps statistics on the incidence of (a) kwashiorkor and (b) marasmus in the Republic, if not, why not, if so, (i) how many patients suffering from (aa) kwashiorkor and (bb) marasmus were admitted to hospitals in the Republic in 1983 and 1984, respectively, and (ii) what other statistics in this regard are kept by his Department?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

No This would have to be based on notification. It is regarded that such procedure would not give scientifically usable data

Handwritten: 22/5/85
804 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

(a) How many claims in respect of occu-

paternal diseases in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, No 78 of 1973, were (i) received, (ii) granted and (iii) rejected by the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases in each of the latest specified 10 years for which figures are available and (b) in respect of which (i) disease category, (ii) industry and (iii) province was each claim submitted?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

(a) Number of claims—

(i) Received

(b) (i) Disease category	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
(ii) Mining Industry					
1975-76	696	52	2 267	949	1 230
1976-77	857	79	2 642	1 179	1 300
1977-78	794	58	2 620	1 221	1 094
1978-79	684	42	3 938	929	743
1979-80	617	59	3 071	803	590
1980-81	693	41	3 274	824	982
1981-82	636	41	2 942	791	907
1982-83	588	36	2 994	788	801
1983-84	585	62	3 263	822	828
1984-85	668	65	3 423	795	795
Works					
1975-76	28	2	39	5	5
1976-77	25	2	62	8	7
1977-78	24	3	49	13	17
1978-79	45	6	46	2	3
1979-80	26	6	37	1	—
1980-81	15	2	37	5	5
1981-82	28	1	59	—	—
1982-83	33	2	98	—	—
1983-84	17	5	82	—	—
1984-85	19	1	92	—	—

(a) (ii) Granted

	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
Mining Industry					
1975-76	677	52	2 240	949	1 230
1976-77	833	77	2 617	1 179	1 300
1977-78	766	51	2 587	1 221	1 094
1978-79	672	41	3 901	929	743
1979-80	602	56	3 035	803	590
1980-81	643	37	3 246	824	982
1981-82	602	35	2 926	791	907
1982-83	571	32	2 971	788	801
1983-84	582	61	3 243	822	828
1984-85	662	64	3 410	795	795
Works					
1975-76	28	2	39	5	5
1976-77	25	2	62	8	7
1977-78	24	3	49	13	17

Disease category	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
1978-79	45	6	46	2	3
1979-80	26	6	37	1	—
1980-81	15	2	37	5	5
1981-82	26	1	59	—	—
1982-83	31	2	97	—	—
1983-84	17	5	82	—	—
1984-85	19	1	92	—	—

(iii) Rejected

	CD1	CD2	TB	CD	CD + TB
Mining Industry					
1975-76	19	—	27	—	—
1976-77	24	2	25	—	—
1977-78	28	7	33	—	—
1978-79	12	1	37	—	—
1979-80	15	3	36	—	—
1980-81	50	4	28	—	—
1981-82	34	6	16	—	—
1982-83	17	4	23	—	—
1983-84	3	1	20	—	—
1984-85	6	1	13	—	—
Works					
1975-76	—	—	—	—	—
1976-77	—	—	—	—	—
1977-78	—	—	—	—	—
1978-79	—	—	—	—	—
1979-80	—	—	—	—	—
1980-81	—	—	—	—	—
1981-82	2	—	1	—	—
1982-83	—	—	—	—	—
1983-84	—	—	—	—	—
1984-85	—	—	—	—	—

(b) (iii) No statistics of claims in respect of the provinces can be compiled from records as beneficiaries may have worked in various mines or works in one or more provinces

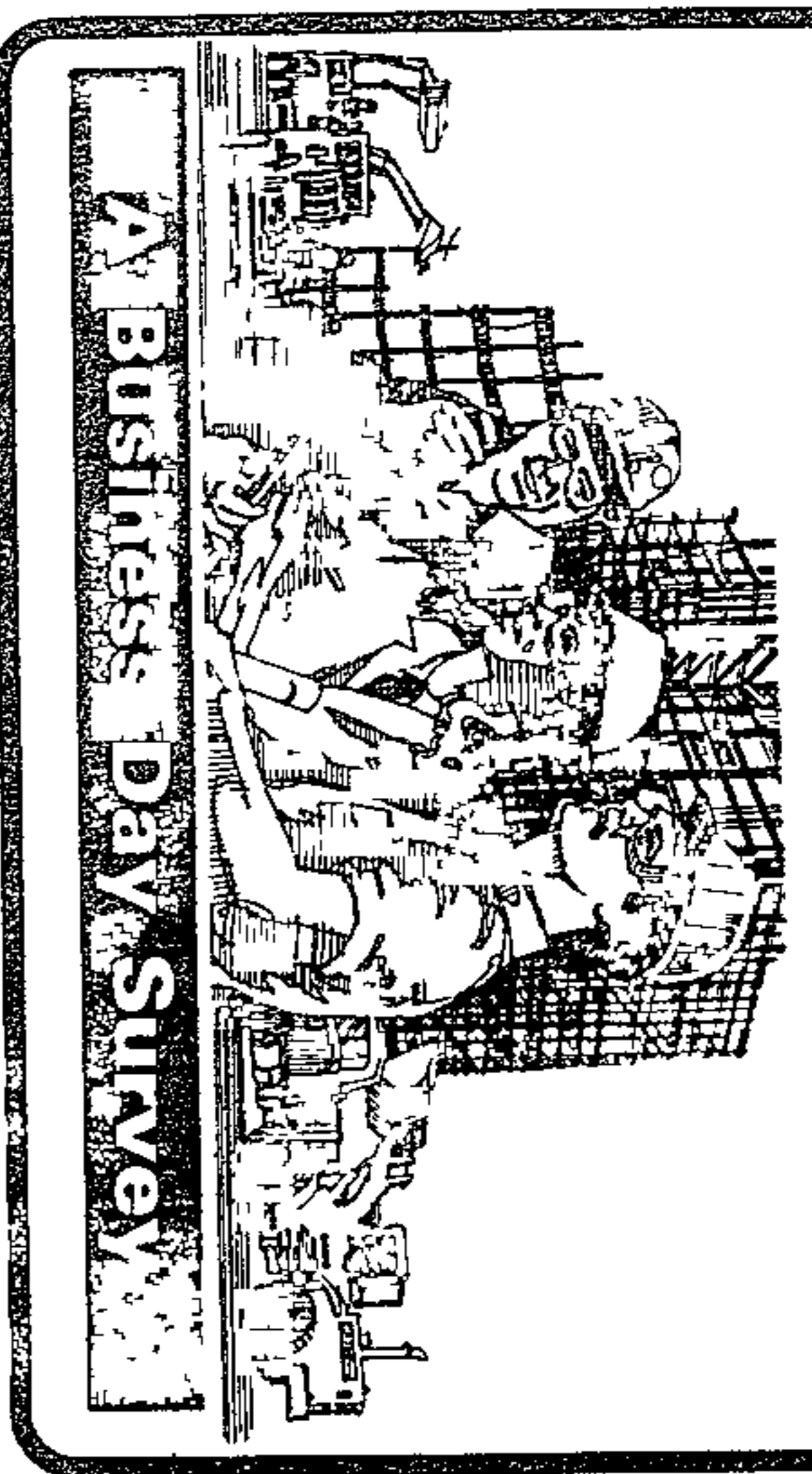
Note 1 "CD" denotes compensatable disease of the category stated and "TB" denotes tuberculosis

Parliament: extensions

826 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Public Works

- (1) (a) What total amount was budgeted for the construction of the extensions to Parliament, (b) from what account will this money be taken, (c) what specified facilities will be provided in these extensions and (d) when is it anticipated that they will be completed,
- (2) whether this project was put out to tender, if not, (a) why not, (b) who is undertaking the construction of these extensions and (c) how were these contractors selected to do the work, if so, (i) when, (ii) who submitted tenders, (iii) what was the amount of

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY



Edited by Helga St Blaize-Molony
Written by Peter Kracht

A WHOLE new range of occupational safety and health regulations, to be drawn up in consultation with employers and trade unions, are expected to be promulgated during 1986. It will be part of an ongoing process intended to bring standards in line with those practised overseas.

Although inspectors from the Department of Manpower and the Department of Health will "police" implementation of these regulations officially, labour unions will also use their muscle to ensure employers do not ignore the legislation.

The regulations, which should affect both the mining and non-mining sectors, will probably cost industry literally billions of rands over the next few years in equipment surveys and training.

Simultaneously, it will place SA's small band of properly qualified occupational hygienists under severe pressure. Unless dedicated courses are introduced at universities, skills to this effect will have to be recruited from overseas.

This is the view of various spokesmen in government and industry. They confirm that while the SA workplace is one of the safest in the world from a "machine safety" point of view, much has to be done to bring occupational hygiene in line with standards practised in the UK, Europe, the US and other First World countries.

The new regulations, some of which have already been promulgated or published for comment, not only address the main occupational "killers" such as dust, gases and fumes, but also address the manufacture of "safe" equipment and the prevention of worker exposure to cancer-inducing materials such as asbestos, silica and chromium.

New breed is minimising risk

THE combined effect of occupational injury or disease on the employee and on the employer is of vital interest to the insurance industry. But it is especially interesting to a new breed of experts dealing with the minimisation of risk, or "loss control".

In many cases it is the State Accident Fund, run by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner's Department, which is the first to be hit by a claim. But there is a spillover effect involving group accident policies, medical aids and pension funds.

The chain reaction does not stop here — claims for damage to or loss of property could culminate in claims for consequential loss of profit, or the bankruptcy of the firm for that matter.

Director of Corporate Risk Management, a subsidiary of Priceforbes Federale Volkskas, Robert Vivian, says the relationship, internationally, between occupational safety/health and insurance is so close that it (industrial accident insurance claims) actually sparked off the current world short-term insurance crisis.

At the last official count for 1982, almost 290 000 SA men and women of all races suffered a disabling injury or disease for which compensation of R124,5m was paid out.

While fewer people were paid out during the previous two years, the bill, in terms of compensation paid by various official carriers, amounted to almost 25% more than the R57m paid in 1980.

"On the 1980 figures, lost productivity alone amounted to an estimated R500m (27,7-million man-days of labour). Some experts believe the total loss in compensation and lost man-hours could well be in the region of R1000m today.

Add damage to property and materials and the final bill could be staggering.

The commissioner is proving premium rate discounts to companies

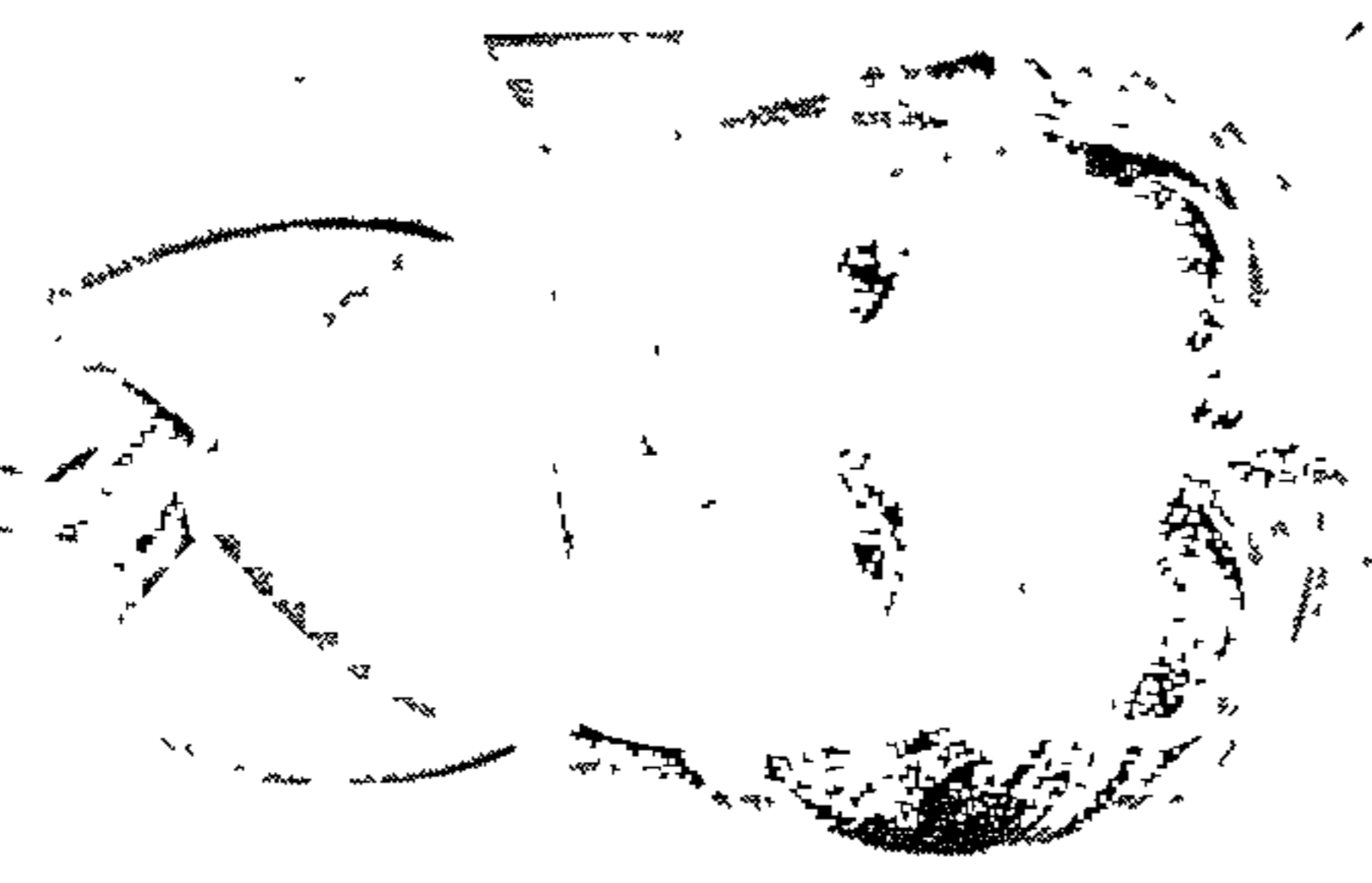
Trade unions will have major say in new laws

satisfactory" in dealing with today's technology and safety requirements.

Some companies, notably Rossing Uranium Mine, AECI, Mobil, Iscor, Eyerite and Foskor, have developed sophisticated occupational hygiene and health modules as part of their safety programmes.

These programmes are designed to address the specific hazards in their work environments — especially by trade unions — that medium and smaller firms tend to take chances.

The unions, with the backing of overseas specialists, have taken an active interest in the formulation of the new regulations. Apart from being represented on the National Safety Council, which is responsible for investigating and drafting the legislation, they have submitted a substantial amount of comment on those that have been published.



Manie Mulder... union comment justified

According to Department of Manpower occupational director Manie Mulder, union comment and proposals have been of a "high quality" and incorporated where justified.

Already promulgated are general administrative regulations dealing with functions and operations of safety representatives, electrical regulations for the safety of installations ranging from power stations to ordinary dwellings, and general safety regulations dealing with various work practices and emergency equip-

with good safety records and it is obvious those with bad records will have their premiums loaded just like private sector insurance companies do.

Although it can be costly, a risk management or loss control programme incorporating essential occupational safety and health measures is becoming extremely popular, especially among the larger firms.

Says Vivian: "Although the concept of gold and coal mines last year recorded the lowest ever number of fatal accidents — figures which the Chamber of Mines safety division believes can be further improved.

Statistics show that fatality rates for gold, coal and all other Chamber mine members dropped below one per 1 000 for the full year.

The actual rate of 0,89 per 1 000 represented a drop of 14,4% on 1984 (see table). The reportable injury rate of all Chamber mines has been more than halved over the past 10 years.

The firm commitment by mines to the safety theme, improved technology as a result of continuing research and development and the widespread adoption of loss control management techniques in terms of the International Safety Rating System (ISRS), are listed as the main reasons for better figures.

And, according to safety division manager Anthony Gill, the industry is firmly committed to improving the results.

Research into new mining technology will be of major importance in the future in cutting accident rates. It is specifically intended to reduce workers' exposure to unhealthy or unsafe conditions.

Also, further refinements made to the ISRS during the past few years should improve on the effectiveness of the system, the Chamber believes. In a recent article Gill gave the

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is still relatively new, many industries have developed holistic risk management programmes aimed specifically at managing risks in the most efficient manner.

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reduction in the reportable injury rate in the mining industry.

In 1984, the US had a fatality rate of 0,51 per 1 000, with SA close behind with an impressive 0,67 per 1 000. In the first half of 1985, SA mines took the lead with 0,24 per 1 000 employees but was unable to maintain this rate and ended the year with 0,42 per 1 000, marginally higher than the US' 0,39 per 1 000.

In the US about 60% of coal is mined from the safer opencast mines, compared with about 30% in SA.

The performance of gold mines is more difficult to compare with other gold mining companies because of the particular local conditions including extreme depths and attendant rock pressures, as well as heat problems, the massive size of SA mines

International safety ratings cut SA mine fatalities to record low

ROB DONALDSON

A predictive programme that uses several means of identifying loss or injury exposure. It also assists in the designing, implementing and measuring of the effectiveness of the actions necessary to control the losses which can result from the exposure identified. Over the years, the system has been honed to meet the specific needs of the SA mining industry without losing any management controls essential to the system.

In the past, a safety policy tended to concentrate on admonishing and exhorting men to be more safety-conscious. Also, responsible industrialists tried to seek out accident causes. Now, safety is concerned with identifying and analysing risks and creating management controls to ensure that work is carried out according to predetermined standards.

Accordingly, under the ISRS, safety and loss control is part of efficient production.

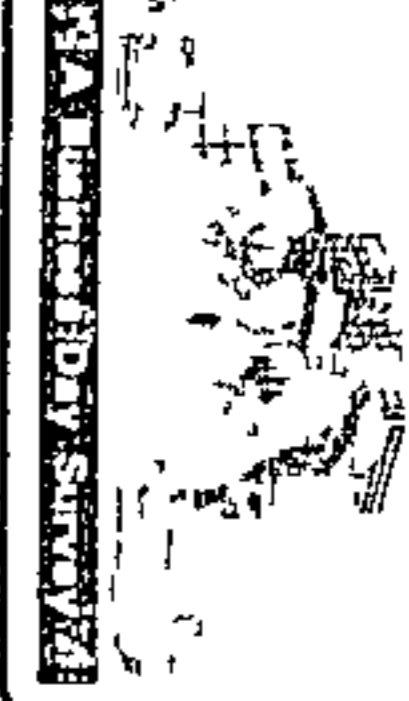
The Chamber believes wholeheartedly in this theory. As far back as 1981, Chamber president Richard Lawrence said "There is proof positive that safety and production go hand in hand that the safest mines are also the most efficient and productive. It is true to say that this scheme (the ISRS) has been a key factor in the overall and continuing

management or loss control programme incorporating essential occupational safety and health measures is becoming extremely popular, especially among the larger firms.

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Death and reportable injury rates per 1 000 employees p.a. — 1976 — 1985

Year	Death rates per 1 000 p.a.			Reportable injury rates per 1 000 p.a.		
	Gold	Coal	Other mines	Gold	Coal	Other mines
1976	1,03	1,06	0,82	51,89	22,72	44,29
1977	1,01	1,32	0,73	47,86	23,59	41,80
1978	1,18	1,08	0,65	47,47	21,84	40,80
1979	1,25	1,11	0,67	44,86	14,98	38,94
1980	1,37	0,94	0,47	37,64	12,80	31,39
1981	1,25	1,05	0,50	32,42	11,54	27,21
1982	1,25	1,05	0,65	32,00	8,33	28,22
1983	1,20	1,49	0,37	29,93	5,87	25,37
1984	1,13	1,17	0,31	27,08	7,81	22,81
1985	1,03	1,11	0,11	21,06	10,75	21,56



Self-rescue equipment will add Ribn to mining bill

ROB DONALDSON

THE mining industry will soon be faced with a Ribn bill for self rescue equipment for all its underground workers.

Legislation to be introduced later this year will require all underground miners to wear a self-rescue — a self-contained breathing apparatus which will provide complete isolation from noxious fumes for about 30 minutes.

The original proposals circulated in September 1984 envisaged the introduction of self-rescuers in coal mines first, followed by gold and other mines. However, the planned timetable has had to be extended.

There are three self-rescuer units — the Auer Dräger and Fenzy — which have undergone or are undergoing tests. The Auer has survived the Chamber of Mines acceptance tests and has completed the subsequent six months field trials. It has been approved by the Government Mining Engineer.

The Dräger has undergone about two-thirds of its field trials while the Fenzy began trials only recently.

When finally gazetted the initial cost to the industry will be about R350m based on an estimated workforce of 500 000 and a unit cost of between R600 and R700.

However, Roland Nyman technical manager of the PMIE division of Hampro Systems which markets the Dräger unit says the total cost could be substantially higher.

The use of breathing apparatus is unnatural so there is a danger that miners will tend to discard the unit under stress. To overcome this every worker will have to be trained in the use of the units — a programme which will have to be repeated at regular intervals.

Training will of course require additional substantial expenditure.

In terms of the planned legislation each unit must have a life of five years. But it is expected that the actual life will be closer to three years with the result that stocks will have to be replaced at a rate of about 3% a month.

Another factor which should push up costs is the need to service each unit. They will have to be stripped, cleaned, washed, disinfected and dried before the consumable parts can be replaced.

Each mine will also have to provide additional underground refuge bays. These will house first aid and containing resuscitation and respiratory facilities.

And because of long delays in obtaining units from overseas, each mine will have to hold stocks of between 10% and 20% of total requirements.

Owing to such factors Nyman believes the total cost to the industry could be as much as Ribn.

LEGISLATION is pending for the fitment of Safe Load Indicators (SLOs) to mobile cranes of hydraulic and lattice construction according to a Government Gazette notice in May this year.

But cost advantages may result. Some six months ago the first locally produced systems were fitted to cranes by Elec Mech a local company which specialises in Crane Safety Equipment. Not only was a substantial cost saving achieved but the function and operation of the MC 5/00 has also been more than satisfactory claims the supplier.

Although the crane is a useful piece of equipment it is also the most potentially dangerous equipment on site with many crane related accidents and the occasional loss of life occurring.

The cost incurred when damaging a crane and/or the object being lifted can cost the crane owner large sums of money particularly as damaged

Crane sections must fit safe loading devices soon

ROB DONALDSON

Crane sections often cannot be produced locally.

But by fitting an SLI the crane can only be utilised to its design maximum. This should reduce maintenance costs as the machine will not be over utilised.

Most loads lifted by the operator are unknown to him. However, an SLI will determine whether the load being lifted is within the rated capacity of the crane. The guessing or operating by the seat of his pants element will be eliminated and the crane owners investment is protected.

The SLI is of solid state design and fully electronic. The various parameters of a crane are measured including boom length, boom angle and the force in the derricking ropes or cylinders.

This information is continually compared to the stored values of the crane's rating chart. When 90% of the rating has been reached, the operator is warned by means of a flashed 'caution' on the display unit. When 100% of the rating is reached, the operator is warned by an audible and visual alarm, after which the levers are cut off.

Safe Load Systems are also made locally for the overhead type of crane and electric hoist.

Afrox has award-winning strategy

Afrox's Germiston gas equipment factory has a five-star Nosa rating. Business manager Brett Sachs explains what made this achievement possible.

"THE manufacturer has a double role to play in safety management," Sachs maintains.

Not only should he follow safe practices within his own factory, but also he should ensure his products are safe in the hands of others.

To cope with this double role, Afrox adopts a strict management policy. "We believe every employee and customer is entitled to work without threat to safety or health. It is management's responsibility to put this theory into practice."

The long term safety of employees the public and the company must always be more important than expediency or short cuts. Everyone in Afrox has to be aware of the need for a total team effort without this it would be impossible to

eliminate unsafe acts and conditions," Sachs stresses. Management is involved in and committed to promoting safety. The prevention of injury or illness, and damage or loss to property or product is an integral part of each person's job.

"Quality improvement must start with an attitude of mind that refuses to accept any unsatisfactory experiences as unavoidable or inevitable. This attitude of mind is reflected in a commitment to the elimination of problems at their source."

But none of this would be possible, he concludes, were it not for the development of trust between our employees and management and between ourselves and our customers.

Head office must carry the can

THE contention that occupational safety and health is a management responsibility is endorsed by Don L. Urr, vice-president of the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA).

Carroll has been involved in Middleburg. Strel's rush in the safety stakes just as much as that of Afrox which recently achieved NOSA's coveted five-star rating.

"Every accident that occurs in your workplace proves you are not managing properly. We have statistics which show 99% of injuries are caused by failure of management controls."

So whenever size your factory is, when you train people to do things properly, they do not get injured. In fact if the employer adopts a NOSA system not only will he enjoy a ten fold reduction in accidents but a 10% to 30% increase in productivity claims Carroll.

Apart from making a contribution towards industrial relations safety impacts on the three major responsibilities that rest on the shoulders of all management staff:

- financial — towards the shareholders to ensure a profit is made and money is not wasted
- legal — to ensure the statutes and standards laid down by government are met and
- moral — to ensure that the workers well being in the workplace is observed and he is able to return home safe and sound

Compensation has come a long way

AT THE turn of the century an employee injured at work could only get compensation by suing his employer for negligence. And this was almost impossible to prove.

Employers' risk was then covered by insurance. In some countries such as SA the matter was dealt with through social legislation like the Workmen's Compensation Act which does away with the need for expensive court cases. Compensation is payable solely as a result of an accident.

Other countries lacking SA's workmen made insurance compulsory. Thus if a person was injured while on duty and could no longer work, he was simply dismissed without any means of support.

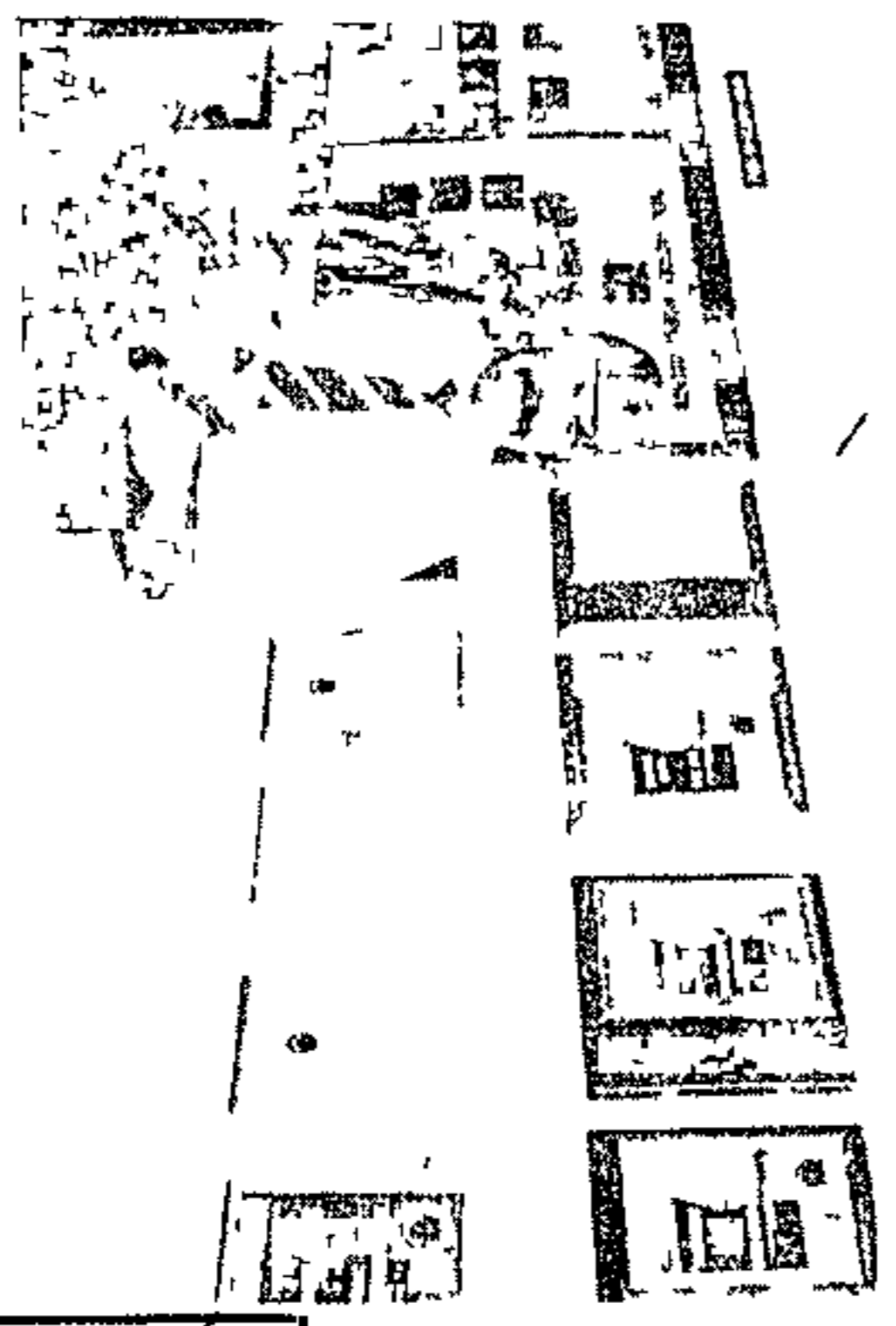
Although law this procedure was unacceptable to society. The courts began to water down the negligence requirements to the extent that the test became negligence in name only.

This development damaged the very fabric of the law. Negligence in its diluted form paved the way for the great US liability and insurance crisis.

Some casualties of the crisis are the US directors of Mannville Union Carbide, Texaco and AH Robbins — some of the largest companies in the world — all of which face insolvency because of liability based claims.

They never fully understood the reasons for this drastic consequence of a mishap. Nor did the directors of Film Recovery Systems fully understand how they ended up being sentenced to long terms of imprisonment on a verdict of murder arising out of an industrial accident.

In time the science of risk management will be studied at most SA universities. This should help to protect SA from suffering the same legal pitfalls as the US.



Safety Man of the Year, Mr E Labuschagne flanked by many Afrox awards

Nosa's top awards belong to regulars

131 04/7/86

SA HAS a number of companies which have been regular winners in Nosa's national occupational safety competitions

Thirty two have reached at least 95% of the Nosa safety objectives as spelt out by the organisation's Management By Objectives (MBO) system. Safety records show that less than 1% of their individual workforces sustained an injury during a particular year.

These firms now belong to a "super" safety league and carry a Nascar (National Occupation Safety Credited Award) for every consecutive year they stay in this league.

Rembrandt Tobacco of Paarl won the Nascar competition this year. Other members of this elite group, with the number of Nascars achieved in brackets, are:

- AECL, Modderfontein (7)
- AECL, Somerset West (13)
- Anglo-Alpha Cement, Roodepoort (8)
- Atlas Aircraft Corporation, Kempton Park (5)
- Epol, Roodepoort (9)
- Escom, Rosherville Training Centre (8)
- Foskor, Phalaborwa (13)
- Karbochem, Sasolburg (7)
- Magnis Truck Corporation, Rosslyn (2)
- Metal Box Divpak, Durban (11)
- Metal Box Vanderbijlpark (10)
- Middelburg Steel, Alloys Division (3)
- Middelburg Steel, Steel Division (4)
- Mobil Oil, Durban (13)
- Naschem, Boskop (3)
- Naschem, Lenz (12)
- Natal Portland Cement (1)

- NCP, Germiston (6)
- Nissan, Rosslyn (7)
- Reckitt & Colman, N'Dabeni (6)
- Safripol, Sasolburg (8)
- Samcor Engine Plant, PE (13)
- Samcor Neave Assembly, PE (11)
- Samcor Struandale Assembly, PE (7)
- SA Nylon Spinners, Bellville (2)
- SA Nylon Spinners, Hammersdale (3)
- Sappi Forests, Pietermaritzburg (1)
- Sasol I, Sasolburg (13)
- Somchem, Krantzkop (2)
- Somchem, Somerset West (11)
- Telcast Engineering Works, Bonaero Park (4)

In the national competition, Corobrik Natal and Epic Oil Mills (Pietermaritzburg) shared first place in the category for entrants with less than 500 employees. Among those with more than 500 employees, Rossing Uranium (Swakopmund) and Pretoria Metal Pressworks shared first position.

Other star performers were Pretoria Portland Cement, which won the quarry and factory competitions, Hippo Quarries Springs, which won the Agregate Producers Competition, Boart International which won a special Seifsa competition; and CMI, of Lydenberg, which won another for ferro-alloys producers

Some mining operations fall under Nosa's jurisdiction, and here De Beers mines and CDM's Mittag mine at Oranjemund swept the boards.

The Clan saw mill of Hans Merensky Holdings and the Wemmershoek State saw mill headed the list in this category.



Self-rescue equipment will add R1bn to mining bill

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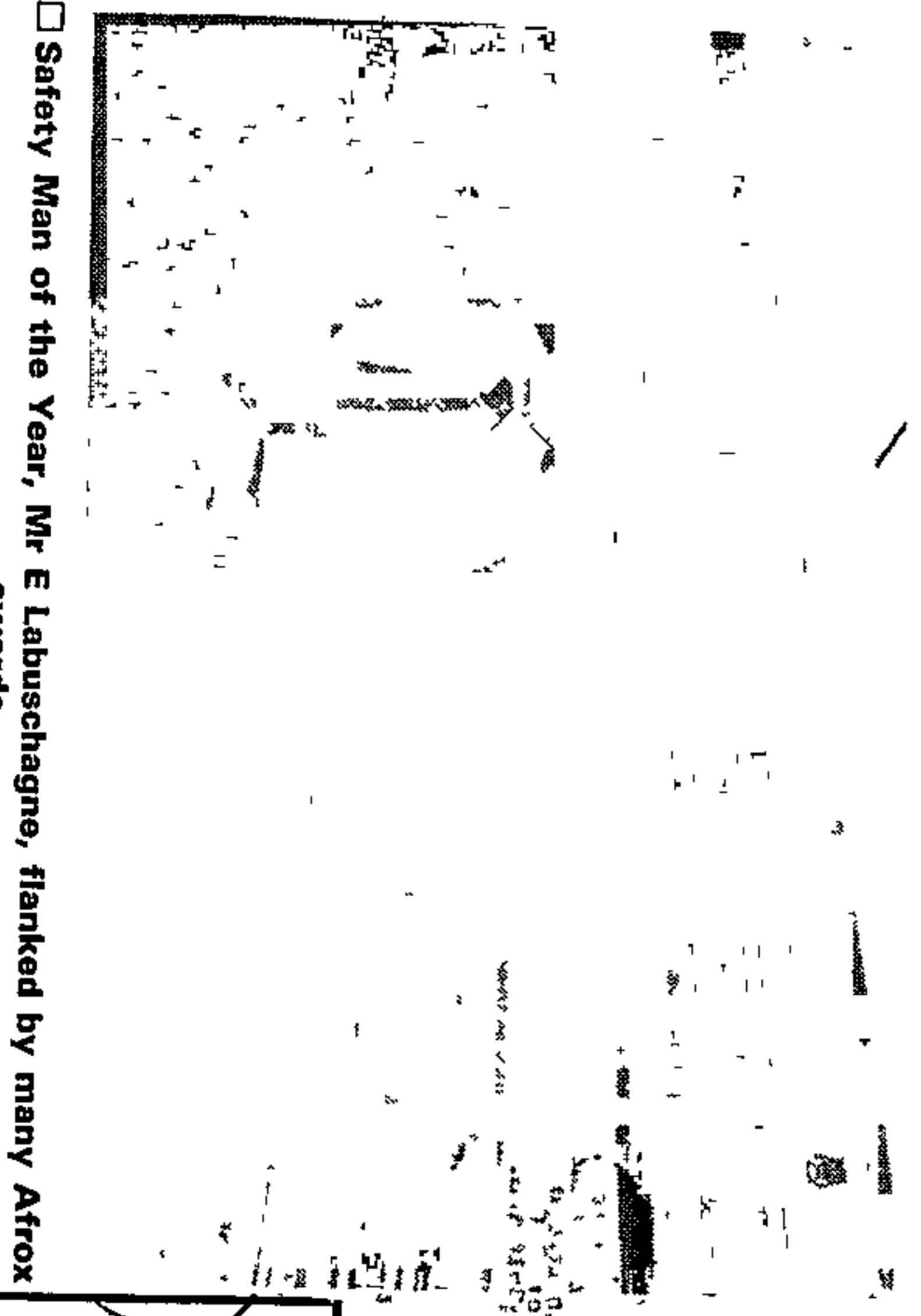
To cope with this double role, Afrox adopts a strict management policy. "We believe every employee and customer is entitled to work without threat to safety or health. It is management's responsibility to put this theory into practice."

"The long-term safety of employees, the public and the company must always be more important than expediency or short cuts. Everyone in Afrox has to be aware of the need for a total team effort. Without this, it would be impossible to

eliminate unsafe acts and conditions," Sachs stresses. "Management is involved in and committed to promoting safety. The prevention of injury or illness, and damage or loss to property or product is an integral part of each person's job."

"Quality improvement must start with an attitude of mind that refuses to accept any unsatisfactory experiences as unavoidable or inevitable. This attitude of mind is reflected in a commitment to the elimination of problems at their source."

But none of this would be possible, he concludes, were it not for "the development of trust between our employees and management, and between ourselves and our customers."



