

1987 — '89 Jan — July missing

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS — NACTU

1989 — AUG. — ~~SEPT.~~ December
1989.

Mr Du Plessis faces an alternative theft.

His bail of R1 000 was extended and the hearing was postponed till August 14 for trial.

Cyrt 7mb 1/8/87
Workers in consulate protest

THE labour dispute between employees and management of Plessey South Africa took a new turn yesterday when members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Union protested at the British Consulate in attempt to gain support from the British government.

Three-hundred-and-thirty of the company's 700 employees have been locked out of the Plessey factory since wage negotiations broke down last week. If the employees do not return to work by August 8 they will be dismissed.

Fifteen union members delivered a letter of protest to Mr D A McKellar, acting consul of the British Consulate in Cape Town. Mr McKellar agreed to pass on the letter to the Foreign Office in London. Plessey South Africa is a subsidiary of Plessey UK.

From page 1

W. CYRT 7MB (110) (54)

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Locked-out workers set to strike

Labour Reporter

LOCKED-OUT Plessey SA workers are set to strike on Tuesday in a bid to pre-empt the mass dismissal of more than 400 members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA (Eawtusa)

Eawtusa assistant general

secretary Mr Brian Williams said yesterday that workers were determined to remain united in their demand for a 26% wage increase "no matter what the cost"

The company last Tuesday legally locked out more than half of its 700-strong Retreat workforce after Eawtusa members rejected a wage increase averaging 17%

Plessey MD Dr John Temple earlier warned that workers who did not accept the company's wage offer by Tuesday would be sacked

Mr Williams said the strike would be held in terms of a dispute the union declared with Plessey SA in June

Mwasa talks on dispute

THE dispute between the Media Workers Association of South Africa and Perskor will come under the spotlight at a meeting of the company's employees next Tuesday.

Mwasa has called the meeting to discuss the pending Industrial Court case between it and the Afrikaans newspaper group.

The union is seeking the reinstatement of some of the Perskor employees who were dismissed after a strike in June last year.

According to the union, management wants to settle the dispute financially

The meeting will be held at the union's Johannesburg offices

Meanwhile, Mwasa has concluded a wage agreement with Nampak Tissue, securing a R32 across-the-board increase for its members employed by the company

A Mwasa spokesman said the increases would be effective from July 1

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Workers back demands with hunger strike

Labour Reporter

WORKERS at a City electronics manufacturing firm have gone on a hunger strike to back wage demands

The 430 locked-out Plessey SA workers started a hunger strike to back their reduced wage demands yesterday, according to Mr Brian Williams, assistant general secretary of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA (Eawtusa)

Fasting would be done on a relay basis with participants taking no food or drink for 24-hour stretches while stationed in a van outside the Retreat factory's gates, Mr Williams said

The protest would be lifted only when Plessey SA acceded to union proposals which would be revised today and submitted to management in writing

The latest move by Eawtusa members affected by the two-week lockout follows the company's withdrawal of its threat to sack workers who did not accept its offer by yesterday

Mr Williams said "Workers on hunger strike demand justice at the work place, reject Plessey's use of the hated Labour Relations Amendment Act and want to protest against the existence of that Act"

Plessey SA managing director Dr John Temple said the company was offering an average 17% increase on basic minimum wages, moving up to 19,4% for the "bulk" of the workforce.

He denied that the company had "bowed" to any community or international pressure and also denied that Plessey SA had resorted to the Labour Relations Amendment Act in the dispute.



Ready to strike

By CHIARA CARTER

WORKERS locked out by a Retreat electronics factory since last week have voted to go on strike in an attempt to prevent the company from dismissing them.

More than 400 members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union (Eawtu) have been locked out of the Plessey SA factory since last Tuesday.

This follows a dispute being declared by the company, a subsidiary of a British multi-national, over the workers' refusal to accept the company's wage offer

The lockout ends next Tuesday morning and the company has warned workers that they will be dismissed if they do not return to work before then

Union spokesperson Brian Williams said 99,4 percent of the locked-out workers had voted in favour of strike action

This week the company placed recruitment advertisements for temporary workers in several Cape Town newspapers

In the advertisements, Plessey appealed to the locked-out workers to accept the company's offer and to return to their jobs, and claimed to offer good wages and working conditions

Components

SOUTH refused to place the advertisement

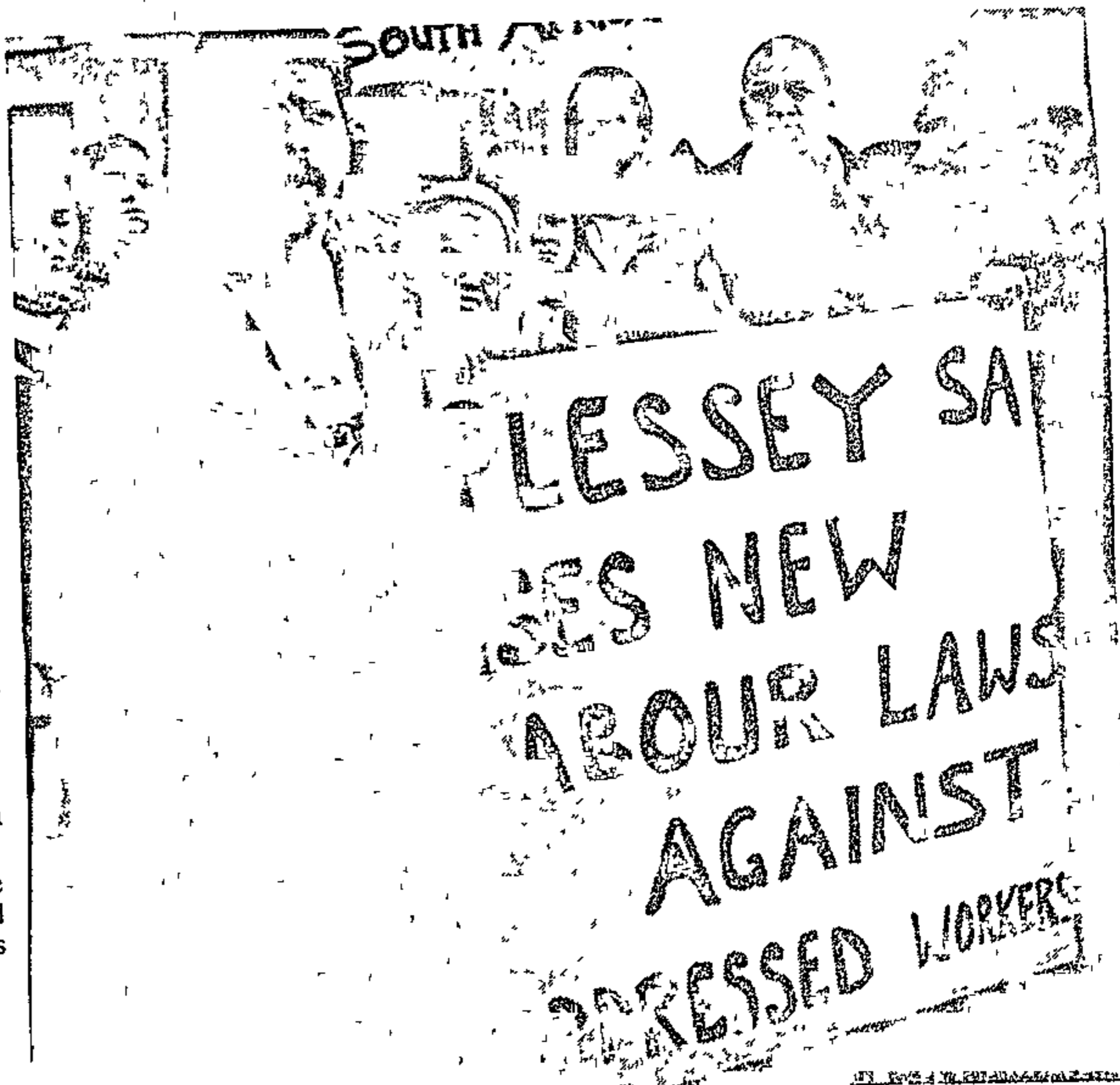
Williams said the union doubted if the advertisements would have much effect since workers were determined not to accept the offer

He said it was difficult for the company to use "scabs" because it took considerable time to train someone to work with electronic components.

Williams also denied Plessey's claims that workers were steadily returning to work, saying that those who had returned were "less than a handful" of workers

The union has appealed to organisations abroad for assistance in its battle with the multi-national

Meanwhile, Plessey managing director John Temple flew to London this week for consultation with the company's head office, while on Tuesday an Eawtu delegation delivered a letter to the British consulate in Cape Town, appealing to the British government to exert pressure on the company



LOCKED-OUT: Union official Brian Williams and locked-out workers outside the Plessey factory gates

19 Soweto 18/84

Unions meet

JOINT rallies of Cosatu, National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and independent unions have been planned for this Sunday in Natal and Transvaal

The rallies are "part of the ongoing campaign against the Labour Relations Act" and will culminate in a planned "workers' summit".

Wolwe terror on East Rand

Sowetan 10/8/89

143

By LEN MASEKO

At least six AECI employees have been attacked - one fatally - in Modderfontein near Kempton Park allegedly by white vigilantes stalking the East Rand industrial area in recent weeks.

One worker, Mr Stanford Mazikwana, was attacked and killed allegedly by four white youths who shouted: "Wolwe slaan dood."

He was attacked metres from AECI's Modderfontein factory on July 1.

Police have opened a murder docket following the incident.

Another AECI employee, Mr Jackson Mojapelo, was allegedly assaulted by six white men while on his way to a company compound in the area a week ago.

A migrant labourer, Mojapelo said he was accosted by six white youths who, for no apparent reason, punched and kicked him.

"The youths tried to push me into a nearby stream but were stopped by a white passerby who ordered them to stop assaulting me," Mojapelo said.

The AECI worker was treated for minor injuries

at a local hospital.

The "unwarranted" attacks have angered the SA Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu) and AECI management, who have expressed concern for the safety of the company's black employees in the area.

Police had not yet responded to a *Sowetan* enquiry at the time of going to press.

Sacwu official Mr Humphrey Ndaba said. "Our members now fear for their safety following the attack on their colleagues".

The company said in

statement: "AECI which operates the Modderfontein factory is extremely concerned at the unwarranted attacks that have taken place recently on a number of its black employees.

"These attacks have taken place outside the factory but within the greater Modderfontein municipal area over which neither the company nor its security force has any jurisdiction."

AECI management said it had been assured by Kempton Park police that the complaints from AECI employees were receiving urgent attention.

Row over IR report on farmers, and unions

W/L-ARCUS 12/8/89

143

UNION pressure in the agricultural industry grows, as does the interest of the industrial relations consultants

In one instance, a promotional pamphlet sent out by a Johannesburg industrial relations consultancy about farmers and trade unions has elicited an angry response from the leading union in the field

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), a Cosatu affiliate, claiming that the brochure has severely diminished the climate of good industrial relations in rural labour relations, has asked for an apology from the consultancy and a retraction of claims it made, failing which it reserved its right to take legal action for defamation and organisational damage

A spokesman for the Liaison Bureau for Labour Relations Services said the brochure would "certainly not" be withdrawn nor would any apology be furnished

"Liaison furthermore reserves the right to publish such further brochures as we may deem fit," said Koos van Niekerk, director of marketing services

Mr Van Niekerk said the staff of Liaison, a close corporation registered this year, had "considerable experience" in labour relations.

He was unwilling to discuss the merits of the pamphlet headlined "The radical attack on the South African agricultural sector" which was distributed with the June issue of the *Deciduous Fruit Grower*



Legal action

"In view of possible legal action it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment," said Mr Van Niekerk "But the brochure was compiled only after thorough research was done within the relevant sectors and every statement can be substantiated"

What's baffling however, is how the company thinks it will be able to deal with worker organisations in good faith once they've touted for business among employers by attacking the *bona fides* of such organisations

Meanwhile, in the Boland the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw), an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is moving into the industry in similar fashion to Fawu. It has been organising at wine co-operatives and has signed about 11 agreements in the past two months covering about 250 workers

Nactu has another affiliate in the sector, the National Union of Farmworkers, and it must reasonably be expected that Nactu will also start backing into organising farmworkers, again through the connection between farm and factory.

Union seeks action over recognition

Sowetan 14/8/89

THE National Union of Steel and Allied Workers is to take the Besaans and Du Plessis company to the Industrial Court today for allegedly refusing to enter into a recognition agreement.

Nusaw official Mr Ndomane Tibane said the dispute with the Pretoria company revolved around management's refusal to negotiate with the union at plant level. Instead, he said, management was prepared to deal with the union only at industrial council level.

"The problem is we are not members of the metal industry's industrial

By LEN MASEKO
council, hence we have rejected management's response to our demand," Tibane said.

Nusaaw has filed the court application on the grounds that the company, because of its apparent refusal to negotiate with it, was guilty of an unfair labour practice.

Tibane said more than half of the company's black workforce belonged to his union.

* About 250 members of the SA Chemical Workers Union have called off their work stoppage at Bayers South Africa, a Sacwu spokesman said.

The Sacwu members were fired on July 13 after they ignored an ultimatum to return to work. They downed tools in protest against management's refusal to

take disciplinary action against an employee allegedly found in possession of company property

Sacwu's general secretary, Mr Humphrey Ndaba, said the workers resolved to return to work after management promised to attend to their grievances

"The company offered workers their jobs without loss of seniority, and undertook to look into complaints that led to the stoppage," Ndaba said.

143

142

Tension at firm

A FIGHT between two workers - one black and the other white - at Pretoria's Cullinan Refractories has resulted in a tense situation in the company.

A spokesman for the Building Construction and Allied Workers Union (BCAWU), which represents the company's black work force, said tension in the company had been fuelled by the company's decision to fire the black employee concerned, Mr William Monaka, instead of reprimanding the white worker who allegedly "assaulted our member".

He said the company had obtained a court interdict restraining the black work force from retaliating by "attacking" their white counterparts. Management's actions had raised suspicions over its role in the matter, he said.

Cullinan's human resources director, Mr Barry Beckley, confirmed the incident saying "as far as I know the white employee has laid a criminal charge with the police".

He said management applied for an interdict after "the situation inside the company had deteriorated". The BCAWU has declared a dispute with

By LEN MASEKO

the company, contending that Monaka was unfairly dismissed. The matter is to be decided by an arbitrator.

The BCAWU spokesman said Monaka now lived in fear of his

two other issues: wages and retrenchments. About 160 Cullinan employees face retrenchment under the company's restructuring programme, according to the union. The union has rejected the proposed retrenchments. On the wage dispute,

the union has accused management of unilaterally granting an increase to its members without an agreement with the union. Beckley said "to the best of my knowledge" the wage adjustments had been agreed to by the two parties.

Plessey workers carry on strike

Staff Reporter

MEMBERS of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA (Eawtusa) at Plessey SA will remain on a hunger strike till their demand for a 26% wage increase has been met, union members said yesterday.

About 300 locked-out workers started the hunger strike at midnight on August 9 outside the factory gates in Retreat. The strike is being carried out on a relay basis with participating groups taking no food or drink for 24 hours.

Nactu rejects attempts at negotiation

21/8/89
143
HARARE — South Africa's second-largest trade union body, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), said today it was opposed to current attempts to achieve a negotiated settlement in South Africa

Nactu president Mr James Mndaweni, in a statement telephoned from Johannesburg to the Zimbabwean news agency, Ziana, said negotiations on the future of South Africa should guarantee the return of land to its original owners

He said Nactu wanted to make its stand known on the eve of tomorrow's meeting in Harare of the Organisation of African

Unity, expected to consider the formulation of a strategy to end apartheid

Nactu believed present moves towards negotiations were being promoted by Western powers, big business and "local liberals", as well as "certain sections of the oppressed", to guarantee the interests of capitalism in South Africa

He was speaking after a meeting in Johannesburg of the Nactu executive to prepare for a "workers' summit" planned for August 27-28, aimed at defining strategies to tackle the recently amended Labour Relations Act — Sapa

Cops raid Nactu rally

~~scribble~~
143

Sowetan
2/14/31

A LARGE contingent of police yesterday temporarily stopped a Nactu preparatory workshop on the Workers Summit and briefly detained Sowetan journalist Mathatha Tsedu in Johannesburg.

According to Nactu officials police stormed into Lekton House and told about 400 workers that the meeting had been banned in terms of the emergency regulations.

But after Nactu's first assistant general secretary, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, confronted them, they backed off and allowed the meeting to continue.

The Divisional Commissioner of Police in Johannesburg, Brigadier Gerrit Erasmus said he would not hesitate stopping the meeting again if he heard any noise from the building.

Erasmus said Tsedu was mistakenly detained "as we thought he was covering the meeting."

Nactu condemned the disruption of its bona fide trade union workshop and the manner in which the police entered its premises.

Halitosis, the clinical name for bad breath, may well indicate a dental

problem. Decaying food 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

Journal 24/8/87

"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

Ill health is the reward many workers receive for labour

143

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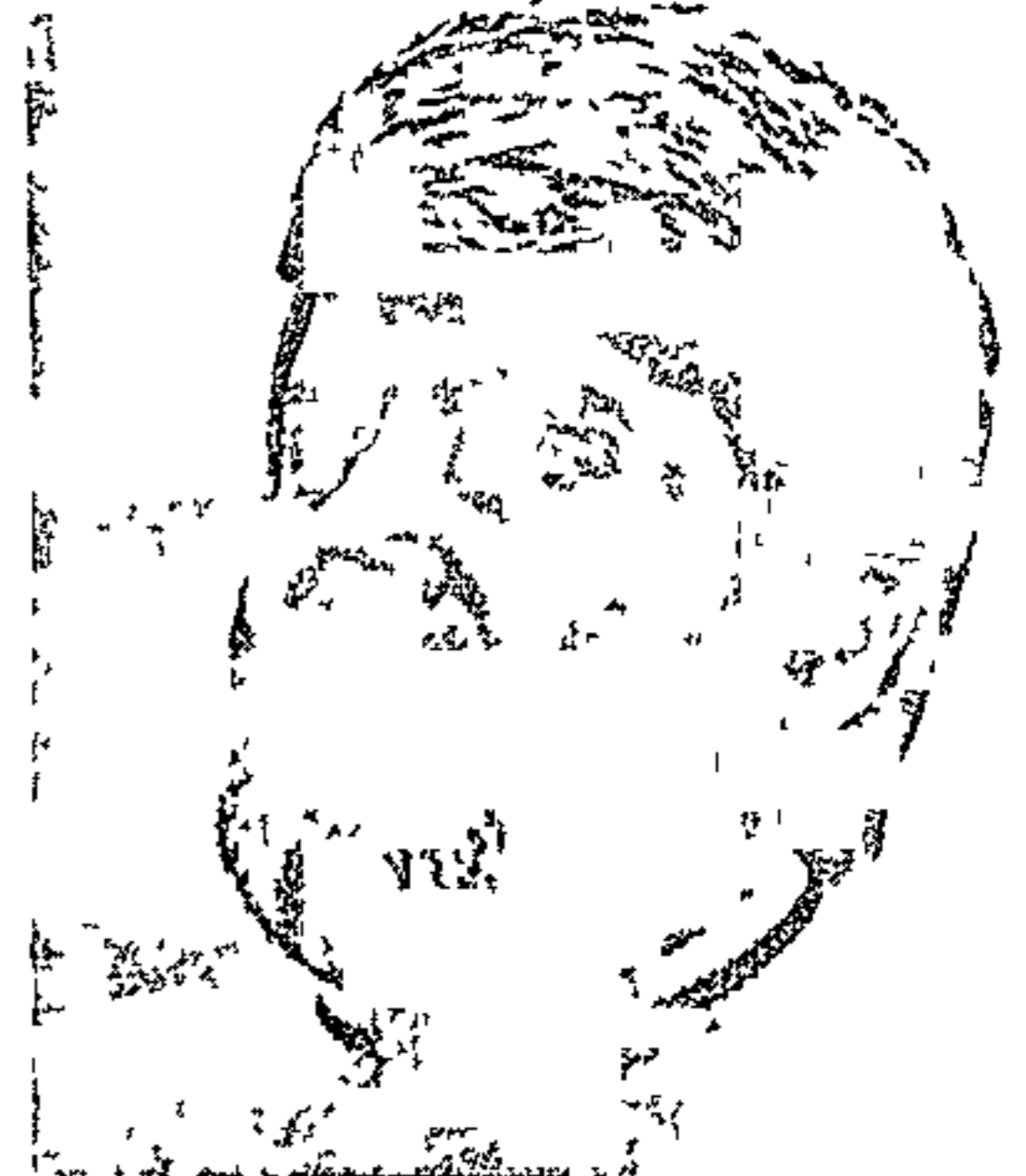
He added that an unhealthy worker working in an unhealthy environment could not be expected to contribute equally. Furthermore, he said, the technical expert's role was crucial in setting the standard

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

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Nactu s Piroshaw Camay

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The air in these buildings can cause headaches, fatigue, 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

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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

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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

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Union man's body found in dam

THE body of an East Rand trade unionist was found floating in a dam formed by the stream dividing Katlehong and Vosloorus this week, the deputy general secretary of the Food and Beverage Workers' Union of South Africa, Mr G Ndhlovu, said yesterday.

● To page 2

Body in dam

● From page 1

Mr Bofana Sigasa (42) was "gruesomely murdered, his hands and feet tied and apparently drowned in the dam" according to a statement by Ndhlovu.

Sigasa was last seen on the afternoon of July 19. He was the regional secretary of the East Rand region of the Food, Beverage Union which is affiliated to Nactu.

He said Sigasa would be buried at the Natal-spruit cemetery on Saturday - Sapa

143
25/7/84

143

143

25/7/84



Workers at a rally last month prepare for this weekend's summit

By MOKGADI PELA

THE GOVERNMENT'S much-criticised Labour Relations Act has, ironically, acted as a catalyst to unite the entire black labour movement.

Power struggles within labour have apparently been forgotten and once-warring factions are now showing a united front. This will be seen at the second Workers' Summit scheduled for this weekend at Shareworld in Johannesburg.

Workers will come from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), and independent trade unions.

Worker unity is on the horizon

Sowetan 25/8/89

143

Following the legalisation of black trade unions, as a result of the recommendations of the Wiehahn Commission in 1979, the question of unity

has been the most pressing issue facing them. Attempts at unity date back to 1981. There were the talks between the Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa), the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (Azactu) five years later.

Instead of achieving unity, however, three streams became identifiable. These were Cosatu, which was later to adopt the Freedom Charter; Cusa, which seemed politically non-aligned, and Azactu which was oriented towards the Africanist and Black Consciousness schools of thought.

In 1986 at Broederstroom a new baby was born when Cusa and Azactu merged in what was to be known as Cusa-Azactu and later Nactu.

The LRA resuscitated joint action by Nactu and Cosatu, as demonstrated in the protest by the two federations which saw black workers staying away from work for three days in June last year.

There is still suspicion, mistrust and fear of one another in these unions. It is therefore not surprising that one of the issues on the agenda this weekend will be "the building of working class unity" which will involve analysis of why unions are divided.

Labour expert Mandla Seleane, once said "Black workers are divided firstly because the Government wants it so. It suits our rulers when we scratch one another instead of concentrating on what matters."

He said it was only through practical involvement with one another that suspicions would dis-

appear and workers would acknowledge each other's right to exist.

The Workers' Summit and joint campaigns against the LRA could one day give birth to one federation. When the first summit took place in March Nactu did not attend officially. Eleven of its affiliates differed with the mother body and attended. This time round Nactu's representation will be complete as the entire federation will be attending.

This weekend's summit will probably deal with some of the recommendations of the first one. Among those were the call on workers to formulate their own LRA, to find ways of not using the Industrial Court and to make recommendations on demands to Saccola and other employer organisations. The demands were to include the right to strike and picket, recognition of majority unions, the right to sympathy strikes and the right of unions to challenge dismissals made without proper hearings.

There has also been talk of the summit taking a decision on "sustained action". It is not clear whether such a decision would "action" to coincide with the elections on September 6.

Also in line with the recommendation of the first summit, 20 representatives of various political organisations will attend this weekend's event with a speaker from each ideological tendency addressing the workers.

This summit might just be the dawn of the unity that has been eluding the trade union movement for a long time.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thloloe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West Johannesburg.

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Round-up of labour action

Sowetan 25/8/84
143

MORE THAN 300 members of Paper Printing Wood and Allied Workers' Union were this week dismissed by Nampak Corrugated Containers, a union spokesman said

This followed worker demands for changes in the recognition agreement, which would allow for wage negotiations to commence in September, and the alteration of shift times

He said that the Wadeville branch of Nampak yesterday went out on a sympathy strike for three hours

By MOKGADI PELA

* The National Union of Mineworkers health and safety conference will take place this weekend at the University of Witwatersrand

A union spokesman said 300 worker delegates and 50 guests would attend.

Among the issues to be considered are the Minerals Bill due to be tabled at the next parliamentary session, the high accident rate in the mines - especially in the Westonaria and Carletonville regions

* About 700 Tedalex

workers in Booyens are now locked in a wage dispute with their company. The workers demand an increase of R5,50 an hour as a minimum and a R1,50 across the board increase while the company offers 56 cents an hour

* The National Council of Trade Unions resolved at its workshop to participate in the Conference for a Democratic Future. According to Nactu general secretary, Piroshaw Camay, the federation would have two delegates at the planning stage who will then report to the organisation's Central Committee

Focus on Workers Summit

TRADE union interest this weekend will be focussed on the Workers Summit in Johannesburg

There is a dual significance to the event it's probably the first major gathering of unionists in which officials will play no part, and is also a strong indicator of the desire for a united approach to issues among groups which have often been in severe ideological and physical conflict

About 750 delegates are expected to attend, representing about 2,5 million workers from unions in the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and a group of independent unions

Also attending will be delegates from the United Democratic Front, the Black Consciousness Movement, the Pan-Africanist Movement and the New Unity Movement

Each of the four political tendencies will be speaking at the opening and are expected to give unqualified support to the summit and the campaign against the Labour Relations Act

Main topic on the summit's agenda will be plans for action over the Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRAA) Allied to this will be discussion on building working class unity and state action against unions and unionists

Unionists see these issues as inter-related

The Act is seen as an attack on gains made by workers in the past decade and on the organisations they have built up Because this is viewed as an attack on the working class in general, class unity is necessary to combat it and hence the summit has drawn in as many representative organisations as possible

At the same time, action by the state, such as detentions of unionists and community leaders and restrictions on Cosatu and its allies, such as the UDF, are seen as working in conjunction with the legislative measures

Other actions by unknown elements such as the bombing of Cosatu House, the bombing of Community House, burglaries and vandalism at union offices are viewed as further attacks on the workers' movement

The growing consciousness of unity was assisted by the passage of the Act because, together with restrictions on Cosatu, it helped bring home an awareness that the matters which divided worker organisations were less important than those which united them

The past few weeks have been marked by a series of activities round the LRAA campaign, including balloting on support for planned action and a series of rallies in centres around South Africa



TOUGH

Sowetan 28/8/89

TALK

~~143~~
143

FROM

UNIONS

THE SECOND WORKER'S summit ended at Shareworld, near Johannesburg, yesterday after resolving undisclosed action against employers and the state.

By MOKGADI PELA

In terms of the composite report independent unions and Cosatu and Nactu resolved to organise peaceful protests against the Labour Relations Act until the legislation was removed from the statute books.

decision they accused employers of continuing to use offensive clauses to undermine the rights of workers which had been negotiated and fought for over the years.

On Saturday police ordered that the summit should end at 5pm. And yesterday police moved onto the podium and

detained a man who was reciting poetry. He was

● To page 2

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency

Before arriving at the

It was a weekend of high tension with the police presence almost outnumbering the 750 delegates. The summit condemned the video recording of the event by police. Cosatu vice president, Mr Chris Dlamini, said workers could not have free and open discussions because of police presence.

On relations with the state, the summit noted that the Government was committed to a strategy of repression. Nactu's general secretary, Mr Proshaw Camay, said the notice restricting the summit and the subsequent police action was proof of that fact.

The summit also resolved to continue negotiating with Saccoca. Closer worker unity would also be forged with local, regional and national structures to discuss unity on the shop floor.

● From page 1

United union front plan action

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143

Sowetan 28/8/89

Labour summit closely monitored

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's major labour organisations wound up their historic workers summit here at the weekend by mapping out a new strategy against the Labour Relations Amendment Act and on plans for consultations with political organisations on action related to the general election

The close of the summit, closely monitored throughout by a large contingent of uniformed and plainclothes policemen, also saw a new initiative to further unite workers across the political spectrum through a Cosatu-Nactu and independent unions' national co-ordinating committee

A resolution adopted by the 800 delegates agreed to organise peaceful protests against the Labour Relations Amendment Act

A confrontation was averted when union legal representatives successfully negotiated with police for the release of a poet who had been arrested. Cosatu president Mr Elijah Barayi appealed to participants to be cool-headed "Do not be provoked. If you are there will be chaos, which is exactly what some people here would like," he told delegates

It was negotiations with employer federation Saccola and others on the act would continue, progress would be monitored and "appropriate decisions on future action from time to time" would be made.

● Meanwhile, in Cape Town, an estimated 3 500 people attended a report-back rally organised by the Garment Workers' Union at the University of the Western Cape. The issues discussed were opposition to the Labour Relations Act and wage negotiations.

Police monitored the situation but no incidents were reported.

● At the Samaj Centre in Rylands, the Thornhill Youth Congress held an anti-election meeting. No incidents were reported. — Own Correspondent and Sapa

Workers lauded

THE exiled Pan Africanist Congress yesterday lauded the worker summit taking place at Shareworld' Johannesburg, saying the deliberations would have a strong bearing in changing the situation in South Africa.

In a message to the summit, the PAC's secretary for labour, Mr Lesaona Makhanda, described the talks as "timeous in view of the crisis created by the regime".

Dealing with the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which the unions contend severely curtails workers's rights, Mr Makhanda said the legislation threatens the existence of labour federations as the voice of the workers.

Some time 1989
Police
In another statement of support, the Black Consciousness Movement of Azania (BCMA) said it noted the provocative presence of the police despite law and order not being under threat. The movement said it wished to reiterate its support for the realisation of the aspirations of the black working class as the presence of police perpetuated what they described as "bosses' interests".

THE controversial Labour Relations Amendment Act - which is one-year-old today - may have been intended to curtail trade union power but instead seems to have united workers across ideological boundaries, thereby increasing their power

The two Workers Summits one on March 4-5 and the other last weekend brought rival labour federations Cosatu and Nactu together demonstrating the potential power of labour which the LRA might not be able to curb

Initially some employers thought the LRA favoured unions through such instruments as the Industrial Court which they perceived as passing questionable judgments

New law

After subsequent amendments made to it, employers welcomed the law enthusiastically hoping that unions would no longer be in a position to flex their muscle as freely as they had done in the past

The new law is likely to bring employers more shop-floor problems than they have experienced before

As is presently the case, political issues, which management insisted should not be mixed with labour issues, have now featured a few times in negotiations with the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Sacco)

Both labour feder-



Hundreds of delegates attended the workers Summit at Shareworld at the weekend to map out strategies against the Labour Relations Act

UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

Unions united against Labour Relations Act

By MOKGADI PELA

ations protested against the legislation when it was introduced

FOCUS

In June last year there was joint action by both Nactu and Cosatu which saw black workers staying away from work for three days

Saccoh was in fact given an ultimatum reject the LRA or face industrial action on a national scale. The new law forbids sympathy strikes

Interdicts

Another feature of the law is the way it has been used by employers to undermine collective bargaining

Under the new law parties can now apply to the industrial court for urgent interdicts against

Bosses can sue for lost hours

industrial action even if a union has followed procedures required to constitute a legal strike

One objectionable feature of the new law is that an interdict can be granted even without applying the *audi alteram partem* rule (both sides of the story being heard)

Another feature is that which allows employers to sue unions for lost production as a result of industrial action

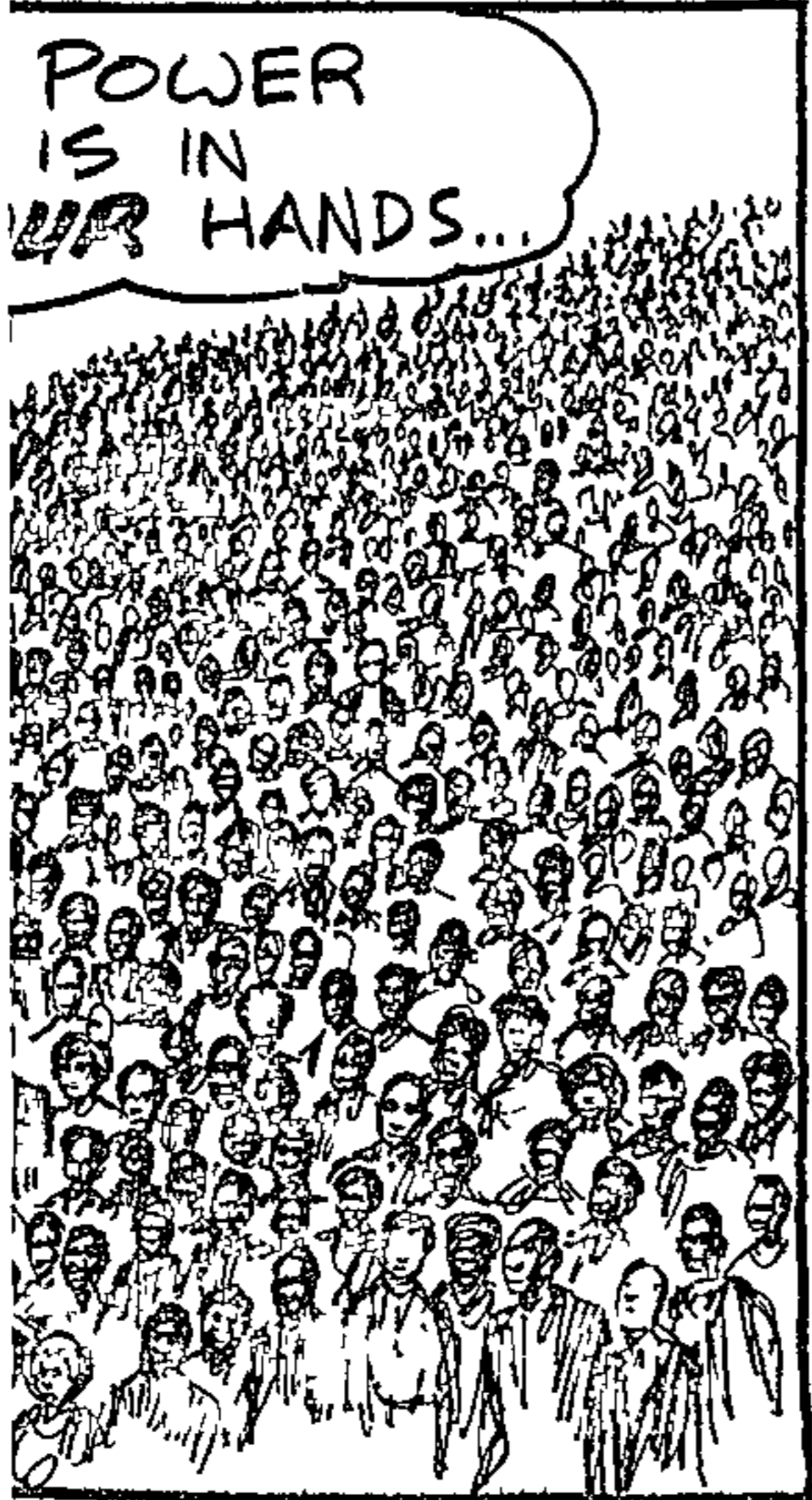
Unionists have also complained that the 50 percent plus one rule which applied for union recognition has since been eroded by the new legislation. Today the Act speaks of any number

Summits

If this situation persisted it would mean that many unions could organise workers in the same company and these could be used to break union strength

The resolutions at the two workers summits showed the black labour movement was determined to fight until the act was scrapped or the controversial sections were removed

Judged by the increased militancy of black workers against the attitude of the Government and employers it seems the first anniversary of the LRA which is today will soon be followed by interesting developments in both the labour and political fields



Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thloloe. Sub-editing headlines and posters by Sydney Mathaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Call for national one-day protest

Leading labour and anti-apartheid organisations yesterday announced a one-day national protest action against the election on September 6, effectively shelving ideological differences that have stymied joint action in the past. (143) (S) (S)

A statement delivered to Sapa said the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), the Pan Africanist Movement, the Black Consciousness Movement and the UDF Alliance endorsed September 6 as a day of national protest "against the triracist elections".

"The elections are designed to co-opt sections of the oppressed and exploited majority into their own oppression. The protest is also a reminder to the working class of an undemocratic and illegitimate ruling class that passed the unpopular amendments of the Labour Relations Act."

In addition, the statement, which was issued by Nactu, the Pan-Africanist Movement and the BCM, said they were also calling for a day of national protest on September 12. Sowetan 11/9/89

The announcement follows meetings held between the labour federations and community organisations with the view to thrashing out a response to the general election. — Sapa

Electric shock

Scores of families in Vosloorus on the East Rand claim they are being charged exorbitant service charges of up to R400 a month

The residents have rejected the bills and the council is switching off their lights if they fail to pay

The families claim that water and electricity metres were not being

By MZIKAYISE EDOM

checked regularly. The council has rejected their allegations

The mayor of Vosloorus, Mr Douglas Montsheng, said most of the people who were claiming that their bills were high were in arrears with their site rent and service charges

"Some of these people are in arrears for more than four months," said Montsheng.

He said other cases were genuine. Montsheng said "These are the cases we are presently investigating. We have discovered in some instances that metres were not properly read and in such events, we refund the affected people."

Sowetan 1/9/87

Unionist bashed

A trade union organiser claimed he was punched and chased away by a Boksburg employer with whom he was to have had a meeting to discuss a labour dispute on Monday.

Mr Philemon Ntombela, organiser with the Steel Engineering and

By LEN MASEKO

Allied Workers Union of South Africa (Seawusa), said he was assaulted by three whites - including the company's director, a Mr Poena van Zyl - on the premises of JP Welding in Boksburg North.

But Van Zyl yesterday

denied having assaulted the Seawusa official, saying he had only reprimanded him for "coming late to the meeting".

Ntombela said his assailants told him that they did not want any trade union meddling in the company's affairs

143 Sowetan 1/9/87

Unions condemn upcoming polls

143

Sowetan
11/9/89

TWO Nactu affiliated unions have condemned the coming September elections and said the solution to workers' problems was a takeover by the black working class.

The Media Workers Association of South Africa said "We take a dim view of the coming elections Workers as the vanguard of the underprivileged have nothing to say except to condemn the institution which continues to worsen their position

"These elections, like all others, should not be treated differently as they are still used to subjugate the oppressed and exploited," Mwasa said

The union said the immediate task facing FW de Klerk was to scrap the Labour Relations Amend-

ment Act or workers would crush it

The Banking Insurance Finance and Assurance Workers' Union added its voice saying the September 6 elections were no different from previous similar exercises. The union said the black workers' position would not be improved "The elections will remind us of the white man's patience with cruelty and indifference to suffering meted out to his black compatriots," Bifawu said.

"However, we in Bifawu know that South Africa's whites will not change and that is why we say only a complete takeover by the black working class will solve the country's problems," the union added

REPORTS

PAGES AND PAGES OF THE BEST JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA

**MANPOWER
MIRROR by
ROBYN
CHALMERS**



Industrial court irks bosses and unions

LAST weekend's workers summit did more than confirm trade-union opposition to the Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRAA).

If again highlighted union dissatisfaction with the industrial court. One of the demands Cosatu (Congress of SA Trade Unions) and Nactu (National Council of Trade Unions) has repeatedly put to employer body Saccoca (SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs) is that arbitration be used instead of the industrial court.

For once, trade unions, employers and lawyers agree. They are unhappy about the industrial court, arguing that



Elijah Baragyi call for united trade-union action

It has become too interventionist and inhibits the bargaining process. It also appears to be severely understaffed. One can understand why — the court received 3 838 cases in 1988 compared with 2 042 two years earlier. Of the 3 838 cases last year, the court was unable to settle 1 314

It has also been involved in an increasing number of urgent interdicts. The National Manpower Commission (NMC) report tabled in Parliament in April this year shows employees and employers applied for 189 urgent interdicts last year as opposed to 76 in 1987. The increasing number of cases coming before the court reflects both the growth of clashes between employers and trade unions and a swing to the law's being used as a first and not last resort.

Labour lawyers and firms specialising in labour law have grown at an astonishing rate. Many employers and consultants are highly critical of this trend. Among them is Chamber of Mines senior general manager of external relations Johan Liebenberg. He believes

that the legal profession has benefited enormously from the Wiehahn reforms. Because of the trend to legal solutions, he says old-fashioned, emotional collective bargaining is being phased out. Recent developments appear to indicate that employers and unions are finding ways around the Industrial Court. Dorbyl's recent decision to refer dismissal cases to private arbitration is one example. Dorbyl adopted this course only after 7 000 National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) members at 50 of its plants threatened to strike. It did, however, reserve its right to have re-

course to the court should it be unhappy with the decision of the arbitrator. The demand for private arbitration has been heard repeatedly at union-employer meetings. Reasons put forward for this by unionists at the workers' summit included dissatisfaction with the arbitrary and inconsistent nature of court judgments. In addition, high costs of litigation and the difficulty of gaining access to the court played a part. Private arbitration was punted recently by Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (Actwusa) general secretary John Copelyn. He says the unions believe they are unable to influence court appointments and the court is reluctant to reinstatement unfairly dismissed workers as reasons for this

Although employers appear to be accepting the concept of contracting out of the LRAA, particularly on rights disputes, there are some disadvantages to private arbitration. Mr Copelyn says because arbitration awards are private they cannot set a precedent or be quoted as a guideline for other parties not involved in the proceedings. A new initiative was adopted at the summit. It resolved to unite workers across the political spectrum through a Cosatu-Nactu and independent unions' National Co-ordinating Committee. Cosatu president Elijah Baragyi made it clear that he hoped united action against the LRAA would allow greater co-operation between Nactu and Cosatu, the goal being one federation for all unions. Amid the spirit of co-operation and peaceful protest, it is hoped that some clear-cut decisions will be taken on the LRAA soon. Employers and workers have lost too much both in terms of cash and trust.

Consumer action delay

CONSUMER action called by Nactu, Cosatu and independent unions - and which was to have taken place today, has been postponed to September 22 according to spokesmen of these organisations

By postponing it to next week the consumer action will coincide with the ban of overtime work by members of unions affiliated to the two federations.

By **LEN MASEKO**

Another shift from the resolutions taken at the second Workers' Summit held at Shareworld about three weeks ago will be on the length of the action.

Planning

It will only last for two weeks, between September 22 and October 6,

not for a month as had been originally planned.

Cosatu's general secretary, Mr Jay Naidoo, said the decision to postpone the action was taken at a meeting between his federation and Nactu last Friday. The two federations had met to discuss further action against controversial amendments to the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

He said: "It was agreed (by Cosatu and

Nactu) that we go ahead with the summit's recommendations for a withdrawal of purchasing power and an overtime ban

"However, the date for the commencement of these actions was postponed from September 13 to 22 for two reasons:

(1) To give Saccola and other employers the opportunity to meet our

● To page 2

From page 1

demands on the LRA: (2) To give our members adequate time to prepare and discuss guidelines for these actions," he added.

Nactu official Mr Cunningham Ngcukana said the overtime ban would end on the same day as the consumer action. The action would be reviewed "from time to time", he said.

Sowefem 12/9/89

Sowefem 12/9/89

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Government said yesterday... not called for a stay... executive

was living in her house

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M64312/19/87

Calls for stayaway today go unheeded

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Calls for a stayaway today in protest against the Labour Relations Act and in memory of Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko seemed to have gone unheeded.

In an interview National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) general secretary Mr Phiroshaw Camay confirmed that there had been a call for a national stayaway but it seemed as though the response to the call was not encouraging.

"There was a call for stayaway today, and it appears to have failed. Apparently the call has gone unheeded, there's confusion because of the position taken by various organisations," said Mr Camay.

CALL FOR PROTEST

Mr Camay said Nactu was closely monitoring the situation around the PWV area, and would make a detailed statement later.

A Press statement issued by Nactu first assistant secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana yesterday said the union federation and its allies had made a call for protest against the LRA today, but "communities and workers will decide on what form of action to take".

Mr Ngcukana said that besides the Workers' Summit call for a national day of protest against the Labour Act on October 6, there were separate calls for September 5 and 12 for protests.

"For all intents and purposes, (these) were not summit dates but calls by the Mass Democratic Movement and Nactu and its allies," he said.

The nation-wide commemoration services planned for the honour of Black Consciousness leader Mr Steve Biko is expected to go ahead as scheduled.

Cosatu denies stayaway 'rumour'

CAP TMS
12/19/87

JOHANNESBURG — Nactu and Cosatu publicly disagreed yesterday on purported plans for further protests timed for today, as the two federations geared up for the resumption of their negotiations with employer federation Saccola on the Labour Relations Act.

Nactu, which did not support last Tuesday's work stayaway, announced today's planned action "against the LRA" Today is also the 12th anniversary of the death in detention of black consciousness movement (BCM) leader Steve Biko Nactu said the August 26 worker summit had resolved on such action However, Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said there was no truth in "rumours" that Cosatu or the mass democratic movement (MDM) had called for a stayaway today

The Nactu/BCM protest got underway yesterday with a picket by about 100 chanting Azapo supporters outside a Johannesburg branch of First National Bank against the bank's sponsorship of the recent international rugby tour

Saccola chairman Bobby Godsell said yesterday companies with which he had been in contact "do not expect a stayaway of any size"

Both Cosatu and Nactu announced they had postponed until September 22 other protests, including a two-week "withdrawal of purchasing power from white business" and an overtime ban

Union federations disagree on stayaway

B Day 12/9/89

143

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NACTU and Cosatu publicly disagreed yesterday on a possible work stayaway today, as the two federations geared up for the resumption of their negotiations with employer federation Saccola on the Labour Relations Act

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However, Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said there was no truth in "rumours" that Cosatu or the mass democratic movement had called for a stayaway today

The Nactu/BCM protest got underway yesterday with a picket by about 100 chanting Azapo support-

ALAN FINE and
SIPHO NGCOBO

ers outside a Johannesburg branch of First National Bank against the bank's sponsorship of the recent international rugby tour

The demonstrators, all waving anti-FNB posters and placards, had earlier gathered at the Johannesburg city library to mark the start of commemoration services for the late Steve Biko

Companies

They dispersed after a police warning that the gathering was unlawful

Saccola chairman Bobby Godsell said yesterday companies with which he had been in contact "do not expect a stayaway of any size"

Both Cosatu and Nactu announced they had postponed for nine days to September 22 other anti-apartheid and anti-LRA

protests

Cosatu said the delay was, to give Saccola and other employers the opportunity to meet union demands on the LRA, and to give members adequate time to prepare for these actions

Godsell and Nactu general secretary Piroshaw Camay confirmed a meeting between Saccola and the unions was scheduled for Thursday, with a further two days set aside for talks next week.

Camay said at Thursday's meeting unions would seek clarification on Saccola proposals and, where it existed, would confirm areas of agreement

Saccola has proposed urgent joint submissions to the National Manpower Commission on the deletion of section 79(2) of the LRA

The SA Agricultural Union, the NMC, the Commission for Administration and Sats have been invited to attend Thursday's meeting



A protest against First National Bank in Johannesburg yesterday included a placard protest to mark the death of black activist Steve Biko.

Picture BRIAN HENDLER

Mwasa demand to SABC

143
15/9/81
Pretoria Correspondent

The SABC has been given 24 hours to reinstate dismissed Radio Ndebele announcer, Mr Mandla Masanabo, according to a spokesman for the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa)

The demand for Mr Masanabo's reinstatement was made by Mwasa members at a meeting in Silverton yesterday

Mr Masanabo, who has worked for the SABC for about eight years and is Northern Transvaal chairman of Mwasa, said yesterday he was given 15 minutes to leave the premises after being dismissed

Mr J P Ludick, the SABC's regional director for northern Transvaal said the corporation held a disciplinary hearing in connection with the allegations on September 8

Mr Ludick said Mr Masanabo was given two days to appeal against the decision

Stayaway call ignored after disagreement

ISIPHO NGCOBO

A WORK stayaway called by the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) and Nactu did not materialise yesterday as a handful of the movement's members celebrated with low-key commemorations the 12th anniversary of the death in detention of BCM leader Steve Biko

The failure of yesterday's stayaway followed public disagreements between Nactu and Cosatu, with Cosatu dissociating itself from Nactu's position

Nactu had called for a stayaway yesterday in protest against the Labour Relations Act (LRA), while the BCM had called for the observance of the death of Biko

Yesterday's stayaway failure was a repetition of September 5 which saw Cosatu's stayaway call failing as a result of Nactu's refusal to participate *B Day 13/9/89*

Meanwhile, confusion reigned in the Reef townships over the stayaway as bickering continued between the two major union federations

~~Normal~~ *Normal* ~~14.3~~ *14.3*

Major employer organisations reported normal work attendance by their employees yesterday and hundreds of taxis from Reef areas like Soweto, Alexandra and the East and West Rand did business as usual

Putco spokesman Robin Duff said business was normal for the organisation and Adrian Botha of SA Breweries said there were no stayaways at the brewery's major food and beverage sections

AECI's Andre Botha also said his department had not had reports of stayaways

Meanwhile, police remained in the background as about 100 people gathered at Soweto's Regina Mundi Church in what was supposed to be the main commemoration service

BCM speakers said Biko's pronouncements gave rise to a new thinking that sparked off the June 16 uprising in Soweto in 1976

"His body may be dead, but his spirit will live on in spite of attempts from various quarters to minimise his contribution," said one speaker

163
City strikers return to work

CP- 7/14/89 15/9/89
ABOUT 400 workers of city electronics manufacturing firm Plessey, who have been on strike for nine weeks, returned to work yesterday.

The workers, all members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA, accepted the management wage offer and extracted major concessions.

As part of the agreement Plessey must donate R50 000 to the Cape Flats Distress Association, which helped workers during the strike. — Sapa

Mwasa acts against bank

143

SB

THE Southern Transvaal region of the Media Workers Association of SA resolved at the weekend to withdraw its account from First National Bank for the latter's sponsoring of rebel rugby tours.

In line with the union's congress theme 1989 "A great leap forward" Mwasa said FNB should pay for its efforts aimed at saving SA from international sporting isolation.

The congress, which was held at the Ipelegeng Community Centre in Soweto, also resolved to condemn the negotiated settlement "as only capitalists would benefit from this treacherous ploy."

A union spokesman, M. Ryder Peta, said Mwasa further condemned the Labour Relations Amendment Act and pledged to crush it.

Members

Other Mwasa resolutions included the union's solidarity with its dismissed members at the SABC (Pretoria branch).

The union reaffirmed its stance against imperialism and its non-sectarian approach to the struggle.

Mwasa also felt strongly about Nactu and Cosatu having disowned the national day of protest called on September 12, saying "as a result of the confusion some of our members stayed away and were dismissed from work."

Protest at SABC

ABOUT 250 people demonstrated outside a South African Broadcasting Corporation building in Silverton, Pretoria, yesterday following an unsuccessful meeting with management over the alleged dismissal of an announcer. *Sowetan 15/9/89*

The demonstrators - mostly members of the Media Workers Association of SA - were protesting against the alleged sacking of Mandlakayise Masanabo, regional chairman of Mwasa Northern Transvaal and an announcer with Radio Ndebele.

According to Mwasa members, shop stewards met SABC management representatives yesterday morning.

At the meeting, "unconvincing" reasons were advanced for the treatment meted out to Masanabo on Monday.

Masanabo was reportedly sacked with immediate effect and "escorted" from the SABC building.

SABC management representatives, however, at their meeting with Mwasa shop stewards this morning, apparently said Masanabo had not been dismissed, but had been placed "on leave", according to an SABC staffer. *(143)*

Management also reportedly said Masanabo had not been escorted from the building, but merely "assisted to go out". - Sapa.

SACKED OVER STAYAWAY

OVER a thousand black workers have either been sacked or given warnings by management for staying away from work on September 5 and 6.

They heeded a call by the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and independent unions to stay at home on those days in protest against the white elections.

Spokesmen for the two federations said the majority of employers had decided to apply the principle of "no work, no pay" in response to the stayaway - as suggested by Assocom

Nactu official Miss Dale Tiffin said at least 1 500 workers belonging to the federation's unions had been given warnings Nactu unions intended to contest the action, she said.

By LEN MASEKO

Among companies which took disciplinary action against their workforce were Murray and Roberts (950 workers) and Pretoria Portland Cement (500)

At least 135 members of Cosatu-affiliated unions were dismissed by various companies after participating in the two-day protest a spokesman for the federation said

Cosatu official Mr Neil Coleman said 36 of the dismissed workers were later reinstated after union officials intervened

Of those dismissed 81 were employed by the Grahamstown municipality

Ban on ⁽¹⁴³⁾
overtime ⁽¹⁴³⁾

^{Scullion}
^{10/1/69}
AN OVERTIME ban, which is expected to take place simultaneously with a withdrawal of buying power from Friday until October 6, has already begun in some industries - two days ahead of the scheduled date

The ban, called by the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), the Congress of South African Unions and unaffiliated unions, was affecting mostly companies in the metal industry ⁽¹⁴³⁾

Mr Brian Angus, executive director of the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation of South Africa (Seifsa), confirmed that some member companies were affected by the overtime ban.

11/21/93
5/17/93
Boycott
on white
businesses

143
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A national consumer boycott of white-owned businesses is to be officially implemented from tomorrow in line with the decision of last month's Worker Summit proposing "sustained action" against the Labour Relations Act (LRA)

The summit was attended by delegates of Cosatu, Nactu and independent unions which together represent about 1,2 million workers

Employer federation Saccola secretary Mr Friede Dowie yesterday said employers considered the planned action a breach of good faith bargaining. The matter would be raised at the next round of LRA negotiations with the unions scheduled for tonight

Nactu general secretary Mr Piroshaw Camay said yesterday that the consumer boycott was being supported by the Mass Democratic Movement

Saccola suspends labour talks

EMPLOYER federation Saccola has suspended its participation in talks on the Labour Relations Act with Cosatu and Nactu because of the union-initiated anti-LRA overtime ban and consumer boycott of white business

(100) (101) (143) (102)
ALAN FINE

of SA's largest employer organisations — as to whether it should continue talks in the face of these actions

A major retailer said at the weekend it was still too early to measure the impact of the actions officially launched on Friday. However, it has clearly taken a grip in the Eastern Cape where a boycott began prematurely 12 days ago.

Saccola secretary Friede Dowie said last week employers considered the ban and boycott an act of bad faith coming as they did in the middle of negotiations.

Saccola told the unions during meetings on Thursday night and Friday it was unwilling to continue negotiations on the Act. The employer federation has resolved to seek mandates from its constituents — 11

At the weekend Nactu general secretary Piroshaw Camay defended the union initiative. "They (Saccola) want us to lay down our weapons while they retain the ability to use the Act against us," he said. He said the overtime ban would be re-

□ To Page 2

Talks suspended

□ From Page 1

viewed on October 6. The boycott is scheduled to end on October 6.

The retailer, who did not wish to be identified, said it would be possible to assess the effect of the boycott only later this week.

He said tighter economic conditions had caused a substantial decline in consumer spending over the last six to eight weeks, and it was difficult to tell whether the boycott had played any part in this.

It was clear, though, sales in the Eastern Cape had suffered significantly more, when compared to the national pattern.

East London's CBD Association Chairman, Frank Bishop said at the week-end the consumer boycott of businesses has hit retail trading in the area by about 10% in less than a fortnight.

Bishop said most businesses affected were furniture trading outlets and chain stores with a large percentage of black customers.

He said East London's CBD was one of the first trade areas to desegregate.

He felt it was disappointing the "generally liberal" Border area appeared to have been singled out by the boycott planners.

He called for immediate negotiation with the organisers and described the implementation of the boycott against the East London CBD as "an arbitrary" way of tackling a problem. Retailers were keen to meet with the people or groups behind the boycott, he said.

"The buzz word these days is negotiation. But we have a problem because we do not know who the organisers are. As an association we were never told what problems the organisers had with us," said Bishop.

□ In a statement yesterday the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) said all its members at BP's East London and Cape Town plants have embarked on an overtime ban as part of the Cosatu/Nactu anti-labour relations act campaign.

CWIU said management was attempting to persuade workers to call of their action.

Bishop
25/10/89

Boycott begins to bite in retail sector

143

BIDAN 26/9/89 SIPHO NGCOBO and ALAN FINE

THE trade-union backed consumer boycott of white-owned businesses, designed as a protest against the Labour Relations Act, was beginning to affect major retail stores, leading retailers said yesterday. Stores that confirmed they were beginning to feel the effects of the boycott included Pick 'n Pay, Checkers, Dion and the Edgars Group.

Employer organisations and Cosatu and Nactu said the impact of the simultaneous call for an indefinite, national overtime ban was still being assessed.

At least one company has won an Industrial Court interdict against the ban, while other applications may be in the pipeline.

Cosatu Witwatersrand regional secretary Ariel Mabalane said it had been decided the boycott on the Reef would continue for an extra seven days beyond the scheduled two weeks. He added it had been decided to defy interdicts granted against the overtime ban.

Pick n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman said the effect of the consumer boycott varied from slight to medium. Staff purchasing had dropped in a lot of areas and customer purchasing in some. He was unable to give figures of turnover losses.

Checkers MD Clive Weil said the effects of the boycott were noticeable only in East London and other eastern Cape areas. He said it was contrary to Checkers policy to divulge statistics.

Dion MD Jannie Els said his company's stores suffered an overall 10% loss in turnover on Friday and Saturday when the boycott began. He said he would be in a position to give yesterday's figures today.

Edgars Group MD Vic Hammond, whose group of stores includes Sales House and Jet, said the consumer boycott was noticeable in the Johannesburg CBD. "I do not have figures yet but from the look of things some people are adhering to the boycott. I was in the Johannesburg CBD on Saturday

Boycott

and noticed that it was empty." Meanwhile, East London's CBD Association chairman Frank Bishop said his organisation was still prepared to negotiate with the boycott planners but said the task was almost impossible since the planners were faceless.

"Wanting a meeting with these guys is like wanting a meeting with God. Just like God, they do not have telephone numbers nor offices where they could be contacted," said Bishop.

Spokesmen for the FCI and Seifsa said they were still awaiting reports from

BIDAN 26/9/89. From Page 1 members on the extent of the overtime ban. And Cosatu and Nactu officials said they were awaiting feedback from their regions and affiliates.

Transvaal Mattress was granted an interdict last week against the Paper, Printing Wood and Allied Workers' Union.

Industrial Court spokesmen said another four notices had been received in respect of urgent applications against overtime bans. However, these had not been carried through and it was possible the matters had been settled out of court.

Unions to stage protest marches in major cities

872
27/9/89
By Drew Forrest

Trade unions representing more than a million workers are to stage protest marches in Johannesburg and other major cities on October 14

Speaking at a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Congress of SA Trade Unions general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo said Cosatu, the National Council of Trade Unions and non-aligned unions were calling the marches to protest against the Labour Relations Act.

The marches come after the launch of a two-week national consumer boycott and an indefinite overtime ban by the unions in protest against the Act.

Mr Naidoo said the main march would take place in Johannesburg with simultaneous protests in other major cities.

The unions' current view was that

they should not ask for permission, he said

Challenging a Government statement that the authorities were being forced to act against protest marches because they were illegal and crimes were being committed, Mr Naidoo said the protests had been disciplined and restrained. The violent incidents which followed the recent Maritzburg march appeared to be the work of criminal elements or provocateurs, he said.

The indications were that the State, shaken by the demonstrations, had instructed them to be stopped "by whatever means".

Mr Naidoo said that while police had acted against peaceful women marchers in Pretoria at the weekend, no action had been taken against armed rightwingers who had threatened and attacked passers-by.

Boycotters 'being cheated'

Business Day 28/9/89
BLACK consumers yesterday claimed they were being ripped off by Soweto shop and supermarket owners since the start of the trade union-backed consumer boycott of white-owned businesses last Friday.

Consumers say the rip-offs have taken the form of price increases of up to 33% per commodity in less than a week of the boycott.

At one of the main supermarkets in the township, a war of words allegedly erupted between an official of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) and the store's floor manager last Saturday over price hikes.

The Mwasa official told Business Day he went to buy groceries at the store last Saturday, a day after the start of the boycott, and found prices had rocketed

(143)
SIPHO NGCOBO

He said meat (beef) had gone up from R7,49 per kilogram to R9,99 while mutton had been upped from R10,50 to R13,50 — increases of 33% and 28,6% respectively.

He said two litres of fresh milk had increased from R2,79 to R3,07 — an increase of about 10%.

He said 2kg of powdered soap that was R6,89 had increased to R7,19 — an increase of about 4%.

"I was forced to give up buying other items as I could not afford them," he said.

The supermarket owner demed he was exploiting the boycott situation and said he had never looked at the boycott as a

To Page 2

Boycott

Business Day 26/9/89
chance to amass profits

"I am a black man and a man of the people and I know the suffering of a black man. For those reasons I can never do a thing like that. If there have been any price increases, they have probably been based on prices of suppliers," said the businessman.

A prominent Soweto businessman, Truman Mnguni, said it had become the usual practice of Soweto businessmen to in-

(143)
 From Page 1
crease their prices whenever there was a consumer boycott.

He said "It is wrong of these people to exploit the consumer boycott situation. These are the types of people who look at short-term business gains rather than long-term ones."

He said the upping of prices only helped to leave a bad impression on one's business.

● See Page 3

Sasol staff
reinstated
with R3m
backpay

Own Correspondent

THE Industrial Court yesterday ordered the reinstatement, with six months' backpay worth an estimated R3 million, of 730 Sasol employees dismissed during a wage strike in October 1987.

The matter was brought in Johannesburg by the South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu).

Sacwu general secretary Mr Humphrey Ndaba, describing the judgment as a major victory, declined to release a copy of the 102-page judgment till after a media conference this morning.

A Sasol spokesman said management had not yet had an opportunity to study the judgment thoroughly, and would react once this had been done. A copy was not available. Industrial Court judgments are released only through the contesting parties.

The workers, employed at Sasol 1 at Sasolburg, were among 1300 dismissed a week after going on strike.

Sasol and Natref played foul, says court

BIDAN 4/10/89

SASOL and Natref "used rough and ugly tactics, played foul, and deserve to be shown the red card"

That was one of the hard-hitting criticisms of management made by the Industrial Court in ordering the reinstatement, with six months back-pay, of 730 SA Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu) members unfairly dismissed during an October 1987 wage strike.

The 102-page judgment, published in Johannesburg on Monday by advocate M A E Bulbuha with advocate V W Apostoleris concurring, was released yesterday by

ALAN FINE

Sacwu

Sasol yesterday announced its intention to appeal against the judgment, and declined to comment on its contents

Bulbuha found management had used every means at its disposal — including unfair means — to paralyse the strike

It had established a special "labour unrest task force" which used informers to monitor union activities, and secured the presence of the police to induce or intimidate strikers to return to work

The strike, he said, had been a legitimate, economic strike. Management had shut its eyes to the root cause of the action and was unable to resume wage negotiations after the strike began. Instead, "they had concentrated their efforts on securing the capitulation of the union"

It was, he said, incumbent on the parties to resume negotiations as soon as possible after the commencement of the strike — which management had refused to do

This case, he said, was an illustration of diametrically opposing schools of thought on the purpose of economic strikes

to Oct 3

B/Dam 5/10/89

143

Union wage settlements run ahead of inflation

ALAN FINE

UNION-negotiated wage settlements for the first nine months of the year are running ahead of inflation, but the level of real increases has declined appreciably compared with the previous two years.

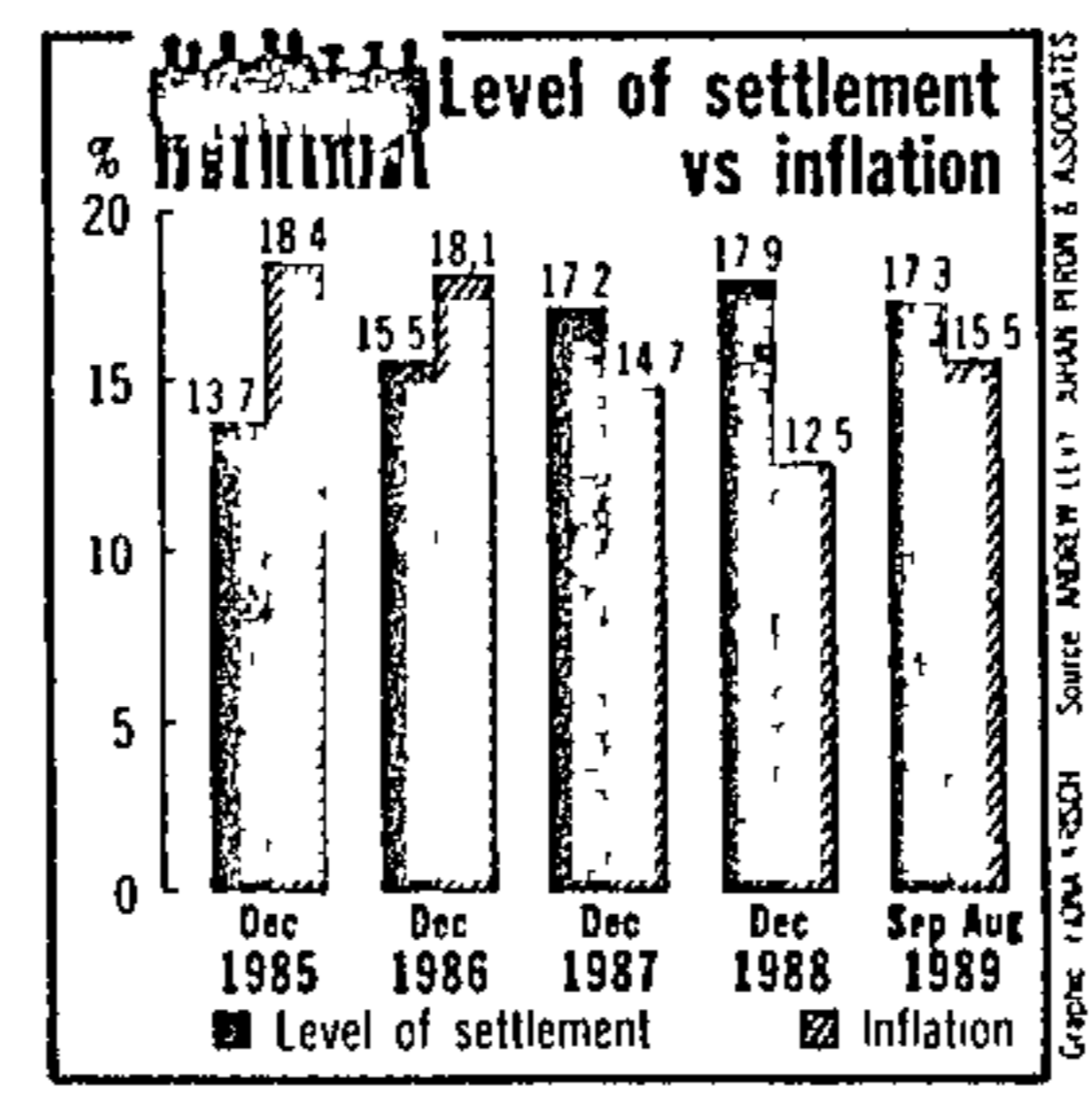
This was one of the findings of two surveys released yesterday by the Institute for Industrial Relations (IIR) and consultants Andrew Levy, Johan Piron and Associates respectively.

With the annual inflation rate — as measured by the CPI — running at 15,5% in August, Levy found this year's settlements averaged a 17,3% increase on payrolls, while the IIR put the figure at 16,7%.

The 1,2 (IIR) or 1,8 (Levy) percentage point differential between wage increases and inflation — the real increase — compares to 5,4% last year and 2,5% in 1987 (see graph).

But, IIR senior professional officer Adrian Hersch pointed out, workers in the lowest-paid job categories won increases averaging 19,2% — still firmly above the inflation rate.

In some instances, he said, workers



above the lower grades had attained, or were in sight of attaining — "some form of moderately respectable standard of living for themselves and their families".

The pressure emanating from them for higher increases was therefore not as great as it was in respect of their counterparts at lower levels, and this had contributed to the lower average increases.

While wage rates had increased

sharply in the post-Wiehahn era, much pressure remained for fairly large increases to be made in the lower job categories, Hersch said.

Levy's survey found that the unions achieving the highest increases were Cosatu's Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union and Nactu's Building, Construction and Allied Workers' Union. Both unions, which operate in traditionally low-wage sectors, won increases averaging 19,3%.

At the other end of the scale, the Food and Allied Workers' Union achieved 15,9% increases.

The IIR survey, which measured increases by sector rather than union, noted the highest increases in the paper/printing/wood sector (19,3%) and commerce (18,9%).

Of the sectors surveyed, which excluded agriculture, lowest increases were paid in the financial (15%) and food (15,2%) sectors.

The IIR found that the motor and pharmaceutical sectors paid the highest average minimum monthly wages of R1 021 and R1 018 respectively. The mining industry, at R417, and construction (R535) paid the lowest.

STAR 5/10/89

SABC takes back sacked unionist

The northern Transvaal regional chairman of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa has been reinstated by the SABC, with warning letters, after an appeal by the association

Mr Mandlakayise Masanabo was dismissed by the corporation on September 11. The SABC accused him of "gross negligence when he failed to play all the adverts given to him in the allocated time", Mwasa general secretary Mr Sithembele Khala said in a statement yesterday

Mr Masanabo was also accused of breaking SABC rules by playing recorded news instead of reading it live, and of insubordination

"The supervisor confiscated news tapes and Mr Masanabo wrote him a letter demanding the tapes. It is alleged by the corporation that the tone of the letter was disrespectful," said the Mwasa statement (143) (135)

"Mwasa contested Mr Masanabo's dismissal on the basis that the verdict and conviction smacked of victimisation and racial prejudice on the part of the corporation, that the panel was unfairly constituted, that Mr Masanabo was not given the chance to call all his witnesses, and no preliminary investigations were conducted by the SABC"

In a letter of reinstatement, the

SABC upheld the verdict of gross negligence and insubordination

For the counts of gross negligence, Mr Masanabo was given a written warning for six months, Mr Khala said

For the count of insubordination, he was given a final written warning lasting eight months

In the same letter, signed by the director-general of the SABC, it is said the appeal panel found extenuating circumstances in both counts

"Of interest, however, the corporation does not address those circumstances which (precipitated) the behaviour," Mr Khala said
— Sapa

kwaNdebele ^{STAR} workers in ⁽⁹²⁾ Sandton demo ^{10/10/89}

By Drew Forrest ⁽⁹²⁾

About 300 workers travelled from kwaNdebele to Sandton yesterday to stage a placard protest outside the headquarters of Anglo American's Boart International.

⁽¹⁴³⁾
The workers, from Strata Control Systems, near Bronkhorstspuit, were fired after downing tools on Thursday over the disciplining of a colleague. Boart has a controlling interest in the firm.

Mr Zithulele Cindi, of the Metal and Electrical Workers Union, said the root problem was management's refusal to recognise the union on the grounds that the factory was located in a homeland. The union represented 90 percent of the workforce, he said.

⁽⁹²⁾
Boart public relations manager Mr Ted Scannell confirmed a dispute at Strata.

Workers lay siege to factory

Chk
Twp
18/11/85
143

By MARIUS BOSCH and BELINDA BERESFORD
STRIKING workers at a Parow electronics factory broke through the factory fence and laid siege to the administration block yesterday

After members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA (EATUSA) broke through, they attacked a guard dog with steel pipes and "occupied the company's administration offices". Mr Richard Burger, production manager of National Panasonic's Parow factory, said National Panasonic will "approach the court for urgent relief to protect the company and its employees from further intimidation and violence".

He said workers had also prevented other employees from entering or leaving the premises during the course of the day and had disconnected computers and other office equipment.

A union spokesperson said about 70 workers took control of the building. The workers intended to stage a "sleep-in" through the weekend.

The workers had been on strike for the past 13 weeks since the union rejected management's offer of 20% wage increases. About 200 other workers, however, accepted the offer.

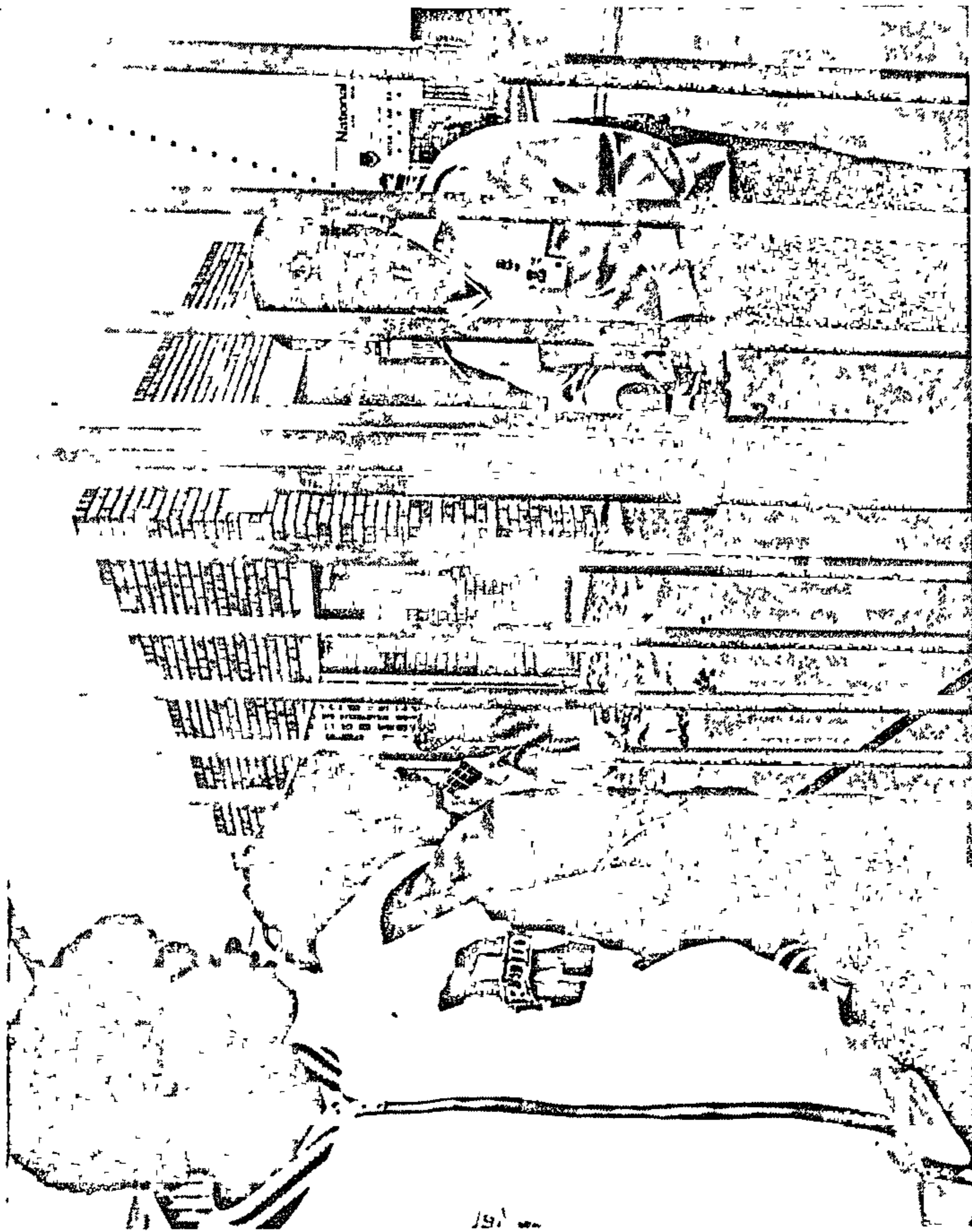
Management had offered to pay the workers for the day on condition they vacated the offices, union officials said.

Yesterday security guards tried in vain to open the gates of the factory which had apparently been jammed by the workers.

All telephone lines at the factory had been disconnected, Mr Burger said, adding that management had requested an urgent meeting with the workers.

EATUSA secretary-general Mr Tommy Oliphant said he was also in the dark.

"The workers decided to do this by themselves, because management was not moving on their demands," he said.



LOCKED IN ... A security guard at the National Panasonic factory in Parow tries to open the factory gates yesterday. Earlier in the morning striking workers jammed the locks so they could not be opened.

Picture: ANNE LAING

Cape Times
21/11/89

Parow strike

over soon?

Staff Reporter

STRIKING workers at a Parow electronics factory, who broke through the factory fence on Friday and laid siege to the administration block appear to be nearing a settlement with management.

Mr Richard Buerger, production manager of National Panasonic's Parow factory, told the Cape Times yesterday that workers had left the premises "of their own accord" on Friday night.

Mr Buerger said yesterday that management had made a new offer to union officials and shop stewards on Saturday which seemed acceptable.

This was confirmed last night by a union official.

injure eight others

AP 6 Times 23/11/87 (K3)

Panasonic strike ended

AN AGREEMENT has ended the 14-week strike of some 185 workers at National Panasonic's Parow factory and workers will be back at their posts today. The agreement includes an across-the-board 20% wage increase, a shorter work week, increased overtime rates, death benefits, long service awards, a cash bonus and "back pay" since the strike began in July.

CAB TENTS 24/11/87

Sarhwu's preconditions for ending SATS strike

JOHANNESBURG — The South African Railways and Harbours Workers' Union (Sarhwu) has demanded recognition and the reinstatement of all dismissed workers as preconditions for ending the two-week-long SATS strike by about 18 000 workers

Sarhwu's demands include that striking workers not be victimised and that they return to work as soon as a settlement agreement had been signed

The union also suggested SATS appoint a conciliation board to deal with its demands concerning wages or agree on a date for wage negotiations.

Meanwhile only 15% of Black Trade Union (Blatu) members participating in the strike resumed duties at different depots in Durban yesterday following the union's decision that its members would return to work.

● A white railways labour unionist in Pretoria, Mr Phillip Strauss, intends asking the Minister of Law and Order for increased police protection for white workers during the strike. — Sapa

143

The Top 100 Companies 1989

By Robyn Chalmers

INTENSE, widespread and, at times, violent opposition to the Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRAA) was the one constant factor in industrial relations this year

Promulgation of the LRAA in September last year resulted in an immediate and unprecedented campaign of protest by black trade unions

Two major stayouts in protest against the LRAA cost the economy almost R1-billion in lost production. Countless marches, demonstrations and sit-ins were organised. Two worker summits on the Act were held and it was a major topic of debate at this year's Cosatu national congress. Although final figures for the year have not yet been collated, man-days lost because of industrial action against the LRAA must have been significant, even when compared with that of man-days lost through wage strikes. FSA-Contact director Mike Beaumont says the LRAA has without doubt been the major industrial relations issue throughout the year. "Unions have concentrated on the abolition of Section 79(2) (which gives companies the right to sue unions for costs incurred during strikes), the right to strike, the right to picket and the right to boycott"

SA's two largest labour federations — the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) — have been negotiating with employer body Saccola on these issues almost since it was promulgated.

Talks have been difficult and protracted. Manpower Minister Eli Louw asked the National Manpower Commission to investigate the Act, and the parties concerned appear confident that major changes to it will take place by next year.

Industrial action increased significantly in the build-up to the September general election, and continued for some months after it.

Figures provided by FSA-Contact show that the number of man-days lost between July and September were



DEMONSTRATORS ... South Africa was hit by widespread strikes towards the end of this year

Amended Act fuels protests

Massive increase in lost man-days

the average minimum increase to be 19,2%

Other trends were the increased pressure from employers to improve productivity trends, the deteriorating position of the skills shortage and greater union opposition to privatisation.

Unions found themselves in a dilemma over sanctions, disinvestment and corporate social responsibility. While calling for multinationals to disinvest, unions — particularly the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) — laid down rules on how they should disinvest.

Looking to the future, AECI human resources general manager Bokkie Botha believes the next three years will be focused on labour flexibility, community involvement and the development of relationships.

He says SA companies will

face competition not just for their products, but will compete in almost every facet of business.

This includes the quality of management, retention of people, training and development, the provision of facilities, marketing, sales, procurement, engineering and production.

Reward

In order to get ahead in this environment, Mr Botha says employees will have to be given more flexibility to work harder, and to develop that flexibility, companies are going to have to deal with several problems.

Insecurity and the harmonisation of white-collar and blue-collar terms will have to be considered, with stress being laid on reward for performance and reward for giving up perceptions of

ownership of jobs. Community involvement, he points out, has played a major driving role in industrial relations in the past.

"We know the problems of unemployment, a burgeoning population, housing shortages, backlogs in education, gaps in health and welfare provision and many others."

"Employees and their trade unions are already making demands in these areas. As competition grows between communities and unions for a greater share of the cake, one consequence will be union demands for involvement in social responsibility funding decisions."

At the practical level, he says there will be increased demands for home ownership assistance, for access to land, non-racial schooling etc.

Mr Botha says trade union/employer relationships have become increasingly defined by litigation. While power has settled many shop-floor issues, an increasingly retaliatory atmosphere appears to be developing.

"In the end, there is no substitute for fair reward, development of job security and respect for human dignity."

934 798, compared with 75 442 in the first and 457 713 in the second quarter of this year.

One of the reasons advanced by labour analysts for the rise in industrial action were developments in the political field.

While black trade unions have always had a political agenda, labour spokesmen speculated that unionists wanted to ensure their own position in the political arena and pressurise the Government into moving as speedily as possible.

Trends

The Institute of Industrial Relations (IIR) identified two wage trends for 1989 to the end of the third quarter.

Firstly, it said average wage increases were moderately ahead of inflation, as opposed to being more firmly up on inflation in 1988. Until the third quarter this year, it estimated an average wage increase of 16,7%, while inflation stood at 15,5%.

The second trend identified was that of average minimum wage increases, which were fairly firmly above inflation. The IIR calculated

Nactu quits Indaba

Saefan

8/12/89

143

THE National Council of Trade Unions

will not take part in tomorrow's Conference for a Democratic Future, the federation announced yesterday.

Nactu's first assistant general secretary, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, told a Press conference the main objection to the CDF was the participation of homeland leaders and other "sellouts".

He said "It was in the meeting of December 5 (of the CDF's convening committee) when Nactu was finally presented with a *fait accompli* that Inyandza, Seoposengwe and

457 MEMBERS

other homeland structures would participate in the CDF without the matter being fully discussed by the convening committee

"As a result of participation of these homeland leaders and other sellouts, Nactu's principle of non-collaboration is being compromised and therefore Nactu will not participate in the CDF

"We owe our position to the people who are on Death Row and in jail, who are in that predicament because of this principle and we will not betray them," Ngcukana said

The newly-formed Pan Africanist Movement of Azania, the Azanian Youth Unity and the New Unity Movement have said they will not participate

Azanyu said the Africans had gone on record as having been the only ones calling for principled unity

"The CDF, however, does not represent the principled unity we have been calling for"

The New Unity Movement said "The conference, clearly, is but a first step by liberals and opportunists to divert the liberatory struggle and to

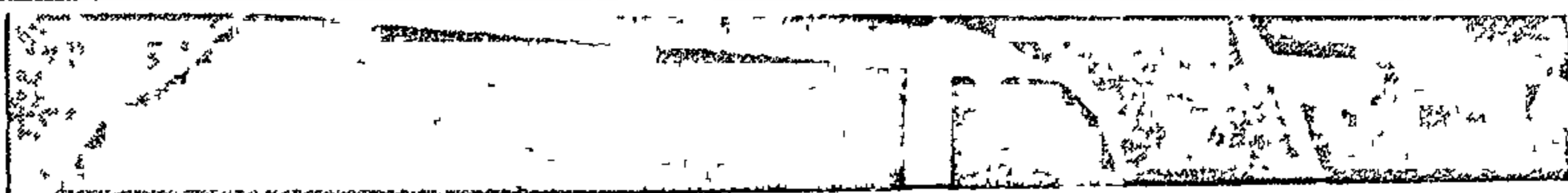
drive into a cul-de-sac of 'negotiations' "

The president of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), Mr Nkosi Molala, said the homeland parties and representatives would have to sign an undertaking that they would resign from the "government created" structures to qualify

No homeland structures were invited, he said, adding that they had themselves applied to participate

The CDF begins at 9 am at the University of the Witwatersrand and 2 500 delegates are expected to attend Mr Walter Sisulu and Mr Jerry Mofokeng will be keynote speakers

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RY



Sugar Ray Leonard (left) ducks as Roberto Duran swings at him during the

Star 8/12/89
Nactu dashes hopes of black unity

By Patrick Laurence

143

The decision by the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) to withdraw from the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) to be held at the University of the Witwatersrand tomorrow, comes as a major blow to the hopes of uniting ideologically disparate black forces in a campaign to end apartheid.

The official reason given by Nactu was the acceptance by the CDF of representatives of political parties in leg-

islative assemblies in the "homelands".

Until recently, there was unanimity in black extra-parliamentary circles that there can be no political co-operation with people serving in "homeland" assemblies or black town councils.

But lately the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) has changed tack to take account of men like Mr Enos Mabuza of kaNgwane and General Bantu Holomisa of Transkei.

In adopting its new approach, the MDM won over black consciousness organisations, notably Azapo. It failed, however, to convince the Africanists



Restrictions

Turffontein tomorrow Best bet — Cri... The Star is being... under the

December 10, 1989



Piroshaw Camay . . . resigned over issue of CDF.

142
Class 10/12/89

Camay pulls out of Nactu

By **CONNIE MOLUSI**

POLITICAL splits within the National Council of Trade Unions, (Nactu) came to a head this week when general secretary Piroshaw Camay resigned

He threw in the towel after the assistant general secretary announced Nactu's pull-out from the Democratic Future

Camay has refused to speak publicly about his resignation, but it has been established he will lead a delegation of

Nactu affiliates at the CDF

The battle lines were drawn in the country's second-largest union federation when the Africanists took the lead at the last congress in August 1988

There was heated debate on changing certain principles that had guided the federation since its Cusa and Azactu days

Some delegates walked out of the congress after a split on changing the principle of "Black Working Class leadership" to "African Working Class"

Others refused to go on with the congress alleging the Africanists were no longer interested in debates but used voting numbers to batter through policy decisions

Early this year a row developed over the last-minute Nactu pull-out from the first workers' summit with Cosatu and independent trade unions - the branch of Camay

Nactu affiliates which stayed away began a mudslinging campaign against those who attended the summit

Camay's resignation

follows an inconsistent Nactu position on unity

Earlier Nactu agreed to attend the CDF and were actually part of the convening committee

The sudden turnabout is in line with a decision taken by the Pan Africanist Movement (PAM) at its launch last weekend

Cunningham Ngcukana, the first assistant general secretary of Nactu and a leading figure in PAM, announced the pull-out

The reasons he put forward are dissatisfaction with decisions taken in the convening committee

and the fact groupings associated with homelands will be part of the CDF

He said further participation in the CDF would compromise the principle of non-collaboration with government-created bodies

"We owe our position to the people who are on Death Row and in jail and we will not betray them," said Ngcukana

Nactu president James Mindaweni said he had hoped Camay could be convinced to stay on until the federation's next congress

112 Sowetan 11/12/89

CAMAY QUILTS NACTU

THE National Council of Trade Unions has accepted "with regret" the resignation last week of its general secretary, Mr Piroshay Camay.

A special central committee meeting held on Saturday also appointed first assistant general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana as acting general secretary until the federation's national council appoints a successor, according to James Mindaweni.

Camay's resignation, effective on December 31 this year, has precipitated a crisis within the federation as the accountant, Mrs Florence Thunane, has also resigned.

Three other senior officials are also said to be on their way out. Mindaweni said Camay had said he was tired.

Camay had no comment to make on his resignation but, according to weekend reports, it is an

open secret that he did not see eye to eye with Ngcukana, a founding member of the recently launched Pan Africanist Movement (PAM). 11 affiliates defied the resolution and attended the summit.

But it is believed that the last straw came when officials of Nactu decided to withdraw from last weekend's Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF).

Camay attended the conference representing an educational formation. At least eight affiliates of Nactu also attended the CDF in defiance of the federation's decision not

to go if its principle of non-collaboration was compromised.

Camay has considerable international links with major funding agencies and his exit from the position under such controversial circumstances may affect the federation's finances.

Camay (42) was appointed general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa) when it was formed in 1978. He became general secretary of Nactu when Cusa and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (Azactu) merged in 1986. He was reconfirmed to the position last year.



Mr Piroshay Camay



Mr Cunningham Ngcukana

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between all parties, it added "Only broad-based negotiations bringing together the true leaders of the different constituent parts of the South Afri-

The 12 leaders said significant advances on the road to peace had been recently made in war-torn Angola and Mozambique. — Sapa-Reuter.

Employer group puzzled by union threats

By Drew Forrest, Labour Reporter

The employer body Saccola takes "a very serious" view of trade union threats to intensify their anti-Labour Relations Act campaign, and will meet to decide its response this week.

The secretary of Saccola (SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs), Mrs Friede Dowie, said she was puzzled by the threats. Employers and unions had agreed on key issues in talks aimed at submissions to Government on the Act.

"We think we should make submissions on agreed areas, as changes are planned to the LRA next year and we're going to miss the boat. But the unions want all or nothing"

Last week Cosatu and Nactu announced proposals for a campaign next year involving stayaways, marches, the occupation of factories,

defiance of Industrial Court interdicts and the blacklisting of firms using LRA amendments

The proposals would be discussed at rallies.

Criticising Saccola for dragging its heels, the unions hinted that SA Transport Services, the Commission for Administration and the SA Agricultural Union would be major campaign targets, because of their refusal to discuss union rights in the public sector and farming.

Saccola's Mrs Dowie also described as "childish and unproductive" an attack on Barlow Rand.

Accusing Barlows of leading an attack on national bargaining and worker rights to collective action, the unions said the group was likely to be the target of a campaign early next year

Mrs Dowie stressed that Saccola represented a range of employer bodies and "rejected with contempt" any move to single out companies.

143

Star 11/12/89

Nactu crisis as Camay resigns

143
Smtk

14-19/12/89

From MONO BADELA
JOHANNESBURG. —

The shock resignation of the general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), Piroshaw Cama, has plunged the federation into a crisis.

Camay resigned last week, as did federation accountant Mrs Florence Thinane.

While Camay has refused to comment on the reasons for his resignation, it is believed that the move was motivated by his growing disenchantment with decisions taken by the federation.

It is thought that his dissatisfaction climaxed in the decision by Nactu officials to withdraw from last weekend's Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF)

Camay attended the conference, representing an educational formation

At least eight affiliates of Nactu also attended the CDF in defiance of the federation's ruling not to attend.

The federation has been plagued by controversy since its congress last year when an Africanist-dominated executive was elected

The divisions between the Africanists and the Black Consciousness Movement adherents were apparent when the principles of the federation were changed from "black working class unity" to "African working class unity".

Tension escalated when the federation voted not to attend the first Workers' Summit in March this year

The federation's image was dented when 11 affiliates defied the resolution and attended the summit. Camay was a key figure behind the idea of the Workers' Summit

Camay, 42, was appointed general secretary of the Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa) when it was formed in 1978. He became the general secretary of Nactu when Cusa and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions (Azactu) merged in 1986

A graduate of the University of South Africa and the University of Witwatersrand, Camay has extensive links with major international funding agencies and his exit under such controversial circumstances may affect the federation's finances

Camay served on the Transvaal Regional Stayaway Committee in 1984 with other trade union leaders such as Chris Dlamini and Moses Mayekiso

He was detained on November 14, 1984, under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act

In June 1986, Camay was detained in terms of the emergency regulations

Nactu president James Mndaweni said the federation had accepted Camay's resignation "with regret"

Mndaweni said a special central committee meeting at the weekend had appointed first assistant general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana as acting general secretary



Piroshaw Camay

(143) w mail
15-20/12/89

A troubled week for Nactu leads to talk of future rifts

TWO developments in the last week have cast doubt over the future of the National Council of Trade Unions

●The decision of eight affiliates to attend the recent Conference for a Democratic Future despite a Nactu announcement to the contrary.

●The resignation of the federation general secretary, Pirosshaw Camay

These developments have prompted speculation of a split in the union federation, if the unions which attended the CDF withdraw. Underlying such speculation is an alleged conflict between black consciousness and Africanist elements in Nactu.

At a National Council meeting in November, Nactu decided it would participate in the CDF unless the principle of non-collaboration was compromised.

Three days before the CDF, Nactu announced that it was withdrawing, citing the involvement of homeland leader "collaborators" as its objection.

The night before the announcement, six unions met assistant general secretary Cunningham Ncgukana but "no discussion was entertained — we were told Nactu would not attend the conference", said one unionist.

The unions said it was communicated to Ncgukana that "the decision cannot be left with union officials but had to be discussed by workers. But he did not respond". These unions believed the Nactu decision at that stage was to attend the conference.

"The National Council is the highest decision-making body whose decisions can be overruled only by another National Council meeting", said one official.

The unions now plan to make representations to Nactu to question procedures in the federation.

Nactu officials dismiss talk of a split. Ncgukana said he did not "foresee any split in Nactu".

Ncgukana told the *Weekly Mail* the meeting "attended by the eight affiliates was merely to brief them that the National Council decision to withdraw would be implemented".

National Union of Public Service Workers representative Siphso Radebe said the events belied "a split in thinking and approach in the federation".

"It is an open secret that the contending forces in Nactu are the unions with black consciousness leanings and the mushrooming Africanist-oriented affiliates.

"But it is to be expected that different unions will experience fundamental differences in principle. This does not mean a split — Nactu is merely washing its dirty linen in public."

Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (BAMCWU) general secretary Motsumi Makhune said while there was a political divide

Nactu leaders are denying allegations that the federation faces a serious split following the resignation of a key official and a decision by eight unions to defy a ban on attending a conference last week.

By CASSANDRA MOODLEY

in Nactu between Africanists and BC supporters, "unions will not break ranks but will stick to political arguments".

Makhune added that the BC unions would not be able to find a home in the other major federation, the Congress of South Africa Trade Unions. He was sure that the differences between the groups would be accommodated by Nactu.

Banking Insurance Finance and Allied Workers Union representative Lucky Monnagila said "The unity within Nactu is very fragile and could draw us nearer to a split but a split is not what we want."

Bifawu was one of the unions that attended the CDF. Monnagila said the eight unions agreed that the Nactu decision not to attend the conference, was taken undemocratically.

Ncgukana said he was aware of only one Nactu union, BAMCWU, attending the CDF. "BAMCWU will face disciplinary action," he said.

Although he did not specify what action, Ncgukana said a constitutional clause would allow for BAMCWU to be suspended or expelled for "disparaging Nactu's image".

Meanwhile, Camay's resignation, announced last week but submitted on December 1, is also seen as a serious blow to the federation.

Camay remains silent on his reasons for resigning but the federation says "it was a personal decision — Camay was tired after his long years of service in the labour movement".

Camay has been the federation's general secretary since its inception in 1986. His leaving, it is believed, will affect Nactu's international relations. He has represented his federation at the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the Commonwealth.

His attendance at the CDF as a delegate for an educational organisation could point to political differences among officials within the union structure. The Nactu accountant has also resigned and it is believed that other officials are on their way out.

Observers say Camay's reasons for resigning are rooted in the "Africanist takeover in the federation" which has affected its functioning.

● For more details of the CDF conference, turn to PAGE 11

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - NACTU

1990

~~JUNE~~

JANUARY

— ~~JUNE~~ DEC.

Stayaway Split

143
 CAPE TOWN 2/7/90

But ANC vows there will be no intimidation

Staff Reporters

THE ANC yesterday told workers in the Western Cape they would not be "intimidated or threatened" in any way if they did not take part in today's mass stayaway.

The undertaking, made by South African Youth Congress (Sayco) president Mr Peter Makaba at an ANC rally at Athlone Stadium yesterday, came as police warned they would be on full alert against any violence.

The ANC said at the weekend that the mass actions to protest against the continued killings in strife-torn Natal townships would be peaceful, and that those opposed to it had nothing to fear. It called on its members to observe the code of conduct drawn up by the South African Council of Churches (SACC).

However, the proposed stayaway threatens to expose new violence among a black opposition arguing bitterly over its merits.

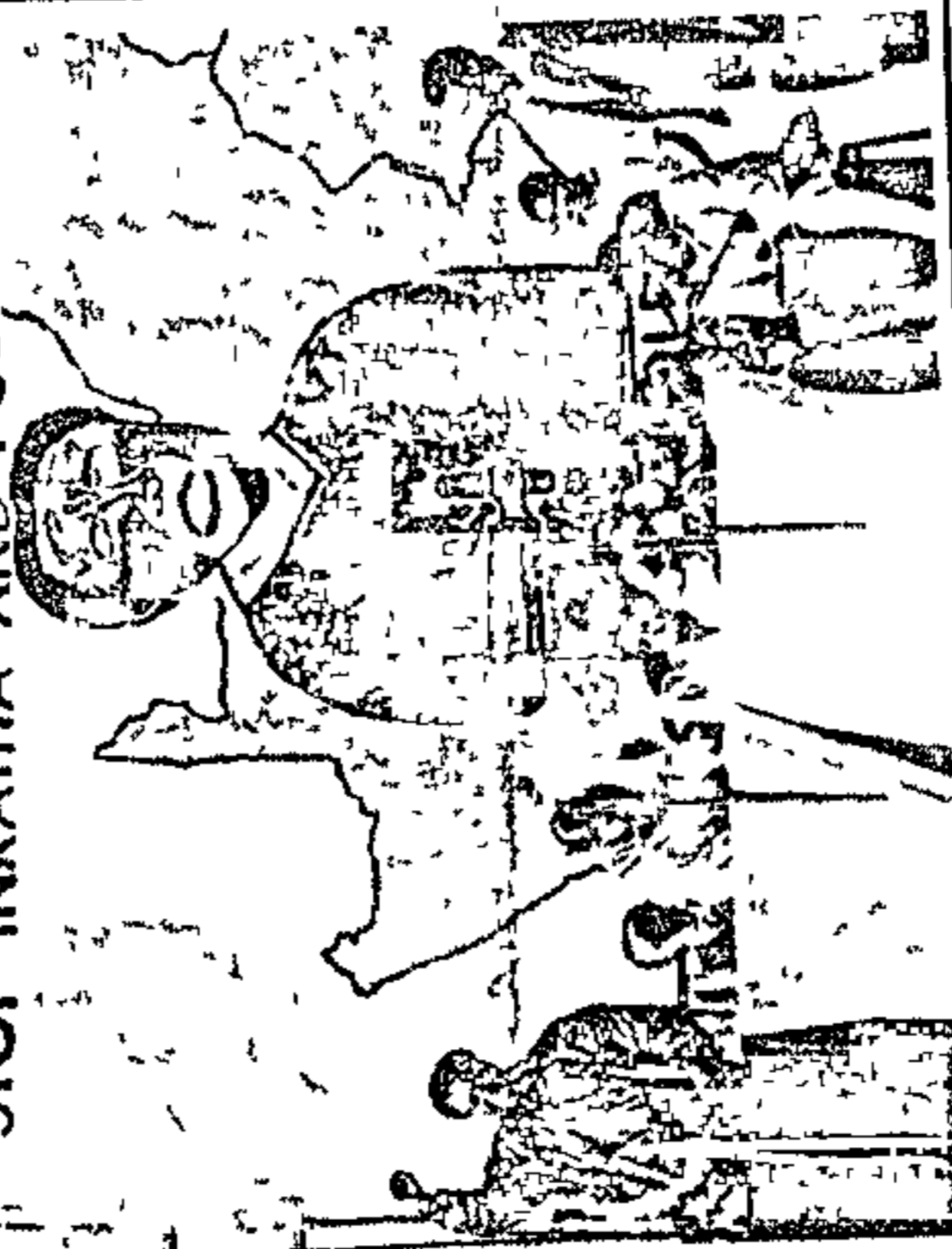
The stayaway, intended as the first day of a "week of action" aimed at emphasising the violence in Natal, has split black movements who disagree on its potential to end conflict — and on one side has temporarily united sworn enemies.

The ANC, the UDF and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) endorse the stayaway call, saying that only such decisive action will force Pretoria to take real steps toward stemming a virtual Zulu civil war in strife-torn Natal.

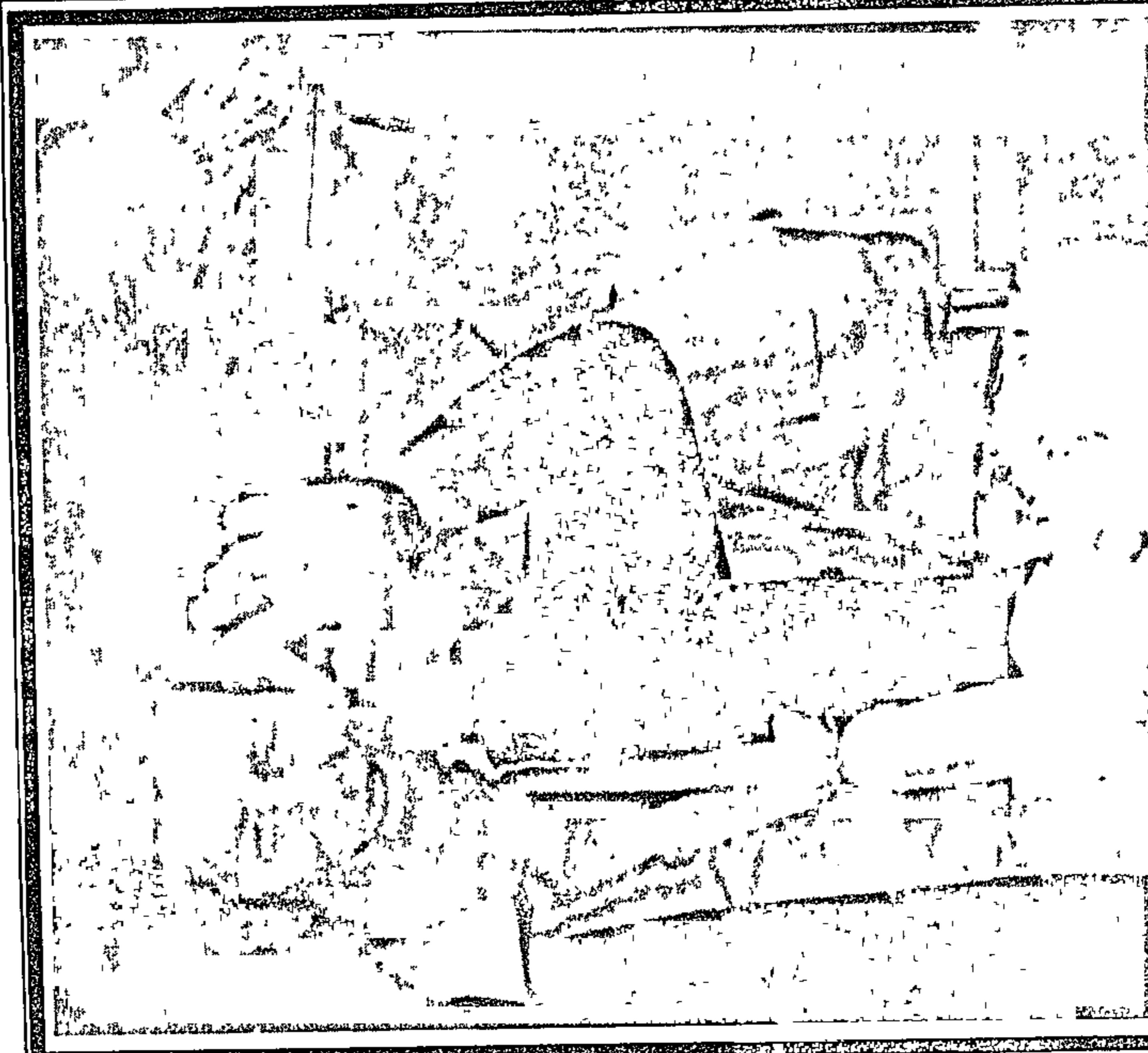
But opposing the call are the PAC, Azapo, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and Inkatha — usually scorned as a government-stooge group by the PAC and Azapo. The groups have cited precedents of murderous intimidation caused by past politically motivated actions.

The ANC has also warned that negotiations could

STOP INKATHA AND POLICE VIOLENCE



RALLY About 2 000 people attended a meeting in Athlone yesterday to rally support for today's stayaway. Mr Chris Hani, chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, was to have spoken at the rally but was unable to attend because a meeting he was to have addressed in Port Elizabeth was postponed. Mr Hani is expected to arrive here today. **Picture** SENNY GOOL



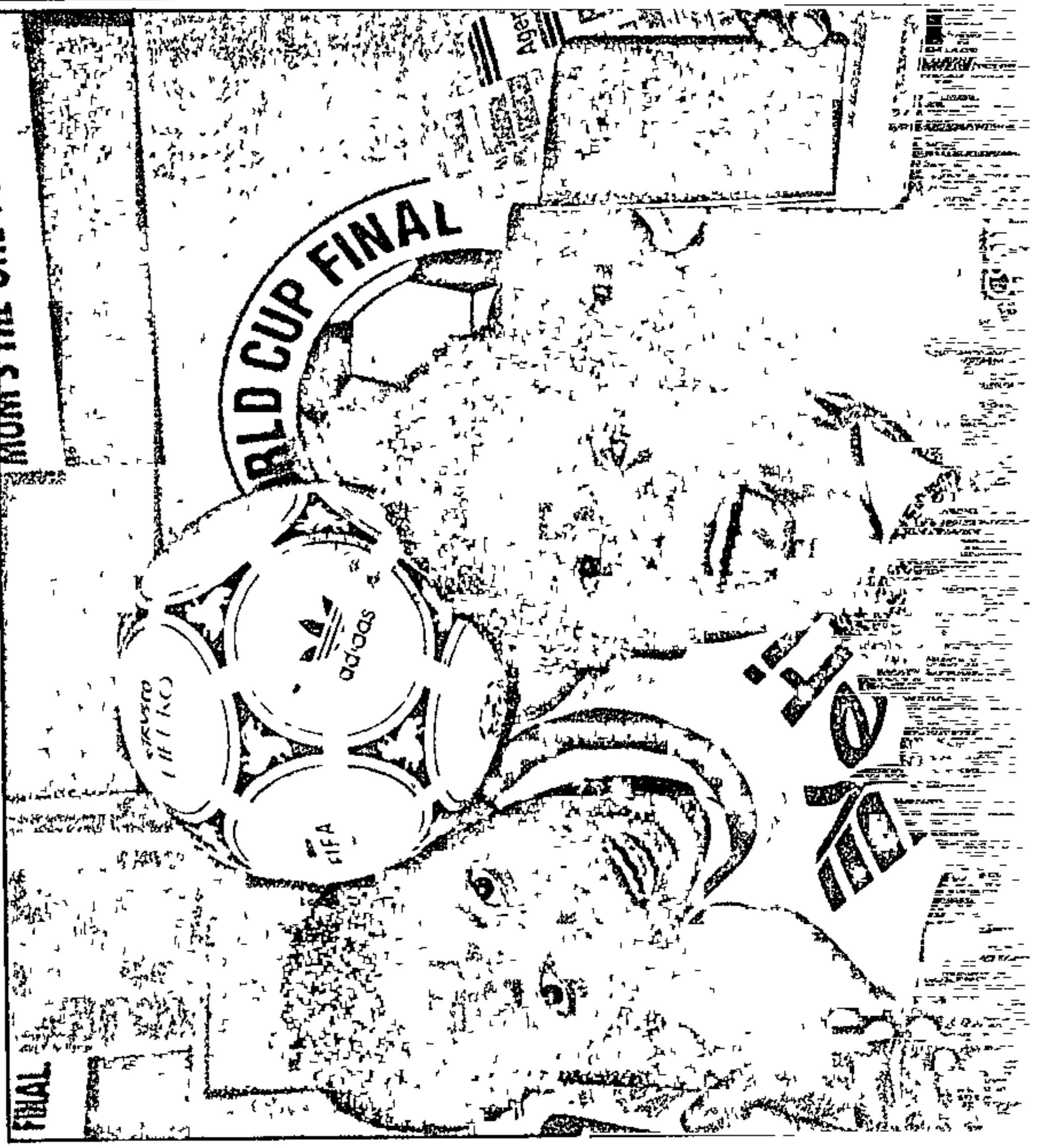
P.T.O.

THE STAYAWAY - PEACE FOR PEOPLE

143
 17/90
 17/90

Zambian arrested after coup is foiled

CP Correspondents
 A ZAMBIAN army lieutenant was captured by fellow soldiers after he announced on State radio yesterday that President Kenneth Kaunda had been toppled in a coup after five days of anti-government violence.
 The officer, who identified himself in repeated broadcasts as Lt Mwamba Luchembe, of the Signals Corps, was escorted from Radio Zambia's studio on the outskirts of the capital about 90 minutes later, Sapa reports.
 "I wanted to take over the government but Kaunda's puppets are stopping me," he said pointing to the soldiers surrounding him.
 Political observers in Lusaka told the African News Organisation (ANO) the short-lived coup was an indication of Zambia's political tension and turbulence.
 An unidentified army officer broad-



Political tension over national protest week

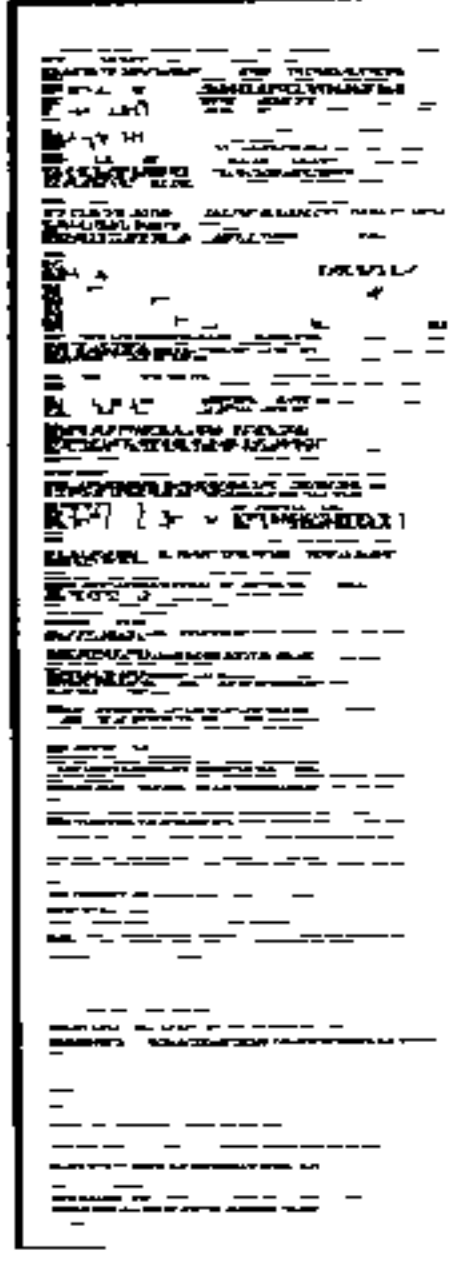
By S'BU MINGADI and CONNIE MOLISI

PEACE is the watchword for tomorrow's controversial stayaway. Amid continuing tension between supporters of the ANC/Cosatu/UDF alliance - which called the stayaway - and those of rival political organisations and trade unions, some parties yesterday pledged to adhere to a South Africa Council of Churches nine-point code of conduct.
 The stayaway is part of the alliance's "week of national protest action" to force the government to end the continued fighting in Natal.
 Before going into a briefing session with captains of commerce and industry in Durban yesterday, Patrick "Terror" Lekota said the ANC would not tolerate intimidation of workers who wished to go to work tomorrow.
 "We want the protest to be dignified and peaceful. We are therefore calling for discipline from everyone."
 The protest action has been condemned by the PAC, Nactu, Azapo, Inkatha and big business.
 They feel the stayaway is divisive and will increase confrontation. They favour dialogue between the ANC and Inkatha.
 Buthezi told a KwaZulu Police passing-out parade in Ulundi on Thursday there had never been a stayaway that had not been forced on people and that it was "criminal to mount the kind of programme which will inevitably degenerate into a violent programme".
 At a Press conference in Johannesburg this week, Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said the intention of the protest was to press State President FW de Klerk to end the war in Natal.
 Naidoo said the State had the capacity to end the conflict if it could find the political will. "The national mass action is designed to encourage it to find that will."
 The ANC has called on the PAC "even at this late stage, to withdraw its opposition to the mass ac-

Landlord's thugs beat us up, say flat tenants Page 2

Join our Spring School Page 4

Spotlight on the July Page 22



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The ANC has called on the PAC "even at this late stage, to withdraw its opposition to the mass action and contribute towards pressing the regime to end the violence in Natal".

Most employers said they would apply the "no work, no pay" policy, but questioned why they were victimised by stayaways.

Spokesman for the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ken Mason said any absenteeism not negotiated with employers would be regarded as an unpaid holiday.

The Natal Chamber of Industry, the SA Chamber of Business and big business in general feared the stayaway would cost hundreds of millions of rands in lost production.

The fighting in Natal has cost about 5 000 lives since 1982.

When tension over the proposed stayaway threatened to erupt into violence, the SACC this week drew up a code of conduct for political behaviour.

It was signed by the ANC, Nactu, Inkatha and the Natal Chamber of Commerce, among others.

The points of principle are:

■ Those who choose to stay away from work must be allowed to do so without interference;

■ Organisers of marches or other protest actions must publicly declare their plans. (This will facilitate monitoring of such action);

■ Those who choose to take part in such marches or other protest actions

■ To Page 2

Stayaway peace plea

From Page 1

- must be allowed to do so without interference;
 - Those who choose not to take part in such actions must not be forced to do so;
 - Organisers of any protest action must ensure that it is peaceful;
 - All organisations must condemn attacks on people's homes and families
- as criminal behaviour,
- The security forces must uphold the right of people to protest peacefully and must not interfere with meetings, marches, rallies and stayaways. Their duty is to protect all people equally, both those who take part in such protest action, and those who choose not to.



n brief

Mwasa appeal

143
sowelen 12/11/90

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa is to appeal against the dismissal of an application by the Industrial Court to reinstate five members who were fired after allegedly resigning

from the South African Typographical Union.

The five - Mr Hendrick Mashakeng, Mr Silas Mashele, Mr Richard Ranoto, Mr Johannes Kau and Mr Philemon Maleka - were employed by *Die Morester en Noord Transvaler* in Pietersburg

Handwritten notes in the right margin.

Workers locked out of factory

CAFT 7/14/90 18/1/90 Labour Reporter 143

ALMOST 70% of the work force at a Blackheath steel-wire factory were locked out by the company yesterday in a bid to force workers into dropping their demand for plant-level bargaining.

Confirming the lockout yesterday, Allen's Meshco managing director Mr Rick Allen said the action was aimed at pre-empting a threatened strike by members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union of SA (Eawtusa)

Putco work

stoppages ¹⁴³ 'subsiding'

Star 24/1/90
Labour Reporter

The rash of work stoppages by Putco drivers over PAYE taxation subsided yesterday after concessions were made by the company

Since last Thursday, fluctuating computerised tax deductions have sparked unrest by Transport and Allied Workers Union members at the Soweto, Edenvale, So-shanguve and Commuta depots

Putco's Dr Jack Visser said only Edenvale workers remained on strike yesterday morning but that the service would be restored today

Putco had agreed to scrap a "smoothing" programme on its computer and immediately deduct tax on all earnings, Dr Visser said.

He added that workers hit by unexpected deductions had been offered interest-free loans

Lockout 'illegal'

MORE than 100 Blackheath metalworkers have been barred from company premises since last week in a lockout which their union claims is illegal

The workers, members of the Electrical and Allied Workers' Trade Union (Eawtu), were locked out from Allens Meshco last Wednesday after a wage dispute

The lockout followed a demand from management that workers waive their demand that the company negotiate wages at plant level

Instead, the company wants the workers to accept the industrial council wage increases negotiated last year

Outgoing Eawtu assistant general secretary Brian Williams said the company was not entitled to resort to industrial action because the dispute had been referred to an industrial court

A company spokesperson said the company maintained that the lockout was legal

143

Nactu's rebel leader speaks out on unity and disunity

THE shock resignation of the National Council of Trade Unions' general secretary, Phiroshaw Camay, last December appears to point to political tensions within the federation and the trade union movement as a whole. These tensions undoubtedly contributed to this labour stalwart's decision to vacate a position he had held since the federation's inception in 1986.

This week Camay talked to the *Weekly Mail*, expanding on his stated reasons for resigning.

In the *New Nation* earlier this year, Camay said two Nactu decisions — not to attend the first workers summit in March last year and its withdrawal from the Conference for a Democratic Future in December — made him believe that the federation was not serious about worker unity, causing him to leave.

The *Weekly Mail* asked him whether he did not think that he could have ensured greater worker unity if he had remained with Nactu.

On the contrary, he said he felt that in Nactu "this fundamental principle was being eroded".

"I realised I had very little impact on decisions regarding worker unity. Primarily, decisions were not being made within Nactu forums — they were being made in political caucuses. And the will and decisions of these caucuses were being imposed on the Nactu structures."

Camay however would not comment on whether these "political caucuses" were controlled by Nactu members adhering to Africanist principles.

Observers say that at the last congress in August 1988 there was an "Africanist takeover" in the federation. It has also been observed, although denied by Nactu affiliates, that unions in the federation are divided between those following black consciousness principles and others who are Africanist adherents.

Coming back to his reasons for leaving, Camay added "There is the view that I left Nactu prematurely and that I should have continued the struggle for unity."

"However, in my own view, I was aware of inside operations. Thus I knew I could not hope to effect worker unity even as general secretary."

"I felt I would be in a better position to achieve this from outside the federation."

At the second workers summit, held in August last year, efforts were made to consolidate worker unity. The summit brought together workers from the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Nactu and independent unions. They resolved to hold joint meetings at local and regional industrial level.

Camay says that Nactu officials are responsible for not implementing this resolution. "It now rests with worker leaders to take over this function."

"Cosatu is steadfast in its commitment to implementing these resolutions, whereas Nactu has vacillated in its decisions. It has failed to provide

The resignation of Nactu's general secretary last month was a major blow to black consciousness trade unions. Phiroshaw Camay spells out his reasons for stepping down
By CASSANDRA MOODLEY

the necessary agreements to build worker unity," says Camay.

In view of this, he believes that the idea of workers from different unions coming together in a third workers' summit is premature.

What then is the future of the joint anti-Labour Relations Act campaign, a campaign in which Camay was actively involved?

"If the Nactu leadership decides not to continue with the campaign, they will adversely affect workers' interests. Despite differences between Cosatu and Nactu, the LRA campaign provides a forum for unity in action and that forum has to be maintained and sustained by both Nactu and Cosatu."

He adds "No agreement with employer bodies has been reached thus far in the campaign. There is a deep suspicion however that, whatever the agreement, the state will interfere and not implement the agreement."

Commenting on the effect of his resignation on the federation, Camay admitted that although he was responsible for extensive contacts with international funders, his resignation would not necessarily jeopardise Nactu's access to funding.

"Funding is dependent on a federation's programme of action and accurate narrative and financial reports to donors."

Asked if Nactu's political line, apparent in its withdrawal last year from the CDF, would be to its detriment, he said he felt that the federation's political decisions should not, theoretically, affect the funders.

"Donors are interested in building democratic federations and cannot direct the political direction of an organisation."

But he conceded that, in view of the "undemocratic practices" in Nactu he had alleged earlier, the possibility did exist of donors withdrawing their funds.

"Funders have to decide on their own criteria for assigning funds."

Camay's resignation comes at a time when Nactu cannot boast a position of strength. When he left the federation, membership figures stood at 150 000.

"This obviously indicates a drop in



Phiroshaw Camay

membership since Nactu's inception, and the figures produced at its last congress in August 1988.

Camay puts this down to 'Nactu unions not servicing members effectively, not recruiting new members, and members voting with their feet'.

Undoubtedly, the problems of dwindling membership have not been eased by political splits within the federation.

"There is growing evidence that Cosatu unions are winning over Nactu membership, especially in the food and metal sector," Camay adds.

"Therefore Nactu faces the challenge to provide the kind of leadership workers need. The union leadership generally has not sufficiently moved to recruit new membership, build structures and provide worker education in the past 18 months."

Camay has resigned from Nactu seven months before the federation's next congress. He talked about what he hoped to see emerging from the meeting. "There is an urgent need for Nactu to unite around a programme of action which will accommodate all interests within the federation."

"The congress will also have to decide on concrete steps on effecting the

merger of unions within the federation — for instance, the merger of metal unions within Nactu last year to form the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa did not include the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers Union of South Africa."

Seawusa's exclusion from Mewusi was attributed to Africanist/black consciousness differences between the two.

Camay also believes Nactu should "find ways to build a concrete basis for working with Cosatu and even finding a way for establishing one federation in this country."

He adds that workers should be prepared to work with anybody in order to build their organisation, where their interests merge with the organisation in question. Here he cites such organisations as the Black Sash and Inkatha.

Nactu, however, in line with its principle of non-collaboration, has vehemently opposed working with these organisations. It withdrew from last year's CDF because it did not want to compromise its position of non-collaboration.

Camay says he "disagrees with that position."

"One cannot use the principle of non-collaboration and then non-collaborate yourself out of existence. Trade unions by their very nature are reaching agreements with employers and the state every day."

"The only other alternative, if one wants to stick so rigidly to that principle, is to pick up a gun and start fighting."

Camay has always maintained that "unions should be independent and free of political structures."

"In the final analysis, politicians have to do those things that keep them in power at the economic expense of workers. And workers in a post-apartheid South Africa should take note of this."

"In the current South African situation, labour and political organisations can work together. But this does not imply that trade unions should affiliate and be submerged by the political bodies," says Camay.

With the current mood towards negotiations, however, he believes workers have an important and vital role to play. He says "We need to engage members in strenuous debates about the issue."

Camay says he has made no definite decisions about his future in the labour movement. He would not comment on speculation that he had been approached to join Cosatu.

"I may not have a frontline role to play in the immediate future but I can play a role in providing worker education and information," he said.

Asked if the major federations would not feel he was encroaching on their territory by advising their affiliates, he said "I have never acted against the interests of political organisations and trade union federations. My role is not to give political direction but merely to examine worker issues and act in the best interests of workers."

LRA draft changes will 'worsen tensions'

2/2/90
By Drew Forrest

Draft changes to the Labour Relations Act failed to take account of concerns repeatedly voiced by the labour movement and would exacerbate workplace tensions, the Congress of SA Trade Unions said yesterday.

And, it added, the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs's (Saccola) support for the changes raised the question of whether it was in cahoots with the Government.

At the same time, Nactu leader Mr Cunningham-Ngcukana warned that workers were preparing for further mass action against the LRA. Union plans were linked to progress in forthcom-

ing talks on the Act with Saccola, he said. Cosatu said unilateral changes that did not take account of the labour movement would not bring industrial peace, and it called for full union involvement in rewriting the Act.

Besides the revision of Section 79(2) of the Act and time limits for dispute resolution, other provisions fell short of demands. The planned extension of the "cooling off" period before a legal strike aimed to restrict workers, it said.

Mr Ngcukana said the Bill failed to address union demands on issues such as the definition of unfair labour practice, interdicts against strikes and long delays in appeals.

Call for more reform

FW must now tackle main issues - Nactu

SUCH fundamental issues as the redistribution of land and one-man-one-vote have not yet been addressed by State President FW de Klerk, the National Council of Trade Unions said yesterday.

Reacting to De Klerk's announcements, Nactu said it believed De Klerk could open the way to genuine negotiations if he addressed the two issues as well as the question of protection of minority rights.

The question of redistribution of land and one-man-one-vote was the fundamental matter which gave rise to conflict in South Africa, the federation said.

However, Nactu welcomed the unbanning of the ANC, PAC and South African Communist Party, lifting of restrictions on political organisations and individuals, suspension of the death penalty and the release of certain political prisoners.

"We believe these measures will assist the liberation movement and trade unions in organising openly and in broadening of democracy Nactu said.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said such "repressive laws" as the Internal Security Act and the Suppression of Communism Act would still prevent free political activity.

By LEN MASEKO

While De Klerk's announcements were significant and "a victory for the people of South Africa they still fell short of the fundamental steps needed to end to the political conflict in the country" Cosatu said.

Peace

The cornerstones of apartheid, still remained intact. The Group Areas Act, the Land Act, the Population Registration Act and "many other repressive laws" still remained in the statute books, Cosatu said.

The organisation said: "What De Klerk has announced still does not create the climate of free political activity call for in the Harare Declaration.

South African will never know peace as long as our people do not have the right to decide their future. The only solution is for all South Africans - black and white - to unite and commit themselves to build a non-racial democratic and united South Africa.

De Klerk speech aftermath . . .

'Pressure on black unions'

Argus 9/2/90

143

Major shifts and realignments can be expected in South Africa's labour movement following the lifting of bans on the ANC and SA Communist Party.

The Argus correspondent in Johannesburg reports.

PRESIDENT De Klerk's watershed February 2 announcement will lead to intensified political pressures on the black trade union movement and an ANC-Cosatu alli-

TRADE

ance is a distinct prospect, believes labour analyst and Wits University sociologist Professor Duncan Innes

Unionists suspicious of the ANC and the South African Communist Party (SACP) can be expected to seek independent political bases, perhaps through the creation of a Labour Party, he adds

"Some say the unbanning of the ANC will enable Cosatu to redirect its attention to the shopfloor — I don't agree," said Professor Innes, editor of the Innes Labour Brief

"Returning political organisations have no formal structures here. They know they have black union backing and will try to mobilise them to support their aims"

Centre stage

Labour sources say government moves have thrust two issues to centre stage the future of the ANC's labour wing, the 40-year-old South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu), and the role of the SACP

Although never banned, Sactu was forced into exile when its leaders, mostly ANC

members, were jailed, banished or died in detention in the 1960s

It is known to have told activists to organise workers into Cosatu, and now enjoys largely symbolic support — notably among Cosatu's "populists"

With Cosatu it shares the principles of non-racialism, political unionism and shop-floor mobilisation

Sactu president Mr Stephen Dlamini said this week from Lusaka he expected Sactu and Cosatu to merge, but clearly viewed his organisation as the senior partner

Any amalgamation would have to bear Sactu's name, he said

Some local unionists fear a repeat of recent developments in Namibia, where former exile John ya Otto, installed as general secretary of the National Union of Namibian Workers at a controversial general meeting last year, has enforced policy favouring Swapo over the labour movement

Weakened

Sactu's role has been intensely debated within the MDM, unionists say. One argument, that the movement could be useful on the international front, had been weakened by the discrediting of its Eastern European government contacts

Within Cosatu, the majority view was that it had no fur-

ther role and should disband, with Sactu members being absorbed into local unions, the sources said.

What of the SACP, unbanned after 40 years?

"Many unionists who look to a socialist future see the need for a strong SACP to promote workers' interests" was one union man's comment

"They see it being independent of, but not a counter to the ANC — their alliance is pretty solid"

Professor Innes believes that despite the SACP's recent endorsement of democratic freedoms, including full trade union rights, elements within the union movement will remain hostile to it

The party's critics include those fearful of inroads into union independence and ultra-leftists scornful of its apparent retreat from revolution

Alliances

These were likely to seek independent political homes, either by creating a Labour Party or through alliances further to the left, Professor Innes said

"Some people would like to set up a 'workerist' party," he said

"At least two international revolutionary organisations are active in trying to take over the ground vacated by the SACP"

Hotel closes after strike

THE strike by 52 members of the Food And Beverage Workers Union at Mahwelereng has led to the closure of a hotel and its bottlestore

Wires are strung across the entrances of both businesses and there were rumours yesterday that the owner, Mr Jeffrey Molala, was about to sell the hotel.

The strike started on Friday last

By MATHATHA TSEDU

week after management allegedly failed to meet an undertaking to increase wages. Workers earn from a minimum of between R90 and R340 per month for persons with 17 years services. () () (143)
Union official, Theo Ramalamola, said workers were

demanding R160 per month across the board increase, recognition of their union, an immediate stop to the "insulting behaviour and attitude of Mr Molala's wife" and provision of tea and lunch time and an eight hour working day.

Mr Molala, who was detained twice under the state of emergency, was not available for comment

13/2/90

Man killed as picket fired at

Sowetan 13/2/90



A MAN was shot dead and five others were seriously wounded when company employees opened fire at a group of about 100 workers holding a picket outside a construction site on Pritchard Street, Johannesburg, yesterday.

The workers, all members of the Building and Construction Allied Workers Union (BCAWU), a Nactu affiliate, were protesting against their dismissal from a construction company, Combrink. They were dismissed following a wage dispute between the union and the company in November last year.

The injured workers were admitted to General Hospital while the dead man's name was withheld until the next of kin have been informed.

Colleagues interviewed by the *Sowetan* said they were holding placards outside the construction site at midday when a security guard, a company foreman and a driver of a delivery truck opened fire at the picketers. The workers said the security guard fired from the top of a van and the injured men were hit in the back as they were retreating. The dead man is alleged to have been hit on the head.

The shooting incident was confirmed by the John Vorster police yesterday although the police version differed substantially from that of the workers.

By SONTI MASEKO

Captain Eugene Opperman said that a group of about 50 people "in what appeared to be a labour dispute" came running down Pritchard Street screaming ANC slogans.

He said the group was armed with stones, bottles and knobkerries and attacked an AAA security guard who was on duty at a building and attempted to take his shotgun from him.

"They cornered the security guard and because the group was armed, he feared for his life and he fired one shot, which fatally wounded his immediate attacker."

Opperman said four other people who were bystanders were "slightly injured by pellets from the shotgun".

The workers also alleged that a construction manager at the site was armed with two shotguns.

The general secretary of BCAWU, Mr Vusi Thusi, said the union held Combrink responsible for the shootings and said the union would consult with the union nationally. "We will make sure that we organise our members and they should act accordingly," he said.

Opperman appealed to people to be calm in spite of the jubilation so that it cannot be said that the ANC is undisciplined.

By Craig Kotze and Drew Forrest

Ongoing labour disputes at a Johannesburg building site exploded into violence yesterday, leaving one man dead and another six reportedly injured, police and other sources said

The violence was linked to dismissals at the Group Five Building site on the corner of Kerk and Loveday streets.

The fatal shooting occurred after a security guard, Mr J Croetzen, was forced to open fire on workers who threatened his life after they threw bot-

Labour dispute ends with death of man

Stree 13/2/90 (143)
tles and stones at him, police said

The dead man has not yet been identified

Mr Ed Wilson of Group Five Building, said about 150 people — apparently workers dismissed following an overtime dispute last year — marched on two Old Mutual Properties office de-

velopments in Pritchard Street yesterday

Three members of the crowd attacked a labourer, he said

Mr Vusi Thusi, general secretary of the Building, Construction and Allied Workers Union, said the union understood that the shooting was unprovoked

Workers carrying placards had arrived with the intention of staging a demonstration, he said.

Captain Opperman said the workers had chanted ANC slogans

HOTEL

143
~~143~~
~~143~~

STRIKE

Sowetan 16/2/90

ENDS

THE strike by 62 members of the Food Beverage Workers Union at Mahwelereng Hotel ended yesterday with management agreeing to an immediate wage increase of at least R40 a month across the board, union officials said yesterday.

National Council of Trade Unions organiser in Pieter'sburg, Theo Ramalamola, said negotiations between the union and the owner Mr Jeffrey Molala, were held on Tuesday. Molala had also agreed to raise the minimum from R80 to R130 -

By MATHATHA TSEDU

an increase of over 62 percent. Ramalamola said

Other grievances of the workers including the provision of lunch and tea-time and the recognition of their union, are to be negotiated soon.

The hotel was reopened yesterday after being shut down for a week. The strike also affected Mahwelereng bottlestore. Molala confirmed yesterday that the strike was over.

He said the talks with the union had been conducted in a friendly atmosphere.

Builders threaten to strike

Nactu's building affiliate has threatened nationwide action after the fatal shooting of one of its members at a Johannesburg building site last week

The Building, Construction and Allied Workers Union described as "devoid of truth" a police statement that a security guard at an Old Mutual Properties site in Pritchard Street had retaliated after workers tried to take his shotgun. *Star 19/2/90 (143)*

The workers, sacked after an overtime ban last year, were peacefully picketing the site in a bid to win back their jobs, said general secretary Mr Vusi Thusi — Labour Reporter. *(143) 20/2/90*

Worker shot during picket is paralysed

STAR 29/2/90 (143)

A 28-year-old worker who was injured in a Johannesburg shooting last week has been told he will not be able to walk again.

Mr Sandile Hiya, of Transkei, was one of six men injured — one man was killed — when shots were fired during an incident involving picketing workers at a Pritchard Street building site.

Mr Hiya was shot in the neck and back.

He has been told he is paralysed and will be transferred from Johannesburg Hospital to Natalspruit.

The six were injured when a security guard fired shots at more than

100 workers, members of the Building Construction and Allied Workers Union.

Combrink Building Constructions dismissed the workers after a dispute.

Mr Johannes Madida and Mr Johannes Kgalati are in a serious condition at the Hillbrow Hospital.

The dead man is Mr Alpheus Bapela (33) of Potgietersrus.

Mr Alfred Zibula and Mr Lucas Matlala were treated and discharged.

Captain Eugene Opperman, police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand, said the guard had fired a shot after workers tried to take his gun.

Kagiso strike hits at council

By STAN MHLONGO

ABOUT 600 Kagiso Town Council employees downed tools this week in protest against the refusal by the council to recognise their union.

At midday on Friday, the workers milled about the Kagiso offices with placards which said "If FW is talking to the ANC, why is the council not talking to us?"

The workers have also threatened to boycott rent payments and vowed not to return to work unless their union - the National Union of Public Service Workers (NUPSW) - is recognised by the council.

In addition, workers are demanding the resignation of town clerk of Kagiso, Mike van Rensburg.

Attempts by *City Press* to speak to the town clerk fell through, as he reportedly left the council offices under police escort on Friday.

No other council official were available at the time of going to press.

Employees told *City Press* the council had not offered them a salary increase since 1984.

"I earn as little as R4 a day which amounts to R80 every month," said one employee.

Workers claim they have been involved in negotiations to no avail for the recognition of NUPSW since June last year.

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibya, headlines and sub-editing by J Beffon, both of 204 Eloff Street Ext., Johannesburg

Nactu and ANC set to meet

A MEETING between the National Congress of Trade Unions and the ANC to discuss "maximum unity" in the labour movement is to be arranged, the federation's president, Mr James Mndaweni has said.

Such talks would focus on forging ties between Nactu, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the exiled South African Congress of Trade Unions. *Sowetan 11/3/90*

Speaking after a Nactu delegation met Mr Nelson Mandela at his Orlando West Soweto home this week, Mndaweni said the federation and the

By THEMBA MOLEFE

ANC leader agreed the meeting would be set up after he returned from his international tour which began yesterday.

He said both Nactu and Mandela agreed on the principle of independent trade unionism in the country and the "sensitive" issue of negotiations.

