



# Leader in air

By Jeremy Brooks  
London

# the deadly motor menace

## FOCUS ON PETROL POLLUTION

It would be practical — unleaded petrol has still not been introduced in Italy and Spain — is another matter. Lead pollution in Britain from exhaust fumes became a political hot potato in 1982 when a scientist's warning that it was causing brain injury to children was leaked to the newspapers.

**SOUTH Africa's decision to lower petrol lead content brings it in line with a growing awareness worldwide of the unseen injury, caused mainly to children and babies, by metal poisoning.**

Britain, which recognised the dangers in the early 1980s, has moved quickly to protect the public from exposure to lead. But it still lags far behind other Western nations — Australia and America included — which have all but banned lead additives. European Economic Community nations have set a target of October next year to ban leaded petrol altogether and convert most cars to unleaded fuel. The-

Health doctor to his Whitehall chiefs, said there was a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children.

Chief medical officer Sir Henry Yellowless estimated that thousands of children, particularly those living in cities and attending schools close to major highways, were affected. He said that in spite of claims by petrol companies and a Government inquiry

finding that a connection between petrol lead and health impairment could not be proved, other more recent studies — including one at an EEC lab in Italy — pointed to the opposite.

Britain reacted speedily, and by 1983 had fallen in line with major EEC partners by bringing the level to 6.4 grams a litre. Most EEC members, with the exception of France which still sticks to 0.4g, have brought this down to 0.15g a litre.

But a drive by both the UK Government and the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEFARI) to persuade motorists to convert their cars to unleaded petrol, which has a level of less than 0.015g, has met with only partial success. Only 2% of the UK's 20-million motor-

ists use unleaded fuel. Scientists estimate that Britain's cars pump 3 000 tons of lead into the atmosphere every year. Lead levels in exhaust fumes measured in some road tunnels are 10 times higher than the EEC limit.

People were warned this year not to eat wild berries picked in the immediate area of central London. One expert suggested that if anyone were able to eat eight of Trafalgar Square's pigeons at one sitting he would die soon afterwards.

Exposure to lead pollution — which can also be caused by flaking paint — is most injurious to the under-18s and unborn babies. Medical evidence has shown that, in early stages, it can lead to mental retardation and "impair" development, causing a permanent lowering of the IQ

of as much as 5%. It has also been linked to lower birth weight, smaller head size, and developmental difficulties in the first six months.

Other studies show that lead levels are also affecting food supplies and wildlife. Lead content in cabbage and lettuce is 10 times higher than in peas — simply because they are protected by their pods. Washing of vegetables failed to clear the lead completely.

The issue of lead-petrol and exhaust pollution in general was taken up two months ago by environmentalist groups Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

They launched an advertising campaign directed at Ford UK, which has refused to supply the catalytic converter-equipped cars it sells in other countries. One poster, using the company's slogan "Ford gives you more", showed a skull

formed by exhaust gases. America banned the import and manufacture of "leaded" cars in 1975, and now virtually all vehicles run on lead-free petrol. Studies of "blood-lead" levels in children showed a sharp drop at exactly the same time as the measures were introduced.

The Japanese Government became alarmed at pollution in Tokyo in the 1960s and, after a 20-year campaign, leaded fuel is almost unobtainable — except for older cars unable to be converted.

About 42% of fuel sold in Germany is now lead-free after the Government made it cheaper in 1985. France says it will ban leaded petrol this year.

Lead poisoning is not a modern phenomenon. Analysis of bones from Roman skeletons dug up in Gloucestershire have shown levels up to 10 times those in modern man, possibly caused by their habit of eating sapa, a grape syrup simmered in

lead-lined vessels and drinking wine sweetened with lead acetate. George III drank and ate quantities of lemonade and sauerkraut produced in lead-glazed pottery, which may have led to his dementia at a young age.

Mexico City, where smog caused mainly by exhaust fumes is trapped in the valley by a blanket of warm air, is suffering from the worst pollution in its history. Because of the danger, the city council has ordered schools to remain closed until February.

Studies there have shown most children have lead levels above the World Health Organisation safety limit. Residents have been warned that if they wish to exercise they should do so indoors, keeping their windows closed.

Normal breathing in Mexico City, said doctors, was equivalent to smoking 40 cigarettes a day.

# Fynbos suffers as Boland fires rage

Staff Reporter and Sapa

HUNDREDS of firefighters were yesterday deployed in several Boland mountain ranges to combat raging bush fires destroying vast areas of mountain fynbos.

The fires have been burning since Wednesday last week, mostly in inaccessible parts of the mountains.

The worst damage was at De Hoek Estate, where the fire moved down the mountain and surrounded a farmstead, destroying the house. Mr Fanie Vosloo, co-owner of the farm, said he and his brother had lost everything.

A forestry spokesman said the fires "were stable" and burning high on mountain peaks, but could surge down the mountains should the wind rise.

## Threatened the camp

Farmers in Villiersdorp and Grabouw have made contingency plans to protect private property.

Late on Sunday the fire threatened the SOS camp just outside Villiersdorp. Firemen worked through the night to stop it.

About 20 people in the camp will be evacuated if the fire gets too close.

Two SAAF Alouette helicopters are helping with reconnaissance and to drop firefighters in inaccessible places.

The Franschoek Pass, earlier closed to traffic because of thick smoke, was re-opened late yesterday morning. Motorists have been warned to drive with extreme care.

Star 3/1/89

56

## 900 mm of rain in 4 days devastated Natal

The greatest natural disaster in South African history was the flooding in Natal during the last days of September 1987, the Weather Bureau said in a technical paper released recently.

More than 900 mm of rain fell in just four days over parts of the province.

In the floods which followed these exceptional rains, more than 300 lives were lost while damage to agriculture and the infrastructure of Natal amounted to many hundred million rands.

The September 1987 Natal floods overshadows all other documented floods ... It is the general belief that rainfall amounts recorded during this period over Natal were exceeded only during the cyclone Démonia which left a track of desolation over northern Natal during January 1984.

For September 1987, the Natal coastal and adjacent interior districts received rainfall exceeding 800 percent of the long-term mean. 30 individual stations recorded rains of more than 1 000 percent.

The most precipitation fell during the four days from 26 to 29 September," the paper reads.

Heavy precipitation and flooding occur fairly regularly over South Africa's eastern and southern coastal areas. Natal is especially prone to floods ... 35 occurrences of flooding resulting from intense precipitation were reported over Natal ... but the September flood was more extensive.

Extensive and disastrous floods also occurred over other parts of South Africa, especially the southern and eastern coastal areas of the Cape Province.

Before September 1987 South Africa's greatest natural disaster occurred when a large part of the Karoo town Laingsburg was washed away by a

# 1987 flood was SA's 'greatest disaster'

flood in the Buffels River. More than 100 lives were lost and property damage amounted to millions of rands," the paper said.

Discussing the economic effects of the floods, it said that "thanks to timely warnings by the Weather Bureau, the Department of Water Affairs was prepared for the flood. None of the large dams suffered damage ... however 387 smaller dams were swept away".

Despite adequate flood warnings, 327 lives were lost and 160 people were reported missing. Fortunately 1 362 people were rescued by the South African Police and Defence Force.

Fourteen major bridges were destroyed or damaged while the South African Transport Services suffered R13,7 million damage to railway links.

The total insured losses were estimated in excess of R400 million and this huge insurance claim led to the revision of insurance premiums nationwide.

The State President declared Natal a disaster area on 30 September 1987 and appealed for donations to the Disaster Relief Fund to assist the many homeless and destitute people.

In the end, total estimated cost to the Government exceeded R600 million," the paper concluded. — Sapa.

# Boland fire sets car alight — couple flee

AKGWS 3/1/89 (56)

## Staff Reporter

A CERES couple had a narrow escape when their car was set alight by a bush fire in Michell's Pass as 800 firefighters battled blazes at five Boland towns at the weekend.

Beaters and forestry officials had no time to celebrate New Year as the fires, most of which were started by lightning last week, continued raging.

A team of about 100 men was called in from George and Knysna to help local firefighters who were flown high into Boland mountain peaks to battle the flames in the Cedarberg, Witzenberg, Hottentots Holland mountains and at Villiersdorp.

A strong south-easter could bring the flames from the high peaks down to agricultural land, but this was not expected to happen today, said Mr Rudolf Andrag, regional director of forestry in the Western Cape.

Mr Andrag said one fire at the Cedarberg had been brought under control on the farms Kromrivier and Dwarsrivier, but a third fire high among inaccessible peaks was still burning.

One fire in the Groot Winterhoek Mountains between Porterville and Tulbagh has also been brought under control but another continued to rage in the peaks.

The fire which had raged at

Franschhoek spread across the mountain to Villiersdorp on Saturday and Franschhoek Pass was closed for the safety of motorists.

The pass was reopened about 6pm on Sunday.

A police spokesman said the SOS farm near Villiersdorp had been threatened, but firebrands around it kept the flames away and late yesterday the fire was burning high up the mountain.

Mr Andrag said that very little agricultural land had been damaged in the fires.

Mr W Pienaar and his wife were driving through Michell's Pass on their way home from a holiday in Malmesbury when they were caught by the fire.

In trying to escape, Mr Pienaar drove his car through the flames but the car caught alight and the couple had to jump out and run for their lives.

The car with all their clothes was burnt out.

Sowetan 4/11/89 (56)

## Natal floods worst

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The September 1987 Natal Floods overshadows all other documented floods. It is the general belief that rainfall amounts recorded during this period over Natal were exceeded only during the Cyclone Domonia which left a track of desolation over northern Natal during January 1984.

### **Big falls**

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"Heavy precipitation and flooding occur fairly regularly over South Africa's eastern and southern coastal areas. Natal is especially prone to floods. 35 occurrences of flooding resulting from intense precipitation were reported over Natal. But the September flood was more extensive.

Extensive and disastrous floods also occurred over other parts of South Africa, especially the southern and eastern coastal areas of the Cape Province.

Blaze battlers 'will have to change strategy'

# Wind threat for W Cape firefighters

ARCAS 4/1/89 (56)

By ANDREA WEISS and HENRI DU PLESSIS  
Staff Reporters

AN EXPECTED change in the wind direction could destroy new farmland and threaten firefighters battling at least seven large blazes from the Cederberg to Grabouw.

The DF Malan weather bureau predicts the wind will swing from the south-east to the north-east today and south-west tomorrow.

"A change in wind direction is always a problem. Areas which were safe are no longer safe and the fire could be a threat to the people fighting the fires," Mr Rudolf Andrag, chief of forestry in the Western Cape, said today.

"When the wind comes up on a wide front the sparks blow into unburnt areas where there are not enough people to control the fireline. The firefighters will have to change their strategy and be on the other side of the fires," he said.

Lightning predicted over Namaqualand and the Western Cape interior could also start new fires in the mountains as far south as Ceres tomorrow.

Mr Andrag described the fires as "exceptionally big and widespread".

One reason for their rapid spread was that they were started by lightning in inaccessible places and out of control by the time they were spotted.

## Impassable terrain

Fires continue to burn in the south Cederberg on the Dwarsrivier and Kromrivier farms and on Kleinjongensfontein farm near Citrusdal in the west Cederberg.

Near Tulbagh on the Groot Winterhoek mountains a helicopter is monitoring a fire raging in impassable terrain.

South of Michell's Pass in the Wit Els area, Mostertshoek and Waaihoek, a fire poses no immediate threat but is still burning.

North of Ceres in the Wa-booms mountains, local farmers have joined forces with firefighters to control a fire.

In the Franschoek and Villiersdorp mountains there is no immediate threat to property from a fire which is under control but still burning.

## One of the largest

The Somerset West fire is one of the largest — stretching from the Helderberg to the Hottentots Holland mountains near Grabouw and threatening a large forest area above the historic Fleur du Cap farm.

Fleur du Cap workers and firefighters have battled the blaze since Sunday.

They managed to contain it — until yesterday's wind change reversed their attempts within 40 minutes, said assistant farm general manager, Mr Mike Kreft.

Today the fire is moving closer to Vergelegen, the historic farm next door, established in 1700 by Governor Willem Adriaan van der Stel.

About 800 beaters and forest-

(Turn to page 3, col 1)

## Threat for firefighters

(Cont from page 1)

ry officials have fought the fires in five Boland towns for six days.

A team of about 100 men was called in from Knysna and George.

Thick smoke is hampering Air Force attempts to drop water on the blaze.

Air Force spokesman Brigadier P J M de Munnick said four helicopters were helping to fight the fire by transporting firefighters, monitoring the blaze and dropping water where possible.

An Air Force officer is stationed at Vergelegen to co-ordinate the operation.

6 P...

# Boland fires threatening as wind rises

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Cape  
Town  
4/1/89

Staff Reporter

A FRESH fire-danger zone emerged yesterday as six-day-old Boland mountain blazes fanned by rising winds threatened two farms in the Cederberg and helicopters ferried fresh firefighters across the rugged terrain.

Regional forestry conservation chief Mr Rudolf Andrag said yesterday that "anything could happen" as flames approached the Kromrivier and Kleinjongsdraal fruit farms. His men and farm labourers had so far managed to "put together a containing operation", but a gale-force south-easter was forecast, he said.

The isolated blazes, begun by lightning across hundreds of kilometres of mountain ranges between Clanwilliam and Grabouw a week ago, have so far destroyed a farm house near Porterville, scorched orchards and vine-

yards and gutted a plantation in the Tulbagh and Wolseley areas.

A car — the occupants narrowly escaping injury — was also destroyed in Mitchell's Pass near Wolseley.

Only dogged efforts by part of the 700-strong firefighting team saved thousands of hectares of plantations in the Jonkershoek and Franschoek areas from destruction at the weekend.

Helicopters using huge water buckets also doused runaway blazes threatening orchards and homes in Wolseley on Sunday. A farm community on Porterville Mountain in the Winterhoek range narrowly escaped damage on Monday.

The fire was still burning in the upper reaches of the Louwrensford Estate and above Villiersdorp late yesterday, Mr Andrag said.

He warned motorists against driving through smoke-obscured areas.





**MOONSCAPE . . .** Caught in the centre of the massive fire that has blazed for several days in the Boland, SOS school farm students and staffers were forced to fight flames metres high to save their farm. Grant Friares and Kevin French survey the damage. More pictures — Page 2.

Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

## SOS farm saved from the flames

By SYBRAND MOSTERT

A PART-TIME instructor at a farm school has told how an army of forestry workers moved in to save the SOS Youth Farm in Villiersdorp from going up in flames.

"We were surrounded by a wall of flame," Mr Grant Friares said. "It was the dead of night but it was nearly as light as day as flames metres high ringed the farm."

Mr Friares is a part-time instructor at the

school farm, which is visited by nearly 10 000 school children every year.

Mr Friares said he had been warned on Saturday by the Nuweberg Forestry Station that fires had started in the mountains near the farm.

"We were told that the wind had changed and that we had an hour to leave," he said.

They had packed up all their belongings as the flames swept down a kloof above the farm, heading directly for the wheatlands,

an encampment holding several animals and the farmhouse. Just as they were ready to evacuate, the wind veered again.

More than 200 firefighters poured in.

Late that night they succeeded in turning away the flames.

"About 4am we were safe," he said. "The flames had gone past and were burning on the mountain above the farm."

● Fire 'contained' — Page 2.

CAPE TOWN 5/1/89 (56)

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NEWSPAPERS

Monday January 5 1989

People, crops, buildings at risk

# Highveld pollution 'a threat to human health and wealth'

By James Clarke

Air pollution over the highveld has reached levels where it now poses a threat to human health and is costing the public millions of rands in damage each year.

A new "situation" report by a team of scientists — the Foundation for Research Development under Professor Peter Tyson, the University of the Witwatersrand climatologist — took four years to compile.

It warns some damage may be irreversible and that crops and even buildings are threatened by corrosive air.

The report says:

● "Millions of tons of polluting emissions" are falling out over the eastern Transvaal highveld each year.

## In vain

Stars 7/1/89 (56)

● The 30 000 sq km area, which produces 80 percent of the country's energy, begins just east of Johannesburg and extends out to Middelburg and Ermelo. Fall-out affects adjacent areas, including the Witwatersrand, Natal and the Free State.

● The millions of rands spent building some of the world's highest industrial smoke stacks, such as those at Secunda, were spent in vain. In two years no industrial pollution was dispersed in the higher atmosphere — the whole point of ultra-high stacks.

● In 1984 more than 125 million tons of emissions (solids, sulphur dioxide, ni-

trogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons) were dumped in the eastern Transvaal highveld atmosphere.

Power stations were responsible for 95 percent of carbon dioxide, Sasol plants and car exhausts for over three-quarters of the hydrocarbons and more than half the carbon monoxide.

● The "tall (chimney) stack policy" of dealing with pollution had "increased the risk of pollution spreading to other areas".

● Half South Africa's high-potential agricultural land is "on or adjacent to" the area where pollution is worst.

● "Pollution in the region had periodically reached levels that are believed to pose a potential threat to human health, natural resources and man-made structures and objects."

● Buildings, bridges, power lines and farm implements are rotting away because of corrosive air.

● Acid rain is making soil more acid. Agricultural soils can be treated with lime but the damaging effects to forest soils cannot be counteracted.

The paper is reported in the latest "SA Journal of Science", which comments: "It is to be hoped that the concern of ordinary residents for their health and that of future generations will be taken seriously..."

The investigators felt that industrial development will have to continue in the area and, therefore, practical solutions must urgently be found.

# New Pongola dam planned

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — The Department of Water Affairs plans to build a R53m dam on the Pongola River near Paulpietersburg in northern Natal.

A spokesman for the department in Pretoria said the dam, to be called the Jagtdrift, would be slightly bigger than Midmar Dam.

Between 2 000ha and 3 000ha of private irrigable land would be developed, and water would be made available to KwaZulu.

The spokesman said a White Paper on the proposed dam would be tabled in Parliament in April.

New way to handle waste needed

B1 Day 5/1/89 (54)

# 'Cost of keeping SA clean could soar to R240m'

THE R120m spent in 1988 to keep SA clean could soar to R240m by 2000 unless people change their ways.

This was said yesterday by Keep South Africa Beautiful CE Bill Heunis, who added: "SA could be a virtual rubbish dump by 2020."

He said although municipalities recycled a limited amount of garbage, the country needed to consider a new way of handling waste.

"One option would be to generate electricity through the furnacing of waste. A third of West Berlin's electricity is generated in this way.

"It would be costly to do this, but in the long run it would save money and at the same time supply a need, for example in Soweto."

Johannesburg's deputy director of Solid Waste Management Gys du Plessis said South Africans were discarding 171 428 571 sweet wrappers, bottles and other pieces of litter a year — or 22 000 tons in Johannesburg alone.

"Every piece of litter dropped

SYLVIA DU PLESSIS

costs 7c to pick up — which means SA is paying R120m a year to keep the country clean," he said.

Du Plessis said litter collection would cost the Johannesburg City Council R17m for the financial year ending in June. But population movement had to be taken into account.

Apart from the estimated 700 000 residents, there was a daily influx of 500 000 to 600 000 people into the Johannesburg area during the week.

As a result, the Johannesburg council had to employ 690 street sweepers, he said.

Seventy percent of total waste could be recycled, but recycling was presently done on a small scale.

However, a recycling project to be launched by the middle of the year should increase this level.

"Of the 1 500 tons of garbage handled at Robertsham Deep disposal site every day, we will select 160 tons to be made available to private sector firms whom we hope will recycle 70% of that," Du Plessis said.

**WINDS SPREAD BOLAND FIRES**

56



# Cedarbergs devastated by raging inferno

From HENRI DU PLESSIS Staff Reporter

**CLANWILLIAM** — A third of the magnificent Cedarberg mountain wilderness has been reduced to blackened earth while a fire caused by lightning at Christmas still rages out of control.

Several farms lost large sections of grazing with the farm Kromrivier of Mr Rens Nieuwoudt being the worst off.

The mountains surrounding the lush green Algeria State Forest, the famous Cedarberg wilderness and one of the few remaining leopard sanctuaries in the Cape, have lost most of their glorious vegetation with only the stark stone formations remaining.

### Black scars

We drove from the Forestry Fire Control Centre at Franschoek yesterday past a smoking mountain near Saron, Porterville, where the fire had started to burn back towards Tubbagh to the Cedarberg.

From the N7 at Citrusdal, we saw smoke rising from a distant valley behind the town and wondered whether this was the only fire in the area.

Only on closer inspection when we crossed the

Nieuwoudts Pass to Algeria did we see the scars.

They stretched all the way to the Algeria camp site, mostly on the right-hand side of the narrow dirt road and the deep valley to the left, which contains some agricultural land and pine forest, seemed to have been spared.

At Algeria we stopped to make inquiries and a tired forester gave us directions while he stopped at his "home base" for a quick lunch break.

### Through the night

"Fortunately there was relatively little damage to buildings," he told us.

"We have been fighting the fire at Kromrivier through the night but the men and the helicopter are now going to a farm at Citrusdal — we heard the fire is threatening a farm there.

"No, we did not really have time to celebrate New Year."

The drive from Algeria to the foot of Uitsyk Pass wound through green pine forest and momentarily the heat of the day and the fire could be forgotten.

Beyond Uitsyk Pass however, it was a different story.

### Stopped in our tracks

As we topped the pass, the desolate blackness ahead almost stopped us in our tracks. We pressed on past the farm Driehoek of Mr Dries Lesch,

where large sections of onion fields, cedar trees, grazing and natural veld had been razed, past the once-threatened Dwaarsrivier and on to an embattled Kromrivier.

First to meet us was Mr Pip Nieuwoudt son of Kromrivier's owner, but he could not chat — the fire had destroyed most of the aluminium irrigation pipes on their land and he had to arrange for replacements.

At the farmhouse, Mrs Olive Nieuwoudt, the owner's wife, had to run to the telephone every few minutes as calls from anxious neighbours and relatives poured in.

She still had the time to offer coffee.

"They can stop presenting the soldiers with the Honorus Crux — the foresters deserve the medal more at the moment," she exclaimed.

### Bungalow razed

Holidaymakers at the Nieuwoudts' 11 bungalows had to be evacuated as the fire burst through the clumps of pine trees around the small buildings.

One bungalow, most popular because of its magnificent setting on the bank of a dam, was rendered a smoke-blackened shell as the fire went through an open window and burnt everything inside, leaving only the asbestos walls and roof intact.

The fire swept past and around labourers' cottages, killing poultry and a small pig and setting alight the wooden beams inside one of the cottages.

Mr Rens Nieuwoudt has lost all his grazing and livestock feed was burnt to the ground.

A group of eight scouts and one guide from Stellenbosch and Durbanville under the leadership of Professor Mike Case, arrived early enough to help fight the fire with foresters, an air force helicopter, farm labourers and holidaymakers.

"At first the farm seemed safe because while there was a favourable wind last night, the burnt fire breaks up into the mountain," he said.

### Crossed fire-breaks

"Funnily enough, they had a weather report predicting a change of wind in the area and sure enough, it came at exactly the predicted time.

"The fire crossed the fire-breaks as if they had never been there," he said.

He took us to an area where the flames were standing high on the slope and blazing inside a pine forest.

As we drove back to Cape Town, the smoke of the fires could be seen in the distance as it covered the burning sections of mountains along the way.



**CHARRED.** Huge tracts of the Cedarberg lie devastated and blackened by the week-old fire which has left a desolate swathe in its wake, above.



**SCOUTING SAVIOURS.** Five of the eight scouts from Stellenbosch and Durbanville who helped firefighters, foresters, farm labourers and the Air Force, fight the blaze.



**SKIPPER:** The exhausted face of Professor Mike Case, leader of the scout group.



**RAGING MONSTER:** The Boland fire raging in the Cedarberg has reduced acres of farmland to ashes. The farm Kromrivier, above, was one of the worst damaged.

Pictures: LEON MULLER, The Argus

# Govt plans to combat pollution after report shows health hazards

Star 6/1/89 (56)

By Peter Fabricius

The Government is preparing a national plan against air pollution following a study that shows air pollution on the highveld has become a health hazard.

Deputy Minister of National Health Dr Michael Veldman said today the report by Professor Peter Tyson of the University of the Witwatersrand was a "very good report" which had "substantial points" and was being studied closely by his department.

The report found that millions of tons of polluting emissions were falling over the eastern Transvaal highveld every year, damaging crops and periodically reaching levels that were believed to pose a threat to human health, natural resources and man-made structures and objects.

Dr Veldman said after the report had been published, he had asked his department for a report on what was being done across the whole spectrum of pollution control.

"We must work out a national plan to combat pollution, a total

anti-pollution strategy which is well co-ordinated.

"This year I will pay very close attention to the problem. I am waiting for the report from my department which will give an overall picture of pollution legislation, what is being done by the Government to cope with the problem."

Dr Veldman said that although Professor Tyson's report was generally very good he was not quite sure if he agreed that air pollution had generally become a health hazard.

"It is difficult to say if it has already become a health hazard. We get reports that among children especially upper respiratory infections are more prevalent on the highveld.

"And we do have a problem in the eastern Transvaal where air pollution sometimes reaches unacceptably high levels in winter when temperature inversions occur and the emissions are not dispersed.

"But generally our levels of air pollution are below international limits. However the red lights are flickering and I do believe that prevention is better than cure."



Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

**UNABATED:** The devastating Boland fires have been roaring on for 10 days. This picture was taken near Algeria yesterday.

● Another report and more pictures, page 4.

Rain, cool weather help douse flames

# Relief for fire fighters

Argus 2/11/89 56  
Staff Reporter

COOLER weather and rain have helped to extinguish fires in three of the four worst-hit areas in the Western Cape's blazing mountain-top corridor.

Dr Johan Neethling, director of the Cape Provincial Administration's Nature Conservation Department, said today it seemed that blazes in the Stellenbosch-Somerset West, Villiersdorp and Ceres-Tulbagh areas were out.

However, he warned that the fires could flare up again — given the right conditions.

Dr Neethling said the fire in the Cedarberg, above Citrusdal, was still burning fiercely because it was further north where conditions were drier.

"We've transferred some of our fire-fighters from the other fire locations to the Cedarberg," he said.

"It is difficult for fire-fighters to work in the mountains, so our plan today will be to start a 'counter-burn' from near the road or some other accessible place."

Correcting earlier reports that the cost to the province of fighting all the Cape fires was R50 000 daily, Dr Neethling said this was a worst scenario figure.

## Counting the cost

"On a day like yesterday when fires in all four centres were raging, when it was hot and when we had six hired helicopters employed for eight hours each, our costs could have been R50 000.

"It could cost us R35 000 alone to hire the helicopters for a day.

"However on Tuesday and Wednesday, when the winds were strong, we could not use them at all."

Dr Neethling said the balance of the R50 000 on a busy day would be made up by food and fuel costs, to be borne by the province and others fighting the fire.

He said it was difficult to estimate the total cost of fighting the fires in Western Cape mountain ranges since last week until "all the accounts" had been received.

Meanwhile, fire-fighters, farmers and municipal workers battled for more than five hours yesterday to save a

school hostel at Riebeeck West after strong winds sent the Boland fire racing towards the town.

## Carried buckets

More than 100 residents of the town carried buckets of water and used hoses to extinguish small fires caused by wind-borne sparks blowing into the centre of the town.

This morning the fire had been brought under control and mist dampened burning tree stumps on the Kasteel mountain.

The town clerk for Riebeeck West, Mr Danie Lategan, said the fire had been burning on the peak of the Kasteel mountain since it broke out in the Boland nine days ago.

"We had sufficient time to build fire breaks and take precautionary measures in case the fire spread to the town," Mr Lategan said.

# Red tide alert: Toxic plankton drifting south

Staff Reporter

A RED tide alert was issued for the entire West Coast yesterday as a plume of toxic plankton drifted southward, heading for Blouberg and Cape Point.

A senior spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said a survey this week showed black and white mussels to be toxic from Lambert's Bay to Yzerfontein — an area that embraces most of the West Coast's popular holiday resorts.

Though mussels east of Cape Point had not been tested, past experience and records indicated that it was unlikely these would be contaminated, said the spokesman.

He doubted whether the plume would move beyond Cape Point but predicted that it could reach Blouberg "within the next day or two".

A slow-moving inshore current was responsible for the southward spreading of the plankton, one of only two toxic varieties of 18 species of red tide. The tide had "bloomed" because

of the warm and relatively windless conditions during the week.

Perlemoen, alikreukel, kreef and fish are not effected by the tide, but oysters are highly susceptible.

Mussels and oysters are dangerous because they feed by sifting vast quantities of water, concentrating the toxin in their flesh.

The spokesman said people could collect shellfish from the False Bay and Walker Bay areas "at their own risk".

Local marine experts yesterday advised insistent collectors to "cook everything" before eating.

All seven recorded red tide deaths in South Africa had come from eating raw mussels, they said.

"Also don't pick up white mussels lying on the beach or black mussels not attached to a rock — this often indicates that they are paralysed from the toxin," one said.

Symptoms of poisoning include a tingling sensation in the fingertips and lips, dizziness and shortness of breath. The best treatment is to induce vomiting.



# Cedarberg farms under fire threat

opt limits 7/11/89

56

By SYBRAND MOSTERT

**APPREHENSION** as heavy as the smoke from a raging blaze which has leapt two mountain ranges lay over the populace of an isolated valley just behind Citrusdal late yesterday.

After battling against the approaching flames for the full day, late yesterday afternoon one of the fires which has destroyed vegetation in virtually the whole Cedarberg range went out of control and raced towards three farms in the valley.

"We have been on tenterhooks for 10 days," Mr Sean Duncan, the young manager of the farm Eikebos said. The farm lies in the Koue Bokkeveld, 20km north-west of Citrusdal, below the Middelberg pass.

It is the only farm in the valley no longer in danger as the fire has burnt past it.

"The fire has criss-crossed the mountain since before New Year, driven back and forth by the wind."

Late on Thursday night the flames approached the four farms in the valley, and firefighting teams made up of farm workers and forestry personnel started a holding operation before dawn yesterday.

Firebreaks burnt around Eikenhof forced the flames away from crops and farmhouses, but the blaze then went up the mountainside where a strong

northerly wind fanned the blaze into an inferno.

By late yesterday afternoon the wall of flames was headed for the farms of Ysterplaat and Sandfontein.

"I've seen 15 000 hectares destroyed in a blaze before and that was bad," said Mr Schalk van der Merwe, chief forestry officer for the Cedarberg.

"But here more than 40 000 hectares have gone — and that is awesome."

Mr Van der Merwe said that his firefighting team of 70, assisted by three SAAF helicopters, was withdrawing for the night.

"We are exhausted," he said pointing to the dust- and soot-covered men. "At this stage there is nothing we can do. The men have to rest otherwise they will get burnt."

Air Force helicopters had also been used to drop water on the fire.

New tactics to stop the flames would be devised early today, he said.

He and his men had been fighting the raging blazes since December 28, when lightning set the chain of blazes off near Clanwilliam.

Farmers in the valley were not giving up, though. Teams were being assembled to try and burn a firebreak at a road further up the valley.

"It looks as though it will be a long night," Mr Sean Duncan said.

● The fire in the Waboomberg near Ceres has been brought under control.

Cape Times  
10/1/89 (6)

## Fires contained at cost of R500 000

Staff Reporter

THE fires that devastated thousands of hectares in the Western Cape have died down, but the cost of containing them could top R500 000.

"There are only a few isolated fires still burning high up in the Cedarberg, but we are not particularly worried about them," said Mr Rudolf Andrag, regional director for the Department of the Environment.

This brought to an end the massive fire-fighting operation in which several teams, assisted by helicopters, fought blazes over a 200km front for more than 10 days.

### Minimal

Large tracts of land within the Cape's mountain reserves were devastated in a belt running from Clanwilliam in the north to Grabouw in the south.

Damage to farms and crops was minimal as personnel had been able to restrict the flames to the mountain regions.

"Though summer fires are common, we haven't ever seen a fire on this scale," Mr Andrag said. "It was exceptional."

He said that there had also been a minimum damage to the environment as "many of the areas were due for burning".

Mr Andrag also said that a final tally of the cost had not yet been completed. However, estimates have put fire-fighting costs at R50 000 a day.



SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha had to address an almost empty hall when three-quarters of the delegates to the Paris chemical weapons conference walked out. Pictures. REUTER

B/D on 10/1/87

# Pik is not their pick

PARIS — Most African and Non-Aligned delegates walked out yesterday when SA Foreign Minister Pik Botha rose to address the 140-nation Paris conference on chemical weapons.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Robert Ouko said: "Africa deeply regrets the presence of the minority racist regime of SA at this conference."

Ouko, moving a point of order in protest, led the walkout and was joined by delegates from most Asian, Latin American and Arab countries.

He said Pretoria's representative had no place at a forum to seek ways of easing tension in the world by banning chemical weapons.

About three-quarters of the delegates left the hall in the Unesco

building and returned after Botha's speech. But Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Simeon Ake, whose government believes in dialogue with SA, remained seated.

Botha proposed that a regional conference be held to establish an Africa zone free of production, stockpiling, and use of chemical and biological weapons.

He also proposed a regional or continental conference on the dangers of indiscriminate dumping of toxic wastes on the African continent by the industrialised world.

Botha said the SA government opposed the use of chemical weapons and supported the establishment of chemical warfare free zones worldwide. — Sapa-Reuter.

# Millions claimed after Natal storms

By Helen Grange (56)  
Insurance claims arising from the Christmas weekend storms in Natal are running into millions.

The general manager of Mutual and Federal, Mr "Bunny" Attree, says that claims lodged at the Durban branch had reached R1 million for Christmas Eve floods in Durban and R250 000 for floods in the Natal midlands on Christmas Day.

Claims for damage to houses and contents amounted to R937 500.

The Natal Parks Board has claimed R250 000 from Protea Insurance for damage to its Midmar dam and Albert Falls resorts.

"This was the biggest of our claims, estimated at about R1,56 million, and they are still trickling in as people return from holiday," Mr Mike Gillings, assistant general manager of Protea, said.

Claims lodged at SA Eagle were esti-

mated at R3 million and more were being received.

The bulk of claims at Federated General (FedGen), dealing mostly in construction insurance, were expected after January 16 when the construction sites re-opened, claims manager Mr Wynand van Vuuren said.

Santam Insurance has received about 40 claims for about R300 000, according to Mr Piet Bester, assistant general manager.

The spokesmen said these were early statistics and that claims could be much higher once the total damage had been assessed.

"We are still collating information, but so far it doesn't look half as serious as the 1987 Natal floods, which cost over R400 million," said Mr Rodney Schneeberger, executive director of the South African Insurance Association (SAIA).

It was too early to say whether the storms would affect market rates.

# SA's sulphur fall-out highest in the world

Star 12/1/89

56

A hitherto unpublished air pollution memorandum about the eastern Transvaal's sulphur fall-out reveals it is eight times worse than West Germany's.

And West Germany's sulphur fall-out (a major ingredient in acid rain) is so bad that it is causing massive and irreversible damage to forests, crops and buildings.

Every year, West Germany experiences 7,3 tons of sulphur fall-out over each square kilometre.

Although South Africa, as a whole is much cleaner than Germany, (a mere 0,85 tons per sq km) the eastern Transvaal is a disaster: its fall out, according to the memorandum, is 57,5 tons

East Germany, Western Europe's dirtiest country, has only half of the Eastern Transvaal's fall-out according to the memorandum

In the United States, where there is very real concern over acid rain damage, the dirtiest state, Ohio, has only a third of the Eastern Transvaal's sulphur fall-out

As acidity builds up in the Transvaal's soils — and, because of the volumes, it is likely to build up far more quickly than it did in Europe — damage to forests and crops is likely to become more obvious.

The private memorandum, drawn up by top air pollution specialists at the behest of private enterprise, warns that when — over the next few years — new power stations come on stream, the fall-out will climb from the present 57,6 tons to 80,3 tons a square kilometre — even assuming Eskom will extract a third of the sulphur emissions from the new stations.

Nearly all the eastern Transvaal's sulphur is from Eskom. Four fifths of South Africa's energy is generated from this area.

The memorandum says that rain acidity with a pH value of 2,8 has been measured — vinegar would give a similar reading.

A quite separate report, issued last week by the CSIR and drawn up for the government by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), has used identical figures for foreign

**By JAMES CLARKE**  
Eastern Transvaal forests and crops are threatened by serious levels of air pollution.

countries but modified figures for the South Africa

It records sulphur fall-out over the eastern Transvaal as 31,25 tons a year over each square kilometre. Although this is lower than the figure given to private enterprise it is still the highest in the Western World. When the new power stations come on stream the fall-out will increase to 40,58 tons according to the CSIR document

It says of the eastern Transvaal: "... the emission densities are between about five and just under 10 times greater (than those found in West Germany and the United States) and approximate the worst conditions found anywhere (in USA, Canada, East and West Germany and Britain)"

The CSIR document reveals that rain over the central interior is generally very acid with Standerton being the worst affected.

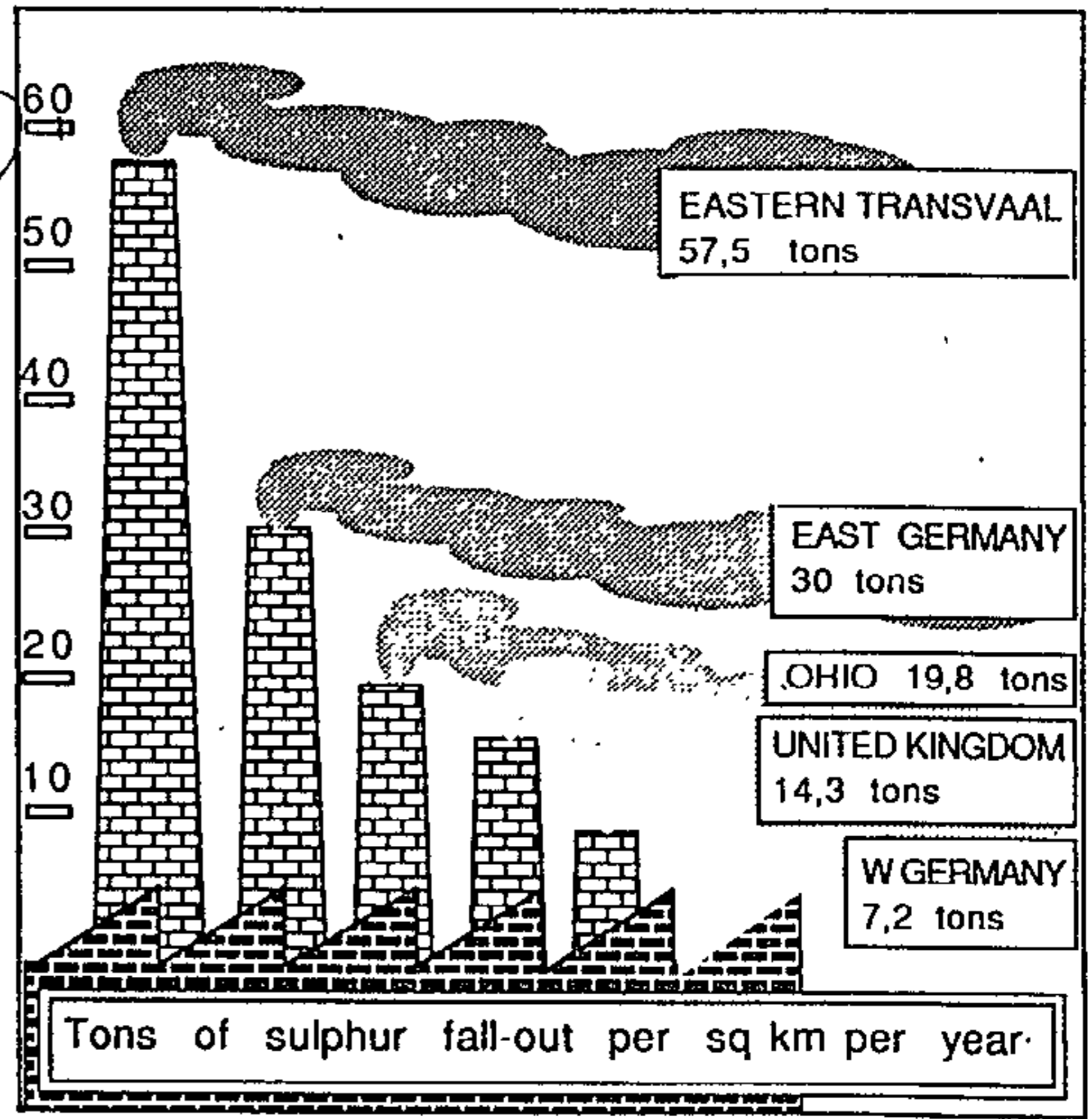
In making the point that industry's "tall stack policy" has generally failed it says tall chimneys have at least lessened the effects in the immediate neighbourhood.