□ Safety Man of the Year, Mr E Labuschagne, flanked by many Afrox awards

Nosa's top awards belong to regulars

Names of dead Kinross miners

FOLLOWING are the names of 168 employees who died in the accident at the Kinross Mine on September 16

The names of another four employees, two from Lesotho and two from Transkei are being withheld until confirmation is received that their next of kin had been contacted

The names of five other employees have been released earlier

Osupeng Israel Lentswe Taung Bophuthatswana, Hina Moholonyane Thabane Rooikop Farms Schweizer Reineke Aupanyane Jan Makatsi Ganyesa Bophuthatswana, Tsietso William Montsiso, Wildhoe Bloemhof, Mpitimipi William Sompondo, Alice, Ciskei, Manduleli Headman Mzongwana Middeldrift Ciskei, Thembsile Thembsile Bazi Alice Ciskei Reckson Mfokeng Mashago, Mhala Gazankulu

Mufundisi Mashele, Ritavi, Gazankulu, Lewis Boy Mpenyane Ritavi, Gazankulu, Masilo John Moloto Bolebedu, Lebowa Joseph Khana Mashapu, Mokebong, Lebowa, Matuba Stanford Mashamate Bochum Pietersburg Mafodi Lawrence Mathabatha Thabamoope Lebowa, Alpheus Makgalangake Mahlaku Naphuno Lebowa Seshaba Joshua Tiro, Mopollo, Bophuthatswana, Jonas Maputla Mashago Mapulaneng Lebowa, Solomon Sarel Monareng Mapulaneng Lebowa

Million Bernard Moshwane Mapulaneng, Lebowa Albert Rasanang Chikane Mapulaneng Lebowa Seropolane Aaron Shai Seshego Lebowa Tseke Abram Seboki Sekhukhune Lebowa, Donald Seeletjane Thobela Praktiseer Lebowa

Mahlakweng Carphus Kgoedi Praktiseer Lebowa, Lephechane Makhtseane Mokhotlong Lesotho Abel Young Mpesi Mokhotlong Lesotho Matela Mouti, Leribe Lesotho

Augustinus Mafate, Leribe Lesotho Kirabo Manyakalle Mafeteng Lesotho Qetelo Ntyolo, Quthing Lesotho Johannes Mosiuoa Sakoane Leribe Lesotho Gobilawu Tweswe Tabankulu Transkei Mkhululi Rumpu Ken

tani Transkei Zamiqhinga Nxathule Flagstaff Transkei, Simon Kolisi Nchakha Mount Fletcher Transkei Danile Ngxongo Engcobo Transkei Paulo Justinus Maseru Buthe Buthe Lesotho

Ngeva Mavekiso Tabankulu Transkei So mandla Ndobeni Umata Transkei Tembani Maqokolo Ngqeleni Transkei

Mosoue Phillip Thabane Mount Fletcher Transkei Dodile Ernest Mpingwana Matatle Transkei, Komokholo Clarence Magelepe Mount Fletcher Transkei Nkosimam Ntoba Butterworth Transkei Mkelwa Zweni Ngqeleni, Transkei Joseph Qumba, Flagstaff Transkei

Leonard Tshintshukile Magsa Kentane Transkei February Namba Mqanduli Transkei Mncedisi Mitwa Mqanduli Transkei Mantshingane Dium Willowvale Transkei, Armando Uisse Massinga Mozambique

Albert James Nobela Kamhlushwa, Kangwane

Bigone Amos Msimango Kamhlushwa, Kangwane Milton Solomon Sambo Schoemansdal Barberton, William Gwazilandi Ngwenyama, Magogeni, Barberton Jobe Victor Manyile Kwamhulushwa Kangwane Sipho James Ndlovu Phaphazele Barberton Aron David Sibiyi Pinaar Enkomeni, Nelspruit

Limited Mangulenge Thyolo Malawi Odile Nyalungwe Zomba, Malawi, Michael Junibe Blantyre Malawi

Mphangeni Bistoh Stutterheim Cape Jas Magano Motlhoare Truong Cape Alphas Shuthelane Langverwacht Evander Milhon Fanyana Sambo Mapulaneng Lebowa Phineas Johannes Raginyi Praktiseer Lebowa

Mbulalemi Mandlamosi Gumedu Ubombo KwaZulu Joseph Elphas Mathenjwa Ingwavuma KwaZulu Amos Mkhahlela Mngomezulu Ingwavuma Kwa-Zulu Mpipi Buthezi Mahlabatini KwaZulu Petros Ndawo Mnambithi KwaZulu

Mofaseng Diniel Mooki Ditsobotha Bophuthatswana Macks



THE general secretary of the Council of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) Mr Jay Naidoo (left) and a NUM official listen to speakers during a service held for the dead miners

Sontaga Tshehla Naphuno Lebowa Petrose Mahlari Booi Quthing, Lesotho Lekhotla Mapei Quthing Lesotho, Mqokeleli Zazini Khulile, Port Elizabeth Natal James Silubane Bosfontein Barberton Jackson Gontsemodimo Botakwe Ganyesa Bophuthatswana

Josava Mahlobo Nkosi Amersfoort Transvaal, Katiti Si meon Sambo Kamhlushwa, Kangwane Solome Solomon Modirwa Molepo Bophuthatswana, Matome Joshua Moagi Naphuno Lebowa

Kamoho Molo Mofaki Quthing Lesotho Qayle Summer Rain Siyobo Tsole Transkei Mzukisi Mbondle Mbondle Tsomo Transkei Lindikhayi Joka Tsole Transkei

Tsumbo Diniel Tlou Boberwa Louis Irichardt Zichari Dumisani Ntuli Mtubatuba KwaZulu Zandisile Sandlana Bathurst Cape Freddy Munyai Sibasa Vendi Phangumusi Mchunu Tugeli Ferry KwaZulu

Bonginkosi Mthembu Hlabisa KwaZulu Mosabi Mafodi Peter Mathabatha Thabamoope Lebowa Peter John Gadama Zomba Malawi Wedison Menidi Blantyre Malawi Wickanda Kamputa Lilongwe Malawi

Gidione Khombe, Dedza Malawi Benart Chimalizemi Ntcheu Malawi, Kidney Magwira Ngumbi Malawi, Zinaumaleka Banda Lilongwe Malawi Denis Thukani Lynedock Farm, Bedford, Mchutshwa Reuben Dlamini Muzini Swaziland, Obed Thobela Mkhonta Shiselweni, Swaziland, Sempe Mphuthi Qopo Berea, Lesotho

Ntutuzelo Welsh Sotondoshee Tsomo, Transkei, Lungisa Mgqatsa Lusikisiki Transkei Plaas Sipungu Engcobo Transkei Moekeksi Machuli Mount Fletcher Transkei Zuzile Bollivia Jose St Marks Transkei Manguqo Mahotyana Lusikisiki Transkei

Levo Mbendla Mulanje Malawi Mampemba Chelimbe, Mwanzi Malawi James Sathi Dedza Malawi, Berson Mwawa Chiradzulu Malawi Dines M. Mosses Mulimiwa Joao Jos-Nguenha Bie Bie Mozambique

Fernando Jacob Bie Panda Mozambique Elias Uisse Matsinhe MASSINGA Mozambique Lote Antonio Bila Xai-Xai Mozambique, Gabriel Zefanus Chiungo Massinga Mozambique Pazimane Bande Mizive Massinga, Mozambique

John Magoda Pisana Emoyeni Nelspruit Ronnic Aaron Nkosi, Nsikazi Lebowa Elmon Reckson Dlamini Acornhock Transvaal Vusi James Dlamini Shiseleli Swaziland Mthandeni Madikane Tsole Transkei Nywuzakhe Mlembelele Lusikisiki Transkei

Bennet Matanda Libode Transkei Navi Vayeki Lusikisiki Transkei Jacob Vusumzi Mlenzana Mount Fletcher Transkei Mhlubutshona Mqumye Port St Johns Transkei

Mzuzwana Mweliso Qumba Transkei Lungisi Rozani Libode Transkei Thomas Bonginkosi Phonce Flagstaff Transkei Gcaleka Bebeza Mount Fletcher Transkei

Tobokela Mpho Lechula Mokhotlong Lesotho Zikia Ntwelwo Rangoanana Mafeteng Lesotho Nephtally Moruti Khoete Maseru Lesotho Ralichase Mchaba Quthing Lesotho Joseph Khosi Beleme Mohaleshock Lesotho

Pco Napo Nathaniel Semoko Quthing Lesotho Velle Kwinana Quthing Lesotho Ifalane Rannane Quthing Lesotho Molatsi Simon Molatsi Leribe Lesotho

Kadefunwa Govane Nalanga Transkei Okhile William Kenosi Kudumane Bophuthatswana Motim William Johnson Lchurutshe Bophuthatswana, Daniel Hendrick Motswagole Ganyesa Bophuthatswana

Mafusi David Mpheli Molopo Bophuthatswana Dinkwana Nkgakhe Mompolar Molepolole Botswana Thaloginye Keparatse Keparatse Ngwaketse Botswana Gosicimang Montsho Letutswe Ga Lekota

Botswana William Mzwandile Dimo Alice, Ciskei Andrius Belfast Mzima Mipuling Lethompson Dizetla

Ngobeni Bolobedu Lebowa Mokhetli Nathaniel Majoro Leribe Lesotho Ishmael Iesimanyane Mporoane Mafeteng Lesotho Ntsu Samuel Lerata Leribe Lesotho

Mzavivuka Ndude Tabankulu Transkei, Mhndelwa Mathenjwa Lusikisiki Transkei, Mlungisi Mato Glen Grey Transkei Molatsi Paul Ntjini Mokhotlong Lesotho

Bouu Tuymze Butterworth Transkei Joseph Timothy Nkosi, Eerstchock Bushbuckridge Ngqecwe Lana Lusikisiki Transkei Sipopo Tshentshine Lusikisiki Transkei Khoete Ralekhetla Mohaleshock Lesotho and Bulane Pascals Nene Mohaleshock Lesotho

• See Pages 22, 23.

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SHOWBIZ

Sounds '86 show is ON

JIMMY Mkhondo of AS Promotions in Pretoria believes that jealous people are out to wreck his forthcoming festival at the Atteridgeville Super Stadium on October 5

"Some crank has been distributing pamphlets in Mabopane and Soshanguve saying that the festival is off," he said

"I would like to assure music lovers that it is definitely on. I would also like to tell whoever is responsible for the pamphlets that he is playing with fire."

Mr Mkhondo says that he was told that the pamphlets were dumped in a train from Mabopane-Soshanguve to Pretoria.

The Sounds '86 Festival at the Super Stadium is expected to be one of the best seen in the area in many years.

Groups billed are chart-toppers Brenda Fasi, Chicco, Groovy Guys, William and the Young Five Big Dudes, Shadin, Rex Rabanye, Condry Ziqubu, Lumumba and Santana.

Besides this colourful line-up, the promoters have acquired one of the best sound systems in the country.



Farewell to Paul Ndlovu

By ELLIOT MAKHAYA

THE showbusiness spotlight this weekend will be focussed on Paul Ndlovu's funeral tomorrow in Phalaborwa Northern Transvaal.

Top South African musicians will pay tribute in song and dance to the superstar — a fitting farewell for an artist who contributed hugely to the music idiom.

Mourners are expected to flock to the tiny village of Luikam in Phalaborwa where Paul will be laid to rest. The funeral service starts at 10 am tomorrow and the cortege will proceed to the cemetery at 2 pm.



THE late Paul Ndlovu Louis Tshakolone by telephoning (011) 337 6248

• The Miss Soweto beauty contest which was to take place at the Eyethu Cinema tonight has now been switched to Club Status in Fun Valley.

Drakensburg Promotions spokesman Mr Leonard Sithole, said they were forced to change the venue because of pressure from political groups.

We were told to use any venue except the Eyethu Cinema which is associated with the mayor of Soweto Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, he said.

• The Miss Soweto '86 contest is expected to attract hundreds of people to Fun Valley tonight.

An additional attraction will be a performance by Brenda Fasi and The Big Dudes.

• On Sunday in Ellisras Northern Transvaal music lovers get a chance to see Yvonne Chaka Chaka live for the first time. Yvonne, sharing the stage with Groovy Guys and Monica, performs at the Matimba Arena from 1:30 pm.

Peter Khawana, her manager, says that he will take Yvonne to Ellisras on Saturday to assure her that she will be performing.

• *Crisis Of Conscience*, a play written and directed by Walter Chikela, will be performed tonight at 8 pm at Funda Centre's Experimental Theatre. Tomorrow it will be staged at 7 pm and 8 pm.

• Beauty queen Nkole Moea will crown Miss Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs on November 8 at the Johannesburg Conference Room. Girls who won the regional eliminations are asked to contact Chiefs PRO.

• Elka Stadium in Rockville Soweto will host a Shanghan traditional dance show on Sunday at 1 pm.

The show, organised by Vushokosho Mavoda and ND Nemaungani, features Nancefield Themi Buvani, Tigers Ngwenyuka, Bungani Ceane, Rosherville Number One, Two, TK Krugersdorp, Mhetti Nkano, Crocus 1V1, Crocus 1V2, Ngwashinyama and others.

• Abstractions, fast becoming one of Johannesburg's top cult jazz bands, will perform live at the Market Theatre tomorrow from 1:15 pm under the banner of the Market Music Platform.

All the musicians in the group — Carlo Mombelli, Johnny Foune, Jo Runde and Neill Ettridge — are exciting performers.

• A Miss Grinaker Rangers Football Club 1986 beauty contest will be held at the Landrost Hotel in Johannesburg tomorrow at 7 pm. The pageant will be in the La Boheme Restaurant in the hotel. Admission is R10.

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PART of the crowd which attended the memorial service at Secunda



THE general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa (right), listens to speeches during the service



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Mrs WINNIE Mandela was one of the speakers

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By LEN MASEKO

Miners remember thei

THE Kinross Gold Mine disaster, which claimed 177 lives, has spawned what appears to be the biggest showdown between mine employers and black miners in the industry's history

This came out loud and clear at the Kinross memorial service held at Secunda's Embalenhle township when about 10 000 people — including miners — converged on the Eastern Transvaal township to pay homage to the dead Kinross mineworkers.

National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, addressing the service, said time had come for black workers to take control of the South African mines and their properties because "we, as workers, will ensure that no-one is befallen by incidents such as the one at Kinross".

The NUM boss had a clear message for the Chamber of Mines:

- That mines, 'from Namaqualand to Messina' will be closed on October 1 as the country's black workforce observe a day of mourning in honour of the Kinross dead.

- That henceforth, the union would not tolerate "any more mine accidents"

- That the Chamber should ban the use at the mines of the polyurethane, a highly toxic substance reported to have started the fire which led to the death of 177 miners and the injuring of hundreds of others.

NUM had enlisted the help of medical and legal experts in its investigations into the incident. Mr Ramaphosa told the service NUM's medical advisors have also told the union that the survivors of the incident could suffer from health problems as a result of the toxic fumes they inhaled, he said.

The union received messages of sympathy from — among others — prime ministers of Australia and Sweden from the exiled South African Congress of Trade Unions, Zimbabwe, Argentina and Britain's Trade Union Council.

Feelings ran high at the meeting when Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Mr Nelson Mandela, was introduced as a guest speaker.

"I bring messages of deep sympathy from the township mothers, who themselves have witnessed the killing of pensioners in White City Jabavu," Mrs Mandela told the service.

She had also brought a message of sympathy from her husband "once a miner himself at Crown Mines in the '40s". The black miners held "the golden key to freedom", she said.

Freedom would only be achieved when black miners "stopped digging their (whites) gold and diamonds", Mrs Mandela said.

Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo told the meeting that the federation demanded health and safety at the mines to be under workers' control and safety stewards be appointed.

Miners had already "filled 46 000 graves", said NUM president Mr James Mollatsi. "Are we prepared to fill up more graves with our bodies?"

The Chamber of Mines was warned not to dismiss mineworkers observing the mourning day next Wednesday "as nobody will take our jobs when we are dismissed, nobody will be bussed back to the so-called homelands".

- Mr Martin Nicol of the Cape Town based Labour Research Services, told the *Sowetan* in an interview that it was difficult to work out mines' production losses in monetary terms that will result from Wednesday's day of mourning.

However, he said, in the gold mining sector this could be calculated against the R5,7 billion working profit attained by these mines last year.

The Chamber has kept mum on 'the day of mourning' issue.



A MINER holds a placard showing the mines' casualty toll



A MINER'S daughter listens intently to the speeches.

Pics. MBUZENI ZULU



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R1bn bill for safety in mining

131
11/187
BUNTIMES



Self-rescue device being tested in a coal mine

Picture by courtesy of the Chamber of Mines

BECAUSE of several disasters last year, the mining industry will be forced by law to spend an additional R1-billion on safety in the next four years.

The first major blow to the pockets of the mining houses came in amended safety regulations last October

These require all underground miners to wear life-support systems on their belts. There are 500 000 miners in SA. The self-rescuers cost R1 000 each, so the mines face a R500-million bill for them alone

High risk

The life-support systems will have to be worn at all times, be ready for instant use and contain sufficient oxygen to keep a miner alive for about 30 minutes

All underground mines will have to provide refuge bays or safe places within walking distance of men using the life-support systems. Mines will have to build refuge bays every two kilometres

The refuge bays must be large enough to accommodate all workers

By Don Robertson

in the area and be equipped with air, water and first-aid equipment. The refuge bays must be impervious to noxious gases and have communications with the surface

The bays will have to be provided with larger, longer-lasting rescue systems for about two-thirds of the workers to enable them to move to surface or a safer place. The large units will cost about R2 000 each

A billion rands of expenditure will increase costs. Mine costs were estimated at R8-billion in 1986

It is estimated that it will take four years for the mines to implement all the new safety measures

Don Morris, deputy Government Mining Engineer (GME), says new safety standards will be introduced to as many high-risk mines as possible this year

He says the cost could be as high as R1-billion, spread over about four years

Three in running

Three companies are vying for the lucrative business of supplying life-support systems — Premier Group's Protective Mining & Industrial

Equipment Systems, US-owned MSA Africa and Cemtec

Only two of their self-rescue systems have been approved by the GME. These are the German-designed Drager unit called the Oxyboks K, which is distributed by PMIE, and a unit from MSA Africa. PMIE will test a compressed oxygen unit in February

The French-designed Fenzy unit distributed by Cemtec will undergo trials in February

All self-rescuers are imported, but PMIE is investigating the possibility of making Oxyboks under licence. It is almost certain that most models will have to be modified to meet difficult gold-mine conditions

Obstacle

Reaction from the mining industry has been cautious

A week after the promulgation of the regulations last October, the Chamber of Mines said "A major obstacle to the introduction of self-rescuers is the absence of any unit here or overseas which is practical to wear on the body while working and will also provide a self-contained life support system"

"Existing self-rescuers in use overseas are of the filter type and

not able to provide life support in the event of oxygen deficiency, a common occurrence in large explosions and fires"

The chamber embarked on a R400 000 research programme with manufacturers and suppliers, but only three systems had been found to be suitable

The chamber says progress towards the introduction of self-rescuers on coal mines is at an advanced stage, but more research is needed for gold mines. The chamber hopes this will lead to success in the short to medium term

Time-table

Since November, however, two self-rescue systems have been approved by the GME

No specific time-table has been set for the introduction of the safety measures, first mooted in 1984. However, the GME may instruct a mine to introduce all or some of the safety measures contained in the new regulations

Mr Morris says the GME has asked mining groups to submit programmes for introduction of the measures, but high-risk mines will be asked to introduce at least some of the measures this year

T&I Ivor's fortune soars

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29 January - 21 February 1987

Chamber replies to NUM's safety allegations

By Sheryl Rame

The Chamber of Mines says it is committed to the safety of the mining industry's employees and is prepared to collaborate with representative employee organisations in bringing about and maintaining the safest mining conditions possible.

The Star invited the chamber to comment on a safety booklet issued by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) as part of a union national safety campaign.

"The NUM reports in its newly published safety booklet that there have been some 46 000 deaths on South African gold mines since the beginning of the century," said the chamber.

"This is clearly intended to evoke an emotional reaction of shock and outrage at perceived shortcomings in safety standards on South African mines and indeed it is a most regrettable statistic — as is every fatal accident.

It needs, however, to be placed in some perspective. While comparisons of this nature are odious it is a fact that British mines have a worse historical record with some 56 000 deaths over the period since 1903.

"On the face of it, therefore, it would appear simply that South African gold mines are safer than British coal mines but the truth is that no such conclusion can necessarily be made. In fact, there can be no valid comparison between South African gold mines and British coal mines or, indeed, between them and other mines in the world."

evaluation of safety standards in mining throughout the world. Unique conditions prevailed in South African gold mines including the vast size of the industry, its labour-intensive nature, the depths of mining which were unmatched anywhere in the world, the consequent pressure and heat conditions underground, the hard quartzite rock and narrow stopes.

"Merely to quote the number of fatalities over 86 years is not particularly helpful in any genuine attempt to evaluate the safety standards on South African gold mines. The statistics show simply that underground mining is hazardous."

"That the South African mines are fitted with some of the most advanced safety equipment in the world is acknowledged by mining safety experts in Britain and the United States."

Another expert, in South Africa as guest of the NUM, Dr Herbert Eisner, said on arrival here that in visits to several mines during an earlier trip he had seen nothing to suggest that they were any less safe than their American and European counterparts.

'Statistics do not support union allegations'

The Chamber of Mines has taken the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) to task over allegations in the union's mining safety booklet, "A Thousand Ways to Die".

Statistics did not support the booklet's allegations, a chamber spokesman said. Allegations included:

- Black team leaders are doing the work of white miners but are not adequately trained for the work
- Production bonuses paid to white miners induce them to maintain production at the expense of safety

But the chamber spokesman said "Statistical evidence shows that since 1976 when exemptions were introduced to allow team leaders to do certain aspects of white miners' work, the fatality rate has fallen by 36 percent and the injury rate by 58 percent."

"Delegation of safety responsibilities to black team leaders may have contributed to steadily improving safety performance." On production bonuses, the spokesman said "Accidents disrupting mining operations and therefore production, on which miners' contract earnings depend. High productivity is more compatible with safe mining prac-

tice. This is borne out in South Africa where gold mines attaining five-star status, the highest ISR (International Safety Rating), have recorded commensurate increases in productivity."

The chamber rejected NUM allegations that black workers were inadequately trained and challenged the union to produce evidence it also rejected NUM criticisms of the ISR.

Responding to claims that the chamber refused to release 42 confidential reports to the NUM, the chamber said it had offered to share research findings "on joint projects". The NUM refused.

The spokesman added "Following NUM participation in Prevention of Accidents Committee activities, the chamber, on March 14, made available a number of reports which NUM had requested and reiterates its wish for NUM involvement in safety in this forum."

However, the chamber said a statement by NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa that it was time to "take control of the mines to ensure no more miners fell victim to accidents", did not inspire confidence.

It added that claims that 17 workers were sacked from West Driefontein for refusing to work in dangerous conditions but later reinstated by the Industrial Court were a "blatant distortion".

"The opinion of these experts would seem to contradict a literal interpretation of the NUM booklet which is propagandistic in tone and contains emotional generalisations, uninformed comment and numerous unsubstantiated allegations."

The chamber suggested that the NUM submit points raised in the booklet to the Prevention of Accidents Committee of which the NUM was a member, for proper consideration.

"The committee which was formed in 1913 with the purpose of creating safer working conditions, is the proper channel for the union to raise its concerns if it really wants to contribute in a positive manner towards the safety of its members on the mines."

"Ironically the NUM has served on the committee for some 18 months and has raised only five issues regarding safety. All these issues have been or are being addressed by the chamber."

Another nail in asbestos coffin

(131) 31/5/87 SJT

Everite to drop it from fibre-cement

ASBESTOS, under attack around the world as a health hazard, seems certain to be eliminated from all fibre-cement building products made in South Africa in the next four years.

Everite, which dominates the R250-million a year fibre-cement industry with 80% of the market, has entered into a know-how agreement with an Australian manufacturer which should result in a switch to non-asbestos building products by 1992.

The development could have important ramifications in the battle against SA's huge low-cost housing backlog. Many planned projects make heavy use of fibre-cement materials, but a similar-priced substitute would remove all health fears.

If research in this country and new technology provided by Australia's James Hardie and its UK research partner, Cape Industries, is successful asbestos will be replaced by an agricultural cellulose pulp.

The pulp is imported, but trials are under way to establish the cost of setting up a pulping plant in SA.

Established growers of varieties of pine and eucalyptus trees and sisal are excited about the prospect of a new industrial outlet for their products. They are co-operating in the trials.

The switch has been on the cards since 1979 when the Everite research

By Ian Smith

team decided to concentrate on new-technology flat-sheet products because the technical requirements were not as severe as those for the widely used roofing sheets.

The company, which has spent more than R30-million on development of non-asbestos flat-sheet products, production and testing, has introduced cellulose-cement ceiling board, partitions and building boards. The new technology is expected to make it possible to use cellulose in load-bearing fibre-cement products, including corrugated-roofing sheets.

The move is unlikely to worry SA asbestos producers. Most of the fibre mined in SA is exported and grades suitable for the fibre-cement industry are imported from Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Everite fibre-cement division manager Mark Cvitanich says the switch from asbestos is going ahead for four main reasons.

"As with other natural resources, asbestos supplies are finite and irreplaceable. In addition, increasing raw-material costs and falling world demand make the future of the asbestos-cement market for building products uncertain."

Product design and development have in any case caused a demand for new fibres with different performance characteristics.

Finally, in spite of scientific reassurance that asbestos can be used safely under modern control measures, widespread customer concern has made the future of the asbestos-cement building materials market uncertain.

Early assessments of many man-made and natural fibres — including minerals, glass-fibre, nylon, vegetable matter and even waste paper — showed that no one product could match the qualities of asbestos, particularly for strength, durability and insulation.

Later, however, it was found that "cocktails" of various cellulose fibres could meet the required performance standards and remain economic.

But Everite decided it would only use SA fibre, and stepped up its research effort by buying the Australian know-how.

Mr Cvitanich says "Our new technology partners have used cellulose fibres successfully — but we have the added challenge of sourcing and pulping cellulose here."

Asbestos will, however, continue to be used in the manufacture of water pipes, where the World Health Organisation has ruled that the danger is negligible.

Everite managing director Emmanuel Arni says "There is little prospect at this stage of alternative fibre technology which can cope with the heavy demands placed on high-pressure water pipes."

INDUSTRIAL-ACCIDENTS

1988

Blazing city trawler sinks

By VERNON BRENT
Staff Reporter

SIXTEEN Cape Town fishermen, forced to abandon their blazing trawler, clung to an overturned lifeboat during a "miraculous" rescue operation off Luderitz

Against the odds of darkness, heavy seas and near gale-force winds, the crew of the Cape Town trawler Julie Lynne escaped without injury.

The blazing vessel sank hours after the men were plucked from the water by the crew of the Saldanha tunny boat Brandaris.

"ONE IN A MILLION"

The master of the rescue vessel, Captain Gabriel Tolken of Plumstead, described the chances of the rescue, which began about 2am yesterday with a distress call from the Julie Lynne, as "one in a million".

"We were about 60 sea miles south of Luderitz when the call came," he said.

"They said a fire had broken out in the engine room. We rushed to their position, fortunately only five minutes away.

"When we arrived the stern was ablaze, flames shooting up to 15m in the air as diesel from the tanks mixed with the flames.

"The crew were huddled on the fore-castle.

"The wind was gusting about 25 knots and fanning the flames forward rapidly.

"They knew if they made one mistake they were gonners.

"They threw down a life-raft but it overturned in the water. One by one they were lowered down to the upside-down raft.

"The crew clung on for their
(Turn to page 3, col 8)

16 fishermen
rescued at sea

(Continued from page 1)

lives as waves washed over them.

"Then they found they couldn't get away from the boat because the wind was too strong. The flames were spreading quickly and a third of the boat was ablaze.

"We moved in close as possible, threw them a rope and pulled the life-raft towards us. At this stage only a small section was above water and the men were desperately clinging to one another and wherever they could find a grip.

"We pulled them up one by one on our boat. They were pretty shaken.

The Julie Lynne was owned by the Cape Town company Interfish.

971-1415.23/118
Rescue (13)
**from fiery
trawler**

Staff Reporter

THE crew of a Hout Bay trawler were pulled to safety when the vessel started sinking off Luderitz after catching fire early on Thursday.

The skipper of the 23,5m Julie Lynne, Mr Basil Lucas, said an electrical fault started a fire in the engine room.

The trawlers Brandaris and Vondeling stood by and the crew of the Julie Lynne were moved to the high forepeak from where a liferaft was launched.

The men lay on the raft to prevent it capsizing.

"The Julie Lynne was sinking fast and after I cut the raft loose it drifted to where the Brandaris closed with us."

A line was passed to the raft and the men were pulled to safety.

131

WE TAP 28/1/88

Tough new regulations in force on asbestos use

Own Correspondent

TOUGH new regulations governing the use of asbestos, promulgated in October 1987, have been incorporated into the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act.

The regulations cover the use of asbestos in raw material form and the processing of materials containing asbestos.

Contravention of the regulations carries a maximum fine of R1 000 or six months imprisonment, as well as an additional R5 a day fine or further imprisonment of one day for every day that the offense continues.

Occupational safety legislation consultant Michael Klass, of Klass Looch Associates, said the regulations were an indication of the severity with which the Department of Manpower

regarded the dangers of using asbestos.

Klass, who is an ex-prosecutor in the Safety Court, said employers who made use of asbestos or who processed material containing asbestos must monitor the amount of asbestos dust at the workplace to determine which regulations apply.

The regulations prohibit the spraying of asbestos, and lay down stringent procedures for the removal of asbestos from buildings.

Klass said employers would do well to remember that any disease or ailment caused by exposure to illegal emissions at the workplace in the case of third parties (not employees), could result in huge legal claims for compensation, as had been seen recently in the US.

Union-mine safety pact 'first' for SA

CT. 22/2/88

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has announced the signing of what it claims is the first ever health and safety agreement between a mine and a union in South Africa

The NUM described the agreement, reached late last year with the Palaborwa Mining Company (PMC), as a breakthrough, and criticised members of the Chamber of Mines for their failure to enter into similar accords. PMC is not a member of the chamber.

According to the union, the agreement provides for the recognition of about 100 safety stewards as representatives of workers' interests in the field of health and safety.

Safety stewards will be informed immediately in the event of any accident and will participate in any inspection and inquiry held thereafter. After the inquiry the stewards and management will meet to discuss the lessons of the accident.

Elected stewards will receive time-off for training by both management and the union.

Natal Midlands	17 538
Newholme	23 300
North Coast	17 097
Northern Natal	18 162
Phoenix	51 226
Red Hill	16 488
Reservoir Hills	16 103
Springfield	18 207
Stanger	18 072
Southern Natal	15 083
Tongaat	16 506
Umzimlo	16 117
Vernulam	20 320
PROV TOTAL	531 357

TRANSVAAL

Actionville	10 336
Central Rand	16 688
Eastern Transvaal	9 803
Laudium	12 681
Lenasia Central	8 609
Lenasia East	8 640
Lenasia West	10 104
North Western Transvaal	14 654
PROV TOTAL	91 515
REP TOTAL	644 001

Foreign media applications to visit RSA refused
1 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs

Whether any applications by foreign journalists or other members of the foreign media to visit South Africa in 1987 were refused, if so (a) how many (b) what were the names of the newspapers and/or organizations involved (c) what were the main reasons for refusing these applications and (d) in respect of what specified period is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Yes

(a) 186

(b) and (c) It is not considered expedient to disclose information of this nature as an application for a visa is a personal matter between the applicant and the Department of Home Affairs

(d) From 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1987

Industrial accidents

29 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in the latest specified year for which figures are available.

(2) (a) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in that year (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

The latest figures available are for 1985

(1) (a) Whites	1 465
Asians	186
Coloureds	1 300
Blacks	17 180
(b) Whites	138
Asians	28
Coloureds	94
Blacks	1 291
(2) (a) 241 820	
(b) R90 117 742	
(c) 2 989 118 man-days	

Industrial accidents

34 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower

(1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in the latest specified year for which information is available and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) insurance companies.

(2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act No 30 of 1941 and (b) what was the total amount paid out in compensation in that year

(3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

The latest figures available are for the year 1985

(1) (a) 241 820	
(b) (i) R 9 433 934	
(ii) R90 117 742	
(iii) R45 757 070	
(2) (a) (i) 247 236	
(ii) 241 820	
(b) R155 088 888	
(3) 2 989 118 man-days	

Kruger National Park, animals culled

75 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

Whether any animals were culled in the Kruger National Park during the period 1 April 1987 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, if so how many head of each species?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

Yes for the period 1 April 1987 to 31 January 1988	
Elephants	189
Buffalo	1 754
Hippopotami	194

Kruger National Park by-products depot

76 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

(1) What was the total value of the products produced by the by-products depot in the Kruger National Park during the period 1 April 1987 up to the latest specified date for which information is available.

(2) what was the profit or loss shown by the depot at the end of this period?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

(1) Period 1 April 1987 to 31 January 1988	
R2 295 130 00	
(2) Period 1 April 1987 to 31 January 1988	
R1 442 247 00 (Profit)	

Applications for deregulation

77 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services

(a) How many applications for deregulation have been (i) received (ii) investigated and (iii) granted in terms of the Temporary Removal of Restrictions on Economic Activities Act, No 87 of 1986, since 13 February 1987, (b) in how many cases has deregulation taken place and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER IN THE STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENTRUSTED WITH ADMINISTRATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES

(a) (i) 10	
(ii) 10 of which 5 have not yet been completed	
(iii) None	
(b) None	
(c) 11 February 1988	

National Liquor Board

79 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology

What was the cost of operating the National Liquor Board in the latest specified year for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

R852 669 during the 1986/87 financial year. This amount includes the expenditure in respect of the Directorate Liquor Affairs in the Department of Trade and Industry

Note The amount of R847 480 for 1986/87 as furnished in the reply to question number 44 of 21 May 1987 represented an estimate

Citizenship certificates issued

94 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs

How many citizenship certificates (a) (i) had been issued and (ii) remained to be issued as at 31 December 1987 and (b) were issued in 1987 to citizens of each self-governing territory?

Work safety warning 131

THE current economic upswing will test management skills to the full — particularly in the field of occupational safety, says the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa).

Nosa president Don Carroll warned yesterday that statistics had shown more than 50% of all workers were injured within the first two years of employment, with the first six months being the most critical period.

"With new workers filling posts

MICK COLLINS 4/3/88

to meet the growing economy, the dangers of them not being properly trained will result in injuries to themselves and damage to equipment and property. Management must ensure new workers are trained to understand the hows and the whys of their new jobs."

Carroll said these and other issues would be addressed at the forthcoming Nosa convention at Sun City from May 17 to May 19.

APR 2/88
(131)

Nurses celebrate 10th anniversary

By SIMPIWE NGWANA

THE Transvaal Professional Society of Black Occupational Health Nurses, held a meeting to celebrate its 10th anniversary at a special occasion in Johannesburg this week.

The meeting was well attended by health workers and different groups from other regional branches.

When the black health nurses broke away from the South African Occupational Health Nurses, they decided to form their own society, the Transvaal Professional Society of Black Occupational Health Nurses, in 1977.

Felicia Pholoholo, an executive member of the society, said it was "high time" the health workers in the industry took a stand because they were involved in a

socio-political situation.

One of the founder members of the society, Gopolang Sekobe, said: "The nurses in factories should be aware of the delicate situation they are involved in. "Since they are involved in the capitalist world, they could get trapped in that situation, not knowing exactly who needs their service."

"There is no way that people can be neutral, occupational nurses should distinguish between those who need their services and those who could exploit it."

The main aim of the society was to keep its members abreast of current trends in the profession and in the nursing profession in general and to pool ideas and experiences in the work place with each other.



The committee, from left: Rachel Sibiva, Stella Mohlamane, Thoko Mahlangu, Yvonne Campbell and Felicia Pholoholo.

Computerising care

A South African initiated and compiled software package, called the Occupational Health Manager (OHM), is designed to help doctors, occupational health nurses and managements caring for staff and labour complements to be more productive and efficient by eliminating the drudgery in keeping, updating and monitoring health care records and arranging future appointments

The package is designed primarily for clinics on mines and in general industry, but, says its backers, it can be used by companies with as few as a hundred employees to those employing thousands.

OHM is being launched and marketed by Amtronix, whose computer-linked hearing test software is widely used by mines and industrial operations.

The new package, said to be cost-effective and easy to operate, was developed to run on a 20MB hard disk ICL 12 000 compatible micro with a 640 kB memory. This can be expanded to large organisations. All machines in the ICL series range can run the new medical software.

The package details each employee's personal statistics, including illnesses, and records the full results of eye, ear and lung tests. It carries a comprehensive incident report and follow-up in the format of the standard system used by the National Occupation Safety Association (Nosa). It incorporates a drug register as well as a stock control facility. Pre-employment medical records are incorporated to give medical staff the widest background possible.

The software contains a diary recording the nature of visits paid, tests and examinations carried out, as well as a reminder about the next visit.

"The OHM software is South African originated and it was compiled by a top medical doctor who has incorporated his years of experience into the package," says Amtronix director Neill Hattingh, who initiated the successful computerised Audiometrix software and was instrumental in the development of the OHM package. "It provides a firm or organisation with the ideal method of monitoring employees' well-being. And it goes without saying that a healthy employee is a productive one." ■

Enterprise bosses will not lay down safety or working conditions

THE owners and lessors of Enterprise Centre, the property in the deregulated zone in Kew, northern Johannesburg, did not plan to lay down safety and working conditions for the sub-lessees in the building, centre director Charles Lipp said.

He said they would investigate

ALAN FINE

complaints on an individual basis. The regulations applicable to the zone said lease agreements signed by sub-lessees had to contain undertakings that they would not conduct activities which, in the opinion of the

owner, were dangerous or detrimental to the health and safety of the sub-lessees' employees

The sublessees also had to undertake to pay wages which, in the opinion of the owner, were reasonable having regard to the former's circumstances

Capt. Times 26/5/88 (131)
Man crushed by grape press

PAARL — A man died in a grape press at De Doorns yesterday.

Captain Grys Boonzaaier, Boland police liaison officer, said Mr Hlathe Boy Dema, age not given, was dragged into the press at De Doorn wine cellars and instantly crushed.

Capt Boonzaaier said Mr Dema was busy oiling the machine when another worker accidentally switched it on. — Sapa



Picture DION TROMP, The Argus

CHEMICAL EXPLOSION: Firemen use a fog jet to damp down the scene of this morning's blast at a glue factory in Epping.

ARGUS 7/6/88 131

5 000 litres of chemicals catch fire in city factory

Staff Reporter

A MAN was injured when about 5 000 litres of chemical solvents caught alight in an explosion at P E Kay Adhesives factory in Bofors Circle, Epping, about 8am today.

The injured man, whose identity is not known, was taken to hospital.

The explosion occurred when the workman went into a building at the back of the premises

to switch off a machine

Two fire engines and three service vehicles from the Epping fire station were sent to the scene.

Foam was used to quell the blaze and later two water jets were used for cooling. The fire was extinguished shortly after 9am

The factory management refused to make a statement or provide details.

Workers fall 4m after gas blast

13)
Cape Times 18/6/88

TWO council workers were overcome by gas and plunged four metres down a drain in Bellville South yesterday morning.

The workers — Mr David Jansen, 19, of Bellville South and Mr Wesley Cox, 33, of Eerste River — who were trying to clear a blocked drain, were taken to Tygerberg Hospital where they were kept overnight for observation.

A tired and shocked Mr Cox said they had been trying to fit a pipe to draw water inside the drain.

"We could not get the pipe to fit and Jansen went down to see what the fault was," he said.

A powerful blast of methane gas had escaped through a broken valve which forced Mr Jansen upwards before he plunged the four metres to the bottom of the drain.

Mr Cox said he had been climbing out after helping Mr Jansen to the surface when he was also overcome by the gas and fell down the shaft.

Council workers pulled him up with a rope.

He said he had passed out for a few minutes, and on coming round had given Mr Jansen mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Neither of the two were wearing gas masks.