"This demands that discussions should take place on all fronts."

His delegation included Nactu's general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, Mrs Mary Ntseke and Mrs Agnes Molefe.

Deadlock in Putco dispute

8/Dec 21/90 ADELE BALETA 143

TALKS between Putco's MD Jack Visser and worker representatives deadlocked yesterday and the union resolved to continue the week-old strike.

Visser met the Zakhani Transport and Allied Workers Union — negotiating on behalf of the workers — at its request. (333)

Workers want a Wynberg depot divisional manager removed. A spokesman said this was part of a continuing demand for the removal of managers with inadequate industrial relations experience.

Visser said he was satisfied the manager concerned had been cleared, but investigations into worker grievances could be reopened. Workers rejected this. Visser then proposed a neutral arbitrator try to resolve the dispute, but this was also rejected.

Sowetan 6/3/90

Strike follows dismissal in N Tvl 143

MORE than 300 members of the Food and Beverage Workers Union employed by Potgietersrus Tobacco Corporation went on strike to demand the reinstatement of a worker who was dismissed for shouting "Viva Comrade" at a bus stop, the union announced yesterday.

A FBWU official, Mr Theo Ramalamula, said the strike follows the failure by the two parties to reach an agreement over the dismissal.

Accused

He said a disciplinary hearing was held early this year where Mr Piet Bambo was accused of shouting political slogans.

He said the union contended that chanting slogans was not a crime, especially if this was done at a bus stop after work.

He said several foremen who were not union members had complained to management.

The receptionist at NTC said yesterday all senior company executives were in a meeting and not available for comment

Strike ends at AECI's Modderfontein plant

AT LEAST 5 000 striking SA Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu) members will return to work at AECI's Modderfontein plant today after a settlement of their 12-day strike *Blaauw 7/3/90*

AECI's industrial relations manager André Botha said five union members who were dismissed for assault over the past two years would be re-employed

The strike was sparked by demands for the dismissal of a white fitter who

ADELE BALETA

was found guilty at a disciplinary enquiry of assaulting a black assistant. The fitter was reprimanded

Botha said although the workers could sign new employment contracts, suspensions without pay, final warnings and demotions would be enforced

"We have lessened the severity of the

disciplinary action," Botha said.

It was also agreed by the parties to arbitrate on the dismissal of another two workers or to agree to a financial settlement. The fitter would remain employed by the company, Botha said,

Sacwu said in a statement yesterday the union helped colleagues who were dismissed under an inconsistent industrial relations policy

143

Workers down tools after alleged assault

Soweto 7/3/90

143

ABOUT 5 000 members of the South African Chemical Workers Union have downed tools following an alleged assault on their colleague by a white fitter at AECI.

Sacwu members want the alleged culprit, a Mr AF Noguera to be dismissed before they could resume work.

The union said their

By MOKGADIPELA

members and AECI were deadlocked after attempts to reconcile the parties.

AECI's industrial relations manager, Mr R Birt, confirmed there was a work stoppage.

He said the union and the company were involved in discussions to resolve the matter.

Meanwhile, a member of the Transport and Allied Workers' Union was allegedly assaulted by traffic policemen at Putco's Selby plant yesterday.

Mr David Mokenkoane said about 60 Johannesburg Traffic

Department cops entered the premises pursuing a driver who had just returned from Soweto.

A spokesman for the Johannesburg Traffic Department, Mr E Hill, said the traffic cops wanted to stop a driver they suspected to have been under the influence of liquor.

Hill also disputed that any worker was assaulted.

Minister, unions to hold talks

Accord on labour laws within reach

143
B/Daw
13/3/90

FAST-moving developments over the last few days have opened the way to an agreement between organised labour, managements and government on mutually acceptable labour legislation in SA.

In the past few days employer federation Saccola has reached agreement in principle with Cosatu and Nactu on various changes to the Labour Relations Act (LRA), and proposed legislation based on these principles has been drafted.

And the office of Manpower Minister Eh Louw was in touch with Cosatu and Nactu yesterday to arrange a date, time and venue for a meeting between the parties to discuss the process of devising new legislation.

Saccola has also been invited to attend the talks, which could take place as early as Thursday or Friday.

One observer said the meeting would be the first at Cabinet level between government and the "organised left" in more than three decades.

A spokesman for Louw said the Minister was pleased the unions had approached him for a meeting, and he was looking forward to seeing them as soon as possible.

An employer said if all went well this process could lead to the formulation of SA's first "post-apartheid" legislation.

The first major breakthrough came during a 12-hour meeting between Saccola and the union federations which ended at 2am

ALAN FINE

on Friday. The meeting agreed on various amendments to the Act, and appointed a legal committee to draft legislation based on the agreement.

Saccola chairman Bobby Godsell said yesterday the committee completed its task on Saturday. He had not yet seen the final product. The committee was also mandated to conduct a longer-term study of strike law.

It is expected the amendments to the LRA proposed jointly by Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu will be presented to Louw when they meet him.

A Nactu spokesman said yesterday the unions wanted to discuss with Louw the possibility of the proposed amendments being placed before the current sitting of Parliament.

They also wanted to discuss with him their views on the amendment Bill drafted late last year by the Manpower Department, and to express their dissatisfaction at not having been consulted on its details.

In general, the spokesman said, the unions wanted to discuss with Louw ways of ensuring that government took their views into account whenever new labour legislation was developed in future.

The unions had set aside their traditional reluctance to speak to government because "we have to bring this matter to

□ To Page 2

Labour laws

finality and a meeting offers an opportunity to do so."

The unions were highly critical of one aspect of government's draft Bill, a clause which would lengthen from 30 days to 45 days the "cooling-off" period during which legal strikes could not occur.

The Manpower Department has indicated it would be willing to hold back the Bill's tabling in Parliament.

Godsell said the two proposed pieces of legislation needed to be integrated. Apart from the extension of the cooling-off period, there was no conflict between the

143 □ From Page 1

two and employers were willing to recommend the retention of the existing law in this respect.

The government Bill also proposes the scrapping of the controversial Section 79 (2) which relates to union liability for damages sustained in unlawful strikes, and extends the time limits for processing disputes through official channels. Both are high on the list of union grievances.

While details of the Saccola/union proposal were unavailable yesterday, the issues raised included limits on interdicts against lawful strikes.

Govt to meet with unions, management

Way cleared for changes to LRA

CMT units 13/3/90

143

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Fast-moving developments in the last few days have opened the way to an agreement between organised labour, management and government on mutually-acceptable labour legislation in SA.

One prominent employer said if all went well this process could lead to the formulation of SA's first set of "post-apartheid" legislation.

In the last few days, employer federation Saccola reached in principle agreement with Cosatu and Nactu on various changes to the Labour Relations Act (LRA), and proposed legislation based on those principles has been drafted.

And the office of Manpower Minister Eli Louw yesterday exchanged several communications with Cosatu and Nactu aimed at finalising a date, time and venue for a meeting between them at which the process of devising new legislation would be the main agenda item.

Saccola has also been invited to attend the meeting — which could take place as soon as Thursday or Friday.

One observer said the meeting would be the first cabinet-level meeting between government and the organised left in more than three decades.

The first major breakthrough came at a 12-hour meeting between Saccola and the union federations which ended at 2am on Friday. The meeting agreed on various amendments to the Act and appointed a legal committee to draft legislation based on the agreement.

Saccola chairman Bobby Godsell disclosed yesterday the committee completed its task on Saturday, although he had not yet seen the final product. The committee has also been mandated to do a longer-term study on strike law — an aspect of the LRA mostly not covered by the union/Saccola agreement.

It is expected that the amendments to the LRA proposed jointly by Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu will be presented to the Minister when they meet him.

Cosatu and Nactu proposed meeting Louw in a letter written to him last month.

A Nactu spokesman said yesterday the unions wished to discuss with Louw the possibility of the proposed amendments being placed before the cur-

rent sitting of Parliament. He said they also wished to discuss with Louw their views the amendment Bill drafted late last year by the Manpower Department (whose details were published by Business Day in January), and express their dissatisfaction at not having been consulted on its details.

In general, the spokesman said, the unions wished to discuss with Louw ways of ensuring government took account of their views whenever new labour legislation is developed in future. They also wanted to discuss the problem of non-participation by State and agricultural employers in the talks with Saccola.

The Nactu spokesman said the unions had set aside their traditional reluctance to speak to government because "we have to bring this matter to finality and a meeting offers an opportunity to do this".

The unions previously criticised have government's draft Bill because they had not been consulted on it. They were also highly critical of one aspect of the Bill — that which would lengthen the "cooling-off" period during which a legal strike may not occur from 30 days to 45 days.

The Manpower Department has indicated it would be willing to hold back the tabling of the Bill in Parliament.

Godsell said the two proposed pieces of legislation needed to be integrated. Apart from the extension of the cooling-off period, there was no conflict between the two, and employers were willing to recommend the retention of the existing law in this respect.

The government Bill also proposes the scrapping of the controversial section 79 (2) which relates to union liability for damages sustained in unlawful strikes, and extends the time limits for processing disputes through official channels — both high on the list of union demands.

While details of the Saccola/union proposal were unavailable yesterday, the issues raised include limits on interdicts against lawful strikes, scrapping of racial features of the union registration process, and accessibility of Industrial Court judgments.

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Thursday, March 15, 1990

B/D am 15/3/90

Union federations meet Louw today

143 ALAN FINE

A MEETING between SA's two largest union federations — Cosatu and Nactu — and Manpower Minister Eli Louw is scheduled to take place at 3.30pm today.

Plans for the meeting, which could lead to extended negotiations on new labour legislation for SA, were finalised yesterday.

Representatives from employer federation Saccola would not attend as originally planned.

A spokesman for Louw said this was at Louw's request.

He felt that since this was his first meeting with the two union federations, he preferred to meet them on their own, and would be willing to have a three-way meeting with Saccola at a later date.

Louw's spokesman said the minister saw today's meeting mostly as an opportunity to get to know union representatives.

As far as he was concerned, the agenda should be open.

Louw did not intend putting anything specific on the table, but wanted to ascertain the unions' views on various issues.

Cosatu and Nactu, in their letter requesting the meeting, said they wished to discuss with Louw pending draft amendments to the Labour Relations Act, the possibility of other amendments being passed during the current parliamentary session, and inclusion of state employers in future talks on labour legislation.

A Cosatu spokesman said yesterday a draft agreement between the union federations and Saccola had been prepared by a technical committee.

However, settlement would be reached only once the draft had been approved by the parties involved.

Seawusa in dispute

By MOKGADI PELA

MORE than 22 members of the Steel and Engineering Allied Workers Union of SA are in their 10th day of their dispute with Fafite over wages.

A spokesman for the union, Mrs Pauline Makgoka, said workers demanded an increase of R2 a month across the board increase.

Mrs JT Rowland of Fafite said the company would not comment until the Fafite chairman arrived from

Cape Town

Sowetan 15/3/90

Locked out



143

About 200 members of the South African Chemical Workers Union were allegedly locked out by Akromed following a wage dispute earlier this week.

The spokesman for the union said Sacwu's concern was over a 16 percent offer for all grades. The union was however, happy with the 20 percent increase for employees at the bottom of the ladder.

Company spokesman Mr L J Snyman declined to comment saying the company had an agreement with the union not to speak to the Press.

Minister, unions strike deal to seek labour changes

143

A COSATU/Nactu delegation won a commitment from Manpower Minister Eli Louw yesterday that he would try during this session to push through Parliament amendments to the Labour Relations Act based on the agreement devised jointly by the unions and employer federation Saccola

The historic "fruitful" meeting was the first between the present generation of black unions and a Manpower Minister

Manpower Department sources at the meeting, which lasted for four hours — twice as long as scheduled — said there had been some tough talking, but in the end it was "all smiles."

The issuing of a joint Press release ap-

ALAN FINE

peared to testify to the positive outcome of the meeting — unions normally resist issuing joint statements, even with the employers they deal with regularly.

The parties agreed the draft agreement negotiated between the unions and Saccola should be submitted to Louw as soon as possible. He would then refer the agreement to the National Manpower Commission for its urgent attention

Once the NMC — many of whose members are also Saccola members — made proposals, the Minister would give this priority attention and endeavour to put it through Parliament in the current session

The joint statement said the parties committed themselves "to reaching the broadest possible consensus and consultation on future labour legislation".

Sources said this meant legislative changes would also require substantial support by groupings outside Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola.

Louw also agreed to assist Cosatu/Nactu efforts regarding public sector and agricultural labour. He was prepared to facilitate a meeting between the unions and the Minister responsible for public-sector employment for discussions on the application of labour legislation to the public service.

He would also convey to the SA Agricultural Union the unions' request for an urgent meeting to discuss legislation covering farm workers.

Louw and the union delegation also exchanged preliminary views on issues relating to privatisation, deregulation, inflation and workplace violence

He further agreed to convey to the appropriate authorities union proposals for direct negotiations between those authorities and the unions concerned in the hospital and prisons disputes

Further meetings would be held between the unions and the Minister.

It was agreed Saccola should join them for discussions on the proposed labour amendments.

Star 16/3/90 (143)

Unions meet Minister

Accord calls for changes in labour Act

By Drew Forrest

Sweeping interim changes to the Labour Relations Act — including the scrapping of the present unfair practice definition and curbs on strike interdicts — are proposed in a draft agreement between the labour movement and employers.

The accord also embodies a set of union and employer rights, drawn from the Wiehahn Commission, in which it is agreed that farm, domestic and state employees should be covered by labour law.

A key proposal

The product of two years' debate between Cosatu/Nactu and the employer body Saccola, the accord still has to be ratified by members.

But sources said the plan was to present it at a joint meeting with Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw for enactment during the current session of Parliament.

The unions put their demands on the LRA at a ground-breaking meeting with Mr Louw yesterday.

A key proposal in the agreement, de-

tails of which have been leaked to The Star, is the scrapping of the current unfair labour practice definition, which includes bans on sympathy strikes and consumer boycotts.

The parties propose a reversion to the pre-1988 position, when the Industrial Court had a flexible mandate to develop labour law by precedent.

And while the right to interdict illegal strikes remains, it is agreed that reasonable notice must be given, so that unions can oppose applications

Other proposals are:

- The old unfair labour practice clause be expanded to deal with retrenchments and dismissals, in line with International Labour Organisation principles

Acceptable labour law

- Scrapping of most time limits in official dispute procedures.
- The automatic publication of Industrial Court judgments, subject to special application.

Sources stressed that the draft accord was only part of the unions' longer-term push for acceptable labour law.

'Historic' talks between Govt and unions

5/10-16/3/90
By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The powerful Cosatu and Nactu federations met the Government for the first time here yesterday in talks described as historic

The union bodies and the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, issued a joint statement afterwards, saying the talks had been fruitful and committing themselves "to reaching the broadest possible consensus on future labour legislation"

Mr Louw agreed to consider urgently the draft agreement on changes to labour law negotiated recently between Cosatu/

(143) (143)
Nactu and the employer body Saccola. Ensuing legislation could come before Parliament this year

The statement said it had been agreed that a further meeting including Saccola should be held to discuss the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act

The draft proposals by Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola are believed to include measures limiting unions' liability to legal damages arising from strikes, and proposals that all workers should enjoy union rights

Mr Louw has agreed to arrange a meeting between Cosa-

tu/Nactu and the Minister of Administration, Dr Wim de Villiers, to discuss their call for union rights for public servants

Mr Louw also agreed to convey to the SA Agricultural Union the request for a meeting with Cosatu/Nactu to discuss labour rights for farm workers

He agreed that "all workers should have basic worker rights, which must be negotiated"

The Minister also agreed to convey the unions' proposals for direct negotiations between them and the appropriate authorities on the current disputes in the health and prison sectors

● See Page 10.

Louw, unions seek consensus

CANT Times 16/3/90 (12) (14) (14) (14)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

YESTERDAY's first meeting between a cabinet minister and South Africa's two largest trade union federations, Cosatu and Nactu, resulted in agreement that all workers should have basic worker rights which had to be negotiated

In a joint statement last night they also committed themselves to "reaching the broadest possible consensus on future labour legislation"

The conciliatory tone of last night's statement indicated a significant breakthrough after years of often acrimonious conflict between the government and black unions

They agreed to hold further discussions on thorny issues such as privatisation, deregulation, inflation and work-place violence

All parties said after yesterday's meeting between Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw and representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Congress of Trade Unions (Nactu), that discussions on proposed legislation were "fruitful"

The joint statement said the draft agreement negotiated between between Cosatu/Nactu and the employer

body, Saccola, would be submitted to the minister as soon as possible and after this Mr Louw would refer it to the National Manpower Commission

The minister will then give the NMC's proposals priority attention and endeavour to put them through Parliament in the current session

Mr Louw also indicated he would "facilitate" a meeting of the unions with the relevant minister on the issue of the public sector and convey "an urgent request" to the South African Agricultural Union to discuss labour legislation covering farmworkers

"All parties agreed that all workers should have basic worker rights which must be negotiated

"They also agreed there should be a further meeting, with Saccola present, to discuss proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act

"On the present disputes in the health and prison sectors, the minister will convey the proposal for direct negotiations between the responsible authorities and the trade unions concerned

"The parties exchanged preliminary views on a range of issues relating to privatisation, deregulation, inflation and work place violence and agreed that these will require further discussion," the statement said

PEOPLE AT THE TOP
ARE ON THE MOVE
SEE PAGE 9

AFRICAN TIMES

SUNDAY TIMES, Business Times, March 18, 1990

**MANPOWER
MIRROR by
ROBYN
CHALMERS**

PAGES AND PAGES OF THE BEST JOBS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Key agreement by the big unions

THE surprisingly conciliatory mood between Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu could mean the start of an important forum to discuss broader socio-economic issues. Saccola and the two black trade union federations this week agreed in principle on various changes to the controversial Labour Relations Act (LRA). The agreement follows almost two years of tough debate between the parties.

Even more startling was Cosatu and Nactu agreeing to meet Manpower Minister Eli Louw to discuss the proposed changes. After so many years of refusing to meet with the Government, this could signal the start of something new.

Change has been the order of the day in SA since State President De Klerk took over from PW Botha. The rapidity of the change, from the unbanning of the ANC to the release of Nelson Mandela, has left many businessmen reeling and unsure of what to do next.

Unfortunately, many were galvanised into action last Friday when Walter Sisulu confirmed the ANC's support for nationalisation. Businessmen have generally held onto the hope that the ANC's support of nationalisation is a ploy to give it a stronger stance at the negotiation table.

However, when Mr Sisulu told top businessmen at a Wits Business School

S/Times 18/3/90 143

breakfast that nationalisation was considered the best way to redistribute wealth in SA, foreign investors began to pull out quickly.

While businessmen contemplate the horrors of nationalisation and the ANC and trade unions contradict each other on how important a policy it is, the homelands and townships exploded in a tirade of violence with very little constructive discussion taking place.

The co-operative spirit between Saccola, Nactu and Cosatu this week must surely be promoted as far as possible to overcome this.

At an Institute of Personnel Management (IPM) and SA Chamber of Business conference last week National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa)

engineering secretary Bernie Fanaroff said the forum created by these three parties was ideal for starting negotiations and preliminary discussions on the restructuring of the economy.

Mr Fanaroff stresses that there is no quick fix to SA's economic and social problems saying he doesn't think there are any unionists 'who see nationalisation as an end in itself, or as a complete answer to our economic problems'.

While Mr Fanaroff may differ originally with Mr Sisulu on the question of nationalisation both are firm on the viewpoint that big business has paid nothing more than lip service to the eradication of apartheid.

He says trade unions believe from bitter past experience that employers and shareholders in SA 'will not cooperate in any significant way with restructuring and the redirection of resources — so nationalisation will be necessary. As to what kind of nationalisation I don't believe anyone has rigid answers at this point'.

To overcome the apparent unwillingness of business to change the current order, Cosatu has identified various crucial areas for the development of policies aimed at restructuring the economy.

It has established committees to look into the economy, health care, training and skills, collective bargaining, provident and pension funds and

housing and restructuring the auto, electronics and information technology industries.

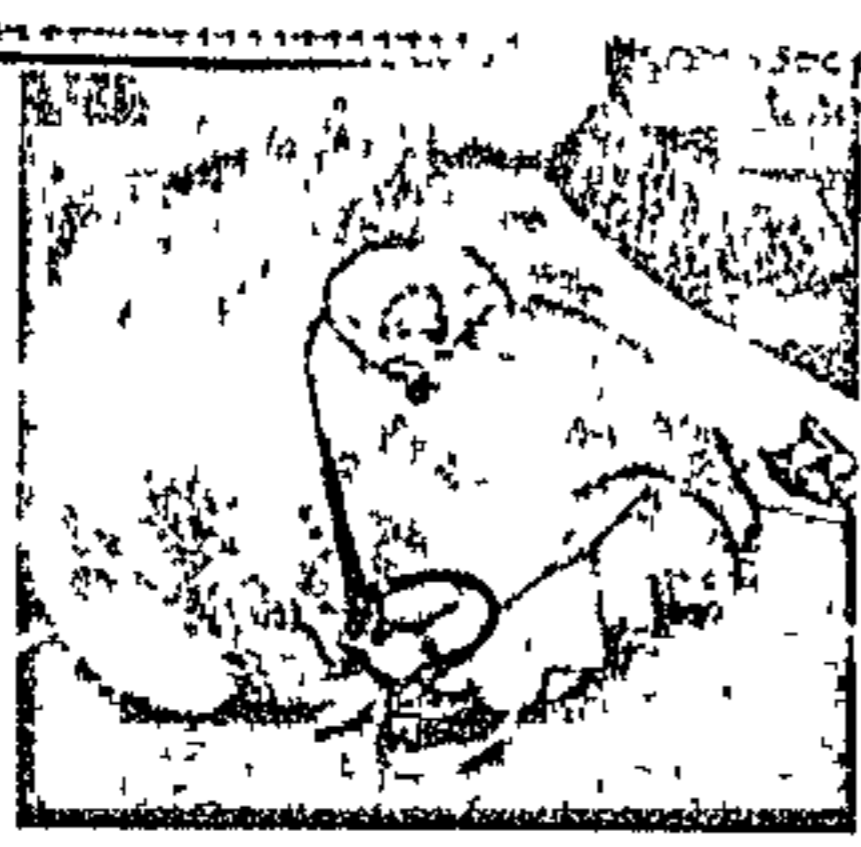
Cosatu believes it is justified in eliminating business co-operation in building a new SA. Yet Mr Sisulu last week called on business to put aside their fears and preconceived notions and band together to find ways that would bring peace and prosperity to all South Africans.

The ideal forum for doing this could be that of Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu.

Hopefully the protracted negotiations on the LRA should soon come to an end. Mr Fanaroff believes that once this has been accomplished the impor-


tant issue of restructuring could begin.

Trade unionists and businessmen have a far greater chance of negotiating successfully with the Government for better housing, education and social conditions as a team than in opposition to one another.



WALTER SISULU together

Two unions argue over registration

143


THE Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) is locked in a battle with the SA Typographical Union (Satu) over the question of registration

By MOKGADI PELA

Mwasa general secretary Mr Sithembele Khala said the dispute arose from claims by Satu that it had majority membership in a number of areas allegedly controlled by Mwasa. Some of those places include Nelspruit, Pietersburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Benoni.

saying it was still ascertaining membership in the areas listed above and were late for this reason

Khala said the onus was on Satu to prove that it had majority membership in those areas. Following the collapse of the closed-shop agreement early last year Satu lost substantial membership to unions organising in the same sector.

Objected

Mwasa's application for registration was published in the Government Gazette on January 12, when unions objecting to the registration were asked to notify the department of Manpower within 30 days. On February 19, Satu objected to Mwasa's registration.

Mwasa objected, saying Satu's response was invalid as it was outside the proscription period. Satu responded by

B/Day 20/3/90 (143)

Big changes proposed to 'unfair' labour legislation

ORGANISED labour and business is to propose to government a complete rewrite of the unfair labour practice (ULP) definition in the Labour Relations Act (LRA), a draft of an agreement between employer federation Saccola and Cosatu and Nactu shows

They are also to propose drastic revisions to the Labour Appeal Court (LAC) system which has been criticised as unwieldy and staffed by persons often not knowledgeable in the field of industrial relations

The draft agreement is still being finalised and has to be approved by constituents of the three organisations before it is presented to Manpower Minister Eli Louw for his consideration

Louw and the unions agreed the document — which could run to about 40 pages — should be handed to him as soon as possible, and Nactu acting general secretary Cunningham Ngcukane said yesterday this would probably be early next month

Should the LRA be amended along the lines proposed in the agreement, this would eliminate those amendments introduced in 1988 against which the two union federations have staged

ALAN FINE

several protests in the last two years.

The changes would be of an interim nature, with Saccola and the union parties having embarked on a longer term study of certain aspects of the law, particularly those relating to strikes

In the meanwhile, the redrafted ULP definition would effectively return to the Industrial Court the ability to decide on the fairness or otherwise of such actions as sympathy strikes, rolling strikes and consumer boycotts at present designated unfair by the current ULP definition

This would occur by reinstating the pre-1988 ULP definition which gave the court broad scope to determine these issues which are now codified in the LRA

The proposed definition would also declare dismissals unfair unless they were carried out with good and sufficient cause and in compliance with proper procedures. In the case of retrenchments, prior negotiation would be required

Amendments to the status of the LAC would include returning it to the jurisdiction of the Manpower Ministry. The Manpower Minister would make ap-

pointments after consulting the National Manpower Commission

The intention is to ensure labour specialists operate the court. The implication is that groups like Cosatu and Nactu would be willing to join the NMC so as to give themselves the consultative power to which the NMC would be entitled. The right of appeal to the Appellate division would be scrapped

The court would be entitled to interdict unlawful strikes, but its ability to interdict lawful strikes would be limited to exceptional circumstances. Respondent unions would be afforded reasonable opportunity to oppose interdict applications.

The draft also proposes deletion of a clause which is said to give racially segregated unions the right to oppose the registration of non-racial unions. The draft also makes easier the publication of court judgments

It would also, as a draft Bill recently published by the department already does, delete section 79 (2) of the LRA which relates to union liability for damages sustained in unlawful strikes. It would extend time limits for the processing of disputes further than the Bill does

143 Strike action
CMT tents 21/3/90
stops smelting
189
Staff Reporter

TENS of thousands of rands' worth of damage was caused at the Cape Foundries metalworking plant in Paarden Eiland on Friday when the workers walked out on a legal strike in the middle of the production process.

Mr Brian Williams, spokesman for the Nactu-affiliated Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of SA (Mewusa), said workers had not finished the production run they had been busy with.

"It is a smelting process which would not normally be stopped in mid-stream," he said. He believed it would take some time to get the plant going again even after the strike was settled.

Fleeing workers left

destitute

South 22/3 - 29/3/90

143

By CHIARA CARTER

ABOUT 30 destitute migrant workers who fled from a Philippi precast concrete factory are desperately trying to find money to return to their homes in Venda.

The workers, who were recruited at Louis Trichardt in mid-February, walked out of East Rand Walling after a week in protest against working conditions and wages.

Spokesperson for the workers, Mr Moses Manyekwane, said they had been promised R15 a day and free food and accommodation.

But when they began work at the factory they were told by the company manager, Mr Piet Barnard, they would only be paid R13 a day and had to buy their own food.

Manyekwane said the workers had been unhappy about their accommodation which was a warehouse without any privacy.

He said they had not been provided with

overalls or safety clothing and that ablution facilities were inadequate

There were no showers and workers had to wash under a hose in the yard

Manyekwane said there was only one toilet which male and female staff had to share.

Manyekwane claimed several workers had been assaulted by the owner after they complained about conditions. They then walked out of the factory

The workers returned after officials from the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) negotiated, but they walked out again on the same day.

Manyekwane alleged that the manager and his son had adopted a "threatening attitude" towards them

"He said he would get the ringleaders. We feared for our lives," Manyekwane said

The workers have been living at the Zolani Centre in Nyanga for more than three weeks.

He claimed that Mr Piet Barnard, accompanied by a municipal policeman, had followed them to the centre to fetch five workers.

This was confirmed by officials from St John Ambulance which operates from the centre.

St John Ambulance, Shawco, the Red Cross and local businessmen in Nyanga have been assisting the workers.

The Venda embassy has said it is unable to help the group return to Venda, because they were not recruited inside the homeland.

East Rand owner, Mr Fred Barnard, denied all the workers' allegations

Barnard said that nine of the workers who had been recruited at Louis Trichardt were still working for the company and were "quite happy"

Barnard said that he had a workforce of 60 men who had not protested about working conditions.

"My own boys are quite happy at work," Barnard said.

"It's just four instigators who caused all this trouble".

He said that he had offered to feed the workers and deduct the cost from their fortnightly wage packet but they had been "fussy" about food

He said he had from the start offered R13 a day to the workers and had a tape-recording to prove this

"They are just lazy. I told them that if they can't carry more than 60 kilos then I might as well employ women," Barnard said

He described allegations about beatings as "nonsense".

In 1987 SOUTH published a story about workers at the same factory who claimed they had been assaulted when they protested against working conditions and low wages.

Mr Barnard also denied all the claims

(S) (S) (143)

The Argus, Thursday March 22 1990 5

Strikers ordered to stay away from building site

Supreme Court Reporter

CONSTRUCTION workers at a Blue Downs building site who were fired after industrial action have been ordered to stay away from the site after an urgent application in the Supreme Court

Mr Acting-Justice Van Deventer granted the application by Sersteel (Pty) Ltd last night, interdicting and restraining Mr W Nconjane and 41 others from entering the building site at Malibu Secondary School or any other building site or place of business of Sersteel.

The workers, members of the Building, Construction and Allied Workers' Union, were also restrained from intimidating any other employees, temporary staff or sub-contractors at the site or from damaging, tampering with or interfering with property belonging to Sersteel, or interfering with normal business operations

In an affidavit Mr Leslie Ballard, a director of Sersteel, said industrial action had been taken by the workers in contravention of the Labour Relations Act.

Their services had been terminated on March 20, but they refused to vacate the building site and had sought to intimidate sub-contractors, several of whom had refused to return to the site until the dispute was settled.

Mr Ballard said Sersteel could not afford more delays and the attorney acting for the strikers had been unable to give an undertaking on their behalf because union officials had not met the workers

The strikers were ordered to show cause by April 20 why the order should not be made final

TAWU planning weekend talks

THE Transport and Allied Workers Union (Tawu) will be holding a general meeting on Sunday for its members at Bophutatswana Transport Holdings to discuss a contentious company pension scheme, a union spokesman said yesterday. *Swelam 20/3/90*

The meeting starts at 10am at St Peter's Church, Hamanskraal.

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The Bophutatswana National Pension Fund has drawn criticism from workers who reject being paid pension benefits in terms of two separate pension funds.

The demand is for a single provident fund, the spokesman said.

Tawu represents more than 5 000 BTH employees at six depots in the homeland.

Saccola favours new labour laws

EMPLOYERS hoped that any changes to labour law proposed by them and two labour federations would receive serious and positive consideration by the Government, a spokesman for the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs says.

Writing in his organisation's report, Saccola chairman Mr Bobby Godsell said he also hoped talks involving the employers' association, Nactu and Cosatu would continue and "move quickly" towards resolution of the disputed clauses in the Labour Relations Act.

He said Saccola believed it had reached agreement in principle on four issues. These were:

- * Whether race should be a criterion regarding union registration;
- * Whether industrial court judgments should be published more widely,
- * Whether time limits should be legislatively prescribed regarding the industrial council and conciliation board,

* Whether Section 79(2) of the Act that presumed union liability regarding actions of its members should be retained.

Employers and federations were now focussing on two other issues in their interim "narrow agenda", Godsell said.

The two aspects were: * whether employers and unions should have access to urgent forms of court relief in the case of a legal strike or lock-out, and how the protection of legally striking workers against dismissal should be provided by law.

He said employers were concerned when Cosatu and Nactu linked, "both in time and subject", their anti-LRA campaign to protest against the parliamentary elections on September 6 last year.

"This linkage illustrates the problems of the partial incorporation of black South Africans into the economic, but not yet into the political structures of citizenship.

CASH | Act Gold | Honour for

AECI ¹⁴³ stoppage goes on

By LEN MASEKO

Sowetan 3/4/90

THE work stoppage by about 1 800 workers continued at AECI's Sasolburg plant yesterday with their union pressing for the unconditional reinstatement of their dismissed colleague.

The workers' representatives, the SA Chemical Workers Union, and AECI management have deadlocked over the issue.

A meeting between the two parties last Thursday drew a blank.

Fight

The stoppage followed a fight between a white worker and a Sacwu member, who was dismissed by the firm after an inquiry.

The union maintains that their member was assaulted by his white colleague and has called on management to review its decision.

AECI spokesman Mr. Rob Vermont had not yet responded to a *Sowetan* inquiry by late yesterday.

Sacwu official Mr. Humphrey Ndaba yesterday said that management had now offered to reinstate the dismissed worker pending an enquiry - a suggestion rejected by the union.

they took part in a protest.

A fully-fledged strike followed.

Sorry,

we're

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South 1/4 - 10/4/90

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ABOUT 100 Parow workers were shocked to find themselves without jobs last Friday.

The workers, members of the South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu), claim they were not given advance notice that Protea-Pak plastics factory was being closed down.

Sacwu organiser, Mr Peter Roman, said the workers had recently joined Sacwu. The union had been busy discussing recognition with the company when the workers were dismissed.

Company spokesperson, Mr D Moss, said the workers were retrenched and not dismissed.

The company was in financial difficulty and had no option but to close down, he said.

He denied any connection between the retrenchment and the workers' having joined a union.

He said management planned to meet the union and lawyers later this week to discuss the matter.

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"any payments or material benefits or advantages
received from or on behalf of foreign governments,
organisations or persons".

Metalworkers back at work

Cape Times 5/4/90 Labour Reporter

NEARLY 130 metalworkers at a Paarden Eiland plant who had been on strike for more than three weeks, returned to work yesterday.

The company, Cape Foundries, will negotiate wages and working conditions at plant level, following the agreement reached this week between Cape Foundries' management and the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of SA.

Cape Foundries has also agreed to pay a R3 000 death benefit and has negotiated a health and safety agreement with the union.

Picket: Popcru members held

EAST LONDON. — About 80 people, many of them members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru), were arrested in the city centre here yesterday.

According to an official of Popcru, those arrested were students from various coloured schools in East London and Popcru members who had been picketing.

A senior Border police spokesman confirmed the arrests, but said he could not say when those held would appear in court. — Sapa

Young whites clean a strike-hit Pretoria

CAP TWS
11/4/90

PRETORIA. — White schoolboys are spending their holiday working for the strike-hit refuse-removal services here.

As the unlawful stoppage by municipal workers dragged into its seventh day yesterday, trade union organisers and city council officials met in a bid to resolve the dispute over wages.

The wildcat strike was induced by inter-union rivalry, an SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) spokesman said.

Members of the Pretoria Municipal Workers' Union — soon to be merged with Samwu, a Cosatu affiliate — opted to return to work last Thursday.

However, employees belonging to the rival Nactu-affiliated National Union of Public Sector Workers "intimidated" those aligned with Cosatu, sparking the wildcat strike, the Samwu spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Pretoria City Council spokesman Mr Jan Bezuidenhout confirmed that more than 70 schoolboys had been deployed to clean the city's streets, earning R7 an hour. — Sapa

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Two labour federations agree to LRA changes

Star 17/4/90

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By Shareen Singh

Cosatu and Nactu have agreed to sign the interim draft agreement between Saccola and the unions on proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act (LRA), the federations said last week.

The unions are waiting for Saccola to sign the interim agreement. The agreement has to be approved and signed by all three parties before it is presented to the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, for consideration.

Meeting

Cosatu and Nactu expressed concern that the employer organisation has not made a decision yet.

The unions had suggested an April 9 meeting between the parties, but the employers pushed the date forward to Monday April 23

Mr Marcel Golding, spokesman for Cosatu's LRA working committee, said any delay in signing the agreement would affect their plans to pilot the changes through this parliamentary session.

Saccola secretary Ms Frieda Dowie reportedly denied the employer organisation was dragging its feet.

She said a working group had started working on the agreement about four weeks ago.

It would take time to process the document through Saccola, she said.

Mr Golding said the draft agreement accepts that all workers must be covered by the legislation and ensures basic rights for all workers.

These basic rights include the right to strike, to bargain collectively and recognition of shop stewards. Other aspects provide for reverting to the old unfair labour practice definition.

In respect of dismissals and retrenchments, the International Labour Organisation's guidelines will apply.

A special labour appeal court will be established with expert judges to hear appeal cases. Dispute procedures will be made simpler and racial registration will be scrapped.

A response from Saccola is expected by April 20.

Despite their accord on the LRA, rivalry between Cosatu's

Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU) and the Nactu-affiliated South African Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu) has resulted in violent clashes between members of both unions.

Last Tuesday the CWIU obtained an urgent interdict against Sacwu's president and two shop stewards to stop them from assaulting or threatening to assault CWIU members at AECI's Modderfontein plant.

The three have until May 8 to respond to the interdict.

Gaining membership

A CWIU statement listed several incidents of violence between the two unions over the past two years, at plants where Sacwu members wish to leave their union to join the CWIU

The CWIU claims that many Sacwu members are moving over to join their union.

Sacwu spokesman Mr Humphrey Indaba said this was not correct and that his union was in fact gaining membership.

Attempts to merge the two unions since 1981 have failed and the CWIU blames this on the Sacwu leadership

Workers win court battle in Rustenburg

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The Industrial Court has ordered a Rustenburg company to negotiate wages and working conditions with a union representing its employees.

The court decision follows an application by the Federated Mining Union (FMU) which challenged Rolan Essential Oils' alleged refusal to negotiate with it.

By LEN MASEKO

FMU general secretary Mr Sydney Zimba said the court found that the company's refusal to negotiate with the union constituted an unfair labour practice.

Strike

The company was ordered to hold negotiations with the Nactu affiliate

within 30 days of the court judgment.

The dispute between the two parties led to a strike which lasted 12 weeks early this year

...the harbour- ... no support- ing evidence, however.

Mossgas sacks workforce

From JUSTICE SIGONYELA (S) (143)

THE entire workforce at one of the companies contracted to the Mossgas fuel-from-gas project has been dismissed for striking.

About 170 workers from KPL, a company building modules for Mossgas's offshore rig at Mossel Bay, downed tools for the third time in two months, demanding clarification on a medical aid scheme.

A shop-steward at the plant said the workers had been contributing to the scheme for nine months but no medical cards had been received.

The workers alleged the company underpaid labourers. South 1714 - 25/4/90

Other grievances include alleged unfair dismissals, problems with unaffordable accommodation and the absence of transport home over holiday periods.

A local organiser for the Nactu-affiliated Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of South Africa (Mewusa), Ms Amanda Williams, said talks were continuing between the union and KPL management.

Williams claimed management had locked out the workers during the strike.

The union has asked KPL to refund the medical aid contributions deducted from workers.

KPL said it would look into the matter. — PEN

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Another Mwasa *Sowetan*
official detained *20/4/90*
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ANOTHER official of the Media Workers Association of South Africa, Mr Vincent Mfundisi, was yesterday detained by the police, nine days after *Sowetan* sports editor Horatio Motjuwadi, writes THEMBA MOLEFE.

Mfundisi is the vice-chairman of the Transvaal region.

The SAP Directorate for Public Relations said according to police records Mfundisi was not held in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act and would not confirm whether he was detained under the state of emergency regulations.

His detention brings to four the number of Mwasa officials arrested in the crackdown on the union's officials.

The others are Mwasa general secretary Mr Sithembele Khala and shop steward Mr Fani Hlongwane.

The Association of Democratic Journalists said it was concerned about the detention of media workers, including Mr Philemon Nzimande, who was detained on April 12.

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Detention of Mwasas member is confirmed

Stok
18/4/90
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Police have confirmed the detention of Mr Sithembele Khala, general secretary of the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa).

Mr Khala is being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

But police said Pretoria shop steward Mr Fani Hlongwane, who was also believed to have been picked up, was not being held under the Act.

A former Mwasa official and the Sowetan newspaper's sports editor, Mr Horatio Motjuwadi, was also reportedly detained under section 29 of the Internal Security Act on April 12.

It is believed Mr Motjuwadi was detained with his wife, Martha, after security police had "stormed" their home in Mohlakeng, Randfontein, last Thursday. Mrs Motjuwadi was released after being held for nine hours.

A Mwasa spokesman said police had confirmed Mr Khala's detention under section 29. He was not sure of the de-

tails of Mr Hlongwane's detention. However, it is believed he was detained from Babelegi, Hammanskraal, in Bophuthatswana.

Mr Hlongwane may be held by Bophuthatswana police in terms of the emergency regulations of the homeland. This is the fourth time he has been picked up by police and questioned on Mwasa activities.

Mr Khala was involved in the Pan Africanist Congress Bethal treason trial with PAC leader, Mr Zeph Mothopeng, and served seven years on Robben Island. He was released in 1986.

Mr Hlongwane is a shop steward working at Craft Press, Pretoria.

The president of Mwasa, Mrs Sandra Nagfaal, yesterday condemned the detention of the union members.

Mrs Nagfaal said: "I don't believe Mwasa is an illegal organisation and I know there is nothing undercover in its activities." — Sapa, Staff Reporter.

Dismissal of worker leads to strike

ABOUT 300 striking AECI workers protesting the innocence of a dismissed colleague gathered outside a central Johannesburg office block yesterday to watch union leader Joseph Maqhekeni hand over a memorandum of demands to management.

Banners demanded the immediate reinstatement of Mr Philip Mphuti

A small, slight man, Mphuti was raised on the shoulders of his fellow South African Chemical Workers Union members as they chanted and sang.

Many waved their job cards above their heads. "They must take it back. It doesn't work," said one unionist.

An assistant fitter, Mphuti was apparently involved in a fight with Mr Duncan Maclaughlin and was consequently dismissed on March 15.

Maqhekeni, who is

Sacwu shop stewards committee chairman, said Mphuti had been attacked by the fitter and a witness had made a statement to this effect.

Maclaughlin is still employed at AECI's Midlands Sasolburg plant

More than 2 000 workers, according to the union, went on strike on March 23 in protest at the ruling. AECI says 1 760 workers are involved.

Accepting the memorandum, company human resources manager Bokkie Botha said he had already communicated with the union to suggest independent arbitration in the matter

A statement from the company said a disciplinary inquiry had convened and both it and a subsequent appeal had upheld the order for Mphuti's dismissal.

Sowetan 24/4/90

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152

Parties push on with talks about LRA

43 ALAN FINE

COSATU, Nactu and employer federation Saccola were yesterday holding on course their attempt to reach agreement on interim changes to the Labour Relations Act to be made law during the current parliamentary session.

No official statements were issued after a seven-hour meeting which ended in the early hours of yesterday morning.

However, sources at the meeting said a drafting sub-committee of senior union and Saccola officials and their legal representatives was attempting to rework sections of the previous draft agreement on which the two sides disagreed.

The issues in dispute include the right of employers to bring interdicts against lawful strikes, time limits for the lodging of disputes, and changes in the operation of the labour courts.

It is understood that both sides made concessions, but details of these were described as too sensitive to disclose at this stage. A further mandating process will probably be required.

A union spokesman said Cosatu and Nactu were still very concerned that delays could prevent the possibility of an eventual agreement becoming law during this parliamentary session.

A Manpower Ministry spokesman said yesterday it was not possible to designate a final deadline for submission to Minister Eli Louw of the agreement.

However, if Parliament adjourned in early July as expected, time was running short.

Louw has told the parties any agreement would be examined very seriously and with urgency. However, it would have to be investigated by the National Manpower Commission and be put through the normal procedures.

Trade unions have major role in creating more jobs

Trade unions will have to discipline themselves in order to harmonise the interests of the workers with the interests of the employers, says Mr Hendrik Sloet, chairman of Saambou.

He told the Boksburg Afrikaanse Sakekamer that if this did not happen the growing number of workers would not in the long term receive their rightful dues.

He said labour, unemployment and productivity were some of the most serious problems facing the country. The available unskilled labour far exceeded the demand, while there was a tremendous shortage of skilled labour.

Official statistics showed the labour force increased by 2,7 percent a year. Keeping in mind that for every one

percent growth in the economy another five percent growth in job opportunities was created, there would have to be an economic growth rate of 5,4 percent a year to absorb the increase in the labour force.

The hundreds of thousands of unemployed, who were increasing at an alarming rate daily, were not even included in this calculation.

Mr Sloet said he believed entrepreneurs, with little prompting, would use labour-intensive production techniques as long as they were able to arrange their cost structure in such a way as to remain competitive. This would create more job opportunities.

But unfortunately labour-intensive

techniques were declining in favour of increasing capital intensive production methods.

This could mainly be ascribed to the growing imbalance of labour costs, levels of productivity and growing wage demands. There would have to be a relation between training, productivity and wage and salary levels.

Industrialists and trade unions must get together to discuss their problems. It had to be realised that in view of the country's particular circumstances it was important to have a job — never mind the pay.

A modest standard of living was better than no standard of living at all, Mr Sloet concluded. — Sapa

Transport to rally

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Soweto

30/4/90

By SY MAKARINGE

THE National Council of Trade Unions has lined up several buses to ferry hundreds of workers from different parts of the Reef to a May Day rally to be held at Shareworld, near Soweto, tomorrow.

All workers from the East Rand have been asked to assemble at either the Vosloorus Civic Centre or Natalspruit Hospital before 8am from where they will be transported to the rally.

Buses for workers from the West Rand will leave from Mohlakeng Roman Catholic Church and Mr Mike Matsobane's house in Kagiso. Both buses leave for Shareworld at 8am.

Seven buses have been arranged for workers from Soweto. One will leave from Naledi's Esso garage at 7.45am and will pick up more people at Jabulani Flats at about 8am. The second bus leaves Esso garage, near Dlamini, on the old

Potchefstroom Road, at 7.45am.

Other buses will leave from the Dobsonville police station, Meadowlands Zone 6 garage, Mayibuye Garage in Klipspruit, Emnden bus terminus and Protea North's BP garage. All the buses leave at 7.45am.

They will stop at the following places to pick up more people en route

to the rally: Zone 9, Meadowlands, shopping centre, Sputnik garage, Uncle Tom's hall in Orlando West, J K Motors in Diepkloof, Baragwanath Hospital, Chiefs Bakery, Ikhwezi railway station and Protea police station.

The federation has also arranged two buses which will leave from Lekton House in Wanderers Street, Johannesburg at 8.30am and 9am.

Nactu leader slates ANC over talks plan

Sowetan 30/4/90

143

SA PRESS ASSOCIATION

AN OFFICIAL of the National Council of Trade Unions, on Saturday attacked the ANC for agreeing to exploratory talks with the South African Government on a negotiated constitution.

Nactu Acting General-Secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, addressing over 10 000 mourners at the funeral service of PAC founder-member Mr Japhta Masemola, accused the ANC of going into talks with the Government without consulting other sectors of the liberation movement

any negotiated solution with the puppets of the people must be tested by the white electorate," Ngcukana said, adding De Klerk had shown he was very much against majority rule

Masemola, who died two weeks ago at the Garankuwa Hospital near Pretoria, was described by speakers at the funeral as having been very uncompromising toward a negotiated settlement with the Government.

"It is very sad for the ANC to have taken that decision. We in Nactu say it is arrogant of the ANC in that regard."

He said the only choice of the PAC and Nactu was to escalate the struggle

The criticism came just a day after an ANC external delegation jetted into Cape Town from Lusaka for the talks, which are scheduled to begin on May 2.

Masemola was dedicated to the strategy of the armed struggle, Mr Ngcukana said

"President F W de Klerk has indicated that

Flags

He reportedly perceived negotiations as a form of political "power dice".

The funeral turned into a full-blown PAC political rally with thousands of mourners dressed in the black, green and gold PAC colours.

Flags and banners of the PAC, its military wing the Azanian People's Liberation Army, and the organisation's affiliates fluttered over the Atteridgeville Stadium where the service was held.



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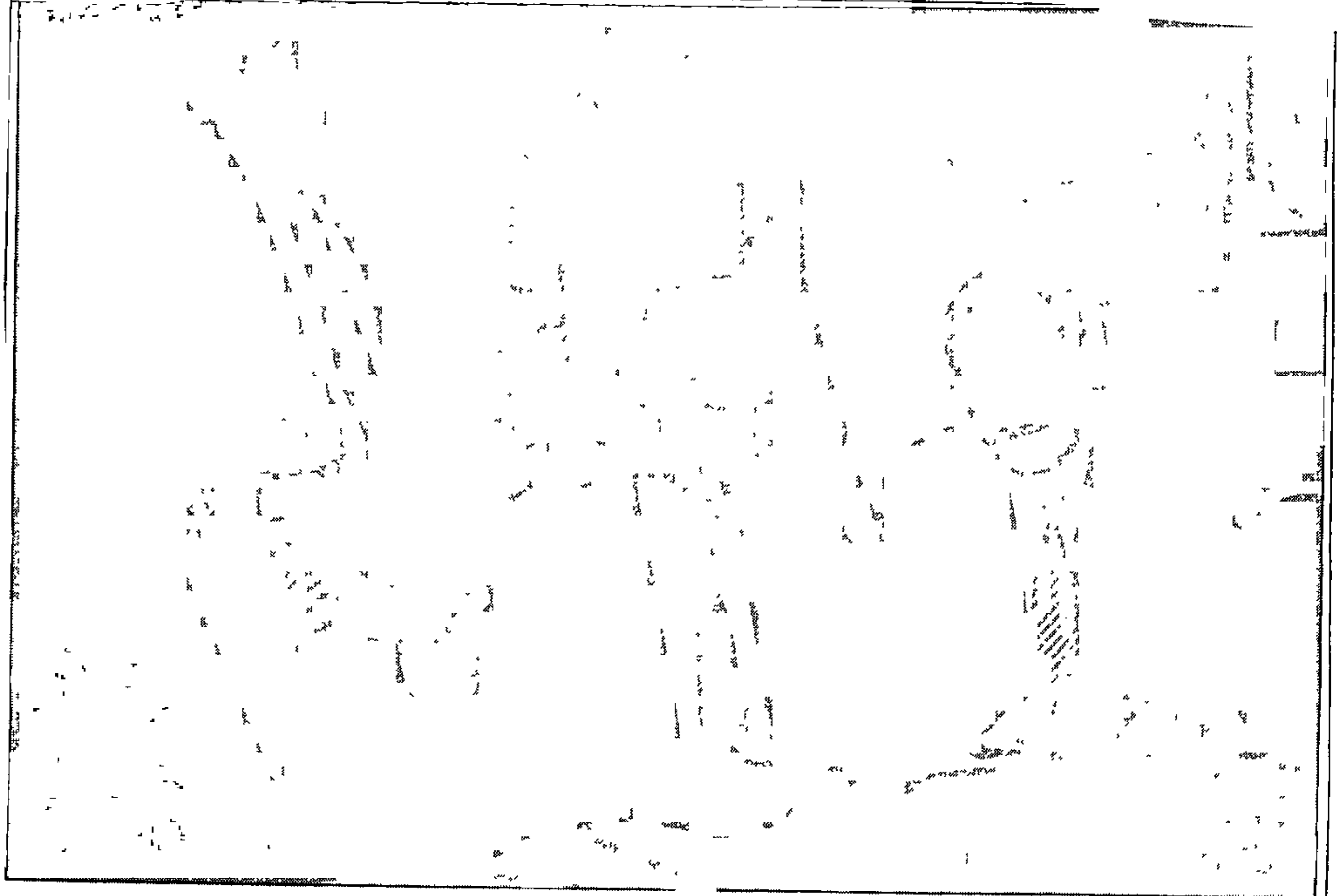
Unions accept LRA changes

The two major union federations and a majority of Saccola affiliates have agreed in principle to sign an interim list of amendment proposals to the current Labour Relations Amendment Act, the Congress of SA Trade Unions said yesterday. (143) (143) (143)

A statement said that at a meeting on Monday Co-satu, Nactu Unions and the employer body Saccola had agreed to sign the agreement on May 7, pending responses from two major Saccola affiliates. (143)

Those at Monday's joint meeting apparently concurred that the agreement would in the meantime be given to the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw.

A request would be made that he urgently process the agreement "to ensure that it becomes law during the current parliamentary session". — Sapa.



Making history . . . at the signing of the Labour Relations Act deal are (top, from left) Saccola's Mr Bobbie Godsell and Mr Bokkie Botha and (bottom, from left) Nactu's Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, Cosatu's Mr Jay Naidoo, and Saccola chairman Mr Anton Roodt

Labour Reporter

The two-year "Saccola talks" reached an historic climax yesterday when unions and employers signed an agreement on far-reaching interim changes to labour relations laws

The deal was struck between the employer body Saccola and the union federations Cosatu and Nactu

It will be forwarded to the Government during the present session of Parliament

A joint statement said the parties were ready to meet the National Manpower Commission, State legal draftsmen and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Manpower Affairs "on an urgent basis"

Saccola chairman Mr Anton

Two-year talks on SA's labour laws reach climax

Star 8/5/90

Roodt revealed that Transnet had also "associated itself with the agreement" Transnet has been an occasional participant in the Saccola talks as an observer

Cosatu and Nactu said in a statement that they welcomed the deal, but stressed that there was "a long road ahead"

Public sector and other employers not covered by the Labour Relations Act (LRA) will be expected to endorse and comply with basic worker rights

set out in the agreement

To this end, the unions will soon meet the South African Agricultural Union, Ministers responsible for the Commission for Administration, and the Post Office

The unions also stressed that although the agreement restored the situation because the controversial 1988 LRA changes, the law fell short in other ways

It did not cover homeland workers, and there was a need for full strike rights and "impar-

tial and competent" courts
The unions added that the Saccola forum should go on to negotiate macro-issues such as health, housing, education and training

A key feature of the agreement is its proposed reversion to the pre-1988 definition of unfair labour practice This would lift the ban on solidarity and intermittent strikes, although unlawful strikes would be unfair

The agreement proposes that the creation of a panel of expert assessors, acceptable to labour and employers, to advise the president of the Labour Appeal Court

Two assessors would sit on each appeal and the ruling would be by a majority

(ii) (aa) To achieve an operational level which is maximally cost-effective and audience-effective

(bb) The rationalisation of these specific services will result in a cost saving of approximately R4 million per year. This saving will be used for the upgrading of the Africa services of Radio RSA. Besides this amount the Department of Foreign Affairs will in the current financial year contribute an additional R4,4 million out of its own image-building (communication) budget to the continuation of the remaining external news services of the SABC. The Department will therefore have to curtail its own image-building (communication) programmes abroad accordingly.

(2) The SABC made a statement in this regard on 9 April 1990 and I responded as follows to questions raised by the hon member on this subject during the debate on my vote in parliament on 26 April 1990

"I believe the honourable member for Johannesburg North was a little unfair to my department today. He apparently relied heavily on an article he had read in some magazine or newspaper. If I heard him correctly, he stated that the overseas services of Radio RSA are on the point of being closed down. That is not correct. In the 1989/90 financial year 37% of the total image-building budget of my department was spent on these services. In 1990/91 their share will increase to 45%. Compare this with the 26% of the United States' total image-building budget that is spent on the Voice of America.

We have investigated this matter over a period of two years, and it has been found that very few people listen to short wave broadcasts in Northern Europe today. These are not my facts and the honour-

able member can check them. In Northern Europe today people listen to and view other media communications

I want to refer the honourable member to an expert finding in the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, vol 33 No 2, and I quote 'Audience research conducted by other international broadcasting organisations shows that while Radio RSA does not appear to have substantial audiences in Western Europe or North America, its programmes reach almost as many listeners as do those of the Voice of America and the BBC in parts of the Third World, and it outstrips both of these stations in Eastern Africa and much of Southern Africa'. I hope the honourable member is now satisfied and will help me to give the correct information to the lady who wrote the article.

National Manpower Commission: representation

340 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Manpower

- (1) Whether any employee organisations and/or trade unions affiliated to (a) Cosatu and/or (b) Nactu are represented on the National Manpower Commission, if so (i) which specified organisations and/or trade unions are so represented and (ii) when did they join, if not,
- (2) whether any such organisations and/or trade unions were invited to serve on the Commission, if not, why not, if so, which organisations and/or trade unions,
- (3) whether any organisations and/or trade unions invited to serve on the Commission refused to do so, if so, for what reasons in each case?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(1) (a) Employee organisations and/or trade unions are not as such represented on the National Manpower Commission. Representation on the National Manpower Commission is based on the fact that knowledgeable persons are appointed in an individual capacity, although an association with the most important employers' and em-

ployee organisations is pursued

No individual nominated by Cosatu affiliated trade unions serves on the National Manpower Commission

- (i) and (ii) Fall away
- (b) Subject to the first section of (a) above, the National Secretary to the National Union of Furniture and Allied Workers of South Africa, which is affiliated to Nactu, is appointed in an individual capacity on the National Manpower Commission

(i) The National Secretary of the aforementioned trade union serves in an individual capacity on the National Manpower Commission

(ii) The appointment was made with effect from 1 April 1988

(2) Subject to the first section of (1)(a) above, all registered trade union federations and registered trade unions with more than 15 000 members were invited during December 1987 to nominate individuals for appointment to the fourth National Manpower Commission. Thereafter Cosatu and Nactu were asked whether they were interested in nominating persons for appointment on the National Manpower Commission. They did not respond to this request. Written invitations to nominate individuals for appointment on the National Manpower Commission were sent to the Presidents of Cosatu and Nactu on 21 February 1990. Similar invitations were sent to trade unions affiliated to Cosatu and Nactu on 25 February 1990.

(3) Up to 3 May 1990 no formal reaction was received from Cosatu or Nactu. One of the Cosatu-affiliated trade unions thus far acknowledged receipt of the invitation while two Nactu affiliated trade unions nominated three persons each for appointment to the National Manpower Commission. It is not known why the other organisations did not react.

Female educators' salary adjustments

346 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Education

(1) How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Indian and (d) Black low-qualified female educators will benefit from the recent announcement that their salaries are to be structurally adjusted as from 1 April 1990,

(2) what will this structural adjustment cost the State for the current financial year?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

- (1) (a) 1 321
- (b) 15 829
- (c) 303
- (d) 62 403
- (2) R184 million

UIF office space in Pretoria

354 Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of Manpower

Whether there is a shortage of office space for the staff of the Unemployment Insurance Fund who are accommodated in the Labona Building, Pretoria if so, (a) what is the extent of the shortage and (b) what steps have been or are being taken in this regard?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

Yes

- (a) Approximately 3 839 square meters in additional office space are needed at this stage. It is expected that the need for additional office space will soon increase.
- (b) It is endeavoured to acquire the necessary additional accommodation in consultation with all parties concerned.

Awaiting-trial prisoners

372 Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice

What was the average number of awaiting-trial prisoners in custody on the last day of each month in 1989?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The figures concerning awaiting-trial prisoners incarcerated in South African prisons on the

600 on wages strike

152

304

143

By LEN MASEKO

ALMOST the entire workforce went on strike at the Kagiso Town Council on Monday, crippling essential services in the West Rand township ^{50 weeks} ~~190~~ 190

The 600 council employees demand recognition of their union, the National Union of Public Service Workers, a R600-a-month minimum wage, medical aid facilities for "non-classified" staff and an end to temporary employment

Kagiso town clerk Mr HM van Rensburg and other officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Sections affected are administration and maintenance, NUPSW official Mr Frans Sebeane said.

Postmen suspend work stoppages

POST Office employees have suspended sit-in strikes at major centres in the Transvaal pending further meetings between management and the Post and Telecommunications Workers' Association, a Potwa spokesman said yesterday.

The workers embarked on brief work stoppages this week in support of their wage demands which include a R1 000-a-month minimum wage and a R400 across-the-board increase.

The strikes coincided with talks between Potwa and Post Office management on Monday.

Post Office public relations officer, Mr J Roodman, was not avail-

By LEN MASEKO

able for comment yesterday.

A Potwa spokesman said the two parties had not yet reached agreement but management had promised to inform the Minister of Telecommunications about the workers' demands.

The two parties will resume the next round of wage talks on May 21.

* A row has broken out between a West Rand company and Food Beverage Workers Union over the company's decision to lock out employees who rejected its wage offer.

The FBWU has con-

demned Advance Seed's action, saying the lock-out was "unprocedural and unlawful".

FBWU official Mr Goba Ndlovu said the union had applied to the Industrial Court to declare the lock-out, instituted against 40 FBWU members on Monday, illegal.

Mr B Lever, a manager of the company, yesterday confirmed the dispute between the two parties.

* The National Union of Public Service Workers and the Kagiso Town Council yesterday resumed talks to resolve the wage strike by about 600 employees of the council.

10/5/01

143

OML 7/15/70 143 (143)

Louw reacts to labour accord

THE accord between the employer federation Saccola and the union groups Cosatu and Nactu contained proposals on a far wider spectrum than provided in the draft Labour Relations Amendment Bill, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, said yesterday

Those proposals which were not reconcilable with the draft bill would have to be referred to the National Manpower Commission for consideration and recommendation to him after all other interested parties had been granted the opportunity to comment

But he was willing to discuss the accord with Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu "as early as Tuesday, May 15"

Mr Louw's statement indicates that although he feels the proposals go further than the ambit of the draft amendment bill, and therefore by implication cannot be considered together with it, the momentum gained in the accord should not be lost

However, despite the proposed meeting on Tuesday, it seems unlikely that key aspects of the Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu agreement will be submitted to Parliament during the current session

PLANS to privatise state forests could be catastrophic for consumers and push up the price of houses, Mr Rupert Lorimer, Democratic Party MP for Bryanston, said in Parliament yesterday

Mr Lorimer said that late last year, the Department of Forestry had announced an average increase of 29,6% in the price of sawlogs, apparently as a prelude to privatising the forests

He said the results of the increase for consum-

House costs 'will soar' if forests sold

ers could be catastrophic

"The biggest user of sawn timber is the building industry. This inordinate price increase would push up building costs excessively and, in turn, push up the price of houses at a stage when South Africa faces a housing crisis"

Star 15/5/90 (167) (143) (KPA)

SA labour facing the 'acid test'

A landmark in South Africa's labour history, last week's employer-union accord on the Labour Relations Act, can be seen as the fruit of the new era of negotiations
DREW FORREST, The Star's Labour Reporter, reports.

The black labour movement would be one of the architects of our future, a prominent labour consultant told a conference last week — and his words have been dramatically confirmed by the Labour Relations Act (LRA) accord clinched between unions and employers

Nothing more clearly demonstrates the growing power, sophistication and tactical flexibility of Cosatu/Nactu than the agreement, reached with the employer body, Saccola, after two years of negotiation, coupled with mass protests against the LRA

This is not to detract from the role of the employers, who have shown courage and sensitivity to the broader climate of conciliation in South Africa. The agreement can be seen as one of the first tangible fruits of the new era of negotiations

It may also be the first time anywhere that these old foes have struck a deal on the statutory framework for their relationship.

If it is translated into law — it has been forwarded to the Government for enactment in this session of Parliament — it will substantially redress union complaints about the controversial 1988 amendments to the Act

Manpower Minister Eli Louw has told the unions he will try to process the accord this session, which may not be technically feasible, but which marks a shift in Government thinking

Cosatu/Nactu are to push for further changes, including the extension of the Act to farm, public service and homeland workers, full strike rights and "impartial and competent courts". They also want the Saccola forum to start debating "macro" issues such as housing and education

In addition, the agreement sets up specialist sub-committees to probe further the industrial and labour appeal courts, and the issue of strikes

Besides its symbolism, the agreement will have a major impact on day-to-day workplace relations if it becomes law

It embodies a set of basic worker rights — including the right to strike and to work — which Saccola will try to get its members to follow

By reverting to the pre-1988 definition of unfair labour practice, it removes the ban on sympathy and repeat strikes and consumer boycotts. Only unlawful strikes would remain unfair and subject to interdict

Race is no longer an "interest" in union registration, and the controversial Section 79 (2) of the LRA, which broadened union exposure to damages actions in illegal strikes, has been scrapped

In some ways, the accord improves on the pre-1988 position. The unfair labour practice definition has been broadened to include fair dismissal and retrenchment procedures in line with International Labour Organisation standards

An immediate benefit for industry is the suspension of the labour movement's LRA campaign, which has entailed two stayaways and a national overtime ban

But some employers are clearly worried that too much has been conceded. This was reflected in Saccola counter-proposals to the original draft agreement after a report-back to its affiliates

Saccola chairman Mr Anton Roodt warned last week that an acceptable industrial relations order depended not just on the letter of the law, but on "the spirit in which the parties approach each other"

"The agreement is seen by employers as a high-risk venture," said one management source. "The acid test will be a drop in rapidly escalating levels of industrial unrest"

CPM - 10/15 15/5/90 (15) (15) (15) (15) (15)

Historic talks on SA labour law

HARARE. — In the first meeting of its kind, representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) yesterday sat down here with delegations from Cosatu, Nactu and the South African government to discuss labour laws for a post-apartheid society

However, the National Manpower Commission (NMC), which said yesterday that its management had not been invited to participate, said the meeting had no decision-making power because of its exclusion. The commission will be represented only by members of its technical committee on the La-

bour Relations Act (LRA).

But Mr Neville Rubin, the senior official in charge of the ILO's equality of rights branch in Geneva, said the chairman of the NMC, Dr Frans Barker, had been invited "at the specific instigation of Cosatu".

Mr Rubin stressed that the meeting was not discussing the readmission of SA to the ILO — from which it was expelled 20 years ago.

Yesterday's discussions were chaired by Sir John Wood, one of Britain's leading experts on industrial law. — Own Correspondent and Sapa

'Historic' progress in SA labour talks

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG —
After nearly seven hours of tough talking on Friday, Manpower Minister Eli Louw, Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola agreed that amendments to the Labour Relations Act proposed by the latter three would be published in a special Government Gazette for comment this week.

The meeting, described by one source as even more historic than that two weeks ago at which the union-Saccola agreement was signed, has revived hopes that the agreement could still be translated into legislation this year.

However, much uncertainty on this score remains, and it appears the usually antagonistic employers and unions are to be involved in an intensive lobbying effort to ensure their agreement does become law within the six weeks before Parliament is adjourned.

Proposals

Louw said after the meeting that in addition to having the draft Bill published in a special Gazette on Wednesday, the proposals had been referred to the National Manpower Commission for comment as soon as possible.

Saccola spokesman Bobby Godsell said his organisation "continues to be hopeful" this could be achieved.

Nactu acting general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said "But if it does not happen, we will have to recommend to our members that there be no further co-operation with the minister, the NMC or any other arm of the state."

"We took a political risk in talking to the minister, and we expect reciprocation."

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25/5/90 ~~11/11/90~~

Promise of ¹⁴³ quick move to enact Saccola labour accord

Labour Reporter

Manpower Minister Eli Louw has agreed to take all reasonable steps to translate a union-employer accord on the Labour Relations Act into law as a matter of urgency

The announcement, described by unionists as "a partial breakthrough", follows the Minister's meeting with the employer body Saccola and union federations Cosatu and Nactu on Friday

Mr Louw also announced that a draft amendment Bill based on the "Saccola accord" would be published for comment on Wednesday

Before Friday's talks, the Minister indicated that only proposals relating to an earlier draft Bill, much narrower in scope than the Saccola accord, could be enacted

Cosatu negotiator Marcel Golding said unions would meet the National Manpower Commission this week. The aim was to put draft legislation before the Cabinet by June, he said

Mr Golding stressed that despite significant progress at Friday's meeting, Cosatu's nationwide protests to demand the enactment of the Saccola agreement would go ahead this week

Nactu's Cunningham Ngekana said the enactment of the Saccola proposals was a question of political will

"The Minister stressed the technical difficulties. As we are not represented in Parliament and have no say in how it runs, this is not our concern," he said

Conference will focus on the education of children

By ELIAS MALULEKE

EDUCATION of children is high on the agenda of political organisations, trade unions and liberation movements

This was said by Aziz Jardine, liaison office of Yumani Pre-school Project, formed in 1986 to coordinate the development of courses for early education and to prepare children for a non-racial and non-sexist future in South Africa.

According to Jardine, blacks experience inequality from the cradle to the grave, unlike their white counterparts.

"In this period of transition and transformation of South African society, the question of responsibility for children will be of crucial concern," Jardine said. To provide answers to this problem, the Yumani "All Our Children" Education Conference will be held at the University of the Western Cape from June 29 to July 1.

The conference aims to:

- Highlight key issues which a progressive, strong pre-school movement should address;
 - Formulate policy issues on education in a new South Africa, and
 - Investigate approaches to early education.
- The conference will also focus on:
- Handicapped and rural children;
 - Poor working conditions and the low salaries of educate workers;
 - The lack of State and business responsibility for educate; and
 - How the community can control the education of young children through democratic procedures
- Organisations invited to attend include unions, the ANC, UDF, Azapo and the PAC.



Yumani Pre-school Project staffers (from left) Aziz Jardine, Fasiqhu Arendse and Haroon Patel.

Strikes hit Coke South 3015 - 6/6/90 construction firms

ABOUT 300 construction workers downed tools at several building sites in Cape Town this week to demand that their employer negotiate retrenchments with their union.

The workers, members of the Black Construction and Allied Workers Union (Bcauw), went on strike on Monday at about 10 sites where Resnekov and Nielsen Building and Engineering are doing contract work.

Another major strike in Cape Town this week brought Coca Cola deliveries close to a standstill.

Workers at Peninsula Beverages, bottlers of Coca Cola, in Athlone and Parow Industria downed tools in support of wage demands.

A worker spokesperson said they wanted a minimum wage of R350 a week. Workers presently earned R230.

A spokesperson for the Food and Allied Workers' Union said the union was busy signing up members at the Parow depot.

Company spokesperson Mr Bryan Morse said about 80 workers were on strike at the Parow plant.

Morse said strikers at Athlone had returned to work. The strike only affected truckhands, and not production staff.

He said no deliveries were presently taking place.

About 1400 workers dismissed from a Woodstock frozen food factory last week after a strike over wage demands returned to work this week.

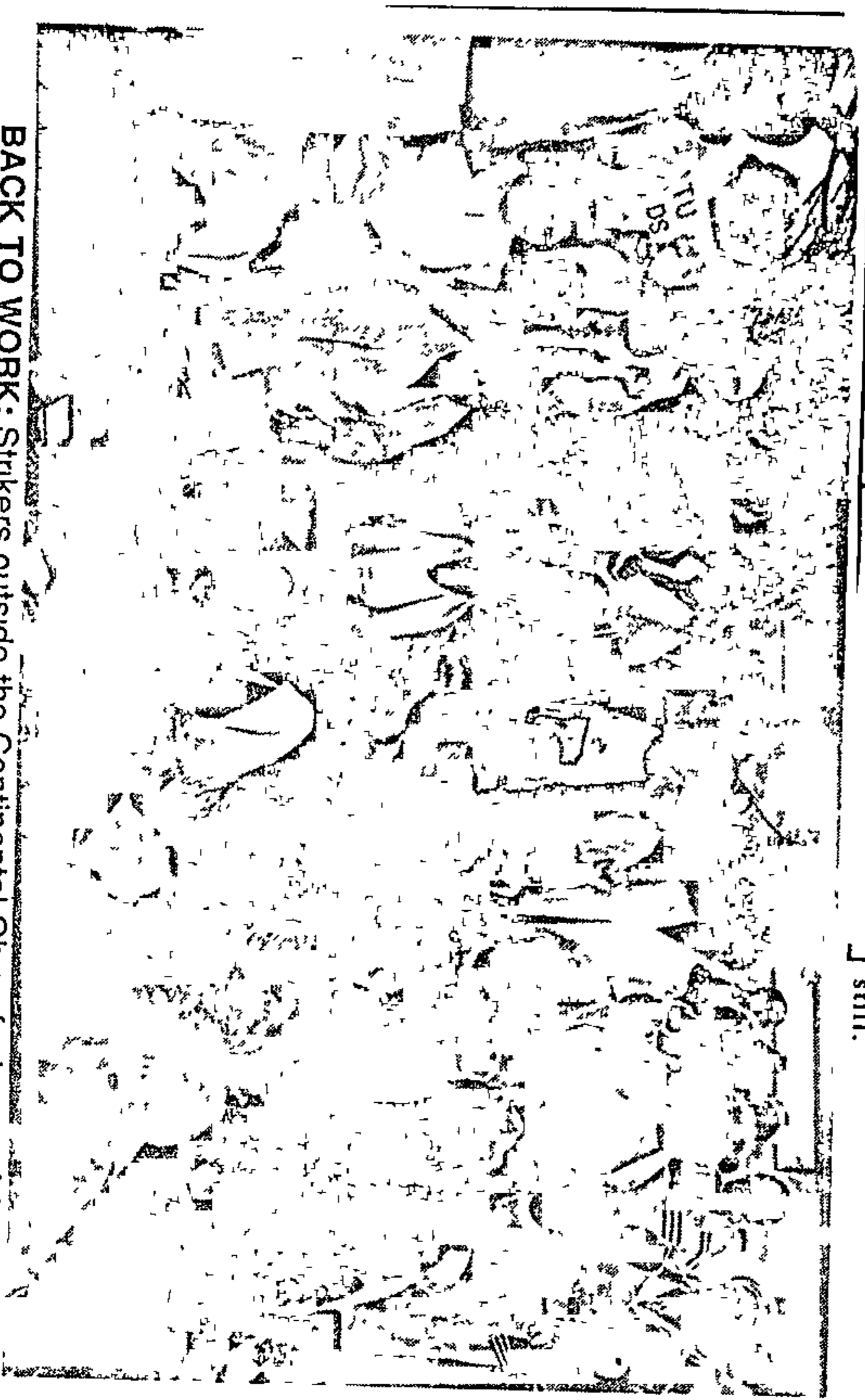
A spokesperson for the Food and Allied Workers' Union said Irvin & Johnson had agreed to reinstate workers dismissed for taking unprocedural industrial action.

A two-week strike by about 600 members of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) at the Continental China factories in Atlantis and Blackheath ended this week after workers accepted the company's offer of R4,45.

A strike by about 120 CWIU members at Price's Candles in Observatory and in East London is continuing.

CWIU members at several off-shore outrigs operated by Sopedog decided to suspend strike action pending a meeting with management next week.

BACK TO WORK: Strikers outside the Continental China factory in Atlantis



Support Azapo, says Mwasa

SA Press
Association

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa yesterday called on all political organisations to support the consultative conference being convened by the Azanian People's Organisation.

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5/6/90

In a resolution taken at the union's national executive council in Johannesburg on Sunday, Mwasa said the recent "talks about talks" between the African National Congress and the Government had created divisions within the ranks of the oppressed masses.

Conference

"As these divisions would delay the resolution of the conflict in the country, it would be imperative that all organisations that have an interest in the future of South Africa be actively involved in supporting the conference," said Mwasa's president, Mrs Sandra Nagfaal.

The consultative conference was mooted by Azapo president Dr Itumeleng Mosala when he returned from consultations with the BCMA in Harare two weeks ago.

The ANC, PAC and the labour federations are expected to attend the conference, scheduled to discuss common positions on the approach to negotiations with the Government. - Sapa.



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Liquor workers may go on strike

143

JOHANNESBURG. — The wine and spirit industry faces a countrywide strike by 5 400 workers over a R7 difference between their weekly increase offer and the union's demand. National Union of Wine, Spirit and Allied Workers president Mr November Nkosi said yesterday the union was preparing a national strike ballot for next week and was confident workers would vote for a strike.

The union's revised demand was for a R40 across-the-board increase. Management — represented by the SA Wine and Spirits Industry Employers' Association — has offered R33. — Sapa

Changes to Act discussed

Two major trade union organisations and the employer body Saccola met Manpower Minister Eli Louw in Cape Town yesterday to discuss the creation of legislation embodying an agreement on the controversial Labour Relations Amendment Act (LRA).

Congress of SA Trade Unions spokesman Marcel Golding said the Government had been told that nothing less than legislating the amendments to the LRA agreed to by Cosatu, the National Congress of Trade Unions and Saccola would be acceptable. — Sapa

Inter-union conflict halts Putco talks

DANIEL FELDMAN

PUTCO management was trying "desperately" to resolve conflicts with its two rival unions to forestall the possibility of work stoppages resuming, Putco assistant MD Mike Oldham said yesterday.

The Zakheni union yesterday returned to the negotiating table and halted its work stoppage at Lea Glen on the West Rand. At the same time, the Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Tawu) left the negotiating table in protest at management's handling of Zakheni's request for minority representatives. *15/6/90*

The issue began to build up last week, at the start of annual wage negotiations, when Zakheni, which represents almost 1 000 Putco employees, came into conflict with Tawu, which represents about 5 000 employees. Negotiations are conducted in a centralised bargaining format with union representatives from each of the company's 10 divisions.

Each operating division selects its union representative on the basis of majority elections. Eight divisions are represented by Tawu and two by Zakheni.

In the "homelands district" Tawu has a

slight majority of 52% of the votes and Zakheni demanded minority representation at the negotiating table this year. Tawu refused to consider minority representatives until the current negotiations were finished. Zakheni, in turn, refused to join in the annual wage talks and began a work stoppage in Lea Glen on Wednesday.

Yesterday Zakheni abandoned its demand for minority representation this year and came back to the negotiating table. *(143)*

But Tawu, upset at the manner in which management dealt with the inter-union conflict, which included newspaper advertisements, walked out of negotiations.

Oldham said talks with the two unions would continue today in an attempt to end the conflicts and bring both unions to the negotiating table.

"We have made pleas to both the unions to resolve the situation before the whole bus industry is threatened with closure," he said.

Winery workers to hold a strike ballot

THE NATIONAL Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw) is to conduct a strike ballot from today until June 27 among 5 400 employees of 83 wineries and depots nationwide, according to a Nuwsaw spokesman. 5/10am 18/6/90 143

The results of the ballot would be announced on June 28, he said.

Nuwsaw president November Nkosi said the decision was made against the SA Wine and Spirits Industry Employers' Association earlier this month after annual wage negotiations broke down. A dispute was declared and mediation and conciliation meetings had taken place. 355

"I am positive workers will vote in favour of a strike," said Nkosi.

DANIEL FELDMAN

At the conciliation board meeting, Nuwsaw demanded a wage increase of R40 a week across the board wage as well as 20 working days of annual leave after 10 years service with increases made retrospective to April 1, 1990. Current wages range from R176 to R199 a week.

The employers offered an increase of R33 a week across the board, but stipulated the offer would decrease to R32 a week if the proposal was not accepted. On annual leave, they offered one extra day for 5-9 years' service, three extra days for 10-14 years' service, and five extra days for 15 and more years' service.

Garbage mounts as strike continues

CAPE TOWN began the week facing piles of garbage and litter in the city streets as the strike by municipal workers entered its sixth day.

An estimated 2 000 workers are taking part in the South African Municipal Workers' Union strike, demanding among other things a 40 percent across the board increase.

Refuse

The first real effects of the work stoppage were evident early on Monday morning with piles of bulging black refuse bags, many spilling their contents at street corners.

Much of Loop street was strewn with litter, particularly around all-night cafes and nightclubs

At a meeting in Cape Town on Sunday to explain to the community why workers were striking, Samwu workers vowed to continue the strike. - Sapa

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143



PAC warns of violence

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The PAC and Nactu yesterday warned of possible violence in rejecting a Cosatu-ANC call for nationwide stayaway and protest action next week.

Both organisations said in separate statements yesterday that they had not been consulted about the Week of Action originally called by Cosatu to protest at Natal violence, the maintenance of the state of emergency there and the continued existence of the KwaZulu homeland. The PAC-Nactu stand against

participation has raised the spectre of confrontation between workers staying away and those going to work, particularly in the light of continuing violence between PAC and ANC supporters

However, Nactu said Cosatu had assured the labour federation that a pamphlet it intended releasing would indicate that no one should be forced to join the stayaway

ANC internal spokesman Mr Ahmed Kathrada's only comment yesterday was "We can only reiterate that what has been announced will go ahead"

Cosatu yesterday urged the PAC and other organisations to reconsider their opposition to national mass action against violence in Natal

Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo said the union federation did not want to enter into a slanging match with organisations opposing mass action against the Natal violence

Opposing the campaign could only benefit the "apartheid regime and those perpetrating violence against our people" — Sapa

Wine industry strike threat

Capl. T. 1976/80 (143)
JOHANNESBURG — A countrywide strike band of
by the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied
Workers (Nuwsaw) began yesterday after a wage
dispute impasse

The dispute involves the union and Stellenbosch
Farmers' Winery, Distillers' Corporation, Gilbeys,
Douglas Green, Union Wine and Henry Tayler and
Ries

The union has asked for a R40 a week increase
across-the-board and has been offered R33, said
Nuwsaw president Mr November Nkosi

Wine, spirits workers hold strike ballot

A countrywide strike ballot by the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers began yesterday after an impasse in a three months long wage dispute.

The dispute involves the union and Stellenbosch Farmers Winery, Distillers Corporation, Gilbeys, Douglas Green, Union Wine, and Henry Tayler and Ries.

The union has asked for a R40-a-week increase across the board and been offered R33, said Nusaw president November Nkosi.

The strike ballot will continue until June 28, when the ballots will be counted and a decision to strike taken, said a union spokesman in Johannesburg. — Sapa

 143 
Star
19/6/90 

Cosatu appeals directly to FW

Star 20/6/90

143

Political Staff and Staff Reporters
Cosatu representatives last night telephoned President de Klerk, asking him to intervene in a dispute between the labour movement and the Government

Trade unionists are threatening a wave of pickets, boycotts and stayaways if the Cabinet does not extend the sitting of Parliament today to amend the Labour Relations Act.

A Tuynhuys spokesman confirmed today that Cosatu telephoned Mr de Klerk at home

"Mr de Klerk took note of their views," he said, but said he would not discuss the matter on the telephone

"He did not give them undertak-

ings or assurances and, in regard to their requests to have a meeting with him, said Cosatu would be contacted today," he said

On claims by Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo that the President had said he would take the matter to the weekly Cabinet meeting today, the spokesman said Mr de Klerk would never disclose details of the Cabinet agenda

The Government has said it cannot introduce legislation this year to implement the accord which Cosatu and the other trade union federation, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), signed this year with the employer body, the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola)

The trade unions are hinting that the ANC could pull out of talks with the Government if their request is not complied with

Parliament is due to go into recess on Friday

Last night, top Cosatu officials started an indefinite sit-in at the Department of Manpower's offices in Johannesburg, demanding the amendments be brought before Parliament

Among those who started the sit-in were Mr Naidoo and National Union of Mineworkers general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa

Offers

Cosatu negotiator Marcel Golding said yesterday if the Cabinet did not extend Parliament for a few days for the amendments to be passed, the country faced a deluge of protests

Yesterday, Manpower Minister Eli Louw said he could not entertain short-notice amendments to the Labour Relations Act

Sapa reports that Mr Louw said in Cape Town he had offered to introduce most of the signatories' proposals and the accompanying recommendations of the National Manpower Commission in the current session of Parliament and leave those remaining for 1991

As an interim measure, he had offered to introduce legislation immediately giving the accord legal recognition, confining its application to the signatories. This had been rejected

Call for better deal for nature conservationists

Pretoria Correspondent

The Public Servants' Association (PSA) has called for a massive salary injection for nature conservationists.

This includes a 40 percent pensionable salary increase for nature conservation officers, as well as the implementation — backdated to 1983 — of a new dispensation for research technicians

A report in The Public Servant magazine describes the 465 nature conservation officers, research technicians and conservation scientists as a "crisis group"

Gross starting salaries for learner conservation officers with matric were R642 a month and those for qualified nature conservation officers R1 139, while the average salary of the 343 nature conservation officers employed by the State and Cape and Transvaal provincial departments was R1 610 a month

This, the article said, was R409 a month less than that of any similarly qualified personnel in the public service. The TPA responded by saying it had consistently given support for better salaries

... Police use a water cannon to disperse municipal workers on strike outside the Good day.

Picture REUTERS

FW, unions to talk on labour act

CMT TWP 21/6/90

143

Political Correspondent

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk last night agreed to a meeting with black trade union federations in a bid to defuse the potentially damaging conflict between the government and labour over the proposed changes to the Labour Relations Act.

However, Mr De Klerk stressed it would not be possible to meet Cosatu's demand that legislation reforming the contentious law be passed during this session of Parliament.

In a letter, released after yesterday's lengthy cabinet meeting to Cosatu's general-secretary Mr Jay Naidoo, Mr De Klerk said he was prepared to meet with both unions and employers on June 26 to discuss the Saccala-Cosatu-Nactu accord.

The proposed meeting will also be attended by the Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, who has

been at the centre of the storm

Responding to a threatened nationwide stayaway on July 2 by both the ANC and Cosatu, Mr De Klerk said it was clear that further deliberations and discussions would be "in the best interests of both workers and employers, before legislation is concluded"

However, Mr De Klerk added that the parliamentary process did not allow for complex legislation of this nature to be finalised in a relatively short time

"It will therefore not be possible to pass legislation in this regard during this session of Parliament."

But Mr De Klerk proposed as a compromise that it would be possible to introduce, after negotiations, a bill this year to the joint committee of Parliament.

This would provide ample time for the multi-party committee to finalise legislation before the

start of the next session of Parliament which is slated to begin in February

The compromise proposal came against sharply conflicting statements yesterday from the Conservative Party and the Democratic Party on how the impasse should be resolved

The CP said that if Mr De Klerk or any member of his cabinet made any concessions to Cosatu's demands they would undoubtedly be gutless victims of "criminal blackmail"

But the DP said that the proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act should be brought before Parliament "with all deliberate speed"

The DP's deputy manpower spokesman, Mr Tony Leon, called for a further session of Parliament this year to ensure the enactment of the measures

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FW moves to ease labour tensions

Argus 21/6/90 (143)

By MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent

PRESIDENT De Klerk has moved to ease tension between the government and trade unions over proposals to change the Labour Relations Act, but has ruled out amending the legislation before next year's session of parliament.

He has agreed to Cosatu's request for a meeting which will take place at 10 am on June 26 at his office in the Union Buildings in Pretoria, and has suggested a way to speed up amending legislation for the next session of parliament.

Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, will attend the meeting next week.

Mr De Klerk has also invited the other parties to the agreement — Nactu and the employers' federation Saccola.

National stayaway

The meeting arises after Cosatu threatened a nine-point action plan — including a national stayaway — if Mr De Klerk did not step in to help resolve the dispute.

Conflict arose because Cosatu wanted the proposals written into the Act as amendments during this session. Mr Louw argued that there was not enough time.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party has called for second session of parliament this year, if necessary, to change the Labour Relations Act.

Manpower spokesman and Houghton MP Mr Tony Leon argued that the fact that the proposed amendments were the result of "consultation, ne-

gotiation and agreement" between the "giants" in the employer and employee spheres "means that they could ensure significant labour peace into the foreseeable future".

He said the government's "foot-dragging" on the issue was disturbing.

Complex legislation

However, the President said in a letter to Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo yesterday that it was "clear that further deliberations and discussions would be in the best interest of both workers and employers, before legislation is concluded".

"The parliamentary process does not allow for complex legislation of this nature to be finalised in a relatively short period of time. It will therefore not be possible to pass legislation in this regard during this session of parliament."

He added "What would be possible, would be to introduce timeously, after negotiations, a Bill to the joint standing committee in order to provide ample time for this committee to finalise legislation before the start of the next session of parliament."

In further reaction yesterday, Conservative Party spokesman on manpower, Mr Frank le Roux said that if Mr De Klerk made any concessions to Cosatu, they would be "willing victims of criminal blackmail".

He accused Cosatu of using the National Party/ANC negotiations as a trump card to blackmail the government, and accused the government of creating a climate for labour unrest through its handling of negotiations on the Labour Relations Act.

Saccola backs meeting with FW

22/6/90 By Shareen Singh

The SA Co-ordinating Council of Labour (Saccola) expressed frustration yesterday that the agreement on the Labour Relations Act was not legislated but it welcomed a meeting with State President F W de Klerk and the unions

The agreement between Cosatu/Nactu and Saccola on amendment to the Labour Relations Act (LRA) was gazetted in a draft bill form and parties were invited to comment within 14 days

The National Manpower

Commission (NMC), after considering comments by interested parties, recommended a few changes and supported the enactment of the balance of the agreement. But the Cabinet on Tuesday decided not to legislate.

Saccola said those elements of the Cosatu/Nactu/Saccola agreement which were endorsed by the NMC had the broadest possible union and employer support.

Cosatu had not made a decision by yesterday on whether the federation would meet President de Klerk

Labour bill: Call for go-ahead

CML Times
25/6/90
143

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Weekend statements from Sasol and BTR Dunlop mean that every major company whose "objections" to proposed amendments to labour law were cited by Minister of Manpower Eli Louw as reasons for delaying the introduction of legislation, has now called for the process to go ahead.

This emerged as Cosatu announced it had decided on Friday to accept the invitation from President F W de Klerk to meet him, along with Nactu, Saccola and the Manpower Department to discuss the matter

Mr Louw told the three parties to the Labour Relations Act accord (Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola — CNS) two weeks ago that comments received by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) indicated the time to study the proposals was too short

He cited Sasol, BTR Dunlop, Eskom, Gold Fields, law firm Deneys Reitz and Unisa as having made such submissions

Manpower director general Mr Joel Fourie yesterday repeated the depart-

ment's defence of delaying the introduction of legislation, and added hundreds more objections had been received after the official May 23 closing date for submissions to the NMC.

BTR group industrial relations manager Mr Glen Sutton said that following consultations with the Natal Chamber of Industries "it appears that our concerns on the interpretation of the CNS agreement have been allayed by certain assurances given to the chamber by the chairman of Saccola, and on this basis our submissions of June 5 become inappropriate."

Sasol noted a letter from managing director Mr Paul Kruger to Saccola's Mr Bobby Godsell last week in which he thanked Mr Godsell for "bringing to our attention" that the NMC recommendations did not propose immediate passage of two clauses of the agreement and draft Bill which were Sasol's main concern.

● Meanwhile, NMC acting chairman Mr Frans Barker announced public hearings this week from June 26 to 29, in its broader investigation into consolidating the Act.

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months ago already been chopped back to 41 as a 1990

fits of a shrinking rand exchange rate

perhaps more important, how to trim the soaring cost of production

Tomorrow's meeting between FW and Cosatu may avert labour crisis

Star 25/6/90 (143)

STAFF REPORTERS

President de Klerk is due to meet representatives of Cosatu, the country's largest labour federation, in Pretoria tomorrow to try to diffuse a looming showdown over labour legislation

After two years of negotiations, between the bosses, the South African Employers' Consultative Committee (Saccola) on one hand, and the workers, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), Cosatu protested over a delay in the immediate implementation of the agreement in the Labour Relations Act

Minister of Manpower, Eli Louw, said more time was needed for consultation over the agreement. The unions were not willing to accept this and contacted President de Klerk. This led to his agreeing to meet union representatives.

The Draft Labour Relations Amendment Bill comprises seven pages of interim amendments to the Labour Relations Act passed in 1956 and changed or enlarged scores of times since

The major changes proposed relate to definitions of two aspects of unfair labour practice, namely,

- Defining the freedom of workers to strike and the right of employers to lockout,
- Broadening the definition of unfair dismissals.

On the first point, the pro-

posed legislation takes this aspect of organised labour relations back to the 1981 position in that employers cannot ask the Industrial Court to order a strike to stop on the grounds that it is unfair

In the past, employers could claim that a strike was unfair because of its financial effects on the firm, or because the demands were perceived as unreasonable

Under the interim amendments, if the correct labour procedures such as declaring a dispute, consultation and attempts at conciliation have been followed, there is no recourse to the Industrial Court to have the strike stopped

Employers may still seek an interdict to have an illegal strike stopped — such as a wildcat strike before or while the union is involved in negotiation, or a sudden downing of tools by workers without attempting to resolve the issue through negotiation

Major problems

In this case, the employer must give the workers 48 hours notice that it intends to seek an interdict

This time lag would present major problems for certain industries — for example, the huge costs and potential damage to equipment should a steel foundry's furnaces have to shut down for two days

The proposed legislation thus includes a provision that, where the application is served

in less than 48 hours, the other party is given written notice "at the earliest opportunity" and given a reasonable chance to be heard

The flip side of this provision likewise protects a lockout by the employer from interdict without the union giving the employer similar notice

On the second point, guidelines for unfair dismissals laid down by the International Labour Organisation have been introduced

Workers may be fairly dismissed with reference to their performance or conduct — or with reference to the operational needs of the firm involved after consultation with the union and after proper procedures have been followed

Further provisions simplify and clarify the processes for declaring a dispute, broaden the Act to include, in effect, oil rig workers, clarify certain powers of the Industrial Court, and provide for two assessors chosen by union and employer bodies to sit in Labour Appeal Court hearings

The wider application given the Act also allows registered unions to have a mixed State and private sector membership

Once amended, the Act will no longer recognise race as an industrial interest. Unions will not be able to object to the registration of new unions or extension of registration of existing unions on racial grounds

Nactu joins talks with FW today

Cvt 7-1/16 26/6/80
(143)
1188

PRETORIA. — The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) will accompany the joint labour and employers' delegation which meets President F W de Klerk here today to discuss the enactment of a new labour law

Confirming Nactu's attendance, the trade union federation's assistant general-secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana said yesterday Nactu would be represented by six officials

The meeting follows threats of widespread labour unrest by Cosatu, after the government postponed enacting the draft labour law during this year's parliamentary session

Nactu, together with Cosatu and the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs employers' body (Saccola), are to meet Mr De Klerk and Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw, a spokesman for Mr De Klerk confirmed.

Commenting on the meeting with Mr De Klerk, a Saccola spokesman said the State President was "not the type of man who would arrange such a meeting for nothing"

A Cosatu spokesman was not immediately available for comment — Sapa

6 star 26/6/90

~~143~~ (143) ~~143~~

NEWS

Unions, Right to meet FW

President de Klerk will meet a delegation of trade unions and employers today, as well as spokesmen for ultra-Right organisations.

The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) will accompany the joint labour and employers' delegation which will meet Mr de Klerk in Pretoria to discuss the enactment of a new labour law.

Nactu assistant general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said yesterday Nactu would be represented by six senior officials

The meeting at Mr de Klerk's Union Buildings offices follows threats of widespread labour unrest by the Con-

gress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) after the Government had failed to enact the draft labour law during the 1990 parliamentary session.

Nactu, Cosatu and the employers' body, the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola), are due to meet Mr de Klerk and Minister of Manpower Eli Louw at 10 am.

White views

● A delegation of ultra-rightists will meet Mr de Klerk in Pretoria today to raise "right-wing and white" views of the "new South Africa".

Herstigste Nasionale Party chief sec-

retary LJ van der Schyff said yesterday the HNP, Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB), Magsaksie Afrikaner Nasionalisme (MAN) and Genootskap van Regte Afrikaners (GRA) would be represented at the 2 pm meeting

The meeting had resulted from the ultra-rightists not being represented in Parliament, Mr van der Schyff said

The HNP would be represented by party leader Jaap Marais and his deputy, Mynhard Peter, while Ernie van der Westhuizen and Nico van Rensburg would go on the AWB's behalf

The AWB's "commandos" would be represented by former policeman Colonel Servaas de Wet. — Sapa

Landmark meeting eases labour discontent

CNA Text 27/6/90

143

PRETORIA — Seething labour discontent over delays in enacting a landmark industrial relations agreement between the country's major employer grouping and black trade union federations was temporarily eased following a historic meeting here yesterday.

The four-hour meeting between President F W de Klerk and the labour representatives ended with an interim arrangement aimed at resolving the continuing crisis over the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

A tripartite working party will be formed within 14 days to examine ways of resolving the impasse over the law, but trade union re-

presentatives warned of continued pressure backing their demand for speedy enactment of a new labour accord.

Mr De Klerk, Manpower Minister Mr Eli Louw, representatives of the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola) and office-bearers from Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) met in the Union Buildings to seek a solution to the crisis.

The parties emerged confident that the working group would pave the way for mutually acceptable labour legislation.

And a statement by the State President's Office hinted that the desired labour law could be finalised early during the 1991 parliamentary session.

The accord in question was drafted over a two-year period — characterised by protracted industrial unrest — by the Saccola-Cosatu/Nactu grouping and is held as an alternative to the contentious Labour Relations Amendment Act.

The agreement reached at yesterday's meeting proposed that a joint working party should meet within 14 days and report progress within a further 30 days.

The "constructive nature" of yesterday's meeting was praised by Anglo American Corporation.

Cosatu and Nactu spokesmen warned, however, that the federations would continue exercising organised labour action until the accord had been written into law.

— Sapa

Mass union protest hangs in balance

27/6/90
By Norman Chandler and Shareen Singh

President de Klerk moved yesterday to allay mounting union anger over delays in amending labour legislation

However, unions must still decide whether planned massive industrial protest action will be postponed.

There were no formal statements at the end of the four-hour discussions yesterday between the Government, Cosatu, the country's largest trade union federation, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola).

Cosatu has already declared it is "disturbed" that the meeting did

not produce the results it expected and has indicated it will discuss industrial action in this light

Protest action is likely to be suspended for at least three weeks, however, while Cosatu and Nactu discuss their proposed plan of action including stayaways, demonstrations and sit-ins

Amendments

A joint position will be finalised at Cosatu's central executive committee meeting on July 20

Last week, Cosatu wanted proposed amendments to the Labour Relations Act to become law before the end of the parliamentary session last Friday, while Mr de Klerk said he would not be prepared to give in to the demand

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said last night that workers were being hit daily with mass dismissals and interdicts under the Labour Relations Act. Workers could not wait much longer

Saccola spokesman Bobby Godsell was positive about the outcome of the meeting

He said the proposal to set up a joint working committee to try to restore mutual confidence and the passing of the legislation was "most constructive"

Nactu secretary-general Cunningham Ngcukana said the organisation welcomed the establishment of a working party but was disappointed at the failure of the Government to give expression to labour accord

● See Page 14.

Labour inquiry disrupted

The National Manpower Commission (NMC) public hearings regarding the consolidation of labour relations were suspended indefinitely after the first day's proceedings at Halfway House were interrupted by a National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) protest yesterday. ~~27/1/90~~ ~~143~~ ~~143~~ ~~143~~

The commission was to have heard four days of evidence from various unions, industrial federations and business groups, as part of its investigation of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) of 1956

At 11 am, a delegation of about 50 singing Nactu members refused to allow the sitting to continue. They demanded the hearings be postponed until Nactu's suggested changes to the LRA, made in agreement with the Congress of South African Trade Unions

(Cosatu) and the South African Co-ordinating Council on Labour Affairs (Saccola), became law

The Government failed to legislate the suggested Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu amendments to the LRA in the parliamentary session which has just finished ~~143~~ ~~143~~

At the Halfway House hearing, Nactu said the NMC's recommendations on the Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu accord had not been made available to them. They said the NMC and the Department of Manpower wanted to undermine the accord

NMC acting chairman Dr Frans Barker issued a statement saying the NMC investigation into the LRA should be seen as separate from the Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu accord and not as an alternative to it

Union disrupts hearing on labour Act

DANIEL FELDMAN

THE National Manpower Commission's (NMC) verbal hearings on the consolidation of the Labour Relations Act was disrupted by about 75 chanting and toy-tossing Nactu demonstrators yesterday before being suspended.

The union members arrived at the Building Industries' Federation SA (Bifsa) headquarters, the location of the commission's inquiry, and demanded an end to the hearings until the Saccola/Cosatu/Nactu labour relations accord was "translated into legislation", Nactu spokesman Warton Nbaduli said.

He said Nactu was opposed to the hearings because "the commission had written recommendations to the Manpower Minister on the proposed accord without reference to the parties involved and without showing the recommendations to the involved parties." 8 (am) 27/6/90

Outcome

"The NMC and the Manpower Department want to undermine the process that Nactu, Cosatu and Saccola have thus far engaged in," said Nbaduli.

In response, NMC acting chairman Frans Barker said "The NMC had taken note of Nactu's reasons for objecting to the hearings, but the consolidation investigation should be seen as completely separate from the accord and not as an alternative to the accord.

"We are hopeful that the outcome of the discussions on the accord between the State President and Saccola, Cosatu and Nactu will enable the commission to resume its hearings."

Before the disruption, the Federation of Salaried Staff Associations of SA had presented evidence and Bifsa was midway through presenting its testimony. Testimony from the American Chamber of Commerce was cancelled.

Barker said today's scheduled hearings would be postponed.

Stronger measures in pipeline

Vlok gives tough warning to unions

Spec 28/6/90

(25/11) (25/11) (143)

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau
Pietersburg

Trade unions were warned by Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok today not to break the law and destabilise the political situation. Strong action and possible legislation would be used to curb these activities.

Addressing 100 businessmen in Pietersburg, Mr Vlok also issued stern warnings to activists about the killing of policemen. The Government would not tolerate this, as police were there to serve all sections of the population. He reminded criminals that strong measures against lawlessness were in the pipeline.

Asked how strong the right wing was, Mr Vlok said it would be very foolish to underestimate certain actions from this quarter.

But he assured law-abiding South Africans that the Government was determined to maintain law and order on all fronts during what he described as "a difficult phase in our constitutional development".

Decisive role

Mr Vlok told the businessmen that they too had a decisive role to play by promoting prosperity.

"The business community has consistently urged the Government to dismantle apartheid — now that we have done this, we are relying on your support to help us create a better South Africa", he said.

Mr Vlok's speech may mark the beginning of a major campaign by the National Party to counter the right-wing threat and provide answers to the question about how strong it is nationwide.

In addition it must respond to Nelson Mandela's sweeping propaganda successes overseas.

During the seven-month parliamentary recess, the NP will hold mass rallies and provincial congresses and speaking tours by President de Klerk and other Ministers are planned.



PAC, Nactu defy stayaway call

PETER DELMAR

THE PAC and Nactu said yesterday that they would not support a Cosatu-ANC call for a nationwide stayaway on July 2 and protest action next week

The two organisations said in separate statements yesterday that they had not been consulted about the "Week of Action", originally called by Cosatu to protest against Natal violence, the maintenance of the state of emergency and the continued existence of the KwaZulu homeland

The PAC and Nactu urged the ANC and Cosatu to resolve their differences with Inkatha through discussion.

Their stand against participation has raised the spectre of confrontation between workers staying away and those going to work, particularly in the light of

continuing violence between PAC and ANC supporters.

Nactu general secretary Cunningham said Cosatu had assured Nactu that a pamphlet it intended releasing would indicate that no-one should be forced to join the action.

The PAC said it could not support a campaign which would lead to further violent clashes among the oppressed and which directed the struggle away from the principal enemy, "the settler-colonialist capitalist system of De Klerk and Oppenheimer".

To Page 2

Stayaway

1/10/90
28/6/90

Ngcukana said Nactu was unable to support the "Week of Action" because it was not consulted and was therefore unable to discuss the issue within its structures

Nactu believed the ANC and Cosatu should enter into dialogue with Inkatha to find peaceful solutions to the ongoing violence in the Natal region

"We trust that our sister organisation the ANC will call off its action which will only escalate the violence in Natal, allow

From Page 1

(Nelson) Mandela to go and meet all the warring factions and accept our services as mediators," the PAC said

DAN FELDMAN reports Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said last night Cosatu would go ahead with the planned action as it had "received overwhelming support from Natal and elsewhere"

ANC internal spokesman Ahmed Kathrada said yesterday "We can only reiterate that what has been announced will go ahead"

Commission forced to use secret venue

Star 29/6/90

Disruption by trade unionists forced the National Manpower Commission to use a secret venue to continue its hearing of oral evidence on the consolidation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act yesterday.

Regretting the move, NMC acting chairman Dr Frans Barker said the commission did not want to hold the hearings in camera, but added "It does not help if proceedings are disrupted"

He was referring to a protest on Tuesday by members of the National Council of Trade Unions, who chanted outside the commission venue in the Building Industries Federation head office at Halfway House

The protesters were demanding that the NMC technical committee examining the LRAA stop taking oral evidence until the Cosatu/Nactu/Saccola labour relations accord was written into law

Further hearings were due to take place in the Midrand headquarters of the Development Bank of South Africa, but Dr Barker declined to say where subsequent hearings would be conducted

The final hearing takes place today and parties would be informed of the venue, he said

Employer and industrial relations groupings which attended yesterday's session included the 66 000-member SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs, Chamber of Mines, Labour Foundation, Building Industries Federation, SA Chamber of Commerce, American Chamber of Commerce in SA and Sasol

Labour unions were represented by the all-white Mineworkers Union and Transnet Union. — Sapa.

City stayaway

Township stations deserted as thousands of workers heed ANC call

APUS 2/7/90

Staff Reporters and Sapa

POLICE gathered in force at virtually deserted township railway stations as thousands of workers appeared to heed the African National Congress call for a stayaway protest against the continuing violence in Natal.

The controversial stayaway, called by the ANC and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) to force the government to intervene in the conflict in Natal, has been snubbed by some organisations in the black community, including the Pan Africanist Congress and Inkatha.

At some stations this morning police far outnumbered commuters.

The normally packed peak-hour morning trains on the Khayelitsha line were virtually empty today, said a regular commuter.

This was confirmed by Spoonet spokesman Mr Brian Lotter, who said trains on the Khayelitsha line were running at about 30 percent capacity. Other lines were normal and trains were on time.

The stayaway had not been felt at Rex Truform, Cape Town's biggest clothing factory, a spokesman said early today.

City Tramways spokesman Mr Bob Krause said it would take time to survey passenger figures for the company's 900 routes. He was unable to give any figures.

Mr Jan Kotze, the general manager of one of Cape Town's biggest dairies, said they had arranged previously for their staff to work yesterday and take off today.

The production manager of the Good Hope Bakery reported an 80 percent stayaway.

Police liaison officer Captain Attie Laubscher said no reports of intimidation had been received this morning. He warned that police would act firmly against intimidators.

"We'll keep a low profile and not act if everything is peaceful, but we won't stand for any chaos."

How they

Hassle's
e seal

RE SAWYER

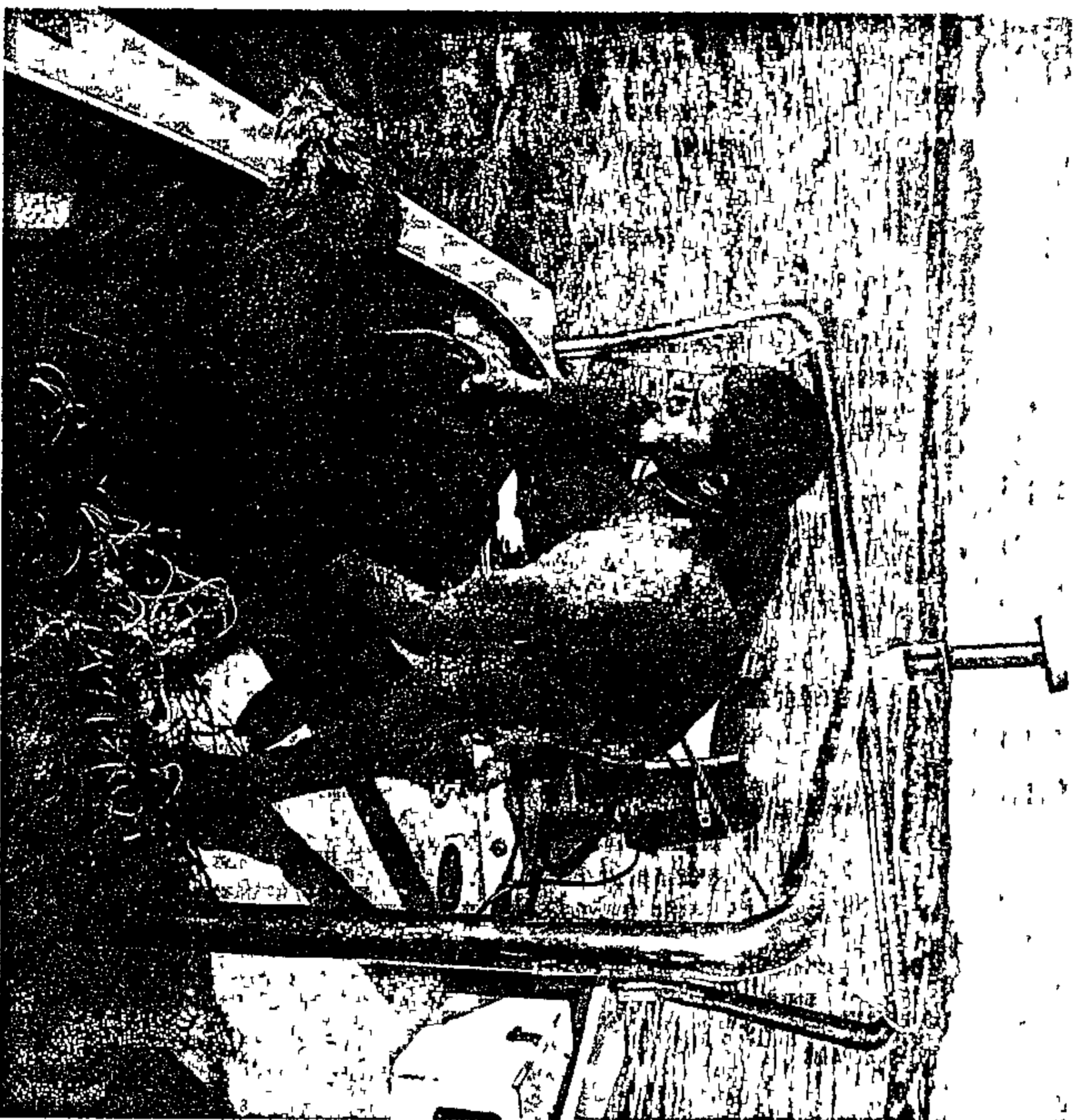
Reporter
LE" the seal, found up and exhausted on a beach, has been returned to Seal Island rescuers were the National Sea Rescue Institute and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The seal earned the name "Hassle" from SPCA and staff for being a rather grumpy partner in its release. Spokesman Mr Keith said the seal, about four months old, was found early on Monday morning.

"He" was not injured, but exhausted and may have been ill, Mr Goudie said. It is unusual for seals to be found on land, but the seal was probably confused and distressed, tired and hungry. We gave her a vitamin B12 and asked her to stay at Strand station 16 at Strand station to take her back," he said.

ITABLE PLACE

is uncertain whether and was home for Hassle. It seemed a suitable place for her.



Picture BRENTON GEACH
The Argus

FREEDOM: SPCA senior inspector Alouden Toefy about to release the seal, dubbed "Hassle" for its



YAHOO! England's Gary Lineker celebrates his match-winning penalty kick in extra time which gave England a 3-2 victory over Cameroon in the World Cup quarter-finals last night.
● Full report, page 14.

Divers search for tourist

Argus Africa News Service
MBABANE — The body of a tourist who slipped over a waterfall at a Swaziland beauty spot almost a week ago has still not been recovered.

Scuba divers and rescue workers have been searching since Tuesday for 18-year-old Ryan King, from Abilene, Texas, but believe his body is wedged in a crevice among huge boulders below the Mantenga Falls, an American embassy spokeswoman said today.

Mr King was posing for a photograph on the lip of the falls when he slipped. He was on a Christian youth fellowship tour of southern Africa.

City shivers as temperature

deserted township railway stations as thousands of workers appeared to heed the African National Congress call for a stayaway protest against the continuing violence in Natal.

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Police liaison officer Captain Attie Laubscher said no reports of intimidation had been received this morning. He warned that police would act firmly against intimidators

"We'll keep a low profile and not act if everything is peaceful, but we won't stand for any chaos or intimidation," he said

In Durban, it was reported that trains from black areas were only half-full

Most Putco bus drivers in Soweto arrived for work today.

Yesterday, Inkatha supporters staged an anti-stayaway rally in Soweto

Inkatha's West Rand leader, Mr Themba Khosa, claimed that more than 5 000 Inkatha supporters armed with shields and sticks had arrived at a Soweto rally. A Soweto police spokesman said only 150 had taken part

The South African Chamber of Business and the employers' organisation, Saccola, said employers had indicated that they would adopt a "no work, no pay" policy

"Mass Action" week

Yesterday, the ANC and Inkatha agreed at community level to resolve the conflict between the two organisations

Community representatives of the two organisations met in Wattville near Benoni in an attempt to iron out differences that have led to tension between the ANC and Inkatha on the eve of the "Week of National Mass Action" organised by ANC affiliates to protest against the violence in Natal

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Buslines dispute with union finally resolved

THE 13-week-long dispute between the Transport and Allied Workers' Union and the Eastern Buslines company was resolved on Friday.

Tawu organiser Mr Charles Kgopa said yesterday that all the workers who were dismissed by the company in April after embarking on a

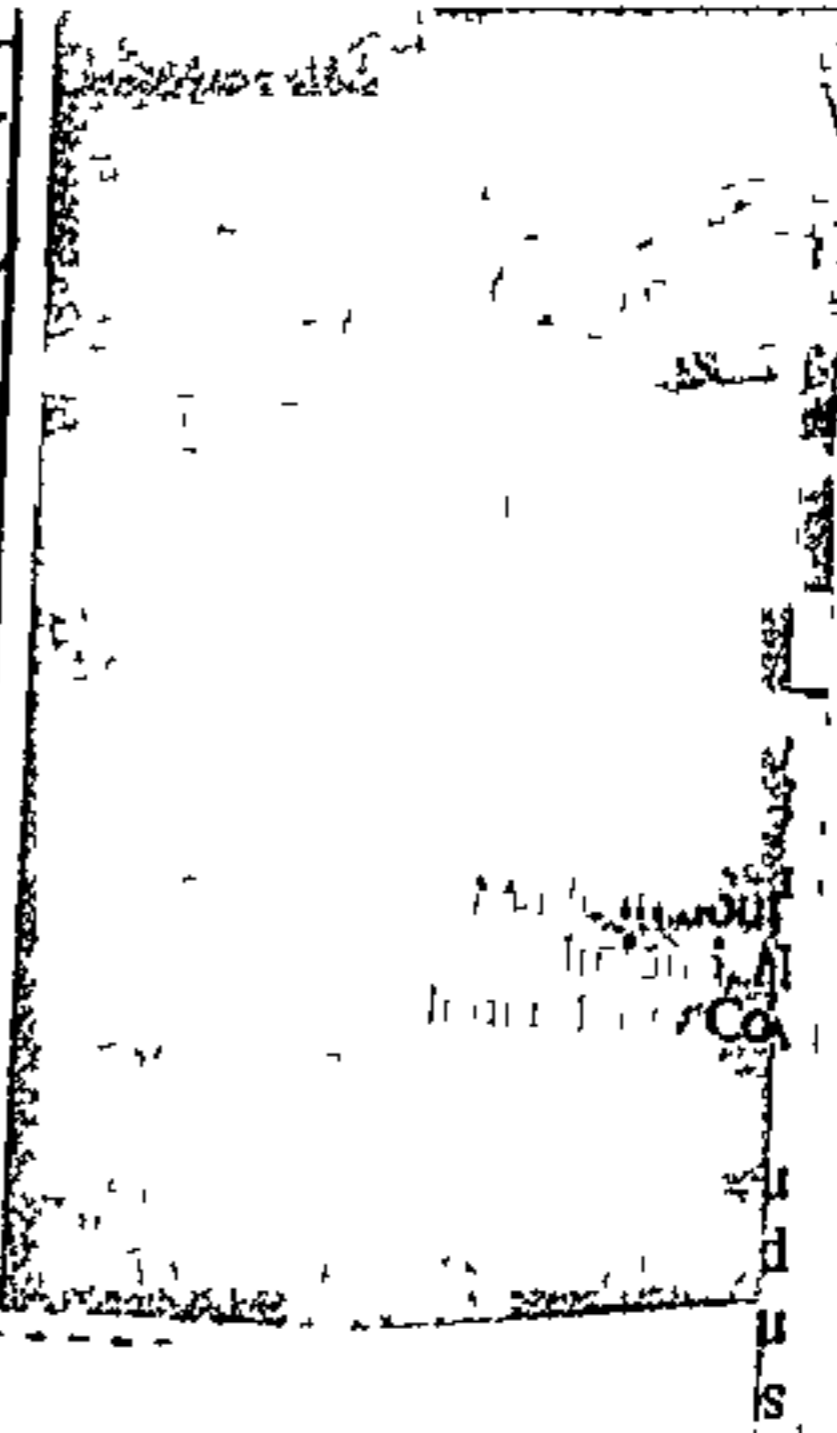
wage strike had been reinstated.

He urged all workers at the Middleburg and Witbank depots to report for duty today.

He also assured the communities of these areas that buses would operate towards the end of the week - Sapa.

143

3/7/90



R750 m COST

Cape Times 3/7/90

Cosatu: A massive show of support

MORE THAN R750m in lost productivity could result from yesterday's ANC/UDF/Cosatu stayaway, heeded by hundreds of thousands of workers across the country, the SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) said yesterday

A Sacob spokesman said all participants in the economy would suffer the consequences of the stayaway which varied sharply from region to region.

Three bombings, infighting and threats of intimidation and a work stayaway of up to 100% marked yesterday's one day national strike.

The stayaway called by the ANC and Cosatu to spur the government to sharper measures to end the six year long conflict in Natal drew strong support in Natal, Natal Midlands, Eastern Transvaal and Eastern Cape where business was paralysed.

The call was heeded chiefly in the Western Cape where absentism of 15-20% was recorded.

The stayaway was opposed by the P.W. Azapo, Inkatha and the National Council of Trade Unions rivals to the ANC.

Last night the ANC and Cosatu claimed a massive show of support with more than half of businesses in the Durban metropolitan region closed.

More than three million people heeded the call, Mr Popo Molefe, UDF publicity secretary said.

This is a message to the government that the people want the warlord in KwaZulu toppled.

Cosatu yesterday questioned the strength of support of rival organisations while political observers claimed that the success of the stayaway showed massive extra-parliamentary support for the ANC.

In a surprise dissension, UDF president Mr Archie Gumede is reported to have withdrawn his support for the action. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The ANC call was also slammed yesterday by KwaZulu Chief Minister Chief Mangosuthu Buthe lezi who said: "The stayaway has clearly exacerbated tensions in the region."

Two explosive devices ripped through residence of the National Party councillor in Durban, Mr Jan Burgers and the home of the late Lt Col A C Sibonyani in Kagiso. No one was injured.

Police explosives experts were called to a Braam-

ESCAPING THE DANGER . . . A panic-stricken passenger, fearing for his safety, jumps from a moving train as it approaches Nonkqubela railway station, Khayelitsha, shortly after it sliced through a pile of burning tyres placed on the railway line. Witnesses said the screams of terrified passengers could be heard some distance from the train as it entered the pall of black smoke.

Picture: OBED ZILWA

STOPPAGE

P.T.O

Liquor firms await strike

143

Sowetan
THE South African liquor industry will only know tomorrow when to expect strike action by their workers following a successful ballot by the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers' Union

Workers are currently on a go-slow and the union has placed a ban on overtime

Union president Mr November Nkosi said at the Press conference in

Johannesburg yesterday they would only announce the starting date for strike action tomorrow.

Nkosi said 76 percent of the union's members in 83 plants nationally had voted for strike action in a ballot completed last week

The 5 400-member union is demanding a R40 a week across-the-board increase against the

employer association's offer of R33.

Nkosi said the union had asked Mr Anton Rupert and Mr Sol Kerzner, shareholders in some of the companies involved in the wage dispute, to intervene

It had also demanded 20 working days' leave for all workers with 10 or more years service but the employer association had refused to meet this demand - Sapa

Lockout follows deadlock

MEMBERS of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw) were locked out yesterday morning after wage negotiations between the union and SA Wine and Spirits Industry Employer Association reached deadlock. *Sowetan 6/7/90*

President of Nuwsaw Mr November Nkosi said the lockout came after employees had received letters from employers on Wednesday stating the negotiations between the employer association and Nuwsaw had reached a deadlock.

The letter said as full legal procedure had been followed, the employers could legally lockout Nuwsaw members, just as Nuwsaw could legally call a strike - Sapa

We need ^{(142) (11)} education, ^{st-1} - Nactu man ^{9/7/90}

By Thabo Leshilo

Freedom without education was a farce and those who presently rejected learning would be unable to play any significant role in the post-apartheid economy, Nactu acting secretary general Cunningham Ngcukana said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mr Ngcukana was speaking at the "Congress of the People" organised by the PAC at Shareworld, near Soweto. The purpose of the conference, with the theme, "Which Comes First, Unity or Negotiations?", was to consult on negotiations.

The two day congress was attended by about 3 000 people, mostly PAC supporters. Other organisations at the conference were the Workers' Organisation for Socialist Action and the New Unity Movement.

The conference condemned a negotiated settlement, as a farce, called for a constituent assembly, and reiterated the organisations' commitment to "socialist democracy".

CAL Times 10/7/90 (143)

Wine union to strike

JOHANNESBURG. — The National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw) is to call a national strike by all its members tomorrow.

It said yesterday the decision was reached on Saturday by the Nuwsaw's national co-ordinating strike committee at a meeting here.

Nuwsaw members declared a national overtime ban and go-slow on July 2. The employers' association subsequently decided to lock out all members who refused to accept its offer of R33 a week across-the-board, and this became effective on July 4.

Other decisions by the committee included a decision to solicit widespread support and to picket at all companies and company subsidiaries locally, nationally and internationally. — Sapa

Liquor workers set to strike

BATTLE lines have been drawn for a widespread industrial showdown in the wine and spirits industry following a national lockout by employers and a legal strike poised to start today

An employer offer of a 33% weekly increase, backdated to April 1, for some 4 500 union members expired at 5pm on Monday, Wine and Spirits Manufacturing Employers' Association spokesman Mr Riaan Kruger said yesterday

The employers' body, representing companies like Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, the Distillers' Corporation, Douglas Green, Gilbeys, Union Wines and Henry, Taylor and Ries, has been locked in dispute with the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers for the past six months

Union members at 83 plants countrywide had started a go-slow strike and overtime ban last Tuesday, with employers responding with a general lockout on Thursday

Mr Kruger said about 1 400 Nuwsaw members had accepted the employers' offer

Worker action had the strongest impact in the Transvaal, where distribution of stocks had been disrupted — Sapa

Union acts
Some time 11/7/90
over pay

MEMBERS of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers are to begin a wage-related strike today, the union said in a statement yesterday

The strike follows the rejection by Nuwsaw of the employers' offer of R33 a week across-the-board increase

143 Overtime

Last week Nuwsaw members declared a national overtime ban to prevent the companies from "piling-up stock".

However, a spokesman for the union said employers in the liquor industry decided to lock out all Nuwsaw members last Wednesday after rejecting their offer

...of the commission, ... patients
... is being chaired by Mr Jus- ...

Liquor industry feels effects of lock-out

143 11/7/90

By Brendan Templeton

Liquor lovers may have to prepare themselves for a dry spell as liquor outlets start feeling the pinch of the nationwide lock-out in the industry.

Retailers contacted by The Star yesterday confirmed stocks could start running out soon if the lock-out continued for a sustained period.

Members of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw) go on strike today.

About 5 400 workers were locked out last week when they embarked on a go-slow and an overtime ban over wage demands.

South African Wine and Spirits Industry Employers Association (Sawsiea) secretary Riaan Kruger said yesterday that Transvaal companies were noticeably affected by the lock-out and were

experiencing problems with distribution.

Nuwsaw president November Nkosi said its members were determined to continue with the strike until Sawsiea gave into their demands for an across-the-board increase of R40 and 20 days' annual leave for workers with 10 or more years service.

Sawsiea said that about 3 000 Nuwsaw members had not accepted the association's final increase offer of a R33 across-the-board, backdated to April 1. But Mr Nkosi claimed workers in Natal had signed forms accepting the offer only because they were under the impression it would end the lock-out.

This did not mean they had accepted Sawsiea's offer and Nuwsaw called for interpreters to counter-sign any acceptance forms, he said.

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Strike ^{CME 7/16}
spreads ^{12/7/90}
to liquor ⁽¹⁴³⁾
industry ⁽¹⁴³⁾

A NATIONAL strike in the liquor industry involving more than 2 000 workers began yesterday amid claims that white pupils were being used as temporary labour.

Transvaal employers have been hit hardest by the legal strike over wages, with 1 428 workers either striking or locked out, according to a spokesman for the SA Wine and Spirit Industry Employers' Association, Mr Charlie Hoeflich.

In the Western Cape, 664 members of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw) had joined, he said.

He confirmed union claims that white students and pupils had been hired.

He said 1 400 Nuwsaw members had accepted the company offer of a R33 weekly increase and had resumed work.

Nuwsaw is demanding a R40 across-the-board weekly increase. The lowest monthly wage earned by union members is R762 — Sapa

Unions set their sights on SA Breweries

CAPE TOWN 24/7/90
By DICK USHER
Business Staff

SOUTH African Breweries is about to become the second corporate giant targeted for a union campaign

The campaign, which is likely to be similar to that of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) against Barlow Rand, was set in motion at a meeting of unions involved in SAB or its subsidiaries this week

It arises out of the current strike wave involving the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) which has so far af-

ected SAB subsidiaries OK Bazaars and Southern Sun hotels and appears likely to spread to Edgars

Saccawu spokesman Mr Jeremy Daphne said that in addition to Cosatu, affiliates Saccawu, the Food and Allied Workers' Union and the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union, the campaign could potentially involve affiliates of the other major federation, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), and the Federation of Commercial, Retail and Allied Workers (Federation) and possibly the independent National Union of Distributive Workers (Nudaw)

He said Cosatu had been brought into the campaign and was sitting on its structures as a federation and the ANC had indicated its support early in the OK Bazaars strike

Nactu had indicated general support for the disputes involving Saccawu, as had associated political groupings such as the Pan-Africanist Congress

Mr Daphne said some initial planning had been done at this week's meeting which would be continued next week when it was hoped to reach finality

"It is likely that there will be a high degree of interaction with the community and a lot of

involvement is placed on community involvement," he said. He also said that an SAB shop stewards council would be revived

This had been set up after training courses for SAB shop stewards were conducted by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers Association about two years ago

Industrial relations analysts, asked about Saccawu allegations of poor management style by SAB and its associates, said the group had a reputation for power-based bargaining rather than bargaining based on information and trust

Drenched striker gets axe threat

JOHANNESBURG — An East Rand fireman allegedly threatened a shop steward with an axe yesterday shortly after striking workers and a fire they had built were doused with water from high pressure hoses

The incident occurred outside the strike-hit Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery plant in Wadeville, according to Mr November Nkosi, president of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers

The drenched workers and up to 700 colleagues were locked out of the factory premises on Thursday

The national strike, involving 3 800 members, continued into its third day yesterday

Also in Wadeville, the Distillers Corporation yesterday ordered about 500 strikers off the factory premises

Meanwhile union officials and management of the Southern Sun/Holiday Inns hotel group are still locked in mediation for the second day in an attempt to end the nine-day-old hotel strike, the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (Saccawu) said yesterday

And mediation to end the more than month-long strike at OK Bazaars was adjourned on Thursday night until next Thursday

Negotiations to break deadlocked wage talks and a strike by 10 000 workers in the

Frame Group of companies were also continuing yesterday, a spokeswoman for the group's Durban head office said

Meanwhile Durban's King Edward III Hospital — which was forced to close its doors to emergency surgical cases on Thursday — was operating normally yesterday

● SA Breweries yesterday said it took offence to a statement by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) on Thursday which said it had earmarked all SAB subsidiaries for a possible consumer boycott to combat the corporation's "racist, union-bashing attitude"

Cosatu also promised a protest programme of demonstrations and marches

Apr 19/79
143

Liquor strikers call for boycott

TALKS between striking wine industry workers and the Wine and Spirit Industry Employers' Association ground to a halt yesterday when a wage dispute could not be resolved

The 3 800 strikers, represented by the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw), urged consumers to boycott their employers' products

British and European trade unions have indicated support, said Nuwsaw spokesman Mr William Makhunga

Peaceful

The parties are still deadlocked over union demands for a R40 weekly increase. Employers have offered R33

A legal march will be held in Stellenbosch tomorrow to highlight demands

Employers' Association spokesman Mr Riaan Kruger said the parties agreed only on the following points: That industrial action be conducted in a peaceful manner and that "victimisation, intimidation, harassment or violence be rejected"

● Early yesterday, some 300 striking hotel workers marched about 12km in pelting rain from the Newlands Sun hotel to the city centre and back to the Holiday Inn in Woodstock, a Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union spokesman said

About 6 000 Saccawu members are embroiled in a three-week wage dispute with Southern Sun/Holiday Inns

● In Johannesburg, police detained four of the 11 mineworkers injured in a clash with security at St Helena Gold Mine in Welkom on Tuesday, a union spokesman said

A mine spokesman rejected claims that the company had dismissed half of its workforce. The number was less than 10% after "repeated stoppages" — Staff Reporter and Sapa

Liquor industry boycott threat

Labour Reporter *RRG 19/7/90* (143)
THREATS of a nationwide consumer boycott have hit the strike-torn liquor industry after a failed attempt to resolve a wage dispute

Talks between the National Union of Wine, Spirit and Allied Workers' Union and the South African Wine and Spirit Industry Employers ended in a deadlock late yesterday afternoon, according to union spokesman Mr William Makhunga

More than 3 500 workers — including 664 in the Western Cape, 1 420 in the Transvaal and 1 000 in the Free State and Eastern Cape — on strike since July 11, are demanding a weekly increase of R40 each. The employers are offering R33

About 10 000 employees would benefit from any increase gained

A consumer boycott of the six strike-related companies — Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Distillers Corporation, Union Wine, Gilbeys, Douglas Green and Henry, Taylor and Ries — began in Stellenbosch on Monday and the union warned that it would spread to Cape Town and other parts of the country if the dispute remained unresolved

According to Mr Makhunga about 1 500 union and community members will go ahead with a march through the streets of Stellenbosch on Friday to hand over a list of demands to each of the six companies affected by the strike

The union also demands 22 days' annual leave for workers with more than 10 years' service

Although major Western Cape liquor outlets have not yet been affected by the strike, most liquor stores on the Reef have experienced problems and smaller liquor outlets were expected to run into severe problems.

Pick 'n Pay's senior buyer in Johannesburg, Mr Geoff Kahn, said demand was exceeding supply and all retailers and bottle stores had problems because of erratic deliveries

National boycott likely against liquor companies

WHILE the two-week-long Checkers wage strike appeared to be over after marathon negotiations last night, six strike-hit Cape liquor companies could face a national consumer boycott unless wage demands are met

Observers have also warned of an increasingly volatile situation in the Western Cape engineering sector. Annual wage negotiations have come to a halt and legal strike action could follow, according to the employers' association, Seifsa.

Yesterday the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuswaw) said Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Distillers Corporation, Union Wine, Douglas Green, Gilbeys and Henry, Taylor and Ries could face the boycott after talks with management failed yesterday.

More than 3 800 workers in the Western Cape, Boland and Transvaal have been on strike for a R40 a week increase since last Wednesday.

After nearly 20 hours of negotiation, Checkers announced last night that all full-time employees would receive a backdated R140 a month wage increase, bringing the minimum wage to R770 a month. Union members would receive a 12% discount on purchases to the value of R375 a month.

The strike by 9 500 workers at 161 stores began two weeks ago.

● About 300 health workers are on strike at the J G Strydom hospital in Johannesburg. The workers have complained of working conditions.

● Interns at Durban's King Edward VIII Hospital yesterday pledged not to discontinue their protest action until concrete action was announced by National Health Minister Mrs Rina Venter — Sapa

172643 20/7/90 (143)

Liquor industry strike could spread to KWV

Labour Reporter

ABOUT one thousand employees at KWV in Paarl may join nearly 4 000 workers striking at six companies in the wine and spirits industry, the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers has warned.

This follows a failed attempt this week to resolve a wage dispute between the union and the SA Wine and Spirit Industry Employers' Association

The union has threatened that the consumer boycott of the six strike-related companies — Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Union Wine, Distillers Corporation, Douglas Green, Gilbeys and Henry, Taylor and Ries — which began in Stellenbosch on Monday would spread throughout the country if the dispute remained unresolved.

The strike, which began on July 11, followed a national lock-out of workers not accepting the final wage offer increase of R33 a week. Strikers are demanding R40

According to union spokesman Mr William Makhunga the union was in the process of negotiating with KWV — the cooperative winegrowers' association representing 5 000 farmers

"KWV will also face a strike, involving about 1 000 workers, if the union and the company do not reach a settlement and the union has instructed its lawyers to apply for a conciliation board hearing," Mr Makhunga said.

KWV spokesman Mr Theo Pegel said the company — which was not affiliated to the

employers' association — and the union had been "successfully" negotiating for four years "with positive results for both parties".

"The current round of annual wage negotiations are still in progress and I cannot comment on possible labour action by union members," Mr Pegel said.

About 1 500 union and community members have been granted magisterial and municipal permission to march through Stellenbosch today to hand over a list of demands to each of the six companies involved in the strike.

Although major Western Cape liquor outlets have not yet been severely affected by the strike, most liquor stores on the Reef have experienced problems

Concern over scabs - Sacwu

THE South African Chemical Workers Union has expressed its concern over the efficiency of scabs hired by Labethica following a month-old lockout of union members by the company, says a spokesman for Sacwu

The union's general secretary, Mr Humphrey Ndaba, said their concern stemmed from the fact that products made by Labethica were delicate. The company produces life-saving bags and drugs

"Workers are usually given two months' training to handle production, but the company has indiscriminately engaged scabs without necessary training and thus maxi-

mising the risk of faulty production," the Sacwu official said

The strike by 166 Sacwu members emanates from their demand for a monthly R150 across-the-board rise. *Sowetan 23/7/90*

Position

Mr F Short of Labethica said he was in no position to comment on the allegations by Sacwu and referred inquiries to the general manager of SA Druggist, a Mr Stanton, who was said to be in Port Elizabeth.

Sowetan could not reach Stanton as "he was on his way to Johannesburg", according to Short

Union challenge to SFW

NEARLY 4 000 striking workers in the wine industry plan to challenge Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery in the Industrial Court over "compulsory overtime"

Mr William Makhunga, a Stellenbosch-based official of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers, said yesterday that the dispute over working hours follows a union-imposed overtime ban in March. The company expected workers to work overtime when asked, while the union believed overtime to be voluntary, he said.

In September last year the Appeal Court ruled that workers had the common-law right to

refuse to do overtime

Mr Makhunga said there was no sign of settlement in the 13-day countrywide strike by his union over wages and conditions of service

● In Parow, meanwhile, the strike by municipal workers is spreading, says town clerk Mr H Carstens

He said yesterday that the strike now involved more than 100 workers and had spread to the parks and town engineer's departments

● And in Paarl about 180 striking workers at an engineering plant, Satchwell Controls, were locked out of the factory prem-

ises yesterday during a day-old legal strike over wages and conditions of service

● More than 7 000 toyi-toyi-ing railway workers brought Johannesburg's city centre to a standstill yesterday morning when they marched on Transnet head offices to submit a memorandum of demands

The march was organised by the South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union (Sarhu) to show workers' rejection of Transnet's R700 minimum wage offer

The union said it dropped its demand from R1 500 to R1 000, but management did not shift from its initial offer — Sapa

Nactu backs strike

Sowetan 26/7/90
THE National Council of Trade Unions has expressed its support for its affiliate, the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers, in its national wage-related strike begun on July 9

Nactu's acting general secretary, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, said the federation believed its affiliate had done all that was required to settle the dispute amicably

He said: "Negotiations began on February 19 with the company offering R21 to R26,90 from Grade 1 to 6 and the union demanding R60 across-the-board

"After five days of negotiations, the union demanded R45 a week and the company stood between R28,50 and R31,50.