### Tall stack theory

Years ago industry argued that a tall stack would shoot hot gases high enough into the air to pierce the inversion layer where the plume would then disperse harmlessly over enormous distances

The theory has now been disproved. The building of these ultra-high stacks cost scores of millions.

Mr Geoff Craig, managing director of E.L.B.—Brand Contracting, an East Rand firm which makes "clean air equipment" for industry, told me "Any industry is going to pollute in some form or another. The principle is to minimise it cost effectively and then disperse the rest in harmless concentrations.



Rand Carbide of Witbank was the first to try to disperse its pollution via an extra tall stack in the 1950s. The plume from that landmark stack can sometimes be seen fanning out over a distance of 160 kilometres and more. At other times it seems to cascade from the chimney right on to the town. Although this notorious plant has now been fitted with filters it still, on occasions, pours tons of rubbish into the air.

The cost of reducing sulphur in eastern Transvaal is going to cost billions of rands according to some experts. Mr Craig estimates that for Eskom to reduce its sulphur emissions by just a fifth will probably cost each power station R100 million. And even then the eastern Transvaal will still have an atmosphere which is sourer than any in the western industrialised nations.

The situation is aggravated by many smaller industries which possess neither tall stacks nor conscience.

Lately, says Mr Craig, the government has been getting tougher. "Its

team of inspectors do a tremendously good job, make no mistake. They have a tough time but they are very conscientious.

"To get the last few really bad polluters into line we need tougher laws. Present fines are ludicrous.

"Some plants allow their equipment to burn out completely and then call in more specialists and take months and months before replacing it. In the meantime the public suffers but the factory saves on electricity and maintenance. The maximum fine is far too low.

"If that firm were being heavily fined it has been suggested that each day's pollution be considered a separate offence. The operator would have a different attitude.

"Why not set penalties high enough to curb pollution and to pay for the running of the Department of Health's inspectorate?"

NB: so far no factory has been fined for air pollution in the Transvaal but some have lately been threatened with closure unless they toe the line.

**O**N THE list of development priorities in South Africa, the provision of water for rural and developing areas rates equal with the needs to provide food, health and education — and far ahead of the construction of toll roads.

This is the view of consulting geologist Harry Formanek, MD of Selmic Survey, a firm specialising in geotechnical and geophysical investigations for civil engineering, mining and groundwater development. He is also secretary of the Groundwater Development Partnership, an organisation undertaking integrated groundwater supply projects countrywide.

There is a direct link between availability of potable water, health and national development. A study of the results of primary schools in the national states in the Northern Transvaal shows that grades are distinctly better at schools with a permanent and adequate water supply," says Formanek.

It has clearly illustrates that personal comfort (made possible by the availability of fresh water) leads to academic achievement and development.

The magnitude of the rural water shortage is difficult to quantify. In Lejolela alone, more than 3 000 schools, clinics, shops and community centres are without a dependable, hygienic water supply. Perhaps as many as three-million people may be living in rural areas countrywide without drinking water in the vicinity," adds Formanek.

"If the basic water need is taken as a mere 20l per person per day, then the annual drinking water requirements in these remote rural areas amount to 35-million cubic metres spread over 500 000 water supply points in an area exceeding 200 000 square kilometres."

Thus illustrates the massive scope of the challenge that faces the au-

# Water could bring life to SA's rural

ARNOLD VAN HUYSSTEEN

thorities — and which has yet to be adequately tackled.

As many as 100 000 boreholes have been drilled annually during the drought years, mostly in white areas, resulting in less than 40 000 fully equipped production boreholes.

But even at this high drilling rate, plus the building of many small and a few larger dams in rural areas, the supply of water does not keep pace with population growth, let alone clear the backlog in developing areas.

Providing an adequate water supply in rural, developing areas faces many problems: severely limited surface water, subject to prolonged periods of drought, lack of finance and — more important — the absence of a water development programme on a national scale for these "homeland" areas.

Surface water resources have been largely developed and utilised. But many of these dams fill up only periodically in five- or 10-year flood periods. Apart from this constraint, it is frequently unrealistic and uneconomical to distribute scarce and unpredictable surface water to remote rural areas," says Formanek.

In future, the supply of water to these areas will have to depend more and more on development of underground water resources for the most basic needs. And even this task faces limits of available resources in drilling rigs, technical expertise in borehole development and a very serious shortage in groundwater geologists and technicians — not to mention finding the several billion rand needed.

The Department of Water Affairs oversees the development of water resources on a national scale and is responsible for the building of dams, control of pollution and allocation of water according to national and local priorities.

But rural communities (black and white) are left largely to their own devices. Responsibility for the provision of water rests with a multitude of municipalities, community administrations and local authorities — frequently ill-equipped and inadequately financed to undertake this

monumental task.

"Government's Water Research Commission finances research into many projects devoted to the development and utilisation of water resources," says Formanek.

But large scale funding of research into cloud seeding will do little to alleviate the need for water in rural drought areas, such as northern Transvaal and northern Cape Province. And the Department of Agriculture Engineering and Water Supply has drilled hundreds of boreholes in border areas at inflated cost without much success and much hope of improving the situation for desperate farmers," adds Formanek.

"Numerous charters, such as Operation Hunger and World Vision, are involved in the development of water resources in developing areas. But these efforts, however laudable they may be, are fragmented, uncoordinated and sometimes overlapping if not outright wasteful," he notes.

What should be done to solve this massive problem? "We need a co-ordinated, national effort to supply water to rural

and developing areas, whether municipal, local community or national state. The magnitude of the crisis is such that it will need much more than the harnessing of technical and financial resources," says Formanek.

And decentralisation of responsibilities to local authorities will achieve little unless accompanied by an infusion of knowhow and expertise in water engineering.

The chronic shortage of geohydrologists, experienced drillers, pump installers and water engineers will require a long-term commitment and funding at every level.

The scale of funding required to meet the basic water requirements in the most needy areas will exceed R2bn, spread over a five-year period. And, given current budget constraints, this money is unlikely to come from the coffers of the Minister of Finance.

**B**ut there is an answer. "Incentives to private industry to assume the burden of at least some aspects of the development of water resources in rural areas are needed," says Formanek.

"The creation of water supply utilities, owned privately or by communities, is one possible approach to the problem. If operated professionally and profitably, such utilities would be able to obtain funding from private financial institutions and bodies, such as the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

"Private enterprise, financial institutions and trust funds should play a much larger role in financing of water supply schemes. For instance, the vast amounts of money, divested from foreign operations and sitting idle in trust funds, should be used to meet a basic need of millions of people in rural and developing areas," says Formanek.

Clearly the solution to this problem will require urgent and drastic action by the authorities involved in water supply — and funding on a scale far greater than in the past.

# Plett harbour development angers property owners and conservationists

Star 14/1/89

56

# Millionaires versus marina

**THE Plett property war still simmers**

The big guns of the Cape provincial administration are set to fire a salvo which could sink either a R43 million harbour development or the conservationists — many of whom are millionaire property owners from upcountry.

The controversy is over the creation in Plettberg Bay of a marina and townhouse development, which, it is claimed, could spoil one of the country's finest nature reserves, the Robberg peninsula.

In anticipation of all-out war, the anus" are bringing up reserves to meet any go-ahead given by officialdom.

One Plett resident said "If province allows the project to proceed it will create a precedent.

## 'I was as high as a kite'

A man who allegedly stole a Piper Cherokee light aircraft at the Wonderboom Airport last year, yesterday claimed in a Pretoria Regional Court that he had been intoxicated at the time. Presiding magistrate Mr W J van den Bergh

**FRANK JEANS**

interest of commercial gain.

The consortium involved, Plettberg Bay Marinas Shareblock, International Yacht Marinas and the construction group Stocks & Stocks argue, that the project has already been approved by a previous local administration and the marina would not appreciably spoil the Plettberg Bay environment.

The consortium has backed this up with weighty evidence compiled by oceanographic experts which they claim amply covers the environmental impact assessment.

Mr Reg Edwards, chairman of Stocks & Stocks, said "I would like to see an end to the hue and cry and leave it to the decision-makers."

"I appreciate the concern of residents. However, the facilities that will be provided for them will be provided for them and the benefit to the

public by far outweigh any negative aspects."

Developers make the point that to pay for extensions to the harbour — it will have to be enlarged from 5ha to 20ha — there will have to be a residential component in the project.

The Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by Professor van Riel assisted by the CSIR in Stellenbosch indicates no serious impact on the environment and a positive socio-economic impact, said Mr Edwards.

Main anti-plaformists the Robberg Trust, formed about two years ago, representatives from which are before provincial authorities.

The issue came to a head when the big property owners at Plettberg Bay clashed with the local ratepayers' association, which, it was reported, supported the marina project.

The association's committee was ousted and a new committee elected. This is pledged to fight the scheme and has resolved to tell the provincial administration that it "totally disassociates" itself from the previous committee's support for the marina.

The proposed harbour will accommodate 400 yachts and there will be a slipway for ski-boats. The housing component will comprise 120 townhouse-style units.

## Petition bid to save old mansion

**PAT DEVEREAUX**

MORE than 12 000 Johannesburg residents have signed a petition to save the historical Parktown building which houses family restaurant, Mike's Kitchen.

The bid to save the old mansion — built in Victorian Edwardian style — is being spearheaded by Parktown Westcliff Heritage Trust and Johannesburg Historical Foundation.

The National Monuments Council Regional Committee has recommended the building be saved. A decision by Johannesburg City Council is now awaited, said Heritage Trust chairman, Mrs Flo Bird.

She added: "All we can do is play for time. Although the initial threat to demolish the building, it is still under threat because it has profitable business rights." On Wednesday, management of Mike's Kitchen handed over a model of the original building to the National Monuments Council as a record of "its historical value".

Built for pioneer photographer James S Goch in 1905, the stately Parktown mansion has seen a number of changes. It was a residential hotel in the 1930s depression era and many will remember it as the Overseas Visitors' Club in the 1960s.

However, in 1978 the City Council bought the property for the construction of a major motorway. Meanwhile, it was rented out to entrepreneurs and became the popular family restaurant it is today. "As a restaurant so many people have got to appreciate this handsome old building," said Mrs Bird. Said chairman of Johannesburg Historical Foundation, Mrs Louanne Grant: "Many historic places are demolished so rapidly. "It is important to retain a sense of history."



SAFE AS HOUSES? Mrs Flo Bird, campaigner to save the historic Parktown mansion, at the site of the old building. Photograph: Ken Oosterbroek.

Star 17/1/89

# 'Chemists responsible for waste'

By Paula Fray

Chemists have a responsibility to ensure that chemical waste is treated and disposed of correctly, Dr Dave Baldwin, manager of analytical services and industrial waste management at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, said yesterday.

He was speaking on "The correct disposal of chemical waste — the chemist's responsibility?" at the 30th biennial convention of the South African Chemical Institute in Johannesburg.

Dr Baldwin said chemists were involved with the manufacture and use of chemicals and had the knowledge to ensure the correct usage, storage, handling and disposal of them.

"We need to provide environmentally acceptable but cost effective treatment and disposable methods."

Analysing the South African situation, Dr Baldwin said that in terms of volume, mining waste constituted more than 74 percent, municipal waste was 6 percent and "chemical" waste, which was very hazardous, 2 percent.

Dr Baldwin said only 10 percent of the 1200 municipal waste disposal sites in South Africa would be able to comply with the new regulations when new laws were promulgated — the rest had a high pollution potential.

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**WORLD**



# Durban Star 26/1/89 affected by inland tremor (56)

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The city rocked yesterday afternoon when it caught the tail end of an earth tremor which measured 4,5 on the Richter Scale.

The epicentre of the tremor was at Welkom in the Free State where frightened people reported broken windows and cracked walls. There was a power failure.

In Durban the effect was felt mainly in high-rise blocks, where windows shook, pots rattled and people called newspapers to say their buildings had moved.

## INEXPLICABLE

Professor Luis Fernandes, head of the seismological network for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, said from Pretoria that it was a "strange thing" that high-rise buildings in Durban often felt tremors which had epicentres far inland.

"This is something we can't explain."

He said although the Welkom tremor, possibly caused because of mining in the area, was fairly strong, it was not serious.

Mrs Patricia Thevenau, who has a flat in Ridge Road, said pot plants and plates on her dresser moved, the windows rattled and she felt the building move.

She was one of many people who telephoned the Durban Weather Office to ask if there had been an earthquake.

# Murder, Wild West style, down in the lungs of the world

THE Amazon jungles are the lungs of the world. This is why the murder of an ecologist here last month matters far beyond the borders of Brazil.

The Wild West-style killing of ecologist Francisco "Chico" Mendes has focused world attention on a remote corner of the Amazon and on bloody battles being waged over land and trees.

Ecologists warn of a global temperature rise and a disruption of the earth's system for producing oxygen if too much of the Amazon rain forest is lost. The trees' sunlit leaves form that oxygen.

Mendes, who was 46, had won an award from the United Nations for work in this, his home state. A son of rubber tappers who came to the Amazon during a boom between the World Wars, Mendes organised the mostly landless tappers who work the forest's rubber trees. Ecologists have supported tapping as an economic alternative to ranching. The ranchers buy titles to the inexpensive acreage and clear its canopy.

In the state capital of Rio Branco, ankle-deep in mud during the five-month rainy season, the fight over the forest reaches personal levels.

"The problem is almost always the same," said Eugenio Leoa Braga, secretary of interior and justice. "There's some land, where people have lived for 20 years or 30 years. Then the owner sells to someone else, or somehow somebody gets title, and the new owner wants to knock down the forest."

"First, he's got to get rid of the people but they've been there for 20 or 30 years. They have their houses there, they've raised their children. That's where the battles begin. People kill each other."

*The murder of a renowned ecologist who fought to preserve the Amazon rain*

*forests has focused attention on a bloody frontier war over the threatened jungles which*

*scientists call earth's 'lungs'*  
**BY EUGENE ROBINSON**

"Then the owner sells to someone else, or somehow somebody gets title, and the new owner wants to knock down the forest."

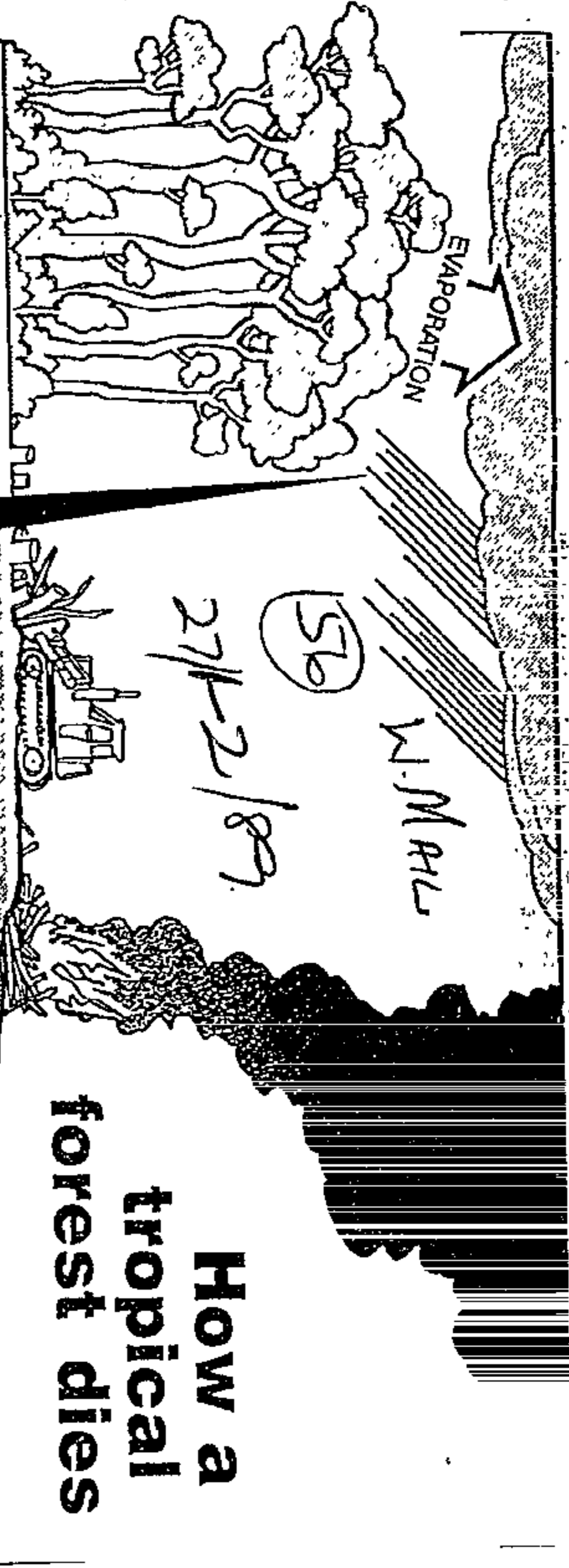
The slaying of Mendes, at his home in a town called Xapuri, contained this element of personal conflict.

On the night of December 22, Mendes was shot as he walked across his patio on his way to the shower. It was a rare evening when he had decided to risk sleeping in his own house. Immediately, police began seeking two of the area's biggest ranchers, the brothers Darcy and Alvinho Alves da Silva.

The ranchers and Mendes were old enemies: Mendes had defeated them last March in their attempt to clear a big patch of forest outside Xapuri.

First Mendes had mobilised settlers to block the ranchers' work crews. Then he found irregularities in the brothers' land documents and helped get the issue tied up in the courts. Finally, Mendes discovered that in a town 560km away, Darcy Alves and another brother stood charged with killing three people.

Darcy Alves threatened Mendes, authorities say, although the rancher denies this. Mendes gave an interview days before his death naming the Alves brothers as men who wanted him dead.



## How a tropical forest dies

➤ Lush forests often cover soil that is virtually sterile. Nutrients are contained in the plants and organic matter littering the forest floor.

➤ Water vapour in constant cycle between trees and clouds. Deforestation disrupts cycle, changing local weather patterns.

➤ When cleared for farmland, 90% of nutrients go up in smoke. Rest are destroyed by sun or washed away by rain.

➤ Some deforested soils are sun-baked into a brick-hard condition on which nothing can grow. Water run-off can then lead to floods.

### Why the Amazon matters: When a farmland is cleared, 90 percent of the nutrients go up in smoke. Without the forests, global temperatures rise and oxygen supply drops

The danger to his life was so well known that police had provided Mendes an around-the-clock escort, and he had taken to varying his habits to avoid being an easy target.

The night Mendes was shot, his police guards responded to the sound of gunfire by running away. They said they feared they were outnumbered.

Darcy Alves' son, Darcy, quickly confessed to the shooting and was taken into custody. But authorities insisted he was covering up for his father and uncle and continue to call the killing a "family decision".

Darcy Alves is portrayed in the Brazilian press as a macho Wild West outlaw. Five women are said to consider themselves his wives, including three who live with him on his ranch, and he is said to have fathered more than a score of children.

But this larger-than-life rogue turns

out to be a short, slight man in his sixties with a gaunt face and a high-pitched whisp of a voice. He stood alone and dishevelled in the middle of his prison cell, a dirty shoe-lace holding together his eye-glasses.

"I am telling the truth," he said softly. "I didn't kill anyone. They say it was Darcy who did it." He denied knowing anything about his son's plans and pleaded for a fair hearing. "I bought all my land within the law."

Darcy Alves admits to not liking Mendes but says he only wanted him to stay out of the family's affairs. He has said in other interviews, however, that he told Mendes what an easy man he would be to kill.

Darcy, a slight 20-year-old who seems confused and frightened, said simply, "I killed him," the same thing he has been saying since right after

the shooting. A bishops' conference has accused the Alves brothers of responsibility for the deaths of more than 100 rural workers since 1975. A cemetery was found on their property, which Darcy says is an ancient burial ground. No-one else seems to remember it.

Humans rights and church groups cite hundreds of killings of peasants over the past few years. "Peasant community leaders, active trade unionists, lay church workers, nuns, priests and lawyers involved in promoting peasants' land claims have increasingly been the subject of threats and attacks," says the human rights group, Amnesty International.

In many cases, civil rights groups say, gunmen hired by landowners or businessmen trying to obtain land through fraud have carried out the killings. — The Washington Post

## Angling for reason

Controversy is raging over the decision taken by Environmental Affairs Minister Gert Kotze to re-open part of Walker Bay (near Hermanus) to fishing trawlers. The bay was closed three years ago at the insistence of the Hermanus town council, because trawlers had decimated the fish population in the area. Since the closure, angling has improved; fish that had not been seen for many years are back, and there are more whales.

Kotze based his decision on a research project by the Division of Sea Fisheries. He says there is "no scientific evidence that the angling situation will be adversely affected by re-opening," and adds that a "great shortage of fishmeal and canned sardines exists that the decision can alleviate."

Chris du Toit of the Hermanus Rate-payers' Association disagrees strongly. He says that within two years there will be no fish for either anglers or trawlers. Walker Bay is also a breeding ground for the Southern Right whale which comes very close to the shore, attracting tourists. The chairman of the local Angling and Conservation Society, Hans Moore, maintains that fishing trawlers will cause the number of whales to drop, and tourism would be affected.

It is not clear whether the irate residents of Hermanus, who have approached the State President on the matter, are more concerned with conservation or with the fact that line fish are likely to become scarce.

The members of the town council, who are opposed to the re-opening, have decided Caledon MP Lampie Fick will be asked to take the matter up at the highest level. Fick tells the *FM* he has already arranged for Kotze to see the concerned residents in Cape Town on February 2, and he is "confident it is possible

(56)

to reach a satisfactory arrangement between the residents of Hermanus and the fishing community of Gansbaai (which is in favour of the re-opening of Walker Bay) ■

56

POLLUTION FROM POWER STATIONS IN THE TRANSVAAL SPREADS DEEP INTO NATAL AND

# The worst air in the world: Right here

There are 57 tons of poisonous sulphur dioxide over every square kilometre of the Eastern Transvaal, the worst pollution figures on earth.

**EDDIE KOCH reports**

COAL-BURNING power stations and factories are pumping levels of acid rain-making chemicals into the air over the Eastern Transvaal Highveld that are twice those in East Germany, the country with the world's most serious acid rain problem.

The shocking disclosure, in a new report by two independent consultants, has ominous implications for the future health of forests and crops in the regions — as well as the health of the people who live there.

The report says emissions from 12 power stations and the Sasol plants in the Eastern Transvaal are dumping 57,5 tons of sulphur dioxide per square kilometre into the atmosphere each year.

The air over East Germany contains 30 tons of sulphur dioxide per annum while the next most polluted country in the world, the United Kingdom, has 14,34 tons of the noxious gases, says the report.

And the Eastern Transvaal Highveld is eight times more at risk than West Germany where vast forests are being killed by acid rain even though the country has only 7,2 tons of sulphur dioxide per square kilometre.

Acid rain — the product of chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and moisture — is arguably the world's most serious environmental problem.

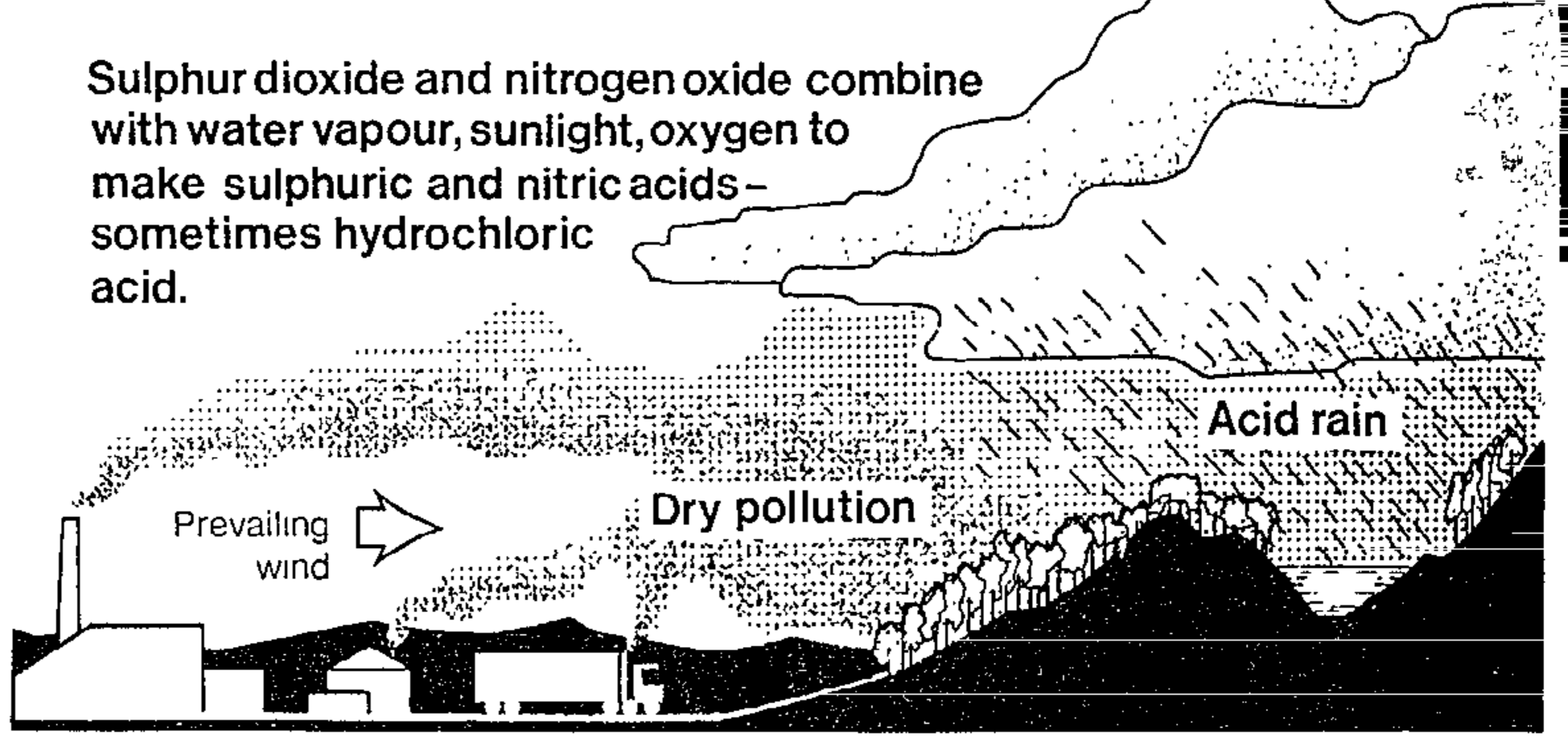
The new report contradicts figures in a study published last year by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) which indicated that sulphur dioxide levels in the region stood at some 31 tons. More menacing is the independent report's prediction that the Eastern Transvaal levels will rise to over 80 tons when new power stations come on stream.

The government's chief pollution control officer, Martin Lloyd, has rejected the validity of the statistics saying they do not take into account the extent to which the noxious gases are dispersed in the upper levels of the atmosphere.

"The sulphur dioxide is spread as

## The acid rainmakers

Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide combine with water vapour, sunlight, oxygen to make sulphuric and nitric acids — sometimes hydrochloric acid.



Winds can carry acid rain pollution as far as 2 000km in three days

far as Natal and the Free State," he said. "It is diluted through a vast area and the emission figures cannot be equated with the deposition that comes out of the atmosphere."

But there are indications that people and plants in the area are at serious risk from the pollution.

Ecology expert and journalist James Clarke says rain with a Ph level of 2,8 has been measured in parts of the Eastern Transvaal and in misty conditions this could drop to as low as 1,7. The Ph levels of unpolluted air range from 4,2 to 5,6.

In 1952 a killer smog in London, which probably caused the death of 6 000 people in two weeks, contained acid levels of 1,7. General agreement among researchers is the smog had such devastating effects because it combined sulphur dioxide with solid particles of soot and carbon which are capable of penetrating the linings of human lungs.

These findings have serious implications for the residents of Soweto and large townships on the Highveld where coal stoves which emit large amounts of soot are used extensively for cooking and heating.

A CSIR report noted in the 1970s that people in Soweto took longer than average to recover from respiratory diseases. And in 1987 Professor S Zwi, from the University of the Witwatersrand's medical school,

found "exposed children have increased symptoms such as coughing and wheezing and certain respiratory illnesses — asthma in boys and chest colds in children".

Three years ago Professor AM Coetzee, from the Department of Health at the Pretoria University, found children exposed to pollution in the Sasolburg area were more prone to suffer from lung disorders than children from pollution free zones.

Steve Elsworth's authoritative book, *Acid Rain*, says sulphur dioxide emissions are the causes of various lung diseases, especially among the young and elderly. American doctor Daniel Pell has linked the pollutants to Parkinson's Disease and forms of senile dementia.

Medical experts who contributed to last year's CSIR report were more cautious, saying there was insufficient evidence to indicate decreased levels of lung functions at current levels of pollution.

Sulphur dioxide is capable of being transported in the rain and air to areas many hundreds of kilometres from the source of pollution, where it is deposited in the form of acid rain or dry fall-out.

The CSIR report says forests in the north-eastern Transvaal are showing some of the scars of acid rain and it warns that maize and other crops in the fall-out area could be affected.

The Natal Parks Board recently reported that at least 16 of the reserves have recorded traces of acid rain.

Polluted rain has been blamed for killing a quarter of West Germany's trees and irreparably damaging 3 percent of Czechoslovakia's forests. In Sweden 400 lakes are said to be biologically dead because of falls of acid rain — and in Canada fish have been eliminated in 15 000 lakes.

The bleakest aspect of the situation in the Eastern Transvaal is there is no sign of a short-term solution. Eskom has begun installing filters in the stacks of its power stations which will eliminate emission of particulate matter within four years, says Lloyd. But he acknowledges that technique used to control sulphur dioxide levels in other parts of the world cannot be applied on the Highveld because of lack of water.

"Even if this was available, the cost of sulphur-dioxide-removal technology will cost each power station R500 million," he says.

The enormity of the pollution level over the Eastern Transvaal may be one reason why Pretoria is keen to power lines from Zaire to South Africa. One large dam on the Congo River, says Clarke, would be capable of supplying South Africa's needs.

Pollution may well have been a factor in the government's decision to revive the Cahorra Bassa agreement.

Worst <sup>ALGOA</sup> 3/11/89  
drought  
in 70 years

From PAT CANDIDO  
The Argos Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. —  
Farmers in the Eastern  
Cape coastal region are  
in the grip of the worst  
drought in 70 years, says  
Mr Charles Heathcote,  
chairman of the Greater  
Algoa Farmers' Union.

There was no fodder  
on many farms, and  
farmers were being  
forced to buy it at high  
prices. Many farmers  
were selling breeding  
stock at auctions to cut  
down costs. On some  
farms new-born lambs  
are being slaughtered to  
try to save the ewes.

Some famers are talk-  
ing of moving to other  
grazing areas to try to  
save their stock.

Mr Henry Scheepers,  
of Elands River, said  
conditions were critical,  
and farmers could no  
longer go on feeding  
their stock.

Temperatures are  
soaring. It reached 40  
deg C in Port Elizabeth  
yesterday, and soared to  
42 at Kirkwood.

W

# Genadendal Mission endangered by blaze

Cape Times 1/2/89 Staff Reporter 56

A TIMELY change of the wind last night saved one of the Cape's most famous historical landmarks, the 250-year-old Genadendal Mission station, from fiery destruction.

Late yesterday the complex — the oldest surviving Protestant mission in Africa — seemed certain to be consumed by a fire which began in the mountains above the mission on Saturday evening.

Earlier, an ominous pall of smoke could be seen from as far as the Houwhoek Pass, nearly 40km away. By late last night two fire teams were still battling the fire that was raging in the surrounding Riviersonderend mountains.

The Genadendal Mission station, built in 1738, was the first mission station constructed in South Africa and was declared a National Monument in 1980.

# Firefighters battle to save homes

NEWS  
1/2/89  
56

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

NEARLY 700 firefighters have brought under control a veld fire which threatened the historic village of Genadendal.

Flames, fanned by strong wind, yesterday came within 200 metres of the 250-year-old Genadendal Mission and threatened about 30 homes.

The fire was controlled on Sunday evening, but berg winds caused it to flare again.

Mr Isaac Balie, museum curator, said towering flames swept down on the village from the surrounding hills yesterday when the wind changed direction.

## COVERED IN ASH

"The entire village is covered in ash today," he said.

Said Mr DC Le Roux, chief of the Divisional Council fire brigade of Caledon: "We created counter-fires and used water jets to keep the flames away from the houses. Some flames came within five metres."

The fire near the village was put out last night but patches of vegetation are still burning on the mountains.

# World pollution: Call for action

Copy Tmk's 1/2/89

DAVOS, Switzerland. — World business and political leaders were urged yesterday to take urgent action to tackle the "greenhouse effect" if mankind is to avoid disaster.

"The crime is committed but the final sentence may be softened if we are clever enough," Mr Roald Sagdeev, director of the Soviet Space Research Institute, told the World Economic Forum.

Speakers at the week-long conference have repeatedly called for more account to be taken of the "greenhouse effect" — the warming of the world's climate through industrial pollution — in drawing up policies for economic growth.

"This concept of ecological growth appears fundamental for maintaining growth in the future," said former French prime minister Mr Raymond Barre.

"The process of growth has to take account of the 'greenhouse effect' and the efficient use of energy."

Mr Barre, a professor of economics, was reporting on the conclusions of two days of informal talks among a 60-strong inner group of political figures attending the annual meeting.

Scientists told the meeting of

## Nuclear <sup>56</sup> fusion may be answer — scientist

1 000 business and political leaders that mankind's survival was not under threat in the next 100 years and more research needed to be conducted. But some action should be taken now to avert potential disasters.

Mr Carlo Rubbia, head of the Geneva-based European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN), said countries might be forced to give up fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas in the next 20-30 years to prevent environmental disaster.

Mr Rubbia, a Nobel Prize-winner, said the only realistic alternative would be nuclear energy and urged development of nuclear fusion plants, regarded as being safer than existing nuclear fission plants.

He said nuclear fusion plants

could extract from a cubic metre of water the energy equivalent of 2 000 barrels of crude oil.

"A single km<sup>3</sup> of sea has enough energy in it to correspond to all the known oil reserves, enough to keep mankind going at the present rate for 40 years or so," he added.

Mr William Clark, a Harvard University ecologist, said builders of new ports or other coastal facilities should bear in mind that the sea level might rise by up to one metre in the next century as higher temperatures melted polar ice caps.

He called for more action to reduce the emission of fluorocarbon gases as used in aerosol sprays, to increase research into new non-fossil energies, to stop the destruction of forests and to encourage greater reafforestation.

The scientists agreed that carbon dioxide was at present the main problem. The annual increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide alone was around three billion tons and it had already raised the world temperature by 0.5 to one deg C.

The scientists dismissed solar energy as a credible alternative to fossil fuels or nuclear power.

— Sapa-Reuter



# Destruction of the wetlands <sup>Star 11/2/89</sup> is threatening a vital resource 56

By JAMES CLARKE

A Natal farmer illegally destroyed a centuries-old indigenous forest on the Mkuzi River in Natal to plant crops. Conservationists explained to him that the land would soon be washed away.

The farmer was later fined R5 000.

A year or so later the floods came and swept the land away. The farmer then claimed R70 000 compensation from the taxpayer — and got it.

Now history is about to be repeated.

A neighbouring farmer, who has cleared a similar riverine forest — to grow bananas — has now lost it all in a flood. He too is claiming R70 000.

The Minister of Agriculture, whose department gave the farmer (chairman of a local branch of the National Party) permission to destroy the forest, is considering paying.

The alarming abuse of indigenous forests and wetlands — vital to the nation's running water supply — came under review at a Sappi-sponsored symposium in Sandton at the weekend.

Shock facts by scientists revealed:

- A major handicap to growth in South Africa is shortage of water, yet water conservation laws are fatally flawed.
- Farmers are systematically wrecking wetlands and forests, and even obliterating tributaries, and getting away with it.●

## MATCH INDUSTRY, TOO

● The match industry is drying up wetlands by planting poplars.

● The enormous destruction of life and property in Natal's recent floods was greatly aggravated by the destruction of natural river systems.

In the Tugela River catchment more than half the wetlands (lands which naturally store rainwater, purify it and feed the river) have been deliberately destroyed. The Mkuzi has lost a similar proportion.