(131) CAPE TOWN, 30/6/88

Dagga simply won't work, says drug expert

Staff Reporter

RESEARCH involving local dagga smokers had shown them to have an up to 25% greater incidence of illness and to take up to 21 days more sick leave a year than non-dagga users, according to a top local psychologist and researcher

Addressing a health seminar hosted by the local region of the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA), Dr Colin Bower, chairman of the Northern Areas Drug Action Group, said South African dagga was the strongest naturally occurring dagga in the world and not all its properties were known

Industrialists needed to adopt a definite

policy regarding the abuse of the drug which he insisted should include the rehabilitation of users and post-rehabilitation follow-up programmes

He appealed to industry to help workers become more effective parents by educating for lifestyles in which dealing with tensions and sexuality excluded resorting to drugs. This was the best first-line defence, he added

Dr Bower said he wanted to explode the myth that dagga use made for "better" workers, "helps for sex and makes you a better lover", and that it helped asthma sufferers

A recent study with abusers who smoked

five "stoppe" a day for three months had shown a reduction of 11% in blood flow over the left hemisphere of the brain. This condition had only normalized six weeks after the abuse stopped

Symptoms of dagga smokers included a peculiar cough and loss of short-term memory and giggling. All symptoms were difficult to detect because of the ability of regular abusers to maintain an outwardly normal facade

Problems with fighting drug abuse included the mass media popularizing non-prescription drugs and an illogical resistance by school headmasters openly to discuss the topic, he said

No one hurt in blasts

NO ONE was hurt when a limpet mine exploded outside a hockey clubhouse in Turffontein, Johannesburg, on Saturday, police said.

They said the mine was attached to a pole behind the Cambrians' club.

There were 16 people in the clubhouse, but no one was hurt.

Part of the clubhouse roof was lifted off by the blast.

Windows in a nearby block of flats and two cars were shattered.

A car bomb exploded at Okahandja, north of Windhoek, on Saturday, but no one was hurt. — Sapa.

Political comment in this issue by Ken Owen Newsbills by Kevin Davie Headlines and sub editing by Michael Moon All of Times Media Ltd 11 Bishops Street Johannesburg

Blaauw
11/7/88

CAF 71415 27/7/88 (483) 131

Shop ceiling falls on workers — three killed

JOHANNESBURG. — Three workmen were killed and eight hurt when the ceiling of an extension to a chain store in Randburg's Cresta Centre collapsed yesterday.

The three men were working on a lower level of the construction when scaffolding and concrete reinforcing on the ground floor collapsed.

Members of Randburg's emergency services battled for almost two hours to remove the bodies from the rubble and see if anyone else was trapped under it.

Eight people were treated for minor injuries.

The names of the dead workers have not yet been released. The injured were also employees of the construction company, Wilson Bailey Homes.

The incident occurred just before 11.30am when the centre was full of shoppers and schoolchildren.

It is believed the collapse was caused when concrete was being poured on to the upper section of the additions to the centre's branch of the OK Bazaars. — Sapa

DURBAN. — A woman's thumb was amputated after it was allegedly eaten away by a chemical substance she worked with at a sweet factory here.

After three months at King Edward Hospital, Medrina Msomi, 36, says doctors decided to amputate the thumb because it was not healing.

Msomi has five children and still attends a clinic.

This week, her hand still bandaged, she was told there was no more work for her at a sweet factory when she reported there after being discharged from hospital

Amputated

Msomi clutched the left hand, with its thumb amputated, under her jersey as I spoke to her. She said it was still painful.

She had no alternative but to have the thumb removed because the pain never left her — a sore caused by the unknown chemical substance did not heal. So doctors finally decided to amputate.

Mr Dasse Moodley, an organiser of the Food Workers Union, says management at the sweet company offered Msomi R90 after an infection started and she was told not to tell other workers.

Msomi's job was to clean pots in which the colouring substance in sweets is made. She also made syrup. She believes that the chemical powder used to make the colouring caused the sore.

"I always felt a biting sensation after using the substance," Msomi said.

"I asked the company to buy me gloves on a number of occasions but I was ignored."

According to Moodley all workers who clean the pots complain of the effects; and they have deformed fingernails and cuts.

The manager of the company, who identified himself only as Jay, denied harmful chemicals were used in the factory operations.

He said Msomi had never complained to anyone or asked for gloves. He also claimed that Msomi's sacking was part of a retrenchment programme as business was down at the factory.

The R90 was Msomi's retrenchment payment. — *Concord News*

From PHINDA KUZWAYO

Woman loses thumb - job

(131)

Search 18-24/8/88

Olympics.

CAPE TOWN 27/8/88

Tractor crushes worker

A MAN was crushed to death yesterday when the tractor he was driving overturned on a Greyton farm. A Boland police spokesman said Mr Basil Jacobs, 32, of the farm Lusmore, was killed when the tractor he was driving up a steep incline suddenly rolled backwards and overturned, pinning Mr Jacobs underneath.

131

War on asbestos

THE Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union to embark on an anti-asbestos awareness programme through the use of videos as part of its campaign

BAMCWU is no newcomer to this campaign — as early as 1982 the union fought vigorous battles with mining companies calling for the closure of asbestos mines. According to the publicity secretary of BAMCWU, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena, thousands of workers employed in those mines face a danger of contracting asbestosis.

He said members of the community were invited to participate in the video cassettes shows. The shows would be at their offices countrywide. Coupled with that, a team of medical personnel would resume their visits to rural areas where people were exposed to the mineral.

BAMCWU, he added, would also consider litigation against companies for having exposed the workers and the community to the asbestos dust. The victims of this deadly disease were mainly in the North Eastern Transvaal and the Northern Cape where the mineral was mined.

The inhalation of fine asbestos dust can create a chronic disease leading to the malfunctioning of the lungs.

Symptoms

Asbestosis has as its symptoms, fatigue, difficulty in breathing, coughs and listlessness. Asbestos dust affected all who came into contact with it. Figures released by the Mine Bureau of Occupational Diseases between 1967 and 1983 show that more than 6000 fell prey to the dust particles.

In the light of the hazards people faced with asbestos, Mr Rakwena said BAMCWU launched a national campaign for the closure of all asbestos mines in the country.

Internationally, restrictions on its mining and manufacture have been imposed. Britain and the United States have imposed stringent controls on levels of asbestos dust in their workplaces.

'Scandinavian coun-

The struggle against this killer continues

By MOKGADI PELA

tries have on the other hand, completely outlawed the product," he added.

"In our country, fairly little has been done. Legislation does not protect workers and the community neighbouring the mines from the disease. Our research shows that communities living near asbestos mines and dumps are in danger of contracting asbestosis," he went on.

In the North Eastern Transvaal alone about 500000 people could contract the disease. He listed three categories of people likely to contract the disease as:

- (1) Those mining or milling asbestos
 - (2) Those working in the construction, transport and chemical sectors dealing with asbestos
- And those occupying buildings with asbestos fibre or living next to its dumps.

Charged

He said as a result of BAMCWU's campaign, many groups charged with the responsibility of monitoring the effects of asbestos on the community were established. The level of awareness has since increased.

Secondly, the mines have been forced to introduce safety measures like never before. An asbestos built school near Penge Mine in the North Eastern Transvaal was destroyed by the General Mining Cor-

poration (Gencor) and replaced with a brick structure.

Mr Rakwena said messages of support from the community have been received by the union urging it to continue with its campaign.

Further in 1985, BAMCWU was party to the International Labour Organisation Conference in Geneva on asbestos.

He said initially South Africa had 26 asbestos mines but today there were only eight. Those still in operation were mainly in the Northern Cape and in the North Eastern Transvaal.

Roofing

Mr Rakwena said there were about 3000 uses of asbestos.

Among those were roofing, heating, building and construction.

He said the latency period for the disease ranged between 10 and 20 years. His union held the view that the non-protection of black workers from occupational disease was deliberate and in line with the exploitation and degradation of blacks.

Regarding the compensation of workers, BAMCWU said "The complicity of the State and the mining industry is denoted by R24000 plus monthly pension for white workers as against R1790 given to black workers."

In the frontline

BAMCWU publicity secretary, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena (right)

Mr Rakwena said it came as no surprise to him when a mine official remarked "They (the miners) are like plastic syringes. You use them and when they are damaged, you throw them back to the homelands."

Since the start of the anti-asbestos campaign in the country, BAMCWU officials have addressed conferences on the mineral and its dangers throughout the globe.

Mr Rakwena has just come from a trip to West Germany, Switzerland and Canada where he spoke about the anti-asbestos campaign.

There is no going back," he said.

Inhalation of fine asbestos dust can create chronic disease



'BLACKS ARE NOT LOOKED AFTER'

(13)
20/9/88

THE advisory committee on safety which was set by the Government only protects white workers, it was claimed.

Addressing a group of shop stewards in Pietersburg as part of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) education programme on health and safety, the unit's head, Mr Vusi Tinga, said all ten representatives were whites who looked after the interests of the white community and workers.

He said black unions had the responsibility to set up health and safety units in each union to educate workers.

In South Africa there are no minimum standards for noise and dust. Whereas in other countries noise above 90 decibels was not allowed, no minimum was set here. Chemicals, which are banned in many countries because they cause cancer, are widely used in this country. This was because all the dangerous work is being done by blacks, he said.

Mr Tinga added that many black workers who got injured on duty and filed claims for compensation with the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner ended up without receiving their dues because of ignorance.

An amount of R5,2 million of compensation money had been unclaimed since 1962.

He said statistics released by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for 1986 showed that there were 2750 deaths at work. Over 25000 disability injuries occurred during the same period while

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

over 325 000 other accidents were also recorded. The majority of these were black workers, he said, adding that unions had to educate workers to minimise the statistics.

The workshop resolved to set up health and safety units in all unions to co-ordinate all health and safety aspects in the unions.

(131) 5/19/88

Explosion 'may have been gas'

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A blast that virtually levelled a house and left two others wrecked in Mitchell's Plain was possibly caused by an exploding gas bottle.

Three children and a woman were injured in the explosion, which happened in Walrus Close, Rocklands, at about 4 pm yesterday.

Police are investigating the possibility that the blast was caused by an exploding gas cylinder. Fragments of a gas cylinder had been found at the scene, a police liaison officer said.

Mrs Deborah Jonas (30) was taken to Groote Schuur Hospital with serious facial and leg injuries. Her three children Candice (8), Magdalene (3) and Bianca (1) were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

Two adjoining houses were partially demolished in the blast.

At number 17 Walrus Close a 10-year-old boy, Dorian Overmeyer, was slightly hurt. Mrs Debbie Engel (18) and her two-month-old son Mark were treated for shock.

A bewildered Mr Denver Jonas said he was at work when he was told about the explosion.

"I don't know what happened," he said as he tried to salvage possessions from the rubble.

Mr Jonas said he doubted it was a gas explosion because he did not own any gas appliances or a gas bottle.

Stricken asbestos producer to fight insurers

SYDNEY — CSR, the Australian industrial group facing heavy claims from sufferers of asbestos-related disease, is fighting back against last week's withdrawal of its insurance cover by the Western Australian State Government Insurance Commission (SGIC).

The company has accused the commission of failing to provide reserves to cover claims against CSR and of taking out next to no reinsurance. It claims the government is behind the commission's reluctance to proceed and says it will be taking the commission to court immediately.

The matter has become a major problem for CSR, and is rapidly becoming a political issue in Western Australia, with both the pre-

mier of the Labour Party state government and the leader of the state's opposition speaking out publicly on the problem over the past few days.

The disputed SGIC cover concerns Midalco, the CSR subsidiary which operated the Wittenoom asbestos mine in Western Australia until it closed in 1966. The mine, since dubbed Australia's Bhopal, has so far been the subject of 288 claims, most of them relating to asbestosis. Only a handful have come to court.

The commission's sudden announcement last week that its policy was now considered to be inoperative followed the Victoria Supreme Court's dismissal of CSR's appeal against the award of

A\$250 000 (R117 000) in exemplary damages to Mr Klaus Rabenalt, a former Wittenoom employee suffering from the incurable asbestos-related lung cancer called mesothelioma.

CSR managing director Mr Ian Burgess says it is absolute nonsense for the commission to say CSR withheld information. For more than a decade it had had free and total access to all Midalco's information about the operation and had used the information to defend court cases it ran and paid for.

The risks of the Wittenoom mine were insured with the commission from 1943, Mr Burgess says, and the commission had regularly inspected the mine and taken advice from the state's health and mines

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The Star Friday S

36/9/88

department. "There must be questions as to the practices and motivations of the SGIC," he says. "The SGIC have told us they have allocated no reserves to cover the Wittenoom payments and that they have taken out next to no reinsurance on the Wittenoom claims to spread the risk. The SGIC have told us that the Attorney General in Western Australia is behind the SGIC's reluctance to proceed. We wonder why?"

Mr Burgess confirms that total liability is estimated at A\$50 million. The SGIC insurance concerns about A\$30 million of this, relating to claims between 1959, when its unlimited cover began, and 1966 when the mine was shut. Midalco has already agreed to bear the re-

maining A\$20 million liability, relating to claims before 1959 when the SGIC's cover was more limited.

He acknowledges that the process of settling claims has been far too slow, and repeats that CSR wants to settle post-1959 claims quickly. But it cannot do so without the SGIC's approval. "If the SGIC has a case for others paying, it should pursue the matter in court," he says. "A few people are close to death. We want to work with the SGIC to compensate them before they die."

The SGIC has offered no immediate response to the CSR claims. The company's legal challenge to last week's action by the commission is expected to come to court on Monday — Financial Times.

STAR

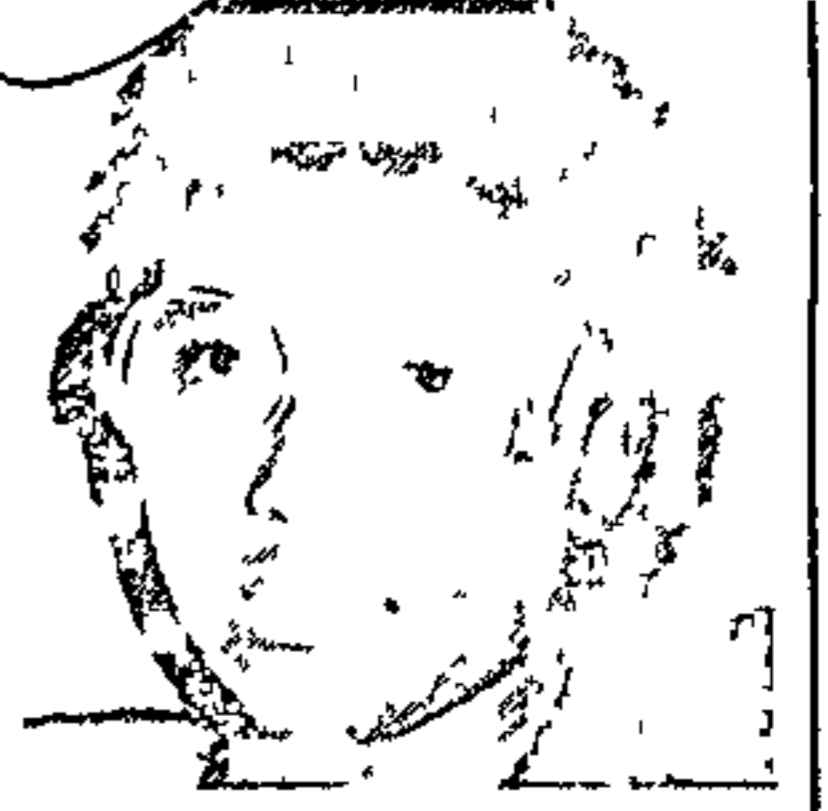
CHC. 10/15 5/11/88 (131) 29



DEVASTATED ... Mr Cohen Hill, owner of Nyanga Dry Cleaners, amid the charred ruins of his NY6 business where an explosion claimed the life of an employee yesterday.

Picture Glenn Sherratt

Woman dies in blast at dry cleaners



Miss Gcotyelwa Ntlabathi, who died in the blast

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A WOMAN died as bystanders saved the lives of her four co-workers when a distilling machine exploded at a dry-cleaning shop in Guguletu yesterday

Rescuers used makeshift crowbars to force open a locked steel gate and enable the workers to escape advancing flames from a rear entrance of Nyanga Dry Cleaners in NY6

The blaze began with an explosion at the front of the shop soon after Miss Gcotyelwa Ntlabathi, 20, of NY134, had left her colleagues in a rear packing room to serve a customer

A shocked and distraught colleague, who identified herself as "Zokiswa", said Miss Ntlabathi was writing up an order when "we heard an incredible explosion".

"There were just flames everywhere but we couldn't open the door. It was too much heat and fumes for us to go out through the front," she said

People outside had run off to return with "metal sticks" and force open the locked burglar-proof gate

"Only when we got out did we realise that Gcotyelwa was missing," she sobbed

Dry-cleaner owner Mr Cohen Hill said equipment worth R500 000 was destroyed. He was not insured, he said

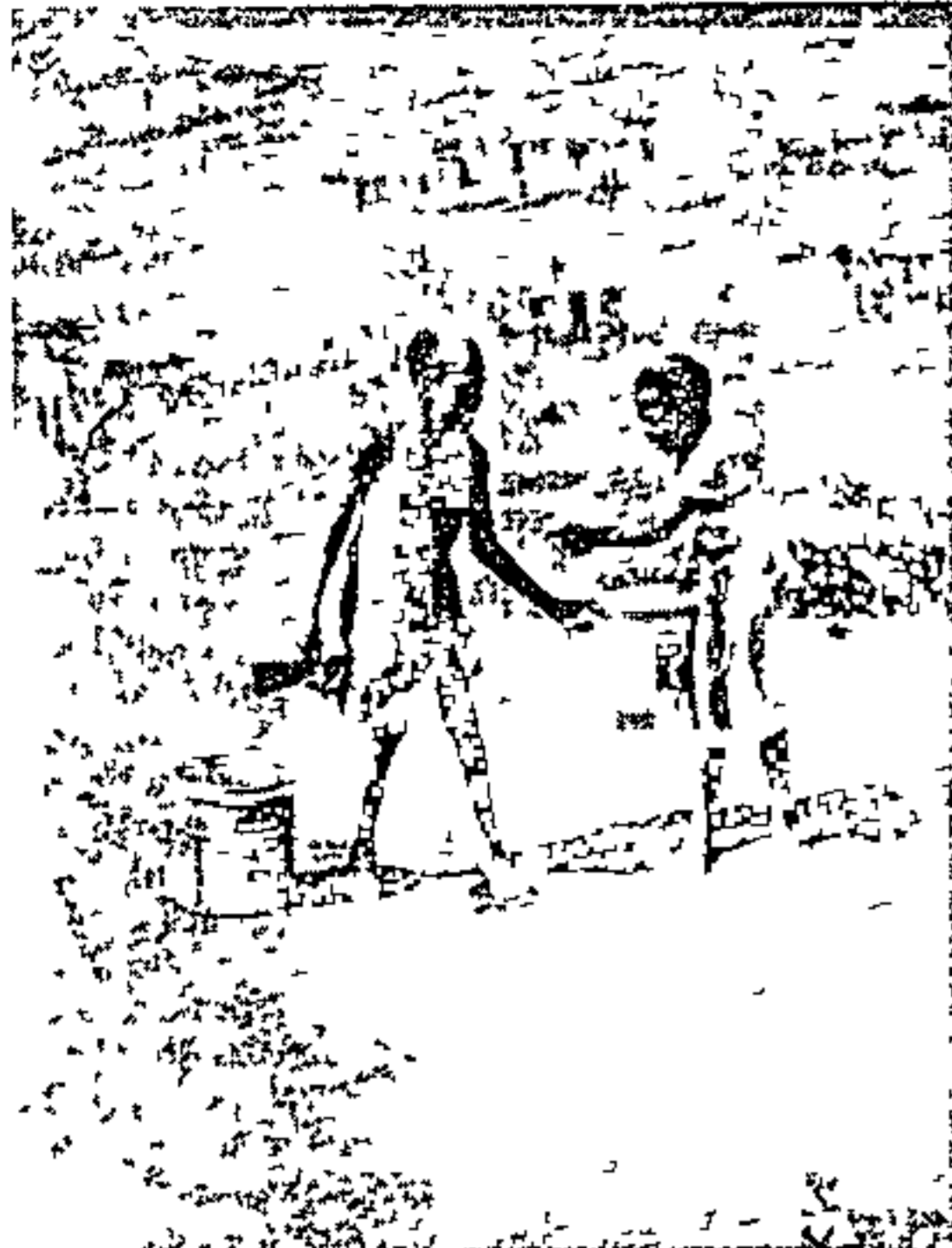
Neighbouring shop owner Mrs Nomonde Mgojo said the blast was "so sudden there was nothing anyone could do"

Neighbours described Miss Ntlabathi as "a good, clean-living child"

Dontwin ...



Death stalks Taung



THESE kids play on one of the asbestos dumps unaware of fatal nature of the dust particles

THE inhabitants of Taung Village in the North Eastern Transvaal are facing a slow, but certain death from asbestosis

They may be simple and unlettered people but they blame the connivance of the mining authorities and the Lebowa Government for their condition. They say before 1986 mining authorities used the area as a dumping ground and in 1986 Lebowa allocated residential sites to them on the same place.

In terms of proper health and safety standards the authorities are supposed to cover the asbestos dumps as its inhalation is hazardous to health.

The victims of this killer disease are mainly former mineworkers and the mining communities. Inhaling fine asbestos dust can lead to the malfunctioning of the lungs.

The common symptoms are fatigue, difficulty in breathing, coughs and listlessness.

Most of the people spoken to complained that they had either been insufficiently compensated or given nothing at all.

They also said their diseases were traceable to the contact they had with the asbestos mineral. Mr Madala Mashego (59), an organiser for the Black Allied Mining and

Story by
MOKGADI PELA
Pics by
MOFFAT ZUNGU

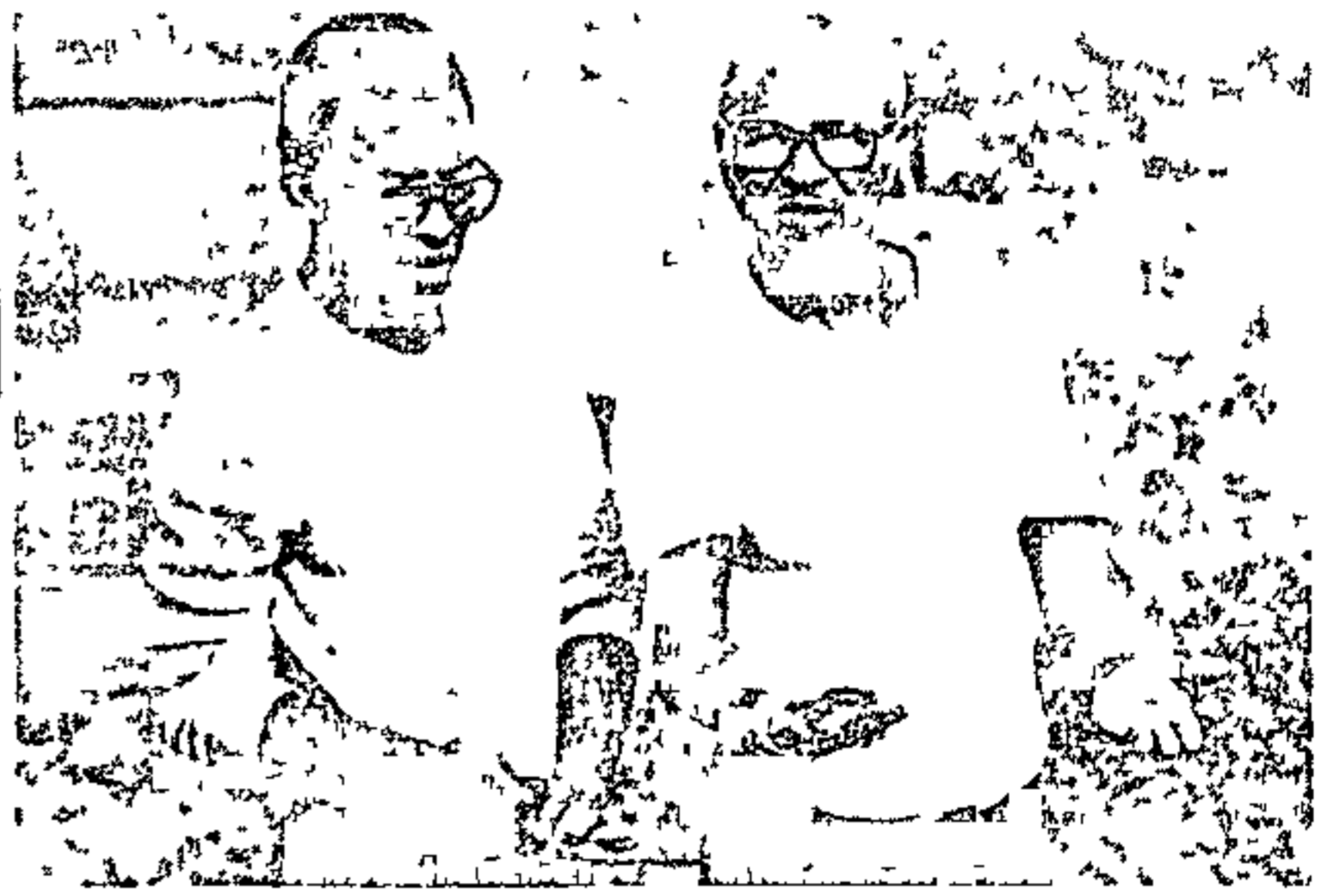
Construction Workers' Union, who is a victim of the asbestos dust said "I have always wondered why Lebowa has a health department because in this case its duty was to advise the Government against the allocation of sites in 1986.

He added that he worked at the Penge mine from 1951 to 1984 as a filing clerk. When he was diagnosed as a sufferer of the killer disease and claimed compensation from the pension office he was told that Lebowa had no money.

He said all he got was



Mrs SARA Mafologela victim of asbestosis



BAMCWU officials Mr Mbulelo Rakwena and Mr Madala Mashego holding an asbestos sample

R1 700 in instalments from the company apparently for medical expenses. Himself a father of four he said he has had constant chest pains for years.

Another portrait of death was Mrs Sara Mafologela (78) who worked at the mine as a cleaner. She complained that she was never compensated.

She said her daughter Asnat, died years ago after contracting the disease. As I left she said "Shake my hand my child as I may die anytime, I have been bedridden since I left the mine in 1984.

Mr Skibiti Komana

(67), a father of six said he worked at Penge Mine from 1943 to 1982. Like most underground workers, they were regularly X-rayed until



Mr SKIBITI Komana no money to feed children

The Taung villagers said previously they found it difficult to fathom the dangers of the mineral but Bamcwu had come to them as "a gift from God".

In reply to the Taung residents complaints the secretary for Health in Lebowa, Dr D M Masipa, said "I have no personal knowledge concerning the allocation of sites at Taung in 1986."

The Department of Health has no jurisdiction over the allocation of any sites. He added that his department has identified similar problems in Mafefe and was presently doing a survey.

he was found to be infected.

His problems were coughing and fatigue. Because he was the sole breadwinner he was forced to sell all his cattle to provide for the family.

Bamcwu publicity secretary, Mr Mbulelo Rakwena, who was also in the area, said "Following our 1985 Anti-Asbestos Campaign, we have since constituted Asbestos Watchdog Committees to move around areas such as these to enlighten people about the hazards of the mineral."

In London a housewife Mary Weller washed the overalls of her husband unaware that she was inhaling lethal quantities of asbestos dust which came from boilers her 66-year-old husband, Leslie dismantled.

As a result she developed a malignant tumour on her lung.

She died five weeks ago after complaining of chest pains.

He said his wife kept going back to hospital for X-rays, finally a spot was found and advanced mesothelioma was diagnosed.

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NG4	R39,65	NC11F	R79 81	ND55F	R34,11	TD57S	R67 25
NG11	R41,85	NC12F	R63 05	ND52F	R63,78	TD57S8	R70 00
NG5	R12 16	ND5	R18,18	ND54F	R90,95	TD57S9	R93 52

Concert murder Victim schoolboy

AK645 12/12/88

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By EDWARD MOLOINYANE,
ARNOLD KIRKBY and
SHARON SOROUR, Staff Reporters

THE guard who was stabbed to death in front of 13 000 people at a rock concert in Athlone at the weekend was a 19-year-old schoolboy who worked for a security firm at weekends to earn pocket money

John Skosana of Zone 1, Diepkloof, Soweto had just passed his end-of-year examinations and would have been in Standard 9 at Sidetlas Secondary School in Soweto next year

His grieving mother, Mrs Lydia Skosana, a Johannesburg domestic worker, said her son told her on Thursday he was going to Cape Town for the weekend That was the last time she saw him

"I leave home very early and return late so I didn't see him on Friday," she said Mrs Skosana said that her son and some of his schoolmates had weekend jobs with the private security firm, Thulani Guards, to earn pocket money

Thulani Guards is owned by Diepkloof businessman Mr Morgan Nkosi Many companies use the services of Thulani Guards and they are especially valued for music shows

No-nonsense approach

The guards are known all over the Reef for their no nonsense approach and swiftness in dealing with bad elements

Mrs Skosana said that John, the fourth of her eight children, was a quiet youngster

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No-nonsense approach

The guards are known all over the Reef for their no nonsense approach and swiftness in dealing with bad elements

Mrs Skosana said that John, the fourth of her eight children, was a quiet youngster who was loved by all in the neighbourhood

John had just received his Standard 8 school report and he had done well in his exams

Friends, neighbours and schoolmates, saddened by his death, gathered at the Skosana home today to share his family's grief

Mrs Skosana said that funeral arrangements were being made. She understood that John's body was flown to Johannesburg yesterday but only Mr Nkosi had details at this stage

Mr Nkosi was not available for comment today

John was stabbed in front of about 13 000 spectators after a gang of between 20 and 30 entered the stadium on Saturday and started a fracas during a concert to raise money for disabled children

Members of the Thulani Guards, who had been hired for a series of road rock shows, intercepted the gang and a running battle ensued

One of the organisers, Mr Patrick Miller of Platform Promotions in Johannesburg, told police he heard screams and saw John Skosana being stabbed

Stone-throwing

Police arrived and the concert erupted into a series of stone-throwing incidents. Windcreens and windows of cars were broken and teargas was fired, a police spokesman said

More than 30 people were killed in a weekend of violence in the Peninsula and Boland. At least 15 were stabbed to death, including John Skosana

A member of the crew of the harbour tug W H Andrag died after a freak cable accident in the docks on Saturday. Two other crew were seriously injured

Mr P P da Sil Rebelo of Gardens died in Groote Schuur Hospital yesterday of head injuries and Mr Cecil Mouton of Vasco and Mr C J Pietersen of Pinelands are in Somerset Hospital with multiple injuries. Both are in satisfactory condition

According to a spokesman for the Port Captain the accident happened after the tug docked a container ship in Ben Schoeman dock.

At least five people died in

(Turn to page 3, col 2)

Concert murder victim a schoolboy

NEWS 12/12/88

(Continued from page 1)
road-related accidents and another was killed crossing the Cape Flats railway line in Pinelands

Strong winds may have been responsible for the death of Mr J H Snyders, 68, of Goya Road, Delarey, Bellville, whose car overturned on the Caledon/Napier road on Saturday

Mr Snyders was on his way to his holiday house at Arniston with his wife Elise, grandson Nico, 12, and a friend, Jaco, when his car and trailer left the road

Mrs Snyders was taken to Caledon Hospital with slight neck injuries. The boys were unhurt

Three members of a Khayelitsha family were burnt to

death in their Site B shack after a man allegedly set it alight on Friday night

A four-year-old boy, Syabulela Mthio, was shot in the head by an unknown gunman in KTC on Friday night

A special constable, Mr Matorela Nxuseka, died when a colleague allegedly blasted him at close range with a shotgun during an argument in Nyanga on Saturday

Concert security guards VICIOUS

CAPE TIMES 13/12/88

Staff Reporters

SECURITY arrangements at Saturday's ill-fated rock concert in Athlone, where a schoolboy security guard was knifed to death in front of horrified onlookers, have come under fire for being "deplorable and vicious".

"People who came to listen to the music were being ill-treated by the security personnel who sjambokked them," said a spectator who asked not to be identified.

"Women were also searched in public in front of the men and with no concern about their dignity," the spectator added.

Mr Morgan Nkosi, the owner of Thulani Guards, hired to provide security at the shows, denied the allegations.

"If you are being attacked by a man with a panga, you hit him with the sjambok," Mr Nkosi said.

Mr Nkosi said special screens were used to provide privacy when people were being searched, but he admitted that they might not have been used.

"The guards might have forgotten them," he said.

The concert ended in bloodshed and chaos when 19-year-old secur-

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REPORTERS ARE CONTINUING

From page 1
CAPE TIMES 13/12/88
Rock concert

ity guard Mr John Skosana from Soweto was cut off and surrounded during a running battle between security personnel and between 20 and 30 gang members.

Mr Skosana, who had just passed his end-of-year examinations and was expected to enter Std 9 at Sidetitas Secondary School in Soweto next year, was stabbed to death in front of several horrified witnesses.

A number of vehicles were also damaged and police had to use teargas to disperse people.

The Athlone show was one of several Lion Lager Road Show concerts being run in conjunction with Radio Xhosa. It was staged to raise money for disabled children.

Concert organisers refused to comment.

Polyurethane products' ban for SA mines

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — All South African mines have been prohibited from installing polyurethane products underground as from January 1, government mining engineer Mr Jan Raath disclosed yesterday.

He said all mines had been notified of this by letter last week, in terms of a clause in the Mines and Works Act which allows the inspectorate to prohibit dangerous working practices.

The order stated that existing polyurethane "shall be removed at the earliest opportunity or rendered inert", Mr Raath added.

Its internationally-accepted temporary use to starve fires of oxygen would be permitted.

He said he had informed the Chamber of Mines on October 31 of his intention to ban the use of the substance. This was 18 days after a fire at Western Deep Levels ignited polyurethane cladding on chilled water pipes and killed seven miners.

Last week the chamber announced its members had resolved to discontinue use of the product.

Union demands for the abolition of the material were first made after the Kinross disaster in September 1986. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has welcomed the moves, seeing them as a response to intense union pressure.

But, said NUM health and safety chief Ms Mavis Hermanus, it had taken the industry a long time to heed the local and foreign warnings.

Further, the NUM still believed it was unwise to experiment with making the material inert. It should be removed completely.

INDUSTRIAL - ACCIDENTS

1989

Gas leaks put 30 in hospital

17/1/89
131
The Argus
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Thirty railway employees from Kazerne goodsyard were rushed to Johannesburg Hospital last night after being exposed to highly dangerous chlorine gas

The South African Transport Services employees, some of them women, were unloading the cylinders at the time. According to one worker, some of the bottles had leaked their contents

The victims of the gas leaks were not seriously affected, but were all admitted to hospital for overnight observation

Nurses and doctors on standby had to be called to the hospital's casualty unit to cope with the sudden intake.

Most patients were given oxygen

A hospital spokesman said lung damage could result from exposure to chlorine gas, but at this stage it appeared as though the employees were not too seriously affected.

SATS was investigating the incident.

Sasol blast death toll jumps to 11

OWN Correspondent
31/1/89 (131)

JOHANNESBURG. — The death toll in yesterday's blast at Sasol 2 rose to 11 last night with one man still reported missing.

A Sasol spokesman said the names of the dead were being withheld pending identification and notification of their families. He declined to speculate on the cause of the explosion, which also injured nine workers.

The death of one victim, Mr Chris Bosman, 38, of Secunda, was confirmed by his wife yesterday.

Sources said a faulty valve in a pipe caused the massive blast. The valve had apparently caused pressure to build up in the pipe.

A Sasol employee said the explosion caused a tremor and threw a tower of flame — visible from 2km away — into the air.

Only a small part of the plant was damaged by the fire, the spokesman said.

Investigations into the cause of the fire would continue this morning. No crime was suspected, he said.

An employee, who declined to be identified, said everyone working within the area of the fire was

To page 2

From page 1

Sasol fireball

told to evacuate the area immediately for several hours

Workers said that when the fire was under control, Sasol fire-fighters began the grim task of removing the dead, some of whom could only be identified by items of jewellery

Of the nine injured, six were released last night after treatment at the clinic. Two employees were still in the sick bay at Sasol 3 last night.

Another man with a serious multiple-fracture injury was taken to the Trichardt hospital, 5km from the plant.

The superintendent of the Trichardt Hospital said the man, identified only as a white male, was still in theatre late yesterday afternoon

Both the hospital superintendent and a Sasol spokesman refused to release names of the injured or details of their injuries.

A spokesman for the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Danie Steyn said that the minister would be sending letters of condolence to the families of those injured and killed by the fire and to Sasol management

Sasol probes inferno as death toll rises to 11

ARGUS
31/1/89

131

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — Sasol has launched an investigation into the inferno at its plant near Secunda which left 11 employees dead, one missing, and another nine injured yesterday.

The Sasol 3 accident, caused by a "mechanical fault", is believed to be one of the worst at a synthetic fuel plant belonging to the company.

Six of the injured were discharged from the hospital at the plant yesterday. One of those still in hospital is in a serious condition with broken ankles and burns. He was taken to the Medclinic in Secunda.

The names of the dead were not available last night. It is believed some victims were so badly mutilated and charred that identification was impossible.

Fireball

The names of the injured have not yet been released.

The exact cause of the fire has not yet been established and investigators will only be able to inspect the scene once the area has cooled down. However, sabotage has been ruled out and Sasol has emphasised there was no explosion.

The fire broke out at about 9 am and spewed a fireball of smoke and flames — seen 10km away — into the sky.

A Sasol employee broke his leg in three places after jumping four storeys yesterday to escape the fierce flames of the fire.

It is believed that three of the dead were not Sasol employees but were working at the plant on contract.

Pastor Keith Enslin of the Abundant Life Ministries in Secunda said he had just left a shop about seven kilometres from the burning installation when he saw a "second explosion".

"Smoke was already billowing from the installation when I saw a second explosion and saw a tremendous amount of smoke and flames mushroom into the sky. A few seconds later we felt the shock waves," he said.

Fire engines and emergency vehicles from surrounding towns, including Evander and Secunda, and Sasol's own fire-fighting teams were at the scene.

A Sasol spokesman said indications were that the blaze was caused by a mechanical fault in the plant.

The extent of the damage had not been established, but only a small part of the plant was affected.

The spokesman said Sasol Three continued functioning and only certain parts had been shut down for security and safety reasons. One synthol reactor was damaged.

Homes damaged as quarry blast hurls rocks 500m

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — Several houses were damaged when a blast at Ridge View quarry in Hillary, southern Durban, hurled rocks more than 500m into a residential area.

Angry residents are taking up the issue with the Hillary Ratepayers' Association.

At 2 pm yesterday quarry workers sounded a siren to warn people about the blast. The explosion was so loud, it shook buildings in Lewis Byron and Huntley roads.