"At the last meeting on March 14, the employer association offered an insulting 50 cents."

69 liquor strikers held during three-week action

143
 1966-27/1/80
 By SHARON SOROUR
 Labour Reporter

SIXTY-NINE strikers have been arrested since the start of the three-week industrial action by 3 800 liquor industry employees.

The most recent arrest took place in Wadeville, Germiston, on Wednesday when a striker was allegedly detained by police near the Distillers Corporation plant, the president of the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers' Union (Nuwsaw), Mr November Nkosi, told Sapa.

Distillers Corporation and five other companies — Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery, Douglas Green, Henry, Taylor and Ries, Gilbeys and Union Wine — have been affected by the strike.

Refused offer

In the Western Cape, 664 workers as well as nearly 1 500 in the Transvaal and 1 000 in the Free State and Eastern Cape have refused a R33-a-week increase offer from the SA Wine and Spirit Industry Employers' Association.

Nuwsaw is demanding an across-the-board weekly increase of R40.

Mr Nkosi said nine Nuwsaw members were arrested at the Union Wine depot in Douglas this week, while 60 — 47 in Stellenbosch and 13 in Port Elizabeth — were arrested and released during the first week of the strike.

While liquor distribution and supplies have not been affected in the Western Cape, most liquor outlets on the Reef are experiencing problems.

This week the union called for a nationwide boycott of products of the six companies and threatened that about 1 000 workers at KWV in Paarl would join the strike if its demands were not met.

However, Employers' Association spokesman Mr Riaan Kruger said the effects of the boycott, which started in Stellenbosch, had not yet been felt.

The first round of talks between the association and the union failed to resolve the dispute last week.

No arrangements for further negotiations had been made.

All unions now look for more muscle

The immediate task in the current hospital crisis has been to restore normal patient care — but the strike wave has broader implications for South Africa's 730 000 public servants

Union and legal sources believe the hospital unrest, following hard on the heels of the railway strike, may bring home that a special labour dispensation for State and semi-State sectors will not work.

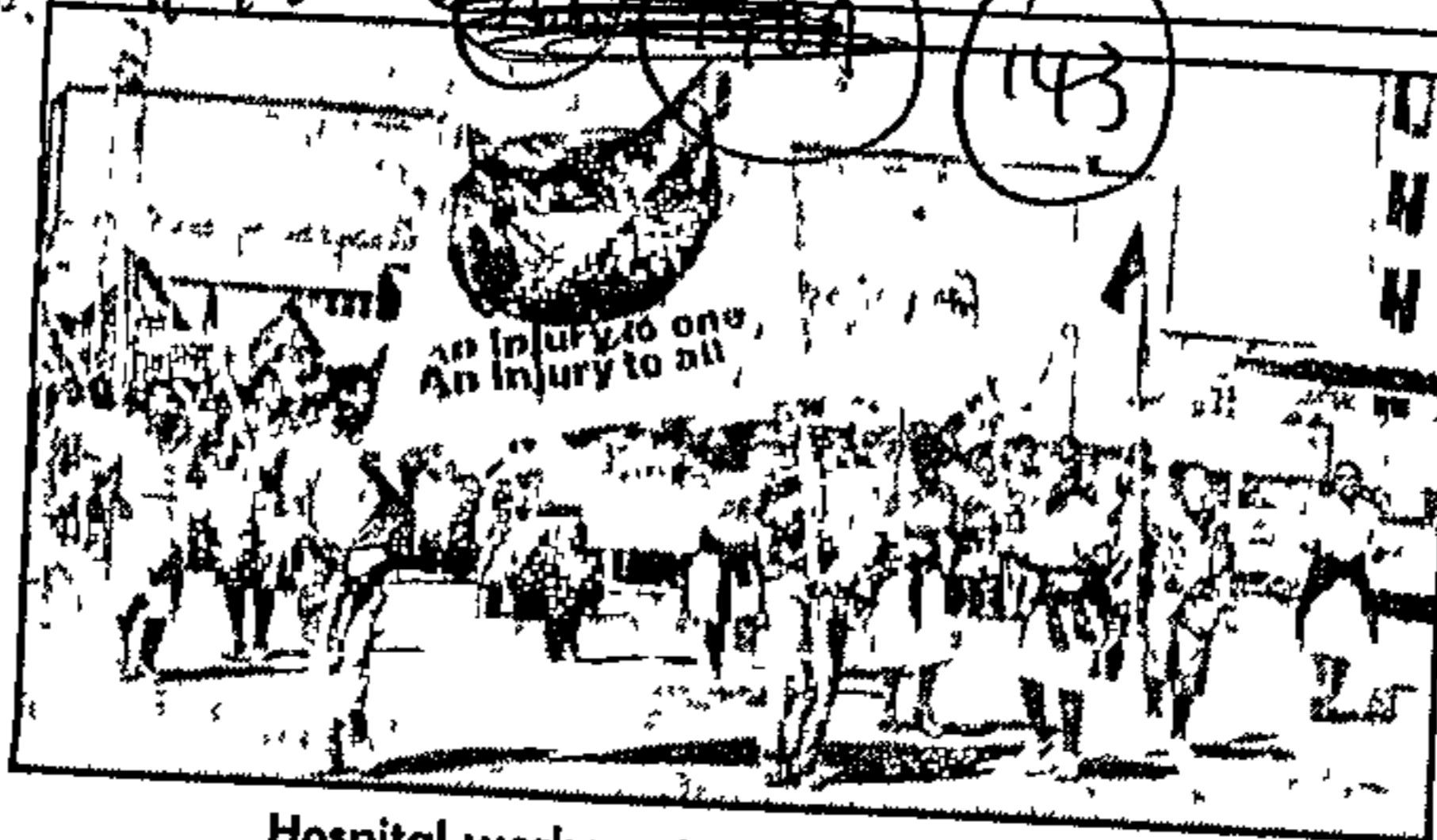
State employees are now covered by the Public Service Act, a statute drafted by men who apparently thought public sector unions an outlandish idea

This provides for the recognition of staff associations at the discretion of the Commission for Administration and an advisory council on which associations sit. But on union recognition and collective bargaining, it is quite silent

At the same time, the Labour Relations Act (LRA), while providing for the registration of public service unions, denies them all its benefits. Public servants and workers in hospitals, schools, State forests and the security forces cannot strike lawfully or use the Act's dispute procedures or the Industrial Court

The Public Service Act has been cited by the Transvaal Provincial Administration in refusing to recognise the National Education, Health and

The hospital strikes have given fresh impetus to union demands for the extension of the Labour Relations Act to the public service. The Star's **LABOUR REPORTER** looks at some of the issues



Hospital workers stage a protest march.

Allied Workers Union (Nehawu), which says it has hit a similar brick wall in dealings with the Johannesburg College of Education and Witwatersrand Technikon

It is likely that the hospital dispute will be settled in a makeshift manner by informally granting Nehawu union rights and some form of bargaining status

But there seems to be more flexibility than the TPA implies. Stressing that there is no specific statutory ban on union recognition, Nehawu lawyer Jonty Joffe argues that a common law deal can be reached

A Commission for Adminis-

tration spokesman effectively conceded the point this week by saying that the non-recognition of public service unions was policy rather than a legal requirement

The Government is aware of the weakness of the present dispensation. In the wings is the Public Service Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament last year and currently with State law advisers, which effectively provides for union recognition and a Public Service Central Bargaining Council

Whether it will meet the needs of public servants, or indeed ever be enacted, are moot points

Modelled on the South African Transport Services (Sats) Conditions of Service Act, the Bill proposes a ban on State sector strikes. As on the railways, this is likely to be ineffective, Mr Joffe stresses

He adds that the proposed bargaining forum, the product of Government decree rather than agreement, will suffer from the same defects as the Transnet Labour Council. These include equal votes for unions of unequal size

At talks with the employer body Saccoia, black unions have consistently pressed for the LRA's extension to all workers. Special provision could be made for essential services, though much more closely defined than at present

Talks between Cosatu/Nactu and the responsible Minister, Dr Wim de Villiers, are planned shortly

And in its preliminary proposals for the consolidation of the LRA, published last month, the National Manpower Commission also argues for one labour Act for all

A Commission for Administration spokesman said this week that the State had given recognised public service associations a pledge to push through the Public Service Amendment Bill

If it is enacted — and he conceded that the situation was "very fluid" — it could well be overtaken by a revamped LRA

Nonracial Mwasa opens avenues

Souths 30/8 - 5/9/90

143

By CHIARA CARTER
THE decision by the Media and Allied Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) to open membership to all races has opened new avenues for organising workers in the print industry.

This is the view of Mwasa president, Ms Sandra Nagfaal

Mwasa has about 13

000 members throughout the country.

Nagfaal, who works in the Argus mailing room, says she is a "reluctant president" because she finds it hard to juggle national commitments with being a mother of five.

Nagfaal began work at the Argus in 1979 as a casual worker and the following year was elected shopsteward in the South African Typographical Union (Satu)

She was one of the first workers to be signed up by the Writers' Association of South Africa (Wasa) and

became a shopsteward in the union

She was involved in the strike for union recognition at the Argus

Nagfaal said removing the word "black" from Mwasa's constitution was part of re-vamping the constitution, begun at the union's congress last year

Motivating the change was a view that the clause contradicted Mwasa's commitment to a nonracial, democratic South Africa and was out of step with the changes that had occurred since Mwasa was formed at the height of the Black Consciousness era

Unanimous

She described the debate around the issue as "good", saying regions had done their homework with members. The eventual decision was unanimous

Mwasa was once viewed as the flagship of the BC movement.

Does the move signal a shift from a BC line in the union and a resolution of political tensions within

Mwasa?

"It is untrue to say we are Africanist or BC. No shop-floor is ever 100 percent supporters of any political grouping," Nagfaal said

"It has never been Mwasa policy to align with any political organisation

She cited a congress resolution that delegates should not wear political t-shirts or sing political songs

"The workers' struggle comes before our different ideologies," Nagfaal said

"There are tensions. These indicate we are active. We have Africanists, BC supporters and Charterists like myself on the NEC

"At the end of the day, despite whatever political differences we might have, we take joint decisions."

Nagfaal says, although the union is firmly apolitical, individual members may support a particular political grouping

Interest

Nagfaal says Mwasa's new nonracial constitution will facilitate this process

Several white workers had expressed interest in signing up

Mwasa organises both journalists and print workers.

Is this not a contradiction in view of the organisation's commitment to worker interests?

Clout

Nagfaal thinks not

She said there were many interests that both groups share and that, while she understood the reasons for the formation of a journalist organisation like the Association of Democratic Journalists by many former Mwasa journalists, editorial workers were inevitably a small group lacking the collective clout to fight management on either wages or editorial policy

Precedent at Mercedes Benz?

By CHIARA CARTER

PEOPLE are asking whether the revolt against central bargaining by rebel workers at Mercedes Benz of South Africa (MBSA) is an isolated incident or a sign of things to come.

The MBSA plant ground to a halt last month after up to 500 workers staged a sleep-in protest against the national bargaining forum (NBF) for the automobile industry.

Complicated

After Numsa discussed the issue with workers and tried to persuade the company to withdraw the dismissals, management called in the police to evict the protesters.

The MBSA protest was complicated by the factory's conflict-prone history

However, this does not serve to explain away a rebellion against union policy by a significant minority of the workforce — including almost half Numsa's shop-stewards.

Rebels

While Numsa has spearheaded the move towards centralised bargaining, the union is not alone in adopting such a policy

The MBSA rebels' argument that they would win greater gains from plant level bargaining flies in the face of the trend in Cosatu

Unions have recently moved towards industrial/sectoral/regional bargaining on the one hand and corporate/company/divisional on the other.

Most Cosatu affiliates have waged lengthy battles for national bargaining forums, with employers ranging

from clothing manufacturers to the Delta motor corporation and petroleum companies.

Unions have joined hands to campaign against corporations like Barlow Rand, whom they claim are out to smash centralised bargaining.

However, these moves contrast with a tradition of sectors operating with relative autonomy and plant-and company-level bargaining which lives on in the minds of many union members, if not with the union hierarchies.

Cosatu views plant bargaining alone as inadequate because it stretches union resources, does not allow unions to develop a national presence and limits their capacity to shut down an industry in a strike.

Plant-level bargaining

does not allow bargaining on national issues such as training and restructuring — aspects Numsa regards as crucial.

While industrial council negotiations offer these advantages and allow agreements to cover non-parties, the wages set are always the lowest common denominator in the industry.

The Mercedes case indicates that some workers might not be happy to accept less than they are used to in the interests of abstract strategic advantages.

LABOUR INDEPTH

It does not seem possible to have the best of both worlds and sustain a myriad of bargaining levels.

Employers, too, will not tolerate industry bargaining if wage bargaining continues at other levels.

Seifsa has demanded that Numsa abandon plant-level bargaining. The union refused and the matter is being discussed

Blundered

The union's counterpart in Nactu, the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of South Africa (Mewusa), thinks Numsa has blundered in opting for centralised bargaining to the exclusion of plant level negotiations.

A Mewusa spokesperson described waiving plant level rights as "a serious strategic error" and warned that "rights surrendered will need an entire struggle to win back".

The spokesperson said it was only at the factory level that workers could be di-

rectly involved in negotiations in a concrete way and worker militancy could be sustained.

He said Mewusa regarded plant-level bargaining as a "basic worker right" and that it was only at this level that the specifics characteristic to each company could be negotiated

Predictable

He said cutting off plant level negotiations in favour of a single bargaining level suited capital

Negotiations were then predictable and orderly, while companies could build up a relationship with union negotiators

The spokesperson said the move had to be seen in the light of the national climate of political negotiations in which both the ANC and the SA Communist Party wanted industrial peace.

Spectre

Mewusa's viewpoint could be coloured by their failure to develop a national presence

Unlike Numsa, Mewusa has not demonstrated a capacity to pull off a national strike

Cosatu is aware that the removal of plant-level bargaining weakens shopsteward structures and raises the spectre of unions becoming increasingly bureaucratic and reformist on the lines of those in Western Europe.

Mandates

Following a workshop held by its Living Wage Committee, Cosatu warned that democracy was critical in industry-level bargaining

Bursary Council of South Africa

CO-ORDINATOR

Applications are invited for appointment to the position of Co-ordinator of the office of the Bursary Council of South Africa. The Bursary Council was established in 1989 among other reasons to be a forum for consultation, co-ordination and debate between bursary organisations, to examine ways and means of strengthening support to students and to facilitate consultation between member organisations, students and the broader community

Applicants should have demonstrated office management skills and be committed to advancing the aims and objectives of the Council and promoting education in a post-apartheid democratic South Africa.

The salary package is in the region of R30 000 per annum. The location of the office is still to be decided. Applications should include a curriculum vitae and be sent to:

The Secretary
c/o PO Box 349
Salt River 7925

Closing date for receipt of applications is 15 October 1990.

Demand for union rights

WORKERS at an
Armcor subsidiary are
demanding the right to
join a union of their
choice. ^{South} 13/9 - 19/9/90

A spokesperson for the
South African Chemical
Workers' Union (Sacwu)
said that workers at
Somchem were not prepared
to accept the definition of
Armcor as an essential serv-
ice

He said the workers wanted
the right to join a union of
their own choice and to be
covered by the LRA and not
the Armament Development
and Production Act.

TABEL

Naam van vakvereniging: South African Railway and Harbours Workers' Union.

Datum waarop aansoek ingedien is: 21 Augustus 1990.

Belange en gebied ten opsigte waarvan aansoek gedoen word: Alle persone as algemene werkers, baanwerkers, drywers (graad 2 G901), bestuurders (grade 2 FF05, 2 G601 en 2 KL02), kaartjies, opnemers (graad 3HD01), kontroleurs (grade 2 JT01 en 3 FK01), kruiers (graad 2 KW02), ambulanskamerhulpe (graad 2 LV01), terreinbeamptes (grade 2 HA01 en 2 GK01), treinopstellers (graad 2 JU01), vakwerkers (grade 2 KA02 en 2HE 03) en kraandrywers (graad 2 GU01) in diens by Transnet in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika

Belange en gebied ten opsigte waarvan registrasie gehou word: Alle persone as algemene werkers en baanwerkers in diens by Transnet in die landdrostdistrikte Alfred, Bergville, Chatsworth, Dundee, Durban, Estcourt, Glencoe, Impendle, Inanda, Ixopo, Kliprivier, Lions River, Lower Tugela, Moorivier, Mount Currie, Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg, Polela, Port Shepstone, Richmond (Natal), Umvoti, Umzinto, Underberg en Utrecht.

Posadres van applikant: Posbus 8059, Johannesburg, 2000.

Kantooradres van applikant: Tweede Verdieping, Fillangebou, Beckerstraat 33, Johannesburg

Die aandag word gevestig op onderstaande vereistes van artikels 4 en 7 van die Wet:

(a) Die mate waarin 'n beswaarmakende vakvereniging verteenwoordigend is, word ingevolge artikel 4 (4), soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5), bepaal volgens die feite soos hulle bestaan het op die datum waarop die aansoek ingedien is, en wat die lidmaatskap betref, word alleen lede wat ingevolge artikel 1 (2) van die Wet op voormelde datum volwaardige lede was, in aanmerking geneem

(b) Die prosedure voorgeskryf by artikel 4 (2) moet gevolg word in verband met 'n beswaar wat ingedien word.

D. W. JAMES,
Nywerheidsregistrator
(14 September 1990)

KENNISGEWING 774 VAN 1990**DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG****WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956****AANSOEK OM VERANDERING VAN DIE REGISTRASIEBESTEK VAN 'N VAKVERENIGING**

Ek, David William James, Nywerheidsregistrator, maak ingevolge artikel 4 (2) soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, hierby bekend dat 'n aansoek om die verandering van sy registrasiebestek ontvang is van die National Union of Steel and Allied Workers. Besonderhede van die aansoek word in onderstaande tabel verstrek.

Enige geregistreerde vakvereniging wat teen die aansoek beswaar maak, word versoek om binne een maand na die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing sy beswaar skriftelik by my in te dien, p/a die Departement van Mannekrag, Mannekraggebou 123A, Schoemanstraat 215, Pretoria (posadres: Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001).

TABLE

Name of trade union: South African Railway and Harbours Worker's Union.

Date on which application was lodged: 21 August 1990.

Interests and area in respect of which application is made: All persons employed as general workers, trackworkers, drivers (grades 2 G901, 2 FF05, 2 G601 and 2 KL01), ticket collectors (grade 3 HD01), conductors (grades 2 JT01 and 3 FK01), porters (grade 2 KW02), ambulance room attendants (grade 2 LV01), yard officials (grades 2 HA 01 and 2 GK01), train marshallers (grade 2JU01), trade hands (grades 2 KA02 and 2 HE03) and crane drivers (grade 2 GU01) employed by Transnet in the Republic of South Africa.

Interests and area in respect of which registration is held: All persons employed as general workers and trackworkers by Transnet in the Magisterial Districts of Alfred, Bergville, Chatsworth, Dundee, Durban, Estcourt, Glencoe, Impendle, Inanda, Ixopo, Klip River, Lions River, Lower Tugela, Mooi River, Mount Currie, Newcastle, Pietermaritzburg, Polela, Port Shepstone, Richmond (Natal), Umvoti, Umzinto, Underberg and Utrecht.

Postal address of applicant: P O. Box 8059, Johannesburg, 2000.

Office address of applicant: Second Floor, Fillan Building, 33 Becker Street, Johannesburg.

Attention is drawn to the following requirements of sections 4 and 7 of the Act:

(a) The representativeness of any trade union which objects to the application shall in terms of section 4 (4) as applied by section 7 (5) be determined on the facts as they existed at the date on which the application was lodged and, as far as membership is concerned, only members who were in good standing in terms of section 1 (2) of the Act as at the aforesaid date shall be taken into consideration

(b) The procedure laid down in section 4 (2) must be followed in connection with any objection lodged.

D. W. JAMES,
Industrial Registrar.
(14 September 1990)

NOTICE 774 OF 1990**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER****LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956****APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF SCOPE OF REGISTRATION OF A TRADE UNION**

I, David William James, Industrial Registrar, do hereby, in terms of section 4 (2) as applied by section 7 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, give notice that an application for the variation of its scope of registration has been received from the National Union of Steel and Allied Workers. Particulars of the application are reflected in the subjoined table.

Any registered trade union which objects to the application is invited to lodge its objection in writing with me, c/o the Department of Manpower, 123A Manpower Building, 215 Schoeman Street, Pretoria (postal address: Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001), within one month of the date of publication of this notice

Nactu could ban politicking

TRADE union members cannot be union leaders and at the same time hold executive positions in political parties, Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said at the weekend *10/24/90*

Ngcukana said the two roles were incompatible and he would recommend the union federation's members adopt a resolution to this effect at Nactu's national congress to be held

MATTHEW CURTIN

from Thursday to Sunday.

Having leaders of political parties acting also as union office bearers could only compromise the independence of the union movement. *(143)*

While Nactu recognised the role unions played in the liberation movement in SA, there would be inevitable differences between unions and political parties in the future — differences which would be ignored if leaderships were the same.

Ngcukana said the international trend was for the separation of political and union leaderships as had happened in Britain, Spain and Italy.

Among affiliates to the rival union federation Cosatu, several senior office bearers hold important posts in political positions, including National Union of Metalworkers general secretary Moses Mayekiso and Food and Allied Workers Union president Chris Dlamini, who are both members of the SACP leadership core.

Landmark Congress for Nactu

South 2719- 3/10/90

143

By CHIARA CARTER

A CONGRESS likely to have far-reaching significance for the labour movement is taking place in Johannesburg this week.

About 320 delegates from 26 unions are expected to attend the third biennial congress of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) at Nasrec near Soweto.

The theme of the congress is "Organise, Mobilise and Consolidate for a Democratic Future".

According to Nactu general secretary, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, the federation has grown considerably since its last congress in August 1988.

Ngcukana said five unions with a paid up membership of more than 43 000 workers had joined the federation and at least five of the federation's affiliates had grown dramatically, raising membership by 103 000 workers.

Key issues at the congress are likely to be the Labour Relations Act and Nactu's

participation in the national Manpower Commission, redistribution of wealth and the merger of affiliates to form strong industrial unions — a move resisted by some unions who fear losing their independence.

A tricky issue is likely to be the federation's relationship with political organisations and the crossover between trade union and political leadership.

Discontent

According to sources, there is a growing tide of discontent among affiliates not aligned to the PAC at what is perceived as the PAC's dominance of Nactu's leadership.

Nactu's 20 000-strong teachers' union will be sending observers to the congress, as will several foreign trade union organisations, including the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

Representatives from the ANC, Azapo, PAC and New Unity Movement will address the open session of the congress on Thursday.

KENNISGEWING 815 VAN 1990**PROVINSIALE ADMINISTRASIE VAN DIE
KAAP DIE GOEIE HOOP****HEIDELBERG: VOORGESTELDE KONSTRUK-
SIE VAN 'N AANLEGSTEIER EN SLEEPHEL-
LING IN DIE BREERIVIER**

Ingevolge artikel 3 (5) van die Strandwet, 1935 (Wet No. 21 van 1935), word hiermee bekendgemaak dat dit die voorneme is om 'n huurooreenkoms met mnr S. Smith aan te gaan waarin voorsiening gemaak word vir die konstruksie van 'n aanlegsteier en sleepheiling benede die hoogwatermerk van die Breerivier

'n Liggingsplan van die gebied wat deur die voorgestelde aanlegsteier en sleepheiling geraak word, lê ter insae by die kantoor van die Hoofdirekteur Werke, Provinsiale Administrasie van die Kaap die Goeie Hoop, Kamer 430, Dorpsstraat 9, Kaapstad.

Besware teen die voorgestelde verhuring moet by die Hoofdirekteur: Werke, Privaatsak X9078, Kaapstad, 8000, ingedien word voor of op 29 Oktober 1990.

(28 September 1990)

KENNISGEWING 816 VAN 1990**DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG****WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956****INTREKKING VAN REGISTRASIE VAN 'N
VAKVERENIGING**

Ek David William James, Nywerheidsregistrator, maak hierby kragtens artikel 14 (1) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, bekend dat aangesien ek rede het om te vermoed dat die Engineering and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa gelikwieder is, sy registrasie ingetrek sal word, tensy redes daarteen binne 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing aangevoer word.

D. W. JAMES,
Nywerheidsregistrator.

(28 September 1990)

KENNISGEWING 817 VAN 1990**DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG****WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956****INTREKKING VAN REGISTRASIE VAN 'N
VAKVERENIGING**

Ek, David William James, Nywerheidsregistrator, maak hierby kragtens artikel 14 (1) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, bekend dat aangesien ek rede het om te vermoed dat die Saamwerkpersoneelvereniging nie as 'n vakvereniging funksioneer nie, sy registrasie ingetrek sal word, tensy redes daarteen binne 'n tydperk van 30 dae vanaf die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing aangevoer word.

D. W. JAMES,
Nywerheidsregistrator.

(28 September 1990)

NOTICE 815 OF 1990**PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE****HEIDELBERG · PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF
A JETTY AND SLIPWAY IN THE BREE RIVER**

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 3 (5), of the Sea-Shore Act, 1935 (Act No 21 of 1935), that it is proposed to enter into a lease with Mr S Smith in which provision is made for the construction of a jetty and slipway below the high-water mark of the Bree River.

A locality sketch of the area affected by the proposed jetty and slipway lies for inspection at the office of the Chief Director, Works, Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope, Room 430, 9 Dorp Street, Cape Town.

Objections to the proposed lease must be lodged with the Chief Director Works, Private Bag X9078, Cape Town, 8000, on or before 29 October 1990

(28 September 1990)

NOTICE 816 OF 1990**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER****LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956****CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF
A TRADE UNION**

I, David William James, Industrial Registrar, hereby notify, in terms of section 14 (1) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, that as I have reason to believe that the Engineering and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa has been wound up its registration will be cancelled unless cause to the contrary is shown within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

D. W. JAMES,
Industrial Registrar

(28 September 1990)

NOTICE 817 OF 1990**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER****LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956****CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF
A TRADE UNION**

I, David William James, Industrial Registrar, hereby notify, in terms of section 14 (1) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, that as I have reason to believe that the Saamwerkpersoneelvereniging is not functioning as a trade union its registration will be cancelled unless cause to the contrary is shown within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice

D. W. JAMES
Industrial Registrar

(28 September 1990)

KENNISGEWING 818 VAN 1990

DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG

WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956

AANSOEK OM VERANDERING VAN DIE REGISTRASIEBESTEK VAN 'N VAKVERNIGING

Ek, David William James, Nywerheidsregistrator, maak ingevolge artikel 4 (2) soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, hierby bekend dat 'n aansoek om die verandering van sy registrasiebestek ontvang is van die Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Workers Union of South Africa. Besonderhede van die aansoek word in onderstaande tabel verstrek.

Enige geregistreerde vakvereniging wat teen die aansoek beswaar maak, word versoek om binne een maand na die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing sy beswaar skriftelik by my in te dien, p/a die Departement van Mannekrag, Mannekraggebou 123A, Schoemanstraat 215, Pretoria (posadres Privaatsak X117, Pretoria, 0001).

TABEL

Naam van vakvereniging: Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Workers Union of South Africa.

Datum waarop aansoek ingedien is: 18 September 1990.

Belange en gebied ten opsigte waarvan aansoek gedoen word: Alle persone in diens in die—

- (i) Teekamer-, Restourant- en Verversingsbedryf; en
- (ii) Hotel- en Drankbedryf

in die landdrostdistrikte Pretoria en Pietersburg.

Vir die doel hiervan beteken—

(i) "Teekamer-, Restourant- en Verversingsbedryf" die bedryf waarin werkgewers en werknemers met mekaar geassosieer is uitsluitlik of hoofsaaklik met die doel om etes of verversings (hetsy in die vorm van vloeistowwe of in ander vorms) of beide sodanige etes en verversings te berei of dit te bedien of te verskaf in of vanuit enige bedryfsinrigting of gedeelte daarvan, hetsy permanent, tydelik, binnens- of buitenshuis, en dit sluit sodanige bedrywighede in wanneer uitgeoefen in of vanuit een of meer klasse persele of gedeeltes daarvan—

(a) wat gebruik word as openbare restaurante, vis- en skyfiewinkels, kafees, teekamers, padkafees en alle verkooppunte vir wegneem-etes behalwe waar die voorbereiding en/of verskaffing van eetklaar voedsel en/of verversings plaasvind op of vanaf die perseel van 'n akkommodasiebedryfsinrigting;

(b) waar etes of alkoholvrye drankte bedien word vir verbruik op die perseel of verskaf word vir verbruik weg van die perseel,

(c) waar spuit- of mineraalwater in drinkglase of ander houers vir verbruik op die perseel verskaf word; en

(d) waarin of waarvandaan die werksaamhede hierin bedoel, uitgevoer word ten opsigte van of in verband met enige teater, bioskoop, kafee-bioskoop, inryteater of ander vermaak of 'n funksie;

NOTICE 818 OF 1990

DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF SCOPE OF REGISTRATION OF A TRADE UNION

I, David William James, Industrial Registrar, do hereby, in terms of section 4 (2) as applied by section 7 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, give notice that an application for the variation of its scope of registration has been received from the Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Workers Union of South Africa. Particulars of the the application are reflected in the subjoined table.

Any registered trade union which objects to the application is invited to lodge its objection in writing with me, c/o the Department of Manpower, 123A Manpower Building, 215 Schoeman Street, Pretoria (postal address. Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001), within one month of the date of publication of this notice

TABLE

Name of trade union: Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Workers Union of South Africa.

Date on which application was lodged: 18 September 1990.

Interests and area in respect of which application is made: All persons employed in the—

- (i) Tearoom, Restaurant and Catering Trade; and
- (ii) Hotel and Liquor Trade

in the Magisterial Districts of Pretoria and Pietersburg.

For the purposes hereof—

(i) "Tearoom, Restaurant and Catering Trade" means the trade in which employers and employees are associated wholly or mainly for the purpose of preparing, serving or providing meals or refreshments (whether liquid or otherwise) or both such meals and refreshments in or from any establishment or portion thereof, whether permanent, temporary, indoors or in the open air, and includes such activities when carried on in or from one or more classes or premises or portions thereof—

(a) used as public restaurants, fish-and-chips shops, cafes, tearooms, roadhouses and all take-away food outlets except where the preparation and/or supply for ready-to consume food and/or refreshments takes place on or from the premises of an accommodation establishment,

(b) where meals or non-alcoholic drinks are served for consumption on the premises or are provided for consumption away from the premises,

(c) where aerated or mineral waters are supplied in glasses or other containers for consumption on the premises, and

(d) wherein or wherefrom the activities herein referred to are carried on in respect of or in connection with any theatre, bioscope, bio-tearoom, drive-in cinema or other entertainment or function;

en dit sluit ook in die verskaffing van alkoholiese drank in al sodanige bedryfsinrigtings of op sodanige persele ooreenkomstig 'n dranklisensie wat deur sodanige werkgewers gehou, of geag word gehou te word, of uitgereik is ingevolge die Drankwet, 1989, maar uitgesonderd hotelhouders, losieshuis- of huurkamerhuishouders of enige bedrywig-hede wat aan die gesag van enige nywerheidsraad onderworpe is, en dit omvat verder alle werksaam-hede wat met enige van voormelde bedrywig-hede in verband staan of daaruit voortspruit.

(ii) "Hotel- en Drankbedryf" die bedryf waarin werkgewers en werknemers met mekaar geassosieer is met die doel om huisvesting en een of meer etes per dag teen vergoeding te verskaf op persele waar drank verkoop word in verband waarmee een of meer dranklisensie deur sodanige werkgewers gehou, of geag gehou te word of uitgereik is ingevolge die Drankwet, 1989: Met dien verstande dat vir die doeleindes van hierdie omskrywing die uitdrukking "huisvesting" slaapkamer-akkommodasie en die dienste wat gewoonlik daarmee geassosieer word, beteken.

Belange en gebiede ten opsigte waarvan registrasie gehou word:

(i) Teekamer-, Restourant- en Verversingsbedryf in die landdrosdistrikte Alberton, Benoni, Boksburg, Brakpan, Germiston, Johannesburg, Kempton Park, Oberholzer, Roodepoort, Springs, Krugersdorp, Nigel, Randfontein, Randburg, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Westonaria, Die Kaap, Simonstad, Wynberg, Durban, Pinetown en Newcastle; en

(ii) Drank- en Verversingsbedryf in die landdrosdistrikte Johannesburg, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging en Die Kaap.

Posadres van applikant: Posbus 1409, Johannesburg, 2000.

Kantooradres van applikant: Tweede Verdieping, Lektonhuis, Wanderersstraat 5, Johannesburg.

Die aandag word gevestig op onderstaande vereistes van artikels 4 en 7 van die Wet:

(a) Die mate waarin 'n beswaarmakende vakvereniging verteenwoordigend is, word ingevolge artikel 4 (4), soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5), bepaal volgens die feite soos hulle bestaan het op die datum waarop die aansoek ingedien is, en wat die lidmaatskap betref, word alleen lede wat ingevolge artikel 1 (2) van die Wet op voormelde datum volwaardige lede was, in aanmerking geneem.

(b) Die prosedure voorgeskryf by artikel 4 (2) moet gevolg word in verband met 'n beswaar wat ingedien word.

D. W. JAMES,
Nywerheidsregistrateur.
(29 September 1990)

KENNISGEWING 819 VAN 1990

DOEANE- EN AKSYNSTARIEFAANSOEKE.— LYS 35/90

Onderstaande aansoeke betreffende die Doeane- en Aksynstarief is deur die Raad van Handel en Nywerheid ontvang. Enige beswaar teen of kommentaar op hierdie vertoe moet binne ses weke na die datum van

and also includes the supply of liquor in any such establishments or on any such premises in terms of a liquor licence held or deemed to be held by such employers or issued under the Liquor Act, 1989, but does not include hotelkeepers, boarding-housekeepers or lodging-housekeepers, and further includes all operations incidental to or consequent on any of the aforesaid activities. (143)

(ii) "Hotel and Liquor Trade" means the trade in which employers and employees are associated for the purpose of providing accommodation and one or more meals per day for reward on premises where the sale of liquor is carried on and in connection with which one or more liquor licence is held or deemed to be held by such employers or issued in terms of the Liquor Act, 1989, Provided that for the purposes of this definition the expression 'accommodation' shall mean bedroom accommodation and the services ordinarily associated therewith.

Interests and area in respect of which registration is held.

(i) Tearoom, Restaurant and Catering Trade in the magisterial District of Alberton, Benoni, Boksburg, Brakpan, Germiston, Johannesburg, Kempton Park, Oberholzer, Roodepoort, Springs, Krugersdorp, Nigel, Randfontein, Randburg, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging, Westonaria, The Cape, Simonstown, Wynberg, Durban, Pinetown and Newcastle, and

(ii) Liquor and Catering Trade in the Magisterial District of Johannesburg, Vanderbijlpark, Vereeniging and the Cape.

Postal address of applicant: P.O. Box 1409, Johannesburg, 2000.

Office address of applicant: Second Floor, Lekton House, 5 Wonderers Street, Johannesburg.

Attention is drawn to the following requirements of sections 4 and 7 of the Act:

(a) The representativeness of any trade union which objects to the application shall in terms of section 4 (4) as applied by section 7 (5) be determined on the facts as they existed at the date on which the application was lodged and, as far as membership is concerned, only members who were in good standing in terms of section 1 (2) of the Act as at the aforesaid date shall be taken into consideration.

(b) The procedure laid down in section 4 (2) must be followed in connection with any objection lodged.

D. W. JAMES,
Industrial Registrar
(28 September 1990)

NOTICE 819 OF 1990

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TARIFF APPLICATIONS — LIST 35/90

The following applications concerning the Customs and Excise Tariff have been received by the Board of Trade and Industry. Any objections to or comments on these representations must be submitted to the Board

Strife-torn Nactu plots a course for union unity

W/Ment 28/9 - 4/10/90

THE National Council of Trade Unions' third biennial congress, currently in session, signals a turning point for the strife-torn trade union federation.

The four-day congress, which began yesterday, takes place against a backdrop of political mistrust and manipulation that had some affiliates threatening to stay away and others submitting draft resolutions expressing dissatisfaction with the politics of the federation.

The rumblings seem to stem from ideological rifts that developed two years ago when, at the end of a national congress, the Africanists staged a coup and took precedence over black consciousness elements in the federation.

Many feel that such rifts have adversely affected administration and decision-making in Nactu. Five officials resigned earlier this year, following the resignation of former general secretary Phiroshaw Camay in December.

Some proposals tabled for this congress address the question of political affiliation and ask that the principle of political independence be reiterated.

"Executive leaders of the federation should stop representing their political persuasions at executive level; it is unstrategic and uncalled for in a trade union movement..." reads a Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa (Mewusa) motion.

Draft resolutions cover questions of unity within the federation; allegations of maladministration; the Labour Relations Act talks; and positions on issues such as negotiations and the economy.

The executive committee also looks set to be revamped — president James Mdaweni's term of office has expired and general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana has not been re-nominated.

Joseph Maqhekeni has been nominated as president, and Mdaweni for both vice-president and general secretary.

One criticism that will need to be dealt with at the congress is Nactu's interpretation of the principle of "non-collaboration". Mewusa highlighted the example of the federation's meeting with State President FW de Klerk in Pretoria earlier this year.

Tensions within the National Congress of Trade Unions could simmer or sizzle after its third biennial congress, currently in session.

CASSANDRA MOODLEY reports

Zithulele Cindi, a Mewusa official, said "Nactu should redefine its stand on non-collaboration on the one hand it withdrew from the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) last year because of the presence of bantustan leaders, and on the other it met with the paymasters this year."

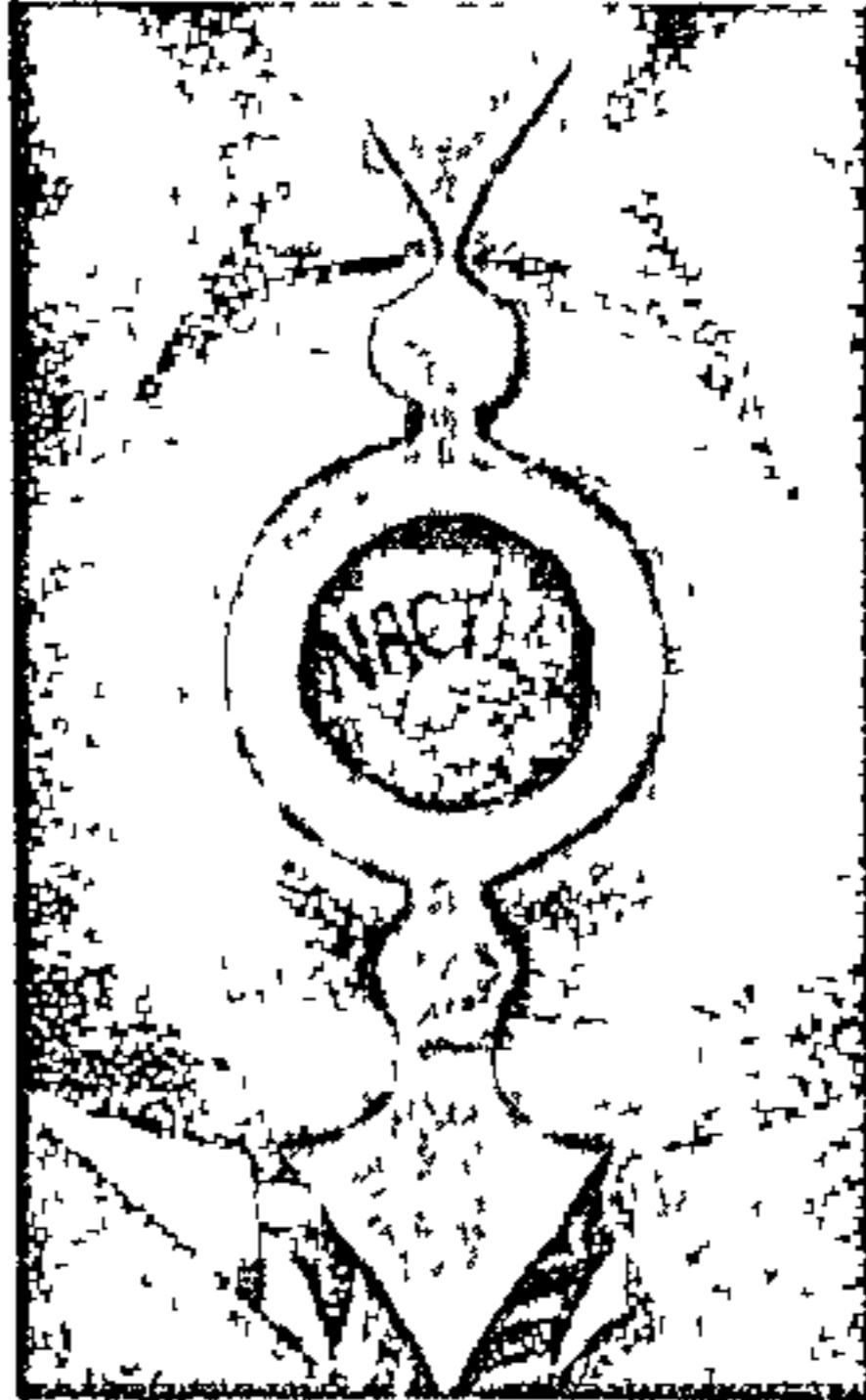
Before the congress, general secretary Ngcukana said he expected the question of non-collaboration — striking a balance between trade unions and politics — to be discussed, as well as Nactu's role as a trade union now and in the future.

He said 320 delegates from 26 affiliated unions were expected to attend, and that the number of affiliates had increased since the last congress, with some existing unions having boosted their membership.

The failure to form single unions within an industry also seems to be causing dissatisfaction.

"At the founding congress it was said that mergers along sectoral lines should create 14 affiliates," said Cindi. A Mewusa motion noted that this resolution was not effected, describing it as a "miscarriage".

Three Nactu unions exist in the metal industry — Mewusa, the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers Union and the United African Motor and



A war of words between factions

Allied Workers Union. Then there are the Food and Beverage Workers Union, the National Union of Wine and Spirit and Allied Workers Union, the Hotel Liquor, Catering and Allied Workers Union and the Natal Liquor and Catering Trade Union that could merge.

Mewusa has asked for a deadline for a merger in the metal industry. But, said Cindi, the federation allows mergers only where it suits its political gain and an Africanist union can be dominant.

Predominantly Africanist affiliates include the South African Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu), Seawusa, Uamawu and the Transport and Allied Workers Union.

Sacwu is the biggest union in the federation and is able to swing the vote in important decisions like the constitutional change at the last congress from using the term "black" to

"African" working class. The union has proposed that Nactu withdraw from the working group committee on the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

A former Nactu official, who resigned this year, said "Nactu began the talks on the LRA and such a move indicates that Sacwu does not want unity. Sacwu was also instrumental in the decision not to attend the first workers summit."

On negotiations, the chemical workers' union has asked for prior consultation with allies like the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation and the New Unity Movement.

A resolution on "Discipline, Accountability and Responsibility" also points to poor administration in the federation. Cindi said Mewusa had called a meeting earlier this year with Nactu to discuss the federation's poor image internationally, which was largely a result of maladministration and the media's disinterest.

The legal and education units have also suffered because of poor administration, officials say.

At the last congress, Mewusa decided it would remain in Nactu to build it and, says Cindi, "it is with the same attitude we are going into it this year".

The National Union of Public Service Workers reversed a last-minute decision not to attend, because of problems it had with Nactu.

Whatever the outcome of the meeting, the federation faces dangerous undercurrents with some affiliates, like the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu), considering a stayaway.

Bamcwu was threatened with suspension for disobeying a Nactu order to stay away from last year's CDF and officials are complaining that they are being financially victimised by the federation.

As an official of one of the affiliates said "The congress could lead to a worsening of the situation in Nactu or, if people have learnt from past experience, we could emerge as a united force."

Many of the unions are also unhappy about the federation's attitude to women's issues and there is dissatisfaction that resolutions on women's participation and gender education have not been implemented.

Nactu on negotiations

Sowetan 28/9/90
By DON SEOKANE

NATIONAL Council of Trade Unions would decide this weekend whether to negotiate with the government, Nactu president Mr James Mndaweni told delegates at the federation's three-day conference at Nasrec, Crown Mines yesterday.

Mndaweni said the congress came at a time when "the future is pregnant with possibilities"

"We believe that before any negotiations could begin, consensus within the broad liberation movement should be reached to avoid friction

"Until the Internal



JAMES MNDAWENI

Security Act, Population Registration Act and the State of Emergency is repealed, the struggle for liberation should be intensified," Mndaweni said.

PAC secretary-general, Mr Benny Alexand-

er, said Nactu should spell out its position on negotiations

Alexander said the PAC had no mandate to negotiate with the "illegal regime" and that the only democratic and legitimate process for negotiations, is a constituent assembly based on one person one vote on a common voters' roll in a unitary state

The congress was attended by representatives of the British, Canadian and American embassies. Foreign trade unions including the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions were represented

143

THE National Council of Trade Unions' third biennial congress, currently in session, signals a turning point for the strife-torn trade union federation.

The four-day congress, which began yesterday, takes place against a backdrop of political mistrust and manipulation that had some affiliates threatening to stay away and others submitting draft resolutions expressing dissatisfaction with the politics of the federation.

The rumblings seem to stem from ideological rifts that developed two years ago when, at the end of a national congress, the Africanists staged a coup and took precedence over black consciousness elements in the federation.

Many feel that such rifts have adversely affected administration and decision-making in Nactu. Five officials resigned earlier this year, following the resignation of former general secretary Phiroshaw Camay in December.

Some proposals tabled for this congress address the question of political affiliation and ask that the principle of political independence be reiterated.

"Executive leaders of the federation should stop representing their political persuasions at executive level; it is unstrategic and uncalled for in a trade union movement ..." reads a Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa (Mewusa) motion.

Draft resolutions cover questions of unity within the federation; allegations of maladministration; the Labour Relations Act talks; and positions on issues such as negotiations and the economy.

The executive committee also looks set to be revamped — president James Mdaweni's term of office has expired and general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana has not been re-nominated.

Joseph Maghekeni has been nominated as president, and Mdaweni for both vice-president and general secretary.

One criticism that will need to be dealt with at the congress is Nactu's interpretation of the principle of "non-collaboration". Mewusa highlighted the example of the federation's meeting with State President FW de Klerk in Pretoria earlier this year.

Strife-torn Nactu plots a course for union unity

W/Ment 25/9 - 4/10/90

Tensions within the National Congress of Trade Unions could simmer or sizzle after its third biennial congress, currently in session.

CASSANDRA MOODLEY
reports

Zithulele Cindi, a Mewusa official, said: "Nactu should redefine its stand on non-collaboration: on the one hand it withdrew from the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) last year because of the presence of bantustan leaders, and on the other it met with the paymasters this year."

Before the congress, general secretary Ngcukana said he expected the question of non-collaboration — striking a balance between trade unions and politics — to be discussed, as well as Nactu's role as a trade union now and in the future.

He said 320 delegates from 26 affiliated unions were expected to attend, and that the number of affiliates had increased since the last congress, with some existing unions having boosted their membership.

The failure to form single unions within an industry also seems to be causing dissatisfaction.

"At the founding congress it was said that mergers along sectoral lines should create 14 affiliates," said Cindi. A Mewusa motion noted that this resolution was not effected, describing it as a "miscarriage".

Three Nactu unions exist in the metal industry — Mewusa, the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers Union and the United African Motor and



A war of words between factions

Allied Workers Union. Then there are the Food and Beverage Workers Union, the National Union of Wine and Spirit and Allied Workers Union, the Hotel Liquor, Catering and Allied Workers Union and the Natal Liquor and Catering Trade Union that could merge.

Mewusa has asked for a deadline for a merger in the metal industry. But, said Cindi, the federation allows mergers only where it suits its political gain and an Africanist union can be dominant.

Predominantly Africanist affiliates include the South African Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu), Seawusa, Uamawu and the Transport and Allied Workers Union.

Sacwu is the biggest union in the federation and is able to swing the vote in important decisions like the constitutional change at the last congress from using the term "black" to

143
"African" working class.

The union has proposed that Nactu withdraw from the working group committee on the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

A former Nactu official, who resigned this year, said "Nactu began the talks on the LRA and such a move indicates that Sacwu does not want unity. Sacwu was also instrumental in the decision not to attend the first workers summit."

On negotiations, the chemical workers' union has asked for prior consultation with allies like the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian People's Organisation and the New Unity Movement.

A resolution on "Discipline, Accountability and Responsibility" also points to poor administration in the federation. Cindi said Mewusa had called a meeting earlier this year with Nactu to discuss the federation's poor image internationally, which was largely a result of maladministration and the media's disinterest.

The legal and education units have also suffered because of poor administration, officials say.

At the last congress Mewusa decided it would remain in Nactu to build it and, says Cindi, "it is with the same attitude we are going into it this year".

The National Union of Public Service Workers reversed a last-minute decision not to attend, because of problems it had with Nactu.

Whatever the outcome of the meeting, the federation faces dangerous undercurrents with some affiliates, like the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu), considering a stayaway.

Bamcwu was threatened with suspension for disobeying a Nactu order to stay away from last year's CDF and officials are complaining that they are being financially victimised by the federation.

As an official of one of the affiliates said: "The congress could lead to a worsening of the situation in Nactu or, if people have learnt from past experience, we could emerge as a united force."

Many of the unions are also unhappy about the federation's attitude to women's issues and there is dissatisfaction that resolutions on women's participation and gender education have not been implemented.

Unions to campaign against imported labour from Europe

143
146 2/10/90

By SHARON SOROUR
Labour Reporter and Sapa

NACTU — the National Council of Trade Unions — is to launch a "vigorous" campaign against the employment of skilled labour from Eastern and Western Europe.

This was decided at Nactu's congress at the weekend

According to Nactu general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, work on the campaign has already begun

He said "The government and employers in South Africa are actually denying our people skills by importing skilled labour from Eastern and Western Europe"

'Violate sanctions

Nactu had reported the matter at the International Labour Organisation general conference in June

The employment of skilled labour from Europe violated United Nations sanctions against South Africa, Mr Ngcukana added.

Nactu would seek the support of international trade union federations, anti-apartheid movements and European governments

At the same time Nactu would begin a programme aimed at forcing employers and the government to train and develop skills among black workers, he said

The congress, attended by about 300 delegates, resolved to call a workers' summit to address the issue of "building working class unity"

Nactu condemned the violence in the townships and called on the government to lift both the state of emergency in Natal and Operation Iron Fist on the Witwatersrand

Delegates also issued a plea to all organisations to exercise political tolerance and "to commit themselves to the principle of freedom of association"

The federation resolved to work with other organisations to tackle the education crisis in black schools and confirmed its policy of non-affiliation to political organisations, but resolving to "co-operate with all liberation organisations".

Star 3/10/90

143

NEWS

Nactu plans protest

By Brendan Templeton

A nationwide "day of action" to highlight the plight of workers at the Northern Transvaal citrus farm, Zebediela, is being planned by the 244 000-strong National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu)

This was one of many decisions affecting union discipline, political affiliations and negotiations with Government structures made during Nactu's third biennial congress at the weekend.

Another was the official endorsement of an earlier decision to participate in the restructured National Management Committee which falls under the Department of Manpower.

Nactu has previously shunned any contact with Government but made the decision after the acceptance by the Cabinet of the agreement forged earlier this year between Cosatu, Nactu and the employer body, the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola) on amendments to the Labour Relations Act (LRA)

Nactu president James Mndaweni said it had not yet been decided when the day of action would take place or what form it would take because Nactu first wished to consult other progressive organisations

About 1 500 Zebediela workers have been on strike since August 18 demanding a R500 minimum wage. They

currently receive R120, Nactu said

The federation also resolved to co-operate with all political organisations as long as this did not conflict with its own policies and principles

A third workers' summit would be held to address the issue of working class unity and closer links with Cosatu and independent trade unions, Nactu said

Other resolutions included

- An end to the state of emergency and the curfew in PWV townships
- The expulsion of three trade unions from the federation. The Textile Workers Union was expelled for "violating the principles of

worker control and accountability", and the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union and the Black Domestic Workers Association for failing to pay subscription fees.

● The merger within six months of all Nactu trade unions organised in the same industries.

● To become more self-sufficient by reducing dependency on international funding

● To take steps through the 20 000-strong Teachers' Union Project to address the education crisis through extra lessons and ending "unnecessary protest action".

● To oppose the recruitment of skilled labour from Eastern and Western Europe

Numsa campaigns for voting rights

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE National Union of Metal Workers (Numsa) is campaigning for the abolition of the one union, one vote system on the National Industrial Council for the Iron, Steel and Metallurgical Industries (Nici-semi). (143)

Numsa national organiser Alistair Smith said yesterday the move would reduce the influence of white-dominated unions in industrial council activities.

Numsa wanted to introduce proportional representation for the election of members to the Nici-semi national executive and regional committees, he said.

With more than 130 000 members accounting for almost half the industry's em-

ployees, Numsa was just one of 14 unions on the council. Numsa and the 30 000-strong Nactu affiliate the Metal and Electrical Workers Union are the only predominantly black unions.

Smith said the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa), but not the white-dominated unions, had accepted the principle of proportional representation.

Mine Workers' Union (MWU) general secretary Piet Ungerer said his union and all other parties to the industrial council were opposed to the new voting scheme.

10/11/90

143

Nactu changes the rules on election of federation officials

By CASSANDRA MOODLEY

A DRAMATIC decision was made at the National Council of Trade Union's congress last week to amend the constitution, allowing the president to retain his position.

An amendment was made striking out the phrase "no person shall hold office for more than two consecutive terms" and replacing it with a clause that says: "The president, vice-president and treasurer shall hold office until the next congress and shall be eligible for re-election on termination of their period of office."

Nactu congress, held in Johannesburg, then re-elected James Mdaweni president, for the third time.

Before the start of the four-day congress it appeared there would be dramatic changes to the leadership, with Mdaweni being nominated for vice-president and general secretary. However, these changes were averted.

Except for vice-president Patricia de Lille, who did not stand for election, the former Nactu leadership was retained in its entirety.

Five unions — Transport and Allied Workers' Union, Transport and Omnibus Union, Banking, Insurance and Financial Workers' Union; National Union of Public Service Workers, and Metal Workers' Union of South Africa — abstained from voting, said a Bifawu representative. The representative said the "resolution session was suspended midway on Saturday to proceed with the elections".

A motion tabled by the South African Chemical Worker's Union calling for Nactu to withdraw from the Labour Relations Act talks — between Nactu, Cosatu and the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs — was withdrawn for "the sake of progress".

After the elections the Black Construc-

tion and Allied Worker's Union withdrew a resolution that the federation uphold the principle of working class leadership but dispense with the term African. The motion had said that such a term contradicted the principle of non-affiliation to political organisations.

A draft resolution which was not discussed at the congress was that on political affiliation.

Nactu passed a resolution on the principle of independent action of affiliates, which bound all affiliates to democratic decisions and policy matters of the federation. Unions which defy the terms of the new resolution face disciplinary action. A further decision was that mergers of unions in a single sector had to take place within six months.

At the congress, Nactu also set preconditions on negotiations: one person one vote in a unitary non-racial country, and redistribution of resources, particularly the land. This should "pave the way for a peaceful settlement of the conflict" and lead to the establishment of a constituent assembly. The congress also agreed to consult with all liberation organisations on this question.

During the congress the Black Mining, Construction and Allied Workers' Union was in effect expelled. This action was confirmed by general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana, who said Bamcwu had disaffiliated itself by not paying affiliation fees to the federation. Bamcwu did not attend the congress.

The congress also noted the Textile Workers' Union's expulsion, for failing to co-operate with the Nactu regions of Pietermaritzburg, Pietersburg and Newcastle. TWU appealed against this action, but refused to attend a hearing in September at the central committee meeting. The union later wrote a letter to Nactu accepting the expulsion.

Rival metal unions may merge

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE two unions representing all black workers in the metal industry and almost half its 380 000 employees are to examine the possibilities of merging, a National Union of Metalworkers (Numsa) spokesman said yesterday

Numsa and rival Nactu affiliate the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union (Mewusa) had resolved to meet in November to discuss a programme "to effect worker unity", he said

Numsa has about 130 000 members in the metal industry and Mewusa has more than 30 000

The Numsa spokesman said the meeting was called to discuss a media release and pamphlet issued by Mewusa on August 27 during the final stages of this year's national wage negotiations

In a statement attributed to Mewusa general secretary T R A Oliphant, the union alleged Numsa was negotiating privately with the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa)

This gave "the impression there was only one union involved in the negotiations", so "undermining" Mewusa's and other unions' position in the industry. Fourteen unions are party to the metal industry's industrial council.

Numsa said Mewusa's national executive committee had disassociated itself from the document at the meeting last Saturday. The unions undertook to investigate the source of the documents and would take appropriate action

BIDAM 11/10/90 (143)

Weekend meetings

NACTU

143

The National Council of Trade Unions is to hold a mass meeting at the Temb Shopping Centre Hall in Tembisa on Sunday to pledge solidarity with about 200 striking Zebediela Citrus Estate workers

The union federation, according to spokesman Mr Elias Qwabe, will also discuss a planned protest action against State President F W de Klerk, who is also chief trustee of the estate

South Africa 19/10/90
He said it would also reply to allegations that Nactu was an obstacle to the negotiations process to resolve the rent impasse in the township.

Unions call for factual reporting

JOHANNESBURG. — Trade union delegates at a media conference in Soweto yesterday attacked the big media corporations for being biased in their own interests, and shutting workers out of the current debate in South Africa.

The conference, organised by the Sowetan newspaper as part of its 'Building the Nation' campaign, is being attended by more than 100 media representatives

Before lunch, delegates discussed trade unions and the press, and specifically unions in the media

Speakers from Cosatu, Nactu, Mwasa, ADJ, SAUJ and Acag addressed the conference
Cosatu's Mr Moeletsi Mbeki said the trade union movement wanted two things from the press: Factual reporting and open debate

Discussing his demand, Mr Mbeki, the son of ANC leader Mr Govan Mbeki and recently returned from exile, singled out what he labelled the "bourgeois press" — the four giant commer-

cial newspaper publishers and the SABC — for criticism

"The bourgeois press doesn't concern itself with factual reporting," he maintained "A good example has been, its coverage of the violence in Natal, and more recently, in the Transvaal"

Workers in South Africa, Mr Mbeki added, were being shut out of debate by the media

Nactu's Mr Mahlomola Skhosana agreed with Mr Mbeki's attack on the mainstream press

He focused his address on the low circulation figures among South Africa's "alternative press", linking it to an alleged bias in its reporting

He called on the alternative press to begin to reflect a more balanced view of the unfolding events in the country if it wanted to increase circulation.

"If you limit yourselves to reflecting only one side of the debate, it will not improve your circulation

"The only way to increase circulation is to reflect all viewpoints." — Sapa

Cosatu, Nactu join fray



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A STRIKE by thousands of Nampak workers around the country is set to develop into a costly showdown between the country's two largest trade union federations and the corporate giant Barlow Rand.

If the strike is not resolved this week, the corporation is likely to be hit by stoppages and a national stayaway which could be costly.

Already both Nampak and the strikers are feeling the pinch as the strike by about 4 000 workers at 32 plants enters its second month.

According to spokesperson for the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu), Rob Rees, who's a key figure in the Barlow

By CHIARA CARTER

Rand Campaign, the federation sees the strike as having broad implications for the entire labour movement

The strikers' main demand is centralised bargaining and Barlow Rand's opposition to centralised bargaining lies behind Cosatu's campaign

Rees said solidarity action for the strike, including protests by workers at Barlow Rand plants, was gaining momentum

Cosatu (Western Cape)

has assigned two office bearers to build strike support and a protest march is planned for this week

Several Nactu affiliates have also pledged support for the strike

This week Cosatu sent a letter to Nampak requesting a meeting

According to Ppwawu, the meeting is vital if the strike is to be resolved

A Nampak spokesperson said Ppwawu's plans were "confrontational" and the company would respond "appropriately"

Bid to defuse mine unrest

THE National Union of Mineworkers (Num) is hopeful that two top level meetings last week will help to stem the violence which erupted at several Natal mines earlier this

month.

Thousands of workers last week returned to the Ciskei and Transkei after outbursts of violence between Zulu and Xhosa speaking workers left 11 workers dead

Following a two-hour

SABC workers on strike

Sowetan 26/10/90
By MONK NKOMO

MORE than 100 South African Broadcasting Corporation workers in Weavind Park, Pretoria, went on strike yesterday in protest against the alleged harassment of a colleague and the appointment of a white person to a senior post for which he was apparently not qualified.

The workers, all members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (MWASA), staged a sit-in at about 1.30pm demanding that the white employee's post be readvertised.

Those on strike included reporters on all black radio and TV services as well as the few whites who are members of MWASA.

Problem

A MWASA spokesman said the problem started a few months ago when management appointed a white to the post of programme organiser after rejecting an application from Mr Mandla Sithole.

Mr Koos Ludick, Regional Director of the SABC in the Northern Transvaal, could not be reached for comment.

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We'll continue strike, vow SABC workers

Pretoria Bureau

More than 100 striking SABC employees in Pretoria have vowed to continue their work stoppage, following a deadlock in negotiations between the SABC and the Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa)

Mwasa members downed tools on Thursday in solidarity with one of their colleagues

The SABC had appointed a white person, S L du Toit, as production organiser on Radio Ndebele. Another em-



ployee, Mandla Sithole, had applied for the post but he was not invited for an interview

As a result of the strike, Radio Ndebele and Radio Tswana were withdrawn from the air on Friday.

Mwasa regional chairman, Mandlakayise Masanabo, said that despite the hardline attitude adopted by management, "we are still prepared to meet them"

The local regional director, Koos Ludick, was not available for comment

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Star 26/10/90 (143)  

'Racism' protest at SABC

More than 100 SABC employees at the Pretoria studios stopped work yesterday in protest against an allegedly "racist" appointment.

The stoppage was called by members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa).

It followed the appointment of S L du Toit as drama organiser — a post that required someone well-versed in Ndebele culture and language.

Mandla Sithole, a producer in the department, applied for the post "but" he was never called for an interview.

It was also claimed that Mr Sithole had been "harassed" — Pretoria Bureau

5
Another Mwasa
member detained

Another member of the Media Workers Association of SA has been detained, said the union.

Mwasa said its Southern Transvaal vice-chairman, Mr Vincent Mfundisi, was detained early yesterday. It was not clear under which legislation he is being held.

Mwasa said Sowetan sports editor Mr Horatio Motjuwadi and general secretary Mr Sithembele Khala are being held under the Internal Security Act and shop steward Mr Fani Hlongwane in terms of Bophuthatswana's state of emergency. Mwasa said they had been held since April 12.

tion of blacklisting." - Sapa

Nactu denies claims ¹⁴³

THE National Council of Trade Unions denied on Wednesday that its expulsion of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union' was related to BAMCWU's attendance of the Conference for a Democratic Future last year.

A spokesman for Nactu, Mr Mahlomola Skhosana, said the attendance of the CDF was not an issue in BAMCWU's expulsion.

He said BAMCWU failed to meet its constitutional obligations by not paying its affiliation fees for a whole year.

Earlier BAMCWU argued in a statement arguing that its expulsion was based on its attendance of the CDF. - Sapa. Sowetan 26/10/90

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'Politics behinds' expulsion from Nactu'

By DREW FORREST ^{W/Mant} 26/10-11/90
POLITICAL motives lay behind the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union's expulsion from Nactu, the union claimed this week

Declaring the expulsion "unconstitutional, unprocedural and undemocratic", Bamcwu general secretary Motsomi Mokhine said in a statement delegates to Nactu's recent national congress had attributed the move to the union's decision

to attend the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) last year

Bamcwu was seen as spearheading the attendance of eight affiliates at the CDF, in defiance of Nactu policy. The rebellion was viewed as flowing from a Black Consciousness-PAC rift in Nactu

Mokhine said the Bamcwu national executive committee had decided to take all necessary steps to challenge its expulsion

143
SAR

CAR-TENT 31/10/90

Judgment soon on lock-out of strikers

Supreme Court Reporter
JUDGMENT will be handed down in the Supreme Court tomorrow in a lockout dispute between the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of SA and National Panasonic

This follows an application by the union against National Panasonic (Parow), after 197 of its striking members were locked out of the National Panasonic premises on September 3.

Mr A P Blignault SC, for the union, told the court the lock-out was invalid and unlawful because National Panasonic's reference of the dispute to the Industrial Council was in breach of the Labour Relations Act.

A deadlock had not been reached on the date of the lock-out and further dispute-settling procedures, agreed to between the parties, had not been attempted.

National Panasonic contended that the lock-out was legal and raised several technical points in its defence

Mr Justice J H Conradie presided. Mr Blignault was assisted by Mr A Freund and instructed by Bernack Vukic and Potash. Mr Jeremy Gauntlett SC, with Mr Les Rose-Innes, appeared for National Panasonic (Parow)

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Union's plea dismissed

Court Reporter

AN application by the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of South Africa for an order declaring a lockout by National Panasonic (Parow) illegal, was dismissed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

The court, however, did not rule on the legality or otherwise of the lockout.

Mr Justice J H Conradie said he would give reasons later if necessary.

National Panasonic had contended that the lockout was legal.

May 21 11 58 AM '90

Nactu explains expulsion

■ The National Council of Trade Unions has denied that its expulsion of the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union (Bamcwu) was related to Bamcwu's attendance of the Conference for a Democratic Future last year. (143)

Nactu's Mahlomola Skhosana said Bamcwu, whose expulsion was confirmed at Nactu's recent national congress, had failed to meet its constitutional obligations by not paying affiliation fees for a whole year.

In what was widely seen as an outcome of a PAC-Black Consciousness rift in the federation, Bamcwu was one of a group of unions who attended the CDF in defiance of Nactu policy.

In a statement last week, the union suggested this lay behind its expulsion.

Strikers receive ultimatum

Amst. 13/12/90 (43) (52) (57)
ABOUT 15 workers at a chemical company in Paarden Eiland have been given an ultimatum to return to work by 8am today after they went on an "illegal" strike yesterday morning

A spokesman for the SA Chemical Workers' Union, Mr Peter Roman, said the workers went on strike over a demand for an R80-a-week across-the-board wage increase.

A spokesman for Albion Chemicals, Mr Sam Druck, said the company had offered the workers a 20,5% wage increase — Sapa

Friday June 8 1990

Breweries workers to vote over pay strike

MORE than 5 000 workers in the liquor industry will vote next week to decide on whether to strike.

The ballot follows the deadlock in wage negotiations between the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied

By LEN MASEKO

Workers and the SA Wine, Spirits Industry Employers' Association.

NUWSAW president Mr November Nkosi said the union was demanding an across-the-board increase of R40 a week as against the employers' offer of R33.

Support

"If the ballot results in a national strike, then we - being part of the community - are appealing to the community, Nactu, Cosatu and independent unions to support us in our struggle for a living wage and better working conditions," Nkosi said.

Mr Riaan Kruger, a spokesman for the employers' association, was not available for comment yesterday.

JOHANNESBURG —

The Vosloorus township house of the president of the National Congress of Trade Unions (NCTU), Mr James Mndaweni, was ransacked by about 100 armed people early on Saturday morning

Mr Mndaweni was not at home at the time of the attack, but a friend of his was staying at the house.

"He saw the attackers coming. There were about 100 of them and they were armed to the teeth," said Mr Mndaweni

His friend had managed to escape out the back door

Vosloorus has been the scene of severe inter-organisational and

Home of leading unionist ransacked by crowd

CAPE TOWN 11/6/90

143

political violence recently

Mr Mndaweni, who has been involved in negotiations between the ANC and the PAC in an attempt to bring peace to the East Rand township, said that the ANC had been singing provocative songs about "Mndaweni and his

dogs" at a memorial service held in Vosloorus on Saturday night for three ANC members who lost their lives in the recent violence

"It was clear at the memorial service that I was going to be attacked"

He said that at the ANC-PAC negotiations it had been agreed there would be a cessation of hostilities between the two organisations while the funerals took place

Mr Mndaweni said the attack had created doubts

"Whether the peace talks continue or not it would seem the violence and threatening of people's lives will continue," he said. — Sapa

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - NAETU

1991

Nactu voices concern at labour Bill changes

ONE of the major partners to the tripartite employer-union agreement on labour legislation yesterday voiced concern over an amended version of the Labour Relations Amendment Bill set for debate in Parliament next week

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said yesterday the federation was concerned that certain aspects of the Bill approved by Nactu, Cosatu and employer organisation Saccola had been omitted by the manpower parliamentary committee

Ngcukana said the amended version was not a true reflection of last year's agreement reached between

VERA VON LIERES

Manpower Minister Eli Louw, the union federations and Saccola

The amended version of the Bill was due to come before Parliament next week, sources said yesterday.

Ngcukana said Cosatu and Nactu would be meeting next week to review the amendments

He declined to say what aspects had been omitted

The most important features of the Labour Relations Amendment Bill, published in May last year, included the reinstatement of the pre-1988 unfair labour practice definition and removed from the Industrial Council the power to interdict lawful strikes

and lockouts.

The Bill also limited the Industrial Court's ability to grant interdicts within 48 hours' notice to the respondent other than under special circumstances and extended the time limits for referring disputes through official channels

It also aimed to delete from the LRA a controversial clause which reversed the onus of proof requirement in the case of damage suits brought against unions for losses from unlawful strikes *BIDA 7/2/91*

Employer body Saccola declined to comment on the Bill yesterday, saying it would be premature.

Cosatu spokesmen were unavailable for comment.

We will still encourage strikes

By LEN KALANE *CP Press 24/2/91*

SOUTH Africa's black labour movements, having survived the tough apartheid era, will face a totally different ball game in the new South Africa.

City Press spoke to leaders of Cosatu and Nactu, the largest union federations in the country, and it is apparent the unions will still flex their political muscle in a new South Africa.

Assistant general secretary of the Cosatu-affiliated National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), Marcel Golding, said: "In the absence of political organisations prior to February 2 last year, the oppressed people had no alternative voice in the country to express their political aspirations. We fulfilled this role."

And will they continue to do so in the new South Africa?

"Yes of course," says Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo. "We have been fighting for the workers' right to take strike action and when the need arises in the new South Africa we will still encourage them to do so. In fact this right should form part of the new constitution."

Nactu general secretary Cunningham

Ngcukana said the shedding of their political role would be a mistake - which had happened elsewhere in Africa.

"We are definitely not going to repeat that mistake here. We will retain our political posture."

But Naidoo said the labour movement's political role in a new South Africa needed to be re-defined.

"The emphasis in a post-apartheid South Africa would be on matters that directly affect the economic interests of our membership, but we also intend taking action to safeguard the interests of our members on political issues."

To what extent will labour movements influence political decisions?

"The trade union movement must play a more direct role in decision-making. For instance, we must have a say in the restructuring of the economy at a national level," said Naidoo.

"Even if we have a democratic government, people outside the government's political structures must continue to play a role in the democratic decision-making process."

Ngcukana agrees, saying it is imperative the trade union movement plays a role in constitutional development.

"Whether we do this directly or by engag-

ing the liberation movements in discussion to put across the demands of the trade union movement will be determined by how the constitution evolves," he said.

In Nactu's case it will depend on what type of political economy the new South Africa pursues.

"If the economy remains capitalist we will continue to fight for its dismantling to a socialist one, irrespective of whether the government is African or not," said Ngcukana.

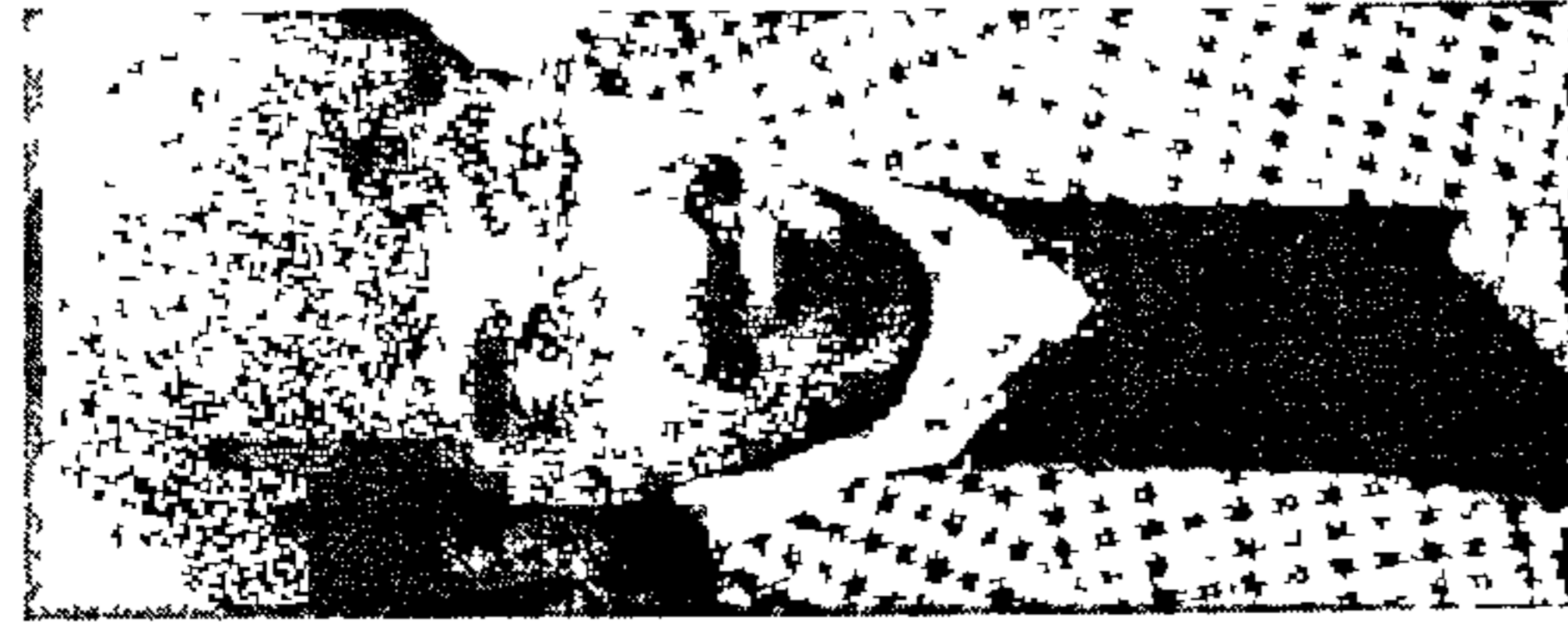
He said Nactu would strive to influence decisions taken by government for as long as the trade union movement avoided becoming "an appendage" of political parties in power.

Naidoo added there were still debates within Cosatu on whether a new government should legislate a minimum wage rate, or whether this should be left to bargaining structures.

"New South Africa or not, we will continue to encourage workers to engage in strike action for the right to a living wage. It will therefore be in the interests of everybody for the post-apartheid government to address socio-economic problems - the legacy of apartheid."



Cunningham Ngcukana: politics to stay.



Jay Naidoo: emphasis on economic rights.



300 at SABC quit Mwasa

Sowetan 28/2/91

143

By MONK NKOMO

ABOUT 300 members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa at the SABC plant in Pretoria broke away from the union yesterday alleging that senior officials had betrayed them.

The members, who include television and radio staff, announced their resignation from Mwasa at a Press conference yesterday.

Mr Thomas Morudu, former plant chairman, said the breakaway followed the national recognition agreement signed by the union and management last week which, among other things, gave the SABC the right to "unilaterally implement the 1991 salary increases" of its employees.

Mwasa president Miss Sandra Nagfaal yesterday rejected claims that the union was being controlled by SABC management.

She said the national recognition agreement entered into between the union and the SABC last Thursday was "an interim arrangement".

This arrangement was agreed to by five out of six SABC plants to speed up discussion on the rationalisation process that was scheduled to begin soon.

The workers said they had lost all confidence in the national leadership of Mwasa.

Over 400 Mwasa members strike

Sowetan 4/6/91

143



MORE than 400 members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa in Pietersburg went on strike yesterday demanding housing.

The workers, employed by the Chinese-owned Sakkor Manufacturing, have been staying in shacks and makeshift housing on the company premises for several years.

The Pietersburg Town Council has given them

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

until Friday to vacate the premises, a union official, Mr Albert Makgoba, said.

Housing

Makgoba said management had refused to look into alternative housing for the workers, some of whom start work at midnight in the 24-hour operation of the company.

All senior company

officials were said to be consulting lawyers yesterday but ultimatums were issued to strikers to either return to work or be fired.

The workers are demanding communal housing in Seshego, transport to and from work and stop order facilities for union subscriptions. Makgoba said some of the workers earned R192 a month.

The workers are demanding that the minimum wage be raised to R700 if the company refuses to provide housing.

There have been fears among whites in Pietersburg that the settlement of the workers on the premises could be the beginning of a squatting problem.

Conservative Party councillor, Mr Koos Kemp, last week threatened "a repeat of Ventersdorp" if they were not removed by last Friday.

Federations to hold a Workers' Summit

By DREW FORREST ^{with me} 15/3-21/3/91

COSATU and Nactu have agreed on a joint workers' rights campaign involving a Workers' Summit in a move strengthening co-operation between South Africa's key black union bodies

In talks last week, the federations agreed to set up a joint committee on workers' rights, confirmed Nactu's Cunningham Ngcukana "We have the same concern — to ensure workers' rights are built into a new constitution"

The summit, scheduled for late this year, will also involve non-aligned unions Nactu shunned the last summit, principally on the Labour Relations Act, although some dissident affiliates attended.

And in other moves

● Nactu has decided to enter the National Manpower Commission to participate with Cosatu in restructuring the NMC.

● Cosatu and Nactu last week met Saccola on their "phase two" LRA demands

Ngcukana said Saccola had agreed the LRA should be extended to all homeland workers and that an unfair labour practice code should not be introduced without union and employer consent

Unionists are alarmed by Manpower Department proposals for a code, seeing them as a backdoor bid to reintroduce 1988 LRA amendments

Ngcukana said the unions were pushing for the removal of labour

from the jurisdiction of "self-governing" homelands Joint approaches would be made to TBVC states in a bid to harmonise their labour laws

The unions also complained to Saccola about the "negative attitude" of the South African Agricultural Union, a Saccola affiliate, on the extension of rights to farmworkers

Also debated was the possibility of a national employer-union forum on economic issues, such as retrenchments and work creation (See lead story)

On Nactu's NMC move, Ngcukana said the federation was working on proposals for restructuring and would probably attend the NMC's full session next month.

Moves toward regional unity

By DREW FORREST

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions are to meet unionists from other Frontline states this week at a Harare workshop which will lay the basis for a "regional social charter".

Staged by the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council (Satucc), a sub-structure of the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity, the workshop follows up Cosatu and Nactu's first encounter with Satucc last November in Arusha, Tanzania. W/100-1/15/3-2/2/91

The purpose is to discuss a charter of workers' rights for the region, much like Cosatu's projected Workers' Charter, but local unionists are clearly looking to the organisational leverage of cross-border co-operation.

Debate will cover such issues as migrant labour, South Africa's labour agreements with Frontline states, multinationals and economic co-operation.

Nactu's team includes president James Mndaweni, while Cosatu's delegation is led by assistant general secretary Sydney Mufamadi.

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said the aim was to use the regional charter to mobilise workers and raise awareness. Cosatu's input would be its own workers' charter campaign.

Once drafted, the regional charter would go for endorsement to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), with which Satucc had close links.

Airports to be commercialised

GEORGE — SA's nine state airports could be fully commercialised by next year, Transport Minister George Bartlett said yesterday.

Bartlett said state airports would not be privatised but would probably continue to be run on a commercial basis by companies owned 100% by the state.

Bartlett was speaking at a ceremony at which George's P W Botha Airport received the Airport of the Year award.

He said full privatisation of airports was "a long way off" and that commercialisation under state control was the preferred means of making them profitable concerns.

"Airports have to offer all user airlines equal service opportunities and accommodation in landing slots, ground facilities and passenger and baggage handling services," he said.

Bartlett said a task group comprising the Directorate of Civil Aviation and other parties with interests in the commercialisation of airports had been convened to investigate several possible models

Bartlett said full commercialisation

LINDEN BIRNS

could be expected within the next year.

In terms of the commercialisation proposals, separate companies would be set up each responsible for one of the nine state airports

"These companies, with independent trading accounts, will be accountable for the failure or success of each airport which will have to be run according to sound business practices," he said

Bartlett likened the proposed model to the UK's previous state-controlled Airport Authority, and said the new structures would probably resemble state corporations similar to Eskom, Iscor and Sasol.

He added that the Transport Department had been preparing for the change in airport management and had called for nominations of people to sit on an Air Services Licensing Council which would be charged with implementing new policies

SAA CE Gert van der Veer said the airline was not going to make a nomination as it was not prudent for airport users to be put in a position where they would be granting themselves licences.

Delegates will discuss union issues

VERA VON LIERES

THE Nactu-affiliated Metal and Electrical Workers' Union (Mewusa), representing 26 000 workers, is to hold its national congress in Johannesburg this weekend. (143)

Mewusa general secretary Tomi Oliphant said yesterday about 350 delegates from various regions countrywide would meet to discuss a range of issues.

Mewusa is one of the 12 unions involved in negotiations in the metal and engineering industries.

It is demanding a R1,50-an-hour across-the-board increase for all employees and a minimum hourly rate of R6 for the lowest grade workers.

It is also demanding a 40-hour week and pushing for wage differentials between various grades to be eliminated.

Other demands include March 21 as a paid public holiday; an increase in shift allowances; and a minimum four weeks severance pay per year of service.

The union has also tabled demands on the training of operatives and artisans which, it says, is one of its main demands.

The next round of talks in the metal and engineering industry will take place early next week.

'Major health care challenges face SA'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The provision of an equitable non-discriminatory health care system was one of the major challenges facing the health care sector, National Health and Population Development director-general Coen Slabber said yesterday

Speaking at the SA Nursing Council AGM, Slabber

said other challenges were AIDS, the unacceptably high population growth, rapid urbanisation, the low economic growth rate and shortage of funds.

It was decided that the future health care system had to be based in primary health care and had to provide an equitable service accessible to all

And Nursing Council president Wilma Kotze said there was reason for grave concern about the shortage of nurses particularly in the fields of intensive care and cancer

She said the number of nurses had risen by 2% last year

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OFFER TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS:

A Rubicon speech, says Cosatu

12 am 21/3/91
COSATU described the Budget as Finance Minister Barend du Plessis' "Rubicon" and said it was a "bitter disappointment for workers and their families"

The labour federation said last night social spending in fact remained at the same percentage (38%) as last year

It criticised Du Plessis for shifting the tax burden onto ordinary people and off the shoulders of the large corporations

"There was no vision of a new economic growth path, or an overall economic development strategy which would create jobs for our people, address critical social needs and lay the basis for the development of our manufacturing sector

"There is also no movement in the direction of restructuring and developing our moribund manufacturing sector Barend du Plessis has attacked workers for lack of productivity, but has totally failed to give workers any incentive to produce"

The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) said the allocation of resources and social spending continued to discriminate between the races — as evidenced by spending on social pensions

(143)
VERA VON LIERES
and PETER DELMAR

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said money allocated for housing was far from adequate and government had not indicated how it would intervene in fighting unemployment except for the distribution of food parcels — which Nactu rejected as an inadequate proposal

Institute of Personnel Management (IPM) executive director Dan Mitchell said the Budget went a long way towards addressing critical issues relating to human resources

Mitchell said the IPM looked forward to the increased capital expenditure on the building of schools, but called for the rationalisation of the education system into a single non-racial entity

The IPM welcomed the increase in social spending and hoped the tax concessions to manufacturers and entrepreneurs would result in growth and job creation

It also welcomed the further separation of the taxation of married women and the cuts in the maximum marginal tax rate

LABOUR

By DREW FORREST

A WORKERS' college—jointly controlled by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and non-aligned unions—has been launched in the Western Cape

At this stage a pilot project for 20 students nominated by the participating unions, the college aims to strengthen the labour movement by offering courses in labour law and collective bargaining, political economy and the international labour movement, the theory of trade unionism and organisational management.

Workers' college for aspirant unionists

A similar project is close to being launched in Natal

The board of trustees comprises seven representatives from Cosatu and its affiliates, two from Nactu unions and two from independent unions, but Cosatu's South African Clothing and Textile Union (Sactwu) is known to have played a spearhead role by initiating a feasibility study in August last year.

The feasibility committee included representatives of the University of the Western Cape, and the trustees are negotiating with UWC for the college to be based at the university.

For the pilot course, to run from August to November, student bursaries would be raised locally, said Sactwu's Western Cape secretary, Lionel October. Potential funders had been approached and Sactwu had also provided a small loan.

In the long-term, it was intended that the unions would cover students and that college would be self-sufficient. Describing the establishment of the college as a "historic development", a statement said it had implications for the "building of a united working class and strong working-class leadership" at a time of political and economic transformation in South Africa.

CAPE TOWN 20/4/71
143

Union slams sponsorship

CAPE TOWN. — A trade union has slammed the National Olympic and Sports Congress (NOSC) for "rank opportunism" in accepting a R250 000 sponsorship deal from National Panasonic, a Barlow Rand subsidiary.

The NOSC, according to a statement issued by the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa (Mewusa), had failed to "democratically consult" National Panasonic workers before accepting the sponsorship.

NOSC general secretary Mr Mthobi Tyamazhe said yesterday "As far as we are concerned, there is nothing like a boycott of National Panasonic. We will accept (the money) like all other sponsorships." — Sapa

143



Reject sponsorship, says Cosatu to Olympic group

By SHARON SOROUR
Labour Reporter

GIANT trade union federations Cosatu and Nactu have joined forces to pressurise the National Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC) to reject a R250 000 sponsorship from National Panasonic, a Barlow Rand subsidiary.

The money has been offered to the non-racial sports organisation for a one-day Olympic Sports Festival later this year.

A national campaign has been launched, including mass meetings and demonstrations, involving scores of workers opposing the sponsorship.

Cosatu Western Cape secretary Miss Lucy Nyembe said the federation rejected the sponsorship as it was accepted by NOSC without consultation with National Panasonic workers or the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of S A (Mewusa), a Nactu affiliate

She said Cosatu had not been consulted by NOSC and "found it strange" that NOSC could claim support from the federation.

Union Western Cape secretary Mr Brian Williams said NOSC had failed to "democratically consult" National Panasonic employees and other workers before accepting the sponsorship.

"Barlow Rand bosses have a proven track record of working

against the legitimate interests of oppressed workers," he said.

Workers were demanding that the organisation give back the money and undertake not to accept sports sponsorship from any companies which had a bad track record towards worker demands, he said.

The union condemned the "arrogant and high-handed approach" of NOSC, accusing its officials of "forgetting their roots"

LABOUR

Don't divide labour, warns Nactu

World 26/4 - 215/91.

World labour organisations

which favour Cosatu over Nactu, particularly with regard to funding, are accused of causing splits in the labour movement

By **DREW FORREST**

NATIONAL Council of Trade Unions general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana has launched a slashing attack on major international trade secretariats, accusing them of favouring the Congress of South African Trade Unions and encouraging divisions in the South African labour movement.

Interviewed in the latest *SA Labour Bulletin*, published today, Ngcukana warns that some Nactu unions may quit international groupings and says a conference is planned for affiliates on the issue. Discrimination in funding is a key complaint. Ngcukana lambasts the six million-

strong International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers Unions for "playing tricks" with Nactu's chemical affiliate, Sacwu. "Serious problems" had also been experienced with the Miners International Federation, the Public Services International, the International Union of Food and Allied Workers Associations and the International Transport

Workers Federation.

He accuses the International Federation of Plantation, Agricultural and Allied Workers of discriminating against Nactu's farm union, the NUF, in project funding and complains the secretariat has launched a farmworkers' educational programme here despite the existence of similar NUF projects.

Also stated are certain national union centres which "presume and encourage" divisions between Nactu and Cosatu. "People from the Commonwealth TUC and the Canadian unions have had an awful attitude," Ngcukana says. "Some would like to see Nactu fall. It is a thread that runs interna-

tionally, orchestrated by ... certain donors and organisations."

Ngcukana said funding problems could have a positive impact in spurring Nactu's self-sufficiency. Nactu had started a rationalisation programme and hoped that within two years it could survive without international aid.

Also interviewed in the *SA Labour Bulletin* is Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo, who stressed that Cosatu was "normalising" its relations with Western union centres of which it has been suspicious.

This applied particularly to the US AFL-CIO, whose executive council Cosatu recently visited. In December, Cosatu met the executive of the 100 million-strong International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) for the first time.

Against the backdrop of ideological conflict between the ICFTU and the Eastern bloc-based World Federation of Trade Unions, Cosatu has refused to join the local ICFTU co-ordinating committee or receive aid through it.

Naidoo included the ending of the Cold-War and the collapse of Eastern European regimes among reasons for Cosatu's re-assessment.

(143)

Great victory for the workers

Sowetan 30/4/91

143

FOR the first time tomorrow, South Africa will be officially joining millions of workers throughout the world in celebrating May Day.

Workers will come together to pledge unity with their counterparts worldwide in rallies which are also referred to as Labour Day celebrations

The breakthrough follows several years of concerted efforts by South Africa's labour movements to have May 1 declared the International Labour Day. The Government finally acceded to the demands when it announced that May Day would from this year fall on May 1.

Mr Neil Coleman, Press officer of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, said although the Government had acknowledged the Workers' Day, it did not want to accede to the demands that it be on May 1 of every year.

Celebrated

"Last year the Government changed Workers' Day to May 1 without really announcing its intentions to do so

"So I would think that technically this will be the first time that May Day is celebrated officially in South Africa," Coleman said.

Mr Johan Muller, liaison officer of the Department of Manpower, acknowledged that South Africans would be officially celebrating May Day for the first time this year.

"What happened is that the Government announced after May 1 1990 that as from this year the Workers Day will be celebrated on May 1 of each year onwards," said Muller.

So what is May Day?

"May Day is the day which the majority of people in our land, the working people, can truly call

Focus



By IKE MOTSAPI

their own" So says Mr Jay Naidoo, secretary-general of Cosatu.

An official of the National Council of Trade Unions said May Day was regarded as a symbol of worker solidarity.

It is a day on which workers all over the world examine their problems and commit themselves to the struggle to build their organisations and to fight for workers' rights

Millions of workers all over the world find that they share the same problems

Struggle

Workers have begun to see that they share a common struggle with their counterparts in other countries.

In socialist countries such as the Soviet Union, Cuba and China, workers have won greater power and control over their lives

This has not been the case in South Africa although May Day was celebrated by white workers for the first time in 1904

The reasons for this are obvious

Black workers only started organising themselves in the early 1920s. The South African Com-

munist Party, together with some unions that organised both black and white workers, started to hold regular meetings on May Day

They organised big multiracial meetings on the Parade in Cape Town and Marshall Square in Johannesburg.

The black trade union movement grew stronger in 1945

By the 1970s the black trade unions had lots of muscle

After Cosatu was born on May 1 1986, it, together with Nactu, pressurised the Government into accepting May 1 of every year as a paid workers' holiday

"May 1 1991 sees the labour movement celebrating its victories and planning for the many challenges that lie ahead," says Naidoo

"Our celebrations this year are located in the context of our struggle to transform apartheid South Africa into a non-racial, democratic and non-sexist society based on respect for fundamental human rights

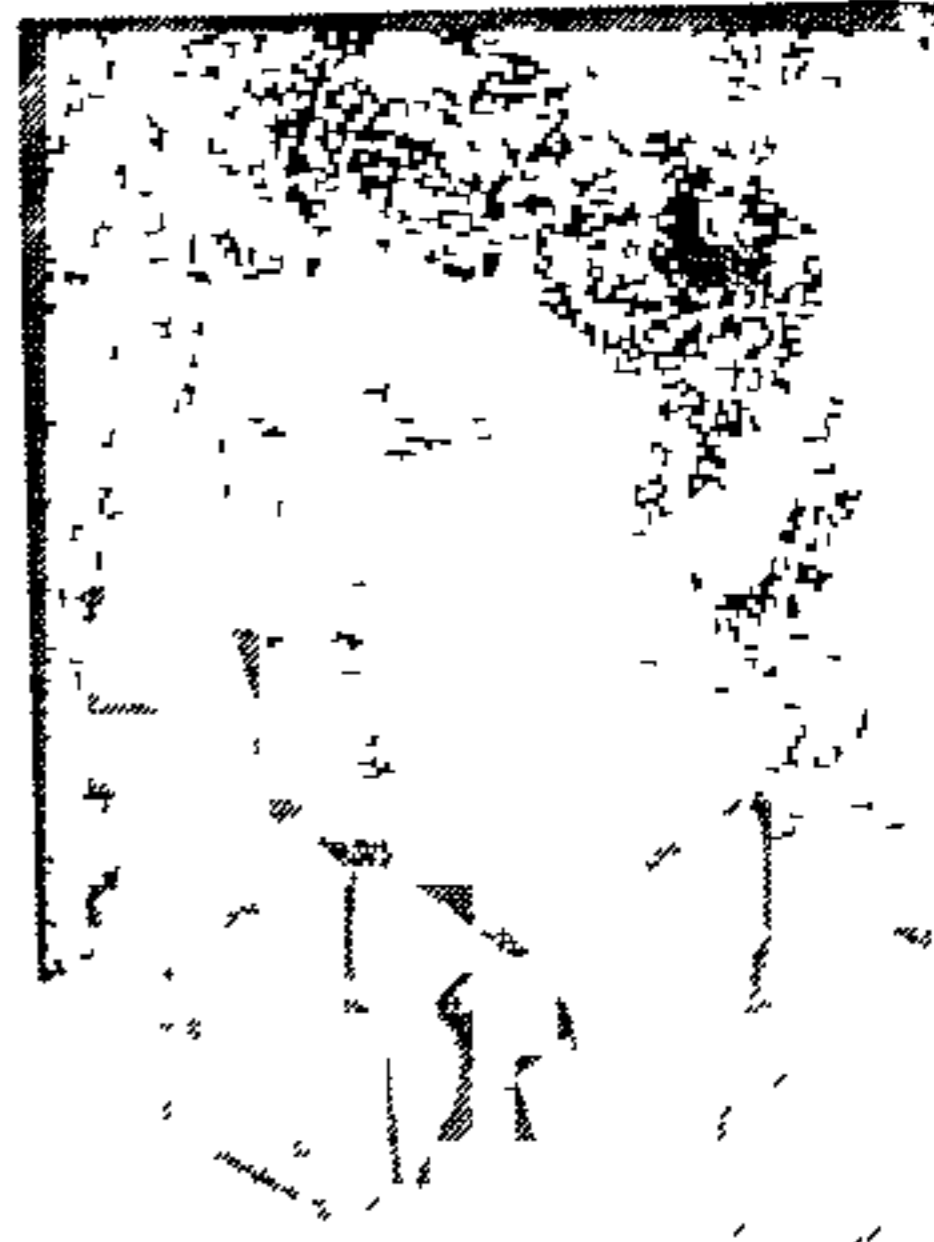
Changes

"It is indeed the resistance of working people in South Africa and the international campaign to isolate apartheid that has pressurised the De Klerk Government into making changes announced on February 2 1990.

"However, workers and the vast majority of oppressed people look around in astonishment at claims of fundamental changes supposed to be taking place

"Do we have the vote? Are all political prisoners released? Are all exiles back home? Have not thousands been murdered in recent months while the police, courts and the Government have protected the perpetrators of this violence and not the victims?" he asked

Naidoo said what was being



JAY NAIDOO

said about the so-called new South Africa was not what the oppressed expected.

He said. "All we see are powerful interests in Government committed to dictating the agenda of change in order to preserve the status quo

"Negotiations over political, economic and social issues will have to recognise that any attempt to marginalise the unions and the democratic movements will have disastrous consequences for all.

"To this end, Cosatu insists that full trade union rights must be extended to all workers, in particular the public sector, farm-workers and domestic workers.

"We in the trade union movements will be using this May Day to spread the message of peace among our people

"We know that powerful forces in the apartheid system are orchestrating this violence. We are calling on our people to avoid being pushed by provocateurs into attacking other members of the oppressed community.

"We have all suffered under apartheid and it is by overcoming the divisions created by that system which will ultimately lead to its downfall"

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Deon du Plessis Newsbills by Sydney Mathaku Sub-editing and headlines by Ivan Fynn
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Cosatu-Nactu co-operation boosted Cape stayaway

By DICK USHER
14/11/91

IMPROVED co-operation between the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions, combined with stronger Nactu participation, were key factors in the greatly increased support for the VAT stayaway in the Western Cape.

Unionists and labour experts also listed a strong turnout by members of the South African Clothing and

Textile Workers' Union — clothing and textiles is the region's largest industry — and backing from taxi-operators and other small businesses.

Support for the stayaway in the Western Cape, where participation in such mass protests has historically been weak, was at least double that of previous stayaways and approached national levels.

Overall estimates of support

ranged from 40 to 50 percent, given by the Cape Chamber of Industries (CCI), to the African National Congress' estimate of about 70 percent.

The shortage of transport was allied to the participation by members of the Nactu-affiliated Transport and Omnibus Workers' Union (Towu), the majority union in City Tramways, in addition to members of Cosatu's Transport and

General Workers' Union.

Towu's role was part of the overall picture of better support by Nactu and its affiliates, which according to the federation's acting regional secretary Ben Petersen flowed from improved organisation in the region.

"Over the past few months Nactu has taken important steps to improve its organisation in the region and put in place structures previously absent," Petersen said.

By CHIARA CARTER Cape Town

THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) has come to life in the Western Cape after a lengthy period of virtual invisibility in the region. Until recently, Nactu's 13 active affiliates in the region had little joint contact and showed still less interest in the federation's affairs.

Now their leaders are meeting regularly, education seminars are taking place and a joint shop-stewards' council is well on the way to being established.

Nactu, which represents about 15 000 workers in the Western Cape,

Nactu resurgence in Western Cape

intends hiring an education officer and a legal officer, and new office bearers will be elected at a regional conference due to take place at the end of November.

In line with national initiatives, the federation is also actively seeking a rapprochement with the Congress of South African Trade Unions in the region — a major shift from its former "separatist" stance.

Nactu is part of the Anti-VAT Cam-

paign Committee in the region and attended a peace conference initiated by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Cape Town's mayor, Frank van der Velde, to discuss the Cape Town taxi war.

It has also met Cosatu and the Western Cape Civic Association to discuss the safety of bus drivers who are members of the Transport and Omnibus Workers' Union, a Nactu affiliate.

Earlier this month a Town member

was shot dead in the taxi violence.

At the peace conference, Nactu played a key role in blocking the participation of police in the peace committee established to end the violence.

Brian Williams, Nactu regional secretary and a leading figure in the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union (Mewusa) — which is spearheading moves to reshape the federation in the region — blamed Nactu's previous dormancy on the "isolationist" stance

of past leaders. "Certain individuals were pushing an Africanist position," he said. "Worker solidarity remained theoretical. Nothing was built and affiliates stayed away from Nactu meetings."

The holding of a separate May Day rally this year exemplified this isolationism, he said.

Earlier this year, Mewusa's national congress agreed to "review" its membership of Nactu.

The union is openly opposed to Africanist influences in the federation and its Western Cape branch particularly favours co-operation with Cosatu.

Mwasa to march

Sowetan 20/8/91
By IKE MOTSAPI

MEDIA Workers Association of South Africa members are to march on the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria next week to highlight the plight of the 419 workers dismissed by a Taiwanese company.

The sacking of the 419 last week by Sakkor Manufacturers in Pietersburg caused an uproar with Azapo demanding their immediate and unconditional reinstatement.

Owners of the company

are two Taiwanese brothers, Mr Jack Fang and Mr Jason Fang

Mr Albert Makgoba, the northern Transvaal regional administrative officer of Mwasa, said an application for a permit to march on that day has already been made to the chief magistrate in Pretoria.

Makgoba said: "We have notified the embassy

about our intentions and they have responded positively."

Ms Linda Wang, an official in the Chinese Embassy in Pretoria, yesterday said: "We received a briefing regarding the matter through Sapa last week and we approached Mwasa because it concerns us."

Meanwhile Azapo has condemned the owners of the company. Jack Fang declined to comment yesterday

Order against Mwasa 143 strikers

17/6/71
Sowetan

SAKKOR Manufacturing in Pietersburg was last week granted a temporary order by the Pretoria Industrial Court against the Media Workers' Association of SA preventing strikers from intimidating other workers.

The interim order is expected to be finalised on Wednesday next week.

Workers at the Chinese-owned plant, which manufactures and prints paper and plastic containers, went on strike last Monday after being told they could no longer live on the company's premises. They had also demanded higher wages.

The workers, who earn a minimum of R192 a month, demand a R518 across-the-board increase.

The company has said it cannot afford the increases.

Mwasa spokesman Mr Albert Makgoba denied any members were involved in intimidation.

-Sapa

Public service workers to meet

143

Sowetan 6/6/91

THE National Union of Public Service Workers holds its first national congress from tomorrow

The theme of the conference, which will be held at the Roman Catholic Centre in Saratoga Street, Doornfontein in Johannesburg, is "NUPSW confronts challenges"

Azapo president Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe will be the guest speaker. Other guests will come from public sector unions in Africa.

The congress will look at making the NUPSW the biggest union in the public sector and to redouble the campaign against privatisation of the public sector, particularly health care.

By MOKGADI PELA

NUPSW official Mr Mido Molala said the union would intensify its call for public sector industry to be covered by the Labour Relations Act.

The NUPSW has also called on sister unions in the country to join hands with it in forming one union in the public sector.

The congress will take place against the backdrop of looming retrenchments of 10 000 workers by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Worker representatives are expected from the Eastern Cape, Natal, Northern Transvaal and the Western Transvaal.

LABOUR

w/m a/d 7/6-13/6/91

Metal unions join forces in Seifsa dispute

By DREW FORREST (143)
 NACTU'S Metal and Electrical Workers' Union (Mewusa) has joined Cosatu's National Union of Metalworkers in declaring a formal dispute in metal industrial council talks covering 380 000 workers.

This is the third year on the trot that the two unions have jointly been in dispute with the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation (Seifsa).

At the final round of scheduled talks last week, Numsa and another small Nactu union, Sēawusa, dropped their pay demands to an across-the-board rise of R1,50 an hour. Mewusa's

opening proposal of R2,50 remained unchanged.

It was the Cosatu union's first move on wages since tabling R2 or 25 percent, whichever is larger, at the start of negotiations. Its R1,50 proposal still amounts to 36 percent at the bottom — employers held fast to their earlier final offer of between nine and 12,6 percent.

Seifsa said that while it was still willing to consider further adjustments "of a minor nature in certain categories", union demands were still well beyond what the industry could afford.

Seifsa spokesman Hendrik van der Heever said retrenchments reported to

the council were rising, reaching 2 363 in March and 2 507 in April. The actual figure was likely to be higher, he said.

Giving background to the dispute, Numsa complained that employers' current offer, amounting to a cut in real wages, showed they were aiming to restructure through low wages and low employment.

Numsa's proposals, embracing training and education, revised grading structures and job creation schemes, envisaged a high-wage, efficient industry supplying goods and services and able to compete internationally.

Unions fear businesses will evade labour laws

SI Times (Sun Times) 16/6/91

By JANE ARBOUS

TRADE unions fear that falling trade barriers will tempt SA businesses to shift operations to other African countries where unions are not as strong as here

Pressure for higher wages is weaker in other African nations

The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu), the major union federation, and the smaller National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) attended a conference of the Southern African Trade Union Co-ordinating Council (SATUCC) which drafted a code of worker rights

International relationships and regional links will be discussed at the July congress of Cosatu, which has 1.5-million members

The SADCC Monthly Report a newsletter published by the Cape Town-based International Research and Information Services, says the

concept of worker unity has been given impetus by the relaxation of trade barriers against SA

Alan Horwitz, national organiser for the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (Saccawu), says the trend is evident in Sun International's wage structure

Forum

Saccawu wants wage negotiations with Sun International to be conducted at one central bargaining forum and has formed alliances with unions in Namibia, Botswana and Swaziland

Mr Horwitz says wages are higher at businesses where Saccawu is organised and were increased unilaterally by management when changes in Transkei and Ciskei allowed the union to or-

ganise there Pay is lowest in countries such as Swaziland and Lesotho

He told SADCC Monthly Report that SA business would "try to export exploitation to maintain profits"

Mr Horwitz says union movements outside SA are much weaker and labour ministers have strong powers over the right to strike

Cosatu, in a position paper prepared for pre-congress discussion, proposes that it develop "a much clearer international policy"

On a continental level, it proposes affiliation to the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) At regional level, it proposes membership of SATUCC and the maintenance of bilateral relations with national union federations

The paper recommends that Cosatu remain unaffiliated to any international co-ordinating centre But it calls for participation in the Interna-

tional Confederation of Trade Unions (ICTU) co-ordinating committee on SA and puts forward proposals to restructure the committee

Another proposal is that Cosatu should strengthen relations with the Commonwealth Trade Union Congress (CTUC) because "this gives us greater access to meet with many national centres in the developing world"

Mr Horwitz says unions should form corporate councils to seek centralised bargaining for corporate operations in different countries

This would make it possible for industrial action in one country to be exported to others

A draft charter of worker rights, demands that governments recognise the right of workers to strike and engage in other forms of effective industrial action, including solidarity action, without dismissal

Metal workers to strike?

A NATIONWIDE strike ballot over wages began this week among the 300 000 members of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa

Numsa demanded a R2-an-hour pay increase to kick off the 1991/92 wage talks with the employers' body, the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (Seifsa)

The demand was later changed to R1,50-an-hour for all grades

Three rounds of mediation held last week culminated in some agreements which are not being disclosed, but the parties have so far failed to agree on pay increases

However, consensus has been reached on social benefits, such as a training scheme

The present Seifsa offer to all the unions involved in wage negotiations is a R1,01c increase for grade A workers and 53 cents for grade H workers

If the unions accept the offer, Grade A workers will get R10,36 an hour

Grade H workers, lowest paid in the industry at R4,18c an hour, will get R4,66.

Numsa's strike ballot is expected to continue until July 16. In terms of the agreements reached by unions with various companies last year, they can strike any time from now

Workers have welcomed Num-

sa's national strike balloting Workers at Rufflette in Kempton Park said they were not prepared to accept any offer below what the union was demanding

Other unions involved are the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa, with a paid-up membership of 20 700 and the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union whose paid-up membership is 30 000

Both Mewusa and Seawusa are affiliated to the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu)

Seawusa general secretary Colin Kotu said "At the beginning of wage talks we demanded a R7-an-hour increase across the board. It was reduced to R1,50 and presently it is R1 for all grades

"We are not moving down any more

"We are going to hold report-back meetings with workers from this weekend and will seek a new mandate regarding Seifsa's wage proposals"

Kotu said his union would hold discussions with Mewusa to develop a common approach

Mewusa general secretary Tom Oliphant said report-back meetings with members had begun

"So far our members have shown some concern with regard to strike action. However, they are discussing what form of action they can take to pressurise Seifsa," he said

Oliphant said that at the beginning of wage talks the union demanded an increase of R1,50-an-hour for all grades and later this was reduced to R1,20

Head of the Seifsa communications department, Vander Vevers, said his organisation was only prepared to offer R1,01 for grade A workers and 53 cents for workers in grade H.

A well-placed source who participated in the mediation process said "Seifsa is prepared to agree to an implementation date of July 1 provided

■ There is no strike action before July 31,

■ Full agreement is reached between all parties by July 31, and

■ All unions agree to set off any increases granted by employers after July 1

Numsa has put its foot down, according to national organiser Veli Mjuyako

"We have made it clear to the mediator that we will mobilise our members for a strike if Seifsa does not improve its offer," he said

He added that Numsa's national industrial council - which comprises representatives of workers in the engineering, tyre, and motor-vehicle assembly sectors - would meet on July 16 to assess the strike ballot

Parties involved in the wage talks with Seifsa will meet the following day - CP Correspondent

CP news 7/17/91



Summit on union unity?

143
ET 27/7/91
JOHANNESBURG — Moves towards black trade union unity received added impetus yesterday when a senior National Council of Trade Unions official proposed a standing summit on unity to applause from delegates at Cosatu's 4th national congress

"Nactu backs one federation in one country and unity of the working class," Nactu general-secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana told Congress of SA Trade Unions unionists gathered at Nasrec, south of Johannesburg

A standing summit on trade union unity had to be established without delay to prevent workers losing their hard-won gains in a new society, he said

Policy resolutions adopted by the 2 460 delegates at the congress included convening a sum-

Slovo lays into SABC

JOHANNESBURG. — SABC television put aside 10 minutes for a lunatic who cut off people's heads and boiled them, but not even five minutes for the Cosatu congress, SA Communist Party chief Mr Joe Slovo said yesterday.

The SACP general-secretary told 2 460 trade unionists here that their fourth national congress was more representative than the South African Parliament

Referring to the 8pm TV news on Thursday, he said: "This is a disgusting and disgraceful indictment of the SABC, its radio and television"

"If they think we can ever go to an election in this country, leaving media in their hands, they have another think coming."

The corporation was nothing less than the official organ of the National Party, he said — Sapa

mit on Aids and campaigning for a national health system

The 1,25 million-member Cosatu had also committed itself to fighting the deregulation of the public transport system and would campaign for the abolition of single

sex hostels, a press conference was told

A union for farm workers would be established

Mr Ngcukana and SA Communist Party secretary-general Mr Joe Slovo called on the trade union movement to en-

gage in national politics without compromising their independence

Warning that trade unions could later clash with their liberation movement allies, Mr Ngcukana urged the union federations to approach the patriotic front to put forward their demands.

The central issue was not the question of two hats — trade unionists holding office in political organisations — but how to ensure workers' demands being implemented by the liberation movement without compromising union independence

Mr Slovo said trade union independence did not mean isolation from the political struggle

Socialism was not immediately on the agenda, but the labour movement and political party of the working class had to operate towards this end, he said — Sapa

W/maif 9/8-15/8/91
**Closer ties in
construction
sector likely**

Weekly Mail Reporter (143)

CO-OPERATION between the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions' construction affiliates in clinching their industry's first national retirement benefits agreement could facilitate unity between the unions

So says Desmond Mahasha of Cosatu's Construction and Allied Workers' Union (Cawu)

Grinaker Construction, LTA and Murray and Roberts — the big three in the construction industry — this week signed the agreement with both Cawu and the Nactu's Building, Construction and Allied Workers' Union

The fund will provide retirement, withdrawal, retrenchment, burials, death in service and total disability benefits. It is the first industry-wide benefits agreement signed in the construction sector

The unions intend campaigning for smaller companies to join the fund.

Before this agreement, the only two funds operating in the sector were run by M&R.

Having campaigned together for the fund since September last year, Cawu and BCAWU will jointly run it.

"It is a signal to the federations that they should co-operate more closely," Mogane said.

Wimani 9/8-15/8/91

first-ever national congress at the weekend. (124) (143)

While retaining its independence, the NULW said it was heartened by Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngukana's speech at the Cosatu congress calling for unity of the two federations. The congress also pledged itself to joint action with other unions on such issues as VAT.

The NULW, which has been locked in a bitter organising battle with Cosatu's textile affiliate, appeared to be drifting into Nactu's orbit last year.

The holding of the congress indicates a shift to a more militant approach by this long-established, historically conservative union.

Reports by Weekly Mail staff, Sapa

Militant leatherworkers

■ The non-aligned National Union of Leatherworkers expressed concern at divisions in the labour movement at its

Call for Blatu ¹⁴³ to dissolve ¹⁴³

WIMWU 9/8-15/8/91
By PAUL STÖBER

THE dissolution of the Black Trade Union (Blatu) is a central demand of striking South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union members in the Northern Transvaal

Sarhwu members accuse the National Council of Trade Unions' affiliate, whose members are not on strike, of being a sweetheart union, a charge dismissed as "unsubstantiated" by Blatu official Moses Matsemela.

Between 5 000 and 8 000 workers have been on strike in the region for four weeks. Management says services have been "slightly affected".

Tension between the two unions reached new heights this week when about 50 Blatu members marched to Sarhwu offices in Pretoria and accused the strikers of intimidation. Sarhwu officials allege Blatu members arrived in Transnet trucks, showing the Nactu union is colluding with management to weaken the strike.

'Man⁽¹⁴³⁾ thrown from train'

THE Black Trade Union, an affiliate of Nactu and operating in Transnet, has accused members of the rival SA Railways and Harbour Workers Union of having a hand in the death of a Blatu member.

The union has also accused Sarhwu of injuring another of their members in Pretoria.

Blatu spokesman Mr Peter Makgathulela said his union's members had reported that Mr Samuel Chipane was thrown out of a moving train between Eersterus and Silverton last Thursday.

He had received a report that another Blatu member was also pushed off the same train but survived.

Sarhwu officials said they would react to the allegations.

Meanwhile, police confirmed that the body of a man was found near Eerstefabriek Station in Mamelodi last Thursday.

Sarhwu members are presently on strike demanding the reinstatement of dismissed workers while Blatu members are against the strike.

For the past three weeks the two unions have accused each other of intimidation and both claimed their members had been kidnapped and beaten.

The alleged beatings led to Sarhwu applying for a Pretoria Supreme Court interdict against Blatu and Transnet to stop the alleged assault and intimidation.

Sarhwu also alleged that Transnet was assisting Blatu in harassing its members - Sapa

WARR

ON VAT

Duofen 20/9/91

THE two major labour federations, Cosatu and Nactu, have urged the State President to intervene in the war over Value Added Tax as warnings of a national strike grew louder yesterday.

This comes just a week before the implementation date of September 30.

BY THEMBA MOLEFE

In the meantime, a black tax expert, Mr Matshefu Matshefu, said yesterday that "taxation without representation" was fueling black opposition to VAT and may lead

to page 2

P.T.O.

Talkback topic

A MAJOR row is brewing over the introduction of Value Added Tax on September 30. Do you understand this complicated indirect tax which will replace GST? Is it fair to now pay tax for services rendered, for instance on consultation fees charged by your doctor? Do you think the Government is unwise to introduce such far-reaching tax reforms on the eve of negotiations over a new constitution? Phone DJ Tim Modise between 5pm and 6pm today and share your opinion with the nation on the Soweto/Radio Metro Talkback Show. The hotline number is 714-8063. Listen to the programme on medium wave 576 KHz.

IF PARKERS



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Co-operation on VAT aids unity efforts

w/m and
27/9 - 3/10/91
320
1407 (143)



MOVES to unite the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions have received a major leg-up from the current campaign against Value-Added Tax.

The two federations, for many years ideological foes and organising rivals, jointly convened last week's union summit on the new tax and have collaborated closely in the Co-ordinating Committee on VAT. Nactu has also decided to join Cosatu and other unions in any mass protest action mounted on the VAT issue.

"We've had their active and wholehearted co-operation, which never happened during the Labour Relations Act campaign," said a Cosatu source.

The watershed seems to have been the speech by Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana — historically seen as an Africanist "hawk" — at Cosatu's July conference. In this he argued for a single union federation and convening of a summit on trade union unity "without delay".

Sources believe that the 250 000-strong Nactu may be under both local and international pressure to sink its

The campaign against Value-Added Tax has had an unexpected spin-off: closer ties between the two largest union federations, which may result in unity, reports **DREW FORREST**

differences with Cosatu.

In an interview, Ngcukana revealed that the Cosatu and Nactu leaderships had held talks on September 13 at which the unity issue had been addressed. Other subjects for discussion had been the Patriotic Front, the peace initiative and worker rights.

The federations were working towards a permanent committee to facilitate co-operation, on which both leaderships would sit, he said. Before this, Cosatu and Nactu affiliates in the same sectors would meet to address "the question of friction on the ground", he added.

Ngcukana said that to lay the foundations for unity, Nactu had established steering committees to facilitate the merger of its own affiliates in six sectors. The federation has resolved to expel affiliates refusing to merge by March 31 next year.

Unity would also be an issue at a union summit on worker rights, to which

Cunningham Ngcukana ... watershed speech at Cosatu's conference

independent worker bodies would also be invited, scheduled for early next year.

Asked why current conditions favoured unity, Ngcukana said the worker movement was reaching maturity and that political conditions were changing.

He said that politics remained an obstacle to unity, Nactu would not be making specific demands on the issue. While Cosatu is allied with the African National Congress, Nactu is officially non-aligned but has in practice been linked to the Black Consciousness Movement and the Pan Africanist Congress.

Another key hurdle to be crossed is unity in the chemical sector, where Nactu's largest and best organised union operates. Historically under the sway of militant Africanists, this has consistently stonewalled unity overtures by Cosatu's Chemical Workers' Industrial Union.

Gold mines cost-cutting drive pays dividends

w/m and 27/91 - 3/10/91

Weekly Mail Reporter

LESS than seven percent of goldminers now risk losing their jobs — down from 22 percent in the second quarter of last year — partly as a result of a cost-cutting drive in the industry.

This means that some 30 000 miners were employed on mines at risk at the end of June, as against 100 000 at the

same time last year. Over the same period, the total work force fell from 483 000 000 to 426 000.

The Chamber of Mines' latest newsletter traces "a marked improvement in the health" of the industry both to an improvement in working revenues and the containment of working cost increases to an "absolute minimum", as

the gold sector comes to grips with the cost crisis hitting profits in the past three years.

Although the dollar gold price had remained trapped within a narrow trading range, of between \$350 and \$372 an ounce, a 6,6 percent depreciation of the rand against the dollar had been a major factor in raising rand revenues.



PAYE pressure part of unions' VAT campaign

(142) LESLEY LAMBERT (11/10/91)

MEMBERS of the powerful trade union movement, which is expected to finalise its plan of action against VAT today, have already started pressing companies not to deduct PAYE from employees' salaries as part of a broader tax boycott.

The two major trade union groupings, Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), confirmed yesterday that some of their members had been demanding action on PAYE since the idea of a general tax boycott was formulated at Cosatu's congress in July.

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ncukana said workers had already downed tools and made demands on PAYE at Unilever and other companies. The companies had responded by refusing to participate in an illegal action. "We plan to increase the pressure," Ncukana said.

Decisions will be taken at a meeting today on Cosatu's proposal for a national general strike in the first week of November. The objective of the strike would be to force government to adopt the VAT Coordinating Committee's demands as well as to agree on a national forum which would be used to negotiate changes in economic policy, Cosatu spokesman Neil Coleman said yesterday.

The trade unions will also decide on action to be launched before the proposed strike. Demands for a 5% wage increase and boycotts against income tax and VAT will be on the agenda. "It may be necessary to consider civil disobedience. In Europe, people refused to pay the VAT on goods or people employed to price the goods refused to include VAT. These are theoretical possibilities," Coleman said.

Cosatu, which has 900 000 paid-up and 1.2-million signed-up members, and Nactu, which has 330 000 paid-up and 700 000 signed-up members, have already agreed on the strike action. But the more conservative groupings, such as the Public Servants Association, are likely to refuse to take part. (1 Day 8/10/91)

Cosatu and Nactu will seek the support of the ANC, PAC, Azapo and other political, welfare and consumer organisations at a meeting on Thursday.

Seshego workers reject R4 pay increase

143

Sowetan 8/10/91.

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

SIXTY members of the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa employed at Utah Electronics in Seshego, Pietersburg, are on strike demanding wage increases.

The workers, who earn between R35 and R42 a week, said they had rejected an offer of R4,50 a week. This would have brought their earnings to a minimum of R39,50 a week or R158 a month.

Stoppage

"They had agreed with our union on better increases but now they say they can only afford R4,50," a shop steward said.

A spokesman for the Taiwanese-owned company, Mr Lewis Lee, confirmed the stoppage.

He confirmed they earned a minimum of R35 a week and threatened to move the firm "to another area" if the wage demands did not stop.

Trade unions reach out

143
~~133~~

Sowetan 9/10/91
By IKE MOTSAPI

THE United People's Unions of South Africa has invited top officials of other trade union associations to address its sixth annual congress at the weekend in Durban.

The body has invited top officials of both the National Council of Trade Unions and the Congress of South African Trade Un-

ions

Nactu's Mr Cunningham Ngxukana is the only official who has so far accepted the invitation, according to Upusa assistant general-secretary Mr Lucky Hlongwa.

In a Press statement, Hlongwa said "It will be

the first time since the formation of the independent trade union that progressive organisations in the struggle for liberation have been invited."

Also invited is Dr Bernie Fanaroff of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa.

Hlongwa said his organisation was exploring ways

of "merging with Nactu and Cosatu."

"We believe that, once the political situation has been properly addressed, it would then be appropriate for all trade unions of South Africa to sit around one table to iron out their differences and form one giant federation for the country," he said.

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Tax boycotts threatened

VAT protest: unions to call general strike

B/D ay 9/10/91
COSATU and Nactu — SA's biggest trade union groupings — and 12 independent trade unions agreed yesterday to call a general strike for November 4 and 5 in protest against VAT.

The strike would be backed by a sustained programme of mass action, including marches, demonstrations and possibly tax boycotts

It would be called off only if government and big business agreed to enter negotiations aimed at meeting the demands of the campaign, the unions said after a two-hour meeting yesterday.

Their demands include the zero-rating of basic foods, water, electricity, medicines and medical supplies and the negotiation of satisfactory poverty relief programmes and relief for the small business sector

Also on the agenda are demands for "an end to unilateral economic restructuring by government and big business" and the establishment of a jointly agreed forum for socio-economic restructuring through negotiations.

The VAT Co-ordinating Committee, which includes the trade union movement as well as leading political, welfare and consumer organisations, will finalise its programme of action on Monday.

There have already been demonstra-

tions in many major industrial areas, while members of Cosatu, which has 1,2-million members, and Nactu, which has 700 000 members, have started pressing companies not to deduct PAYE from employees' salaries

Cosatu had agreed to urge their members to place further pressure on companies not to deduct PAYE, general secretary Jay Naidoo said yesterday. They had also agreed to encourage their members to boycott VAT

Naidoo said the demands for the general strike arose out of the "disastrous effect of VAT on workers, the poor and the unemployed" and "government's intention to restructure the economy unilaterally in a way which would benefit business and not the people"

"The government and big business want to put in place an economic system and only then negotiate the political issues. Their economic system will not benefit workers," Naidoo said.

Government and business leaders have accused the unions and other anti-VAT organisations of making demands and threats which could result in an economic crisis.

LESLEY LAMBERT

● Picture: Page 2

Nactu has officially no political leanings

143

Sowetan - 21/10/91

Nactu, led by Mr James Mndaweni and Cunningham Ngcukana as president and secretary general respectively, has officially no political leanings although all of its national leaders are members of the PAC. It claims a membership of over half a million workers

The main players agree on the need for the Government to resign and hand over power to an interim government or transitional authority. There is no agreement on what it should be called.

According to a secret working document of the convening committee, all three agree that the "immediate task of the liberation movement is the transfer of power to the people"

Constitution

They also agree that a constituent assembly is the only democratic and legitimate method of bringing about a new constitution for the country.

They also agree that there needs to be a forum where the mechanics of the transfer of power are discussed.

The ANC calls this forum an All Party Congress while the PAC and Azapo call it the pre-constituent assembly conference.

The difference between the two is that the PAC/Azapo version has to take place outside the country after the Government accepts the need to hand over power.

The ANC, whose entire leadership is now back in the country, is not insistent on the "neutral venue" although the document says that it was agreed that a venue "not associated with any of the parties, including the NP government", was ideal for the pre-constituent assembly conference.

FOCUS

Today we conclude this two-part series as Sowetan staffer MATHATHA TSEDU takes a closer look at the participants and issues in the Patriotic Front to be launched this Friday.

The conference would therefore, according to the PAC and Azapo, be a forum only to discuss the handover of power.

They also agree that the interim government/transitional authority will control defence and other security apparatus, the electoral process, state owned media, budget and finance.

PAC and Azapo insist that the transitional authority should compromise of international observers from the OAU, UN and the Non Aligned Movement, while the ANC says the role of international observers is not necessarily cardinal.

Bantustan

They all agree on the need for the present regime to step down. They disagree, as pointed out earlier, on the involvement of bantustan, tricameralists and other Government-linked and tribal organisations.

Other organisations invited to participate are National Association of Democratic Lawyers, Black Lawyers Association, Lawyers for Human Rights, Nafcoc, Fabcos, South African Students Congress, Interim Civics Co-ordinating Body, Namda, Azanian National Youth Unity, African Writers Association.

Black Deaf Community, Pan Africanist Students Organisation, Committee of University principals, African Women's Organisa-

tions, Black Sash, South African Democratic Teachers' Union, SA Health Workers Congress, South African Communist Party.

SA Musicians Alliance, Consultative Business Movement, Five Freedoms Forum, Contralesa, SA Bishop's Conference, Thupelo Arts Project, Association of Community Art Centres, National Professional Teachers Association of SA.

Federation of Independent Trade Unions, Congress of SA Writers, The National Coordinators, Shaikh Nazee Muhammad, Performing and Allied Workers League, Federation of SA Cultural Organisations, Hindu Organisation, SA Hindu Maha Sabha, National Education Crisis committee.

Muslim Youth Movement, Imbeleko Women's Organisation, Film and Allied Workers Organisation, SA United Cricket Board, Students of Young Azania, Uduza, IUNDSCHAZ, Safa, Muslim Students Association of SA.

Azasm, Azanian Student Convention, Association of Black Accountants of South Africa, African Independent Churches, Black Academic Staff Association, Call of Islam, Interdenominational Women's Prayer group.

Inter Faith Association for Community Development, National Endowment for Art and Culture,

Qibla, South African Council on Sport, Soccer Players Union of SA, Workers' Organisation for Socialist Action, ZCC (Star), ZCC (Dove) Black Theology Project.

To this list must be added the following organisations whose participation is being challenged, DP, Labour Party, UPF of Lebowa, Inyandza of KaNgwane, Intando ye Sizwe of KwaNdebele, The Natal and Transvaal Indian Congresses, Seoposengwe of Bophuthatswana.

Bophuthatswana Progressive Peoples Party of Rocky Malebana-Metsing, Transkei Military Council, Ximoko Xa Rixaka of Gazankulu, Dikwankwetla of QwaQwa and Venda Reincorporation Forum.

Self-exclusion

The odd man out by self exclusion is Inkatha Freedom Party under the leadership of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi.

The IFP says the front is a ganging up against whites whose idea was 10 years too late. Buthelezi, who is also chief minister of KwaZulu, has at all times opposed all the principles that the three main players are agreed on.

The conference in Durban will look at how the assembled multitudes, who are to be at least 500, representing millions of oppressed people, can draw up a programme of action to push the regime to accede to the call for its removal.

Resolutions calling for joint mass activity and campaigns, an international campaign for the maintenance of sanctions are likely outcomes of this conference.

If it takes place at all

Groups back Azapo over 'front' summit

Sowetan 23/10/91

(143) (143)

By THEMBA MOLEFE
Political Staff

THE National Council of Trade Unions yesterday condemned as "unpatriotic" the decision by the ANC and PAC to expel Azapo from the convening committee of the forthcoming Patriotic Front conference.

In a statement issued by Nactu general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana the federation said "Nactu believes that the action was an unpatriotic act against an organisation that has been principled throughout the course of our struggle

"Azapo has a democratic right to express its political views in whatever form, including the writing of letters to any organisation"

Nactu said Azapo had written letters to 14 groups it perceived as "puppets", not as part of the convening committee but as an organisation

Therefore, the recipients should have been told by the convening committee to ignore the Azapo letter, Nactu said. It called on the ANC and PAC to "redress the situation"

before the Patriotic Front conference on Friday

However, Nactu said it would participate in the conference

Meanwhile, in a new twist to the controversy, Azapo yesterday received a formal invitation to participate in the summit

The organisation's general secretary, Mr Don Nkadmeng, said Azapo would make public its decision today whether or not to attend the conference

Azapo indicated this week that it might pull out of the conference and that its decision to participate would depend on whether it was afforded the same status as a former co-convenor or as the other groups participating. This would mean equal representation

The Workers Organisation for Socialist Action supported Azapo and indicated it might not attend



NGCUKANA

Nactu membership (143)

■The Weekly Mail last week reported the National Council of Trade Unions' Western Cape membership as 15 000. The correct figure is 51 000. Nactu's Brian Williams also stressed that his union, Mewusa, was not opposed to Africanism, as implied in the article. W/Mail 1/11/91
Reports by Weekly Mail Staff

143

Cosatu, Nactu in Peace Accord row

South
14/11 - 20/11/91

LAST week's stayaway has thrown a spanner in the works of unity between Cosatu and Nactu, South Africa's strongest trade union federations.

Nactu spokesperson Mr Ben Petersen said Cosatu was stealing the limelight. But at the heart of the dispute is Nactu's rejection of the Peace Accord to which Cosatu is a signatory.

"Nactu is unhappy with Cosatu's role in the VAT Co-ordinating Committee and is busy reviewing its participation in it," said Petersen.

He said Cosatu wanted to give the impression it alone was responsible for the success of the stayaway.

"Nactu is dismayed that Cosatu did not consult us before making important decisions like the setting up of joint monitoring structures with the police in terms of the Peace Accord which Nactu rejects."

Cosatu education officer Ms Tasneem Essop dismissed Nactu statements, saying Nactu officials were present at all Vatcom meetings nationally and regionally where issues were discussed.

Nactu veteran Mary Ntseke dies after a long illness

By MOKGADI PELA

LONG-SERVING general secretary of the Nactu-affiliated Brushes and Cleaners Workers Union, Mrs Mary Ntseke (67), has died after a long illness.

Nactu general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana yesterday described Ntseke's death as a blow to the movement

Sweetan 21/11/91
Ngcukana said Ntseke would be missed by Nactu and the entire trade union movement

Ntseke was born in Hebron near Pretoria where she was educated and qualified as a teacher at the local college

She left teaching after her political in-

volvement with the ANC and worked as a garment worker in Johannesburg

In 1956 she was among 156 treason trialists whose charges arose from protests by black women against the carrying of passes by women.

She founded the BCWU, which later joined the Council of Unions of South Africa as an affiliate

She was a founder-member of Nactu in 1986 and served on its central committee and in other capacities until her death

Ntseke is survived by her daughter Queen and a granddaughter

She will be buried in Mabopane, Pretoria, on Sunday

143

MRS MARY NTSEKE

Nactu claims it has ⁽¹⁴³⁾ 327 000

S/Times (B455) 1/12/91.

By ADRIAN HERSCH

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THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) claims its paid-up membership has increased by 27% this year

The black-principled union federation is the second largest after Cosatu

Cosatu says its paid-up membership is 1,2-million

Nactu assistant general secretary Mahlomola

Skhosana says the latest count shows a paid-up membership of 327 000

Last year it was 258 000

Nactu's largest unions are the 40 000-member SA

Chemical Workers Union (Sacwu), the 25 000-member

Building Construction and Allied Workers Union (Bcawu) and the Trade

Union of Transnet (Blatu) with 25 000

A major problem for Nactu is

that unlike Cosatu many of its unions in the same industry have not merged. In 1987 Nactu resolved to merge these unions, but little success has been achieved

Expulsion

General secretary Cunningham Ngcukana told the SA Labour Bulletin that a target date of March 31 had been set. If a union did not want to merge, it would be expelled from Nactu

The process involves unifying unions in transport, metal, catering, food and the public service

Mr Skhosana says moves to achieve this have begun and he is "optimistic" about success

Cosatu and Nactu garner huge gains

THE year 1991 will go down as one which saw trade union movements in South Africa continue to win their battles with the Government.

Trade unions grew from strength to strength as more people threw their support behind them

A significant factor is that the country's two big trade union federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions, continued to co-operate when tackling the Government on issues that affected their members

However, they failed on the big one - getting the Government to suspend the introduction of Value Added Tax

The face-saver was the Government's concessions in dropping VAT from 12 to 10 percent, exempting union dues from VAT and zero-rating several foodstuffs and public health services

The big question is Who did what?

A look at Nactu shows that the federation had concentrated its efforts in supporting initiatives of Cosatu. One may argue that possibly they may have embarked on certain things alone but in the end had common purposes with those started by Cosatu

Nactu president Mr Cullingham Ngcukana said the federation had received much of its success this year during the anti-VAT strike

He said "This is despite the fact that we did not make much gain out of the issue

"This, however, has proved that the federation has the ability to tackle serious issues in the political arena."

Ngcukana said 1991 was, on the other hand, a very difficult year for trade unions

"We faced a lot of challenges,

SOweto 11/12/91
FOCUS

Labour reporter IKE MOTSAPI looks at co-operation between the Congress of SA Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions in 1991.

especially with the changing political climate in the country

"The bad state of the economy led to massive retrenchments, industrial actions and mass actions"

Mr Bangumzi Sifingo, Cosatu Press officer, said Cosatu worked towards forging unity with Nactu

"We worked together in tackling the Labour Relations Act issues and VAT

"Our working relationship with Nactu has improved

"We view this as a major achievement for trade unions in South Africa

"We are also working towards drafting a workers charter which will ensure that in future we will be speaking in one voice for the benefit of our members

"We also played a key role in the formation of the Peace Accord. We seconded Jayandra Naidoo from Cosatu to be on the Peace Accord Committee," he said

Cosatu's image was also slightly tarnished when three of the union's executives were convicted of kidnapping a policeman

Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo and executive members Sidney Mafumadi and Moses Mayekiso were found guilty in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court for having held policeman Monge

Maleka inside Cosatu House without reason

They were each fined R2 000 or one year's imprisonment.

Despite these setbacks, trade unions, especially Cosatu, won most of their major battles with the Government

Firstly, the trade union movements started their fight with the Government early this year to get May 1 (May Day) to be regarded as Workers' Day. Former President PW Botha met the unions half-way when he said the first Friday of May each year would be a public holiday

The first such Friday fell on May 1 and then fell on other days of the week. The unions pressed on, getting employers to grant this holiday

The Government this year gave in and May 1 is now a public holiday. The unions regarded this as the first "victory" towards the establishment of a nonracial democratic government in South Africa

Then there were numerous national stayaways which were headed by the majority of black people

The stayaways and mass actions had the support of the black liberation movements such as the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian Peoples Organisation and the African National Congress

The first stayaway to be called by Cosatu this year was for February 1

The stayaway was called to demand

An interim government,
A constituent assembly,
The unconditional release of all political prisoners,

The scrapping of all security legislation and an end to political trials, and

An end to violence

Protest marches and rallies were held countrywide in a bid to pressure the Government into acceding to the demands

Memorandums listing demands were presented to various Government departments

Most of the demands have been met by the Government

During July Cosatu entered into a historic agreement with the SABC to screen and broadcast Afrikaans and African language programmes mainly aimed at the more than one million federation members

Cosatu, which had conditionally agreed to participating in the restructuring of the National Manpower Commission, pulled out after it and Nactu had successfully negotiated a better deal for domestics and farmworkers

These are now covered by the Labour Relations Act.