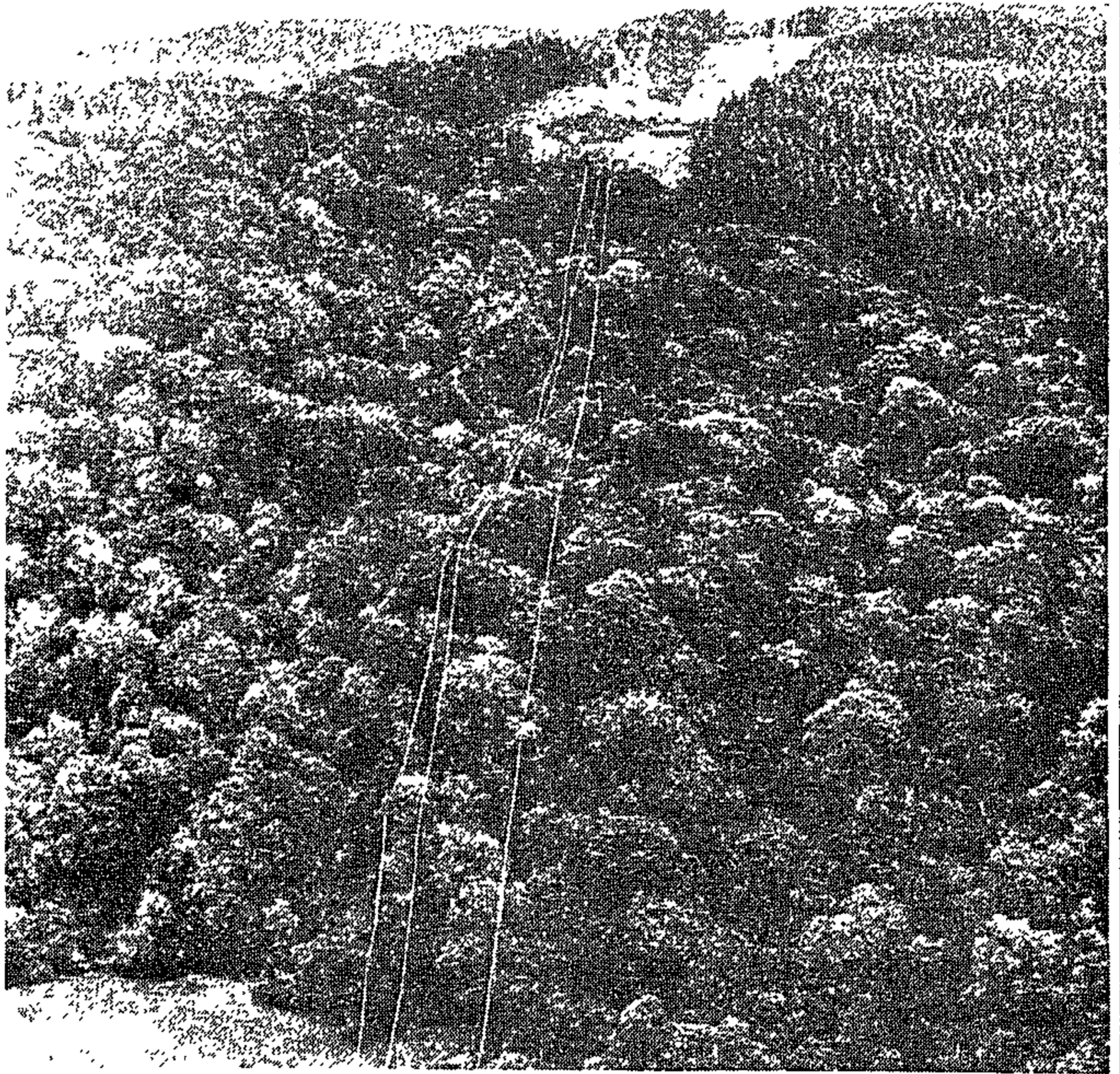
● Entire estuaries which once penetrated kilometres inland have been destroyed in Natal — many by sugar farmers.

● Ninety percent of coast lowland forests in Natal have been wiped out for the production of sugar cane.

On the positive side: according to speakers at the symposium, the Government is safeguarding what indigenous forests come under its direct control and Sappi, the country's biggest private landowner, is refining its policy regarding the protection of wetlands and native forest.

Dr George Begg, whose study of Natal wetlands for the University of Natal ends in a month's time — after which "big picture" wetland studies cease in South Africa — told the gathering of forest scientists and managers that wetlands must be seen as "public resources" even though nearly all are in private hands.

The United States, he said, recognised that wetlands were essential to national wealth and employed 150 scientists to permanently map and monitor the dynamics of wetlands and advise on the situation. The



Eskom now uses helicopters to string powerlines over native forest instead of through them. But farmers continue to wipe them out — with grave effects on the national water supply.

US Clean Water Act, which protects wetlands, is one of America's most powerful pieces of legislation.

Dr Begg and Mr Keith Cooper, conservation director of the Wildlife Society, drew murmurs from the 100 audience when they showed aerial pictures of wetland destruction.

Dr Begg said that in the northern Transvaal — a region chronically affected by lack of water — 90 percent of "bottomlands" (swamps) are planted with poplars to drain them. The trees were planted by a match company.

## THE BEST STRATEGY

He said Natal sugar farmers were deliberately lowering the water table (draining land) and were "absolutely not interested in managing this resource".

"Blacks have learnt well from whites," he said, showing pictures of a homeland team filling in a tributary.

A problem is that some of the country's biggest and therefore most important wetlands are each owned by 50 to 60 farmers — and each farmer may have a different attitude towards the wetland.

Dr Begg described the role of vleis, marshes, swamps and natural forest patches. He said they trap silt and force

runoff to fan out during storms. Wetland destruction causes water to rush off the land, scouring deep canyons, washing away once stable landscapes, causing death and destruction.

Mr Keith Copper said there was a striking difference between attitudes of different black states which sit astride some of the country's major wetlands.

In kwaZulu there is a new concern and understanding regarding the situation but when an invited delegation of conservationists went to see Mr George Matanzima of Transkei "his only reaction was to ask us to buy him a Simmentaler bull for one of his farms".

A solution, said Dr Begg, was government acquisition: "We have some wetlands which the Government should certainly consider acquiring." But, he added, the Government does not know much about the management of wetlands.

A "last option" would be for the Government to pay farmers compensation for not using wetlands, as is done in the United States, the subsidy being based on what the farmer would have made had he farmed the area.

The best strategy would be to change attitudes, he said.

# Couple failing to state race have their water cut off

CAPE TOWN — Water services have been cut off to a Western Cape house because the new tenants did not state their race on an application form.

Kraaifontein mayor Sarel van Deventer yesterday confirmed his council stopped the supply to a couple whom neighbours want evicted under the Group Areas Act.

He said the house belonged to a firm owned 49% by an Indian.

"I wouldn't have taken steps unless I was aware all the people, including every councillor, are behind me all the way," Van Deventer said

Own Correspondent

This latest incident comes as the Mayfair West race wrangle was joined on all sides.

The CP, Black Sash, Jewish Board of Deputies and Lawyers for Human Rights flew into the fray yesterday over a truculent mob's prevention of an Indian family moving into a white suburb of Johannesburg, reports Sapa.

CP law and order spokesman Moolman Mentz said the councillor

instrumental in barring the Indians had acted correctly.

The Black Sash said it was disgusted and added the NP's policy of discrimination was a breeding ground for fear, hate and suspicion that was growing among whites.

Jewish Board of Deputies chairman Gerald Leissnor called on police to "use their considerable power" to stop such incidents.

He added the board was distressed by the appearance of vigilantes.

The lawyers' organisation said SA would be torn apart by racial conflict

unless discrimination was removed from the statute books.

On Sunday an Indian family who had bought a house in Mayfair West was not allowed to move in by a right-wing mob.

Mentz said the CP had the highest regard for whites who took a strong stand against the influx by people of colour into white areas.

The Black Sash said: "This fear (of blacks) is stimulated by government-controlled media. Until apartheid is scrapped... the Mayfair incident and this type of reaction will intensify."

only" burial ground. —

Sapa

*CAPE TOWN 7/12/89*  
**Genadendal 56**  
**fire contained**

Staff Reporter

THE blaze which had threatened Genadendal has been brought under control in the mountains nearby the village.

The fire started west of the settlement at the weekend and was beaten back on Tuesday night by dozens of nature conservation and divisional council workers, helped by homeowners in the area.

No-one was hurt in the blaze, which also left property unscathed, said a fire department spokesman yesterday.

He said the fire was still burning in the Riviersonderend mountains, but that property was no longer threatened.

# In the land of the rusting ploughs

ARCUS  
2/2/89  
56

IT'S a land on which there were once great hopes because the dams were full, the rivers ran strongly and the people could plough their lands and make a decent living.

Today, farmers in the bushveld of the north-west Transvaal, 350km or so from the rich PWV area, watch the clouds scudding across the sky, pray daily (not only on Sundays) for rain, spend sleepless nights wondering how they are going to meet their astronomical debts and, as one told me this week, ask: "Why has God forsaken us?"

He could well ask.

The area stretching from just outside Thabazimbi to the Limpopo River and northwards to Allidays is a massive scene of desolation.

It is also a giant headache for South African security chiefs who thought they were being successful in their bid to attract people back to the bushveld bordering the Limpopo River. In this way, it was reasoned, it would become more difficult for insurgents to reach the Rand.

The farmers, at least those who could afford it, have been provided with loans for R15 000 security fences around homesteads as well as two-way radio systems.

But, in the main, bushveld farmers facing huge debts (the national agricultural debt is set at R14,9billion) after years of drought have simply given up.

They speak of lack of interest by agricultural lending organisations and parastatals. Some banks don't come in for much praise either. Only one has adopted what farmers still eke out an existence describe as a "live and let live" attitude.

At least two farmers, one in the relatively fertile Crocodile River irrigation scheme area, have shot themselves when staring bankruptcy, sequestration or foreclosure in the face.

A farm named Monte Christo, west of Ellisras, is vacant, and has been for a long time. It merits a dot on roadmaps, but the maps don't tell the story — not any of it, and certainly not as good a story as the headstones tell.

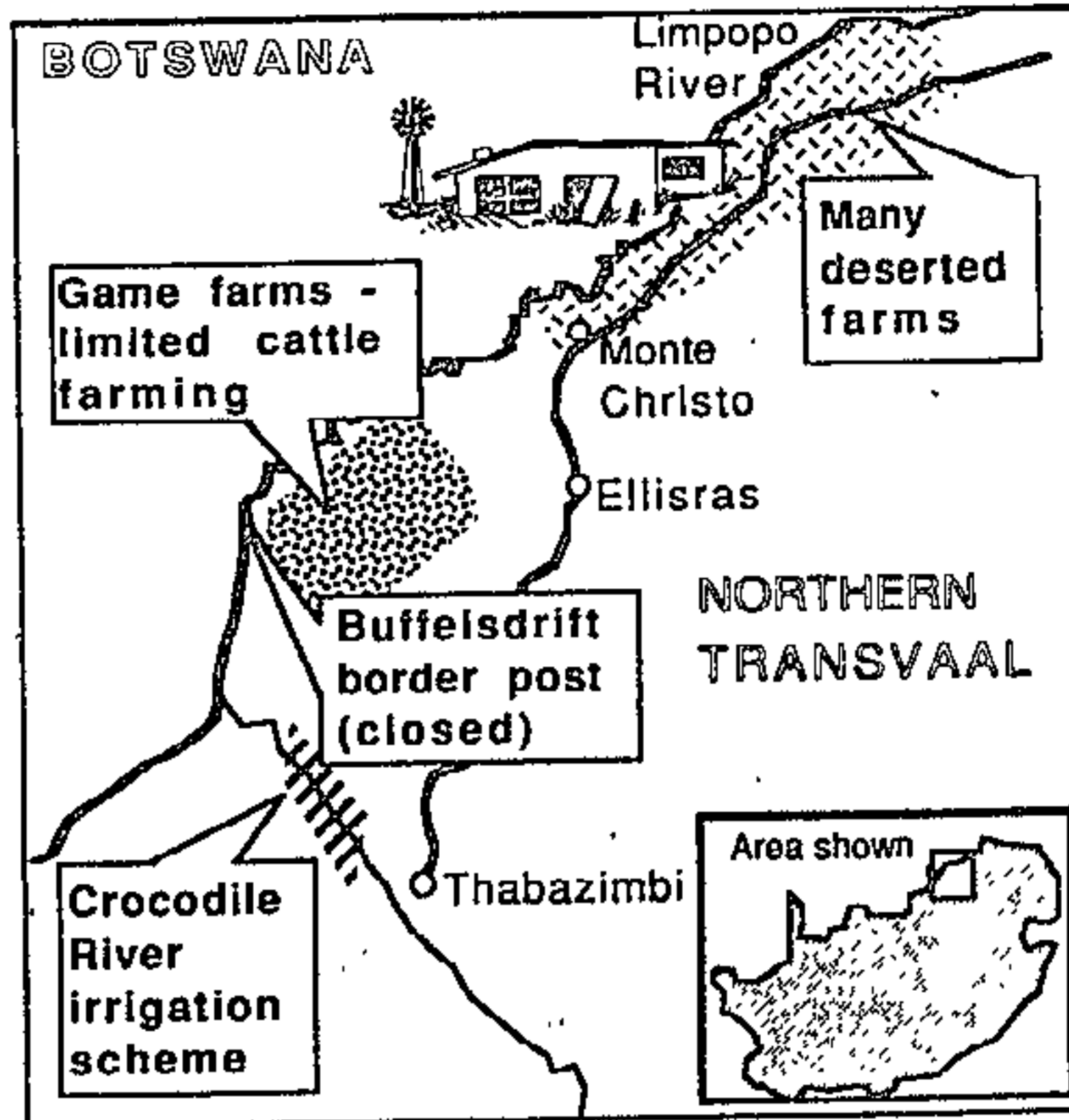
The Du Toit family who worked what was once a thriving farm on the banks of the Mogol River are still there, buried in a tiny cemetery in an unforgiving land. A fading bunch of carnations is the only colour.

Three generations are there: two-month-old Jan Johannes, his father, also Jan Johannes, his mother Christina (nee Wiehahn), his uncle Jacobus Francois, and Oom Hendrik Petrus Goosen, the last to die, in 1981.

Their farmhouse, set on a slight hill facing a now-empty dam and the sandy bed of the wide river, is locked. Curtains cover the windows, the farm sheds are derelict, a reed-protected shady area a few paces from the backdoor of the farmhouse is in a sad state of neglect.

It is the same, sad story at countless farms. Heavy locks bar the way in. Expensive farm equipment, even big Bedford trucks, rust in the sear-

Drought, huge debts, vacant farms, rusting ploughing equipment, little cemeteries as the last resting places of generations of proud Afrikaners who once tilled the lands... there is desolation on a grand scale in the bushveld of the north-west Transvaal, and it is also causing a giant security problem. NORMAN CHANDLER reports in this concluding part of a series.



ing heat, which in the heart of summer reaches over 44deg C.

And, of course, there are the pathetic cemeteries with their ornate headstones, plastic flowers, and the quietness of a land which held such promise.



The drought has been incredible. Eleven years ago was the last occasion on which bushveld rivers came down in flood. Farmers tick off the years of flooding as if they are crossing out the days on a calendar — 1934, 1944, 1954, 1966, 1978.

"I know of farmers who simply packed up in the middle of the night, and left, or simply shot themselves," economist-turned-farmer Dr Manie van Dyk, of "Tussenkom", in the Thabazimbi district, said.

Some of his neighbours have done that.

The lucky ones have friends and neighbours who have rallied around and tried to help the unfortunate get back on his feet — but usually it is a hopeless task.

One, a few kilometres away, shot himself after the bank manager had given the bad news of foreclosure. The widow of Langjan Roux, of Ma-

koppa, is preparing to leave the land on which the family had pinned their faith.

Mr Roux, 51, watched his 52 boreholes drying up, one after the other. The day before his farming implements were attached by his creditors, Langjan — said wife, Marie — fell to his knees and sobbed uncontrollably. He then shot himself.

Another, at Koedoeskop, did the same. And then shot himself.

"The farms are standing empty. Our people have given up because of lack of money, lack of water, and the high interest rates being charged by the banks.

"Even Eskom won't give farmers the opportunity to pay off their electricity charges, and particularly if they fall behind due to a bad season or more," said Dr van Dyk, who has been in the forefront of complaints to the government.



Dr van Dyk, an articulate 33-year-old graduate of Pretoria University and a former researcher with the Human Sciences Research Council, farms 60ha on the banks of the Crocodile River 35km out of Thabazimbi. He and his family — his wife, Denise,

is a university-educated music teacher and taught at the Makoppa school, and their three children have been there for six years.

To rub home the message, they have had six years of poor harvests after having spent five years fighting drought on the Springbok Flats, north of Pretoria.

This year, the depopulation of the north-west Transvaal has gone one step further. The local school does not have a Grade 1 class for the first time and school enrolment has dropped from 52 last year to 38, a trend which is repeated throughout the vast region.

Twenty-three families have left their farms in one area of the Thabazimbi district and it is estimated that most of the remaining 70 will have left by the end of 1990. In the last few months, at least 25 have been declared bankrupt.

These are not just ordinary farmers. Every single farmer along the Crocodile River, for instance, has had some form of tertiary education — there are doctors, lawyers, and economists among them.

Asked whether he spent sleepless nights wondering what to do about his debt — conditions were so bad that he fell behind on electricity payments, saw his power supply disconnected, and lost R60 000 on a cotton crop because of it — Dr van Dyk kicked the dry river bed of the Crocodile and said: "Not one night. Every night."

The Snyman family have seven farms — three on the Crocodile River, four in other parts of the western Transvaal and they are not rich, as that number of farms may imply.

Oom Dawie Snyman runs an earth-moving business in Thabazimbi to pay off his debts. His son, also Dawie, tills the land.

Why doesn't he sell a farm or two? The laugh was instantaneous.

"Is jy mal (Are you mad)?" he wanted to know.

"I have been trying to sell farms but no one wants to buy. I have one up north which I will sell for R800 000, but I can't get a buyer. Sure, there are kerels who can give me R200 000 and pay off the rest. But I need the money to pay my debts."

Oom Dawie, who has been farming in the district since 1954 and has seen costs rise steadily, is very bitter.

"Among our biggest costs are those we pay Eskom. From July 1988 to now we have paid R132 000 to Eskom. And I owe the same amount. We just want time to pay that off, but if we don't pay the monthly amount, that's it."

"I am not the only one in this situation. Every farmer has the problem."

The Snyman farms have lost R72 000 on grain as a result of bad harvests caused by drought, and, in order to irrigate, it has cost R56 000 in power charges, which would have been manageable had the harvest been good.

Oom Dawie believes there will not be 10 percent of the existing Crocodile River farmers still in business two years hence.

# Citrus groves thirst for relieving rain

M605 3/2/89  
56

By MICHAEL MORRIS  
Staff Reporter

CITRUS farmers in the Olifants River valley near Citrusdal could be in grave difficulty soon because of the shortage of water for irrigation.

The river level has fallen so low that farmers are being forced to rely on scattered pools to draw their supply. Crops could be in danger unless there is rain soon.

And, further downstream below the Clanwilliam Dam, water restrictions may have to be imposed on scores of wine and fruit farmers, warns the regional director the Department of Water Affairs, Mr James Butler.

The 122-million cubic metre-dam which supplies the valley is just over half-full and Mr Butler fears restrictions may be necessary to conserve the limited supply.

The Clanwilliam Dam is Mr Butler's main concern in the present hot period. Two other dams near George — Kammanassie, with only four percent of its capacity, and Stompdrif, with 11 percent — are also causing concern in the Department.

## "We will cope"

On the West Coast, drought-threatened Graafwater may soon be relieved if the government approves funds for a project to tap a nearby underground water source.

A top Department of Water Affairs team led by Mr Butler visited Graafwater this week for a preliminary investigation.

But further inland, rain appears to be the only hope for citrus farmers in the Olifants River valley.

A spokesman for the valley's irrigation board said yesterday: "Our problem is quite simply the scarcity of water. It has been very hot and we have many young trees, so it is worrying.

"But as long as we can water them at least once a week, we will cope."

Mr Butler said the Olifants River was "flowing" slowly beneath the ground, filling pools along the river bed. It was from these that farmers were drawing their supply.

Wine and fruit farmers below the Clanwilliam Dam — which is at 56 percent of its capacity — still had water to draw on, but restrictions might be necessary to conserve the supply, he said.

Mr Butler added: "There are tens of thousands of hectares of farmland that need that water. It is a worry."

In the West Coast town of Graafwater, the shortage of water in the existing underground system supplying the town has forced water restrictions on its 1 300 residents and there is uncertainty about how long this supply will last.

However, relief is likely to come with a new project to drill boreholes into water-bearing soil between 10 and 15km north-west of the town. The cost of the project is not yet known, nor when it will be completed.

Department of Water Affairs geo-hydrologist, Mr Marc Vandoolaeghe, is a member of the team co-ordinating the project and the final scheme will depend largely on his assessment of what lies beneath the baked earth of the area, the Sandveld.

He is confident that the water source under the original bed of the Jakkals River will provide the relief the town desperately needs.

The government has provisionally approved the so-called Sandveld Scheme — which is intended ultimately to supply Graafwater as well as other drought-prone towns in the area — but the Treasury has yet to vote funds for it.

For some years Sandveld communities sought government approval for a regional scheme drawing water from the Olifants River, which lies some 30km east of the dry Sandveld, but it was rejected as too expensive.

# R110-m paid out to <sup>\$6</sup> victims of Natal floods

Political Staff *116ms 9/2/89*  
MORE than R110-million has been paid out in compensation by the National Disaster Relief Fund to victims of last year's devastating floods in Kwazulu and Natal.

The Minister of National Health, Dr Willie van Niekerk, in charge of co-ordinating flood relief, said 40 000 claims for R10-million were outstanding in Kwazulu.

Extra staff had been transferred to the Kwazulu Department of Justice to help speed up processing of the claims.

In Natal 18 822 claims had been settled for a total of R16,8-million.

In KwaZulu R42,5-million had been paid out for 116 325 claims.

Another R38,2-million had been paid out for farming claims in Natal and R11-million in KwaZulu.

A special grant of R5,5-million had been paid to the Umfolozi Sugar Co-operative whose mill had been destroyed by the floods.

Dr van Niekerk said the government had also ensured small cane-farmers could remain on the land.

## Dam to stay empty

Political Staff

THE government is to build a R65,3-million dam near Ladysmith with the intention of keeping it empty to prevent the almost annual flooding of the northern Natal town.

Hundreds of hectares destroyed — 400 men fight blaze

# RUNAWAY fire

By SHARKEY ISAACS and ANTHONY DOMAN  
Staff Reporters

FOUR hundred firefighters were being mobilised today to fight a raging fire which has devastated hundreds of hectares of fynbos and mountain vegetation in the Franschhoek area.

Fanned by a gale-force south-easter, the fire jumped a firebreak on the perimeter of the Wemmershoek dam catchment area and swept into the Olifantshoek and Tierkloof valleys early today, destroying 15 hectares of pine plantation.

The strong wind blew sparks 50 metres across the firebreak.

A municipal firefighting force of more than 300 men, backed by many vehicles, was called from Cape Town when the catchment areas surrounding one of the city's main sources of water were threatened.

After fighting the blaze for hours in the dark, the team controlled the fire in the catchment area when the wind dropped after daybreak.

## Call for helicopter

This afternoon the fire was still raging out of control on the upper ridges of the mountains surrounding the Olifantshoek and Tierkloof valleys.

A spokesman for Cape Town's parks and forests department said helicopters would probably be called in to try to control the inferno.

No farms or residential areas are threatened.

Firefighting is being co-ordinated by Cape Town City Council, which administers Wemmershoek dam.

Council public relations officer Mr Ted Doman said that according to forestry officials the fire was burning over a "long front". It was hard to estimate the extent.

An Environment Affairs spokesman said the fire had been burning "up and down the mountain all week".

The fire started on Sunday in the Franschhoek mountains and burned through hundreds of hectares of fynbos as it spread to the perimeters of Wemmershoek dam last night.

## Table Mountain

● Firemen and forestry workers have put out fires on Signal Hill and Table Mountain.

The blazes, reported within 15 minutes of each other last night, were brought under control in three hours. They swept to within 200m of property in Oranjezicht and Schotsche Kloof.

Firemen were concerned at one stage that the fire near Vista Senior Secondary School in Schotsche Kloof would be pushed over Signal Hill towards Camps Bay by the fresh south-easter.

"In this wind you can't take any chances up there," a brigade spokesman said.

The other fire, near Sidmouth Road, Oranjezicht, started at the top of Deerpark Drive, Highlands Estate, and the flames spread towards Herzlia School sports ground and clubhouse. The south-easter fanned the flames away from houses.

Firefighters used two jets on the Schotsche Kloof blaze, while the other was fought with three. Both were put out just before midnight.

PRC 101  
10/2/10  
56

# Drought hits three Eastern Cape districts

The Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH — Three Eastern Cape districts have been declared disaster drought areas.

The magisterial districts of Port Elizabeth, Paterson/Alexandria and Steytlerville now qualify for Phase 1 of the drought relief measures.

This makes it possible for farmers to apply for a loan to purchase fodder and a rebate on the transport of fodder.

Farmers are facing a critical period as water and food for animals become scarcer every day. Many fountains and boreholes have dried up and in some places the South African Defence Force is carting water for stock and domestic use.

Several farmers have sold off their stock while others have reduced their herds and flocks considerably.





Pictures. WILLIE de KLERK, Weekend Argus.

Firefighters battle the blaze in the Franschoek mountains.

# Water bombs, 600 men tame mountain inferno

by ANTHONY DOMAN  
Weekend Argus Reporter

A FIREFIGHTING blitz involving 600 men and five helicopter water bombers has subdued a raging blaze which devastated hundreds of hectares of mountain vegetation in the Franschoek area.

The fire is now reported to be "under control on all fronts", but firefighters will remain on standby.

The week-old blaze rampaged, often out of control, over vast areas on several fronts in the area of Wemmershoek dam, one of Cape Town's major water sources.

Fanned by a gale-force south-easter, it jumped a firebreak and swept into the Olfantshoek and Tierkloof valleys, destroying 15 hectares of pine plantation.

Yesterday afternoon the

wind dropped ... only to change direction to north-west, creating a new hazard: a "crown" fire, jumping from treetop to treetop.

The fire started last Sunday in the Franschoek mountains and burned through hundreds of hectares of fynbos as it spread to the Wemmershoek perimeter.

Servicemen and municipal teams from Cape Town were rushed out to augment the firefighting force which has been battling the blaze since Thursday night.

The Radio Good Hope helicopter was in constant use yesterday, scooping water from the dam in a huge bucket suspended from a cable and bombarding the flames.

Two air force helicopters were called in to help yesterday afternoon.

Firefighters tried counter-burning in an attempt to control the flames, but gusting winds sent sparks soaring across firebreaks and whipped up new fires.

But by last night firefighters could take a breather.

"We now seem to have the fire under control on all fronts," said city engineer Mr Des Riley.

been storage since then.

# Copters, soldiers fight fire

CAPE TOWN 11/2/89

Staff Reporters

FIVE helicopters and nearly 200 soldiers formed part of a 500-strong team fighting a blaze that wreaked havoc in the Franschoek Valley and was raging near Wemmershoek Dam late yesterday.

Though the worst of the blaze had been contained and there was very little danger of the huge forestry plantations being ravaged, hundreds of small fires still dotted the mountain slopes last night.

Exhausted firefighters, some of whom have been battling the blaze since it started on Sunday morning, waited anxiously at collection points around the forests, praying that the wind would not change and cause the fire to flare again.

## Out of control

As darkness fell, the only place the fire was out of control was high on the mountain slope above the dam wall.

Although the wall of 30-metre-high flames covered a front of about three kilometres, the wind was forcing the fire back on to already destroyed vegetation.

This prompted hopes that the fire would burn itself out if the wind did not change, said firefighters.

Mr Louis Kreiner, a City Council executive committee member, said last night that another 100 firefighters were on stand-by.

Earlier in the day, the blaze had been what firefighters termed a "crown fire", moving from tree to tree rather than on the ground, he said.

By last night no fire injuries had been reported and no buildings were in danger.

Earlier this week the John Rolfe rescue helicopter crashed while firefighting in the Boland. It was caught by a gust of wind while lifting a huge water-filled bucket.

● Cape Town gets much of its water from Wemmershoek, which is why that area is under the control of Cape Town City Council.

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# Drought: Farmers call for govt aid

CAPE TOWN  
13/2/89  
56  
3/12/89

## Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Failed wheat crops for three consecutive years have placed an escalating debt burden on a number of drought-stricken farmers in the Suurveld area between Humansdorp and Kareedouw.

The farmers, members of the Suurveld Farmers' Union, have now applied for their district to be declared eligible for Phase 1 of the government's drought relief fund.

Their application follows Thursday's granting of the magisterial districts of Port Elizabeth, Paterson, Alexandria and Steytlerville as recipients of Phase 1 of drought relief.

Mr Hercules du Plessis, owner of the farm Boplaas and vice-chairman of the Suurveld Farmers' Union, said many farmers in the district faced the prospect of heavy financial losses as a result of loans taken out to plant cash crops (mainly wheat) four to five years ago.

"These government-subsidised

loans, which farmers are paying back at six percent interest, will be repayable after six years at 18%.

"If we don't have rain soon, farmers are going to be faced with huge debts caused by failed crops and the subsequent lack of financial returns on capital investments."

He said that because of the present drought, farmers were now forced to take drastic measures to survive, like reducing stock to eliminate increased feeding costs.

Some farmers had cut their stock by as much as 25% while others had leased additional land to prevent overgrazing by sheep and cattle.

Mr Du Plessis said that for the first time in three generations springs and boreholes on many farms had run completely dry.

Some farms were without domestic or drinking water and water is taken to the drought-stricken areas in tankers provided by Eastern Province Command on a regular basis.

Water is also being transported from the Kouga River.

# Four die in floods, two swept away in car

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Four people drowned near Keetmanshoop in southern Namibia and two are missing in floods.

Rivers have burst their banks after heavy rains in the territory and South Africa at the weekend.

Two bodies were recovered from the Wasser River and police said a search was continuing for two people whose car was swept away.

A woman and her daughter drowned after their house was flooded by the Schaap River in the Keetmanshoop area.

A number of areas have been isolated by the floods.

Repairs have been started to the national road between Keetmanshoop and Mariental. It is expected to reopen tomorrow.

The inflow into the Hardap dam near Mariental has decreased considerably since Saturday when the sluice gates were opened following a content increase of 165-million cubic metres in three days.

In South Africa good rains fell over the central and eastern parts of the country, disrupting sports events.

The assistant director of the Weather Bureau in Pretoria, Mr Hannes Olivier, said although only light rain fell over the Eastern Cape — declared a drought distaster area last week — good falls should occur in the Kruger National Park, another stricken area, from today.

## THE CAUSE

The belt of rain which has settled over the central and eastern parts of the country was not unseasonable.

Mr Olivier said the rain was being caused by a high-pressure system south-east of the country which had advected moist, cooler air across the country, and a low-pressure system over the western parts on the surface and upper air.

"Widespread rain occurred over the central and eastern parts of the country. This high-pressure system is slowly moving eastwards, causing it to clear over the western parts.

"There will be further clearance over the central interior with rain over the eastern half of the country. Moderate falls are expected over the Free State and south-western Transvaal.

"Over Natal and Free State it will be mainly cloudy with rain. It will clear in the west."

Good rains fell over parts of the country. De Aar reported 135mm yesterday, Prieska 104mm and Douglas 39mm.

Cool, cloudy weather was experienced over the whole of the Transvaal, except for the area north of the Soutpansberg.

Cool and overcast weather during the past three days brought some relief from the soaring temperatures, but rain is badly needed throughout the Lowveld, particularly in the northern parts.

Cape Times 13/2/89

# Heat wave while floods hit country

Staff Reporter

56

DON'T be fooled by today's partly cloudy and mild weather — according to the weather forecasters, the heat wave is not yet over and tomorrow and Wednesday could be as hot as last week.

A spokesman for the weather office at D F Malan airport said today would be partly cloudy and mild with a moderate south-westerly wind becoming south-easterly tonight.

A maximum temperature of 25 deg C was expected.

He said that tomorrow and

Wednesday the weather would start warming up again with possible temperatures of 30 deg C.

Last week, temperatures soared to 39 deg C in the city centre.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that floods in southern Namibia have claimed six lives, including a mother and her daughter whose house was flooded, near Keetmanshoop at the weekend.

A police spokesman said the search was continuing for two people whose car was swept away by floods yesterday.

Good rainfalls over the Free State have been reported.

In the Transvaal, heavy rain washed out horseracing and golf on Saturday, with the third-round leaders in the ICL Charity Classic being taken as the winners of the golf tournament.

Saturday's horseracing at Turfontein will be held today.

The first leg of the Nissan Shield cricket semi-final between Transvaal and Free State in Bloemfontein was also rained out on Saturday. — Sapa

● 6 die in floods — Page 2

● Drought in East Cape — Page 7

ions apply to a wide range of reporting, comment and pictures in the Cape Times

Cap. T. ...  
14/2/89 (56)

## Raging fire controlled at Skurweberg

Staff Reporter

A VELD fire which has been burning near Ceres since last Wednesday was at the weekend prevented from reaching the village of Koue Bokkeveld by firefighters.

By late yesterday the fire was said to be under control although it was still burning at the foot of the Skurweberg mountain near the village.

Mr Frans Hugo of the farm De Keur said yesterday that the fire had started in the upper reaches of the Olifants River on Wednesday last week and had covered "hundreds if not thousands" of hectares.

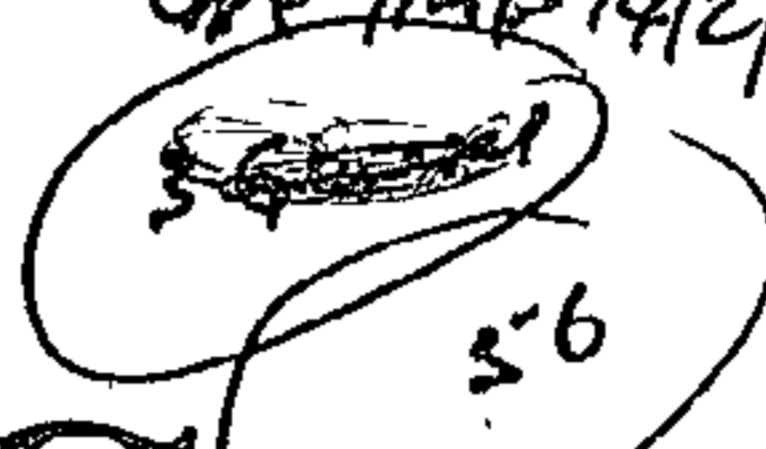
"It is not so much houses under threat as the fynbos," he said.

Houses on the edge of the town and in the coloured township were threatened by the fire on Sunday night but disaster was averted by firebreaks and by a change in the wind.

"We are just hoping the wind will not turn again," a resident said.

# Drought: Six disaster areas in Cape

ONT Times 14/2/89



JOHANNESBURG. — Six areas in the Cape Province have been declared disaster drought areas and assistance to stock farmers will be introduced at a cost totalling R1,4 million a month.

About 700 farmers will qualify for assistance under the scheme. The monthly amount that will have to be spent on each farmer is calculated at about R2 000 — totalling R2,8m for February and March.

This has been approved by the deputy Minister of Agriculture in the House of Assembly, Dr AI "Kraai" van Niekerk.

In a statement released yesterday, Dr Van Niekerk said the decision followed urgent representations from organised agriculture that, despite good rains in some parts of the country, others have had little or no rain and are experiencing disaster drought conditions.

He said the following recommendations of the National Drought Committee were accepted:

• The introduction of the disaster drought scheme for stock farmers in the extensive grazing areas in the magisterial district of Steytlerville (with the exception of 21 farms in the

northern part); and an identified area south of Pofadder (about 150 000ha).

• The reintroduction of phase one of the drought assistance scheme for stock farmers in the cropping areas in the magisterial districts of Port Elizabeth, Alexandria, Riversdale and Albertinia. This phase involves assistance in the form of rebates on transport tariffs for purchased feed.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that two people died and another 41 were injured, several seriously, in Johannesburg, Randburg and Sandton as the soaking rains that have fallen over most of the country since Friday continued.

In other parts of the country, drought conditions are expected to lift in the Kruger National Park areas north of the Soutpansberg and in the north-eastern Cape but death and destruction were brought to Namibia and parts of the Free State were flooded.

Four people drowned at Keetmanshoop in southern Namibia and two others were missing after rivers burst their banks.

Two bodies were recovered from the Wasser River, and a mother and daughter died after their house was flooded by the Schaap River. — Sapa

# 9 rescued as floods <sup>st</sup> again hit Ladysmith

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN Nine people were rescued in a rubber duck from a bridge surrounded by water as floods again ravaged Ladysmith — exactly a year after the last flooding.

More than a thousand residents had to evacuate their homes last night as the Klip River burst its banks after heavy rains.

Civil Defence units and the Defence force also saved five adults and a child were rescued in King Street, and picked up four adults who slipped at a school.

Mr Pieter Hattingh, a civil defence spokesman said two people were also rescued on the Klip River.

"The army and the protection services are patrolling it to look for people in distress."

## SUBSIDING

Floodwaters began subsiding at 8.20am today.

"At this stage, we cannot assess damage. The river will have to drop by four to five metres before we can see exactly what has happened," Mr Hattingh said.

In Maritzburg, floodwaters swept through houses, submerged sportsfields and other low-lying areas as the Umsindusi River burst its banks last night.

Parts of Estcourt were also flooded last night when the Little Bushmans River burst its banks.

About 10 homes in the River Crescent area were flooded.

## MORE RAIN

A spokesman for the Durban Weather Bureau forecast more rain today and tomorrow over Natal.

"It will be cloudy and cool with showers," he said.

The highest rainfall in the province has been recorded at Underberg which had 79mm yesterday.

Ladysmith had 62mm and Pietermaritzburg 20mm.

The flooding at Ladysmith came just a week after the Government's announcement that a R65-million dam will be built near the town to prevent flooding.

"We've been working through the night. People are exhausted," Mr Pieter Hurter, chief of the town's civil defence, said today.

"The situation is serious, but fortunately residents acted quickly and tragedy has been averted. There have been no deaths."

## FLOOD PEAK

"We started warning people at 11 o'clock last night that the Klip River was about to burst its banks. They responded very quickly and moved their possessions before the flood waters reached us at 2am."

He said the flood peaked at 6am.

"The river is more than 8m high and a large part of the Indian residential area, Leonard's Township, has been flooded."

He said some homes in the white area of Settler's Drive had also been affected. He estimated that about 300 homes had been flooded.

"Part of the central business district has also been flooded and in some places, the water is two or three metres high."

Mr Hurter said although shop owners had moved stock last night, there had been damage to fittings.



Be prepared to evacuate homes, says met office

# Flood warnings for PWW residents

Staff Reporters

Flood warnings were issued today to residents in the PWW.

Mr. Hannes Olivier, assistant director of the forecast section of the Weather Bureau in Pretoria, said that people living in low-lying areas and near rivers or streams should take precautions and be prepared to evacuate at short notice.

"The ground is saturated from the recent rain," he said, "and 35 mm of rain is 35 mm of run-off. The ground can soak up nothing more."

The Southern Suburbs station reported 63 mm of rain for the 24-hour period until 8 am today. Central Johannesburg reported 30 mm. Linden 36 mm, Matveien 28 mm and Joubert Park 27 mm.

Some roads have already been submerged in Johannesburg's southern suburbs. The City Engineer's roads and works section said it had received reports of heavy rain and flooding in Booyseens, Mondeor, Kibler Park and Crown Wood Road.

Firemen came to the rescue of drivers trapped in their cars.

And the forecast for the PWW area until tomorrow is for more rain — a prediction that also covers most of Natal.

## Mopping-up

Mopping-up operations were underway in Ladysmith today after the town was flooded for the fourth time since the disaster of September 1987.

Angry residents — thousands were evacuated from the low-lying Indian area of Leonard's Township — were not mollified by the fact that expensive flood prevention measures were already on drawing boards.