The Rev Willem Barkley, of 16 Lewis Byron Road, was in

his kitchen when a piece of rock the size of a tennis ball came crashing through his study window.

At one house, Mr Barkley noticed a concrete wall shattered by a large rock.

He said police collected rocks as evidence.

Mrs Astrid Belford, who lives in Huntley Road, said she got a fright when the blast went off. It shook the home and a rock crashed through the roof.

She said rocks were strewn all over her property, and that of her neighbours.



Sasol probes inferno as death toll rises to 11

ARGUS
30/1/89

131
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Death toll now 12 in Sasol fire

SECUNDA — The death toll in the fire at Sasol Three yesterday has risen to 12, according to a statement released by Sasol.

Eight of the victims have been identified. Three of the yet unidentified people killed were employees of a contractor, Cheminfo, and one was an employee of Sasol. — Sapa

Off-Tank
2/2/89 131

40% of cancers work-related

JOHANNESBURG. — As much as 40% of all cancers may be work-related, an International Labour Organisation (ILO) article released here, said yesterday

"There is an established link between exposure to certain substances used in production processes and some types of cancer. Perhaps the greatest source of occupational cancers is chemicals. However once identified, these carcinogens can be removed or controlled"

The article gives guidelines that enterprises and workers can take to eliminate cancer risks from the workplace — Sapa

Factory blast: Two critical

Cape Times 1/2/89

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

131

TWO men were fighting for their lives in Tygerberg Hospital last night after a high-pressure gas pipe exploded in a Paarden Eiland factory, spewing boiling liquid over 17 men.

Metro, ambulance and fire department personnel gave emergency treatment to the injured — some suffering from third-degree burns — at the Cape Foundries plant in Wall Flower Street before taking them to Tygerberg and Woodstock hospitals.

The company's managing director, Mr Leo Turvey, of Bantry Bay, suffered minor injuries in the industrial blast and was discharged after treatment.

A fire department spokesman said a fractured chemical pipe in a furnace was believed to have caused the explosion, but this could not be verified by the company chairman, Mr Richard de Vos.

A high-level company team, led by Mr Barry Buckley, chairman of Buckley Holdings (a Murray and Roberts subsidiary), yesterday flew from Johannesburg to investigate the accident.

A Tygerberg Hospital spokesman said two men were in a "critical condition" in the hospital's burns unit, while three others were less seriously injured. Three other injured men had been discharged.

The names of the victims could not be released without relatives' permission, the spokesman added.

10/2/89

131

2 Cape Times, Frida

Inquest into electrocution

Court Reporter

A CITY COUNCIL worker dislodged a colleague from a live electrical cable shortly before the electrocuted man died, a Cape Town inquest court heard yesterday

Mr Mark Floris, 20, said he and Mr Edward Davids, 22, had climbed a pole to work on an electrical cable when he saw Mr Davids "stuck to the cable"

Workers managed to pry Mr Davids loose and bring him to the ground

"He was still breathing. By the time the ambulance arrived, he was dead," Mr Floris said

Inquest told of ^{Cape Town, 12/89 131} 'live-wire' team

Court Reporter

AN engineer's assistant employed by the electricity department turned on the power to an area in Milnerton shortly before a worker was electrocuted, a Cape Town inquest court heard yesterday

Mr David Dollman, an engineer's assistant, was giving evidence in the inquest into the death of Mr Edward Davids, 22, who died on March 11 last year when he was electrocuted while working on a pole in Milnerton.

Mr Dollman said there were two teams of workers — one for "dead" wires and one for "live" wires

Mr Basil Wyngaard was the foreman of the "dead-wire team" and Mr Yusuf Damoes the foreman of the other team.

The "dead-wire team" began

the job with the power off but had not finished by their 2pm deadline

Mr Dollman said he turned the power on, informed Mr Damoes that he had "livened the wires" and asked him to finish

'Loud voice'

He said Mr Damoes must have heard him say he had turned on the power because he had "a very loud voice"

At an earlier hearing Mr Mark Floris, who was working with Mr Davids, said "no one told us the power had been turned on". The hearing was adjourned to March 2.

Mr W J P Marais was the magistrate Mr I Noble-Jack was the assessor Miss E Agoston led the evidence Mr E Moosa appeared for the Municipal Workers' Union and Mr Damoes Mr M T Steyn appeared for the City Council

Officials: City blast a 'freak accident'

CAC TIMES 14/2/89
Staff Reporter

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THE gas explosion at a Paarden Eiland factory last week which claimed the life of one worker at the weekend and seriously injured 16 others was a "freak accident", company officials said yesterday

This follows an internal investigation led by Mr Barry Buckley, chairman of Buckley Holdings (a Murray and Roberts subsidiary) who said from Johannesburg yesterday that a full report would be released to the press soon

"It was a freak and unfortunate accident and nobody is being blamed," he said

Mr Les Wilken died in Tygerberg Hospital on Sunday morning from injuries sustained when trapped carbon monoxide burst from the cupola (a type of furnace) at the Cape Foundries in Wall Flower Street and exploded on contact with the atmosphere

Two men are still fighting for their lives, while nine others are in satisfactory conditions at Woodstock and Tygerberg hospitals

The company's managing director, Mr Leo Turvey — who also suffered minor injuries in the blast, — said yesterday that last Monday's melt was characterised by problems before the explosion occurred

He had never heard of gasses building up in an open-topped cupola before

Production returned to normal last Thursday

(131)

Business Report

NUM objects to Bill

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has issued strenuous objections to the draft Minerals Bill, in particular at the repeal of sections of the Mines and Works Act governing the health and safety of employees

The NUM also objected that the Bill, by eliminating restrictions on the use of the land and minerals, would adversely affect communities and the interests of the country as a whole

The Bill, said the NUM, would mean the elimination of the office of the Government Mining Engineer. The State would no longer have a central monitoring function over the mines and, instead, the mines would become "self-regulatory"

Concern over safety section

Criticising the industry's safety record, the NUM said mines could not be entrusted with self-regulation in health and safety matters. "It is like giving an alcoholic the keys to the liquor cabinet," it said

"The Minerals Bill means that one law and one department will regulate both the exploitation of minerals and the health and safety of miners. This will lead to conflicts of interests between safety and profits not being fairly resolved," the union further argued

It said it was ironic that the mining industry, the most dangerous, should now be subject to fewer controls and lower standards than other industries

The NUM also objected to the "privatisation" of mineral rights in the Bill

This, it said, would give "full, unfettered rights to the monopolies which dominate the mining industry to do what they will with the country's mineral wealth"

The union demanded separate laws and departments to regulate health and safety and mineral exploitation, a national mines inspectorate with sufficient powers to ensure an improvement in the health and safety record of industry, and restrictions on the use of the land and minerals when this adversely affected the interests of communities or of the country

... have

Carbide pays but Bhopal gas victims aren't happy

(131)
W.M.N.L.
17-23/2/89.

THE Bhopal gas victims are dissatisfied with the United States multinational Union Carbide Corporation's decision to pay compensation of \$470-million for the lethal gas leak in its factory in central India more than four years ago

Union Carbide and the Indian government agreed to the sum, which was proposed by the Indian Supreme Court as compensation to the victims of the world's worst industrial disaster. More than 3,300 people died and thousands of others were maimed for life after nearly 42 tons of poisonous liquid methyl isocyanate (MIC) or a toxic mixture of other substances leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal on the night of December 2.

Voluntary relief organisations and victims in Bhopal planned to hold demonstrations in protest against the "miserable amount promised by Union Carbide". They labelled New Delhi's decision to settle the case as a "victory for the killer Union Carbide Corporation".

There was not much elation among the 500,000 litigants who had sought compensation from the US company.

"We fear we will get pittance in the end, for the government may take away half the amount for rehabilitation and to improve hospital services for taking care of the people who are still seriously sick," a victim said.

While the relief organisations and victims were unhappy, the state government welcomed the agreement on the compensation. State Chief Minister Motilal Vora reaffirmed his government's resolve to provide full relief and rehabilitation to the victims.

Union Carbide and the Indian government said the agreement was to be "in full and final settlement of all claims, rights and liabilities" arising out of the gas leak.

While the Indian government puts the death figure in the tragedy at 3,323, a book on the subject, *The Killing Wind*, says the figure is more than 8,000. The author, Dan Kurman, says Indian officials understated the figures in part to keep "the political shock waves under control".

— Deutsche Presse Agentur

Feeder crushes

farm labourer

CAK 7/12/5 18/2/57
Staff Reporter 31

A 66-YEAR-OLD Dar-
banville farm labourer
was crushed to death
yesterday by the feeding
screw of an automatic
cattle feeder

Mr Johnson Ngcu-
lana's body became en-
tangled in the machine's
screws and he was
crushed to death at
2 30pm yesterday on the
farm Oatlands after the
machine was accidently
started while he was in-
side cleaning it.

Mr Ngculana is sur-
vived by his wife and two
children

Handwritten signature

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS

- (a) Eight
- (b) R24 100
- (c) 1 February 1988 to 31 January 1989

†Mr J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister intends reducing the number of coaches and if not, what exactly is the plan with these coaches that are specifically reserved for this purpose?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, there are eight of these coaches that are used for judges, the State President and Ministers. At present there is no intention to put the coaches to any other use.

†Mr J J S PRINSLOO Mr Speaker, further arising from the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister, I should like to ask for what purposes coaches are specifically reserved for the use of judges. Why are the ordinary railway coaches with the necessary facilities not used?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER Mr Speaker, the hon member will know that it is a very old custom in South Africa to make the coaches available to judges. There are three such coaches — one for the western part of the country, one for the eastern part and a spare coach in case something goes wrong with the other two [Interjections]

Mr Patrick "Dex" Dukashe killed in Khayelitsha



- *4 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order
 - (1) Whether a certain detainee, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was killed in Khayelitsha Township on or about 23 January 1989, if so, (a) on what date was (1) this person detained by the Police and (ii) his wife-to-be notified of his detention or arrest and (b) what are the circumstances surrounding his death,
 - (2) whether, while visiting the KTC squatter camp and Khayelitsha Township in the company of members of the Police on or about 23 January 1989, any death threats were directed at this person, if so, (a) by whom and (b) what was the purport of these threats?

Handwritten signature

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes

- (a) (i) 16 January 1989 on five charges of murder
- (ii) The detainee did not request the Police to inform his wife-to-be of his arrest

(b) The death of the detainee is being investigated and is the subject of a judicial process which I do not want to anticipate at this stage

(2) No

- (a) and (b) Fall away

†Mr J VAN ECK Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, I should like to ask him whether the late Dex Dukashe said, when the police were with him, in the presence of people in KTC including the woman he would have married, that those policeman had threatened to shoot him that day. Has this aspect been investigated?

†The MINISTER Mr Speaker, obviously I do not have that detailed information available now. I ask the member to table the question and I will then answer him.

Sgt W J Beyleveldt charged, acquitted in Kimberley

*5 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order †

- (1) Whether a certain member of the dog unit of the South African Police in Kimberley, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, has been charged as a result of certain events in Kakamas on or about 13 February 1988, if so, (a) what was the nature of the charges against him, (b) with what result and (c) what is the name of this member,
 - (2) whether the Police has taken or is considering disciplinary and/or other steps against this member, if not, why not, if so, what steps?
- †The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.
- (1) Yes
 - (a) He stood trial on two charges of murder and thirteen charges of attempted murder

der and thirteen charges of attempted murder

- (b) He was acquitted on all the charges
- (c) Sergeant W J Beyleveldt

(2) No. Because he purchased his discharge before any further steps could be considered

Mozambique, visit by MP's

*6 Mr F J VAN DEVENTER asked the Minister of Defence †

- (1) Whether a group of members of Parliament visited Mozambique round about the middle of December 1988, if so, (a) which parties did they represent, (b) what was the purpose of the visit, (c) at whose invitation did the visit take place and (d) who paid for the visit,
- (2) whether the South African Defence Force made transport available to this group?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) and (2) Yes. A SA Air Force aircraft was supplied to a group of the Governing Party, consisting of six members of Parliament and four members of the Presidents' Council, to visit Mozambique and to conduct, on a confidential basis, discussions between the Governing Parties on the political, military and economic situation there. The cost was carried by the Mozambicans and the members of the visiting group.

Black schools: qualified teachers retrenched

*7 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid

- (1) Whether any qualified teachers employed in schools for Blacks in the Cape Peninsula were retrenched in 1988, if so, (a) how many, (b) why in each case, (c) what subjects were they qualified to teach and (d) at which schools were they teaching when they were retrenched,
- (2) whether any qualified teachers employed on a temporary basis at such schools in 1988 were not re-employed when they re-applied for their posts, if so, what are the relevant details?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

- (1) No
- (a), (b), (c) and (d) fall away

(2) Yes

Eight (8) teachers who were appointed in a temporary capacity for the period 1 January 1988 to 31 December 1988 at the Inshukumo Comprehensive School, Guguletu, and the Mahizo Secondary School, Khayelitsha, respectively, were not re-appointed for 1989. Due to the fact that the appointments of the teachers concerned, would expire on 31 December 1988, the vacant posts were advertised by the management bodies of the schools. All the applications received for the posts, including those of the eight teachers mentioned, were considered on merit by the management bodies taking into account their qualifications, previous teaching experience and their service records. The applications of the eight teachers concerned were not successful.

Hydroquinone: manufacture/importation of products stopped

*8 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development

Whether the manufacture and/or importation of products containing hydroquinone is to be stopped, if so, when, if not, what steps are to be taken to warn the public against the harmful effects of this product?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Yes, 1 January 1991

Measles: immunisation to be made compulsory

*9 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development

- (1) Whether immunisation against measles is to be made compulsory, if not, why not, if so, when,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

- (1) No, the World Health Organisation has no fixed ruling regarding compulsory immunisation. The enforcement of compulsory immunisation may be counter-productive and would virtually be unattainable. Per-

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Third World warned of toxic waste dangers

THIRD World nations and chemical exporters have agreed on a system that will allow developing nations to partially screen toxic materials before they cross their borders, officials say.

Under the new system, developing nations will be able to inform an international agency about the chemicals they do not want to receive.

For more than a decade, developing nations in Africa, the Far East and South America feared that chemical manufacturers in the US, Europe and Japan were sending them products they did not have the sophistication to handle properly or dispose of safely.

Manufacturers had opposed suggestions that every shipment of chemicals must receive approval from the country to which it was being sent.

Technical experts from 26 countries, chemical manufacturers and environment groups such as a Operation Greenpeace met this month at the UN headquarters to recommend a system agreeable to all parties.

The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, a UN agency in Geneva, will compile notifications from developing nations of which chemicals they refuse to accept.

The agency then will send the list to governments of industrial countries at regular intervals. Those governments will then to notify chemical manufacturers of the limitations.

The UN Environment Programme's executive director, Mostafa Tolba, said a computer system would be set up so chemical companies could hook up to the Geneva list of undesirable chemicals.

Jan Huismans, head of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, said the meeting would end late this week with officials recommending the system to the UN Environment Programme's board of directors.

One feature of the system will be a "Red Flag" list of dangerous chemicals.

"If an industrial chemical or a pesticide appears on the banned or severely restricted lists of 10 or more countries, then it is clearly so dangerous that importing countries should be altered," said Huismans.

"I would estimate that there are between 50 and 100 chemicals, mostly pesticides, that would appear on a 'Red Flag' list," he said.

Marc Pallemerts, representing Operation Greenpeace, said "We feel some progress has been made. We have moved beyond pure information exchange to putting decisions on the records."

A Dow Chemical Company executive, Donald McCollister, said "We, as a group, have come a long way."

Since the entire system is based on consensus and voluntary compliance, McCollister said industrial associations and nations must be motivated to participate in it.

"The challenge ahead is to promote the system and encourage as many governments, as possible to join it," said Michael Walls, an attorney representing the chemical manufacturers association. — Sapa

Union Carbide pays but wins day

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Smith
16-22/3/89

THE Indian Supreme Court's order that Union Carbide must pay 470-million dollars damages for the poisonous gas leak in Bhopal on December 3 1984, marks a victory for the US-based company.

Nothing proves this more than the immediate rise of Carbide stock by 93 percent.

The verdict highlights how the case has been used to cloak rather than clarify the unresolved issues surrounding transnational involvement in the Third World.

Ever since a grey cloud of poisonous methyl isocyanate gas leaked out of a Carbide pesticide plant and rolled over the sleeping city of Bhopal, killing nearly 3 000, seriously injuring at least 55 000 and with another 450 000 claiming damages, the most pressing issues have been hidden beneath a veneer of legal technicalities

As desperately poor families of those killed or disabled by the gas struggled to stay alive, Carbide scurried from one court to the next, refusing to pay any compensation

Litigation

Its ability to spar through four years of litigation without significant concessions is testimony to the position of transnationals before the courts of mere states

Company sources estimated that the cost of compensation would reduce profits per share in 1988 by half a million dollars. The settlement is less than one sixth of the 3,3 billion dollars sought by the Indian government, and 100 million dollars less than the

corporation offered in 1987.

One Wall Street analyst described the settlement as "incredibly reasonable".

What is most stinging is that the company escaped without ever facing the critical issue of liability, partly because of the structure of international legal accountability governing transnationals

Regulations exist, but their impact is limited. The reality is that the integrated private government of the corporation can move with a speed and purposefulness unavailable to lumbering governments suspicious of international cooperation.

Resources

Carbide's global resources allowed it to undertake 18 months of legal "forum shopping", as a New York court deliberated on which jurisdiction, US or Indian, actually wielded authority to hear the case

Finally, the US authorities sided with Carbide, ruling that the US was an "inconvenient forum" for litigation, and the proceedings migrated back to the slower and less powerful Indian courts

Meanwhile, the accumulating medical evidence that pointed to long-term carcinogenic and mutagenic effects of the methyl isocyanate gas, which means subsequent generations are at risk, put

In December Judge Deo ordered Union Carbide to pay 270 million dollars (later reduced to 195 million dollars by the High Court) as interim compensation.

The swift acceptance of the decision suggests a political deal

The outcome shows the difficulty for even one of the strongest Third World governments of bringing a transnational corporation to book - GEMINI NEWS

Gas overcomes 7 Sats workers

Argus 17/3/89 (131)
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Seven employees of the South African Transport Services (SATS) were admitted to the Kempton Park and Tembisa hospitals after being overcome by gas when the head of a chlorine gas cylinder exploded on a goods train at the Elandsfontein shunting yard last night.

Officials from NCP at Chloorkop removed the damaged cylinder and others from the truck. A Kempton Park fire department spokesman said the situation was soon under control.

Humand

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(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

B471E

- (1) No, (a) and (b) fall away
- (2) No

Pelindaba/Valindaba fire at nuclear pilot plant

*22 Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology +

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- (1) Whether a fire broke out at the nuclear pilot plant at Pelindaba/Valindaba on or about 1 March 1989, if so, (a) when was the fire extinguished and (b) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of the damage.
- (2) whether any persons were killed or injured during this fire, if so, what was the nature of the injuries sustained by the persons concerned.
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY

B472E

- (1) Yes, on 1 March 1989
 - (a) On the same day at 11h30 — one hour after the fire broke out
 - (b) (i) A flange on a pipe containing hydrogen was decoupled during maintenance, hydrogen leaked out and caught fire
 - (ii) The damage was limited to an instrumentation rack and an electric motor
- (2) No
- (3) No

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign + used subsequently in the same speech, indicates the original language

Own Affairs

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



Provincial education councils' structure/ responsibilities

1 Mr MJ ELLIS asked the Minister of Education and Culture

Whether consideration is being given to altering the structure and responsibilities of the provincial education councils?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE Mr Charman, since their inception in 1987 provincial education councils have rendered an increasingly significant and highly appreciated contribution to the formulation of educational policy in this department. I wish to record my sincere thanks to them for their important inputs in this regard. Both their structure and function are prescribed by the National Education Policy Act

As these non-political structures make provision for the representation of all interested parties who will have a direct concern in their educational structure within a specific province, namely, the tertiary education sector, the organised profession, the parent community, private schools, schools for special education and technical colleges, representatives from the community and representatives of departments, I do not intend altering the structure of the councils

*One of the most important functions of these councils is that of giving advice. In fact, I cannot make a policy announcement in terms of this Act without consulting the councils. The education councils have recently advised me, *merito*, on the following matters: Rationalisation of school dress, the sport and cultural policy of the department, a self-supporting bus transport scheme, the economical management of hostels, legislation regarding a variety of subjects including the Education Affairs Act (House of Assembly), 1988 and the corresponding regulations. I accepted the contributions of the councils to a large extent. Seeing that the advisory function is increasingly coming into its own, no amendment is necessary in this regard. According to the law, the council must therefore ensure that education policy which is determined by the Minister, is implemented, and advice can be given with regard to the coordination of the training of teachers in the provinces concerned. I am of the opinion that the necessary statutory structures exist to enable this matter to come into its own as well.

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However, should the opposite be shown in practice the necessary adjustments will be considered

Mr M J ELLIS Mr Charman, I have listened with interest to what the hon the Minister has said about the provincial education councils. I think he is totally unaware of the tremendous degree of unhappiness which exists about these councils. Therefore I believe it is important that I give another point of view

At the time when the provincial education councils were instituted, in other words, at the time when provincial control of education was given over to centralised control, there was still a great deal of optimism in the minds of all people concerned with education that the provinces themselves would retain a measure of authority as to the course of control over education in their provinces. People believed this because of the positive statements that were made in this House as far back as May 1985 that the new provincial education councils were going to play a very, very important role in education in the provinces

We have seen, however, that those provincial education councils have become little more than a cover for the Government's centralisation policy, and any hope that the provinces may have had of retaining some authority has been whittled away completely. These provincial education councils have been given no authority other than to advise the hon the Minister and the head of the Department of Education and Culture, and there is no obligation on either of these two people to heed that advice. There is a growing frustration—I think the hon the Minister must be aware of it—in all provinces as to the responsibilities and functions of these councils

No doubt the hon the Minister himself is aware of the fact that all provinces are at present questioning the functioning and the *modus operandi* of the education councils. I know, and I also know the hon the Minister knows, that even in the Transvaal special discussions are being held by that province's education council into this matter. In Natal the same thing is happening, especially since one of the members of that council resigned and that particular member was in fact a ministerial appointment as well

The hon the Minister knows why that member resigned. He was totally unhappy with the way in which that council was operating. The hon the

Humand



Minister knows why the councils themselves are unhappy, but, in case he has forgotten, I should like to remind him of some of the reasons

Firstly, the councils know they have no authority to influence White education in the provinces. Secondly, the councils know that the advice they offer is of little or no importance, and this is borne out by the fact that even when they offer advice there is no feedback from the hon the Minister to explain why the advice is not heeded

Thirdly, the councils believe that many of the matters on which they are asked to give advice are actually matters on which they should in fact be making decisions, but they have no authority to make decisions. This authority is retained in Pretoria. Fourthly, the councils have no real influence in regard to capital expenditure in their provinces. Fifthly, the councils are virtually ignored in the drawing up of the Parliamentary budgets something which is absolutely unacceptable [Time expired]

*Mr A GERBER Mr Charman, the CP has no fault to find with the present structure and responsibilities of provincial education councils. These councils are non-political bodies, which, in terms of the law, are supposed to provide the Minister and his department with advice on education. Those who expect more of these councils than that want to misuse structures in education for party political purposes

When I listened to hon members of the PFP, not only this afternoon but also earlier in other debates, it seemed to me that the PFP was searching for methods to try to undermine the principle of education in an ethnic and cultural context. They now want to try to negotiate more functions for provincial education councils, so that such a provincial education council would be able to decide on education policy and no longer simply advise the Minister. The CP does not agree with that. It is ironic that the PFP which calls for one education system for the whole of South Africa is not satisfied with a single education system, and therefore also a single education policy for the Whites. The standpoint in favour of greater and more comprehensive powers for provincial education bodies makes a farce of their demand for one education system for all peoples in the Republic of South Africa. If it is the aim of the PFP to use provincial education councils to promote multi-cultural and racially mixed education—I believe that this is the intention behind

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(131) 7-13/4/89
wmm

Is industry getting safer and safer? No, says new study

ABOUT 270 000 South African workers suffer disabling injuries in industrial accidents every year, according to official figures — and newly published research suggests that the real figure may be 50 percent higher

In a hard-hitting analysis of government accident statistics, academics Jean Leger and Ian Macun call into question often-repeated claims that the accident rate shows a steady downward trend, and that local industry is as safe or safer than its counterpart overseas.

According to the most recent figures released by the Workman's Compensation Commission (WCC), 270 000 disabling accidents occur in local workplaces every year. About 1 700 workers are killed, while 22 000 are permanently and 115 000 temporarily disabled.

An official of the state-funded National Occupational Safety Association, Ron McKinnon, told the *Weekly Mail* there had been a steady drop in the accident frequency.

Quoting government figures, he said the number of disabling injuries had fallen from 10,4 per million man hours in 1980 (involving two percent of the workforce) to 9,07 per million man hours in 1988 (or 1,6 percent of the workforce).

This contrasted with Australia, where 10 percent of the workforce sustained a disabling injury each year, and the United States, where the figure was 3,6 percent, he said.

A very different picture emerges from the analysis of Leger and Macun. They point to a sharp contrast between the official accident frequency rate — which does show a steady decline — and the virtually constant fatality rate revealed by Department of Manpower statistics.

The researchers begin by calling into question the WCC accident statistics, the most comprehensive released by government.

They point out that these reflect only compensated accidents and exclude white and black employees above a certain wage limit. Injuries to workers of unregistered employees — in the "informal" sector — are also not reflected.

The key weakness of the WCC figures, say Leger and Macun, is Rand Mutual Assurance Company, a pri-

Official claims that South Africa's safety record is improving steadily, ignore key elements, says a new study which argues that in fact, the reverse is true.

DREW FORREST reports

The two researchers estimate that if the accident rate in construction and mining were fully reflected, South Africa's overall DIFR would rise by 30 percent.

● Fails to take account of periods when workers are not exposed to injury, such as public holidays and annual leave. This leads to an underestimation of the accident frequency of between four and nine percent.

They add that further distortion arises from the method of calculating "hours of exposure". Average working hours are estimated on the basis of workers' experience in construction, mining and manufacturing — or only 24 percent of the total South African workforce.

Leger and Macun estimate that if these distortions were corrected, the overall DIFR would be up to 50 percent higher.

The keystone of the researchers' argument is the stark contrast between the DIFR and fatality figures published by the Department of Manpower. Deaths in the workplace are the most traumatic form of accident experience, they say, but also the least open to recording errors.

Between 1961 and 1982, the WCC's accident frequency index fell from about 20 injuries per million hours to about half this figure. The Department of Manpower's fatality rate over the same period — the only period for which information was made available — is virtually static.

The same lack of a downward trend emerges when the fatality figures are broken down by sector, the researchers show — indeed, in some sectors, such as the chemical and leather industries, the tendency is for the death rate to increase.

Perhaps the most notable contrast is between the DIFR and the fatality rate in the timber and furniture industries.

WCC statistics show the accident rate as declining steadily between

731

7-13/4/89

privately run assurance company, covering many mines, does not report injuries involving three or fewer days off work, and/or medical aid expenses

"Mines covered by Rand Mutual experience the highest incidence of accidents in the country. This omission results in misleadingly favourable figures for the aggregates published by the WCC and widely quoted by safety practitioners in South Africa"

The two researchers next turn their guns on the "disabling injury frequency rate" (DIFR), the index most commonly used to gauge accident frequency in South Africa. This measures the number of disabling accidents — causing permanent disability or the loss of at least one day or shift — per million hours worked

Leger and Macun point out that the DIFR:

- Reflects the accident experience of only 53 percent of the workforce — the proportion of the economically active population covered by the WCC's Accident Fund.

- Reflects the accident experience of only 60 percent of workers in the building and construction sector and only 15 percent of workers in mining — South Africa's most dangerous industry. Again, this was because many workers in these two sectors are covered by private assurance companies, rather than the WCC Accident Fund.

1961 and 1982, from about 30 to just under 20 disabling injuries per million manhours. The Department of Manpower's fatality figures, by contrast, show an increase from 0,04 deaths per 1 000 employees in 1961 to 0,2 per 1 000 in 1982 — a five-fold rise

To drive home the point, Leger points out that in terms of the DIFR, the most dangerous industry is fishing, with a frequency rate of 34,9 injuries per million hours. The mining DIFR is given as 13,8.

The situation is dramatically reversed if one looks at WCC permanent disability figures for 1984. These give fishing as the 12th most dangerous industry, with 1,1 permanent disabilities per thousand workers. The figure for mining is 21,6 per thousand — making it easily the country's most hazardous undertaking

<i>Lid</i>	<i>Plaasvervanger</i>	<i>Verteenwoordig</i>
Kapt Arthur William Bluett Mnr Arthur Stanley Breetzke Mnr Desmond George Williams	Mnr Nicholas Patrick Fitzgerald Mnr James Edwin Dixon Mnr Christopher Leng Sturrock	Skeepvaartbelange Skeepvaartbelange Persone wat kaageld, ontskepings-, verske- pings- of oorskepingskoste betaal
Mnr Daniël Johannes Kruger Raadsheer Sol Kreiner Kol Neil Herman Hare Mnr Cecil Solomons Mnr Hans Horst Moearke Mnr Jacob Yeb v/d Lecq	Mnr Anton Johan du Preez Raadslid Rupert Frederick Hurly VR Mnr. Collin Edward McCarthy Mev Christene Benade Mnr Barend Andries Hanekom Mnr Ivan Johan Mouton	Landboubelange Die Stadsraad Die Kamer van Nywerhede Die Vakverenigings Die Kamer van Koophandel Die Afrikaanse Sakekamer

No. 632

7 April 1989

The Minister of Transport Affairs has been pleased to appoint the following persons in terms of section 28 of Act No. 65 of 1981 as members and alternates on the Harbour Advisory Board, Walvis Bay, until 31 October 1989

No. 632

7 April 1989

Dit het die Minister van Vervoerwese behaag om die volgende persone kragtens artikel 28 van Wet No 65 van 1981, tot 31 Oktober 1989 as lede en plaasvervangers in die Hawe-adviesraad, Walvisbaai, aan te stel.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Representing</i>
Mr Harald Teresinski Jacob Dennewill Mr Ronald Noel Bramwell Mr Ian Anthony Crawford	Mr Paul Anthony Eugen Wolff Mr Hartmut Heiner Heitmann Mr Marthinus Christoffel Lombard	Shipping Interests Shipping Interests Persons paying wharfage, landing, shipping or transshipping charges
Mr Horst Wilhelm Kreft Mr André Johan Blaauw Mr Evert Phillipus van Rooyen Mr Uwe Heinz Bachman	Mr Henning Jacobus Snyman Mr Adriaan Jacobus van der Westhuizen Mr Stefan Frank Hrywniak Mr Bruno Nurminen	Agricultural Interests The Municipal Council The Chamber of Commerce and Industries The Chamber of Commerce (no nominees for The Trade Unions)
Mr Jacobus Nel Blaauw	Mr Willem Grobbelaar	The Afrikaanse Sakekamer
<i>Lid</i>	<i>Plaasvervanger</i>	<i>Verteenwoordig</i>
Mnr Harald Teresinski Jacob Dennewill Mnr Ronald Noel Bramwell Mnr Ian Anthony Crawford	Mnr Paul Anthony Eugen Wolff Mnr Hartmut Heiner Heitmann Mnr Marthinus Christoffel Lombard	Skeepvaartbelange Skeepvaartbelange Persone wat kaageld, ontskepings-, verske- pings- of oorskepingskoste betaal
Mnr Horst Wilhelm Kreft Mnr André Johan Blaauw Mnr Evert Phillipus van Rooyen Mnr Uwe Heinz Bachman	Mnr Henning Jacobus Snyman Mnr Adriaan Jacobus van der Westhuizen Mnr Stefan Frank Hrywniak Mnr Bruno Nurminen	Landboubelange Die Stadsraad Die Kamer van Koophandel en Nywerhede Die Kamer van Koophandel (geen genom- neerdes vir die Vakverenigings nie)
Mnr Jacobus Nel Blaauw	Mnr. Willem Grobbelaar	Die Afrikaanse Sakekamer

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

No. 671

7 April 1989

STANDARDS ACT, 1982

PROPOSED COMPULSORY SPECIFICATION FOR RESPIRATORY EQUIPMENT FOR PRO- TECTION AGAINST HARMFUL PARTICU- LATES AND GAS

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 16 (3) of the Standards Act, 1982 (Act No. 30 of 1982), that the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology intends to declare the specification contained in the Schedule and consisting in three parts, to be a compulsory specification for respiratory equipment for protection against harmful particulates and gas

The purpose of such a declaration is to prescribe safety requirements for respiratory equipment.

Any person who wishes to object to the provisions of the proposed compulsory specification shall submit his objection in writing to the Director-General, South African Bureau of Standards, Private Bag X191, Pretoria, 0001, on or before a date two months after the publication of this notice.

DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID

No. 671

7 April 1989

WET OP STANDAARDE, 1982

VOORGESTELDE VERPLIGTE SPESIFIKASIE VIR RESPIRATORIESE UITRUSTING VIR BE- SKERMING TEEN SKADELIKE PARTIKELSTOF EN GAS

Hierby word kragtens artikel 16 (3) van die Wet op Standaarde, 1982 (Wet No. 30 van 1982), bekendgemaak dat die Minister van Ekonomiese Sake en Tegnologie voornemens is om die spesifikasie wat in die Bylae vervat is en in drie dele bestaan, tot 'n verpligte spesifikasie vir respiratoriese uitrusting vir beskerming t.o.v. skadelike partikelstof en gas te verklaar

Die doel van sodanige verpligverklaring is om veiligheidsvereistes vir respiratoriese uitrusting neer te lê.

Engeen wat teen die bepaling van die voorgestelde verpligte spesifikasie wil beswaar aanteken, moet sy besware voor of op 'n datum twee maande na publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing, skriftelik by die Direkteur-generaal, Suid-Afrikaanse Buro vir Standaarde, Privaatsak X191, Pretoria, 0001, indien

A mass poisoning highlights flaws in farm health codes

THE mass poisoning of migrant workers on a potato farm in the Free State this week has been linked to the indiscriminate use of deadly pesticides in South African agriculture.

Some 50 migrants from Transkei, employed on a farm near Bethlehem, fell ill at the weekend after drinking water from a disused drum of insecticide. A three-year-old girl, Mhlabakazi Kondo, died and eight people are critically ill.

The poison involved was monocrotophos, a member of the organophosphate group of insecticides. These are popular in South Africa because they degrade rapidly and reduce the risk of contaminating food crops. But they affect the human nervous system and cause severe headaches, trembling, loss of speech, twitches, blurred vision, respiratory difficulties, coma and death.

The farmer, WT Oosthuizen, this week said his employees were aware of the dangers of insecticides and he had warned the migrants about them. However, two casual labourers had used a drum of poison over the weekend without his knowledge.

But community and trade unionists say the explanation is a typical example of victim blaming and that it obscures the real reason for such disasters: the fact that government controls over the use of poisons on farms are non-existent.

"The pesticides are widely used in horticulture, fruit and vegetable farming, maize cultivation, sorghum farming and cotton growing. They are cheap, effective and extremely economical. The basic attitude among farmers is the more the better," says Dave Cooper, an agriculturalist for the Environmental Development Agency.

"Regulations exist to govern the registration and marketing of pesticides but once they are on the farm there are absolutely no restrictions on the way they are used."

The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which makes provision for government inspections and the election of health and safety officers from among the workers, is one of the few pieces of industrial legislation that protects workers in the farming sector.

"But the law is hardly enforced because the official factory inspectorate lacks the manpower to monitor urban factories effectively let alone visit remote rural farms," says a doctor who works for the Industrial Health Research Group.

Adds Orange Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU) representative Phillip Masia: "We have never come

Fifty farm workers were poisoned this week after drinking water from an empty pesticide drum.

Pesticide drums are clearly enough marked ... but few farm workers can read. The tragedy highlights the lack of health safeguards in rural areas, reports EDDIE KOCH

across a single case of health and safety representatives being nominated by farmers as required by the law. OVGWU organises farm workers in the Free State.

The upshot is there is no monitoring machinery to ensure that warnings contained on the labels of drums of pesticides are observed. The dangers are aggravated because the majority of farm labourers are illiterate.

The unbridled use of poisons may be the reason why more workers die on South Africa's farms each year than in any other sector of the economy, excluding mining.

Latest figures from the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner (WCC) show that there were claims for 183 fatal accidents on farms in 1985. The building sector, which has the next highest fatality rate, had 126 claims. The WCC does not handle compensation claims for injuries and deaths in the mining industry.

Apart from insecticides in the organophosphate group, a number of chemicals which are banned or heavily restricted in the industrialised world are used in South African agriculture.

Most notorious are herbicides which contain ingredients of the defoliant Agent Orange, 24-D and 245-T, and are used on sugar plantations and forestry estates to control weed growth. "Homeland" governments spray homes, hospitals and public buildings in rural areas with DDT to control malaria. Toxins contained in DDT take years to break down and pose a serious threat to human health because they enter the food chain.

The forestry industry also uses lindane, a chemical banned in many countries, to protect stockpiles of timber in sawmills from pests. The Paper Print and Allied Workers' Union, which organises foresters, is currently involved in a dispute with the management of a sawmill in Pietermaritzburg over the plight of some 30 workers whose eyesight has been adversely affected by pesticides, says organiser Ernest Masala.

The number of people poisoned globally by pesticides each year is estimated at 750 000 by the World Health Organisation.

WMA 7-13/4/89

Linesman's death: Current switched on early

By GILL TURNBULL
Court Reporter

AR 665 (131)
700
14/4/89

THE day after a city council linesman was electrocuted his foreman admitted he knew that the current in the line on which the man was working was to be switched on early, an inquest court was told

This was further evidence at the Cape Town inquest yesterday on electricity department "live wire" linesman Mr Edward Davids, 22, who was electrocuted while working on a

street light in Langerman Avenue, Milnerton, on Friday, March 11 last year

Earlier evidence from the foreman of the "live wire" team, Mr Yusuf Damoes, was that engineer, Mr David Dollman, did not tell him the power was to be switched on at 2 pm

Mr Dollman has testified that a consumer on the corner of Peddie Street and Langerman Avenue asked to have the power switched on at 2 pm because she had a wedding recep-

tion planned for that day

A few minutes before 2 pm, with only about 10 minutes of work still to be done on the street light arm, the "dead wire" team was brought down

Mr Damoes's "live wire" men Mr Davids and Mr Mark Flories were asked to finish the job

Mr Dollman told the court that on the Saturday morning after the accident Mr Damoes told district manager Mr William Townsend that Mr Doll-

man had told him the power was on

Yesterday after lengthy cross-examination of Mr Dollman and Mr Townsend, Mr N Arendse for Mr Damoes told the court his client would not deny that on the Saturday morning he had said Mr Dollman had told him the power was on — but would now say he was incoherent with shock and made an error in saying

so
(The hearing continues)

904 deaths at work (131)

THERE were 170 163 industrial accidents in SA last year and 904 were fatal, says the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner

16/4/89.