Cosatu told a Press conference that it decided to pull out of the NMC because it believed the Government "was not prepared to implement the recommendation of the commission"

Ms Lisa Seftel of Cosatu said former Minister of Manpower Mr Eli Louw promised to establish a forum on negotiation, a condition demanded by Cosatu for its participation in the NMC, by next year

"We will only then consider taking part in the restructuring of the NMC once this forum has been established," Seftel added

Then came the war against VAT. Before the implementation of VAT the Government had vowed to go ahead with the proposed 12 percent new tax

But, the unions, backed by black organisations, forced the Government to back down. Hence the tax was reduced from 12 to 10 percent

INDUSTRIAL REL. — WORKERS' Org. (NACTU)

1992

Nactu 'won't be hijacked'

(143)
Sowetan
27/1/92



JAMES MDLALOSE

THE National Council of Trade Unions did not want the Economic Forum to become the economic wing of Codesa, a Nactu official told more than 1 000 mourners in Mamelodi, Pretoria, on Saturday.

Nactu president Mr James Mdlalose (Mndaweni) was speaking at the funeral of the federation's coordinator, Nana Joyce Sedibe, who died in a car accident last week.

Mdlalose said "If the bosses are clapping hands

By MOKGADI PELA

to the Economic Forum idea, workers should ask themselves questions. We in Nactu reject collaboration in all its forms. We will not compromise workers' interests because we value their aspirations."

Reacting to State President FW de Klerk's Friday speech, PAC leader Mr Clarence Makwetu said De Klerk had played his cards so well that he had misled even his own stooges.

"On Friday De Klerk made it clear that Codesa

was nothing but a dummy, a toothless structure. We are back to the old days of the advisory boards," Makwetu said.

He added the South African Agricultural Union plans to join Codesa to ensure that farms remain in white hands.

A Pan Africanist Students Organisation speaker condemned "certain leaders for having abandoned their followers in a rush to be in the Union Buildings". He said Sedibe believed in grassroots rather than bourgeois leadership.

Police raided me says unionist

9/11/92
By MZIMASI
NGUDLE

ABOUT 14 policemen allegedly raided and ransacked the house of National Council of Trade Unions general secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana yesterday

Ngcukana said yesterday that the police arrived at his home in Jabulani, Soweto, about 2am

He claimed they searched the house without a search warrant, threatened him and damaged his property during the search

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni confirmed that Ngcukana's house was searched "following information received in the normal course of crime investigation"

He said Ngcukana was free to lay a complaint if he was not satisfied about the conduct of the police and the matter would be investigated

Ngcukana said he was awoken by footsteps in his yard and when he peeped through the window saw policemen "taking positions around the house"

He claimed they broke the back door. Five policemen entered the house while others stood guard outside

2007 (143)
STAR 9/11/92

SAP raids home of union boss

By Shareen Singh

Police raided the Jabulani home of National Council of Trade Unions' general secretary, Cunningham Ngcukana yesterday morning and allegedly threatened him at gunpoint.

Mr Ngcukana said several policemen knocked on his door at 2 am and refused to show identification.

"When I let five of them in, they pointed a machine pistol and other guns at me."

Mr Ngcukana said they had referred names they found in his correspondence to a hooded black man standing outside the house with four others.

Sapa reports that a Soweto police spokesman said Mr Ngcukana's house had been searched "in the course of an investigation".

"If Mr Ngcukana is not satisfied with the conduct of the men, he is free to lay a complaint and the matter will be investigated"

SOWETAN BUSINESS



The National Council of Trade Unions was represented by Mr Mahlomola Skhosana, Mr James Mndaweni, Mr Joseph Maqhekeni, Mrs Agnes Molefe and Mr Tommy Oliphant

Unions gear to shape up SA's future

Sowetan 27/1/92 -

Last Tuesday organised labour and big business met at the headquarters of the Premier Milling Group in Johannesburg to look at future economic and business policy. Sowetan reporter JOE MDHLELA (right) was on the sidelines and reports



BY A strange twist of fate, last Tuesday's historic meeting between organised labour and big business took place at the same building that used to house the executive suite of the company's former managing director Mr Tony Bloom.

It was Bloom who in 1985 was in a delegation of white South African businessmen which met the African National Congress in Lusaka at a time when public contact with the then outlawed organisation was taboo.

The Lusaka meeting was later denounced and described as unpatriotic by the National Party Government then under president Mr PW Botha.

Destiny

Last Tuesday it was the same businessmen who were meeting with black leaders, some of whom are members of the ANC.

This time the Government was cheering from the sidelines.

It was a pity that Bloom, who has since left the country, was not at this meeting.

One thing emerged at the forum - the labour movement will play an important role in shaping the political destiny of South Africa.

Predictably the meeting was conciliatory perhaps a harbinger of the stormy sessions still to come. For, it is this forum that will deal with the bread and butter issues of change in South Africa.

One observer said "Given the volatile political

climate, it was a miracle that these people reached agreement within hours."

Although political parties were not represented, the forum resolved that the Government be invited.

It is logical to assume that the presence of the Government in the forum will imply that other political players should form part of the economic process.

But it will also be realistic to imagine that trade unions will use the forum to articulate their displeasures about, for example, the Government's unilateral implementation of the Value Added Tax.

The unions will also have the opportunity to warn the Government that it would be walking on live landmines if it were to increase VAT.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions is clearly sympathetic to the cause of ANC while big business element, which is in favour of negotiations, would also be comfortable with the idea of Codesa being handed about.

If that happens, distinct battle lines will be drawn with the National Council of Trade Unions - known to be uncomfortable with Codesa showing dissent.

The more than 60 delegates were drawn from Cosatu, Nactu, the South African Chamber of Commerce, the Afrikaanse Handels Instituut, Fabcos, Nafcoc, Steel and Engineering Industry Federation of South Africa and the Chamber of Mines.

They agreed that while politicians were busy with shaping a political programme for a new society,

the forum should look at economic problems.

But it also emerged that without the Government's input into the economic debate the forum would remain an exercise in futility, hence the decision to invite it.

What also became clear was that Nactu did not want the forum to be an extension or be a sub-committee of Codesa.

Mr Cunningham Ngcukana Nactu's general secretary, said the forum was in fact an answer to the feelings expressed during the Labour Minute in 1990 where Nactu and Cosatu sought a fair deal for black workers.

"The forum will have to address itself to job creation and other schemes that will improve the lot of black working class," Ngcukana said.

Movement

Chief economist of Nafcoc, Mr Vincent Phaahla said an increasing number of blacks would need to become employers, thereby expanding the employment base.

"Black employers will help a lot towards increasing the employment base and thereby contributing in job creation," he said.

Chief executive of Barlow Rand Mr John Hall said the fact that the labour movement and big business were ready to co-operate was indicative that the parties were keen to help solve the economic crisis.

He said the move should not be seen as an attempt by big business to bludgeon unions into co-operation so as to minimise industrial action in the work place.

(143)

Two unions in SABC fight

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

PROTESTS against the dismissal of 11 security guards at the South African Broadcasting Corporation's Pretoria branch also highlight the conflict between two trade unions in the media sector. W/Mawu 7/2-13/2/92

The guards, who are members of the Media and Allied Workers' Union (Mawu) were dismissed when the SABC decided to employ Coin Security to provide services. Last week, workers at SABC in Pretoria staged a picket and also declared a dispute with management.

According to SABC group personnel manager Fred Coop, "it was agreed to refer the process of retrenchment to arbitration." Meanwhile, the SABC is also negotiating a recognition agreement with Mawu. But Media Workers' Association of South Africa's (Mwasa) assistant general secretary Themba Hlatwayo says "We don't think they are a fully fledged union."

Mwasa adds that there is no clarity about Mawu's membership or its recognition. He also alleges that the union only has support in the Northern Transvaal.

Mawu acting president Mandla Masanabo acknowledges that his is still a fledgling union and that its power base is restricted to the Northern Transvaal. But he says that many Mwasa members are disillusioned with Mwasa and that Mawu "intends to expand nationally rapidly."

The dispute which sparked the expulsion of members of Mwasa who formed Mawu, relates to an interim agreement signed with the SABC last year. According to a Mawu representative, "Mwasa signed away workers rights" in the agreement.

Among this agreement's more contentious clauses were that "Mwasa waives its right to negotiate substantive issues" and "the Association gives the corporation the right to unilaterally implement the 1991 salary increases."

But, according to Mwasa, "it was a tactic not a strategy" and the agreement no longer stands because the union has signed a national recognition agreement with the SABC.

An international delegation is in SA to probe trade union complaints, writes Mike Siluma

Return to ILO in the balance

STAR 7/2/92  (143)

THE arrival yesterday of a high-powered International Labour Organisation delegation will provide South Africa with a chance to return to the international labour relations fold after a 28-year absence.

The visit by the ILO's fact-finding and conciliation commission is in response to a complaint laid by the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) at the ILO in 1988 over the promulgation of the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

At the time, the thrust of Cosatu's complaint was that the Act would restrict workers' right to strike and reverse gains made regarding working conditions.

Following vigorous campaigning by unions — primarily Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions — and protracted negotiations between the Government, labour and employers, the Government withdrew its amendments and signed a new labour legislation accord with unions and capital in 1990. But Cosatu was still

not satisfied. It pushed for the broadening of the commission's terms of reference, which would, in its view, bring South African labour legislation up to international standards.

Cosatu, which is to present a 500-page submission, wants the commission to focus on key areas including

- The right to strike
- The right to collective bargaining for all workers
- The right to organise trade union activities without hindrance
- The state of industrial relations in the TBVC and self-governing territories

Although the present Labour Relations Act gives some protection from dismissal to workers taking part in legal strikes, it totally excludes large categories of employees, such as those in the essential services and public utilities, as well as members of the police and prison services.

Similarly, public sector work-

ers, together with their counterparts in the agricultural and domestic sectors, are not entitled to collective bargaining.

The question of violence against unionists and problems with access to the workplace to service members will be examined by the commission, if Cosatu has its way. But of all the issues Cosatu wants investigated, the matter of worker rights in the self-governing territories is likely to be the most intractable, as it raises the politically prickly question of those territories' sovereignty.

The unions would like South African labour legislation (in its present, as well as its future, modified form) extended to the whole of South Africa including the "homeland" territories.

It is this issue that is at the heart of the simmering, if costly, conflict between the Bophuthatswana authorities and a number of South African unions, particularly the National Union of Mineworkers, which is active at the territory's Impala Platinum

Mines. Although the NUM's support among Impala's workers is beyond question, the union is not officially recognised by either management or the Bophuthatswana authorities.

The Bophuthatswana government has taken the view that because Bophuthatswana is a sovereign territory, it cannot allow "foreign" unions to operate there.

It has recently moved to tighten legislation regulating labour relations in the territory.

In terms of the new legislation, only "independent" unions may operate. Such a union is defined, in part, as one which "is not under the direct or indirect control of a non-Bophuthatswana trade union (or) a non-Bophuthatswana federation of trade unions (or) a non-Bophuthatswana political party".

Additionally, for any union to be recognised in Bophuthatswana, it would have to have its head office in the territory.

These provisions are clearly aimed at keeping Cosatu and its

affiliates, such as the NUM, out of the Bophuthatswana industrial relations arena.

Cosatu, which refuses to recognise Bophuthatswana and other such territories as independent, is set to argue before the commission that in terms of international law, Pretoria is still ultimately responsible for what happens in its homeland backyard.

It would want any legislation agreed with the South African Government extended to all homeland areas, irrespective of whether they are considered by Pretoria to be self-governing or independent.

Apart from Cosatu, the employer body the SA Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs and the Government will make submissions to the commission.

The commission will hold hearings until February 23 and will report to the governing body of the ILO in June. Its report will form the basis of the decision on whether or not to re-admit South Africa

This week, just days before the ILO team's arrival, the Government was understood to be locked in discussions on whether to agree to the extension of the investigation beyond Cosatu's original complaint. A concern of some in the Government has been that an extended investigation might reveal that in many areas South African labour legislation lags behind what is acceptable international-

ly. The Government has already expressed its worry that the investigation should not be turned into a process whereby South Africa was put "on trial".

Without doubt, if the commission concerned itself only with the original Cosatu complaint — much of which has been addressed by the 1990 accord — the ILO may see its way clear to re-admitting South Africa soon.

But with an extended mandate the commission's report may not be so favourable, and South Africa's re-entry to the ILO may take much longer. □

Nactu president denies financial crisis

NACTU president Cunningham Ngcukana has denied the union federation is in a financial crisis

He said Nactu, the second largest trade union federation after Cosatu

B10 on 26/2/97
DIRK HARTFORD

with over 250 000 members, was creating "a leaner, more effective organisation to facilitate trade union unity and meet the challenges ahead".

Nactu is reducing its regional offices from 21 to 11 by handing redundant Nactu offices and organisers over to its affiliates. This was planned last year, said Ngcukana, to cut expenditure, increase accountability of organisers, stop wastage of resources and reduce dependence on foreign funding "which is going to be cut in two or three years' time"

Ngcukana said rationalisation would make Nactu

(143)
"compatible with Cosatu's regional structures and increase solidarity and co-ordination with Cosatu"

He said Nactu had set down end-March as a deadline for its affiliates in the same sector to merge into single industrial unions

If this did not happen, chances were good that reluctant affiliates would be "expelled".

Nactu plans to reduce its affiliates from 23 to 14 industrial unions

Earlier this year Ngcukana told a meeting of 150 Cosatu organisers that unity between Cosatu and Nactu had to be built at a local level and between unions in the same industry

He said yesterday Nactu still held that perspective

Domestic workers now on agenda

Govt nod for labour laws to cover farms

B/day 4/3/92

143

TWO key labour laws could be extended to cover SA's 1.3-million farm workers by the end of April.

This was one of several agreements reached yesterday at the first meeting between new Manpower Minister Piet Marais and the country's two largest labour federations, Cosatu and Nactu.

"We reached a number of concrete arrangements about addressing issues outstanding since the departure of Eli Louw last November," Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo said. "It was a very constructive meeting. It seems it will be possible to achieve a number of new agreements with this Minister relatively quickly."

According to Cosatu, Marais agreed that amendments to extend the Basic Conditions of Employment and Unemployment Insurance Acts to farm workers must be urgently processed through Parliament. He undertook that this process would be completed before the end of April.

It was agreed that discussions between the SA Agricultural Union, Cosatu/Nactu and the Manpower Department should be held as soon as possible to iron out problems with the extension of the legislation.

Manpower director-general Joel Fourie, who was present at the meeting, stressed that consultation with the SAAU was an important part of the process envisaged by the Minister.

Organised agriculture indicated last

ALAN FINE

week it opposed extending the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and other labour laws to agriculture. SAAU chairman Boet Fourie told a meeting of the Free State Agricultural Union SAAU wanted separate "agriculture-friendly" labour laws to apply to the industry.

A draft amendment Bill published last year provided only for limited special consideration for agriculture, mostly related to the seasonal nature of the industry — for example, longer working hours during peak periods.

Manpower's Fourie said if consensus could not be reached at the proposed consultations, government would have to take a final decision.

The union representatives also briefed Marais on the proposed economic negotiating forum being discussed between the unions and organised business. "He listened carefully and we expect he will convey our views to the Cabinet," said Naidoo.

The extension of labour law to domestic workers was also discussed. Cosatu said Marais agreed to respond by mid-April on progress in processing legislation, including how practical problems in extending the Unemployment Insurance and Workmen's Compensation Acts can be solved.

Marais also agreed to convene a meet-

□ To Page 2

Labour laws

B/day 4/3/92

143

□ From Page 1

ing of major labour relations parties to discuss representation on the National Manpower Commission. This issue has delayed restructuring of the commission. Government has proposed that a third of the commission be made up of independent experts. Labour, however, has proposed that only it and business be full members. This would effectively make the commission a negotiating forum, a situation the department is not comfortable with.

Cosatu said Marais undertook that there would be no further delay in decisions on the commission's restructuring.

The meeting discussed establishing a "satisfactory tripartite process regarding the implementation of a national training

strategy. A number of steps were set in motion to ensure this process gets underway."

It also discussed "serious administration problems" in the Industrial Court and it was agreed to set up a joint working group to investigate possible solutions.

Fourie said the main problem was delays of up to nine months in the hearing of cases in those regions that were particularly overloaded with cases.

He said there had been a noticeable improvement in relations between labour and the ministry. "There is more of an understanding of the department's problems on their part, and we have a better understanding of what the unions want."

KENNISGEWING 234 VAN 1992**DEPARTEMENT VAN VERVOER****WET OP INTERNASIONALE LUGDIENSTE, 1949
(WET 51 VAN 1949), SOOS GEWYSIG**

Hierby word ingevolge die bepalings van artikels 5 (a) en (b) van Wet 51 van 1949 en regulasie 5 van die Regulasies vir Burgerlugdienste, 1964, vir algemene inligting bekend gemaak dat die Nasionale Vervoer-kommissie die aansoeke waarvan besonderhede in die Bylaes hieronder verskyn, sal aanhoor.

Vertoe ingevolge artikel 6 (1) van Wet 51 van 1949 ter ondersteuning of bestryding van 'n aansoek moet die Direkteur-generaal van Vervoer (Direktoraat Burgerlugvaart), Privaat Sak X193, Pretoria, 0001, en die aansoeker binne 21 dae na die datum van publikasie hiervan bereik en daarin moet gemeld word of die persoon of persone wat aldus vertoëng, van plan is om die verrigtinge by te woon of om daar verteenwoordig te word.

Die Kommissie sal reel dat kennis van die datum, tyd en plek van die verrigtinge skriftelik gegee word aan die aansoeker en al die persone wat aldus vertoe geng het en wat verlang om aldus teenwoordig of verteenwoordig te wees.

BYLAE D**LYS VAN AANSOEKE OM DIE VERANDERING OF
WYSIGING VAN LISENSIES**

(A) Naam en adres van applikant (B) Naam waaronder die lugdiens geëksploiteer word. (C) Besonderhede betreffende die lisensie en die verandering of wysiging daarvan of die voorwaardes daarvan ten opsigte waarvan aansoek gedoen is.

(A) Comair Charter Natal (Edms) Bpk., Posbus 20400, Durban-Noord, 4016 (B) Commercial Charter (C) Nie-vasgestelde-lugvervoerdienlisensie N430. Onder "Uitgangsbasis" voeg by "Komatjeport" Onder "Lugvaartuie wat gebruik gaan word" en "Tariefskaal" voeg by

"Lugvaartuig"	Tarief (R/km)
Cessna 208/208B	4,00-5,00

Op voorwaarde dat lugvaartuig ZS-geregistreer en A-gekategoriseer is."

(13 Maart 1992)

KENNISGEWING 235 VAN 1992**DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG****WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956****AANSOEK OM VERANDERING VAN DIE REGI-
STRASIEBESTEK VAN 'N VAKVERENIGING**

Ek, David William James, Nywerheidsregistrator, maak ingevolge artikel 4 (2) soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956, hierby bekend dat 'n aansoek om die verandering van sy registrasie bestek ontvang is van die National Union of Public Service Workers.

Besonderhede van die aansoek word in onderstaande tabel verstrekk.

NOTICE 234 OF 1992**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT****INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES ACT, 1949
(ACT 51 OF 1949), AS AMENDED**

Pursuant to the provisions of section 5 (a) and (b) of Act 51 of 1949 and regulation 5 of the Civil Air Services Regulations, 1964, it is hereby notified for general information that the application, details of which appear in the Schedules hereto, will be heard by the National Transport Commission.

Representations in accordance with section 6 (1) of Act 51 of 1949 in support of, or in opposition to, an application should reach the Director-General Transport (Directorate Civil Aviation), Private Bag X193, Pretoria, 0001, and the applicant within 21 days of the date of publication hereof stating whether the party or parties making such representation intend to be present or presented at the hearing.

The Commission will cause notice of the time, date and place of the hearing to be given in writing to the applicant and all parties who have made representations as aforesaid and who desire to be present or represented at the hearing.

SCHEDULE D**LIST OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE ALTERATION,
MODIFICATION OR AMENDMENT TO LICENCES**

(A) Name and address of applicant. (B) Name under which the air service is operated. (C) Particulars of the licence and of the alteration, modification or amendment thereto or the conditions thereof which has been applied for.

(A) Comair Charter Natal (Pty) Ltd, P O. Box 20400, Durban North, 4016. (B) Commercial Charter (C) Non-scheduled Air Transport Service Licence N430. Under "Base of operation" add "Komatjeport" Under "Aircraft to be used" and "Tariff of charges" add

"Aircraft"	Tariff (R/km)
Cessna 208/208B	4,00-5,00

Provided such aircraft is ZS-registered and categorised A."

(13 March 1992)

NOTICE 235 OF 1992**DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER****LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956****APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF SCOPE OF
REGISTRATION OF A TRADE UNION**

I, David William James, Industrial Registrar, do hereby, in terms of section 4 (2) as applied by section 7 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, give notice that an application for the variation of its scope of registration has been received from the National Union of Public Service Workers.

Particulars of the application are reflected in the subjoined table

143

Enige geregistreerde vakvereniging wat teen die aansoek beswaar maak, word versoek om binne een maand na die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing sy beswaar skriftelik by my in te dien, p/a die Departement van Mannekrag, Mannekraggebou 123A, Schoemanstraat 215, Pretoria (posadres. Privaat Sak X117, Pretoria, 0001).

TABEL

Naam van vakvereniging National Union of Public Service Workers.

Datum waarop aansoek ingedien is 12 Februarie 1992.

Belange en gebied ten opsigte waarvan aansoek gedoen word: Persone in diens in die Plaaslike Owerheidsonderneming in die landdrostdistrikte Boksburg, Pretoria en Wonderboom. Vir die doeleindes hiervan—

beteken "Plaaslike Owerheidsonderneming" die onderneming waarin werkgewers en hul werknemers met mekaar geassosieer is vir die instelling, voortsetting en afhandeling van enige handeling, skema of werksaamheid wat deur 'n plaaslike owerheid onderneem word; en

het "plaaslike owerheid" dieselfde betekenis as dié wat daaraan geheg is by artikel 1 (1) van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956.

Posadres van applikant. Posbus 11307, Johannesburg, 2000.

Kantooradres van applikant: CNA-gebou, Commissionerstraat 110, Johannesburg

Die aandag word gevestig op onderstaande vereistes van artikels 4 en 7 van die Wet

(a) Die mate waarn 'n beswaarmakende vakvereniging verteenwoordigend is, word ingevolge artikel 4 (4), soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5), bepaal volgens die feite soos hulle bestaan het op die datum waarop die aansoek ingedien is, en wat die lidmaatskap betref, word alleen lede wat ingevolge artikel 1 (2) van die Wet op voormelde datum volwaardige lede was, in aanmerking geneem.

(b) Die prosedure voorgeskryf by artikel 4 (2) moet gevolg word in verband met 'n beswaar wat ingedien word

D. V. JAMES,

Nywerheidsregistrateur.

(13 Maart 1992)

KENNISGEWING 236 VAN 1992

ADMINISTRASIE: VOLKSRAAD

DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU-
ONTWIKKELING

KENNISGEWING VAN VERGADERING VAN SKULDEISERS KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 22 (1) VAN DIE WET OP LANDBOUKREDIET, 1966

Hierby word 'n vergadering van ondergenoemde applikante en hulle skuldeisers op die plek en datum hieronder genoem, belê, met die doel om skuldeisers in staat te stel om hulle vorderings teen die applikante te bewys en 'n skikkingsvoorstel van die Landboukredietraad te oorweeg

J. H. SMIT,

Direkteur: Direktoraat Finansiële Bystand,
Departement van Landbou-ontwikkeling.

Any registered trade union which objects to the application is invited to lodge its objection in writing with me, c/o the Department of Manpower, 123A Manpower Building, 215 Schoeman Street, Pretoria, postal address: Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001), within one month of the date of publication of this notice

TABLE

143

Name of trade union: National Union of Public Service Workers.

Date on which application was lodged 12 February 1992.

Interests and area in respect of which application is made: Persons employed in the Local Authority Undertaking in the Magisterial Districts of Boksburg, Pretoria and Wonderboom.

For the purposes hereof:

"Local Authority Undertaking" means the undertaking in which employers and their employees are associated for instituting continuing and finishing any act, scheme or activity which is undertaken by a local authority; and;

"local authority" has the same meaning as that assigned to it by section 1 (1) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956.

Postal address of applicant: P.O. Box 11307, Johannesburg, 2000.

Office address of applicant: CNA Building, 110 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

Attention is drawn to the following requirements of sections 4 and 7 of the Act:

(a) The representativeness of any trade union which objects to the application shall in terms of section 4 (4) as applied by section 7 (5) be determined on the facts as they existed at the date on which the application was lodged and, as far as membership is concerned, only members who were in good standing in terms of section 1 (2) of the Act as at the aforesaid date shall be taken into consideration.

(b) The procedure laid down in section 4 (2) must be followed in connection with any objection lodged.

D. V. JAMES,

Industrial Registrar.

(13 March 1992)

NOTICE 236 OF 1992

ADMINISTRATION: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

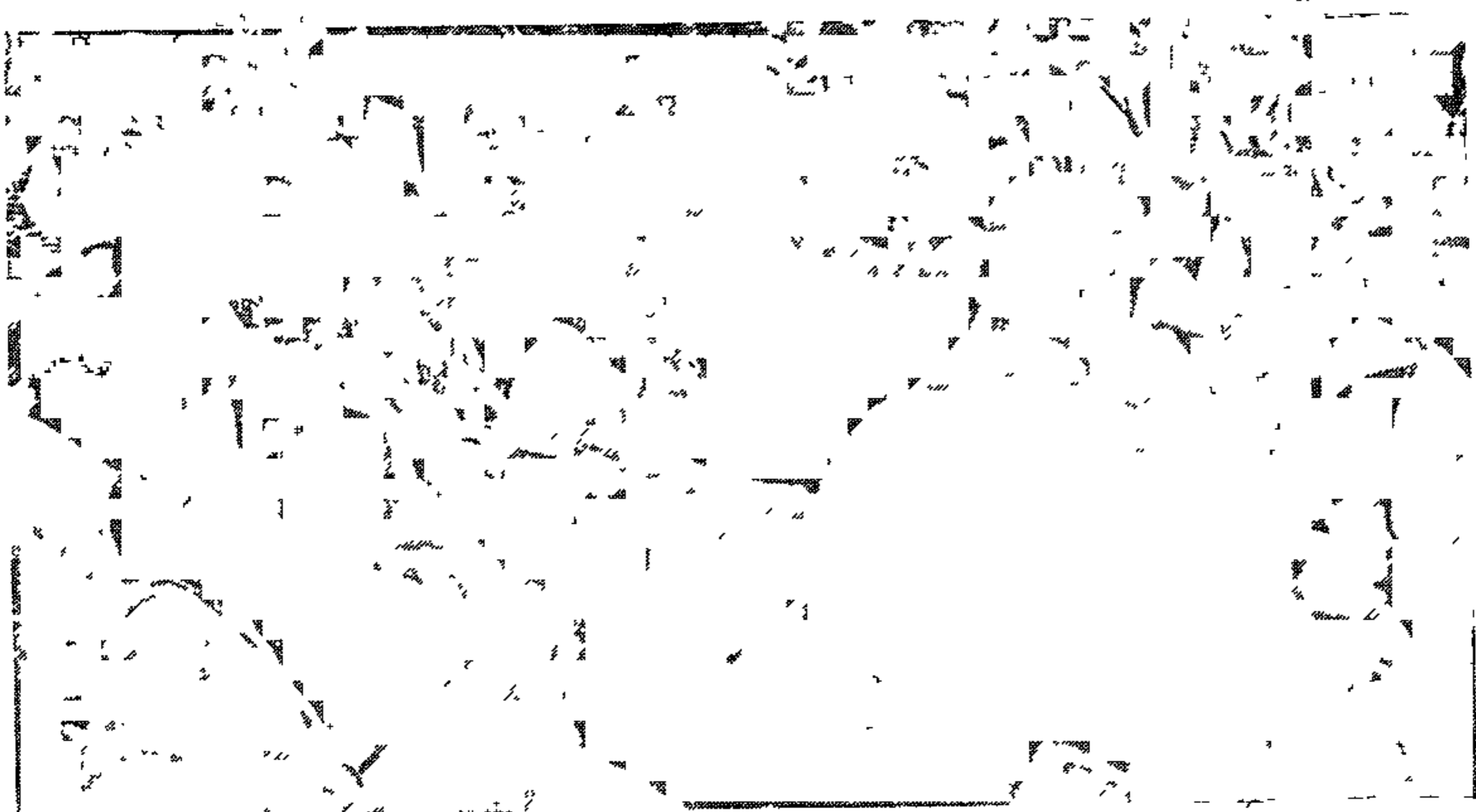
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 (1) OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT, 1966

A meeting of the undermentioned applicants and their creditors is hereby convened at the place and date mentioned hereunder for the purpose of enabling creditors to prove their claims against the applicants and of considering a proposal for a compromise by the Agricultural Credit Board.

J. H. SMIT,

Director: Directorate Financial Assistance,
Department of Agricultural Development.



SABC workers gather outside the corporation's Auckland Park, Johannesburg, offices, after downing tools yesterday. Pic LEN KUMALO

Radio stations off air during strike

So wetan
143
18/3/92

Sowetan Correspondent

A WILDCAT strike by mainly black SABC workers around the country affected four radio services yesterday before it was called off in the afternoon, pending further pay talks.

The Media Workers Association of SA said about 1 300 workers were involved, but the strike was spreading and up to 3 000 members were expected to join, ranging from labourers to programme presenters

Workers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Pietersburg and Bloemfontein had joined in, said the union

The SABC gave no figures but said the Sotho, Venda, Tsonga and Lebowa services had been affected. Mwasu said Radio Xhosa was off the air and only taped music was being played

Vincent Mfundisi, a Mwasu national co-ordinator said the stoppage happened after Mwasu demanded a R1 500 across the board increase, and management offered 7 percent

The strike began spontaneously after Mwasu officials reported to members about Monday's pay talks with

management and about 500 Auckland Park employees staged a spirited sit-in on the lawn from lunchtime

"They have lost patience," said Mfundisi. "We have had no increase for 18 months and have been in these negotiations since last October"

The SABC said "Salary negotiations, which began on Friday last week after the SABC board gave certain mandates to management regarding salary increases, are continuing"

The corporation said the strike was "political", but Mwasu denied this and said it was purely connected to wage negotiations

Some whites joined the strike, sitting near posters reading "Referendum yes, 7 no"

Workers demanded SABC labour relations officer Christo Pretorius address them but he refused

Mwasu official Tsidiso Raitabo said pay talks would continue today and there would be a report-back to members at noon tomorrow

Nactu up in arms over peace accord

6/20/92 18/3/92
THE "National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) intends taking legal action against employers who force workers to accept the peace accord and businesses' political positions, says Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana

The 250 000-strong labour federation also intended taking legal action against police after its president, James Mndaweni, was arrested on Monday and questioned on his alleged involvement with the activities of the PAC and its armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that Nactu's PWV region pulled out of the anti-VAT alliance campaign yester-

(143) 270
DIRK HARTFORD

day, claiming the alliance's "unilateral action was based on demands not canvassed with Nactu"

However, Nactu said it would continue to co-operate with the alliance on other issues.

Nactu said Mndaweni's arrest was part of a campaign by police and employers to force it to sign the peace accord

A number of companies organised by Nactu affiliates were forcing workers to sign the peace accord and accept the "current political process" This undermined Nactu's position, Ngcukana said

W/ma 2013-26/3/92

Nactu president held (143)

■ NACTU president James Mndaweni was detained by the Crime Information Service of the Germiston police in a pre-dawn raid on Monday this week.

He was released at midday on Monday after being questioned extensively about Pan African Congress and Azanian People's Liberation Army activities.

BRIEFS

The federation says his arrest is aimed at coercing it into signing the National Peace Accord. (143)

This week Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngokana alleged that "a number of companies organised by Nactu affiliates are forcing workers to sign the peace accord".

W/ma 2013-26/3/92

Wildcat strike leaves radio stations off air.

By Peter Wellman ^{STAR} 18/3/92

A wildcat strike by mainly black SABC workers around the country affected at least four radio services yesterday before it was called off late in the afternoon pending further pay talks

The Media Workers Association of SA (Mwasa) earlier said about 1 300 workers were involved, but the strike was spreading and up to 3 000 members, ranging from labourers to programme presenters, were expected to join

Workers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Pietersburg and Bloemfontein had joined in, said the union

The SABC gave no figures but said the Sotho, Venda, Tsonga and Lebowa services had been affected Mwasa said Radio Xhosa was off the air and only taped music was being played

Vincent Mfundisi, an Mwasa national co-ordinator, said that

at Auckland Park headquarters the stoppage occurred after Mwasa had demanded a R1 500 across-the-board increase and management had then offered 7 percent

The strike began spontaneously after Mwasa officials reported to members about Monday's pay talks with management, and about 500 Auckland Park employees staged a spirited sit-in on the lawn in bright sunshine from lunchtime

'Political'

"They have lost patience," said Mr Mfundisi "We have had no increase for 18 months, and have been in these negotiations since last October"

The SABC said "Salary negotiations, which began on Friday last week after the SABC board gave certain mandates to management regarding salary increases, are continuing"

The corporation said the strike was 'political', but Mwasa said it was purely con-

nected to wage negotiations Some whites joined the strike, sitting near posters saying "Referendum yes, 7% no"

Workers demanded that SABC labour relations officer Christo Pretorius address them, but he refused shortly before the strike was called off

Mwasa official Tsidiso Ralibabo said pay talks would continue today and there would be a report-back to members at noon tomorrow

No workers were locked out, and there was no police presence

About 100 workers downed tools in Port Elizabeth, reports Eena However, the general manager of the SABC's eastern Cape broadcasting, Steyl Boucher, said the strike did not affect referendum coverage

"About 15 percent of the total staff are on strike A small percentage of those on strike are involved in broadcasting," he said No decision had yet been made on what action would be taken against the strikers

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Between 1986 and 1990 student numbers had increased, but since last year the figures had fallen
University of Cape Town first-year figures were also down — by 4,4%

but that the students had almost doubled "There are programmes here that black students prefer, and we offer a lot of African languages," he said

Mwasa calls off wage strike at SABC

31 Day 19/3/92
THE Media Workers' Association of SA (Mwasa) yesterday called off a wage strike by 1 300 black SABC employees, shortly before pay negotiations were due to begin (143)

The strike by black labourers, journalists, producers, artists, cameramen and studio crews was called on Tuesday to support a demand for a

R1 500 a month across-the-board annual increase after management offered 7% (250) (152)

An SABC media spokesman confirmed that striking employees had returned to work (254) (155)

Talks between Mwasa and SABC labour relations officer Christo Pretorius began yesterday — Sapa

Ban lifted on writings by Buthelezi

31 Day 19/3/92
WRITINGS by Inkatha president Mangosuthu Buthelezi have been unbanned 16 years after they were published

According to a recent Government Gazette, the first issue of the first volume of the magazine Inkatha, written by Buthelezi, is no longer undesirable

The gazette lists the author of the publication, which was produced in 1976, as one "Mntwana Mangosuthu Buthelezi" Inkatha leaders have been un-

able to shed light on the publication's content or say why it had been banned

The gazette also unbanned the ANC's In Defence of the African Image and Heritage (222)

The unbanned list includes a feast of Marxist memorabilia, including titles from the former Soviet Union such as The Problems of Building Socialism and the old classic, The ABC of Communism by

Nikolay Bukharin (222)

Black consciousness leaders Steve Biko and Barney Pitso Moseneke's writings in the SA Student Organisation's newsletter of 1973 and the selected speeches of Malcolm X are now also (officially) undesirable

A pamphlet by the Natal Indian Congress, the only ethnic organisation among the ranks of the ANC-aligned Where Are We Going? has also been unbanned

Despite all the glastnost Frank Mayville's The Joys of Oral Sex and Erin Caine's Amazons were both declared undesirable, as was a Brief History of the Revolutionary Activities of Comrade Kim Il Sung, once required reading in Khmer Rouge re-education camps

*"Give a man a fish
and he profits but a single dish:
Teach him the art of rod and reel
and he'll never lack a meal"*

(143)
Mwasa
seeks
support

Sowetan 20/3/92

WORKERS at the SABC yesterday asked the ANC and the PAC to lend a muscle in their fight for better pay at the corporation

Both organisations have backed the workers, whose nine negotiators staged a brief sit-in at the corporation's Auckland Park headquarters on Wednesday night.

The administrative secretary of the Media Workers of South Africa, Mr Themba Hlatshwayo, said the SABC had increased its offer from 7 percent to 11 percent

But this was rejected during 15 hours of talks over two days.

Hlatshwayo said the offer was rejected because it did not "even match the inflation rate".

He said the union had reduced its demand from R1 500 across the board to a 30 percent average increase, with the a maximum increase of R1 200, and minimum wages up from R935 to R1 500

A conciliation board hearing had been set for March 27, and Mwasa had agreed to abide by the "letter and spirit" of its recognition agreement with the SABC, Hlatshwayo said -
Sowetan Correspondent

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Talks on restructuring NMC

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Employer organisation Saccola will meet Manpower Minister Piet Marais on Wednesday to discuss the restructuring of the National Manpower Commission, Saccola chairman Bokkie Botha said last week.

Cosatu and Nactu discussed the commission with Marais a few weeks ago.

The takeover of the manpower portfolio by Marais has meant that parties to the talks on the commission's restructuring have had to once again sound out government's views. Botha said it appeared a large area of agreement had been reached that the commission be a negotiating body to reach agreements and forward them to the minister, rather than a consultative body to advise him. *B/D ay 30/3/92*

It would then be necessary for participants to represent their constituencies, rather than being appointed by Marais.

While there had been much debate as to how SA's 80 to 100 national employer organisations should be represented, Botha said the current structure was probably the most representative possible, but was still under consideration.

The commission's representatives at present come from the Chamber of Mines, Seifsa, Sacob, AHI, the Agricultural Union, Cofesa (which represents public servants and companies in the northern Transvaal),

Nafcoc and Fabcos

Regarding the economic forum, Botha said there were wide areas of agreement between employers and trade unions on its constitution. Outstanding issues included the two parties' agendas. Employers focused on the long-term framework of a future economy, while trade unions had tended to emphasise short-term issues.

Botha said the economic forum could be in operation by the end of April.

DIRK HARTFORD reports that Cosatu and Nactu have set up a co-ordinating committee to promote unity between their affiliates, according to Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana. *(143)*

In an interview in the SA Labour Bulletin, Ngcukana said Nactu wanted to draw the 250 000-strong Fedal and other independent unions into the unity process.

He said Nactu unions were merging into industrial unions. Any union that had not merged before Nactu's congress in October would be expelled.

Ngcukana said Nactu and Cosatu were discussing bringing the ANC, PAC and Azapo together as divisions between them had an effect on working relations in the union movement.

LABOUR BRIEFS

CWIU 'showdown' on training schemes

■THE Chemical Workers' Industrial Union is heading for "a showdown" with Sasol, AECL, Sentrachem and SAPREF if they do not negotiate industry training schemes (143) (57) (101)

The union says the employers are intent on forming a training board despite the Congress of South African Trade Unions demand that training boards should only be established where its affiliates represent the majority of workers in an industry. W/Mand 3/4-9/4/92

The initiative only has the support of "six minority craft unions and the South African Chemical Workers' Union (a National Council of Trade Unions affiliate)"

The CWIU will not join the training board until industry chiefs negotiate non-discrimination and affirmative action clauses. The union also wants the training scheme to teach transportable skills which workers can take across the industry or into other industries. The scheme should include basic education in the ambit of industry training

Nactu urged to enter constitutional debate

Sowetan 7/4/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE National Council of Trade Unions has been asked to convene a meeting of all trade unions in the country to discuss the unfolding constitutional debate

At a congress of the Northern Transvaal region of the federation in Mahwelereng near Potgietersrus on Sunday, Nactu was asked to convene the meeting within three months

The resolution followed debate by the over 800 delegates representing workers from agricultural, media, food and other sectors of the economy

Delegates lambasted

Codesa for its inclusion of bantustan leaders and lamented the absence of worker representatives.

With some of the workers coming from bantustan-based industries, where their rights to form and join trade unions are not guaranteed by law, delegates questioned the commitment of the bantustan leaders in Codesa to full rights and democracy while perpetuating industrial slavery in their areas

The congress also called for an intensification of the

fight against Value Added Tax (VAT) and set the end of June as the date for national marches and a national stay away to push for the reintroduction of zero rating of all foods, including fresh milk and rice whose exemption were removed last week

The workers also called for a national campaign to have control of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF)

In a resolution, the congress decried the fact that presently, workers had no

say in the control, administration and disbursement of the money collected from them each month

Long delays in payouts for unemployment and maternity benefits were also linked to the absence of worker representation on the governing board of the UIF

Other unions and unemployed people are to be consulted on the course of action, the resolution stated

The congress welcomed the steps taken to broaden the legal status of farm workers by extending the basic Conditions of Employment Act but said that was not enough

They instead called for the Labour Relations Act to be extended to cover all workers and adopted a decision to march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria in August if the Government refused to abide by the decision

Support was also given to demands by MWASA members and SABC workers who are presently deadlocked with the corporation over wages

Congress also elected a new leadership Mr Eddie Khosa, chairman, Mr Lawrence Phago, vice-chairman; Mr Elliot Dibetso, secretary, and Mrs Lydia Manaka, treasurer

5. Verder word u hierby versoek om binne 60 dae van die datum van hierdie kennisgewing af aan my die titelbewys(e) van die onteienende grond te lewer of te laat lewer of indien dit nie in u besit of onder u beheer is nie, skriftelike besonderhede van die naam en adres van die persoon in wie se besit of onder wie se beheer dit is, te lewer of te laat lewer

6. Die eiendom wat hierby onteien word word deur die Republiek van Suid-Afrika in besit geneem 60 (ses-tig) dae na die publikasie datum van hierdie kennis-gewing

7. Die adres vir doeleindes van hierdie onteienings is Hoofdirektoraat Werke (Transvaalse Provinsiale Administrasie), Privaatsak X228, Pretoria, of Kamer C222, Blok C, Provinsiale Gebou, Kerkstraat, Pretoria

Gedateer te Pretoria op 3 April 1992.

M. MASSYN,

Assistentdirekteur. Voorsieningsadministrasie

Vir en namens die Uitvoerende Komitee van die Pro-vinsie Transvaal

(16 April 1992)

KENNISGEWING 341 VAN 1992

DEPARTEMENT VAN MANNEKRAG

WET OP ARBEIDSVERHOUDINGE, 1956

AANSOEK OM VERANDERING VAN DIE REGISTRASIEBESTEK VAN 'N VAKVERENIGING

Ek, Gerhardus Coenraad Papenfus, Assistent-ny-werheidsregistrator, maak ingevolge artikel 4 (2) soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5) van die Wet op Arbeidsver-houdinge, 1956, hierby bekend dat 'n aansoek om die verandering van sy registrasiebestek ontvang is van die United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa. Besonderhede van die aansoek word in onderstaande tabel verstrek

Enige geregistreerde vakvereniging wat teen die aansoek beswaar maak, word versoek om binne een maand na die datum van publikasie van hierdie kennis-gewing sy beswaar skriftelik by my in te dien, p/a die Departement van Mannekrag, Mannekraggebou 123A, Schoemanstraat 215, Pretoria (posadres. Privaat Sak X117, Pretoria, 0001)

TABEL

Naam van vakvereniging United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa

Datum waarop aansoek ingedien is 21 November 1991

Belange en gebied ten opsigte waarvan aansoek gedoen word Persone in diens in die Motornywerheid en die Outomobielnywerheid in die landdrostdistrikte Pinetown en Ixopo

"**Motornywerheid**" beteken (behoudens die bepa-lings van enige afbakeningsvasstelling gemaak krag-tens artikel 76 van die Wet op Arbeidsverhoudinge, 1956) die nywerheid betrokke by—

(a) montering, oprigting, toetsing, hervervaardiging, herstelwerk, verstelwerk, opknapping, bedrading, stof-fering, bespuiting, verfwerk en/of vernuwing uitgevoer in verband met—

(i) onderstelle en/of bakke van motorvoertuie,

5. You are hereby further requested to deliver or cause to be delivered to me within 60 days from the date of this notice your title deed(s) to the said land or if it is not in your possession or under your control, writ-ten particulars of the name and address of the person in whose possession or under whose control it is

6. The properties hereby expropriated shall be taken into possession by the Republic of South Africa 60 (sixty) days after the date of publication of this notice

7. The address for the purposes of this expropriation is Chief Director of Works (Transvaal Provincial Admin-istration), Private Bag X228, Pretoria, or Room C222, C Block, Provincial Building, Church Street, Pretoria

Dated at Pretoria on 3 April 1992

M. MASSYN,

Assistant Director Provisioning Administration.

For and on behalf of the Executive committee of the Province of Transvaal

(16 April 1992)

NOTICE 341 OF 1992

DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT, 1956

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF SCOPE OF REGISTRATION OF A TRADE UNION

I, Gerhardus Coenraad Papenfus, Assistant Indus-trial Registrar, do hereby, in terms of section 4 (2) as applied by section 7 (5) of the Labour Relations Act, 1956, give notice that an application for the variation of its scope of registration has been received from the United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa. Particulars of the application are reflected in the subjoined table

Any registered trade union which objects to the appli-cation is invited to lodge its objection in writing with me, c/o the Department of Manpower, 123A Manpower Building, 215 Schoeman Street, Pretoria (postal address. Private Bag X117, Pretoria, 0001), within one month of the date of publication of this notice.

TABLE

Name of trade union United African Motor and Allied Workers' Union of South Africa

Date on which application was lodged 21 November 1991

Interests and area in respect of which application is made Persons employed in the Motor Industry and the Automobile Manufacturing Industry in the Magisterial Districts of Pinetown and Ixopo

"**Motor Industry**" means (subject to the provisions of any demarcation determination made in terms of section 76 of the Labour Relations Act, 1956) the industry concerned with—

(a) assembling, erecting, testing, remanufacturing, repairing, adjusting, overhauling, wiring, upholstery, spraying, painting and/or reconditioning carried on in connection with—

(i) chassis and/or bodies of motor vehicles,

(ii) binnebrandenjins en transmissiekomponente van motorvoertuie,

(iii) elektriese uitrusting in verband met motorvoertuie, met inbegrip van radio's,

(b) motoringenieurswerk;

(c) die herstel, vulkanisering en/of versoling van buitebande,

(d) die herstel, versiening en vernuwing van batterye vir motorvoertuie,

(e) die besigheid gedryf deur ondernemings vir die parkering en/of stalling van motorvoertuie;

(f) die besigheid gedryf deur vul- en/of diensstasies;

(g) die besigheid wat hoofsaaklik of uitsluitlik gedryf word vir die verkoop van motorvoertuigonderdele en/of -reserwedele en/of -bybehore (hetsy nuut of gebruik), ongeag of sodanige verkoop geskied vanuit 'n perseel wat verbind is aan 'n gedeelte van 'n bedryfsinrigting waarin die montering of herstel van motorvoertuie uitgevoer word,

(h) die besigheid gedryf deur motorslopingsondernemings;

(i) die besigheid gedryf deur vervaardigingsbedryfsinrigtings waarin motorvoertuigonderdele en/of -reserwedele en/of -bybehore en/of komponente daarvan vervaardig word;

(j) voertuigbakbou,

(k) die verkoop van trekkers en landbou- en besproeiingsuitrusting (nie gekoppel aan die vervaardiging daarvan nie).

Vir die doeleindes van hierdie omskrywing beteken—

“motoringenieurswerk” die vernuwing van binnebrandenjins of onderdele daarvan vir gebruik in motorvoertuie in bedryfsinrigtings waarin hoofsaaklik of uitsluitlik sodanige werk verrig word, hetsy daar in sodanige bedryfsinrigting motorvoertuie uitmekaar gehaal en herstel word al dan nie,

“motorvoertuig” enige wielvoertuig wat deur elektriese of meganiese krag (uitgesonderd stoom) aangedryf word en wat ontwerp is vir trekvervoer en/of vir die vervoer van persone en/of goedere en/of vragte, en omvat dit 'n sleepwa en 'n woonwa, maar nie ook uitrusting wat ontwerp is om op vaste spore te loop, 'n sleepwa wat ontwerp is om vragte van 20 ton of meer te vervoer of 'n vliegtuig nie,

“voertuigbakbou” enige van of al ondervermelde werksaamhede wat in 'n voertuigbakboubedryfsinrigting verrig word.

(a) Die bou, herstel of vernuwing van kajuite en/of bakke en/of enige bobou vir enige tipe voertuig,

(b) die vervaardiging of herstel van samestellende dele vir kajuite en/of bakke en/of enige bobou en die montering, regstelling en installering van onderdele in kajuite of aan bakke of op die bobou van voertuie;

(c) die vassit van kajuite en/of bakke en/of enige bobou aan die onderstel van enige tipe voertuig;

(d) die bestryking en/of versiering van kajuite en/of bakke en/of enige bobou met 'n preserveermiddel of versierstof,

(e) die uitrus, stoffeer en afwerk van die binnekant van kajuite en/of bakke en/of enige bobou,

(ii) internal combustion engines and transmission components of motor vehicles;

(iii) electrical equipment connected with motor vehicles, including radios;

(b) automotive engineering;

(c) repairing, vulcanising and/or retreading tyres;

(d) repairing, servicing and reconditioning batteries for motor vehicles,

(e) the business of parking and/or storing motor vehicles;

(f) the business conducted by filling and/or service stations;

(g) the business carried on mainly or exclusively for the sale of motor vehicle parts and/or spares and/or accessories (whether new or used), whether or not such sale is conducted from premises which are attached to a part of an establishment in which the assembly or repair of motor vehicles is carried out,

(h) the business conducted by motor graveyards;

(i) the business conducted by manufacturing establishments in which motor vehicle parts and/or spares and/or accessories and/or their components are fabricated;

(j) vehicle body building;

(k) the sale of tractors and agricultural and irrigation equipment (not connected with the manufacture thereof).

For the purposes of this definition—

“automotive engineering” means the reconditioning of internal combustion engines or parts thereof for use in motor vehicles in establishments mainly or exclusively so engaged, whether such establishments dismantle and repair motor vehicles or not,

“motor vehicle” means any wheeled conveyance that is propelled by electrical or mechanical power (other than steam) and that is designed for haulage and/or for the transportation of persons and/or goods and/or loads, and includes a trailer and a caravan, but does not include any equipment designed to run on fixed tracks, a trailer designed to transport loads of 20 tons or over, or an aircraft;

“vehicle body building” means any or all of the following activities carried on in a vehicle body building establishment:

(a) The construction, repair or renovation of cabs and/or bodies and/or any superstructure for any type of vehicle,

(b) the manufacture or repair of component parts for cabs and/or bodies and/or any superstructure, and the assembly, adjustment and installation of parts in cabs or on bodies or on the superstructure of vehicles;

(c) fixing cabs and/or bodies and/or superstructure to the chassis of any type of vehicle;

(d) coating and/or decorating cabs and/or bodies and/or any superstructure with any preservative or decorative substance,

(e) equipping, furnishing and finishing off the interior of cabs and/or bodies and/or any superstructure,

~~143~~ 143

(f) die bou van sleepwaens, maar uitgesonderd die vervaardiging van wiele of asse daarvoor; en

(g) alle bedrywighede wat gepaard gaan met of voortspruit uit die werksaamhede bedoel in paragrawe (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) en (f),

en vir die doeleindes van hierdie omskrywing omvat "voertuig" nie 'n vliegtuig nie,

"Motornywerheid", soos hierbo omskryf, omvat nie die volgende nie.

(i) Die vervaardiging van motorvoertuigonderdele en/of -bybehore en/of -reserwedele en/of -komponente in bedryfsinrigtings wat aangelê is vir en gewoonlik betrokke is by die produksie van metaal- en/of plastiek-goedere van 'n ander aard op aansienlike skaal,

(ii) die montering, bou, toetsing, herstel, regstelling, opknapping, bedrading, bespuiting, verf en/of vernuwing van landbautrekkers, behalwe waar dit uitgevoer word in bedryfsinrigtings wat soortgelyke dienste lewer ten opsigte van motorkarre, vragmotors of motorvragwaens,

(iii) die vervaardiging en/of onderhoud en/of herstel van—

(aa) uitrusting vir siviele en werktuigkundige ingenieurswerk, en/of onderdele daarvan, hetsy dit op wiele gemonteer is al dan nie,

(ab) landbou-uitrusting of onderdele daarvan;

(ac) uitrusting bedoel vir gebruik in fabriek en/of werkwinkels;

(ad) motorvoertuig- of ander voertuigbakke en/of -boboue en/of onderdele of komponente daarvan gemaak van staalplaat 3,175 mm dik of dikker, wanneer dit uitgevoer word in bedryfsinrigtings wat aangelê is vir en gewoonlik betrokke is by die vervaardiging en/of onderhoud en/of herstel op aansienlike skaal, van uitrusting vir siviele en/of werktuigkundige ingenieurswerk:

Met dien verstande dat, vir die doeleindes van (aa), (ab) en (ac) hierbo, "uitrusting" nie geag word motorkarre, vragmotors en/of motorvragwaens te beteken nie;

(iv) monterbedryfsinrigtings, d.w.s. bedryfsinrigtings waarin motorvoertuie uit nuwe komponente op 'n monterbaan gemonteer word wat die vervaardiging en/of fabrisering van enige motorvoertuigonderdele of -komponente omvat wanneer dit in sodanige bedryfsinrigtings uitgevoer word, maar wat nie voertuigbou omvat nie behalwe in sover dit gepaardgaande met die montering van motorvoertuie, uitgesonderd woonwaens en sleepwaens, uitgevoer word

"**Outomobielywerheid**" beteken die nywerheid waarin werkgewers en hul werknemers met mekaar geassosieer is vir die montering van motorvoertuie uit nuwe komponente op 'n monterbaan, en dit omvat die vervaardiging of fabrisering of montering van enige motorvoertuigonderdele of -komponente of kombinasies daarvan wanneer dit deur sodanige werkgewers uitgevoer word, hetsy dit op 'n monterbaan of elders gedoen word, asook alle werksaamhede wat daarmee gepaard gaan of daaruit voortspruit, ongeag die perseel waar die werk verrig word.

Posadres van aplikant Posbus 10850, Johannesburg, 2000

(f) building trailers, but excluding manufacture of wheels or axles for them; and 143

(g) all operations incidental to or consequent on the activities referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f),

and for the purposes of this definition, "vehicle" does not include an aircraft,

"Motor Industry" as defined above does not include the following.

(i) The manufacture of motor vehicle parts and/or accessories and/or spares and/or components in establishments laid out for and normally engaged in the production of metal and/or plastic goods of a different character on a substantial scale,

(ii) the assembling, erecting, testing, repairing, adjusting, overhauling, wiring, spraying, painting and/or reconditioning of agricultural tractors, except where carried on in establishments rendering similar services in respect of motor cars, motor lorries or motor trucks;

(iii) the manufacture and/or maintenance and/or repair of—

(aa) civil and mechanical engineering equipment, and/or parts thereof, whether or not mounted on wheels,

(ab) agricultural equipment or parts thereof;

(ac) equipment designed for use in factories and/or workshops,

(ad) motor vehicle or other vehicle bodies and/or superstructures and/or parts or components for them made of steel plate of 3,175 mm thickness or thicker, when carried on in establishments laid out for and normally engaged in the manufacture and/or maintenance and/or repair of civil and/or mechanical engineering equipment on a substantial scale,

Provided that, for the purposes of (aa), (ab) and (ac) above, "equipment" shall not be taken to mean motor cars, motor lorries and/or motor trucks;

(iv) assembly establishments, i.e. establishments in which motor vehicles are assembled from new components on an assembly line, which includes the manufacture and/or fabrication of any motor vehicle parts or components when carried on in such establishments but which does not include vehicle body building except in so far as it is carried on incidental to the assembly of motor vehicles other than caravans and trailers

"**Automobile Manufacturing Industry**" means the industry in which employers and their employees are associated for the assembly of motor vehicles from new components on an assembly line, and includes the manufacture or fabrication or assembly of any motor vehicle parts or components or combinations of them when carried on by such employers, whether performed on an assembly line or elsewhere, and operations incidental thereto or consequent thereon, irrespective of the premises where the work is performed

Postal address of applicant P O Box 10850, Johannesburg, 2000

Kantooradres van applikant: Lekton House 415, Wanderersstraat, Johannesburg.

Die aandag word gevestig op onderstaande ver-
eistes van artikels 4 en 7 van die Wet

(a) Die mate waarin 'n beswaarmakende vakvereniging verteenwoordigend is, word ingevolge artikel 4 (4), soos toegepas by artikel 7 (5), bepaal volgens die feite soos hulle bestaan het op die datum waarop die aansoek ingedien is, en wat die lidmaatskap betref, word alleen lede wat ingevolge artikel 1 (2) van die Wet op voormelde datum volwaardige lede was, in aanmerking geneem.

(b) Die prosedure voorgeskryf by artikel 4 (2) moet gevolg word in verband met 'n beswaar wat ingedien word

G. C. PAPENFUS,

Assistent-nywerheidsregistrator.

(16 April 1992)

KENNISGEWING 342 VAN 1992

KANTOOR VAN DIE STAATSPRESIDENT

AANSTELLING VAN MINISTERIËLE VERTEENWOORDIGERS VIR DIE MINISTERSRAAD VAN DIE RAAD VAN VERTEENWOORDIGERS

Hierby word vir algemene inligting bekendgemaak dat die Staatspresident kragtens artikel 28 (1) van die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1983 (Wet No 110 van 1983), die volgende persone met ingang van 1 April 1992 as ministeriele verteenwoordigers vir die Ministersraad van die Raad van Verteenwoordigers aangestel het:

Mnr. Leslie Joseph Jenneke: (Noord-Kaap en Oranje-Vrystaat)

Mnr. William Martin Ross: (Oos- en Wes-Kaap)
(16 April 1992)

KENNISGEWING 343 VAN 1992

DEPARTEMENT VAN VERVOER

KOMITEE VAN ONDERSOEK NA DIE DAARSTELLING VAN 'N EFFEKTIEWE NASIONALE MARITIEME BELEID VIR DIE RSA

Hierby word vir algemene inligting bekendgemaak dat dr. P. J. Welgemoed, Minister van Vervoer en van Pos- en Telekommunikasiewese besluit het om mnr. B. C. Floor (Voorsitter), W. Kempen, H. E. Kramer asook adv. D. J. Shaw en kapt. R. H. Harm as lede van bogenoemde Komitee aan te stel.

Die opdrag van die Komitee is om ondersoek in te stel na en verslag te doen oor 'n effektiewe nasionale maritieme beleid vir die RSA.

Enigeen wat skriftelike vertoe aan die Komitee wil rig kan skryf aan die Voorsitter, Komitee van Onderzoek na 'n Maritieme Beleid, Posbus 340, Stellenbosch, 7600.

(16 April 1992)

Office address of applicant 415 Lekton House, Wanderers Street, Johannesburg

Attention is drawn to the following requirements of sections 4 and 7 of the Act:

(a) The representativeness of any trade union which objects to the application shall in terms of section 4 (4) as applied by section 7 (5) be determined on the facts as they existed at the date on which the application was lodged and, as far as membership is concerned, only members who were in good standing in terms of section 1 (2) of the Act as at the aforesaid date shall be taken into consideration

(b) The procedure laid down in section 4 (2) must be followed in connection with any objection lodged

G. C. PAPENFUS,

Assistant Industrial Registrar.

(16 April 1992)

NOTICE 342 OF 1992

STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

It is hereby notified for general information that the State President has in accordance with section 28 (1) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983 (Act No 110 of 1983), appointed the following ministerial representatives for the Ministers' Council of the House of Representatives with effect from 1 April 1992

Mr Leslie Joseph Jenneke: (Northern Cape and Orange Free State).

Mr William Martin Ross: (East and West Cape)
(16 April 1992)

NOTICE 343 OF 1992

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO THE FORMULATION OF AN EFFECTIVE NATIONAL MARITIME POLICY FOR THE RSA

It is hereby notified for general information that Dr P. J. Welgemoed, Minister of Transport and of Posts and Telecommunications has decided to appoint Messrs B. C. Floor (Chairman), W. Kempen, H. E. Kramer, as well as Adv. D. J. Shaw and Capt. R. H. Harm as members of the above-mentioned Committee.

The Committee's terms of reference are to inquire into and report on an effective national maritime policy for the RSA.

Anyone wanting to submit written representations to the Committee may write to the Chairman, Committee of Inquiry into a Maritime Policy, P. O. Box 340, Stellenbosch, 7600.

(16 April 1992)

Cosatu and Nactu plan huge May Day turnout

~~KSA~~ (143) DIRK HARTFORD ~~143~~

COSATU and Nactu announced yesterday that for the first time they would hold joint May Day rallies at more than 50 venues throughout SA. These rallies would be addressed by speakers from the ANC, PAC, SACP and Azapo. *Blody 29/4/92*

It will be the biggest May Day mobilisation yet by the trade union movement.

The joint May Day initiative is a sequel to an agreement struck recently between Cosatu and Nactu to campaign jointly on.

- VAT and high food prices;
- Extending rights to homeland, farm, domestic and public sector workers; and
- Violence, the national economic forum, a constituent assembly and worker rights in a new constitution

In addition, Cosatu and Nactu agreed their affiliates in the same industry must meet to discuss trade union unity at an industrial level.

The two federations will meet again early in May to assess May Day and industrial unity and to plan further steps for trade union unity.

At the end of May, Cosatu and Nactu will host a workers' summit of all independent trade unions — representing about 2,5-million workers — to adopt a workers' charter on their rights in a new constitution, and to chart a path to trade union unity.

Cosatu and Nactu will use the summit to try to convince other unions to go along with a general strike in July if their economic and political demands have not been met.

They want government to agree to elections for a constituent assembly by the end of the year. "We don't want one Minister to resign, we want the whole Cabinet to resign"

Cosatu and Nactu are jointly involved also in forging trade union unity not only in southern Africa but throughout Africa.

LABOUR

In a May Day first the country's two biggest trade union federations will hold joint rallies around the country.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions this week unveiled their joint May Day plans, calling it the first step along the road to unity in the labour movement.

The Pan Africanist Congress commended the "maturity and statement-ship" of the two federations while the Azanian People's Organisation lauded the occasion as a milestone for black unity.

Fifty-one rallies will be held around the country tomorrow and will be addressed by high profile Cosatu, Nactu, African National Congress, South African Communist Party, PAC and Azapo members.

The organisers have labelled the occasion, the "last May Day under apartheid rule". The day's programme was hammered out in a first-ever joint executive meeting between the two federations on April 11 and there will be another such meeting on May 9 to assess May Day and plan the next step in the programme of action.

Nactu, Cosatu Link up for May Day rallies

30/4 - 7/5/92
The country's two biggest union federations will hold joint rallies tomorrow in a move heralded as the first step towards unity. By **FERIAL MAFFAJEE**

For the most part, Nactu is dovetailing to Cosatu's programme of action which that federation outlined after a central executive committee meeting in March.

At May Day rallies, both Cosatu and Nactu will mobilise worker support for a general strike in July if sufficient progress is not made on substantive political and economic issues.

These include demands around Value Added Tax, food prices, the

national economic negotiating forum and the campaign for legislation for farm, domestic and public sector legislation.

Political demands for an interim government by the end of June, an end to violence and the campaign for a constituent assembly will also be considered.

Cosatu and Nactu are together coordinating the "Workers' Summit" which will take place at the end of May

Nactu assistant general secretary Mahlomola Skosana said that while the two federations could not place a time limit on unity, meetings between affiliates working in the same sector would start soon.

On the international front, Cosatu and Nactu are carrying out a fruitful joint initiative. They have developed a common approach to international trade and both were "instrumental in the drawing up and adoption of a social charter for southern Africa.

But unity will not come easily to Cosatu and Nactu. Earlier this year, one of Nactu's regions pulled out of the VAT Co-ordinating Committee saying they were being sidelined by Cosatu.

The two federations also have different political agendas. Cosatu is a member of the tripartite alliance with the ANC and SACP.

And although Nactu insists that it is without political affiliation, many of its members are also members of the PAC. Therefore, Nactu's support for Cosatu's political demands could earn the ire of many within its own ranks.

Mcerwa ousted from FBWU

143

Sowetan 30/4/92

By JOE MDHLELA

THE president of the Azanian Youth Organisation and head of the legal unit of the Food and Beverage Workers' Union of South Africa, Mr Thami Mcerwa, has been dismissed by the union

Mcerwa claims his involvement in Black Consciousness politics are at the root of his dismissal. He was given until today to terminate his services.

But the deputy general secretary of FBWU, Mr Goba Ndhlovu, claimed Mcerwa had neglected his duties in the union.

"He is giving more attention to the activities of his organisation to the detriment of the union.

Mcerwa said "I have been victimised because of my involvement in Black Con-

sciousness politics"

Mcerwa also accused the union of its undemocratic tendencies, claiming that it has not held elections for the past four years.

Ndhlovu said "It was the National Executive Committee that felt he was concentrating more on Azayo matters. This shows that he is not interested in his work."

He also said the union's poor financial position contributed to the decision to ask Mcerwa to resign.

Mcerwa said it was surprising that Ndhlovu should accuse him of being pre-occupied with politics when he himself had other interests outside the union.

Mwasa announces strike vote — on the pavement

South

2/5 - 7/15/92

143

By Justin Pearce

THE outcome of a Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) strike ballot had to be announced on the pavement — because the SABC would not allow its employees to hold a press conference on the premises.

"This situation leads us to feel the SABC has not yet done away with its anti-union feeling," said Mwasa spokesman Mr Mzukisi

Twala above the noise of the Sea Point traffic

Twelve of the 15 Mwasa members at the SABC in the Western Cape voted in favour of the strike. The strike ballot was held following a pay dispute with the SABC

At the time of going to press, national results were not available.

The dispute arose over the wage increases last year, which were only four percent or less.

After Mwasa declared a dispute on the matter, the SABC and Mwasa agreed both the 1991 and 1992 increases would be dealt with in talks this year.

The SABC offered a seven percent across-the-board increase, with a possible merit-based increase of four percent. Mwasa called for an increase of 30 percent across-the-board and the implementation of a minimum wage of R1 500

Twala also said members of the white union, the South African Broadcasting Staff Association (Sabsa), had received an 11 percent across-the-board increase.

The SABC refused to review the 1991 salaries, saying the increases awarded last month were fair.

A statement from the Mwasa national office in Johannesburg says "On looking back, we are satisfied that nothing we could do was not done.

"We have time and again acted outside our mandate without prior consultations. This did not help us either. The SABC remained intransigent and in most instances very unreasonable."

The statement accused the SABC of being anti-unionist.

Mwasa said there are rumours that "some SABC officials are promising our members better increases if they would resign from the union or join Sabsa."

Azapo joins SABC fray over wage proposals

Sowetan 11/5/92
143
By DON SEOKANE

THE Azanian People's Organisation yesterday condemned the management of the SABC for what it said was insensitivity on the part of the corporation and pledged support for any action to be taken by the corporation's workers

Azapo spokesman Mr Khangale Makhado criticised SABC management for rejecting a wage proposal from the Media Workers' Association of South Africa

Makhado said the fact that only last week more than 70 percent of Mwasas members voted for a strike indicated that the SABC management was completely insensitive to the demands of black workers

Negotiations

"According to Mwasas, the dispute emanated from the fact that the SABC not only rejected the union's proposal but it also slammed the door on further negotiations on this issue in the current period

"Mwasas feels that the SABC has not overcome the anti-union feelings that they have been harbouring

"The results of the SABC management's reluctance to address the deadlock and open the door to negotiations are too ghastly to contemplate," said Makhado

He added that Azapo pledged its support to any action that the workers might take and urged black masses to pressurise the SABC to meet the demands of its workers

Politics could divide unions

IN a move that is likely to send shockwaves through the labour movement, four National Council of Trade Unions affiliates have called for a new labour federation that is politically non-aligned.

The unions are the South African Chemical Workers' Union, Transport and Allied Workers' Union, Building Construction Workers' Union and Food and Beverage Workers' Union

The unions, which walked out of a joint Nactu-Cosatu executive meeting last Saturday, said in a declaration which was leaked to *Sowetan* that both Cosatu and Nactu should dissolve

They accused both federations of leaning heavily on political groups in South Africa at the expense of workers' interests. They explained, however, that they did not want a federation that was indifferent to politics as it permeated all aspects of society

They cited as an example of the two federations' sectari-

anism a meeting convened by both federations to discuss the forthcoming workers' summit where only Azapo, the ANC and PAC were invited

"Groups like Wosa, the New Unity Movement and IFP were not invited," the declaration stated

Mr Longway Kwelimbhini, who is the president of FBWU, said "Last Saturday's step was aimed at salvaging the future of the workers in the country. We are further inspired by the fact that we have support from other unions within Cosatu and Nactu," he added

Sacwu general secretary Mr Humphrey Ndlovu said it was not true that the four unions wanted to separate from Nactu

"The points raised in our declaration are among the issues we want discussed at the forthcoming workers' summit. We are as committed to unity as ever," he said

Spokesmen for BCAWU and Tawu declined to comment, saying the matter was for internal discussion

By MOKGADI PELA

Sowetan 14/5/92

(143)

143

(143)

sowetan 14/5/92

Sacwu to discuss workers' summit

By MOKGADI PELA (143)

THE South African Chemical Workers' Union is to hold its congress in Johannesburg from today until Saturday. Sacwu general secretary Mr Humphrey Ndaba yesterday said the forthcoming workers' summit and violence would top the agenda.

Guests from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and foreign embassies will attend. The congress will also be addressed by leaders of the Azanian People's Organisation, Pan Africanist Congress, African National Congress and Inkatha Freedom Party.

Ndaba said his union had already received messages of support from international sister unions.

Striking workers in city march

HUNDREDS of striking members of the Transport and General Workers Union marched through Johannesburg yesterday to protest against low wages and poor working conditions

The protesters later handed over lists of demands to the offices of the Department of Manpower and the National Contract Cleaning Association.

They are demanding a minimum wage of R1 000 a month, three-month paid maternity leave, a 25 percent night shift allowance and transport for night shift workers.

According to TGWU, employers in the cleaning industry in the Transvaal and the Cape were resisting negotiations on wages and working conditions.

A TGWU statement accused the NCCA employers in the two provinces of renegeing on an agreement to formulate a constitution for an industrial council for the contract cleaning industry.

"We ask the Department of Manpower to use its influence to persuade the bosses to see the sense of an industrial council so that proper wages and working conditions for cleaners can be negotiated on a national basis," the statement said

Sacwu to discuss workers' summit

By MOKGADI PELA

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Mwasa on a wage strike at the SABC

Sowetan 18/5/92

143 (11/22)

By IKE MOTSAPI

THOUSANDS of workers at the SABC, who are members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa, will go on a national strike over wages starting today.

The strike by the SABC Mwasa members follows a deadlock between the union and management of the corporation since wage talks started early this year.

Mr Joe Mdhlela, deputy chairman of Mwasa's Southern Transvaal region, said the workers were geared for the strike which was expected to paralyse essential services unless the matter was resolved.

Mdhlela said a strike bal-

lot was held on April 28 this year after the wage issue had not been resolved.

During the ballot a total of 90 percent of the workers voted for the strike action while the remaining 10 percent either voted no or did not cast their votes.

Mdhlela said management offered an 11 percent across-the-board increase and R1 300 a month minimum wage as against the union's revised 20 percent across-the-board and R1 500 a month minimum wage.

The 11 percent offered by SABC management was divided as follows: seven

percent across-the-board and four percent merit increase.

Mdhlela said Mwasa now demanded a 30 percent across-the-board increase and R1 500 a month minimum wage.

He said "It is surprising that the same SABC which has spent millions of rands in pushing for the white yes vote during the referendum is refusing to pay its staff minimum living wages."

"The SABC spends lots of money buying fleets of expensive cars for executives who refuse to pay its staff living wages," Mdhlela added.

SABC management could not be contacted for comment.

Dr T with Cod

Dribon

Mwasa and SAUJ join forces

Sowetan 27/3/92

143

THE South African Union of Journalists and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa at Republican Press met yesterday and agreed to join forces

This was done as a bid to co-ordinate possible national industrial action against the company

Both unions have declared deadlocks with Republican Press over wages and service conditions.

SAUJ general secretary Miss Karen Stander said yesterday salaries at RP, the magazine arm of Perskor, were very low when compared with the rest of the industry

The company has offered both unions a 10 percent across-the-board, increase, which has been rejected by members

Mwasa is demanding a restructuring of salaries while the SAUJ has demanded an increase of 15 percent across-the-board and 10 percent on merit.

Stander said members of both unions were angered by the company's intransi-

gence, especially in view of the massive profits made. Many members were calling for a strike and a countrywide ballot was to be conducted soon

Salary increases at RP have averaged less than 10 percent over the past decade, compared with an average inflation rate of about 15 percent a year, Stander said

Meanwhile, in the preliminary report for the period to June 1991, the most recent figures available, Perskor chairman Mr JM Buitendag said the company had recorded the "best and certainly its most satisfactory results to date"

During this period the company's profit before tax rose by 25 percent and net income attributable to shareholders by 48 percent.

Republican Press owns the magazines Scope, Farmers' Weekly, Rooi Rose, Personality, Bona, Thandi, Your Family, Living and Loving, Garden and Home, Keur and the Republican Press Photo Stories - Sapa.



South 16/5-21/5/92

Mwasa, SABC wage impasse to continue

By Justin Pearce

SABC management has failed to meet wage demands by the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa), and the two-week-old dispute continues

If Mwasa calls a strike, the action will affect 98 percent of the SABC's black staff. This will mean, among other things, the suspension of African-language news broadcasts as happened during Mwasa's one-day strike earlier this year.

Mwasa originally demanded a 30 percent across-the-board increase, plus a minimum wage of R1 500 per month. The SABC agreed the increase was intended to compensate for the unacceptable four percent increase offered last year.

Union spokesperson Mr Mzukisi Twala said Mwasa had bent during talks to accommodate a 20 percent increase. The union offered management two possible schemes for the phasing in of this increase, but these proposals were rejected.

The SABC offered 11 percent across the board and a minimum wage of R1 300.

Azapo, the ANC and the PAC have all issued statements supporting the SABC workers.

NPSL *Sowetan* backs *29/5/92* strike

THE National Professional Soccer League yesterday pledged its full support for members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa who are on strike at the SABC.

NPSL chairman Mr Goba Ndhlovu said that for seven years the league had suffered under the "harsh and unfeeling discrimination" meted out by the SABC.

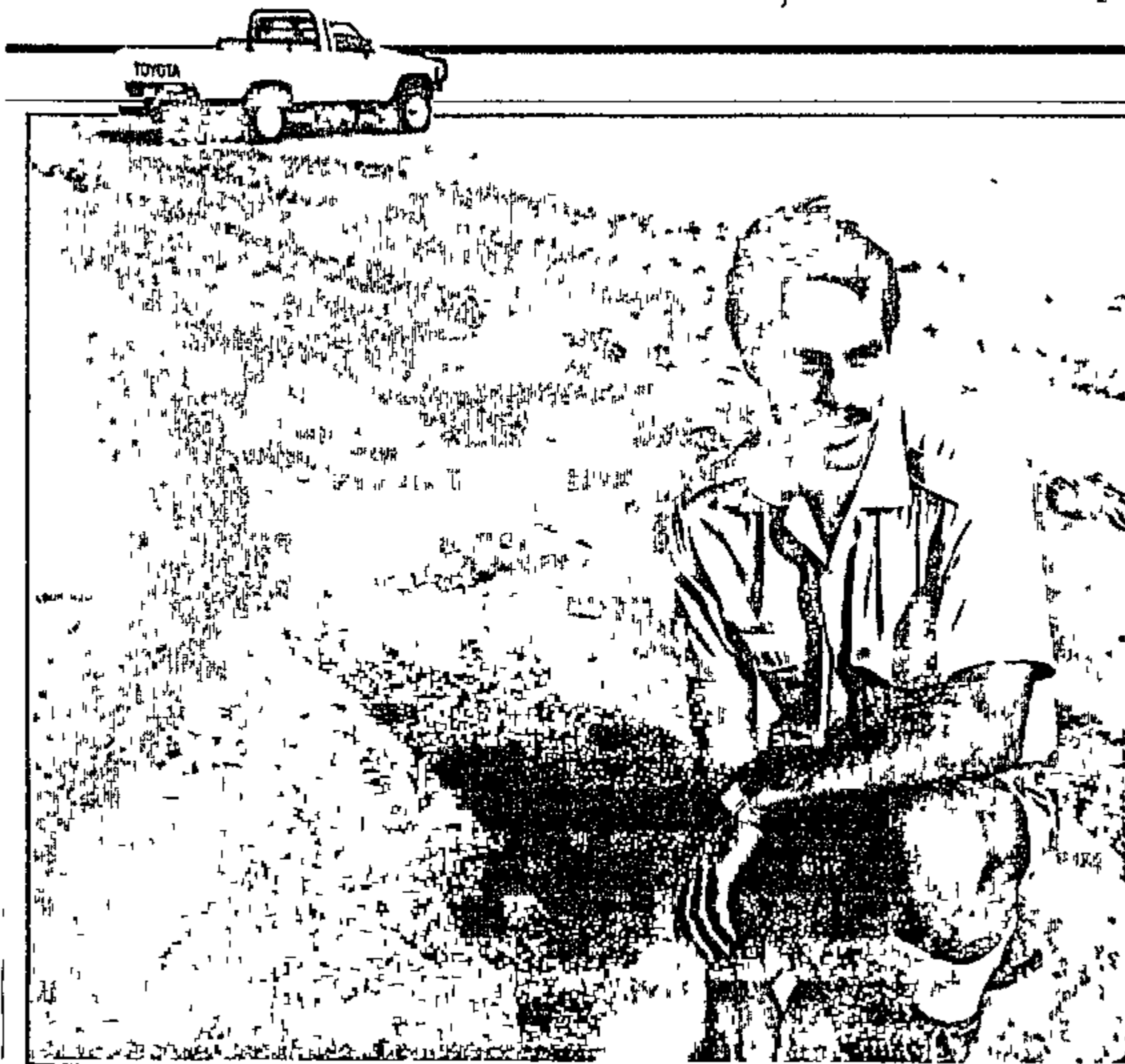
"Today their uncaring handling of their own employees has been thoroughly exposed - thanks to Mwasa.

"Mwasa has proved to all South Africans, particularly the oppressed masses of people, that over and above being a biased and partisan propaganda machine, the SABC cares very little for their workers."

Sapa

140

143



High and Dry As white farmers go bankrupt, thousands of farmworkers lose their jobs

Photo KEVIN CARTER

Farm legislation stalls at go-nowhere summit

Wimac 22/5-28/5/92 ~~143~~
WITH just three months to go before this sitting of parliament ends, proposed legislation for farmworkers has bogged deep in negotiations. And the possibility of smooth passage for this legislation is becoming more and more bleak.

May 7 was supposed to be D-day, the day the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) made a final decision on the

As the drought deepens, legislation to protect farm workers is still as distant as rainclouds on the horizon

FERIAL HAFFAJEE reports

legislation. Instead it turned into another go-nowhere summit. The parties agreed only to seek mandates on two proposals: the first was whether key leg-

islation should be debated in this parliamentary session and the second was whether there should be one separate labour statute for farmworkers or whether they should be governed by existing South African labour statutes.

Over the weekend the two trade union federations issued a demand that the Basic Conditions of Employment Amendment Bill and the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Bill be debated and passed in this session of parliament.

But Cosatu and Nactu have minimal membership in the farming sector and consequently have little bargaining power with the farmers. This is reflected in their patient and conciliatory approach to the SAAU. The union statement also said that "we remain prepared to enter into negotiations with the SAAU concerning one or many acts for the agricultural sector".

Cosatu and Nactu also said this week they realised there was little hope for the legislation being passed by June.

The federations believe the failure by the government to pass the legislation in the 18 months since the Labour Minute was passed indicated "a lack of political will on the part of the government to extend basic rights to farmworkers".

Many farmworkers were being retrenched because of the drought and this made the issue a more burning one because they were left without any protection, said the two federations.

Last week, Cosatu launched its drought relief campaign. In terms of the campaign, they will demand that a greater share of the government's drought relief fund go to farmworkers and their families.

Cosatu said that only two percent of the R1-billion allocated by the government to drought relief would be distributed to farmworkers. "The bulk of the money will go, not to prevent mass starvation, but to prevent white farmers from going bankrupt".

Delays in the farmworker legislation could be key sparks to Cosatu's general strike planned for July.

Everything keeps going wrong at Toyota plants

Wimac 22/5-28/5/92 ~~143~~
By FERIAL HAFFAJEE
MANY prospective Toyota buyers now face a four-month wait for their new wheels because of a two-week strike at the company's Durban plants.

Every day 430 motor cars do not roll off the assembly line and the 6 000 workers on strike lose R500 000 in wages. Experts estimate that the company has lost R207-million in turnover and the communities where workers live have lost R7,2-million workers would have spent there. In addition, the company's 68 component suppliers have lost R42-million with the figure climbing by R5-million a day.

These are the startling statistics behind the strike which was sparked by the actions of an allegedly racist line manager "who practises outdated industrial relations", alleges the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa). Workers are on strike to demand that he be fired.

But the company says "By demanding that we act against a supervisor without any recourse to due process, workers are violating their own hard-won advances toward security of employment".

On Tuesday, the parties agreed to refer the matter for arbitration. But workers refuse to return

to work until the arbiter makes an award. "The inference is that any return to work will be conditional on a finding in favour of the workers. This is an untenable situation for us," says Toyota.

The union says that management was alerted to workers' dissatisfaction with the line manager in February and failed to do anything about it.

"We feel that if workers come back to work now, management might come up with delaying tactics so problems must be resolved while we are on strike."

On May 7, the company was granted an interdict by the industrial court forcing workers to go back to work. Workers have ignored the interdict and are adamant about staying on strike "even for a thousand days".

The call for the dismissal of the line manager has been extended, two other senior managers are also on the firing line. In addition workers are demanding the reinstatement of a shop-steward dismissed six months ago.

Numsa regional organiser in Durban Magraps Hlatwayo, said that the parties held five meetings to iron out the dispute. On Wednesday they worked late into the night to find a way out of the impasse.

LABOUR

LABOUR BRIEFS

Radio workers get active

NO news was not good news on SABC's TV2, TV3 and all the black radio stations this week when 1 200 striking workers brought broadcasts to a standstill.

The strikers, who picketed outside the SABC for most of the week, vowed to continue striking for 1 000 days if necessary.

The strike is the result of a protracted wage dispute between the SABC and members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa.

Mwasa initially tabled a demand for a 30 percent wage increase and a R1 500 minimum wage but dropped this to a demand for a staggered increase of 20 percent with the same minimum wage.

The SABC is offering an 11 percent across-the-board increase and a minimum wage of R1 200 and the union has reverted to its initial demand.

A Mwasa representative said talks broke

down in Durban on May 8. He said that the union had tabled a high demand to take into account the debts their members had incurred in the past year after securing increases of only four percent last year.

Partial accord in public sector

THE government this week concluded wage agreements with five public sector employee organisations this week. They settled on 9,2 percent increases. The lowest-paid public servants will receive increases of between 16 and 32 percent when the three lowest salary notches are abolished.

The remaining six public sector unions walked out of wage negotiations on Tuesday in protest against the government's earlier offer of an 8,5 percent increase.

National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union general secretary Philip Dexter said 800 public sector workers were arrested this week after holding sit-ins at various hospitals in Klerksdorp on Monday

and Tuesday. Nehawu will also hold marches around the country next week. The union is holding out for a 15,3 percent increase with a R724 minimum wage.

Mine wage talks begin

WAGE talks in the mining industry kicked off in Johannesburg on Wednesday this week. Employers tabled an offer of a four percent wage increase on the gold mines while the union is pushing for a 20 percent wage increase.

The Chamber of Mines rejected the National Union of Mineworkers' demand for an agency shop on mines where it enjoyed a majority membership. The agency shop is a form of closed shop where non-union members pay a percentage of the union subscription fee to pay for benefits negotiated by the union.

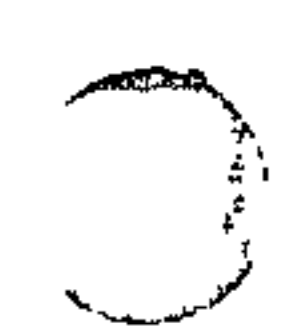
It is a way of preventing free riders says the union.

Wm said 22/5-28/5/92

Wm said 22/5-28/5/92

Wm said 22/5-28/5/92

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mer West German chancel-
lor Willy Brandt (right)
Tests to determine whether
the tumours were malign-
ant or benign were not ex-
pected to be completed be-
fore next week, the Cologne
University clinic said Brandt (78) had a malignant
tumour removed in October



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CCN annoys unionists

143

THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) was
due to send a protest note to the US Embassy in
Pretoria yesterday concerning the US cable net-
work CCN's attitude towards the strike at the SABC
by the Media Workers Association of SA. Nactu gen-
eral-secretary Mahlomola Skhosana said this fol-
lowed a mandate the striking workers gave to the
union federation yesterday

STAR 23/5/92

Bank manager wounded

Employers form national association

THREE of the country's major employer organisations are establishing a unified representative national employer organisation in the social policy arena, says a joint statement issued by the three organisations in Johannesburg yesterday

Foundation for African Business and Consumer Services (Fabcos), the National African Chambers of Commerce (Nafcoc) and the SA Employers' Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola) said the new body would be as inclusive as possible without affecting the identity of existing employer organisations

In practice this would mean membership would be open to employer organisations, while member organisations would continue to operate autonomously, they said

A Fabcos, Nafcoc and Saccola (FNS) working party had already been appointed to study the issues

which would be involved in the establishment of the proposed new body. The working party would consult widely with employers and employer organisations, including those not affiliated to FNS

"As part of this process a plenary session with employers and interested employer organisations will be held at an early stage to debate the issues involved in establishing the new employer body

"Further plenary sessions will be considered as the need for this type of consultation arises," the joint statement said

Meanwhile, four affiliates of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) launched a new union at the weekend as the first step towards a merger. The affiliates were the Black University Workers' Association, Federation of Municipality, Health and Allied Workers' Union, National

Union of Public Servant Workers, and the Western Province Local Authorities Workers' Association (WPLA)

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said in a statement yesterday the new union — the Municipality, Education, State, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Meshawu) — already had a paid-up membership of 21 500. "A new constitution has been adopted and an interim committee, comprising three members from each of the four unions, elected to guide Meshawu and handle all issues arising from the new union until a new leadership is elected on August 21," he said

The financial accounts of the four unions would have to be wound up, he added, and the leadership of the new union firmly established before the four existing Nactu affiliates fell away — Sapa

Bl Day 26/5/92

(143)

Cosatu, Nactu put off workers' summit

COSATU and Nactu yesterday announced the postponement of the workers' summit scheduled for this weekend, to enable further groundwork to be carried out on various issues on the agenda

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana denied the postponement was related to reports that four of Nactu's largest affiliates recently called for the two federations to dissolve and form a new, politically nonaligned federation.

He said Cosatu and Nactu were due to meet on June 2 to discuss a new date

Ngcukana and Cosatu official Lisa Seftel said it had been decided that summit discussions on unity should be postponed pending further sectoral meetings between the two federations' respective affiliates

It was further decided that a proposed declaration of workers' rights — which could be included in a future constitution

ALAN FINE

— should be discussed with unions outside the Cosatu/Nactu fold.

Finally, it appeared discussions on the proposed economic negotiating forum were premature in that talks with Finance Minister Derek Keys were beginning to bear fruit, but there were as yet too few concrete developments

Ngcukana, commenting on reports that Nactu's affiliates in the chemical, construction, food and transport sectors were unhappy with the political leanings of organised labour, said the matter had been resolved "within the framework of Nactu policy".

Asked about the possibility of a Cosatu/Nactu merger given Cosatu's formal alliance with the ANC and SACP, Ngcukana said the matter would be addressed by Nactu delegates at the summit

Count us out, Nactu tells Cosatu

UNION federation Nactu has told Cosatu in firm terms that it will not campaign for demands relating to Codesa negotiations, government corruption and covert security operations. *B. D. van*

Nactu spokesman Mudini Maivha said in a statement this week his federation and Cosatu agreed to launch a mass action campaign to demand an end to government's unilateral restructuring of the economy, the extension of trade union rights to farm, domestic and public workers, and for a constituent assembly. *29/5/92*

Cosatu has announced a programme of unprecedented mass action if demands relating to political negotiations, government corruption and covert security operations were not met by the end of June. It has the ANC's and SACP's blessing.

(143)

WILSON ZWANE

Maivha said Nactu and its affiliates — they claim a combined membership of 300 000 — would not take part in campaigns which were directly or indirectly related to Codesa negotiations. "We do not support Codesa and the demand for the establishment of an interim government."

He said Nactu would only campaign for the establishment of a constituent assembly and "issues which directly affect workers". If Cosatu wished to campaign for other issues, it could do so alone.

Sacob spokesman Gerrie Bezuidenhout said yesterday a five-day strike would cost workers about R600m in wages.

● See Page 3

Small business asked to decentralise

THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) this week called on small business to set up factories in rural areas to slow urbanisation.

Nactu general secretary Makhomula Skosana made the plea at the second annual conference of the National African Federated Chamber of Commerce's (Nafcoc) national industrial council in Johannesburg.

He said measures by government and medium-sized businesses to assist small businesses to take such a step would be necessary.

Cosatu official and Numsa general secretary Bernie Fanaroff told the

THEO RAWANA

conference "Cosatu recognises the existence of small businesses. However, we are not prepared to see a development of small business based on exploitation."

Fanaroff said trade unions were fighting for a ban on retrenchments and against job losses and were also negotiating to restructure industry to create more jobs.

Council secretary Phillip Machaba said the impact trade unions had on small manufacturers was of great concern.

"Once a small entrepreneur

reaches the threshold of major growth, he has to face the demands of the trade union movement. Therefore many manufacturers see the unionisation of their labour force as an area of concern, especially in the prevailing climate of widespread unemployment," Machaba said.

Small manufacturing accounted for about 17% of informal sector activity in SA, he said.

Fanaroff said the time had come for the labour movement to talk formally with small business in order to support one other instead of being in opposition.

More problems as Cosatu,

Nactu postpone summit?

South 30/5/92 - 3/6/92
143

By Quentin Wilson

A HUGE workers' summit was postponed two days before it was due to be held — with different reasons given by Cosatu and Nactu. The two federations were due to make history on May 28, by hosting it jointly.

Delegates to the summit were supposed to discuss further joint programmes as well as consider adopting a worker's charter.

A joint statement issued this week by the general secretaries of the two federations adopts a diplomatic approach.

Mr Jay Naidoo of Cosatu, and Mr Cunningham Ngcukana of Nactu, said the summit was postponed to sometime "within the next three months".

"The reason for the postponement is that Cosatu and Nactu do not want the summit to be an event between a few trade unions, but part of a process which includes

"The summit was called off by Cosatu. It has a lot to do with Cosatu trying to define its own political direction, especially given the collapse of Codesa," Williams alleged.

He also claimed it was Cosatu's wish to get Nactu behind the ANC's demand for an interim government.

"No workers' summit will survive if the agenda is to get Nactu and other unions behind ANC demands".

Mr Alan Roberts, the Cosatu regional secretary in the Cape, said the summit was postponed "due to financial and organisational problems".

problems".

Roberts said he was not aware that tension between the two federations had been the cause of the postponement.

"Sure, there was tension. There always has been but in the last year our relationship was good, demonstrated recently by the joint May Day rallies.

"I am not aware that there was any serious breakdown or disruption

"Tensions will always exist within any organisation — it's part of the growing dynamic — but I have not heard that it was called off because of tensions," he said.

Agenda staff slate SABC's handling of strike

STAFF members of SABC's news programme Agenda yesterday signed an open letter to the corporation's board and senior management criticising their handling of the Mwasa strike

The letter warned the dispute was polarising staff along racial lines and negatively affecting the SABC's political credibility

"As Mwasa is a predominantly black organisation, the strike has begun to take on political dimensions that have serious implications for all employees," the letter said

It was signed by presenters Freek Rob-

143
Biday 24/6/92
PATRICK BULGER

inson, Adrian Steed, Barbara Folscher, Elna Botha, Agenda executive producer Hein Ungerer and 25 other staff members

It said the dispute had placed black members of management in an untenable situation. Their current and future credibility had been dealt a severe blow

They also objected to security personnel "sporting shotguns and bandoliers as if the SABC had now become an unrest area. We appreciate that the corporation is a national security keypoint but feel that we

have a labour dispute on our hands and not an armed insurrection

"We object to black staff members having to state their names and business before being allowed to enter SABC premises. We are concerned at the damage that this dispute has caused to the corporation's credibility

"A number of organisations have decided not to contribute to our programmes while the strike dispute remains unresolved. We strongly urge you to resolve this dispute in the best interests of all concerned," the letter said

Boycott action seen as not peaceful

THE Far Northern Transvaal Regional Dispute Resolution Committee has rejected a one-day consumer boycott called for June 17 by Mwasa in support of its three-week-old national wage strike with the SABC.

The National Peace Committee affiliate made the announcement on Friday, following discussions on the boycott and protest march, and "alleged support" for the action by unnamed political parties who are signatories to the Peace Accord.

"Representatives at the meeting did not oppose the concept of the legal protest march, but felt that signatories must distance themselves from boycott action and intimidation as it is in direct violation with the Peace Accord," the committee said.

Reports by CP Correspondents and Sapa

143
C/prev 14/6/72

SABC, Mwasa square up

By MOKGADI PELA

THE SABC last night accused the Media Workers Association of SA of intimidating employees who did not want to take part in Mwasa's strike

The allegation was made on the *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback Show by SABC official Mr Christo Pretorius on the eve of an important meeting between the union and the corporation's board of directors.

SOWETAN
Building the Nation

RADIO METRO
TALKBACK

Responding to the accusation, Mwasa general secretary Mr S'thembele Khala said he did not expect differences of opinion from the SABC

Khala charged that the

fact that most striking workers were black showed that the SABC discriminated against black workers. This was denied by Pretorius

The wage strike by more than 1 200 Mwasa members is in its third week in Pietersburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Workers are demanding a 30 percent increase while the SABC is offering seven percent.

Khala cited examples of a black worker in Pietersburg who was allegedly earning R400 a month and another in Durban who has been with the company for more than 32 years but earned R900 a month. Pretorius said he was not aware of both cases.

Both Khala and Pretorius shared the view that negotiations between the two groups would resolve the impasse which had brought black television channels and radio services to a halt

2/6/92

SABC bashing union Mwasa (143)

By Justin Pearce

South 2016-24/6/92.

THE SABC is a "union-basher", says the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) following a letter sent by SABC to striking workers

Mwasa says the open letter addressed to all Mwasa members makes claims that are false

The letter is seen by the union as an attempt to undermine their credibility.

"This action confirms that the SABC has not overcome the anti-union feeling that it has harboured for a very long time" said Mwasa spokesperson Mr Mzukisi Twala.

The letter lists salary increases supposedly granted by the SABC, since January 1989 Twala dismissed some of the figures as "lies".

The SABC claims skilled and clerical workers received an increase of 27,7 percent in March 1991. Twala said the increases at that time ranged from nothing to nine percent, around four percent on average

Mwasa also condemned the fact that the SABC was consulting other state corporations to determine a fair wage

"They should be comparing the salary of a Radio Xhosa DJ with the salary of a Radio 5 DJ," Twala said

DJs on black stations receive a starting salary of R1 500, as opposed to the R2 000 paid to new white DJs, he claimed

The letter is signed by Mr WJJ Harmse on behalf of the corporation's top management.

It says "it is our desire (and the situation also demands it) to now communicate directly with Mwasa members".

Sowetan Correspondent

THE ongoing strike which has crippled the SABC's CCV channel is no longer a labour issue, but has been overtaken by political motives, says the corporation's labour relations manager, Mr Christo Pretorius.

Pretorius was speaking at a Press briefing yesterday to explain the SABC's stance on the strike, which was started on May 18 by members of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa when pay talks broke down.

There has been a news blackout on the CCV channel since the start of the strike, while magazine programmes have also fallen by the wayside

Mwasa strike is political - SABC

Sowetan 22/6/92

143

The strike has been hijacked by the political scenario in the country - Pretorius

"The strike has been hijacked by the political scenario in the country," said Pretorius. This view was shared by the Conservative Party, which at the weekend called on the top management of the SABC to stop its indecision about the ongoing strike.

Dr Pieter Mulder, Conservative Party spokesman on communications, said in a statement employees who

wanted to work were being intimidated in an unacceptable manner while damage was being done to buildings and equipment.

"It would appear that the strike is not about personnel grievances, but has taken on a shade of ANC action. If the SABC management is unable to handle this internal problem, then it is no longer necessary for them to negotiate further at

Codessa against an ANC takeover of the organisation.

"The SABC will, in the long run, be handed over to the ANC and its trade unions to manipulate broadcasting as it wishes."

Pretorius said the SABC had written an "open letter to all Mwasa members explaining our stance, but the shop stewards burnt them without even reading

them"

Pretorius said there was evidence of widespread intimidation of employees who did not support the strike action, adding it was disturbing that Mwasa was turning the strike into a racial issue, namely white against black.

There were no disparities in salaries based on race at the SABC, but Mwasa continued to insist on a 20

percent pay rise and a minimum salary of R1 500 - as opposed to the SABC's offer of 11 percent and a minimum salary of R1 300.

"Other trade unions have accepted our view that job preservation in the long term is more important than short-term gains, and accordingly accepted our initial offer of 7 percent across the board and 4 percent merit," he said, pointing

out that the country was currently in the grip of a recession.

According to figures in the open letter, 75 percent of Mwasa members got increases of more than 26 percent last year, with no member getting less than a 12 percent pay rise.

● The Media Workers Association of South Africa's view of the strike is on page 13

SA faces two-pronged mass action campaign

By IKE MOTSAPI

SOUTH Africa is at present faced with a massive two-pronged mass action programme which is escalating by the day... on the labour and political fronts.

While trade union movements demand that employers pay their members "living wages," better working conditions, and a moratorium on retrenchments, these requests have been linked to the mass action campaign called by the African National Congress and its tripartite alliance

This trend seems to be growing as unions affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions engage in battles with employers for better wages and working conditions.

Unlike the ANC, the Pan African Congress has declined to take part in mass action campaigns to break the deadlock at Codesa because they do not recognise the body.

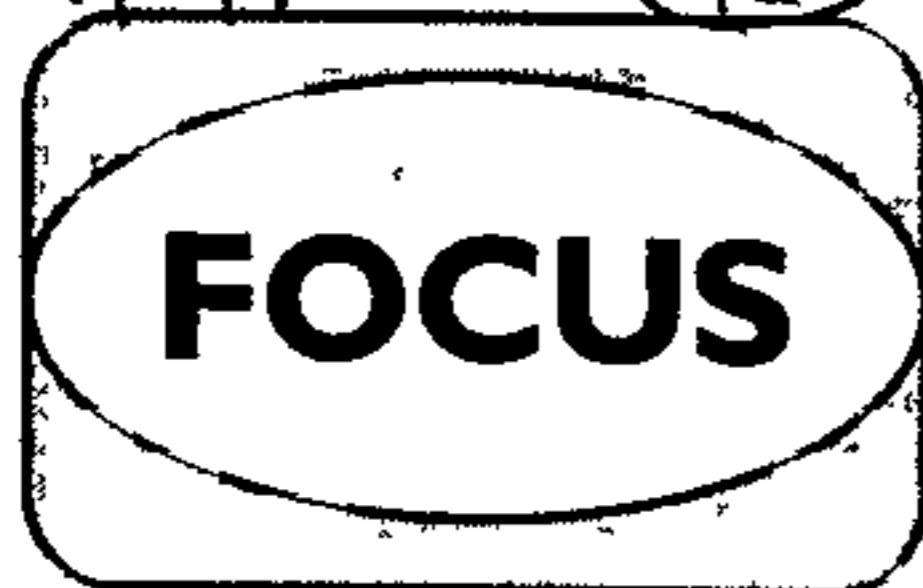
However, there is talk that Nactu trade unions are likely to join hands with Cosatu in fighting the bosses for better salaries and working conditions for workers

This unified industrial action is seen as an attempt to show the employers that workers are serious in demanding a fair deal for themselves

This unity will be greatly focused on the metal industry with a threatened national general strike scheduled to start on August 1

On June 30 workers in the metal industry affiliated to the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa have been asked to start forming strike action committees

The campaign by the tripartite alliance is for the total abolition of apartheid laws, the establishment



of an interim government and an elected constituent assembly which will see the removal of the present Government from the position of power

The trade unions, together with the ANC and the South African Communist Party have linked up in a mass action campaign they describe as "Operation Exit".

While the ANC and its allies have not yet started in earnest with their campaigns which were launched on June 16, trade union movements have already started to embark on daily mass demonstrations throughout the country

Since the end of May this year when the ANC announced its campaign to break the deadlock that resulted after the failure of Codesa 2, Cosatu, although having a different programme of action on labour issues, agreed to link up with the organisation during protest marches for political demands

The ANC's campaign will start in earnest on July 1 This will be preceded by a huge countrywide mass demonstration by more than 1,3 million Cosatu members in support of strike action by workers belonging to Numsa, the Paper, Printing, Wood and Allied Workers Union and the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union and others next Monday

The march, which it is said will be one of the biggest ever to be witnessed in the country so far, is regarded as the start of the real mass action campaign against the intransigent bosses at the workplace and

It is clear that workers will not be treated as pawns to be replaced and shifted around at workplaces as management deems it fit.

the Government.

Mr Rob Rees, national organiser of Ppwawu, said "It is clear that workers will not be treated as pawns to be replaced and shifted around at workplaces as management deems it fit.

"Workers are going to fight back fiercely around their needs and their demands They want the right to determine their future

"It is also clear that these workers' actions are going to fuel the mass action campaign of the ANC, which we support.

"Ppwawu is fully committed to the demand for an interim government and a constituent assembly made up of delegates democratically elected and fighting for 'the needs and demands of the rank and file,'" Rees said

He said Ppwawu is presently engaged in what he described as a "bitter battle" with Sappi on two issues

He said "Firstly that there should be a moratorium on retrenchments and secondly that Sappi commit itself to an industry bargaining forum They have so far refused and more than 2 000 of our members have been retrenched "

The main demands by trade unions are

- Better wages
- Better working conditions
- A moratorium on retrenchments and,
- No more job losses

Mr Tony Ruiters, regional secretary of Numsa, after delivering memoranda to the employer body, the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa regional minister of the Department of Manpower and the National Industrial Council for the Motor Industry, said "This action shows our anger and determination to fight, using our power as workers, if negotiations are not concluded fairly and speedily

"We will no longer tolerate delays and sufferings of metalworkers whether inside or outside of the main agreement.

"We are all the same workers suffering from high food prices, high transport prices, high rents and electricity Delays cause hardship," Ruiters said

Employers have adopted a no work no pay policy on days of marches

However, this has not dampened the spirit and determination of the unions, who like the ANC and its allies, believe their actions will result in victory in the end



PALLO JORDAN

Union hits ANC for crossing the line

143
Sowetah
25/6/92

Correspondent

DR PALLO Jordan's SABC appearance on Sunday evening's Agenda has caused concern to Mwasas members as to what they perceive as the ANC's "crossing of the picket lines".

According to Mr Tsidiso Rahtaba, Mwasas Southern Transvaal chairman, an understanding had been reached that political organizations - including the ANC, PAC, SACP and AZAPO - and trade unions would maintain a "no-interview" stance in support of the Mwasas labour strike action.

In a meeting between ANC and Mwasas officials, it was agreed that the news embargo on the SABC would hold, except where the ANC was not able to refuse - namely in policy matters and press conferences.

In the light of the gravity of the events of the last week in Boipatong, Dr Pallo Jordan, head of the ANC's department of information, said it was necessary for the ANC to express their concern and communicate their position.

Although aware of the news embargo, it was important that the ANC put their point of view across to avoid a "monopoly of the airwaves", he said.

In the broadcast Jordan expressed that the suspension of yesterday's talks with the Government did not signify the ANC's termination of negotiations, and that the urgent need for a solution to the violence had become even more immediate.

He said further that the credibility of the Government was again called into question and repeated the ANC's call for a coalition government.

Mwasas, whose strike has entered its sixth week, is demanding a 20 percent across-the-board increase and a R1 500 minimum wage.

The SABC is offering an 11 percent increase and a R1 300 minimum wage.

Union's legal adviser sacked

Sowetan 26/6/92

(143)

BY JOE MDHLELA

THE Food and Beverage Workers Union has dismissed the head of its legal unit, Mr Thami Mcerwa.

The dismissal follows a three-month-long battle between the union and Mcerwa.

Mcerwa said his services were terminated this week in a letter from Mr Goba Ndhlovu, assistant general secretary of FBWU.

The letter read "This (letter) would represent a final position and if there is any further communication or discussion between the union and yourself, it should be on the basis of someone outside its employ."

Ndhlovu said the reason for Mcerwa's dismissal was because the union did not have funds to continue to run the legal unit.

Mcerwa disputed this saying that there was no truth in the claim made by Ndhlovu that the union did not have money.

"How could Ndhlovu justify such a claim when

as Ndhlovu and his committee had no power to dismiss union employees.

"Only the National Council is entitled to fire union employees Ndhlovu and his committee acted in default and I do not recognise their decision," Mcerwa said.

Ndhlovu "The union has no money To pay their legal fees we need to make claims to the International Union of Food Workers and the American-African Labour Centre We do not receive liquid cash These organisations pay the legal costs to our legal representatives"

He said FBWU did not victimise Mcerwa because of his political thinking On the contrary, they were allies of Azapo and have had a close working relationship with them.

"To say he has been singled out because of his politics is not correct

"In the past Nactu funded the union, but this funding has stopped The

wells have dried and there are no funds to sustain the legal unit which Mcerwa is heading."

On the claim by Mcerwa that he was not consulted when the need arose to close down the unit, Ndhlovu said he had had a number of consultations with Mcerwa to discuss the financial problems of the union

As for the claim by Mcerwa that the severance pay was not discussed with him, Ndhlovu said that was not necessary They were advised by a labour consultant on what to pay him

Mcerwa The union has a separate salary budget This budget has nothing to do with the grants it receives from international donors Therefore it is wrong to create the impression, as Ndhlovu does, that there was a special fund from the International Union of Food Workers and the American-African Labour Centre specifically for

the legal unit. Mcerwa said it was not often that the union referred its cases to lawyers as the bulk of the work was done from the legal unit.

Therefore, to suggest that the wells had dried up because the union no longer received funds from overseas was a misrepresentation of facts.

"So what is Ndhlovu talking about when he tries to create the impression that the legal unit is operated separately from the union as a whole?"

Mcerwa said the union received an administration subsidy from the International Union of Food Workers

He said the union recently moved to more expensive offices where the rent was three times as high as what they used to pay at Lekton House

"I have been told by the president of the union that the union is under pressure from other officers about my political affiliation



THAMI MCERWA has been dismissed by his union.

"There was also a remark made by the deputy president during Paul Simon's visit this year that I was spending more time arranging for the disruption of Paul Simon's tour than on my union activities

"Goba and his committee unilaterally decided my fate I regard their behaviour as inconsistent with accepted labour practices

"It is ironic that they are closing the legal unit because workers are dismissed everyday"

Announcer's home bombed

C/P/News 28/6/92

By FRED KHUMALO

143

THE SABC strike took a bitter turn this week with the petrol-bombing of Radio Zulu announcer Lindiwe Ntuli's KwaMashu house.

The popular announcer's name appears in an inflammatory pamphlet threatening all non-striking employees, saying they would be attacked if they didn't stop working.

The attack fueled fears of a campaign aimed at non-strikers.

The strike by about 1 500 workers is now in its fifth week. Workers are demanding a 20 percent increase and a minimum wage of R1 300. The corporation won't budge from an 11 percent across-the-board increase.

Ntuli is one of at least eight announcers who defied the strike call. Their names appear in the anonymous pamphlet which was distributed in Durban's townships recently.

She was not at home when the house was attacked and there is speculation that she was involved in a row with her neighbours over comments she made about them over the air.

The strikers, who are members of Mwasa, have repeatedly distanced themselves from the pamphlet and other forms of intimidation.

This week Mwasa reiterated their commitment to a peaceful resolution.

Mwasa strike committee spokesman Mandla Ndlovu said: "We condemn in the strongest terms possible the attack on Lindiwe Ntuli's house. We distance ourselves from any form of violence and intimidation. It's a pity people are beginning to link the attack to the strike."

Radio Zulu director Rev Hawu Mbatha said: "I just hope this is unrelated to our issue (the strike). That would be bad for our image."

Ntuli was not immediately available for comment.

She was reportedly not on friendly terms with her neighbours following what was perceived as an unsavoury comment on the air about KwaMashu residents in general and her neighbours in particular.

She made the comment after clothes and other essentials had been stolen from her house.

She has not been living in her house for some time following the misunderstanding which followed soon after her comment.

A KwaZulu Police spokesman said they were investigating the arson attack on the house.

In recent weeks non-striking SABC workers have been subjected to intimidation. SABC journalists were hounded out of Curries Fountain stadium where they were covering a June 16 commemoration service.

Union still to decide

THE National Council of Trade Unions will decide next week whether it should participate in mass action campaigns called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (143)

Cosatu appealed to Nactu last week to take part in its programme of mass action aimed at toppling the Government and establishing an elected constituent assembly *Sowetan*

Nactu's media officer, Mr Mudini Marvha said a decision on whether to participate or not will be taken at the federation's National Consultative Conference scheduled for July 18 - *Sowetan Reporter 6/7/92*

Mwasa to sit out 1 000 days

Score for 22/6/92

143

By DON SEOKANE

THE striking Mwasa members are prepared to complete the remaining 968 days if the SABC's management board does not review its offer of 11 percent.

This became evident during a rally by the union at SABC's regional offices in Pietersburg where general secretary Mr Sithembelwe Khala addressed union members and sympathisers from the ANC, Azapo and PAC.

Workers were adamant that the SABC could come up with a healthy offer and that their demands of a salary hike were justified under the present economic conditions.

The Mwasa strike, which started four weeks ago and has crippled Mr Madala Mphahlele's creation - CCV-TV - and about 11 radio stations that serve black people, is the result of a deadlock in wage negotiations.

The union has demanded a 20 percent hike in salary and a minimum of R1 500 a month while the SABC has stood fast on its 11 percent

month. And those workers have suffered enough hardships but the corporation still refuses to budge on its unreasonable offer.

"No union under the present economic climate, with inflation rampaging at about 16 percent can accept an offer of 11 percent. That would be cheating the workers," said Khala.

He disclosed that during last Wednesday and Thursday's negotiations in Bloemfontein the union proposed a compromise of accepting the 11 percent offer now and the remaining nine percent to be negotiated between now and the end of August.

However, he claimed, SABC management refused and advised the union to revise its demand.

Khala told an emotionally charged rally that fighting the SABC was tantamount to fighting the State. SABC's board of directors were getting orders from the secret Broederbond and "when you fight the might of the SABC you are engaged in a battle with the SADF, the police and the Government," he said.

"That is why we are calling the community to support us because the SABC is a giant. But with community support the giant can be turned into a one-eyed giant."

"To close the remaining eye of the giant, Mwasa members are appealing to the licence payers and viewers to do that. Licence payers are in possession of ammunition to deal with the SABC effectively," he appealed.

Khala revealed that the union members were distressed that there were leaders of community and political organisations who were crossing the picket line by granting interviews to the SABC.

He said the SABC was also trying to destroy the morale of workers by showing National Soccer League games, referring to a match last Saturday between Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs and Amazulu.

By mentioning the NSL, he invoked a series of anti-NSL slogans starting "down with NSL" to "National Scandal League".

He said the most dis-

ressing factor was that the community was silent about what he termed the intransigence of the SABC. He claimed that the corporation was trying to end the strike, not by acceding to workers' demands, but by hurrying scabs - temporary workers - to appear as if the strike had ended.

Mwasa president Mrs Sandra Nagtaal, with deputy-president Mr Dalzer Mqaba — leaders of the union now engaged in a struggle with the SABC.



from ANC, Azapo and PAC which supported the strike and criticised the corporation of treating its workers and the black community as sub-humans. The SABC's board was accused of being constituted politically and that it was time that the board was scrapped.

The remaining 968 days will determine whether workers will gain enough community support to force the SABC to pay its workers a "living wage". The days will also show whether the black community can be united at least against one State-organ. Nevertheless, for Mwasa members, as Khala disclosed, the strike will only be reviewed after the 1 000 days are over.

news in brief

Education standstill

EDUCATION at universities, technikons and technical colleges is expected to come to a standstill following a decision by the South African Students Congress (Sasco) to stage a class boycott for a week from August 3. *Sowetan 17/7/92.*

The campaign is part of the mass action called by the ANC and its allies. Sasco, which has members at universities, technikons and technical colleges, plans to have demonstrations and sit-ins "against undemocratic and repressive administration".

● It was incorrectly reported in *Sowetan* yesterday that the boycott had been called by the Congress of South African Students. - *Sowetan Reporter*

Nactu to decide

THE National Council of Trade Unions ⁽¹⁴³⁾ meets in Soweto tomorrow to decide whether it should take part in mass action campaigns led by the ANC and its alliances. *Sowetan 17/7/92*

Nactu has called an extraordinary consultative conference to discuss the matter. The meeting takes place at the Lutheran Church, Central Western Jabavu - *Sowetan Reporter*.

News

in brief

Nactu in action

143

THE National Council of Trade Unions at the weekend agreed in principle to jointly co-ordinate the mass action campaign aimed at installing a new government by December. Nactu is scheduled to meet Cosatu and liberation movements to discuss the form and nature of the mass action.

Sowetan 20/7/92

STAR 14/7/92 143 152

Joint health, media march

Staff Reporters

Striking media and health workers yesterday joined forces in a mass march on the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Johannesburg offices and on the SABC, threatening to disrupt services at both institutions if their demands were not met.

The strikers — members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) and the Media Workers' Association of SA (Mwasa) — had decided to collaborate in a demonstration of worker power against the "common enemy", said Nehawu vice-president Vusi Nhlapo.

Mwasa is aligned with the umbrella National Council of Trade Unions,

which has so far not taken part in the ANC alliance's mass action campaign.

During yesterday's march, the Cosatu-supporting Nehawu workers delivered an ultimatum to the TPA offices, threatening to occupy TPA buildings and "bring the whole public sector to a standstill" unless 7 600 dismissed health workers in the Transvaal and Free State were reinstated by Friday.

On the second leg of the march, protesters moved to SABC headquarters in Auckland Park, Johannesburg, where Mwasa officials handed over a memorandum reiterating the union's wage demands and calling for an end to discriminatory practices

and for unbiased news reporting. The union memorandum threatened that if its demands were not met by Friday, the news blackout would be intensified and the SABC's buildings would be subjected to mass occupation.

Sapa reports that the Confederation of Employers of Southern Africa (Cofesa) and the SA Iron, Steel and Allied Industries' Union yesterday hit out at Nehawu's proposed occupation of hospitals and State buildings, saying it was a blatant abuse of union rights which would endanger lives.

● Strict access control has been introduced at Johannesburg Hospital as a result of the strike, chief superintendent Dr Joe Botha announced

yesterday. Only genuine visitors would be admitted, and they were asked to bring some form of identification. They would be required to apply for admission on a form.

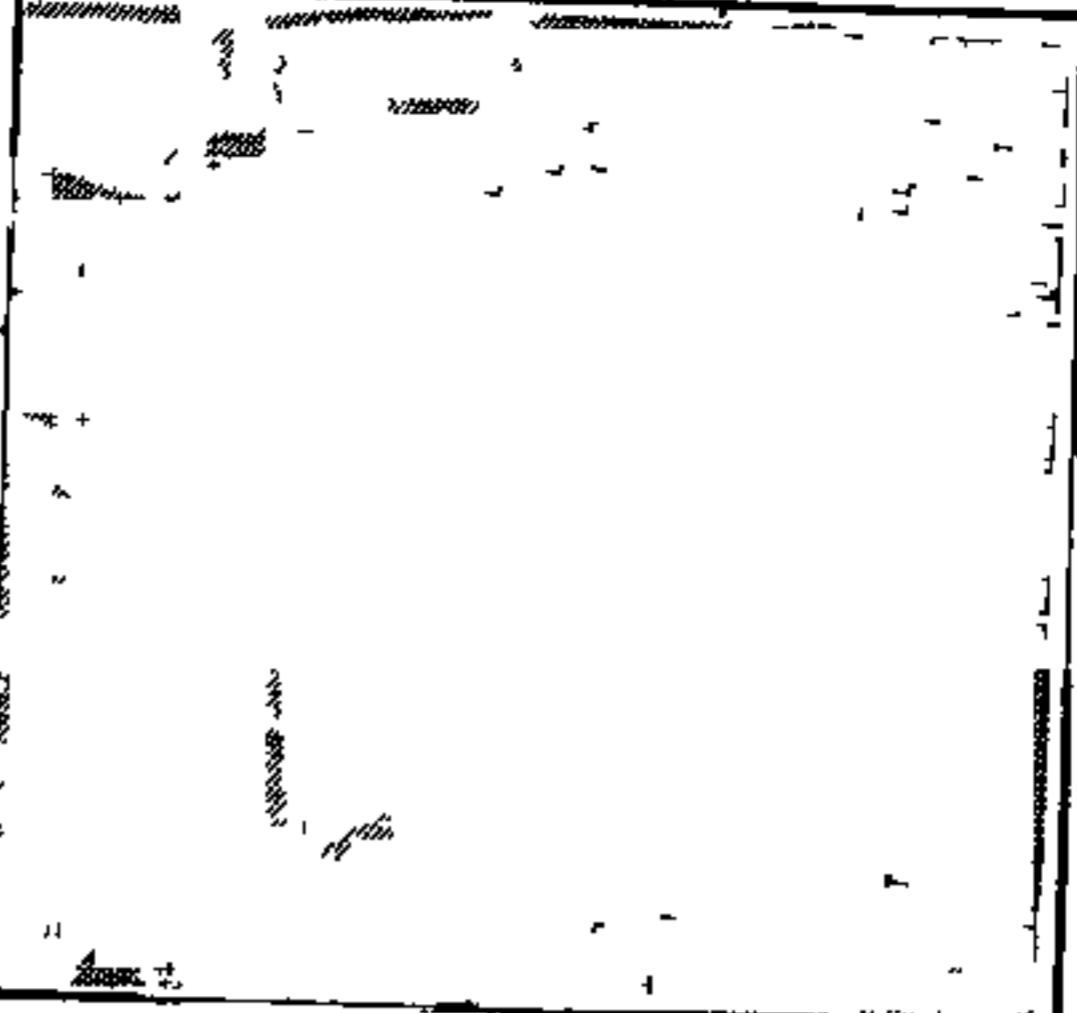
● PWV residents do not yet know what mass action awaits them and will know the details only after a further meeting of the ANC alliance's regional action committee.

The rolling mass action kicked off this week with a "living wage" march in Pretoria yesterday, led by ANC, SACP and Cosatu leaders. ANC regional spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa told The Star that details of the proposed action would be released only after a meeting late last night.

Mwasa's demands 'are legitimate'

Sowetan & Radio Metro
Talkback

with Tim Modise



THE SABC was last night rapped over the knuckles for failing to resolve its wage dispute with the Media Workers Association of South Africa

Callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show said members of the union should continue their strike until their wage demands had been met

Both studio guests, Mr Christo Pretorius, labour officer of the SABC, and Mr S'thembele Khala, Mwasa's general secretary, failed to turn up for the show

Some callers told host Tim Modise that the programme should have been cancelled instead

Pretorius had earlier apparently told Modise that yesterday's talks between Mwasa and the SABC had ended in a deadlock and would continue on Friday

Khanyi Zulu of Kagiso said the SABC was unfair to its black viewers and workers

"The situation would have long been addressed had white workers been on strike," Zulu said

Andrew Petersen of Eldorado Park, asked Modise why he allowed Pretorius to pull out of the programme.

"Pretorius owes us an explanation. How does he expect us to pay our TV licences while we haven't been watching the news on our channels?"

Themba Mawila of Tshawelo, Sowelo, encouraged Mwasa members to continue their struggle "for a living wage"

Theo Ruben of Durban said the strikers were only asking for a living wage. He appealed to the SABC to recognise that

"Pretorius owes us an explanation. How does he expect us to pay our TV licences while we haven't been watching the news on our channels?"

Andrew Petersen, Eldorado Park

Khanyi Zulu, Kagiso

"Only economically illiterate people would go on strike."

Anonymous caller

"I appeal to the SABC to recognise that the strikers are only asking for a living wage."

Theo Ruben, Durban

next Talkback topic

JUDGE Richard Goldstone has cleared, on the basis of no evidence, the State President, his Cabinet and senior SAP and SADF officers of complicity in the Boipatong massacre. What is your view? Share your opinion live with the nation by phoning the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show between 7pm and 8pm tonight on (011) 714-8063. You can tune in to the programme on FM 96.4 MHz.

Dial the hotline (011) 714-8063

Nactu pull-out

STimes 26/1/92
THE National Council of Trade Unions announced yesterday that it would pull out of the ANC's mass action campaign, saying it was a ploy to revive Codesa (143)

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Nkukana said yesterday "It has become clear to the Nactu leadership that the mass action of the ANC/SACP/Cosatu alliance has been the subject of negotiations with employers and is intended to revive Codesa"

There had been "no broad consultation with organisations of the oppressed" The campaign lacked the "fundamental tenet of struggle, that of defiance".

However, Nactu would reconsider its position if Cosatu agreed to consultations and not to make deals with employers.

LABOUR

By MONDLI MAKHANYA

THE prospect of an Olympics blackout and membership impatience this week propelled the SABC and the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa) into resolving the two-month old strike at the corporation.

SABC workers today end the strike which crippled the SABC's black radio stations and the mainly black CCV television channel. The strike is estimated to have cost the SABC R15-million in advertising revenue and workers R5-million in wages.

The SABC and Mwasa this week provisionally agreed on a 15 percent across the board increase instead of Mwasa's demand of 20 percent and the 11 percent offered by the SABC.

Olympics blackout threat

Spurs SABC to settlement

The SABC's minimum wage offer of R1 300 stands, and a commission has been appointed to look into "discriminatory" employment practices.

Pay increases will be backdated to October. But since management has no authority over the determination of wages, the agreement has to be ratified by the board and the chief executive on July 28.

Last week officials from Mwasa's mother body, the National Council of Trade Unions, flew to Europe and

secured the support of various unions there, including the International Federation of Journalists, which undertook to press their employers not to cooperate with the SABC in covering the Barcelona games.

Mwasa was also under pressure from workers to settle. Picket lines were thinning and there were suggestions that professional staff who live in bonded houses were increasingly unhappy about falling behind payments. Furthermore, the strike fund

was drying up

The strike was a lesson in labour rations for the two antagonists. It was Mwasa's biggest and most protracted strike at a media institution — most of the union's members are in the forestry and paper industry — and it was the first major strike to hit the SABC.

Mwasa assistant general secretary Themba Hlatshwayo says the corporation will take the union seriously in the next negotiating round.

But the lesson may have been learnt a little late. Mwasa may not be facing the same enemy next year — if constitutional negotiations get back on track, the corporation may under the control of an interim government.

**A sip-boy-sip
Well-farmen**

Nactu seeks probe of death

THE National Council of Trade Unions is investigating the killing of their member, Mr Philemon Ntombela, who was allegedly shot dead by members of the SA Defence Force, publicity officer of the federation, Mr Mudini Marvha said

143

Ntombela was killed at Vosloorus in the East Rand last week "The information we have is that Ntombela was killed by members of the SADF We are having our lawyers helping us investigate this matter," he said

Ntombela was an organiser for the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union A police spokesman said the matter was being investigated

Sowetan 10/8/92

NEWS ANALYSIS *Cosatu members were protected*

Why Nactu turned back on mass action

■ **STRIKE ACTION** *Concern for people who would be on strike illegally was a reason the National Council of Trade*

Unions shunned the mass action campaign, general secretary

Cunningham Ngcukana told Sowetan's Ike Motsapi: (143)

Sowetan 17/8/92

MOTSAPI WHY DID Nactu not take part in the mass action after being approached to do so by Cosatu?

Ngcukana The non-involvement of Nactu arose from uncertainties and changes that took place before the start of the campaign. It is true that Cosatu approached us. We looked at their demands which were basically Nactu's needs. We looked at them and said they were appropriate demands.

We agreed that there was a need for democratic elections for a constituent assembly and that the government should not put a demand for a chamber of losers with veto powers.

We were all agreed that the government should stop restructuring the economy unilaterally without the involvement of the masses.

We then said while we agreed with them (Cosatu) we should first have consultation. It was agreed that a meeting of all liberation movements was to be convened on July 27. We informed the Pan Africanist Congress and Azapo about the development and they both agreed to attend. The meeting never took place as agreed.

We also notified Cosatu that we were concerned about the general strike because it seemed that the strike revolved around legal disputes between itself and employers. We said to them that it appeared that Cosatu members would be protected because they would be on a legal strike.

We also voiced concern that Cosatu had entered into negotiations with the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs regarding the strike.

No divisions

The question was what about those people who would be on strike illegally?

Before our consultative conference in Soweto on July 16 we met with Cosatu to press for the meeting of all liberation movements on July 27 so that there should be no divisions. Our consultative conference took cognizance of this.

Instead we had statements that phase three of the mass action was going to be based on the ANC's 14-point demands and not what Cosatu told us.

In the absence at the meeting of all liberation movements and the sudden changes we felt it would not be appropriate for Nactu to take part in the mass action campaign.

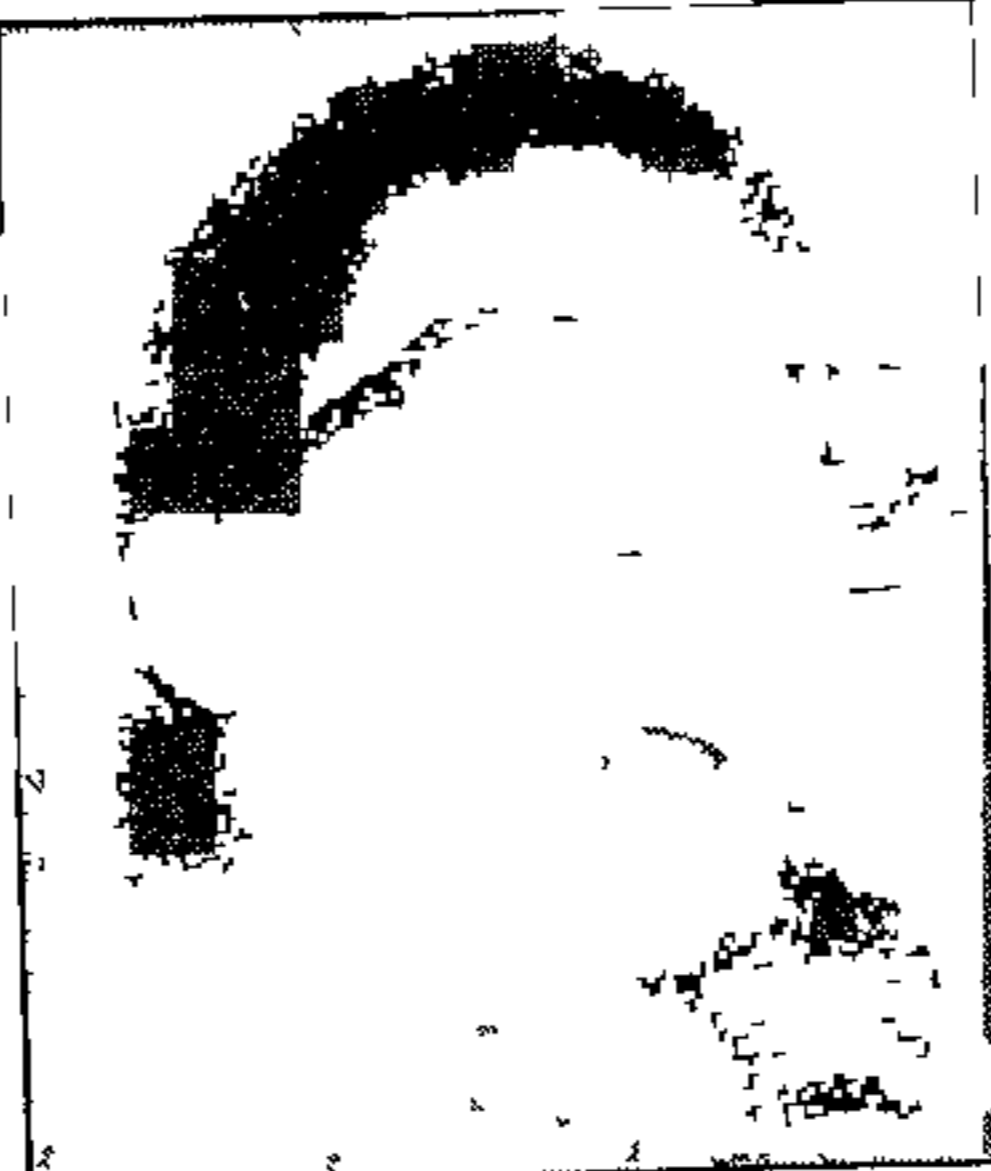
Motsapi What is your view on the mass action and general strike?

Ngcukana You will have to consider a lot of factors but its organisers have better information on the subject. I don't want to comment further on the issue.

Motsapi What is Nactu's programme of action?

Ngcukana Our programme is to secure better living standards for our members and social justice.

That is our basic programme. But our aim is to unite workers in the



Cunningham Ngcukana

Nactu's notes

President Mr James Mdlalose.
 Unions affiliated to Nactu. 24
 Total membership: 400 000
 When Nactu was formed. 1985.
 Launch: October 1986

various sectors under Nactu and to create an industrial union under Nactu.

Motsapi You speak of unity. How will you achieve this?

Ngcukana Our basic aim is to work towards one industry, one union and trade union unity.

However, the situation in South Africa is that political parties impact on trade unions. This does not mean we should stop doing everything possible to work towards trade union unity.

The bottom line is that we talk the same language and have the same ideas regarding social and socio-economic objectives.

The problem is that we have fragmented trade union movements which is not good for the future.

The history of the working class the world over is that where we have communities that have experienced oppression through dictatorship, you will find fragmented trade union movements.

Fragmented trade unions

If you take countries such as Italy and look at Mussolini you will find that they have fragmented trade union movements.

We have the CGIL linked to the Communist Party, UIL linked to the Socialist Party and the CSIL linked to the Christian Democratic Party.

The same situation exists in France, Spain and Portugal.

But at the end when liberation has been achieved workers remain divided along party political lines.

We also have the experience in Africa of trade unions linked to the liberation struggle with the erstwhile liberation movement turning its back against the trade unions.

The example we have is the recent

one in Namibia which affects the National Union of Namibian Workers which was involved in the mass struggle against South African colonial rule.

But after independence it required the involvement of international trade unions to get the Swapo government to get labour legislation passed.

In Zimbabwe we have a situation where the labour movement is deliberately weakened by the State.

In this country we need to be involved in the national liberation struggle to secure certain basic rights but in that process it is very important to secure organisational independence.

That is the background on which our involvement in the liberation struggle should be based.

Lessons from other countries are important if we are to maintain our internal organisational democracy.

Motsapi Will Nactu and Cosatu merge to form one trade union federation?

Ngcukana Unity is Nactu's programme but it must be based on clear principles. One of those principles is the independence of trade union movements from political parties.

Cosatu and Nactu have a responsibility to search for unity. They also have a duty to the working class of our country to search for unity.

Motsapi How does Nactu see its future role in the so-called new South Africa?

Ngcukana As an organisation we have a future. Our aim is unity of the working class. The question is how do we do this?

Judging by the current political situation, it is obvious that trade union movements are facing many challenges.

Our duty is to do the following:

- Broaden the organisational base
- Ensure internal democracy with trade unions

- Produce a leadership that will be able to carry trade union movements beyond the era of apartheid

- The need to improve our organisational skills and
- Improve skills to bargain at management levels

The fact is that the face of collective bargaining is going to change.

It will be the duty of trade union movements to improve their skills in order to bargain for better wages, good working environments, health and safety.

We are also going to deal with more complex issues which will include the running of the economy.

We will also be called to defend democracy and advance the interests of the working class.

Motsapi Do you believe that there was a need to form the new Inkatha-linked United Mineworkers Union of South Africa (Umusa)?

Ngcukana My reaction to that is that it is tragic. We are now going to face many attacks from this union at the mines. It is my belief that employers at the mines are going to take advantage of the situation.

Union suspends strike and tables new demands

■ Elements in Nactu accused of destabilisation:

By Ike Motsapi

THE Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa yesterday suspended strike action and wants to meet employers with an amended wage demand

Mr Tommy Oliphant, general secretary of Mewusa, said the decision to suspend the strike was taken at the union's national executive committee meeting on August 15

Oliphant said "Mewusa representatives met with officials of the Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa on August 17 to discuss a 12 percent salary increase on actual wage rates, job security, overtime and holiday bonus

"It is our view that our amended wage offer from 20 percent to 12 percent is very reasonable and we believe the employers should consider it very seriously"

The Food Beverage Workers Union of South Africa has accused "certain elements" in the leadership of the National Council of Trade Unions of subjecting it to unwarranted, unjust and politically motivated strain.

In a statement signed by Mr Goba

Ndhlovu, deputy general secretary, FBWU asked this question: "Why is this being done? Just Why?"

Ndhlovu said FBWU was in possession of proof that the Nactu secretariat was applying pressure on the Department of Manpower to have the union dealt with under Section 12 of the Labour Relations Act of 1956, as amended

Ndhlovu said "A whole trade union secretariat is seeking to destabilise and therefore destroy its affiliate

"Instead of seeking to build bigger and stronger affiliates, this arm of Nactu is all out to destroy it," Ndhlovu added

Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, general secretary of Nactu, promised to reply to the allegations

In another development, the Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Worker's Union of South Africa has blamed Ngcukana as the person responsible for encouraging the split in the union

Mr Welcome Mbalo, general secretary of Hotelcca, said in a statement that other Nactu affiliates are also experiencing a similar destabilisation by Nactu's secretariat

Sowetan 25/8/92

143



SABC strike suspended pending agreement

8/10/91 22/7/91
THE eight-week-old strike at the SABC has been suspended and Media Workers' Association of SA (Mwasa) members return to work on Friday, the day before the Olympic Games open in Barcelona

The strike by 1 200 Mwasa workers had threatened the SABC's Olympic coverage. Mwasa said that under a provisional agreement, the workers had accepted an offer of a 15% increase, effective from June 1, and payment for July when they were on strike.