"What are we going to do in the meantime?" asked Doctor Ebrahim Patel, who lives in Leonard's Township.

But some residents are more philosophical about nature's intrusions on daily life.

Said Mr. Essop Sheep Adam: "I've been in Ladysmith since 1976 and have been flooded nine times."

Ironically, the latest deluge comes just five days after the announcement that a R78-million dam is to be built at Mount Pleasant, 5 km upstream from the town.

Clearing-up operations were also resumed in Klerksdorp today after a strong wind blew roofs off houses yesterday. Scores of houses and flats were flooded when 50 mm of rain fell in a few minutes.

In Maritzburg, two people were missing and two houses destroyed after the Willowfontein stream burst its banks.

As water levels rise in the flood-stricken Natal midlands, fresh reports of floods have been received from Bothaville in the Free State and heavy rain is reported to have caused damage in the western Transvaal.

Heavy rain is continuing to fall over the Klip River catchment area in Natal — increasing the danger of further floods in Ladysmith. In Colenso there were unconfirmed reports of 250 mm of rain.

Residents of the black township in Bothaville removed furniture as water ran through their houses.

## Natal, OFS, Transvaal lashed by heavy rains

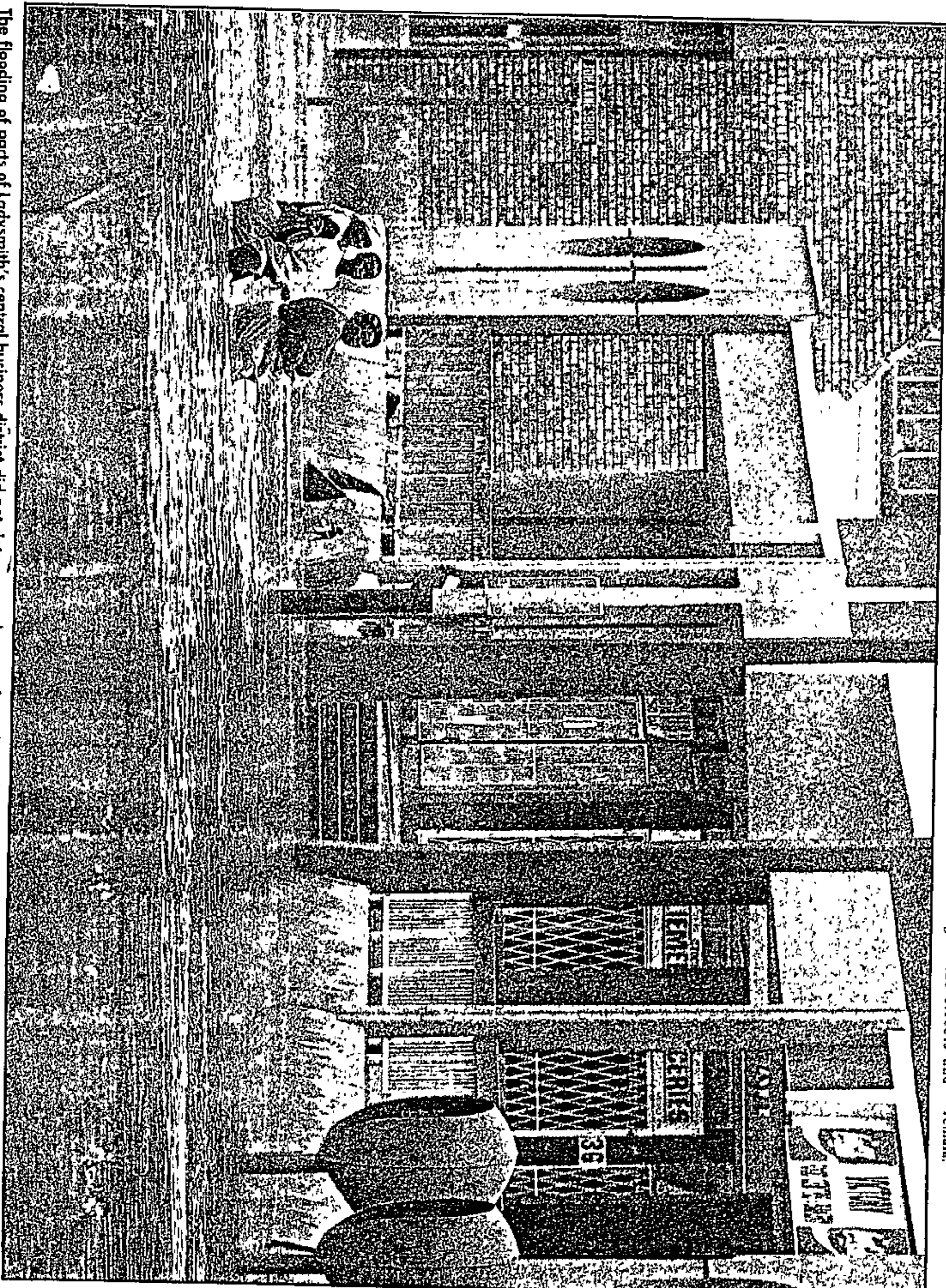
In Bloemfontein, where heavy rain hit the city late yesterday afternoon, 18.5 mm was measured in just over an hour.

In Klerksdorp considerable damage was caused when 50 mm of rain fell within 45 minutes yesterday. The roofs of four houses and of a block of flats for the aged were blown off and other roofs damaged. Flooding in the streets and

uprooted trees brought traffic to a standstill.

Emergency workers spanned tarpaulin sails over the damaged houses.

Weathermen predict that the southern Transvaal and central Free State areas will be awash with rain for at least the next 24 hours — after which cold, cloudy conditions are likely to remain.



The flooding of parts of Ladysmith's central business district did not deter some shoppers from doing their daily chores — for many residents floods are a way of life. In some places in the town the water was 2 to 3 m deep.

● Picture by Sean Woods.

# Marooned families saved in Natal floods

Capl. Truck 15/2/89 56

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — About 150 families in flood-hit Ladysmith were still being sheltered in the civic hall last night after they were evacuated from their homes, shortly before the Klip River burst its banks at 2am yesterday.

And in Maritzburg, police said two men were thought to have been washed away by floodwaters at Imbali on the outskirts of the town.

In Ladysmith, where floodwaters caused havoc for the fourth time in two years, hundreds of houses and scores of businesses were still submerged late yesterday.

Quick action by the town's protection services probably prevented any loss of life.

Town clerk Mr Pieter Hurter said: "We were absolutely prepared this time.

"Emergency vehicles

with sirens and loudspeakers were sent into the low-lying areas to warn residents to evacuate."

He said many shopkeepers were telephoned at home and most had time to remove stock.

By the time the river reached its peak (8.6m) just after 4am, most of the people were safe.

Dramatic rescues were carried out in the town yesterday.

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## Courting clean skies

In Natal a one-man crusade is tackling 20 chemical companies in a bid to outlaw hormone herbicides belonging to the notorious Agent Orange family. The companies involved are preparing to challenge a *rule nisi* application to prohibit the import, distribution or marketing of chemical compounds containing the active ingredient 2-4-D. Vietnam war veterans were recently granted around US\$240m in damages caused by the same ingredient in the defoliant Agent Orange.

Natal Fresh Produce Farmers Association chairman Roger Evans estimates that the defoliant properties of the herbicides have cost his industry more than R17m since the problem was positively identified in Natal in 1985. In January 1987, his lobby succeeded in persuading government to promulgate a limited ban on the use of the chemicals in Tala Valley. The ban has proved ineffective as the area is too small. Studies show that pollutants can be carried hundreds of kilometres in the air, and that hormone herbicides do not break down in the atmosphere but accumulate until removed by rainfall.

Independent analysis of air, rain and irrigation water samples in Natal has shown alarmingly high levels of contamination — up to 590m times the dose necessary to cause permanent damage to vegetable crops. Experts have diagnosed the same symptoms in

*Continued on page 55*

the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, where farmers are beginning to be aware of the problems which Natal farmers have been fighting for the last five years. Western Cape farmers voluntarily limited the use of the herbicides some 10 years ago.

Evans says the court action has been instituted because he believes government is unwilling to give the vegetable farmers adequate protection. "There are too many vested interests involved," he explains. "I think they're unwilling to make a political decision which could make them unpopular in powerful agricultural sectors." He has also accused the Department of Agriculture of withholding vital information on hormone herbicides gathered from their rainfall and air readings. The department insists that monitoring and assessment is continuing, and that information will be made available in time.

A spokesman for the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association of SA puts the total value of the hormone herbicide market at around R35m, of which Natal accounts for some R12m. He points out that the withdrawal of the herbicides, and their replacement with safer chemicals, would increase input costs to farmers by at least 100%. "I doubt that certain of the farming sectors can absorb that sort of cost," he says.

The chemical companies have until April 26 to show good cause why the court order should not be granted against them. ■

# Couple rescued as floods hit Natal

Argus  
17/2/89  
56 ✓

## The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — More than 110mm of rain fell on the Natal South Coast last night, bringing rivers down in flood and forcing a couple to swim for their lives as their panel van was washed away.

At least nine rivers swamped the old South Coast road, Mr Lew Corbitt, principal provincial traffic officer for the Port Shepstone area, said.

The couple, Mr and Mrs Long of Ramsgate, hit a wall of water where the Uvorgo River had washed over the road about 10 last night.

Mr Corbitt said members of his traffic staff spotted the headlights of the Longs' panel van shining through the water and feared that someone might be inside the vehicle.

However an ambulance rescue unit was flagged down by the couple, who asked for help.

Mr Corbitt, who was with his son, took a steel cable, waded into the water and hitched the panel van to their car.

They heaved the van, with its lights still on, from the river.

Meanwhile the possibility of more rain has prevented Indian families in Ladysmith from moving back into their homes after floods earlier this week.

Intermittent light falls have been recorded since Tuesday, hampering mopping-up operations and preventing families from drying clothing and bedding.

A spokesman for the Ladysmith municipality said about 80 people had slept in a community hall last night.

The number was reducing daily as individuals decided the risk of further flooding was over.

In Johannesburg, streams overflowed their banks as heavy thunder-showers lashed the city.

In the Free State, emergency services in towns have been warned to be on standby after heavy rain.

⊙ Soaking rain began falling last night in the Eastern Cape and intermittent rain is forecast for the rest of today, the Argus Bureau in Port Elizabeth reports.

# Desperate appeal to save West coast strip from mining

11/25/20/2/89

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

LEADING botanists have called for the urgent proclamation of several new conservation areas along the 600 km stretch of west coast between the Orange River and Saldanha Bay.

In a preliminary summary of an assessment of the one kilometre coastal strip, UCT botanists Professor Eugene Moll and Mr James Jackleman said little was known about the ecology of the region.

"This essentially arid and fragile area is possibly best known for its alluvial diamond deposits, the exploitation of which is threatening the stability of the substrata and the plant communities of the region.

"Before it is destroyed representative sections must be conserved."

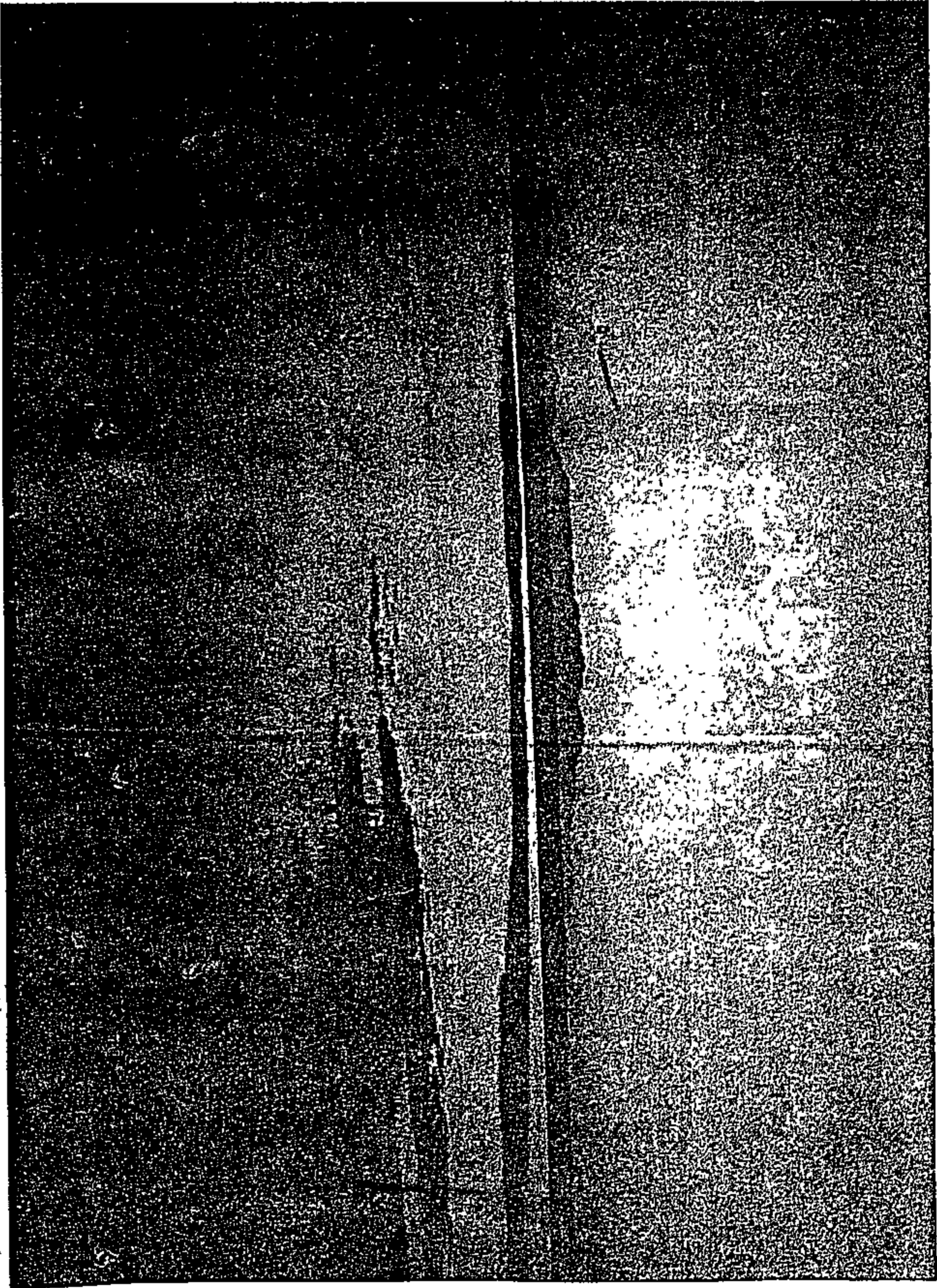
In the area between Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth, the scientists found the Strandveld vegetation in excellent condition where there was no mining.

## Mining

"The whole area is destined to be mined and the visual and environmental degradation that results could be partly avoided if the mining companies were obliged to re-landscape and re-vegetate mined areas."

Between Port Nolloth and the Olifants River, mining activities were also responsible for the greatest degradation, they reported.

Although there was little mining south of the Olifants River, grazing pressures and invasive rooikrans trees threatened the Strandveld plant communities and the Iscor railway line had also made an impact.



**RESERVE NEEDED:** Rocher Pan, the tiny bird sanctuary north of Dwaarskroos on the West Coast, should be expanded into a fully-fledged nature reserve to protect adjacent plant communities, conservationists say.

The area between Elandsbaai and Danger Point was a mosaic of two major vegetation types — Coastal Renoster- veld and Strandveld — and had the greatest biological diversity of the region.

"But there is also increased pressure on the environment from human habitation as the

coastline is more sheltered and suited to development," the report said.

Conservation recommendations included:

- Increasing the size of the existing Rocher Pan bird sanctuary to include the adjacent unique plant communities;

● Proclaiming the active dune forming area at Dwaarskroos in St Helena Bay as a reserve;

● Consolidating the Elandsbaai dunes and the Wadriif, Sout pan and Verlorenvlei areas into one conservation area;

● Proclaiming the Swart-linjes, Groen and Spoeg rivers

and adjacent coastline — once under consideration as a national park — a conservation area as soon as possible; and

● Conserving the area between Humewood Bay and Holgat, south of the Orange River. The report was funded by the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation Committee.

ror in the black townships around Pietermaritzburg. Amongst other things he had allegedly been responsible for several acts of violence

The Divisional Criminal Investigation Officer for the police division of Natal, investigated these allegations and conducted an interview with Mr Keys, who undertook to submit evidence to him on 9 February 1989 to substantiate the allegations. On 9 February 1989 Mr Keys claimed that the allegations were based on rumours that were circulating in the black townships. He could not furnish the names of eye-witnesses and informers, or affidavits which could substantiate the allegations. On the contrary, up until now no evidence to substantiate the allegations could be produced.

It is clear that these allegations, which are based on the current total lack of any evidence, are nothing but malicious rumour mongering. As was so often the case in the past, it is the object of certain antagonists to discredit the South African Police with these allegations. However, I wish to point out to the honourable member that the South African Police perform their functions with a sense of duty and pride and the remarkable achievements which have been attained are proof thereof.

Because these allegations could by no means be substantiated, on 17 February 1989 the Public Relations Division of the South African Police addressed a letter to the News Editors of both the newspapers concerned and in terms of paragraph 2.5 of the South African Media Council's Code of Conduct urged them to publish correcting reports. The News Editors of both newspapers intimated that they would publish the correcting reports as soon as possible.

**Mr Pumbani Msomi: charges**

\*17 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been charged in court with any offences; if so, (a) (i) with what offences and (ii) on what grounds and (b) what is the (i) name and (ii) age of this person;
- (2) whether this person is to appear in court on any further charges, if so, (a) on what charges and (b) when?

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) and (2) The Attorney-General of Natal was approached and all available information including copies of news clippings, was furnished to him but he has no knowledge of such a case. More than 2 million criminal cases are registered annually and it is not possible to trace a case on a given name only

However, I have noticed in the press that the PFP have their own monitoring group on the "reign of terror in townships around Pietermaritzburg". (Daily News: Monday 6 February 1989) I consider that the PFP and particularly the monitoring group are in duty bound to submit to me the evidence which they have at their disposal so that I may, through the Attorney-General of Natal, endeavour to have the person in question traced and/or exposed, that is if such a person does exist.

**Professional standing defence force: cost effective study**

\*18. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, since his reply to Question No 620 on 22 March 1988, a further study has been made of the cost of establishing a professional standing defence force to replace the present system of military conscription; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) when and (c) what were the (i) findings and (ii) recommendations of the study?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

No, because the manning philosophy of the SA Defence Force has not changed since the 1984/85 estimate. There has also been since the previous estimate, an increase in the direct personnel expenditure (salaries and allowances), which will increase the difference in cost between the existing system and a professional standing defence force.

**Mr Robert John McBride: appeals for clemency**

\*19. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether he has received any appeals for clemency in respect of the death sentence imposed on a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if

so, what is the name of the person concerned;

- (2) whether clemency in this case has been considered; if so, with what result; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes. Robert John McBride.

- (2) No, not at this stage. His legal representative has been given the opportunity to have neurological tests done on him.

**Rhinoceros horn/ivory: increasing of penalties for poaching/trading**

\*20. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has taken or intends taking steps to draft legislation to increase the penalties for poaching or trading in rhinoceros horn and ivory; if so, (a) what increased penalties are envisaged and (b) when is it anticipated that such legislation will be introduced; if not, why not;
- (2) whether similar measures are contemplated in respect of the protection of other endangered species; if so, what measures; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Department of Environment Affairs is presently engaged in an in depth investigation into the possibility of increasing the existing penalties in terms of the National Parks Act, 1976 (Act 57 of 1976) for the illegal trade in rhinoceros horn. The investigation, however, also comprises the increasing of such penalties on a uniform basis. The respective provincial administrations are presently being consulted in this respect. The possibility to increase penalties for poaching and the illegal trade in ivory in terms of the National Parks Act, 1976, will also receive attention
- (a) The envisaged penalties must still be finalised in consultation with the aforementioned authorities.
- (b) As soon as agreement is reached on uniform penalties.

- (2) Similar measures are not contemplated in

respect of other endangered species seeing that existing measures are at present regarded as being sufficient.

Ozone levels: monitoring in RSA 56

\*21. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether any action has been taken by his Department to monitor ozone levels in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether legislation to control or restrict the use of chlorofluorohydrocarbons is contemplated; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. Funds have not yet been available for such monitoring.
- (2) No. As far as legislation in this regard is concerned, the question should be directed to the Minister for National Health and Population Development.
- (3) No.

Question 671 on 23 March 1988: amended reply

\*22. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Finance:

- (1) Whether, in view of the finding of the Harms Commission, he will reconsider his reply to Question No 671 on 23 March 1988; if so,
- (2) whether he will now furnish an amended reply to that question?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes.
  - (2) Yes.
- Information was received by the Commissioner for Customs and Excise which indicated that false particulars had been presented at the time of importation of the vehicle and that it did not qualify for a rebate of duty. After investigation of the matter the vehicle was traced by Customs and Excise and seized in terms of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964. The vehi-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

forward

*Humana*

(a) the information is not readily available as all individual cases will have to be checked,

(b) falls away,

(c) falls away,

(d) an additional computer program has been installed whereby incomplete data is immediately identified with the processing of retirement documentation;

(2) yes, if the pensioner is not in a position to repay the overpayment, the amount is recovered in reasonable instalments from the monthly pension payable;

(3) yes.

(a) falls away,

(b) see paragraph 2,

(4) (a) no,

(b) yes,

(5) no, tax deductions are paid over to the Department of Inland Revenue on a monthly basis. The pensioner himself must, therefore, arrange with his local Receiver of Revenue in order to get a rebate in respect of income tax,

(a) falls away,

(b) falls away.

**SATS: retirements**

11 Mr J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:†

How many (a) White and (b) non-White employees of the South African Transport Services (i) retired from service before completing 10 years' pensionable service, as a result of reaching the age limit, and (ii) were retired on account of ill-health before completing 15 years' pensionable service, in 1987 and 1988, respectively?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

	1987	1988
(a) (i)	Nil	1
(b) (i)	25	33
(a) and (b) (ii)	Particulars are not readily available and it will take much time and expense to gather such information.	

*Humana*

**Floods: claims for damages and losses**  
21. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) Whether all claims for damages and losses incurred in the floods in Natal and the Orange Free State in (a) 1987 and (b) 1988 have been settled; if not, (i) why not and (ii)(aa) how many remain to be settled and (bb) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (a) what total sum (i) had been paid out, and (ii) had been collected from public donations, in the case of each of these floods, (b) what total sum had been collected through the sale of postal stamps in each case and (c) what total number of claims had been received in each case?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) No,

(b) no,

(i) many applications were incomplete and received after the closing date,

(ii) (aa) 417

(bb) 31/1/1989;

(2) (a) (i) R70 057 014,00. This amount does not include R14 283 358,00 recently approved by the KwaZulu Committee,

(ii) R26 929 707,00. Separate accounts were not kept in respect of the Orange Free State and Natal. All donations were paid into the Disaster Relief Fund,

(b) R1 638 370,00 in respect of both disasters,

(c) 176 738 in respect of Natal and 3 900 in respect of Orange Free State and Northern Cape.

Exports: statistics on marine products

30. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

*[Signature]*

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1286 on 22 August 1988, he will furnish export statistics in respect of fish and other marine products; if not, why not; if so, (a) what was the value of the Republic's exports of each specified type of fish or other marine product in (i) 1987 and (ii) 1988 and (b) what percentage of the total catch in each case does this represent?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes, as in my reply to Question 1286 on 22 August 1988, I am still willing to supply the statistics to the Honourable member in private. As indicated in my previous reply I do not deem it in the national interest to publicly divulge export statistics in respect of fish and other marine products.

**Soekor: offshore drilling**

31. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

How many holes were drilled by Soekor off the coast between (a) Cape Town and the Orange River Mouth, (b) Cape Town and Storms River Mouth, (c) Storms River Mouth and Port Elizabeth and (d) Port Elizabeth and the Mozambique border during the latest specified period of 10 years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

PERIOD: 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1988:

(a) 22.

(b) 100.

(c) 10

(d) 12.

**Own Affairs:**

Private schools: admission of non-White pupils

1. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether any English-medium private primary or high schools falling under his Department have admitted pupils who are not White; if so, how many of these schools (a) did and (b) did not admit such pupils in 1989?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes. The figures for 1989 are not available at this stage.

**INTERPELLATION**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

**Own Affairs:**

**Schools: funds/compulsory tuition fees**

Mr R M Burrows asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether he intends to (a) make more funds available to schools and/or (b) introduce compulsory tuition fees?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Speaker, with reference to the first aspect, namely whether I intend to make more funds available to schools, I wish to state that my department does everything in its power in order to place the maximum amount of money at the disposal of schools. We take into account the prevailing priorities, the total allocation of funds and the accountable and responsible appropriation of such funds. It is my aim, with the full cooperation of the Ministers' Council and the Committee of Ministers of Education, to ensure that the funds . . . [Interjections.]

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: . . . that are necessary in order to provide education of the required standard, are available.

Secondly, regarding the possible introduction of compulsory tuition fees, I wish to say that my department is continuously researching other means of supplementing funds for White education. This is done against the background of the economic realities and the other priorities of the country as a whole. My department, however, takes great care to ensure that the standards of its institutions are at all times maintained and, if possible, raised.

With these facts in mind we are investigating various means of, firstly, generating additional funds and, secondly, reducing expenditure by the State. Aspects which are being investigated un-

UCT team finds  
rare new mineral

CAH Times 23/2/89 (56)

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

SCIENTISTS at the University of Cape Town under the leadership of geologist Dr John Moore have discovered and registered an "extremely rare" new mineral.

On the team which analysed and described the mineral were Dr Moore and Dr Dave Waters (geology), Mr Bruno Pougnet and Dr Margaret Niven (School of Chemistry) and Mr Dick Rickard (geochemistry).



The mineral has been named "Werdin-gite" after a prominent West German academic. Dr Moore said yesterday that he had been doing research in Namaqualand about two years ago when he found some unusual rock specimens. He was surprised when these were found to contain an entirely new mineral.

The mineral was formed in "very high, extreme temperatures" and was "extremely rare".



**RARE FIND ...** Dr John Moore of UCT with a sample of the rare mineral which he has discovered (left) and the rock from which it was extracted.



24/2/89 (56) FMML

whether planners have chosen the correct option.

The doubts extend to the Department of Water Affairs, where diametrically opposed opinions were expressed this week in interviews with the FM.

The proposals now accepted by the Cabinet were contained in the McEnery Report, a memorandum on the 1987 and 1988 floods presented to government by the technical working group appointed to investigate the province's flood disaster.

Short-term components of the proposals call for: installing an effective "early-warn-

NATAL FLOODS (56) 24/2/89

### Containing the Klip

Ladysmith businessmen are "encouraged" by proposals to combat the recurrent flooding of the town, but doubt remains about

(56) FMML 24/2/89

ing" system; removing accumulated sediment from the railbridge at the lower end of the town; and raising earth walls or levees along the banks of the Klip River to accommodate a maximum flow of 700 m<sup>3</sup> a second (cusecs).

Design consultants have been appointed by the Ladysmith council to prepare plans for the levees, and the Department of Water

Affairs will fund the estimated R3,5m project, which is likely to be put out to tender. The project is expected to commence in April and to take some 18 months.

The major element of the longer-term proposals calls for the construction of a 150m m<sup>2</sup> flood control dam above the town, to be known as the Mount Pleasant Dam. It will remain empty except during flooding, when

sluices will be used to throttle down the flow of the Klip River to the targeted 700 cusec capacity of the river's channel through the town.

Once the flow into the new dam exceeds this level, the water will flow over the spillway and flooding will result.

"The idea is that we can dampen a one-in-a-100-year flood — or a flood which has a

(556) FMML 24/2/89

1% annual risk of occurrence," explains the man entrusted by the department with the Ladysmith study, Paul Roberts.

The department's estimated cost of R70m for the project — which it will undertake itself — includes the price of relocating road and rail links and moving some 10 families which it believes will be affected. Design of the dam will begin immediately and the department hopes that work on the three-year project will begin in April.

The second longer-term proposal accepted by the Cabinet is that any new developments should be constructed in such a way that floor levels are above the one-in-50-year floodline. Choosing such a one-in-50 limit rather than one-in-a-100, says Roberts, is

standard practice in Natal.

Critics of the plan — some of whom emerged from within the department — argue that it would have been easier, quicker, and ultimately cheaper to spend the money buying up those properties on the river's flood plain.

They point also to the fact that sediment carried by the floodwaters has been responsible for filling up 90% of the existing Windsor Dam with sand.

Roberts answers the latter charge by saying since water will not be stored in the new dam, the silting-up process will not be as extensive. "We have made provision for 45 years of accumulation," he says.

He dismisses the claim that it would be

cheaper to buy up existing flood-risk properties and level them to leave the flood plain unoccupied. "That would have cost twice as much," he says.

But this is difficult to reconcile with the substance of the McEnery report itself, which reveals that 360 residential properties are affected by the recurrent flooding — 135 vacant sites (mainly in private ownership), and 63 commercial properties. Combined municipal valuation of the land and improvements, at February 1984 prices, was R57m.

Even allowing for increased valuations and the additional costs of opening a new residential area, it is debatable whether the final bill for relocating the flood victims would have been twice the cost of building a

dam.

Furthermore, relocation costs could be productively recycled into the creation of new housing stock, whereas the R70m dam will stand empty, to be employed only once every few years to slow down the flow of the river.

And finally the decision appears to fly in the face of department policy, which has until now been opposed to spending money on dams built purely for "flood attenuation."

Though officials were reluctant to say so publicly, it seems politics affected the decision to opt for a dam rather than relocation.

At issue was alternative property; where the largely Indian community affected by the floods could be relocated to; and the danger of squatters moving into the open spaces which such a relocation would create.

24/2/89

statement in Parliament that there were no detainees under the age of 16.

A spokesman for the minister said he could not confirm this. — Sapa.

### Toxic imports are possible

CAPE TOWN — SA might take toxic waste from other countries for processing to make a local plant viable. (56)

Environment Minister Gert Kotze told the House of Assembly yesterday there was no change in government policy on toxic waste from other countries and SA would not allow dumping.

It would have as some time to process its own toxic waste and would have to look at the size of plants necessary. — Sapa.

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Dumping in SA will not be allowed, says Kotze

# SA might process overseas toxic waste

South Africa might in future take toxic waste from other countries for processing to make a local processing plant viable, the Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotze said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Speaking on a private member's motion on the environment by Mr Lampie Fick (NP Caledon), the Minister also said that he had received a report from the Minister of Law and Order on the police investigation into allegations of a large-scale wildlife smuggling ring involving South African officials, and that air pollution in the eastern Transvaal was "reasonably under control".

Mr Kotze said there had been no change in government policy on toxic waste from other countries, and what he had said in the past on the subject — that South Africa would not allow dumping of waste on its territory — still stood.

However, at some time or other South Africa would have to begin processing its own toxic waste and would have to look at the size of the necessary plants.

Toxic waste from other countries might be accepted to make a plant viable, but with the greatest



Mr Gert Kotze . . . SA might accept toxic waste from overseas.

circumspection.

He had asked the Council for the Environment to prepare a report on the subject. "We are looking at it very carefully," he said.

"But as far as dumping goes, the answer is no, no, no."

Mr Kotze said there had been great concern about allegations that South Africa was being used as a channel for large-scale wildlife smuggling from elsewhere in Africa, and that South African officials were involved.

The Government had been in touch with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to explain the South African position on these claims so members would be fully informed when they met later this year.

What people did not understand was that South Africa was a conduit for through-traffic for its neighbours.

However, when people saw the words "Ex-Durban" on a container they immediately linked South Africa with its contents.

Police investigations into the allegations were continuing.

Replying to Mr C B Schoeman (CP Nigel), who called for urgent action on acid rain in the eastern Transvaal, Mr Kotze said he had been in Witbank recently for a tree-planting ceremony and had been able to congratulate the local authority on the "beautiful day" and the clean air.

This was as a result of progress in the Department of Health's programme to combat air pollution.

Mr Kotze said he would take note of international concern but would not succumb to pressures from the Greens (environmentalists). — Sapa.

# Third World warned of toxic waste dangers

**T**HIRD World nations and chemical exporters have agreed on a system that will allow developing nations to partially screen toxic materials before they cross their borders, officials say.

Under the new system, developing nations will be able to inform an international agency about the chemicals they do not want to receive.

For more than a decade, developing nations in Africa, the Far East and South America feared that chemical manufacturers in the US, Europe and Japan were sending them products they did not have the sophistication to handle properly or dispose of safely.

Manufacturers had opposed suggestions that every shipment of chemicals must receive approval from the country to which it was being sent.

Technical experts from 26 countries, chemical manufacturers and environment groups such as a Operation Greenpeace met this month at the UN headquarters to recommend a system agreeable to all parties.

The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, a UN agency in Geneva, will compile notifications from developing nations of which chemicals they refuse to accept.

The agency then will send the list to governments of industrial countries at regular intervals. Those governments will then to notify chemical manufacturers of the limitations.

The UN Environment Programme's executive director, Mostafa Tolba, said a computer system would be set up so chemical companies could hook up to the Geneva list of undesirable chemicals.

Jan Huismans, head of the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, said the meeting would end late this week with officials recommending the system to the UN Environment Programme's board of directors.

One feature of the system will be a "Red Flag" list of dangerous chemicals.

"If an industrial chemical or a pesticide appears on the banned or severely restricted lists of 10 or more countries, then it is clearly so dangerous that importing countries should be altered," said Huismans.

"I would estimate that there are between 50 and 100 chemicals, mostly pesticides, that would appear on a 'Red Flag' list," he said.

Marc Pallemarts, representing Operation Greenpeace, said: "We feel some progress has been made. We have moved beyond pure information exchange to putting decisions on the records."

A Dow Chemical Company executive, Donald McCollister, said: "We, as a group, have come a long way."

Since the entire system is based on consensus and voluntary compliance, McCollister said industrial associations and nations must be motivated to participate in it.

"The challenge ahead is to promote the system and encourage as many governments as possible to join it," said Michael Walls, an attorney representing the chemical manufacturers association. — Sapa

\*Mr N MISAACS: Mr Chairman, I should like to know more about the system—the hon the Acting Minister mentioned this—in cases in which the price is not acceptable and they have a system which they call the *ad hoc* system. The hon the Acting Minister must please tell me for how long a period the *ad hoc* tender is valid, and when another advertisement for tenders has to be placed?

Secondly I should like to agree with the hon the Acting Minister. The other question concerns the following: One finds that a person submits tenders, for example, and obtains the ten tenders, but has only a certain number of vehicles. He then sells some of those tenders in a way which cannot be proven and gives the tenders to another contractor with so-called up-front money, because he does not have the necessary vehicles to render this service.

\*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! There is an hon member who wants to put a question. [Interjections.] The hon the Acting Minister will get an opportunity to speak.

\*The ACTING MINISTER: Mr Chairman, . . .  
\*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I am trying to help the hon the Acting Minister, but he does not want to give me an opportunity to do so. He is going to get the last turn to speak, but there is another hon member who wants to ask something. I want to give him an opportunity to do so, and then the hon the Acting Minister can reply to all the questions at the same time.

\*Mr P A S MOPP: Mr Chairman, hon members must not make vague statements. If they know of a person who is involved in a certain matter, they must mention his name so that the matter can be investigated.

\*The ACTING MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I want to refer to the hon member for Border who replied to my one question. If we know about such cases, we as the representatives of the people—they are the ones who help to identify that need and help us to transport their children to the nearest school—must draw attention to those matters. I can give hon members the assurance that we shall work to this end. If the hon member has not received assistance, he must tell the relevant Minister. He must come to me and tell me that these are the cases, that he is drawing them to my attention and that I must do something about them.

I can tell the hon member for Macassar that we had similar cases in the Outeniqua constituency, and the problem was resolved immediately. We drew it to the attention of the relevant Minister, and it was sorted out.

I also want to tell the hon member that the *ad hoc* cases are only for the interim period. We try to advertise as quickly as possible. I cannot tell him offhand what period of time is involved, but we try to advertise the existing *ad hoc* cases as soon as possible. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

### QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply

Own Affairs:

Computers in schools: supply/maintenance

\*1. Mr C J KIPPEN asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether his Department has reached any decision on the supply of computers to and maintenance of computers in all secondary and primary schools falling under its control; if not, why not; if so, (a) what decision has been reached and (b) what time-table regarding supply has been set;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C4E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) That

- (i) all secondary schools be supplied with at least 30 micro computers for use by pupils for the purpose of computer assisted learning;
- (ii) all primary schools with an enrolment of at least 200 pupils, be supplied with computer equipment (hardware and software) for learning purposes; and

- (iii) computer equipment be maintained by the schools themselves.
- (b) A programme for the supply of computers to schools, is receiving attention
- (2) A statement is not deemed necessary.

Aids: committee appointed to investigate/report

\*2. Mr C J KIPPEN asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has appointed a committee to investigate and report on the question of Aids in relation to (a) teachers and (b) instruction to pupils; if not, why not; if so, (i) when was the committee appointed and (ii) what are the names of its members;
- (2) whether the committee has reported, if not, why not, if so, what are the main elements of the report;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C5E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) (a) and

(b) No. The Department is represented on the National Health and Population Development Committee which is, *inter alia*, concerned with the question of Aids on a national level. Over and above this involve-

ment, Aids is fully addressed under the Department's programme for Family Guidance because of it being a sexually contagious disease. In addition to this the Department has also issued an information brochure to secondary schools and primary schools with secondary classes in connection with the dangers and prevention of this feared disease.

- (2) No applicable.
- (3) A statement is not deemed necessary.

Eastern Province: drought-stricken areas

\*3. Mr W DIETRICH asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture:

- (1) Whether any areas in the Eastern Province have been declared drought-stricken areas; if so, (a) which areas and (b) when in each case;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C12E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes

(a) Magisterial districts of Alexandria and Port Elizabeth.

(b) Both with effect from 1 February 1989.

- (2) No. The declaration was made by the Minister of Agriculture (House of Assembly).

## Township Ratanda's water price is sky-high

THERE is probably nowhere else in the world where the price of Adam's ale — water — is as expensive as in the little township of Ratanda in Heidelberg.

The township has been without water since Thursday last week, and a bucket of water costs R1.

The council claims a water pipe has burst, and residents are forced to buy from a nearby farmer. *Sowetan 25/2/89*

## Water price rise (56)

*Sowetan 11/3/89*  
RESIDENTS of local authorities on the Witwatersrand are to pay an average of R20 a month for water consumption from the beginning of next month following a 16 percent tariff hike announced by the Rand Water Board yesterday.

Mr Vincent Bath, general manager of the Rand Water Board, told a Press conference that

due to increase in tariffs and prices of the major commodities that were needed for the production of potable water, the board had no option but to increase its tariffs by 12,6 percent.

He said the board had also decided to cancel the rebate which it introduced in the 1988/89 financial year — bringing the total increase in water tariffs to 16 percent.