The cost to the economy of the accidents was R90.1-million, equivalent to 20.3-million mandays' lost

STILES

IN BRIEF

Can Times 25/4/89 (13)
Building industry: 76 die

A TOTAL of 375 people were killed as a result of workplace accidents last year, the Department of Manpower said in its annual report, tabled in Parliament yesterday. The building industry accounted for the highest single total — 76 deaths. Four hundred people died in workplace accidents in 1987.

Everite to close E Cape factory

Cape Times 26/4/89

131

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Everite has decided to close its East London factory in a R35m capex programme to convert its building materials from asbestos cement to non-asbestos fibre cement

Everite are planning to replace its asbestos fibre with cellulose fibres by 1992. This shift was in response to market demands monitored overseas, but preempting the SA market for non-asbestos building materials.

Everite executive director, Mark Cvitanich said in a statement the size of the plant and the over-capacity of the fibre-cement manufacturing industry did not justify the R10 m investment required to introduce the asbestos replacement programme in East London.

The East London factory, with only one sheet manufacturing machine, was too small to carry the interest burden and cash flow requirements of the programme, he said.

Of the 270 workers employed at the factory, 230 would be retrenched with the remainder to be transferred to other plants, PR spokesman Brian Gibson said.

Everite's R35 m asbestos replacement programme, which to date has involved R30 m research, will result in the replacement of asbestos fibres in asbestos cement by cellulose fibres.

Cellulose fibres are made of hardy organic pulp fibres like hemp, wood or sisal fibres, Gibson said.

Everite had given a public commitment to replace asbestos in its range of building materials by 1992.

Despite the safety of asbestos building materials there was a growing public perception that asbestos fibres were dangerous.

R57 million paid out ^{ARGUS} for work ^{26/4/89} injuries ¹³¹

The Argus
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG —

More than R57-million has been pumped back into the economy in a form of special rebates for employers to cover the three year cycle between 1983 and 1985 by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner

This was said by the managing director of the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA), Mr Bunny Matthysen, at a media function at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park yesterday.

Mr Matthysen said the huge boost to the country's economy could be attributed to the effective safety programmes devised by NOSA, which were implemented by firms countrywide

He said the rebates were more easily facilitated through the adoption of correct procedures in reporting work injuries

Mr Matthysen said his association has compiled a NOSA-data sheet designed to spell out a "step-by-step procedure" to cope with thousands of enquiries handled by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, (WCC)

131

Saldanha drama Distraught family waits for missing trawler crewman



GRIEVING FAMILY The family of Vredenburg fisherman Mr Kobie Vraagom, who is missing at sea after the trawler he was on sank off the Saldanha coast yesterday. In the middle is his wife Mrs Elrine Vraagom and behind her their daughters (from left) Karin, Tania and Jaqueline. Picture MARIUS BOSCH

Seaman lost: Sailors tell of rescue drama

By MARIUS BOSCH

TWO West Coast fishermen said they clung frantically to their sinking trawler and the floats of fishing nets in rough seas off the Saldanha coast early yesterday morning.

Yesterday, rescue vessels were still searching for the missing first engineer of the trawler Roooyantjiesfontein, 54-year-old Mr Kobie Vraagom. Eight other crew members were rescued by two nearby vessels and taken to St Helena Bay.

The 150-ton Roooyantjiesfontein had just taken on board about 100 tons of anchovies with the crew busy pulling in the second catch when the vessel suddenly started taking in water at the stern, said crew member Mr Joey Knooe, 33.

"We didn't even have time to inflate the life-rrafts and had to jump overboard."

Mr Knooe said he swam away from the sinking boat fearing he would be dragged under if the boat went down. "I hung on to the floats and prayed a shark would not grab me."

He said the crew heard Mr Vraagom shout "help me men, help me" when the boat went down. Mr Vraagom was probably flung

against the wheelhouse by the swell and knocked unconscious, Mr Knooe said.

Another crew member, Mr Andries Bekeur, 31, said he was very scared when the boat went down about 4am.

"The first thing I knew was when the water came over the stern. Then I had to swim," Mr Bekeur said.

He was rescued by another trawler after he had been holding on to the bow of the vessel — the only part not submerged — for close to an hour, he said.

A distraught Mrs Elrine Vraagom said at her Vredenburg home that her husband had been a fisherman since the age of 11.

"He is a good father to our five daughters and a first-class engineer."

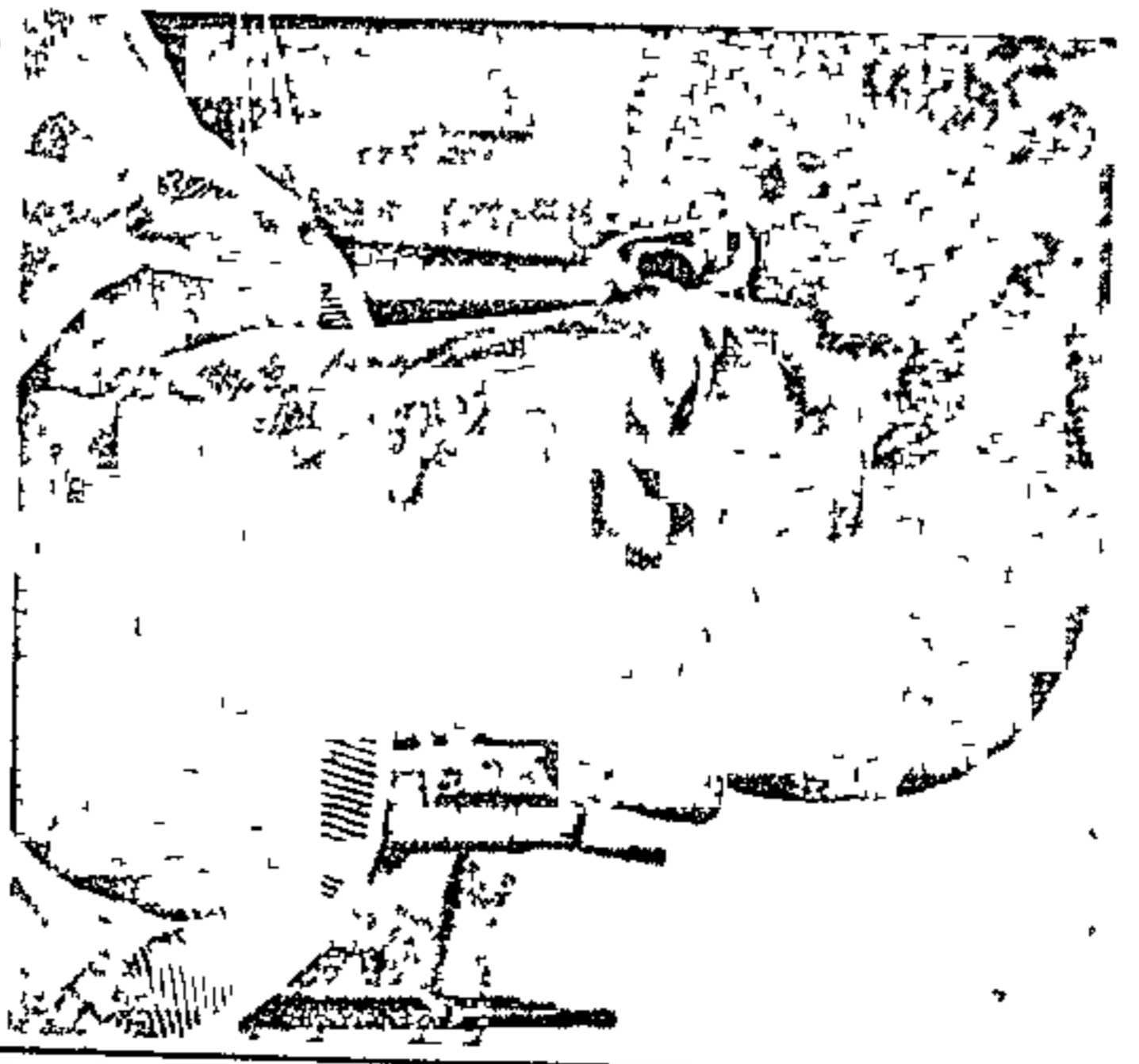
Her husband had worked for the same skipper for the past 17 years.

'Worried'

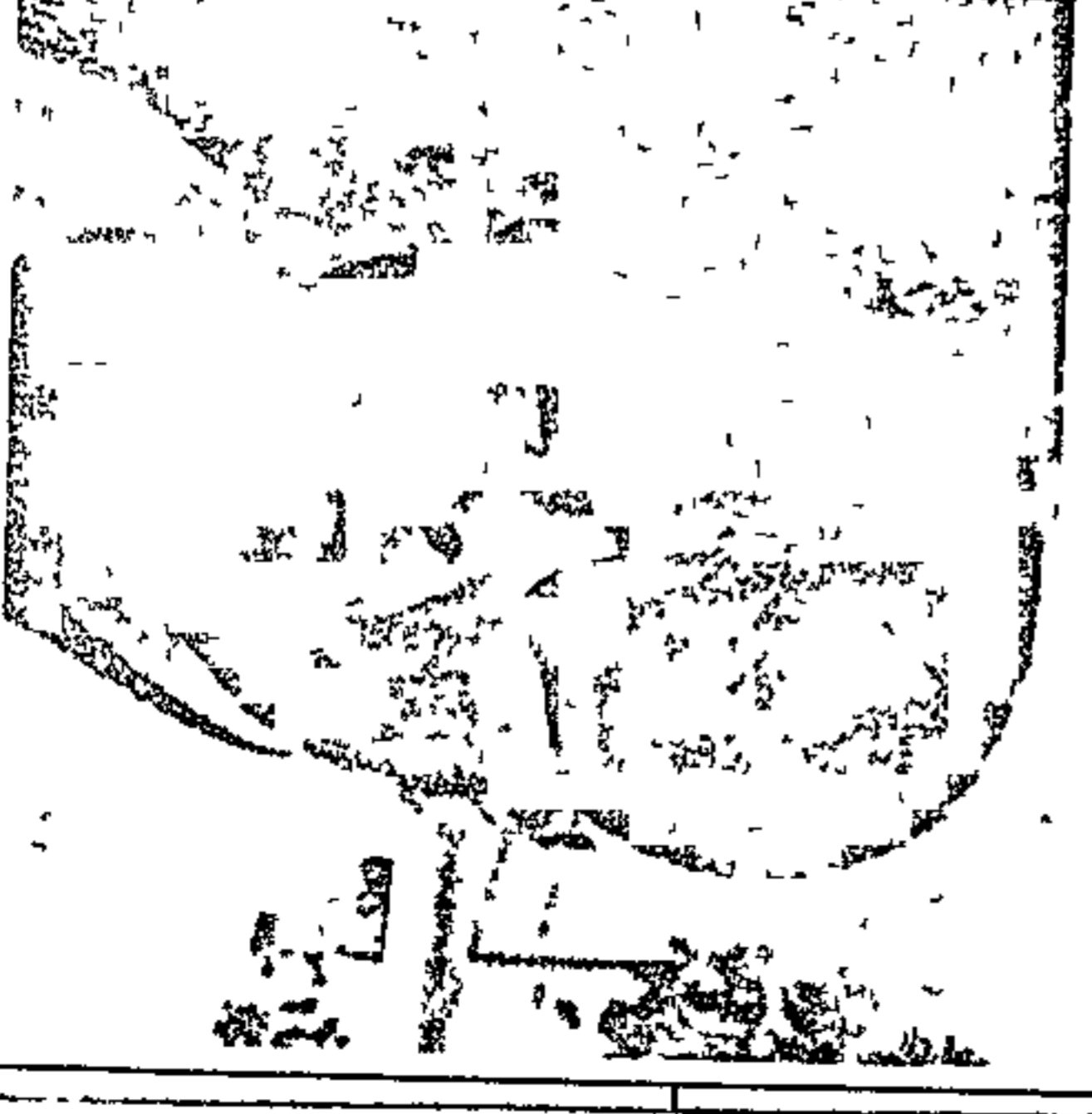
A friend informed her of the sinking of the Roooyantjiesfontein yesterday at 7am, she said.

"I've been so worried ever since."

Mr Eric Geymsluis, the manager of Suid Orange Fisheries — the owners of the boat, said the sea was very rough when the boat sank and the fact that there were other boats in the area saved the eight crew members.



SURVIVOR St Helena Bay fisherman Mr Andries Bekeur, rescued from the sea. Picture MARIUS BOSCH



RESCUED St Helena Bay fisherman Mr Joey Knooe after being rescued. Picture MARIUS BOSCH

AVENUE FISHERIES SERVICE

1223

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 1989



1224

USSR/RSA: serving of formal links

408 Mr H J COETZEE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (1) (a) When were formal links between the Soviet Union and South Africa severed and (b) what were the reasons for the severing of these links,
- (2) whether these reasons are still valid, if not, to what extent have they changed?

B734E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) The Soviet consular representative in Pretoria was requested on 1 February 1956 to close the Soviet consular missions in Pretoria and Cape Town and to withdraw their personnel by 1 March 1956
- (b) This decision was taken because Soviet consular representation in South Africa at that time was not considered to be in the interests of South Africa

Lines of credit Guaranteed overdraft facilities R45 000 000

(2) (a) Loans R26 774 544

- (b) amount in respect of loans outstanding as at 31 March 1989 R30 032 335
- The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies

Distribution of certain publication abroad

405 Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether a certain publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, is being distributed abroad by his Department, if not, why not, if so, (a) in which countries, (b) in what quantities and (c) at what cost,
- (2) what is the name of this publication?

B727E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- (1) No

The results of a worldwide survey showed that this publication did not reach opinion-forming target groups and that from a communications viewpoint it was ineffective. These results together with the high costs involved in disseminating it abroad forced the Department to discontinue distribution of this publication and to replace it with a more cost-effective and purposeful image-building instrument

- (2) 'South African Digest'

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

1225

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 1989



Industrial accidents: disablement/deaths

424 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

- (1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in 1988,
- (2) (a) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, (b) what amount was paid out by the Accident Fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

B845E

The ACTING MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (1) Figures for 1988 are not as yet available
- (2) The most recent figures available are for 1985
- (a) 241 820 as contemplated in the Workmen's Compensation Act, Act no 30 of 1941
- (b) R90 117 742
- (c) 2 588 404 man-days

Industrial Court

425 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower

- (a) How many cases were referred to the Industrial Court, (b) how many of these cases were settled before evidence was called, and (c) how many status quo orders were granted and (ii) refused, in 1988?

B846E

The ACTING MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (a) 3 838

1226

TUESDAY, 23 MAY 1989



- (b) Statistics are not kept on this basis. However, 1 251 cases were settled before or after the hearings, and 613 during the hearings
- (c) (i) 179
- (ii) 274

National Liquor Board: operating cost

504 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology
What was the cost of operating the National Liquor Board in 1988?

B965E

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY.

R894 756 during the financial year 1987/88 (latest available data). The amount includes the expenditure in respect of the Directorate Liquor Affairs in the Department of Trade and Industry

Own Affairs

Teacher/pupil ratio in schools

59 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture †
What was the teacher/pupil ratio in schools under the control of his Department in 1986, 1987 and 1988, respectively?

B951E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

1986	1987	1988
1. 17,80	1 17,79	1 17,80

This information is for ordinary public schools



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Foreman 'negligent' in death of worker

Cape Times 2/16/59

131 Court Reporter

THE foreman of a council worker, who was electrocuted on a pole, had been negligent in not informing his team that the wires they were working on were "live", a Cape Town inquest magistrate found yesterday.

Magistrate Mr W J P Marais made the finding at the inquest into the death of Mr Edward Davids, 22, who died on March 11 last year when he was electrocuted while ascending a pole in Milnerton.

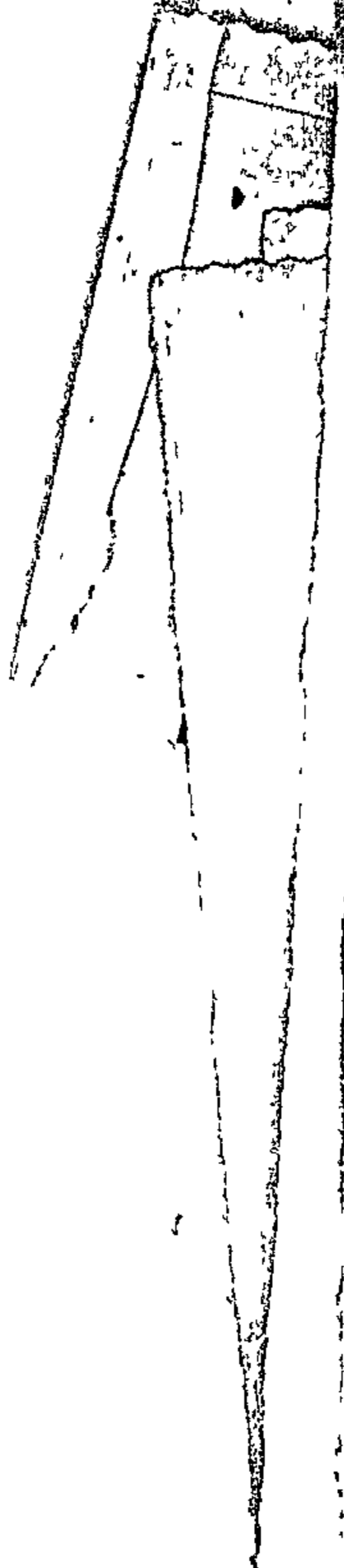
Evidence was that, after turning the power on, Mr David Dollman, an engineer's assistant, informed Mr Yusuf Damos, the foreman, that he "livened the wires", Mr Dollman said. He left as Mr Davids was preparing to climb the pole.

Mr Damos said that Mr Dollman had not told him that the power had been turned on.

But Mr Marais found that Mr Damos must have known and was negligent in failing to inform his team that the power was on.

Mr I Noble-Jack was the assessor. Miss E Agoston led the evidence. Mr N Arendse appeared for the municipal workers' union and Mr Damos. Mr M T Steyn appeared for the City Council. The Davids family was not present.

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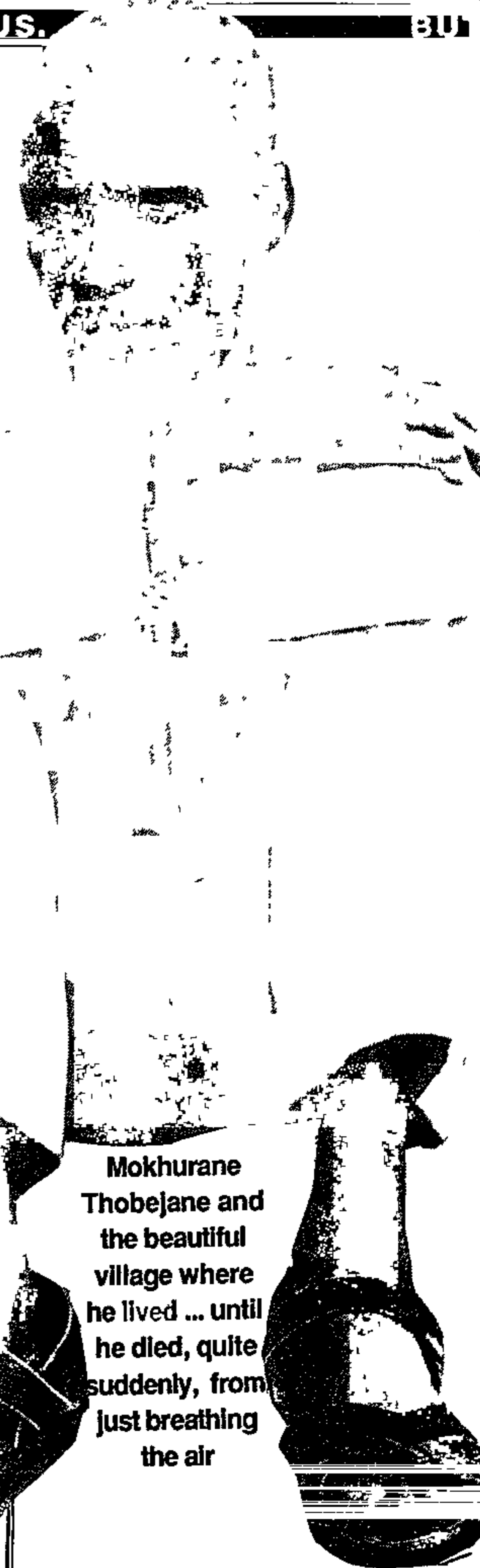
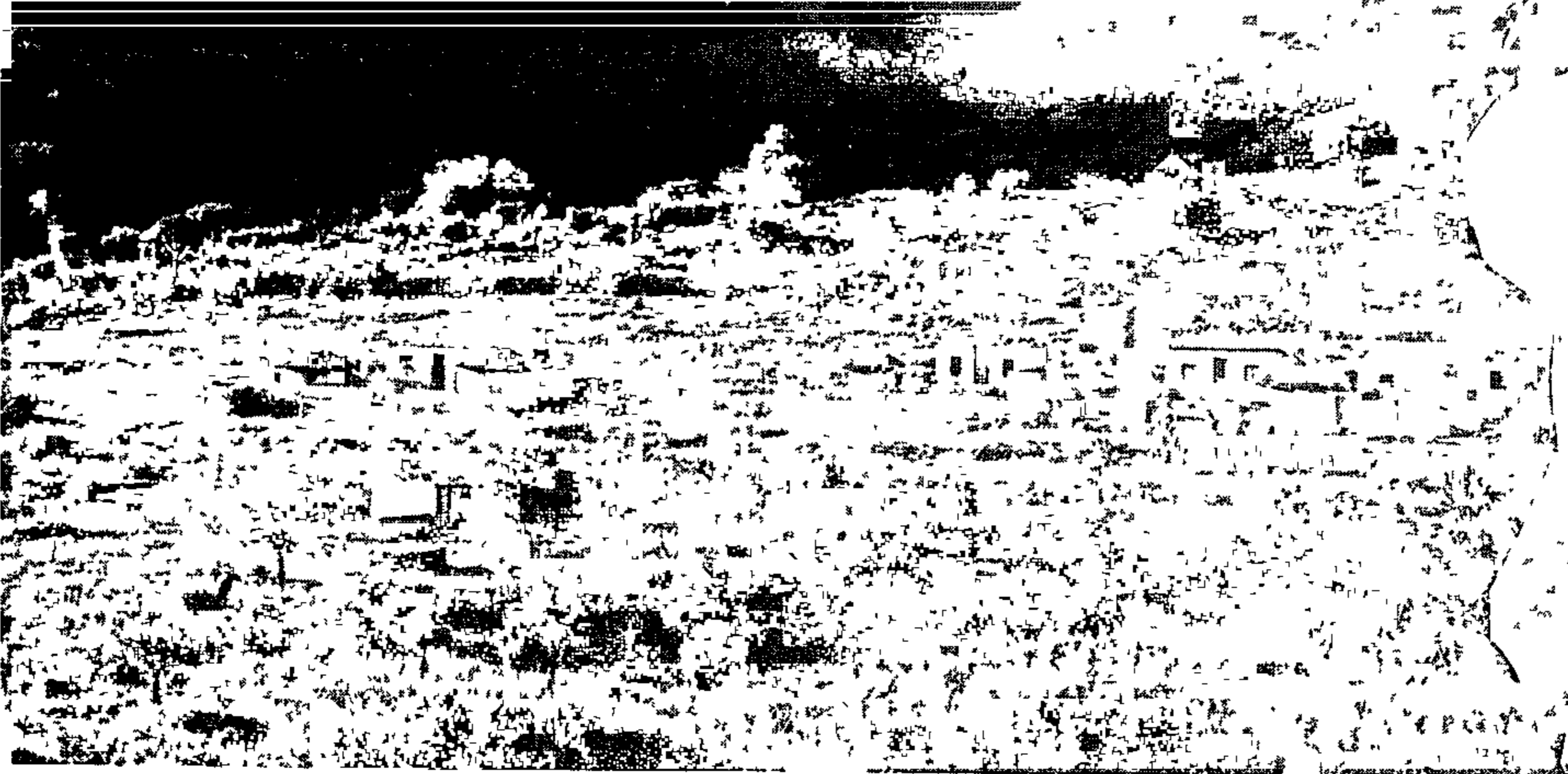


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131

BIG COMPANIES HAVE STOPPED MINING BLUE ASBESTOS ... IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

BU



Mokhurane Thobejane and the beautiful village where he lived ... until he died, quite suddenly, from just breathing the air

The gorgeous village where the wind killed Mokhurane Thobejane

After Mokhurane Thobejane died from breathing the killer dust, so many followed that it became a tradition in the village of Mmafele to bury and forget. The death of a donkey, or of a friend, became the same thing ...
EDDIE KOCH reports from Lebowa

IN the mountains where the families of Kaiser Manailana and Mokhurane Thobejane have lived for more than a century the wind carries with it the just of death

Some 12 000 people living in settlements near Mmafele, a village straddling the banks of the Olifants River 80km south-east of Pietersburg, have for decades been living amid dumps of deadly asbestos waste

The rugged escarpment in this remote region of Lebowa, together with a belt of mines near Kuruman in the Northern Cape, contain the only reserves of blue asbestos in the world

From 1907 multinationals like Cape Asbestos and US Steel, together with small local firms, moved into the region to mine the rare mineral. When they left in the 1970s — largely because campaigns to highlight the lethal effects of asbestos had undermined international demand — they never bothered to clean up behind them.

Vast dumps were left uncovered next to old mining adits and abandoned mills, waste from the dumps was used to surface the gravel roads that run through the villages in the area, houses and schools were built from bricks made out of the blue fibres; school play grounds were covered by asbestos waste, children slid down the banks on pieces of old cardboard, rivers were polluted with fibres that ran off the mounds during the rains; and even the breeze that blows through the valleys on most evenings carried the dust with it.

I first met Kaiser Manailana and Mokhurane Thobejane five years ago. At the time the two men spent much of the interview telling of their life-long friendship. Both men were born in the village in 1914. They spent their childhood years together herding cattle. And when they turned 20, they went to the same circumcision school.

In the 1950s the pair went to work in the mines that dotted the mountains around their village. Each of these mines was a primitive operation, consisting of a few unventilated adits that had been tunnelled by hand into the mountain side and a mill where the ore was sorted and crushed before being packed into hessian bags.

The larger companies often subcontracted the work out to smaller firms who employed the local villagers — who were called freelance tributors — on a piece-work basis.

"Mokhurane was the one who first went into the mountains to work,"

said Kaiser. "I was on the mines in Johannesburg but I came and joined him because I wanted to be near my family," said Kaiser.

"When we started we were given 15 shillings for every two bags of rock. I remember it took me three weeks to fill the first bag. After that it went much quicker and if you had a helper and worked hard you could fill two bags a day. We called it working for stock."

The system encouraged men to take their wives into the mountains as helpers. Work at the mills also allowed family members to supplement a man's wages. Women and children sorted the ore and did cobbing, the manual separation of fibres from the rock. After milling had taken place they packed the fine dust into hessian bags.

Company reports from the period mention mothers who left new-born babies to sleep on heaps of asbestos dust while they worked beside them.

These practices were standard at the mines around Mmafele well into the 1960s. By that time doctors working for the major mining companies were well-acquainted with medical research that had documented three fatal lung diseases caused by asbestos fibres: asbestosis, a scarring of the lung tissue, lung cancer, that destroys the lobes of the lungs, and mesothelioma, a rare tumour that strangles the lungs by thickening the lining around the organ.

Asbestosis comes from heavy and consistent exposure to dust but mesothelioma can be caused by inhaling just a single fibre of asbestos. From the time a person is first exposed it



Mokhurane Thobejane's widow at his grave. He was so poor, his friends could not afford to buy a coffin.

Pictures STEVE ROTHENBERG and ANNA ZIEMINSKI, Afrapix

can take up to 40 years before the symptoms of cancer and mesothelioma manifest themselves. After that death comes quickly and painfully.

Last month the *Weekly Mail* visited a unique community project in Mmafele that was set up by concerned residents and a doctor from Johannesburg in the wake of the controversy that erupted five years ago. The project has since conducted an exhaustive survey of the dust levels and the extent of disease caused by the abandoned heaps of waste in the village.

A few kilometres from Mmafele a large dump next to the gravel road — that became notorious after newspapers printed photographs which showed children on its slopes under the headline "Playing in the Shadow of Death" — is now covered with sisal plants and indigenous thorn trees.

A few dumps around Mmafele have been covered in the same way and the asbestos tailings on the road have been covered with sand. People in the area have stopped building their homes from bricks made of asbestos.

Little else has changed. Most of the abandoned mills and uncovered dumps are still there. At a nearby village called Mantlane children play on a vast heap of waste next to their homes. Some of the highest dust levels in the area — more than a hundred times the amounts that would require immediate government action in the United States — have been recorded by the local health workers at a densely populated settlement called Gemini. The playground of the biggest school in Mmafele is still littered with small heaps of blue dust.

The health project has scrupulously documented the number of buildings made of asbestos brick and plaster. These include 603 out of the 1 724 houses in the village, seven of the 12 schools, the local post office, the offices of the tribal authority and many of the churches.

Health workers have conducted an extensive series of X-rays and lung function tests among the population. Although final results have not yet been collated, preliminary indications are that each family in the village could have at least one member with

an asbestos-related disease.

Since 1978 former miners have been able to claim compensation, in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, for lung cancer and mesothelioma contracted during their working lives. Whites get R33 207 and a pension of R500 a month, blacks can claim a lump sum of just over R2 000.

Apart from the vast discrimination in the system, a major problem facing the Mmafele health project is that old miners are effectively prevented from claiming compensation by a clause in the law which says victims must prove they were in the regular employ of a mining company. Under the system of "working for stock", payrolls and wage records were seldom kept.

"Even if the area was cleaned up tomorrow, we know that people will still be dying by the middle of the next century," says Zacharia Mabiletsa, a full-time worker for the project.

On the last day of our visit to Mmafele, Mabiletsa took us to the house where I met Kaiser and his friend five years ago. The old man was still alive and could remember the time we first sat outside his home talking about the village and its problems.

"Two years ago Mokhurane got very ill. It took about a month before he died," said Kaiser. "I visited him one night and the next morning he never woke up. We had no car to take him to the graveyard and no money to buy a coffin. Somebody went to a store in Magoebaskloof and bought a few planks and knocked them into the shape of a coffin."

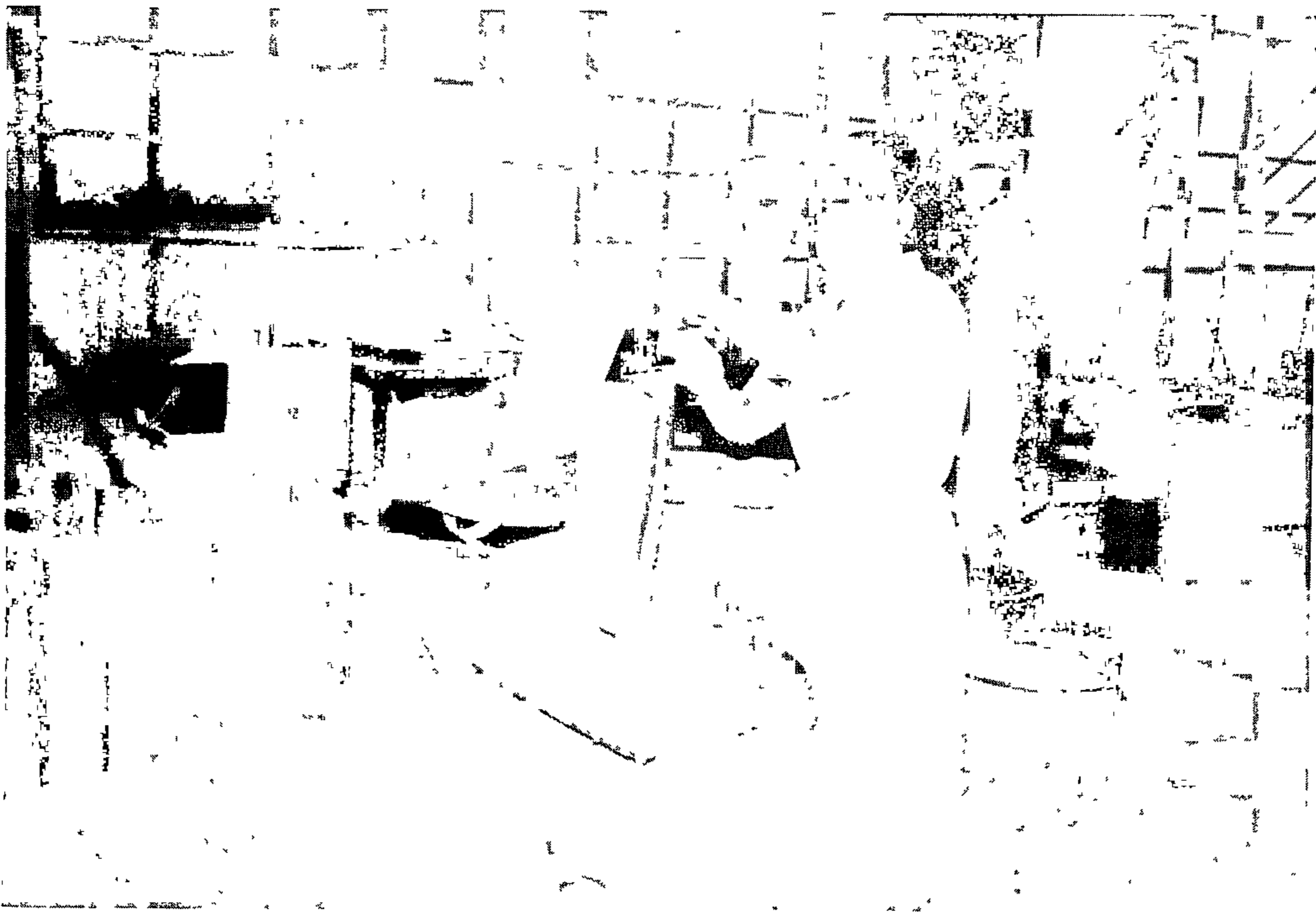
"And after him there were so many who have died," said Kaiser. "In this village it is becoming a tradition to bury and forget. The difference between the death of a donkey and that of a friend is the same. Those who are responsible for his death do not know that something has died."

A local shopkeeper agreed to take Mokhurane's make-shift coffin down to the cemetery where the villagers have buried their dead — many of them beneath tombstones made of cement and asbestos waste.

Company reports mention mothers who left babies to sleep on asbestos heaps while they worked beside them

(13)

PEOPLE ARE STILL LIVING NEAR THE ASBESTOS DUMPS AND THEIR CHILDREN PLAY IN THE WASTES



Workers at a brake factory wear surgical masks. But the unions say that minimum safety standards are not being met

VIOLATION of health and safety regulations at brake lining factories in Natal has sparked a trade union campaign to curb the abuse of asbestos.

At the same time 3 000 asbestos workers are on strike at Everite plants around the country to back demands for wage increases. Their union is demanding that the company speed up its plans to phase out the use of asbestos fibres.

The National Union of Metalworkers has launched a major education drive among members in the Natal region in the wake of disclosures that workers at some asbestos manufacturing plants have been exposed to vast amounts of asbestos dust.

A Numsa representative told the *Weekly Mail* the union had uncovered information that revealed gross neglect of the government's minimum dust levels at some brake lining plants.

The organisation also believes outdated and inadequate health and safe-

The unions make war on asbestos in the factories



An old picture shows a woman 'cobbing' asbestos by chipping away the fibres

ty equipment at many asbestos manufacturing plants is posing a serious threat to the health of workers.

Meanwhile about 3 000 workers at four Everite factories, which make

building materials and pipes from asbestos, have been on a week-long strike to back demands for an across-the-board wage increase of R1,03 an hour. The company has offered increases of between 60 and 75 cents an hour.

The Construction and Allied Workers' Union is running a separate campaign to press the company to speed up its plans to eliminate the use of asbestos in its production process.

The Swiss-owned company says that, because of the growing awareness of the dangers of asbestos, it will replace the hazardous fibres with cellulose by 1992.

The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union, which organises workers at the large asbestos

mine at Penge in the Eastern Transvaal, is continuing a five-year struggle to have the substance banned and the communities around the mine cleared of all waste.

Union organisers have helped run education programmes in the villages around Penge. They co-operate with local school teachers and church ministers to spread knowledge about the deadly properties of the dust.

"We believe the problem is not occupationally confined. There is a massive environmental problem in the rural and urban areas as well," says Bamcwu general secretary Mbulelo Rakwena.

The union has urged the public not to buy asbestos products and is demanding a long-term ban on the manufacture and sale of such goods.

Bamcwu monitors health and safety measures at the Penge mine and is planning a campaign to highlight racial discrimination in the official system of compensation for asbestos-related diseases.

State spending R30-m to clear deadly dumps

DECADES after mining companies left the asbestos-bearing mountains that surround Mmafeke, the government has mounted a R30-million project to clear the region of deadly dumps of abandoned waste

The Department of Health has commissioned the ecology reclamation unit at Potchefstroom University to clear an 80km stretch, that runs between Pietersburg in the east to the Penge mine in the west, of asbestos.

Work consists of levelling the dumps and covering them with a layer of clean gravel, says Koos van Wyk, a Potchefstroom professor in charge of the project. Indigenous thorn trees and shrubs are then planted to contain erosion and prevent people and animals from walking on the old dumps

"The biggest problem comes from water-borne pollution. Therefore, we decided to start at Bewaarskloof at the upper end of the catchment area and work our way down," says Van Wyk

To prevent rain water from washing fibres from the mounds into the rivers, the unit has built concrete retaining walls and small catchment dams around the dumps

"We have cleaned up 90 percent of the Bewaarskloof area and most of the dumps around Penge," says Van Wyk. "Our next target is the area around Mmafeke because those villages have a high-density population."

He says his unit has not been asked to deal with the health problems posed by buildings made of asbestos. However he has investigated types of paints that can be used to seal the fibres into the walls of the buildings

Funds for the project have been promised by the health ministry, four other government departments, and the Lebowa Development Corporation over the next 10 years. Van Wyk hopes to speed up the process so that it can be completed sooner

The Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), which owns some of the oldest mines in the area, has funded a part of the project.

No city rules for disposing of waste

THE absence of controls over the demolition of buildings which contain asbestos materials — a process rigidly regulated in other parts of the world — has provoked heated controversy in Johannesburg

A cavalier approach by the city council to building demolition and the disposal of asbestos waste has become a major source of concern, says Democratic Party councillor Clive Gilbert.

City chief Jan Burger last month told the Johannesburg council that no municipal regulations existed to govern the use and disposal of asbestos materials in the city.