SABC labour relations group manager Christo Pretorius could not confirm or deny the union's claim, saying management would decide next Tuesday.

THEO RAWANA

But he said the union had agreed to suspend the strike on condition there was a settlement by next week.

Mwasa's version of the settlement terms was backed by the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu).

Saying it had decided to call off its campaign for a blackout of Olympics coverage, Nactu added that the terms included a R1 300 minimum backdated to October 1 1991, the establishment of a joint task force to look into wage disparities and the restructuring of the SABC.

(143)
The union had demanded a 20% increment and a minimum of R1 500 a month, while management had offered an 11% increase and a minimum of R1 300.

The SABC said Mwasa had undertaken not to interfere with SABC activities and to distance themselves from attempts to ban the SABC from the Olympics.

Nactu general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana said his federation had informed the International Congress of Free Trade Unions of the provisional agreement. Nactu had called off a news conference scheduled in Barcelona today. It would reactivate the process if the SABC failed to honour the agreement.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS Nactu to meet bodies to press for blackout of the Olympics

news in brief

Vaal necklacing

A WOMAN was killed by "necklacing" between Boipatong and Sharpeville townships and a youth was assaulted and killed near KwaMasiza hostel in the Vaal Triangle. Vaal Triangle police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said yesterday the body of the woman who had been necklaced was found on a road between Boipatong and Sharpeville.

The body of an unidentified youth, aged about 16, was found on a road to KwaMasiza hostel.

New staff for Toyota

MOTOR manufacturer Toyota is to employ new workers because no end is in sight to the dispute between the company and 6 000 dismissed workers

Sowetan 16/7/92

A Toyota spokesman said yesterday that discussions between the company and representatives of the workers failed to produce any breakthrough. "Toyota finds it impossible to accede to demands associated with an illegal and unprocedural strike which would prejudice the company."

2 die in 'ANC' attack

TWO people were killed and one injured in an attack by about 20 alleged ANC supporters on a house in Bruntville, near Mooi River, in Natal

Police yesterday afternoon prevented a revenge attack by forming a cordon between the two groups. The police came under fire from the alleged ANC supporters but no one was injured - Sowetan Reporters, Correspondents, Sapa

Mwasa seeks foreign help against the SABC

Sowetan 16/7/92

SECRETARY MEETS European journalists next week to plead for support for workers who have been on strike for eight weeks: 143

THE National Council of Trade Unions will meet European trade unions and the International Olympic Committee in Europe next week, a Media Workers' Association of SA spokesman said yesterday

The spokesman said, however, that Mwasa, which has been involved in an eight-week strike at the SABC, had nothing to do with the question of whether there would be a blackout on coverage of the Olympic Games, due to start on July 25

"This is a Nactu project," the spokesman said

Next Monday, Mwasa general secretary Mr Sithembele Khala is to join the Nactu delegation in Brussels to

meet members of the International Federation of Journalists, the African Journalists' Association, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions

The South African trade unionists will then meet Spanish journalist's union in Barcelona before travelling to Holland and then to London for a meeting with the International Olympic Committee

The Mwasa spokesman said nu-

merous sponsors had contacted the union asking whether there would be a blackout of the Olympics

He said although Khala would attend the meeting with the IOC in London, he would not be taking part in discussions on the possible blackout in South Africa

Khala's European visit was intended to organise support for the striking SABC workers and to inform European journalists' unions. - Sapa



Shake-up necessary = retiring general

STAFF 28/8/92

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The shake-up in the SA Police might create uncertainty among members, but it is necessary to catapult the force into the new South Africa as a credible protector of human rights.

This was the message of Deputy Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Henk de Villiers, one of the 13 generals retiring to make way for a restructured police force aimed at revitalising police relations with the community.

In an interview with

The Star, General de Villiers, who has spent 37 years in the SA Police, said he was not resentful of the need for his early retirement, as he was due to retire next May.

He could not, however, speak on behalf of the other generals.

The restructuring, he said, was made necessary by changing times and was vital to the improvement of police relations with the public.

There had been a great deal of criticism of the SAP despite the fact that it was trying its best to protect the public.

"What upsets me is that I have been in the force for 37 years and

the SA Police has always been fully committed to protecting the public. We're trying our best, but despite this, there is so much criticism," General de Villiers said.

Commenting on the retirement, he said it was time to give "younger men the chance to prove themselves".

He felt it was better to

afford the generals the opportunity to retire rather than force them into new posts.

"There are different horses for different courses," he said.

General de Villiers said the changes had nothing to do with some generals not supporting the NP's reform policies, as had been suggested

All of them had been very loyal, he said.

Among the generals retiring early is General G N Erasmus who was involved in the arrest of ANC leader Nelson Mandela three decades ago.

It is understood there are three black potential generals in the SAP who are currently writing exams as brigadiers.

Outcry follows police raid on Phola Park

STAFF 28/8/92

By Brian Sokutu

In what the ANC alliance has described as "a violation of the Peace Accord," security forces raided Phola Park on the East Rand early yesterday, shot and injured at least one resident, and arrested 11 others.

Several shacks were damaged, allegedly by members of the SAP's Internal Stability Unit (ISU) in an operation described by Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant JHL Weber as "a continuation of Operation Alpo".

Lieutenant Weber said two men had been arrested and nine others were being held for questioning. The search was intended to arrest "wanted criminals".

"There was a mood of anger inside the squatter camp hours after the raid. Residents described how police had damaged their doors and furniture before ordering all men outside the shacks.

Men were escorted by police to an open space in Phola Park where they were split into two groups before being arrested with razor wire.

The group was questioned for five hours.

Claudette Yakobi, who suffered bruises on her leg said "I was running and fell after teargas was fired on us."

Later in the afternoon residents refused police orders to disperse, demanding that ISU Captain Justus Daniel Bruwer, who led the raid, "fix our homes."

"I'm not a carpenter. I can't fix anything." Captain Bruwer told an ANC delegation led by SACP

deputy general-secretary Charles Ngakula.

Captain Bruwer denied police were responsible for the damage to the shacks. He said he fired a warning shot for residents to disperse "after being thrown with stones by residents."

"One policeman also hit by the stones pulled the trigger and someone was shot." But residents claimed three people were shot.

ANC PVV spokesman Wally Mbele said the manner in which police had conducted the raid was "a violation of the Peace Accord. He asked why the police did not consult local leaders before the raid.

"I wonder whether any civilised police force would keep residents hostage so that they are unable to go to work."

DP voices regret at Calitz's appointment

STAFF 28/8/92

The Democratic Party yesterday said it had "with regret" the appointment of Eastern Cape SAP Regional Commissioner Lieutenant-General J.P. Calitz as Commissioner for the Witwatersrand region.

The announcement follows the announcement by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel of sweeping restructuring changes aimed at restoring credibility.

DP justice spokesman Tony Leon said in a statement the DP also found the decision to re-appoint the Major-General Gerit Erasmus as Witwatersrand Regional Commissioner and replace him with General Calitz, "disturbing".

Referring to the arrest of two Umkhonto we Sizwe members in connection with the murder of Addo farmer Andre de Villiers, he said "General Calitz's bombastic and intemperate perfor-

mance against the ANC in reaction to the arrest of two MK operatives on charges of Mr de Villiers' death, suggests he will lack the non-partisanship required to police effectively the PVV region, which is racked by volatility and violence.

"Where members of the ANC commit crimes, they must be relentlessly pursued, arrested and punished. However, for the top cop in the PVV area to arrive fresh from such a public and demeaning brawl with the ANC poses grave questions about the effectiveness of the rest of the reform package."

Mr Leon said General Calitz's appointment contradicted the announcement of a "new policing style" by the Minister, who had stressed that "emphasis will be placed on the key aspect of total impartiality" — Sapa.

Despite the radical changes in the upper echelons of the police, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said last night that the force did not yet represent the new SAP.

"That will have to be restructured under a new constitution," he said on the SABC's "Agenda".

Answering questions put to him by The Star's political editor Shaun Johnson, Beeld political correspondent Arrie Rossouw and Penny Snythe of "Agenda", Mr Kriel said the country would have to study the federal model of policing with provisions for an overarching federal police force with regional and city forces.

The aim of the restructuring was to improve the credibility of the police, improve management and strengthen the visibility of police.

Mr Kriel denied that the restructuring had anything to do with anything with the 14 conditions of the ANC before it would re-enter negotiations.

Lower and mid-ranking police officers yesterday greeted the sweeping changes to the police force with cautious optimism, but some expressed concern about their own job security.

Officers approached by The Star agreed the shake-up announced yesterday by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel would hit sagging morale, but said promotions and retirements would have to be sensitively implemented to avoid resentment from white police officers.

"If they have to make up for all the discrimination in promotion in the past, the white officers — particularly the men — will obviously now be last in line for promotions," a colonel said.

"And if the generals can be asked to quit, what about the rest of us?"

He said the issues of promotion and retirement would have to be handled very delicately.

A black officer, who asked that his rank not be mentioned, said black policemen would be welcomed at the new promotion opportunities, but they would have to know they were being promoted on merit and not on a token basis.

A lieutenant-colonel said morale had been at an all-time low.

"Maybe this will restore the image of the police, which will help us to be more effective."

He cautioned that if the promotion of black officers was done in a "so-called affirmative action way, where the rest of us get left behind", it would be "a total mess".

He said most policemen were "hurt" that they had not been informed of the changes.

"All changes affect all of us directly. We should have been told."

He said most white officers were prepared to adopt a wait-and-see attitude before passing judgment.

"But we are all watching our backs very carefully," he added.

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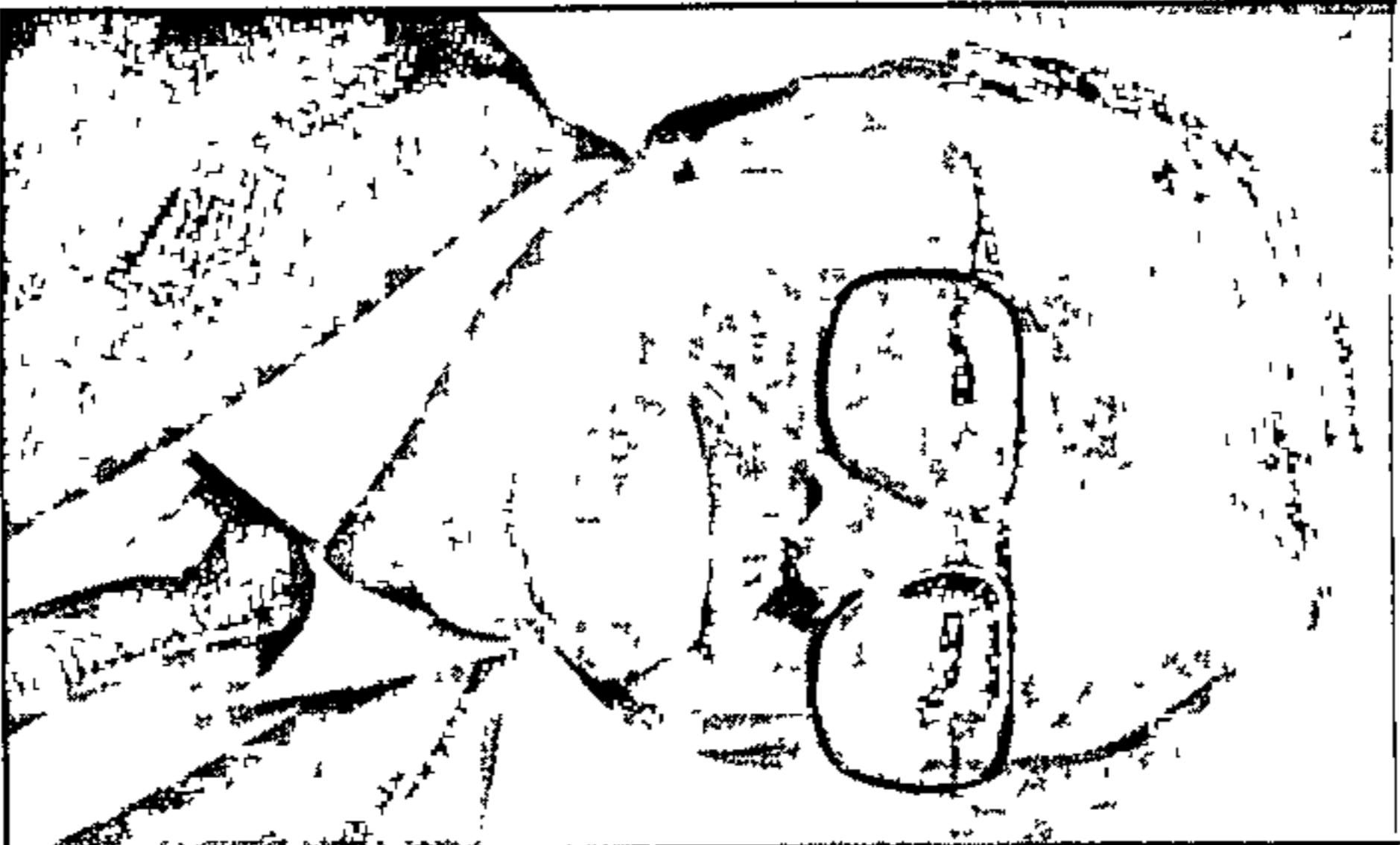
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Captain Bruwer denied police were responsible for the damage to the shacks. He said he fired a warning shot for residents to disperse "after being thrown with stones by residents."

"One policeman also hit by the stones pulled the trigger and someone was shot." But residents claimed three people were shot.

ANC PVV spokesman Wally Mbele said the manner in which police had conducted the raid was "a violation of the Peace Accord. He asked why the police did not consult local leaders before the raid.

"I wonder whether any civilised police force would keep residents hostage so that they are unable to go to work."



Force 'not yet representative of new SA'

By Michael Sparks

Despite the radical changes in the upper echelons of the police, Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel said last night that the force did not yet represent the new SAP.

"That will have to be restructured under a new constitution," he said on the SABC's "Agenda".

Answering questions put to him by The Star's political editor Shaun Johnson, Beeld political correspondent Arrie Rossouw and Penny Snythe of "Agenda", Mr Kriel said the country would have to study the federal model of policing with provisions for an overarching federal police force with regional and city forces.

The aim of the restructuring was to improve the credibility of the police, improve management and strengthen the visibility of police.

Mr Kriel denied that the restructuring had anything to do with anything with the 14 conditions of the ANC before it would re-enter negotiations.

Lower and mid-ranking police officers yesterday greeted the sweeping changes to the police force with cautious optimism, but some expressed concern about their own job security.

Officers approached by The Star agreed the shake-up announced yesterday by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel would hit sagging morale, but said promotions and retirements would have to be sensitively implemented to avoid resentment from white police officers.

"If they have to make up for all the discrimination in promotion in the past, the white officers — particularly the men — will obviously now be last in line for promotions," a colonel said.

"And if the generals can be asked to quit, what about the rest of us?"

He said the issues of promotion and retirement would have to be handled very delicately.

A black officer, who asked that his rank not be mentioned, said black policemen would be welcomed at the new promotion opportunities, but they would have to know they were being promoted on merit and not on a token basis.

A lieutenant-colonel said morale had been at an all-time low.

"Maybe this will restore the image of the police, which will help us to be more effective."

He cautioned that if the promotion of black officers was done in a "so-called affirmative action way, where the rest of us get left behind", it would be "a total mess".

He said most policemen were "hurt" that they had not been informed of the changes.

"All changes affect all of us directly. We should have been told."

He said most white officers were prepared to adopt a wait-and-see attitude before passing judgment.

"But we are all watching our backs very carefully," he added.

Several shacks were damaged, allegedly by members of the SAP's Internal Stability Unit (ISU) in an operation described by Witwatersrand police spokesman Lieutenant JHL Weber as "a continuation of Operation Alpo".

Lieutenant Weber said two men had been arrested and nine others were being held for questioning. The search was intended to arrest "wanted criminals".

"There was a mood of anger inside the squatter camp hours after the raid. Residents described how police had damaged their doors and furniture before ordering all men outside the shacks.

Men were escorted by police to an open space in Phola Park where they were split into two groups before being arrested with razor wire.

The group was questioned for five hours.

Claudette Yakobi, who suffered bruises on her leg said "I was running and fell after teargas was fired on us."

Later in the afternoon residents refused police orders to disperse, demanding that ISU Captain Justus Daniel Bruwer, who led the raid, "fix our homes."

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deputy general-secretary Charles Ngakula.

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26 AUG-6 SEPT

Hernus Kriel aims to improve the credibility of the police, improve management and make police more visible.

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NEWS Union drops wage demands to 12 percent ● 1 00

Mewusa strike likely to be called off

143
Sowetan 9/9/92

THE four-week-old strike by more than 15 000 members of the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa (Mewusa) could be called off today.

This was said yesterday by Mr Tommy Oliphant, general-secretary of Mewusa, who added the union was "expecting to make substantial progress" at a meeting to be held today with the employers in the metal industry.

Mewusa initially called for an urgent meeting between itself and the Steel Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa (Seifsa) to discuss the impasse in the metal industry.

■ RESOLVING IMPASSE Substantial

progress expected to be made at meeting with employers in the metal industry:

Seifsa, however, invited all parties in the metal industry to the talks that are aimed at resolving the dispute.

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) and the other unions in the metal industry will attend the meeting which starts at 10 30am at the Protea Gardens Hotel in Johannesburg.

Mewusa members went on an unofficial strike over wages on August 3.

The strike became legal on August 24, according to Mr Zithulele Cindi, education officer of Mewusa.

Mewusa demanded a 20 percent wage increase while Seifsa offered 8,06 percent. The union has dropped its demand to 12 percent.

Two senior union officials dismissed

■ Allegations of sexual harassment to be investigated:

Sowetan
TWO top officials of the Food and Beverage Workers Union have been sacked amid allegations of sexual harassment.

The deputy general secretary Mr Goba Ndhlovu was dismissed during a one-day special conference in Chamdor near Krugersdorp on Saturday

Also fired was president of FBWU Mr Longway Khwelemthini after delegates passed a vote of no confidence on them

Acted in default

Mr Thami Mcerwa, who was dismissed in June after a three-month-long battle with Ndhlovu, was re-appointed as projects coordinator

President of the National Council of Trade Unions James Mdlalose (formerly Mndaweni) was elected president

Speaking to the *Sowetan* yesterday, Mdlalose said all 12 regions at the confer-

21/9/92
ence unanimously expressed a vote of no confidence in Ndhlovu and Khwelemthini

Asked to comment on Mcerwa's re-appointment, Mdlalose said the former committee acted in default.

Abused at work

"Only the National Council has the powers to hire and fire. And in his case the committee acted without council mandate," he said

The sackings follow the retrenchment of three women staffers who claimed that they had been sexually harassed at work

Mdlalose said the allegations of sexual harassment would be investigated and dealt with at the union's council meeting on October 3

The retrenched workers are Miss Lindiwe Mayekiso, Miss Dorothy Mokone and Mrs Phindi Mayaba.

143

Union chiefs are dismissed

Sowetan 24/9/92 (143)
■ War of words as Food and Beverage Workers Union president and deputy are voted out:

A WAR of words has erupted between senior officials of the Food and Beverage Workers Union following the sacking at the weekend of president Mr Longway Kwelemthini and general secretary Mr Goba Ndhlovu

The two claim they are still the leaders of the union while the other faction,

led by newly-elected president Mr James Mdlalose, say they are in charge

Kwelemthini and Ndhlovu were dismissed at a special conference when delegates passed a vote of no-confidence in them

Their sacking also followed the re-trenchment of three women staffers who

claimed they had been sexually harassed at work

In a statement to *Sowetan* yesterday, Kwelemthini said their dismissal was unconstitutional and they still regarded themselves as union employees

He denied the allegations of sexual harassment

Executives ousted

Sowetan 28/9/92 (143)
■ **BAD BOYS** Sexual harassment reports hasten demise:

THE president of the Food and Beverage Workers Union, Mr Longway Kwelemthini, and assistant general secretary, Mr Goba Ndlovu, said at the weekend they still are legal union office bearers

This was in spite of last week's reports they were fired. The two said reports were "silly and misleading"

The central West Rand Region of the FBWU distanced itself from reports of dismissals and said the president of

Nactu was union president Mr Roddy Teu said "We reject the executive of Mdlalose. We do not recognise it because no elections were held. Mdlalose was elected by friends."

Kwelemthini said he was not a union employee but that he was elected by the electorate. He said Ndlovu was contractually a union employee and last week's meeting had "no authority to dismiss him". They dismissed reports that they sexually harassed certain union members at work.

W/Mail

23/10 - 29/10/92

LABOUR BRIEFS



Mewusa division

(143)

Trade Unions affiliate's branch.

■ THE Cape Province branch of the Metal and Electrical Workers' Union of South Africa threatened its head office with legal action this week for the agreement the executive signed to end the metal industry dispute last Tuesday.

The branch says the agreement "takes away the right to strike".

The agreement on single level bargaining exposes workers to lock-outs and quicker dispute declaration, believes the National Council of

^{BIDAY}
^{16/12/92}
**PAC sees end
to TV strike**

THEO RAWANA

THE two-month-old SABC strike seemed headed for a settlement, the PAC said after meeting SABC management yesterday. (152)

PAC publicity secretary Barney Desai, who headed the PAC delegation, said after the meeting there were positive signs of movement on the part of the SABC to settle the strike called by the Media Workers' Association of SA (Mwasa). (143)

Asked if the SABC had actually undertaken to resolve the strike, Desai said he could say no more than that "we detected a shift in their offer, where they had previously been rigid"

Mwasa, SABC board meet today

BIDAY 29/7/92
THE Media Workers' Association of SA and the SABC board of directors will today to discuss the board's alternatives to Mwasa's settlement proposals ~~(143)~~ (143) ~~(143)~~

The provisional acceptance of the proposals reportedly ended the eight-week strike last week.

Mwasa general secretary Sithembile Khala last night denied reports the union had already met the SABC directors, saying Mwasa still had no knowledge of the corporation's counter proposals

He urged the board to "act wisely" and said Mwasa was prepared to resume the strike if its demands were not met. The board's decision to pr

sent Mwasa with counter proposals followed a meeting yesterday.

Khala said reports on Mwasa's participation in the two-day general strike had also been misleading.

Reports that Mwasa had "distanced itself" from the mass action were untrue.

Nactu was to meet the "groups concerned" today and the decision arrived at would be binding on all member unions

However, Mwasa wished to warn employers not to believe it condoned worker victimisation. Mwasa stood firmly behind all workers, Khala said — Sapa.

Key SABC, PAC meeting today

31 DAY 147192
THE outcome of today's meeting between the SABC management and the PAC would determine whether the campaign to force companies to withdraw advertisements from the corporation would go on, the PAC said yesterday

But the Durban-based Mwasa Support Committee, headed by former National Soccer League (NSL) GM Roger Sishi, has started writing to companies calling on them to withdraw advertisements from the SABC. The PAC last week announced the launch of a campaign against the SABC, in solidarity with the Mwasa strikers, warning companies to withdraw advertisements or face mass action

The ANC/Cosatu alliance also announced plans to embark on such action "probably next month"

THEO RAWANA

PAC national campaigns committee chairman Ntsudeni Madzunya said the campaign had been postponed pending the outcome of today's meeting. The PAC had a list of targeted companies, but that would be released after the meeting. The Mwasa Support Committee, which comprises 20 Natal-based political, civic, labour, cultural and journalists' organisations, says in its letter the cancellation of advertising contracts with the SABC would force management to resolve the dispute. "For the sake of peace within the black community, you are asked to consider the possibility of terminating an advertising contract with the SABC," reads one letter to Lion Match in Durban

Court rules accommodation is part of labour practice

143

Sowetan 19/10/92.

AN INDUSTRIAL COURT ruling that provision of sleep-in accommodation for workers constitutes a labour practice has been hailed as a major breakthrough

The ruling by Professor PH Cloete in the industrial court sitting in Pietersburg affected members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) employed by Sakkor manufacturing

Cloete found in his judgment that the dismissal of more than 400 workers following a dispute over the termination of accommodation and demand for a wage increase constituted an unfair labour practice

He found that the accommodation in the company's premises was a condition of service and that the workers' strike in June last year was the only remedy available for them

Tabulating the case and its progress, Cloete said the workers, who earned R120 per month in instalments, were housed in compounds erected by the management until they were verbally told about the intention to terminate the accommodation

Not zoned

The company said the town council had given it notice to terminate accommodation of workers on the premises as the area was not zoned for residential purposes.

In efforts to stave off a confrontation, Mwasa arranged alternative accommodation on a farm near Silicon mine, about 19km from the company premises.

The company would have had to pay an accommodation fee of R15 for each worker a month as well as transport to and from work.

The company refused, saying it did not have money for such a project

Mwasa then secured a plot in Seshego where accommodation could be built by the company, but this too was turned down

The union then coupled its proposals with a wage increment to enable employees to afford the rental and transportation fees.

On agreement with the union, the company applied to the town council for permission for the employees to stay on the then existing accommodation in the premises

The town council however responded by instructing the company to "cease illegal occupation and remove all illegal structures and buildings on the premises"

The workers later approached the management to get clarification on developments regarding the termination of the accommodation

The management remained adamant that no alternative accommodation would be provided and was not prepared to accede to proposals by their union

This became the turning point of the dispute which resulted in a strike

They were later dismissed in an action that attracted the attention of overseas trade unions

■ IMPORTANT RULING Both the union and the company will appeal against ruling:

including the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

Police raided union offices and arrested several strikers who were accused of harassing scab labourers. The company even applied and was granted a restraining order.

Labour unions in Taiwan, where the Chinese owners of the firm come from, also intervened after the ICFTU had asked for world wide support.

A consumer boycott in Pietersburg was also implemented

When the consumer boycott began to bite, the town council met the union and denied issuing an order for the demolition of the accommodation but that existing accommodation on the company premises be upgraded

The company however contended that the premises was zoned for industrial purposes and employees, except night watchmen, could

denied. They all said they would not have accepted employment without accommodation.

They also testified that their wages were low because accommodation was provided. Management did not testify nor challenge this point and Cloete took it as evidence that remained un rebutted

Cloete also found the right to accommodation had been part of the conditions of service adhered to for over four years and has constituted a labour practice

The management therefore committed a breach of that condition while hiding behind the town council's instructions, he concluded

The dismissal constituted an unfair labour practice because they resorted to the only available remedy

Since the majority of dismissed workers have already been replaced and the company was without vacancies, Cloete ordered the management to pay the workers two months salaries which amounted to a total of R103 832

However, the dispute is still raging as both parties have indicated that they are to appeal against the judgment and finding

The union wanted the workers to be reinstated. While accepting the finding of the court, Mwasa is to appeal against the monetary settlement granted. It is too little and in any case, not what they had wanted, they said

The company on the other hand, according to their lawyer, Mr Jan Stemmet, is to appeal against the findings that.

The right to accommodation was a condition of service,

There was no other remedy available to the workers than to withhold their labour;

The decision to terminate their services was unfair, and

The company pay compensation to workers. Mwasa official Mr Albert Makgoba said the judgment was an important victory as it established that provision of accommodation to workers on a long-term basis constituted an employment practice that if terminated unfairly can be punishable by law

"Workers testified their wages were low because accommodation was provided. Management did not testify or challenge this point and Cloete took it as evidence that remained un rebutted"

When the consumer boycott began to bite, the town council met the union and denied issuing an order for the demolition of the accommodation but that existing accommodation on the company premises be upgraded.

not be housed

The company maintained that accommodation was not part of the employment package

But in his judgement, Cloete found that agreement was expressly and in some cases tacitly entered into since the employees were allowed to sleep on the premises while the management was aware and never objected to it for four years

All employees who testified said the right to stay on the premises was a condition of service since it was negotiated and never

Thursday

NEWS

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NEWS Male pupils main users of hormone

Workers abused - claim

■ 'Blacks used as part of white employees' package'

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) is considering taking legal action against the management of the Durban-based Republican Press magazine group. At a Press conference

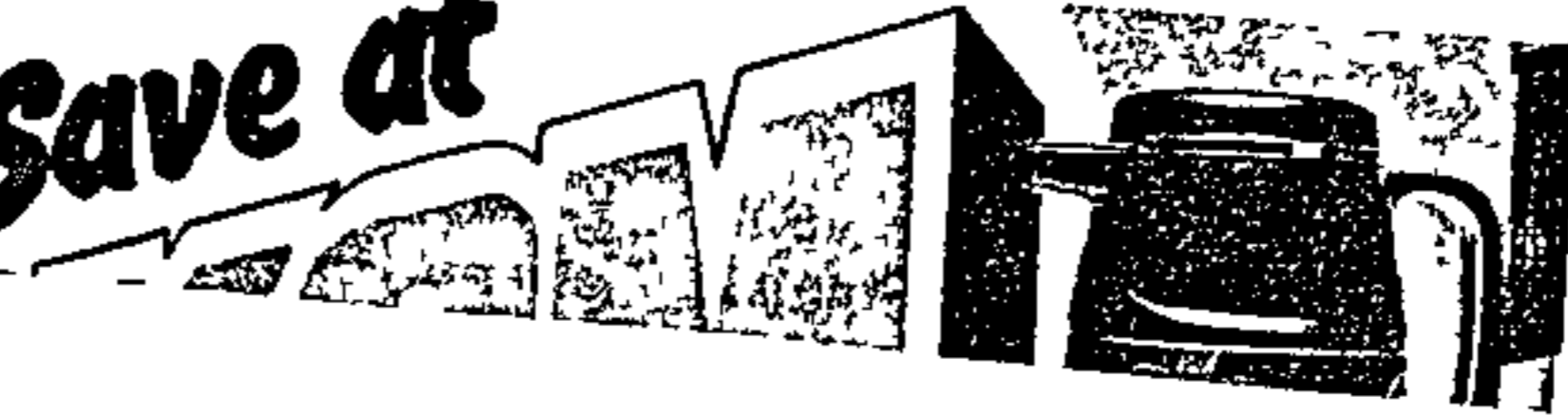
yesterday, Mwasa assistant general secretary Themba Hlatshwayo alleged black workers at Republican Press were "regarded as part and parcel of the white employees' privilege package"

Hlatshwayo specifically alleged that white staff had been given permission to use black workers as gardeners and domestic servants and that the highest echelons of management were "part of that" - Sapa

143



Save at



NEWS Media union vindicated by Appellate Court • Nationwide manhunt launched

Mwasa wins battle against Perskor

By Joe Mdhlela

So wetan 21/9/92



■ 300 workers dismissed in 1988 to be reinstated:

THE Media Workers Association of South Africa (Mwasa) scored an important victory when the Bloemfontein Appellate Court reinstated 300 members who had been dismissed by Perskor in 1988

The decision was taken on Friday after a four-year legal battle between the publishing giant and the union. The decision to reinstate and pay wages for the four years is bound to cost Perskor millions of rands, Mwasa secretary-general Mr S'hembele Khala said yesterday. The appeal by Mwasa is a sequel to a judgement in the Pretoria Supreme Court

by Mr Justice Spoeltra. Mr Justice Spoelstra had overturned the judgment by Mr Justice DJ Curlewis to reinstate the Perskor employees.

Khala said the union signed a recognition agreement with Perskor in 1988. Shortly after that, 3 000 workers went on strike over low wages.

After a succession of industrial court cases, all but 300 workers were reinstated, most of whom were shop stewards.

Mwasa charged the company with "selective re-employment" and won the case for reinstatement in 1989.



The Paradise Gumboot Dancers from Kwazakhele, Eastern Cape, were the overall winners of the Shell Road To Fame Talent Search Competition at Sun City at the weekend. PIC: MBUZENI ZULU

Police seek 17



Court order reinstates (143) dismissed Sowetan 2/11/92. union men

■ Unconstitutionally ousted from their posts in executive committee - claim:

TWO senior Food Beverage Workers Union of South Africa (FBWUSA) officials were reinstated as members of the union's executive committee in terms of an order granted in the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg on Friday.

The order followed an urgent application by the union's president, Mr Longway Khwelemtini, and its deputy general secretary, Mr Goba Ndhlovu, according to attorneys

Lawyers said the two, as well as other members of the national council, alleged they were ousted unconstitutionally from their posts at a union conference on September 19.

Removed from office

In terms of Friday's ruling, several people who claimed to have been elected at the September conference were removed from office

"The application has resulted in an arrangement which determines, among other things, that the affairs of the FBWUSA will be administered by a committee consisting of only four people, including Khwelemtini and Ndhlovu, until a proper and constitutional election at a national conference of the union is held at the end of January," the lawyers said - Sapa

Nehawu against action

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union yesterday expressed concern about industrial action embarked upon by nurses in Transkei

Nehawu Eastern Cape regional secretary Mr MK Madlingozi said the union was not responsible for calling the strike

Sowetan 2/11/92 (143)

in brief

Sowetan 2/11/92 (143)
"We believe that nurses have a democratic right to embark on industrial action. However, we are concerned about the manner in which the action has been conducted, especially the fact that no provision for a skeleton staff was made"

in brief

Sowetan 3/11/92 **CCB man flees the country** (ES)

A WARRANT for the arrest of former CCB managing director Joe Verster, who failed to appear in court yesterday, was issued by Mr Justice Michael Stegmann in the Rand Supreme Court.

The court was told that Verster, who was subpoenaed to appear yesterday to testify at the inquest into the May 1 1989 killing of Wits University academic Dr David Webster, had left the country. (23)

Sowetan 3/11/92

Agreement to disagree

FOOD and Beverage Workers Union of South Africa official Mr JT Mdlalose yesterday contested an attorneys' statement on Friday that two union officials had been reinstated as members of the union's executive committee in terms of an order granted in the Rand Supreme Court. He said the return to FBWUSA administrative affairs of the two officials was the result of an agreement reached in court, rather than an order as reported. (143)

Sowetan 3/11/92

Security boost for Natal (ES)

AN ADDITIONAL 250 policemen left for troubled areas of Natal from the Transvaal yesterday, Law and Order Deputy Minister Gert Myburgh told Soweto. He said they formed part of 600 policemen who would be deployed in the province as part of the Government's plan to curtail violence there.

Sowetan 3/11/92

Alleged necklacers on trial (ES)

LEGAL argument in the trial of five policemen, alleged to have attempted to murder a man by "necklacing" him, will begin in the Durban Regional Court today.

The men, Lance-sergeants Mark Lucy (24) and Simon Gerald Coetzee (22) and constables David Potgieter (19), Pierre Laubscher (18) and Bradford Brown (19), have all pleaded not guilty before Mr PJ du Plessis to attempting to kill Mr Vusi Phiri.

Sowetan 3/11/92

Is fencing-off the answer?

THE GOVERNMENT appears to be in a dilemma over plans to fence off troublesome hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle.

"The aim of fencing off hostels - in line with the Record of Understanding - was to place a barrier between attackers and people on the receiving end of the violence, but in areas where normality has returned we have to ask ourselves whether such measures solve the problem or worsen it," said Deputy Law and Order Minister Gert Myburg during a tour of eight hostels on the Reef and the Vaal Triangle yesterday.

Hefty damages paid out (ES)

ASTELLENBOSCH wine farmer yesterday agreed to pay two farmworkers R50 000 in a Supreme Court sequel to the fatal beating of one of the workers. Mr Wynand Smit, owner of the Koopmanskloof wine estate, did not accept liability when settling the claims arising from assaults by a former employee, Mr Rudolf Rix, said the applicants' attorney, Mr Glynn Williams.

Smit agreed to pay the estate of the late Andrew Thompson R20 000 and R30 000 to Mr Godfrey Williams, plus their costs. Sowetan Reporters and Sapa. Sowetan 3/11/92



JOB MARKET

The lion tamer wants to be a CA

ST Times

[BUS]

15/11/92

CLERGYMEN, jewellery designers, engineers, nuclear physicists — even lion tainers — can become chartered accountants.

This is a sample of some of the 24 people enrolled for the University of Cape Town's (UCT) two-year conversion course. UCT is the only university in SA to offer the course

Course director Josephine Taylor says the degree crams three years of BComm into one.

"The students attend all lectures and write the same examinations as the hundreds of full-time students."

After this they do the fourth year full or part time.

Miss Taylor says the last group of conversion students had a 100% pass rate in the Public Accountants and Auditors Board examination, which is done at the end of the course — way above the 57,5% national average.

She says the course has been successful because of the stringent entry requirements

"Only people with a degree, who have never failed a subject and have a good grasp of mathematics and English are accepted"

So far 71 people have qualified as accountants through the conversion

By TERRY BETTY

Their qualifications include medicine, arts, social science and engineering

Miss Taylor says most applicants have science degrees and either want to supplement their knowledge or are horrified at the thought of spending the rest of their lives in a laboratory.

Past pupil Invicta Holdings financial director Arnold Goldstone says, "I must have been temporarily insane to tackle the course. However, I would never have got to where I am without it."

Family

"My first degree was an engineering one. Having both skills is essential in my job because I can speak the language of accountants and engineers."

Mr Goldstone describes the course as being harder than anything he has ever done before

"You need to be dedicated to complete the conversion course. You also need to be able to handle pressure."

Miss Taylor says that because of this older students with working experience tend to do better than 22-year-olds straight out of university.

ones who have to support a family and realise how hard the competition is out there Young graduates generally do not have the necessary drive."

Miss Taylor says people take the course because they do not like what they are qualified to do, or are struggling to find a job They also believe that because there are fewer employment opportunities available they need to be better than the person seeking the same job

"Career opportunities in SA and internationally for CAs make the qualification desirable. It is also a discipline that can be moulded for a variety of jobs"

Miss Taylor says auditing firms are keen to employ conversion students because of the variety of information they have and which is not part of an average CA training

Deloitte & Touche human resource manager Geraldine Hand says her firm provides a conversion course bursary

She says conversion course students have valuable skills stemming from their background and are able to add a strong financial management perspective

Having a qualified civil engineer as part of an audit team for a construction company improves the service. The engineer helps the other auditors with his inside knowledge

Unions put work before pay rises

ST Times [BUS]

15/11/92

By ADRIAN HERSCH

PAY increases are likely to be moderate next year, says a leader of South Africa's second-largest trade union federation.

Nactu assistant general secretary Mahomola Skhosana says, "We are in a difficult position. It is hard for workers to cope with below-inflation increases, but we want to project jobs."

Under

"We lost many workers in building and construction this year. Many positions were lost because small companies went under."

"If the economy does not improve sufficiently next year, unions will not be in a position to push too hard for above-inflation pay increases. Retrenchment has to be avoided"

This year may prove to be a watershed one in terms of the incidence of large-

scale strike action in recession

The Nactu-affiliated Metal and Electrical Workers Union of SA (Mewusa) was this year involved in a four-week wage strike in the metal industry, together with Cosatu-affiliate Numsa. The action was not co-ordinated

The unions demanded a 20% pay increase before the strike, but settled for 9,1%.

Nactu is preparing to play an active role in the recently launched National Economic Forum

Mr Skhosana says Nactu will hold a consultative conference towards the end of the month to establish an economic policy.

The conference will also deal with political issues. Matters such as preparing for the general election will be covered

But a major problem for Nactu is that some of its unions in similar industries have not yet merged in spite of a target date of March this year having been set

Nactu, with its Africanist-principled policy, is regarded by some as close to the PAC. But Nactu is not officially affiliated to any political organisation

Mr Skhosana denies reports that a split is likely in its member union, the Black Trade Union of Transnet (Blatu)

A report in September said Blatu's Natal region was seeking disaffiliation from Nactu

143 Active

Mr Skhosana says, "Blatu held its annual congress last week and all regions were present. The Natal region did not express any desire to disaffiliate"

But a major problem for Nactu is that some of its unions in similar industries have not yet merged in spite of a target date of March this year having been set

Nactu urges Govt to reject demands

Sowetan 24/11/92
■ Farmers want to be exempted from Industrial Court in disputes with their farm workers: ~~143~~ 143

By Ike Motsapi

THE National Council of Trade Unions urged the Government to reject farmers' demand that they be exempted from arbitration, conciliation boards or Industrial Courts in disputes with their workers.

Nactu was reacting to the farmers' demands after meeting State President F W De Klerk in Pretoria last week.

The farmers told De Klerk they wanted pending legislation to extend labour rights to domestic and farm workers to "relegate dispute resolution to only between the farmers and the workers"

Mr Mudini Maivha, Nactu's information and publicity officer, said "My union is of the opinion that the extension of these rights to farm workers is long overdue

"These rights are part of their universal human rights and international labour standards.

"Farm workers have been the most exploited section of the working class in South Africa.

"To confine dispute resolution to farmers and workers only will be defeating the objective of establishing sound industrial relations in the farming industry

"This will disadvantage the farm workers whose level of training in trade union rights is still low

"Nactu believes that the labour movement must carry out a vigorous education and training programme for farm workers.

"The suggestion that the extension of labour rights to farm workers could open the way for strikes in the industry is an arrogant one," Maivha said

Nactu delays congress

8/10/92 25/11/92
143

DIRK HARTFORD

THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) has postponed its biannual congress — due to have been held in October — until next year as it battles to get its affiliates to merge into national industrial unions.

Nactu spokesman Mudini Maivha says there has also been no progress on unity talks with Cosatu since a planned summit between the two federations was cancelled in August.

Nactu aims to have single industrial unions in the steel and engineering, public sector, transport, catering, service and food industries by March this year. But only its public sector unions have united so far.

Nactu newsletter Izwi-lethu quotes its general secretary Cunningham Ngcukana as saying the Food and Beverage Workers' Union had hidden behind "catchphrases and intellectual acrobatics" to avoid merger meetings.

There are also problems in the Steel, Engineering and Allied Workers' Union and the Metal Workers' Union of SA.

Nactu is investigating charges of embezzlement against three former officials of the Hotel, Liquor, Catering, Commercial and Allied Workers' Union who formed a splinter union.

LABOUR

Nactu picks itself up, dusts itself off

Wilmot 27/11 - 3/12/92

143

By FERRAL HAFFAJEE

THE National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) is a bit like its headquarters at Lekton House in downtown Johannesburg — rundown and decrepit — but nothing a lick of paint and a diligent repairman can't fix.

General secretary Cunningham Ngckuna is hard at work arranging courses where union officials and shop stewards can learn anything from

economics to office administration.

The 327 000-member federation is tackling issues like economic reconstruction, voter education and unity with the Congress of South African Trade Unions. It is also planning to improve its media presence.

But Nactu's plans could be thwarted by a funding crisis sparked by cutbacks by the International Council of Free Trade Unions.

In addition, some affiliates are not

paying subscriptions or rent for offices in Lekton House which Nactu owns.

The federation has also been kept busy mediating in ugly internal conflicts among its affiliates.

And this week Nactu had to cancel its congress because it is having big problems persuading affiliates to form single industrial unions.

Uniting with Cosatu is also exposing schisms in the federation.

For some, unity needs to begin with

plant level mergers while for others, the two federations must first unite before their affiliates in the same industries can merge.

"If there is merger today, who will they belong to tomorrow?" asks Hendrick Molefe, general secretary of the South African Chemical Workers Union.

"Repression in the country has produced a fragmented trade union movement and we first have to over-

come the divisions," says Ngckuna.

Nactu is considering three types of unity: a united front, unity in action or a complete merger. Ngckuna thinks the "unity in action" option should apply in the meantime.

But Cosatu's strong presence means that it dominates even joint campaigns.

Nactu pulled out of the VAT campaign last year because it was overshadowed by Cosatu.

It is not a part of the National Training Board or the restructured National Manpower Commission.

Ngckuna says Nactu is more careful about co-determined negotiating forums.

"We have to educate the leadership sufficiently or we will have unions run by technocrats," he adds. "It's no good just having good agreements — workers want to know how it affects them."

In August the Workers Summit, intended to lay the foundation stone of unity, was cancelled. Both federations blamed each for the collapse. But the federations and their affiliates do occasionally have joint executive meetings.

A labour analyst believes that unity is not on top of Cosatu's agenda, saying only three Nactu affiliates are attractive to Cosatu — the Chemical Workers Union, the Metal and Electrical Workers Union of South Africa and the Media Workers Association of South Africa.

Cosatu's alliance with the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party is another stumbling block in the path of unity. Although many Nactu leaders are close to the Pan African Congress, office-bearers are not allowed to hold national political positions.

Eastern

STAR 22/12/92

influx

143

hits job market

By Thabo Leshilo
Labour Reporter

As South Africa's longest recession continues to bite, with an estimated 100 000 jobs lost in the formal sector this year, focus has once again fallen on the Government's failure to curb the flood of foreign job-seekers into the country

According to South Africa's second largest trade union federation, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), unemployment in the country is being "exacerbated by foreigners pouring into South Africa in search of jobs"

Nactu's views are published in the latest issue of its newsletter, Izwelethu.

The federation predicts that 1993 will be "catastrophic" for workers, with retrenchments as well as reductions in working hours

Staff who get laid off or die will not be replaced, it says

The organisation adds "Given the flood of foreigners from the East who have taken over the pavements in major cities, the 3,5 million (traders) in the informal sector are (also) threatened"

Already, 85 000 jobs in the private sector and 5 790 in the public sector had been lost by the second half of this year, according to the SA Chamber of Business

Up to 300 000 have lost their jobs since the recession began in the second half of 1989

Central Statistical Services has put the number of unemployed in South Africa at 2,1 million

NEWS FEATURE *Nactu and Cosatu vow to continue their battle for a living wage*

1992: Successful year for unions

Sowetan 22/12/92

~~143~~ ~~143~~ 143

By Ike Motsapi

■ **DECLINING ECONOMY** *Decision-*

making no longer left to the Government:

THE YEAR 1992 COULD WELL be described as the year of trade unions

And the two major federations in the country have vowed to go into next year fighting to retain and advance the gains of this year

It was during this year that trade unions exerted a lot of pressure on the Government and employers to force them to agree to their demands and they won

And both the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Council of Trade Unions described 1992 as the year "that had been decisive for the whole labour movement"

Mr Jay Naidoo, general secretary of Cosatu, said "Faced with a declining economy and thousands of retrenchments, high food prices and lower than inflation wage increases, it has become clear that economic decision-making cannot just be left to employers and the government of the day"

On the other hand, Mr Cunningham Ngcukana, general secretary of Nactu, writing in *Izwilethu*, the official mouthpiece of the trade union federation, said "The current political developments in the country are underpinned by negotiations that must lead to a democratic constitution

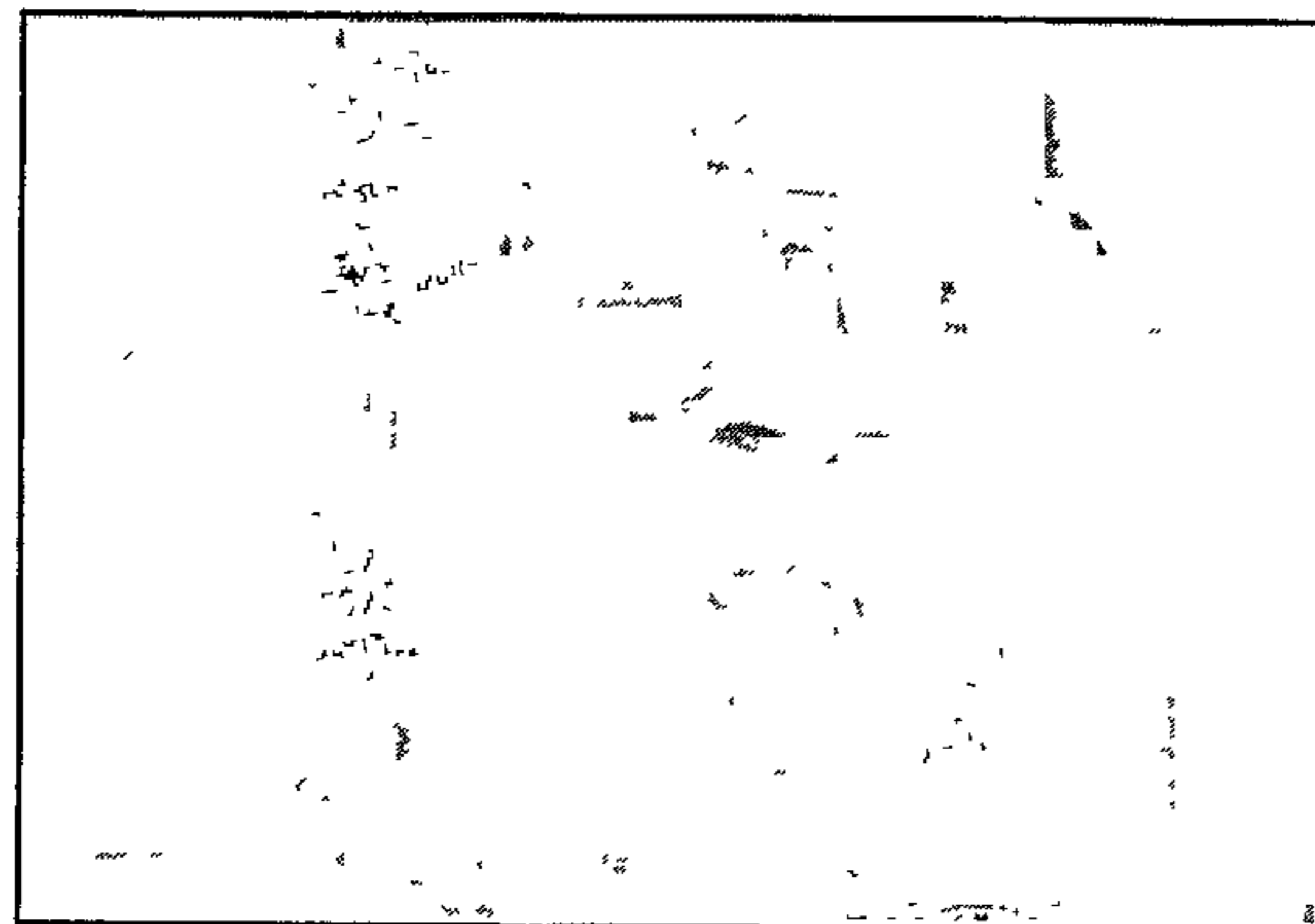
Democratising economy

"The negotiations are taking place between major political players and the regime at bilateral and multilateral level," Ngcukana said

Naidoo said the launch of the National Economic Forum meant that "in the new year trade unions will become more centrally involved in democratising the economy"

He said this will mean that jobs could be created for the unemployed

Naidoo added "The basic needs of the ordinary people in areas of housing, health, education and training can be met



Nactu's Cunningham Ngcukana ... wants to create a core of trade union cadreship.

"It also means that economic restructuring around issues of privatisation, public work programmes and industrial policies will now have to be properly negotiated with trade unions"

Ngcukana said "The elections for a Constituent Assembly are therefore related to the political policy of Nactu on the national liberation struggle

"The Constituent Assembly election will have two central questions or electoral issues

"These are the Bill of Rights and whether the constitution should be unitary or federal

"Nactu has already developed a Workers' Manifesto and therefore the first question would be easy to answer

"The second would require Nactu to take a clear position

"The question of the structure and form of the new constitution has a casual relationship to economic issues that affect workers"

This year Cosatu and Nactu, includ-

ing independent trade union movements, put pressure on the Government over various issues

These included the Government and trade unions laying the groundwork for what was described as the Labora Minute early this year

During the Labora Minute talks, trade unions and the Government agreed to the restructuring of the National Manpower Commission

However, Cosatu suspended talks between itself and the Government

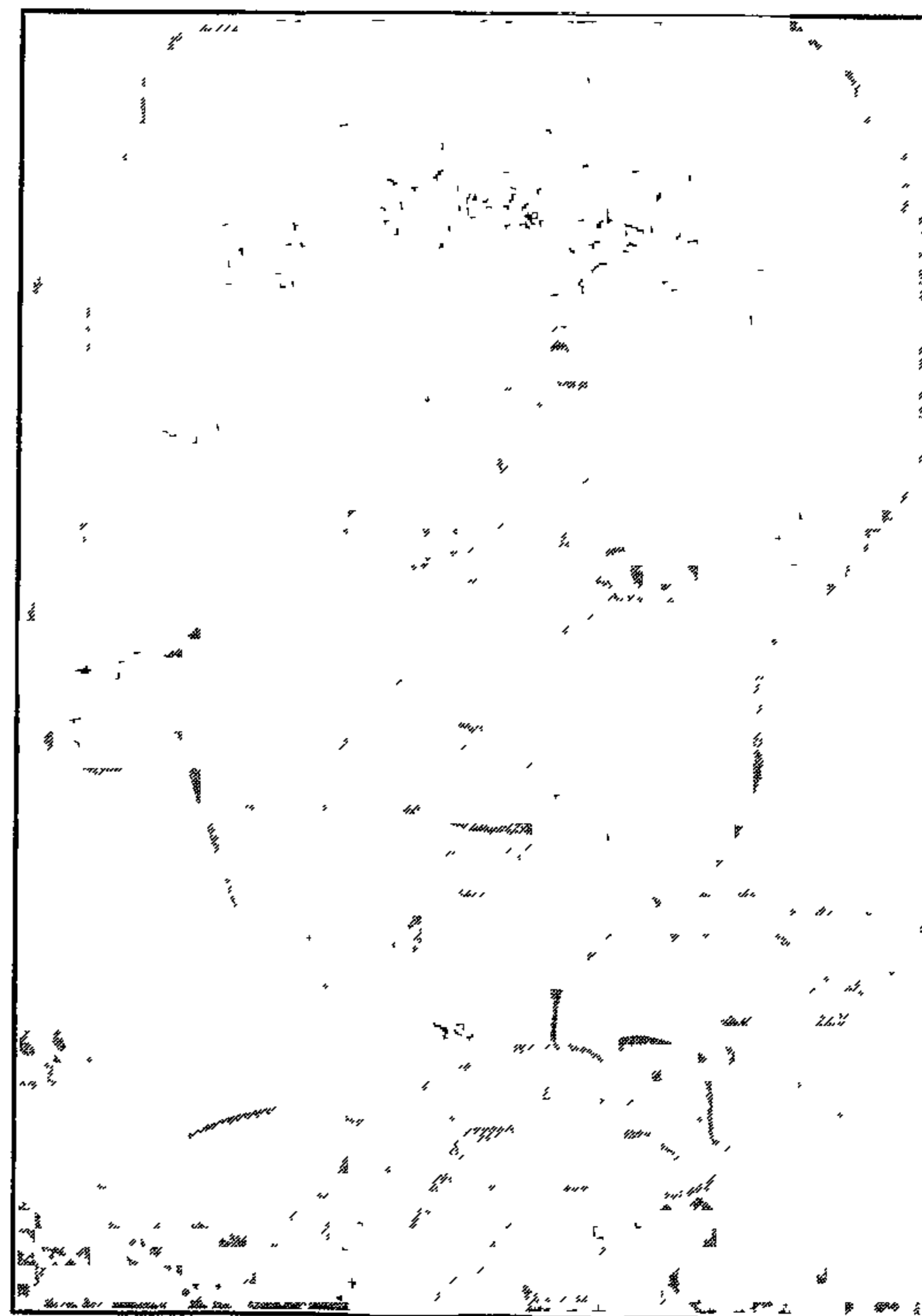
Then there was a "big war" on the Value Added Tax (VAT)

This saw the Government reducing VAT from 13 to 10 percent due to pressure from trade unions, black liberation movements, church leaders and civic organisations

The Government also agreed to the zero-rating of certain basic foodstuffs

This was seen as a victory for the trade unions

Then there was the two-day general



Cosatu's Jay Naidoo ... economic transformation cannot be left to the Government.

strike which took place on August 3 and 4

However, Cosatu and the South African Consultative Committee on Labour Affairs (Saccola) reached an accord which was aimed at limiting the effects during the stay-away from work on those two days

The strike was a success Millions of people stayed away from work

What came out of the strike was that employers agreed to commit themselves to act as "brokers" between the trade unions and the Government during deadlocks on certain issues

Again agreement was reached between the parties on the need for establishing an economic forum

Naidoo said "The mass action driven by the tripartite alliance has resulted in the release of hundreds of political prisoners and a general agreement that elections for a Constituent Assembly to draft the future constitution be held as a matter of urgency

"1992 also saw major strikes over basic trade union issues such as living wages, recognition, centralised bargaining

"Although this has been mainly a defensive battle against unilateral retrenchments and refusal of many employers to grant a living wage, our actions have succeeded in minimising what was a major attack on our living standards," Naidoo added

He said Cosatu would enter 1993 "determined to carve out a powerful role for the democratic trade union movement at economic, labour and political level"

Ngcukana added "Nactu wants to create a core of a trade union cadreship that will be able to participate effectively in the political, social and economic transformation of our country

"Nactu will also encourage its membership not to support our former oppressors with whom we have been locked in a life and death struggle"

Nactu against VAT hike

Sowetan 22/12/92
By Ike Motsapi

THE NATIONAL Council of Trade Unions has advised the Government not to go ahead with its plans to increase the Value Added Tax by three percent next year

22/12/92
General secretary Mr Cunningham Ngcukana said his federation had, at a meeting on December 3, voiced concern to Minister of Finance Mr Derek Keys that any increase in VAT would bring added misery to the underprivileged

VAT is at present levied at 10 percent.

Ngcukana said Nactu raised five points explaining why VAT should not be increased

These were

- It is wrong to raise taxes in a recession. An increase in VAT will hit industry and commerce

Business may not survive a hike:

hard because they are "presently punch drunk"

- A VAT increase will hit hardest those who can least afford it.

- VAT is inflationary. Every one percent increase will raise the Consumer Price Index by 0,8 percent.

- There are other ways of raising revenue like abolishing tax loopholes, increase fuel levies, impose new taxes like capital gains tax

- Cut expenditure. Government should not be allowed any more revenue, as they have proved incapable of spending it responsibly. The gap between revenue and expenditure should be closed by cutting wasteful expenditure - not raising VAT

'Workers also support improved productivity'

(143) (2/27)

DIRK HARTFORD

WORKERS will not be able to solve their problems without a substantial improvement in productivity, says National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) assistant general secretary Mahlomula Skhosana

provide the resources and time for education and training

Writing in the latest edition of Nactu's newsletter, Izwilethu, Skhosana says the opinion that unions reject productivity in principle is wrong.

With the advantages of improved productivity an "uncorrupt" government could pass on the benefits to society through improved social benefits

It seems to unions that many employers feel improving productivity means "working harder for longer hours at super-exploitative wages"

These include parity of old-age pensions, subsidies for education at all employment levels, provision of low-cost, but decent, housing and subsidies for basic food.

Culture

For workers, improved productivity means working in an "enabling environment" in a "democratic workplace" with a changed management style

Skhosana says it is also necessary to look into the quality of management personnel "who at times do not seem to know what they are doing"

"A new culture of doing things must develop with the active participation of everyone involved," says Skhosana

Inadequate planning on the part of management has been largely responsible for the large number of retrenchments this year, he claims

There should be open communication and no information should be kept from workers, and government and business must

On the National Economic Forum, Skhosana says labour, business and government must find ways to reconcile the interests of the employed with the needs of the unemployed

B/D/192 23/12/92



MINING — OTHER

1992

JANUARY — MAY

Metfund eases out of platinum

3/11/92 B/day (217)

MERVYN HARRIS

METFUND, the unit trust of the Investec group, reduced its exposure to platinum before the dramatic retreat in the price of the metal in the last few weeks of 1991.

But it increased its gold exposure to just below 6% of the fund through the acquisition of holdings in Harties and Ofsil during the December quarter.

The fund also increased its holding in Samancor while on the industrial side a new holding in Fraser Alexander was established and more Sunbop shares accumulated.

Metfund again achieved its objective of outperforming the JSE overall index and of generating a return in excess of the inflation rate in 1991. Unit holders who reinvested their distributions received a total return of 37,3%.

Excluding the income distributions, consisting of dividend and interest earned, Metfund achieved capital growth of 32,5% against the 25,4% rise of the benchmark JSE overall index.

Fund manager Hendrik du Toit said the

outlook on the market for 1992 was not expected to be as spectacular as the past year.

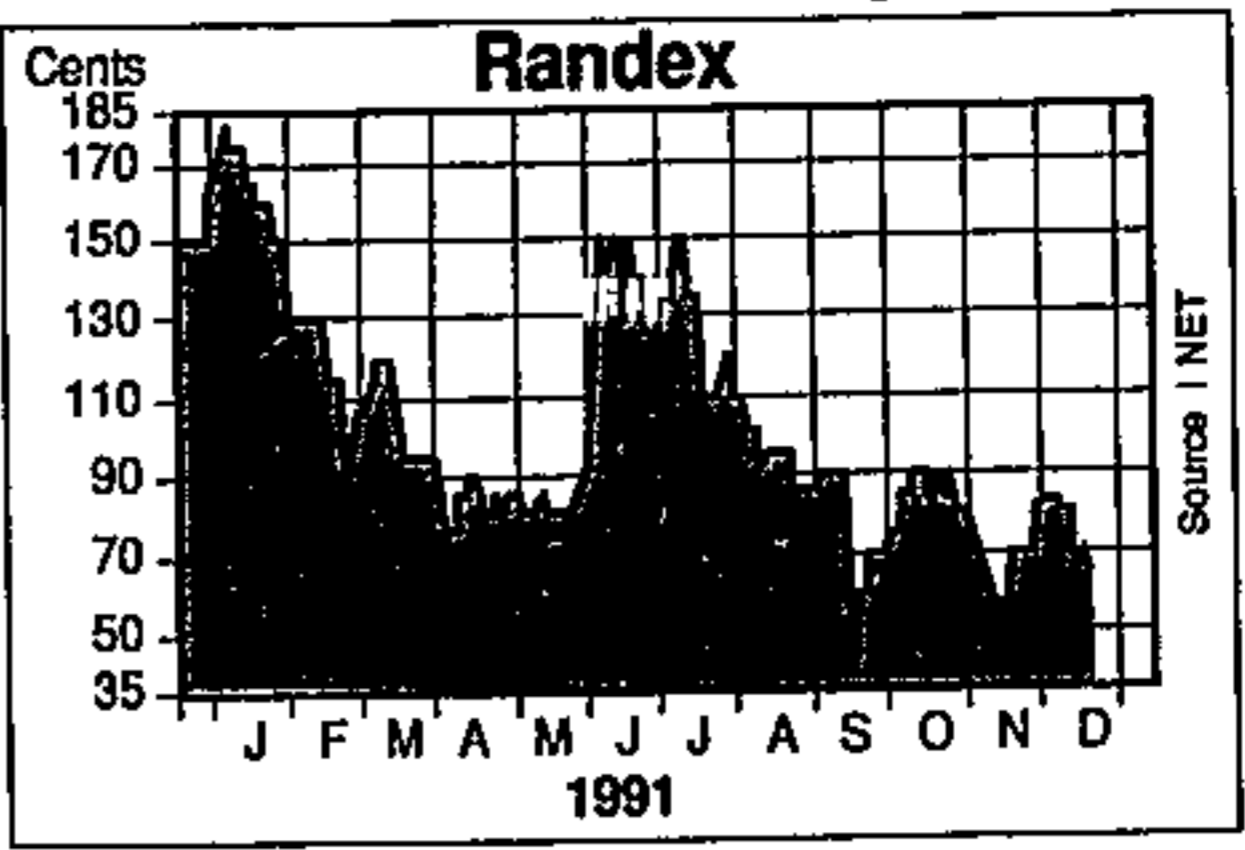
"Industrial shares are in historically expensive territory and cannot rely on any further rerating, but will depend on improved earnings.

"Scope for real earnings growth is limited as there is still uncertainty about an economic upturn. Equity selection will therefore play a key role in investment performance.

"Metfund will be a buyer of mining shares on weakness as the fundamentals of the gold industry and current commodity price levels indicate limited risk on the downside," Du Toit said.

He added that the outlook looked positive from a longer term perspective. Despite the violence, the SA political transition progressed smoothly through 1991, culminating in the first assembly of Codesa.

FM 3/1/92 (217) (217)



RADEX (217) / (217)
Conserving cash FM 3/1/92

Activities: Mining exploration
Control: Genbel 63%
Chairman: T L de Beer, MD M G Saner
Capital structure: 90,1m ords Market capitalisation R63m
Share market: Price 70c Yields nil on dividend, 15,9% on earnings, p e ratio, 6,3, cover, nil 12-month high, 180c, low, 40c Trading volume last quarter, 157 000 shares

Year to June 30	'89*	'90	'91
Income (Rm)	8,3	23,3	12,3
Exploration Expend (Rm)	13,9	18,3	13,7
Cash assets (Rm)	24,1	30,1	22,3
Earnings (c)	(0,1)	5,7	(1,5)
Dividends (c)	—	—	—

* 18 months

Tough times for operating gold mines have meant even tougher times for exploration companies, such as Randex, which offer investors a stake in possible new gold mines on timescales that are being pushed further into the future

That does not mean investors cannot make money in the shares — Randex and other exploration counters are speculators' dreams at present. On the back of the slightly improved outlook for gold, Randex recorded a 75% leap to current levels of around 70c, from the year's low of 40c in September. That's what I call gearing but, ironically, Randex is cutting back on its exposure to gold to husband its cash resources as part of its survival plan.

Randex is fortunate in that it has some income in royalties from dump reserves being treated and mining income from the Marievale gold mine, which should be closed sometime this year. Normally, it's one-way traffic for exploration companies, forking out funds raised from shareholders to cover their portion of the expenditure on joint ventures in which they are involved.

However, Randex is cutting its contributions to certain gold exploration projects — Fochville, Peritus, Leudoringstad and Kroonstad — and diluting its stakes to retain cash. Chairman Tom de Beer points out the mining houses controlling these projects are also re-assessing their expenditure. This should limit the extent of the dilution of Randex's interests.

Management is further diluting the company's overall exposure to gold by diversifying into base metals. It is now involved in a

joint venture run by Tridelta Mining over ground in the north-western Cape containing copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, fluorite and gold.

Randex has also taken a 10% participation right in the small copper/zinc Maranda mine being developed in the north-eastern Transvaal. Work on the Tsongoari base metal project in Namibia continues, but the future of this extremely remote deposit remains unclear.

It has an option to take up 60% of the SouthPlats project on the platinum-bearing Platreef near Potgietersrus but, given current conditions in the platinum market, that project also looks long-term.

Randex was a pioneering mining exploration stock on the JSE when listed in 1985. The link up with Gencor through the merger with Marievale in 1988 made it one of the more favourably positioned exploration companies. However, under current gold market conditions, prospects for the share are highly speculative.

Brendan Ryan

OUTLOOK '92

It is expected that platinum demand in 1992 will be marginally higher than 1991 levels. Actual platinum demand will depend to a large extent on when the US economy finally recovers from recession.

Platinum demand STAR 3/1/92 should increase

By Peter van Zahn
Rustenburg Platinum

217

Supplies of platinum from South African sources are likely to exceed 1991 levels despite the curtailment of the various expansion projects by the major producers and the closure of the Crocodile River Mine

However, if the production disruptions which occurred at certain mines during 1991 persist it is possible the potential increase in platinum supplies from South African mines could be severely curtailed.

As was the case in 1991, supplies of platinum by the Soviet Union will play a key role in the market during 1992.

The ability of the Soviet Union to maintain platinum sales at the abnormally high levels seen during 1991 must be questioned, especially in light of the recent disclosures about the lower than expected level of Soviet gold reserves

Current Soviet sales to the west represent a fine balance between production problems (a recent Union report from the Norilsk complex, which produces some 90 percent of Soviet platinum group metals, indicates that metal production was down by some 30 percent in 1991 and that production is expected to decline by at least another 10 percent in 1992) and reduced internal demand from Soviet industry and the military

Autocatalysts

Merril Lynch recently predicted that Soviet metal exports to the West will fall in the next three to six months

Johnson-Matthey has forecast a supply surplus of 210 000 for last year. The extent of the platinum surplus in 1992 (if any) will hinge primarily on the level of platinum sales to the West by the Soviet Union and the timing of the US recovery

Demand for platinum from the autocatalyst sector is expected to increase by more than 10 percent this year compared with 1991 levels.

Growth should be the highest in Western Europe as car companies are required to equip all cars sold after January 1 1993 with autocatalysts to comply with EC emission standards which take effect from that date.

Economic recovery in the US will certainly lead to higher car sales and therefore, production, in 1992. The trend in the US towards higher platinum loadings on autocatalysts is also expected to continue in 1992

Demand for platinum outside the major European, American

and Japanese markets is also expected to increase as countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Singapore effect emissions control legislation

The market for platinum jewellery in Japan exceeded expectations last year. The emphasis in the Japanese market has been broadened from the older Japanese segment to incorporate the younger generation

Rustenburg expects this trend to continue this year. In addition, the number of retail jewellery outlets in Japan is still increasing and many of these new shops are focusing their sales on younger consumers

This year will also see the start of an industry-wide platinum jewellery promotion campaign in the US

Industrial

Again, depending on when the US economy revives, some increase in platinum demand can be expected from this market

The response to the on-going platinum jewellery development programme in Italy continues to be most encouraging

The rise in popularity of platinum watches continues unabated and consequently a steady increase in demand for platinum is expected from this sector

Platinum demand from the industrial sector in 1992 is forecast to be marginally lower than in 1991.

Growth in the electrical-electronics and fuel-cells segments will be insufficient to offset expected reductions in the chemical, glass and petroleum sectors

However, the overall reduction will be tempered to some extent by the expected growth in numerous diverse applications such as dental alloys, spark plugs, gas-turbines and biomedical uses

Investment

The investment sector improved markedly in 1991 compared with the previous year

However, given the extreme volatility inherent in this segment, reacting as it does to political and economic developments around the globe, it would seem prudent not to attempt to forecast what platinum demand from this segment is likely to be in 1992

Suffice it to say that, based on previous years' performances, the investment segment has the potential to absorb more than 15 percent of newly mined platinum supplies if conditions are favourable

Gold miner goes base

(217)
S Times (Sun) 5/1/92

By IAN ROBINSON

JUNIOR gold miner Metorex has opened a base-metal mine in the Eastern Transvaal

Maranda, 15km west of Gravelotte in the Murchison Range, was officially opened on September 25 last year

The mine will produce base-metal concentrates for sale on the domestic market. At full production monthly output of zinc and copper concentrates will be 1 600 tons and 400 tons respectively

On the basis of proved reserves, the mine will have a life of only six to seven years at a monthly ore milling rate of 6 000 tons. But potential orebody extensions to the west of the main deposit could extend its life

The zinc concentrates (50% to 54% Zn) will be sold to Zincor at Springs. The copper concentrates (24-26% Cu) will be smelted at O'okiep Copper Company in Namaqualand and sold to Newco AG

Maranda Mining Company bought the mineral rights from Rio Tinto and the owner of the farm in 1989. Maranda is held 40% by Metmin, which is in turn held 65% by Metorex. The Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) also has a 30% share in Maranda

Few

Metorex is one of the few small mining companies to survive in the face of low gold prices and rising costs

The company controls three mining operations — Primrose Gold Mines, Maranda and Metmin. Metorex has a 31% share in Primrose and Investec Bank is also a major shareholder

Metmin operates the Rydale mine near Ventersdorp. It supplies manganese dioxide to the gold mines for uranium production

In spite of an apparent niche for small companies in the exploitation of marginal orebodies — particularly old

gold mines — most of those established since the mid-1930s have been closed or are operating at a loss

Such "junior" gold companies include Eersteling, Gazgold, Cengold and Osprey in greenstone belts in the Eastern and Northern Transvaal and Rand Leases, Nigel, Sub Nigel, Wit Nigel, Modderbee and Rogold on the Witwatersrand

Key

Primrose chairman Simon Malone believes that the key to its success as a junior gold producer has been its "capital expenditure efficiency"

This may be expressed in terms of capital cost a kilogram of monthly gold production which Metorex calculated in June at R119 000 compared with an industry average of R493 000 for small mines

Metorex bought control of Primrose from the Boshoff family in 1987. The mine was closed before 1920 and present operations comprise four working sections which produce a monthly tonnage of 12 500 tons, yielding 70kg of gold

Primrose made operating profits of R1,122-million and R1,028-million in the two quarters ending June 30 and September 30 respectively

Plea to world to save our wetlands

ROY RUDDEN examines the mounting campaign by environmentalists to prevent the mining of St Lucia

SCORES of governments worldwide were approached this week in a desperate campaign to save South Africa's unique Lake St Lucia from possible devastation by international and national mining interests.

Environmentalists believe that the threat to one of the world's last remaining major wetlands areas is now so real that only the urgent enactment of special legislation can avert potential ecological disaster.

Empangeni attorney Oliff D'Oliveira, chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia (which helped collect 300 000 signatures for a recent petition calling on the government to prevent the mining), has already submitted a draft act for the Environmental Affairs Ministry to consider.

But now his organisation has enlisted international aid in a bid to pressure the government into urgent action.

It is feared that nothing — not even the results of a current environmental impact assessment — can otherwise stop Richards Bay Minerals from mining in St Lucia for titanium and other metals.

RBM has enormous financial and political clout. The UK-based Rio Tinto-Zinc, the world's biggest mining company, holds 50 percent of its shares. South Africa's Gencor is the next biggest shareholder and the other two are the parastatal IDC and SA Mutual.

SUPPORT

Fearing government delay or reluctance in introducing necessary legislation, the campaign organisers this week sent letters to 64 countries which, together with South Africa, are signatories to the international Ramsar Convention, which lists wetlands and binds member governments to preserve them.

The letters refer to a July, 1990, Ramsar resolution expressing "grave concern" over the potential impact of heavy metal mining in St Lucia. They recall that Ramsar then called on South Africa to prohibit any mining activity which would damage St Lucia's ecology and to ensure that St Lucia was retained as a protected site "because of its national and international conservation importance".

The letters now urge all signatories (comprising every significant government in the world) to make individual approaches to the South African Government in support of legislation effectively preventing RBM from carrying out its mining plans.

The government's position is ambiguous. On the one hand, as a signatory to Ramsar, it is morally bound to preserve St Lucia in its pristine wetlands condition. But, by virtue of having years ago granted mineral prospecting rights at St Lucia to RBM, it is legally bound to allow mining there — regardless of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment now being carried out under RBM sponsorship.

POWER

The government's only way out of the impasse, Mr D'Oliveira said this week, was to formulate a Wetlands Conservation Act which would give it the power to prohibit any activity which in his opinion would adversely affect the ecological character of any listed wetland.

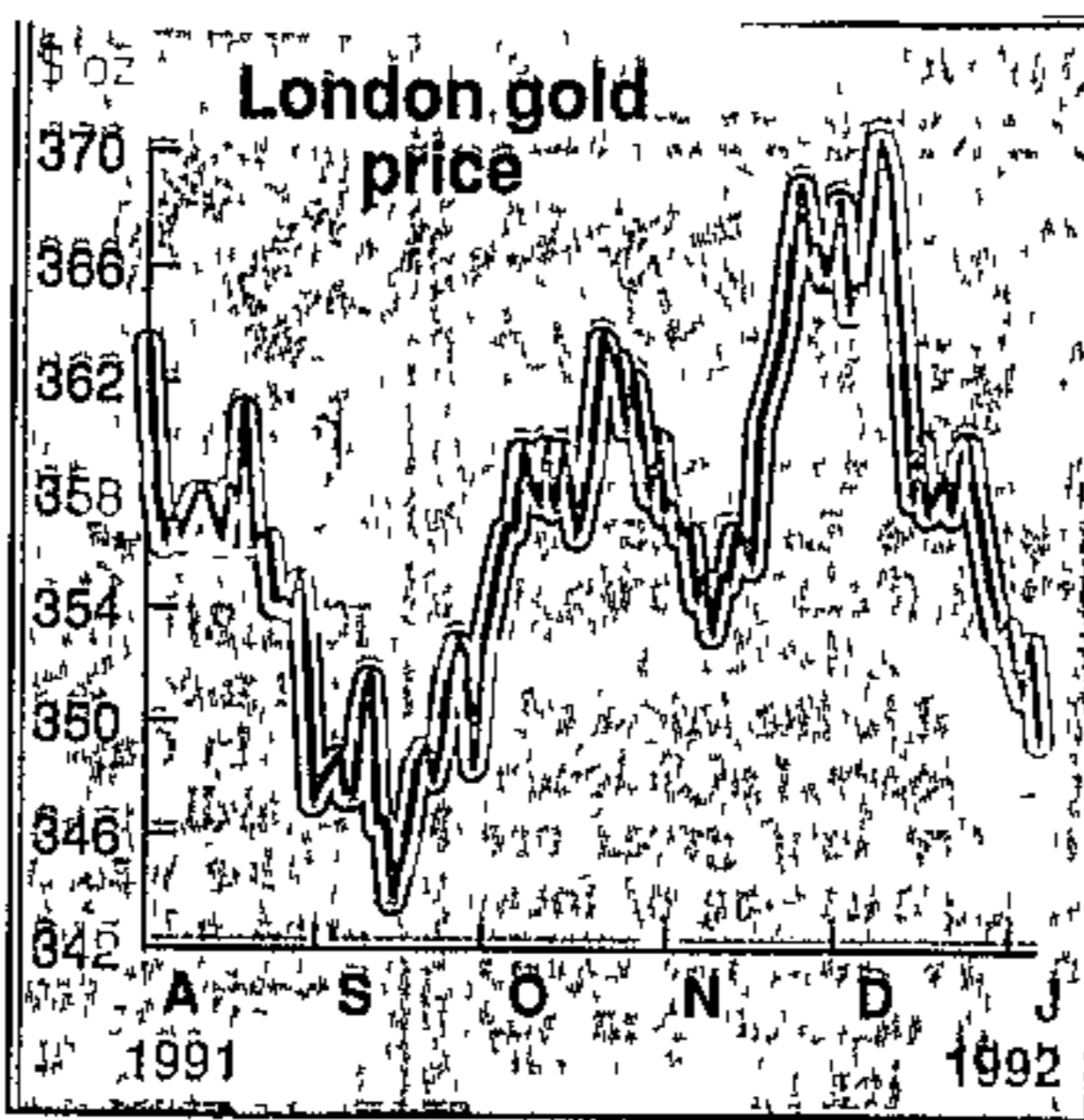
Although Environmental Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar's response had not been unsympathetic, it had not provided positive assurance that the required legislation would be introduced in time to save St Lucia.

Lake St Lucia, the largest estuarine system on the continent, covers about 30 000 hectares and is home to one of the widest and most concentrated varieties of land, marine and bird wildlife in the world.

Its importance to a vast ecosystem which includes the Mkuzi and Umfolozi Game Reserves and the Mkuze River's catchment is virtually inestimable, as is the value of its link in a mighty Natal and Zululand water chain.

RBM has spent millions in trying to assure environmentalists and the public that its operations — potentially worth up to R60-million — would ultimately leave St Lucia unaffected.

Most conservationists say the damage would be irreparable.



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: I NET

Precious metals drop worldwide

(217) MERVYN HARRIS

PRECIOUS metals were under renewed pressure on bullion markets yesterday with gold dipping below key support at \$350 and platinum testing six-year lows of \$330. *B/D Day 7/1/92*

Gold was pulled down to a London afternoon fix of \$349.40, its lowest level since late September, on expectations of fresh selling on the Tokyo futures market. Platinum fell \$5.25 from Friday and was at new lows on the April contract on Nymex.

News that Russia would end its state gold mining monopoly had little effect on the metal and it closed \$3.25 down in London at \$349.75.

Platinum lost \$7.50 to close at \$330.50.

Dealers on the JSE said the slide in the gold price as institutional fund managers returned from their holidays could have contributed to another session of generally low turnover on the market.

An analyst said "Gold is the benchmark for the market and the metal is not looking good technically at present. A lower gold price will affect sentiment."

But the record-breaking rally on Wall Street and firmness on other major equity markets finally rubbed off on the JSE as selected demand for index-weighted shares lifted the industrial index almost 2% or 81 points to 4 256.

□ To Page 2

Metals *B/D Day 7/1/92*

The dip in gold to below \$350 came as the JSE was closing and after shares had recovered from early lows

The all-gold index rose five points to 1 148 for the overall index to finish 45 points up at 3 479.

Dealers ascribed the subdued market

(217) (M) □ From Page 1

— with the exception of trade in De Beers ahead of the release of CSO figures for 1991 — to portfolio managers taking stock of what happened last year and assessing trends for the current year

"People want to get their house in order before they start buying the furniture," a trader said

Poor prices pinch Implats financing

217
B/day 8/1/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

TUMBLING platinum and rhodium prices have renewed pressure on Impala Platinum (Implats) to raise extra cash to finance the group's expansion projects

Implats plans to spend R1bn in developing its Number 15 shaft in the Deeps extension to its mines in Bophuthatswana, plus almost R500m to build the Number 14 shaft at its existing mines

Should Implats go ahead with a rights issue which it has been considering for some time, it will add to the R4,5bn expected to be raised in new issues on the JSE this year by the likes of Gencor, First National Bank, Tiger Oats and Plate Glass and Shatterprufe Industries, analysts said.

Implats MD Mike McMahon said yesterday the low prices were the key factor in determining how the group approached the financing of its expansion programme in the Deeps. He said the group continually assessed its debt-to-equity position and the extent to which it could self-finance its expansion plants

He said the situation was currently "under serious review", and a statement would be made at the announcement of Implats interim results in mid-February

Implats committed itself to capital expenditure of R440m in the current financial year, after spending R382m last year. Yesterday, platinum prices in rand

terms fell to their lowest level since February 1988 at R907 an ounce, as dollar prices hovered close to the \$330 mark and the rand gained in value against the US currency. Rhodium prices have remained near \$1 900 an ounce compared with an average price received by Implats of \$3 715 an ounce in the 1991 financial year

Implats chairman Brian Gilbertson reiterated in August last year earlier statements that the group would be able to finance the expansion programme "within prudent debt levels" on the basis of price forecasts, but in view of weakening prices, the position would be reviewed regularly.

No recourse to shareholders was then planned — apart from provisions for the Bafokeng tribe to gain shares in Implats as undertaken in contracts concerning the Deeps contracts

Gilbertson said "The envisaged separate stock exchange listing of the group's operations in Bophuthatswana has been deferred in the light of depressed stock market conditions, and alternative arrangements are being discussed with the Bafokeng tribe"

Implats share price was unchanged on the JSE yesterday at R42 a share, 250c off its 1991 low of R39,50

COMPANIES

Vansa set to hand out R61m

MATTHEW CURTIN

SHAREHOLDERS in Rand Mines' Vansa Vanadium are in for a R61m or 131c-a-share handout (217)

The move will be some compensation for shareholders, who have seen their company shorn of its operating assets in the past year. *Blow 9/1/92*

Earnings were knocked down by more than half during financial 1991, when Vansa passed its dividends.

Vansa shares were suspended from trading on the JSE at the end of December

At the company's AGM in Johannesburg yesterday, chairman Allen Sealey said the company had R61m in cash after the sale last year of Vansa's operating assets.

Vansa would distribute the money to shareholders once they had approved the distribution at a general meeting sched-

uled for early February

Sealey said Vansa would bring the company's other mineral rights — deep-level platinum rights on farms in the Eastern Transvaal — to account as soon as possible

Vansa sold its vanadium assets to Vanadium Technologies for R17m in August. It also sold Winterveld Chrome Mines to Samancor — as part of the R1bn deal which saw Barlow Rand sell Middelburg Steel & Alloys, supplied with chrome ore by Winterveld, to an Anglo American/De Beers/Gencor consortium — for R50m.

The company was reduced to a cash shell following the sale of the vanadium and chrome mines as part of the extensive restructuring of the Rand Mines group.

B/Day 10/1/92

(217)

Gold Fields' Rooiberg Tin in dire straits

MATTHEW CURTIN

GOLD FIELDS' Rooiberg Tin, SA's last tin producer, is in dire straits as the trough in tin prices, production problems and labour unrest combine make the company's position "critical", says executive director John Hopwood.

Rooiberg turned in its fifth successive after-tax loss of R1,9m in 1991, cut from R3,6m in 1990

Speaking at a presentation of the group's coal and base metal division's quarterly results yesterday, Hopwood said Rooiberg was the "problem child"

The mine had turned in a good performance in the December quarter, but problems at the concentrator and smelter had knocked recovery grades. He said the plants were ageing at a time when the company was strapped for cash.

A strike and low worker morale hit productivity.

He said tin sales had been low in the run-up to Christmas and prices had fallen from R16 000 to R15 500 a ton quarter on quarter.

There was little scope for restructuring the company and if Rooiberg could not reach break-even in the coming months, management would have to consider putting it on a care and maintenance basis or shutting it down.

Brighter news in the division came from Gold Fields Coal — where the weaker rand boosted profits from coal exports to offset lower domestic sales — and Zinc Corporation, which benefited from higher zinc prices.

GOLD FIELDS OF SA December Quarter	Tons milled 000s	Yield g/ton	Gold produced kg	Costs per ton milled R	Costs per kg gold produced R	Price received R/kg	Net profit R000s	Profit after capex R000s	EPS after capex cents
East Drie	705	8,5	6 025,3	159,99	18 720	32 485	—	—	—
September	705	7,8	5 480,0	161,71	20 804	33 224	—	—	—
West Drie	728	11,0	8 007,4	175,74	15 977	32 402	132 151*	81 622*	40,0*
September	712	11,3	8 037,3	182,54	16 171	33 437	121 125*	81 787*	40,1*
Kloof	540	13,3	7 193,9	235,84	17 703	32 421	—	—	—
September	540	12,9	6 988,5	240,58	18 590	33 308	—	—	—
Leeudoorn	195	6,3	1 235,2	240,52	17 703	32 421	70 074*	26 636*	21,2*
September	175	5,8	1 021,9	240,98	18 590	33 308	78 486*	29 532*	24,4*
Venterspost	310	4,0	1 254,5	133,42	32 969	32 433	1 997	(9 929)	(49,2)
September	295	4,0	1 166,1	146,15	36 972	33 420	(1 453)	(11 290)	(55,9)
Libanon	435	4,4	1 925,5	149,63	33 804	32 368	(1 915)	(4 084)	(10,2)
September	435	4,4	1 924,3	149,64	33 827	33 183	(522)	(1 117)	(2,8)
Doornfontein	310	5,0	1 339,0	227,10	38 670	32 251	(7 047)	(7 653)	(19,1)
June	365	4,3	1 827,4	163,38	32 633	33 985	3 808	3 228	8,1
Deelkraal	405	6,1	2 469,3	143,15	23 478	32 301	16 786	9 791	9,8
June	405	6,1	2 463,3	148,77	24 458	33 664	23 279	16 724	16,8

* Combined results of both sections

11 000 Implats workers go on strike

IMPALA Platinum's Bafokeng North mine and mineral processing plant in Bophuthatswana were brought to a standstill yesterday when 11 000 workers went on strike following the dismissal of 1 800 men on Tuesday, a company spokesman said.

The company's other three mines were unaffected yesterday. The strike began on Wednesday when 250 night shift workers at the processes plant and 420 miners did not turn out for work. That night several mine buildings were set alight or burnt down. The extent of the damage was still being assessed yesterday.

The strikers are demanding the unconditional reinstatement of the 1 800 men dismissed after an underground sit-in at Bafokeng North's No 12 shaft on Monday night.

(217) DIRK HARTFORD

The dismissed workers had been demanding changes to the mine's shift system and held several mine officials hostage underground during the sit-in.

NUM acting general secretary Marcel Golding said his union wanted to meet management to settle both disputes. He said the main issue bedeviling labour relations was Bophuthatswana's labour legislation which barred the NUM from operating there.

Last year, a total of two weeks of strikes cost Impala about R85m in lost production at its four mines.

10/11/92
SIP

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Rooiberg Tin may have to close

GFSA is considering drastic action to save Rooiberg Tin from closure, after the Western Transvaal mine reported its fifth consecutive annual loss

John Hopwood, the newly appointed GFSA executive director, with responsibility for the coal and base metal operations, said Rooiberg reported a loss of R1,2 million for the December quarter bringing the losses for 1991 to R1,9 million

"There is not much scope for

further rationalisation and if other drastic action does not succeed the mine will have to be closed or placed on a care and maintenance basis," he said

GFSA's other base metal operations suffered from lower average base metal prices over the period

O'okiep's profits fell from R3,55 million in the September quarter to R119 000 in December as cost of sales surged from R22,1 million to R31,5 million

A significant slide in sales of lead saw Black Mountain taxed profits slump to R345 000 from R3,25 million

A higher zinc price lifted Zincor's profits from R5,9 million to R6,8 million while improved export sales boosted profits at GF Coal to R8,5 million from R6,5 million

A R22 million surge in cost of sales to R86,5 million at GF Namibia left the group with a quarterly loss of R10,2 million,

5792 10/11/92

217

NEW MINING THREAT TO STRETCH OF WILD COAST

CONSERVATION experts were shocked to learn this week of a new mining threat to an unspoilt stretch of South African coastline — this time from the Wild Coast Casino to Mkambati near Port Grosvenor

By ROY RUDDEN

Mr Roy MacPherson, managing director of Richards Bay Minerals — involved in world controversy over its plans to mine at Lake St Lucia — confirmed that his company had acquired prospecting rights from the Transkei government some time ago

country's east coast now safe from these giant international mining interests?" (RBM is 50-percent owned by the international Rio Tinto Zinc group, and other big shareholders are Gencor, SA Mutual and the IDC.)

He played down the danger and said that he did not think mining would go ahead there in the foreseeable future because a feasibility survey had found the dunes too low in minerals and too far from Richards Bay to make the site economically viable

Mr Cooper said "Maybe mining isn't viable at present, though viability can alter with circumstances. But it's hard to understand how Transkei could have granted prospecting rights there when the whole coastline from the casino to Port St Johns is a declared conservation area."

219 Rights

But environmentalists are sceptical. Mr Keith Cooper, the SA Wildlife Society's director of conservation, said the disclosure was alarming

"Apart from the obvious ecological objections, the impact on a potentially valuable tourism area could be disastrous"

Destruction

"The Wild Coast Casino is already the country's most important revenue-producing development. This is an extraordinary decision"

Author/naturalist Tony Pooley said it was a tragedy in the making, and conservationist Ian Player said he was shocked.

Mr Pooley said he was appalled that prospecting rights had been granted over what he described as 35km of one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of the world

"We've heard that kind of story before — about mining probably not being viable," Dr Player said. "The fact is that yet another ecologically and aesthetically valuable line of our eastern coast is now under threat of destruction."

"RBM's statement that mining there is not economically viable doesn't reassure me — in fact, 'economic viability' seems an accurate reflection of the sole consideration of such enormously wealthy mining conglomerates."

"Is any part of the

Northam 'geared for platinum surge'

B/Day 13/11/92 (217)

GOLD Fields of SA's (GFSA's) Northam platinum mine is expected to reach full production in time for a revitalised platinum market in mid-1993, says executive director Alan Wright

Wright said at the weekend Northam was planning to produce its first platinum in small amounts by the end of August, and should reach "meaningful production" levels six months later

By the end of August, Northam would be producing 60 000 tons of ore a month and would be breaking even in mid-1993 when production reached between 75 000 and 80 000 tons a month

He said the timing of the recovery of world economies, and the US economy in particular, from the recession would determine when platinum prices improved.

However, whether the US economy turned around in the middle or at the end of this year, a key factor which would boost platinum demand and prices was the new EC legislation set to be implemented in 1993, clamping down on emissions from car engines

More than 40% of platinum production is consumed by the motor industry in catalytic converters.

Low platinum prices have reinforced sceptics' views of Northam's prospects, because it is a deep-level mine and might prove to be a far higher-cost producer than others

MATTHEW CURTIN

Wright countered this, saying current prices were having no effect on Northam's development schedule

The final stages of development work at the mine were going well, Wright added Northam's 2 000m deep No 1 shaft would be commissioned in March and grades encountered so far were as expected. An in situ grade of 10 grams a ton has been predicted at Northam, higher than grades encountered on other platinum mines

Wright said Northam was trial milling 40 000 tons of waste material a month, and the mine's mills had shown better than expected results so far

Wright said there was no doubt that in terms of costs per ton milled, Northam would compare unfavourably with other producers. Its overall cost structure with high grade ore would make it more than competitive, he believed

An analyst said the market was divided into "believers and non-believers" on Northam's prospects

The mine had yet to prove its promise and the key uncertainty was its cost structure. If development went well, Northam could offset the disadvantages of being a deep-level mine by being a more modern operation with short shaft distances, better mine lay-out, and an absence of technical problems involved in refining its metal

26/11/92
8/10/92

Gold Fields' output (214)
IT WAS incorrectly reported on Friday that Gold Fields' mines had produced 29 540 tons of gold in the December quarter. The figure should, of course, have been 29 540 kilograms. Business Day regrets the error and apologises for it.
REPORTS Business Day Reporters, Sapa Reuter

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Price maintained for ferrochrome

(214)

8/Day 14/1/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

SA FERROCHROME producers have succeeded in maintaining, for the March quarter, the \$0.52/lb export price they battled to set for the December quarter.

Consolidated Metallurgical Industries (CMI) chairman David Kovarsky said last night that the \$0.52 price was "entrenched"

There was general acceptance of the price in the US, Europe and Japan although a few stainless steel makers had not yet settled. He said volumes of ferrochrome exports were modest, contrasting with low volumes in the previous quarter.

Kovarsky said the stalemate which had characterised price talks in the December quarter had now been broken.

"In the fourth quarter stainless-steel makers could afford to withstand a stalemate in price talks because, with the slowdown in production in the runup to Christmas, they needed little ferrochrome. Now their destocking is complete, production is building up again, and with it demand for SA ferrochrome," he said.

He said that while SA producers had not acted in concert in order to win the \$0.52/lb price, up 3c from \$0.49/lb set in the September quarter last year, CMI, Samancor and Chromecorp Technology (CCT) had all recognised that the price was the minimum level at which they were prepared to sell the alloy.

Samancor and CCT officials were unavailable for comment last night. The two are the world's largest pro-

ducers of ferrochrome, a key ingredient in the manufacture of stainless steel. Their drive to increase prices in the December quarter followed Samancor's purchase of Middelburg Steel & Alloys, a rival with a reputation for being ready to undercut its competitors.

The world stainless steel market is currently in a trough and knocking demand for ferrochrome, of which there is considerable oversupply. Although Samancor has closed some of the extra capacity it has acquired, there had been concern among customers, particularly in the US, of the consolidation of SA production.

At the same time, SA producers complained last year that at \$0.49/lb they were at best breaking even, even as the lowest-cost suppliers of ferrochrome worldwide.

The London-based Metals Bulletin reported yesterday that the December quarter price talks had run into a stalemate and "were characterised by a vigorous game of bluff which has left the Japanese unsure of how to proceed".

Kovarsky denied this, saying Japanese customers traditionally followed the lead of European stainless-steel makers who officially announced the contract prices for ferrochrome.

In the December quarter there had been no official announcements of contract prices as negotiations proved unusually delicate.

Production, cost control lift Anglovaal's profits

Bl Day 15/1/92 (214)

MATTHEW CURTIN

GOOD cost control at Anglovaal's four gold producers and higher gold production lifted after-tax profit by 14% from R36m to R42m in the December quarter despite lower gold prices

The figures contrast sharply with a poor September quarter in which soaring costs knocked the group mines' combined after-tax profit by nearly 16%, after it had risen by 10% in the June quarter

The successful restructuring of Loraine, which was near closure three months ago, was the main factor behind the swing

The Free State mine converted a R2,6m after-tax loss into a R2,8m profit as management embarked on a strategy similar to that at Gold Fields' Libanon mine

A key ingredient in Loraine's survival is being able to sell 50% of its gold production forward at sufficiently high prices in 1992

An Anglovaal spokesman said a break-even gold price for the mine was R36 000/kg. Loraine received an average R34 238/kg in the December quarter, down from R35 350 in the previous period, but the mine has sold

718kg of gold forward — nearly 45% of quarterly production — in this quarter and the next at prices of R37 000/kg and R38 000/kg

Loraine's quarterly milling rate was cut from 340 000 tons to 304 000 tons of ore as it neared its reduced production target of 270 000 tons

More selective mining pushed the grade up from 4,9 to 5,6 grammes a ton, which enabled Loraine to increase its gold production.

The main achievement of the restructuring programme was its success in cost reduction. Working costs fell from R38 898/kg to R33 754/kg, and Loraine moved into the black at the operating level for the first time since the March quarter in 1990

In contrast, Hartebeestfontein, one of SA's lowest-cost gold producers, cut production and working costs by increasing the amount of underground ore it milled, from 725 000 to 761 000 tons in the quarter. The spokesman said although management planned production cuts, the increase reflected the recovery of production lost in the September quarter and two extra milling days

this quarter

With only the benefit of hedging transactions closed in the quarter rather than new contracts to boost revenue, the average gold price Hartebeestfontein received fell from R33 339/kg to R32 472/kg.

The mine's uranium oxide operation continued to show a loss — although reduced from R3,4m to R1,7m quarter on quarter. The spokesman said management continued to monitor the situation closely

Uranium production would continue as long as the benefits the mine derived from the operation outweighed the losses sustained in its production, he said

The three eastern Transvaal mines, which form Eastern Transvaal Consolidated Mines, had a good quarter thanks to cost containment and a rise in grade from 9,6 to 10 grammes a ton. The Sheba mine near Barberton contributes more than 60% of ET Cons production as payable reserves dwindle at both New Consort and Agnes mines

Poor recovery grades and higher costs knocked profits at the Village Main Reef low-grade gold retreatment plant

ANGLOVAAL December Quarter	Tons milled 000s	Yield g/ton	Gold produced kg	Costs per ton milled R	Costs per kg gold produced R	Price received R/kg	Net profit R000s	Profit after capex R000s	EPS after capex cents
Hartebeestfontein	761	9,0	6 736	225,82	25 512	32 472	34 361	27 627	24,7
September	725	8,9	6 532	230,57	25 591	33 339	34 943	28 956	25,1
ET Cons	89	10,0	891	229,63	22 937	33 835	4 229	3 733	4,3
September... ..	89	9,6	866	229,94	23 871	32 216	3 556	3 194	4,1
Loraine	304	5,6	1 687	187,31	33 754	34 238	2 785	2 643	16,1
September,	340	4,9	1 666	188,15	38 398	35 350	(2 588)	(3 495)	(21,4)
Village Main Reef ..	197	0,90	177	29,36	32 638	32 441	189	328	5,4
September	194	0,98	190	28,57	29 216	33 089	540	528	8,7

Shaft closures likely at Impala

Finance Staff STAR 16/1/92

Shaft closures were likely at Impala platinum mine if labour unrest continued, Gencor's new chairman, Brian Gilbertson, warned yesterday.

He told a function marking the mine's new safety record that all Impala employees would have to make a firm commitment to bring working conditions back to normal if the mine was to complete its capital expenditure programme and avoid shaft closures.

In the past six months the platinum price had fallen \$40 an ounce and the rhodium price had halved.

This loss of revenue, coupled with the poor efficiency, brought about by the labour disruptions, threatened the viability of the worst affected shafts, he said.

Implats warns of closures

BIDA 16/1/92
IMPALA Platinum (Implats) is in danger of closing shafts and curtailing its multi-million rand capital spending programme if its mines in Bophuthatswana continue to be plagued by wildcat strikes.

Implats chairman Brian Gilbertson warned yesterday that the labour disruptions, which have cost the group more than two weeks of lost production worth about R100m in the past year, were jeopardising some of the mines' operations and expansion plans.

Gilbertson told staff at the Wildebeestfontein North mine: "There will have to be a firm commitment on the part of all Impala employees to bring working conditions back to normal if we are to complete the capital programme as planned, and if we are to avoid shaft closures."

He said the mines were "not the right place for a political battle" and he appealed to workers to settle disputes peacefully and in the appropriate forums.

Implats workers have embarked on

MATTHEW CURTIN

strikes, go-slows and sit-ins in the past year, ostensibly over wage increases and the reinstatement of dismissed workers. However, the NUM gave its clearest indication yet on Tuesday that the campaign for reincorporating Bophuthatswana into SA was at the top of its agenda at Impala. A union spokesman said the NUM supported the call for mass action to urge government to reincorporate the homeland.

Gilbertson said the wildcat strikes had come at "a particularly bad time" for the company. Platinum prices had dropped \$40 since December while rhodium prices — which offset weak platinum prices in 1990 — had halved since June.

Implats plans to spend R1bn on its new shaft in the Deeps prospect, and another R450m expanding its existing operations in the homeland. It is also building new mills to process UG2 ore and a new furnace.

● See Page 3

Implats mine achieves new safety record

DIRK HARTFORD 2/7

DESPITE a spate of recent strikes, Impala Platinum's Wildebeestfontein North mine had completed nearly 3,2-million fatality free shifts yesterday — well ahead of the 27-year-old record of West Rand Consolidated Mines, according to the Chamber of Mines.

Chamber president Naas Steenkamp said yesterday new benchmarks for mine safety were being set daily on metal mines and collieries. *Blow 16/1/92*

He was speaking at the mine, where the record had been set "in circumstances almost without precedent in mine safety competitions, in that industrial unrest has been the norm on the mine."

Steenkamp presented the mine with the chamber's Millionaire Shield, now won 13 times by Wildebeestfontein North.

However, an NUM spokesman said it was useless boasting about individual mines when there was no general improvement in mine safety, adding there were 16 fatalities on gold mines this year.

Implats' burden may cut payout

MATTHEW CURTIN

2/17

IMPALA Platinum (Implats) may have to cut its dividend for the 1992 financial year to pay for capital projects as the group weathers the storm of sinking platinum group metal (PGM) prices and wildcat strikes at its mines in Bophuthatswana, market sources say.

Analysts said yesterday Implats interim attributable earnings would be down by between 30% and 35%, and if PGM prices did not improve significantly, year-end earnings might fall by 40%, from R312m to under R200m.

They said the interim dividend was safe. But in order to meet its capital commitments in the next 12 months Implats would have to reduce the payout to shareholders in the second half of the financial year.

Implats has capital commitments of more than R1,5bn on a variety of expansion programmes, and planned to spend R440m in the current financial year.

Implats chairman Brian Gilbertson said last night he could not comment on dividend policy. Implats' interim results for the six months to end-December would be published at the beginning of February and he declined to speculate on them.

However, he said "There is no question that low metal prices are affecting Implats and that the disruption in Bophuthatswana is serious."

Workers at the group's Wildebeestfontein North mine have recently passed 3,2-million fatality free shifts, an industry record. Gilbertson said if this sort of performance could be applied to productivity Implats could recover lost production.

Strike action has cost Implats more than two weeks of lost production in the past year.

BIDW 17/1/92

Battle for Chapman's Peak goes on

w/m cut 17/11 - 23/1/92

By GAYE DAVIS Cape Town

THE company which plans to strip-mine kaolin on Chapman's Peak, has yet to move on to the site — although it has been legally entitled to do so since January 2.

Anti-mine campaigners believe the company, Serina, is caught in a Catch 22: in terms of the mining Act, it may not process the kaolin it mines anywhere except on site — the historic Goede Hoop estate.

Ian Brownlie, spokesman for the Save the Chapman's Peak Action Group, believes the first move Serina makes in starting to build a processing plant on the site will "stir up the ire" of the thousands he says are opposed to the mine.

But Serina's managing director, Carl Tarrant, said the reason Serina had yet to move on site was because planning for the processing plant was "still under way". Asked when building would begin he would only say "sometime this year".

Tarrant believes people are "over-concerned" about the effects the mine will have on both tourism and the environment. The company would honour to the letter requirements for rehabilitating the area laid down in an environmental impact study carried out three years ago, he said.

Brownlie, however, cites Serina's management of its existing mine near Fish Hoek, where the company's efforts to rehabilitate the area "involved little more than green shade cloth and planting kikuyu grass".

Nor is Tarrant concerned about the protest campaign the Save the Chapman Peak Action Group has threatened to unleash: "People have painted completely the wrong picture of us. Once people see what we are doing, relations will improve."

Brownlie says: "We've already got about 5 000 people prepared to take part in a human chain who are also prepared to pay admission of guilt fines of R75 if they're arrested."

The action group wants Serina to exploit kaolin deposits in less environmentally sensitive areas and has offered to compensate the company for "any reasonable expenses" it has incurred so far. Serina has said that whatever deposits are found elsewhere, it would nevertheless mine Chapman's Peak first, kaolin at the site being of a high quality. As to being paid out, Tarrant said: "You don't get compensated for what you spend, you get compensated for what you're going to lose."

For Brownlie the battle for Chapman's Peak goes beyond its immediate locality. "It affects the whole of South Africa, like mining in the Kruger Park. The days of the authorities simply imposing their will on an unwilling population have gone."

Slump in demand a threat to vanadium

S/Times (B4SS) 19/1/92.

217

WORLD demand for vanadium has been shrinking and substitution threatens its long-term future.

It is estimated that demand in 1991 was about 80-million pounds compared with more than 100-million lb in 1989.

The cyclical decline in world steel production has been the major factor depressing demand for vanadium.

Substitution by niobium has contributed to the decline.

After consistent growth from 1982 to 1989, world steel production fell in 1990 and 1991.

The major use of both vanadium and niobium is in high-strength, low-alloy (HSLA) steels. The alloying elements are interchangeable under certain circumstances. They are added to steel in the form of ferrovanadium and ferromniobium.

A boom in demand for vanadium in 1988 and 1989 took the price of pentoxide to a peak of \$11/lb on the spot market. Consequently, Highveld Steel & Vanadium more than doubled its price to \$7.50/lb.

Boom

Ferrovanadium prices quadrupled to more than \$50 a kg. The increased vanadium prices encouraged steel producers to switch to niobium and other alloying elements.

Brazil is the main producer of niobium and has promoted its use through stable pricing — facilitated by the consistent devaluation of the cruzeiro.

The trend to niobium has been particularly strong in Japan where a major steelmaker has reduced its use of vanadium by 20%. Several Japanese steel-makers are reluctant to promote vanadium-containing steels. They recommend non-vanadium steels to buyers.

However, Highveld remains optimistic in the long term for vanadium.

General manager, market-

By IAN ROBINSON

ing, Jeff Chegwidgen says that although there has been substitution of vanadium by niobium, it can be done only in plants which have sophisticated rolling and cooling facilities.

Direct substitution is not always possible without process-control changes.

Vanadium is much more "user friendly" than niobium and is preferred in less sophisticated plants.

Quarter

Because much of the growth in steel production is expected to come from Third World countries such as China, there is considerable potential for long-term growth in vanadium demand.

Mr Chegwidgen is also confident that vanadium has turned the corner in the short term. Ferrovanadium prices have risen from \$11/kg last September to more than \$12 and are moving into better balance with pentoxide prices.

At \$12/kg the ferrovanadium price correlates with a pentoxide price in the range \$2.30-\$2.45/lb. Highveld has maintained its price at \$2.60 for the first quarter this year.

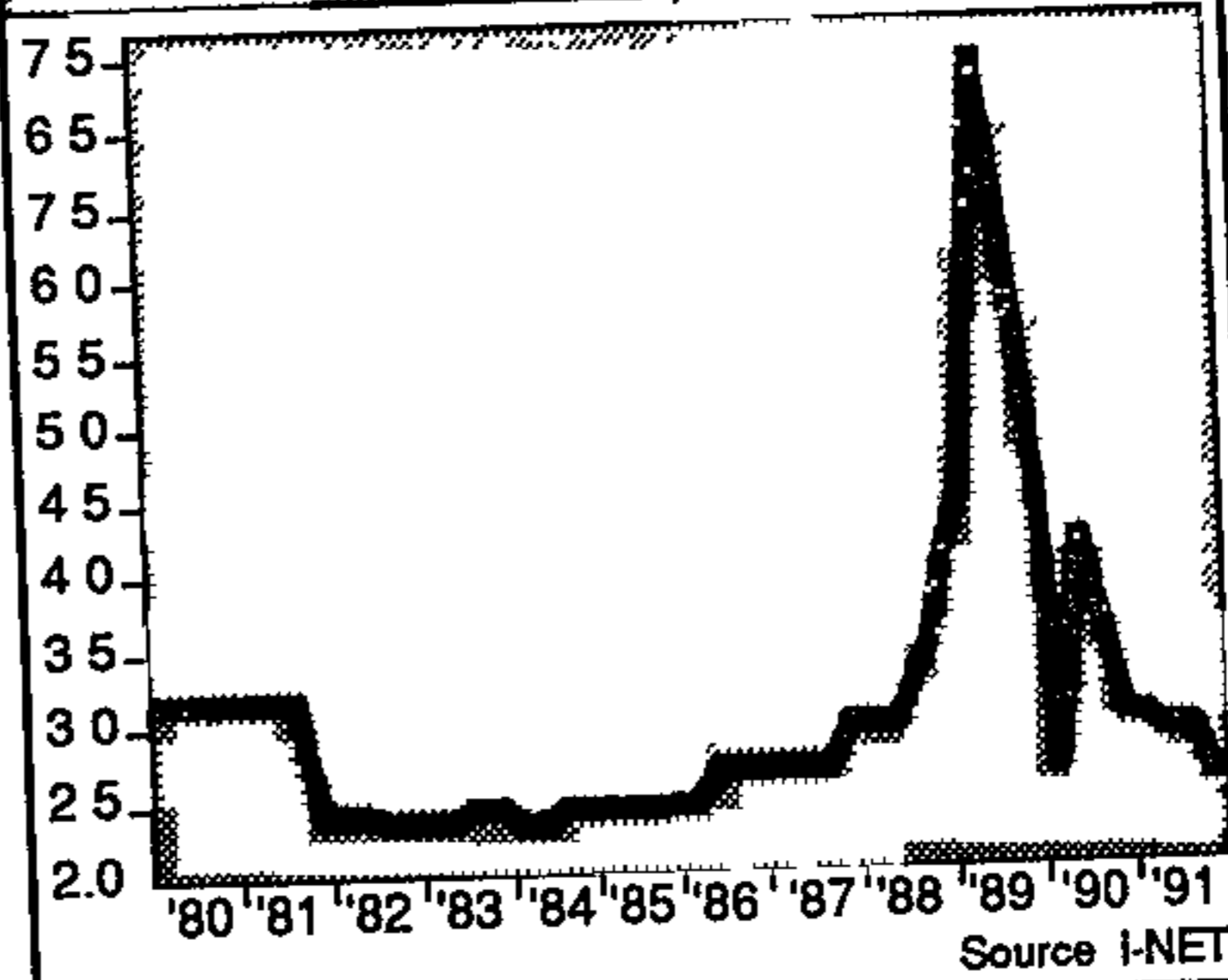
Highveld has cut production to below 70% of annual capacity of 58-million lb of vanadium pentoxide from both its steel and its Vantra plant to adjust to the over-supply.

Current annual production rate is about 37-million lb comprising 32-million lb in slag from the steel plant (40-million lb capacity) and 5-million to 6-million lb from the Vantra plant (18-million lb capacity).

In spite of the closure of two vanadium pentoxide plants in SA last year — Rand Mines' Vansa and Usko — two producers could join the three, Highveld Steel, Vametco and Transvaal Alloys.

Vantech director John Vorster expects its project to come on stream in about April this year. Vantech bought the Vansa plant from

Vanadium Highveld
price 98% CIF (\$/LB V205)



Source I-NET

Rand Mines and has carried out extensive alterations which will slash production costs.

Production will be at a monthly rate of 250 tons of pentoxide (equivalent to an annual rate of 6.6-million lb).

Although Mr Vorster describes the outlook for vanadium as "not wildly exciting", he is confident that low production costs will ensure the project's profitability.

Rhombus Vanadium Holdings (RhoVan) is considering building a pentoxide plant at

its subsidiary Rhombus Vanadium's mine in Bophuthatswana near Brits.

Rhombus' supply contract of vanadiferous magnetite concentrate to Usko for conversion to pentoxide was cancelled last September. Usko was unable to operate the plant successfully and the mine was placed on a care and maintenance.

Rhovan is conducting technical feasibility studies with a target completion date of March 1992. Financial backing has been offered by SA and international companies.

Rand Mines set to close Barbrook

BIPay 20/11/92 (214)

MATTHEW CURTIN

BARBROOK, Rand Mines' troubled gold mine near Barberton, is almost certain to be closed down.

Shareholders were warned today that Rand Mines would have no option but to consider applying for the winding-up of the company unless someone bought the mine as a going concern by the end of January.

The demise of Barbrook marks the last chapter in the mining house's ill-starred expansion programme, which started in the 1980s.

The Vansa Vanadium mine and refinery were mothballed late in 1990, and the Kennedy's Vale platinum mine was closed at the same time. Both operations were sold last year along with the Crocodile River platinum mine which was later mothballed by new owner Impala Platinum.

Rand Mines spent R125m to bring Barbrook into production after mining operations started in 1987. The mine's life was expected to be 50 years.

Poor recovery grades, high working costs and labour unrest led to the mine's closure at the end of 1990. Since then, it has been on a care and maintenance pro-

gramme pending a gold price revival.

The directors said today there was no benefit to be had from continuing the care and maintenance programme at the mine. They believe there is no prospect of a sharp rise in the gold price and, after a comprehensive review of Barbrook's potential, have concluded the mine should not be re-opened.

Prospective buyers had looked at Barbrook's assets, but none had made an offer for the company or its assets. Barbrook had R83m in debts (including unpaid interest) at the end of the December quarter in which it posted a R4.4m loss.

The book value of the company's mining assets was given as R148m on September 30 1991, although analysts say their true value could be considerably lower if the mine is closed and its plant and equipment are sold. The directors noted that should the mine close, the company would incur a R2m liability to Eskom for the removal of electrical facilities in addition to the cost of rehabilitating the mine property and making it safe.

Genbeheer following Gencor offer

Finance Staff

Gencor has announced details of its plans for a R2 billion rights offer.

The price of the rights offer, which is being underwritten by Genbeheer, will be announced next week, but analysts believe that offer will be pitched at around R11 to R11,50 a share.

Genbeheer, which holds 55 per cent of Gencor, will seek R1,1 billion to enable it to follow its entitlement in the Gencor issue and redeem five-year Genbeheer preference shares issued in 1987.

The decision to go ahead with the offers was taken at the respective Gencor and Genbeheer board meetings yesterday.

Brian Gilbertson, Gencor's new executive chairman, said the funds raised would enable the group to maintain its growth and momentum of the past few years.

Gencor's last rights issue was in July 1989 when the group raised R1,5 billion shortly after the successful acquisition of Mobil SA.

That issue put Gencor in a cash-rich position at a time of high interest rates and enabled it to take advantage of investment opportunities that subsequently arose.

Among others, Gencor participated in a number of group company rights issues and made some important new acquisitions, notably the investment in Middelburg Steel & Alloys.

Mr Gilbertson said "Our major group companies are adequately funded for the present, but we found in the past that having funds available at the centre when we needed them put us in a powerful bargaining position."

MATTHEW CURTIN

IF YOU had to pick a metal fitting for the New Age, the 1990s and beyond, you could do a lot worse than select zinc.

Whether it is using tiny quantities of the metal to boost the human body's immune system, or zinc-titanium cream as a 100% sun-block against harmful ultra-violet rays, or in heavy-duty rust-resistant coatings, zinc has a multitude of friendly applications.

The key industrial application of zinc is in the battle to prevent metal corrosion. The main anti-corrosive measures are to use rust-resistant metals — such as special steel alloys, copper or aluminum — pig-perspective paints in some of which zinc is a crucial ingredient, or hot-dip galvanizing.

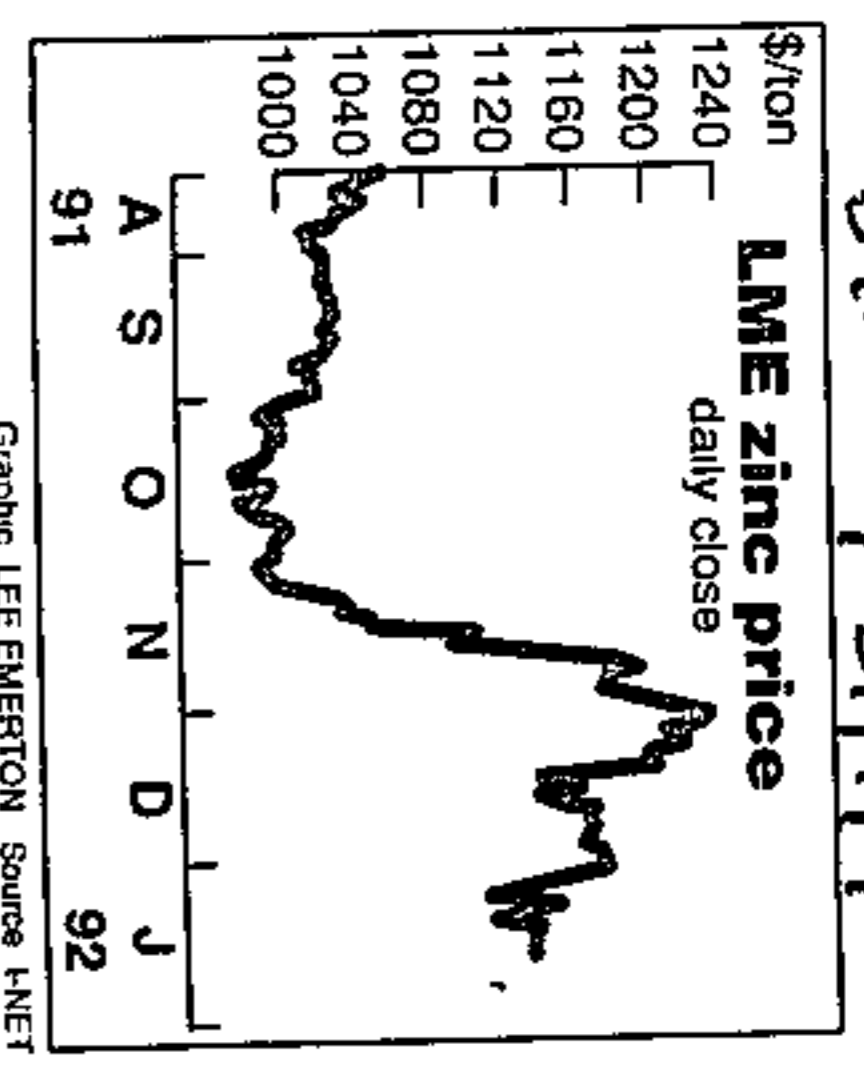
More than 75% of zinc produced in SA and about 35% worldwide is produced in galvanizing steel. Hot-dip

Zinc is the resource for the New Age

galvanising involves dunking steel structures in molten zinc which reacts with iron to produce a complex corrosion-resistant coating with an outer layer of more or less pure zinc.

Galvanised metal is used throughout industry, from agriculture to mining, whether it is to protect electric pylons or strengthen structures in mine shafts.

SA Hot-Dip Galvanisers' Association CEO Walter Barnett says galvanisers used 16% more zinc in 1989 than in 1986 despite the recession. Exports of galvanised products are mounting. Barnett says galvanised coating is more rugged and reliable than paint coating. The galvanising process is no more expensive than



Graphic: LEE EMERSON Source: LME

heavy-duty paints and provides maintenance-free protection for from about 25 years in common industrial conditions to 100 years or more in benign environments.

The coating acts as a 'sacrificial anode', protecting steel by corroding first in areas where the

coating is damaged.

Barnett says special steels offer the best protection, but their extra cost has to be weighed against their suitability for the job. There is no point installing a structure which will last for decades down a mine, for instance, when the mine has only a few years of life.

Only 25 years ago talk of zinc would have been of marginal importance for SA. For all the country's mineral wealth, it had no commercially viable zinc deposits.

However, viable deposits were found in the northwestern Cape in the late '60s. They formed the basis of the now defunct Prieska copper-zinc mine, and the small Shell-owned Poring mine which started production in 1986. Gold Fields'

Black Mountain base metals mine at Aggeneys, which produce its first zinc concentrates in 1979, has at least 10 years' reserves. Namibia also has important zinc reserves named by Inicor Zinc, 51% owned by Iscor, with reserves which will extend the mine's life into the next century.

These mines have made SA self-sufficient in zinc, but it is a self-sufficiency which is only valuable thanks to the country's ability to refine the metal locally, a job done by SA's only zinc refinery, Gold Fields' Zinc Corporation (Zincor).

Zincor's plant near Springs began life as a uranium treatment plant serving the Vogelstruisht gold mine. In the early '60s, the mine was running out of gold ore reserves, and with collapsing uranium prices it was decided to convert the plant to a zinc refinery.

Zincor operations manager Ewald Meyer says that because of

the inevitable mismatch between aspects of uranium and zinc refining the plant's design is not as good as it might be.

However, such problems are small compared with the delicate process necessary for producing pure zinc.

In recent years improvements have been made at Zincor in the recovery of the metal, which traditionally is lower than other base metals, Meyer says. Zincor has patented a process to remove iron — a major metallurgical bugbear — from zinc solutions to improve recovery of the metal.

The delicacy of zinc metallurgy means that at present Black Mountain and Zincor cannot exploit the large Gamsberg deposit in the northwest Cape, which contains high manganese-bearing zinc ores. Zincor, Gold Fields and Mintek scientists are working on the problem, but have yet to develop a

process to eliminate manganese from zinc electrolytes so the ore body can be exploited.

Zincor is keen to eliminate the potential environmental threat posed by the by-products it produces by selling, rather than dumping them. Sulphur waste is converted into sulphuric acid, and 160 000 tons a year are sold. Some cadmium and copper secondaries are upgraded and sold. Zincor is now considering building a recovery plant to refine large amounts of cobalt residues which have been built up over the years.

Zincor produces more than 90 000 tons of zinc a year, and its profitability is entirely dependent on its refining efficiency, as zinc prices are both an input and output cost. Prices are set by the London Metal Exchange in dollars, and Zincor buys zinc concentrate and sells the pure zinc at these prices.

World production of refined zinc stands at more than 7.2-million tons a year. Prices improved at the end of 1991 to nearly \$1 200 a ton as major refineries shut down in the face of world oversupply.

Nickel price may help SA

MATTHEW CURTIN *217*

NICKEL prices on the London Metal Exchange shot up to a two-month high of \$7 800 a ton yesterday *31 day 21/1/92*

Market sources say the price spurt has been helped by falling supplies of Russian material, with the prospect that nickel exports in the former Soviet Union will tail off in 1992

That has coincided with increased Chinese buying of nickel and cutbacks in US production

If the higher prices are sustained, they will bring some relief to SA's platinum producers, for whom nickel is an important source of by-product revenue.

Tumbling platinum and rhodium revenue is likely to knock interim earnings at Rustenburg Platinum and Impala Platinum by between 25% and 40%

Rand Mines pulls out of Rhoex project

RAND MINES has dropped out of a joint venture with Rhombus Exploration (Rhoex) to mine mineral sands on the Transkei coast

Rhoex chairman Rob Still said in his annual review that at the end of last year both parties agreed, in the best interests of the project, to replace Rand Mines with another suitable long-term partner

Still said Rhoex joined up with Rand Mines in 1990 to form RhoSands — 60% owned by the mining house — because of the perceived benefit of having access to the technology of fellow subsidiary Middelburg Steel & Alloys Barlow Rand sold

MATTHEW CURTIN

Middelburg to the Anglo American, De Beers and Gencor consortium last year

Still said Rhoex was investigating an alliance with another partner for the project, whose prospects have improved with the award of new prospecting rights to Rhoex by the Transkei government. Rhoex believed the project was one of the better long-term sources of titanium feedstock for the world's pigment industry.

Rhoex has joined Shell in a potential R320m project to mine mineral sands in northern Natal

2/1/1992

217

COMPANIES

RhoVan plant wins funding

B/day 22/1/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

RHOMBUS Vanadium (RhoVan), the vanadium mining subsidiary of Rhombus Exploration, has won local financial backing for the construction of a beneficiation plant

However, CE Rob Still says in his annual review that the future of the company's vanadium operation will be decided only when a feasibility study is finished at the end of March

Another option is to supply magnetite concentrate to a competitor

Still said that although the vanadium market was in the doldrums, RhoVan possessed large and high grade ore reserves which were probably the best in the world

He said Rhovan was able to produce magnetite concentrate cheaper than all but one of its current and likely competitors

Rhovan was well placed to expand its operations because it had a fully paid and proven mine and concentration plant and strong cash reserves

Rhovan won R19m in penalties from Usko last year after Usko failed to meet contractual commitments to take Rhovan's vanadium concentrate

RhoVan has joined Highveld Steel and Vanadium in criticising plans by Precious Metals Australia (PMA) to build a new vanadium mine and beneficiation plant

in western Australia, at a time of oversupply and weak prices

Still said in his review "Supply of vanadium oxide for conversion into ferro-vanadium continues to exceed demand. Surprisingly, serious consideration is apparently being given to new greenfields and costly projects to increase such supply further"

PMA has dismissed SA allegations that it will be a high cost producer and will not be able to find the necessary international backing

Chairman Roderick Smith has said PMA's reserves of 110-million tons at 0,57% vanadium pentoxide compared more than favourably with Rhovan's 22,7-million tons of 0,62% vanadium

pentoxide

Still said that in situ vanadium pentoxide grades of the ore are "largely irrelevant" as non-magnetic material was separated from magnetite at an early and inexpensive stage in the production of vanadium oxide

The key factor was the grade of magnetite concentrate which in Rhovan's case averaged 2,1%, better than forecasts of 1,97%

PMA has not published estimates of its forecast magnetite concentrate grade

Still said "It is not the intention to proceed with any downstream beneficiation venture without assuring that the company has the potential of being highly cost competitive"

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Revere moves Haib (217) into cash-shell Mervest

By Derek Tommey

Glen Lang's Revere Resources plans to move its wholly-owned subsidiary Haib Copper Mining and Exploration Company, into cash-shell Mervest. Subject to the approval of Mervest shareholders, Mervest will pay R1 285 000 for the mine which will be met by the issue of 128,5 million Mervest shares of 1c each. It is planned to change the name of Mer-

west to Haib. In a circular to shareholders, Merwest says that by using the latest available mining and metallurgical technology, Haib has the potential to become a world class copper producer in the 1990s. Revere will end up with an 81 percent stake in Haib. It is planned to raise R7 million to fund further exploration, feasibility studies and oxide mining at Haib.

Rockey Engineering



COMPANIES

Randex waives buying rights

MINING exploration company Randex has decided against exercising its rights to acquire a 60% interest in Southplats, which is hoping to develop a platinum and base metal mine in the north-western Transvaal *B/pay 22/11/92*

Randex MD Mike Saner said yesterday the company had looked at the feasibility study of the project and elected not to follow its pre-emptive rights which would have meant taking up 60% of Southplats, a subsidiary of South Witwatersrand Exploration, worth R30m

Saner said Randex did not have the cash to buy the Southplats mining title and also develop the project

The current depressed platinum and base metals markets and their effect on likely revenue from a new mine contributed to Randex's decision

South Wits chairman Nic Stavarakis said yesterday that the project had good poten-

MATTHEW CURTIN

tial, given firmer metal prices, for the establishment of low cost high tonnage mine. It is understood the prospect has relatively low platinum, but high nickel grades *(217)*

He said Southplats was holding talks with international mining companies in SA about participating in the project

Commenting on Randex's interim report, Saner said the company was continuing to curtail its exploration expenditure which fell from R6,2m in the interim last year to R3,4m in the six months ended December 1991

He said low metal prices meant there was little respite for the depressed exploration sector in SA

Randex broke even in the interim period and had R21m in cash, against R26m in 1990

Rusplat is well placed to weather the storm

(217) B/pay 22/11/92

RUSTENBURG Platinum Holdings (Rusplat) was expected to maintain an interim dividend of 125c in the face of reduced earnings a share for the six months to December 31, 1991, analysts said

One analyst said the impact of sharply lower platinum group metal prices in the past six months would be felt in the second half of the 1991/2 financial year because of the nature of Rustenburg's long-range price contracts

"Even then, Rustenburg, which has one of the strongest balance sheets in the industry, will weather the storm," Irish and Menell Rosenberg analyst Dave Russell said

The results are due for release from tomorrow

Russell said for the six months to December he expected a marginal increase in production at Rusplat's three mines and subsidiary Lebowa Platinum Mines (Leplat) because of expansion projects

Rusplat, the world's biggest platinum producer, does not disclose overall production for what it calls

strategic reasons

"On the face of it, one could expect turnover to be down as group metal prices dropped sharply in the past six months, but some of Rustenburg's long-range contract prices would apply to the preceding six months, the period to end June 1991," Russell said

Expand

The price of rhodium was off nearly 40% in the six months to end December compared with the preceding period, he said

The platinum price was down 4%, palladium was "more or less square" and nickel and copper prices were marginally down

Price falls were less sharp in the preceding six months. Platinum was down 7% on the previous period, palladium down 5% and rhodium was steady

Frankel, Max Pollak, Vinderine analyst Kevin Kartun expected Rusplat to announce an unchanged interim dividend of 125c and a final of 225c, making an unchanged 350c for 1991/2

Kartun said a maintained dividend would be at the expense of dividend cover

He predicted a reduction in earnings a share of more than 20% over last year's interim 213,1c. He said this was seen against a background of an over-supplied market, Russian sales in the West and a troubled car industry

Earnings a share in 1990/1 totalled 482c

He said the mine "news-maker" would be Leplat which aimed to expand production of Merensky Reef by the year-end to 100 000 tons a month — Reuter

Revere shares shine in dull sector

By Day 2/3/1992

MATTHEW CURTIN

REVERE Resources has emerged as one of the fastest moving but speculative mining shares at a time when dull metal prices have undercut confidence in the JSE's mining sector.

Revere, the mining development and exploration company set up by Glenn Laing, appeared on the JSE in October last year. The shares were listed at 10c and hovered around that level before taking off in December. They closed at 33c yesterday.

Revere shareholders have to approve the company's purchase of an 81% stake in the Haib copper-molybdenum project and other mineral rights in southern Namibia on February 10. The project is scheduled to be reversed into the Mervest cash shell, acquired by Revere in December, and will be relisted on the JSE on February 17 as Haib Mining and Exploration.

An analyst said yesterday Revere was pursuing new techniques to make a variety of low-grade deposits viable. Revere had the backing of several private financiers

He said Haib was an extremely risky venture which had many sceptics among the SA mining community.

It was a low-grade shallow deposit, with one high-grade area so far identified, which would probably require a capital investment of R250m.

He said the project's success depended on the economic application of biogenic leaching, a new bacterial process for treating ore pioneered on copper mines in Chile and North America.

He said Laing was successfully mining the remnants of the Rand Leases gold mine, in which Revere had a 26% controlling stake.

Revere also led a consortium which bought coal mining and exploration company Foston in December. The analyst said Foston represented the most stable part of Revere's portfolio.

Dividend rise 'at least 15%'

IN A report on Santam yesterday Business Day quoted MD Oosie Oosthuizen as saying that the short term insurer's dividend was expected to grow by about 15c to 48c this year.

In fact Oosthuizen said the growth would be at least 15%.

Business Day regrets the error.

EXECUTIVE SUIT

HOW THAT'S IMPRESSIVE. I DIDN'T WE HAVE SALES OFFICES IN ALL THOSE



WE DO

REVERE 2/3/1992

00 40 2

Messina's profits down

STAR 24/1/92
Messina yesterday reported a substantial decrease in attributable income from R7,34 million to R4,43 million for the half year ended December 31, 1991

Operating income declined to R3,77 million from R5,71 million in the corresponding period in 1990

This income was generated

(217)
from industrial activities while no operating income was earned from mining activities

Net income before taxation was almost half of the previous year's at R8,78 million (R14,14 million)

Earnings a share amounted to 34,2c, down sharply from the previous year's 56,7c. — Sapa

Africa's copper output 'is set to fall'

8 10 as 24/1/92
LONDON — Chile will consolidate its position as the leading world copper producer over the next five years, while output in Africa will fall below the levels achieved at the start of this decade, according to forecasts published on Wednesday.

The Economist Intelligence Unit, a private business information company, projected that Chilean output in 1996 would be 2,3-million tons.

It put total world production, excluding the former communist bloc, at 8,8-million tons in 1996, 7,6-million tons forecast in 1992.

217
Zambia's 1996 production is projected at 450 000 tons, down from 496 000 tons in 1990, and Zaire's output is expected to fall to 275 000 tons from 356 000 tons in 1990.

The information company attributed the Chile's expected rise in copper output to the large expansion of the private mining sector, while political instability and the lack of investment were blamed for Africa's poor outlook.

It forecast that the price of copper would average \$0,97 a pound this year, compared with \$1,06 last year and \$1,20 in 1990. The 1996 average was projected at \$1,10 — AP-DJ.

Platinum mines cut expansion

2147 CT24/1/92

From MATTHEW CURTIN
and WILLIAM GILFILLAN

JOHANNESBURG — Poor platinum and rhodium prices are wreaking havoc with SA producers' plans to bring new production on stream and expand existing capacity

Impala Platinum (Implats) said yesterday that it would mothball the developing Messina platinum mine in which it has a 54% stake

Meanwhile, JCI's Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) said it was curtailing its underground expansion programme, which would be replaced by a less expensive open-cast operation to reach target production levels

Weak platinum prices knocked interim earnings at Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat), the world's largest platinum producer, to such a degree that the company declared a 30% lower dividend

The move took many analysts by surprise, because of the size of Rusplat's cash reserves which stood at R1,1bn at year-end 1991. Many expect Implats will have to cut its interim dividend and curtail its expansion plans. Implats is involved in a R1,5bn capital spending programme, and had cash reserves of R495m at its 1991 year-end

Rusplat's earnings in the six months to end December fell to 175c from 213c a share in 1990. The interim dividend has been cut to 87,5c from 125c a share

Rusplat posted earnings a share of 482c, and paid a total dividend of 350c in 1991. After the

unbundling of JCI's platinum interests late in the year, Rusplat paid a dividend in specie which lifted the company's overall payout to shareholders to nearly 600c a share

Messina chairman Michael McMahon said the new project was to be curtailed indefinitely. Messina could not go to the market to raise the R230m it needed to continue developing the mine because of the company's weak share price

The company has spent R77m out of a total capital cost of R470m so far, while its suspension has left 150 workers with their jobs on the line

Bearish

When Messina announced plans to hold the rights issue in August last year, its share price was 740c. Bearish market sentiment has knocked the whole platinum board, but Messina's has plunged more than a third to 475c since then

McMahon said the decision to mothball Messina did not reflect a change in attitude at Implats with regard its own expansion

Rusplat MD Barry Davison said his company had no plans to curtail expansion programmes at its three mines. Rusplat intends spending R448m on capital projects in the current financial year

He said the decision to reduce the interim dividend reflected Rusplat's earnings in the period and the outlook for earnings by

year-end. Rusplat would not use its cash reserves to maintain the year's dividend as the company's priority was to complete capital projects

Davison said that a combination of low platinum group metal prices and the heavy capital cost of underground expansion at Leplat's Atok mine would have placed an unacceptable strain on cash flow. Davison said Leplat was not prepared to incur the debt which would be necessary to finance the underground expansion

The mine would stick to plans to increase the amount of ore it mined from a current target of 70 000 tons a month — scheduled to be reached in March this year — to 100 000 tons a month. However, it would do this by open-cast mining of an outcrop of UG2 ore

Leplat had always planned to exploit the outcrop. The capital cost of the new project would be R10,4m and Davison predicted it would be showing a positive cash-flow by the end of the financial year

Leplat has been hit by production problems since a series of wildcat strikes in 1990 led to management firing the company's mining workforce. Working costs have soared because of the mine's expansion drive and the difficulty of training new staff, while lower than planned head grades have exaggerated the effect. Lower metal prices have had on revenue. Leplat posted an interim after-tax loss of R9,4m

Messina, Lepiat curtail operations

Low prices hit platinum development

B10cm 24/11/92

(217)

MATTHEW CURTIN and WILLIAM GILFILLAN

POOR platinum and rhodium prices are wreaking havoc with SA producers' plans to bring new production on stream and expand existing capacity.