## Water tariffs up — more raises may be in pipeline<sup>52</sup>

Staff Reporters

9w 11/3/88  
The Rand Water Board yesterday announced a 16 percent water tariff increase in the PWV area from April 1.

The RWB also warned that an additional levy of two cents a kilolitre of water sold to the RWB may be imposed by the State later in the year to provide interim finance for the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme.

Should this happen, the RWB said, it would have to pass on the levy to its consumers.

### REBATE

The 16 percent increase is made up of a 12,5 percent increase to which is added the scrapping of the rebate offered last year.

The annual RWB increase in the bulk price of water applies to purchases by large consumers including gold mines and municipalities which decide how much is to be passed on to individuals.

The new cost of water to preferent users (local authorities, crushing or milling mines and the SA Transport Services) will be 45,10c a kilolitre (1988 38,88c a kilolitre) and to other users (industries, non-crushing mines and individual users) 79,31c a kilolitre (1988, 68,37c a kilolitre).



# Conservationists

stew 11/3/89

56

## stuck on the horns of dilemma

To sell or not to sell valuable hoards of rhino horns is a decision presently facing conservationists. **JAMES CLARKE** reports.

Natal Parks Board has a king's ransom in rhino horns — 700 of them worth millions of rands.

But they cannot be sold internationally at present because South Africa — the country with the most rhino — is a signatory to an international agreement not to sell the products of any endangered animals.

The hoard of horns, now separated into a number of secret caches, has put the Natal Parks Board in a dilemma: should it destroy the horns — or try to sell?

Many game departments in Africa have similar dilemmas.

The board has found conservationists split over the issue.

Even the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Switzerland has been unable to come to a decision although I have heard an announcement is imminent.

Apart from the horns stored in Natal, scores more are being stored in Kruger Park and Namibia — possibly as many as 200 between them.

In recent months two attempts have been made to break into government caches in Namibia.

If the authorities destroy their horns it would, some conservationists argue, deny conservation of millions of rands in much needed funds. It would also tend to contradict a dictum of conservation — to profitably utilise natural resources to conserve while creating the widest benefits.

The destruction of hundreds of horns would make rhino horn even more rare and more valuable — and poaching even more tempting. Already the price is so high poachers are risking death to get at them and many rangers in Africa have been killed in defending the last of the rhino.

The destruction of the horns is unlikely to find favour.

Dr George Hughes, director of Natal Parks Board, said in Maritzburg: "For the past 12 years we have hoarded horns taken from rhinos found dead or from those which have died in translocation programmes.

"As far as reducing pressure on the rhino population is concerned our policy has been a spectacular failure — in that time rhino have been reduced by 90 percent in the rest of Africa.

"We are fighting not just poachers but the demands of 1 billion Chinese who have believed in rhino horns' medicinal value for millennia. I fear that as long as we have rhinos running around with horns we will have poachers after them."

Dr Hughes said a decision would be made soon. He would not elaborate.

The decision will almost certainly be made in conjunction with the in-



These rhino horns were recently confiscated by Botswanan authorities from South African traffickers.

ternational conservation lobby and, I believe, it will almost certainly be to put the horns on the market.

Some conservationists who favour this solution say the controlled release of, say, 1 000 legitimate rhino horns from South Africa and Namibia would saturate the market, depress the price and cool down the poaching war.

Others argue the market is so big, and ancient, it will make no significant difference to the price and certainly no long term difference.

One argument is that if sustainable numbers of rhino can be bred — as is already being done in South Africa — then their horns could be sold legitimately with a good rake-off for conservation. Selling rhino horns would be no more immoral than selling impala skins or kudu venison.

The horns are coveted by Yemeni youths who view the possession of daggers, with carved rhino horn handles, in much the same way South African youths look upon owning a 1 000cc motorbike. There is also a huge demand by the Chinese who, for at least 2 000 years, have used the scraped-off fibres to concoct fever cures. The supposed aphrodisiacal properties of rhino horns are apparently more in the minds of occidentals than in the medical recipes of orientals.

I was told recently that big game hunters who shoot rhino legitimately in South Africa would be shocked to know that one or two unscrupulous people remove the genuine horns before shipping the trophy heads and replace them with fibreglass. The average tourist hunter would be unable to tell the difference.

Star 3/3/89

(56)

Many Rand consumers face full effect of 16 pc tariff increase

# Get set for rocketing water bills

By Anna Louw and Shirley Woodgate

All municipalities in the PWV area are likely to announce substantial water tariff increases this year following the latest 16 percent price increase by the Rand Water Board.

The RWB's full tariff increase will be passed on in full to ratepayers in Randburg and Boksburg. Randburg management committee chairman Mr Frans Lourens said it was the council's policy to pass on tariff increases when they were announced, rather than adjusting tariffs in the budget, which was the preferred policy of certain other towns. He said the increased cost would be reflected in the May accounts of ratepayers.

A spokesman for the Kempton Park municipality said an increase was on the cards and a Benoni spokesman said an increase was imminent. Johannesburg's city treasurer, Mr Perry Rabe, said a report was being prepared.

Roodepoort management committee chairman Mr Dave Trelewan said the increase would be discussed by his committee next Monday. Alberton Town Clerk, Mr Joggie Prinsloo, said the increase was too high to be absorbed by a municipality and an increase of between 10 and 12 percent would have to be passed on to the consumer.

A Germiston municipal spokesman said an increase of between 9 and 10 percent would come

into effect immediately while the Town Clerk of Bedfordview, Mr A J Kruger said an increase was being investigated. A decision would be taken later.

The Town Clerk of Springs, Mr H A du Plessis, said the council would decide on a water price rise at the end of March.

The Town Clerk of Boksburg, Mr J J Coetzee said he expected the water tariff to be increased by as much as 16 percent.

A spokesman for the Kempton Park municipality said an increase in the water tariff was on the cards and a Benoni municipal spokesman said an increase was imminent and would be approved by the council at its meeting at the end of March.

Sowetan  
Our Living World No 16 6/3/89

## Education essential for conservation (56)

AN EFFECTIVE educational programme is essential to achieve the conservation of South Africa's environment, says the new director of the SA Nature Foundation, Dr Allan Heydorn.

"We are living in a period where the depletion of resources — renewable and non-renewable — poses a major problem for all humanity. These resources are of fundamental importance to the rapidly expanding human population," he said.

Dr Heydorn stressed the need for the conservation and wise management of our natural resources and said that environmental education must play a key role.

Addressing a gathering to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Botanical Society's Flora Conservation committee, Dr Heydorn called for better communication between all private and government bodies involved with environmental matters.

He added that with the transfer of power to lower authorities, there was a danger local interests might outweigh proper environmental considerations.

There is also a need for accurate environmental accounting to determine the real costs and benefits of a development beyond the financial costs, in terms of the effect on the environment as a whole and the costs to other users and the public.

Turning to education, he said managers needed guidelines to avoid damaging the environment. At the same time, private conservation bodies can mobilise public opinion to play a positive role in environment management.

# Water supply cut

*Soweto 6/3/81*  
THE Soweto City Council announced water stoppages in the following areas as from 8.30am to 3.30pm on Wednesday, March 8, in order to repair water pipes.

*56*  
Jabulani from Maphumulo Street eastwards as far as the railway line:

Moletsane between Matlomo Street and the railway line; Zondi and Dobsonville.

THE SOWETO CITY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED WATER STOPPAGES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS AS FROM 8.30AM TO 3.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, IN ORDER TO REPAIR WATER PIPES.

hon the Minister's reply, was there any stage that our ambassador in Ciskei declined to give the people of East Peleton assistance with their problem?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am not aware of that at all but what I am very well aware of is that our ambassador went out of his way to facilitate provision of the necessary protection at all times. He involved himself personally and he visited President Sebe on this matter personally. I can given the hon member the assurance that that was the attitude of our ambassador throughout this situation.

Statutory bodies abolished

22. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

Whether it is his intention to abolish any of the statutory bodies falling under the control of his Departments in accordance with the Government's stated policy of privatisation and deregulation; if so, (a) which bodies and (b) when; if not, why not?

B306E

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(a) and (b). In the case of the Department of Trade and Industry it is considered to abolish the Travel Agents Board and to repeal the Travel Agents and Travel Agencies Act, 1983 (Act 58 of 1983). This matter is now being considered by the board and their proposals will be submitted to me at the end of May 1989. No other statutory bodies which are linked to the Departments of Trade and Industry and of Mineral and Energy Affairs are earmarked for abolition or lend themselves thereto. However, investigations are continuously being conducted, where necessary in close consultation with the Ministry for Administration and Privatisation, to establish whether, in the spirit of privatisation and deregulation, specific activities could possibly be transferred to the private sector with advantage. A number of activities which have been identified are on their way to privatisation or have been privatised already, as follows:

- (i) *The Industrial Development Corporation of SA Ltd (IDC)*

There is no intention to privatise the IDC as

such, because the Corporation has to assist in implementing the Government's policy in respect of industrial development, import replacement, export promotion and small business undertakings. However, the privatisation of the following industries which are controlled by the IDC for its own account on behalf of the State is receiving attention

—Foskor: The privatisation of Foskor in its entirety is being withheld until the company's results and market conditions make it possible

—Alusaf: The transfer of and control over Alusaf to and by private sector interests and the quotation of the company will take place as soon as circumstances are favourable.

—Sorghum beer industry: Good progress has been made in preparing the extensive sorghum beer industry for merging into a unit which can be privatised. The follow-up actions are aimed at arousing the interest of the private sector, in which the consumer will hopefully also be represented.

(ii) *The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)*

The CSIR itself is not earmarked for privatisation. However, certain functions of the CSIR have been privatised already or are in the process of being privatised, namely:

—The South African Inventions Development Corporation (Saidecor) will ultimately be replaced by a private company in terms of legislation now before Parliament.

—The motor vehicle fleet of the CSIR has been sold and is now operated by a private leasing company.

—The design office of the CSIR had been under-utilised and has been taken over by the office personnel. By also undertaking private work, besides the work which is now being done for the CSIR, the work can be done on a more cost-effective basis. In this way the cost to the CSIR has been reduced appreciably.

—The training function at the CSIR is now also being undertaken by a private company which, too, is contracting for work from outside. Accordingly, the training aspect of the CSIR is done on a more cost-effective basis.

(iii) *The Atomic Energy Corporation of SA Ltd*  
The high precision mass production facility of the AEC is now on the road to privatisation

Maternity benefits of wives of national servicemen

23. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether the wives of national servicemen are entitled to the same maternity benefits and medical care as are the wives of members of the Permanent Force, if not, why not?

B307E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

No, this is a service condition for Permanent Force members. Sufficient provisioning is normally made for the majority of families of National Servicemen by their own medical schemes in the private and public sectors. In addition, there are not enough personnel and facilities in the SA Defence Force available to cope with the extra load and it will also place an additional burden on the SA Defence Force budget.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, does he believe it is fair to discriminate against national servicemen like that?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I can reply to that. We do not see that as discrimination. As I have already pointed out nationally medical schemes can make use of their own medical schemes. Further to that question I must point out to the hon member that in cases where certain circumstances arise Treasury approval may be granted for those cases to be handled by the South African Medical Services.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, if I draw cases of hardship to the attention of the hon the Deputy Minister is he in a position to do something about it?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, yes. Provision is made for those specific cases.

Control of pesticides

24. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether he is considering introducing legislation

tion to amend the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, No 36 of 1947, in order to transfer control of pesticides to the Minister of Environment Affairs; if so, when will such legislation be introduced?

B308E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

No.

\*25. Mr M J ELLIS - AGRICULTURE. [Withdrawn.]

Latin: abolition as requirement for admission in Supreme Court.

26. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether he intends to introduce legislation in 1989 to abolish the requirement of a qualification in Latin for admission as an advocate in the Supreme Court; if so, when; if not, why not?

B313E


The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Last year the hon member for Sandton also asked me about the possible abolition of Latin as a prerequisite for persons wishing to practise as advocates and attorneys. On 8 March 1988 I pointed out in this House that before I exercise my power in terms of section 1 of the Admission of Advocates Amendment Act, 1987 (Act 17 of 1987), to determine a date on which the concession granted in terms of that Act is to cease to apply, I require the viewpoint of the advocate. According to a majority resolution of the General Council of the Bar of South Africa it is proposed that Latin be abolished as a requirement. The various Bars were, however, not unanimous in this regard, and several representations on behalf of individual Bar Councils were once again received advocating the retention of Latin as a requirement for admission as an advocate.

I have, in the meanwhile, had the benefit of a wide range of views in the course of which the following factors have emerged as most relevant —

- (i) certain provincial divisions of the Supreme Court of South Africa have held that a special university course in Latin is sufficient

# Floods and higher prices <sup>56</sup> reduce Gypsum's profit rise

Finance Staff  
Star 7/13/57   
The recent floods and higher prices from major suppliers limited Gypsum Industries' earnings growth for the six months to end-December.

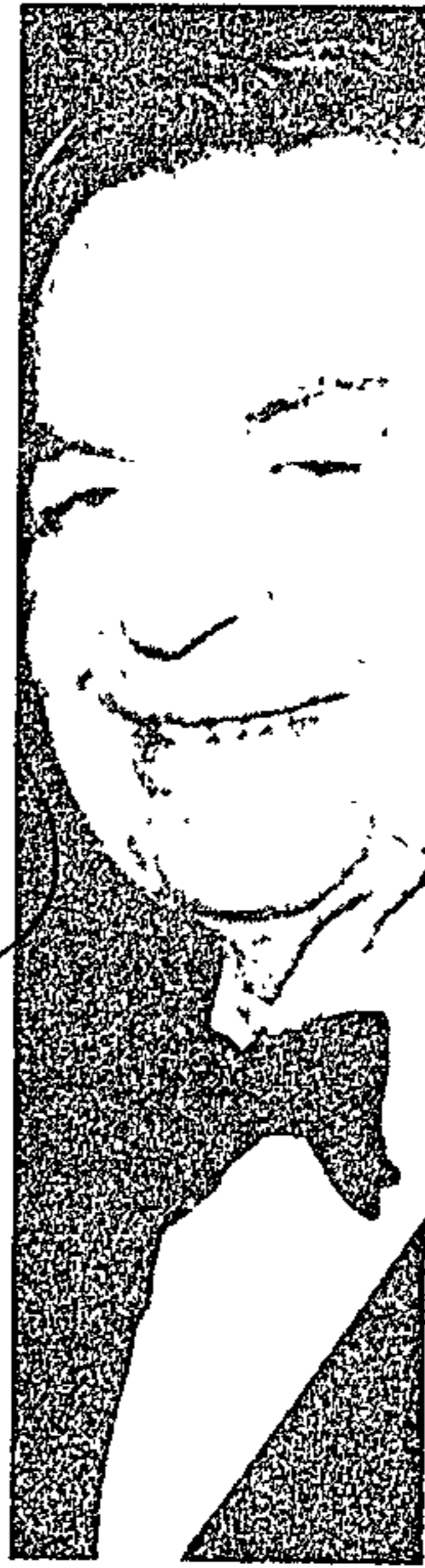
While turnover was up by 27,7 percent to R74,4 million (R58,3 mil-

lion) these two factors reduced the rise to 20,8 percent at the pre-tax level.

Pre-tax profits were R13,76 million (R11,39 million), while attributable profits rose by R1,05 million to R6,57 million, translating to an earnings per share rise of 12c to 80c. The interim dividend was 21 percent higher at 17c.

The directors state that the balance sheet looks strong and future expansion to increase capacities should be self-financing. The earnings growth should be maintained in the second half.

# City's smoke ban angers Anton Rupert



Dr Anton Rupert

By CHRIS BATEMAN

TOBACCO tycoon Dr Anton Rupert, angered by the City Council's proposed non-smoking by-laws, has turned down a civic appeal for Aids awareness campaign funds and lashed out at the city's medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss.

Two letters of "dismay" from Dr Rupert to the council have resulted in Dr Popkiss receiving a departmental rebuke from the Mayor, Mr Peter Muller.

There is also consternation among Cape Town Symphony Orchestra (CTSO) members that their R50 000 Rembrandt and Oude Meester sponsorship, due for its five-yearly review later this year, may be revoked. The CTSO has been privatised but retains strong council links with a R4-million civic subsidy this year.

Mr Emile Riese, CTSO acting chairman, has asked Mr Muller to intercede on his behalf. "But it comes up", Mr Muller confirmed yesterday.

In a letter to Dr Popkiss late last month, Dr Rupert expressed surprise at the request for Aids funds "from an industry you have decided to destroy".

Enclosing a newspaper front page cutting headed "It's War! MOH sends out smoke signals", in which Dr Popkiss proposes dates for legislative measures, Dr Rupert accuses him of being "hell-bent to create new regulations against the freedom of the individual to decide for himself".

In a second letter to Mr Muller two days later, Dr Rupert accuses the council of taking measures un-

matched by any city in the European Economic Community "or any authoritarian state".

Enclosing a copy of a Radio Today interview between journalist Mr Nigel Murphy and Dr Popkiss, Dr Rupert said that for a city that wanted itself to be known as "verlig", Cape Town was now so "verkramp" as to enforce regulations that "according to Dr Popkiss will be enforced by the SAP".

The City Council was making inroads on the rights of restaurants and hotels to "take their own decisions, especially where the government has now decided to deregulate".

The council by-law proposes that restaurants demarcate at least half their seating for non-smokers.

In Mr Muller's official rebuke of Dr Popkiss, he details the CTSO's annual cash donations from Dr Rupert's companies and says he finds it "incongruous that the MOH can waffle a financial appeal only a few days before a major smoking debate — he must either think that Dr Rupert is foolish or alternatively, he's totally devoid of any sensitivity".

Yesterday, Mr Louis Kreiner, chairman of the Amenities and Health Committee, described the non-smoking measures proposed by Dr Popkiss and anti-smoking lobbyist Dr Derek Yach as "total overkill; we are in favour of educating people, not setting a legislative timetable".

Mr Muller said of the CTSO request for "intercession": "Morally I'm not on very good ground — you don't weaken a guy's commercial stance and then ask him for some rands from his bottom line."

CAPT TUNIS  
8/3/89  
56



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

# Government Gazette Staatskoerant

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Vol. 285

PRETORIA, 10 MARCH  
MAART 1989

No. 11744

## PROCLAMATION

*by the Acting*

*State President of the Republic of South Africa*

No. 18, 1989

DECLARATION OF THE FLOODS IN THE  
TOWN AREA OF LADYSMITH IN NATAL TO BE  
A DISASTER

Under the powers vested in me by section 26 of the Fund-raising Act, 1978 (Act 107 of 1978), I hereby declare the floods which hit the town area of Ladysmith in Natal on 14 February 1989 to be a disaster for the purposes of the said Act.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Cape Town this Twenty-third day of February, One thousand Nine hundred and Eighty-nine.

J. C. HEUNIS,  
Acting State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet:

W. A. VAN NIEKERK,  
Minister of the Cabinet.

284—A

## PROKLAMASIE

*van die Waarnemende*

*Staatspresident van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika*

No. 18, 1989

VERKLARING VAN DIE OORSTROMINGS IN  
DIE DORPSGEBIED LADYSMITH IN NATAL,  
TOT 'N RAMP

Kragtens die bevoegdheid my verleen by artikel 26 van die Wet op Fondsinsameling, 1978 (Wet 107 van 1978), verklaar ek hierby die oorstromings wat die dorpsgebied Ladysmith in Natal op 14 Februarie 1989 getref het vir die doeleindes van genoemde Wet tot 'n ramp.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seël van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Kaapstad, op hede die Drie-en-twintigste dag van Februarie Eenduisend Nege-honderd Nege-en-tagtig.

J. C. HEUNIS,  
Waarnemende Staatspresident.

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

W. A. VAN NIEKERK,  
Minister van die Kabinet.

11744—1



CMT Times 11/3/89 (58) (18)

# Rupert 'leaks' his reply

TOBACCO magnate Dr Anton Rupert yesterday fired another salvo in his attack on Cape Town's anti-smoking medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss, by "leaking" a letter to the Cape Times.

The gesture is in reply to Tuesday's leaking by council sources of three items of correspondence to the Cape Times in which:

- Dr Rupert refused a request by Dr Popkiss for Aids education campaign funds, accusing him of trying to "destroy" the tobacco industry;

- Dr Rupert told the mayor, Mr Peter Muller, that his council was guilty of "verkramp" anti-smoking regulations; and

- Mr Muller criticised Dr Popkiss for

"bad timing" in approaching Dr Rupert for Aids education funds

The latest letter is written to Dr Popkiss but contained in an envelope addressed to the editor of the Cape Times.

Dr Popkiss said yesterday that he had not received the letter, dated March 9: "When I do I will reply to it confidentially through the mail as I have done with all correspondence to and from Dr Rupert," he added.

In the letter to Dr Popkiss, Dr Rupert says that he had not realised that his turning down of the Aids request for assistance "would be leaked to the press by one of your supporters".

If he had suspected this he would have

mentioned that one of his privately funded family foundations (of which there were five with assets of R10 million each) had previously funded Aids publications.

He describes Dr Popkiss' proposals to council that smoking on public property be prohibited by 1992 and that smoking be confined to private dwellings by 1993 as "not only dictatorial but clearly impracticable".

The council has accepted a by-law that proposes that restaurants should demarcate half of their seating for non-smokers but rejected a legislative timetable.

Dr Rupert adds: "In view of the leak to the press of my previous letter to you, this letter is not confidential."

# THE GREEN DROUGHT

by JOCELYN MAKER

Weekend Argus  
Correspondent

**THE** life-blood of the Gamtoos Valley, tucked away between the Kouga and Elands mountains in the Eastern Cape, is drying up fast.

Stricken by the worst drought in 60 years, the farmers in this beautiful hollow, known as "the pantry" of South Africa, are facing total ruin.

To survive, they need rain on their hands and in the catchment area of the Paul Sauer Dam.

Every day these desperate men pray but the heavens only tantalise with small, insignificant showers... just enough to keep their valley green and to deceive the eye as to the severity of the drought.

"The green drought" they call this cruel twist of nature.

## No crop, no income

Vast tracts of land stand uncultivated. No crop means no income and a large reduction in labour which results in a dramatic increase in the rate of unemployment.

The farmers' main artery is the Paul Sauer Dam which by means of a canal and pipewater system irrigates some 7 040 hectares of the valley.

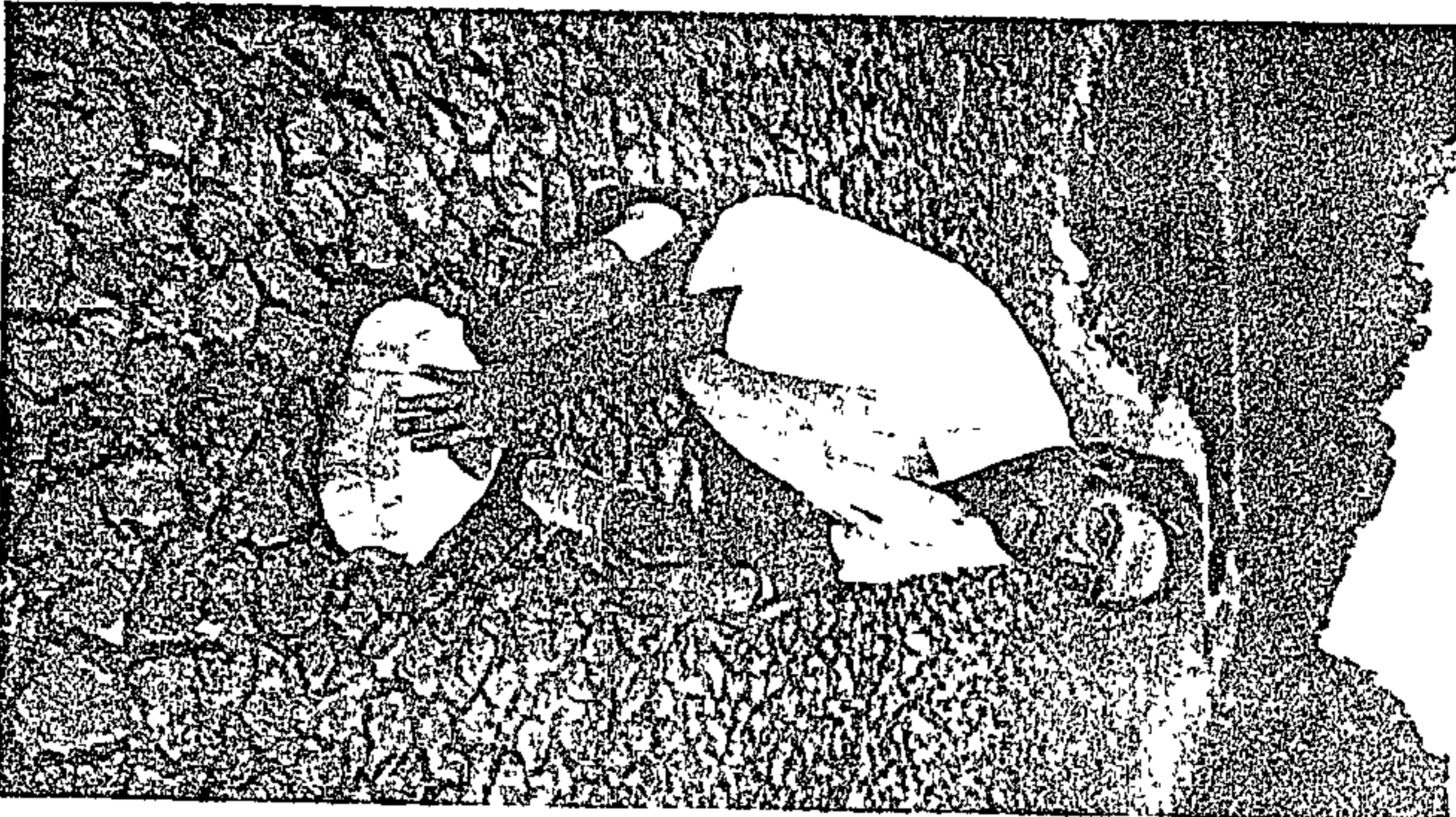
But this dam is only 18 percent full and although the farmers have had a 30 percent water restriction since last April, they now expect no water at all by the end of March.

Pierre Joubert, the administration engineer of the Department of Water Affairs at the Gamtoos Valley government scheme, said he expected the level of the dam to be as low as 12 percent by March 20.

"We will have to decide what water, if any, the farmers will get for their new-year quota on April 1. They might get only 10 percent and if it does not rain we will have to shut off the water from the canal. This situation will cause farmers to go bankrupt."

Already about 30 farmers have no water as they have used up their 70 percent quota for the year and the department has had to turn off their taps.

Others still have not used their quota, but as the dam level drops, they fear they never will, as the



Dominee Kollie Lotz of Paterson and a tortoise that died in its search for water in the Bushman's River.

canal water will soon be cut off.

Many of the farmers have not been able to plant crops such as cabbage, carrots, broccoli, green beans, potatoes and other vegetables which supply the whole country. Citrus farmers are also suffering but they will be the first to get water as it would be a disaster to allow the citrus trees, which have taken years to grow, to die.

Peter Pickering, the managing director of Harvestlime, which contracts farmers in the valley to grow vegetables, said his firm has suffered great financial loss because of the drought.

"We produced 30 tons a year from Hankey and Patensie which are our cash crops, but the drought has caused production to crash by 50 percent. If the level of the Paul Sauer Dam goes down to 10 percent our company and the farmers will be in dire straits."

"All contracts have had to be moved to places like the PK le Roux Dam area. This means even if it does rain and there is enough water the farmers will not be able to plant for the next season. Many will go bankrupt."

Between 15 and 18 percent of the Gamtoos Valley crops are exported to Europe and Britain and contracts are signed even before the seeds have been planted.

"Now there will be nothing to export and this will have a huge effect on foreign exchange," said Mr Pickering.

Jan Landsman, who has been farming in Hankey for 20 years, does not know what the future will bring for him.

"If only it would rain I pray and I hope and every day when I see the clouds gathering I think, well, today it's going to happen, but it never does."

Flower and vegetable farmer Dirk Scheffingerhout has kept rainfall records of the area for more than 40 years. He said he had never experienced the peculiar weather now occurring in the Gamtoos Valley.

"It is such a strange situation. The hills are green and so is the grass. It looks as though everything is lush. A stranger to this valley would never believe we are having a drought, the worst I have experienced."

## Elderly flower pickers

Without rain, 40 people on his farm alone will be badly affected. "The elderly women who help to pick my flower crop will have to leave. The eight families I support, who are my labourers and who live on my land, have to be paid."

How can I do this if I have no income? The drought chasing labourers to Port Elizabeth to seek work.

"Within the next few months we will be ruined if the rain does not come."

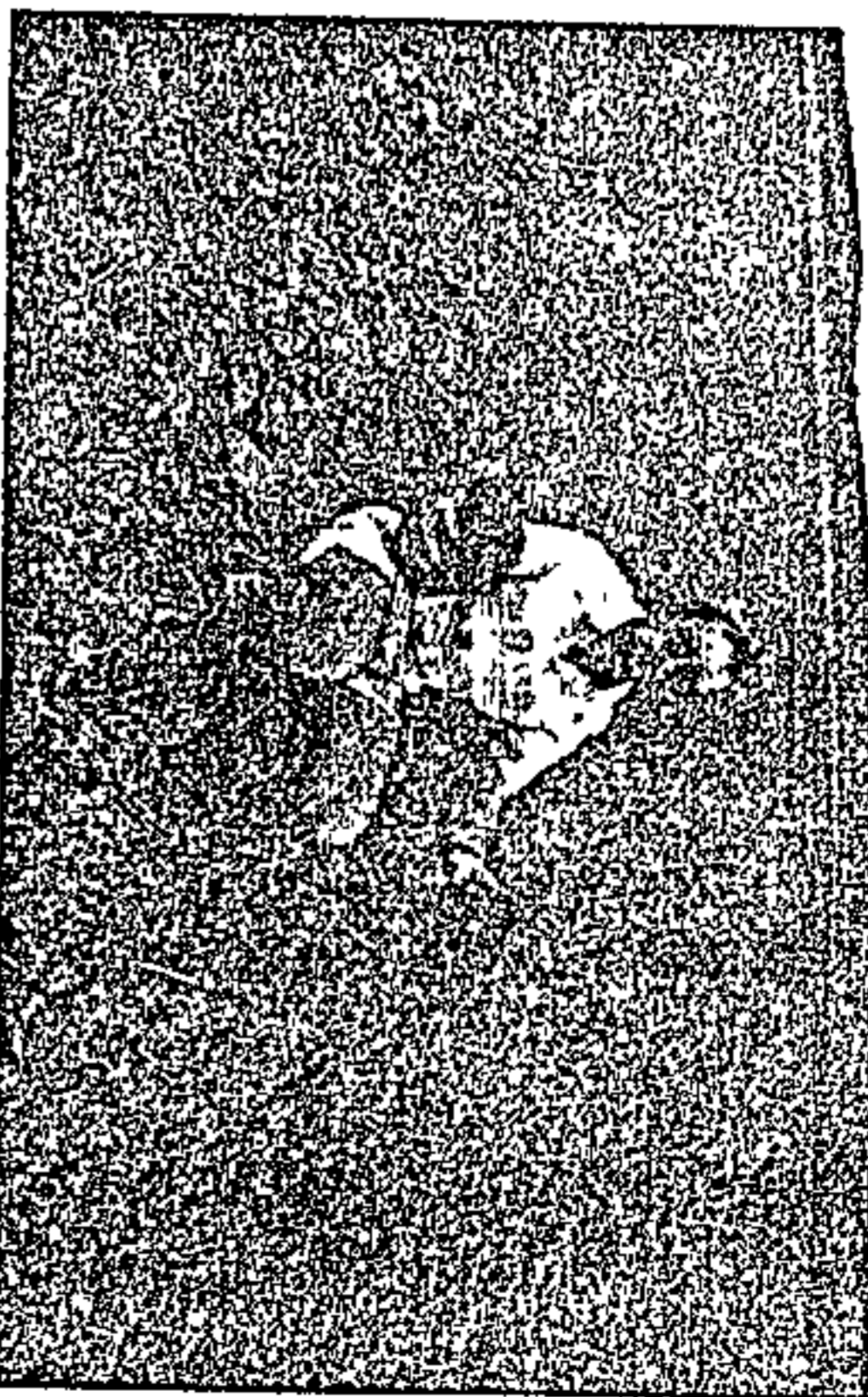
Fred Diddo, who has farmed his 2½ acres for 16 years, is on the verge of bankruptcy. Every day he spends hours hand-hoeing just one small section of his land on which he has planted carrots, but the crop is still so young it can barely be seen on the dry earth.

"I now keep my family alive on a R400 monthly pension I know my carrots will never reach maturity, but I must try. It is all I have now to keep me going."

It is such a strange situation. The hills are green and so is the grass. It looks as though everything is lush. A stranger to this valley would never believe we are having a drought.



Farmer Brian Hayward is on the brink of bankruptcy. He has to send his animals to grazing areas outside Steytlerville.



The barren, dry land of former Jan Landsman of the Gamtoos valley. He has more than 100 hectares of fallow land and if the rain does not come soon his farm is doomed.

## Hayward's hope turns to despair

Weekend Argus Correspondent  
HE'S a father, a farmer, and a husband who can no longer provide. His hands have been tied by Mother Nature.

For 21 years Brian Hayward has lived on his farm, Hayward's Hope, in the Steytlerville district of the Southern Karoo.

The sort of drought has driven him to his knees. All he has left is hope, hope that it will rain so that he can once again provide for his family, and save the farm passed down to him from his 1820 Settler forebears.

He is one of many farmers in the district facing financial ruin.

Steytlerville was declared a disaster area early last month, but for Brian Hayward and surrounding farmers a section of their district was declared a disaster area about a year earlier, so nothing much has changed for him.

He farms angora goats, and merino and dorper sheep on about 3 600 hectares of land which is now useless. The district is dependent on rain alone, but very little has fallen. Not enough to fill the small dams, but enough to keep some vegetation sparsely green.

"Three times I have made up my mind to get out, but something holds me back. My children do not want me to give up. They want me to stay so that we can fight this out together," he said.

He and his brother, Cedric, are neighbours and are surviving on one

borehole which does not belong to them.

All the dams in the Van Stadens River area have dried up and most of the land is barren.

Dairy cows are not producing enough milk and their owners are in serious financial difficulties.

Mr Charles Heathcote, chairman of the Van Stadens River Farmers' Association, said that west of Port Elizabeth the situation was "very bad". "Dairy farmers are the hardest hit and now they have to face the winter. They are buying fodder to feed their animals but will not be able to carry on much longer. It is just too expensive."

Port Elizabeth's assistant city engineer, Mr John Vail, said all areas surrounding the city had been declared drought disaster areas.

"From Paterson in the north to Hamansdorp in the south the farmers are battling to survive."

"If their economy goes down the whole region suffers. We have a shortage of vegetables in the city because of the situation in the Gamtoos Valley."

Wheat farmers around Paterson also face a bleak future as they enter their sixth year of severe drought.

Mr Clive Brown, head of the grain department at the Paterson Co-op, said it was not only the drought which had affected wheat farmers.

"The Free State farmers had a bumper crop which pushed the prices per ton down by R50. This has financially damaged Paterson farmers," he said.

# Rebirth from the blackened earth

W/Lc Argus 11/3/95 56

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter  
THE Franschoek Pass  
shimmers in the heat of a  
wind-still morning.

A truck loaded with Grabouw apples struggles on an uphill stretch in the Mont Rochelle nature reserve area and the shiny red fruit shifting around on the truckbed provide the only splash of colour for kilometres around.

The truck disappears around a bend and leaves a stark,

In the aftermath of two fires, the healing has begun

charcoal landscape the wounds of the February fires that damaged a wide front along this and neighbouring ranges.

Five hundred men supported by five helicopters fought day-and-night battles against the towering walls of flames that devoured big bluegums, dainty daisies, pretty proteas and covering small animals in its way.

From Tierkloof in the Wemmershoek mountains to Boesmanskloof near the Theewaterskloof Dam, the flames intermittently blazed a path of destruction across 20km as the crow flies.

The fire-fighters did their best to keep the havoc at bay, like a trauma unit nurse trying to relieve a patient's immediate discomfort.

Now the mountains are in convalescence. Slowly but surely the healing has begun.

Near Plattekloof on the road from Grabouw to Franschoek, a charred protea stem stands in the slight shade of a scorched pine topped with a cluster of green needles.

Next to it, a patch of blackened grass is giving life to new, dark green shoots and a baby lizard disturbs a locust whose wings fan open in dazzling red during take-off.

Further along, a buzzard surveys the damaged Boesmanskloof from the top of a pine and swoops towards a clump of burnt-out trees after a brief photo-session.

At Purgatory, the path signifying the Boland hiking trail is a chalk-white line against a dark grey slope where the fire destroyed the vegetation that normally makes the path difficult to see from the road below.

The streams in surrounding gorges are dry, the flames having destroyed the tree cover that keeps the sun out to give hikers refreshing respite from the hard slog.

High up in a kloof, a clump of unscathed trees stands out against a scarred slope. The lower reaches sport a shiny green hue marking new plant life in the ash-strewn sand.

At the Jan Joubertsat bridge in the pass, striking rock formations against a clear blue sky bear the February scars while the slopes on the other side of the Dutoitsriver retain its soft, lush appearance.

The road winds down into the fertile Franschoek valley in a welcome change of scenery. Here the laden vines and fruit trees reward the labours of those who kept the great fire at bay and the only flames are those preparing the evening meal.

Nearer home, new life is returning to the mountains above Simon's Town where flames ran amok from the higher reaches of Simonsberg to houses on the water's edge in May last year.

The slopes are green again, softening the sight of the burnt-out skeletons of bush that perished in the worst blaze in the area in 27 years.

On a hillside above Smitswinkel Bay, the debris at a destroyed house lies untouched since last year.

The now rusted fridge, stove and washing machine stand in their original places, resting on a cracked foundation.

Empty bottles of Spruitdrif Haneepoot, Martini, Martell, Campari strewn around what used to be the garden hint at the good times that were had before the blaze.