This is in stark contrast to cities in the United States which are planning to spend \$100-billion dollars (R270-billion) over the next five years to remove the carcinogenic substance from public buildings.

"Neither the City Health Department nor the Planning Department has any responsibility under the legislation for the control of industries using asbestos, or the disposal of products containing asbestos," said Burger in reply to questions from the DP.

Asbestos, which became known as a "miracle fibre" for its insulating and heat resistant properties, is extensively used in public and private buildings as ceiling, roofing and insulating material.

When the DP asked Burger, who

By EDDIE KOCH

heads the city's management committee, where waste from torn-down buildings was dumped, they received a terse reply: "No sites in Johannesburg. Other sites are privately run. To date no sites have been used by the council. Locations of sites unknown."

The carefree approach, says Gilbert, contrasts with strict controls that exist in the US and most European countries. In October last year the US Environmental Protection Agency began enforcing the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, which requires 31 000 school districts to remove asbestos from all classrooms.

Some 39 states in the US supervise all demolition and asbestos removal work. New York City authorities require inspections for asbestos material as a precondition for the approval of demolition permits.

The DP has also criticised the lack of protection for workers involved in demolition work and the handling of asbestos waste in the city. Gilbert said an impromptu inspection of demolition sites in the city had revealed a complete absence of health and safety equipment.

The DP councillor is perturbed by the fact that Johannesburg's health authorities keep no records of people being treated in the city for lung can-

cer, asbestosis or mesothelioma. People who have contracted these diseases as a result of occupational exposure to asbestos can make claims from the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner.

The row over the use of asbestos in Johannesburg began when the DP uncovered the use of asbestos coated filtration works at the council's sewerage purification works at Bushkoppies near Johannesburg.

However, a survey by the National Centre for Occupational Health found minimal levels of fibres in the city's water supplies. Medical experts agree the major dangers are posed by airborne asbestos dust.

Part of the reason for the extreme caution in the US and Europe over demolition and dumping stems from a history of litigation around damages to health caused by asbestos. Last year a jury in Cleveland awarded more than R1-million to a 47-year-old woman who said she had contracted mesothelioma from breathing asbestos fibre when she worked as a clerk in a government building.

Over the past decade more than 90 000 workers have sued manufacturers of asbestos products.

Health workers estimate that, in the US alone, asbestos-induced tumours will kill at least 9 000 people a year for the next two decades — an average of one death an hour.

INDICATOR

SOUTH AFRICA

Part-time Editorial Assistant

The INDICATOR SA Quarterly Report requires the services of an experienced journalist to assist in a range of editing, sub-editing and proof-reading tasks. The nature of the work would be ideally suited to a retired journalist or someone with general publishing experience interested in undertaking freelance work.

Applicants should enclose a curriculum vitae, two references and recent sample(s) of editorial work. Applications should be submitted by 19 June 1989 to The Editor, Indicator South Africa, Centre for Social and Development Studies, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban 4001.

For further information, please call (031) 816 2526, afternoons only.



University of Natal

The University of Natal rejects apartheid. It is an equal opportunities, affirmative action University.

Another Sasol fire. Only the insurers have noticed

By BRUCE ALLEN

ANOTHER fire at a Sasol plant has gone virtually unnoticed. Although no deaths or injuries were suffered, damage incurred stands to make the fire the largest single insured loss ever experienced in this country. Occurring on 6 May, a fire at the Sasol 2 plant caused extensive damage, with a total expected loss of some R350-million.

Dr Dirk Mostert, executive director at Sasol, has been reported in *Insurance Times* as saying the fire was caused by a ruptured pipe. Damage to equipment is estimated at R30-million and loss of income at about R320-

million

According to Mostert "Although the fire was extinguished within an hour, damage to the equipment was such that the whole plant had to be shut down. Major equipment, however, was not damaged."

He adds that Sasol is fully insured. Mostert says no fuel shortages are expected as a result of the fire, adding that the two other Sasol plants, Natref and the coastal refineries, are producing at full capacity.

Sasol's media co-ordinator, Pierre

Louw, says the refinery section of the plant is already back on line. He says repairs to the damaged section should be completed early in July. Apparently no major damage was suffered but pipes and wiring will have to be replaced. Full production will be reached in August.

This fire follows the one on January 31 at Sasol 3. Although Mostert says the Sasol 3 plant is already producing at design capacity, 12 people died and nine were injured in the fire.

According to the Chemical Workers Industrial Union's Chris Bonner, an inquiry into the first fire is currently

under way. She adds that since no lives were lost in the most recent fire, she does not expect a further investigation.

Keith Nilsson, deputy managing director of Guardian National, which is the lead insurer says: "The matter was heavily reinsured and it will not impact heavily on any particular company."

However, the fire will make Sasol's life more difficult when it comes to arranging revised rates for 1990. The CWIU will also, no doubt, take a close look at safety standards at Sasol's plants.

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wmail
9/14/89

SCHEDULE

- 1 Portion 1 of the farm Eerste Rivier 626, in extent 42,9951 hectares, and
- 2 Portion 1 of the farm Klip Rivier 645, in extent 56,1454 hectares,

both properties situate in the Administrative District of Humansdorp, Province of the Cape of Good Hope.

(16 June 1989)

(2-9-16)

NOTICE 624 OF 1989

DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER

MACHINERY AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY ACT, 1983 (ACT No. 6 OF 1983)

The Minister of Manpower, on the recommendation of the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety, hereby publishes the following draft amendments to the Driven Machinery Regulations for general information and comment.

Any comments or representations thereon should be lodged in writing with the Director-General Manpower, Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001, within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice.

DRIVEN MACHINERY REGULATIONS.—
AMENDMENTS**Definition**

1 In these regulations "the Regulations" means the Driven Machinery Regulations, 1988, promulgated by Government Notice No. R 295 of 26 February 1988.

Amendment of regulation 1 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 1 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the addition of the following sentence after the words "from an elevated position" in the definition of "lifting machine":

"nor does it include machines generally known as forklift trucks,"

Amendment of regulation 18 (1) of the Regulations

3. Regulation 18 (1) of the Regulations is hereby amended by—

(1) the scrapping of the word "and" after the word "standard" in subregulation (1) (a),

(2) the substitution of a semi-colon for the full-stop at the end of subregulation (1) (b), and

(3) by the addition of the following two subregulations after paragraph (b) in subregulation (1)

"(c) it has at all times at least three turns of rope on the drum of each winch which is part of the machine, and

(d) the operator has been appointed in writing by the employer confirming the operator's competence"

Amendment of regulation 18 (2) (b) of the Regulations

4 Regulation 18 (2) (b) of the Regulations is hereby withdrawn and is replaced by the following new subregulation

"(b) a limiting device which will automatically arrest the driving effort when the load reaches the highest safe position"

BYLAE

1. Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Eerste Rivier 626, groot 42,9951 hektaar, en
- 2 Gedeelte 1 van die plaas Klip Rivier 645, groot 56,1454 hektaar,

albei eiendomme gelee in die administratiewe distrik Humansdorp, provinsie die Kaap die Goete Hoop

(16 June 1989)

(2-9-16)

KENNISGEWING 624 VAN 1989

DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG

WET OP MASJINERIE EN BEROEPSVEILIGHEID, 1983 (WET No 6 VAN 1983)

Die Minister van Mannekrag publiseer hiermee op aanbeveling van die Adviesraad vir Beroepsveiligheid, onderstaande konsep Aangedrewe Masjinerieregulasies vir algemene inligting en kommentaar

Enige kommentaar of vertoe met betrekking daartoe moet skriftelik by die Direkteur-generaal Mannekrag, Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001, binne 60 dae van die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing ingedien word.

AANGEDREWE MASJINERIEREGULASIES —
WYSIGING**Woordomskrywing**

1. In hierdie regulasies beteken "die Regulasies" die Aangedrewe Masjinerieregulasies, 1988, afgekondig by Goewermentskennisgewing No R 295 van 26 Februarie 1988.

Wysiging van regulasie 1 van die Regulasies

2. Regulasie 1 van die Regulasies word hierby gewysig deur die toevoeging van die volgende volsonder die woorde "van 'n hoe plek op te tel of neer te laat nie" in die woordomskrywing van "hystoestel"

"en sluit ook nie in masjiene algemeen bekend as vorkhysers nie,"

Wysiging van regulasie 18 (1) van die Regulasies

3 Regulasie 18 (1) van die Regulasies word hierby gewysig deur—

(1) die skraping van die woord "en" na die woord "standaard" in subregulasie (1) (a),

(2) deur die vervanging van die punt aan die einde van subregulasie (1) (b) met 'n komma-punt, en

(3) deur die toevoeging van die volgende twee subregulasies na paragraaf (b) in subregulasie (1)

"(c) dit te alle tye ten minste drie omwentelinge van tou het op die trom van elke hystoestel wat deel van die masjiene is, en

(d) die operateur skriftelik deur die werkgewer aangestel is waardeur die operateur se bevoegdheid bevestig word"

Wysiging van regulasie 18 (2) (b) van die Regulasies

4 Regulasie 18 (2) (b) van die Regulasies word hierby geskrap en deur die volgende nuwe subregulasie vervang:

"(b) 'n beperkende toestel wat outomaties die hyskrag stuit wanneer die las die hoogste veilige posisie bereik."

SICK OFFICE, SICK WORKERS

Weekend
ARGUS
4

IT's true — working in an office is bad for your health
Your working environment and your clothes could be making you and your colleagues ill

It's not just a case of a clash between your purple dress and the lime-green office decor making your colleagues nauseous — your pants and other tight-fitting garments act as miniature cheese-graters against your skin, sending clouds of dead epidermal cells into the air and up other people's nostrils

Combine an unseen office skin cell snow-form with an unserved air-conditioning system and you are well on your way to becoming an office invalid

All those other modern "conveniences" which have mushroomed in our working environs — the photocopier and video display terminal (VDT) among others, may also surreptitiously and silently be whittling away at our strength, health and vitality

MR BOB BRIDGER, head of the ergonomics unit in the department of biomedical engineering (which is run jointly by the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur hospital), said a large percentage of worker absenteeism and subsequent productivity loss was caused by the modern working environment and that even our clothes may be making us ill

"People speak of the 'sick building syndrome' et this is only a part of the problem," he says. My interest lies in indoor environmental quality and the effects high-rise office blocks have on those who work in them"

Mr Bridger likens a modern office block to a submarine tilted on end and planted in the city, because most office complexes are sealed units to which air is forced and circulated by means of air-conditioning units

"Imagine the worst-case scenario," he said. It's Monday morning and the air-conditioning has been switched off since Friday evening. You're breathing air that has been in the building all weekend. It seems dead

"When you enter the air-conditioned building the temperature drops and the humidity changes dramatically. Your body fights to adapt to the new climate as your light summer

'By 5pm you stagger home with all the symptoms of Building Sickness — bloodshot eyes, a sore throat, aching joints and an itchy skin.'

Weekend Argus Reporter **MARK STANSFIELD** talks to ergonomics expert **Mr Bob Bridger** about how our modern working environment — air-conditioning, photocopiers, fluorescent lighting, even our clothes — may be making us ill

clothes are inadequate to keep you warm in the cool, dry air

"Sitting at your desk, the temperature feels odd. You notice that the air conditioning vent is blowing cool air on to your legs but your upper body feels warm because of the sunlight entering the room through the (sealed) window"

"You reach for your woolie leg warmers and get a mild electric shock because of the static electricity in the dry air"

"After working at your VDU for a while, you notice your eyes feel dry and uncomfortable and your nose feels blocked. The air has a strange quality about it because of the build-up of indoor photochemical smog caused by the interaction of formaldehyde from the new furnishings with ozone from the photocopier under the action of ultraviolet light from the fluorescent lights

"After lunch, the air begins to feel stuffy and hot. The temperature outside has been rising steadily all day. Because your open-plan office is slightly overcrowded and the occupants and their VDUs are all giving off heat, the air-conditioning can't keep up

"The build-up of carbon dioxide causes the air to seem stuffy — most of it is, even off by the

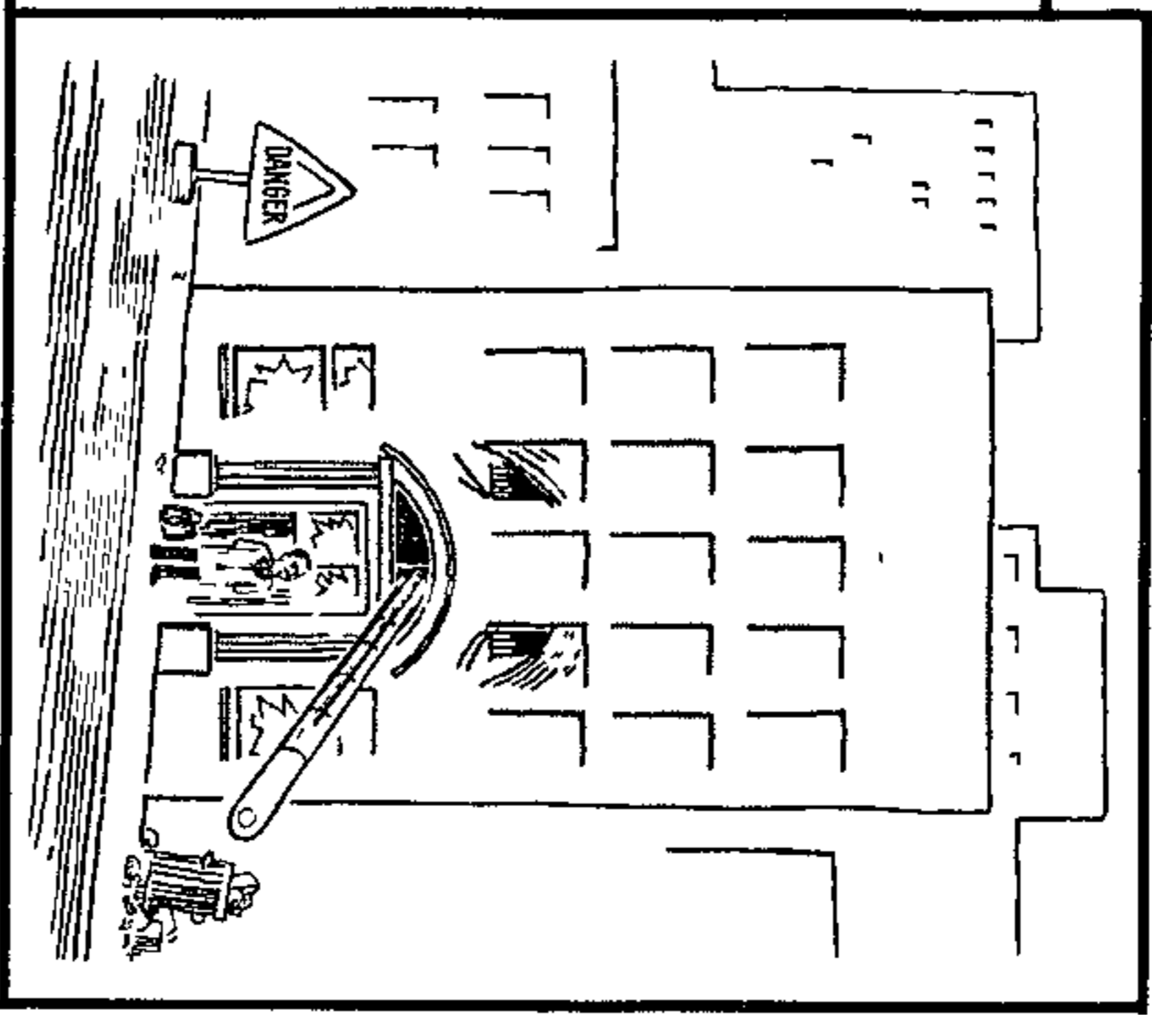
occupants themselves, but the smokers give off more than their fair share as well as the cigarette smoke itself. You feel a headache coming on

"Just before afternoon tea your chest begins to feel tight and your joints begin to ache. You suspect that maybe you haven't escaped the office flu epidemic after all. Cold and flu viruses can be transmitted from person to person via the aerosol effect (tiny particles of fluid) which are ejected when people cough or sneeze. Open-plan offices and air-conditioning spread cold and flu viruses rapidly

"Your red eyes and general lethargy could also be an allergic reaction in your already hypersensitive lungs because of the spores and cysts from fungi and bacteria breeding and thriving in the most conditions of the air ducts. The air-conditioning system has been recirculating these for weeks

"By 5pm you stagger home with all the symptoms of Building Sickness — bloodshot eyes, a sore throat, aching joints and an itchy skin," he said

MR BRIDGER became fascinated by indoor environmental quality a few years ago and has since documented some startling con-



clusions about office environs and the effects on workers who spend an average of eight hours a day slogging away in front of a terminal or on the telephone

"It's about time architects and office planners began thinking less about cost effectiveness and began designing office space around those who work there," he said

The study of ergonomics — the effects environment has on people — is beginning to play a vital role

"Air-conditioning plays a major part in the well-being or distress of workers. The amount of air re-circulated (no fresh air being sucked into the system because most companies recirculate the same air in the building for long periods to save energy) within a complex can lead to the accumulation of disease-causing spores and fungi

"Overseas research has shown that recirculating air for long periods can lead to health problems. The most dramatic of these would be an outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease

"With moist, humid conditions and the shutting down of air-conditioning systems over weekends, fungal spore and bacteria grow in

the ducts and get circulated when the system is started up again on Mondays. This is termed Monday Morning Syndrome and is becoming a real problem," he said

EVEN the glue used to cement carpeting to office floors can be hazardous

"This gives off formaldehyde and acts as a mucous membrane irritant, causing blocked, stuffy noses and sore throats," he said

"Photocopier cleaning fluid, solvents and other cleansing chemicals accumulate in office space because of building design and these interact with other chemicals and the ultraviolet light from fluorescent tubes to form a deadly chemical smog

"Much of the dust in buildings is in fact dead skin cells. The germs on these collect in the air ducts and breed, spreading fungus and spores all over the office environment

"Sitting in front of a VDT screen can cause facial rashes which a few years ago could not be explained

"One possible explanation is that dust and bacterial particles in the air become negatively charged by contact with the VDT screen and are then attracted to the operator's face to lose their charge, which in turn blocks skin pores and causes a reaction with the sensitive skin cells of the face," he said

"Fluorescent lighting may also be affecting our sleep/wakefulness cycle because the office lighting is always constant and because the wavelength is so different from natural light," he said

Author Erik von Dänken once recorded a case in which an office worker began feeling violently ill whenever he entered his office. This led to vomiting and severe abdominal pains. Investigation showed the air-conditioning unit's vibrations were amplified by the size and location of his office and that this was affecting his heart and brain rhythms. That particular office was turned into a storeroom

"Our indoor environment is totally different from the environment man evolved in over millions of years and many of the effects of the change may yet take years to document," Mr Bridger concluded

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June 23, 1989 3

2 hurt as scaffolding collapses

Staff Reporter

TWO demolition workers were seriously injured in Athlone last night when a concrete beam collapsed onto steel scaffolding which then tumbled onto them.

Mr Abdullah Ismael and an unidentified colleague had been demolishing Anchor Hardware in Lawrence Road when the accident happened. They were rushed to Conradie Hospital where their condition was last night described as "satisfactory".

According to a co-worker, Mr Matthew Theunissen, the two men were standing beneath scaffolding on the ground floor of the two-storey building.

A concrete beam supporting a section of the first floor "fell with a bang and knocked against the scaffolding which then fell onto them".

NUCLEAR CO-OPERATION

131 ~~131~~ Pmail 30/6/89.

Eskom joins world powers

The Chernobyl nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union brought massive nuclear fallout and emotional distress to Europe. Ironically, it has also opened doors for SA.

That became clear this week when Eskom CE Ian McRae confirmed Eskom was one of 138 invited signatory members to the World Association of Nuclear Operators (Wano) established in Moscow on May 15.

This breakthrough comes at a time when SA recently faced a Third-World inspired threat of expulsion from the UN-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) — a similar body to which governments, as distinct from utilities, belong.

Wano's mission is to "maximise the safety and reliability of the operation of nuclear power plants by exchanging information and by encouraging comparison, emulation and communication among its members."

All the world's nuclear power-operating utilities, with the exception of Bulgaria's, are Wano members and pass on operational problems experienced at their nuclear plants. But, McRae stresses, this does not include manufacturing technology, which must still be negotiated direct with suppliers and plant manufacturers.

Before Chernobyl, the Soviet Union and its East bloc partners jealously guarded their nuclear plant operating secrets. But the shock of the disaster forced Moscow to reassess its secrecy and to invite Western experts to participate in its clean-up operations. The accident, together with earlier US problems at Three Mile Island, led to an international rethink on peaceful nuclear co-operation.

"We were freely and openly received in Moscow and now have the co-operation of all Wano members in operational problems we may experience, without any political or visa hassles," says McRae. "But I must stress that Eskom is the Wano member, not SA — and Wano is made up of operating nuclear utilities, not governments."

McRae says Eskom is now using nuclear rods produced by SA's Atomic Energy Agency as a fuel base, but refuses to disclose what percentage of its nuclear fuel is still imported. "Our intention is to go for 100% local fuel content," he notes.

But there are no plans "at this stage" to build a second nuclear plant after Koeberg, although Eskom has taken options on land in the eastern Cape.

According to Paul Semark, Eskom GM responsible for power generation. "The siting of a nuclear plant is vital and must be carefully assessed for environmental and other considerations. As acceptable sites in SA are limited, it makes sense to find suitable potential sites as early as possible — with no

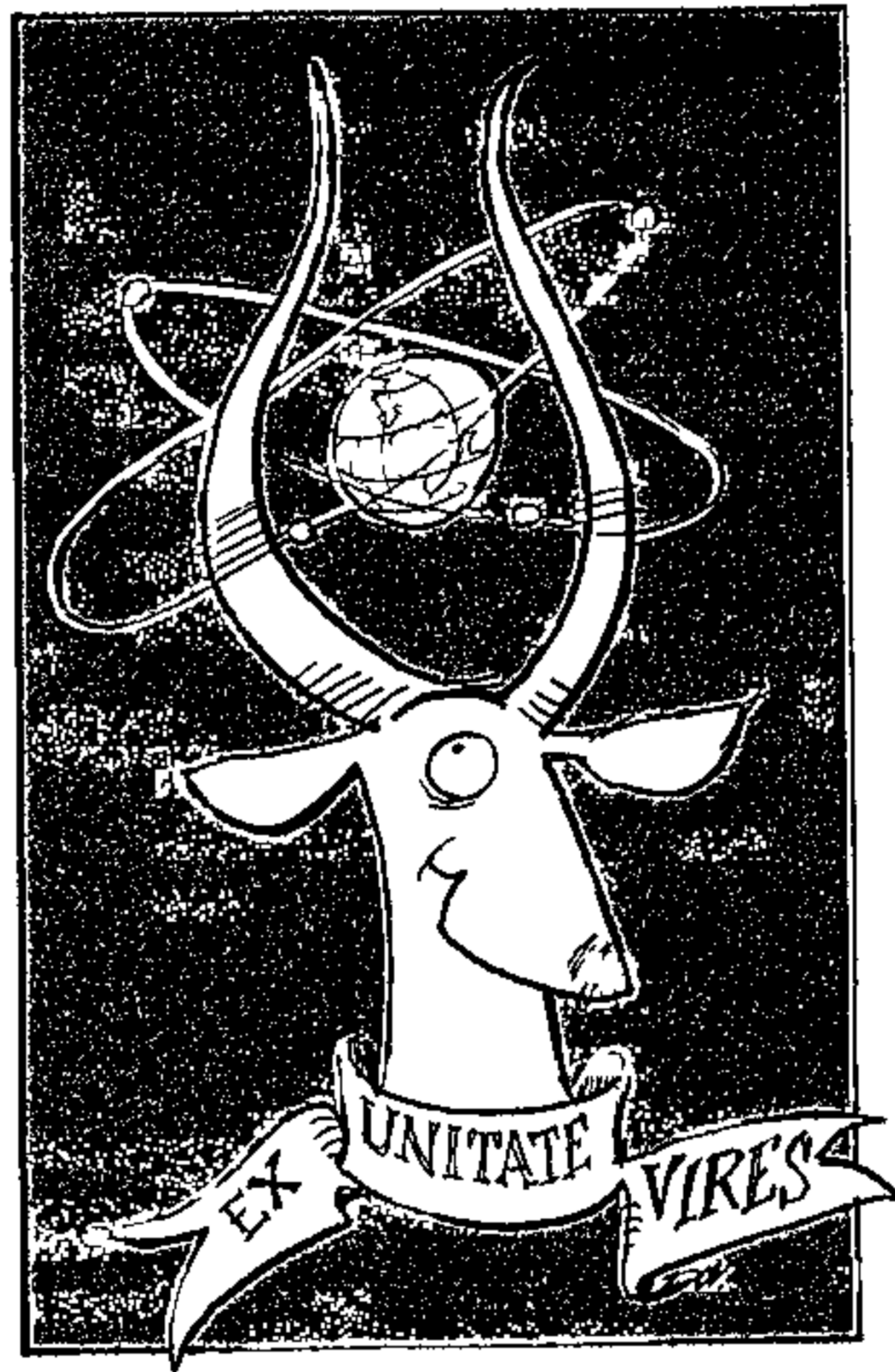
guarantee that a nuclear plant will eventually be built there."

With a nuclear plant still costing about double a similar-sized, coal-fired plant, it makes sense not to rush the issue. "SA's coal is among the cheapest in the world and it makes economic sense to concentrate on that first," says Semark. McRae adds that SA's coal reserves could provide power-generating capacity to 2050.

But two other issues could also affect the choice between coal and nuclear power. There is growing international concern over the so-called greenhouse effect (warming of the earth's atmosphere caused by the burning of fossil fuels). Also, peace moves in southern Africa could speed up McRae's vision of a regional power grid.

— nearly five times SA's current annual electricity consumption of 21 000 MW. McRae also looks forward to the day when events in Zimbabwe and Mozambique allow power from the Zambezi and Kunene rivers to enter the picture.

Oh well, there's nothing wrong with dreaming. ■



"Cleaning up a thermal (coal-powered) station by 'scrubbing' out noxious fumes and carbon dioxide pollutants could add about 30% to capital and running costs. One might reach the stage where a pollution-free nuclear station could become economically more feasible, thus eliminating the greenhouse risk," says Semark.

McRae says peace moves in Angola could open the way for the western portion of his proposed power grid, using the cheaper and pollution-free hydro-power generating capacity of the Congo River.

Provided Angola and an independent Namibia agree to a link-up, the whole of southern Africa could benefit from the Congo's 100 000 MW/year generating capacity.

(135) *Quora 2/1/15* 

SA asbestos industry bosses call for calm is not new

20 TWENTY years ago, South Africans began to realise that the wonder mineral asbestos was a potential killer. Matters came to a head in 1984 when the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu) entered the controversy and mounted a campaign to have the mineral banned in this country.

Now, after all these years, with the industry saying it is doing all in its power to eliminate the dangers of the killer mineral, the controversy has resurfaced. A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT looks at the debate, which threatens to return the industry, black workers and Bamcwu to the original battle lines.

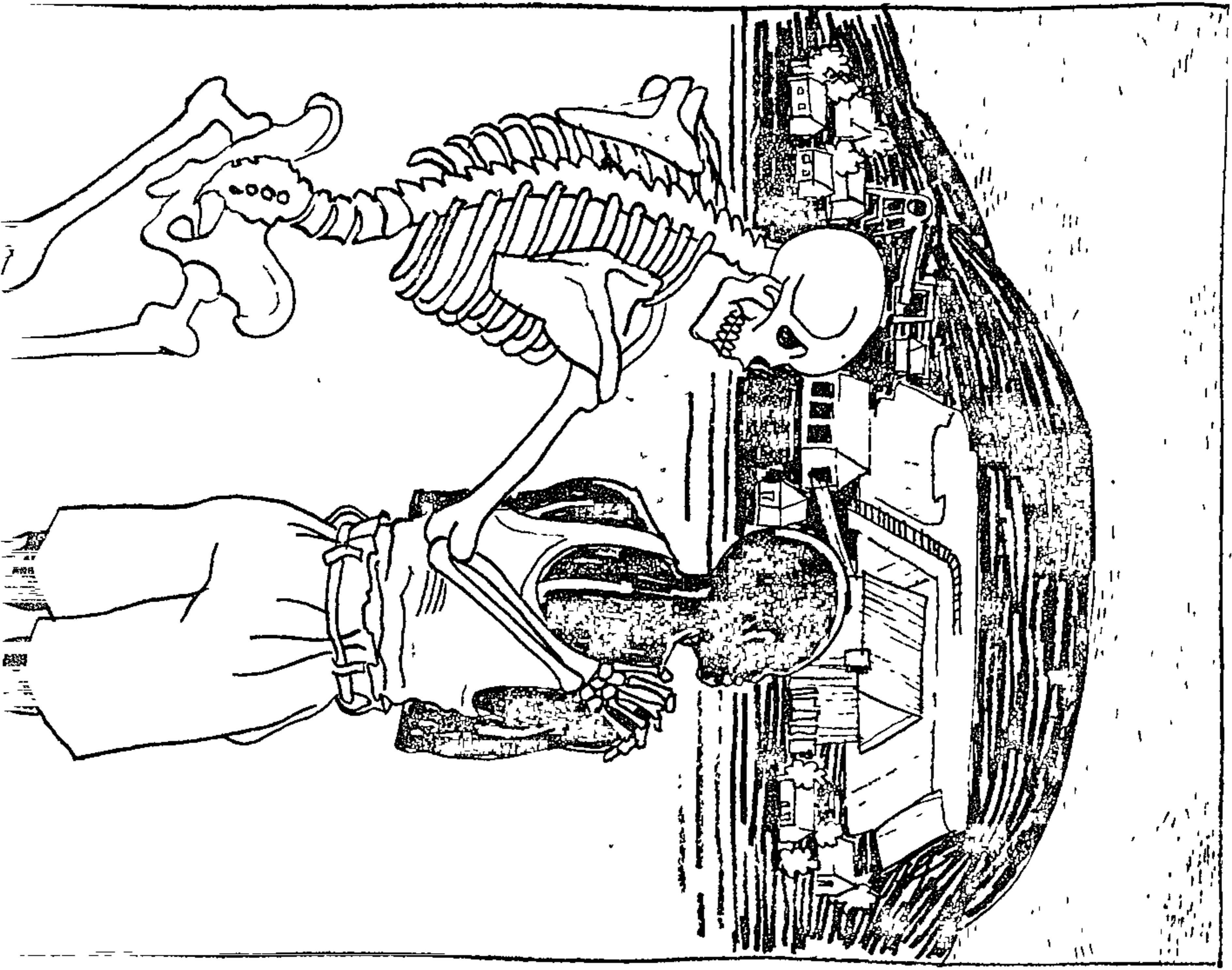
GOING FROM CONTROVERSY TO OVER THE HILL ASBESTOS RESURFACES

IN September 1969, Carel de Wet, then Minister of Health, told the public that the "so-called dangerous effects" of asbestos on the human body were greatly exaggerated, based on insufficient knowledge or misrepresentations, and calculated to cause sensation.

He added that he was satisfied that with the "intensive precautionary measure" employed by the asbestos industry "the risk of contracting asbestosis could, proportionately speaking, today be said to be slight."

most South African asbestos plants have inadequate protective equipment and that work without the equipment should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

The 1987 safety regulations effectively excluded employee representatives from having a part in seeing that these regulations were enforced. However, South Africa continues to lag behind asbestos industries in other countries.



RESURFACES

IN September 1969, Carel de Wet, then Minister of Health, told the public that the "so-called dangerous effects" of asbestos on the human body were greatly exaggerated, based on insufficient knowledge or misrepresentations, and calculated to cause sensation.

He added that he was satisfied that with the "intensive precautionary measure" employed by the asbestos industry "the risk of contracting asbestosis could, proportionately speaking, today be said to be slight".

In 1977, the Minister of Mines, Fanie Botha, was quoted as saying "The results of the stricter, more modern and effective dust-control measures and technical aids will become apparent in 10 or more years time". He predicted that SA would see a considerable drop in the cases of lung disease linked to asbestos exposure.

The predicted improvements have not been seen and the anti-asbestos outcry of 1984 proved beyond doubt that in the '60s and '70s and before, asbestos miners and people living near the asbestos mines were living in death traps.

There was some evidence of this commitment - work started to cover mine dumps and stricter regulations were passed for asbestos mines, among other things.

In 1961, the South African Medical Journal published an article based on research of mesothelioma (lung cancer, which has been linked particularly to blue asbestos) in the north-western Cape.

Not all the victims had been miners - some had been exposed to fibre in the environment.

Yet safety standards did not improve. In defending asbestos, the South African bosses have at times tended to point to the fatality of other minerals, whereas the killer status of asbestos does not hinge on how dangerous other minerals are.

In 1977, the South African bosses pleaded that complaints against asbestos were way out of proportion to the actual risk involved.

INVESTIGATIONS

Fritz Baunach, then secretary of the South African Asbestos Producers Advisory Committee (Saapac), was quoted as saying "The disease caused by prolonged inhalation of asbestos dust in excessive quantities, commonly known as silicosis, is not only linked to asbestos".

The "protection" of asbestos did not happen in South Africa only, however. Asbestosis was first reported in Britain in 1908, sparking off further investigations in

most South African asbestos plants have inadequate protective equipment and that work without the equipment should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.

The 1987 safety regulations effectively excluded employee representatives from having a part in seeing that these regulations were enforced.

However, South Africa continues to lag behind asbestos industries in other countries.

In South Africa, asbestos-based products are freely available and there are no restrictions on their installation or removal.

This decade has also seen the increased use of synthetic fibres such as glasswool and ceramic fibres such as rockwool as substitutes for asbestos in building and insulation, motor cars, furniture and packaging.

Studies of workers producing these synthetics have suggested that the substitutes may also be a health hazard.

In Johannesburg, the city council announced in April this year that it would scrap the use of asbestos-coated filtration bags at the Bushkoppies purification works after these were identified as a health hazard.

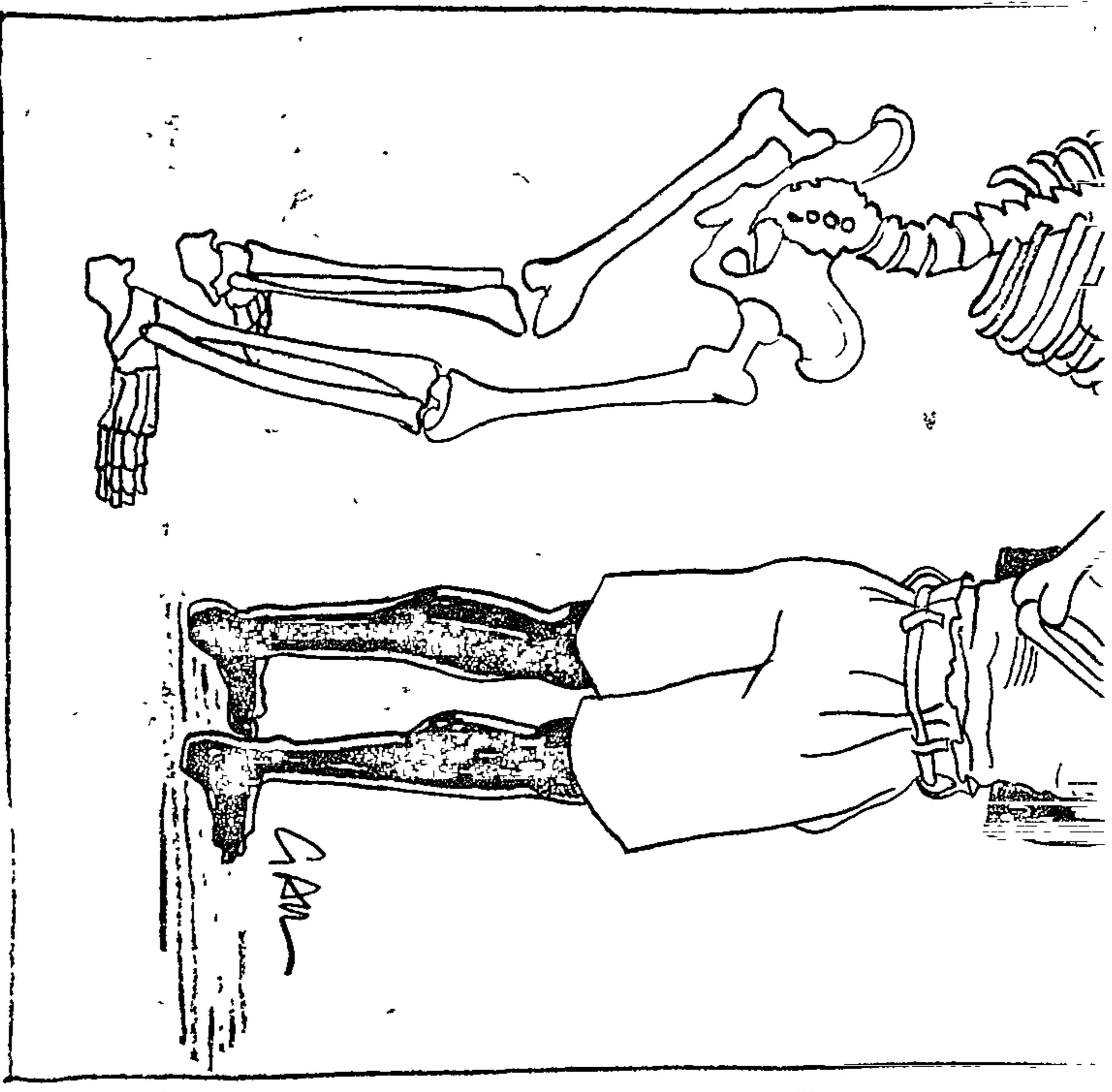
Further than that, there is no indication of a stated concern about asbestos in water elsewhere in this country.

The effects of asbestos in water are not yet known. The South African public thus has no reason to believe the voices calling for calm - they have been heard before, and proved wrong.

'Once miners contracted asbestos-related diseases, they were sacked'

MOTSIU Mogale is a 17-year-old pupil doing Standard 8 in Taung, in the north-eastern Transvaal.

He never plays with his peers - his only participation in running and football matches is confined to being a spectator. Besides being unable to physically over-exert himself he feels pain when he coughs, which he does regularly.



of asbestos "There is a general idea that it is dangerous but the community is not quite clear on how".

He added that a new building site had been started by the community near the dumps "Some people have moved from Taung to the new site below the dumps because they say it is closer to the road".

Mafefe, about a hundred kilometres away from Taung, is an even sordid sight.

"During that time it also became clear that workers were being badly underpaid. Penge workers decided to go on strike in July 1984, raising three issues in their demands: wages, health and safety and the recognition of their union."