Impala Platinum (Implats) said yesterday it would mothball the developing Messina mine in which it has a 54% stake. And JCI's Lebowa Platinum (Lepiat) said it was curtailing its underground expansion programme, to be replaced by a less expensive open-cast operation to reach target production levels.

Weak platinum prices knocked interim earnings at Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat), the world's largest platinum producer, to such a degree that the company declared a 30% lower dividend.

The move took many analysts by surprise because of the size of Rusplat's cash

reserves which stood at R1.1bn at year-end 1991. Many expect Implats will have to cut its interim dividend and curtail its expansion plans. Implats is involved in a R1.5bn capital spending programme, and had cash reserves of R495m at its 1991 year-end.

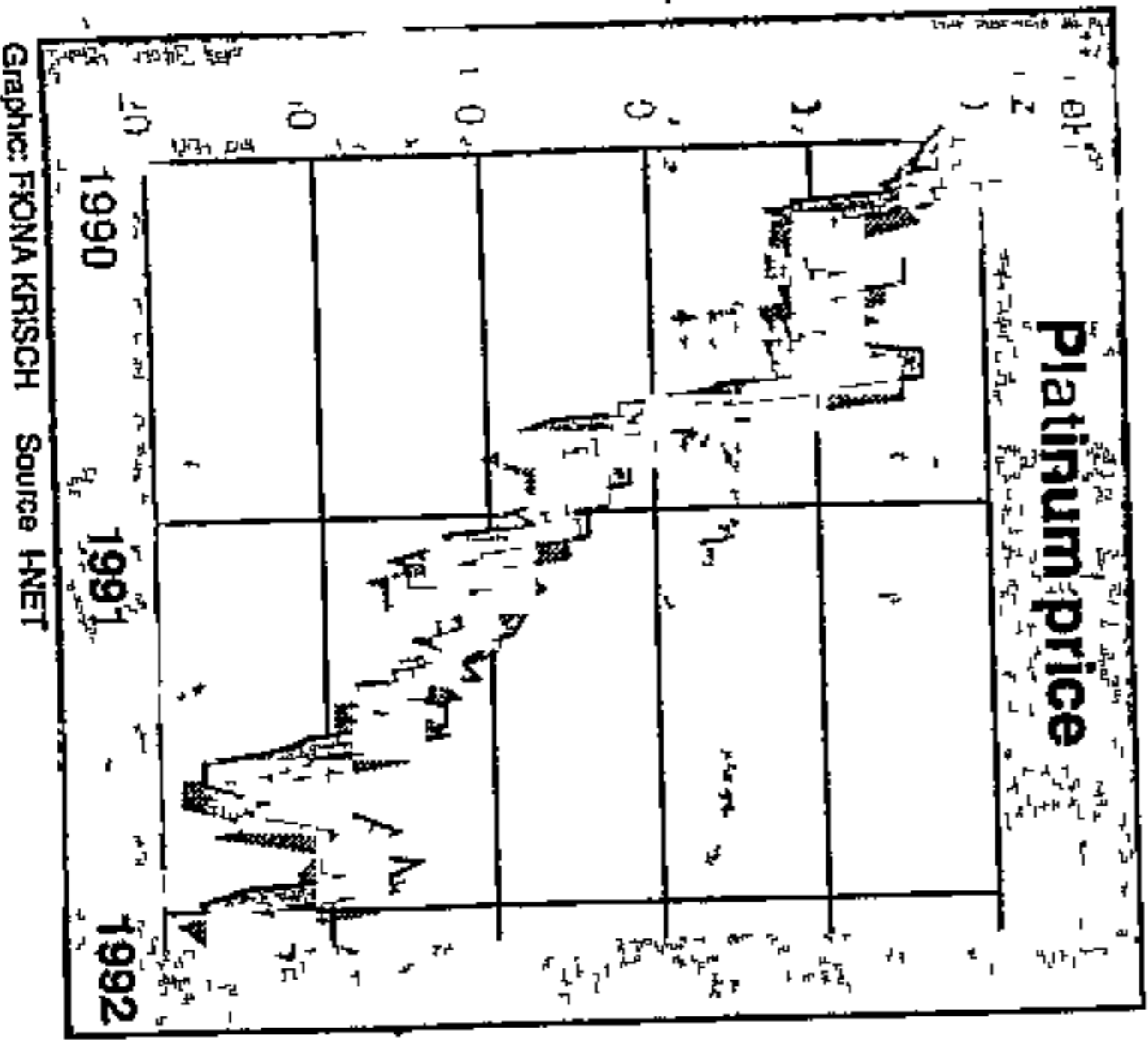
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The company has spent R77m out of a total capital cost of R470m so far, while its suspension has placed 150 jobs on the line. When Messina announced plans to hold the rights issue in August last year, its share price was 740c. Bearish market sentiment has knocked the whole platinum board, but Messina has plunged more than a third to 475c since then. McMahon said the decision to mothball Messina did not reflect a change in attitude at Implats with regard to its own expansion.

To Page 2



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: IHEIT

Platinum

B10cm 24/11/92

(217)

From Page 1

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Davison said a combination of low platinum group metal prices and the heavy capital cost of underground expansion at Lepiat's Arok mine would have placed Lepiat in an unacceptable strait on cash flow. Lepiat was not prepared to incur the debt necessary to finance the underground expansion.

The mine would stick to plans to increase the amount of ore it mined from a current target of 70 000 tons a month — scheduled to be reached in March this year — to 100 000 tons a month. However, it would do this by open-cast mining of an outcrop of UG2 ore. The capital cost of the new project would be R10.4m and Davison predicted it would show a positive cash flow by the end of the financial year.

Lepiat has been hit by production problems since a series of wildcat strikes in 1990 led to management firing the company's mining workforce. Working costs have soared because of the mine's expansion drive and the difficulty of training new staff, while lower than planned head grades have exaggerated the effect lower metal prices have had on revenue. Lepiat

posted an interim after-tax loss of R9.4m. Davison said Rusplat and Lepiat received average platinum prices of \$370 an ounce in the period, compared with \$452 in 1990. Average rhodium prices fell to \$2 999 an ounce from \$4 435 in 1990.

Metal revenue at Rusplat fell to R1.5bn from R1.8bn because of the lower prices and weaker demand for rhodium. Marketing director Todd Bruce said platinum prices were unlikely to recover until market sentiment was boosted by a sustained recovery in the US economy.

He said the prospect that new clean-air legislation to be implemented in the EC in 1993 would lift demand for rhodium dramatically in the second half of 1992.

Messina's curtailment comes despite the favourable exploratory findings on the breakdown of platinum group metal distribution in the Merensky and UG2 ore reserves at the Messina mine. Further drilling at the mine has nearly doubled the mine's reserves, estimated on the Merensky reef to be 24-million tons.

Messina's attributable earnings dropped from R7.3m to R4.4m for the six months to December as the recession hit the operations of its mining equipment manufacturer Premier Equipment. Platinum closed in London at \$350.00/\$351.00, up \$10.00 from the previous \$340.00/\$341.00. Prices in response to an increasingly tight physical market reflected in sharply higher lease rates.

Platinum price slump hits SA mines

217 RRG 25/1/92

Profits at world's biggest producer fall by 18%

DEREK TOMMEY
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The drop in the price of platinum and rhodium is starting to take its toll on the platinum mining industry, South Africa's second-biggest earner of foreign exchange after gold.

Rustenburg, the world's biggest producer of platinum, reports that its profit for the six months to December was R47,3 million, or 17,7 percent lower. The interim dividend has been cut by 30 percent from 125c to 87,5c a share.

Another casualty is Lebowa Plats, which reports a loss of R9,4 million for the six months, against a profit of

R1,2 million a year ago. The dividend has been passed.

However, part of Lebowa's loss can be attributed to the drive to build up production from the present 60 000 tons a month to 70 000 tons a month in March. The mine is expected to have a positive cash flow once this happens.

Rustenburg MD Barry Davison says the size of the dividend cut reflects the directors' expectations about profits for the full year.

He says the company will not consider paying a dividend out of cash reserves at times like the present when prices are weak. There is no indication they will get better in the short term and the mine is engaged in considerable expansion, which it does not want to cut back on.

Although the price of platinum has fallen, the fundamental demand for the metal remains strong.

Jewellery demand is still strong and the oil industry offtake has been better than expected. The principal area where there has not been an increase in demand has been in North America.

The industry is expecting an increase in demand in the second half of the calendar year as the European motor industry prepares to meet the January 1 1993 deadline when all new cars must have an autocatalyst.

Capital expenditure at Rustenburg for the six months was R240 million (year ago, R186,1 million), of which R109,3 million (R66,5 million) was spent on expansion and projects. Planned capital expenditure for

the full year is R448 million.

Rustenburg's gross sales revenue dropped 15 percent from R1,7 billion to R1,5 billion. This was the result of the lower platinum price and the lower sales of rhodium.

However, cost of sales fell by 14,8 percent from R1,1 billion to R941,1 million, partly as a result of the large increase in the value of metal stocks caused by the reduced inflow of by-metal revenue.

The lower profit and an increase in renewals and replacement charges lowered the tax payment from R332,7 million to R268,2 million, resulting in a distributable profit of R219,7 million (R267,0 million), with dividends taking R109,7 million (R156,6 million).

Rusplats presses on at full output

217

S/Times (B455) 26/1/92

By JULIE WALKER

RUSTENBURG Platinum chairman Barry Davison says there is no chance of a cut in his company's production in spite of weak platinum group metal prices.

Mr Davison was asked at a presentation this week of Rusplats' interim results to December 1991 whether it would be in SA producers' interests to discuss industry cut-backs.

Mr Davison replied that JCI mines were not in trouble and it would not hold discussions with competitors

He said fundamental demand for platinum was strong. If Rusplats cut production it would be unable to supply its customers.

Rustenburg had little metal in stock and was borrowing palladium.

Lebowa Plats, unable to make the expected grade, is already leasing metal to meet its contractual obligations.

"But because the world is in recession, there is a view that the platinum price should also be weak," said Mr Davison.

On Friday, Impala Platinum subsidiary Messina an-

nounced it was suspending operations at the developing Zebediela mine because more capital could not be raised.

Messina's share price has languished because of poor platinum prices.

1992 was 12% lower than previously and that of rhodium 17%.

The prices received respectively were \$370/oz and \$2 999/oz.

On-line production costs rose by 11,9%, but Mr Davison said several cost-cutting exercises had been undertaken.

Non-essential capital expenditure was not being carried out but expansion was going ahead. The total 1992 capex forecast was R448-million.

Mr Davison said dividend cover had been increased from 1.7 to 2 times because of the poor outlook for metal prices in the second half-year.

He could see no reason to pay dividends out of reserves in current conditions.

Lebowa Plats passed its dividend after incurring a R9,4-million loss.

Cover

Mr Davison said that LTA company Moolman Bros had been appointed contractor at JCI's latest development, Potgietersrust Platinum.

Rusplats cut its dividend by a higher than expected 30% to 87,5c from earnings 18% lower at 175,3c a share.

The average platinum price received in the first six months of the year to June

COMPANY ROUND-UP

PRELIMS	Turnover (Rm)	% change	Profit before tax (Rm)	% change	Earnings a share (c)	% change	Div a share (c)	% change
Hudaco	366.7	-9	46.0	+1	112.2	+2	51.0	+2
Natrust	—	—	—	—	8.4	+8	6.7	+20
INTERIMS								
Tempora	—	—	3.2	+68	14.8	-6	—	—
GFSA	—	—	154.0	-6	138.0	-1	70.0	0
Dab	—	—	1.8	-41	23.8	-61	23.6	-62
Messina	—	—	8.8	-38	34.2	-40	—	—
Rusplat	1499.6	-15	489.8	-19	175.3	-18	87.5	-30
Lebowa	54.8	+12	-9.4	N/A	-7.8	N/A	—	—

Flow

Tonnage is expected to meet the target of 70 000 tons a month by March when production costs should stabilise.

The combination of low revenue and the high cost of underground development will strain Lebowa's cash flow.

Management has decided to complete expansion to 100 000 tons a month through open-cast rather than underground work. The capital cost will be only R10,4-million and the head grade should be 5,74g/t, beginning in June.

Rusplats was market down from R65 on Friday because of the results.



MANAGING BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING FOR

Gencor pitches offer at R10 a share

By Sven Lunsche

Gencor's R2 billion rights offer has been pitched at an attractive R10 a share — a 14,5 percent discount on the ruling JSE price of R11,70

Announcing details of the rights issue yesterday, Gencor chairman Brian Gilbertson said the group was offering shareholders 17 new shares for every 100 held, resulting in 200 million new shares.

Mr Gilbertson gave details of some of the projects which would require additional funding in the near future.

The most important of these was Oryx, which would require a further R500 million to bring it to the self-funding stage, he said.

Projects already in the pipeline and on which financing decisions would probably be taken later in the year were the Columbus stainless steel project and the aluminium smelter at Alusaf.

Gencor was studying the position of the No 6 sub-vertical shaft at the Winkelhaak gold mine, currently on hold, with a view to rationalising the project with some of the group's Evander gold interests.

"The decision could facilitate future gold mining developments in the area, particularly if the gold price rose," Mr Gilbertson said.

He indicated that Gencor was looking at major off-shore projects, but added that such projects would only be undertaken with the support of international financing agencies and other partners.

The funds would also be helpful as the group expected pressure on its profits in the current financial year without the contribution of one-off earnings, which had boosted the bottom-line by R350 million in financial 1990-91, he said.

"However, we expect that income at the operating level for the 12 months to August is likely to approach that of last year."

Gencor's parent, Gencor Beheerend, which is underwriting the offer, also announced details of its R1,1 billion offer to follow its rights in the Gencor issue.

Genbeheer is offering 18 new shares for every 100 held for 900c a share. On Friday, Genbeheer closed at R10.

Genbeheer, which is underwriting the Gencor offer, has also undertaken to obtain subscriptions for its rights, as well as those for Genbeheer's subsidiary companies.

Sanlam and its subsidiaries have undertaken to follow their rights entitlement to 386,8 million new Genbeheer shares, equivalent to 54,7 percent of the issue.

The issue is underwritten by Sanlam's financial arm, Sankorp.

AIDS epidemic likely to hit African copper supplies

STAR 29/1/92 (217) (92)

The Aids epidemic will make a gradual, but unavoidable, impact on copper mining in Zaire and Zambia, two of the world's biggest producers of the metal, suggests the Economist Intelligence Unit in a special report today.

In an otherwise fairly optimistic view of world copper consumption, demand and prices it says. "Essentially, the danger is that skilled workers, supervisors and managers will die of aids faster than replacement can be trained.

"The result will be not a sudden collapse in mine output. Rather there will be a slow but steady increase in the incidence of breakdowns, accidents, delays and misjudgements, and output will suffer."

The report shows that copper mine production in the two countries peaked at 1.2 million tons in 1974 and gradually fell to 850 000 tons in 1990. The EIU sees their combined output falling to 600 000 tons by 1993 before recovering a little in the following three years.

Mr Peter Parkinson, author of the report, says that transport systems in the African copper belt will always be precarious and will also be affected by the aids epidemic. So the amount of copper in the "pipeline" will tend to increase.

The report points out that Indonesia is emerging to take up some of the slack caused by Africa's problems and is becoming a "sizeable low-cost producer". Between 1990 and

1996 the EIU forecasts Indonesia's copper output will jump by 85 percent to 315 000 tons.

Mr Parkinson suggests copper companies will take a lesson from their precious metal counterparts and in future attempt to stabilise revenue through long-term forward sales and linked loan techniques.

"This may lead to downward pressure on prices, as has happened with gold and silver, and hence to lower profits and/or continued efforts to reduce costs.

"In the shorter run this will be of most benefit to the more efficient producers; in the longer run it will be of greater benefit to those with higher ore grades".— Financial Times

Western World Refined Copper ('000 tons)

	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991(e)	1991(a)
Production	10,390	10,010	9,530	9,075	8,890	8,530	8,460
Consumption	10,520	10,250	9,840	9,360	8,985	8,810	8,742
Balance	- 130	- 240	- 310	- 285	- 95	- 280	- 282
Net imports	190	180	325	320	310	300	236
Stock change†	+ 60	- 60	+ 15	+ 35	+ 215	+ 20	- 46
Reported stocks	973	913	973	958	923	708	688
Price (US cents/lb) §	110	125	120	105	97	105	120

Source EIU (a) actual (e) estimated * from centrally planned economies † apparent § dollar equivalent of LME cash settlement price

Rustenburg helps boost JCI earnings

B/day 29/1/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

HIGHER dividends in 1991 from Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat), which also paid a one-off dividend in specie last year, helped Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI) turn in a 5% improvement in attributable earnings in the six months to end-December 1991.

However, Rusplat's lower 1991 earnings knocked JCI's share of retained earnings of its associate companies, so that earnings at the equity-accounted level rose only 1%.

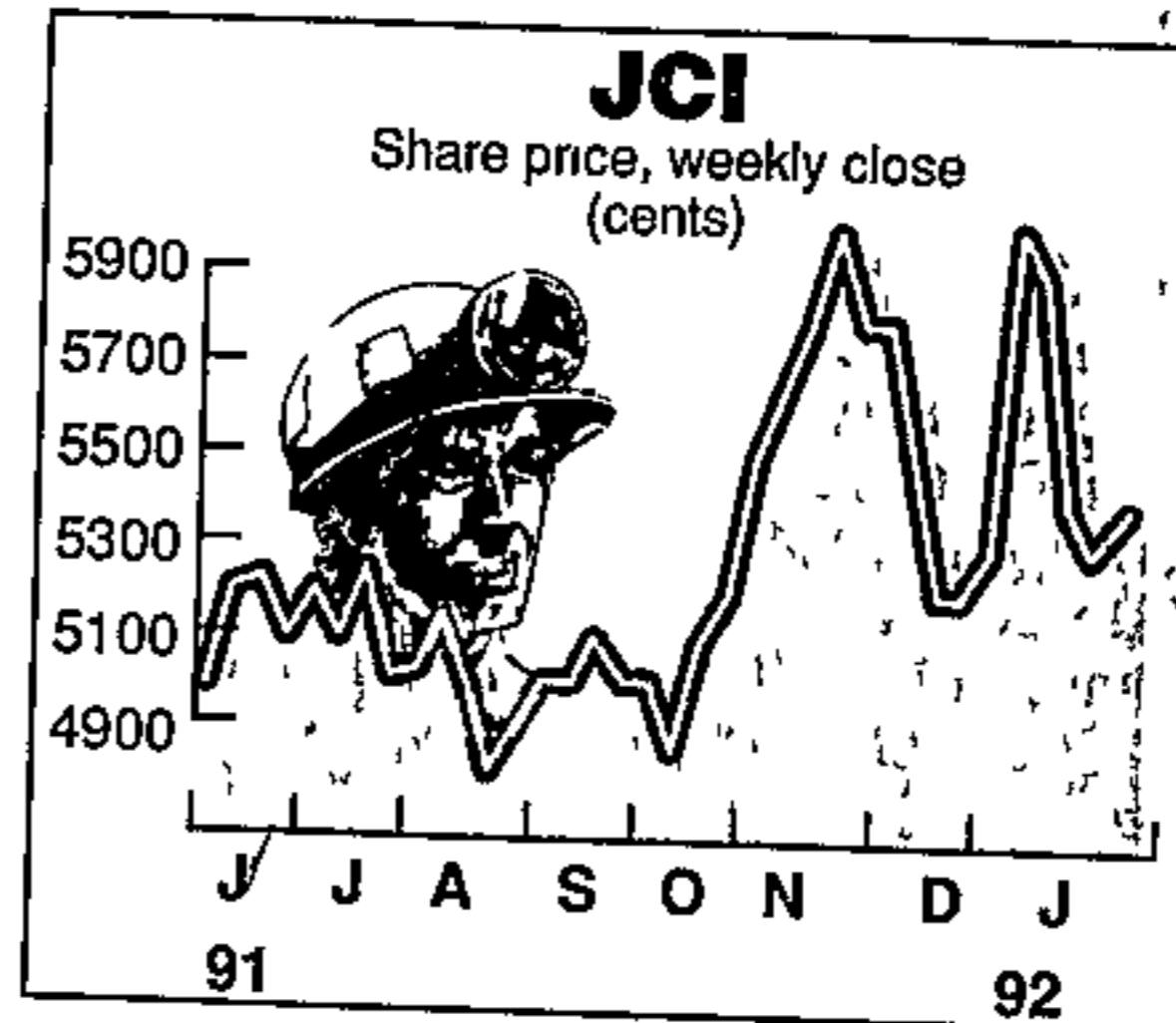
Equity-accounted earnings rose to 129c from 128c a share, and JCI declared an unchanged interim dividend of 42c a share. Attributable earnings climbed from 107c to 113c a share.

The outlook for the mining house in the second half of the 1992 financial year is less bright.

Finance director Vaughan Bray said yesterday that JCI was holding its own, waiting for a recovery in the local economy and an end to the world recession.

In the interim period, the group's fortunes had pivoted around its platinum interests, as its industrial interests had shown pedestrian earnings growth, and ferrochrome producer Consolidated Metallurgical Industries had passed its 1991 dividend.

Bray said in the current six months, low commodities prices would affect results — Rusplat has cut its interim dividend



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I NET

30% this year as platinum and rhodium prices crashed — and JCI was unlikely to match the earnings before abnormal items of last year.

The mining house posted year-end equity-accounted earnings of R565m in 1991, 6% lower than in 1990, of which platinum interests contributed more than a third.

Rusplat's dividend payouts lifted JCI's income from investments to R145m from R138m in the interim period in 1990. The dividend in specie Rusplat paid last year in the wake of the unbundling of JCI's platinum interests added a R15m contribution, to increase the mining houses's attributable earnings by 5% to R166m from R158m.

□ To Page 2

JCI

B/day 29/1/92

(217)

□ From Page 1

The improvement would have been better if not for poor results from Lebowa Platinum, mixed results from JCI's gold mines, no dividend received from Consolidated Metallurgical Industries (CMI), and higher debt-servicing charges. Bray said the group's cash deficit had increased to finance its platinum and coal mining expansion programmes.

Last year, JCI's results were battered by the loss sustained by ferrochrome produc-

er CMI and the disposal of the group's loss-making engineering arm Lennings.

Although Lennings has departed to join the Anglo American Industrial Corporation stable, CMI has had to face the depressed conditions in the stainless steel industry worldwide, the primary consumer of ferrochrome.

JCI's industrial interests include stakes in SAB, the Premier Group, Toyota, Argus and Times Media Limited.

Mhangura pays rare dividend

WILLIAM GILFILLAN

217

THE depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar helped net profits at Mhangura Copper Mines surge to Z\$16,8m (from Z\$288 000 previously) on the back of virtually unchanged copper sales and slightly higher silver sales in the six months to December

For the first time in over nine years a dividend — 5c a share — was declared on earnings a share of 84c

The 21% drop in ore milled to 630 580 tons (798 530 tons) was assuaged to a degree by the higher grades of the ore. As a result, the recoverable copper declined by only 9% to 4 121 tons (4 550 tons) *B/day 30/1/92*

Directors said the decrease in ore milled was mainly due to shaft timber failures at the Miriam mine and the resulting disruptions during repairs

Copper sales in the period were slightly lower at 6 576 tons (6 597 tons), while silver sales rose to 7 444kg (6 899kg) and gold sales were down to 117kg (120kg)

The surge in turnover to Z\$88,6m (Z\$53,6m), a reflection of the Zimbabwean dollar's weakness, saw operating profits jump to Z\$24,9m (Z\$2,1m)

The dollar's depreciation was also reflected in copper's average selling price, which rose to Z\$9 936 a ton from Z\$6 777 a ton in the corresponding period last year

But the depreciation of the currency caused the price of imported machinery to jump dramatically and this was affecting operating costs, directors said

COMMODITIES

F-M 31/1/92

Grim 1992

217

Base metals producers face another punishing year. Recovery in the US is faltering at a time when economic activity in the two remaining generators of growth — Germany and Japan — is slowing. London Metal Exchange prices have already dropped by at least 39% (copper) and as much as 63% (nickel) from the peaks reached in 1989-1990. Further falls may lie ahead.

Certainly, nonferrous metals are vulnerable because the two industries that use huge quantities — automotive and construction — remain in deep recession. Car sales in the 10 largest national markets fell by nearly 7% in the first nine months of 1991, while construction activity in the 24 OECD countries dropped by 4.5% year-on-year in the first half of last year and the downturn has since become more widely based.

Alone, the recession would have been bad enough, but, if not for the speedy dissolution of the Soviet Union and its Eastern Bloc satellites and the unforeseen impact that had on metals markets, production and consumption of most of the traded metals would have been roughly in balance in 1991.

As things turned out, eastern European imports of lead, tin and zinc dried up while the region's exports of aluminium, copper and nickel to the West grew at a frightening rate. This swing in East-West trade depressed metals prices further, particularly as so much of the eastern European material ended up in LME stocks.

However, the Soviet energy situation is precarious and reductions in energy-intensive production processes, such as the extraction of raw materials, cannot be ruled out. This would lead to a cut in production of nonferrous metals and would signify the metal glut from the East had passed its peak.

East-West trade will not be the only factor affecting metals prices this year. Extremely low prices last year forced producers to make output cuts — all the traded metals but copper have been affected so far. Western producers may make further cuts which will reduce supply to the market.

Much depends on the US economy. Economists remain generally confident that it should recover enough this year to stimulate demand for metals, particularly because consumer stocks are very low. But even a politically motivated kick-start from the US government will not be felt until the second half of the year, so there will be little movement in prices in the next few months. ■

Farsh could not understand why a 40% decline in second-half profits (after first-half results were virtually unchanged) should have come as a surprise "We were badly hit by the recession. The fall in precious metals prices accounts for nearly half the reduction in profits in the second six months. Why analysts could not see that is beyond me."

Apart from the fact that this begs the question of where the other half of the second-half fall comes from, the obvious riposte is that analysts didn't see it because they naively took Lonrho at its word.

Says Shearson Lehman's Rob Davies "I had a strong hint from what I regarded as impeccable sources in Lonrho that the final dividend would be held. Last autumn, Spicer assured me that their precious metals had been sold at an advantageous price."

Even on the eve of Friday's profit announcement, the lowest City estimate for pre-tax profit was about £250m and virtual-

TROUBLE FOR TINY

Year to Sep 30	1989	1990	1991
Sales (£bn)	5.1	5.5	4.8
Pretax profit (£m)	273	273	207
EPS (p)	23.0	23.6	14.2
Div (p)	14.2	15.7	13

Per share figures adjusted for 1990 cap issue

ly no-one expected the dividend to be cut — especially as that very day Lonrho had announced the cash-boosting sale of its German-based Kuhne & Nagel freight interest for £118m (just over half payable next month, the balance only in 1994).

Now, not only is the final cut from 8p to 5p, Lonrho says it will pass this year's first interim, which was expected to be 3p. That can only raise suspicions that the second interim and final may also be at risk.

The preliminary figures give no detailed earnings breakdown, but mining contributed £99m of 1990's £273m pre-tax, up from £67m in 1989. If Spicer's remarks can be taken at face value, it suggests that mining profits could have fallen by some £30m in the second six months, which — again making a necessarily imperfect inference from the 1990 annual figures — could mean that they were up to 60% less than in the second half of the previous year.

Disappointing as precious metals prices may have been, there is nothing in such reports as the latest SA gold mining quarterlies or platinum company interims (for the surely even less favourable six months to December) to presage so steep a decline.

The results were issued after the close of business on Thursday, but after-hours deal-

FM 31/1/92

(217)

FOX

ing took the share price down from 163p (at that stage 9p up on the day, on the Kuhne & Nagel deal) to about 120p, which trimmed around £300m off market capitalisation. By mid-Tuesday it had crept back to 125p.

Nominal net worth in the 1990 accounts was 216p a share and it shouldn't be much different now. A share price at a discount of over 40% to NAV is a damning indictment of investors' confidence.

The latest statement is not the only blow to a group that has always attracted its share of controversy. CE and guiding spirit Tiny Rowland (74) did not help recently when he named the long-serving director but otherwise little-known Mauritian national, Rene Leclézio, to take over the chair vacated last year by Sir Edward du Cann.

Far more to the point, the *Financial Times* pointed out on Friday that adverse exchange rate movements over the past six years (legitimately, but flatteringly, all taken below the line) have totalled £695m. That compares with reported pre-tax profits over the same period of some £1,34bn.

That more than half of the profits have disappeared into the forex maw is felt by many to be the final nail in Lonrho's coffin. The impact of investing in soft-currency Third-World countries on the back of borrowings in strong currencies may have been kept out of the P&L, but the balance sheet bears the strain, with borrowings of £1.1bn against disclosed equity of £1.3bn.

Lonrho now plans asset sales to run down debt by up to £400m. The trouble is that it is usually the best assets that are the most marketable, so debt may be cut, but the asset profile deteriorates. Lonrho's most saleable UK interests are probably its newspapers (*The Observer* and some Glasgow papers).

Rumours that Gencor may be interested in its SA assets (notably Western Platinum and Eastern Gold) have repeatedly been denied, but will be fuelled by the fact that Rowland is out here again.

Optimists still look for dividends of 10p this year. Pessimists feel that even though the group should survive, it must be without Rowland — which will be like Hamlet without the prince. Certainly, even Rowland's army of fiercely loyal small shareholders (60,000 of them, by one account) must now be fed up. And for those on the outside looking in, any purchase of Lonrho shares at the moment would be speculative, to put it mildly.

Michael Coulson

LONRHO FM. 31/1/92

Exit the prince?

(217)

In a way, Lonrho is caught in the Peter van der Merwe Fork (if it was the right team for India, it can't be the right team for the World Cup, if it's the right team for the World Cup, it can't have been the right team for India).

On December 5, after the share dipped in London from 222p to 159p, deputy chairman Paul Spicer declared "There is no justifiable reason why the share price should have fallen in the last 48 hours. (The group) is in remarkably good shape."

Yet on Friday, fellow-director Philip

BRIAN GILBERTSON

Doing it his way

217

FM 31/1/92

After five years with Derek Keys as a kind of philosopher-king at the helm, Gencor has a more hands-on chairman. Keys' departure to a Cabinet post was so sudden that Brian Gilbertson (48) had only 10 working days to prepare to take up his new position on January 14 — and he has continued his duties as chairman of the mining subsidiary Genmin.

"No-one wanted to see Derek go," says Gilbertson. "He was a kind of father figure to the other executives who were all younger."

Gilbertson points out that he would not be well cast as a father figure, he expects to interact on a basis of greater equality with his colleagues. But he is adamant that there will be no return to rule by committee, which got Gencor into a mess before Keys arrived. "I am executive chairman," says Gilbertson, "and I am quite prepared to take responsibility for charting the course of this group."

Gilbertson is down to earth. He was brought up in Bothaville, where he spoke mainly Afrikaans, he then broadened perspective by earning a BSc at Rhodes. He's a very private man, though he plays squash, and is married with two sons.

Under Gilbertson Genmin took its medicine early, particularly in its gold mines

"We were forced to grapple with costs earlier than the other mining houses. Most of the brunt of the downturn has been borne by the miners. It doesn't give me any pride to say that we have cut the numbers employed by

mine on the go.

He is noted for being the only main board director in recent times to switch mining houses. After two years as a researcher at the CSIR, he moved to JCI and stayed for 18 years. It's fair to say he found his niche in platinum, and eventually ran Rustenburg Platinum, the world's largest platinum complex. Then he was approached by Gencor, the controller of Impala, Rustenburg's main competitor.

"They were very trying times, when I was making up my mind to move. I lost a great deal of sleep. The platinum industry tends to be very secretive, so Rustenburg was sensitive about its deepest secrets being revealed to a competitor."

Gilbertson was kept out of the platinum industry for two years, as part of an understanding between the two mining houses, but he chaired Impala from 1990. It's a sad

irony that it was announced that platinum projects would be cut back in the week that Mr Platinum himself took over at Gencor.

But his responsibilities now include food, energy and paper.

"Mining and mineral beneficiation is one of the few areas in which SA has world-scale industries. The good Lord has given us this mineral wealth. Let's use it wisely." ■



Gilbertson prepared to take responsibility

Gengold from 92 000 to fewer than 60 000. We have tried to do what we can with social programmes but the disruption to mining communities has been terrible."

Gilbertson will retain hands-on responsibility for Genmin for at least a year, until he has completed certain tasks. He says he's having too much fun at Genmin, what with Columbus stainless steel and the Oryx gold

TINY ROWLAND, chief executive of the troubled Lonrho group, slipped in and out of South Africa this week on a mystery visit.

Deputy chairman of the multinational group Paul Spicer confirmed Mr Rowland's visit, saying that "quite a few" of the 15-million Lonrho shares bought at bargain basement prices in the past few weeks had "found their way down south to very sensible people".

This fuels speculation that Lonrho is trying to sell off some of its southern African interests to reduce crippling gearing of more than 70%.

Talk in London is that Gencor could soon be able to take responsibility for Lonrho's interests south of the Sahara.

"I am not commenting on Gencor or anyone else," Mr Spicer told Business Times. "We like them very much and they like us. But then we have some significant friends in southern Africa, including Anglo American."

Gencor has been mentioned as a probable buyer should Lonrho decide to sell some of its shares in Western Platinum, in which Gencor has a 27% interest.

India

But chairman Brian Gilbertson says no meeting was held with Mr Rowland this week and no offer has been made for the mine.

"But if he wanted to sell, we would be interested," says Mr Gilbertson. "We have a pre-emptive right on Wesplats."

Head of investments at Sanlam, Ronnie Masson, is unaware of Mr Rowland's visit to SA. A spokesman for Old Mutual would not comment on the Lonrho chief's visit.

Mr Spicer says "Whenever he travels like this, it has one purpose — to act in the interests of Lonrho and its shareholders. That is as much as I will say at the moment."

Nothing should be read into Mr Rowland's discreet visit — his first acknowledged trip since September 1971.

"I can certainly confirm that he was in South Africa and he was moving at a politically very high level before going straight to India."

Lonrho is eager to scotch suggestions that Mr Rowland is another Robert Maxwell, the British tycoon who drowned last year when his business empire foundered.

Rights

It is believed there are three possible reasons for Mr Rowland's SA safari:

- Political discussions — Rowland is notorious for horse-trading, particularly in black African countries where he built his business empire. More than 60% of Lonrho's 1989-90 profits came from Africa, much of them from Wesplats. Mr Rowland will be keen to update himself on political developments,

By **ROBIN PEGLER** and **CIARAN RYAN** in Johannesburg and **IAN HOBBS** in London

- Reassuring institutional investors that the group is not in trouble, although they will take some convincing. Several institutions bought large parcels of Lonrho as a rand hedge in 1990 when the price was nearly 2000c. It has fallen by 60% to 750c. It is estimated that 13% of Lonrho shares are held in SA.

- The possible sale of all or part of Lonrho's 73% interest in Wesplats to Gencor to reduce its £1.1-billion debt. Wesplats, according to Lonrho, is the lowest-cost producer of platinum. It is regarded by SA analysts as a highly efficient producer.

Gencor will be flush with cash after its R2-billion rights issue and can afford to wait for a recovery in platinum and rhodium prices. But cash-strapped Lonrho does not have time on its side.

There is good reason for Gencor to hope that Wesplats might eventually be offered for sale at a favourable price because of its strong bargaining position.

Lonrho has sold its 50% interest in Kuhne & Nagel to its former partner in Germany. It has many assets in 80 countries which it can sell to cut borrowings.

In the past 10 weeks, the market has wiped out nearly half of Lonrho's market capitalisation — now down to R4.2-billion.

Worse

Last week's shock cut in the 1991 final dividend and the 24.2% drop in pre-tax profits to £207-million confirmed fears that the group was in trouble. No interim payment will be made this year.

Mr Spicer blames the fall in profits on the recession, but this is only half the story. Lonrho has financed its expansion by borrowing. Although it benefited from this in good times, the interest bill became crippling when profits fell.

Worse still, earnings were hit by the depreciation of Third World currencies against sterling. Lonrho borrowed in hard currencies and invested in weaker ones, resulting in losses. Earnings received from Third World countries were also hit by the weakness of their currencies.

Mr Spicer is indignant about UK press reports which speculated that Lonrho would lose control of the UK import and distribution of Volkswagens and Audis from the end of 1993. The VW and Audi business, started 16

years ago, has been a spectacular success and accounts for more than 20% of Lonrho's worldwide turnover.

Mr Spicer blames speculation in a Financial Times report for a further 50c fall in Lonrho's share price. The report, he said, "was typical of the recent disgraceful press speculation that has been damaging to Lonrho."

He told Business Times that the VW-Audi contract was due for renegotiation only at the end of 1993 and VW had said publicly that as long as Lonrho was run by Mr Rowland and his management team, the contract was secure.

At 74, Mr Rowland is looking for a successor. His style of management is dictatorial and he has a reputation for being a tenacious fighter.

Witness his long court battle with the Fayed brothers about their acquisition of House of Fraser.

Lonrho's Tiny in mystery SA visit

STimes (Bus) 2/2/92

(211)

TINY ROWLAND Batting



Another coup for Vorster

By IAN ROBINSON

JOHN VORSTER, chairman of Chromecorp Technology (CCT), has pulled off another coup in the ferroalloy industry. Silicon Technology (Siltech), a CCT subsidiary, has bought the Ballengeich calcium carbide plant near Newcastle from Sentrachem's Karbochem division for an undisclosed sum.

This sale comes soon after a R60-million deal in which AECI Chlor-Alkali & Plastics (CAP) sold its Ballengeich factory, assets and stock to Karbochem.

Mr Vorster says the calcium carbide plant will be modified to produce 50 000 tons of ferrosilicon from two furnaces. The export-oriented project is expected to come on stream about the end of October.

Mr Vorster has followed a similar financing and marketing approach as in his previous two ferroalloy ventures — CCT's ferrochrome plant at Rustenburg which was commissioned in 1988 and Vantech's purchase of Vansa Vanadium from Rand Mines in April last year.

The Siltech project is based on foreign funding. Swiss-based Marc Rich will be involved in marketing.

The acquisition of the Ballengeich plant permitted a quicker entry to the business than would have been possible if Siltech had



JOHN VORSTER Ferrosilicon from Ballengeich for world markets

built its own plant

Ferrosilicon production uses a lot of power and Siltech may be able to negotiate a favourable price with Eskom. It would link power costs to the ferrosilicon price.

This is in line with Eskom's customer incentive schemes (CIS), developed to offer competitive electricity prices to help industries compete in export markets.

Although Mr Vorster describes the world market as "not wildly exciting", he is confident that the plant will be competitive.

World production of ferrosilicon is an annual 2.5-million tons, of which SA produces under 100 000 tons. Samancor and Rand Carbide are SA's two other ferrosilicon producers.

Ferrosilicon is used as a deoxidant in steel making and in the production of cast iron. Siltech expects to employ about 150 people on the project.

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Quicker (217)

Palamin to export copper to refineries in Zambia

MINING troubles on the Zambian copper belt have provided an unexpected windfall for Palabora Mining (Palamin), which will export at least 25 000 tons of concentrate to Zambia's refineries in this year

Palamin weathered a difficult year to declare an unchanged total dividend of 780c a share in 1991. This was despite a 6% fall in attributable earnings to R244m from R249m for the year to end-December.

MD Frank Fenwick said yesterday that the world market for copper concentrates was extremely tight in 1991, with production far in excess of smelting capacity.

Copper producers without their own refining facilities had suffered high smelting rates laid down by smelting companies.

However, Palamin as an integrated copper producer not only avoided those problems but started to capitalise on the shortfall in Zambian concentrate production in 1991.

Speaking at a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday, Fenwick said that Zambian Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM), Africa's largest copper producer, was hit by mining problems in the year.

With production hiccups at mines in neighbouring Zaire, ZCCM was unable to produce or buy enough concentrate locally for its own refineries.

Palamin had signed a contract with metals trader Marc Rich in which he undertook to supply ZCCM with 25 000 tons of concentrate this year, with an option for another

10 000 tons

Fenwick said the deal not only eased potential bottlenecks in Palamin's production pipeline, but by using an intermediary it meant the company was not dependent on the Zambian government for payment.

He said the worldwide recession had hit international demand for copper. Prices were 5% lower in rand terms in 1991 than the previous year, at R6 537 against R6 882 a ton. Local demand for copper was also lower.

However, GM George Deyzel said Palamin continued to improve productivity and contain costs successfully in 1991.

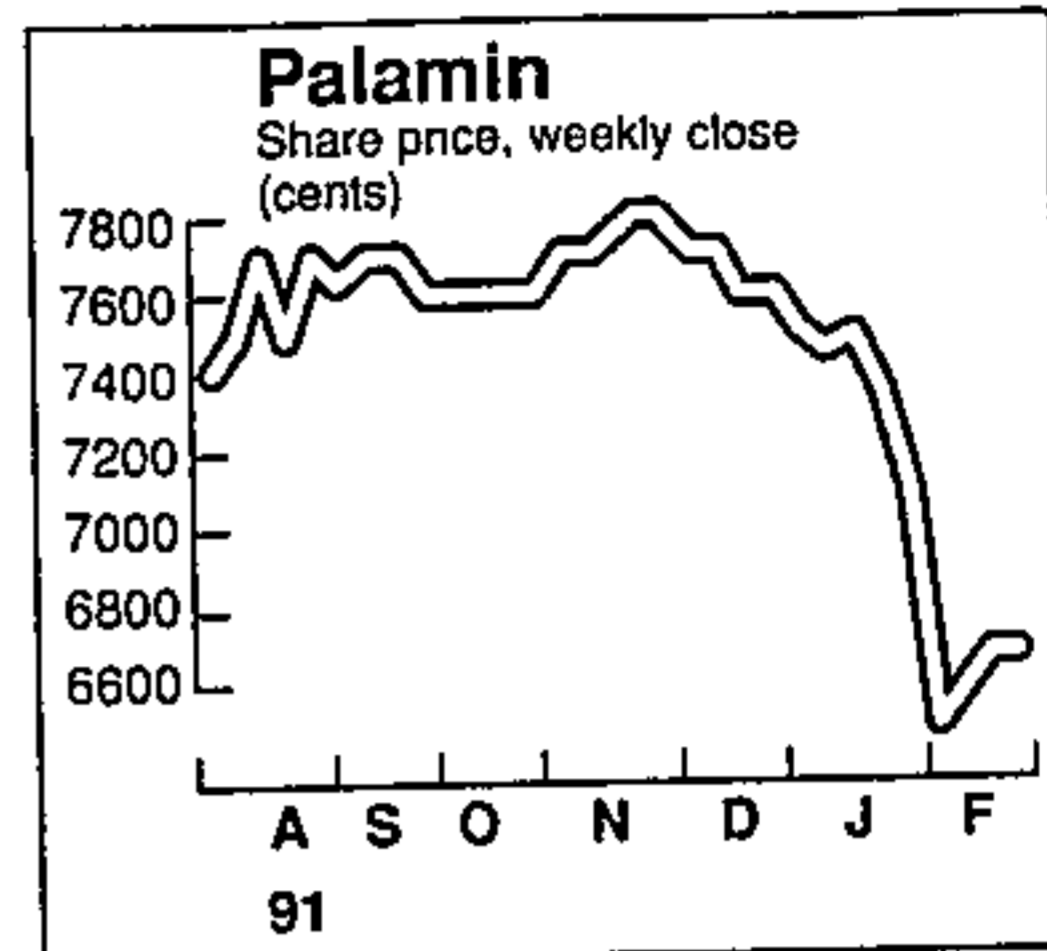
Smelting

Overall operating costs rose only 10% in the year, as the company had shed 10% of its 3 300 strong workforce through natural attrition. There had been no retrenchments.

Fenwick said that after 26 years of production, Palamin was still in the top third of the world's lowest-cost producers.

Palamin has been dogged with smelting problems associated with the inability of its ageing plant to keep up with the amount of concentrate produced and meet the company's refining capacity.

Management tried unsuccessfully to install a Con-Top cyclon to improve efficiencies in 1990. Instead, Palamin devoted R68m in capital expenditure last year to improve the smelter as it stands for the remaining



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I NET

10 years in which it will be required to treat surface ore production.

Fenwick said smelting throughput rose 3% in the year.

Underground exploration of the copper reserves necessary to extend Palamin's life into the next century was going well and a pre-feasibility study would start by mid-year to research the viability of an underground mine.

Palamin derives most of its income from copper production — whether in concentrate form, cathode or wire bar — but it also produces a range of by-products.

Finance director Barry Aitken said that of Palamin's 1991 turnover of R452m, down from R510m the previous year, 76% came from copper, 12% from vermiculite, 8% from zirconia, with the remainder made up of precious metals and other revenue.

After-tax profit rose to R234m from R228m because of a sharp drop in the company's tax bill, thanks to higher capital spending in the year and a cut in the company's tax rate.

OUTRAGED conservationists — supported by SABC and Call-Net sources — have accused Richards Bay Minerals of rigging a national phone-in poll which this week reflected overwhelming support for its planned mining operations at Lake St Lucia.

RBM has denied the allegation that it mobilised its workforce to repeatedly phone in yes votes.

The poll, opened by Good Morning South Africa on Monday and closed on Friday, brought by far the biggest response in the programme's history. The question was "Do you favour mining at St Lucia? — Yes or No"

Nearly 60 000 viewers had phoned Call-Net by Friday morning to record 35 537 votes in favour of RBM mining plans and 23 492 against.

But SABC and Call-Net sources said this week a "highly suspicious" pattern of voting tended to support allegations by anonymous phone callers claiming to be RBM employees. The callers said RBM staff had been instructed to phone in yes votes at company expense during working hours throughout the week.

By Tuesday, the no votes outnumbered the yes votes by 5 827 to 4 438.

Suspicious

On Wednesday the yes responses started to surge somewhat ahead. But survey experts and SABC sources said print-outs of the times the calls were made supported claims that mining company staff were assigned to make continuous yes votes during working hours.

On Tuesday, for example, there were 3 944 no votes and only 1 512 yes between 6am and 8am while GMSA was urging people to phone in.

But during office hours — and while GMSA was off the air — the calls in favour of mining outnumbered the others by nearly seven to one (6 976 to 1 081).

During the same office-hour period the following day the pro-mining vote outstripped the conservationists to what public response survey statisticians said was an "altogether suspicious extent".

So much so that Wednesday's totals were 11 629 yes votes and a mere 4 868 no votes.

Most significant was one night's phone-in of 683 yes calls (no calls nil) between midnight and 1am, when

By **ROY RUDDEN**

there was nothing on TV to stimulate the calls.

"It's not difficult for RBM night staff — all they had to do was dial once and keep pressing the repeat button," a conservationist said.

An RBM publicity official denied management had put pressure on staff to make repeated yes calls.

The company's senior PRO, Mr Barry Clements, issued a statement saying that, while RBM did not discourage its employees from registering their votes, which was their right, "we have no way of knowing if this was abused".

Conservationist Dr Ian Player said that, in contrast to the anonymous televote results, anti-mining groups had already presented the government with a petition of 300 000

identifiable and traceable signatures.

Author and conservationist Tony Pooley said "The manipulation of the phone-in was obvious."

"Clearly, RBM executives panicked when they saw voting was going against them on the first couple of days and acted accordingly."

Support

"With a R5-million budget to promote pro-mining publicity, the cost of 35 000 yes phone-ins is just another ecologically bad drop in the Indian Ocean."

Mr Clements said in his statement that the GMSA opinion poll indicated overwhelming public support for mining at St Lucia, but he conceded the results could not be seen as an accurate representation "for various reasons".

Outrage over alleged rigging of phone-in

STimes

2/2/92

2/17

Platinum prices under pressure

6 days 4/2/92
PLATINUM prices are under extreme pressure despite announcements last month that Impala Platinum (Implats) has mothballed its developing Messina mine and Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) has reorganised expansion plans

Analysts said yesterday the continuing recession in the US and slowing economic growth in Japan were outweighing news from SA of production shortfalls and curtailed expansion plans

They noted that had the Messina announcement come a year ago, the prospect of a sharp reduction in future SA platinum production would have boosted metal prices. Instead, platinum prices had yo-yoed in recent weeks around the \$350 mark. Platinum was fixed in London at

217 11 00
MATTHEW CURTIN

\$357.90 yesterday afternoon, nearly \$9 higher than Friday's close

Irish Menell Rosenberg analyst David Russell said the mothballing of Messina and disruptions to production at Implats' mines in Bophuthatswana had carried little weight with investors on futures markets nervously watching US and Japanese economic indicators. There was a danger that investors on the Tocom metals exchange would again cash in short positions and send platinum prices tumbling.

Another analyst noted that the interest rate on Tocom contracts had risen from 2% to 4%, which suggested platinum demand was tightening

Manganese price cut 14%

MATTHEW CURTIN

SAMANCOR and Associated Manganese (Assmang) have slashed the price of high grade manganese ore by 14% for 1992 in the face of depressed market conditions and Australian competition, market sources said yesterday.

The price cuts would have a significant impact on the companies' earnings in the year ahead.

Samancor and Assmang, which is owned by Anglovaal and Associated Ore (Assore), are SA's two producers of high-grade manganese ore, which is an important ingredient in the manufacture of carbon steels.

The sources said the manganese ore price had been cut from \$3,33 to \$2,85 a unit in the wake of an earlier 12% cut in price from Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), Australia's largest mining company.

SA ore prices are traditionally lower than Australia's

because of the extra freight costs in exporting SA material to Japan.

Assore's share price tumbled 24% or R40 to R170 on the JSE yesterday. Assmang was untraded at R330, and Samancor rose 25c to R31,35.

Frankel Kruger Max Pollak analyst Kevin Kartun said yesterday that the carbon steel market was still in the doldrums because of the recession in the industrialised world.

Steel manufacturers consumed more than 95% of manganese ore production, but carbon steel demand had fallen by about 5% in 1991, while manufacturers were still using up their manganese ore stocks.

He added that export sales of manganese ore from SA companies could be as much as 30% down in 1991 from the previous year.

Samancor MD Hans Smith said yesterday that price negotiations were at a sensitive stage and he could not comment on how much the group would re-

duce its prices.

SA negotiating teams were currently in Japan, and, given the BHP price cut, Samancor would secure the best competitive price it could.

Smith said there was still a shortage of high-grade ore worldwide, but because of depressed carbon steel demand and competition from the four countries which produced high-grade ore, prices were under pressure.

SA, Gabon, Australia and Brazil are the largest producers of high-grade ore, although the former Soviet Union and China are producers of large amounts of low-grade material.

Strong manganese ore prices have underpinned Samancor's results since 1989 when they rose from less than \$2 a unit to an average of \$3,40 in 1990, and \$3,35 last year.

The group does not disclose the breakdown of its earnings between its divisions, but market sources have said that the contribution from the manganese division has risen from 48% in 1989, to 70% in 1990, and to nearly 80% in 1991.

shredded, because it has no relevant security significance

*Dr F HARTZENBERG Why did you pay R3 000 for it? *Hansard 4/2/92*

*The MINISTER I am now going to come to the point I want to state the following policy standpoint to the hon members

Our service does not give any planned, deliberate and organised intelligence attention to any party-political organisation

*Dr F HARTZENBERG That is not true

*The MINISTER We do not pay any deliberate attention to a party-political organisation that practises normal politics In the short time at my disposal today I want to invite the hon members of the House to discuss with me any substantive allegations that may exist in regard to irregularities in connection with the service, and I undertake wherever possible to ascertain the factual basis

What is more, if the hon members have any complaints, such as the hon members now have, that the service has acted in an unauthorised manner, or that it has used taxpayers' money, they should rush off to the Ombudsman Those hon members assisted us to put the Ombudsman in place We have vested him with special powers to investigate the misuse of State funds and to report on this to Parliament We invite hon members to approach him without delay if they have any complaints I put it to them frankly that we will devote the necessary attention to any complaints they may have We will not tolerate absurdities I hasten to add that the service is not known for concerning itself with absurdities

Debate concluded

Kaolin mine in Noordhoek (217)

2 Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

- (1) Whether, in view of the opposition to the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek, he still intends allowing this mine, if so,
- (2) whether the commencement of mining operations will be made subject to certain conditions, if not, why not, if so, to what conditions?

B117E INT

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS Mr Speaker, the answer to both questions is yes However, before dealing with the conditions to be imposed I would like to sketch briefly the background to this much debated matter

During the mid 1970s an investigation by the Geological Survey proved beyond doubt that the kaolin deposits at Noordhoek were of excellent quality and the only deposits of their kind in South Africa Since developments proposed for Noordhoek at the time would undoubtedly have permanently sterilised these deposits, they were reserved in 1983 in terms of the Physical Planning Act of 1967, with the effect that a permit would henceforth be required before mining was allowed *Hansard 4/2/92*

Having obtained the mineral rights in 1979, Serina was provisionally granted a permit in 1988 to mine the kaolin in a deposit situated on Chapman's Estate, Noordhoek

Kaolin is extensively used in the paint, paper, ceramic and other industries High quality kaolin is an essential and extremely valuable raw material, the importance of which has been further accentuated by a recently discovered use thereof in catalytic converters for automotive exhaust systems

The success of our mining industry can largely be attributed to security of tenure, that is to say that the basic rights of the holder of mineral rights pertaining to land are protected by law The basic rights of the holder of the mineral rights in question, Serina (Pty) Ltd, are well entrenched in the new Minerals Act of 1991

Although Serina has the legal right to enter upon the land concerned and to extract minerals of which it is the owner, it does not by any means have a free hand in this process

The mining operation will be subject to a series of stringent conditions which are currently being finalised with the Departments of Environmental Affairs, Agriculture, Water Affairs and Forestry Unfortunately the time available will not allow for details, but I can say that the conditions to be imposed will pertain to the mining operation itself, the abatement of noise, dust control, effluent management and soil erosion, protection of the ecological system, visual impact, road use, rehabilitation and the mine closure I can assure hon members that these conditions will be

rigidly applied by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs

Another very important point that I would like to stress is that in terms of the Minerals Act, 1991, authority is vested in the Minister to cancel or suspend any prospecting permit or mining authorisation if the provisions of the Act are not complied with However, the Minister will have no discretion if a provision in respect of the rehabilitation of the land concerned is not complied with In such a case the Minister will be compelled to cancel or suspend the permit or authorisation outright

Mr J H MOMBBERG Mr Speaker, for the past ten years the people in the southern Peninsula, especially in the Noordhoek area, have lived under the cloud of the possibility that there will be a kaolin mine against the slopes of Chapman's Peak

Many people, especially those who come from overseas, often speak of the beauty of the drive from Hout Bay to Fish Hoek when using the road over Chapman's Peak Many of these people react with total bewilderment when they hear that soon there will be a mine, forty metres deep, against the slopes of that very same beautiful mountain

That is why concerned people, over the past three years, have flocked to sign a petition against this mine—approximately 60 000 of them That is why concerned people have taken out advertisements in the papers to point out the dangers of the mine

We have pleaded with the holders of the mining rights, Serina, we have pleaded with Federale Volksbelegings and we have pleaded with Sanlam to stop this mine Yet they have gone on with preparations to put bulldozers into the mountainside of Chapman's Peak

I want to emphasise one point This is not a personal issue I have friends in Serina and I am a policyholder of Sanlam [Interjections]

Highly respected people like Dr Douglas Hey, Mr Ian Player, Mr John Robert, Mr Gordon Oliver, as well as the National Monuments' Commission, have called on the Government and Sanlam not to go on with this mine

There comes a time when even the Government must decide between what is good in the short term and what is good in the long term This

mine will be a short-term economic benefit Despite every possible rehabilitation guarantee, the damage done will outlive the short-term economic benefits

My people in that area are dedicated to seeking a healthy unemotional balance between the two goals of development and preservation Ideally it should be possible to achieve careful development while preserving that which we dare not lose in the environment In this case in which it is proposed to enable the messiest form of mining on the fringes of established nature reserves and natural areas, the difficulties of obtaining any such balance are immense I therefore call on the Government to use every possible bit of legislation to stop this mine

*Mr J CHIOLE Mr Speaker, environmental patriotism is inseparable from true nationalism, and it is a characteristic peculiar to First World standards and governments throughout the Western World It should therefore be clearly understood that the implementation of what the DP has stated would be its desired scenario after an election would result in a Third World government in South Africa which would neither appreciate nor understand this environmental patriotism [Interjections]

Similarly, having misled the voters in 1989, the NP's fervent desire to bring about a political coup on themselves in order to establish an ANC government in South Africa, would also result in a government which would not regard the conservation of our national heritage as a priority Only a First World, truly nationalist, White government would have the patriotism to cherish our natural heritage jealously and to preserve it for posterity [Interjections]

*Mr SPEAKER Order! Hon members must come to order The hon member may proceed

*Mr J CHIOLE Mr Speaker, throughout the Western World we are seeing the introduction of serious restrictions in respect of mining activities as a result of the awakening of environmental patriotism and this has naturally resulted in sharp price increases for minerals That is the NP's reasoning As a result of the NP's chaotic economic policy, South Africa has been a capital exporting country for five years now Therefore they now want to use open-cast mining in a disgraceful manner to destroy the natural her-

tage in Chapman's Peak and St Lucia in respect of which important agreements exist

As a result of the NP's political suicide syndrome they are only interested in realising maximum revenue in the short term and that is why they are concealing this behind so-called environmental impact studies. Why will they not tell the department how many people from the Natal Parks Board are serving on the St Lucia Committee, for example? The CP maintains that the Chapman's Peak project is merely a larger prototype of the St Lucia project. Cancel the rights to prospect and to mine. [Interjections] [Time expired]

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS Mr Speaker, I believe matters of this nature should be approached unemotionally so that objectivity and realism can prevail throughout the search for a generally accepted balance between mining on the one hand, on which the economy of the country has been based, and conservation of the environment on the other.

Keeping the facts in mind, I make a strong appeal to hon members especially and to the general public to assess the merits of this case unemotionally so that the best interests of the country can be served.

The hon member for Simon's Town raised the matter of tourists who visit this area. Surely he should know that the environmental impact study did, indeed, look into the matter of tourism. It was found that approximately 500 000 people visit the Cape annually and spend about R180 million. They have also found that it is highly unlikely that the tourists who visit this particular part of the Cape Peninsula will be deterred from going there because of this mine. [Interjections]

Indeed, the Brackekloof Mine has been in Fish Hoek for 25 years. As one drives down from Chapman's Peak, the first thing that one sees is the Brackekloof Mine which is on the far mountain side. Yet, statistics have clearly shown that the Brackekloof Mine, which has existed for 25 years, has not had any impact at all on tourism in the Peninsula. The survey done by experts in their field indicates that it will not have an effect on tourism.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The hon member for Simon's Town knows that the environmental impact assessment [Time expired]

MR C W EGLIN Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister is being totally unconvincing and I hope that he will be rescued on environmental affairs by the intervention of the hon the Minister of Environment Affairs. [Interjections]

AN HON MEMBER He knows nothing!

MR C W EGLIN It is correct that the hon member for Simon's Town raised this issue, but it is not just a local issue. It goes far beyond that. Opposition to it includes the Cape Chamber of Commerce, Captour, Satour, the National Monuments Commission and people like Dr John Hall and Dr Douglas Hey. The objections also come from tens of thousands of ordinary citizens of South Africa who have a special feeling towards a Peninsula that was once described as the fairest cape in all the world.

Objections in regard to visual impact, physical impact, environmental impact and of social impact cannot just be wished away by the hard-handed Government. The objections are a cry from the heart of Capetonians when they see what is happening to the environment around them, for instance the urban sprawl engulfing the countryside, the spoliation of Table Mountain and the increasing amounts of sewage being pumped into the sea. Capetonians now see the opening of another mine at Chapman's Peak as yet another step in the step-by-step rape of the Cape Peninsula's priceless natural heritage.

HON MEMBERS Hear, hear!

MR C W EGLIN They see an insensitive Government that gave permission for mining and mining rights before they obtained an environmental impact study. They have to put this right. They can do it by imposing a moratorium on all mining in the Cape Peninsula for 25 years.

HON MEMBERS Hear, hear!

MR C W EGLIN Let future generations have the advantage of considering this issue against the background of history, but do not let present and future generations suffer because of the shortsightedness and the irresponsibility of a Government which has no sensitivity towards the quality of life of people or the quality of our environment.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MR J H MOMBBERG Mr Speaker, today we have heard a lot about the rights of companies. I want to ask the hon the Minister: What about the rights of people? I want to tell Sanlam to use its muscle to stop this mine and to tell its affiliate Serina that it is not in the interests of the people to go on with this.

I want to warn Sanlam that they must not underestimate the reaction of the people. We are going to have a million signatures next time, not 60 000, aimed against Sanlam and not against the mine. [Interjections] I want to warn them that if they start the bulldozers on Chapman's Peak, the people will be there to stop them. Let them not ride roughshod over the wishes of the people! [Interjections]

I want to conclude by quoting an excerpt from a letter which appeared in *The Argus* last week:

AN HON MEMBER Jan, we are going to call it "Jan se gat"! [Interjections]

***MR J H MOMBBERG** That hon member remains a silly little fellow! [Interjections]

†I quote from the letter which appeared in the paper last week:

To mine for kaolin against Chapman's Peak is like having received Chapman's Peak in trust from God and throwing it back into his face.

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS Mr Speaker, I am sure that any reasonable person who has been listening to this debate will certainly accept that the hon member for Sea Point and also now the hon member for Simon's Town have exhibited the typical emotion that we so often see in matters of this kind. The hon member said that the Government was riding roughshod over the people. That is not true!

That hon member knows better than anybody in this House the tremendous investigation that has been done into this particular matter. That hon member knows of all the scientific organisations—the CSIR, the University of the Western Cape, the University of Pretoria, the University of Port Elizabeth, the University of Cape Town, all the engineering firms of world repute—which have investigated this matter. And then the hon member says we are riding roughshod over the people's views on this matter.

What about all the other people in South Africa whose very livelihood and future depend upon the economic development of this country? [Interjections] What are we talking about? I ask the hon member what we are talking about. We are talking about a piece of land of 26,9 hectares in extent. Compare that with the Cape Peninsula as a whole. We are talking about four hectares of land being mined at any one time.

AN HON MEMBER Forty metres deep!

THE MINISTER The hon member again says 40 metres deep. When this mine is completed, the level of the land will be a mere 2 metres lower than it is today. [Interjections] The hon member for Simon's Town knows it too.

In conclusion, I want to say that that hon member knows that a committee will be set up on which unremunerated people will serve voluntarily. There will be people serving on this committee with the relevant environmental expertise, such as a specialist rehabilitation ecologist, as well as representatives of the local residents and government authorities, and I invite that hon member to be the convener of that committee. [Interjections] [Time expired]

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

General Affairs

State President

*1 Mr D J Daling—State President [Question standing over]

Ministers

Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund

*1 Adv J J S PRINSLÖÖ asked the Minister of Transport †

Whether the Government investigated the state of the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund in 1991, if so (a) what were the reasons for the investigation, (b) who carried out the investigation on behalf of the Government and (c) what were the findings? B1E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Local firms could lead mining revival in Africa

LED by SA mining groups, Africa might be on the brink of a mining revival which will provide considerable investment opportunities for overseas companies, says Gengold MD Gary Maude

Speaking in Paris yesterday, Maude said the mining industry in many parts of central Africa had become run down and inefficient, mainly because of insufficient reinvestment

At a seminar on mining in southern Africa organised by the French government's Board of Foreign Trade, he said money was available to help African countries revamp their mines, not least from the World Bank. However, potential investors insisted mining reconstruction be done in partnership with major mining groups of proven ability and resources

SA's mining houses were ideally placed to provide this assistance and many approaches had been made to major groups to manage the rehabilitation of many mines on the continent

Maude said the prospects for overseas investors were good for two reasons

□ If Africa's mines were to be revived, vast equipment and capital resources would be required, presenting "exciting business opportunities" for overseas companies, and

□ The slump in commodity prices presented overseas companies with a chance to do their homework on investing in the African mining sector

By the time their homework was done, these companies would be well placed to

217
B/day 5/2/97

MATTHEW CURTIN

take advantage of the upturn in the commodities cycle when it came

"This will provide significant opportunities for French companies to export a wide range of products to the mining industry. It will provide investment opportunities for French financial institutions too," he said

Maude noted that SA had more than 80% of the world's manganese reserves, 70% of platinum reserves, 55% of chrome, 45% of gold, 32% of vanadium, and major coal reserves. Investors and exporters of mining equipment could not ignore SA and the country's mining group system which had developed especially to make possible massive new mining ventures to exploit these rich mineral resources

Gencor alone had 15 gold mines, 12 coal mines, eight chrome mines, five base metal producers and the world's second largest platinum producer, plus 10 projects worth R5bn under way. Gengold's new Oryx mine would reach full production of one ton of gold a month in 1994 at a cost of R1,3bn, and employ 7 000 people

Maude said "The major SA gold mining groups have never had a problem raising capital for projects like this. The capital is readily available locally, and the mining house system provides the security and continuity that major investors require"

Genmin, Gencor's mining arm, signed an exploration and mining agreement last year with the French government's mining group, Bureau de Recherche Géologique et Minière

SA 'regaining status as top mineral exporter'

1 CANBERRA — SA is in the process
2 of regaining its position as a leading
3 mineral exporter, with the virtual
4 complete removal of trade sanctions
5 providing growth potential not seen
6 in the last decade, a leading South
7 African economist said yesterday

Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine
economist Mike Brown said while the
country recovered relatively well
from its post-sanctions hiatus of 1987,
SA could, in due course, be expected
to compete on level ground with oth-
er mineral producing countries such
as Australia

81024 5/2192
SA, in a future sanctions-free cli-
mate, would compete more rigorous-
ly with Australia for a share of coal,
mineral sands, vanadium and iron
ore markets, Brown said

Recent plant extensions had raised
SA's annual steaming coal exporting
capacity to 53-million tons from 45-
million tons, and planned additions to
the Richards Bay loading terminal
would increase capacity by a further
10-million tons

While this was dwarfed by Austr-
lia's 106-million tons annually, SA

was likely to be competing for around
20% of a forecast increase in global
demand for coal of around 100-mil-
lion tons a year by the year 2000,
Brown said

Production of mineral sands in SA,
the capacity of which was recently
raised to one-million tons from
700 000 tons a year, also loomed as a
potential competitor to Australia

Brown told Australia's national
commodity outlook conference that
SA had sufficient spare vanadium to
supply all but 5% to 10% of world
demand for many years — VWD

MP warns Sanlam to intervene in mine deal

B/Daw 5/2/92 (217)

CAPE TOWN — MP for Simon's Town Jannie Momberg warned life assurer Sanlam yesterday to tell its affiliate Serina to stop the proposed mining of kaolin at Chapman's Peak or it might face a petition of a "million people"

He was speaking in an interpellation debate yesterday during which Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett said the kaolin mining on Chapman's Peak would not be stopped

However, it would be subject to stringent conditions still to be finalised

Momberg said "Highly respected people like Dr Douglas Hey, Mr Ian Player, Mr John Robert of Captour, Mr Gordon Oliver, as well as the National Monuments Commission called on the government and Sanlam not to go on with this mine"

The previous petition had yielded more than 60 000 signatures of people opposed to the proposed mining, "but we are going to have a million signatures next time"

A time came when even government had to decide what was good in the long term — the damage done by the mine would outlive the short-term benefits

"Therefore I call today on the Minister to use every bit of legislation at his dispos-

al to stop this mine

Bartlett said the mining conditions, to be finalised between the departments of Environment Affairs, Agriculture and Water Affairs and Forestry, would be rigidly applied by his department

They would pertain to the mining operation itself, the abatement of noise, dust control, effluent management and soil erosion, protection of the ecological system, visual impact, road use, rehabilitation and mine closure

Bartlett appealed to MPs and members of the public to "assess the facts objectively"

The environmental impact study, commissioned voluntarily by the Serina company, had been carried out by an international firm of consulting engineers and scientists, in consultation with a "vast array" of local organisations

According to the study, the Noordhoek Valley was "only an element of the tourist experience and not a specific end destination" of the approximately 500 000 tourists who visited the Cape annually

He raised the question of those whose livelihood depended on kaolin — Sapa

Big jump for JSE's platinum index

6/Day 6/2/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE platinum index climbed a healthy 5% on the JSE yesterday as platinum prices consolidated gains earlier this week which have seen the metal rise nearly \$30 or 10% since mid-January

Robust industrial demand and good trading on metals exchanges have lifted prices from a low of \$332 recorded on January 14

Heavyweights Impala Platinum (Implats) and Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) led the share gains, Implats up 190c at R40 and Rusplat up 300c at R65. The index rose 191 points to close at 4 093.

Platinum was fixed in London at \$359,50 yesterday afternoon, higher than the morning fix of \$358,25, but slightly off Tuesday's close of \$361

Rusplat marketing director Todd Bruce said yesterday that there were clear signs that physical demand for platinum was tightening worldwide

The premium of future platinum prices over current prices on metals exchanges had almost disappeared as investors on Nymex and Tocom were showing "some urgency and willingness to pay a premium to acquire physical metal now rather than take out futures contracts"

He noted that leasing rates for futures contracts on Tocom had doubled from 2% to 4% which suggested demand was tightening

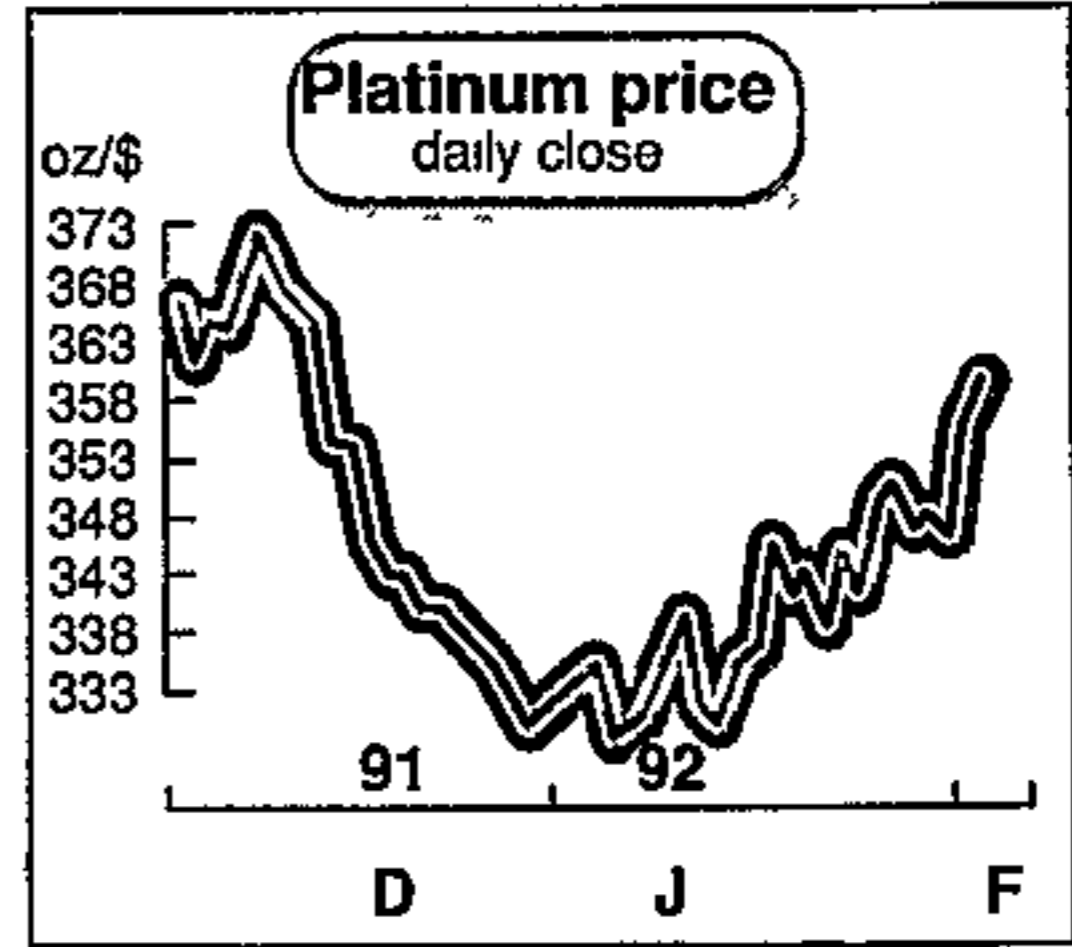
There was always the threat that, as in December and January, investors in Japan would liquidate positions and stay out of the market to send prices tumbling back to the \$330 level

Bruce said demand for Rusplat's platinum production was stronger than a year ago. Even modest economic growth in 1992 would boost

platinum demand

(217)

Rhodium prices had moved from the \$1 800 level to the \$2 400 level. He said a plausible reason for the increase was that customers were taking advantage of low prices to build up stocks in anticipation of future demand



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I NET

South (Southside) 6/2-12/2/92
Mining to go ahead

PLANS for titanium mining on the Transkei north coast will go ahead if the mineral is economically viable, despite opposition from conservationists.

This was said last month by the acting director-general of the homeland's Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr Elliot Mokoena. He said prospecting rights for the mining of virgin coastline between the Wild Coast Casino and the Mkambati area near Port Grosvenor had been granted some time ago to Richards Bay Minerals. This is the company involved in the controversial plans for the mining of titanium at St Lucia on the Natal coast.

He attacked conservationists for their opposition to the granting of prospecting rights, saying it was "natural" that such mining would be preceded by an environmental management study.

Mokoena said claims of a possible threat to the ecology of the area were unfounded as the environmentalists had not conducted studies to prove this, and that mining in the Transkei would be to the benefit of the people in the homeland.

Implats slips far behind Rusplat as prices surge

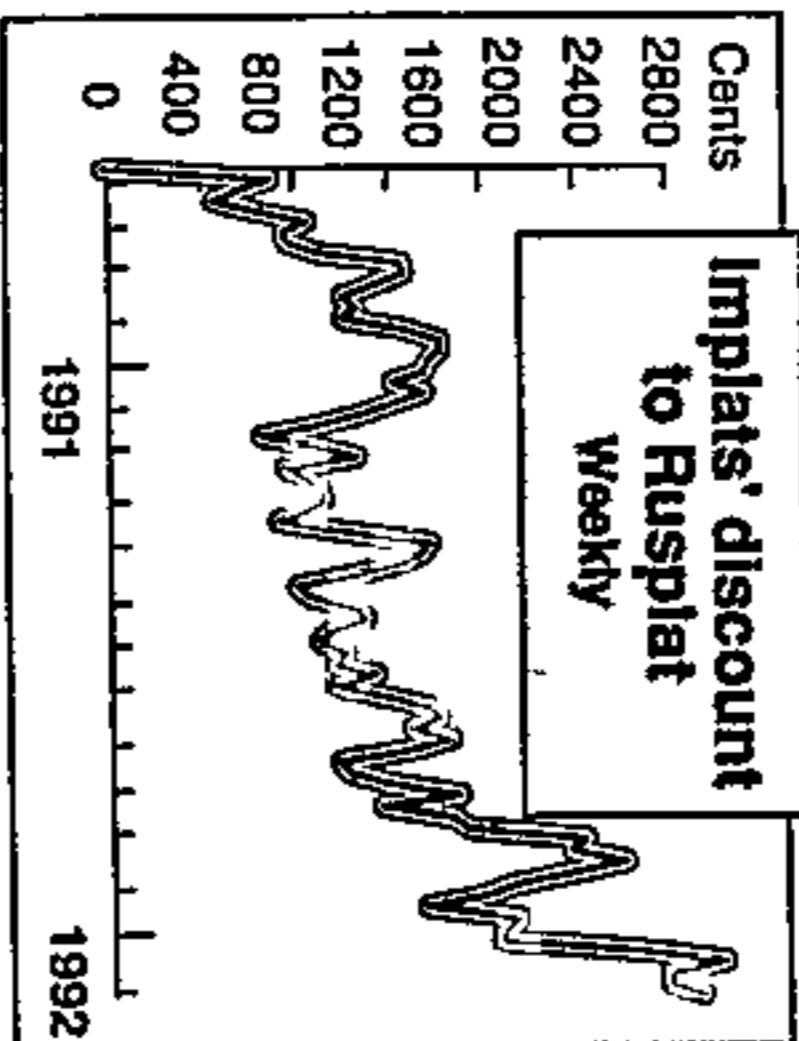
MATTHEW CURTIN

IMPALA Platinum (Implats) traded at its widest discount to market leader Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) on the JSE yesterday as another sharp rise in platinum prices boosted shares on the platinum board.

Implats last traded at a premium to Rusplat in August 1990 — 50c for just one day — and yesterday the gap between the leading platinum stocks widened to R28,25.

Although Implats gained 235c to move 6% higher to R41,75, Rusplat surged ahead by 500c or 8% to close at R70 Lebowa Platinum, Northam and Potgietersrust Platnums made good showings and the index rose 298 points to 4 391

Platinum traded as high as \$368 an ounce in New York yesterday, its highest level since December 12. In London the metal was fixed in the afternoon at \$365,25, up from the morning fix of \$362,25. The wildcat strikes which have



disrupted production at Implats' mines in Bophuthatswana have not only dented the company's market rating, but have contributed to the revival in metal prices since the New Year.

Implats reports its interim results for the six months ended December next week. Analysts expect details to emerge about how badly platinum production has been hit.

The labour relations troubles, linked to the NUM's battle for recognition at the mines in defiance of

homeland labour legislation, have spoiled Implats attempts to improve its stock market rating. Chairman Brian Gilbertson lamented in August last year that the group's effort in this regard had "proved remarkable mainly for its failure".

However, Holcom Futures analyst Lindsay Williams said yesterday reports that Implats had had to buy or lease significant amounts of platinum to meet short-term contracts had buoyed the market in recent weeks. Another industry source said the market might have underestimated the extent to which Implats had suffered production losses.

Williams said what was now driving platinum prices upwards were reports that stocks of platinum and other metals in the former Soviet Union were so low that exports would be sharply down this year, against the record levels of 1991. Surging supplies of platinum, rhodium, nickel, aluminium and other commodities from the Soviet Union knocked market sentiment

Currie Finance curve suffers minor hiccup

Business Day Reporter

CURRIE FINANCE's steady growth pattern of the past few years suffered a minor hiccup in the half-year to end-December, but chairman Mackie Brodie is confident that full year earnings will more than match those of fiscal 1991. *By Day 1/2/92*

Earnings, including income of associate companies, rose only 3% to R4,8m — equivalent to earnings of 34,3c a share — despite a 16% rise in income from SA Freight Corporation (Safcor), the group's main earnings generator.

The problem arose in the property division where the company had to effect a number of repairs and maintenance, said Brodie. The group has an industrial property portfolio valued at between R40m and R50m. All properties are fully let to "first class tenants", some of whom wanted extras or alterations done during the period. The result of the unusual and mostly non-recurring outlays was that income from non-freight operations declined 19% to R1,584m.

This should not overshadow the strong performance from Safcor, which lifted its attributable profit 16% to R7,66m, despite a difficult market which proved to be weaker than Safcor management had anticipated. Careful trading and a modest improvement in domestic activities were cited as the reasons for the 11% rise in group operating income to R14,73m. Earnings a share rose 14% to 34,0c.

Although management is expecting another tough six months, it is hoping to maintain the improvement of the first half.



MPs in furious debate about kaolin mining

w/m on 7/2-13/2/92

217

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town
GOVERNMENT support for strip-mining kaolin on Chapman's Peak unleashed a furious response from opposition MPs in parliament this week — and threats of a campaign against Sanlam to force a halt to the controversial project.

The insurance giant has an interest in Serina, the company with rights to mine the kaolin, through its subsidiary Federale Volksbeleggings. It is not a shareholder and as such claims it cannot legally interfere with Serina's affairs.

Democratic Party MP Jannie Momberg — a Sanlam policy holder himself — was reported as warning Sanlam to "use its muscle" to stop Serina or face "a very dear price", in a mini-debate described as one of parliament's noisiest clashes in recent years.

Conservative Party MPs joined the DP in calling on the government to cancel Serina's mining and prospecting rights after Minister of Mineral Affairs George Bartlett said mining would go ahead once a set of "stringent conditions" have been finalised.

Serina is adamant it will begin mining — despite opposition from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, which now has a record of 75 000 people opposed to the mine and is receiving an average of 500 letters a week, according to spokesman Ian Brownlie.

"The government talks of its willingness to consult and negotiate," said Brownlie, "so why has Bartlett consistently refused to meet us? We want to see that the government has departed from its iron-fist approach

of the past — because those days are over."

Opposition to the mine is based not only on the fact that it is situated on one of the Cape's most scenic drives and in a residential area, but also because on-site processing of the kaolin will result in up to 350 000 litres of effluent being disgorged daily into a stream feeding the Noordhoek Valley wetlands, according to an environmental impact study carried out for Serina.

"Serina has said it will filter its effluent, but it will still be discharging matter with a high saline content into the only clean stream running into the wetlands," Brownlie said.

"Also, the Chapman's Peak deposit is not the only pocket of kaolin in the area. If Serina goes ahead, it will open the stable door to others."

Opponents of the scheme include the Cape Chamber of Commerce, Captour, Satour and the Co-ordinated Council for Conservation in the Cape.

Brownlie said this week his group planned a nationwide petition, legal action and wide-scale protests in a campaign which would continue until Serina's mining rights — entrenched in the new Minerals Act of 1991 — were revoked.

According to Serina, the Chapman's Peak deposit is of a higher quality than any others in South Africa. Managing director Carl Tarrant has said that even if alternate deposits are located, Serina would still mine Chapman's Peak first.

Minvest profits decline

By Derek Tommey

(217)

Higher production costs and lower copper and diamond prices sharply reduced the profits of Messina Investments (Minvest) in the six months to December

However, the directors say that earnings on a pro rata basis are still 13 percent ahead of the 40,8c forecast for the 12 months to June this year

Minvest owns and operates all the non-platinum mining interests formerly owned by Messina Ltd.

Operating income dropped from R8,1 million to R5,9 million in the six months and taxed

income from from R4,2 million to R2,9 million

Net income after extraordinary items was R2,9 million (R4,3 million), equal to 23c (33c) a share

Cash on deposit fell from R12,5 million at the end of June last year to R91 000 at the end of December

The directors say this is the result of the Bellsbank diamond acquisition and an increase in the copper concentrate sales pipeline

They add that they will continue to dispose non-productive assets and are actively investigating further mining propositions.

STAR 71492

Chapman's Peak activists have a 'military' strategy

STimes 9/2/92

(217)

(922)

By EVELYN
HOLTZHAUSEN

A PROTEST campaign planned with military precision has been mobilised to stop a mining company from bulldozing an open-cast kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, in the heart of the Cape Peninsula.

The protesters are even more determined to win their fight after a heated debate in Parliament on Wednesday in which Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said mining would go ahead, but "under stringent conditions"

Action

In the debate, Democratic Party and Conservative Party MPs joined forces to tear into the government for what they labelled "this madness".

Yesterday, Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman Ian Browlie said "This is not the old South Africa, where decisions were imposed on people with an iron fist"

He said SCPAG had mounted a 24-hour watch to alert "cells" of protesters to swing into action the moment the miners set

foot on the site

"Our campaign will be like nothing ever seen in South Africa. It will include a 'human chain' of activists linking arms to prevent trucks driving into the area, a vehicle barricade of the access roads and groups of people chaining themselves to trees, supported by first aid teams and caterers providing refreshment

"We have also approached international celebrities

to bring the rape of our environment to the attention of people throughout the world," he said

The 26ha scenic site, near Hout Bay, where the mine is to be dug borders two nature reserves

Son

Serina Kaolin bought the right to mine kaolin — a decomposed derivative of white granite used in the manufacture of high quality paper and ceramics — on the De Goede Hoop Estate from the previous owner, Miss Edith God-

man, for R250 000 in 1978. The land is now owned by the De Goede Hoop Development Company formed by Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of former Environment Minister John Wiley, who shot himself on March 29, 1987

A spokesman for the company could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Early this week, Mr André Viljoen, executive director of Serina, said the company would continue with plans to mine in spite of the outcry

Impala 'interested' in Lonrho's stake

By Derek Tommey

Impala would be interested in acquiring Lonrho's platinum operations if they were offered to it, said Brian Gilbertson, Impala's chairman, in Johannesburg last night.

Financial sources in London and Johannesburg have been speculating that recession-hit Lonrho might try to raise cash by selling its platinum interests.

Impala is seen as the logical buyer as it already has an interest in Lonrho's Western Platinum.

The six months to December were difficult ones for Impala, the world's second-largest producer.

But a drop in royalties, lease payments and tax liabilities, together with increased income from associates, enabled the company to contain the drop in profits to 18 percent, with earnings a share falling from 242c to 200c, said Mr Gilbertson.

However, the interim dividend has been cut by 31,25 percent from 80c to 55c a share.

Turnover in the six months fell marginally from R1,1 billion to R1,08 billion, but income from platinum mining activities dropped almost 39 percent to R218,1 million (R356,8 million) as a result of three factors: labour unrest, the drop in platinum prices and the "lock-up" of an additional 50 000 ounces of platinum in the refinery.

Mr Gilbertson said although the labour situation had improved in the past month production was nowhere near normal and the mine expected a further loss of output in the six months to June, resulting in lower earnings being expected for the second half.

The average price of platinum

in the six months had been \$376 against \$443 a year earlier.

But the rhodium price was almost 40 percent higher at \$3 937. Later it fell to \$1 800 before rising recently to \$2 800.

The increase in metal locked up in the plant followed changes to the refining process to improve recoveries. The 50 000 ounces should be released before the end of the financial year, but the lock-up had lifted the cost of sales per ounce by 57 percent.

Difficulty

Because of the drop in Impala's production it had to buy 70 000 ounces from the market to meet customer requirements.

Some of this metal was bought on the New York Metal Exchange (NYMEX), which sets platinum prices.

But Impala had great difficulty getting delivery, said Mr Gilbertson. Impala was told that if it persisted in its demand for the metal it would be black-listed and prevented from trading in the future.

Mr Gilbertson said the wide gap between NYMEX and the actual platinum market raised the question whether there should not be a producer price for the metal.

Taxed income was R97,0 million (R125,9 million), while attributable income was R124,7 million (R148,0 million).

Mr Gilbertson said he still believed there would be a shortage of platinum by 1995 and although some expenses had been cut, Impala was going ahead with its expansion programme.

Capital expenditure in the six months was R211 million and should be just under R400 million for the full financial year.

Double blow hits Implats's revenue

217 (217)
B/day 11/2/92

WILDCAT strikes which hit mining operations, and problems recovering platinum from its refineries, cost Impala Platinum (Implats) about R100m in lost metal revenue in the six months ended December 1991. Earnings a share fell 17% to 200c from 242c.

In spite of market speculation that Implats might have to pass its interim dividend to conserve cash for its R1,5bn capital

MATTHEW CURTIN

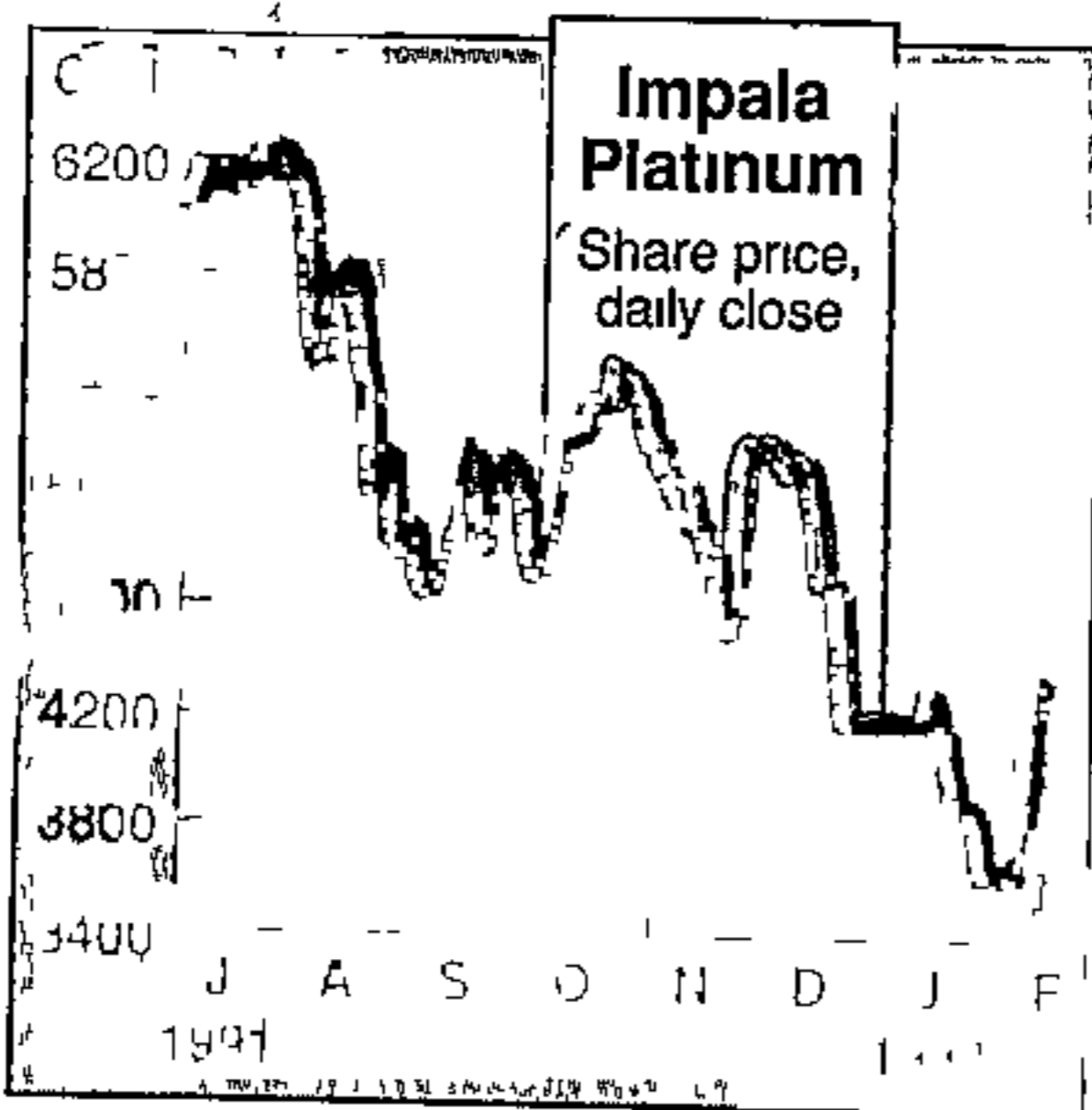
spending programme, the group declared a dividend of 55c, 31% lower than 1990's of 80c. That was in line with the interim dividend cut declared by rival platinum producer Rustenburg Platinum.

Lower platinum prices and 12% cost of sales exacerbated the production losses to send Implats's income from platinum mining tumbling nearly 40% to R218m from R357m in the interim period in 1990.

Results at the operating level would have been worse if not for a 40% jump in the average price of rhodium Implats received, and better rhodium recoveries. Rhodium prices rose to \$3 937 from \$2 810 and rhodium sales increased to 36 000oz from 33 000oz in 1990.

An increase in Implats's share of income from Lonrho SA's platinum mines, in which it has a 27% stake, and a sharp drop in the group's lease, royalty and tax bill cushioned the blow to Implats.

Chairman Brian Gilbertson said yesterday labour unrest at its mines in Bophuthatswana led to a production loss of 100 000oz of platinum.



Graphic FIONA KRISCH Source I NET

□ To Page 2

Implats

B/day 11/2/92

Implats was upgrading its refineries, but the work had affected platinum recoveries, so that an extra 50 000oz of platinum was being locked up in the refining pipeline.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday, Gilbertson said both developments forced the group to buy 70 000oz of platinum from metal markets to meet its contractual commitments last year.

He said labour unrest on the mines, related to the NUM's campaign for recognition in defiance of homeland labour legislation, was the main factor in what had been "a very difficult year".

Implats had dismissed 1 000 workers in the past month and 2 000 altogether in the past year after disciplinary hearings related to the strikes.

Implats would not be able to recoup the lost platinum production, but he was confident the refining problems would be ironed out and the metal lost in the pipeline recovered by mid-year.

"A silver lining on a very dark cloud is the union's decision in December to apply under chapter 5 of the Industrial Conciliation Act to legalise its position in the homeland," Gilbertson added.

MD Mike McMahon said the past six weeks had seen a sharp improvement in conditions on the mines, but it was too early to gauge the Bophuthatswana government's reaction to the legalisation of the NUM as a foreign union. Gilbertson said Implats had pointed out the impor-

(217) □ From Page 1

tance of the union's move to government. Gilbertson said although the poor market conditions had prompted the mothballing of the Messina mine, Implats's expansion programme was going ahead as planned.

Management was deferring non-essential spending but the group would reach the production target of 1,29-million ounces of platinum a year by 1994/95, sourced from its current operations and the new No 15 shaft in the Deeps prospect.

The strain of the expansion programme, at a time of weak prices, was reflected in Implats's short-term cash position. The company had net current assets of R71m as of December 31 1990, but net current liabilities of R93m as of December 31 1991.

Gilbertson said Implats was not planning to hold a rights issue to finance the spending programme.

He said the group would be hard pressed to match these interim results in the current six months. The group was dependent on improving industrial relations and improved platinum recoveries.

Gilbertson added that even if metal prices continued to rise as they had in the past week, Implats would suffer from the lag in contract prices, which would be lower for the second half of the financial year.

However, Implats remained confident that the long-term prospects for platinum were good.

'Demand for platinum will overtake supply'

WORLDWIDE demand for platinum will overtake supply by the end of the year because of reduced Russian supply and a 5% growth in consumption in 1992, says Lonrho SA technical director Ian Hossy.

Hossy said platinum prices were likely to rise steadily in coming months, reflected by increasing leasing rates for the metal on Tokyo's Tocom metals exchange.

Lonrho SA owns Western Platinum and Eastern Platinum which together operate three mines near Rustenburg. Problems at the group's smelters and refineries and low prices knocked both companies' operating results in the year ended September 1991.

Wesplat turned in a 13% lower pre-tax profit of R295m compared with R336m in 1990. Eastplat's developing mine in Bophuthatswana posted a threefold higher pre-tax loss of R32m against R13m in 1990.

The results also reflected the cost of financing the expansion programmes through borrowings. Wesplat's long-term borrowings rose to R236m from R29m — including a R150m loan to Eastplat — and the company paid net interest of R11m.

Hossy said although economic growth was slowing in Japan, jewellery demand was strong and December figures would show that consumption had reached record levels in 1991.

Rival producers Rustenburg Platinum and Impala Platinum had also reported

217
B/O day 12/2/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

strong demand. Hossy said the discrepancy between good demand and weak prices last year could be best explained by the record supplies of Russian metal in 1991.

Hossy said despite weak prices, both Wesplat's and Eastplat's expansion plans remained intact.

Capital spending amounted to R130m (R157m) at Eastplat and R374m (R305m) at Westplat in 1991.

However, production problems at both companies saw cost of sales rise sharply, spoiling operating results despite sizeable increases in the amount of ore milled.

Eastplat milled 1.5-million tons of ore against 505 000 tons in 1990, but unit working costs rose more than 17%.

Hossy said the unexpected depth of underground operations and the oxidation of the ore body hit recoveries. The mine resorted to more costly open-cast operations to try to alleviate the situation, but open-cast reserves were of lower quality and with a stripping ratio of 20:1, proved to be barely profitable at current prices.

Hossy said open-cast operations would be phased out in the next two months. The smelting problems at both mines had been overcome, but left about 50 000 ounces of platinum locked up in the refining pipeline.

Court told Rand Mines 'gave away' platinum unit

B/DAY 13/2/92

(217)

MATTHEW CURTIN

ALLEGATIONS that Rand Mines gave away Barplats Mining (Barmine) to Impala Platinum (Implats) in a quid pro quo for Gencor's purchase with Anglo American of Middelburg Steel & Alloys were heard in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

But these were dismissed by Rand Mines' counsel as "gratuitous defamation" of the parties involved.

Rand Mines is the Barlow Rand group's mining arm, and Middelburg was wholly owned by Barlow Rand.

Implats acquired Barplats Investments (Barplats) and Barmine last year in a deal in which it won a 38% controlling stake in Barplats. In exchange, former owner Rand Mines took up more than R300m of Barmine's debts, and Genmin transferred mineral rights to Barplats.

Windhoek attorney Andreas Vaatz has organised a campaign on behalf of some minority shareholders in Barmine, alleging their interests have been prejudiced in the sale of the platinum producer to Implats.

He has made a counter-application asking the court not to honour the scheme of arrangement whereby Barmine becomes a wholly owned unlisted subsidiary of holding company Barplats.

Vaatz has also applied for the court to rule whether the scheme of arrangement is unfair or prejudicial to minority shareholders in terms of Section 252 of the Companies Act and for a ruling on whether the transfer of mineral rights is unfair.

In terms of Section 258 of the same Act, he has applied for the court to order a government investigation of Rand Mines (Mining and Services) management of Barmine. Such an investigation would cover possible incidents of mismanagement and fraud with a view to suing any or all of the company's directors for damages and losses sustained by shareholders.

Counsel for Rand Mines, advocate H Slomowitz, told the court that Vaatz's allegations that the Middelburg acquisition amounted to a "sweetheart deal" between Gencor and Rand Mines parent Barlow Rand were unfounded.

Slomowitz said Vaatz used deliberately tortuous reasoning to confuse the scheme of arrangement and the agreement in which Implats took over Barplats. Vaatz had made unfounded allegations about Rand Mines management of the company before the deal took place.

217 Closer watch to be kept on mining operations

INSURANCE giant Sanlam has been warned to put pressure on its mining affiliate Serina to call off plans for a kaolin mine in Noordhoek, or face massive public protest

The warning came from Simon's Town MP and ar-

dent campaigner against the mine, Mr Jannie Momberg, recently

The Conservative Party has supported the DP in calling on the Government to cancel Serina's prospecting and mining rights

However Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Mr George Bartlett who made it clear that Serina's mineral rights were "well entrenched" in the new Minerals Act of 1991 - said the mining operation would be "subject to a series of stringent conditions"

If the rehabilitation of the area was not conducted according to conditions, the Government would suspend Serina's permit outright, he said

RHOMBUS VANADIUM FM 14/2/92

217

What does management do now?

Activities: Mines vanadium near Brits
Control: Rhombus Exploration 59%
Chairman: F P Kotzee, MD R G Still
Capital structure: 52.5m ords Market capitalisation R11,5m
Share market: Price 22c 12-month high, 37c, low, 10c Trading volume last quarter, 600 000 shares

Rhovan may be unique — a mining company, started by an entrepreneur, that actually delivered the goods but was let down by senior joint venture partner Usko which was hit last year by a corporate implosion.

Usko is now a dismembered, spent force, but Rhovan surfaced almost Phoenix-like. It has paid for its vanadium mine, is debt-free with R10m in the bank and has outright control of Usko's mothballed vanadium pentoxide (V205) plant near Vereeniging.

That plant has a book value of R44m, though this is not a good measure of its worth, given that it never came close to achieving forecast production targets. That was one of the reasons for Usko's demise.

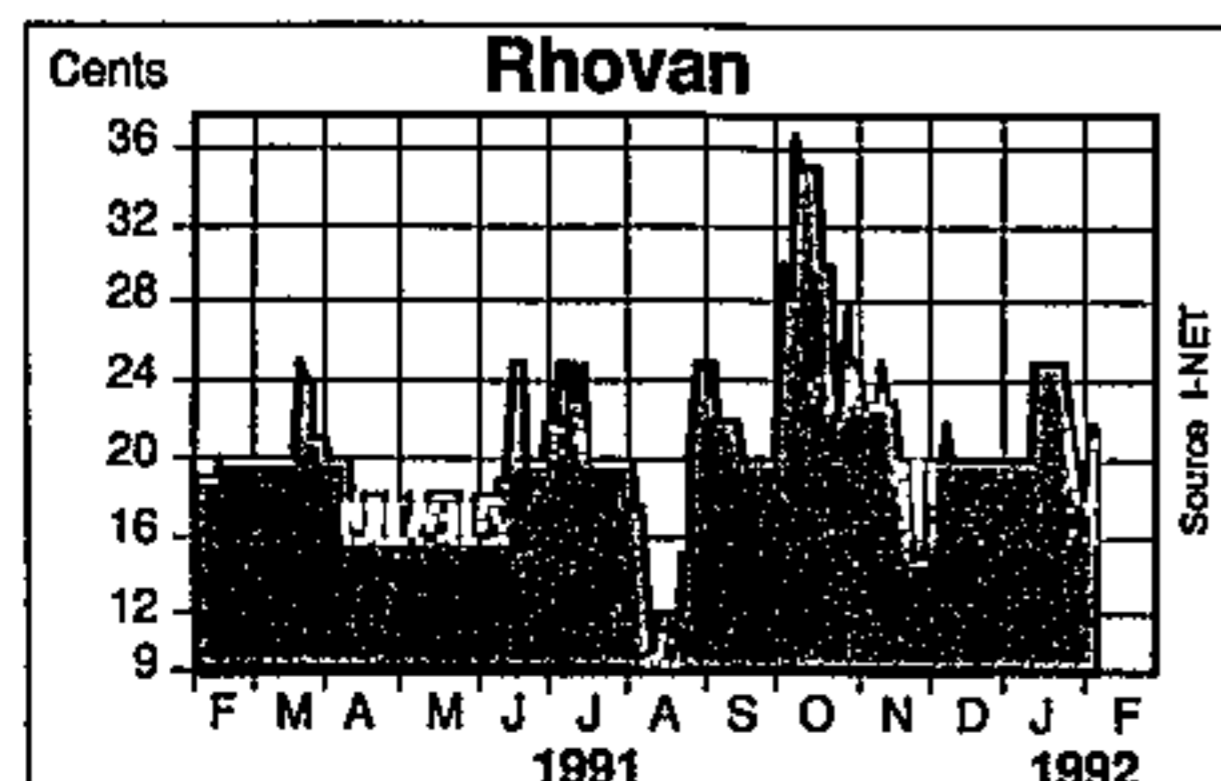
Still, that's not bad going, thanks to Rhovan management's success in negotiating a belt-and-braces supply contract with Usko, which included a number of strategic price escalation and supply penalty clauses.

These clauses were punitive but Usko agreed to them, apparently preoccupied by penalty clauses on which Usko itself insisted to deal with a situation in which Rhovan failed to meet its commitments.

Trouble is, while Rhovan has come out of this a lot better than many had expected, its future remains uncertain because management faces some tough decisions in the face of the depressed vanadium market.

Rhovan has decided not to reopen Usko's V205 plant. No reason is given but Rhovan must feel that it either cannot fix the plant or that the economics are wrong given the cost of transporting ore from the mine near Brits to the plant at Vereeniging.

There remain two options — either Rhovan builds a new V205 plant at its mine or it negotiates a contract to supply raw magnetite ore to one or more competitors, such as Vametco or Highveld Steel.



Rhovan's Still certainty is needed

whereby the major shareholder penalised itself by diluting its stake when capex on the mine ran slightly over budget *Brendan Ryan*

Short-term, the latter is the safer option, though Rhovan might find it a bitter pill to swallow playing second fiddle to a competitor after all the years of effort.

CE Rob Still won't say at this stage which route the company will follow. No announcement is likely until next month. He comments in his review that the participation of "third parties" in the building of a vanadium pentoxide plant is being evaluated.

Indications in October were Rhovan hoped to lure backers from the competing Windimurra project in Australia on the grounds that the SA project had a lower capital cost and would be more efficient. Still refuses to comment on this.

However, he points out Rhovan is "more than halfway" towards ownership of a fully integrated mining and processing operation. The mine has proved itself, producing ore to better-than-required specifications, while parts of the Usko plant could be moved to Brits and incorporated in a new plant there.

So, the \$64 000 question is whether Rhovan will go all the way? Still won't answer but is at pains to point out the risks.

"It doesn't make sense to put more money in unless we are certain we can make a go of it. If there's one thing we have learnt it's that we need cast-iron guarantees that the plant we build is going to work," he says.

The uncertainties are reflected in the share price, which went from a 12-month low of 10c in August to a 12-month high of 37c in October before easing to around 20c. It's impossible to call what happens next on this kind of roller-coaster but on its track record management could be worth a punt.

In addition to getting the better of Usko, Rhovan has also treated minority shareholders well through the innovative arrangement

MESSINA INVESTMENTS

FM 14/2/92
Radical changes

(217)

Results for the year to June and the interim just published show management is doing its best to improve on the one negative aspect of last year's prospectus: the expected sharp decline in earnings

The prospectus forecast earnings a share of 69,5c for the year to June which would drop by 54% to 31,8c for financial 1992. The reason was the fall in earnings from the Messina copper mine, which is expected to stop operations in December

Actual earnings for 1991 were 78c In his review, chairman Tony Buchan revised the 1992 estimate to 40,8c, after the acquisition of the Bellsbank diamond interests

The interim shows this estimate will also be bettered Buchan is confident Minvest can at least repeat the 23c EPS of the first six months and put a forecast of at least 46c a

FM 14/2/92

COMPANIES

(217)

Activities: Mining holding company with investments in coal, copper and diamonds

Control: Directors 51%

Chairman: A D S Buchan, MD D G Kirsten

Capital structure: 12,5m ords Market capitalisation R21,3m

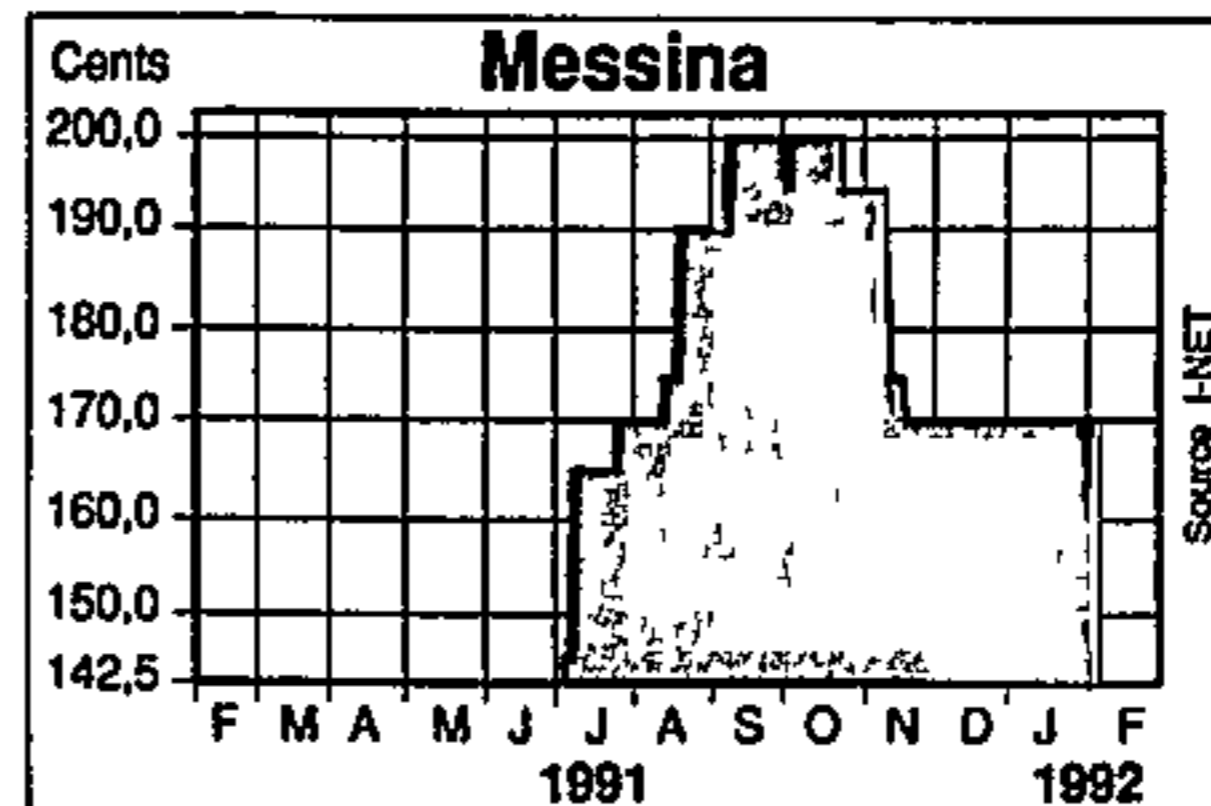
Share market: Price 170c Yields 4,7% on dividend, 45,9% on earnings, p/e ratio, 2,2, cover, 9,75 12-month high, 200c, low, 130c Trading volume last quarter, 40 000 shares.

Year to June 30	'91
Turnover (Rm)	47,9
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	15,1
Attributable profit (Rm)	11,4
Earnings (c)	78
Dividends (c)	16

share on 1992 earnings

Minvest was listed last year after a management buyout of the remaining assets in Messina Ltd after Impala acquired the platinum project, still listed as Messina Ltd.

Further sweeping changes are under way In the short to medium term, Minvest will be



almost entirely dependent on diamonds The diamond market has held up surprisingly well against the world recession but overwhelming dependence on one commodity is not a comfortable long-term strategy

Buchan says Minvest is getting out of coal Last year it sold Nkomati Anthracite and is now looking for a buyer for its Anthra North

CONTINUE →

COMPANIES FM 14/2/92

coal reserves Minvest is not happy with the high transport and marketing costs characteristic of the international coal trade

Minvest is looking at a number of base metal projects but Buchan says he can provide no specifics.

(217)

Most striking feature of the interim is the plunge in available cash to a mere R91 000, from R12,5m just six months before

The reasons are the Bellsbank acquisition and an increase in the sales pipeline of copper concentrates The Messina mine previously sold concentrates to O'okiep in Namaqualand for treatment but has switched to ZCCM in Zambia

Buchan says the cash position will improve substantially by financial year-end as profits on concentrates sales flow through and funds are received from the sale of properties at Maraisburg and the Messina copper mine.

That leaves the question of how to fund any base metal projects Buchan says this will not be a problem, with the complete lack of gearing and the fact that cash will have improved substantially before the company has to face such decisions. But the share looks fully valued

Brendan Ryan

Not a pretty picture

FM 14/2/92
 The interim results shed considerable light on the state of both the group and platinum market — but the picture is not pleasant. Having been hammered by sporadic labour

MISSING PRODUCTION

Six months to	Dec '90	Jun '91	Dec '91
Turnover (Rm)	1 103	1 166	1 080
Plat prod (000ozs)	528	539	382
Pre-tax income (Rm)	388	455	248
Attrib income (Rm)	148	164	125
Earnings a share (c)	242	267	200
Dividends (c)	80	195	55

FINANCIAL MAIL • FEBRUARY • 14 • 1992 • 83
 Continue →

unrest and refining difficulties, which cost 150 000 oz in platinum production, the outlook for the second half depends on these problems being resolved.

Chairman Brian Gilbertson is confident the extra 50 000 oz of platinum locked in the refinery pipeline will be recovered in the second six months. Without a detailed technical explanation of what went wrong in the modifications being made to the complex refining process for platinum group metals (PGM), outsiders cannot query this opinion. However, large question marks can be posed over the successful resolution of the labour trouble that caused the permanent loss of 100 000 oz of platinum. Gilbertson is "hopeful, though not confident" that things are under control, pointing to the peace on the mines for the past six weeks.

Root cause of the trouble appears to be a campaign by the ANC, with which the National Union of Mineworkers has aligned itself, against Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope.

All Impala's mining operations are inside Bophuthatswana. Its labour troubles appear to be motivated not by internal industrial relations matters but by the ANC's desire to get at Mangope. Apart from the social unrest, Bophuthatswana's tax revenues are being hit. Impala's lease, royalties and tax payments plunged to R45,5m for the six months to December (1990: R211,2m).

Adding fuel to the fire, the union is not recognised by the Bophuthatswana government, so Impala could not negotiate with it. Gilbertson says that in December the union applied in terms of Chapter 5 of the Industrial Conciliation Act to legalise its activities. He sees this as a significant breakthrough that shows a willingness to negotiate and enable Impala management to do so legally. Trouble is, so far the Bophuthatswana government has not replied to the move, if the root cause of the trouble is politics, and not industrial relations, labour disruption could break out again whether the union is legal or not.

In addition to the lost 150 000 oz, Impala also bought 70 000 oz of platinum on world markets to meet customer demand. This removal of 220 000 oz from the supply/demand equation over the past six months reduced world platinum oversupply to about 20 000 oz, Gilbertson says, but still the price refuses to perform, though it has regained a little lost ground over the past week.

Gilbertson says some of the metal was bought from Nymex but Impala had difficulties taking delivery of physical metal. It was told by Nymex management that its function was not to supply metal but to trade paper contracts to set prices.

Nymex threatened to blacklist Impala if it continued to insist on physical delivery. Gilbertson's frustration at prices being set in this artificial fashion is understandable, given the impact on Impala's revenues.

The share price is now at a record discount to major competitor Rustenburg Platinum. Assuming management gets the problems

sorted out the share looks a bargain, but the uncertainties hanging over Impala, particularly on the labour front, are such that investors should wait to see them completely resolved before acting.
 Brendan Ryan

RHOMBUS EXPLORATION

Base metal play

FM 14/2/92
217

Activities: Mining exploration company with interests mainly in base metal prospects

Control: Directors 48%

Chairman: A G Fletcher, MD R G Still

Capital structure: 33,6m ords Market capitalisation R18,5m.

Share market: Price 55c. 11,8% on earnings, p/e ratio, 8,5. 12-month high, 87c; low, 30c

Trading volume last quarter, 400 000 shares

Year to June	'88	'89	'90	*'91
Explor expend (Rm)	4,0	3,7	3,8	5,6
Earnings (c)	(6,2)	(4,6)	1,6	8,0

* 15 months to September

Of all mining exploration stocks, Rhombus Exploration (Rho-Ex) has the greatest exposure to base metals instead of gold. But, with base metal prices so depressed, the result is still a rock-bottom share price.

Though management seems to be making the right kind of strategic moves, the market is simply not interested, given the prolonged recession in the main world economies.

The two main interests are vanadium, through 59% of Rhombus Vanadium (see separate report), and titanium, via Transkei Mineral Sands and Natal Mineral Sands.

The Natal project is the more promising. Rho-Ex last year reached agreement with Shell SA on a joint venture in which Shell is the 60% majority partner. Shell paid Rho-Ex R4,7m to cover exploration costs to date and as a contribution to feasibility expenditure, which could run to another R13m.

Reserves are inland in northern Natal and contain 7,9 Mt ilmenite, 500 000 t rutile and 1,1 Mt zircon. Capex is estimated at an unescalated R320m. A decision to go ahead will depend on market conditions and whether customers will accept the end-products.

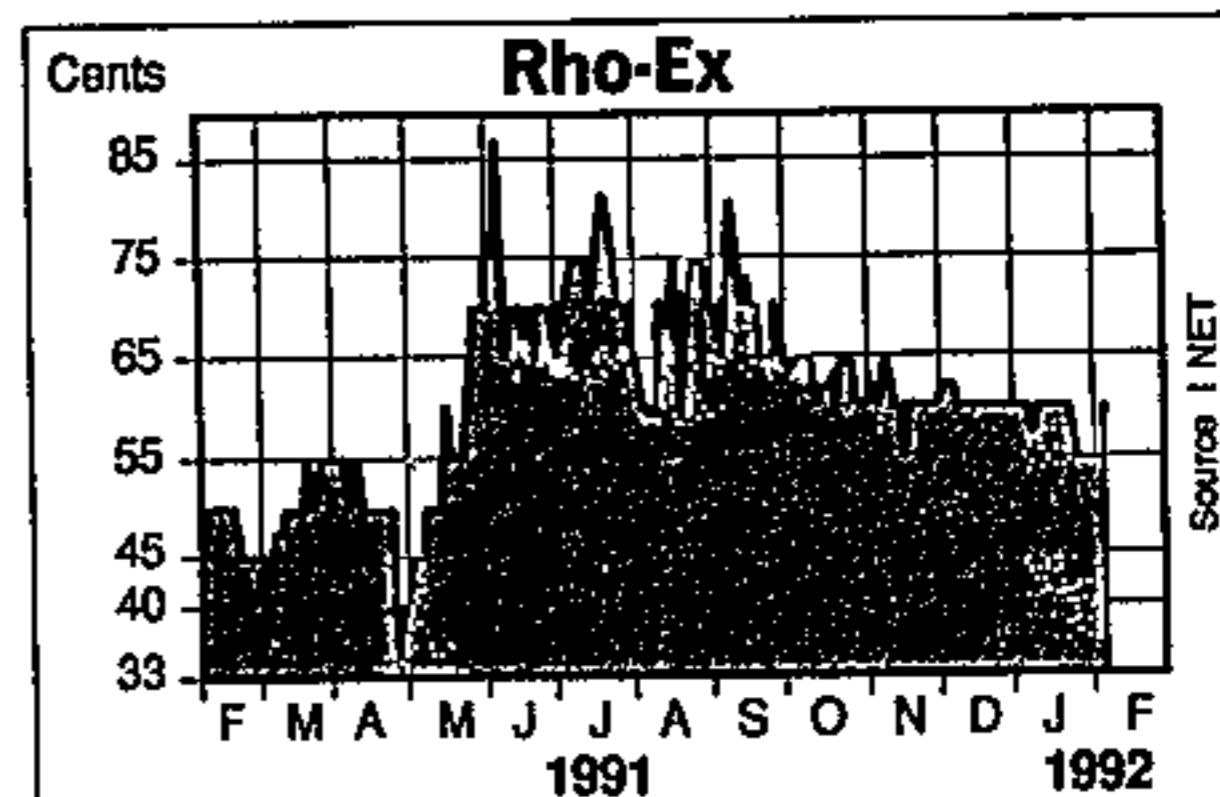
According to MD Rob Still, bulk samples of synthetic rutile are being prepared for presentation to prospective customers.

Development of the Transkei project looks increasingly long-term because of logistical difficulties in exploiting the deposit and metallurgical problems. Then there are environmental issues, which could be critical.

Initial partner Rand Mines has dropped out. Negotiations are under way with a potential new partner, which Still won't name.

To generate short-term income, Rho-Ex took a 50% interest in a bituminous coal mine near Ermelo with another partner that

COMPANIES FM 14/2/92



217
Still won't identify. A mine producing 50 000 t/month should be commissioned in April at a cost of R8m-R10m, of which Rho-Ex will contribute half.

Profits are expected to start flowing towards the end of 1992 but Still declines to provide any forecast. The investment is large for a company like Rho-Ex but Still says there is a strategic side as well. Rho-Ex has options over coal deposits in the region which could be added to the mine.

Lack of cash, so far, is not a problem — just as well, given the difficulty of raising funds through a rights issue in present market conditions. Rho-Ex put R20m of the R30m raised at its listing in 1987 into two endowment policies which mature in September. Current surrender value is R35,4m and estimated value at maturity R43,8m.

Rho-Ex has also dipped into the granite business — a decision management could be questioned over, given the terrible state of that market and what appears to be a pending shake-out of SA producers. Rho-Ex paid R1,5m for 10% of Eagle Granite with the option on a further 65% at "nominal" cost.

Still defends this investment on the grounds that the long-term outlook is good and Rho-Ex is getting in cheap because its partners have already spent R4m on Eagle.

With the recession dragging on in the US and Europe, which has flattened commodity prices, it is difficult to see the share performing over the next year.

Brendan Ryan

PLATINUM, rarely a star among precious metals, has basked in the spotlight with a \$22 rise over the past three weeks. But market observers say the flare-up of interest in the physical market that sparked the rise may be burning itself out.

Now that platinum has returned to its usual position of trading at a premium to gold — after six weeks of moving at a discount — sceptics say skittish speculators and nagging uncertainties about fundamentals will likely deflate the rally.

In New York on Wednesday, spot platinum closed up \$3,00 at \$366,00/oz, up \$32 from the low of \$334,00 set on December 24, 12 days after platinum first fell below gold.

Observers said a sudden increase in demand for the physical metal, along with short-term speculation, was behind the thin market's rise.

Paradoxically, the biggest jump in demand, traders said, came from Impala Platinum, the world's second-largest platinum producer. The market had been full of rumours, later confirmed by the company, that Implants had been forced by labour problems to buy and lease metal on the open market to cover supply commitments.

Implants said this week it had lost 100 000oz of production in the second half of 1991, 70 000 of which it had

Interest in platinum may dip

8 Day 14/2/92 217

GREGORY WHITE
in New York

made up by buying and leasing platinum on the open market. Impala's production for the period was down 28% to 382 000oz.

Also helping to lift prices has been a modest increase in demand from investors for platinum coins. Leonard Kaplan, president of Bullion Services, a Las Vegas coin wholesaler, said the US market was suffering a "shortage of physical product". He said dealers had been unprepared for a 20% rise in demand from investors over the last two weeks.

Participants said the low volume in the platinum market meant that sudden tightness was translated into exaggerated price moves. The world market for platinum sees trade of about 3-million to 4-million ounces annually, in contrast to gold, where 70-million ounces change hands in an average year.

In addition, few central banks stockpile platinum as they do gold, and so they can't loan the metal to provide liquidity when a sudden increase in demand gobbles up available supply and drives prices up. As a result, the unexpected surge in demand over the last few weeks

lifted spot and near-month futures prices several dollars above the more distant rates, a situation technical analysts call "backwardation".

Futures prices are usually higher the further away delivery is, reflecting the cost to the seller of holding the metal until the end of the contract. Although backwardation is seen as bullish, some analysts think this one may prove fleeting.

"I write off the backwardation and the relative strength of spot platinum," said Jeffrey Christian, MD at CPM Group, a New York metals consulting firm. He said the firmness reflected only Implants's buying and some speculative interest.

Observers also question the depth of investors' desire for the metal. Christian said investors had been cautious, many chastened by experiences with the metal in the late '80s. In 1988, for example, even with platinum nosing above \$600 and gold slip-

ping off its highs in the mid-\$400 range, many investors bought on the advice of analysts who touted platinum for further gains. Platinum hasn't broken that level since.

Market watchers said they aren't surprised to see the backwardation dissipating. On Wednesday at the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), platinum for April delivery opened at \$370,80, as did metal for July.

Over the long term, participants said the market's fundamentals had yet to catch up with its current price. Only when they do, traders said, would the metal have a firm base for further gains.

Players focus particularly on car sales because the primary industrial use for platinum is in catalytic converters. And with the US only managing a slow creep out of recession, just as the world's other major economies appear to be starting the slide downward, many analysts don't expect any sharp increase in industrial demand for platinum soon.

Even if industrial demand did pick up, there is another threat looming although details aren't publicly

known, analysts say that last year the then Soviet Union deposited as much as eight tons of platinum with banks in Zurich as collateral for swaps yielding hard currency.

With the disappearance of the legal counterparty, some observers speculate that when these contracts come due, the Soviet Union's heirs may be unable to repay their debts, leaving bankers with a large quantity of platinum to liquidate.

Although some dismiss the fear as exaggerated, bears buttress their argument noting that the rate the banks charge for leasing the metal they hold as collateral — again, not publicly disclosed — have risen over the last few weeks. They say the rise indicates banks have not been reneuing the leases in anticipation of having to sell the metal.

The banks "could be setting the market up for a hard fall," said Bernard Savatko, senior metals dealer at Pannewebber.

Others suggest that the rising lease rates are evidence the Swiss have sold most of the metal already, and have little on hand to lease.

Traders were unanimous, however, in eschewing specific predictions about such a thin and vulnerable market. "It's a very unpredictable market," said one New York platinum dealer — AP-DJ

REVIEW

Rooiberg Tin faces prospect of closure

217
Bl/day 25/2/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

SHARES in Gold Fields of SA's Rooiberg Tin, SA's last tin producer, plunged 10% on the JSE yesterday as speculation mounted that the mine's days were numbered

Rooiberg stock closed 20c down on the day at 180c, but still above the low of 165c touched earlier this month.

Market sources said Rooiberg, which posted a R1,9m after-tax loss in 1991, was losing its battle to survive prolonged depressed conditions in the tin market. They said a decision to close the mine was imminent.

A Rooiberg spokesman would not comment yesterday on the mine's condition.

The London-based Metal Bulletin, however, quoted a GFSA official as saying the mine had been uneconomic for years and only its contribution to the local community had kept GFSA from closing it. There was a limit to how long Rooiberg could sustain losses and its retained earnings were "getting to the point where there is little left".

In January, GFSA executive director John Hopwood said Rooiberg's position was "critical" as the mine's equipment was ageing when the company was cash-strapped in poor market conditions.

Rooiberg has already undergone exten-

sive restructuring with its B mine closed permanently, its A mine mothballed, production cut at its C mine in 1990, and work concentrated on developing its NAD operation. The mine employs 700 people.

Rooiberg has been on the decline, along with its share price and tin prices, ever since the 1985 crash in the tin market, triggered by the collapse of the International Tin Council. The ITC, which represented the major tin-producing countries, supported tin prices for years but its demise left the market with overcapacity and huge inventories.

Spot market tin prices fell slightly on the London Metal Exchange yesterday towards the \$5 600 a ton mark. Although the LME has stocks of more than 13 000 tons — equivalent to nearly 10% of the world's annual production — the closure of high cost operations in Brazil, Thailand and Malaysia could bring supply more in line with demand.

However, an analyst said yesterday that the price increases would probably prove to be "too little too late" for Rooiberg because it was one of the world's highest cost producers.

Wild-cat strikes throttle Impala

STimes [Buss] 16/2/92

219
288

WILD-CAT strikes and refinery problems hit Impala Platinum hard in the six months to December 1991.

Earnings fell to 200c a share compared with 242c in the last six months of 1990.

The interim dividend was cut from 30c to 55c — following the example set by Rustenburg

Strikes were the worst of Impala's problems and resulted in large-scale dismissals. They also cost Impala 100 000 ounces of lost platinum production. The loss included low worker efficiency caused by the disruption. Some shafts had to be closed.

Locked

For a time, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) refused to comply with Bophuthatswana laws because the government would not recognise it. However, the NUM asked to be legalised in Bophuthatswana in December.

It could be an important breakthrough if the Bophuthatswana Government granted recognition.

But it will take a long time to get the labour position back to normal. Instability could lead to a new wave of strikes.

In the long run, everyone loses to wildcat strikes. Apart from Impala and the men who were sacked, the Bophuthatswana Government has received much less in tax and lease receipts. The loss could be a strong incentive for the government to recognise the NUM.

The NUM has been trying to weaken President Mangope and has built a power base in the homeland.

But if the impasse is not resolved, the NUM could become unpopular with members who have been sacked.

The metal shortfall was

By **ROBIN PEGLER**

made all the worse by problems at the refineries. Programmes are under way to improve recoveries and shorten the production pipeline.

Plant teething troubles resulted in an additional 50 000 ounces being locked up, although management is confident of releasing it in the current year.

The output of refined platinum for the six months was only 382 000 ounces compared with 528 000 for the last six months of 1990. A total of 70 000 ounces had to be bought from Nymex at a small profit to satisfy customer contracts.

It is amusing to note that Nymex was highly indignant at having to supply physical platinum. Normally, it deals only in paper (futures) metal.

Because of these setbacks, the cost to Impala of an

ounce of platinum rose by no less than 57%. This figure will drop when locked-up platinum is released.

The fall in profit was cushioned to some extent by two factors. Rhodium sales were up and the price was higher. Lease, royalties and tax were nearly 78% lower.

Mothballed

Impala's chief customer is General Motors, to which it sells on contract. It does not depend on the spot price, which is quoted daily. Nevertheless, the spot price does affect contract prices in the longer term.

Rhodium prices are expected to be lower in the second half of the current year.

Two years ago, Impala started a programme to increase production to 1,29-million ounces from its own mines. It expects to spend nearly R400-million for the

year to June 1992. But if money is tight, part of this programme will be delayed.

A higher platinum price would be of particular help to Impala.

Messina and the Barplats' Crocodile River mine have both been mothballed. Production from them would add another 190 000 ounces to world output.

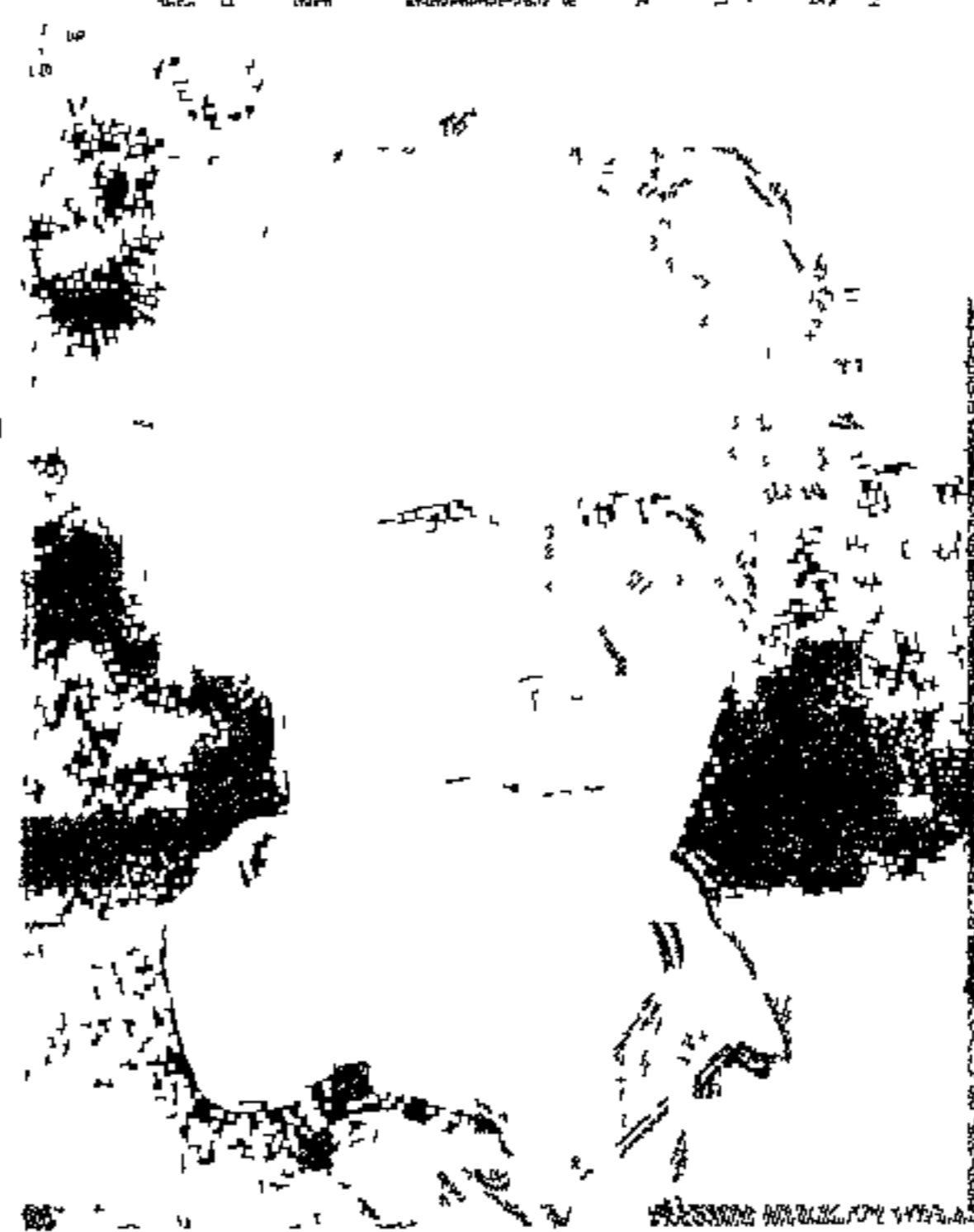
There has been speculation that because of its heavy debt, Lonrho might sell its 73% interest in the highly efficient Western Platinum to Impala.

Impala already owns the remaining 27% and has first refusal if Lonrho should decide to sell.

Impala chief Brian Gilbertson confirms that Lonrho has made no approach.

Maybe Impala should take the initiative. With Gencor as its parent, Impala would be in a much stronger bargaining position than Lonrho and could buy Wesplats at an attractive price.

Tycoon mobilises friends against mining



FIGHTING . . . Britain's John Aspinall

BRITISH millionaire John Aspinall, who owns the Cape's historic De Goede Hoop estate, has marshalled some of the world's most powerful businessmen to oppose mining plans on Chapman's Peak

Incensed by the thought of a kaolin mine on his doorstep, at Noordhoek, the 64-year-old owner of former Environment Minister John Wiley's old homestead has called on his friends for help

Influential

The zoo-owning conservationist and London casino-owner has extracted promises from influential friends who have been guests at his magnificent Cape mansion to write letters of protest to Foreign Affairs director-general Neil van Heerden, for onpassing to the State President.

Australian media mogul Kerry Packer, Canadian newspaper baron Conrad Black, British billionaire Sir James Goldsmith and

By CHARMAIN NAIDOO
London

Margaret Thatcher's foreign policy adviser, Sir Charles Powell, have all written impassioned pleas.

Mr Aspinall said in London this week "I wrote to several hundred people — all outside South Africa — and asked them to write, through Neil van Heerden, to Mr De Klerk. Almost all of them did

"I only asked those people who had visited Noordhoek to write. They, of course, being familiar with the splendour of the area

"Neil van Heerden suggested the letter-writing. He said that if I could get the letters sent to him he would ensure that Mr De Klerk saw them when he was not too busy attending to more important matters of state."

However, Mr Van Heerden denied this week that he had suggested to Mr Aspinall that letters be sent to Mr De Klerk.

A spokesman for his office said Mr Van Heerden had met Mr Aspinall at a social function in Cape Town

"After the meeting Mr Van Heerden received several letters from abroad on the kaolin issue and sent them to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs."

Mr Aspinall asked his influential friends to protest in writing at the siting of a kaolin mine "200 yards from my back door and 300 yards from my front door".

Treasure

But he claims their letters have not been acknowledged — "which is unwise, considering who some of these people are and that they want to invest in South Africa"

At an after-dinner speech at Mr Aspinall's Cape home recently, Mr De Klerk referred to Noordhoek as a "national treasure" to be cherished

STimes 16/2/92

217

Barmine minorities ask for assistance from court

B/PCW 14/2/92

(217)

WINDHOEK attorney Andreas Vaatz appealed to the Rand Supreme Court to come to the assistance of minority shareholders in Barplats Mining (Barmine) and to take a critical look at the rescue of the now defunct platinum operation by Impala Platinum (Implats).

In court yesterday, Vaatz said it was hard to understand why Implats should have to rescue a mining company which had the backing, via Rand Mines, of SA's largest industrial conglomerate Barlow Rand.