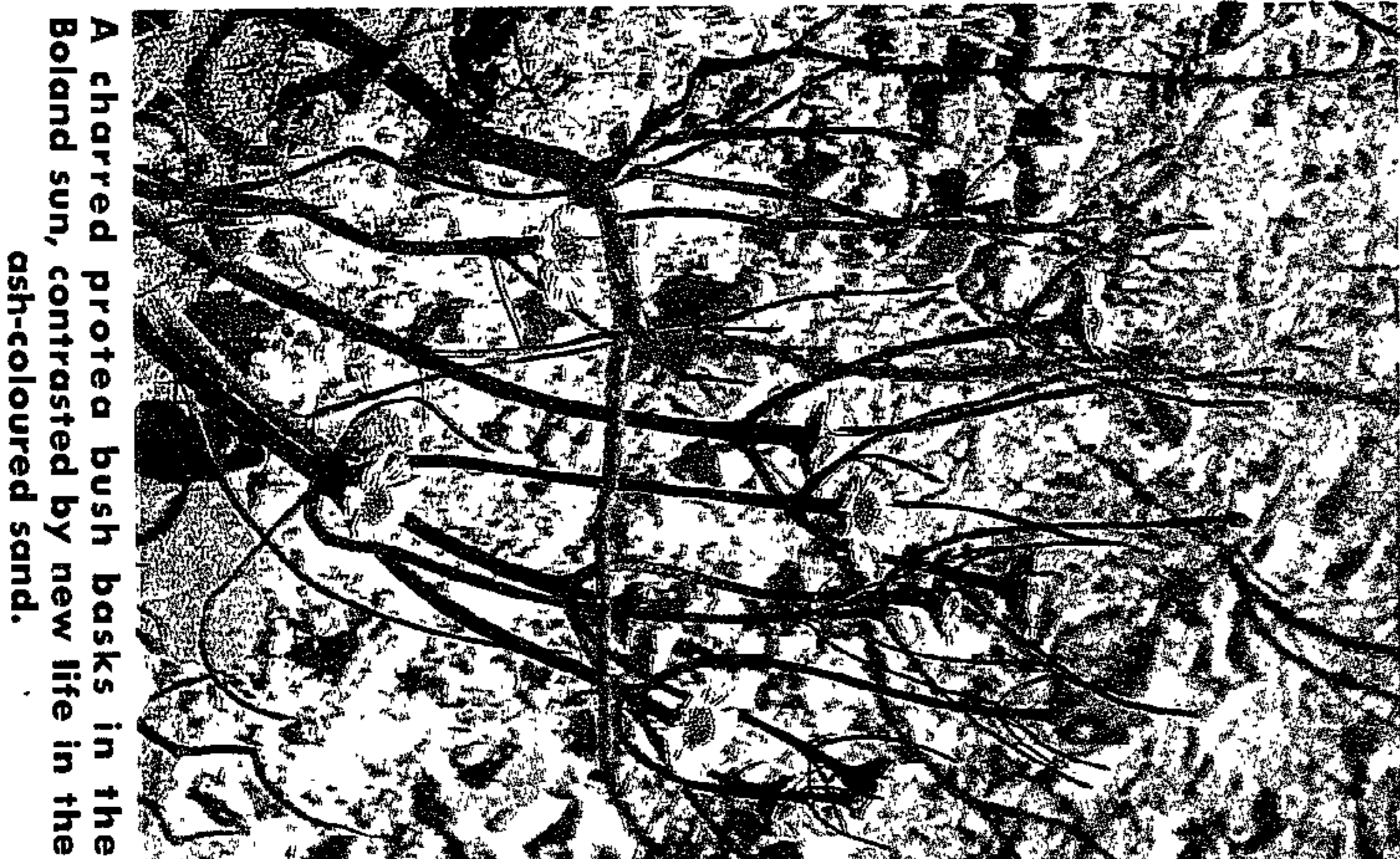
Around it the slope is alive with young geraniums, new grass, spider webs, chirping birds and the sounds of handymen pottering at a neighbouring house damaged in the fire.



Geraniums flourish under a burnt tree near the weather-beaten debris of a house destroyed at Smitswinkel Bay near Simon's Town in last year's fire.

Fallen bluegums on a scarred Franschoek slope show the dramatic effects of the Boland blazes.

Pictures:  
DANA LE ROUX  
Weekend Argus.



A charred protea bush basks in the Boland sun, contrasted by new life in the ash-coloured sand.

## Two drought-hit farmers quit

*Mr. P. S. 13/3/89* *56*  
PORT ELIZABETH. — At least two Eastern Cape farmers have abandoned their farms to seek work elsewhere as a result of drought — and several others are also thinking of leaving.

Farmers in the Gamtoos Valley face disaster if there are no heavy rains before the end of the month.

If rain does not fall, farmers will be allocated water for domestic use only and nothing for irrigation from the beginning of April, according to the Administration Engineer of the Department of Water Affairs at Patensie, Mr Pierre Joubert.

The deputy director of the Department of Agriculture in the Algoa sub-region, Mr Hennie Lourens, said he had had inquiries from farmers regarding unemployment measures for labourers. "This means farmers are looking at reducing the number of workers and at trying to cut down on costs."

# TION

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aimed management development  
han 3 500 companies. It is part of the  
include large scale construction  
g. Education and Training.

# Let smokers be, says Noakes

By CARLA DE VILLIERS

PROFESSOR Tim Noakes, well-known sports doctor, has entered the anti-smoking controversy.

He said yesterday that the campaign to remove "smoking or smokers" from the city was "more than a little unfair".

"In fact, if it wasn't for my father being a tobacco farmer, I wouldn't have received an education! I remember him selling the stuff to (Anton) Rupert as far back as the early 50s..." he said, at the finals of the M-Net "In Shape" competi-

tion at The Point yesterday  
"It's quite hypocritical to say the least. Spend one Saturday night in the casualty ward at any hospital in the Peninsula, and you'll find 99 percent of all the blood and gore there is alcohol-related.

"Car accidents, fights, shootings, drownings — the common denominator is inevitably alcohol."

While not in favour of smoking because of its relation to heart disease, he called the current anti-smoking campaign ricocheting around Cape Town as "totally over-reactive".

"I would personally much prefer to see a constructive campaign against alcohol than against smoking any day."

However, regarding heart disease, he did concur that smoking, along with cholesterol, genetic factors and bad diet, was a killing factor.

But he stressed that people had the right to choose whether to smoke or not and that there was a lot of "quite senseless double standards" in the current in-fighting — "though we do know there is a direct link between lung cancer and smoking".



Professor Noakes

# Anton Rupert sends retort over no-smoking issue

Staff Reporter

TOBACCO magnate Dr Anton Rupert, angered by the leaking of his correspondence to the Cape Times, has fired another salvo in his attack on Cape Town's anti-smoking medical officer of health, Dr Michael Popkiss.

Dr Rupert sent a copy of his letter to Dr Popkiss to the editor of the Cape Times.

Dr Popkiss said last week that he had not received the letter, dated March 9: "When I do I will reply to it confidentially through the mail as I have done with all correspondence to and from Dr Rupert," he added.

In the letter to Dr Popkiss, Dr Rupert says he had not realised that his turning down of the Aids request for assistance "would be leaked to the press by one of your supporters".

If he had suspected this he would have mentioned that one of his privately funded family foundations (of which there were five with assets of R10 million each) had already previously funded publications on Aids.

"These foundations will obviously carry on with their work regardless of what you and your council decide," he says.

He describes Dr Popkiss's proposals to council, that smoking on public property be prohibited by 1992 and that smoking be confined to private dwellings by 1993, as "not only dictatorial but clearly impracticable".

(Council have accepted a by-law that proposes restaurants demarcate at least half their seating for non-smokers but rejected a legislative time-table).

Dr Rupert says tobacco companies manufacture "perfectly legal products", which are "most efficient tax collectors".

If the government banned smoking and drinking the "mafia" would seize control of these industries as they did with liquor during the prohibition days in the USA, he says.

"The mob" would then not pay taxes.

As a postscript Dr Rupert adds: "In view of the leak to the press of my previous letter to you, this letter is not confidential".

# Warning as False Bay red tide plagues anglers, bathers

News 13/3/89

By ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter  
RED TIDE in False Bay has given swimmers and anglers sore eyes, throats and noses and officials have warned against over-exposure to the toxin-laden water and eating affected shellfish.

Among those plagued by the tide were competitors in the Sedgwick Old Brown surf and rock angling national competition which ended at the weekend.

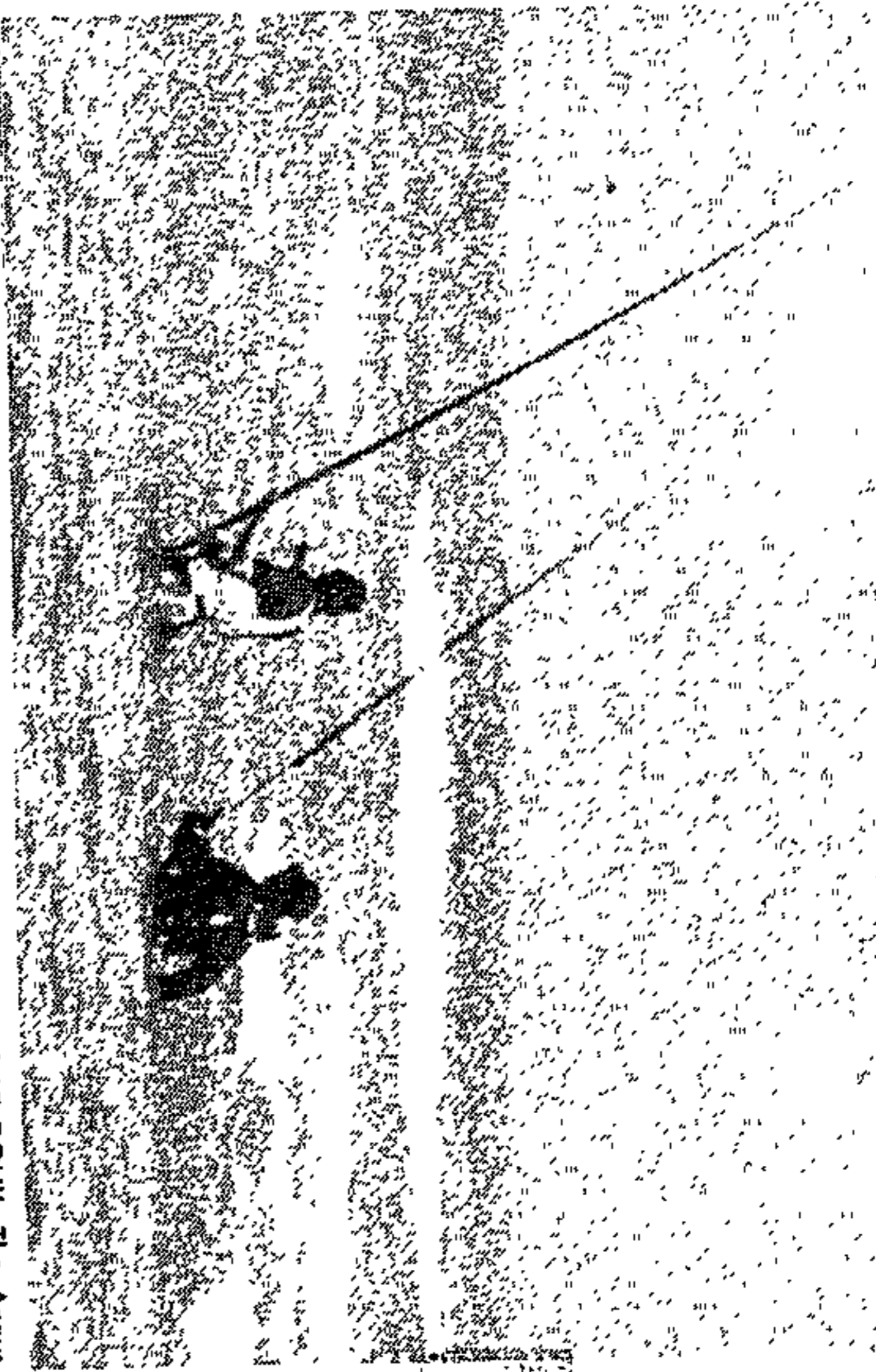
They were fishing along a stretch of coast between Strandfontein and Muizenberg when they developed the symptoms.

### DEAD FISH

They also complained of exceptionally poor catches on three of the four days of the competition.

On Thursday last week, the 180 anglers weighed in a paltry eight fish for the day's fishing and reported seeing dead blacktail and octopuses.

According to researchers at the Department of Sea Fisheries, a



Picture: DANE LE ROUX, The Argus

**RED TIDE:** Two anglers taking part in the contest stand waist deep in the surf at Strandfontein.

planktonic organism related to the so-called red tide has been found in the area. "People who come into contact with the water experience eye and upper respiratory irritations," Sea Fisheries Research Institute director Dr Louis Botha said.

They had also received reports of dead organisms on the beach which had succumbed to the toxin.

Dr Botha warned against eating any organisms that were washed up or any shellfish on the rocks where there was a brown discoloration in the water.

He advised swimmers and fishermen to leave the water if they experienced any irritation.

The manager of the Orange Free State angling team, Mr Jabe Burger of Bloemfontein, said two team members visited a doctor to have their eyes treated and one angler from Griqualand West had to sit out a day's fishing in the national championships due to eye irritation.

"I haven't seen anything quite like it in 20 years of fishing," Western Province manager Mr John Vickerman said.

Anglers from 15 teams all over the country took part in the week-long competition. Although catches on three of the days were very poor, a large number of sharks were caught off the Strand.

# Warning as False Bay red tide plagues anglers, bathers.

NEWS 13/3/89 (56)

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Howard



ance that I have been acting strictly in accordance with the terms of the relevant Act and that we have been giving the matter proper and serious attention.

†Prof S C JACOBS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to ask him whether his department has recently received a letter from a legal firm in regard to these by-elections.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the answer is yes, I did receive the letter. [Interjections.]

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C(3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament*

**Monitoring standards: produce**

\*17. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether produce for consumption on the local market is subject to the same monitoring standards in terms of controlling the abuse of pesticides as are produce for consumption on the export market; if not, (a) why not and (b) what standards apply in each case;
- (2) whether produce for the local market is monitored at the market place; if not, why not;
- (3) whether the same monitoring standards apply in each province; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the differences?

B376E  
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes, except in extraordinary cases,
  - (a) generally there is an agreement between the monitoring standards of different countries, as most like the RSA, base their standards on the Codex Alimentarius of the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agricultural Organisation. Occasionally countries may in specific cases, however, differ from the requirements of the RSA, and in such instances, the exporter must conform to these specific requirements.
  - (b) the most recent set of monitoring standards for the RSA has been published as Government Notice R2160



of 2 October 1987, as amended by R1939 of 23 September 1988. Regarding the export market, exporters must themselves determine what the requirements of the importing country are. The Department of National Health and Population Development does not keep copies of these requirements;

- (2) yes;
- (3) yes, (a) and (b) fall away.

**Misuse of pesticides**

\*18. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

How many cases of (a) agricultural and (b) domestic misuse of pesticides were reported to the Registrar of Pesticides in 1988?

- The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:
- (a) Four; and
- (b) seven

**Portugal: shipment of cycads**

\*19. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 8 on 28 February 1989, the shipment of cycads to Portugal from the Cape Province in 1988 was for Madeira; if so, (a) what was the nature of the shipment, (b) what species of cycad were included in it and (c) who applied for the permit for the shipment?

B378E  
The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he has furnished the following information:  
Yes. Cites export permit — Cape Province: 133/1988 dated 19 September 1988; Portugal Cites import permit L1-19/88  
(a) Private collection of cycads legally acquired for donation to the Botanical Gardens, Madeira.  
(b) *Encephalartos alenstaenii* 20  
*E. caffer* 29  
*E. arenarius* 29  
*E. cupidus* 9



<i>E. cycadifolius</i>	17
<i>E. eugene maraisii</i>	20
<i>E. ferox</i>	17
<i>E. frederici-guilielmi</i>	20
<i>E. ghellinckii</i>	25
<i>E. heeneii</i>	6
<i>E. horridus</i>	21
<i>E. humilis</i>	10
<i>E. inopinus</i>	13
<i>E. laevifolius</i>	7
<i>E. lanatus</i>	8
<i>E. latifrons</i>	31
<i>E. lembomboensis</i>	28
<i>E. lehmannii</i>	17
<i>E. longifolius</i>	26
<i>E. natalensis</i>	16
<i>E. ngoyanus</i>	12
<i>E. paucidentatus</i>	9
<i>E. princeps</i>	32
<i>E. transvenosus</i>	13
<i>E. trispinosus</i>	41
<i>E. umbeluziensis</i>	8
<i>E. villosus</i>	12
<i>E. manikensis</i>	12
<i>E. pteragonus</i>	1
<i>E. muschii</i>	7
<i>E. concisus</i>	5
<i>E. lehmanniariensis</i>	2
<i>E. gracilis</i>	2
<i>E. elizabetthalensis</i>	1
<i>E. hildebrandtii</i>	2
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. latifrons</i>	4
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. trispinosus</i>	27
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. villosus</i>	11
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. arenarius</i>	16
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. princeps</i>	8
<i>E. alenstaenii</i> x <i>E. spp. (uncertain)</i>	13
<i>E. arenarius</i> x <i>E. trispinosus</i>	19
<i>E. eugene-maraisii</i> x <i>E. spp. nova</i>	6
<i>E. ferox</i> x <i>E. natalensis</i>	4
<i>E. horridus</i> x <i>E. longifolius</i>	4
<i>E. horridus</i> x <i>E. spp. (uncertain)</i>	7
<i>E. horridus</i> x <i>E. lehmannii</i>	1
<i>E. latifrons</i> x <i>E. trispinosus</i>	13
<i>E. latifrons</i> x <i>E. longifolius</i>	4
<i>E. lehmannii</i> x <i>E. longifolius</i>	2
<i>E. woodii</i> x <i>E. natalensis</i>	8
<i>E. longifolius</i> x <i>E. arenarius</i>	2
<i>E. longifolius</i> x <i>E. spp. (uncertain)</i>	1
<i>E. longifolius</i> x <i>E. trispinosus</i>	1
<i>E. laevifolius</i> x <i>E. sp. nova</i>	1
<i>Strangeria eriopus</i>	16
<i>E. natalensis</i> x <i>E. villosus</i>	1
(c) Mr J M R Berardo	2

**Ozone layer**

\*20. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) When is it anticipated that South Africa will sign the Montreal Protocol on Chlorofluorocarbons to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985);

(2) whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 5 on 12 April 1988, South Africa has acceded to the Vienna Convention; if not, when is it anticipated that it will do so?

B379E  
The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) As soon as the administrative requirements have been completed by the Department of National Health and Population Development, my Department will proceed with the necessary steps to accede to the Montreal Protocol.

(2) No As soon as the Department of National Health and Population Development completes the necessary administrative requirements, my Department will proceed with the necessary steps to accede to the Vienna Convention. The Vienna convention and the Montreal Protocol will be acceded to simultaneously.

**Medical Schemes Act: representations for amendments**

\*21. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) Whether he has received any representations for amendments to be effected to the Medical Schemes Act, No 72 of 1967; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation;

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

B380E  
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes, subsequent to those mentioned in my reply to question 2 on 23 June 1987, representations from the following parties were received

## BUSINESS

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, March 14 1989

11

EDWARD WEST

# Umgeni looks at ways to reduce costs

THE Umgeni Water Board is looking for innovative ways to reduce costs in financing the R150m Inanda Dam tunnels.

The board said the combined efforts of members of a consortium, including Umgeni Water, merchant banks and the successful contractor, could reduce the rate of interest on borrowings and a fact projected tariff figures.

Those who tender for the construction of the tunnels, which is expected to take three years, will be called before mid-year, while contractors will be on site by October or November.

Umgeni Water supplies water from Howick to Durban and from Ballito to Amanzimtoti, covering an area with six-million inhabitants — only two-mil-

lion of whom receive purified water.

The tariff for water supplied to Durban will be 63,7c a kilolitre from March 1, of which 3,1c will be used to fund the tunnels. This amount will increase to 4,1c in 1990 and 7,1c in 1993.

The tunnel funds will remain at that level until 2004 and will then drop to 5,5c

in 2011. The board said the tunnels were necessary to increase quantity and security of supply.

Umgeni Water CE Graham Atkinson said the 3,1c on the tariff this year was a small price to pay for an increased supply and security considering the heavy losses incurred by industry when supplies were cut by the 1987 floods.

## Environment Bill tabled

# Litterbugs will face R1 000 fines

By BARRY STREEK  
Political Staff

AN outright ban on littering, with fines of up to R1 000 or three months in jail or both, have been proposed in a new environmental Bill.

New controls over the disposal of waste, which will require a permit from the Minister of Water Affairs before any disposal site may be established or operated, have also been proposed.

The Environment Conservation Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday, provides that: "No person shall discard, dump or leave any litter on any land or water surface, street, road or site in or on any place to which the public has access, except in a container or at a place which has been specially indicated, provided or set apart for such purpose."

Every person or authority in control of, or responsible for the maintenance of, any place to which the public has access will have to ensure "at all times" that containers or places are provided "which will normally be adequate and suitable for the discarding of litter by the public".

In an explanatory memorandum attached to the Bill, the Department of Environment said the clauses on litter and waste disposal provided for "stronger control over aspects of environmental pollution which are currently not adequately controlled by legislation and which require more severe measures".

It also said the disposal of waste was "developing into a serious problem,

not only as regards nuisances but progressively as a pressing danger to the pollution of ground and surface water".

Contraventions of the waste disposal clause will result in fines of up to R12 000 or three years in jail or both.

In the explanatory memorandum, the department said an "important deficiency" in environmental conservation was that "until now there has been no effective way in which co-ordinated action regarding environmental conservation by all bodies concerned could be directed".

"This deficiency, as well as the fact that the environment has gradually deteriorated since the passing of the first legislation in 1982, led to the present Bill."

The draft Bill was published on two occasions in the Government Gazette for comment and comments were received from nearly every government institution and many private organisations.

The approach followed in the Bill was widely supported in principle, the memorandum said.

Another clause in the Bill provides that an area may be defined where development may occur only under certain conditions.

"It has already been necessary to place such limitations on development along the coast in terms of existing legislation, but the power to do so has not been clearly defined and the danger existed that such limitations would be declared invalid if tested in court.

"This clause clearly establishes this power," the memorandum said.

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# Litter louts might end up in can

CAPE TOWN — Litter louts might soon find themselves in jail.

An outright ban on littering — with fines of up to R1 000 or three months' jail, or both — have been proposed in a new environmental Bill.

New controls — and even stiffer jail and fine penalties — for waste disposal are also proposed.

The Environment Conservation Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday, proposes the first national controls.

It also puts much of the onus of keeping places tidy on people in charge of them.

Every person or authority responsible for the maintenance of anywhere with public access must ensure at all times containers or places are provided for litter.

An Environment Department memorandum said the disposal of waste was "developing into a serious problem, not only as regards nuisances but progressively as a pressing danger to the pollution of ground and surface water".

The Bill proposes no-one shall establish, provide or operate a disposal site without a Water Affairs permit.

(56) B/Say 15/3/89  
Political Staff

Contravention of the waste disposal clause will result in fines of up to R12 000, three years jail, or both.

Water Affairs said environmental conservation was not the responsibility of a single department but involved the state administration.

It added: "This deficiency, as well as the fact that the environment has gradually deteriorated since the passing of the first legislation in 1982, led to the present Bill."

## Coastline

Another clause proposes that development in some areas may take place only under certain conditions.

The memorandum said: "It has been necessary to place limitations on development along the coast . . . but the power to do so has not been clearly defined and the danger existed such limitations would be declared invalid if tested in court."

It added: "This clause clearly establishes this power."



**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

	1986	1987	1988
Fundokuhle secondary	(a) —	(b) —	(a) 226
Mehlokazulu secondary	763	118 838	111 879 94
Sigongweni secondary	886	231 012	115 819 55
Siyahlomula secondary	303	— 343	— 411 32
Sukuma secondary	713	101 811	105 834 98
Zibukezulu secondary	870	221 858	204 807 117
Ashdown primary	913	— 943	— 1 026 —
Fezokuhle primary	—	—	— 402 —
Khwezi primary	610	— 566	— 580 —
Lungisile primary	639	— 628	— 762 —
Mfundwenhle primary	632	— 625	— 744 —
Myezane primary	670	— 700	— 611 —
Nansindilela primary	348	— 413	— 421 —
Ndabenhle primary	676	— 604	— 633 —
Phlani primary	617	— 640	— 810 —
Sinanuva primary	804	— 921	— 864 —
Zamazulu primary	933	— 1 035	— 791 —

Figures as on the first Tuesday in March of each year.

**Museums falling under general/own affairs**

95. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister for Administration and Privatisation:

- (1) Whether he has appointed a committee to determine which museums fall under general and own affairs respectively; if so, (a) when and (b) what is the name of this committee.
- (2) whether this committee received the instruction to report by a certain date; if so, by what date;
- (3) whether the committee has already reported; if so, which museums fall under (a) general affairs, and (b) own affairs of the (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds and (iii) Indians? B236(a)E

Thunjanwa

**The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PRIVATISATION:**

- (1) No.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) Falls away

**Group Areas Act: complaints lodged with SAH**

97. Mr J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) How many complaints about alleged contraventions of the provisions of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966, were lodged with the South African Police in (a) the Transvaal, (b) the Orange Free State, (c) Natal and (d) the Cape Province in 1987 and 1988, respectively?
- (2) how many Police investigation dockets on alleged contraventions of the Group Areas Act were handed over to the respective Attorneys-General in 1987 and 1988, respectively, for decisions on the institution of prosecutions? B241E

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.**

	1987	1988
(1) (a)	773	1 105
(b)	12	5
(c)	104	119
(d)	257	412
(2) (a)	293	405
(b)	6	3
(c)	50	28
(d)	168	190

**Langa/Guguletu/Nyanga: upgrading/renovation of schools**

100. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether any upgrading or renovation of existing schools in Langa, Guguletu and Nyanga has taken place during the past three years; if not, why not; if so, (a) what upgrading or renovation, (b) at which schools and (c) at what cost;
- (2) whether any upgrading or renovation of these schools is scheduled for this year; if not, (a) why not and (b) for when is it



scheduled; if so, (i) what upgrading or renovation, (ii) at which schools and (iii) at what cost? B252E

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) Total repair and renovation.
  - (b) Siyabulele Primary School, Langa. Walter Teka Primary School, Nyanga. Liwa Primary School, Langa.
  - (c) R213 710,40.
- (2) Yes.
  - (i) Total repair and renovation of the schools.
  - (ii) Fezeka Secondary School, Guguletu. Sizamile Secondary School, Nyanga. I.D Mkhize Secondary School, Guguletu.
  - (iii) R1 160 000,00.

**Farm schools: subsidies**

101. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (a) How many farm schools were subsidized by his Department, (b) what was the average subsidy paid per farm school, (c) what total number of pupils was registered at these schools, and (d) what was the total cost of this Department of the subsidization of these farm schools, in 1988? B253E

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

- (a) 5 627
  - (b) R26 063,74 (preliminary amount for the 1988/89 financial year)
  - (c) 481 325
  - (d) R146 660 704,23 (preliminary amount for the 1988,89 financial year)
- Farm schools: closed down/opened/extended
- 102 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:
- (1) Whether any farm schools for Black children were closed down in 1988; if so, how

many (a) schools, (b) pupils and (c) teachers were involved;

- (2) whether any farm schools for Black children were (a) opened and (b) extended in 1988; if so, how many (i) schools, (ii) pupils and (iii) teachers were involved in each case,
- (3) (a) how many farm schools for Black children were there as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) how many (i) teachers and (ii) pupils were there at these schools at that date? B254E

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

- (1) Yes
  - (a) 77
  - (b) 4 186
  - (c) 127
- (2) (a) Yes
  - (i) 143
  - (ii) 9 564
  - (iii) 253
- (3) (a) 5 627
- (b) (i) 12 310
- (ii) 481 325

Information for question (3) as on 1 March 1988.

**Kruger National Park: value of by-products**

114. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) What was the total value of the products produced by the by-products depot in the Kruger National Park in the 1988-89 financial year;
  - (2) what was the profit or loss shown by the depot at the end of this financial year? B266E
- The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**
- (1) The total value of products produced in the by-products depot in the Kruger National park for the period 1 April 1988 to 31 December 1988, is R2 319 342.
  - (2) Profit R1 210 715

Thunjanwa

(5b)

**Kruger National park: animals culled**

115. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether any animals were culled in the Kruger National Park in 1988, if so, how many head of each species?

	B267E
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS	
Yes.	
Elephants	284
Buffaloes	3 075
Hippos	91
	<u>3 450</u>

**SATS: motor vehicles damaged/ repaired**

158. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether any motor vehicles falling under the control of the South African Transport Services were damaged in 1988; if so, (a) how many and (b) at what total cost;
- (2) (a) how many of these vehicles were repaired at (i) Transport Services and (ii) private workshops and (b) what was the total cost of repairs done at private workshops?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS: B360E

Particulars are not readily available and it will take much time and expense to gather such information.

**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**INTERPELLATION**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

**General Affairs:**

Mr K CHETTY: Mr Chairman, with the leave of the House I withdraw my interpellation because the hon the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning has requested more time to deal with this matter. He added that he would consult his Cabinet colleagues, especially the hon the Minister of Transport Affairs.

**QUESTIONS**

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State President:

James Commission: tabling of report/findings

\* 1. Mr Y MOOLA asked the State President:

Whether the report and findings of the James Commission are to be tabled in Parliament; if not, why not; if so, when?

D16E

The ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL (for the State President):

The Report of the Commission of Inquiry into

allegations concerning the involvement of any member in the Ministers' Council of the House of Delegates or any member of the House of Delegates in any irregularities was tabled in Parliament on Friday, 10 March 1989.

**Ministers:**

Durban newspaper: SAP visit

\* 1. Mr M S SHAH asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain information that has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, any members of the Police visited the offices of a Durban newspaper concerning a report which appeared in that newspaper on or about 23 February 1989 on the remarking of the examination scripts of the daughter of a senior official of the Department of Education and Culture in the Administration: House of Delegates; if so, what were the circumstances surrounding this visit;
- (2) whether any documents were confiscated by the Police on this occasion; if so, what documents;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D27E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) to (3)

At present the matter is the subject of a police investigation, therefore it is at this stage not desirable to furnish any information which could jeopardise the investigation.

# New nuclear station near Cape St Francis

*CMT Times*

16/3/87  
By CHRIS BATEMAN

56

ESKOM plans to build its second nuclear power station between Cape St Francis and Oyster Bay and has persuaded "about half" of landowners on the 1 900-hectare stretch of land to sell.

Eskom spokesmen yesterday explained that it was the first of "perhaps six sites" countrywide which met all their research criteria. However, it is the first site they have tried to buy.

The news was greeted with alarm and anxiety by the Eastern Cape chokka industry which earns some R55 million in foreign exchange each year.

Senior Eskom spokesman Mr André van Heerden confirmed that all boats would be prevented from coming close to the coast once buildings were established.

# SA, Lesotho project to save the Malutis

The Argus Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA and Lesotho are combining efforts to conserve the Maluti mountains — part of the Drakensberg massif which straddles the international border.

The Maluti Mountains, central to the proposed R4 000 million Lesotho Highland Water Project, begin directly behind the Natal Drakensberg escarpment, roughly between Cathedral Peak in the north and Bushman's Nek in the south.

The region with its broad, bare mountains and long thin waterfalls, contains the only Alpine terrain south of East Africa. Many of its plants are found nowhere else.

The difficulty faced by Lesotho is that the Malutis, although very fragile because of their thin soils and weather extremes, cannot be set aside as a national park in the traditional sense. The mountains contain a hardy population of stock owners who, for generations, have relied on the uplands limited grazing.

The mountain dwellers will be participants in whatever conservation programme is devised.

The initiative to save the range began five years ago when the Department of Foreign Affairs arranged a meeting between the Department of Environment Affairs and Lesotho government representatives to discuss a conservation strategy for the Drakensberg/Maluti ranges.

A pilot study of a section of the Malutis began in 1987.

In 1984 South Africa — mainly through the Natal Parks Board — had refined a strategy for the controlled development of South Africa's side of the Drakensberg, the watershed of South Africa's

three most important rivers — the Orange, Tugela and Wilge (Vaal).

Having done this South Africa offered to help Lesotho with a parallel exercise for Lesotho's side.

Both countries wish to minimise the impact on the Highland Project, which will provide the Rand with water, make Lesotho independent of electrical power and give the country new income.

Later this year there will be joint workshops to work out a common conservation management programme for the Malutis.

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# Poison tide devastation

56  
Cape Times  
20/3/89

By CHARL DE VILLIERS  
A DEADLY organism has attacked perlemoen and crayfish, littering beaches along the Western Cape coast with thousands of dead and poisoned crustaceans at the weekend.

An urgent warning not to eat shellfish was issued last night.

"At this stage we do not know what killed the shellfish but we suspect red tide," director of Nature Conservation Dr Johan Neethling said last night.

"Whatever it was, it must have been very poisonous to kill something as large as a perlemoen."

He warned that the shellfish were highly toxic.

## Dead crayfish

Scores of dead perlemoen, alikreukel and sea urchins have washed up on the rocky shoreline at Stony Point near Betty's Bay since Friday, cluttering the beach and tidal pools.

At Lamberts Bay and Elands Bay on the West Coast, heart of the country's multi-million rand crayfish industry, thousands of dead crayfish were washed up.

A major perlemoen-canning factory is situated at Hermanus, about 40km to the south-east of Betty's Bay and directly in line with the red tide which has been sweeping down the West Coast since early this year.

Dr Neethling said the impact the poisonings would have on the perlemoen industry, "which is in full swing now", could not yet be established. He said the eggs are carried outwards from the breeding grounds by sea currents.

Two different red tide-like organisms have swept along the Peninsula and False Bay coasts in the past fort-



**TOXIC TIDE . . .** Justin Apsey (left) Christopher Kotze (middle) and Warwick Davison, all from Rondebosch, amid hundreds of poisoned perlemoen washed on to a beach near Betty's Bay at the weekend.

Picture ANNE LAING

night, causing bathers and fishermen to suffer coughing, irritation to the eyes and even diarrhoea.

Director of Sea Fisheries Dr Louis Botha warned recently that although not usually fatal, organisms at present invading Western coastal waters and

responsible for the "red tides" could kill.

Mr Vincent Lake, an amateur diver of Gordon's Bay, said dead perlemoen cluttered a 300-metre stretch of coastline at the old Stony Point whaling station and slipway at Betty's Bay.

Dr Neethling said the most seriously affected area lay within the Hendrik Verwoerd maritime nature reserve which, with a reserve at Dyer Island near Franskraal, formed the hub of the perlemoen breeding grounds on the south coast.

# Beware

# the red tide killer!

NR645 20/3/89

56

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter  
A KILLER red tide appears to have devastated large perlemoen beds around Cape Hangklip and the public has been warned to avoid eating any shellfish until further notice.

Worst hit is the area within the marine nature reserve at Betty's Bay, where there were reports of hundreds of dead shellfish washed up over the weekend.

Scientists from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) are conducting underwater surveys today to determine the extent of the loss, and they will analyse water samples.

However, most professional perlemoen divers have almost filled their quotas for the season and are unlikely to suffer any financial loss this year.

The red tide has also affected rock lobster on the West Coast, but swift action by marine officials and rock lobster fishermen has prevented any large-scale loss.

## Reduced oxygen

SFRI deputy director Mr Guillaume de Villiers said large numbers of rock lobster had been walking out of the water on the West Coast because the red tide reduced oxygen levels in the water.

Teams had been taking out the rock lobster from very shallow water and had been transplanting them to areas of higher oxygen content and "apparently there's been just about no mortality," he said most perlemoen had been washed up in the Cape Hangklip area.

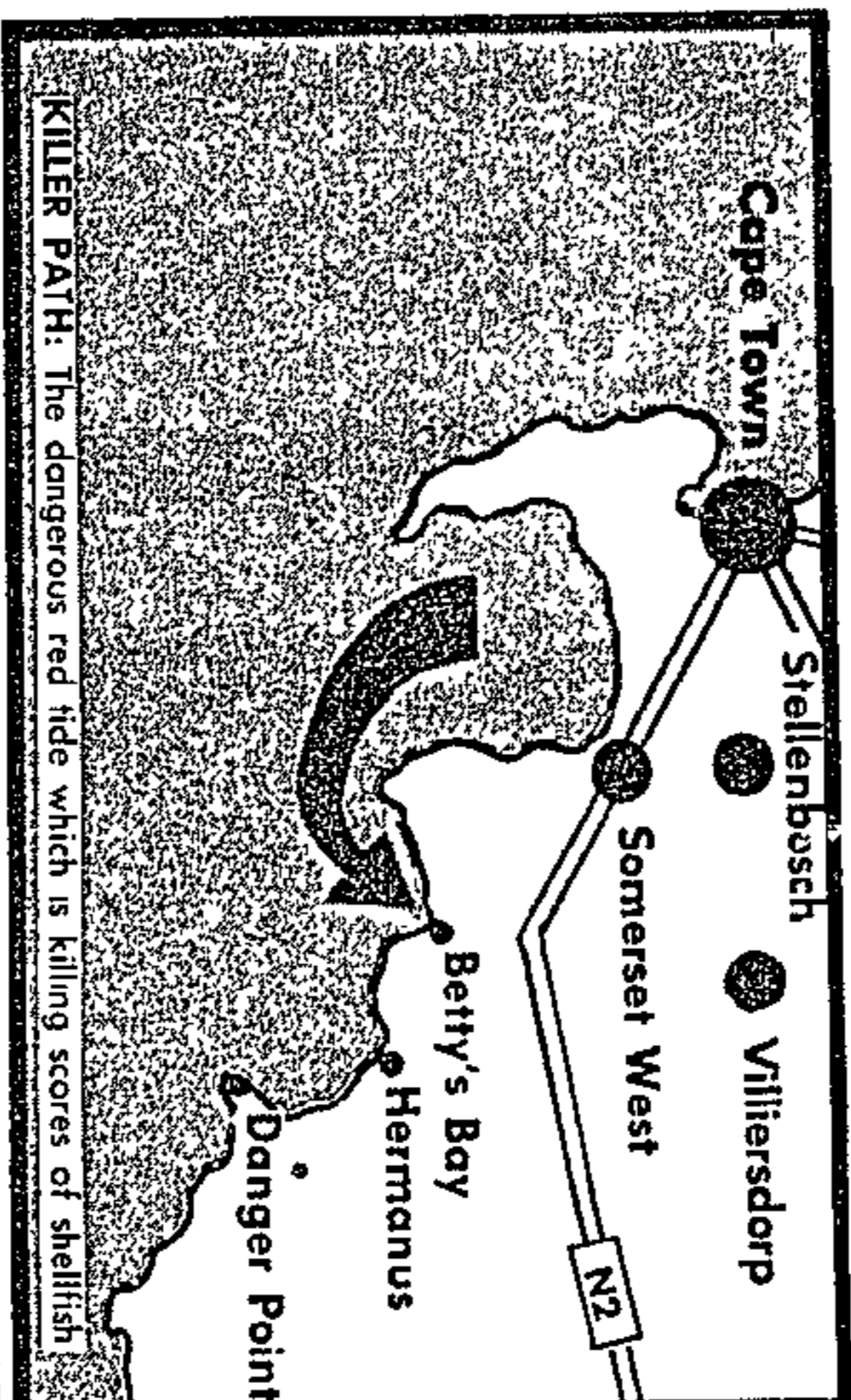
"We are in the process of doing an investigation between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay, but as yet there's very little to report," he said early today.

"Although it's very difficult to speculate, it sounds as if quite significant quantities of abalone (perlemoen) have been washed up.

## Perlemoen quotas

Mr de Villiers said he hoped to have results of the survey by tomorrow.

"And it will be wise for the public not to eat any shellfish from along the coast until such time as we have established that the organisms are not poisonous to humans," he added.