"Instead of mine bosses addressing the issues they dismissed the striking workers - about 1 700. The Bamewu raised the issue of regulations on the dismis-

hinge on how dangerous other minerals are
In 1977, the South African bosses pleaded that
complaints against asbestos were way out of proportion
to the actual risk involved

INVESTIGATIONS

Fritz Baunach then secretary of the South African
Asbestos Producers Advisory Committee (Saapac),
was quoted as saying "The disease caused by pro-
longed inhalation of asbestos dust in excessive quanti-
ties, commonly known as silicosis, is not only linked
to asbestos"

The "protection" of asbestos did not happen in South
Africa only, however Asbestos was first reported in
Britain in 1908, sparking off further investigations in
that country

As a result, in the '80s, asbestos is a peril that never
should have been Asbestos managers argue above the
heads of victims and potential victims about whether
there is consensus on the differences in fibre toxicity or
whether it is the size and shape of fibre rather than its
physical properties which determine whether it is a
hazard

Each one presents studies, or the lack of them, to
support his case.

The local counterpart of the Canadian Asbestos
Institute, Saapac, accused the Canadians of lobbying
for their own white asbestos industry (Canada pro-
duces only white asbestos)

OPPOSITION

The South Africans argued that in contrast with
Saapac, which represents the interests of chrysotile as
well as crocidolite and amosite (brown) products, the
Canadian Institute is aimed at advancing the cause of
chrysotile - even at the expense of the other fibres

Saapac maintained that it had studied the same
body of evidence as the Canadian Institute but had
reached different conclusions, that all the available
evidence proves that all asbestos fibres are the same in
their biological effects on men.

White asbestos is presented mainly by countries who
do not produce any other asbestos type, such as
Zimbabwe and Canada, as the "better fibre" which
does not need to be harmful if used properly

Such opinion is meeting a lot of opposition, however
To date, there are fewer controls in South Africa
than in other countries In the '50s, dust counts in
South African mines stood at hundreds of fibres per
millilitre of air a scientific measurement and as far as
the layman is concerned the dust particles are invisible
to the naked eye

Unhappily however, they are very "visible" to the
human lung

The set standard currently stands at 15/ml - far
higher than in other countries - and research scientists
have not established a precise "safe" exposure level for
asbestos

Geico and Msauli, the South African mine bosses,
say they are committed to these levels, which were
lowered in terms of regulations gazetted in 1987, after
initially being set at 25/ml in 1984.

The Industrial Health Research Group, part of Cape
Town University's sociology department, has said that

Once miners contracted asbestos-related diseases, they were sacked'

MOTSIU Mogale is a 17-year-old pupil doing
Standard 8 in Taung, in the north-eastern
Transvaal

He never plays with his peers - his only participation
in running and football matches is confined to being a
spectator

Besides being unable to physically over-exert himself
he feels pain when he coughs, which he does regularly
His speech is also marred by constant gasping, as if he
is running out of breath

He says he has TB, which he contracted while doing
his primary education at the notorious Lekuboshi
school, relocated in 1985 from an old white-asbestos
mine in Krommeleboog and rebuilt about three kilo-
metres away

The school was moved after wide media attention on
the health hazards posed by uncovered asbestos mine
dumps in the area

Mogale remembers playing on the dumps at primary
school and told City Press that asbestos was the reason
he had TB

He went to Mandagshoek Hospital for the first time
in 1987 and was told he had TB He was given
medication and sent home After a short while, the
coughs and the pain returned but he has never gone
back to the hospital

Mogale does not live with his parents His mother is
employed at Burgerstort and comes home once a
month His father was a migrant worker who returned
to a home Mogale does not know after his contract
expired

At Taung he lives with his uncle Mogale says the
two of them never discuss his TB

He adds that he feels unbearable pain only when he
plays When he relaxes he feels better So he tries to
relax all the time and never complains

Mogale has the symptoms of asbestosis His story is a
symbol of what is currently happening in South Africa
ca's asbestos mining areas Asbestos-related diseases
have been misdiagnosed as TB for a long time People
interviewed in the area invariably refer to asbestos-
related diseases as TB

Mogale is also a symbol of the ignorance concerning
the implications of the asbestos peril and his story
contradicts the general belief that the thousands of
elderly people dying as a result of exposure to asbestos
are the last generation to be affected by it

Not far from Mogale's school are uncovered dumps
which schoolchildren pass through on their way to and
from home

STILL WORRIED

A teacher said he was thankful the old school had
been moved away from the mine but that he was still
worried about the location of the new school in relation
to the dumps

He said the community was not aware of the dangers

of asbestos "There is a general idea that it is dangerous
but the community is not quite clear on how"

He added that a new building site had been started
by the community near the dumps "Some people have
moved from Taung to the new site below the dumps
because they say it is closer to the road"

Mafefe, about a hundred kilometres away from
Taung, is an even sorer sight

City Press visited the area, characterised by grey
sand and dilapidated asbestos homes At the local
primary school, asbestos fibre was picked up off the
grounds on which the children play

The school building itself is made of asbestos cement
and is so old that the cement is breaking up in places

At Penge Mine itself asbestos dust coats the windows
and fibres lie on the grounds Dumps leading to the
mine have been covered and the work is continuing - a
group of women were working on the dumps without
respirators Behind the workers' hostel is a huge uncov-
ered dump

TOTAL BAN

A nurse who worked at Penge Mine hospital from
1964 to 1983 confirmed that hundreds of miners came
to the hospital with chest complaints every month and
were found to have asbestos-related diseases

However, they were never given a true picture of
their condition

"Once they were found to have asbestos-related
problems they were dismissed from the mine," she said,
adding that the medical staff did not feel a responsibil-
ity to tell the miners what was really wrong "The
Penge office has improved," she said

It is against this background that the Black Allied
Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu) is
calling for a total ban on asbestos in this country

The union's publicity secretary, Mbululo Rakwena,
traced the history of his organisation's anti-asbestos
campaign, which was launched in 1984

"In 1983 the union started organising at Penge,
which was the first asbestos mine we came across

"We found it odd that so many of our members were
complaining of chest diseases Some were being laid off
as a result of these problems Because of concern over
the problem, the union commissioned Azapo's health
secretariat to conduct research into the unusual chest
complaints

"It then emerged that we were dealing with asbestos-
related ailments The hospital had told our member-
ship that they had TB but, when the results of the
research were presented, it emerged that we were
dealing with a much bigger problem

"Only then did the union expand its horizons We
started looking into the asbestos problem locally and
internationally We also started to inform our member-
ship of the submissions made by the doctors and our
own study

"During that time it also became clear that workers
were being badly underpaid Penge workers decided to
go on strike in July 1984, raising three issues in their
demands: wages, health and safety and the recognition
of their union

"Instead of mine bosses addressing the issues they
dismissed the striking workers - about 1 700 The
Bamcwu raised the issue of regulations on the dismis-
sals of asbestos workers in a subsequent interdict
hearing instituted by the bosses when workers refused
to leave the compound"

EXAMINED

According to Rakwena, the regulations stated that
workers had to be fully examined first Penge did
examine the workers - all of them in 24 hours

"That examination could not have been properly
conducted, judging by the number of workers in-
volved," said Rakwena

"The workers then decided not to return to Penge,
even if offered re-employment They also asked the
union to tell the villagers to ensure that Penge stopped
functioning"

Such was the birth of Bamcwu's Anti-Asbestos
Campaign For the first time workers had learned that
they were being underpaid in a death trap

Rakwena says working committees were then
formed to inform the people about the dangers of
asbestos Community leaders, schools and churches
around Penge were visited and the campaign later
spread to the Cape, where the union started organising
at asbestos mines

Bamcwu's drive has been hampered by a number of
factors Rakwena admits that the level of awareness in
communities neighbouring asbestos mines and dumps
is still low

"Written information should be made accessible and
we are dealing with communities where we still have to
use a lot of oral communication," said Rakwena

"We distributed pamphlets and the mainstream
media responded well in the period 1984-86, but those
methods are most effective in urban communities We
need to communicate with the people who are contin-
ually coming into contact with asbestos If they were
fully aware of the implications, they would be refusing
to touch the deadly substance now"

The bosses' own propaganda has also created prob-
lems for the anti-asbestos campaign

"Black people are still not protected from occupa-
tional diseases The ratio of compensation of white to
black workers by the Workman's Compensation Fund
stands at 15:1," said Rakwena

There is no doubt about the achievements of Bam-
cwu's campaign - the outcry of 1984 brought a number
of positive changes by South Africa's asbestos bosses,
Geico and Msauli

But the road ahead will not be easy

■ NEXT WEEK THE INDUSTRY ANSWERS

FATAI FIBRES

13/1

Consultant answers report on asbestos dangers

RIAN Gibson, consultant to one of the country's major manufacturers of asbestos products, Everite, answers some questions on the asbestos controversy

Responding to statements in last week's *City Press* report on asbestos which was first labelled a killer mineral in 1984, he said

Although it may only be cold comfort not all asbestos cases add up to lung cancer - more like 10 percent

However we cannot escape the fact that asbestos has indeed resulted in a great deal of suffering

STATEMENT Most South African asbestos plants use inadequate protective equipment

REPLY The asbestos regulations require that only protective masks approved by the chief inspector are used

It is important to make a distinction between the brown amphibole asbestos fibres and the white chrysotile fibres used in South Africa

South African asbestos cement building materials contain about 10 percent chrysotile fibres in a cement matrix

Even the fiercest critics of asbestos acknowledge that current occupational exposures to chrysotile fibres are no longer likely to cause asbestos or lung cancer

STATEMENT Everite to close last London factory

REPLY The closure of the last London plant was partly due to economic conditions in the border region coupled with the

technology and performance durability

STATEMENT Asbestos-related diseases have been misdiagnosed as TB for a long time

REPLY I am not able to say whether asbestos-related diseases are being misdiagnosed as tuberculosis

Nevertheless there is no scientific correlation between asbestos exposure and the increasing incidence of TB in South Africa

STATEMENT Inhalation of asbestos fibre either occupationally or in the environment can cause asbestos mesothelioma or bronchogenic carcinoma (lung cancer)

REPLY Asbestos is a disease of occupational or para-occupational exposure only

Ordinary citizens do not get asbestos from normal

environmental exposure

Living on an asbestos mine dump can hardly be considered normal exposure

Mesothelioma and lung cancer among highly exposed local populations are always linked to the amphibole asbestos types and not to chrysotile fibres

The mining companies argue strongly that under modern occupational conditions there is no difference in the toxicity of the various fibre types

I think it is generally accepted however that the excessive amphibole exposures of the past in mines and their surrounds - and in industry - are the cause of current mesotheliomas and lung cancers

These diseases have a latency period of up to 50 years after exposure

Mask against death asbestos fibres used to protect workers from inhaling fatal



The big asbestos debate rages on

Last week *City Press* carried two articles on the asbestos controversy. A special correspondent reported on how this mineral was killing thousands of people who work or live in the areas where it is mined

PAT HART, executive chairman of the Grunaland Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco) and Misauli - responds to some of the issues which were raised

THIS is a complex and controversial subject on which even the experts cannot agree and where the contradictory and far from definite evidence marshalled by the opposing lobbies tends to confuse rather than clarify

We therefore do not propose to take issue with the many contentious statements and dubious conclusions

Our stance on this matter has been fully documented and frequently stated in public

We must however set the record straight on several major errors of fact and interpretation which directly refer to Gefco or its Penge mine

You say that the improvements suggested by the Minister of Mines in 1977 have not been seen

The record in fact indicates substantial and continuing improvements in safety standards and air quality in asbestos mines and works

In 1977 the dust level at Penge was 45 fibres a millilitre of air. Ten years before it had been 65 f/ml and in the fifties the count was in the hundreds

with BAMICWU at Penge and has allowed the union to establish a recruiting office at the mine

There are several references in your article to uncovered dumps and the health risk they pose

Mine says critics simplify issues

Since the mid-70s Gefco and Misauli have been involved in an ambitious campaign to rehabilitate the environment at their mines and have already spent about R7 million on this project

Border Region, coupled with the unattractive proposition of having to spend a further R10 million on converting an uneconomic plant to the so-called new technology - asbestos fibre replacement - STATEMENT The cancer risk of ingested asbestos fibre has not yet been established

REPLY Worldwide research into the possible risk of cancer arising from ingested asbestos has shown negative results regardless of whether asbestos cement pipes contribute to raw water-fibre levels or not

The World Health Organisation, among others has given asbestos cement pipes a clean bill of health and argues forcibly that such pipes are highly appropriate for developing countries in terms of raw material availability manufacturing



Women employed to cover the dangerous asbestos dumps take a break - but they have been working without respirators

Table 2.5 Artisan 1980 - 1988

YEAR	NOMINAL WAGE	REAL WAGE
1978	146	188.1
1979	148	168.4
1980	148	148.0
1981	186	161.5
1982	233	176.4
1983	233	157.0

Nat MP wants more space for black

Toddy, eight years after Gefco look over control of the mine the dust level at Penge stands at an average of 1.2 f/m³ - well below the internationally accepted saturation limit of 2 f/m³

At present about 85 percent of all employees at Penge do not work in conditions where the dust level is below 1 f/m³ and the mine is striving to make this 100 percent

These are not our own figures - the dust levels at our mines are monitored regularly by government inspectors

You quote a source as saying that between 1963 and 1984 hundreds of workers a month arrived at the Penge Mine Hospital with chest complaints

The incidence of dust-related diseases before the controls had been implemented was of course much higher than it is today

The figure of hundreds however is a gross exaggeration. In the worst of those years 1982/83 100 certifications were made

In 1984-89 new cases were certified in 1985 there were 20 in 1986 29 in 1987 44 in 1988 22 and thus far this year there has been one

This dramatically falling trend is indisputable evidence of the effectiveness of the ongoing safety measures

The article further alleged that workers with asbestos-related diseases were discharged from the mine as soon as it was established they had such diseases

In terms of South African legislation Gefco was not allowed to employ workers with chronic lung infection in dusty areas and wherever possible it found alternative employment for them in other areas of the mine

This legislation has now been eased and at present there are 77 certified workers employed at Penge many in their original work areas

Gefco is again accused by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU) of having a bad industrial relations reputation

In fact there is a great deal of industrial harmony and a substantial common purpose between management and employees at all its operations as the low labour turnover figures and the minimal work stoppages indicate

While it operates a successful system of workers councils it also acknowledges the important role of unions and recognises the National Union of Mineworkers at the Msabuni mine

It also has an access agreement

Mes, of the uncovered dumps, are at old abandoned mines which have no connection with Gefco or Msabuni and are the responsibility of the South African and Lesotho governments

Such is Gefco's concern however that it provides additional bridging finance for rehabilitation projects in these areas while government funding was being withheld

Mutual for example is not Gefco's responsibility but Gefco has been using its influence to get the site to fund the clean up

Krombichberg also fills under the control of the state but here too Gefco has paid out of its own pocket for a new school to be established well away from the dumps

Ironically it did so at a time when its funds had been restricted by a sharp reduction in sales caused by the worldwide anti-asbestos campaign

Contrary to the impression created by your sources government officials have been taking regular environmental air samples at Krombichberg since 1985 and in all cases readings have been well below the limit

'DEATH TRAPS'

The articles also refer to the asbestos mines as death traps

The cause of improved safety in the asbestos industry is important and cannot be advanced by wild allegations

Gefco has given ample proof of its profound concern for the health and welfare of its workers and of those who live on and around its mines

The facts show how effective the measures it has taken have been

Far from being death traps Penge and the other asbestos mines are safe, productive work places in areas where there are very few other employment opportunities

Not doubt there is still room for improvement Gefco for its part remains committed to reducing the already minimal health risk even further and its doors are open to the BAMCWU or anyone else who has a constructive suggestion to make in this regard

At the May 1989 conference of the Asbestos International Association in Brussels the International Labour Organisation document *Safety in the Use of Asbestos* was again endorsed by all participants including Gefco

Three injured in workshop blast

STW
2/17/89

East Rand Bureau

131


Three workers at a plant hire firm in Kempton Park were critically injured when a gas bottle exploded early yesterday

A fire department spokesman said the incident happened in Birch Acres at 9 45 am

Mr Alex Malengeni (35), Mr Piet Lekwane (33) and a man known as Lazarus suffered leg fractures and serious burns

The owner of the firm, Mr Manny Koukouzellis, said he heard a terrific explosion

"It sounded as though a bomb had gone off," he said

OXYGEN

The men were apparently trying to refill a gas bottle with oxygen when the explosion occurred.

The fire department spokesman said the men could have been smoking, which may have triggered the explosion

They were repairing a truck and used the gas to heat up the bolts

Extensive damage was caused to two trucks and a concrete wall

The injured were taken by ambulance to the Tembisa Hospital where they were reported to be in a critical condition

(131) wmail 28/7-3/8/89.

THE WORLD

30 years on, Soviets lift lid on world's 'worst nuclear disaster'

THE world's first nuclear accident occurred in the Soviet industrial complex of Kyshtym on a September evening in 1957. But there was no government mention of it, because this place and its 100 000 inhabitants did not officially exist.

Ten thousand citizens were hastily evacuated, tons of soil were moved and buried, a large area was declared unfit for human use, and a special research centre was created to monitor the health of the nearby residents.

But all of the records were sealed in

A 1957 blast at a Soviet nuclear plant may have killed hundreds, reports JEFFREY SMITH. But an official news blackout was lifted only this month with the announcement of a public inquiry into the incident.

a thorough, highly successful effort to prevent any disclosure that might have interfered with the secret complex's fevered attempt to build a So-

viet arsenal of nuclear weapons to match those held by the United States.

In the first discussions with any foreigners about what happened, Soviet officials who were present at the time of the accident revealed last week that a grievous set of technical misjudgements and poor work habits caused the explosion of a large vat of wastes from the production of plutonium, a key weapons ingredient.

An estimated two million curies of radioactive elements were subsequently deposited by a strong wind in a swathe of countryside 100km long and 8km wide. Soviet officials emphasised that the Kyshtym accident released only a small fraction of the total amount of radiation released by the accident at Chernobyl. Plant officials here insisted, moreover, that the accident did not cause any deaths.

But exiled Soviet biologist Zhores Medvedev, who first exposed the disaster in a 1979 book, estimates that hundreds may have died from the radiation effects. He says that the accident disseminated a larger quantity of the long-term radioactive substance, strontium-90, than Chernobyl, prompting him to term the 1957 incident the worst nuclear accident in history.

He and others have cited eyewitness accounts by emigrés, who claim to have seen hospitals filled with heavily bandaged patients whose skin was sloughing off. There is also a widespread conviction among local citizenry that many subsequent deaths can be attributed to radiation.

The evacuation wiped many small villages and towns off the map and forced the Moscow Institute for Biophysics to establish a local branch to keep track of all those exposed. The records of the disaster or its aftermath have never been made public, although Medvedev found oblique references to them in a few published scientific studies.

Now, in what amounts to official recognition of its inability to suppress history, the government is preparing to release the health records and hold the first public hearing on the accident before a special commission of the new Soviet legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

The first step in this direction came last month when a senior official of the Soviet Ministry of Medium Machine Building — the agency responsible for nuclear weapons manufacturing — told reporters that there had, in fact, been a nuclear accident 32 years ago.

Next, Eugeny Mikerin, a leading Soviet atomic energy expert, revealed that he had been manager of a plant built on the grounds of a complex that produced plutonium. He said the radioactive wastes were dumped into a series of stainless steel and concrete tanks.

To keep the wastes from becoming explosive due to a natural chemical reaction, he said, they were cooled by a coil of water tubing along the interior wall of each tank. The designers of the tanks did not provide a mechanism for repairing the tubes in the event they failed, he added.

Some time in 1956, the tubing in one of the tanks began to leak and was then shut off. Mikerin said that faulty calculations by scientists indicated that the wastes were stable and not highly radioactive.

As a result, more than a year lapsed with little or no effort to devise a means of repair. During this period, the wastes began to dry. By chance, Mikerin said, "a control device in the tank produced a spark", which detonated the salts.

Mikerin said the "agricultural district" bore the brunt of the disaster. Although the reprocessing plant was "the most contaminated of all our facilities", work there was so important it was halted for only a month —
The Washington Post

FIVE workers employed by Hippo Quarries, an Anglo-Alpha group which extracts silica from rocks, are in a dilemma. They have been found to be suffering from silicosis by the Community Health Awareness Project (Chap) and are aware of their bleak future, health and getting employment elsewhere.

Since they started being attended to by Chap health officers, they have come to know that their disease is a result of their exposure to silica dust at work. All the same they are covered by the Workman's Compensation Act. However, they also know that compensation for industrial diseases in SA is racially biased in favour of whites, with the ratio of compensation being 15:1. A number of workers at the company have already been offered R2 000 which can barely compensate for their permanent loss of income potential silicosis, like its twin industrial dust sister asbestosis, is an irreversible life-long chest disease caused by the scattering of lungs by inhaled dust particles.

The dilemma of these workers is whether to receive the lump sum offered by the Pretoria-based company or to institute legal action against Anglo-Alpha for negligence and liability. In their dilemma they

Workers stricken by killer dust disease

have little legal precedence to lean on. Should they receive the compensation offered to them by the company, they would lose their legal right to claim further compensation through the courts of law.

This is a grim story of each worker the Sowetan spoke to: Daniel Moyo (47) said although the company's doctors X-rayed them twice a year he was never informed of the results. Fatigue, recurrent bouts of flu and diabetes continue to plague him. He said he refused the company's offer "as it would not feed my six children, let alone me."

Pension

Stone Scotland (57) said he has been with the company for 23 years as a machine operator. "I refused the company's R2 046 offer because it is nothing." He said the company wanted him pensioned so that his occupational disease could not be linked to his present employment. He said the company knew that if it could be proved beyond

Silicosis causes them to lose jobs

BY MOKGADI PELA

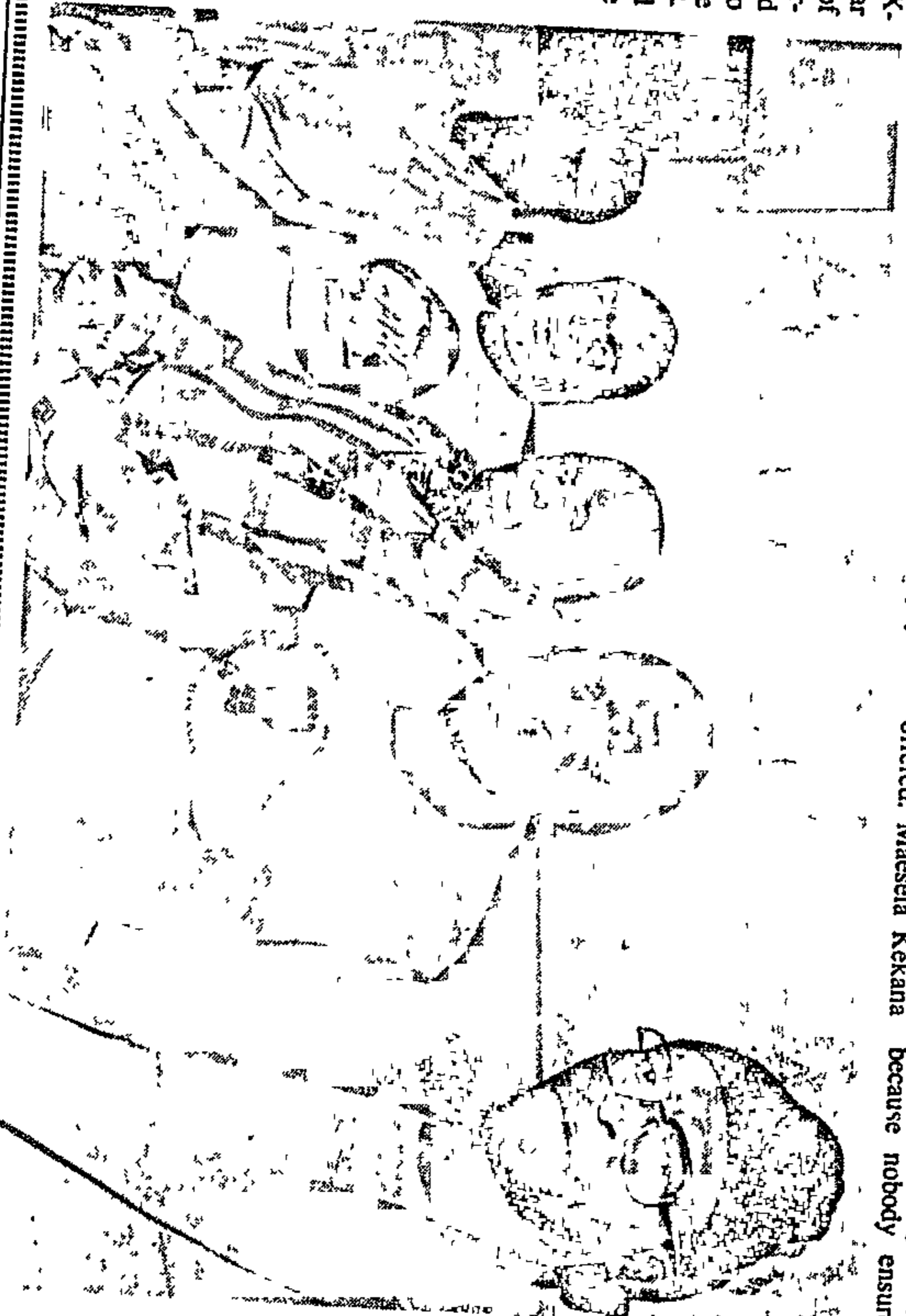
reasonable doubt that his current employment it would have to pay far more than the amount it offered. Maesela Kekana because nobody ensures

(44) said he has been operating a grinding machine for 24 years. A father of four, he complained of pains at night, sweat and listlessness. His latest X-rays showed that he suffered from silicosis, he added. Jackson Maunatlala (56) has been working with a jaw-crusher for 15 years. He said he went for an X-ray test at Kalafong hospital last year and he was told he had traces of silicosis. He was referred to the Mamicodi clinic which is presently giving him treatment for tuberculosis. "That is why we die because nobody ensures that we are given the right treatment," he said. Simon Magolego (49) said when he joined the company six years ago he and his colleagues insisted on being supplied with protective clothing and that has not happened. "This is why today we have become living corpses as a result of this killer dust."

Anglo-Alpha's industrial relations manager, M Foster, recently responded to workers' accusations by saying his company provided comprehensive medical aid and ill-health retirement benefits for all workers through six-monthly X-rays which were checked by an expert on behalf of the company.

"This programme exceeds the requirements of legislation which stipulates nine-monthly screenings," Foster said. Silica dust is an international problem. In Italy it claimed 62 lives in 1977 and in Poland about 90 000 people are at risk of contracting silicosis. Figures for Rumania in 1973 stood at 860 while in 1978 there were 478 confirmed sufferers.

The five unemployed men who are afflicted by silicosis. From far left: Jackson Maunatlala, Maesela Kekana, Simon Magolego, Daniel Moyo and Stone Scotland.



Ill health is the reward many workers receive for labour

131

JAZZ

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THE working class in South Africa suffers many sicknesses and ill health that are scientifically traceable to their material and working conditions, according to general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Pirosshaw Camay.

He said this at a seminar on "Indoor Air Quality" at the University of Witwatersrand recently. "Polluted workplaces, stress and hardship are the traditional rewards the working class receives for its labour. Employers have to address themselves fully to this situation and accept responsibility. All life has to be protected," Camay said.

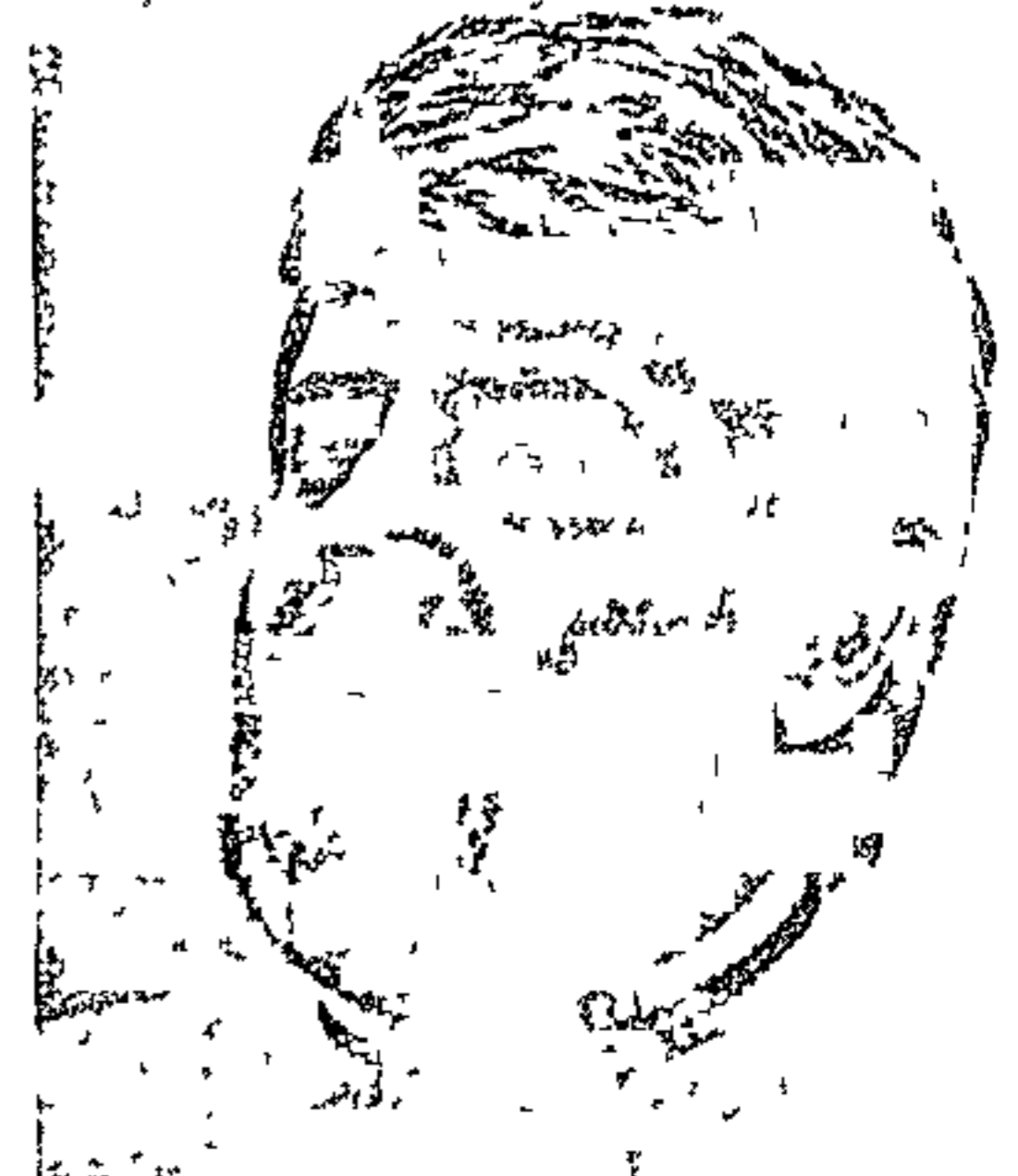
He added that an unhealthy worker working in an unhealthy environment could not be expected to contribute equally. Furthermore, he said, the technical expert's role was crucial in setting the standard.

In the light of these factors which militate against workers' interests, Nactu insisted that management should give shop stewards and members the opportunity to consult and discuss environmental issues.

Inherit

Nactu inherited a Health and Safety Charter from the Council of Unions of -SA which insists on every worker having the right to report safety and health hazards, be protected from victimisation for reporting hazards, information identifying and labelling of dangerous substances set standards on health hazards inspect the workplace for health and safety hazards, accompany state inspectors on their inspections, obtain copies of inspections, complaints and reports, place infringement notices on company notice boards, of access to records of injuries, sue the state for failing to maintain effective standards and participate in annual assessments and studies to improve working life through improving health and safety conditions.

Camay said because nothing much has been done to improve indoor air quality Nactu in conjunction with Wits technicon has sponsored a research programme to cater for this dire need. Office buildings which house workers for



Nactu's Pirosshaw Camay

over 40 hours or more a week may be a home to a wide variety of disease causing bacteria, toxic chemicals and other pollutants' he added.

The air in these buildings can cause headaches, fatigue and sneezing colds flu and long term respiratory problems.

Experts say the sufferers of indoor air pollution include contact lens wearers who discover after an ophthalmological examination that the eye pain they experience is due to corneal oxygen deficiency caused by state indoor air; users of duplicating machines who experience headaches and fatigue and workers who are poisoned by vapours from fibreboard, office furniture, carpet cleansing residues and office machines.

The causes of outdoor air pollution are open windows and ventilation intakes. Interior air pollution's sources include materials used in building construction and in building furnishings heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, office equipment cleaning solutions and paints, Camay said.

He pointed out that tobacco smoke was the most prevalent combustion product in indoor environments. Tobacco smoke can cause irritation of the eyes nose, throat and respiratory tract.

Camay said materials used in the construction of buildings could become indoor pollutants. Asbestos can become dangerous when it disintegrates due to wear and tear.

Regarding preventive strategies Nactu suggested the use of materials that emit no

pollutants particularly volatile organic compounds. Metal is preferable to plastics. It is possible to purchase less hazardous substitutes for indoor environment.

Nactu is sceptical whether there is widespread awareness among employers, unions, insurers and even the government that health care plays an important part in the workplace. Health promotion efforts should range from sophisticated preventive health care programmes to simple anti-smoking clinics, Camay said.

Disputes

As far as health and safety disputes are concerned the federation believes that workers have the right to stop work immediately they detect an unsafe situation. Workers have the right to hold the chief executive officers of every company directly responsible for health and safety in every work situation.

Camay said the conventional wisdom was to blame workers for health and safety issues. Disciplinary action is often counterproductive. He suggested that in developing rules it was important to ensure that they are reasonable instead of rigid. Workers should be informed of rules and hazards as well as consequences of violating them.

He said the community should be informed about the health hazards that exist in the immediate surroundings. Citizens should also have the right to bring civil lawsuits against the owners and operators of the facilities as well as the local authorities as they provide permission to these facilities to exist and operate. Camay said.

Halitosis, the clinical name for bad breath, may well indicate a dental

particles between the teeth, a coated tongue

covered by a growth of organisms, gum disease and other factors can

make breath odour very unpleasant
These dental problems

can be overcome by visiting the dentist or oral hygienist

The working class in South Africa suffers more sicknesses and ill health that are scientifically traceable to their material and working conditions, according to General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, Mr Phiroshaw Camay

He said this at a seminar on "Indoor Air Quality" at the University of Witwatersrand recently

"Polluted workplaces, stress and hardship are the traditional rewards the working class receives for its labour. Employers have to address themselves fully to this situation and accept responsibility. All life has to be protected," Camay said

He added that an unhealthy worker working in an unhealthy environment could not be expected to contribute equally. The technical expert's role was crucial in setting the standard

In the light of these factors which militate against workers' interests, Nactu insisted that management should give shopstewards and members the opportunity to discuss environmental issues

Nactu inherited a Health and Safety charter from the Council of Unions of SA which insists on every worker having the right to report safety and health hazards, be protected from victimisation for reporting hazards, information for identifying and labelling of dangerous substances, set standards on health hazards, inspect the workplace for health and safety hazards, accompany state inspectors on their inspections, obtain copies of inspections, complaints and reports, place infringement notices on company notice boards, of access to records of injuries, sue the state for failing to maintain effective standards and participate in annual assessments and studies to improve working life through improving health and safety conditions

Camay said because nothing much has been done to improve indoor air quality Nactu in conjunction with Wits technicians have sponsored a research programme to cater for this dire need

Health hazards to the SA working class

20/1/87
"Office buildings which house workers for over 40 hours or more a week may be a home to a wide variety of disease causing bacteria, toxic chemicals and other pollutants," he added

The air in these buildings can cause headaches, fatigue, sneezing, colds, flu and long term respiratory problems

Indoors

Experts say the sufferers of indoor air pollution include contact lens wearers who discover after an ophthalmological examination that the eye pain they experience is due to corneal oxygen deficiency caused by stale indoor air, users of duplicating machines who experience headaches and fatigue and workers who are poisoned by vapours from fibreboard, office furniture, carpet cleansing residues and office ma-

chines

The causes of outdoor air pollution are open windows and ventilation intakes. Interior air pollution's sources include materials used in building construction and in building furnishings, heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, office equipment cleaning solutions and paints, Camay said

He pointed out that tobacco smoke was the most prevalent combustion product in indoor environments. Tobacco smoke can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract

Camay said materials used in the construction of buildings could become indoor pollutants. Asbestos can become dangerous when it disintegrates due to wear and tear

Regarding preventive strategies, Nactu suggested the use of material that emits no pollutants, parti-

cularly volatile organic compounds. Metal is preferable to plastics. It is possible to purchase less hazardous substitutes for indoor environment

"Nactu is sceptical whether there is widespread awareness among employers, unions, insurers and even the Government that health care plays an important part in the workplace. Health promotion efforts should range from sophisticated preventive health care programmes to simple anti-smoking clinics," Camay said

Help

As far as health and safety disputes are concerned, the federation believes that workers have the right to stop work immediately they detect an unsafe situation. Workers have the right to hold company chief executives responsible for health and safety

INDUSTRIAL pollution in ocean waters off the Natal coast is high enough to kill the first-born calves of female dolphins and to seriously impair the reproductive system of rare species of the mammal, says a senior researcher.

Victor Cockburn, curator of the marine mammals research division at the Port Elizabeth Museum, told the *Weekly Mail* he had discovered high levels of deadly polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) and DDT in the blubber of bottle-nose dolphins caught in shark nets off the Natal coast.

Levels of the toxins, which undermine the immune system of animals and reduce their reproductive capabilities, were twice as high as those found in Doli's porpoises of the Japanese coast and 10 times the levels found in the St Lawrence Estuary.