He noted that Rand Mines formed Barplats Investments (Barplats) initially to mine the Kennedy's Vale platinum mine through subsidiary Rhodium Reefs. It then bought the company Lefkochrysos — owner of the Crocodile River mine which was renamed Barmine.

Rand Mines committed itself through Barmine and Barplats to develop both mines, and spent R1,34bn in the process.

Yet five months after an encouraging annual report from the directors of Barmine, the Crocodile River was sold to Implats, who in turn mothballed the mine a matter of weeks after the formal signing of the takeover in August last year.

MATTHEW CURTIN

Vaatz said this was the background to his counter-application asking the court not to sanction the scheme of arrangement in which Barmine would become an unlisted, wholly owned subsidiary of Barplats.

He has appealed to the court to rule whether the agreement in which Implats took control of Barplats is unfair, and for the court to sanction a government investigation of possible mismanagement and fraud in the running of the mines by Rand Mines (Management Services).

Vaatz dismissed Barplats's claims that the scheme was to the benefit of shareholders. In the scheme, Barmine shares would have to be exchanged in a ratio of 100:35 for Barplats shares, which he said was "tantamount to expropriation". Vaatz also alleged that vital information had been withheld from shareholders in official documents.

In arguing that the Barplats deal was evidence of the increasing marginalisation of minority shareholders in SA, Vaatz drew comment from Judge N MacArthur, who said: "This is a fact of life and has been a problem for minorities since at least the middle of the 19th century. I under-

stand you are interested in a square deal, but this is not something new which you have discovered. You are not getting very far by rehashing the arguments."

Earlier in the day, Barplats counsel Adv H Slomowitz said he had sympathy for Vaatz as an unhappy shareholder, but the grounds for his counter-application and appeals were wild speculation.

He said Vaatz had no case for redress in terms of Section 252 of the Company's Act, No 61, 1973, in claiming minority shareholders were oppressed in the scheme of arrangement. "Whatever happens to minority shareholders, happens even more so to majority shareholders."

Vaatz presented "no evidence of solid foundation in fact" from which to infer impropriety in the running of Barmine, Slomowitz said. He said much of Vaatz's affidavits included comment which was scandalous, hearsay, inadmissible, irrelevant and vexatious, which should be struck from the documents submitted.

Because Vaatz, as an attorney, had embarked on an attempt to coerce Barmine and make wild allegations, Slomowitz appealed for a special order making Vaatz liable for costs. The hearing continues today.

Court action 'could have been avoided'

217
 B1 Day 18/2/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

IF THERE had been more goodwill on the part of those involved in the Barplats Mining (Barmine) case, it might never have reached the courts, Mr Justice MacArthur said yesterday in the Rand Supreme Court.

Windhoek attorney Andreas Vaatz has brought an appeal and counter-application asking for a court ruling in favour of dissenting minority shareholders in Barmine, claiming their interests have been prejudiced by the deal in which Impala Platinum (Implats) took control of Barmine and holding company Barplats Investments (Barplats) from Rand Mines.

The court has to decide whether to sanction the scheme of arrangement — part of the Implats/Barplats transaction — in which Barmine becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Barplats.

Commenting at the end of the fourth and final day of the hearing, the judge said Vaatz had given the impression of a minority shareholder who had been "fobbed off" by the companies involved.

Barplats counsel Advocate H Slomowitz disputed that was an accurate account, but noted that once prospective litigants started, it was often hard to stop them.

The court's rulings on whether the scheme of arrangement is unfair in terms of Section 252 of the Companies Act, and whether there is ground for ordering a government investigation of possible fraud and negligence by Rand Mines (Mineral Services) in managing Barmine in terms of Section 258 of the same Act, are expected to be made soon.

Concluding his argument earlier, Vaatz said the court should not sanction lightly such "an exotic scheme" as the one involving Barmine. Not only should dissenting minorities be paid out for being oppressed by the scheme, but "there must be negligence somewhere" in the running of Barmine, he said.

He noted that Barplats and Barmine raised R412m and R300m in two rights issues for the Kennedy's Vale and the Crocodile River mines, took out R211m in loans and used another R222m in income to finance development of the projects.

Yet both mines and their refining facilities were now mothballed and despite the total investment of nearly R1,5bn, the operations had not been able to survive a dip in platinum prices.

Vaatz said the indefinite postponement of development of the mines did not amount to a firm commitment from Implats or Rand Mines.

In response, Slomowitz reiterated that the Implats deal was a rescue bid, the alternative to which was the liquidation of Barmine.

He said Vaatz's arguments amounted to hypothesis and conclusion, without reasoning in between and presentation of hard facts. Vaatz was pushing the credulity of the court in his presentation of "paranoid suspicions" of fraud and mismanagement.

Vaatz had misunderstood the scheme which would, despite his claims, save Barmine R10m in costs if it went ahead, and be to the benefit of all shareholders.

Implats and Nymex head for showdown

A TRANSATLANTIC storm is gathering between the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) and Impala Platinum (Implats) over comments allegedly made by company chairman Brian Gilbertson at a Johannesburg news conference last week.

Reuter reports that Nymex president Patrick Thompson has written to Gilbertson, asking him to repudiate remarks he reportedly made at the conference.

According to a published report, Gilbertson said Impala bought some of its second-half 1991 platinum shortfall on Nymex.

He also said he had received a letter from Nymex threatening to blacklist

MATTHEW CURTIN

Impala," the report stated.

Thompson said a second letter from Nymex stated that at no time, either orally or in writing, did Nymex threaten to blacklist Impala.

Gilbertson said yesterday he had received Nymex's second letter and was replying in full.

"I would rather not comment to the Press at this stage, but it is likely an agreed view will emerge in the next few days," he said.

● See Page 6

2/12/81
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(217)

Giant invests R20-bn in SA projects

Sowetan 21/2/92
MORE than R20 billion is to be invested by the Sanlam group of companies in mining and other industrial projects to be completed within the next five years.

This is roughly equal to the value of South Africa's annual gold production or a quarter of the annual national Budget, says Sanlam's chairman, Dr Abe van der Berg.

Speaking at the company's annual meeting in Bellville, Cape, he made no reference to the controversial kaolin mining project at Noordhoek, which has brought widespread criticism that could hit the insurance giant's business.

New

But he said a new gold mine and expansion to other gold mines as well as platinum and coal mines were some of the projects involved.

"Investments in ferroalloys, alloy steel, paper and wood pulp, liquid energy and a large variety of smaller industrial developments ensure that our group is well represented in the most important mining and industrial activities."

Property investments in new areas of development created by urbanisation already comprised more than 100 000 sq m and they were still increasing. With these investments, Sanlam was fostering development and progress in neglected areas.

These investments showed how the policy-owners were contributing to economic growth, job creation and development.

The market value of Sanlam's assets grew to more than R50 billion last year while more than 450 000 people are employed in the Sanlam group of companies.

Poverty

Van der Berg said the great disparity in the standards of living of South Africans of different races and the poverty of a large percentage of the population, were stumbling blocks to successful constitutional reform.

The key was a prosperous South Africa for which he believed, a market-oriented economic system, a higher economic growth rate to enable the creation of new opportunities at a faster rate, a lower inflation rate and a campaign to curb Aids were required.

Without better economic prospects for the poor and the economically deprived, no political change would be able to effect lasting peace in South Africa. Political ideologies alone could not ensure economic prosperity - Sapa

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Palabora digs deep for 21st century

SI Times (Buss) 23/2/92

(217)

PALABORA will drill 20 kilometres of core to prove reserves to prolong the mine's life for 25 years beyond 2000

Palabora plans an underground mine to be phased in to replace the open-pit operation at the end of the century.

The open pit will reach an ultimate depth of 750 metres and shafts will be sunk from outside it to depths of 1 800m.

Production will be about 60 000 tons of ore a day, equivalent to an annual 114 000 tons of copper. Current ore production is a daily 30 000 tons, equivalent to annual copper output of 130 000 tons

The underground operation will have a slightly higher average grade (0,6% copper) than the open pit (0,5%).

Phase I of Palabora's feasibility study for an underground mine is nearing completion. This phase comprises a 560m exploration shaft from within the pit and a 1 000m horizontal drive from which the holes will be drilled.

Phase II is running concurrently with phase I and comprises a pre-feasibility study to conceptualise the mining operations.

Phase III will be a full feasibility study to define capital costs to within 15%. The study

By IAN ROBINSON

will start in May or June and is due to take a year.

The feasibility study will also look at the ore-dressing and smelter facilities. Although the smelter has low operating costs, it was designed more than 25 years ago. It may become necessary to design a new smelter to maintain competitive costs.

Efficient

Palabora is among the lowest-cost copper producers in the world. Its average grade is low compared with some producers — for example, Chile's new Escondida which has a head grade of 3%.

But its efficient integrated operation comprising the four stages of mining, milling, smelting and refining gives it lower costs than most non-integrated mines.

Palabora converts about half (60 000 tons) of its production of cathode to rod which supplies the entire SA market. Its expansion plan ensures that Palabora will continue to meet the demands of the domestic market for the foreseeable future.

**ANGRY PROTESTERS GEAR UP AS
MINERS PREPARE TO CLEAR SITE**

D-day in battle to halt mine on Peak

S/Times (cm) 23/2/92

217

THE battle for Chapman's Peak is set to begin in earnest this week when labourers start to clear a two-metre ribbon of fynbos and alien scrub to fence off the 26ha site of a proposed open-cast kaolin mine

The move has been slammed by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) which has threatened to apply to the Supreme Court for an interdict to stop the mining company, Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd, from even moving workers onto the site

SCPAG spokesman Mr Ian Browlie has warned that a 24-hour watch had been mounted to alert "cells" of protesters to swing into action the moment the miners set foot on the site

"The campaign to stop mining will be like nothing ever seen in South Africa before," he has said, "We intend to form a human chain of activists linking arms to prevent

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

trucks driving into the area, a vehicle barricade of the access roads and groups of people chaining themselves to trees supported by first aid teams and caterers, providing refreshment

"We are not a scraggly band of people who will disappear overnight. We are deadly serious. Chapman's Peak must never be mined!"

Mr Jeremy Wiley, son of former Environment Minister Mr John Wiley, whose De Goede Hoop Development Company owns the land on which the mine is to be dug, confirmed that Serina has told him of its intention to begin fencing off the area

He said "We are legally bound to allow Serina access to the site but that does not mean we have given up our search for a legal means to stop the mining"

The proposed kaolin mine has enraged Noordhoek residents, Cape tourism officials and environmentalists, who say it represents the "rape" of one of the most picturesque valleys in the Cape Peninsula

Their protest has been backed by British millionaire Mr John Aspinall, who owns the Noordhoek Manor House overlooking the site

Mr Aspinall has rallied support from international businessmen, Mr Kerry Packer, Sir James Goldsmith and newspaper baron Mr Conrad Black, all of whom have been his guests at the Noordhoek mansion

The proposed mine was recently the subject of a heated debate in Parliament, when Democratic Party and Conservative Party MPs joined forces to tear into the government for "this madness"

Conform

In spite of the protests, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr George Bartlett, said mining would go ahead, but "under stringent conditions"

On Friday Mr Browlie said

he was surprised that Serina had decided to begin fencing "My understanding of the Minerals Act (Act No 50 of 1991) is that nothing relating to mining can begin until a rehabilitation permit has been granted. As far as I know Serina does not yet have that permit and will therefore be acting illegally by fencing off the site

"We will try to stop them with a Supreme Court interdict," he said

However Serina Executive Director, Mr Andre Viljoen, said his company "is acting well within its legal rights and has every intention of mining"

Gain

He pointed out that Serina was bound to conform to stringent conditions relating to the rehabilitation of the site. In terms of the Act mining company officials can be jailed for ignoring conditions of rehabilitation set out in permits required for mining

This week, for the first time since the controversy over the mine began, the consulting engineering company which last year undertook the environmental impact study (EIS) of the site has defended its report

Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten project co-ordinator Ms Mary-Jane Müller said attempts to discount her EIS as biased and 'in-house' and compiled to appease a client — as alleged by the SCPAG and other protesters — came from people who had obviously not studied the report in detail

"An EIS does not dictate what decisions should be taken," she said

Her company would not risk its integrity or its membership of the South African Association of Consulting Engineers for short-term financial gain merely to satisfy a client

The EIS is believed to be one of the most comprehensive ever done in SA.

● A spokesman Sanlam this week said that whether to proceed with the mine was solely a Serina Kaolin (Pty) Ltd management decision which Sanlam did not consider morally wrong

CP JOINS DP IN BID TO HALT ST LUCIA MINE

THE Conservative and Democratic parties will join forces in support of privately introduced legislation aimed at preventing international conglomerate Richards Bay Minerals from mining at Lake St Lucia.

This follows Environment Affairs Minister Lous Pienaar's rejection this week of conservationists' demands for the tabling of a Wetlands Protection Bill, which would have empowered the state to stop mining.

In terms of existing law, nothing — not even the outcome of a current environmental impact study — can stop RBM from mining St Lucia's eastern shores.

South Africa's environmental lobby has been shocked by Mr Pienaar's action, which came in the face of a 300 000-signature petition and growing world concern at the threat to the unique sanctuary.

The lobby was also dismayed because the minister failed to indicate that he would initiate the wetlands monitoring procedure now that St Lucia has been put on the endangered list by Ramsar, the international wetlands convention to which the South African government is a signatory.

Concern

Mr Pienaar said adequate legislation existed to allow the matter of St Lucia mining to be dealt with on merit. But conservationists and concerned CP and DP MPs dispute this.

The chairman of the Campaign for St Lucia, Mr Oliff D'Oliveira, immediately faxed the minister a letter advising him that both opposition parties in the House of Assembly would be approached to table the proposed Wetlands Conservation Act in the current session.

Senior CP and DP sources said although the matter would have to formally go before their respective caucuses, it was virtually certain that both parties would support a private member's motion tabling the proposed bill, which would effectively allow for the prevention of mining at St Lucia.

By ROY RUDDEN

The CP's Mr Joseph Chiole said. "We must entrench in this battle on behalf of South Africa."

He said it was increasingly apparent that South African authorities were not paying enough attention to environmental dangers, which "transcended" party political concerns.

The DP's Mr Rob Haswell said the government was "not honouring" its international obligations.

In his letter, Mr D'Oliveira said Mr Pienaar's refusal to table the Act "leaves us in shock... you must be aware that in terms of existing legislation the mining lease in respect of the eastern shores of the Ramsar site of St Lucia must be granted, unless you take the firm steps we have proposed"

Granny's jackpot

By ROSEMARY BROWN

WILHELMINA SMIT wept tears of joy when she won R20 000 in the Red Cross scratchcard game this week. "I was crying because I needed the money so much," she said.

The 42-year-old grandmother from Silverton, Pretoria, was divorced 14 years ago and lives with her daughter in a bachelor flat. Now she can afford to rent her own accommodation.

She says she is sometimes lucky at the Carousel and has won R1 000 and R400 before, but "never as much as this". Mrs Smit runs a franchise selling overalls in Pretoria.

Rhovan may proceed with beneficiation plant

8/Day 24/2/92 (217)

THE dust has yet to settle on the long running shake-up in SA's vanadium industry, with conflicting market assessments of the path Rhombus Vanadium (Rhovan) is going to take

In spite of the failure of two vanadium ventures last year at a cost of about R250m because of weak demand for the metal and production problems associated with new technology, SA may be set to gain another new vanadium beneficiation plant

After the collapse of its joint venture with Usko last year, Rhovan was saddled with its own efficient low-cost mining operation, but no buyer for its vanadium magnetite

Rhovan bought Usko's failed vanadium beneficiation plant for R2 last year. In terms of the joint venture, Usko had contracted to buy Rhovan's production to convert it to vanadium pentoxide, which is used to make ferrovanadium.

A Rhovan official would not comment at the weekend on the company's plans beyond repeating that it was examining a range of options. An announcement to shareholders would be made in March.

Irish Menell Rosenberg analyst David Russell said at the weekend that "Rhovan's only real option is to proceed with a new beneficiation plant".

MATTHEW CURTIN

Although market conditions were poor and new plant would cost hundreds of millions of rands, with international backing and a low-cost beneficiation operation — perhaps producing higher-value vanadium trioxide rather than pentoxide — Rhovan would be well placed to return to the market.

Russell believed the company was more likely to pursue that course than strike "a passive deal" to supply vanadium ore to Vametco, a rival producer which is running low on ore reserves.

A Highveld Steel and Vanadium official said at the weekend the group was not talking to Rhovan.

However, an analyst said market conditions and high capital costs militated against yet another new vanadium beneficiation venture going ahead in SA.

Between 1988 and 1991 Rand Mines spent nearly R130m on its ill-fated Vansa Vanadium mine and plant, while Usko spent R100m in successfully commissioning but failing to run its direct reduction beneficiation plant.

Highveld spent R25m building a new furnace for its Vantra division in 1989. This has opened and closed periodically according to market conditions.

The analyst said Rhovan

was most likely to sell its mine to or enter a joint venture with Vametco.

The local vanadium industry has been in disarray since the late '80s, when a sharp rise in vanadium pentoxide prices prompted Rand Mines and Usko to launch new vanadium ventures, adding significant new SA capacity to that of Highveld, the world's largest producer, and Union Carbide's Vametco.

The worldwide recession has hit demand for vanadium, used in the manufacture of special steels, and prices have been further depressed by strong market perceptions of oversupply, based on the expansion of SA capacity.

Together Highveld, Vametco and Vantech, which bought Vansa last year and is set to come on stream in April, have the capacity to meet nearly all current vanadium demand.

Platinum surplus set to dwindle rapidly

LONDON — The platinum market's large supply surplus may be dwindling more rapidly than previously forecast, with SA miners facing severe production problems and slashing expansion plans in the face of low prices.

"A year or so ago it appeared there would be enormous quantities of metal coming out of SA, but now that just is not the case," said analyst Jeremy Coombes at precious metals refiner Johnson Matthey.

Johnson Matthey had cut its previous 1992 SA platinum production estimate by 10%, he added.

The world platinum supply surplus last year stood at an estimated eight-year high of 210 000 oz, Johnson Matthey's interim market review said.

Western world supply was 4.09-million oz in 1991 of which 2.9-million or about 70% came from SA, making it easily the largest supplier. Russia produced 930 000 oz.

But producers reined in growth plans as platinum prices slumped to hit six-year lows near \$330/oz last year.

Two years ago SA platinum production was planned to expand by 2.0-million ounces in the 1990s, now that target is down to 1.2-million, said Roger Chaplin of Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Lourho's merged Western Platinum/

Karee operation is expected to produce 375 000 oz by 1995 compared with the 425 000 originally proposed.

Alongside the planned cutbacks in future production has come a series of unexpected supply disruptions.

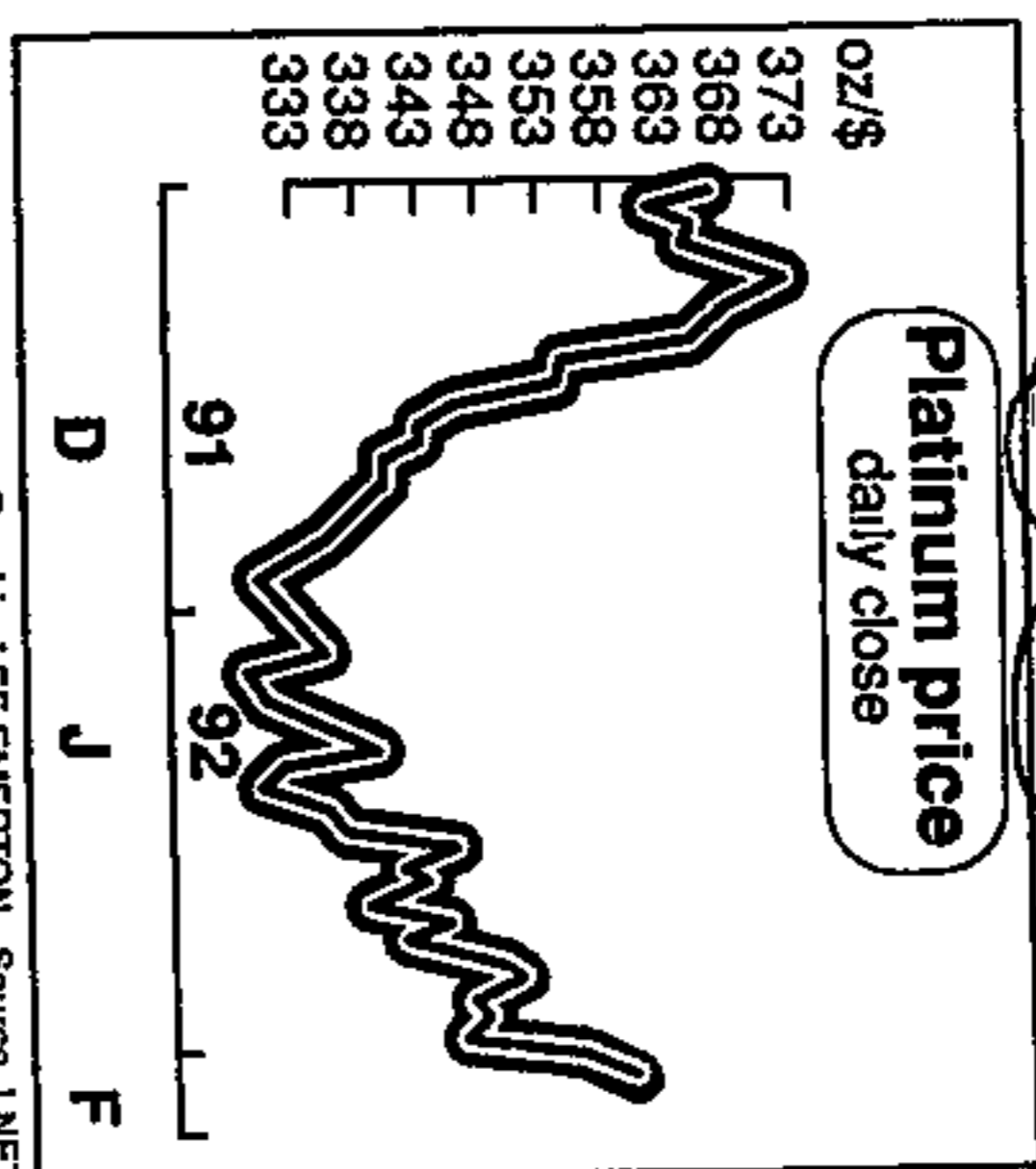
Impala said it lost 100 000 oz of platinum due to labour stoppages in the second half of 1991 and had 50 000 oz locked up in its production pipeline as a result of refinery problems.

West Plats said in its 1991 annual report that problems in its smelter had led to a large production lockup estimated by some analysts to be as much as 50 000 oz of platinum.

The complexity of refining platinum group metals has been further complicated by the demands of car makers, who account for 90% of rhodium demand in the manufacture of catalytic converters.

Tim Petterson of Metals and Minerals Research Services said SA ore was mined on an average ratio of 12-1 platinum/rhodium, but was used by car makers in a 6-1 ratio.

"The mines have to match future platinum supply with what the market wants, and do the same with rhodium. But when they have completely different ratios on the supply and demand side, it is not that easy to do," he said.



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I NET

This mining mix has encouraged the industry to increase its offtake from the rhodium-rich UG2 geological reef, relative to the principally mined Merensky Reef. But UG2 has associated refinery problems, most notably its high chromite content.

Petterson said SA cutbacks might create a platinum deficit in 1992 and severe supply shortfalls in the mid-1990s.

One analyst said rhodium prices were as crucial as platinum, and mothballed projects would soon restart if prices rose.

SA's curtailed expansion plans come

against a background of a potentially huge future increase in platinum demand in catalytic converters created by anti-pollution legislation.

All new cars in the EC will have to be fitted with catalysis from end-1992. The EC's consumption of platinum is expected to increase by 70% or to reach 750 000 oz in 1993 over last year's levels, the Johnson Matthey report says.

But analysts said the fortunes of the platinum market in 1992 were likely to be dictated by the pace of economic recovery in the US and a slowing Japanese economy.

These economies presently form the backbone of platinum consumption. Japan alone accounts for about half of world demand due to the metal's importance both in the Japanese jewellery trade and as an investment.

Andy Smith, analyst with the Union Bank of Switzerland, said forecast Japanese economic growth of less than 3.0% in 1992 would be the worst since the mid-1970s oil shock.

The market is also looking for an easing from 1991's record platinum supply from Russia which was instrumental in pushing prices down.

Matthey's Coombes predicted a lower level of supply in 1992 and a cautious marketing approach by Moscow. — Reuter.

Platinum slips on report of new converter

B/Pat
26/2/77
MATTHEW CURTIN (217)

PLATINUM prices began dropping on precious metals markets last night, losing \$5 within hours of an announcement that a US company had developed a ceramic and metal powder catalytic converter.

Platinum prices had firmed in London earlier in the day, with the afternoon fix nearly \$2 up from Monday's at \$359.50.

Reuter reports that US-based company Corning said it had developed a car catalyst, based on extruded powdered metal and ceramics, which met California's 1977 car emission regulations.

Last year, platinum prices were hit by three announcements detailing the successful development of platinum-free converters. They turned out to be of marginal significance or spurious.

Rüstenburg Platinum chairman Pat Retief said last year the platinum market "had developed a tendency to overreact to any news which implies platinum may lose its pre-eminence as the metal of choice in autocatalyst systems".

He said it was notable that none of the developments had affected physical demand. The motor industry consumes more than 40% of platinum production.

The most serious announcement in 1991 was made by Nissan, claiming it had developed a palladium-only catalyst in May, news which knocked \$30 off the platinum price in days. It turned out the unit could be used only in small vehicles in Japan.

In June Isuzu announced a palladium catalyst, but of use only in diesel engines, while the markets weathered a later announcement of a manganese catalyst, whose workings were described as "thermodynamically impossible" by Rusplat.

However, platinum prices have dropped consistently since Ford announced in December 1988 that it was developing a palladium-only catalyst.

Although producers are confident that tightening emission standards in the US and the EC will see demand for platinum group metals grow steadily through the 1990s, market sentiment continues to be dogged by the threat of substitution.

Catalysts 'will boost platinum'

217

B10ay 27/2/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

PLATINUM is the only suitable material for cutting out noxious emissions from car engines. And, after more than 25 years of research, no viable alternative has emerged, says Johnson Matthey SA MD Peter Emmel.

Furthermore, the latest announcement from the US about advances in catalyst technology, which put the wind up platinum markets this week, could boost long-term demand for platinum, he said. They would improve the chances of platinum converters meeting the most stringent emission standards set to come into force in California after 1997.

Emmel was responding to confusion yesterday over reports that US company Corning Inc had developed a new catalytic converter.

The motor industry uses more than 40% of the platinum produced annually and, since 1988, platinum prices have been knocked frequently by exaggerated announcements of the development of non-platinum catalysts. Tuesday's report on Corning sent platinum prices tumbling in London on Tuesday. However, yesterday analysts said weak platinum prices could be ascribed to gloomy reports on the US economy.

Tuesday's New York close was \$353.50, \$5 down from the day before,

whereas platinum was fixed in London at \$352.90 yesterday afternoon, \$6.60 down from Tuesday's fix.

Emmel said Corning and Johnson Matthey worked closely on the development and manufacture of converters, with Corning being only one of two companies which made the ceramic honeycomb structures or substrates used in the units. Johnson Matthey specialises in coating the substrates with the active metals — platinum, rhodium, and palladium — which extract harmful exhaust gases.

Corning announced at a conference on Tuesday that it had developed an extruded powdered metal and ceramic structure to replace the existing ceramic structures. That was incorrectly construed as meaning a non-platinum catalyst rather than the substrate which carries the platinum-based catalyst itself.

Emmel said the advantage of the new structure was that it could conduct electricity, which would allow converters to be heated and which would, in turn, improve their performance. Cars emit disproportionately high levels of harmful carbon and nitrogen gases in the first minute or so after a cold start. Heating the catalyst will overcome cold start problems.

COMPANIES

Gypsum hit by closure of mine

GYP SUM Industries increased sales in the six months to December 1991 but was affected by the start-up costs of a factory in Brakpan, interest charges and the closure of its Kimberley mine (103/32)

As a result, the first half's earnings before extraordinary items slipped to R6,9m from R7,7m in the same period in 1990.

Turnover increased from R89m to R100,7m while operating income climbed from R15,4m to R16,6m. (217)

Interest paid shot up from R410 000 to R3,3m because of capital invested in the Brakpan factory. In the same period last year an extraordinary item of R1m was written off. B10cm 27/2/92

The directors reported yesterday that

EDWARD WEST

sales increased even though the company's principal market — the house building sector — remained in a mild decline. Operations had also been affected by the declining quality of raw materials from the Kimberley mine which was later closed.

The company's financial year end is to change to March 31 this year and, in the final three months of the present financial period, the board expects earnings to fall

The directors could not be contacted for further comment yesterday.

The first half's earnings dropped to 83c a share from 94c and the interim dividend has been maintained unchanged at 20c

SA bid to be top jewellery supplier

SA WILL soon make a bid to become a major supplier in the international jewellery manufacturing industry.

At a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday, representatives from SA's premier gold and platinum producing, manufacturing and retailing concerns agreed in principle to establish a SA Jewellery Development Corporation

The corporation, to be based in Johannesburg, will attempt to provide a strategy for increasing SA's share of the world and local manufactured jewellery markets

It is intended also that the corporation will co-ordinate technological advances and research

"We want to be a force in jewellery around the world," said the Johannesburg City Council's director of commerce and industry Colin Wright, who facilitated the meeting. SA produced only five tons of jewellery in 1990 of a world total of 1 985t. The local market is estimated to be worth more than R500m, with considerable room for expansion

One idea mooted was to focus on ethnic, African designs for gold and platinum jewellery to secure a niche in the lucrative international market

Another idea was to consider providing locally manufactured jewellery aimed specifically at the ex-

ADRIAN HADLAND

panding SA tourist industry.

Top players in the global fabricated gold jewellery market at present are Italy, India, the US, Turkey, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand

"Ten years ago Thailand produced very little gold jewellery. Now it is among the top 10 producers in the world. We want to do the same thing with SA," said Wright

Restrictions on the SA jewellery industry, including a 35% ad valorem tax, were lifted two years ago and, with the introduction of a government gold loan system whereby manufacturing jewellers can obtain Reserve Bank gold from commercial banks at only 4,5% to 5,5% interest, the way has been cleared for the development of the industry

"The potential of the industry is not being realised at an international level," said Wright. "What was needed was a bold, strategic initiative and that is exactly what we now have"

The possibility of a cheap supply deal with gold and platinum producers on behalf of the Jewellery Development Corporation is believed to be under consideration

A meeting within the next two weeks will discuss more concrete proposals and the undertaking of feasibility studies

Mid Wits work at Venetia paying off

STAR 28/2/92

By Derek Tommey

217

Anglovaal's mining investment and prospecting arm, Middle Wits, could be close to getting the expected return from its investment in Venetia, De Beers' developing mine in the Northern Transvaal, if development is on target.

Mid Wits says its 65,6 percent-owned subsidiary, Saturn Mining, has received a payment of R2,8 million from Venetia for the six months to December.

Pending recoupment of capital, Saturn is receiving a minimum royalty of 12,5 percent of Venetia's profits before appropriation for capital expenditure.

Venetia is operating a bulk sample plant.

The main plant is scheduled to start operating in the second half of this year.

Mid Wits chairman Clive Menell and director BE Hersov say it should reach full production early in 1993 at an annual rate of more than 4 million carats.

Mid Wits increased its earnings by seven percent in the six months to December to R24,9 million — equal to 7,7c a share, and has declared an unchanged interim dividend of 2c

a share

Earnings for the full year to June are expected to be similar to those of last year when attributable profits were R46,6 million — equal to 14,5c a share.

But the directors warn that there is considerable uncertainty about the world's metal markets, the level of interest rates received on surplus funds and the momentum of development at Venetia.

Income from mining investments in the six months was similar to that of a year ago.

Total investment income rose R4,4 million from dividends received on preference share investments.

In the six-month period Mid Wits bought 850 000 ordinary shares in Rand Coal for R11,5 million and invested a further R32 million in preference shares.

The book value of investments at the end of December was R145,6 million, against R143,1 million at the end of last June, and R98,1 million a year earlier.

Net current assets declined to R296,8 million from R341,5 million at the end of June and R448,5 million at the end of December 1990.

MidWits's earnings boosted 7% to R24,9m

8 | Day 21/3/92
THE Anglovaal Group's investment, finance and exploration company, Middle Witwatersrand, has reported a 7% increase in earnings to R24,9m for the half-year ended December 31

An unchanged ordinary interim of 2c has been declared, payable on March 20.

Although the board expects that earnings for the full year will be similar to those of the previous year — when attributable profits amounted to R46,6 million, equivalent to 14,5c — it warns earnings are subject to uncertainties such as world metal markets, interest rates, and to the Venetia diamond mine's development

Prospecting

Income during the period was R46,0m (1990 R50,3m) Mining investment income was generally unchanged as in the period a year ago Interest received fell to R29,2m from R42,3m, because rates were reduced as were surplus funds brought about by purchases

Total expenditure was 15% lower at R6m (R7,1m), of which R4,5m (R6,2m) was spent on prospecting

The net outcome was a pre-tax profit of R40,0m (R43,3m) of which tax took R16,5m (R20,3m)

MidWits's share of associated companies' earnings rose to R5,3m (R4,0m) because of the first-time equity-accounting of MidWits's share of Rhino Andalusite Mines' earnings for the period

The Venetia diamond venture, being de-

veloped by De Beers, is expected to start production in mid-1992 and reach full production in 1993 De Beers is entitled to recoup Venetia's full capital cost before full profit sharing comes into play

Until then, however, Midwits's revenues will be restricted to its 65,6% stake in Saturn Mining which, in turn, will receive a royalty equivalent to 12,5% of Venetia's profit

The directors report that the current phases of the Free State gold prospecting programmes are nearing completion the Sun drilling programme is progressing as planned and is expected to be completed by about the middle of the current year

Results from the Oribi area are now being evaluated, and may lead to the purchase of additional mineral rights in the area, as well as further drilling

At one stage analysts believed the Sun prospect would be developed as an extension of the group's Lorraine mine They now believe this is unlikely as little would accrue in the way of tax benefits They are also cautious about Sun's viability and its likely cost

The group has acquired 850 000 Rand Coal ordinary shares at a cost of R11,5m and has invested a further R32m in preference shares

The market value of MidWits's quoted investments and listed associates on December 31 was R529,3m (R565,2m), the book value was R70,8m (R56,8m)

Business Day Reporter

'Europe in SA chrome venture'

8/10/92 2/13/92
SPECULATION that European stainless steel producers might build a new ferrochrome smelter in SA reflected their logical desire to control a key raw material input, Samancor MD Hans Smith said yesterday

However, Smith said Samancor had not been able to substantiate reports that a consortium of European manufacturers, including Ugine Aciers of France and Krupp of Germany, was going to build a 145 000-ton-a-month plant in SA "At this stage it is just a matter of curiosity," he said.

SA has 72% of world chrome reserves — To Page 2

(217)
MATTHEW CURTIN
and EDWARD WEST

about 3,2-billion tons — and is the world's largest producer of ferrochrome. Stainless steel includes at least 11% chrome — added in the form of ferrochrome — which makes it resistant to corrosion

Smith said one of Samancor's strengths was its self-sufficiency in raw materials, and it was logical that stainless steel manufacturers wanted to achieve the same. Smith said it was not the first time there had been rumours of European producers

Chrome

8/10/92 2/13/92
planning to take over or start new ferrochrome projects in SA

The decision by SA producers to raise ferrochrome prices by 6% in the December quarter last year has angered many stainless steel producers worldwide because the price rise coincided with recession and falling demand for stainless steel. The price rise led to a drastic fall in demand for SA supply as customers were able to buy material on the spot market and scrap supplies at lower prices, while using up extensive inventories.

The London-based Metals Bulletin, which first reported the plans of the European consortium, said although Ugine Aciers officials denied involvement, they

(217) From Page 1
expressed "discouragement" at current ferrochrome prices

The report said that Samancor was planning to raise prices again in the March quarter, from \$0,52 to \$0,55 a pound

Smith said Samancor had not decided on a price for the next quarter and price talks would start in a few weeks

Speculation that overseas producers might be interested rather in a new joint venture with an SA ferrochrome producer was quashed by denials from Samancor, Consolidated Metallurgical Industries and Anglovaal subsidiary Feralloys at the weekend. Chromecorp Technology officials could not be contacted for comment

Palamin ore reserves cast gloom on shares

By Day 3/3/92 (217)

MATTHEW CURTIN

SHARES in Palabora Mining (Palamin) subsided to their lowest levels in more than a year, losing 100c to close at R64 on the JSE yesterday. Market sources attributed the fall to concern over Palamin's future once open-cast ore reserves run out in the year 2000.

An analyst said the likely cost of a new underground mine, needed to extend Palamin's life into the next century, would be R2.5bn. He said investors had not fully appreciated the implications of a decision to go ahead with underground operations. Palamin was best regarded as a mine with a limited life.

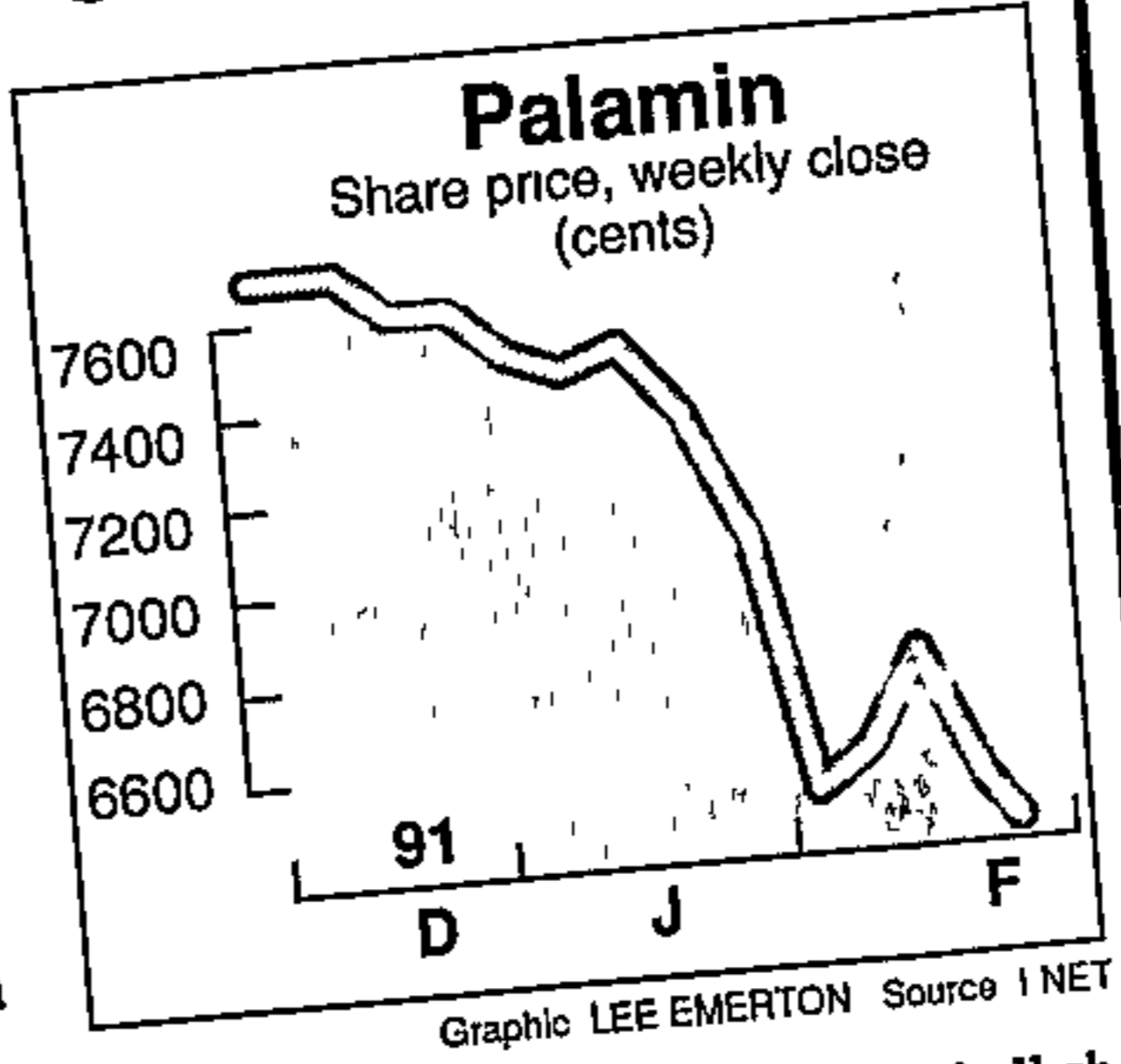
Rio Tinto Zinc, which owns Palamin, had invested little money in the mine since open-pit operations started in 1967, the analyst said. He added that financing an underground operation could be done in part through borrowings and tax credits, but extra finance would be needed.

He said state assistance might be necessary and forthcoming, given the mine's role in sustaining the Phalaborwa community. Palamin had proved a success because it was a low-cost producer.

However, underground mining would involve much higher operating costs. Less waste material would be produced, knocking the contribution of by-products to the company's revenue, and difficult underground conditions would entail enormous refrigeration costs.

A Palamin spokesman said yesterday it was too early to speculate whether underground operations would be given the green light. A pre-feasibility study would be completed only in May, to be followed by a proper feasibility study.

Frankel Max Pollak Vinderine analyst Kevin Kartun said the slide in Palamin's



Graphic LEE EMERTON Source I NET

share price was at odds with more bullish sentiment worldwide about copper's prospects. He said copper had the brightest future of the base metals, with prices likely to be buoyed by production problems and cutbacks in central Africa and elsewhere, and good demand for the metal.

The London Metal Exchange copper price has risen nearly 20% since the start of January, from £1100 to more than £1300 a ton. LME copper stocks reached their highest level since 1984 of 332 000 tons in early January, but fell sharply to 309 000 tons at the end of February.

Kartun said the prospects for the underground shaft were good, because mining would not be far below the bottom of the open-cast pit, and Palamin's mining infrastructure was already in place.

He said Palamin posted good results in the year ended December, given the strength of the world recession. Palamin declared an unchanged total dividend of 780c, attributable earnings fell only 6%, and the shares were good value with a current dividend yield of 12%.

Mining house may take feather from AVI's cap

MINING house Anglovaal would report interim earnings growth of about 15% on Friday, as the group's fortunes were increasingly dependent on the performance of subsidiary Anglovaal Industries (AVI), market analysts said yesterday

They said AVI's excellent results published last week, in which it turned in 18% higher earnings, boded well for the group's chances of surviving the recession comfortably. Good results from frozen foods manufacturer and distributor Irving & Johnson, consumable goods division National Brands and AVI Diversified Holdings' engineering division lifted AVI earnings to R122m from R103m

One analyst said investment in Anglovaal shares was a way to reap the benefits of AVI with "the added excitement" of the group's gold exploration ventures and stake via Middle Witwatersrand Exploration in De Beers new Venetia diamond mine. He said interim results would confirm Anglovaal as the strongest performing mining house

Frankel, Max Pollak, Vinderine analyst Peter Davey said Anglovaal's results would be "much like AVI's", with earnings growth of between 14% and 15%, taking earnings to near R155m in the interim period, from R135m in 1990

Davey said the picture would look less

217
B/10cm 4/3/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

rosy as the recession took its toll, with both AVI and Anglovaal likely to see year-end earnings growth down to about 12% and 9% respectively

Mining contributed 21% of Anglovaal's earnings in 1990/1991, with the group's gold mines contributing only 4%. Its Hartebeestfontein and ET Consolidated gold mines have weathered depressed conditions in the industry, but Loraine's position has become more precarious than a year ago. The gold mine narrowly staved off closure in November, and its survival this year depends on it selling forward half its production at satisfactory prices

Davey said that outside of gold, Anglovaal's key mining interest was Associated Manganese, which would pass on its strong results in the first half of 1991 — due to high manganese ore prices — to Anglovaal. However, manganese ore prices had slipped sharply since December, and with the continuing trough in the ferro-alloy market knocking subsidiary Feralloys, Anglovaal's earnings from base metals and minerals would be lower by year-end.

In 1991 the group posted 18% higher attributable earnings of R280m against R238m in 1990, declaring an unchanged dividend of 92c a share

Mining protesters ask for new study

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

PROTESTERS opposed to open-cast mining on the slopes of Chapman's Peak will support mining if "an objective" environmental impact study shows the site will not be irreparably harmed.

"We will not stand in their way if the government commissions a CSIR study which shows mining will not have an adverse effect on the environment," said Mr Ian Brownlie, coordinator of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

But his proposal has been dismissed by Mr Klaus Zirker, chairman of Continental China, which owns Serina Kaolin Ltd

"As far as I am concerned the environmental impact study commissioned by Serina is objective and I have no reason to believe the CSIR or anyone else will be able to contradict its findings

Fencing

"In any event our study was found not to be biased by Professor Richard Fuggle, professor of environmental studies at UCT

"I also believe it is one of the most comprehensive studies of its kind ever done in this country.

"Ordinarily, I would welcome another study but there is no time. We have already followed the correct legal procedure and have every intention of fencing the site soon. We have to begin erecting our processing plant there by the end of the year," he said

Meanwhile, Serina employees, afraid that they will lose their jobs if the protesters succeed in halting mining, intend to line the route of a Peninsula cycle tour today with posters calling on the Save Chapman's Peak lobby to end its protest.

Medium-term outlook for copper brightens

STAR 9/13/92

By Neil Behrmann (217)

LONDON — Average annual copper prices are expected to dip 10 percent to around 95 US cents a pound in 1992, but will rise sharply to 125c in the following three years

In the short run, high inventories and slow revival from recession will keep prices relatively depressed at present levels of 102c, forecasts the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in an in-depth study of the copper market.

But it then envisages a much tighter market in the years 1993 to 1995.

China, however, could upset the balance in the market and push up prices

It is rumoured to have orders for at least 75 000 tons in 1992

If prices fail to recover quickly from current levels, mines in

real, inflation-adjusted terms will experience deflation

There will thus be considerable pressure on high-cost producers, particularly in central Africa

Low-cost producers such as Palabora, however, are in a strong position

On the demand side of the equation, consumption will grow at an annual average rate of 3,1 percent a year between 1991 and 1996

As a result, total Western demand will rise by 1,78 million tons to 10,52 million tons, predicts the EIU.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations will account for 62 percent of the growth in consumption and rapid economic growth in Asian nations will play a major role in boosting demand elsewhere

To be sure, the EIU expects

copper consumption in South East Asian developing economies to be "virtually unscathed by the recession which has affected countries in Europe, the US, Canada and Australia"

Copper demand will be fairly robust because fibre optics cable "is no longer the menace that it was once perceived to be"

More copper is now being consumed in devices at either end of the fibre-optics communication link than is displaced by the cable itself

Finally, promotion in the building products industry will also boost copper demand, says the EIU

The most positive influence on prices is the likelihood of supply disruptions in Zaire, Zambia and, to lesser extent, Peru, says the report

Mine production in Zambia and Zaire peaked at 1,2 million tons in 1974 and has since slid to 700 000 tons.

Both nations are encumbered by political and economic chaos and are chronically short of funds for mining investment

Management is worried about safety and the copper supply route is unreliable because of damaged railway lines in war-torn areas.

Peace in Southern Africa and an end to economic isolation of South Africa should help the supply line from the very rich copper areas.

But the Aids epidemic is a serious problem, says the EIU.

"The danger is that skilled

workers, supervisors and managers will die of Aids faster than replacements can be trained," says the report.

There will thus be a "slow but steady incidence of breakdowns, accidents, delays and misjudgments and output will suffer"

The EIU expects the annual combined output of Zambia and Zaire, to be down to around 600 000 tons in the next two years before rising above 700 000 by 1996

Meanwhile, guerrilla warfare and labour problems are affecting supplies from Peru, which is producing around 380 000 tons a year

Production elsewhere, however, will offset declines in the trouble spots of the world.

Chile's output is expected to expand to 2,3 million tons in 1996 from 1,8 million tons in 1991, the US and Canada to 2,8 million tons from 2,4 million and Indonesia and the Philippines to 540 000 tons in 1996 from 365 000 tons in 1991

South Africa's output is expected to remain around 200 000

Total Western refined copper production will thus grow to 10,4 million tons in 1996 from 8,5 million tons, predicts the EIU, but will not be sufficient to match demand

The balance will come from former communist bloc nations, although the supply from that region is expected to fall sharply in the next few years

Declining stocks will underpin prices as economies recover, says the EIU

Chrome - gold of the future

If the visionary expectations of some people are realised, South Africans will become as aware of stainless steel and ferrochrome as major exports as they are today of gold.

Industry leaders told The Star they saw this coming about as this country exploits its possession of some 80 percent of world chromium reserves to satisfy environmental needs.

Lengthening the life of structures, eliminating waste, and improving hygiene of eco-systems through use of environmentally friendly materials will mean more use of stainless steel.

"You can say the world will, within 20 years, need 40 projects the probable size of the Columbus Joint Venture in Middelburg," said one source, "and 10 of those could be in SA."

A prediction was made that the value of stainless steel and ferrochromium exports could rise to between R50 and R100 billion compared with R2 billion at present. Essential local producers of fer-

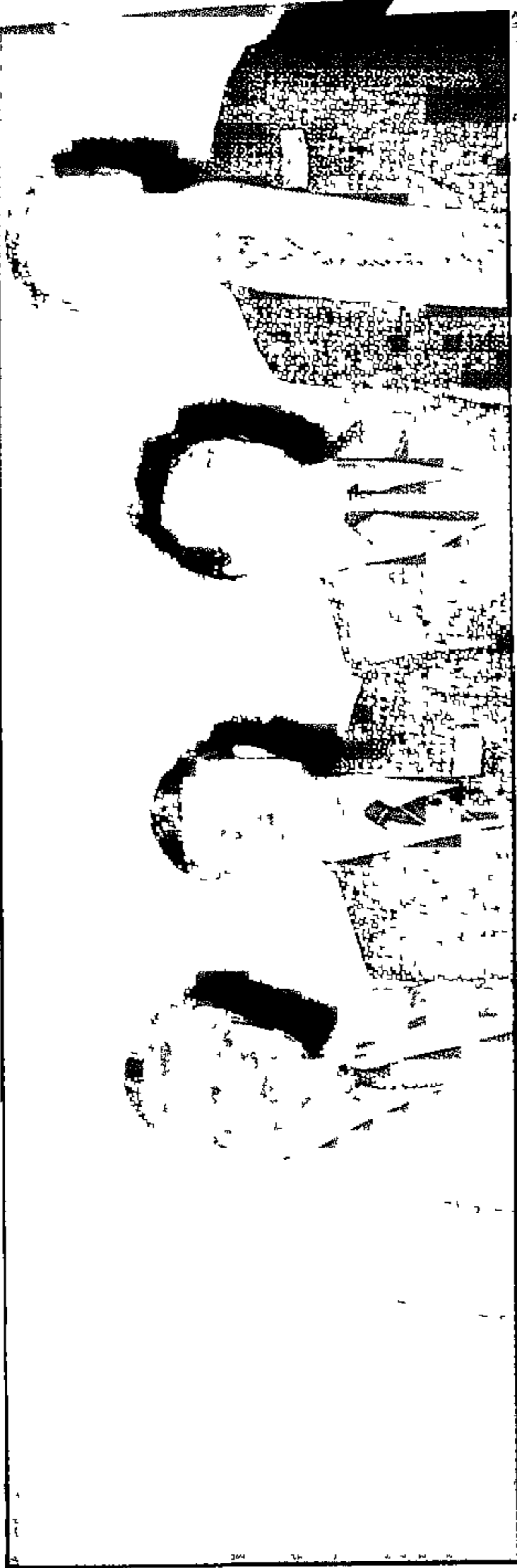
rochrome — the vital ingredient in stainless steel — have to move forward together with stainless steel producers across the world. Combined capacity of four local producers at the moment is about 1,7 million tons a year (see report alongside).

The South African producers are among the 75 members of the International Chromium Development Association (ICDA), which has offices in Paris and Johannesburg.

ICDA says its formation in 1990 was motivated by "chromium's high potential to enhance the materials needed by society". It will "foster and encourage the growth and development of the worldwide use of chromium in all forms."

"Our vision over 20 years is to attain at least five times growth in the consumption of stainless steel through concerted action. This will be stimulated by a strong desire for cost-effective and user-friendly materials providing powerful value benefits."

Current world production of fer-



stainless steel is slightly less than 12 million tons — including 4 million in Western Europe, 3 million in Japan and 2 million in North America.

The 3,3 million tons of ferrochromium used in this production accounts for 75 percent of total world chromium consumption — making this the seventh most used metal.

By comparison, less than 10 percent of chromium used goes into alloy steels and other metals used in, among others, engineering steels, superalloys, tools and ball-bearings. Compared with stainless steel, these steels are in a mature phase of their growth cycle.

Notwithstanding current slack demand, says ICDA, stainless and heat-resisting steels are in the rapid growth phase of the cycle. Structural and utilitarian stainless steels, in particular, are "primed to develop into substantial use".

A defining comment from ICDA: "Chromium is seldom used alone. It is the supreme additive, endowing alloys or materials with economical new properties — strength, hardenability, permanence, hygiene, colour and resistance to temperature, wear and corrosion. This versatility has established chromium in countless applications."

Four ferro-alloy experts at the Cape Town conference attended an Iscor seminar in Pretoria last week. From left: Professors Dieter Neuschütz of Tech University, Aachen, Germany, Naburo Sano, University of Tokyo, Masa Iwase, University of Kyoto and Richard J Fruehan, Carnegie Mellon University, US.

Renewed coal sales to France hailed

5 TAR 13/3/92

By Sven Lunsche

The Chamber of Mines yesterday welcomed the lifting of sanctions on SA coal by the French government, but warned that sales to France would be much lower than in 1986, when sanctions were imposed

In 1985 South Africa supplied 6,5 million tons, or 30 percent, of France's total coal requirements

Since then France had moved away from coal-fired to nuclear-powered power stations and new coal sales were likely to be limited to between 500 000 and one million tons, the chamber said.

This would result in export earnings of about \$30 million and the creation of up to 800 jobs

Nevertheless, a spokesman for the chamber said any move that increased export opportunities in the highly competitive overseas markets was to be welcomed

Total coal exports last year totalled 48,54 million tons valued at R4,24 billion, the Minerals Bureau reported yester-

day in its release of 1991 production and sales figures

Local sales of coal totalled 130,6 million tons worth R4,44 billion to SA's coal mines

Coal sales accounted for almost half of total local mineral sales of R9 billion, the bureau said

(217) Export sales

Local copper sales were valued at R415,6 million, iron ore sales at R366 million, limestone and dolomite at R469,4 million and chrome ore at R272,7 million.

Export sales of minerals netted local producers in excess of R30,4 billion, despite generally depressed international commodity prices

The list of mineral exports is headed by gold sales of R19,3 billion and followed by bituminous coal

Platinum exports totalled R2,7 billion followed by iron ore sales of R783 million

Sales of copper netted R637,6 million, while manganese exports totalled R594,5 million

Mineral exports hit by price slump

B/Dary

13/3/92

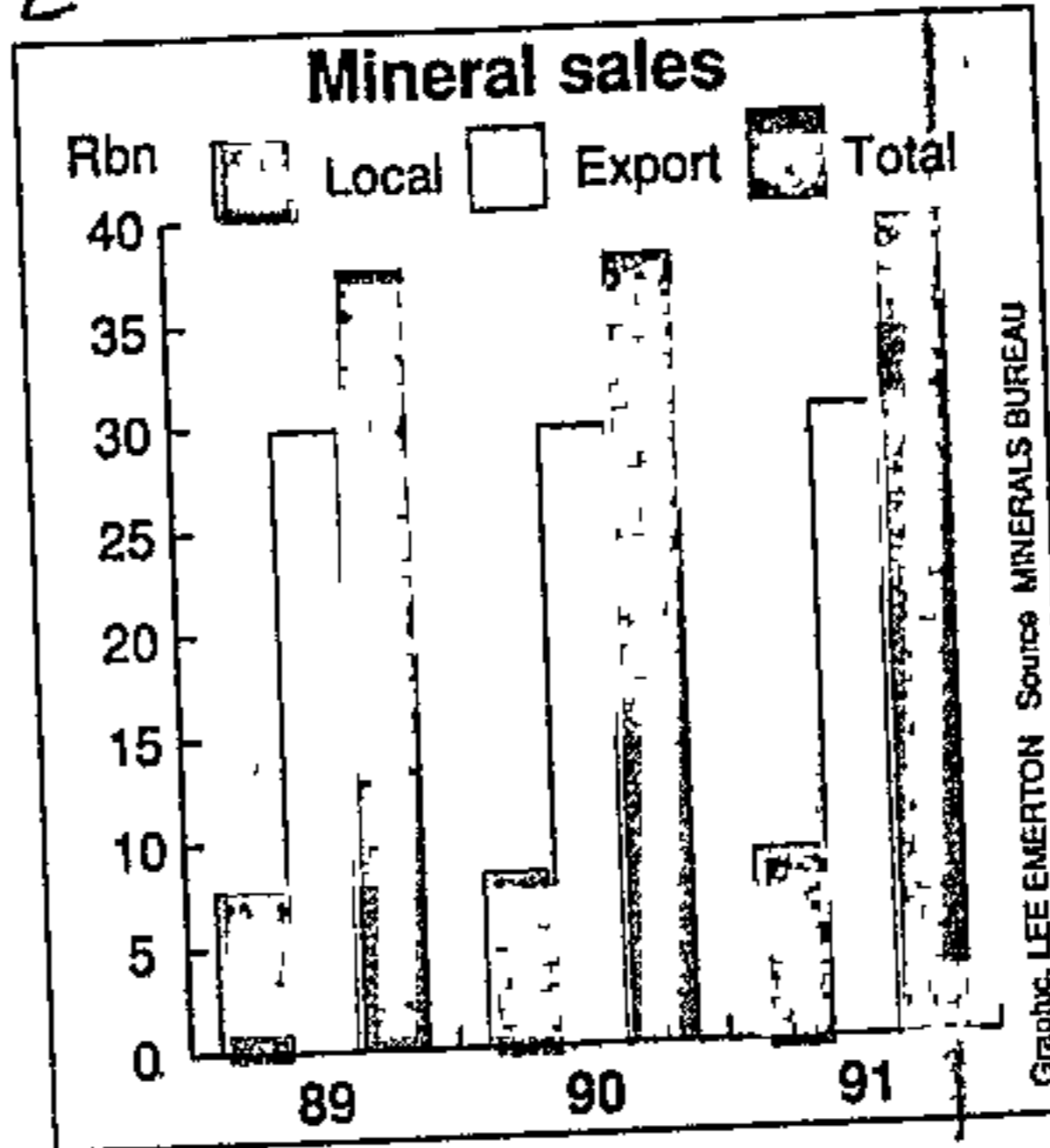
MATTHEW CURTIN

THE value of SA's local and export mineral sales rose a meagre 3,5% in 1991. Exports were hit by the slump in world commodity prices, but the rand's depreciation against world currencies helped offset the fall in prices.

Figures issued yesterday by the Minerals Bureau show the value of SA mineral sales rose to R39,4bn from R38bn in 1990. (The figures do not show mineral production from the TBVC states.) Export sales rose only 2,3% to R30,4bn (R29,7bn). Exports made up 77% (78%) of sales.

Gold sales continue to make up the lion's share of mineral exports, but the second largest and growing contribution comes from coal. Gold sales made up 63% of export sales in 1991, against 65% in 1989. This compared with 14% from coal exports last year, against 13% two years earlier.

Gold sales rose in value to R19,3bn (R19bn), while production fell marginally to 598 tons (603 tons). The figures reflect the rise in the rand price of gold — to an average of R1 000 an ounce (R991) — in spite of a sharp drop in dollar prices. They fell to a 1991 average of \$362/oz (\$384).



Coal export volumes fell to 48,5-million tons (49,6-million tons), but the value of exports rose to R4,2bn (R4bn).

The value of SA base metal exports — chrome, copper, nickel and others — fell sharply in 1991, but the value of iron ore exports rose marginally.

Granite sales continued their sharp increases to reach nearly R200m in 1991, 37% higher than 1989 levels of R144m.

St Lucia in world spotlight

RAMSAR, the world body which protects wetlands, is to send a team of experts to South Africa next month to investigate the controversial Richards Bay Minerals plan to start mining at Lake St Lucia

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Lous Pienaar, has formally

SI Times 15/3/92
By ROY RUDDEN

invited the Campaign for St Lucia to make a presentation to the Ramsar team on April 30

Environmentalists say they are heartened by positive developments in the saga. They claim that

largely foreign-owned industry is threatening the life of one of the world's few remaining great estuarine complexes

In one recent development, Professor Steven Njuguna of Kenya, alternate representative for Africa of the Ramsar Convention (to which the SA

government is contracted) and an ally of the anti-mining lobby, has contacted campaign chairman Oliff D'Oliveira to say he will be accompanying the Ramsar mission which will be in SA from April 25 to May 5

Mr Pienaar has written to Mr D'Oliveira assuring him that maintaining the ecological integrity of St Lucia was of "major concern" to the government.

His letter followed a Sunday Times disclosure that the Democratic and Conservative parties plan to support a private members' motion in the House of Assembly to introduce a Wetlands Conservation Bill which could effectively block RBM's mining plans

Law

In his letter, Mr Pienaar said he had "only recently" received a Ramsar proposal concerning the application of monitoring procedures — which conservationists want him to invoke

"As always our conduct has been strictly in accordance with the rules laid down by the convention," he wrote

Clearly, world pressure would make it embarrassing for the government to oppose the opposition-introduced Bill

No means sanctions and huge job losses

By ROBIN PEGLER and CIARAN RYAN

THE consequences of a No vote on Tuesday will be devastating for JSE-listed companies with established export markets

Capital investment in projects such as Columbus Stainless Steel and the Genref refinery would be halted

Particularly affected would be companies involved in the export of paper, pulp, coal, metals and minerals, fruit and sugar

They include Sappi, Anglo American Industrial Corporation (it has holdings in Highveld Steel, Mondi and Boart), Samancor, Amcoal, Trans-Natal, Rand Coal (formerly Witbank Colliery), Iscor, Langeberg, Tongaat-Huilet and CG Sugar

Value

The R3-billion Columbus venture between Highveld and Samancor would almost certainly be scrapped. The feasibility study said it was only possible if there were no sanctions

Although ferrochrome and ferromanganese are strategic metals and therefore not subject to sanctions, extreme pressure would be placed on consumers to find other sources of supply. This would affect Samancor and Consolidated Metallurgical Industries

Middelburg Steel & Alloys' stainless-steel operations, recently acquired by Highveld-Samancor from Barlows for R500-million, would also be threatened

In terms of tonnage Iscor exports half its output, although the value is less than half

Coal is SA's second-largest export, earning R4.2-billion in 1991. Coal sanctions would be reimposed almost immediately

Rand Coal managing director Rick Mohring says about half the company's

coal is exported. The loss of markets would force the mine to retrench half of its labour force of 12 000

Mr Mohring says "Then there is the multiplier effect caused by the loss of these jobs. Several other people rely on the mining industry. A total European Community ban on coal from SA is a distinct possibility in the event of a No vote"

Citrus and deciduous fruit exports are worth about R1.2-billion a year, much of which would be lost in the event of a reimposition of sanctions

A Sappi spokesman says about 50% of group products — including those of Usutu and Sappi Europe — are sold abroad. A loss of markets would force the company to retrench many of its 18 000 workers

Businessmen say a No vote will outrage the international

community which will respond with a sanctions drive far more severe than any before

The cost of a No vote would be the loss of tens of thousands of jobs within weeks and a freeze on investment, both here and abroad

Barring the possibility of an outright ban on investment in SA, pure rand-hedge shares, such as Richemont, Minorco, Charter and Lonrho, would appreciate in proportion to the decline in the financial rand. The financial rand would plummet as capital fled SA

Under a Conservative government, expenditure would be concentrated on the police, military, public-sector pay rises and bailing out farmers, all of which would be inflationary. Spending on black housing, health and education would probably be curtailed

Sunday Times (Business) 15/12/92

Pouroulis in challenge to Samancor

SAMANCOR may face a new South African competitor in world ferrochrome markets — mining entrepreneur Loucas Pouroulis

Mr Pouroulis is conducting a feasibility study and it is believed that foreign interests are involved

Samancor's takeover of Middelburg Steel & Alloys (MS&A) last year raised its share of SA and world production capacity to 60% and 40% respectively

In spite of the huge world oversupply of ferrochrome and Samancor's announcement in February that it would close its plant for at least three months, there is renewed international interest in ferrochrome ventures.

Buyer resistance to Samancor's price increases and a low entry barrier to the industry have spawned many potential producers.

The London-based Metal Bulletin reports that a group of European stainless-steel producers plan to build a ferrochrome smelter in SA

But it is impossible to substantiate this report.

By IAN ROBINSON

Western European interests are also trying to set up ferrochrome ventures in Russia.

Informed sources at the sixth Infacon (ferroalloys) conference in Cape Town this week told Business Times that several potential SA ferrochrome smelter projects were being investigated by both domestic and foreign interests

Arc

Projects mentioned included a 120 000-ton-a-year plant to be developed by a Swiss-led consortium

Mr Pouroulis is looking at a possible smelter near Rustenburg. New technology including plasma-arc is also being studied

The smelter would be based on chromite from the Goudini mine in the Zeerust district of the Western Transvaal and lower-grade reserves in the Rustenburg district



LOUCAS POUROULIS

Goudini produces high-quality ore with a chrome-iron ratio of more than 2:1 compared with an industry average of about 1.5:1.

Production is low, having fallen from a maximum monthly output of about 12 000 tons in 1990 after cancellation of a major contract with Samancor's Middelburg division

Irish & Menell Rosenberg Inc analyst Dave Russell believes that Goudini's high-grade chromite could bring an advantage over competitors using lower grades

Access to both high- and low-grade ore (in both fine and lumpy form) will provide a range of feedstock for a flexible smelter operation

Rhodium 'a boon to local producers'

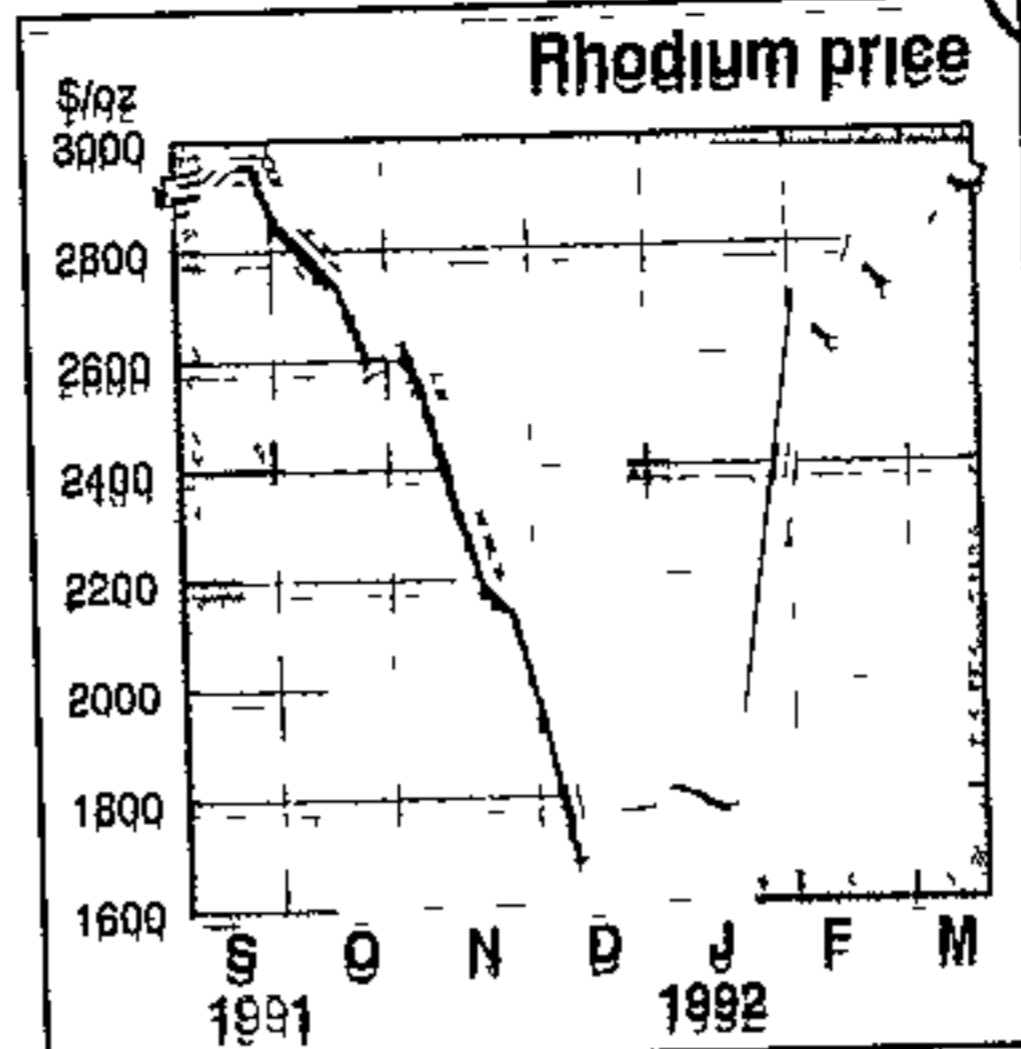
MATTHEW CURTIN

RHODIUM prices have soared by more than \$1 200 an ounce or 170% in the past four months, providing a boon for SA producers still suffering lacklustre platinum prices

Rhodium is currently trading around the \$2 950 mark, its highest level since the end of September last year. By contrast, platinum was fixed yesterday afternoon at \$355,75, several dollars below the average price for the past year of \$369/oz.

Implats Platinum (Implats) marketing director John Hollely said yesterday that rhodium prices reflected good fundamental conditions affecting supply and demand for the metal.

Rhodium has become increasingly important in the manufacture of modern catalytic converters. Standard converters use three-way catalysts containing small amounts of



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: I NET

rhodium, platinum and palladium

Revenue from rhodium has become the mainstay of profits at Implats and Rustenburg Platinum because of the four-year slide in platinum prices. Implats earned nearly 30% of its metal revenue from

rhodium in 1991, compared with only 13% the year before

Hollely said expected demand for rhodium in converters was likely to sustain current prices, while uncertainty about Russian supply of platinum group metals was helping bolster prices.

However, he noted that rhodium was thinly traded and the market was highly sensitive.

Implats was still confident that in the longer term, prices would respond to the good physical demand for platinum.

Irish Menell Rosenberg analyst David Russell said yesterday rhodium's current trading range was satisfactory. Implats and Rustenburg Platinum hoped to avoid a repeat of the price surge in mid-1990, which took prices above \$7 000/oz, as it encouraged moves to find substitutes for rhodium in car converters.

Boost in incentives for beneficiation projects

MATTHEW CURTIN

ALUMINIUM producer Alusaf's multi-billion-rand expansion programme is likely to go ahead because of amendments to the Income Tax Act announced in the Budget yesterday.

The R3bn to R4,5bn project, together with the R2,5bn Columbus Stainless Steel project, has excellent chances of qualifying for tax incentives designed to promote largescale capital projects involving the beneficiation of base metals in SA, industry sources say.

Finance Minister Barend du Plessis said yesterday government decided to widen the parameters of the special accelerated deductions under section 37E of the Act. The original amendment provided for the accelerated and enhanced depreciation of machinery, plant and buildings used in the beneficiation of local minerals and immediate deduction of any preproduction interest, subject to certain criteria.

Trade and Industry and Economic Co-ordination Minister Derek Keys said the Act's definition of beneficiation had been broadened to include imported raw materials and intermediate products.

A second key amendment was the clarification of the value which projects had to add to these, he said.

Alusaf — in which mining group Gemmin has a 31% stake — plans to import alumina from abroad for conversion locally to aluminium, which it believes it can do more than competitively because of a favourable agreement with Eskom, which ties electricity costs to aluminium prices.

Gemmin minerals division MD Fred Roux said it was now "extremely likely" that Alusaf would give the project "the green light" at the end of June.

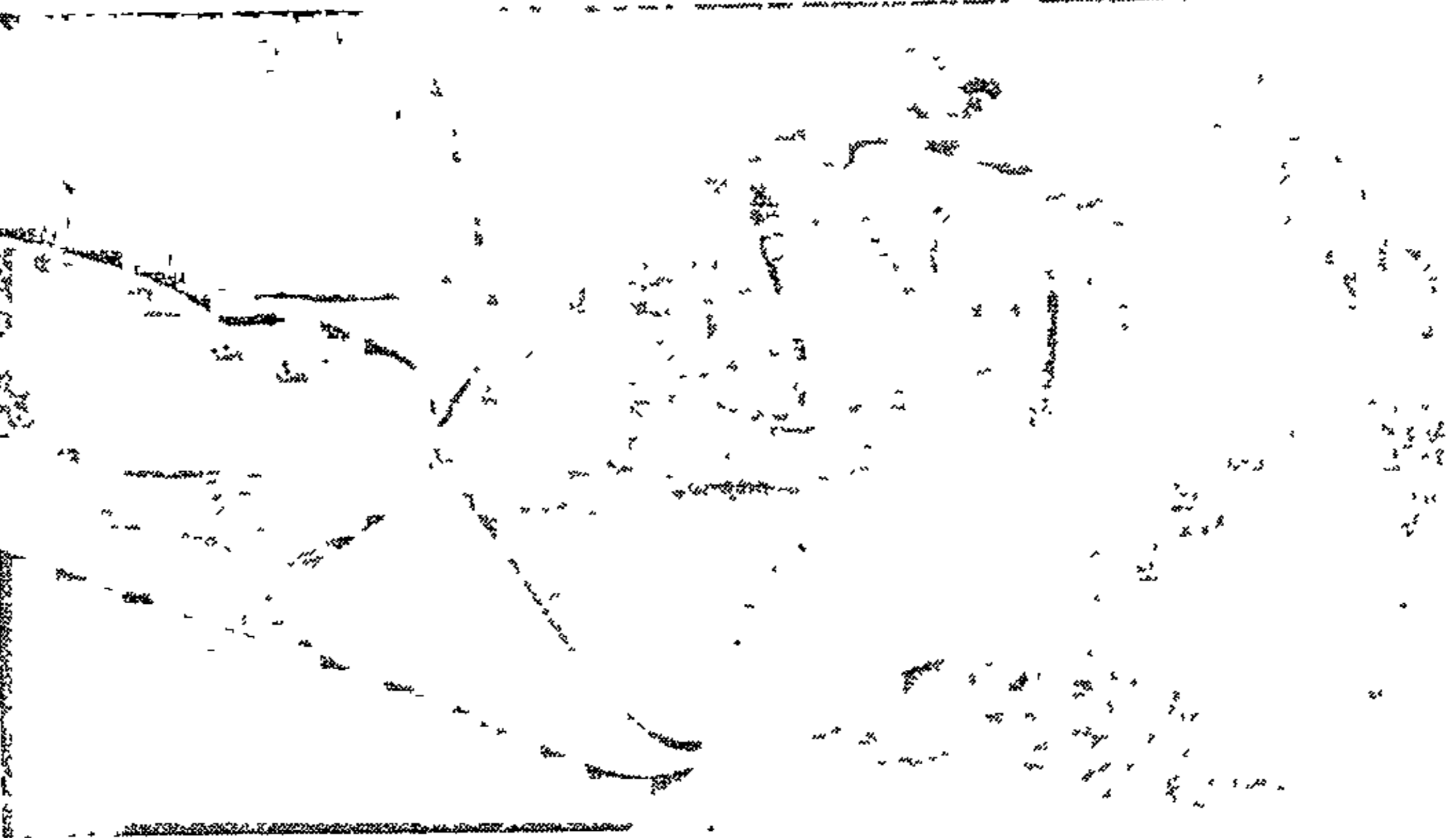
MD Rob Barbour said the government's move was "a very important step" in addressing the project's huge capital cost. Roux said in the longer term, SA, because of cheaper electricity, could look at beneficiating African mineral production in general.

Anglo American senior economic consultant Jim Buys welcomed the ending of the narrow focus of the previous amendments. Much of the economic success of newly industrialised countries in the Far East was owed to their ability to import raw materials, add value to them and export them profitably, he added.

Du Plessis also brought mining taxation more in line with company taxation. He proposed the mining tax formula would be adjusted in line with the 2% cut in the company rate last year. And, phase four of the phasing out of the surcharge on non-gold mines would proceed, with the proposed implementation of a 3% surcharge, against 6% last year, reducing the tax rate to 49,4%.

Anglo American tax consultant Mairns van Blerck and KPMG Aiken & Peat partner Alister Mackenzie said the move was welcome, but noted the effect would be negligible given the poor profitability of the industry at the moment.

Trade and Industry Minister Derek Keys Picture ROBERT BOTHA



Gold and platinum decline continues

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE gold and platinum tailspin gathered momentum yesterday. Technical analysts said worse was in store for the metals which had hit a severe bear market and could fall to their lowest levels since 1985 within weeks. Gold and platinum prices fell again yesterday, taking JSE shares with them, with overseas reports crediting the price weakness to Wednesday's "yes" vote in the referendum.

Gold was fixed in London yesterday afternoon at \$337.80, down from Wednesday's close of \$340.25. The metal ended the day at \$336.65.

Platinum's crash continued as the metal fell to \$346.25, London's afternoon fix, down from \$360 at the start of the week. The all gold index shed 41 points to close at 1126, while the platinum index lost 108 points, ending the day at 4384.

Irish McNeill Rosenberg analyst Jack Singer said "Gold will move down to as low as \$331 an ounce by March 24." He said the metal would recover towards the end of the

month, before slipping back to \$331 in early April. "April 3 to 10 is going to be a crunch period for precious metals. Gold may hit new lows, but then recover to test the key \$356 resistance level again," he said.

Reuter has reported that fears of a no-vote and ensuing unrest which could disrupt gold and platinum production buoyed prices last week but soon evaporated when the extent of the pro-reform vote became clear.

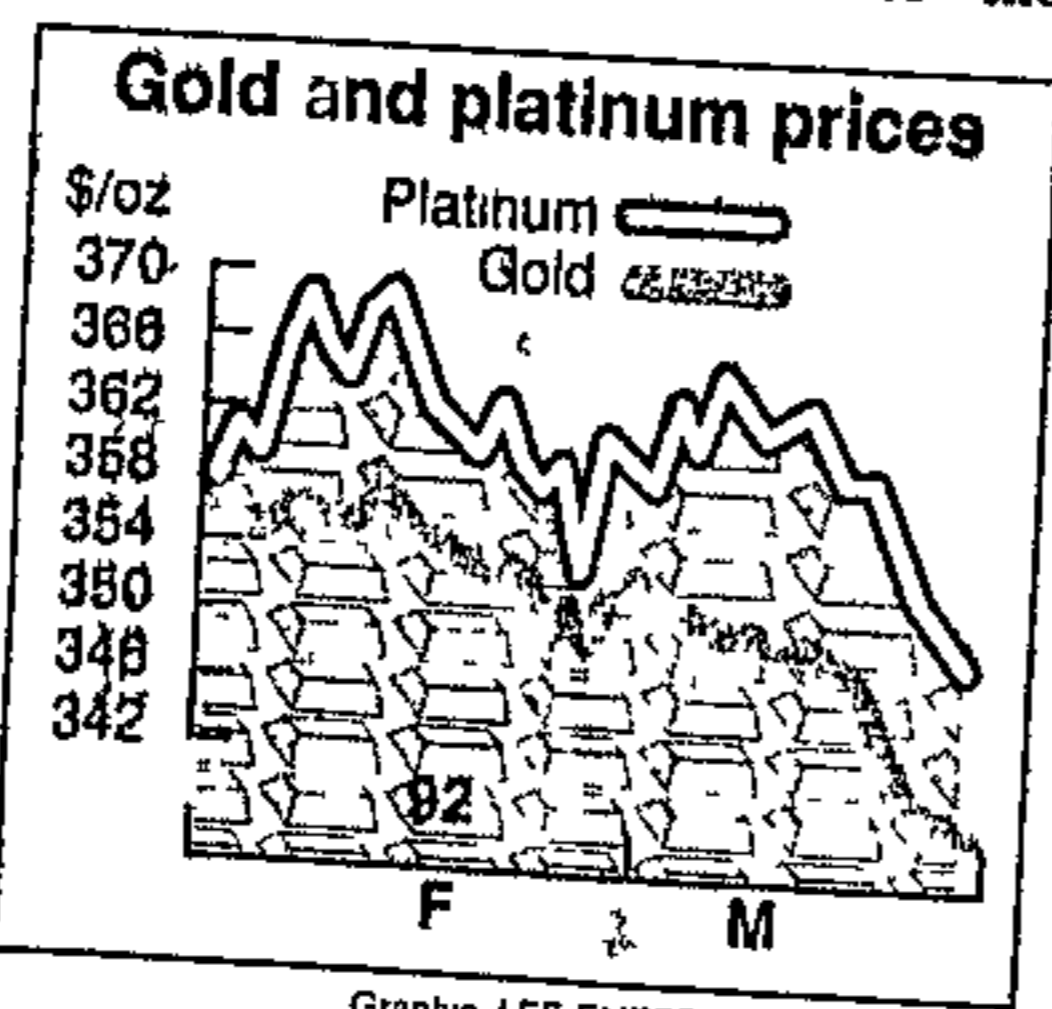
However, Edey Rogers analyst Keith Bright said such fears were no more than "misplaced overseas investors' perceptions of SA."

More importantly, analysts said the strong dollar and increasingly fragile New York, London and Tokyo stock exchanges were taking their toll on prices.

One technical analyst said "Gold prices have lost momentum ever since the dollar started to strengthen in early 1991. It's now a traders market and gold's downside is such that it could fall below \$330 an ounce." She said gold would have to fall even more sharply if there was to be a good rebound in prices, with only a mild recovery likely in mid-year if the metal steadied around \$330/340.

Singer said platinum could fall as low as \$329 an ounce.

He said his point and figure chart analysis showed that platinum had fallen through the \$355 support level, and while it would find support at \$344 and recover in the short-term to \$348, the metal "looks sick" and could fall lower.



Graphic LEE EMERTON Source I NET

Referendum lifts Lonrho share price

B/day 20/3/92

Own Correspondent

LONDON — The resounding "yes" vote in Tuesday's referendum saw Lonrho's share price bounce back by more than 10% to 108p yesterday. This is in spite of the removal of the multinational conglomerate from the London Stock Exchange's top 100 list and a bearish forecast by the group's own stockbrokers.

UBS Phillips and Drew's report, entitled *Dependent on Disposals*, predicted that Lonrho's pre-tax profits will fall by a further 27.5% this year to £150m after the 24% drop to £207m in 1990-91.

It highlights the dilemma facing Lonrho as it cuts its £1bn debt.

The group's highest quality assets, and those in hard currency countries, are the easiest to sell but without them Lonrho's remittable cash flow will suffer.

The decision of the steering committee of the stock exchange to delete Lonrho — along with three other companies — from the list of shares which make up the Financial Times-Stock Exchange (FTSE) index of 100 leading shares is not a comment on

the company itself, but simply its share price performance.

Lonrho's price has more than halved in the last four months, and it stands at about a third of its 1988 peak of 320p when Australian financier Alan Bond acquired more than 15% of the group.

At the time, Lonrho was worth £2bn — and chief executive Tiny Rowland boasted that its real value was £5bn.

Disillusionment with the group's performance and management, plus the sub-investment rating given to its \$350m Eurodollar debt by Moody's Investor Services of the US, knocked the shares back to a seven-year low of 94p last week.

This put a market value of £600m on the group.

Yesterday, however, Lonrho rallied as the "yes" vote for political reform allayed worries about the vulnerability of its Western Platinum operation in SA to civil unrest.

It was earlier reported in London

that Lonrho was classically positioned for a takeover bid "within months" and that entrepreneur Lord Hanson was one of those interested in its mining division.

The Sun newspaper said Tiny Rowland's once great empire was "ripe for the picking" with shares having fallen from 250p to just 91p in a year, with debts of £100m.

Rowland had pledged to sell £500m worth of assets this year and London analyst Rob Davies was quoted as saying Lonrho was a "definite takeover target".

An analyst quoted in the Financial Times said Lonrho's sales would not make "a blind bit of difference".

The Financial Times said Phillips and Drew believed Western Platinum was worth only half the £1bn valuation put on it by Rowland in his group's 1990 annual report. Lonrho has a 75% stake in the mine.

Phillips and Drew were also quoted as saying Lonrho had concentrated too much on the possible disposal of UK assets and not enough on possible disposals abroad.

217

Plat⁽²¹⁷⁾ slump may be ending⁽¹¹⁵⁾

⁽¹¹⁵⁾
STIMES (13455)
JAPAN'S consumption of platinum is expected to decline this year as economic growth cools. It is the largest market in the world for platinum jewellery. 22/3/92

SA platinum producers — Rusplats, Implats and Wesplats — have been squeezed by a falling metal price. In yen terms platinum is the cheapest it has been for several years, occasionally trading at a discount to gold.

The good news for SA is that the fall in the metal price is probably coming to an end, although this will depend to a large degree on the rate of economic recovery in Japan over the next two years and the level of disposable incomes for jewellery purchases.

According to Johnson Matthey, Japan consumed 1.12-million ounces of "white metal" for jewellery in 1989, rising to 1.19-million ounces in 1990 and 1.28-million ounces (provisional) in 1991 out of total world consumption of 3.88-million. Jewellery sales in Japan have increased at a compound annual rate of 7% since 1981 as younger Japanese have spent more on jewellery.

Correlation

Japan accounts for more than 90% of world platinum jewellery demand. If one includes investment and autocatalyst off-take, Japan accounts for more than 50% of total world demand.

One platinum analyst interviewed says: "Platinum off-take by Japan could be lower this year, which will be the first such decline since 1983. This would reflect the slowing down of the Japanese economy, particularly in the jewellery trade."

He says there is a strong correlation between the sharp decline of the Nikkei, which began in 1990, and the fall in the platinum price.

"This indicates that as investment confidence waned in Japanese equities, it appeared to spread to that of platinum."

The "white metal" is regarded as a symbol of pure love in Japan, according to the Japanese trade bulletin, Tradescope. About 97% of all wedding rings sold in Japan are made from platinum.

The Japan branch of the Platinum Guild International (PGI) says there are several reasons why platinum is in strong demand in Japan.

"First and foremost is the traditional Japanese sense of beauty through which value is determined by the degree of refinement, and secondly is the traditional desire for authenticity."

Prices will rise, says Impala MD

SA's Impala Platinum Holdings believes prices for the metal are poised to recover as supplies start to tighten more than the market expects, says MD Michael McMahon.

"We're saying the market is wrong," he told Reuters in an interview, commenting on continued weakness in the market which, in Europe, opened yesterday at \$352,50 an ounce. *Buy 27/3/92*

McMahon, who represents the world's second biggest platinum producer, said the new market trend was reflected in the "backwardation" in the futures market. *(217)*

The fact that prices for futures delivery were lower than current prices, rather than higher to account for the cost of money, reflected the market view, but not Impala's, that the shortage in the metal was temporary.

McMahon said a shift in the balance between supply and demand had already taken place — Reuter.

No quick ⁽²¹⁷⁾ recovery ⁵¹⁸² says Assmang ^{27/7/92}

Consolidated taxed profit of Associated Manganese Mines (Assmang) amounted to R105,3 million in the year to last December (R108,1 million previously), chairman Basil Hersov says in his annual review

However, after transferring R1,6 million (R12,4 million) to the non-distributable reserve, consolidated earnings rose to 2922c a share (2695c), while the total dividend payout remained unchanged at 750c.

It was expected that demand for and prices of manganese and iron ore in 1992, would be lower than in 1991, while demand for and prices of ferro-manganese and ferrochrome remained depressed

No meaningful recovery is expected in the current year.

Manganese ore sales were 300 000 tons lower at 1,011 million tons, while those of iron ore declined by 314 000 tons to 1,763 million tons

Higher US dollar prices achieved for manganese ore in the latter part of 1990 were maintained, which more than offset the effect of lower sales.

Operating profit rose by R34,6 million to R212,2 million

After adding interest received and deducting interest paid and other expenses, pre-tax profit rose to R209,6 million (R170,5 million)

Tax and the state's share of profit absorbed R104 million (R79,8 million)

With R1,6 million (R12,4 million) being transferred to non-distributable reserves for capital expenditure, distributable profit was R25,7 million higher at R104 million — equivalent to 2930c (2207c) a share.

Since the end of the financial year, the company has become a subsidiary of Anglovaal.

The long-standing arrangements between Anglovaal and Associated Ore & Metal Corporation (which holds 45 percent of the issued share capital of the company), in terms of which they act jointly in the interests of the company, remain unchanged.

The year-end is to be changed to June 30. The current financial period will cover the 18 months to June 1993 — Sapa

30 27 Mining at Rooiberg Tin cut back as losses mount

MINING at Rooiberg Tin, SA's last tin producer, has been severely curtailed and the mine will probably close if tin prices do not recover in the coming year

The move comes after weeks of speculation that Rooiberg, owned by Gold Fields of SA, will have to close soon. In the past few weeks Rooiberg stock has plunged more than 25% in

870 am 1/4/92 (217)
MATTHEW CURTIN

value, finishing at a new low of 150c on Monday

A Rooiberg spokesman says the mine's operating losses of the past two years, the result of low tin prices, have eroded its financial reserves to the point where losses are unsustain-

able, given all the mine's closure commitments

He says underground operations on the N A D section will stop as soon as possible and mining at C mine will be cut to 6 000 tons of high grade ore a month

If tin prices improved in the next 12 months, management would reassess the mine's position

Strong demand for rhodium, platinum

3 (0am) 2/4/92

(2/7)

MATTHEW CURTIN

MOTOR industry demand for platinum and rhodium is helping drive prices higher, with rhodium prices at their highest since August last year.

Rhodium is trading at \$3 000 an ounce, up 67% from its most recent low of \$1 800 in early January.

In spite of investor gloom on world stock markets yesterday and sluggish gold prices, platinum prices capitalised on Tuesday's sharp increases, with the metal fixed at \$362,50 in London yesterday afternoon, a \$4,50 jump from the previous fix.

Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) marketing director Todd Bruce said yesterday there had been a shortage of platinum sponge on and off since November last year, and demand was encouragingly strong. Lease

rates for platinum sponge had risen to 5,5 to 6%, with the rate for platinum plate at 3 to 3,5%.

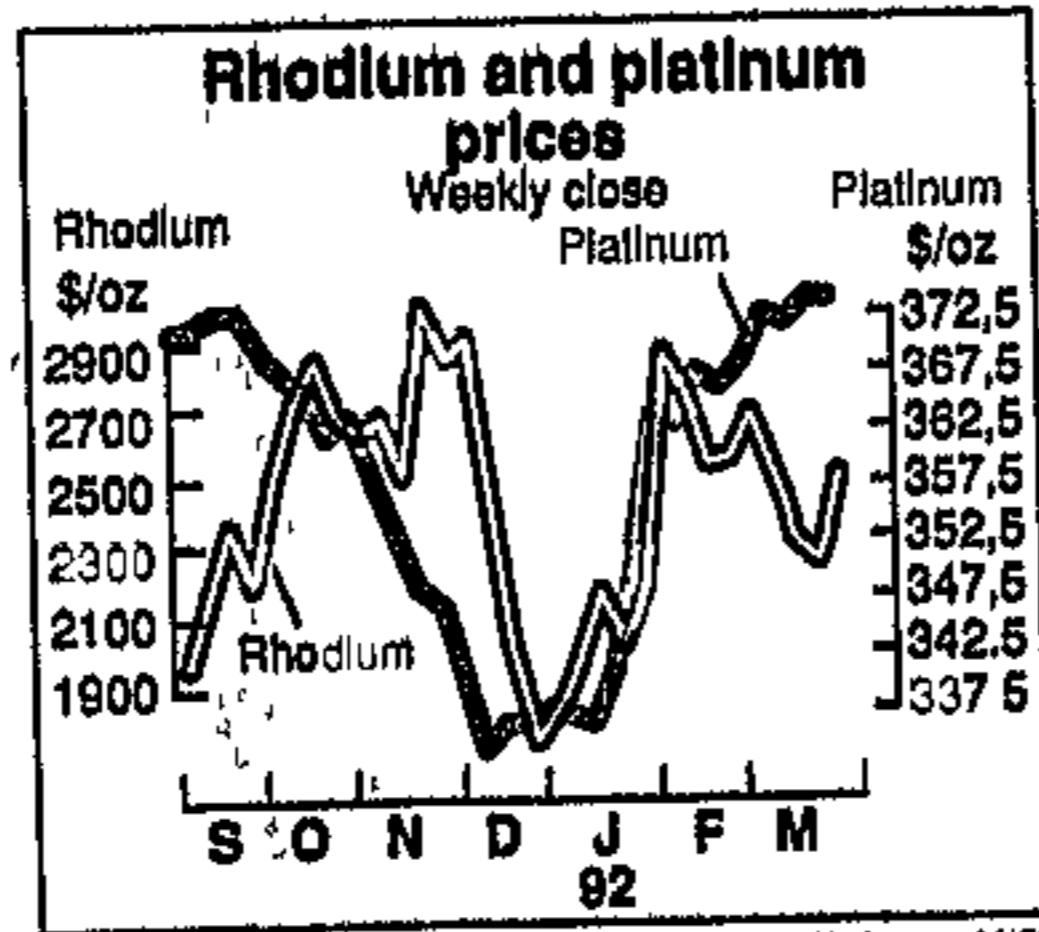
Bruce said producers had long been concerned that weak prices were not an accurate indication of the demand for platinum.

Frankel, Max Pollak, Vinderine analyst Kevin Kartun said car manufacturers had been buying large amounts of platinum and rhodium. Although new clean-air regulations governing car emission only come into force in the EC next year, manufacturers would be fitting catalytic converters to new models as early as August this year. Only converters containing platinum and rhodium are sufficiently effective to meet both new EC and existing US regulations.

Analysts said yesterday although good demand for the metals was affecting prices, some of their strength was still a reflection of the disruptions to Impala Platinum's mines in Bophuthatswana.

The platinum board on the JSE was unmoved by the better prices yesterday, with market leader Rusplat and sister mines Leboŵa Platinum and Potgietersrust Platinums losing ground.

The index fell 13 points to 4 432.



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: I-NET

Base metals reel after slack demand, low prices

Bloom 2/4/92
GOLD FIELDS of SA's base metal division reeled under the effect of slack demand and weak prices in 1991 and the outlook for the current year is little better.

Alan Wright, chairman of the group's investment company Vogelstruisbult, which has major investments in the companies which make up the division, said in his 1991 annual review that base metals were expected to continue suffering from stagnant demand and increasing supply.

Vogel's earnings fell 24% in 1991 and Wright said the company's investment income would stay under pressure in 1992.

He noted that average silver, coal, copper, tin, lead and zinc prices had been stable or fallen in the past 10 years.

The company received no dividend from unlisted base metal producer Black Mountain, whose after-tax profit fell to R9,6m in 1991, from R31,7m.

After Tuesday's announcement that Rooiberg Tin had moved a step closer to closure, the worst news was from copper and lead producer, Gold Fields Namibia.

Chairman Colin Fenton said with the prospect of weak demand for copper and unchanged prices it was unlikely shareholders could expect dividend payments.

The company passed its 1991 dividends

(217)
MATTHEW CURTIN

as it posted a R7,1m attributable loss compared with a R6,6m profit in 1990.

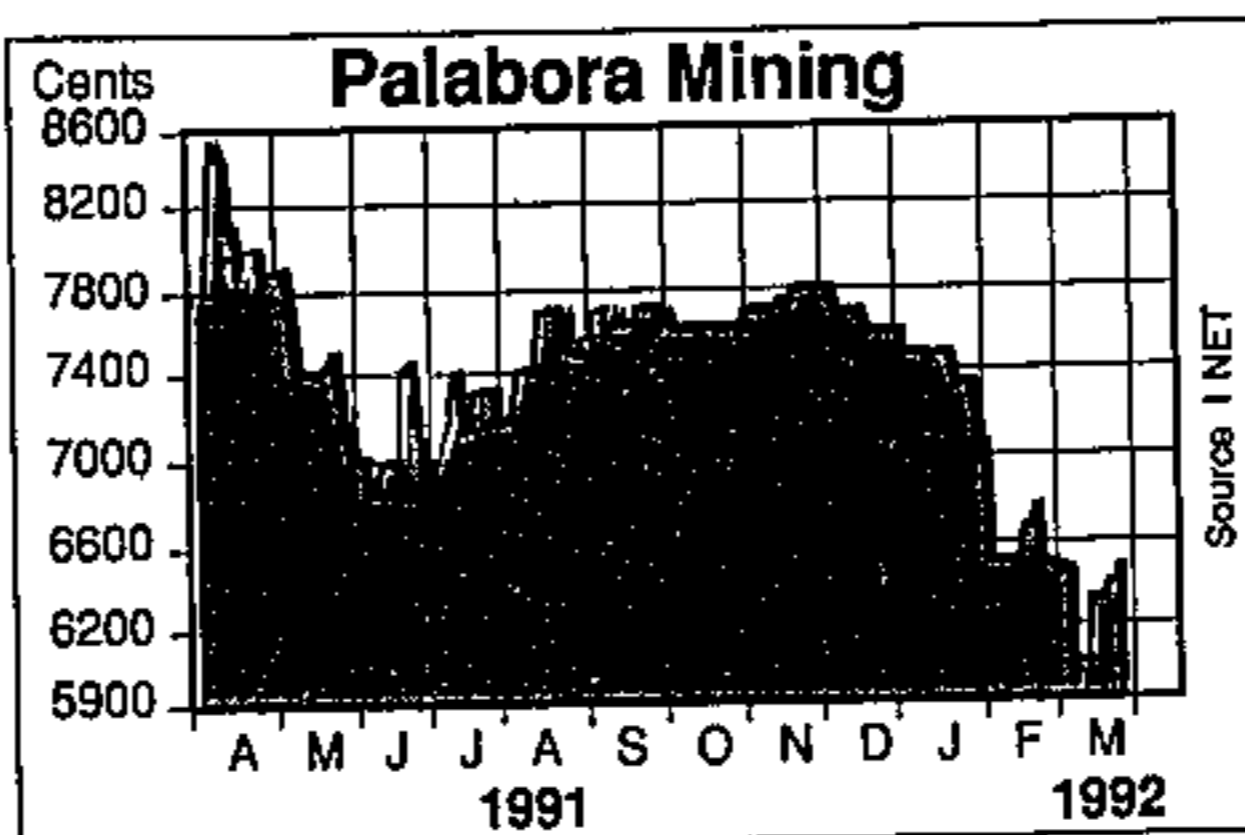
Fenton said the Tsumeb, Kombat and Otjijase mines struggled to reach production potential with equipment problems, poor ground conditions and large volumes of underground water.

O'okiep Copper was blighted by weak metal prices, and problems in its smelter which hit blister copper production.

Chairman John Hopwood said spending on the company's new Nigramoep mine gathered momentum in the year, and the mine's metallurgical plant was near completion. Production would start in the next three months with a capacity of 40 000 tons a month by the September quarter.

Zinc Corporation (Zincor) produced solid results. Zinc production fell to 145 000 tons from 151 000 tons, but exceeded the company's budget as local sales, 4% up at 88 395 tons, were higher than expected. Exports more than doubled to 4 230 tons.

Lower zinc prices in 1991 saw profit on sales fall 14%, which offset Zincor's improving refining margins. Declared zinc recovery improved 1,9% to 91,8%.



Both production and sales tonnages of copper were the highest in at least the past five years (see table) On the other hand, total sales tonnage of the various by-products are down on levels of a couple of years ago

Copper sales of R836m including concentrates accounted for 84% (1990 84%) of group turnover Other contributors to revenue were anode slimes R35m (3,5%), vermiculite R50m (5,1%) and other products R71m (7,1%)

Capital spending last year totalled R113,5m, of which R22,8m was for underground exploration work Other major capital items included the upgrading of the zirconia plant, down payments for the acquisition of two new shovels, commencement of the smelter upgrade, installation of converter cranes in the smelter, replacement of haul-truck engines, and refurbishment of an acid distribution system

Improved liquidity

Despite lower operating profit and the continued high level of investment, the liquidity position improved quite markedly Borrowings were reduced to just over R19m, while the cash balance rose some R15m, to R56,6m With demand for copper still weak, Palabora will probably have to rely more heavily on investment income this year

Chairman Al Leroy notes that, despite the recession in the US and UK, the price of copper metal remained surprisingly resilient throughout most of 1991 The average Lon-

don Metal Exchange cash settlement price was £1 325/t (US106,2c/lb), while Palabora achieved an average price of 107,4c/lb Demand for copper remained firm in both Europe and the Far East, these areas being traditional markets for the company's high-grade cathode

The rand copper price, at R6537/t, was 5% lower than the average price received in 1990, of R6882/t But the copper price weakened towards the end of the year and with a strong supply position the average price of copper "could well ease further"

Leroy notes that the year ahead is unlikely to provide significant industrial growth, and the copper price in the early part of 1992 is below average levels experienced in 1991

Notably, LME copper stocks have increased sharply since mid-1990, and at around 320 000 t are at the highest level since late 1983 — hardly a picture that suggests a sudden recovery in offtake of new production is in the offing yet

Depreciation of the rand this year would provide some cushion against stodgy product prices But, with the share price at R65, yielding 12,7% on dividend, the market seems to be anticipating a further drop in earnings and probably a cut in the dividend

Andrew McNulty

PALABORA MINING

Cost buffer

FM 3/4/92

217

Activities: Mining, extraction and sale of copper, process by-products include anode slimes, magnetite, sulphuric acid, uranium concentrates and zirconia A vermiculite deposit is exploited adjacent to the copper operation

Control: RTZ Corp Plc 38,9%

Chairman: A J Leroy, MD F Fenwick

Capital structure: 28,3m ords Market capitalisation: R1,84bn

Share market: Price R65 Yields 12,7% on dividend, 12% on earnings, p e ratio, 7,9, cover, 1,0 12-month high, R85, low, R60 Trading volume last quarter, 90 000 shares

Year to Dec 31	'88	'89	'90	'91
Copper production (000t)	118	126	116	119
Sales (000t)				
— Copper	119	129	126	130
— Other	416	420	390	399
Sales (Rm)				
— Copper	706	972	853	836
— Other	153	165	164	156
Net profit (Rm)	186	289	227	227
Earnings (c)	658	1 032	805	825
Dividends (c)	565	875	780	780

Cost efficiencies and an improved production performance helped buffer Palabora against a softer copper market last year, but profit fell and the squeeze looks set to intensify this year

Palabora has long had a reputation for effective cost controls, and it again achieved good cost figures in several areas The average ex-mine unit production cost of cathode copper for the year increased only 4,7%, while the milling unit cost was 8,7% above the 1990 levels

Unit cost of smelting was 27,9% up on 1990, partly owing to additional oxygen trucked in by road to boost smelting rates, but the refining unit cost fell 1% Operating cost for all mine operations combined was R463,2m, some 10% above the previous year's level of R419,2m

Mining operations benefited from an improved waste ore ratio, as well as a sound milling and concentrating performance



Palabora's Leroy copper price could ease further

Platinum producers optimistic

By Derek Tommey

(217)

Platinum producers are a little more optimistic about the outlook for the metal.

Although last Wednesday's jump in price was not maintained, there appears to be a feeling in the industry that demand and the price are about to improve.

One reason is that the Russian precious metal trading organisation, Almazynvelrexpport, announced last week it was to retain its monopoly on platinum group metals.

One of the causes of the drop in price last week was the dumping of Russian platinum on the market.

However, "Almaz" has always traded responsibly. The news that

Russian platinum sales are likely to remain in the competent hands of an organisation devoted to getting the platinum price up has helped reassure the market.

Analysts point to another development last week, that has raised expectations.

This was the ending of the "backwardation" in the platinum sponge market.

Backwardation occurs when the future price is lower than the present price and indicates that the market is expecting supplies to increase.

But the market has now reverted to normalcy, and future prices are standing above current prices, suggesting that a shortage of platinum sponge could develop in the coming months.

STAR 6/14/92

Analysts believe that any significant shortage of platinum could lead to a spurt in the metal price as holders of loose stocks withdraw from the market.

● Visitors to this year's Rand Easter Show can see an example of the fuel cell that is expected to play a major role in the generation of electric power from the turn of the century onwards — and assure a bright future for platinum.

The fuel cell generates electric power, water and heat from natural gas.

It is still in the early stages of development, with a capital cost per unit about twice that of a normal generating station.

But as the Japanese, who have made the most progress in the development of the cell, continue

their researches, it is expected to become cheaper and more competitive.

This, together with an abundance of natural gas, the clean and quiet operations of the fuel cell and the fact that it can be operated in isolated areas (it is used on spacecraft) is expected to result in a huge demand for the system.

Platinum producers expect to benefit because platinum plays a major role as a catalyst in the fuel cell.

One useful development for platinum producers is that natural gas producers see the fuel cells providing a growing market for their gas. As a result, the gas producers are pushing heavily for the use of fuel cells.

Platinum prices firm as market shrugs off reports

610am 8/4/92 (217)
PLATINUM prices firmed in late trading yesterday as the market lost interest in reports of rising Russian supplies and Japanese sales of the metal

Platinum prices confirmed their volatile performance of recent weeks, with London's afternoon fix up at \$371 from the morning mark of \$349.35, but still lower than Monday's afternoon fix of \$354

Industry and market sources said in Johannesburg yesterday that platinum prices would soon shrug off their short-term blues and trade as high as \$380 and \$400 an ounce by the end of the year. Growing platinum consumption by the motor industry as new cars had to meet tightening clean-air regulations, followed by growing demand for platinum catalysts in the manufacture of fuel cells, would sustain sharply higher prices in the longer term.

Fuel cells have been billed as one of the cleanest and most efficient new energy sources and may be in widespread use by the late

MATTHEW CURTIN

'90s. The units, which convert hydrogen-rich gas and oxygen to electricity, work most efficiently with platinum catalysts

Impala Platinum MD Mike McMahon has said that by the late '90s, fuel cell manufacturers would consume thousands of ounces of platinum a year.

Genmin strategy and planning senior manager Almore Maule said that demand for platinum in fuel cells was a major factor in forecasting consumption of the metal from 1995.

Contradicted

Sources added that higher leasing rates for platinum, and the premium being paid for platinum sponge over spot prices, indicated markets were at last taking stock of current demand for the metal

Irish Menell Rosenberg analyst David Russell said reports that Russian supplies of platinum would increase in 1992 contradicted all signs of the Russian platinum sector's state

Platinum group metals were produced as a by-product of Russia's Norilsk nickel operation. Production was under pressure because of a new tax on primary products exports, and pressure from Scandinavia on Norilsk to cut back its noxious smelter emissions

Russell said of more concern were the signs of deepening economic problems in Japan, putting pressure on the Japanese to sell metal holdings

Mine's minorities lose bid for redress

WINDHOEK attorney Andreas Vaatz has lost his bid to win redress for minority shareholders whom he alleged were prejudiced by Impala Platinum's takeover of Barplats Mining (Barmine) from Rand Mines

Vaatz has also failed to secure a court ruling ordering a government investigation of alleged mismanagement of Barmine's platinum operations. The scheme of arrangement whereby Barmine is delisted from the JSE and becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Barplats Investments (Barplats) will go ahead in spite of his opposition.

In the Rand Supreme Court yesterday, Judge MacArthur approved the scheme and made no ruling on costs for that part of the court hearing.

But he dismissed Vaatz's counter-applications — in terms of sections 252 and 258 of the Company's Act — with costs. Most of the four-day hearing in February was spent arguing Vaatz's counter-applications in terms of these sections of the Act.

Vaatz has led a campaign by some Barmine minority shareholders since Barplats was taken over by Implats last year. His concerns were fuelled by the large sums of money he and his family lost in subscribing for Barmine shares at a time when they traded as high as R12 each but have since fallen to 15c a share.

He was also concerned by the fact that Rand Mines sank nearly R1.5bn into the Crocodile River and Kennedy's Vale platinum mines, neither of which produced platinum at a profit. Crocodile River, the mine and its re-

MATTHEW CURTIN

fining infrastructure, was mothballed only weeks after being rescued by Implats.

MacArthur said there were risks and uncertainty associated with the mining business, and the fact that a mining house had backed a project was no guarantee of its success.

He said many of Vaatz's complaints about the scheme of arrangement were based on his misunderstanding of the issues at stake. Many of his arguments were "captious" and based on "conjecture rather than fact". He said the scheme, and the takeover agreement, were in the best interests of all shareholders.

"By and large there is no substance to Vaatz's complaints because the agreement (whereby Implats received a 38% stake in Barplats in return for mineral rights and the recapitalisation of Barmine's R320m debts by Rand Mines) is not being adjudicated by the court." The court was required only to approve or reject the scheme of arrangement.

With regard to Vaatz's call for relief for minority shareholders on the grounds that they had been prejudiced by the agreement, MacArthur said Vaatz's arguments were "facile and spurious".

The judge said in trying to determine whether there were grounds for ordering an investigation of alleged Rand Mines' mismanagement of Barmine, he was not persuaded by Vaatz's arguments. Vaatz's dissatisfaction with the deal did not entitle him to relief in terms of the Act.

Copper prices boost results

Blanc 10/4/92 (217)

MATTHEW CURTIN

IMPROVING copper prices put some shine back into Gold Fields' battling base metal and coal division in the March quarter this year.

Its O'okiep copper mine in the western Cape and its copper and lead producer Gold Fields Namibia posted sharply improved profits.

Executive director John Hopwood said O'okiep had a steady quarter at the operating level, but enjoyed higher sales of 6 730 tons of blister copper worth R44m, compared to 5 612 tons worth R31m in the previous quarter. The improvement was partly the result of shipping timetables.

Hopwood said financial results were "surprisingly good" with the company turning in after-tax profit of R10m against only R119 000 in the previous period. Copper prices, unchanged on average at R6 200 a ton, had risen steadily in the March quarter. The bottomline was boosted by about R3m from unfinalised sales from the December quarter.

He said good Chinese demand for copper was a reason for better prices. O'okiep would perform well in the current quarter if prices stabilised at the current R6 400/t, and with the first production at Nigraoep mine.

Gold Fields Namibia turned a R10m after-tax loss in the December quarter into a R3,9m profit due to improved copper and lead recoveries. Although the amount of ore milled and metal concentrates fell, blister copper and refined lead production rose to 8 825 (8 278) tons and 8 652 (7 926) tons respectively. Sales cost fell sharply to R67m from R86m.

By contrast, unlisted base metal producer Black Mountain and zinc refinery Zinc Corporation (Zincor) had poor quarters.

Zincor production fell 35% after an illegal strike over pay by some Numsa members in February.

4/92

on harmony

The LOA adds that it "recognises the need to assist in socio-economic development . . . this does not mean that policyholders' and pension fund members' savings will be exposed to sub-economic investments, it simply means that everyone will have to be more imaginative about meeting sound investment goals while, at the same time, investing in such a manner that society's development needs are served."

The association adds that a major initiative, to confirm the industry's willingness to invest in this type of project, will be announced soon.

The LOA's dilemma — and its need for caution in talking about projects before the costs have been established — is obvious. Opposed to prescription, it appears to have initiated voluntary prescription in another guise. It is propelled by the trustee principle, which compels a life assurer to maximise savings in a manner consistent with safety, yet it is now proffering funds for developments where market-related returns appear unlikely. Wharton-Hood is emphatic that any funds diverted to social projects will be government guaranteed and capable of producing market returns.

If that is to be achieved, government's obligation would, presumably, also include subsidising the rate of interest paid to the life offices, in cases where investments cannot produce market-related yields. That, an ANC official tacitly confirms, will remove part of the dilemma. The subsidy burden would be spread among all taxpayers, "not just those who have contributed to the nation's savings."

The life industry already observes "prudent" investment guidelines, in place of the old prescribed assets. If a new investment outlet is added to that — a virtual LOA Merchant Bank to research and tackle projects that ensure savers get financial returns but resources are allocated for social upliftment — the industry will have succeeded in fending off direct intervention. The ANC indicates that the LOA initiative is likely to find favour.

Bryan Deans

METAL PRICES

Signs of life

Firming world prices, mainly anticipating US recovery, could still help Samancor to get stainless steel mills to accept the 5,8% price rise for ferrochrome it wants for the second quarter of 1992. This is after a 6,1% hike in the first three months.

Led by aluminium, the bellwether at both ends of the economic cycle, the *Economist*

FM 10/4/92 (217)

dollar index of metal prices has nudged up by 6% so far this year, after the 18% decline in 1991. And, after hesitating at the end of February, the broader based US *Journal of Commerce's* index of 18 industrial commodities confirmed the trend to rebuilding wafer-thin inventories.

On the London Metal Exchange, aluminium has come up fastest: 15,5% this year and 20% above the 1991 low to around \$1 300/t. Copper has put on 12% to £1 285/t. Zinc's gain has been 8% to \$1 270/t, nearly 30% off the bottom.

The others have moved more slowly. Their 1992 rises, with the change from the 12-month lows in brackets, are: lead at £310/t is up 7,5% (11%), nickel at \$7 400/t is up 3,5% (4,5%) and tin at \$5 730 is up 3% (6%).

Few forecasters are looking for fireworks in the current 12 months, though the recovery in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) should accelerate in the second half. Industrial output is expected to grow by 2,1% this year.

And 1993 is forecast by Ord Minnett, part of the Westpac Australian banking group, to produce average prices a good deal higher than current levels: up to 32% for nickel, about 30% for aluminium and tin and 28% for lead, but only 10% for copper and about 8% for lead.

The question, however, is whether the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), especially Russia, will be a disruptive loose cannon on the decks of the metal markets. Distress selling was a big factor last year, when an estimated 1 Mt of aluminium was shipped westward — not significant in terms of a market of 15,5 Mt a year but enough to wreak havoc at the margin and almost equivalent to the tonnage cut from OECD capacity. Before perestroika, in 1986, Russia exported only 150 000 t.

Nickel sales of 115 000 t, from the Norilsk complex, were more important. Russian exports also flattened lead and zinc and, to a lesser extent, copper, while the CIS ceased to be big buyers of tin.

Russia has the potential to become a major exporter in the short term. The economy of the CIS is a shambles and industrial output could fall 20% this year, which will slash domestic demand for metals. It has long lost the old satellite markets in the Warsaw Pact, raising the exportable surplus.

That, however, depends on metal production being maintained. Russia's mines and smelters are also suffering from shortages and rising costs as subsidies — such as cheap energy — are removed en route to the market economy.

Output at the Norilsk complex (platinum, nickel, copper and cobalt) could fall by 10%.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

FM 10/4/92 (217)

In addition, the forex shortage will hamper imports of bauxite, alumina and other raw materials — though rumours that aluminium production faces a standstill were derided by industry sources this week.

The uncertainties are such that estimates of aluminium exports this year range from 600 000 t to 800 000 t, while nickel could decline to below 100 000 t.

The Russian factor in the precious metals equation is obscure. Commodities Research Unit in London puts exports of platinum at 890 000 oz last year, up from 740 000 oz in 1990. But much of that was out of stocks and the Russians have not chased the price downward this year, sales in January amounted to 75 000 oz, followed by only 50 000 oz in February. Ted Arnold, at Merrill Lynch in London, says a \$25/oz rise in platinum — at \$354/oz up 7% from the December low — would bring out more Russian material but the stockpile has largely gone.

Rhona O'Connell of Williams de Broe Chaplin, who predicted 1991 platinum exports at 950 000 oz, has factored an estimate of 650 000 oz into her current year supply-demand balance.

Gold is more of an imponderable. While spot sales are dropping, the unwinding of currency swaps taken out last year is balancing the position for now.

According to Arnold, the break through \$350/oz was caused by a confluence of events: the unwinding of a Russian swap, South American central bank selling and India's liberalising its ban on imports which produced a selloff from Abu Dhabi and Singapore, chief suppliers of 200 t of gold previously smuggled in each year.

A repeat of last year is not expected. Though nobody, not even the Russians, seems to know how much gold could be exported, the consensus is that it will be limited to annual production, 200-300 t.

The impact of the Group of Seven \$24bn rescue package — \$18bn in credits to ease the CIS current account and \$6bn to help stabilise the rouble — agreed to on April 1 has yet to be seen. It should end the distress selling of metals but will not ease Russian pressure on all markets until internal demand is restored — which could take two years of reconstruction.

John Cavill

VOGELSTRUISBULT

Déjà vu (217) FM 10/4/92

Activities: Investment and share dealing company with holdings predominantly in base metal mines

Control: Gold Fields of SA 49%, New Wits 21%

Chairman: A J Wright.

Capital structure: 18,4m ords. Market capitalisation R90m

Share market: Price 490c Yields: 12,2% on dividend, 13,3% on earnings; p.e ratio, 7,5; cover, 1,1 12-month high, 675c; low, 425c Trading volume last quarter, 98 000 shares

Year to Dec	'88	'89	'90	'91
Investments				
Listed (Rm)	33,3	46,7	48,6	59,0
Unlisted (Rm)	73,3	102,2	133,7	134,7
Performance				
Taxed profit (Rm)	12,2	20,1	15,6	11,9
Earnings (c)	66	114	85	65
Dividends (c)	40	60	60	60
Net worth (c)	593	878	1 030	1 066

If shareholders get that funny sense of déjà vu from the annual report it's because chairman Alan Wright's outlook pretty much echoes what he said this time last year. The world economy is not expected to recover before the third quarter and only after that will demand for commodities strengthen

Recovery did not materialise as forecast last year after the swift end to the Gulf War and instead recessions in the US and UK dragged on ... and on.

Latest indications are that the US economy is finally showing signs of recovering and, in an election year, hopes are that President Bush's administration will provide further boosts. But, as Wright says, benefits to base metals companies in which Vogels holds stakes are not likely before the second half of the year, so the outlook is one of declining earnings for the third consecutive year

"This is the bottom of a recession and world stocks of metals are high. Even when the recovery comes we will have to wait for those stocks to be run down before we see increases in demand," he comments

Vogels' attraction is its spread of base metal investments and the fact that it offers the most direct route into two of SA's most important base metal producers

It holds 30% of O'okiep Copper, SA's second-largest copper mine, and 38% of Zincor, our only zinc refinery. Other major

cont. p



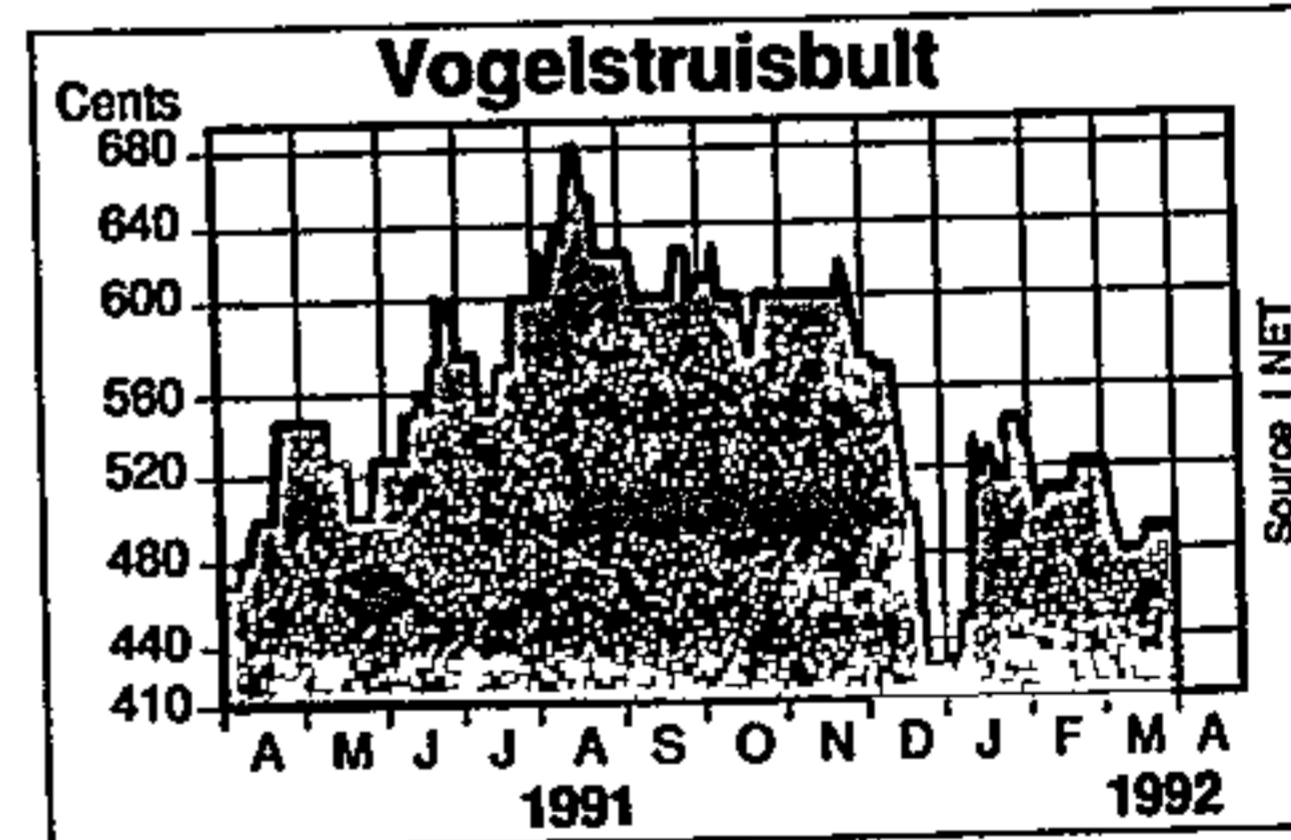
Vogels' Wright hopes to hold the dividend (217) FM 10/4/92

holdings are 14% of Gold Fields Coal, 30% of Rooiberg Tin, 2% of Northam Platinum and 2% of New Wits. The biggest contributors to income in 1991 by commodity were zinc (47%), copper (28%) and coal (20%)

None of these did well and the outlook, on balance, is for a same-again performance with average prices expected to be similar to those of 1991. That means lower profits for operating mines battling to hold down working costs fuelled by a 15% inflation rate.

Unknown factor is the level of base metal sales from the Commonwealth of Independent States — made up of most of the former USSR — which have run at record levels for the past two years, building up international stocks and depressing prices. Should these at last start to tail off, as some analysts believe possible, base metal prices will be underpinned

Coal's contribution improved, G F Coal pushing up its dividend to 100c (1989: 90c), thanks to lower capex and better export prices. But it is also cautious about 1992 (see separate report).



Key question is whether Vogels can hold its dividend for a third year running. Wright hopes it can, provided nothing disastrous happens to any major income source. "We have a cash surplus and, in the absence of anything decent to invest in, I see no reason not to pay the money out to shareholders."

That puts Vogels on a forward yield of 12,2%: quite attractive given that dividend income is no longer taxed and with the prospect of the recovery finally arriving in 1993.

Brendan Ryan

MILLIONAIRE VOWS TO SAVE PEAK

By EVE VOSLOO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mines," said Mr Brownlie

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

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

217
Powerless

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

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

Mr Brownlie said that the next step

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

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

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

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

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

Tomorrow on the way for fuel cells

STIMULATED (BUS) 12/4/92 (217)
IMPROVEMENTS in fuel-cell technology are good news for platinum producers

International research organisation Arthur D Little forecast at a fuel-cell symposium in London that annual use of platinum in this application could reach about 500 000 ounces — about 14% of current use — by the end of the century

The platinum will be used in fuel cells providing about 4 000mW of world annual generating capacity, of which about half will be in Japan. This capacity is equivalent to that of one of Eskom's modern power stations and represents about a tenth of Eskom's generating capacity

The Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI) gave the development of fuel cells a boost when it announced last September that

By IAN ROBINSON

a minimum of 2 000mW of fuel-cell capacity should be installed there by the end of the century

MITI undertook to fund a third of the capital expenditure of prototype fuel cells in Japan

Historically, platinum use has grown in a series of steps as new applications have been introduced rather than as a steady incremental rise

New applications include petroleum refining in the 1960s, autocatalysts and Japanese jewellery in the 1970s and investment in the 1980s

Saviour

Fuel cells could become a major application of platinum in the first decade of the next century

Fuel cells have long been touted as the potential saviour of the platinum industry

However, the wait has proved frustratingly long and a former chairman of Rustenburg Platinum said in the late 1970s that "platinum is the metal of tomorrow, but tomorrow is always in the future"

Platinum is used as a catalyst in fuel cells and promotes the reaction between oxygen and hydrogen to produce water. The reaction generates electricity and heat

Oxygen is derived from the air and hydrogen can be obtained from various gases, including natural gas, methane, ethanol, propane and liquefied petroleum.

Up to five kilograms of platinum are required to generate 1mW of electricity

Fuel cells offer an environmentally friendly versatile form of power which can operate independently or as decentralised units connected to the main grid, providing

electricity for intermediate and peak use

If the waste heat is harnessed, fuel cells can operate at a higher efficiency than conventional power stations

In spite of these advantages, cost and a world oversupply of generating capacity have retarded the development of fuel cells

The major cost factors are the conversion of the gas into a usable source of hydrogen and the capture of the waste heat. Conversion of the gas requires sophisticated chemical engineering

Impala marketing manager Pieter Mulder says three factors have led to an acceleration in the development of fuel cells

First, there is a worldwide trend to private development of electricity generating. Second, the gas industry is looking for new applications

The third factor is the diminishing cost gap of electricity generation between fuel cells and conventional coal- or oil-based power stations

Potential

It costs about \$2 500 a kW for a 200kW fuel-cell plant. But manufacturers believe that economies of scale and other improvements could reduce the cost to \$1 000 by the year 2000

Stricter environmental legislation could raise costs of conventional power stations

Potential growth for fuel cells includes stationary and mobile applications

It is planned to use a fleet of buses powered by fuel cells at the Commonwealth Games in Vancouver in 1994. The prototype bus is due for completion this year

To stimulate interest in fuel-cell technology in SA, Impala Platinum has imported several models. They are on display at the Impala stand in the Bophuthatswana pavillion at the Rand Show

Platinum prices swing in time to Tokyo's tune

3/10ay 13/4/92
217

MATTHEW CURTIN

PLATINUM prices yo-yoed in time with the mixed fortunes of the Tokyo stock exchange last week, underlying the metal's sensitivity to Japanese market sentiment

Prices surged on Friday to recoup much of their losses earlier in the week, as the Nikkei recovered strongly. Platinum had fallen more than \$10 in less than a week to as low as \$344 an ounce, but recovered to be fixed at \$349.50 in London on Friday.

Shares on the JSE's platinum board proved more resilient than the metal, with Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) firming as investors sought refuge in the market leader.

Higher prices saw many shares recover their losses and the index rose 2% or 89 points on Friday to 4 414. Rusplat climbed 160c to R72,10, increasing its already record premium over Impala Platinum which recovered 75c to R38,75.

Rusplat marketing director Todd Bruce said at the weekend that platinum markets were reacting to the plunge in share prices on the Nikkei.

Bruce said revised forecasts of Japanese economic growth of 2%-2.5% were "hardly cause for panic", with Japanese observers reading the stock market weakness as an "economic correction" after which strong growth would resume by the end of the year. He said the price falls reflected selling on the sensitive US and Tokyo paper markets, rather than any change in physical demand for the metal.

Frankel, Max Pollak, Vindermine analyst Kevin Kartun said Japan was "the engine of platinum", given the country's high consumption of the metal as investments and in the jewellery and motor industries.

Consequently, the market was highly sensitive to news about Japan-

ese economic fortunes

Johnson Matthey predicted in its 1991 interim review that Japan would account for nearly 51% of world platinum demand this year — 2-million of a total 3.9-million ounces.

Kartun said the fall in Japanese economic fortunes seemed to be "worrying everyone witless", and platinum would inevitably suffer from any delay to world economic recovery caused by the slowdown in the Far East.

He added that the problems in Japan and mounting bearish sentiment were outweighing the influence of Russia on the platinum market.

Leading Western estimates showed Russia would export between 450 000oz and 600 000oz of platinum in 1991, compared with the record 900 000oz in 1990, which severely depressed platinum prices. However, Russia was probably continuing to sell platinum stocks because of its need to earn foreign exchange.

New Central revises investment strategy

STAT 141492

(217)

Investment income for New Central Witwatersrand for the 18-months to March 31, excluding dividends in specie, amounted to R3,76 million, compared with R2,80 million for the previous 12 months, down 10,6 per cent in annualised terms.

The financial year-end has been changed to coincide with that of its holding company, Anglo American Corporation of South Africa.

The fall in investment income was attributed largely to reduced dividend income from the gold interests.

The dividends in specie of R32 000 largely arose from distributions by Rustenburg Platinum Mines in Potgietersrus Platnums and in Lebowa Platnum.

The company decided to adopt a revised investment strategy of investing in a balanced portfolio of mining and mining-related securities, including high-grade, long-life gold mines.

This was made possible as a result of amendments to the Income Tax Act which allowed the company to dispose of investments held for over ten

years, without tax arising on realised surpluses.

The surplus on the realisation of investments falling outside this strategy amounted to R4,27 million and the proceeds are being applied in acquiring suitable investments.

Earnings for the 18 months, including profit on realisation of investments and dividends in specie, were R8,08 million or 457c a share.

The surplus on realisation of investments and dividends in specie are, however, not considered to be available for distri-

bution as dividends and earnings a share excluding these amounts were 197c.

In accordance with the policy of effecting a full distribution of available earnings the directors have declared dividends of 196c a share for the 18-month period.

As previously reported, Anglo and its associates have advised that the Phase II gold exploration drilling programme has been suspended owing to the prevailing low gold price and the results obtained.

No further exploration is planned at this time — Sapa

FM 1714192 (217)

Activities: Tin mining and smelting in Warmbaths district

Control: GFSA 48% directly and indirectly.

Chairman and MD: R L Robinson.

Capital structure: 2,1m ords Market capitalisation R3,1m.

Share market: Price 150c 12-month high, 330c, low, 150c Trading volume last quarter, 7 500 shares

Year to Dec 31	'88	'89	'90	'91
Turnover (Rm)	21,1	25,0	18,9	17,4
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	1,5	2,4	(3,6)	(1,8)
Attrib profit (Rm)	1,5	2,4	(3,6)	(1,8)
Earnings (c)	47	114	(173)	(86)
Dividends (c)	50	50	—	—
Tin sales (t)	1 260	1 129	1 128	1 072

last year (*Companies* April 26 1991), Rooiberg couldn't maintain the high grades of 0,8% tin recorded in the March 1991 quarter. Average for the year was 0,66% (1990: 0,54%) and this March was back to 0,59%.

Tin production last year was almost unchanged at 1 044 t as the benefit of the higher ore grade in the first six months was offset by plant breakdowns and illegal strikes in the second half. No wage increases were granted because of the mine's critical condition and labour dissatisfaction was rife.

Average revenue rose from R15 380/t at the start of 1990 to R17 220 in August, dropping to R16 500 for December and averaging R15 800 for the 1991 March quarter.

Priority now is to make sure Rooiberg meets rehabilitation costs, though chairman Richard Robinson declines to specify their extent, saying it is a moving target. Limited underground mining operations will continue, primarily to generate cash flow to help pay for rehabilitation.

It's now planned to stop mining at NAD section and cut C mine back to 6 000 t/month from remaining high-grade reserves, expected to last another 12 months. C mine staff has already been cut from 750 to about 430 and will eventually be about 250.

Mining like this to pick the eyes out of an orebody is anathema to normal operations and another pointer, if any more were needed, to Rooiberg's dire situation. Robinson says the high-grade mining operation also

FM 1714192

ROOIBERG TIN

End of the road (217)

Management's rearguard action to keep the mine alive in the face of the depressed tin price has nearly run its course and Rooiberg, SA's only primary tin producer, looks set for closure. Despite drastic measures over the past two years to try to stay alive, Rooiberg made an operating loss of R3,8m last year, on top of the R4,9m lost in 1990.

Steps taken included closing two of the mines, cutting staff from 1 133 to 732, stopping all non-essential activities and selling surplus plant and equipment. As predicted

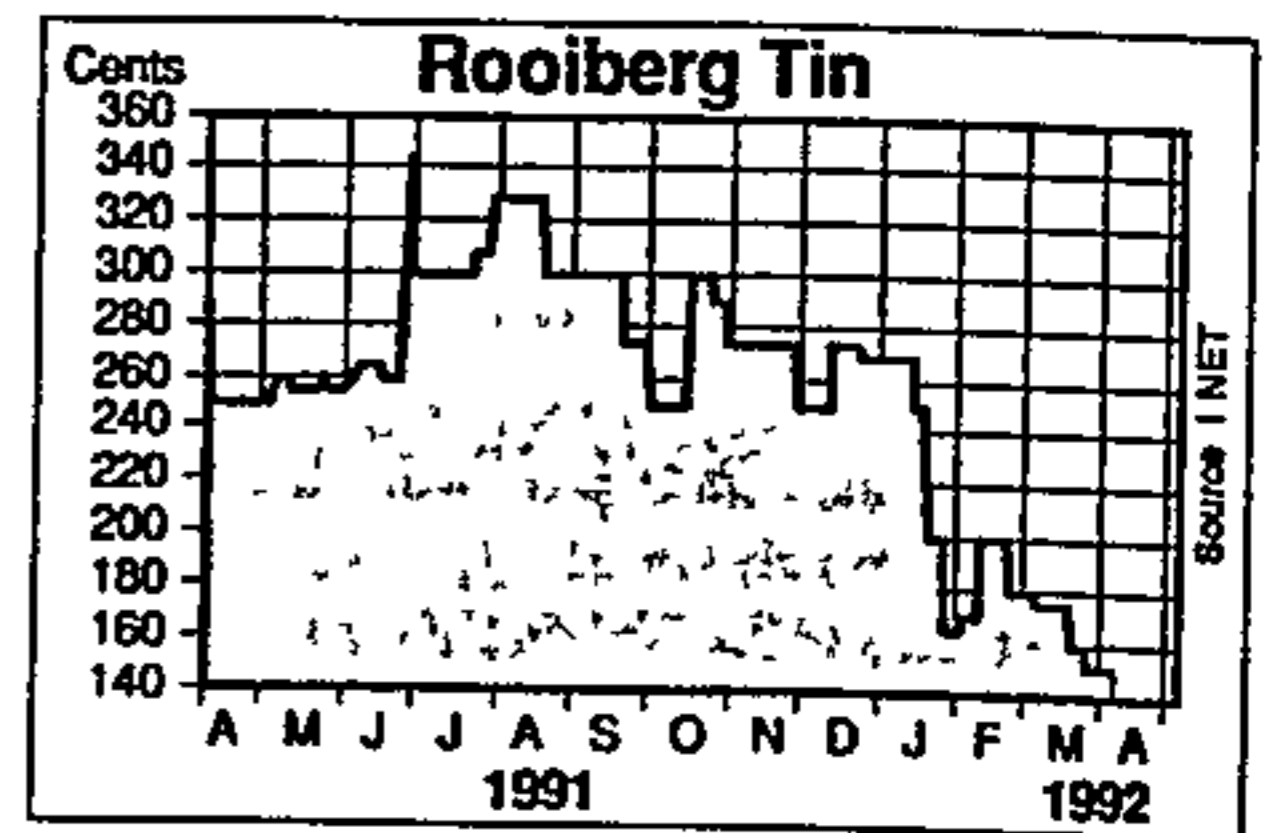
FM 1714192

COMPANIES (217)

allows Rooiberg to keep a nucleus of skilled staff for another year in case the tin price recovers to the point where the mine could be revitalised. He is not optimistic on this.