KILLER PATH: The dangerous red tide which is killing scores of shellfish

## 22 marines killed in 'war games' copter crash

SEOUL. — A US Marine Corps helicopter crashed in an isolated mountain region of South Korea today killing 22 marines and injuring 15.

Some of the injured were in a critical condition. A spokesman for the US-South Korean Combined Forces Command said the CH-53D Sea Stallion was carrying 37 marines, including four crew members.

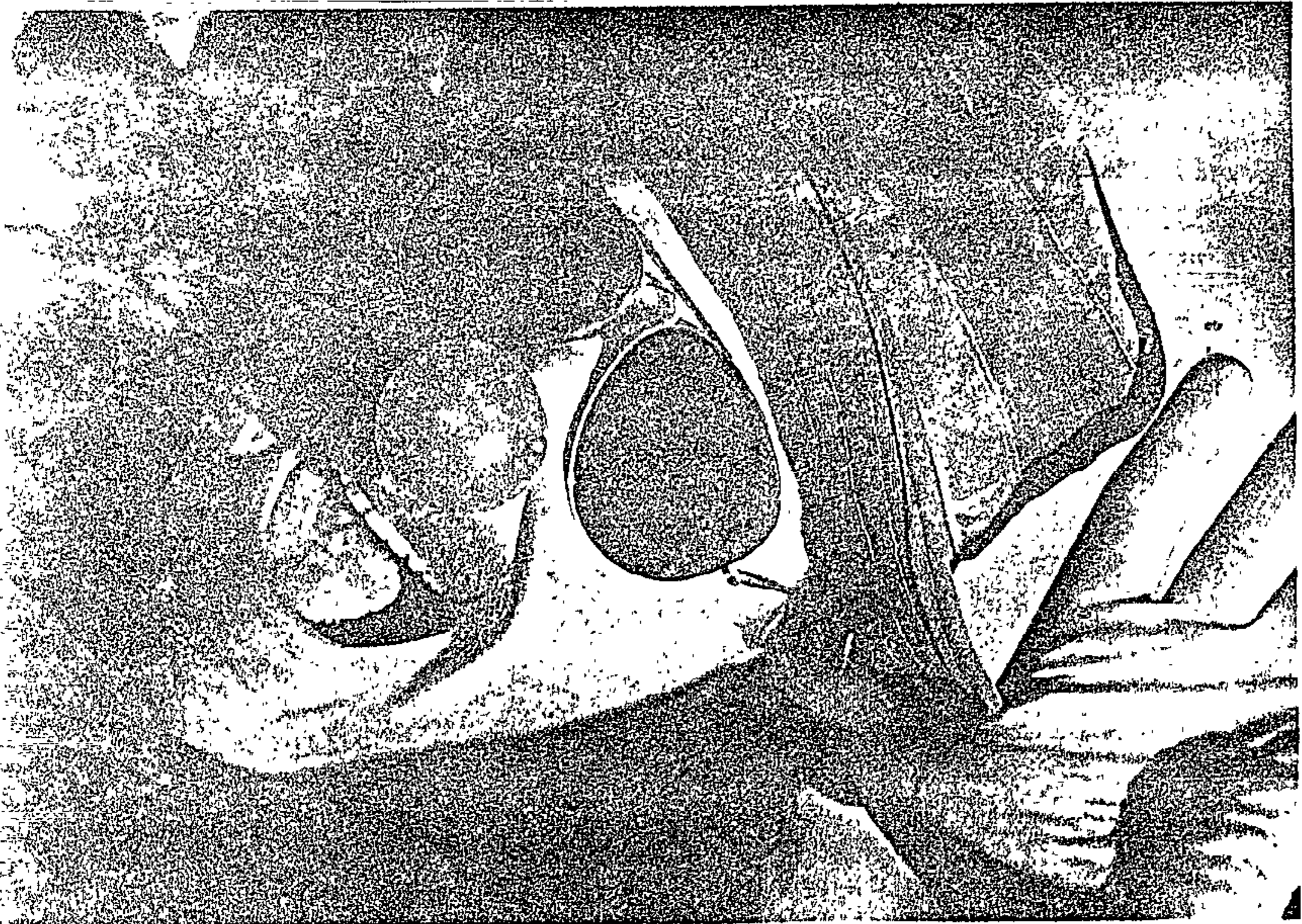
The men aboard the helicopter, which went down about 55 km south of the east coast part of Pohang, were taking part in "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres on the peninsula.

It was the second fatal crash of a Marine Corps helicopter in three days. On Friday, four American crewmen died when a CH-46 Sea Knight went down in a rice field near Po-



A Sea Stallion helicopter like the one which crashed in South Korea today.

Wing, Futatabi Air Station, at Okinawa, Japan. Names of the dead and injured were being withheld until family were told.



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However, most professional perlemoen divers have almost filled their quotas for the season and are unlikely to suffer any financial loss this year.

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He said most perlemoen had been washed up in the Cape Hangklip area.

"We are in the process of doing an investigation between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay, but as yet there's very little to report," he said early today.

"Although it's very difficult to speculate, it sounds as if quite significant quantities of abalone (perlemoen) have been washed up.

### Perlemoen quotas

Mr de Villiers said he hoped to have results of the survey by tomorrow.

"And it will be wise for the public not to eat any shellfish from along the coast until such time as we have established that the organisms are not poisonous to humans," he added.

Hermanus professional perlemoen diver Mr John Otto said most of the divers had filled more than 80 percent of their quotas for this year.

Quotas from areas around Hangklip and Betty's Bay were already complete and there were only small amounts left to be taken to fill quotas from areas on the West Coast, from Quoin Point to Uilenkraalsmond and between Hermanus and Hawston, Mr Otto said.

In the past few weeks dangerous red tides have invaded False Bay and the West Coast.

### Neuro-toxins

A species of red tide plankton which causes diarrhoea and coughing and which irritates the eyes, nose and throat has been releasing poisons into the False Bay wave zone, and bathers and surfers have been warned to avoid over-exposure.

The species appeared not to contain the deadly neuro-toxins which attack the central nervous system.

● Red tides are caused when favourable conditions allow the rapid growth of plankton.

There are several species of red tide plankton — some highly toxic and fatal to humans, others quite harmless.

Shellfish such as black and white mussels and oysters, which feed by filtering seawater, accumulate the toxins in their tissues and are most affected by red tides. Shellfish affected by red tide can be poisonous for up to six months.

Perlemoen and alikreukel are not normally affected.

Rock lobster are not directly affected by red tides and are safe to eat.

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We asked the tax authorities

# Vital research in SA <sup>McG</sup> limited by lack of funds <sup>5/31/89</sup>

**The Argus Correspondent**  
JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa lies only 2 000km from where the biggest of the world's two known "ozone holes" the one over the Antarctic — appears every spring.

Melbourne, Australia, lies slightly closer and, in September 1987, when the Antarctic hole was at its biggest, Melbourne detected a drop in the amount of ozone above the city.

Did South Africa also temporarily lose ozone and thus get an overdose of ultraviolet rays?

We may soon know.

Professor Malcolm Scourfield of Natal University, an upper atmosphere physicist, said the Melbourne finding indicated that the ozone depletion problem may not be confined to simply a hole in the ozone shield above the Antarctic.

## LACK OF FUNDS

He said there was a chance we could find out what South Africa's readings were during the Melbourne phenomenon.

This is despite the fact that through lack of funds and staff, South Africa stopped monitoring ozone in 1975 after starting in 1964.

Professor Scourfield, who is also a member of the Space Physics Research Institute, has obtained "raw data" on ozone levels from satellite readings spanning the entire southern hemisphere from Equator to Pole.

He is now analysing them.

He said he would not be surprised

to find South Africa's ozone shield was also dented each spring.

However a lot of work needed to be done "before we can make any statements," he said.

Professor Scourfield said he was delighted about the world moving nearer a total ban on CFCs.

"The frightening aspect has been that any changes up to now in the environment have been gentle. This one has taken everybody by surprise.

"With all the scientific programmes, with all the observations this great big hole, this large discrepancy, went undetected and was unpredicted."

If it were not for Dr Joe Farman of the British Antarctic Survey, who, for years, took regular ground-based, radio spectrometer readings, the world would not have had the figures with which to compare today's figures.

Atmospheric physicist, Professor Allan Poole of Rhodes University, Grahamstown, is worried that scientists have to beg for funds for such monitoring programmes.

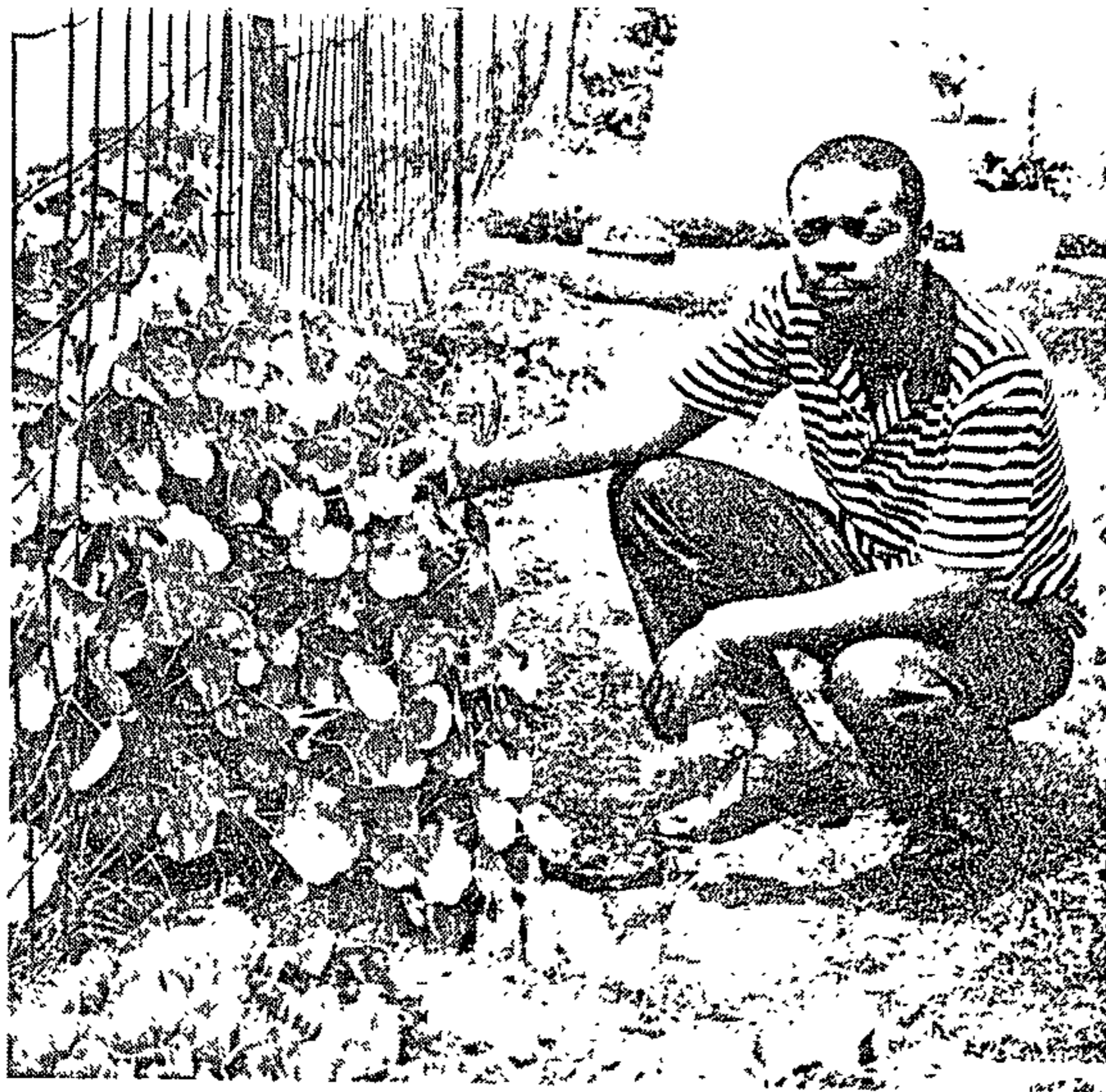
He sees the lack of data as a crippling handicap to meaningful ozone research and is not optimistic, even now, about funds becoming available.

Mr Piet de Toit of the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said the bureau has recently made a request for funds to resume monitoring ozone levels and was awaiting a reply.

It appears South Africa is doing no regular monitoring of ultraviolet rays either.

# The greening of Orlando

By KENOSI MODISANE



**THIS is a winner! Mandla Maseko in the garden that won his brother Isaac the first prize in the Nation Building garden contest held on Saturday at Orlando East.**

THE *Sowetan* hosted an "Environment Awareness Day" at Orlando East at the weekend as part of the newspaper's Nation Building campaign.

The highlight of the occasion was a garden contest which drew dozens of entrants from the area.

The judges comprised "garden fundis" such as Mr and Mrs Jasper Goemans of Kirchhoffs Seed Company, and Mr Dean Molohe of Titi's Nursery in Diepkloof.

The most beautiful garden was judged from the efforts put into planning of the garden, general appearance and appeal to the eye, maintenance and preser-

vation of soil by paving with grass to avoid soil erosion.

In Orlando, which is one of the oldest townships in Soweto, most house owners are pensioners. "That is why it was chosen to host the event, so as to show younger citizens that household chores like gardening are so easy and simple that they can be done by pensioners," said Mr Aggrey Klaaste, Editor of the *Sowetan*.

The first prize, a set of garden chairs and a table, went to Mr Isaac Maseko of 3754. Second prize went to Mrs Maria Mthoba of 3843, and Mrs Emily Sethoba of 3672 won third prize. All received a set of garden tools.

The rest of the entrants received a consolation prize of a pack of seeds from Kirchhoffs, and a tree donated by Titi's Nursery.

The highlight of the day's events was a beauty contest at Orlando Communal Hall, where prizes for the garden contest were handed over.

# Killer Tide: Companies stand to lose money

By SYBRAND MOSTERT

SEA Fisheries officials have not yet identified the deadly organism which has wreaked havoc among the population of shellfish along the South Coast — and on the West Coast tons of crayfish are leaving an oxygen-depleted sea.

Spokesmen for the perlemoen and crayfish industries have expressed fears that they stand to lose substantial amounts in the catastrophe.

Thousands of dead perlemoen are littering the coastline around Kleinmond and Betty's Bay.

“Departmental workers are out estimating the extent and the damage done to the populations,” Dr Louis Botha, director of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, said.

● A spokesman for one of the three perlemoen-processing factories in the Western Cape said that although the factories had almost filled their quotas for this year, a “substantial loss” still faced the industry if they were forced to stop fishing now.

● At Elands Bay, where tons of crayfish had walked out on to the beach, because of lack of oxygen in the water, the general manager of the Lambert's Bay Canning Company, Mr Tom Latsky, described the situation as potentially serious for the lobster industry.



# Perlemoen industry threatened by red tide

AKGCS  
21/3/89

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By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE multimillion rand perlemoen industry, threatened by a deadly red tide sweeping round the southern coast, is waiting for the results of water analyses from marine scientists.

Divers from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute yesterday took samples from a long section of the coast between Pringle Bay and Kleinmond

Tens of thousands of shellfish — particularly perlemoen but also alikreukels, sea urchins, venus ears and limpets — have washed up in the area in the past few days.

Worst hit has been the marine reserve at Betty's Bay, which has been almost totally devastated. The municipality has buried tons of rotting shellfish.

### Next in line

Hermanus, centre of the perlemoen industry, could be next in line if the red tide continues its sweep.

Research Institute director Dr Louis Botha said he was waiting for reports from his teams. Samples had been taken from the sea around Pringle Bay, Cape Hanglip, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond, as well as from sites outside the affected areas for comparison.

The coast is divided into zones, each with its perlemoen quota.

The Betty's Bay/Hanglip area has already been fully fished this year but quotas for other sections of the coast — including the area between Hermanus and Hawston — are not yet filled.

### Millions of rands

If perlemoen deaths continue the industry stands to lose millions of rands.

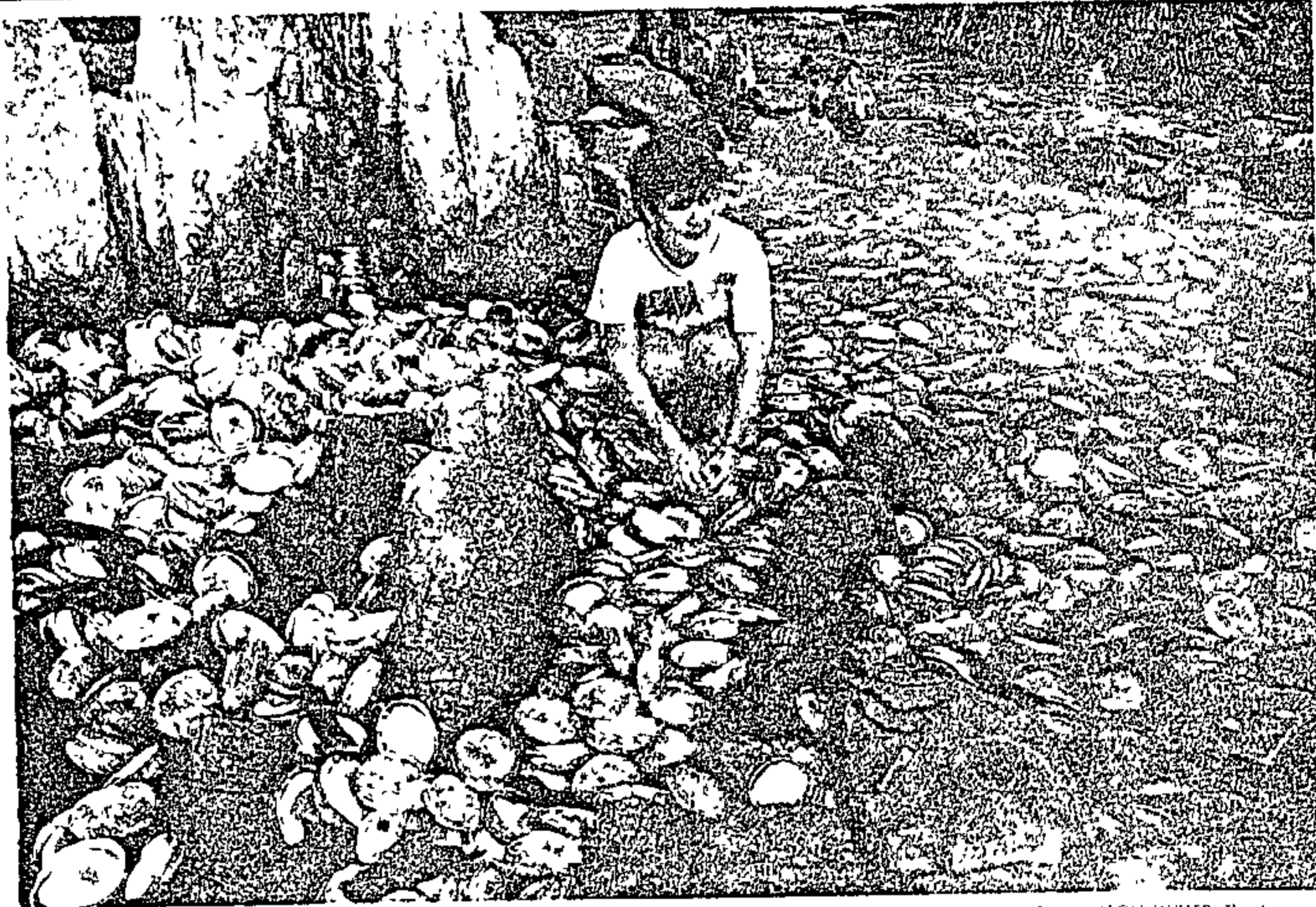
Dr Shlomo Peer, executive chairman of the Hermanus perlemoen-processing firm Sea Plant Products, said he hoped to have clarity soon on the threat to the industry.

"Unfortunately we have received no further information. We understand there is an investigation by scientists. We hope to learn more today or tomorrow."

"Bad weather has prevented commercial diving for four days, so we haven't been able to check the situation in the sea."

● Dr Botha said red tide was not responsible for the oxygen deficiency which has driven many rock lobster from the sea off the West Coast.

The "killer" red tide was also not related to the diarrhoea-inducing red tide which has appeared in black and white mussels on the West Coast and in False Bay.



Picture: LEON MULLER The Argus

**MARINE GRAVEYARD:** Tens of thousands of dead perlemoen and other shellfish have washed up at Betty's Bay marine reserve. Laura Peyper of Woodstock takes a look at the devastation.

Howard

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TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 1989

†We did not look at Janie. The hon member does not have to get so excited.

A helicopter of the South African Police with Lieutenant-General A J Wandrag, Chief of the Operations and Reaction Branch on board, flew around the outskirts of the area, with the specific purpose of checking on the safety of the area.

†Mr S C JACOBS: Mr Chairman, arising from the reply of the hon Minister, could he please give us an indication whether that was the reason why the hon the State President looked so disappointed when he appeared at the monument on television?

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! That question does not arise from the reply of the hon the Minister.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether on this occasion the helicopters dropped any leaflets on the proceedings? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, no.

Police action against two pupils at Willowmore

\*5. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether he has received any complaints in connection with Police action on or about 21 February 1989 against two pupils at the Senior Secondary School at Willowmore, whose names have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, what is the nature of these complaints;
- (2) whether these pupils were ordered by the Police to leave Willowmore permanently; if so, in terms of what statutory provisions and/or regulations did the Police take this step;
- (3) whether the incident in question has been investigated; if not, why not; if so, what progress has been made up to now?

B398E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes. Two complaints of alleged assault were received.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The case dockets will soon be handed to the Attorney-General for his decision.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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†Mr J VAN ECK: Mr Chairman, arising out of the reply of the hon the Minister, I should like to inquire whether he proposes to take disciplinary steps against any of the policemen concerned.

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the matter is being investigated and the dossier will be submitted to the Attorney-General. Once the decision is known, we will take further decisions.

\*3: SABS investigation into traffic noise level

\*6. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department requested the South African Bureau of Standards to conduct an investigation into the traffic noise level on the N3 at Town Hill, Pietermaritzburg; if so,
- (2) whether his Department has received the findings of this investigation; if so, when;
- (3) whether, arising from these findings, his Department intends to enforce certain measures to control the noise factor on the above-mentioned section of the N3; if so, (a) what measures and (b) when?

B444E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

Kwa Mevana Township: funds for upgrading

\*7. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning: Whether funds have been allocated for the upgrading of the KwaMevana Township at Howick; if so, (a) what total amount and (b) for what purposes?

B447E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrator of Natal and he has furnished the following information:

A fund application will shortly be submitted to the National Housing Commission.

(a) R626 630.

(b) This amount is required for upgrading of

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TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 1989

all services in KwaMevana — water, sewage and electrical reticulation as well as roads and stormwater.

Eastern Cape: contracts for establishing of grassing sportsfields

\*8. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether any contracts in the Eastern Cape for establishing or grassing sportsfields have been awarded to a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, or any business concerns with which this person has been associated during the past five years; if so, (a) what contracts, (b) what are the names of the officials who made the (i) decisions and (ii) recommendations on which these decisions were based and (c) what was the total amount of money involved; if not, (aa) to what persons were these contracts awarded and (bb) what was the total amount of money involved;
- (2) whether normal tender procedures were followed in respect of each of these contracts; if not, why not?

B449E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) Name of school	Service
Liitha Prim.	Combi court
Molefe Prim.	"
Mzingisi Prim.	"
Limekaya Sec.	Levelling of site
Ernest Skosana Prim.	"
K.K. Nowana Prim.	"
Nkuthalo Prim.	"
Johnson Marwanqa Prim.	"
Nonesi Prim.	"
Matodi ana Prim.	"
Inkqubela Prim.	"
Itembelhle Sec.	"
Nkwanca Sec.	"
Van Coller Prim.	Combi court
Sam Collier Prim.	"
Nkwanca Sec.	"
Vulindlela Prim.	"
Richard Msuthu Prim.	"
Khobongoba Prim.	"
Njoli Prim.	"

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Nonesi Prim.  
Somerset-Oos Prim.  
Thubalethu Sec. Sports field

(b) It is not customary to make known the names of officials who acted in their official capacity.

(i) Tender Committee at Head Office under the chairmanship of the Director: Buildings.

(ii) Falls away.

(c) From 08-03-1984 to 04-08-1986 tenders to the value of R2 084 585,13 were awarded.

(i) and (ii) Fall away.

(2) Yes.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask if the information supplied in respect particularly of paragraph (2) of the question, in other words whether the normal tender procedures were followed, was supplied by the officials who made the decisions or by other officials?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, this information was supplied to me by the department through the Director-General of Education and Training.

Certain airline: contracts with SADF and Armscor

\*9. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, in the current and the previous financial years, (a) the South African Defence Force and (b) Armscor entered into any contracts for transportation and/or other services with a certain airline, the name of which has been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, and/or its associated companies; if so, (i) for what services, (ii) with which companies and (iii) what was the total amount paid for such services?

B452E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) and (b) The hon member is referred to my reply in this House to question number 1 of 21 February 1989. Concerning this question and other matters, I gave evidence under oath to the Harms Commission this morning and also submitted sworn affidavits. I will conse-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



Harward.

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(5b)

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quently not pre-empt the Commission's Report.

**SADF personnel: smuggling of rhinoceros horn**  
\*10. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, in view of charges that were laid in the United States of America against two South African Defence Force members (whose names have been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply), he has initiated or intends to initiate an inquiry into the possible smuggling of rhinoceros horn from South West Africa by Defence Force personnel; if not, why not; if so, (a)(i) what were these charges and (ii) when were they laid and (b) what are the names of the persons involved?

B453E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

No, because the South West Africa Police confirmed that an official investigation was instituted by them. As far as could be ascertained the matter is at present with the Attorney General of South West Africa to decide about a possible prosecution

**Expansion of Old Crossroads and Kwanongqaba Township**

Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 966 on 1 June 1988, further details regarding the expansion of (a) Old Crossroads and (b) Kwanongqaba Township are now available; if so, what are the relevant details in each case; if not, why not?

B455E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he has furnished the following information:

Yes.

(a) The area referred to in the reply to Question 966 was declared a development area by Government Notice 2258 of 4 November 1988. The Cape Provincial Govern-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Harward.

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(28)

TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 1989

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The facility to have a social pension paid into a savings account already exists for a considerable time.

(b) (i) Only those Black pensioners who prefer to have their pension paid into a savings account receive their pension at present on a monthly basis. The number of these pensioners at present stands at 8 432 which represent 7.4% of the total number of pensioners.  
(ii) Refer to paragraph 2(b)(i).

Orange Free State

(a) With effect from 1 March 1989 pensions are paid monthly in respect of the magisterial districts of Bloemfontein, Welkom, Oudendaalsrus, Kroonstad and Sasolburg. It is planned to make monthly payments in the remaining districts as from 1 July 1989.  
All pensions can be paid into savings accounts on request.

(b) (i) 26%  
(ii) 2.4%

Natal

(a) In urban areas, where beneficiaries so desire, they will be paid on a monthly basis from 1 April 1989. Further research is being undertaken in the rural areas, as the possibility exists that some beneficiaries may not wish to change from the existing bi-monthly payments, due to high transport costs, etc.

(b) (i) 17.8%  
(ii) 17.8%

**Rabies: cases reported in human beings**

†13. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: Whether any cases of rabies in human beings were reported to his Department in 1988; if so, (a) how many, (b) where did these cases occur and (c) what steps were taken in each case?

B457E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes.

(a) 28 cases,  
(b) Natal

Inanda	1
Durban	1
Empangeni	1
Botha's Hill	1
Verulam	1
Unknown	17
Total	22
KwaZulu	1
Ndwedwe	1
Kwamashu	1
Total	2
Orange Free State	
Bloemfontein	1
Fouriesburg	1
Total	2
Eastern	
Transvaal	1
KaNgwane	1
Shongwe Hospital	1
Grand Total	28

(c) It is departmental policy that if there are human contacts of a rabies case, they must be accurately identified and the nature of the exposure (e.g. bite, lick, scratch) specified. All such cases receive antirabies serum.

The treatment of patients with rabies is carried out in provincial hospitals

Mr D J N MALCOMESS: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could he perhaps inform us how long he spends each Tuesday, or prior to that, memorising the answers to the questions? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, two minutes!

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply of the hon the Minister could I ask him how many of the cases reported in this instance were fatal?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman at the present moment none of the cases has been fatal but there is an interesting aspect to this which I would like to elaborate on and that is the difference between Natal and the rest of the South African situation. We have two epidemiological areas, the one being the Orange Free State and the Transvaal where rodents are the most common cause, whilst in Natal stray dogs are the biggest problem, and I think that we should use the opportunity of asking all people to inoculate their dogs with anti-rabies serum.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# Tons of stranded kreef rescued

CM- Tmp's  
22/3/89.

~~56~~

56

By CHRIS BATEMAN

UP to 15 tons of stranded, oxygen-starved rock lobster have been rescued at Elands Bay while about 30 000 perlemoen and countless mussels in Walker Bay have been wiped out by a rare toxic red tide.

The tide is one of two toxic planktons presently baffling researchers, who yesterday issued an immediate warning for people not to eat any black or white mussels along 500km of coastline from Elands Bay to Quoin Point.

A supplementary warning not to eat "anything except fish — and even then be cautious if the fish seem lethargic" was issued for the south coast from Cape Point to Quoin Point.

The first toxic plankton, identified yesterday as *Gymnodinium Nagasakiensis*, is responsible for killing 30 000 perlemoen along a 750m stretch at Stony Point in Betty's Bay at the weekend. It has also caused divers, swimmers and fishermen severe nasal, throat and eye irritations. The symptoms disappear within an hour of the victim leaving the water.

The toxin, first seen last year in Gordon's Bay when thousands of fish died, is believed to be released as the carrier plankton is broken up by wave action in the surf line.

The second strain, detected for the first time off the South African coast (in False Bay a fortnight ago), causes serious diarrhoea among those who eat black or white mussels. The bivalves concentrate the toxin in their

flesh.

Reports of mussel eaters suffering diarrhoea have come from such diverse spots as Elands Bay, Clovelly and Bloubergstrand.

Dr Louis Botha, Director of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, described reports that the perlemoen industry was endangered as "an over-reaction" and said damage had been "fairly localised".

He said perlemoen in deeper waters appeared to have escaped the effects.

A Nature Conservation official, factory owners and labourers in Elands Bay said they loaded some 15 tons of live kreef from a 2km stretch of rocks into bins and returned them to deep water off a local jetty at the weekend.

A small fleet of jeeps from two local kreef factories ferried the stranded kreef, 95% of which survived, they said.

Dr Botha said the kreef suffered a lack of oxygen caused by various marine conditions and not from any red tides.

Elands Bay factory owner Mr Ben van der Westhuizen described reports of a marine disaster as "nonsense" saying the phenomenon occurred every "two or three years up here — some people eat very well".

Dr Botha appealed to holiday-makers this Easter to exercise caution.

● A spokesman for the annual Hermanus "Festival of the Sea" which begins next Friday said none of their perlemoen came from the affected area. Samples would be tested by the Department of Sea Fisheries "to make doubly sure".

# University hosts talks (54)

68/3/23/3/89  
Soweto  
23/3/89

VARIOUS topics will be discussed during an inter-varsity seminar scheduled for the University of Zululand from tomorrow at 10am to Monday at 4pm.

The hosts are the Public Administration and Political Science Society of the University of Zululand. Bophuthatswana, Transkei, Natal and Durban Westville Universities will be represented.

These topics will be discussed at the seminar: Post-apartheid alternatives for South Africa, the role of law in a society in transition, transition in South Africa, towards a just South Africa and relevance of Africans in the South African public service.

# Stay out of red tide, public warned

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

Arb 645  
23/3/89

SCIENTISTS examining the deadly red tide which devastated sealife at Betty's Bay last week, and affected anglers in False Bay, have warned bathers, surfers, divers and fishermen to stay out of infected areas.

Perlemoen divers, in particular, have been warned not to remove shellfish which do not appear completely normal, while the public has been told not to eat any shellfish washed ashore "under any circumstances".

This warning remains until fur-

ther notice, and definitely includes the Easter weekend, Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) director, Dr Louis Botha, said today.

While he was not suggesting that people should stay out of the sea completely, they should leave the water immediately if they experienced any of the symptoms associated with this red tide, such as burning eyes, nose or throat, Dr Botha said.

SFRI researchers found traces of the killer organism (*Gymnodinium nagasakiensis*) at more than ten sites between Pearly Beach and Miller's Point in False Bay on Monday, but Dr Botha said this did not

mean all these areas were affected.

"We can't conclude that the red tide has spread over a wider area — it depends on the concentration," he said.

"This is like any other red tide — they are always present, but it's only when there are favourable environmental conditions that they bloom and become a problem.

"So it's not necessarily of concern that we've found these positive traces, but we will be watching the situation very closely."

If the concentration did increase, it could again pose a threat to sea-

life and this could occur within hours under ideal circumstances. However, it could be broken up again just as quickly by wind and currents, Dr Botha pointed out.

Virtually no dead sea-life has washed up during the past two days, and it appears that the dire predictions of total devastation earlier this week have been exaggerated.

The institute has made an informal approach to medical researchers at Tygerberg Hospital to determine the potential danger of human consumption of contaminated perlemoen.

● See Page 2

Picture: V JOHNSON

**RIGHT: A seal that died of strangulation by a piece of nylon rope.**

**BELOW RIGHT: Plastic debris and a dead sea-bird along the West Coast.**

Picture: PETER RYAN



**P**LASTIC pollution in the seas off Southern Africa is becoming a more serious threat to marine and bird life than oil pollution.

"Plastic pollution is more prevalent than oil pollution," says Peter Ryan, a researcher at the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology. "Of course a major spill is catastrophic, but fortunately they don't happen that often. And low-key spills are having less impact than plastics."

He was echoed by Nan Rice, founder of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group and instigator of the Prevent Plastic Pollution campaign, as well as by a spokesman for the Department of Sea Fisheries.

He said: "Major oil spills make all the front pages, but plastic rubbish just accumulates in the sea and on the beaches and no one notices it until it's too late."

"You only have to walk along one of our local beaches, or see some of the contaminated animals and birds to get an idea of the scale of the problem."

**T**HE seas off Southern Africa have an average of 3 500 floating plastic objects per square kilometre, says Mr Ryan. More than half of these are tiny plastic pellets, about the size of a match-head, which are made by primary plastic producers and turned into plastic objects by secondary manufacturers.

Bags full of these pellets are transported around the country to the 1 000 or so secondary plastic manufacturers. "The pellets are moved about in not very robust sacks, and occasionally you'll find gutters full of spilt pellets. All you need is a good rain storm and they're washed out to sea," Mr Ryan said.

Plastic packaging is an even bigger problem — more than half the plastic pollution of our seas comes in the form of packaging: supermarket bags, sheets of plastic, packing straps, six-pack yokes, empty bottles and fuel containers. Other types of plastic include nylon ropes, nets and fishing line.

The life of plastic in rivers and at sea is not known, but is likely to be at least 20 years. Plastic drift cards used by the Department of Sea Fisheries to measure sea currents have been found 15 years later in perfect condition.

# OCEAN OF PLASTIC

Heavy plastic tends to sink and is concentrated around source areas. "We have little idea of what effect this type of plastic is having," said Mr Ryan. "But floating plastic — from pellets, chips of manufactured articles and fragments of polystyrene to great sheets of packaging and huge fishing nets — is now a global pollutant."

**P**LASTIC pollution has an impact in three main ways, two of which affect animals and birds. The third is aesthetic appeal.

"This is the area which gets you money — the beaches are covered in plastic and the tourists don't like it. So the authorities are prepared to spend — the Cape Town City Council spends R1 million a year cleaning the beaches."

Animals are affected by plastic in two main ways: they become tangled in it and they eat it.

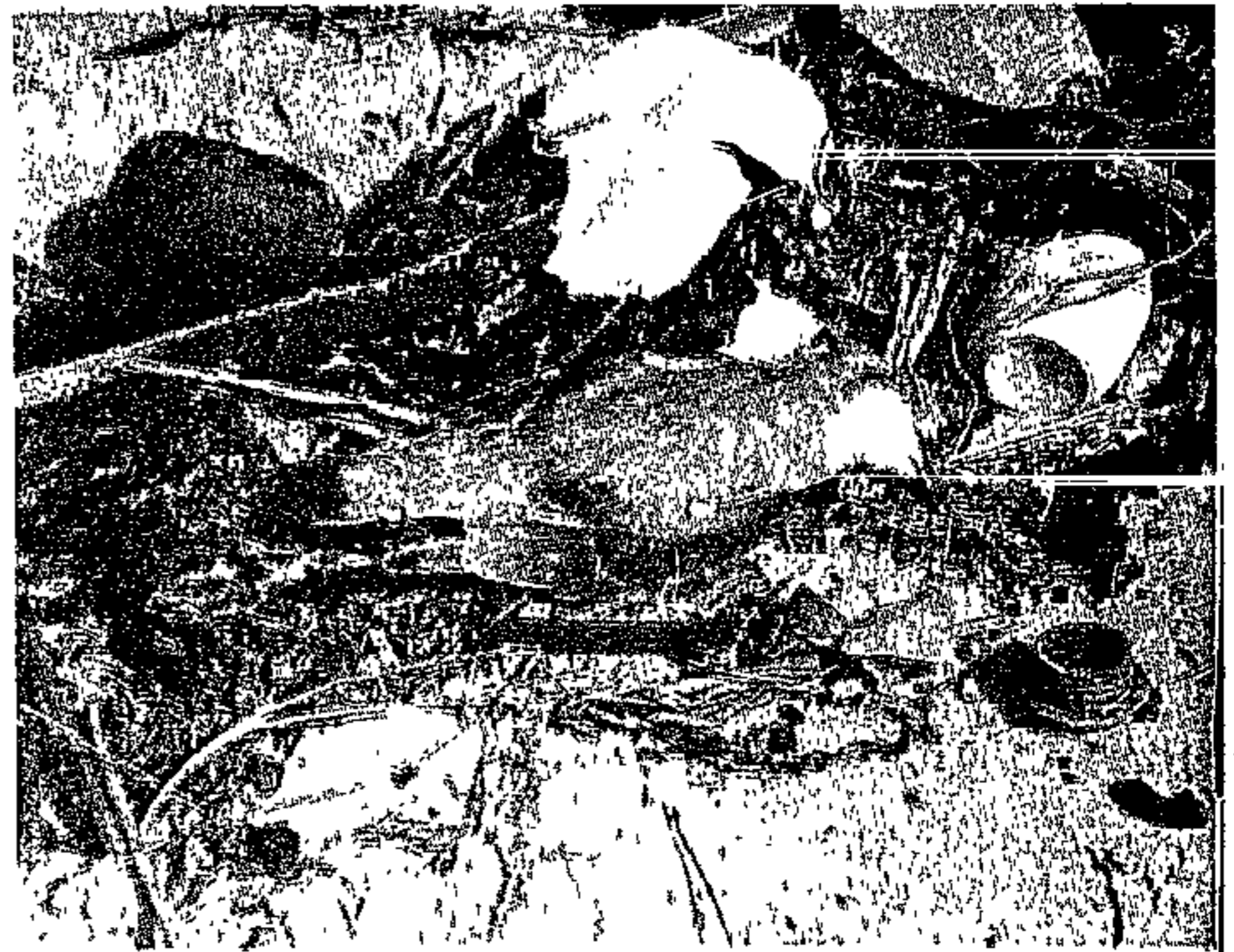


by VIVIEN HORLER, Weekend Argus Reporter

Packing straps, the plastic tape found round boxes, is a typical cause of entanglement. "Whales, turtles, dolphins, seals, birds, sharks and probably other fish are affected."