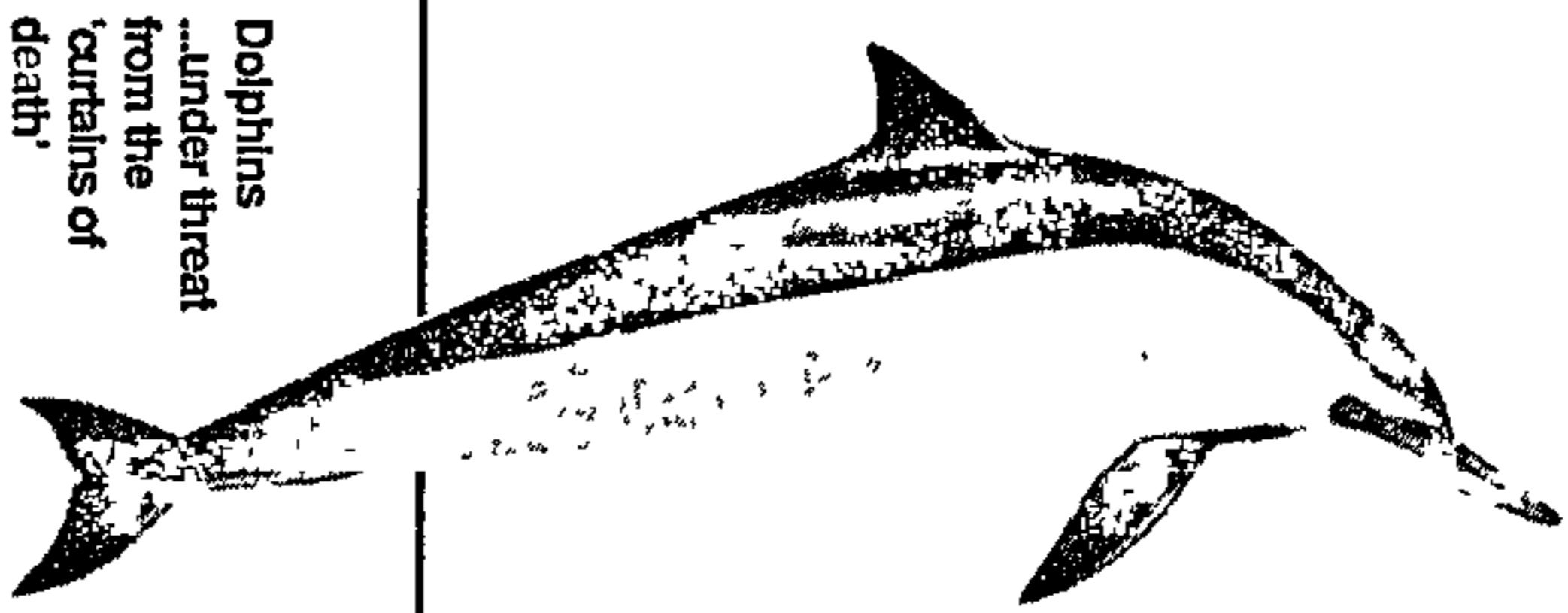
The St Lawrence River in Canada is fed effluent from the industrial belt around the Great Lakes in the United States and is one of the most polluted rivers in the world.

Perhaps even more startling is Cockburn's discovery that the blubber of dead dolphins contains smaller quantities of the banned chemicals, lindane and dieldrin.

These two pesticides, together with DDT, are among the most toxic commercial chemicals in the world and easily enter the food chain because they take an extremely long time to break down. They have been listed as part of the "dirty dozen" — a list of pesticides that have been targeted by environmentalists world-wide.

DDT is used by "homeland" health authorities all over South Africa to control malaria as well as by farmers who obtain special licences to do so. But lindane and dieldrin are banned in South Africa, as in most other parts of the world. Cockburn's findings, due to be published in a forthcoming edition of the *SA Journal of Marine Science*, suggest the banned pesticides may be being used illegally in Natal.

PCBs — highly toxic by-products of factories that make high-temperature electric motors and neon



Dolphins ...under threat from the 'curtains of death'

lights — are included in most of shipments of industrial waste sent for dumping in the Third World. In South Africa, they are supposed to be stored in specialised industrial waste sites designed to eliminate any possibility of dangerous toxins entering the water table.

Cockburn says he found 16 parts per million of PCBs and DDT in blue-nose dolphins and levels three times as high as that in the rare hump-back dolphins. Research has shown that 90 percent of these toxins, stored in the blubber of the animals, is passed on in the milk of female dolphins to first-born calves. "It looks as though Natal bottle-

Natal's sea of toxic waste: Industry blamed for the death of dolphins

The 'dirty dozen' is a list of deadly chemicals environmental groups want banned world-wide. Yet high levels of DDT and other pesticides pose a threat to dolphins off Natal's coast and have been linked to a mysterious disease that cripples women in the Kosi Bay region. By EDDIE KOCH

nose dolphins pass on about 90 percent of the 160 milligrams of PCBs and DDT they have stored," says Cockburn. "Work has been done to show that one-tenth of these levels will kill baby monkeys."

Cockburn says his findings indicate that the efficiency of the reproductive systems of blue-nose dolphins and hump-back dolphins, both on the endangered species list, could be seriously impaired. Because the toxins damage the immune systems of mammals, they have also been linked to the virus epidemics that last year killed vast numbers of seals and some dolphins in the North Sea.

There are about 1 000 bottle-nose dolphins in Natal's coastal waters and just 150 hump-back dolphins. DDT spray contaminates plant life

which is then washed into rivers and eventually the sea. Remnants of the plants are eaten by herbivorous fish which are, in turn, eaten by dolphins and other large fish. Each mature dolphin eats about 50 fish a day and this explains why they ingest such large amounts of DDT.

The hump-back species tends to absorb more PCBs and DDT because they live closer to shore and feed in river mouths where toxic levels are high. Lower levels of toxic waste were found in "common" species of dolphins that live in Natal waters.

The pollutants appear to have their origins in the industrial belt around Durban, Richards Bay and Empangeni and the intensely cultivated agricultural land in the Natal Midlands. Cockburn says toxic levels are much

lower in dolphins on the south coast of Natal where there is less industrial and agricultural activity. Skiboat fishermen from the Richards Bay area were this month reported as saying that effluents pumped directly into the sea by the huge paper mill and fertiliser plant in the area were not being dispersed and that the seabed of the port was covered in a layer of sludge.

A representative for the Department of Health in Pretoria told the *Weekly Mail* that some 126 000kg of DDT is used each year to control malaria in South Africa.

"In the South African malaria control programme DDT is exclusively used for internal house-spraying and not to control larvae in water. In this way no ecological pollution occurs," the representative said.

"Here, as well as in South America, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia, DDT remains the most effective pesticide to control malaria. DDT is recommended by the World Health Organisation for malaria control in all of these countries."

●Meanwhile the Cape-Town based Dolphin Action and Protection Group says evidence is mounting that a more ominous threat to the survival of dolphins — the use of vast drift nets by commercial fishing vessels — is making an appearance in South African waters.

Such nets, used primarily for tuna fishing, reach 30m into the sea and are sometimes 40km long. They have been dubbed "curtains of death" because they ensnare not only tuna but any other form of bird and fish life. "Ghost" nets are often cut loose by fishing trawlers and abandoned in the open ocean where they continue to kill sea life long after they have any commercial use.

DDT linked to mystery disease in Kosi Bay

A MYSTERY bone disease that afflicts one in every three women in the kwazulu district of Kosi Bay has been linked by researchers to the widespread use of DDT in the "homeland".

By EDDIE KOCH

estimates around Kosi Bay for protein and this could be a source of high intakes of DDT. Maclaren said the prevalence of the disease appeared to diminish in

estuaries around Kosi Bay for protein and this could be a source of high intakes of DDT. Maclaren said the prevalence of the disease appeared to diminish in

Forgotten victims of accidents at work

OCCUPATIONAL safety is an important part of the workplace, but confusion and dissatisfaction dominate discussions about it.

Nobody seems clear about exactly how many South African workers suffer disabling injuries each year. According to the Workmen's Compensation Commission (WCC), about 270 000 people are victims of disabling injuries each year.

About 1 700 are killed, 22 000 are permanently disabled and 115 000 suffer temporary disablement.

National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) official Ron Mackinnon puts the figure closer to 350 000 — 2 000 killed each year, 27 000 permanently disabled, 145 000 temporarily, 7 000 suffering amputations and 500 being blinded.

Nosa managing director Bunny Lattysen says in the 1987-88 report on the performance of the enterprise

which suffered disablement each year fell from 4% in 1951 to 1.6%.

"It would seem that these figures reflect a healthy trend as far as injury prevention in S.A.'s concerned. Seemingly the interaction of many factors has helped to put this trend in motion."

"These include the upgrading of management skills — 300 000 people have attended Nosa courses over the past 17 years — and the WCC keeping the claims costs and overheads at an optimum level."

But a report by academics Jean Ledger and Ian Macnair says accident statistics could be 50% higher than the WCC figure. They argue that WCC reports only compensated accidents, excludes employees above a certain wage limit and those who are unregistered.

report accidents, or only those which cause the loss of more than three working days.

Leger and Macnair also question the disabling injury frequency rate (DIFR). They say the DIFR measures the accident rate of only 53% of the workforce covered by the WCC's accident fund and does not take public holidays and annual leave into account when workers are not exposed to injury.

Government representatives, members of the private sector and trade unionists spoke at a seminar held by the Ergonomics Society of SA at the week about problem areas of industrial safety.

Industrial Aid Society research officer Marcus Torren pinpointed gripes that workers and unions had about occupational safety.

He said the fact that the Machinery

and the Workmen's Compensation Act (WCA) had been drafted as separate entities did not promote employer interest in safety.

Both laws had been drafted by professionals appointed by the Department of Manpower and other organisations, but workers were excluded.

"Workers see the legislation as having been imposed on them, and do not fully understand its intricacies. As a result, it is unlikely that a shop steward will willingly study reams of rules."

"It must be accepted that workers have a legitimate role to play in establishing safety in the workplace."

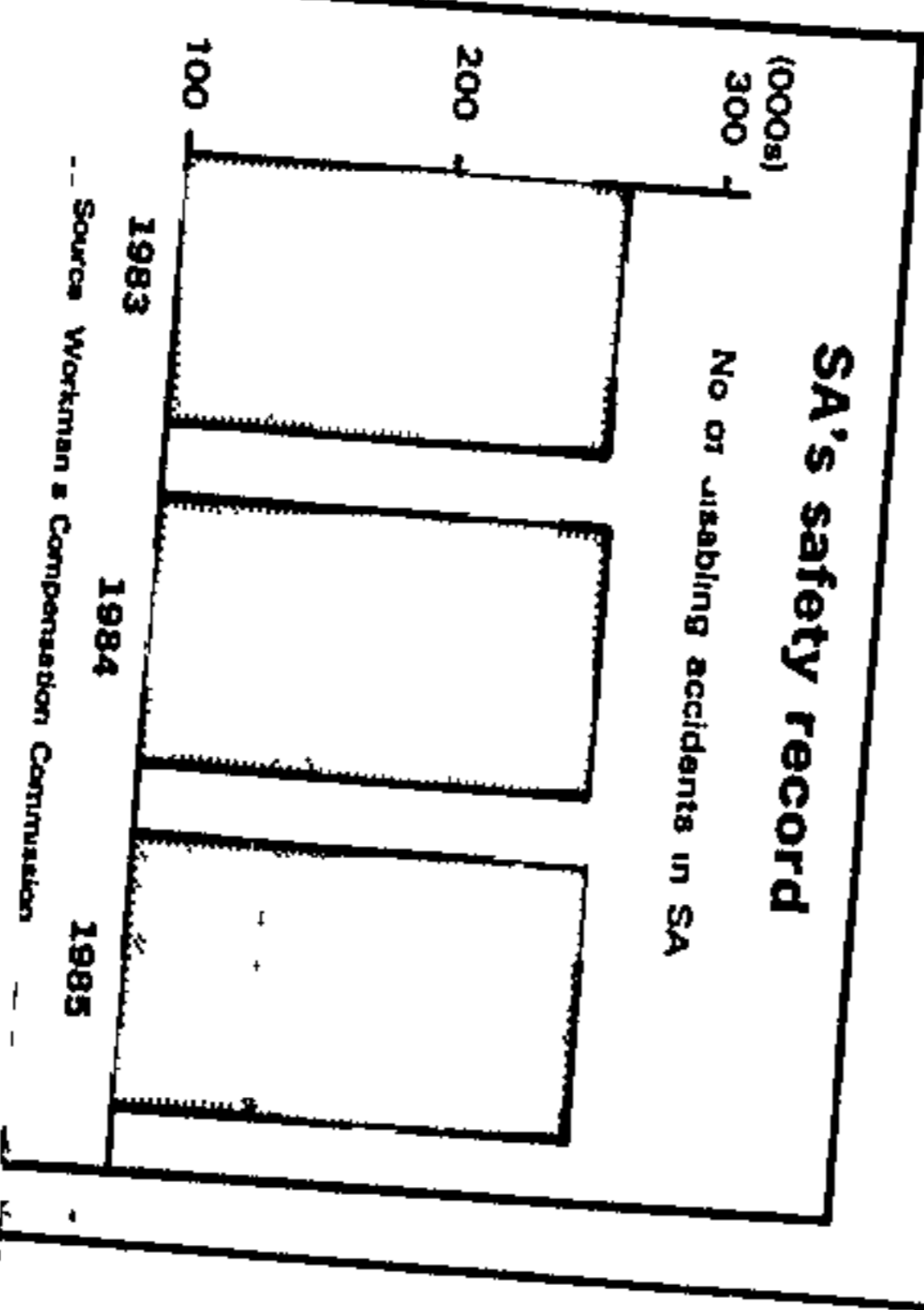
Mr Torren said the administration of the WCA discouraged employers from reporting accidents, especially if they had a good record. He said they were often reluctant to jeopardise good

If employers did not report accidents, the only action taken against them was a reprimand from the Department of Manpower. In the past three years, about two companies had been prosecuted for this offence.

Another major development the Industrial Aid Society had picked up was that about 69% of all workers involved in accidents were dismissed.

"Employers state reasons for dismissal as too much time off to go to doctors or the WCC. There is nothing in the WCA which protects workers against this."

Wits industrial psychologist and ergonomist James Fisher said smaller businesses employing fewer than 50 workers presented a major problem. Most did not employ safety specialists, might not have time for proper training and often bought defective equip-



Clinic for job ailments

A WORKERS' clinic was launched at Community House in Salt River this week by the Industrial Health Group.

The clinic is for people who have work-related illnesses and is open to workers who belong to a trade union affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) or any unaffiliated trade union

It will operate from the Salt River Methodist church in Durham Avenue on Thursday evenings between 4pm and 7pm, the Nactu offices in Atlantic House, Corporation Street on the second Saturday of the month between 10am and 12 noon; and the Cosatu offices in the Metropolitan Building, Kasselsvlei Road, every Monday evening between 4pm and 7pm

Workers wishing to attend the clinic must make arrangements through their shopstewards

The clinic aims to help unions keep a record and train shopstewards regarding work-related illnesses

Future plans include opening a properly-equipped and established clinic as well as a mobile one

21-27/9/89.

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Scarred then sacked

From SIZWE ZONDANI
PORT ELIZABETH. — A worker whose face and body are covered with sores allegedly as a result of chemicals he worked with, has lost his job after returning from sick leave.

And according to doctors, several other workers at the

same firm face serious health risks.

James Baartman, 32, said he was fired from Chem Serve Colloids in Port Elizabeth's Markman township for absenteeism

"I took sick leave during the September 5 - 6 stayaway because I needed to see a doctor about my skin. When I returned to work, I was made to sign a final warning notice. I refused to sign a dismissal form," Baartman said.

Baartman began working at the company in 1984 and developed skin lesions two years later.

He claimed that the company accused him of lying about his illness which they said he acquired in the township.

According to Baartman's doctor, the sores are relieved by steroids but become aggravated when he returns to work.

The doctor, whose name cannot be revealed for professional reasons, said he has two other patients from the same company suffering from similar skin problems. He has referred one of these workers to a specialist.

Baartman said that several other workers at the company have also consulted doctors for skin problems.

Chemicals

Baartman's doctor warned that workers at the factory faced a serious health threat from a chemical substance called Acrylamide.

Acrylamide, which is imported from Britain and used for making industrial chemicals, is believed to cause cancer if people are overexposed to it.

A pamphlet which accompanies the chemical warns that Acrylamide can attack peripheral nerves and that repeated exposure may cause cancer.

Baartman claimed that no protective clothing, other than dust masks, were provided to workers.

He said that workers often handled torn bags of Acrylamide and chemical dust blew in their face when they poured the chemical into the stirrer.

Factory manager Brian Smit said he was at a "loss for words".

"No medical reports have come to me and I do not know what to say."

Smit said Baartman had been fired for constant absenteeism and that if workers complained to him about the chemical, they would be taken to a company doctor.

He said that safety tests were done on a regular basis — PEN

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28/09-4/10/89

Transvaal river 'biologically dead' following chemical spill

By EDDIE KOCH

FARMERS in the Lowveld are up in arms over reports that a huge chemical spill from the Sappi paper mill at Nogodwana has devastated the ecosystem of the Elands and Crocodile Rivers, forcing even crocodile and hippos to leave their habitat.

Dr Piet Mulder, the director-general of the Transvaal Directorate of Conservation, yesterday told the *Weekly Mail* that 22 species of fish, and probably most other forms of animal life, had been killed in a stretch of river downstream from the mill.

While the fish would eventually re-establish themselves from species that had survived the disaster in waters upstream from the mill, Mulder said it would take years for the river to get back to its normal ecological state.

GP Visagie, assistant director of conservation, this week said the directorate's researchers could find no sign of life in the river and that it was — at least for the time being — biologically dead.

The owner of a farm on the banks of the Crocodile River near Alkmaar, Eric Ansley, this week reported that three tons of dead fish had accumulated at a weir on his property.

Other farmers reported that large groups of hippo and crocodiles had left the water this week, possibly because of the foul stench caused by the pollution or because the chemicals were irritating their skin and eyes.

A large spill of soap skimmings, which contained smaller amounts of toxic sulphates, occurred at the Nogodwana mill early in the week. The pollutant's major effect was to effectively suffocate the river by starving all forms of plant and animal life in the water.

Mulder said it was unlikely that the



Firemen in protective suits remove drums of toxic waste dumped in the centre of Pietermaritzburg. The protest was apparently a criticism of the authorities response to sites of toxic waste around the city

Picture: MEGAN SHERRIFFS

small amounts of toxins in the spill would affect the hippos and crocodiles and he predicted that they would be able to return to the water shortly.

Meanwhile, Sappi, which is owned by Gencor, has announced that it has set up an independent commission of inquiry to determine the impact of the spill and the kinds of remedial action that could be taken.

Sappi's Group MD Hugo van As said the findings would be made public and fully discussed with farmers and other interested groups in the Lowveld.

He stressed the whole river system was not biologically dead and that species of life in sections that had not been polluted would eventually be able to restore the water to normality. Helicopter surveys had established that large groups of hippo were still active in the area, he added.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa this week asked for an independent inquiry and for the causes of the accident and preventative action taken to be made public "so that industry as a whole can learn from this disaster and that it can contribute to effective contingency measures to prevent industrial pollution of our water system".

Ironically, the Wildlife Society's incoming president is Gencor's director of corporate affairs, Naas Steenkamp.

The Sappi spill had taken place as part of a general increase in river pollution due to industrial leakage. Last year the Sasol I plant pumped toxins into the Vaal River while a phosphate company in the north-eastern Transvaal caused a scare by leaking poisonous chemicals into the Selati River running through the Kruger Park

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is a non-profit community services the area of N
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Worker seeks over R350 000 for amputation

By Mekeed Kotlolo, 131
Pretoria Bureau

Sheetmetal worker Mr. Jacob Mahlangu (39) who had his leg amputated last week after being in contact with a powerful radioactive isotope six months ago, is suing the company for more than R350 000 for loss of income and general damages.

Mr. Mahlangu's lawyer, Mr. David Bam of Stegman Attorneys in Pretoria, yesterday told The Star his client was suing In-

ternational Combustion Africa Ltd. (Ical) for R362 592 plus

Mr. Bam said the claim was for loss of earnings, for general damages for pain and suffering, disability and disfigurement. He said the summons was served on Ical yesterday.

Ical construction director Mr. Roy MacLaughlin was unavailable to confirm he had received the summons.

Mr. Mahlangu picked up the isotope at the Kendal power sta-

tion where Ical was using it to test pipe-welds.

Mr. Mahlangu was apparently attracted by the small, shiny isotope which looked like a pen. He put it in the back pocket of his overalls, where it remained for the rest of the day.

At about 5 30 pm the alarm was sounded about the missing isotope but by then Mr. Mahlangu had returned to his quarters and only heard about the missing isotope at about 9 pm. He then threw it out of a window

where it was found at about midnight and put back into its container.

The next day it was realised that Mr. Mahlangu had been in contact with the isotope and he was rushed to hospital.

Six months later his right leg was amputated at the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria where his condition was this week described as improving. He is no longer in the intensive care unit.



Picture WILLIE de KLERK, The Argus

JOBLESS: Mr Abraham Onverwacht and his glass eye.

The brick that shattered a life

Argus 20-11-89 *131*

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau

A BRICK that cost him an eye has meant the end of the road for long-distance driver Mr Abraham Onverwacht of Sarepta.

Mr Onverwacht, 29, was driving a brick delivery truck between Bonteheuwel and Langa on September 8 when a gang of youths rained bricks down on his truck.

"I lost consciousness when a brick hit me on the side of the head," Mr Onverwacht said. He was hauled from the truck, which was then burnt out.

BURST EYE

"I woke up in hospital, to be told by doctors that the brick had fractured my skull and burst my right eye."

Now he has a glass eye, which he tosses idly in his hand as he speaks. "I hate wearing it."

He found out after his discharge from hospital that his insurance did not cover the injury.

Doctors told him to avoid labourer's jobs because of the skull injury, which still causes dizzy spells.

"I can't take a desk job be-

cause I haven't the education, and I have no money to study further," Mr Onverwacht said.

"Photography and swimming were my hobbies and they have been ruined for me," he said.

DISABILITY

Mr Onverwacht has been to see the Bellville district surgeon for a medical certificate to qualify for a disability grant.

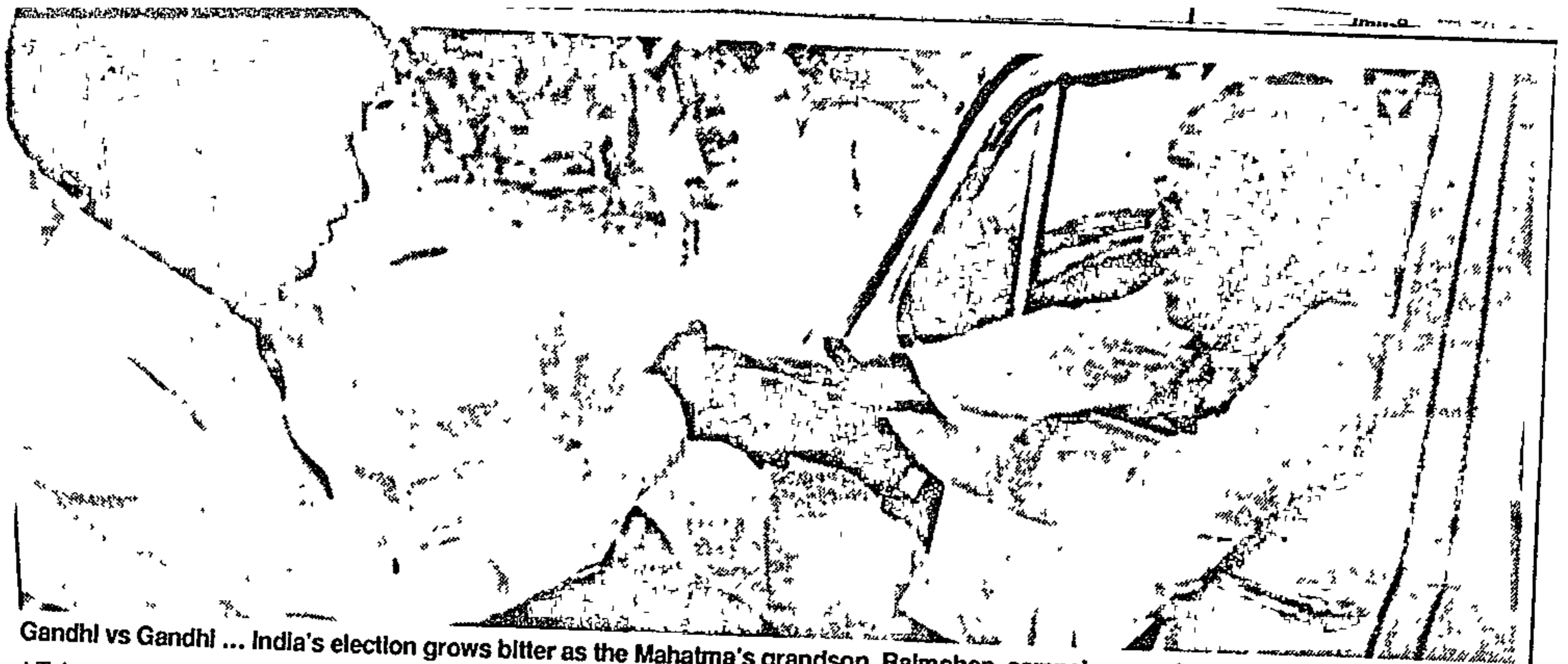
In the meantime he is living on irregular R32 Department of Health and Social Welfare food vouchers, which he uses to feed himself, his wife and small son. His wife has no job.

"In my work as a long-distance commercial driver I have seen Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana. Now I travel by public transport."

He took a factory job for a while but the harsh noise made him feel faint.

"I am desperate and depressed," he said.

"I call on those who throw rocks senselessly to realise they are not helping anyone, and to see how easily they can ruin someone's life," Mr Onverwacht said.



Gandhi vs Gandhi ... India's election grows bitter as the Mahatma's grandson, Rajmohan, campaigns against Rajiv

Guns and knives as tense India elections begin

(131) wmail

24-30/11/89

India's elections began yesterday — amid accusations of fraud and poll violence which claimed 43 lives in a few hours, reports MICHAEL BATTYE

AT least 43 people were killed on Wednesday in violence during India's first round of parliamentary elections. Polling was marred by the snatching of ballot boxes and ballot papers, gunfights, stabbings and other clashes between rival parties in various parts of India.

As the country's 498-million voters got the day off yesterday, politicians traded charges of rigging, intimidation and violence in the first round of the three-stage elections.

Most of the accusations centred on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's constituency of Amethi in the key state of Uttar Pradesh, where the opposition said Gandhi's Congress Party used police to stuff ballot boxes.

In Amethi, the main opposition Janata Dal Party also accused Congress gunmen of wounding candidate Sanjay Singh, a nephew of its leader, Vishwanath Paratap Singh, Gandhi's main rival for the premiership.

The Wednesday voting involved nearly half the 524 seats at stake in the lower house of parliament. Polling for most of the rest resumes on Friday, while the states of Punjab and Sikkim cast their ballots on Sunday. First results should be released on

Sunday night. Janata Dal, spearhead of the National Front opposition alliance trying to oust Congress for only the second time in India's 42 years as a republic, has demanded a fresh poll in Amethi. The election commission has said it will investigate the charges. A new

poll could take several months. Congress spokesman Anand Sharma fumed at the charges, which he called "an exercise in disinformation and deception."

"It's a whole conspiracy to have the next Lok Sabha (the lower house) constituted without Rajiv Gandhi," he told reporters.

Janata Dal said Congress workers shot Singh as he was chasing their thugs (*goondas*) from a polling booth they were trying to seize.

Sharma was vague about the incident, saying no report had been lodged yet with police. But he said

the incident took place well away from any polling booth.

Sharma alleged that Singh's *goondas* had shot, wounded and then kidnapped two Congress workers who were still missing. Information on these alleged incidents were taken from police reports, he said.

He said the Janata Dal's Amethi candidate Rajmohan Gandhi — no relation to Rajiv but a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi — had built up a record of intimidation charges during the campaign. "It is now clear that this was done with the purpose of making their future allegations look credible and real," he said.

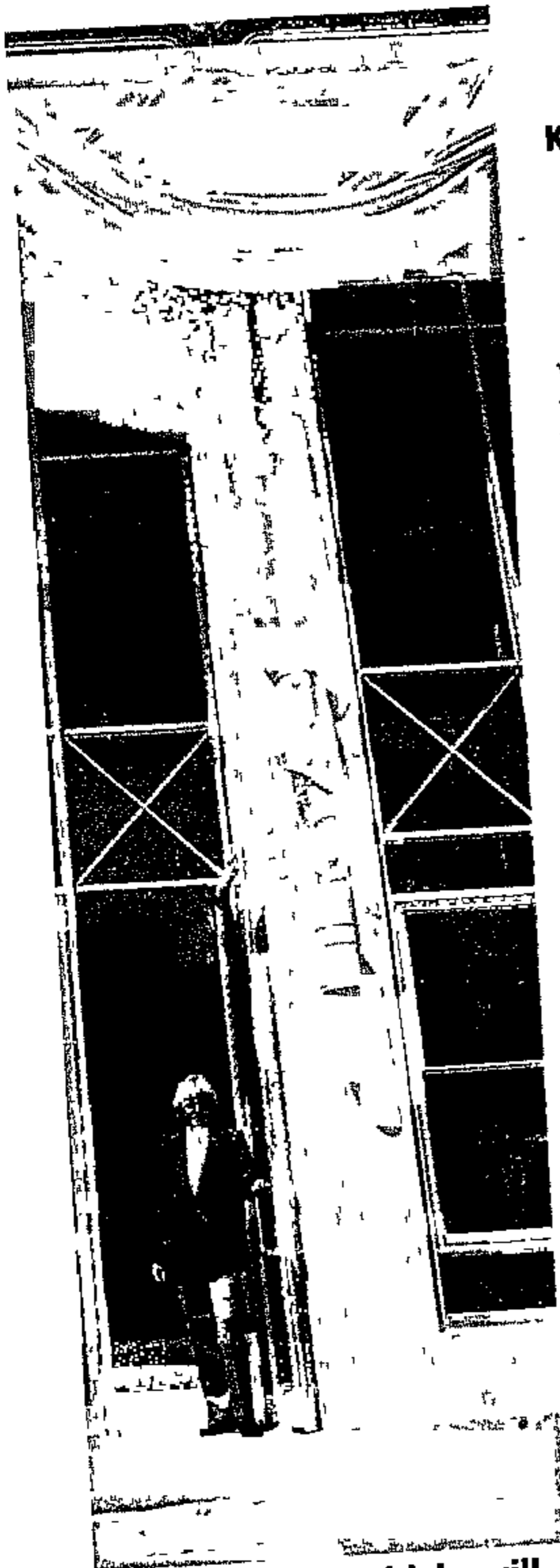
The worst violence on Wednesday was in Andhra Pradesh state in the south, where at least 12 people were killed and an election official had his hand chopped off.

Although Wednesday's vote produced no clear indication of who was ahead, leading polls say Gandhi was unlikely to win an absolute majority.

Bookmakers in Bombay, India's boisterous commercial capital, are even more pessimistic about the chances for the 45-year-old prime minister and say their odds are on an opposition victory. — Sapa/Reuters

(131) 13/12/89

Cast compensate with



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KINKELS INNIE KABEL. By André P Brink. Directed by Marthinus Basson. With June van Merch, Soli Philander, André Samuels, Peter Butler, Antoinette Kellermann and others At the Nico Theatre

WHAT this 20-year-old farce about mistaken identity and set in a coloured township lacks in originality and intelligence, the cast make up for with sheer vitality and enjoyment

The piece based (with apologies) on Shakespeare's *Comedy Of Errors* today ultimately offers only mild entertainment.

Kinkels Innie Kabel is set in a small fishing town somewhere near Cape Town on New Year's Day Two sets of twins, who were separated as children, are

about to come together and cause chaos and misunderstanding

Everyone concerned with this production was aware of the danger of stereotyping coloured people and that danger which is cemented in the dated script was not avoided One cannot state a piece of theatre about an oppressed community in South Africa today without making a reference (even a small one) to that oppression

Perhaps the razor wire which remained suspended over the set and the slide of a poverty-stricken township at the end of the play were little political gestures

The people who carry this production with infectious zeal are June van Merch as Solina, the unbending leader of Klopse Band, Soli Philander as Ap van-die-Pérel, André Samuels as D

A CHRISTMAS CAROL presented by Capab Ballet. Nico Malan Opera House. Change of cast.

VISUALLY this ballet is a clever, eye-catching affair With every performance I attend there is more that becomes noticeable, and more that is interesting

The detail for example of the London of the period even the lettering on the buildings are in character In the scene when Scrooge as a young man (Nicholas van der Merwe) proposes to his fiancée (Nicolette Loxton), every detail of the furnishings, even to the miniatures, are highlighted These are some of the fine touches in Casalet's decor and they are highly satisfactory

In choreography too, details are more obvious with further viewings The splendid jig variation in the pre-

**'Carol' is
a clever,
detailed
ballet**

Christmas party; the fine *pas de deux* between the Ghosts of Christmas Present, at this performance well danced by Juanita Yazbek and Francois Joubert, who has a splendid stage appearance and a classical bearing and style that augurs well for his future as a contender for princely roles The end to Act I is highly theatrical, with Van der Merwe being held aloft by Silver and Gold — depicting his passion for money As the Ghost of Christ-

mas Past, Leigh Anderson was lovely to watch She is a very pretty girl with a good line and beautifully fluid arms and hands. I just find her, rather than tranquil, too sugary sweet, too lacking in elegance to be really convincing

Janet Lindup as Christmas Yet To Come was commanding, strong and totally in accord with the brilliant Scrooge of John Simons

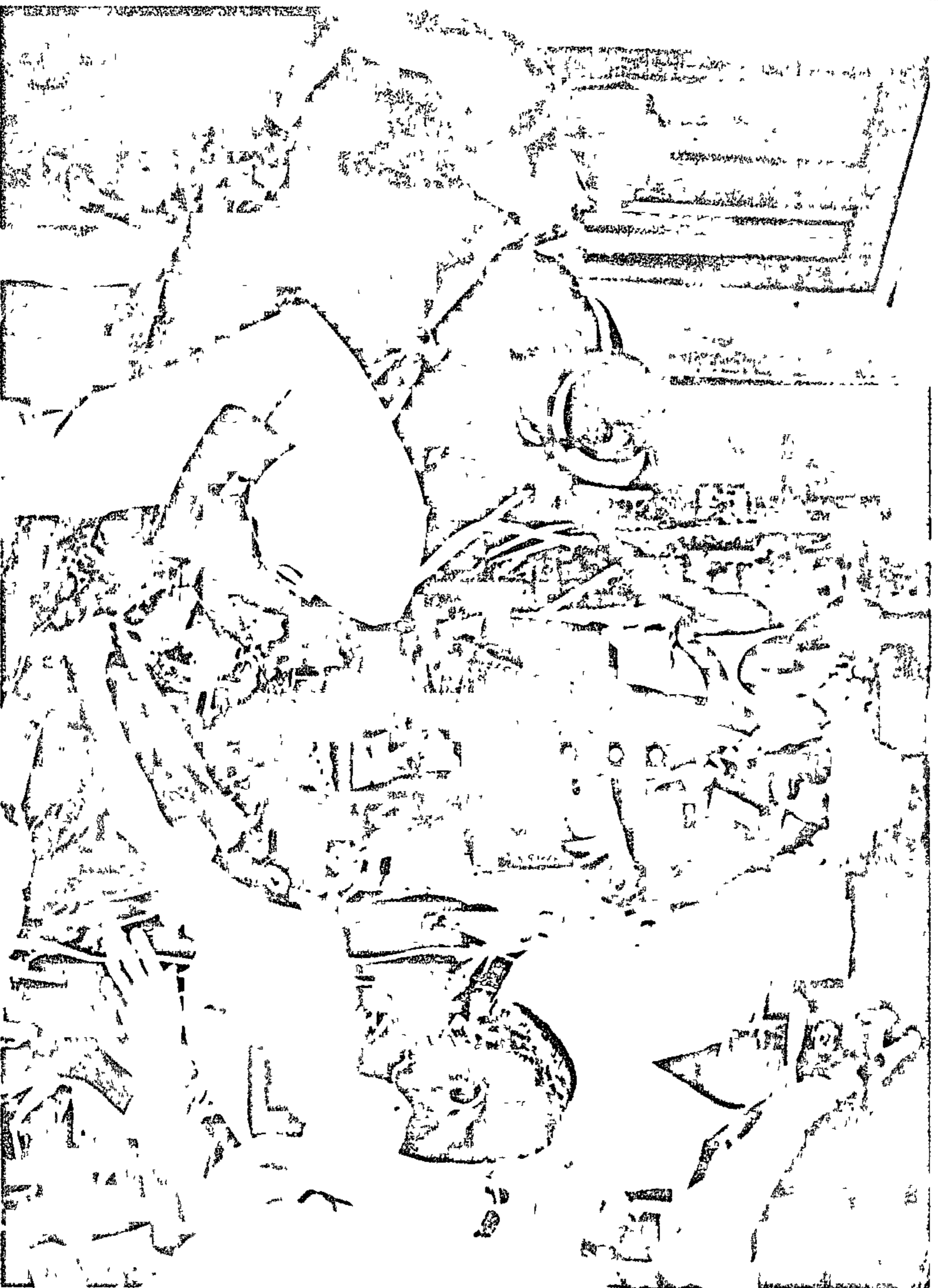
This man gives everything he possibly can, and more, to this role That he is performing it at every performance is quite remarkable, for it is a terribly demanding role

It is a great pleasure seeing Van der Merwe in a classically-based role.

Special mention must be made of the performance of the very young child, Marcel Swain, in the role of Tiny Tim. What a find this child is

EVE BORLAND

Trapped beneath a pile of rubble



HELP AT HAND . . . Medical personnel insert a drip in Mr Gopal Naidoo's arm while they work to free him from piles of concrete rubble. He and four other workers were trapped when a ceiling collapsed on them while they were plastering it.

Pictures ALAN COXON

Rescuers race clock to free 5 trapped as ceiling falls

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Firemen and paramedics worked feverishly for two hours to free five men trapped underneath tons of rubble when the concrete ceiling of the Lorne Street Methodist Church hall collapsed soon after 9am yesterday.

The tragedy in which one person was killed occurred when 12 workers removed support struts from the recently-cast concrete ceiling while plastering it. A crack appeared almost immediately and the ceiling disintegrated.

Mr "New Boy" Gumede, a casual labourer, died instantly when his skull was crushed by falling masonry.

Seven of the workers on site managed to flee and escaped with superficial injuries.

Rescuers from Durban's emergency services were on the scene on the corner of Lorne and Grey Streets within minutes and firemen used crowbars, pipes and airbags to free the trapped victims. Most were taken immediately to the nearby City Hospital for treatment, and two others were later taken to King Edward VIII Hospital.

There was some initial confusion among rescuers as to exactly how many people were trapped in the rubble, as contractor Mr Kris Naidoo could not recall how many labourers were on site.

A seriously-injured Mr Gopal Naidoo, Mr Kris Naidoo's brother, was treated by doctors and paramedics while firemen battled to free him from the mangled debris. He was immediately taken to City Hospital when his condition was initially described as "critical".

A spokesman for the hospital last night said Mr Naidoo underwent emergency surgery to insert a pin into his crushed leg. Doctors said later that he was "stable but serious".

Another man, Mr Sabba Govender, was also admitted to City Hospital, but his condition was not serious.

Six cars parked alongside the church hall — among them three BMWs — were also crushed when the wall collapsed.

It is believed that investigations by engineers into the cause of the accident will begin shortly.