"I do not believe the odds are in our favour in terms of the time available to us," he comments. A tin price of at least R20 000/t is required for break even and it would have to be considerably higher to make it worth re-starting operations if the mine is closed.

Prevailing feeling at Gold Fields of SA is that a recovery in the world economies will



not take place until at least the second half of the year and there will be a lag before benefits flow through to commodity prices because consumers have large stocks.

Over the next year management will push for better metallurgical recoveries and higher productivity, but all hope of survival depends on the tin price.

The share is at a 12-month low. The only reason to buy is if you disagree with Robinson's assessment of the tin market. There are indications the tin price could rise this year — the question is whether it will go high enough to convince GFSA it's worth the risk of keeping Rooiberg going.

Brendan Ryan

Leplat loses ground on investor shift

By 21/4/92

217

MATTHEW CURTIN

WEAK platinum prices, production problems at its Atok mine, and cautious investors are combining to drive down shares in Lebowa Platinum (Leplat), one of the three platinum producers in the JCI fold

The stock sank towards record lows on the JSE on Thursday, losing 10c to close at 110c a share, only 10c above new lows recorded earlier this month

Leplat shares have plunged nearly 80% from a high of 510c in July last year, whereas the platinum index has fallen only 13% in the same period

An analyst close to the company said at the weekend that Leplat was likely to post year-end results more disappointing than those of its rivals, all of which have been hit by falling platinum prices

He said the share was good value at current level, highly geared to platinum prices, but speculative until management had ironed out production problems

Leplat chairman Barry Davison said in January that a combination of poor platinum group metal prices and the heavy capital cost of underground expansion at the Atok mine would have placed an unacceptable strain on the company's cash-flow. Instead of expansion underground, Leplat would mine an outcrop of UG2 ore,

a new project costing only R10m

The analyst said the costs of the new project were higher than expected, while precious metal recovery grades from the UG2 outcrop were affected by oxidation of the ore

Development work, which had been neglected during Leplat's labour troubles in 1990, was still being made up to improve the flexibility of underground mining

Leplat was firmly at the higher end of the cost scale of SA platinum production, and weak metal prices had exacerbated poor market perceptions of the share

Another factor was a change in investors' approach to the JSE platinum board

Since the unbundling of JCI's platinum interests — allowing Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat), Leplat and Potgietersrust Platinums (P P Rust) to stand alone — cautious institutional investors had tended to re-group their platinum interests by offloading Leplat in favour of the less risky Rusplat and JCI stock. Overseas investors had been wooed by the more "glamorous" P P Rust — to be a low-cost, open-cast mine

However, the change in mining strategy at Leplat had put off the likelihood that a rights issue would be necessary.

Vaatz appeal bid stays Barmine delisting

CONTROVERSY over the rescue of the ill-starred Barplats Mining (Barmine) Crocodile River mine by Impala Platinum (Implats) refuses to die. *610am 2/14/92*

Windhoek attorney Andreas Vaatz is planning to ask the Rand Supreme Court for leave to appeal against the court's sanctioning of the scheme of arrangements whereby Barmine becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Barplats Investments (Barplats)

The move by Vaatz, a minority

MATTHEW CURTIN

shareholder in Barmine, has led to the third postponement of the delisting of Barmine shares from the JSE, although the stock will remain suspended from trading

Vaatz said yesterday he believed he had good grounds for winning leave to appeal

Earlier this month, he failed in his counter-application to have the court reject the scheme His appeals for

address for minority shareholders — whom he alleged were prejudiced by the scheme and Implats' takeover of Barmine from Rand Mines — and for a government investigation into his allegations of mismanagement of the Crocodile River mine also failed

Judge MacArthur ruled that many of Vaatz's arguments were based on conjecture rather than fact, and that the scheme, as well as the whole takeover, were in the best interests of all shareholders

Gefco's Penge asbestos mine may close

31 day 2/4/92
Gefco's Penge asbestos mine may close this year with the loss of 700 jobs, a victim of increasing asbestos substitution worldwide as demand grows for safer alternative materials

WILLIAM GILFILLAN

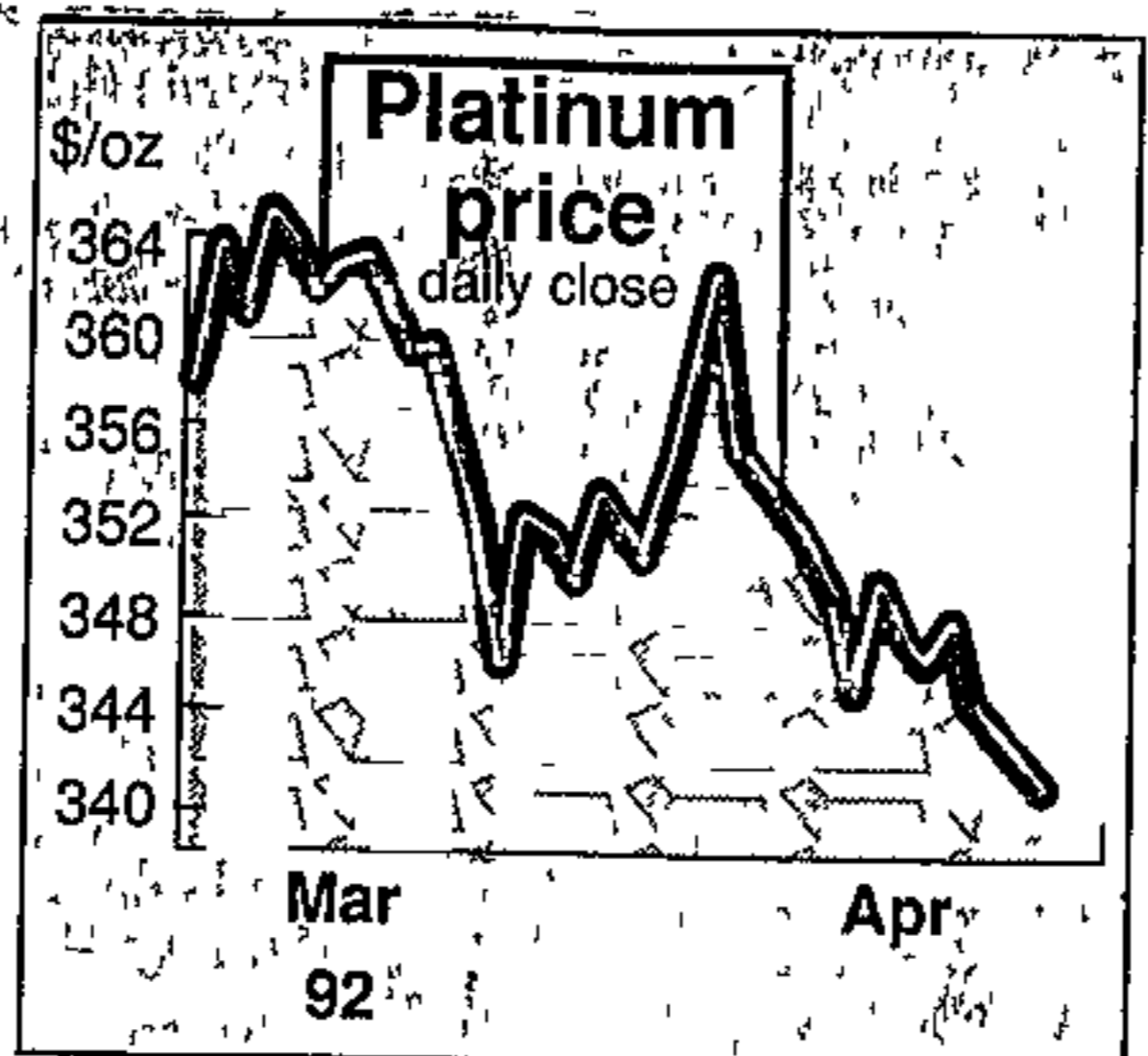
planning is in place for closure during 1992 should the market shrink to below economic levels." He added good volumes were more important than prices for the mines to break even. About 700 jobs would be lost through the mine's closure, Hart said.

Penge accounted for a third of Gefco's turnover and attributable income in the 1991 year, analysts estimated (217)

Chairman Pat Hart said at the weekend the northeastern Transvaal mine's future would be in doubt from the end of the year, while output would be cut at Gefco's two mines in the Kuruman area. The loss of the major market for amosite asbestos, used in asbestos-cement manufacture, in the Far East because of substitution had been a severe blow to the Penge mine.

"The mine operation has been reduced to one shift (in the latter part of last year) and

Hart said the rejection of the ban on asbestos in the US was positive for the future of the remaining asbestos industries. But it was not expected to bring back customers lost to substitute products.



Graphic LEE EMERTON Source I NET

Canadian sights set on SA platinum

MATTHEW CURTIN

INTERNATIONAL Platinum (IP), a Canadian exploration company, is set to buy 51% of Jamestone Platinum which is investigating a platinum prospect near JCI's and Gold Fields' platinum mines in the western Transvaal.

The London Financial Times reported yesterday that IP president Glen Varty said the company was looking for a partner to carry out further drilling on the property. *BID by 23/4/92*

IP had nine exploration properties in North America but Varty said with the improved political situation in SA, "it's attractive to be back down there".

An analyst said the news was "a vote of confidence" in the SA mining industry. "If you want to be in platinum, you have to invest in SA. Nothing beats the Transvaal's Bushveld complex with its potential for primary platinum production."

In the late '80s, Jamestone Platinum, currently controlled by mining entrepreneur James Hamilton, acquired options on the rights to mine on the 6 000ha of land on the east of the Crocodile River fault, near Rustenburg Platinum's Amandelbult section and Gold Fields' Northam mine.

Hamilton said yesterday he had recently signed an agreement in principle with IP, giving it 51% control with an option to acquire a further 44% of Jamestone Plati-

□ To Page 2

Platinum *BID by 23/4/92*

num He could not comment on exploration results, but underlying the property was Bushveld Mafic rocks. The Bushveld complex contains the platinum-bearing Merensky and UG2 reefs. He said Jamestone had spent R1.5m in exploration so far.

It is understood that Gold Fields originally held options to explore in the area.

Jamestone succeeded in acquiring the options and resumed exploration, in association with Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ) SA until

last year RTZ withdrew as the company decided to focus on shallow base metal deposits, such as its open-cast Palabora copper mine, rather than on deep-level platinum ones.

Analysts say the Merensky Reef under the property is likely to be deep — similar to Northam which will be SA's deepest platinum producer when it comes on stream later this year. They say the potential of SA platinum prospects is greater than those of Zimbabwe and Australia.

217 □ From Page 1

Two mining companies in row over dam water

Bloemfontein 24/4/92
SUSAN RUSSELL

217

TWO East Rand mining companies, locked in a battle over the right to draw water from a dam situated on the property of one of them, applied for interim interdicts against each other in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday

Cornelius Johannes Terblanche (Pty), on whose property the dam is situated, is seeking an interim order restraining Side Minerals (Pty) from pumping any water from the dam until their dispute has been resolved

Side Minerals, on the other hand, is asking the court for an interim interdict ordering C J Terblanche to restore and reconnect the water pump which it installed at the dam site

At one stage of their dispute Side Minerals reconnected the water pipes leading from the pump at night, after they were disconnected by C J Terblanche

C J Terblanche has since removed the equipment, stopping Side Minerals from taking water from the dam

According to court papers, the dispute arose after C J Terblanche leased its property's mining rights to Side Minerals in 1989

C J Terblanche processes sand for the construction industry on its property, using water from the dam, while Side Minerals mines coal under the name Lakeside Colliery on an adjoining property

Side Minerals has not exercised its rights to mine on the C J Terblanche property, but has erected a water processing plant to wash its coal

The dispute centres on the volume of water which Side Minerals has used in its operations

The two applications were postponed to May 12 by Judge R Zulman

In the meantime, C J Terblanche has undertaken, without prejudice to its rights, to allow Side Minerals to re-erect the water pipes and pump

Side Minerals in turn has undertaken to pump only reasonable amounts of water, pending the outcome of the dispute

Both have been given leave to approach the court on an urgent basis if either party breaches its undertaking

Gencor hit by 25% plunge in earnings

B/day 28/4/92

WILLIAM GILFILLAN

WEAK commodity prices and a drop in interest income have hit Gencor's interim results hard, with the mining house posting a 25% plunge in attributable earnings in the six months ended February.

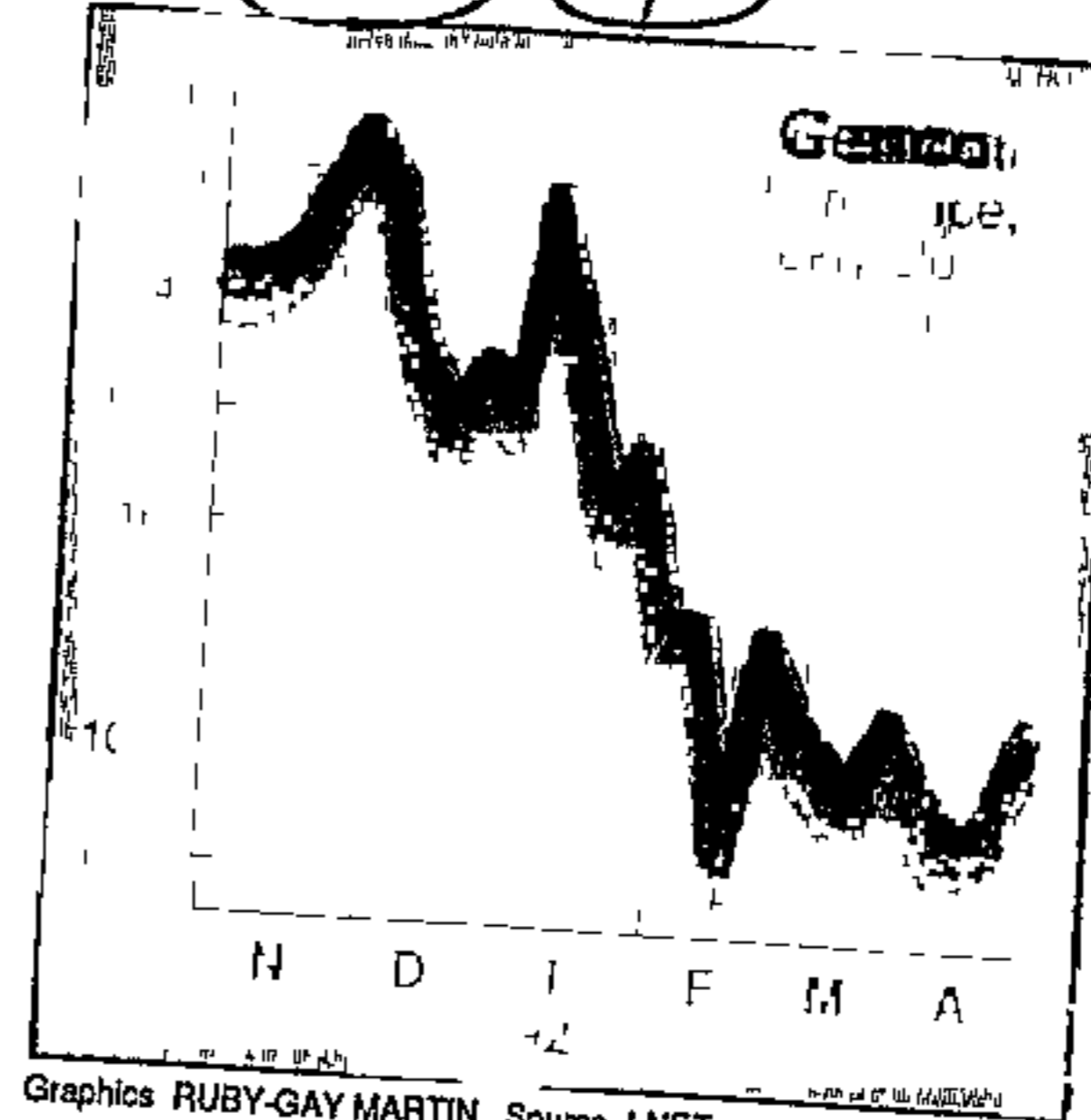
Gencor's interests include gold, platinum, ferroalloys and paper — sectors suffering sustained low prices — and the group had to follow its rights in two multi-million-rand rights issues last year, which hit its cash reserves.

Chairman Brian Gilbertson warned yesterday that worse was to come in the second half of this year.

"An improvement in the depressed market conditions currently being experienced by our businesses is not yet in sight and seems unlikely before the end of the financial year. Consequently our earnings for the second half will not easily match the first half's level," he said.

In a six-month period best remembered for Gencor's expansionary drive, management declared an interim dividend up 7% at 16c a share (1991 15c). This came on the back of large cash reserves from the R2bn rights issue held in February. Earnings a share dropped to 47,8c, from 65c on an unchanged number of shares in issue.

The contribution from 46%-held mining



finance and investment company Genbel plummeted to R78m (R270m). However, R120m of Genbel's contribution last year related to a paper transfer on a sale of investments from one Genbel entity to another.

Gilbertson said excluding this paper profit, Genbel's and Gencor's contributions for the first half of last year would have decreased to R150m and R644m, as a result of the decline in the mining house's income.

□ To Page 2

Gencor

B/day 28/4/92

for the first six months of this year would have halved to 13%.

Cash reserves were sharply down for most of the half-year as Gencor followed its rights in both Sappi and Malbak late last year, outlaying R520m and R176m in these two deals. Also a R245m investment was made in Samancor in a transaction relating to its acquisition of Middelburg Steel & Alloys' ferrochrome interests and Rand Mines' chromite interests.

The contribution from wholly owned mining, metals and minerals group Genmin dropped to R206m (R253m). Gilbertson said weak demand and low prices for its export products were the main reasons for the decline in Genmin's contribution.

Gengold accounted for R53m (R66m) of the R206m, as most of its gold mines declared lower dividends, hit by weak prices and higher capital expenditure.

A lower platinum price, substantially reduced production (because of industrial unrest), difficulties at its refineries and higher capital spending meant Impala's

contribution to Genmin fell to R44m (R62m).

At Trans-Natal increased exports helped the coal group recover from the termination of the contracts to supply Eskom's Camden and Komati power stations. As a result Trans-Natal's contribution to Genmin increased to R40m (R37m).

"The effect of depressed markets and low commodity prices was reflected most severely in the results of Samancor and the Minerals division," Gilbertson said.

The contribution from 50%-held paper group Sappi rose marginally to R105m (R102m), while the contribution from oil and gas group Engen increased to R124m (R92m).

Although Engen's turnover rose by a marginal 4%, the improved margins enabled the company to achieve real earnings growth. Industrial holding company Malbak, held 51%, accounted for R61m (R59m) of Gencor's total attributable income.

□ From Page 1

'Platinum curtain' still separates Russia, SA

BIDAY 28/4/92

217

MATTHEW CURTIN

IN SPITE of calls for closer co-operation between Russian and SA platinum producers, links between the two are unlikely to go beyond the exchange of technical information in the foreseeable future.

SA and Russia produce more than 90% of the world's platinum group metals (PGMs). SA ambassador to Moscow Gerrit Olivier called last week for the countries to share information on precious metals production and work together.

It was reported that Russian foreign economic relations ministry official Valery Selin said the countries had exchanged information only sporadically. But Valery Rudakov, an official at former Russian state monopoly precious metals producer Rosalmazlotto, said it had been invited to participate in bidding for the development of SA precious metals deposits.

The Krasnoyarsk plant in southern Russia was currently processing SA platinum concentrate, although SA's main producers Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) and Im-

pala Platinum (Implats) said yesterday they had sent no material there.

Implats marketing director John Hollely said Implats was using European refiners to help it overcome problems at its refinery but contact with the Russians had been limited to technical exchanges.

Rusplat marketing director Todd Bruce said contact with Russia had been limited to occasional technical visits.

There have been suggestions that Russian and SA platinum producers would benefit from a more co-operative marketing approach given their dominance of PGM production. However, the establishment of a cartel would run the risk of breaching antitrust legislation in the US and the EC.

Bruce said Rusplat stood by its opposition to any collective marketing approach.

Hollely said there was no prospect of co-operative marketing arrangements.

COMPANIES

Major increase in zinc prices

ZINC prices have reached their highest levels for more than a year, bucking the trend of the sustained trough in world commodity prices. *biday 28/4/92*

In contrast to floundering precious metal, base metal and ferro-alloy prices so far this year, zinc has climbed to US\$1 345 a ton, up more than 20% since February.

The higher prices are good news for SA's zinc producer, Gold Fields' Black Mountain base metal mine which has struggled in recent quarters in the face of weak zinc and lead prices. *(217)*

Gold Fields base metal division GM Richard Robinson said yesterday a range of factors were lifting zinc prices, but he noted they were increasing from a low base. Zinc fell to record lows of less than \$1 000/t in October last year, compared with more than \$2 000/t in 1989 and 1990.

MATTHEW CURTIN

Robinson said "The market fundamentals are better but they may not be strong enough to sustain these higher prices."

He said it appeared that European customers had run down their inventories and US customers were close to doing so. The Lead and Zinc Study Group had revised world zinc consumption figures upwards by 2% for 1991, which was an important factor in boosting market sentiment.

The closure of a Norwegian zinc refinery, problems at two South American smelters, and the planned temporary closure of an Italian smelter were also improving fundamental conditions.

A key factor affecting demand was whether the US economy would continue to pull out of recession.

Gencor's high dividend cover pays off

By Derek Tommey

The policy of running house Gencor in maintaining a high dividend cover in the good times has paid off for its shareholders in the bad times.

The company's earnings in the six months ended February came under pressure, dropping 26 per cent to 47,8c a share. But the interim dividend has been raised from 15c to 16c a share.

Dividend cover is still a most satisfactory three times — though down on last year's 4,3 times — which some investors might have

(217)

thought excessive.

But Gencor was able to increase its dividends as recently appointed chairman, Brian Gilbertson pointed out. "Fortunately, the group is in a sound position to weather the present difficult phase of the commodity cycle."

He added that all the group's operations were poised to capitalise on the upturn when it came.

However, he did not expect this to be soon.

A break-down of Gencor's attributable income, which fell from R764 million to R562 mil-

lion, shows that the group has been hard hit by the slump in commodity prices.

Earnings of subsidiary Gemmin dropped from R253 million to R206 million. Income from Gen-gold fell from R66 million to R53 million, while that from Impats dropped from R62 million to R44 million. Samancor contributed R76 million against R90 million a year ago and other minerals investments R30 million against R37 million.

Only Trans-Natal was able to increase its contribution — from

STAR 28/4/92

R37 million to R40 million. Of Gencor's other major investments, Only Engen shone, contributing R124 million against R92 million last year. Malbak managed to raise its contribution from R59 million to R61 million and Sappi, from R102 million to R105 million.

But the biggest setback was the drop in Genbel's contribution from R270 million last year to R78 million this year.

Altogether, group profits from share transactions were down from R156 million to R21 million.

Mineral sales top R40-bn

By Sven Lunsche (217)

The Chamber of Mines estimates that South Africa's mineral sales last year topped R40 billion despite weak precious and base metal prices

In its latest newsletter the Chamber provides an analysis of the sales figures, which were released earlier by the Minerals Bureau

Total sales by the mining industry were 5,4 percent higher than the R38 billion sold in 1990, but "with domestic inflation exceeding 16 percent during the year, last year's real value of output showed negative growth," the Chamber says

Platinum

Of the country's major commodities, platinum group metals showed the largest increase, with sales rising by 22,4 percent to R2,84 billion. Sales of gold, coal and iron ore showed increases of four, 3,2 and 10,8 percent respectively

Despite the rise in overall sales, export earnings by the mining sector fell by 1,2 percent to R8,24 billion, on the back of the slump in international commodity prices

STAR 1/5/92
Exports accounted for about 38 percent of total mineral sales last year

Zinc showed the greatest decline in export earnings at 71,2 percent, followed by lead with a fall of 32,4 percent and silver with 30 percent

Despite slack industrial demand export revenue from copper rose by six percent as the price held up well

The Chamber reports that higher value-added earnings last year enabled the gold mining industry to give employees a bigger slice of total industry turnover

According to figures published in the newsletter, employees received R7,92 billion in the year, accounting for 42,5 percent of total turnover

In 1990, employees received R6,70 billion, equivalent to 36 percent of turnover

The industry recorded a turnover of R18,65 billion in 1991 — nominally higher than the R18,63 billion of 1990

Its value-added statement shows that material inputs amounting to R6,69 billion were used in 1991 compared with the R7,71 billion of 1990, reflecting the significant cost cutting measures reported by the industry

The reduction arose primarily from a cut-

Commodity	JAN DEC 1990		ESTIMATED 1991				
	Total Sales R1 000	Total Exports R1 000	Total Sales R1 000	% change	Total Exports R1 000	% change	% exports total sales
Gold	18 993 616		19 744 290	4,0			
Platinum Group Metals	2 321 990		2 843 001	22,4			
Silver	57 315	50 782	39 455	(31,2)	35 554	(30,0)	90,1
SUBTOTAL	21 372 921		19 058 621	5,9			
Asbestos	168 929	164 891	138 839	(17,8)	135 465	(17,8)	97,6
Chrome	421 055	198 921	425 193	1,0	146 720	(26,2)	34,5
Coal	8 149 211	4 018 625	8 413 122	3,2	4 003 552	(0,4)	47,6
Copper (content)	1 063 909	602 098	1 081 667	1,7	638 439	6,0	59,0
Fluorspar	92 960	83 460	90 851	(2,3)	81 657	(2,2)	89,9
Iron Ore	1 076 512	779 990	1 192 912	10,8	823 571	5,6	69,0
Lead concentrates	115 484	115 092	77 945	(32,5)	77 839	(32,4)	99,9
Limestone & Dolomite	422 674	9 324	478 843	13,3	8 787	(5,8)	1,8
Manganese	848 326	610 377	833 145	(1,8)	656 115	7,5	78,8
Tin	19 665	4 085	20 312	3,3			
Zinc	191 453	21 700	99 763	(47,9)	6 246	(71,2)	6,3
Other minerals	1 456 688	462 544	1 458 494	0,1	449 241	(2,9)	30,8
Miscellaneous*	2 646 716	1 261 463	3 181 464	20,2	1 209 107	(4,2)	38,0
SUBTOTAL	16 673 582	8 332 570	17 492 550	4,9	8 236 739	(1,2)	47,1
GRAND TOTAL	38 046 503		40 119 296	5,4			

* Includes strategic and minor commodities not otherwise enumerated

Source: Minerals Bureau and Chamber of Mines

Mineral sales and exports in 1991 compared with 1990.

back in expenditure on stores and material which declined from R4,29 billion to R3,25 billion

Money expended on power and water supplies and "other" costs were little changed from the previous year

While employees received more of the pie, capital expenditure declined 16,9 percent to R2,01 billion, dividends fell by 10,4 percent to

R1,3 billion and tax payments rose by 6,8 percent to R958 million

Employees in the mining industry boosted their personal cash savings held in industry savings accounts by nearly R50 million in 1991

This was a remarkable achievement in the light of the wage restraints and retrenchments which characterised employment in the mining sector last year, the

Chamber reports

The industry savings fund, TEBA-CASH, which operates employee savings facilities at most of the country's gold mines, platinum mines and some collieries, reported a growth of 20,1 percent in total deposits, lifting the amount in total savings deposits to R295,3 million in 1991

Employee participation in the savings fund is voluntary

GEFCO

Under pressure

Activities: Mines blue and amosite asbestos. Holds 32,9% of Msauli Asbestos and 50% of the Von Brandis Gold Prospect

Control: Directors 48,4%

Chairman: H P Hart

Capital structure: 35,9m ords Market capitalisation R12,6m

Share market: Price 35c Yields: 7,1% on dividend; 23,4% on earnings; p/e ratio, 4,3; cover, 3,3 12-month high, 100c, low, 32c Trading volume last quarter, 738 000 shares

Year to Dec	'88	'89	'90	'91
Turnover (Rm)	84	99	108	92
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	14,7	30,8	9,2	3,0
Earnings (c)	39	66	24	8
Dividends (c)	12,5	22,5	8	2,5

The share has slid badly over the past year as markets for blue and amosite asbestos continue to be whittled away by environmental pressure while attempts at diversification have yet to bear fruit

Matters seem to have finally come to a head for Gefco. Penge mine faces closure by year-end following the loss of the major market for amosite asbestos in the Far East. Penge is working one shift a day at present.

Environmental pressure in general is causing cut-throat competition among producers. Chairman Pat Hart blames the Canadians, who produce chrysotile asbestos, in particular, saying they are waging a campaign against the blue and amosite fibres that Gefco markets.

He says the market for blue fibre is static, with sales only to a constant number of traditional customers. While the recent US court decision to reject a total ban on asbestos is positive, Hart does not expect to regain customers lost through substitution.

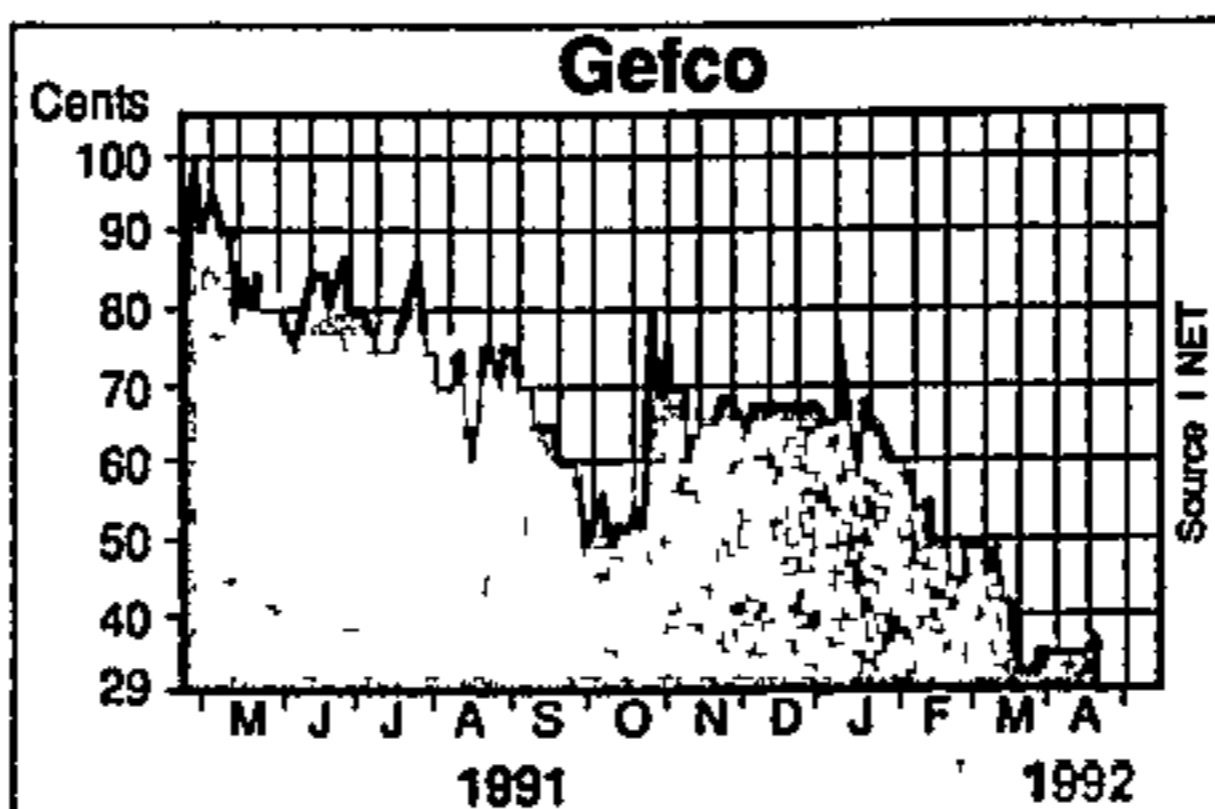
One hope is that demand for blue asbestos will pick up because the supply of premium grade chrysotile is falling. One major Canadian producer has gone bankrupt. Two of the three producing sections at Gefco's Kuru-man blue asbestos mine have been moth-balled but Hart says flexibility will be maintained to increase output if required.

Management recognised the need to diversify several years ago but so far its attempts have been singularly unsuccessful.

The first was the Von Brandis gold joint venture with Msauli, adjoining Msauli's mine in KaNgwane. The flat gold price of the past three years kept this on a see-saw. It has been put under care and maintenance pending a sustained recovery in the gold price.

Gefco's next move was into coal, with the purchase of Annandale Colliery near Newcastle, on which it spent R4m to build a washing and sizing plant to treat 60 000 t/month raw coal. Annandale has a contract to supply washed duff coal to a member of the Richards Bay Coal Terminal.

Moving into coal proved a lot trickier than expected. Hart says Annandale has been a "bitter disappointment." The plant was sup-



posed to be fully commissioned by August but neither the sized coal nor fines sections were in full production by year-end.

"Many factors (contributed) to these misjudgments, but in the main were the injudicious use of second-hand equipment and lack of in-depth, in-house knowledge of the coal industry," says Hart. He hopes the problems will be sorted out this year and that Annandale "may" make a positive contribution to profits.

Despite these problems, Gefco still sees coal as its best hope of diversifying. Management is looking at two new coal projects. One is the acquisition of about 27 Mt of B-grade coal near Hendrina, the other a joint venture over an operating mine.

Capex soared to R11,8m last year (1990. R5,6m) but is being chopped back this year to no more than R3m as Gefco faces a cash squeeze with a R3,7m overdraft (R0,4m).

Hart hopes Gefco will at least break even this year, but says dividends look remote. Only a gambler would buy, but Gefco's history shows gamblers have done precisely this and profited well at times.

Brendan Ryan

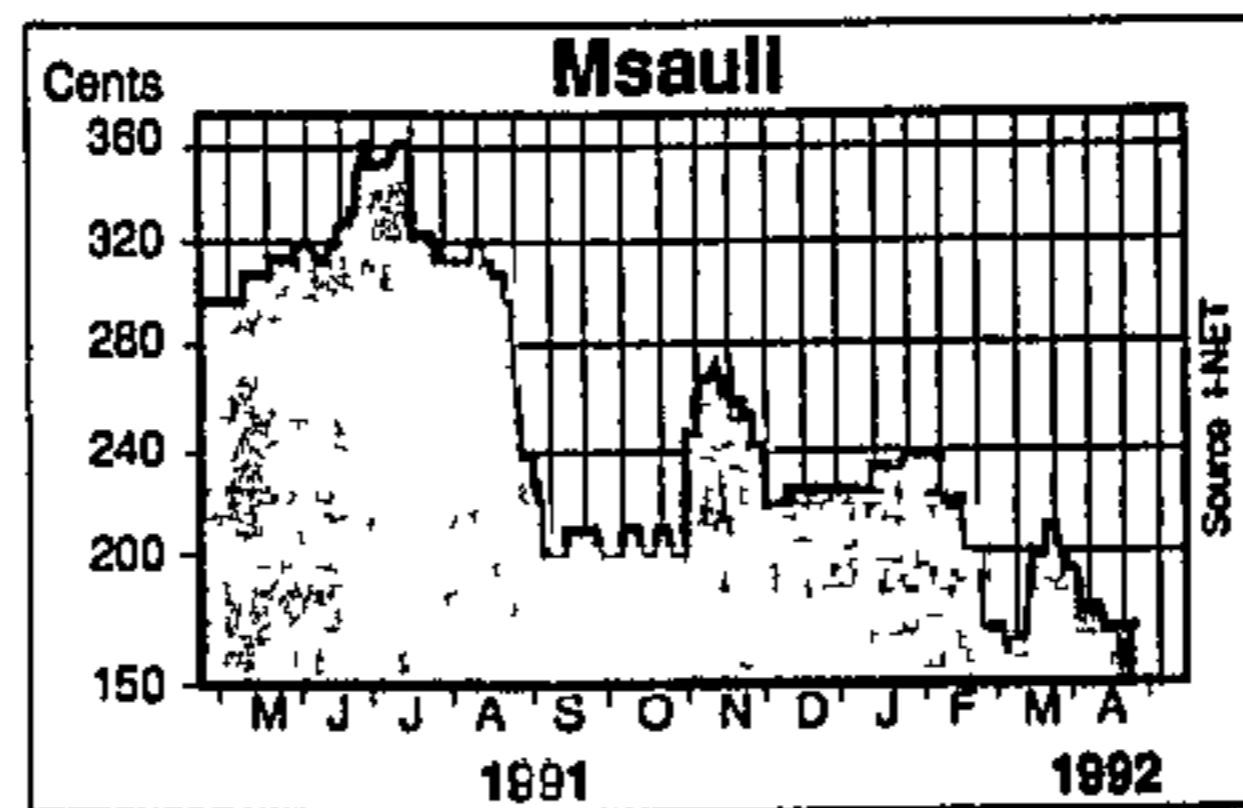
MSAULI

Better support

Msauli held up better in the depressed asbestos business than sister company Gefco because demand remained firm for its product, while management got a grip on the underground mining problems that sent production costs soaring in 1990.

Msauli is more fortunate than Gefco in that its material — chrysotile or white asbestos — is top quality. So it has never had a problem selling all it can produce.

The problem has been to get the asbestos out of the mine. Production slumped 11% to about 100 000 t in 1990, causing unit working costs to soar 29% as the mine battled with support problems underground.



Activities: Produces white asbestos from a mine in KaNgwane, holds 50% of the Von Brandis Gold Project

Control: Gefco 32,9%

Chairman: H P Hart

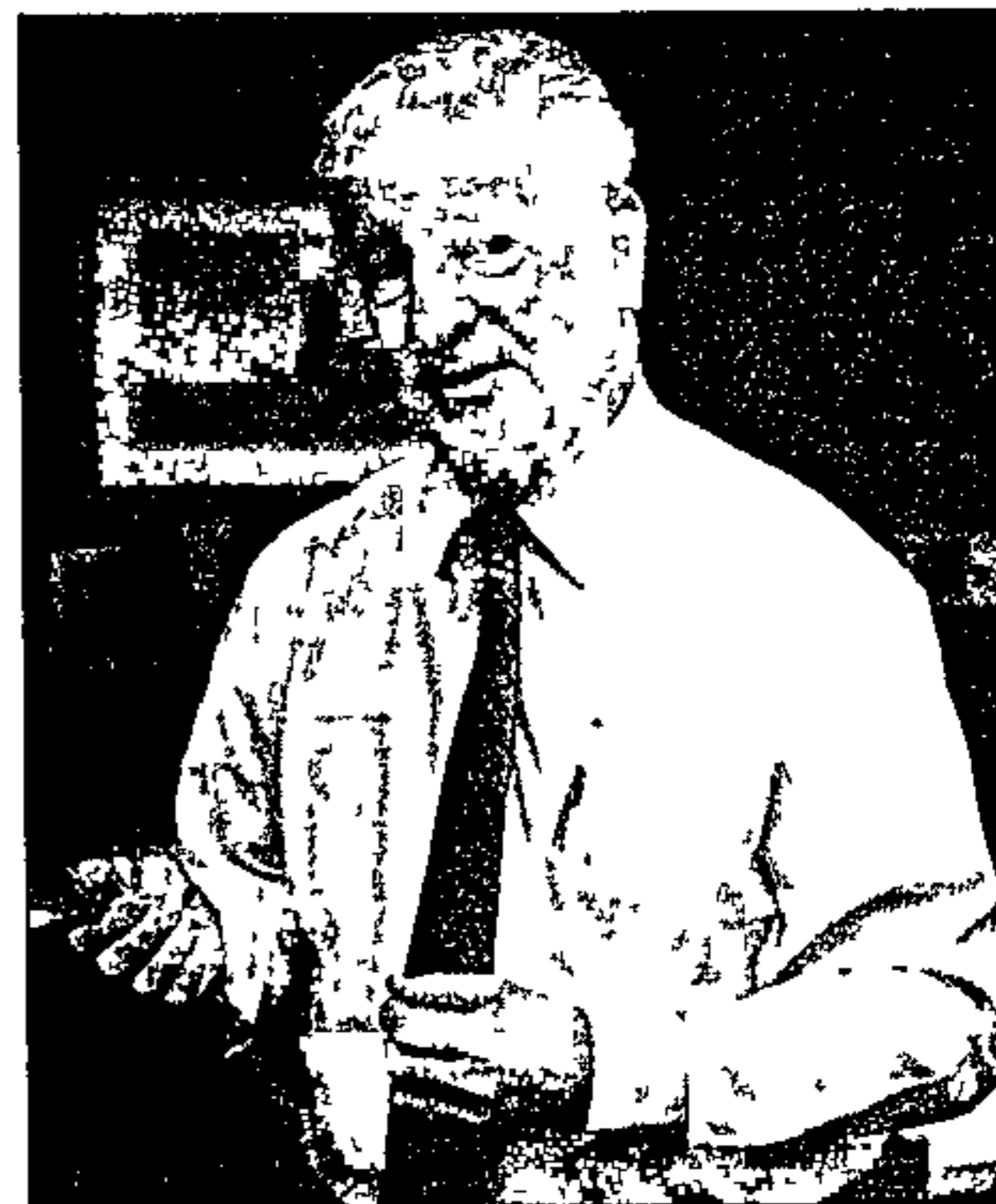
Capital structure: 6,45m ords Market capitalisation R11m

Share market: Price 170c Yields 14,7% on dividend, 71,7% on earnings, p/e ratio, 1,4, cover, 4,9 12-month high, 360c, low, 160c Trading volume last quarter, 140 000 shares

Year to Dec	'88	'89	'90	'91
Turnover (Rm)	57,0	74,1	70,2	78,0
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	11,4	22,4	12,0	7,9
Earnings (c)	177,2	280,7	153,0	121,9
Dividends (c)	35	75	50	25

Chairman Pat Hart says the decline in production was halted last year. Output was maintained at 1990 levels and unit working costs rose only 11%. He expects a 10% increase in output this year through higher underground production combined with extra material from the newly commissioned tailings recovery plant.

Material from the tailings dump should also offset higher working costs as under-



Msauli's Hart finances still healthy

ground operations go deeper.

Despite the better cost performance, profit margins were trimmed about 10% because chrysotile asbestos prices rose only 7,5% in rand terms. US dollar prices went up 5% and the weaker value of the rand against the dollar made up the difference.

Capex jumped to R6,6m (1990 R2,4m), on the tailings recovery plant. It will stay at this level this year, with R2m earmarked for the deeper mine workings and another R2m to set up a new container depot.

Hart says the financial state remains healthy. He is looking for an improvement in dividend, if production and cost forecasts are met and the market holds up — and he believes it will. He expects to sell the increased output this year at improved prices.

Like Gefco, the Msauli share price is just above its 12-month low. But Msauli's prospects appear a lot better. At 170c, a pegged

STAR 51992
**Australia facing
zircon challenge**
Star Foreign Service 217

MELBOURNE — Exports of Australian mineral sands and value-added titanium-based products could double to R5 billion annually in the next few years but local producers will face stiff competition from South Africa.

This is the view of the Titanium Minerals Committee, which warns that the South African producers are aggressive and are already wresting market share from Australia.

In 1989 Richards Bay produced 17 percent of the world's requirements of zircon and last year increased that to 29 percent.

In the same period Australia's share fell from 57 to 44 percent.

Surge in Implats shares

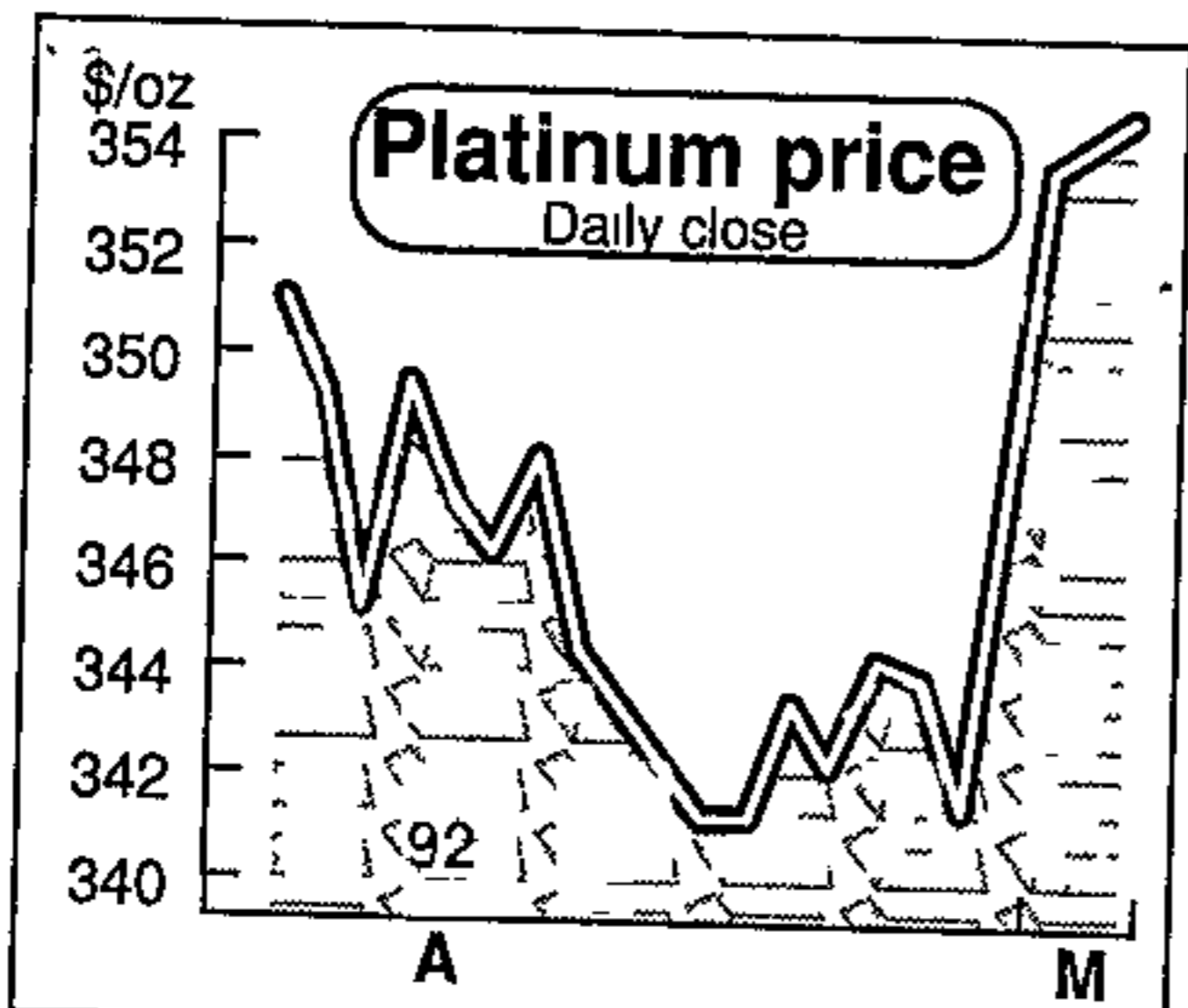
810 am 5/5/92
IMPALA Platinum (Implats) shares burst into action on the JSE yesterday, climbing more than 6% or 250c to lead the upswing on the platinum board as stock was buoyed by higher metal prices. The platinum index closed 95 points higher at 4 613.

Platinum prices levelled off yesterday after reaching month-highs at the weekend.

Analysts said the metal had reacted to signs that the US motor industry and the economy in general had started to recover slowly.

The main use for platinum is in the manufacture of catalytic converters, installed to absorb noxious exhaust fumes emitted by car engines.

The US motor industry reported record losses in 1991 as sales plummeted, but Ford



Graphic LEE EMERTON Source I NET

217
MATTHEW CURTIN

moved back into the black in figures released last week.

A Reuters report said most US car makers had reported strong car sales compared with a year ago.

Analysts said that in addition there was a physical shortage of platinum on Nymex, with prospects of the same on Tokyo's Tocom exchange. European customers were continuing to buy metal in advance of the more stringent clean air legislation, clamping down on car emissions, which would come into force next year. The new legislation will require heavier loadings of platinum group metals in car catalysts which are fitted in all new models.

On the JSE, Implats closed at R42,25, narrowing its discount to market leader Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) which ended the day 50c higher at R74. Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) stock also reacted strongly, climbing away from its record lows of recent weeks to close at 135c, 8% or 10c up on the day.

Analysts said refining and labour problems at Implats and production problems at Leplat meant the shares represented some of the best value on the platinum board.

Investors had shied away from the shares in the latest slump in platinum prices, preferring market leader Rusplat.

An Implats spokesman confirmed yesterday there was continued progress on the labour front on the mines, dogged last year by wildcat strikes and general labour unrest.

Vansa to be delisted ^{8/10am 7/15/92} (2/11)

VANSA Vanadium, a Rand Mines subsidiary, will be delisted from the JSE at the end of June, following the suspension of the shares last year.

Vansa reported an after-tax profit of R4,8m in the six months ended March 1992, a period in which the company's sole income was from interest on the proceeds of the sale of its operating assets in 1991. The cash has been distributed to shareholders and Vansa passed its interim dividend.

A Vansa spokesman said yesterday the company's income would fall sharply in the rest of the financial year. Vansa's remaining assets were mineral rights. The company was still trying to bring these to account.

"It is estimated that it could take at least two

MATTHEW CURTIN

years before any value is realised from this source."

Vansa sold its vanadium assets to Vanadium Technology, a subsidiary of ferrochrome producer Chromecorp Technology, which is to bring the revamped mine and vanadium pentoxide plant back on stream later this month.

Vansa's foray into the vanadium business was thwarted by a crash in vanadium pentoxide prices and higher-than-expected costs at its plant, which never overcame teething problems.

The company's Winterveld chrome mine was sold to Samancor as part of its acquisition from Barlow Rand of Middelburg Steel & Alloys' ferrochrome operation last year.

Wetland experts ponder over St Lucia 217

Pretoria Correspondent

Experts of the Ramsar Convention, which aims to conserve wetlands of international importance, have yet to decide on what their recommendation to the Government will be with regard to proposed mining activities at Lake St Lucia.

"We have no doubt whatsoever about the area's status as a wetland of international importance," Ramsar Convention assistant secretary-general Michael Smart said yesterday

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Mr Smart and members of an international delegation arrived in South Africa on April 27 to determine whether the mining activities in the area would be a threat to the wetland. They have visited the wetland in question as well as wetlands in KwaZulu that are also listed on the Ramsar Convention as being of international importance.

Dr Vic Semeniuk, an Australian delegate and specialist in the effects of mining operations on sand dunes, said the delegation had also visited Richards

Bay Minerals (RBM), the company which hopes to mine in the south-eastern portion of the Lake St Lucia wetland.

"RBM's operations and revegetation work in Richards Bay appear to be very successful, but this is only a first impression and the impact of mining and success of revegetation at Lake St Lucia will still have to be studied carefully," he said.

Mr Smart said the delegation would compile a report on its findings and submit a recommendation to the Department of Environment Affairs.

Decision on St Lucia mining soon, says Govt

STAR 8/5/92

217

23

CAPE TOWN — The final environmental impact assessment (EIA) on mining of heavy minerals at St Lucia was expected towards the middle of the year, after which a final decision would be made, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs George Bartlett said in Parliament yesterday.

"The proposed mining operations at St Lucia should be approached unemotionally and with regard to the facts and the realities," he said, introducing debate on his vote.

Richards Bay Minerals was a reputable concern which had successfully rehabilitated coastal dunes.

The company had also won the Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Award a few years ago and there was every reason to believe the company would cooperate fully if mining rights were granted, Mr Bartlett said. The company had indicated

that if the EIA concluded that the proposed mining operations would lead to irreparable damage to the area, it would withdraw its application, the minister said.

"If the EIA indicates the opposite, Richards Bay Minerals would probably accept that mining rights would be granted," he said.

The present value of the heavy mineral deposits was about R6 billion.

Referring to the proposed mining of kaolin at Noordhoek, in the Cape, which had an estimated value of R1 billion, Mr Bartlett said the EIA commissioned by Serina (Pty) had been completed and strict conditions had been approved in terms of which mining would be allowed.

The conditions included

- Registration of a trust fund to be used for rehabilitation purposes only
- Directives concerning the abatement of noise, control of dust, prevention of soil erosion, water management, protection of the ecology, lessening of the

visual impact and rehabilitation of the land

● Specific requirements of all State departments involved, as well as the Cape Provincial Administration

● Establishing a committee, to include representatives of various interest groups and bodies, which would monitor mining and rehabilitation developments at the site.

"The key to mining development appears to be a sensible management of projects within the framework of environmental conservation.

"Regrettably, mining and conservation considerations have become emotive issues. This often leads to the distortion of facts. It is therefore in the interest of all concerned to rationally consider the facts of a particular project in order that a sound judgment can be made," the minister said.

"Man needs mining and the resultant economic advantages as much as he needs environmental conservation for his survival," he added — Sapa

**Asbestos fear causes
mine closure** 217 *ll*

SHRINKING demand for the long-fibre amosite asbestos produced by Gefco's Penge asbestos mine will cause the mine to close next month. Inhalation of asbestos causes respiratory disease, and amosite has come under particular pressure from environmental groups. Around 700 jobs will be lost.

WIM
8/5-17/5/92

Chapman's Peak mining to proceed

CAPE TOWN — Government yesterday gave the green light for the mining of the R1bn kaolin deposit on Chapman's Peak

Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett announced in Parliament that he had approved conditions in terms of which "mining will be allowed to take place".

Referring to the controversy sparked by proposals to mine the area, Bartlett said contentious issues and matters raised by concerned groups had been considered in drafting the conditions

The go-ahead followed the evaluation of the environmental impact assessment commissioned by Serina

The conditions of mining include CPA requirements and those of all government departments involved.

Bartlett said the conditions provided for

- A committee to monitor mining and rehabilitation developments in the proposed mining area. Its members would include representatives from state departments, the CPA and "various" unnamed interest groups;
 - A trust fund of unspecified size for rehabilitation only, and
 - Directives concerning the abatement of noise, the control of dust, the prevention of soil erosion, water management, protection of the ecology, lessening of the visual impact and the rehabilitation of the land
- Sapa reports Bartlett also an-

nounced that the final environmental impact assessment on mining of heavy minerals at St Lucia was expected towards mid-year, after which a final decision would be made

He said the proposed mining operations should be approached "unemotionally", and with regard to facts and realities

Richards Bay Minerals was a reputable concern which had successfully rehabilitated coastal dunes and won the environmental planning profession's interdisciplinary award a few years ago. Bartlett said there was every reason to believe it would co-operate if mining rights were granted.

It had indicated it would withdraw its application if the assessment concluded that proposed mining would lead to irreparable damage

The present value of the deposits was about R6bn, Bartlett said

Economic development in SA meant mining development as well as infrastructural and urban development, together with environmental conservation

Bartlett said mining and conservation considerations had regrettably become emotive issues, which lead to distortion of the facts

It was therefore in the interests of all concerned to rationally consider the facts of a particular project in order to make a sound judgment

(217)
8/5/92
Political Staff

Impala happy about a Bop return

(217) *S/Times (B45) 10/5/92*
BUSINESSMEN with investments in the independent homelands are weighing the implications of this week's agreement at Codesa that the statelets be reincorporated in South Africa.

Several JSE-listed companies are either registered in Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (TVBC) or their operating companies are registered or located there

The largest are Impala Platinum and the Sun International stable of SunBop, SunCisk and TransSun

Impala managing director Michael McMahon says running the group would be much easier under a single state

The listed holding company is registered in SA. But one of its operating companies is registered in Bophuthatswana where the mines are

Upside

Mr McMahon says that until details, such as tax and legal implications, are known no conclusions can be drawn on the effects of reincorporation

Analysts say there is more upside potential than down for Impala, which has been plagued by labour problems relating to the Bophuthatswana Government's reluctance to recognise trade unions

It also pays tax in both republics as well as royalties in Bophuthatswana

Sun International deputy chairman Ken Rosevear said at a presentation to analysts

a Bop return

By JULIE WALKER

that reincorporation should not present many problems in the first instance, a changeover would not be rapid

Second, government agen-

cies, such as development corporations, had more than R1-billion of share value in Sun International's resorts and had earned more than R1-billion in direct and indirect tax.

Third, the group employed 18 000 in a land short of jobs

Kaolin (217) Happiness 10 1897

SERINA Kaolin has welcomed the conditions of its licence to mine in the Cape Peninsula.

Serina's decision to mine the R1-billion kaolin reserve at Noordhoek provoked protests by environmentalists.

Klaus Zirker, chairman of Continental China Holdings, controlling company of Serina, says. "The conditions call for a monitoring committee and a trust fund to ensure that mining and rehabilitation are carried out in the most environmentally sensitive way possible."

Serina's premise from the start was that it would return the land in better condition than it was.

Aussies and SA in mineral row

STimes [Buss] 10/5/92 217

AN international row has erupted between Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) and Australian zircon producers over the collapse of the mineral's world price

Western chairman Ken Court told his shareholders in Perth this week that the sustained slide in the zircon price from a peak of about A\$600 (R1 296) a ton to A\$250 (R540) was caused by aggressive expansion by RBM

Zircon is used in refractory, ceramic and abrasive

By IAN ROBINSON

applications and is found with titanium minerals in beach sands

An expansion programme has raised RBM's annual production capacity of titanium slag from 750 000 to a million tons, and as a result will also lift zircon capacity to 300 000 tons by the end of the year. It will then be the world's largest producer of zircon

RBM managing director Roy MacPherson says the zircon output increase will

come from extra titanium slag capacity

The slag is a competitive product for the production of titanium pigment — used in paint, plastics and paper. RBM has concluded contracts for the sale of its entire production

Some Australian titanium producers which produce competitive products — natural and synthetic rutile and the mineral ilmenite — which can be used as feedstock in pigment production have been losing market share to RBM slag and have cut production

RBM has also been affected by the weak market for zircon and has accumulated stocks of more than 150 000 tons. However, it is not prepared to continue to build stocks. Mr MacPherson says company policy is to sell all its zircon.

RBM is upgrading its zircon separation facilities which will enable it to produce a top-grade product

Revenue from zircon comprises a much smaller proportion of RBM revenue than is the case with Australian beach sand producers

Titanium newcomers may take a new route

PROSPECTIVE South African titanium producers could introduce innovative processing technology

To be profitable, two potential projects will need to process the raw material — ilmenite — to an intermediate product which can be used as a feedstock in titanium pigment production. Ilmenite must be converted to titanium slag or synthetic rutile (SR).

Most titanium pigment is used in paint and smaller quantities go into paper and plastics.

Richards Bay Minerals produces slag with pig iron as a co-product, using technology acquired from Quebec Iron & Titanium (QIT) which originally held a 42% share in RBM.

Anglo American and Shell-Rhoex are conducting feasibility studies and could join RBM, SA's only producer.

Anglo American is evaluating a deposit on the Cape west coast near Brand se Baai and about 80km northwest of Vredendal. Shell and Rhoex are looking at deposits

By IAN ROBINSON

S/ Times (BUS) 10/5/92
inland from Richards Bay

Producers' choice of processing route depends on factors which include grain size, scale of production and access to technology. These constraints could force the potential producers to adopt technology which has not been applied before in the world.

Barrier

The grain size of SA ilmenite is generally finer than deposits in Australia. This makes it unsuitable for the production of SR, which is used in chloride-route pigment. When SR is too fine, it results in high processing losses.

However, ilmenite grains become coarser moving north up the east coast and Rhoex's announcement in June last year said the joint venture would produce SR.

SA ilmenite contains lower impurity levels than Australia's.

The Shell-Rhoex product would therefore be a finer grained but purer product than Australian SR.

However, the technology of smelting ilmenite to slag constitutes a high barrier to entry as the QIT-RBM process — the only successful existing process — is held under licence.

Slag production is capital intensive and thus more suited to large-scale projects. Lower capital costs favour SR for small projects.

The fine grain size of the ilmenite has compelled Anglo American to choose the slag route for its Namakwa Sands project. It is believed to be studying plasma-arc technology as a means of making slag.

A smelter could be built at Saldanha Bay at a cost of R350-million and production could begin in 1996 at an annual rate of 212 000 tons — less than a quarter of RBM's million tons a year.

A Shell spokesman says the scope of the feasibility study has been broadened and will include slag as well as SR.

Rio Tinto mine strike ends after talks

NEGOTIATIONS resolved a strike by 2 300 copper miners at Rio Tinto's Phalaborwa mine in the northern Transvaal on Friday, and strikers agreed to return to work immediately, said a mine spokesman.

An illegal sit-in strike involving almost the entire black work force started on Thursday when workers said they were unhappy about the employment of contract workers, especially security personnel.

(217) (217) (217)
"Agreement has been reached between the company and the union for an immediate return to work ."
mine spokesman Paul Clothier said The union and NUM headquarters had agreed there would be no further further illegal strikes — Sapa

BIPRAY 11/15/72

Environmental laws to boost demand for platinum

WORLD demand for platinum would significantly exceed supply in 1992, bringing with it higher prices than the \$375 an ounce average in 1991, Genmin strategy and planning senior manager Almorie Maule said at the weekend.

Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) MD Barry Davison said the group believed the longer term prospects for platinum demand and prices were excellent.

Platinum was fixed in London at \$353.25 on Friday, compared with Thursday's setting of \$351.25.

Maule said a resilient Japanese jewellery industry and increasing motor industry consumption, in spite of depressed car sales, would ensure strong platinum demand in 1992.

Although car sales were falling in Europe and Japan, and recovering off a low base in the US, tighter environmental legislation necessitated heavy platinum

group metal loadings in catalytic converters, installed in increasing numbers of new vehicles. New clean air laws come into force in the EC next year.

Motor manufacturers were also keen to use converters with heavier loadings than required, to avoid the expense of recalling vehicles if they failed to meet emissions standards. The industry would consume 250 000oz more in 1992 than the 1.5-million oz in 1991.

Maule said supplies of Russian metal were likely to be lower at about 650 000oz than the record levels of 900 000oz in 1991. Although SA platinum production would increase, it would be less than expected a year ago, she said.

Davison said there would be no major increase in Rusplat's production by financial year-end in June. Rusplat was proceeding with its expansion programme as planned,

but its effects would be felt only in the next financial year.

He estimated SA platinum production would rise by about 5% in calendar 1992, but the increase would be "materially less than expected".

Maule said SA platinum production would rise by about 10% to 3.3-million oz in 1992 from 3-million oz last year, with a key factor being Implats' recovery of lost production from last year.

Implats MD Michael McMahon said Implats' production in the current financial year would be lower than the 1.07-million oz in 1991. The group dropped 100 000oz in lost production and 50 000oz in refinery lock-up for the six months ended December, because of wildcat strikes at its mines in Bophuthatswana.

McMahon said the mines would be back to full production by year-end in June as they were exceeding recovery targets, and

Implats would have recovered more than 40 000oz of the locked-up metal.

Analysts said the threat of more labour disruption had receded due to NEM's application for recognition in terms of homeland legislation. They also pointed to a softening of the Bophuthatswana government's position since its participation in Codesa.

Planned new production had been hit by sliding platinum prices which resulted in the mothballing of the Crocodile River and developing Messina mines in the past year.

Rusplat's sister company Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) had curtailed underground expansion plans.

Davison said Leplat was within 10% of its monthly target underground production of 70 000 tons of ore. However, Leplat was reviewing plans to increase production to 100 000 tons by open-cast mining an outright crop of UG2 ore because of poor prices

MATTHEW CURTIN

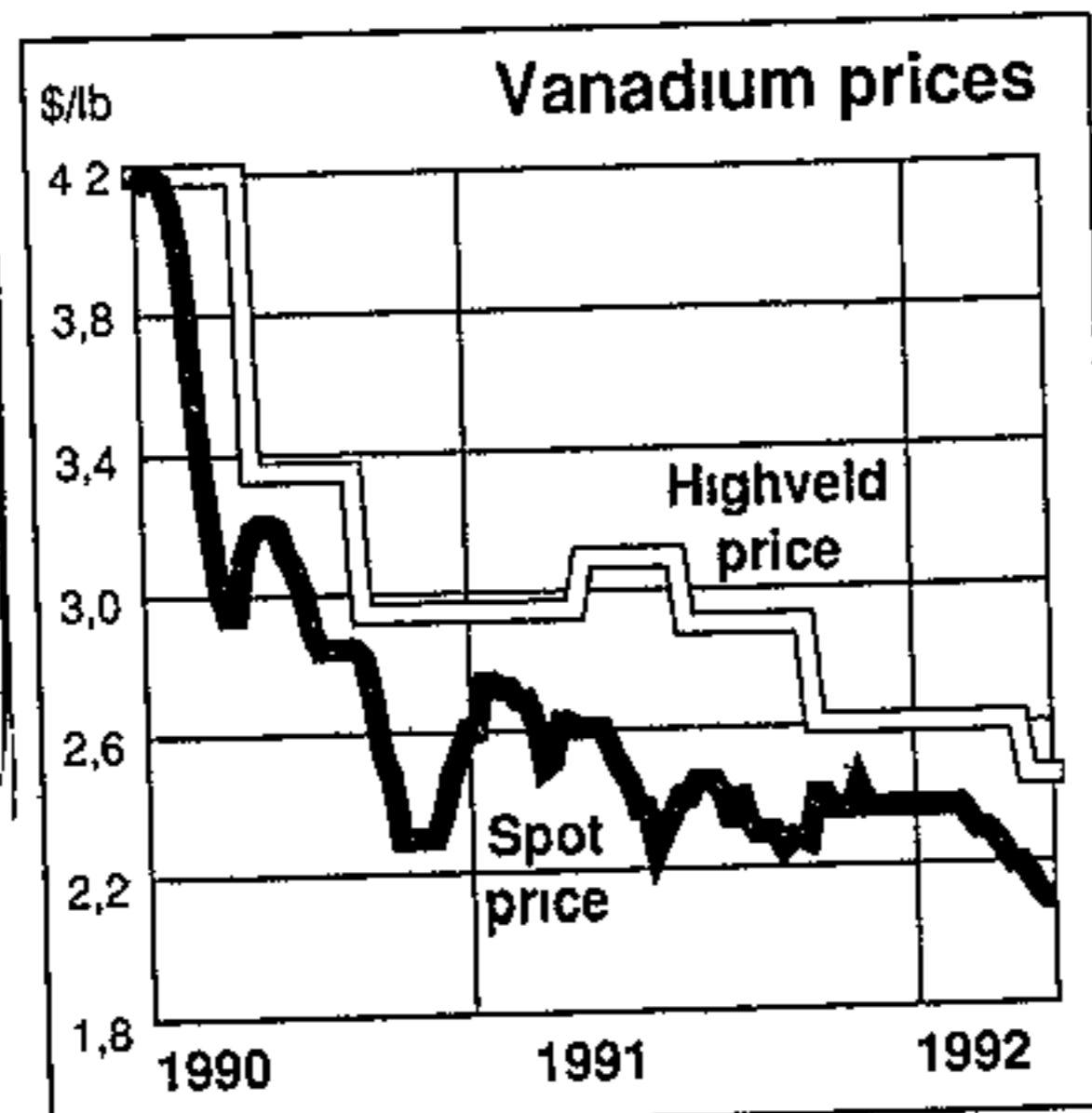
Rhovan wins backing for beneficiation plant

6/10 am 11/5/92
 RHOMBUS Vanadium has won backing in principle from the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) for the construction of a new multimillion-rand vanadium beneficiation plant, an industry source said at the weekend

Rhovan CE Rob Still and IDC spokesman Malcolm MacDonald would not comment at the weekend on the progress of the project Rhovan had completed a feasibility study on a new plant which would treat material from its existing Ba-Magopa mine near Brits

The source said Highveld had been lobbying the IDC in a bid to deter backing for the Rhovan project because of the damage the new capacity could do to already gloomy conditions in the industry

Rhovan is one of only three groups gearing up to bring millions of rands worth of new capacity on stream, undeterred by rock-bottom vanadium prices, world oversupply and two failed SA ventures last year



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: I NET

Vanadium Technology (Vantech), which is running Rand Mines' former vanadium facilities, will officially open its mine and revamped plant at the end of the week

It was reported at the weekend that plans by Precious Metals Australia (PMA) to build a new mine in Windimurra, Western Australia, would receive ministerial approval in July

However, analysts said PMA was in direct competition with Rhovan for financial backing and the project might fall by the wayside because Rhovan was on the verge of going ahead with its project

Still's response at the weekend to news of possible ministerial approval for the PMA project was, "So what?"

Vanadium pentoxide prices remain poor. Free market spot prices have crumbled to between \$2,05/lb and \$2,15/lb, their lowest levels for years, amounting to a significant discount to Highveld Steel and

217
 MATTHEW CURTIN

Vanadium's contract price in the current quarter of \$2,45/lb

Vanadium is an important ingredient in the making of special steels, demand for which has been knocked by the world recession. Prices have been buffeted by market concern at oversupply

Current world vanadium production is running at 87-million pounds a year, compared with consumption of 82-million pounds. Highveld dominates SA and world vanadium production with its capacity of 60-million pounds a year

Industry sources say that with the promise of burgeoning SA vanadium supply following the lull after the failure of Rand Mines' Vansa Vanadium and the Rhovan/Usko joint venture in 1990/1991, Highveld is concerned that the SA and world vanadium industry may be plunged into a period of fierce competition

That has plagued the coal and ferrochrome sectors in the past, when already tight profit margins have been squeezed even more

The outlook for Vantech and Rhovan may have been brightened by news that European ferrovanadium producers have stopped converting vanadium slag, a by-product of the steel-making process when vanadium-bearing iron ore is used as it is at Highveld

In April, German producer Gesellschaft Fur Elektrometallurgie (GfE) said it would shut down its slag conversion plant in September because rapidly rising environmental costs in a depressed market had made the operation uneconomic

Another factor affecting GfE was Highveld's decision to increase its own treatment of slag at its Vantra division

The group has normally sent slag to be treated overseas, while producing vanadium pentoxide from vanadium ore at its Vantra division

The group spent R10m in modifying Vantra so 20% of its production would be from slag — a project set to be completed by mid-year. The group also has plans to modify Vantra further to produce vanadium trioxide, a more cost effective way of producing ferrovanadium

One analyst said at the weekend that the Rhovan project was being pushed because the company already had a proven vanadium mine and concentration plant which had successfully supplied material to Usko

Rhovan was confident that the quality of its ore body meant that with a new beneficiation plant it could be a low-cost producer and survive weak prices

However, he said management at both Vansa and Usko had said the same

Bullish sentiment lifts JSE platinum shares

MATTHEW CURTIN

SHARES in Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat), the world's leading platinum producer, hit R78,50 on the JSE yesterday, their highest level since September 1990.

Higher platinum prices and increasingly bullish long-term views of the market lifted shares across the platinum board.

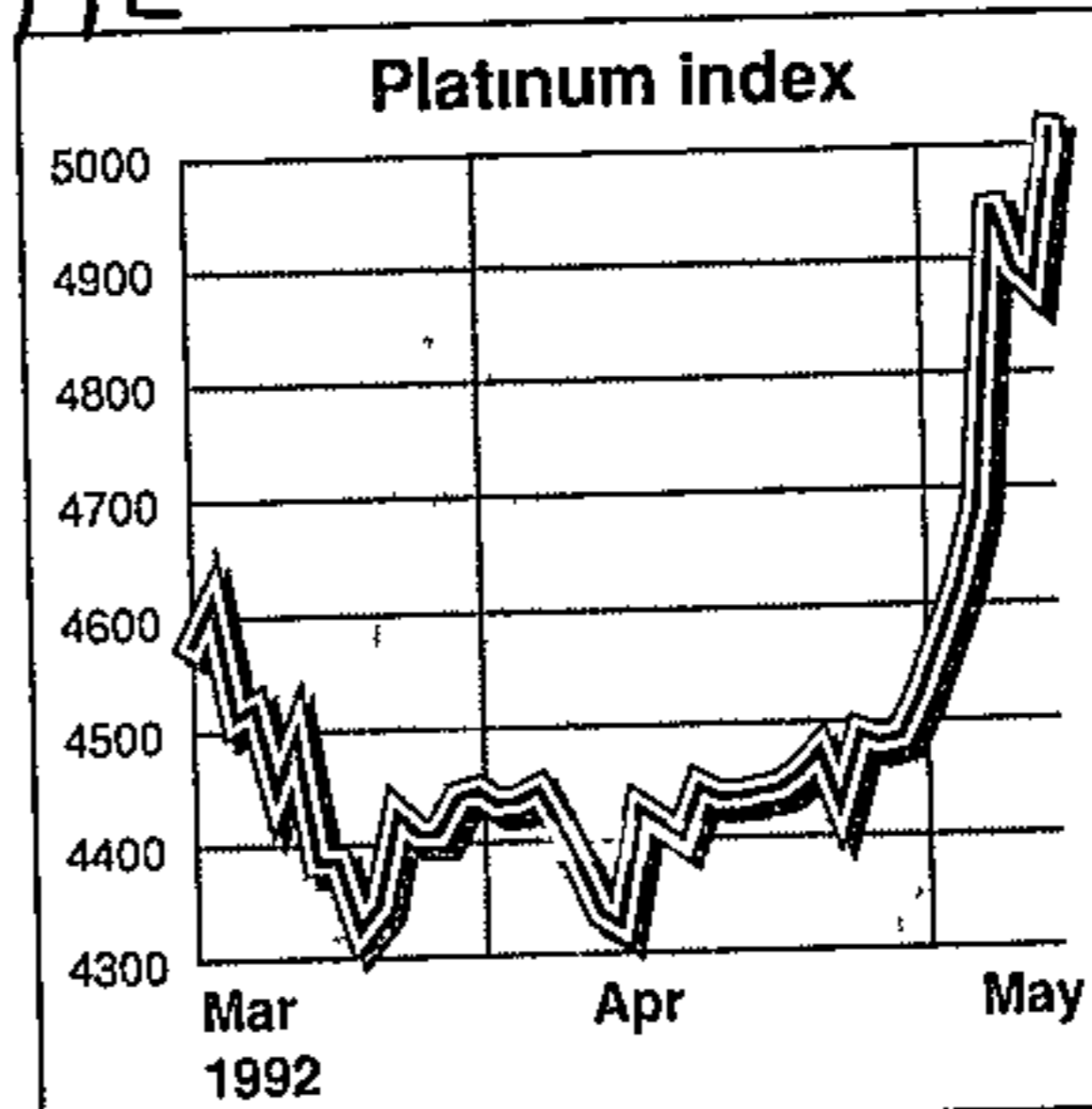
The JSE's platinum index passed the 5 000 mark for the first time since July last year, to close 132 points higher at 5 009.

Impala Platinum (Implats) led the gains, rising 5,2% or 250c to close the day at R50,50. Implats has begun to shake off the effect of associated labour and production problems which dogged its mines in Bophuthatswana in 1991.

The stock has risen more than 26% in the past month, narrowing Implats' discount to market leader Rusplat, which had widened consistently in the past year.

Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) and developing mine Potgietersrust Platinums (P P Rust) also made good gains to climb more than 3% to end the day at 160c and 670c respectively. Leplat has risen off record lows to gain 35c or 28% in the past month, while the volatile P P Rust, which was listed last year, is near record highs after falling to a low of 510c earlier this year.

Platinum was fixed in London yesterday



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH Source: I NET

afternoon at \$354,35/oz, up from Friday's fix of \$353,25.

Reuters reports that New York analysts said optimism that the US economy was recovering from recession, fed by Friday's stronger-than-expected jobs data, buoyed sentiment. So did perceptions that demand in the Far East for platinum — Japan is the largest consumer of platinum jewellery — would increase soon.

Confidence was also boosted by concern over the availability of the metal in the physical market, particularly in Europe.

VANSA VANADIUM FM 15/5/92

Listing to terminate (217)

The listing of Rand Mines' ill-fated venture into vanadium, Vansa Vanadium, will cease at the end of June, but it could be another two years before minorities get their final payouts. Instead of making an offer to take out minorities, Rand Mines intends keeping the company in existence until it can sell its last remaining asset: mineral rights over 4 500 ha in the eastern Transvaal, underlain by platinum-bearing reefs.

MD David Ashworth says an offer to minorities was considered but the group decided it would be fairer to sell the mineral rights and then pay out the cash. The company last year distributed to shareholders its shares in Barplats Investments along with R60,9m surplus cash.

Getting a fair price for the mineral rights could take up to two years because the reefs are deep. Ashworth comments the value of the rights is low in present market conditions, management intends waiting for better times in the platinum business before selling.

Cash on hand at March 31 of R4m will be used to meet expenses and keep Vansa going until the mineral rights can be sold. The vanadium mine and plant was sold to a consortium headed by John Vorster and the official opening of the modified operation, now called Vantech, is on Friday.

Vorster, who successfully established the 180 000 t/year Chrome Corp Technology (CCT) ferrochrome plant, intends producing

FM 15/5/92

FOX

(217)

3 000 t vanadium pentoxide a year and is confident this will be profitable even at current rock-bottom prices of US\$2,05/lb. He poached key staff from Samancor to make CCT work and followed the same approach at Vantech, taking key staff from market leader Highveld.

Brendan Ryan

ASSOCIATED MANGANESE

Saved by manganese ore exports

FM 15/5/92

217



Activities: Mines manganese and iron ores and produces ferromanganese and ferrochrome

Control: Associated Ore 45%, Anglovaal 41%

Chairman: B E Hersov

Capital structure: 3,6m ords Market capitalisation R1,2bn

Share market: Price R33 Yields 2,3% on dividend, 8,8% on earnings, p e ratio, 11,3, cover, 3,9 12-month high, R34, low, R32,75 Trading volume last quarter, 1 000 shares

Year to Dec 31	'88	'89	'90	'91
Turnover (Rm)	445	718	614	575
Operating profit (Rm)	99	288	205	208
Other income (Rm)	5,3	12,1	2,4	6,0
Earnings (c)	1 452	4 075	2 695	2 922
Dividends (c)	1 275	2 400	750	750

Earnings were saved by manganese ore exports as crumbling markets for ferromanganese and ferrochrome saw subsidiary Feralloys plummet deep into the red

Chairman Basil Hersov says sales volumes of ferromanganese "decreased significantly," while demand and prices for ferrochrome remained depressed Feralloys, as a result, lost R11,5m pre-tax (1990 R19,9m pre-tax profit)

The reason for the pitiful performance of chrome has been well-publicised and resulted from major SA producers — Assmang, Consolidated Metallurgical Industries (CMI), Samancor and ChromeCorp Technology (CCT) — cutting one another's throats to try maintain market share

An orgy of red ink resulted as the price fell below US49c/lb before sanity was finally restored and producers took concerted action to get the price back up to 52c/lb in the last quarter of 1991 They are now digging in to make that price stick CCT and Samancor have temporarily shut their ferrochrome furnaces CMI has cut production by 40%

Assmang's capacities are estimated at 200 000 t/year ferromanganese and about 100 000 t ferrochrome Anglovaal executive director David Crowe says only one ferrochrome furnace is in operation, producing about 60 000 t/year Assmang is in the minor league The market is dominated by Samancor, with capacity of 1 Mt, followed by CMI (330 000 t) and CCT (about



Assmang's Hersov surprising gain in earnings

180 000 t)

That could work in Assmang's favour, given apparent extreme customer dissatisfaction with the concentration of SA supply since Samancor acquired Middelburg Steel & Alloys last year CMI has made two attempts to take over CCT If it succeeded, Assmang would be SA's only independent ferrochrome producer

Samancor and CCT have declared their intention to get ferrochrome back to 55c/lb as soon as possible, but Hersov expects no joy in the short term He forecasts no meaningful recovery in demand and prices for ferromanganese and ferrochrome this year

Crowe says that though 52c/lb is the stated price, some SA producers are doing business below this level

That leaves Assmang dependent on manganese ore exports and these are also expected to drop Sales fell by 300 000 t to 1 Mt in 1990, while iron ore sales fell 314 000 t to 1,76 Mt Hersov says higher US dollar prices for manganese ore in late 1990 were maintained during 1991 and more than offset lower volumes

That, combined with a write-back of R11,6m from Feralloys' deferred tax provision, resulted in the largely unexpected 33% rise in earnings — against the earnings drop recorded by Samancor

If Feralloys makes similar losses this year, there will be no compensating write-back as there is only R4,7m left in the deferred tax account So Assmang's earnings must drop, though some analysts believe it could hold its

dividend again

The share is tightly held and thinly traded, which probably largely accounts for its strength A dividend yield of 2,3% looks expensive Samancor yields 3,6% even though its price has been heavily underpinned by investors keen on the long-term growth through the Columbus project

Brendan Ryan

OMNIA FM 15/5/92

Smiling through



Activities: Makes and markets fertiliser, explosives, chemicals, seeds and conducts farming operations

Control: Anglo-Alpha 26%, directors 22%

Chairman: Dr R K J Winkler, MD N J Crosse

Capital structure: 38,8m ords Market capitalisation R174,6m

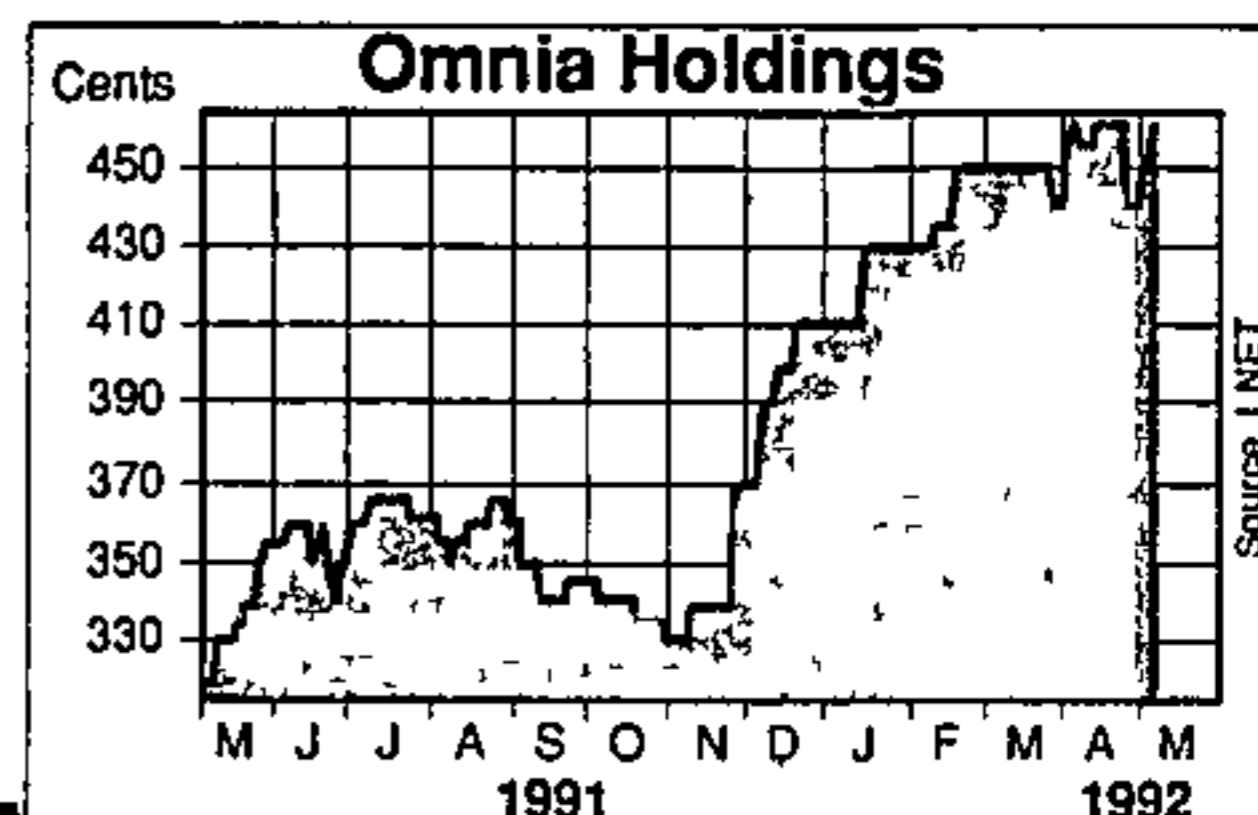
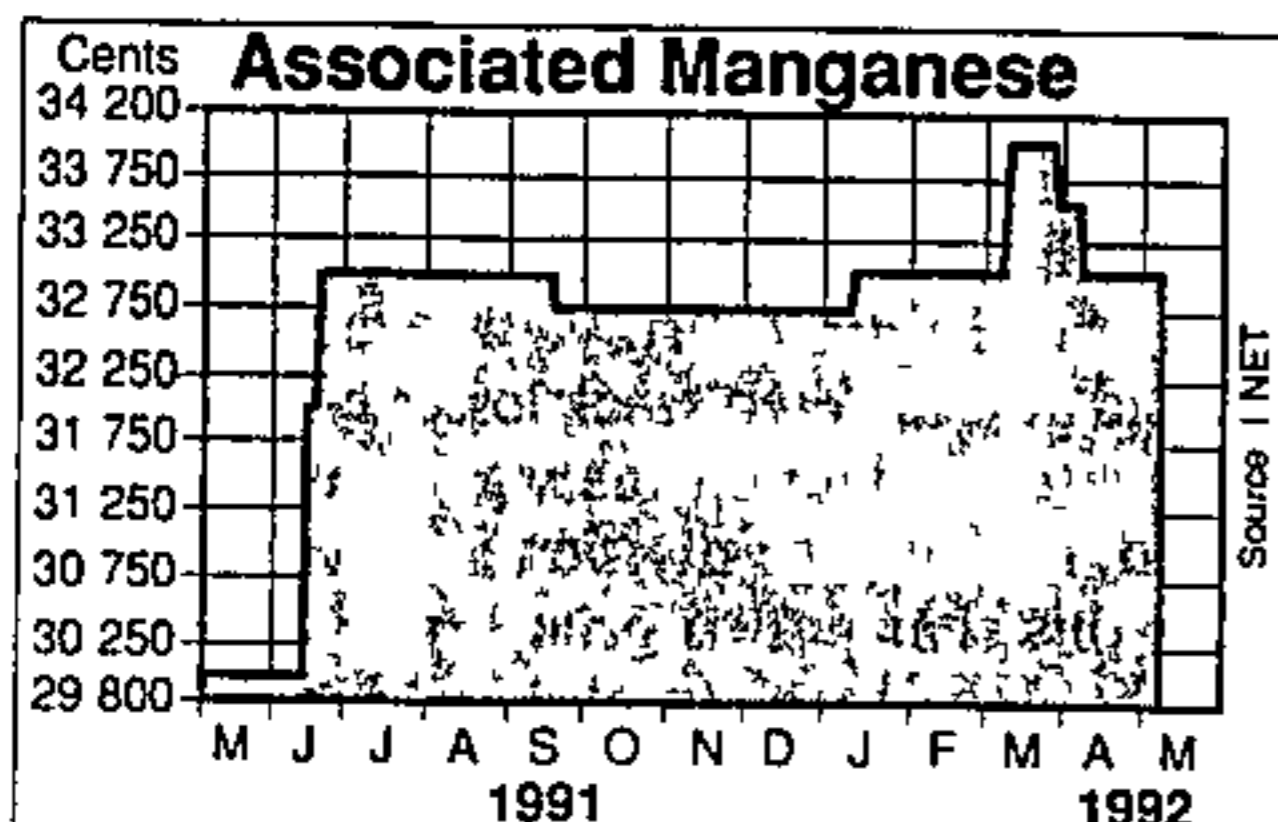
Share market: Price 460c Yields 7,8% on dividend, 18,2% on earnings, p e ratio, 5,5, cover, 2,3 12-month high, 460c, low, 320c Trading volume last quarter, 191 000 shares

Year to Dec	'88	'89	'90	'91
ST debt (Rm)	46,1	46,1	40,6	43,9
LT debt (Rm)	42,1	37,1	27,8	23,5
Debt:equity ratio	1,16	0,99	0,63	0,23
Shareholders' interest	0,36	0,33	0,37	0,35
Int & leasing cover	2,36	2,58	2,31	2,34
Return on cap (%)	14,2	19,2	17,8	18,0
Turnover (Rm)	243	336	381	438
Pre-int profit (Rm)	29,8	48,0	49,2	60,7
Pre-int margin (%)	12,3	14,3	12,9	13,8
Earnings (c)	43,6	66,6	73,2	82,0
Dividends (c)	15	26	30	35
Net worth (c)	178	215	261	308

The drought may be the most horrific in memory and El Nino may be spreading dryness and disaster, but there is a faint smile on the face of corporate Omnia The reason is not hard to find for the fourth successive year, it has raised its dividends

Management has failed shareholders in only one sense MD Neville Crosse last year told the FM the objective was EPS growth of 6% in real terms, EPS rose only 12%, a small decline in real terms

The truth is that agriculture — and, by extension, the fertiliser industry — is not the most comfortable of SA business sectors Given this inherent disadvantage, Omnia's



Platinum production up 53% by 2000 ⁽²¹⁷⁾ analyst

B/day 15/5/92

MATTHEW CURTIN

SA PLATINUM production would increase 53% by the year 2000, with Lonrho and Rustenburg Platinum mines proving to be the lowest-cost producers, Frankel, Max Pollak, Vinderine analyst Kevin Kartun said yesterday.

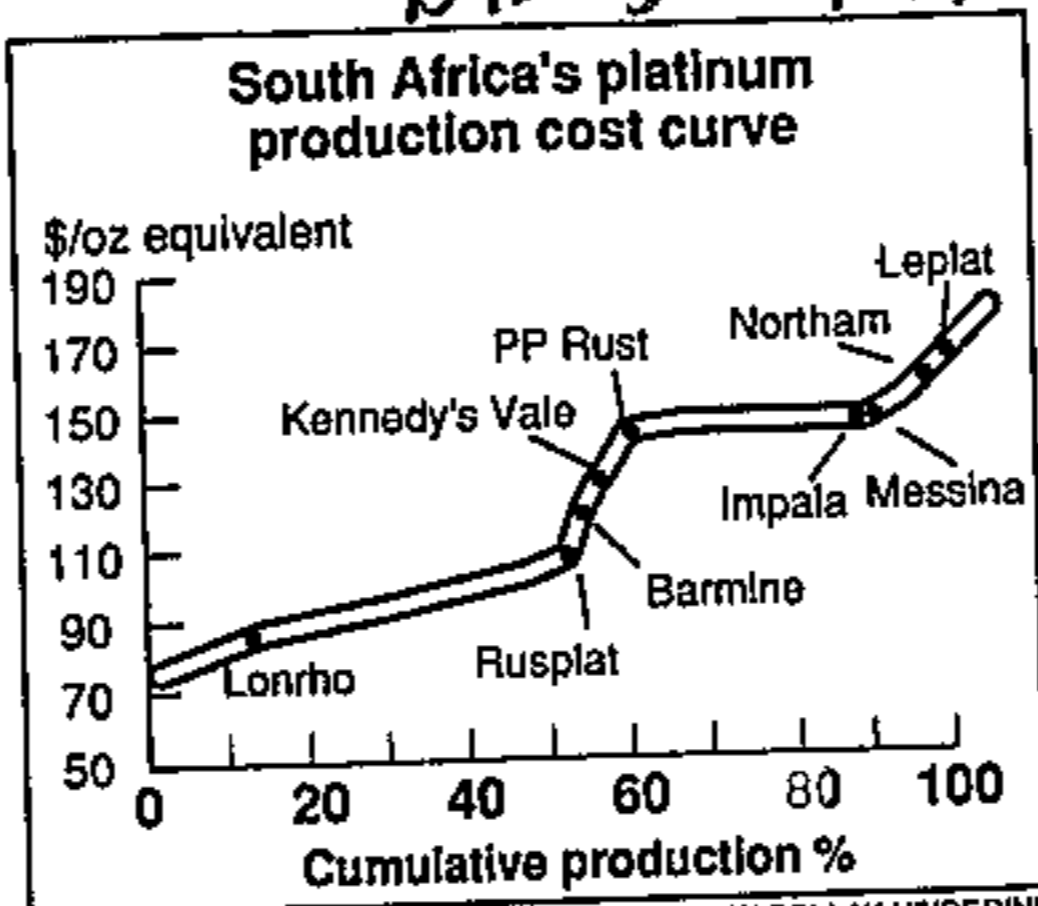
He said local production would reach 4.44-million oz by the end of the decade, compared with 2.9-million oz forecast for 1991 by Johnson Matthey

Platinum prices rose sharply yesterday. They pulled JSE platinum stock with them, as increasingly bullish market sentiment took hold, based on reduced new mine supply in SA and good motor industry demand for the metal.

Platinum was fixed in London at \$356.60 yesterday afternoon, \$2.85 higher than Tuesday's \$353.75 price-setting.

Rusplat and Potgietersrust Platinums (P P Rust) share prices reached new highs of R79.50 and 690c respectively, as the platinum index climbed 121 points or 2.4% to close at 5 070.

Kartun said that in a highly competitive market like platinum, the cost of production was a key factor in assessing the survival potential of an



Graphic LEE EMERTON Source FRANKEL, MAX POLLAK, VINDERINE

operation

SA platinum producers were, to varying degrees, secretive about platinum production information, and no definitive published data existed on production costs, compared, for example, with gold mines.

He said analysis showed that Lonrho's Eastern and Western Platinum mines ranked top, followed by Rusplat, which was well placed compared with Impala Platinum (Implats) which was "well down the ranking".

It cost Lonrho and Rusplat \$88 and \$108 respectively to produce "an ounce of platinum equivalent on an in situ grade basis".

Kartun said "It is interesting to note that P P Rust is in the middle of

the table, while towards the high-cost end are Messina, Zimbabwe's Great Dyke prospect, Northam and Lebowa Platinum's Atok mine." P P Rust, billed as a low-cost open-cast operation, produced platinum at \$144/oz compared with Implats at \$146. Gold Fields deep-level Northam mine had costs of \$161/oz.

Kartun said both Implats and Lebowa should move down the cost curve as labour and production problems were sorted out.

He said that to assess the relative competitiveness of the platinum producers, he had taken in situ grades for the Merensky and UG2 reefs and the Platreef at the mines, and calculated the value in dollars a ton by taking into account grades of platinum group metals, base metals and gold.

This value was divided by the current platinum price, to give a platinum ounce equivalent. Data was also derived from published information and interviews which "are reasonably representative".

Cost data were more subjective, Kartun said he used weighted averages in determining the costs for various producers, at full production, depending on the mix of UG2 and Merensky ore at relevant mines.

Platinum could hit \$400 this year, analysts predict

IAN HOBBS

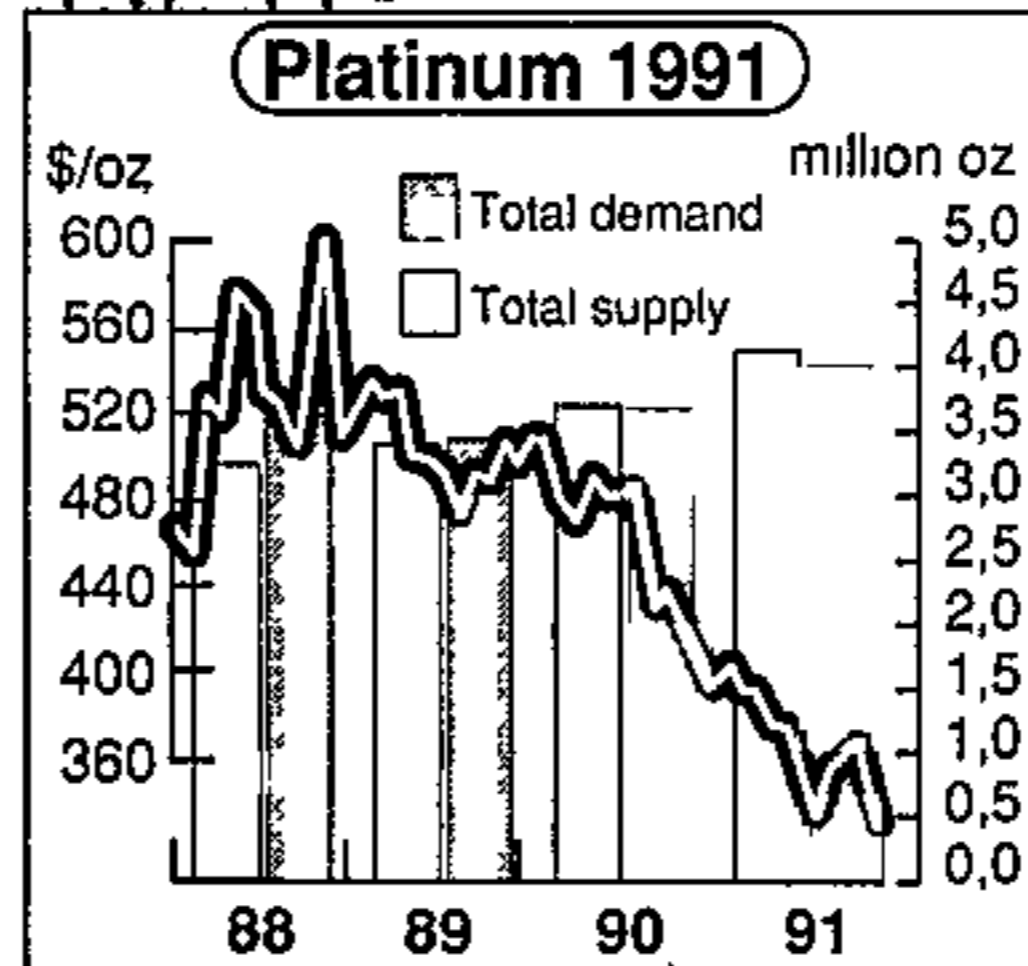
LONDON — THE platinum price (at present \$353,50) should rise to \$400 later this year compared with last year's average of \$376 and \$472 in 1990, states Johnson Matthey (JM) in its annual review of the industry published yesterday.

JM's overall view of the platinum market is that the metal will remain vulnerable to eruptions of bearish sentiment and will be sometimes undermined by bouts of selling. "However, with a closer balance between supply and demand in prospect, we expect a gradual strengthening in the price to become established by the third quarter of 1992"

Catalytic converters for petrol and diesel vehicles, the largest single use of platinum, will become compulsory under EC emission control legislation. This will make 1992 "the year of the catalyst", says JM.

All EC member countries are required to fit catalytic converters to the exhausts of new models by July and all vehicles by December. Germany had anticipated the legislation by fitting 95% of its new cars with catalytic converters from last year.

The new EC regulations are expected to increase European con-



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: JOHNSON MATTHEY

sumption of platinum in converters to a target of nearly 800 000oz (up from 490 000oz at present). Much of the growth will come this year.

JM marketing director Neil Carson said it was encouraging that, despite the recession, supply and demand had held in balance so well.

The report said platinum supplies in 1991 hit the highest-ever level of 4,16-million ounces. This compared with the big deficits of the latter part of the 1980s, when prices were boosted to a peak of \$600.

SA sales crept up to 2,77-million ounces despite being disrupted by labour disputes and other problems, but are expected to be lower than planned in 1992.

The heavy Russian sales of 1991, up

380 000oz to 1,1-million, and mostly to Switzerland, should fall substantially following the decision to use Almaz as sole marketing agent. The former Soviet agent, Vneshekonombank, which used dubious sales tactics to raise hard currency, has been dumped. This should help balance supply and demand.

Environmental requirements are also increasing the use of platinum in the petroleum industry.

Jewellery demand rose by 8% to 1,47-million ounces last year, driven by new growth in the Japanese mass market despite the damping effect of the recession. Japanese jewellers are successfully marketing platinum-rich rings in particular, at an average price of about R2 000 each, rather than the traditional diamond encrusted type at R17 500.

Demands for platinum to make small bars, coins and medallions rose by 70 000oz to 170 000oz.

Demand for palladium in 1991 fell short of supplies by 200 000oz. Most of the surplus went to Japan. The average price was \$88, down \$27 from 1990.

Rodium availability eased and both supply and demand were lower than in 1990 with the price slipping from its peak and stabilising around 3 000 in early 1992, said JM.

Interest in ferrochrome maintained

MATTHEW CURTIN 217

IN SPITE of the slump in the stainless steel market, and oversupply of ferrochrome, interest in adding to SA's ferrochrome capacity continues to grow. *Blomay 20/8/92*

It was reported yesterday that Trojan Exploration and Rhombus Exploration were looking for overseas investors to develop the Eerste Geluk chrome prospect near Steelport, in the eastern Transvaal.

Both companies have reported encouraging results from geological and pre-feasibility studies on the prospect, which has large chrome ore reserves. The report said sources close to Trojan said they were looking for international backing to develop the project further, possibly from North America. They said "Samancor and Anglovaal have pretty well tied up the ore market, so potential investors may want to hedge against any future pricing policies the two enact."

Trojan director Lawrence Blom-

kamp would not comment yesterday beyond saying that "negotiations are being held with local and foreign interested parties"

The news comes after speculation in March that mining entrepreneur Loucas Pouroulis had won foreign backing for a feasibility study investigating the addition of a ferrochrome smelter to his Goudini chrome mine in the western Transvaal. It is understood Goudini is investigating options with regard to its mine, which has suffered from cutbacks in the local ferrochrome sector. One option is to add value to its chrome output.

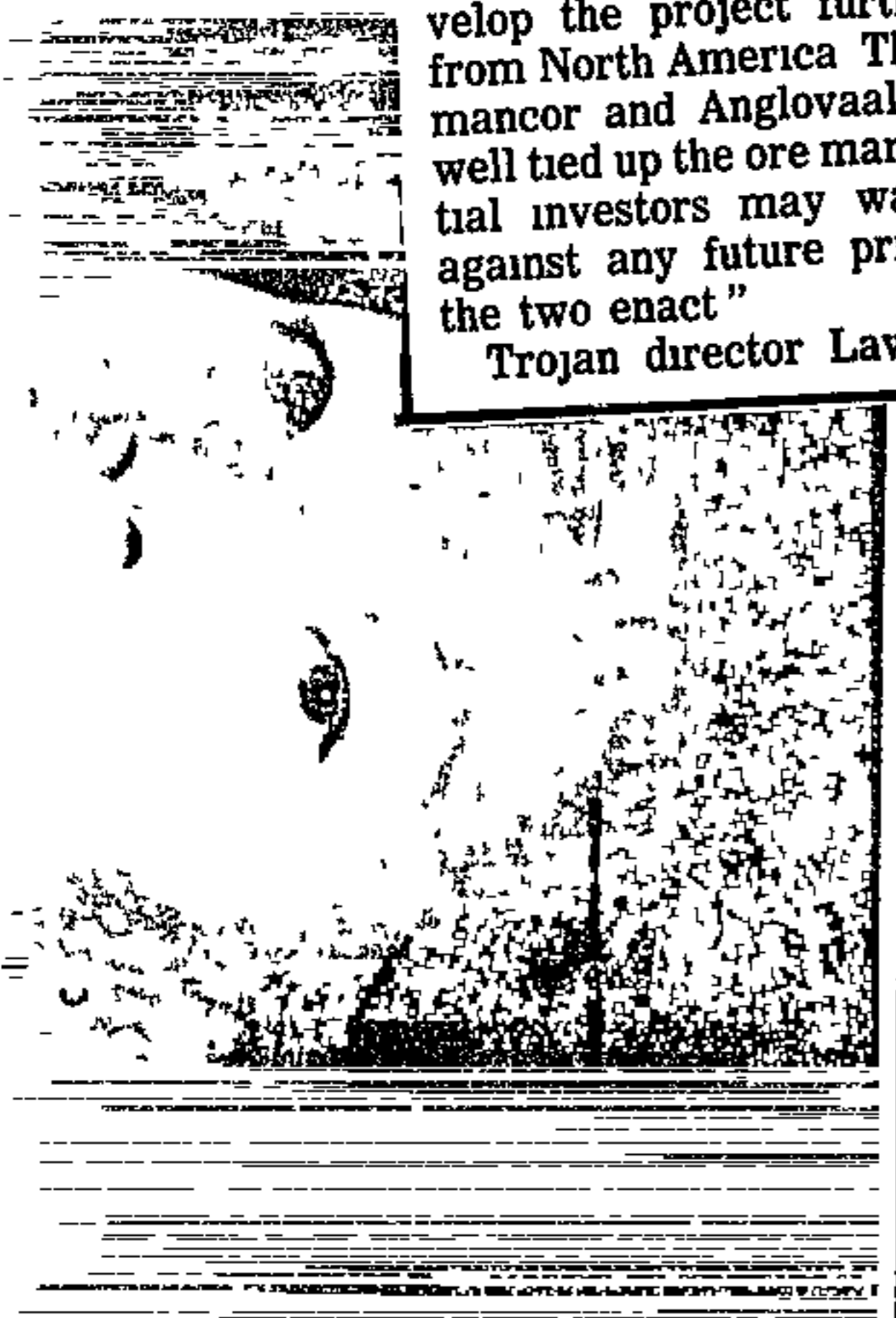
Analysts were sceptical yesterday of the prospects for new ferrochrome operations. They noted concern among US and European ferrochrome customers at the concentration of ferrochrome capacity in SA in the hands of Samancor and Consolidated

Metallurgical Industries, which had about 65% of world capacity, and links to Anglo American.

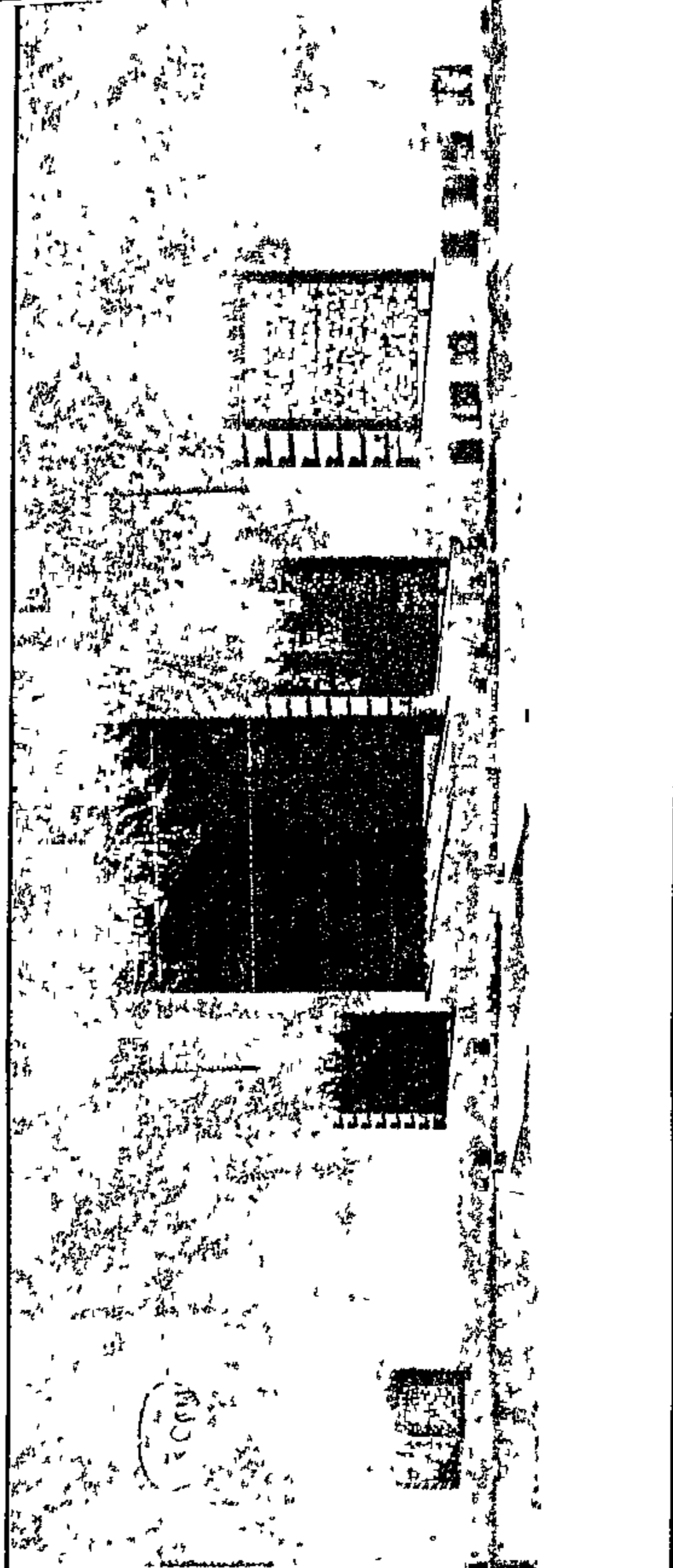
However, the capital cost of even a small ferrochrome smelter was about R150m and would require ferrochrome prices of about US\$0,70 a pound for adequate returns. With current prices at \$0,52/lb, it made more sense for stainless steel producers to buy material from existing ferroalloy producers.

They said recent new ferrochrome ventures had met with mixed success. Chromecorp Technology, founded by former Samancor director John Vorster, had won finance and trading support from Marc Rich and begun production as ferrochrome prices soared in the late 80s. In contrast, Purity Chrome was plagued by production problems, and was bought out at a favourable price by CMI in 1990. Middelburg Steel & Alloys was also hit by low prices.

IT TOW
OVER
RACISM



JOHN THE ENGINE



DOTTED across South Africa's landscape are thousands of unwanted and unused portable toilets valued at R15 million, paid for by the Department of Development Aid. These sanitary sentinals were photographed in a barren stretch of the Transvaal, near Letsele, by CORUS BODENSTEIN

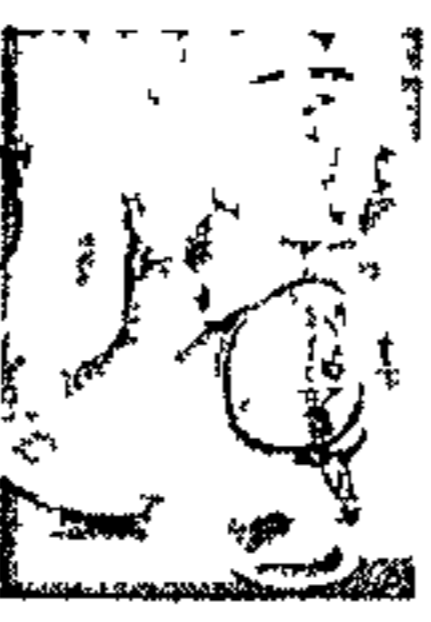
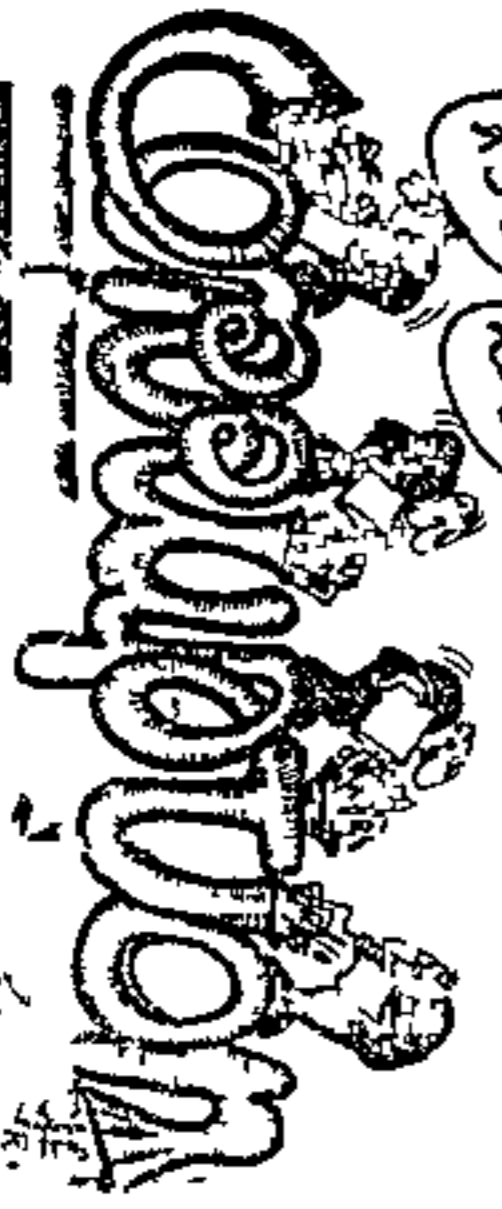
Rugby trials a giant score zero

By EDWARD GRIFFITHS Sports Editor

WERE the 711 Blacks to

STW 10/5/92

- THE MEN WHO NAILED A CROOK? DEPART. AGENT: Page 9
 - THE KEN OWEN COLUMN: Page 2
 - THE CATALOGUE OF DISHONESTY AND ABUSE: Page 25
- the people concerned were conducted in a serious and diligent manner" But the n a w o



GERRIT VILJOEN Knew early about the corruption

Gold price sags despite high jewellery demand

MATTHEW CURTIN

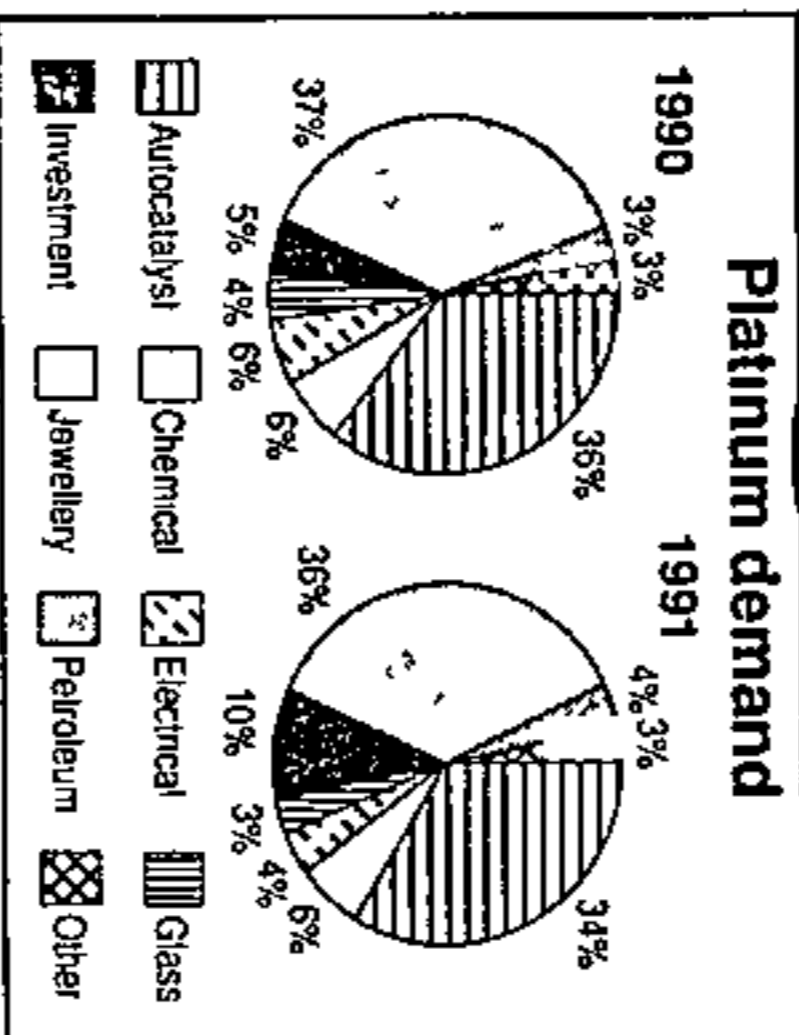
ESPITE solid jewellery demand exceeding increases in new mine production, the gold market needs another factor to trigger bullish sentiment and higher prices, says Gold Fields Mineral Services senior analyst Kevin Crisp.

He said one such trigger could be a sharp fall in mine production, noting SA gold mines were on average at the top end of the world production cost curve. One third of current global gold output was uneconomic.

Analysts say SA gold mines have maintained production tenaciously in face of rising costs and low prices, but as the most recent bout of re-trenchments in the industry suggest, still further cutbacks are necessary to keep mines profitable.

Crisp, who presented Gold Fields' Gold 1992 report to SA mining industry leaders in Johannesburg last night, said tightening physical demand for gold might not happen fast enough to stem investor disillusionment with the metal.

Crisp noted that last year the gold market contracted overall for the first time since 1983, although there



GRAPHIC FROM KRIEGER SOURCE: JOHNSON MATTHEY

was record offtake by the jewellery sector.

Johnson Matthey has forecast a more overtly bullish future for platinum in its Platinum 92 survey, predicting prices could return to \$400/oz because of impressive jewellery demand in Japan and increasing consumption in the car-making industry worldwide.

The platinum market is significantly smaller than the gold market, but platinum has a far wider range of applications, cushioning it against economic ups and downs, and the vagaries of investor sentiment.

An analyst said platinum's resilience derived in large part from its persistence as a precious metal and industrial commodity.

He said that particularly in the Far East platinum was considered a greater store of value than gold, a sentiment underscored by the strength of jewellery and industrial demand for the metal.

Johnson Matthey highlighted an increase in investor platinum purchases to 340 000oz from 200 000oz in 1990, equivalent in a jump to 10% from 5% of total platinum demand. Platinum prices fell to a 14-year low in yen terms in Japan in December last year, and "presented investors with irresistible bargains".

At the same time, jewellery demand in Japan reached a new high of 1.26-million ounces, "stimulated by the falling yen price and by the growing popularity of platinum in the mass market". Japan accounted for 85% of platinum jewellery demand, and despite a slowing economic growth rate, demand was sustained by more moderately priced platinum jewellery and a preference for platinum alone instead of in combination with gold.

The analyst said gold marketers such as the World Gold Council were turning their attention to the Far East to stimulate a more sophisticated market for gold, from hoarding to a wide range of jewellery.

Weak prices sap earnings at Lydenburg

JONO WATERS 217

WEAK platinum prices helped push Lydenburg Platinum's earnings a share down 34% to 61c from 92c in the six months to end-April

Lydenburg, in which Old Mutual has a 64% stake, derives most of its income from its 8,4% interest in Rustenburg Platinum (Rusplat) which in turn cut its interim dividend for the six months to end-December 1991 to 87,5c (125c) a share

Lydenburg has declared an interim dividend of 52c a share, down 32% from 75c.

The market value of Lydenburg's listed investments fell to R861m (R864m). The company's net asset value fell to R59,47 (R60,20) a share

Income before taxation dropped to R8,84m (R13,3m), and income after taxation was down 34% to R8,83m (R13,3m)

A special dividend was received from independent gold producer Knights, which boosted Lydenburg's attributable earnings to R10,2m (R13,3m)

This special dividend was not included in the figure of earnings a share

Major restructuring for electrical group

SWISS-based Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) — the world's largest electrical group — and Powertech have disclosed details of a major restructuring of the Altron subsidiary's 50%-owned Brown Boveri Technologies (BBT).

The deal, the price of which has not been disclosed, involves the purchase by ABB of the former BBT industry division from BBT and the formation of two separate companies — a new jointly owned company called ABB Powertech and ABB Industry, which will become a wholly owned subsidiary of ABB SA

ABB is not planning new investments in SA as it believes it has sufficient local commitments.

At a news conference yesterday ABB executive vice-president Arne Bennborn said new investments would depend on future developments in SA. The changing political landscape and the imminent lifting of Nordic sanctions had prompted the restructure

ABB Powertech, which will operate exclusively in the growing power transmission and distribution field, will be managed by Powertech

Its turnover is expected to be about R300m in its first year

ABB Industry, which was expected to have turnover of about R130m in its first year, would be managed by ABB SA

It would concentrate on the industrial electrical business. The company was established to allow ABB direct access to major capital projects such as Columbus and Alusaf Capital equipment supplied in these projects would have a significant import content

Bennborn said the move would enable ABB to serve the region's needs. From the beginning of the month ABB had centred its sub-Saharan Africa corporate headquarters in Johannesburg. It intended to use the SA substation and overhead line activities as the regional "centre of excellence", particularly for creating a southern African grid network

Powertech executive chairman Peter Watt said the main payoff for his company would be renewed access to new technologies in 140 countries, which employed 215 000 people in 1990, had an annual turnover of nearly R100bn

All the new technologies flowing from its R7bn-a-year research and development budget would be available to ABB Powertech when sanctions were lifted

Watt said BBT had not received any new technologies or products from ABB since sanctions were imposed in 1987. Most of ABB's centres of excellence, which developed new technologies, had been based in staunchly anti-apartheid Sweden

In line with Powertech's strategy of concentrating on the power transmission and distribution market (which ABB Powertech would serve) rather than the industrial electrical business, Powertech would relinquish control of its former industrial electrical division, BBT Industry

Powertech would lose the R130m turnover from this division, but Watt expected this to be replaced fairly rapidly by increased export activity and new products. The effect on Powertech's NAV and EPS was expected to be negligible

DUMA GQUBULE

PRECIOUS METALS (217)

Food for thought ^{FM} 22/5/92

SA is nothing if it is not the world's major producer of precious metals. So, when the two most important annual surveys of gold and platinum are published within a day of one another, it leaves much to contemplate.

On Monday, Johnson Matthey (JM), the largest refiner of platinum group metals, released its annual platinum review. The next day, Gold Fields Mineral Services (GFMS) launched its annual gold survey.

The coincidence of dates aside, there is much common to the two reviews. First is a wealth of information concerning last year's demand-supply statistics, second, a general unwillingness to make clear predictions about the paths the metals will tread.

A sudden tightening of the balance between supply of and demand for gold emerges as perhaps the most significant issue in GFMS's *Gold 1992*. This is a view widely held by precious metals analysts, who all concur that the supply-demand equation is now stronger than for some years.

Much to the surprise (and delight) of the GFMS authors, jewellery fabrication demand rose nearly 4% to a record 2 111 t. This was despite the very real fears expressed last year that a fall in consumer spending would result in significantly lower demand. Total fabrication demand, electronics, dental use and bullion coins included, was 2 543 t — an increase of 4.2%.

Investment demand by speculators, however, shrivelled. "It appears that speculators have moved away from the gold market," and this is probably the reason the report tabulates Implied Investment for 1991 as nil, against 1990's 173 t.

Total 1991 supply-demand is estimated by GFMS as 2 815 t, though there must be an element of intelligent guesswork in this.

Of course, all this pales into insignificance against the 55 000 t-odd bullion stocks, most held by central banks. There is considerable disagreement about which factors, precisely, affect the gold price.

One group holds the view that the price, ultimately, is determined by the holders of those vast stocks. Certainly they cannot be ignored. More than once in the past few months the market has been shaken by rumours of central bank disinvestment.

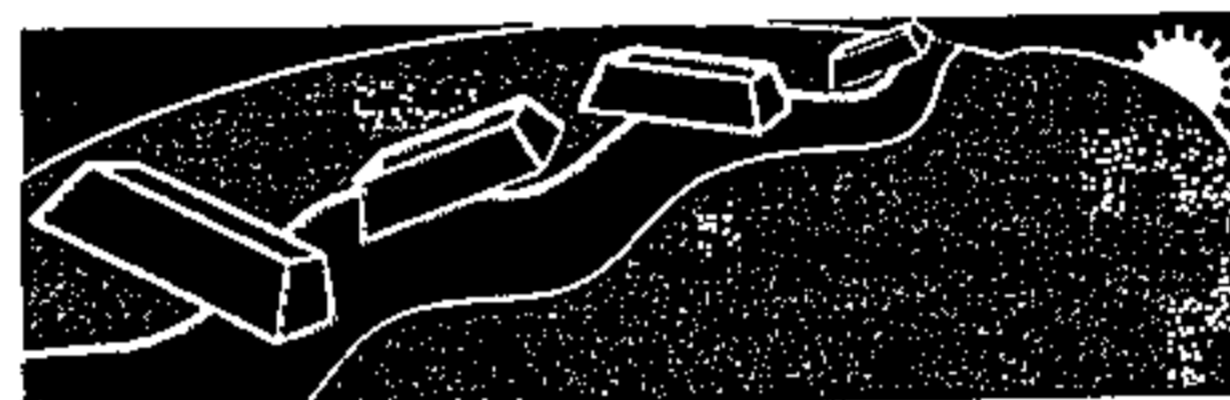
The buoyancy which hangs on the princi-

ple that new mine supply in 1992 will equal, or be less than, demand, holds water only if there is no massive disinvestment. This has always been the mineowners' nightmare.

Two extreme alternatives are foreseen by GFMS. The first is strong international economic growth, bringing rapidly rising demand for gold jewellery. The second is that "massive asset deflation would cause a flight to gold, perhaps even matching the inflation-induced investment seen in the Seventies."

Being practical, GFMS appears to favour a middle view that economic growth will be mundane, the physical market won't do much and gold holders (speculators) will remain net sellers. The result, of course, is "a depressed gold price for some time."

There are some sober words of warning for SA. Though the largest producer by far (601 t or 34% of Western production), SA continues to be unusually expensive. With



Platinum starts a run
Platinum and gold prices



average world production costs at US\$259/oz, SA's average of \$294 puts it at the top of the cost league, despite a \$14 decrease on 1990's figure (the lowest cost producer is Papua New Guinea, at \$121).

The report says bluntly "At some point owners may have to face up to the possibility of closing unprofitable mines. It seems increasingly likely that this point is now being approached at a number of SA mines." It specifies Loraine (Anglovaal) and West Rand Consolidated (Gencor).

Only industrial buyers and bargain hunters were happy with platinum's price performance in 1991: the metal averaged \$376/oz compared with 1990's \$472. In SA terms, this 20% fall in average price year-on-year cost our producers \$266m (R750m).

JM reports that supplies reached a new record 4,16m oz, an increase of 430 000 oz, most of which was provided by additional Russian sales. In fact, SA had a bad year "At nearly all the SA operations, outputs

were below plan and supplies rose by just 10 000 oz to 2,77m oz."

In all, SA producers cut planned production capacity by more than 200 000 oz. Other suppliers said thank you. North America put an additional 35 000 oz on the market and Russia increased its sales by 380 000 oz.

Demand rose 10% to 4,06m oz and there was some stockpiling by consumers, estimated by JM at 120 000 oz.

The two pillars of the business are the motor industry, in which platinum group metals are used in catalytic converters which clean up exhaust emissions, and jewellery. Demand from both increased in 1991, jewellery by nearly 8%. Japan is by far the largest consumer in this field, accounting for about 85%.

Demand for the two other principal platinum group metals — palladium and rhodium — fell, in both cases reflected in lower prices. The JM report concentrates on the increased usage of platinum group metals in the catalytic converter market and has introduced some hype into what is, after all, part of its overall marketing strategy, by denominating 1992 as "The Year of the Catalyst."

Much of this excitement is generated by the introduction in phases during 1992 of compulsory clean air standards by the EC. As a result, JM expects "a combination of factors to keep demand for platinum in Europe rising during the Nineties."

With overall platinum group metals supply and demand now closer to equilibrium, much as with gold, this should work its way through to the price. JM attempts a rather half-hearted prediction: the platinum price will be vulnerable to occasional bearish sentiment and bouts of selling in the paper market. "However, we expect a gradual strengthening to become established by the third quarter of 1992."

In fact, this may already be taking place (see graph). Platinum's premium over gold has widened appreciably in recent weeks. Now at \$358, the prediction by some analysts that \$400 will be reached this year certainly looks attainable.

David Gleason

ly, there appears just one remaining area of uncertainty before the balance sheet is given a clean bill of health. Barplats. Market value of Rand Mines' 45% stake in Barplats is R55m below book value but the directors have not written this off because they feel the true worth of Barplats can be determined only once the revised corporate structure is finalised

Barplats' deal with Impala Platinum is stalled following minority shareholder Andreas Vaatz's application for leave to appeal against the sanctioning of the scheme of arrangement by the Supreme Court.

Rand Mines now depends overwhelmingly on coal following the failure of the investments in Barplats and Vansa Vanadium and the sale of most of the investment portfolio along with Lotzaba Forests and Winterveld Chrome to reduce the debt mountain. Coal's contribution to earnings jumped to 68,8% (previous comparable six months. 55,1%) with the second largest contributor — management services, investment and sundry income — running a poor second at 15% (15,1%). Gold's contribution turned negative because of metallurgical problems at Crown Mines and cost 2% compared with last year's minimal 0,9% contribution

Property kicked in 7,1% (6,3%). The RMP report stated future dump treatment operations to recover gold would concentrate on economically viable dumps which would release land for township development.

After being 12% down on half-time earnings, new chairman John Hall makes no firm prediction for the full year, commenting only that profits are unlikely to match 1991's. Analysts estimate the year's earnings could be down between 13%-17% because marginal improvements in dividend income from Randcoal will not compensate for the drop in investment income resulting from the sale of much of the share portfolio.

General expectation is the final dividend will be maintained, though some optimists hope for a slight improvement, bringing total distribution up to perhaps 320c from last year's 300c. Key factor is the rand/dollar exchange rate, which is holding up far stronger than Rand Mines expected. That seriously affects Randcoal's distributable earnings

Anyone expecting a swift return to 1990 dividends of 560c will be disappointed because the very high cover of 6,1 (7,0) looks set to continue as the house continues to rebuild its financial base. Should the Croco-

dile River platinum mine be reopened the house is committed to kick in R160m as its share of the necessary rights issue. Given this background and the limited prospects for growth the share looks expensive around R70, where it stands at a 21% premium to March 31 NAV of R57,87

Mining house share prices normally stand at discounts to net worth. For example Gencor, at its current R12,70, is 11% below February 29 NAV of R14,35. Reason for the strength of Rand Mines shares is probably that they are tightly held, controlling shareholder Barlow Rand sitting on 74%

For these reasons a number of analysts prefer other houses, such as Anglo American or Gencor, and advise investors keen on Rand Mines' coal prospects to go directly into Randcoal, but that is also tightly held because Rand Mines has 70,8% of Randcoal

Brendan Ryan

RAND MINES FM 22/5/92.

Bumping along ~~217~~ (217)

Interim results show the house's fortunes appear to have bottomed after last year's orgy of rationalisation, in which R735m was written off through extraordinary charges while lay-offs cut management, admin and exploration staff by 25% to 493. One slight disappointment is yet another write-off of mining assets, this time R26,5m against the Crown Mines gold recovery plants. This was, however, expected following the release of the interim report from 76%-held subsidiary Rand Mines Properties, which manages the gold recovery plants

With a R30m cash balance, and holding company debt down to R9m from R87m at end-September and R312m a year previous-

ON THE BOTTOM

Six months to	Mar 21 '91	Sep 30 '91	Mar 31 '92
Turnover (Rm)*	755,0	836,8	868,6
Operating pft (Rm)	190,1	220,0	185,6
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	154,1	168,6	138,9
Attributable pft (Rm)	104,3	146,0	91,6
Earnings (c)	700	979	614
Dividends (c)	100	200	100
Net worth (c)	9 500,0	5 526,0	5 787,0

* Continuing operations

B/Day 28/5/92

Copper held up ~~SA~~
TWO hundred rail wagons of SA copper processed at Zambia's Mulira Mine refinery was briefly impounded by customs as it did not have proper documentation. A Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines spokesman blamed inexperienced staff for the glitch. (Z)

Vanadium plant may be commissioned soon

Blaom
2515192 MATTHEW CURTIN

217

SA's latest vanadium beneficiation plant may be only weeks away from receiving the green light after the Rhombus Vanadium (Rhovan) announcement at the weekend that the project was commercially viable.

Rhovan, a subsidiary of Rhombus Exploration, has won Industrial Development Corporation backing to construct downstream facilities which will produce vanadium oxides from magnetite supplied by the company's Ba-Magopa mine near Brits.

Rhovan said in a statement that negotiations were in progress with potential partners and contractors.

Analysts said that given the depth of the slump in the current vanadium market — hit by the world steel manufacturing slowdown which has led to vanadium capacity far exceeding demand — Rhovan would need attractive long-term contracts and backing from overseas parties to make the venture viable.

They said Rhovan was also in competition with Precious Metals Australia, planning to develop an ore body in Western Australia, but which required massive infrastructural development before going ahead.

SA has 32% of world vanadium reserves but recent attempts to add value to vanadium ore by producing vanadium pentoxide, used to make ferrovanadium for special steels, have failed.

Rhovan was originally contracted to supply magnetite to Usko, but last year acquired Usko's vanadium plant, which was not successfully commissioned, for a nominal R2.

It is understood that Vanadium Technologies, which acquired Vansa Vanadium's mine and plant last year, has suffered production problems.

Report maps out future for platinum

B/Day 27/5/92 (217)

JONO WATERS

THE future of platinum lay in the manufacture of fuel cells which generated electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen to produce water, said a report in the latest issue of SA Mining

The report said history had shown platinum production to be a cyclical industry which had moved through four stages — investment, jewellery, oil refining and catalytic converters. It was predicted the next stage would be the metal's use in fuel cells.

The cells had significant uses over more conventional methods of power generation. It did not produce environmentally offensive by-products

and had high electrical efficiency

Fuel cells, however, had not had a commercial effect on power generation because of high capital costs, but the 1991 annual report of Northam Platinum said fuel cells could use more than 1-million ounces of platinum by the year 2000.

With SA platinum production standing at 2.8-million ounces out of a world supply of 3.7-million ounces, the potential for SA was huge, the report said.

The price had gradually recovered from its low of 331.50 an ounce in

August last year. Platinum was fixed in London yesterday afternoon at \$365, marginally down from Friday's close \$365.50.

The report said another factor which could lead to the recovery of platinum was the EC requirement that all cars be fitted with catalytic converters from January 1993.

Car catalysts containing platinum proved to be the most effective method of reducing emissions by converting the pollutants into harmless carbon dioxide, water and nitrogen, and their manufacture accounted for 1.5-million ounces of total platinum demand.

S Times (Buss) 31/5/92

Decision close for Alusaf 2

217

ALUSAF 2 looks like a winner

By IAN ROBINSON

Feasibility studies have been completed and the go-ahead for the R6-billion project awaits the outcome of board meetings and an environmental impact decision.

The boards of the major stakeholders — Genmin, IDC, Eskom and Alusaf — will hold their decisive meeting on July 14.

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) is being made of the preferred site near Richards Bay harbour. It has direct access to the harbour and material-handling costs would be minimised.

The plant would have an annual production capacity of 466 000 tons (two modules of 233 000 tons). Production capacity of the new smelter plus existing capacity of

170 000 tons would make Alusaf the fifth-largest aluminium producer in the world.

Annual revenue from the plant is expected to total more than R1-billion (depending on the price of aluminium). That could exceed 1% of SA's gross national product.

Although the plant would employ only 1 400 people directly, both downstream and support activities could create more than 30 000 jobs.

Alusaf senior manager Peter Cowie says the plant's low financial gearing (30/70 debt equity) would give it a major advantage over predominantly debt-funded projects elsewhere.