Entanglement is not the major problem in local waters, mainly because there are no driftnet fisheries here. In Japan, where driftnets are used to catch squid, fishermen lose between 100 to 1 000m of net a night, and these nets drift, catching animals for years until the weight of the tangled animals forces the net to sink.

**E**NDANGERED species such as the southern right whales and jackass



penguins are affected by entanglement. According to Mr Ryan, in one area on the Southern Cape coast 28 percent of dead penguins washed up on beaches were tangled in fishing nets.

The more serious local pollution problem is eating plastic, and among seabirds

that finds its way into the sea gets there because of littering on land and at sea. South Africa is committed to abiding by Annexe V of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (Marpol) which prohibits the dumping of plastic products at sea, but is taking a disappointingly long time drawing up legislation to enforce this, according to Nan Rice.

Mr Ryan says a more liter-conscious public could do a lot to reduce the problem by making sure that plastic

are thrown away into proper bins. Plastic wrappers should carry large labels warning of the dangers of plastic pollution, and supermarkets should be encouraged to provide non-plastic bags, recycle their bags, or to charge small fees for each one.

Plastic packaging should be cut before disposal so they cannot loop around an animal's neck. Mr Ryan believes their use and the plastic six-pack yokes should be discontinued.

And fishermen should discard their waste overboard, says Mr Ryan, causes much suffering many slow deaths.

the incidence in local waters is among the worst in the world, with 90 percent of certain species containing plastic in their stomachs.

The animals eat plastic because they mistake it for food. The birds most affected are surface feeders such as petrels and albatrosses, rather than divers.

A stomach-full of plastic means the animal may starve to death because its stomach is blocked, or the plastic can be a source of toxic chemicals, or the animal can lose condition because it does not feel hungry and does not eat enough to build up the necessary fat stores to see it through lean times.

**S**O what can be done? Much of the plastic

Weekend

FOCUS

4

by VIVIEN HORLER  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**T**HE deadly red tide that has killed off tons of perlemoen at Hangklip and Betty's Bay is on the wane and Sea Fisheries experts hope that this week's strong south-easter will disperse it entirely.

However, they say this summer's three toxic red tide infestations have been unusual because:

- They are still unsure what organism caused one outbreak;

- The organism that killed the perlemoen has appeared only for the second time in local waters; and

- The organism that caused poisoning along the West Coast in December-January is usually benign and has only been known to be toxic twice in 30 years.

Divers have been warned to stay out of infected areas and particularly to avoid perlemoen and shellfish which do not appear to be normal or are not clinging fast.

Gourmets should still beware of eating wild white and black mussels taken from the West Coast. However, crayfish from the Elands Bay area, which came ashore last week due to lack of oxygen in the water, are safe to eat.

A red tide warning has been in operation more or less continually since December, an unusually long time, and members of the public are beginning to ask why this year seems to be different.

**P**ART of the answer is that there have been several different types of red tide around, one of them possibly for the first time.

Sea Fisheries experts are still unsure where the tide that killed off the perlemoen came from and exactly which type of tide caused the symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea of which people complained after eating shellfish from the Atlantic side of the Peninsula, the West Coast and, even in one instance, in False Bay.

According to Dr Louis Botha, director of the Sea Fisheries' Research Institute, red tide is an entirely normal phenomenon that occurs in South African waters usually towards the end of summer, when the south-easter dies down.

Red tide consists of microscopic plants called phytoplanktons, which are eaten by zooplanktons, the animal

# Red tide: Deadly shades of sea

planktons that, in turn, are eaten by other marine life such as whales (another type of phytoplankton, which is not poisonous, causes the brown staining of the surf along False Bay, particularly at Strandfontein).

Some red tides are toxic and some are not. They are always present in the sea, but under certain weather and water conditions, particularly after a spell of calm, hot weather which is common in late summer, they undergo a population explosion.

After this, there can be so many of the red tide phytoplanktons in the water that they stain it a variety of colours from brown through orange to red and brick red.

**T**HE spread of the red tide depends on the weather and currents, so it is difficult for Sea Fisheries personnel to predict where or when an outbreak might occur.

Usually, red tides in local waters affect filter feeders such as black and white mussels, and not non-filter feeders such as perlemoen and alikreukel. When a red tide is reported, samples are taken to establish whether it is toxic.

Last year, for the first time in 30 years of records, a toxic red tide was monitored east of Cape Point. It is this tide, *Gymnodinium nagasakiense*, that has killed the perlemoen and, as its name suggests, it was first identified in Japan.

Mr Deon Horstman, the Sea Fisheries' red tide expert, does not know why this tide has arrived here, but does not believe it has anything to do with pollution.

The three main toxic red tides that have affected local waters are:

- *Gonyaulax catenella*. This is the toxic red tide found along the West Coast most years. It contains a potent toxin which causes what is known as PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning).

There is no antidote, which is why people should never eat raw black and white mussels taken from the West Coast "because if you eat a toxic mussel raw you won't see tomorrow", says Mr Horstman.

Cooking reduces the toxin by up to 75 percent and there have been no recorded mortalities in South Africa of people who have eaten cooked toxic mussels.

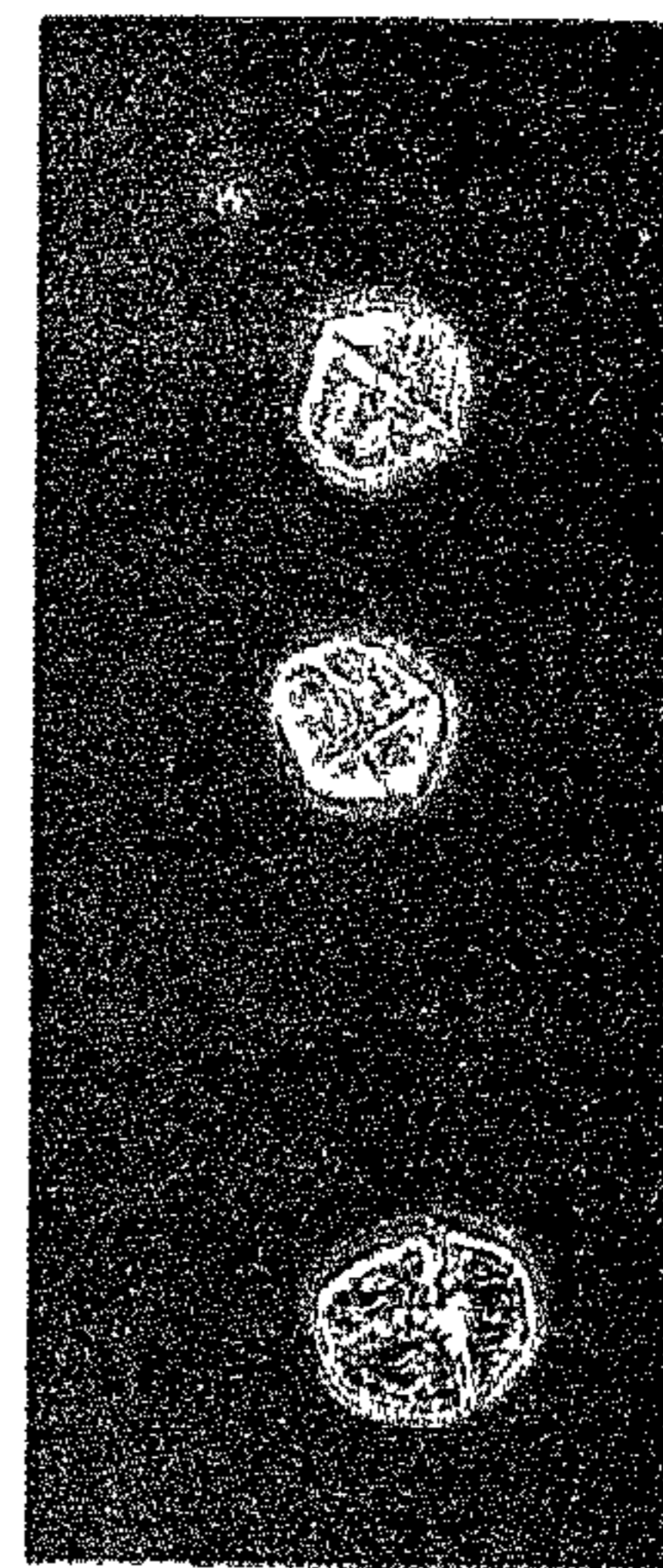
- *Gymnodinium nagasakiense* contains a toxin causing NSP (neurotoxin shellfish poisoning). This is the red tide that has killed the perlemoen. The organism is fragile and ruptures easily in surf, releasing the toxin.

This toxin has two components — one which dissolves in the water and is breathed in by animals such as perlemoen, attacks their central nervous system and kills them.

The other component takes an aerosol form, is carried in sea spray and causes eye, nose and throat irritation in swimmers, divers, paddleskiers and anglers.

- The third red tide has not yet been identified positively, but at this stage it is thought to be *Ceratium furca* of the *berghii* variety, normally a benign red tide. It causes DSP (diarrhetic shellfish poisoning).

Affected black mussels do not die and appear to be normal, but the toxin causes vomiting, diarrhoea and a headache. It is self-limiting and no medicines are needed.



Picture: Deon Horstman

***Gymnodinium nagasakiense*, the microscopic plants responsible for the killer red tide that has caused the death of tons of perlemoen.**

This third red tide has caused headaches for the Sea Fisheries experts because they are not sure what is causing it.

"The species responsible for DSP overseas is not the one we have here," said Mr Horstman.

"When we first noticed this red tide we took samples and identified it as being *Ceratium furca*, which is common along the West Coast. We didn't bother to monitor it because it has always been benign and we only monitor the problem species.

**"T**HEN we began getting calls from people along the Atlantic side of the Peninsula and even from Clovelly in False Bay complaining of diarrhoea.

"By then, of course, the tide had moved on. The only thing we can think is that this variety has become toxic for reasons we don't understand.

"This does happen: the red tide that caused PSP along the West Coast in December and January, *Prorocentrum micans*, is usually non-toxic and has been toxic only twice in the 30 years we have kept records.

"We don't know why or under what conditions this happens, but we know it does and this has been confirmed by overseas research.

"To our knowledge, it has never happened before with *Ceratium furca*."

# Toxic tide spreads beyond Gansbaai

Staff Reporter

HOLIDAY-MAKERS at resorts in the Franskraal area beyond Gansbaai yesterday complained of eye, nose and throat irritations as a toxic red tide spread eastwards in calm conditions.

It is the first time the tide has been reported as having spread east of Walker Bay.

Worst effected were swimmers, fishermen and divers at Uilskraalmond and Franskraal (east of Gansbaai) but isolated reports of the irritations came from some Walker's Bay resorts as well.

The mass deaths of perlemoen, which concentrated on a 750 metre area at Stony Point in Betty's Bay a week ago, seemed to have dropped from several tons to scores by yesterday. However, divers reported "dozens" of perlemoen in sluggish condition in about three metres of water.

The spread eastwards confirmed earlier fears of Sea Fisheries Research Institute, SFRI, scientists. They are now hoping for a radical change in the weather which would disperse the rare neurotoxic plankton.

The plankton becomes toxic when broken up in the wave zone and calm conditions over the weekend were ideal for further "bloom" of the tide.

Most of Walker Bay and False Bay appeared to be "clear" yesterday with no reports of irritations by swimmers. There were no further reports of a second type of red tide, never before encountered in South Africa, which causes severe diarrhoea. This tide first struck several fishermen at Macassar three weeks ago and has been reported as far afield as Clovelly and Bloubergstrand.

The eastward-spreading tide, identified as *Gymnodinium nagasakiensis*, has only been encountered once before in this country — last year in Gordon's Bay when hundreds of fish were found dead. Researchers have yet to identify many of its properties.

SFRI field workers are expected to set off for the newly-effected areas today to conduct further research.

GROUP INCOME ST

BUSINESS DAY, Tuesday, March 28 1989

STATE IS STUDYING PLANS TO PRIVATISE 'HIGH RISK' FORESTRY

GOVERNMENT is studying plans to privatise parts of the immense state-owned forestry industry. It is believed the investigation is at a critical and sensitive stage.

A pilot study by the Department of Forestry, the Commission for Administration and the Office for Privatisation and Deregulation is under way.

The Forestry Department's revenue

HELOISE HENNING

from timber production is recorded in a "trading account". For the last published financial year of 1986/87 it was R94,8m. Costs of production are not reflected, and assets are not valued.

Of the total 1 133 224ha afforested land area in SA, 799 448ha are privately-owned and 333 776ha are government-owned, according to the last Department

of Environment Affairs annual report.

Forestry production in the department is self-funding — like the Mint, the Government Printer and veterinary services — but not profit-making.

State Forestry management director Neville Wessels said more than half of government's forestry is used for timber production. The yield period for mature timber is 30 years, with a return of be-

tween 2% and 3% a year.

The investment is high risk, and generally not attractive to the private sector.

Most privately-owned forests have a quicker return on investment as they are used mainly for production of fibre used in paper, fabric and board. The production period is only eight years.

Wessels said the country faced a shortage of timber within 10 years.

'Interesting prospects' in southern Europe



# Restaurants object to ban on smoking

AGUS 189  
29/3/89  
56

## SMOKING

By ANTHONY DOMAN, Municipal Reporter

ALL but a handful of the Peninsula's restaurateurs have signed a petition "most vehemently" attacking Cape Town City Council's controversial moves to enforce non-smoking in restaurants.

A total of 307, including major fast food chains, have signed the petition, drawn up under the auspices of the Federated Hotel, Liquor and Catering Association of South Africa (Fedhasa).



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Smoking  
56  
(Contd from Page 1)

regulations against the freedom of our guests to our city and area?"

All should be encouraged to move towards deregulation and towards respecting the free movement of people from all over the world.

"Cape Town has a proud history of playing host to the world, in the liberal traditions, well-known throughout the years," he says.

"This record should not be blemished under any circumstances."

● Details of the by-law are available for inspection during office hours at the amenities and health committee office, 5th floor, podium block, Cape Town civic centre.

Nine refused to sign.

The council has passed a by-law which will create compulsory no-smoking areas in restaurants. Objectors have until April 13 to lodge their views in writing.

Smoking is already banned in certain areas such as cinema auditoriums and the lower decks of buses.

The final decision on the by-law rests with the Provincial Administration.

The petition was delivered to the Mayor's Office today.

It calls for the retention of the existing rights of the hotelier or restaurateur and objects to the proposed by-law.

Members object to the infringement of their right to decide how to receive and accommodate clients in their businesses.

"We believe that there should be no further restrictions on the freedom of the individual," they say.

### Poor impression

"We object to the fact that any client can call in the police to have an offending smoker arrested.

"We are most concerned about the poor impression it would make, in particular on foreign clients, if they were subjected to such treatment."

In a covering letter, Fedhasa's Western Cape chairman, Mr Angus Dodds, says the organisation objected "most vehemently".

It demanded that its members enjoy their rights as entrepreneurs "to run their businesses as they see fit, welcome whom they please, under conditions that satisfy their paying guests, not the local authority".

"How do you fulfil the role of mine host when you run the risk of a law enforcement officer being summoned to remove one of your guests?"

"Surely there are more important functions for the police than policing smoking in restaurants?" he asks.

Tourism was Cape Town's most important revenue earner and job creator, according to Mr Dodds.

"Surely it would be suicidal to impede this by unilateral

(Turn to page 3, col 7)

INSIDE:

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# Smoking: restaurants square up

By PETER DENNEHY  
Municipal Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, yesterday produced statistics of his own to counter Fedhasa's 307-signature anti-smoking-regulation petition from restaurateurs.

Three office-bearers of the Federated Hotel, Liquor and Catering Association of SA (Fedhasa) — who happened to be non-smokers — went to see the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Peter Muller, yesterday morning with a petition objecting to the city council's proposed by-law on smoking in restaurants.

In terms of the by-law, which has not yet come into operation, restaurateurs would have to demarcate at least 50% of their seating space as non-smoking areas.

Messrs Arnold Brock (regional director), Angus Dodds (Western Cape chairman) and Ian Rubin (vice-chairman) said they were not interested in the pros and cons of smoking, but wanted restaurateurs to "retain the right to run their businesses as they saw fit".

The 307 signatures they collected were from establishments ranging from the Harbour Café to Rosenfontein Restaurant. Only nine restaurateurs they approached had refused to sign, they said.

But Dr Popkiss replied yesterday that a survey his health inspectors had carried out showed that two out of three restaurateurs wanted some sort of restrictions on smoking.

The survey had involved more than 380 restaurants, all of which were in the municipal area of Cape Town — unlike the Fedhasa survey, which included restaurants in neighbouring municipalities, he said.

The vast majority of the Fedhasa signatories were from restaurants in Cape Town municipal area but a few were from Goodwood and one was in Constantia. Mr Dodds said the signatures had been collected in four days.

Mr Brock said it was very difficult to estimate how many restaurants there were altogether in Cape Town, but he believed there were 250 which had liquor licences.

Dr Popkiss's survey "put words in people's mouths", and was unfair because it was conducted by health inspectors, Mr Brock claimed.

Dr Popkiss replied by calling for the survey to be published, so that "the people can judge". One of the questions was: "Do you see the following as advantages ... were smoking to be prohibited in all restaurants at all times ... less damage to tablecloths and furniture (Yes/No), less fire risk (Yes/No), etc."

## Villain

The health inspectors had not been there to enforce anything, he said.

Dr Popkiss said he was being cast unfairly as a villain "who says little Johnny must be whipped and punished for smoking".

In fact, he said, he had never supported the suggestion that a minimum of 50% of restaurant space should be demarcated as non-smoking areas, although he did believe in demarcation.

"Let the people decide," he said. "It is my task only to present the facts."

The Mayor, Mr Muller, "a non-smoker with no axe to grind", said yesterday that Dr Anton Rupert had indicated to him that he would appeal to the Administrator if the city council went ahead with the by-law.

Another comprehensive debate on smoking is expected to be held at the city council monthly meeting today.

# Smoking or health: choice is ours

CRP 7-1/2 30/3/89 56

THE World Health Organisation regards smoking as the single most preventable cause of death and disease globally. Since the 1960s, thousands of research reports have documented the direct and, more recently, indirect impact that smoking has on health.

The quality of research evidence is questioned by the tobacco industry, which often quotes outdated individual studies (or healthy smokers) as evidence that smoking and health are not related.

Researchers, however, assess causal relationships on the basis of three decades of consistent results obtained from the vast bulk of studies. These results have not been dislodged in the face of diversity of time, place, people and methods used.

Initially, studies relied on death certificates and people's history of smoking. The last decade has seen growing sophistication in the measurement of smoking and disease which has produced similar results to earlier studies.

## Indirect effects

In South Africa, about a third of all deaths among whites are attributable to smoking-related diseases (mainly cardiovascular diseases, lung cancer and chronic lung disease), a quarter among Asians, an eighth among coloureds and a twentieth among blacks. The proportions among

THIS article, jointly prepared by DEREK YACH of the National Council on Smoking and Health, RIKA DE RUITER of the Heart Foundation of Southern Africa and CARL ALBRECHT of the National Cancer Association, calls for support for Cape Town City Council in applying smoking controls.

coloureds and blacks are likely to rapidly increase as childhood death rates decline.

Smoking causes indirect as well as direct effects. Studies have shown that babies born to smoking mothers are of lower birthweight. In addition, children of smoking parents have more respiratory disease. Non-smokers exposed to smokers' smoke have been shown to have increased risks of lung cancer. These findings mean that smoking can no longer be regarded as merely of nuisance value to non-smokers, who are forced into "passive smoking" in public places.

Smoking trends in South Africa indicate higher smoking rates among urban than rural people and higher male than female rates. The lowest smoking rates are found among the poorest sectors of the community. Increases in income tend to be associated with increases in smoking, up to about R1 000 a month (1984 standards) or 8-10 years of schooling.

Further increases then tend to be associated with declines in smoking, probably because health education messages start to get through. Smoking

rates among black men and boys are already as high as among whites and coloureds.

Given the current high levels and expected impact of smoking, public health professionals not only have a right, but an obligation, to take action.

An overall smoking policy should aim to prevent non-smokers starting (particularly children), protect the rights of non-smokers (including children and the unborn), help smokers to quit (and not victimise them) and, most importantly, create a social environment in which smoking is regarded as abnormal, just as spitting is today.

## Social environment

Legislation at national and local level is needed to support these goals. The tobacco industry maintains that individuals are free to choose whether to start. However, the influences of unopposed advertising, peer pressure and physical addiction of the habit itself restrict absolute freedom. (Many heavy smokers, subject since childhood to these factors, cannot be

held entirely responsible for their habit.)

Tobacco companies sell not only a product but an unhealthy, addictive lifestyle.

Legislation is particularly important with respect to banning advertising of tobacco products, and is supported by more than 30 countries globally as well as by the World Health Organisation. Current voluntary agreements in South Africa between the Government and the industry have failed to effectively restrict advertising.

The industry specifically aims at urbanising black and coloured communities through its emphasis on radio and billboard advertising and children (in spite of denials) through the support of cinema advertising and sports sponsorship.

## Tax increase

Economic interventions at national level are urgently required. Recent overseas reviews have indicated that a 10% increase in the taxation on cigarettes would result in a decrease of 6% in consumption. In South Africa such price increases are particularly important as a means of deterring potential smokers.

We recommend a tax increase of 25% which would be translated into an increase of about 8-10% in the packet price. This is in sharp contrast to the 1,4% included in the 1989 Budget at a time when cigarettes are already underpriced relative to other products. The increased tax raised could be used to meet losses incurred by the media through a ban on advertising and to support sport.

The overall economic effects of smoking in South Africa have recently been reviewed. The analysis indicates that the economic benefits to the country from smoking are outweighed by the costs.

Fundamental curricular changes are required at school level to promote healthy lifestyles, of which not smoking would be one key component. Such strategies need to be given the highest priority and need to take place within a social environment that no longer supports smoking as socially desirable.

## Rapid compliance

Mass media campaigns are effective not only in decreasing the proportion of smokers but in supporting non-smokers and ex-smokers. In this context, legislation aimed at restricting smoking in restaurants and public places is critical in raising the level of public awareness that the dangers of smoking are more than simply a nuisance.

Legislation which banned smoking in public places in New York City more than a year ago resulted in rapid city-wide compliance and support. A smoking policy must be applied at a national and city level. Cape Town needs to set clear targets that can realistically be achieved. A target of a smoking rate of no more than 15% of the population by 2000 is realistic, provided policymakers are able to act in the best interest of the future public health of the city.

Cape Town has already taken the lead and the city council should be supported in its attempts to move faster and more boldly along this road. Private corporations in the city, insurance agencies, Groote Schuur Hospital and the UCT Medical School have all recently instituted smoking control policies.

In the end the issue of smoking and health will not be settled by statistics but by political decisions at local and national level. These decisions should and could be influenced by public comment.

# Council curbs employees' smoking

By PETER DENNEHY

CAPE TOWN City Council has committed itself to a policy of "actively discouraging" smoking, and resolved that its employees may no longer smoke while attending to members of the public, with immediate effect.

Councillors also voted 17-12 to ban smoking during their own committee meetings.

These motions were adopted among several others on smoking yesterday "to keep the coun-

cil's own house in order" while passing some recommendations from a report it had commissioned from its Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss.

The council also reaffirmed a decision it took almost exactly a year ago that the advertising of tobacco products should be prohibited on council-owned buildings and properties. This does not apply to bus shelters where contracts had already been entered into.

Exco did not see its

way clear to endorsing such "activism", but Mr Llewellyn van Wyk pointed out that the council had sent out warnings about Aids and sexually transmitted diseases, so it should do the same for smoking.

However, Mrs Eulalie Stott's suggestion that smoking should be banned in the Civic Centre was rejected, partly because of anticipated objections from the unions, and partly because many council employees would smoke in

the toilets "like school-boys".

Mr Frank van der Velde said he found it "unpalatable" that a man of Dr Anton Rupert's stature had reacted to an earlier City Council decision in principle (to ban smoking in part of restaurants) by "offering or withdrawing money".

Mrs Joan Kantey expressed dismay that the council appeared to be introducing regulations "merely to use this council as a forum to educate the public".

(56) WMMU  
7-7 3/4 / 84

# The blotting paper war to save the fishy squiggles

*Teams of biologists battle to save tiny fish from death by oil-pollution ... armed only with blotting paper.*

**CASS PETERSON** reports

ARMED with a mountain of blotting material and crouched behind a breastwork of floating vinyl booms, a small army of biologists and fishermen is waging the most dramatic battle of the oil spill in Prince William Sound.

The mission: to save more than 200-million inch-long squiggling salmon so sensitive to oil that even a few dozen gallons from the millions in the sound could be deadly.

"It's scary, real scary," said Eric Prestegard. "It's really coming at us."

He is manager of the Port San Juan hatchery and the unlikely general of an even more unlikely militia.

His troops are the boatmen of Valdez and Cordova, untrained in petroleum warfare but determined to defend the hatchery against a slick of Prudhoe Bay crude inching toward the salmon that represent their livelihoods and their way of life.

"We'll do anything to save these little critters," Prestegard said. "But we're going up against a lot."

The hatchery is at the southern end of the sound, nestled in a teardrop-shaped bay of shimmering blue water. But the first tentative fingers of oil already are exploring the mouth of the bay. The main body of the slick, thick with sludgy strings of emulsified crude, is on a direct trajectory just to the north.

Cordova District Fishermen United, whose members finance the hatchery, started fortifying the bay several days after the accident, when it became obvious that Exxon was ill-prepared to do the job.

The imperative was the salmon's sensitivity because only three to four parts per million of oil in water can kill a young salmon. At that level, a fatal dose of oil might not even be visible as a slick.

A week of around-the-clock manoeuvres has sealed off the hatchery entrance with a triple skein of containment booms. The salmon pens are surrounded by thick ropes of absorbent material.

Additional booms have been placed at the mouth of the bay to deflect oncoming oil. The hatchery dock is piled high with supplies to soak up oil that breaches the lines, and more than two dozen fishermen are bivouacked in the hatchery's cramped living quarters. Prestegard is far from certain that the preparations will be enough.

Exxon has put Sawmill Bay at the top of its priority list, deploying nine of its 12 oil skimmers above the hatchery. But the oil slick is so wide and its volume so immense that the skimming operation is "like emptying the sound with a teaspoon", as one engineer put it.

"What we really need is to close off the bay," Prestegard said. That has been impossible because strong tides rip away booms laid at the mouth of Sawmill Bay.

The hatchery is one of four established a decade ago by area fishermen to augment the bounty of nature and reduce instability in the salmon fishery.

"The natural stocks couldn't provide enough for fishermen and still replenish the stock," said Robert Benda, who teaches aquaculture at the Prince William Sound Community College.

Prestegard expressed concern that the slick might interfere with plankton production. If that happens the hatchery might end up saving its young salmon from the oil only to have them starve to death in the sound. — The Washington Post

# Balfour, township at odds over water

The protracted water crisis in Balfour's black township of Siyathemba has caused a potentially explosive situation.

Angry residents have accused the Conservative Party-controlled village council of deliberately cutting off water supplies. The council claims the whole town has been hit by a water shortage.

The State President, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning and the Transvaal provincial authorities have been asked to come to the rescue of Siyathemba's 30 000 black residents hit by the crisis.

## Siyathemba Water Crisis Committee says:

The Transvaal provincial authorities had agreed in principle to try to resolve the water crisis in Siyathemba, said a spokesman for the Siyathemba Water Crisis Committee, Ms Sue Prinsloo.

TPA director Mr George Erasmus had agreed to a number of proposals by the committee. Those included the installation of additional water pipes at the township golf course and measures to supply schools with sufficient water to enable their toilets to flush.

The committee had also petitioned the State President to intervene.

The committee said the situation had given rise to explosive emotions as the community scrambled for water. A child had drowned in a well dug by desperate residents; other children suffered from diarrhoea.

Exploitation was rife as residents sold water at exorbitant prices to those less fortunate.

Mothers were experiencing severe difficulty with their washing and the preparation of baby food.

Children found in Balfour town with buckets of water were allegedly sjamboked by white residents. Balfour's village council had allegedly closed taps and some churches had removed their taps to ensure that Siyathemba residents were left without water, the committee said.

## Siyathemba's mayor says:

Siyathemba mayor Mr Dan Mophohoshe denied allegations by residents that the township's council had gone nothing to improve the situation.

After sending an SOS to Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Roesel Meyer, the council had decided to institute legal action against Balfour's village council.

"We have hired two tankers from the TPA and a private contractor. But still that is not enough. SADF

water to the area. The council has been granted a loan of R30 000 by the TPA to drill more boreholes, which we hope will alleviate the problem," he said.

## Balfour's village council says:

Balfour town clerk Mr Martinus Joubert denied that water supplies to Siyathemba had been cut off. The council had never adopted such a policy.

The entire town had been experiencing water shortages because of an inadequate water supply system, poor rainfall and an explosion in the town's population. However, Siyathemba was worst hit because it was the highest-lying area.

Mr Joubert said about 18 000 blacks had moved to Balfour over the past two years. The water supply system, installed 25 years ago, could not cope with the demand for water.

While low-lying areas had a constant supply, higher-lying white areas were without water during the days when water-intensive industries absorbed most of the water.

"If we cut water to the industries, they will be forced to close down. And then the blacks will be without jobs as well."

Mr Joubert said the council needed R7 million to install an additional system — money it did not have. The Eastern Transvaal Regional Services Council had already allocated R2,7 million.

Water supply to the reservoir that supplied Siyathemba was further hampered by blacks who tapped water from town.

He said co-operation between the council and Siyathemba's town council was excellent.

"In co-operation with the township's council, we do everything we can to alleviate the situation. But there is not much that can be done."

Crisis measurements included utilisation of farm fountains, water restrictions and the construction of additional pipelines and filter systems to the P van der Merwe Haanhoff Dam.

## Umsa says:

The United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa) has called on the Government to urgently intervene in the water crisis.

In a letter to Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning Mr Chris Hennis, Umsa said the situation was out of hand.

It requested a meeting between the Minister and Siyathemba Town Council to discuss the crisis. Umsa president Mr Tom Boya deplored the fact that the Government had made it easier for the CP to govern local authorities in a manner that caused embarrassment locally and abroad.



The water-starved residents of Siyathemba township near Balfour have to resort to all sorts of means to get water. Here an old woman fills a basin from a stagnant stream near the township while the young ones look on.

Picture: Stephen Davness.

Humanand

slaughtered in this area. The residue levels of benzenehexachloride found, were below the maximum level; on other words, it is not dangerous for human consumption.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, further arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, it is not just damage to possibly the meat that is being raised in that area but damage to the general environment in terms of other fauna and flora that inhabit the areas?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we only use benzenehexachloride in an emergency situation when we deal with locusts and not for other purposes.

**Specified squatter areas: residents**

\*11 Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

With reference to his reply to Question No 5 on 14 March 1989, (a) for how long have the residents of Fechter, Flenker, Witlokasie and Joodsekamp lived in these squatter areas, (b) how many persons are currently residing in these camps and (c) who owns the land on which they are currently residing? B527E

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING.**

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he has furnished the following information

- (a) Approximately 20 years
- (b) Fechter (Witlokasie): 1 114 persons  
Flenker: 1 290 persons  
Joodsekamp, 793 persons
- (c) The Municipality of Knysna.

**Certain person repatriated**

\*12 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs.

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been repatriated; if so, (a) on whose instructions and (b) why was this person refused permission to remain in the Republic.

Humanand

(2) whether any representations or applications regarding temporary residence for this person have been received by his Department; if so, (a) when, (b) from whom, and (c) with what result, in each case? B528E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) I refer the hon member to the press release which was issued on this matter by the Director-General of Home Affairs on 3 February 1989, a copy of which I lay upon the Table.

Representations on the matter were received from various persons, *inter alia* the hon member himself. The representations were, however, not successful due to the considerations mentioned in the press release.

Mr Stefan left the country on board a ship of a Rumanian shipping line on Tuesday, 14 March 1989.

**PRESS RELEASE BY MR G B S VAN ZYL, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HOME AFFAIRS: STEFAN CASE**

On 20 January 1989 it came to the notice of the Department of Home Affairs that Mr Ionel Cristian Stefan, aged 25 and presumably a citizen of Rumania, deserted from a fishing vessel, the "Razeln". He has been sojourning illegally in the RSA since then and in terms of the provisions of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Regulation Act, 1972 he is a prohibited person.

During the course of the investigation of the case it was established that Mr Stefan married a South African citizen from Cape Town, Mrs Nanette Sharon Miller (née Joss), aged 39, on 7 January 1989. At the time of the marriage Mrs Miller was a divorcee and mother of four children, two of whom were from her previous marriage. She was unemployed at the time of the investigation and her four children were by order in the care of a children's institution.

Mr Stefan was arrested by an immigration officer of the Department of Home Affairs on 23 January 1989 and was detained in the police cells, Cape Town, in terms of a warrant issued by the immigration officer pending repatriation arrangements were made at the same time for

him to leave the RSA on 27 January 1989. Before this could take place, he, however, slashed his wrists and his departure had to be postponed. He was examined by two doctors on 31 January 1989, and admitted to the Valkenberg Hospital as a certified patient. Ship jumpers present a vexing problem world-wide for the countries concerned and drastic measures are taken against them virtually without exception. The case of Mr Stefan is further complicated by the fact that repatriation of persons to countries with which the Republic has no diplomatic ties is a difficult and slow process.

The Department of Home Affairs is also not in possession of any background information pertaining to Mr Stefan in order to enable the Department to properly evaluate his continued sojourn in the Republic. For this reason such persons must apply for residence permits from abroad to enable the Department to establish as far as possible, their acceptability beyond reasonable doubt, thus obviating a possible situation where repatriation cannot be effected.

Mr Stefan has no authority to sojourn in the RSA and his marriage to a South African citizen does not entitle him to any right of residence in the country. Arrangements have been made for him to leave the country as soon as possible after he has been found medically fit to travel. Mr Stefan is at liberty, after he has left the country, to apply for a residence permit from abroad.

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS, PRETORIA 3 FEBRUARY 1989.**

**Kwazakhele: alternative accommodation**

\*13 Mrs H SUZMAN asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether he has taken any steps to provide the residents of Kwazakhele with alternative accommodation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? B529E

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

This matter vests in the Administrator of the Cape Province and he has furnished the following information:

The Executive Committee of the Ibhayi City Council at a meeting held on 29 March 1989 resolved to erect approximately 350 emergency housing units on a site identified for that purpose. The size of a unit is 6 m X 3 m and has a door and two windows. The erection cost is R2 300 per unit and it will be erected at the rate of 30 per day. The project will be financed from internal funds and the cost will be recovered at the rate of R25.50 per month per unit.

Rudimentary services will be provided to the emergency housing area.

**Sum allocated to environmental education**

\*14 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department allocates any sum of money to environmental education; if not, why not; if so, (a) approximately how much per year and (b) how is this sum (i) determined and (ii) monitored;

(2) whether it is anticipated that this sum will be increased in the near future, if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by how much? B530E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND OF LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Environment Affairs):

(1) (a) The Department allocates approximately R900 000 per annum for environmental education and related projects.

(b) (i) The amount allocated for this purpose is determined by the Department's continual financial commitments to environmental education organisations and annual estimates are otherwise being based on normal budgetary procedures. An additional amount is allocated from the Strategic Reserve by Treasury

(ii) Monitoring of the allocated amount is carried out by means of project submissions and financial statements of beneficiaries, and money which is spent internally is monitored through

Thrus and

56

normal procedures and regulations.

(2) (a) & (b) The amount could possibly be increased in future depending on the needs in the environmental education and related field — in other words depending on the merits of future identified needs of the Department and other organisations.

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament*

**Effluent from pipelines monitored**

\*15. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether all effluent from all pipelines extending into the sea is monitored; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether the results of such monitoring are freely available to the public; if not, why not; if so, where?

B531E

**The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:**

- (1) Yes, all discharges from all pipelines extending into the sea, which are subject to exemptions issued in terms of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) are monitored. All exemptions have an additional compulsory requirement to monitor the marine environment to determine whether the discharges have any detrimental effect.
- (2) No, the results of effluent monitoring are not normally released generally, because some expert knowledge is needed in the interpretation thereof. The results may, however, be obtained through the offices of the Department of Water Affairs in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, but this information will only be released with the permission of the effluent producer as confidential information on industrial processes can be disclosed by effluent properties Section 166A of the Water Act, 1956 prohibits such disclosure. The Department undertakes its investigation and negotiations with the industries concerned on the basis that information obtained is confidential and will therefore not breach this position of trust. The monitoring results of the marine environment are, however, not seen

have to be taken before payment of salaries can be effected

- (2) No.

**Certain person visited by representatives**

\*18. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether representatives of his Department visited a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, on or about 1 March 1989; if so, (a) which representatives, (b) why and (c) what is the name of this person;
- (2) whether these representatives paid for their visits to the person concerned; if so, why;
- (3) whether he or any official of his Department has received any complaints regarding the conduct of any of these representatives during any such visit, if so, what action has been taken as a result?

B535E

**The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:**

- (1), (2) and (3) The regional Representative, Cape Town, obtained sworn affidavits from officials who had contact with Mrs Stefan and I have requested the Director-General of Home Affairs to investigate the matter in order to ascertain whether any irregularities have occurred in the handling of this case. Should the hon member have any information which might assist the Director-General in his investigation, I would appreciate it if he would furnish the Director-General with that information.
- I undertake to inform the hon member fully on the matter as soon as the investigation is finalised.

**Mozambique: members of Parliament invited**

\*19. Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 6 on 21 February 1989, members of Parliament other than members of the majority party in the House of Assembly were invited to visit Mozambique in December 1988; if so, who, if not, why not?

B572E

**The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:**

The SA Defence Force did not arrange the visit and I, therefore, am not in a position to supply the information.

**INTERPELLATION**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign † used subsequently in the same speech, indicates the original language.

*Own Affairs:*

**Schools: management board elections**

1. Mr A GERBER to ask the Minister of Education and Culture:†

Whether it is the view of his Department that management board elections at schools should take place on a party-political basis? B582E:INT

**\*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:** Mr Speaker, the hon member for Brits has asked me whether it is the view of my department that management board elections at schools should take place on a party-political basis. Of course the answer is no. It is not my department's standpoint that management board elections at schools should take place on a party-political basis. [Interjections:] The fact that this does sometimes happen must, however, be blamed on the CP. [Interjections:]

Initially, the CP claimed this as its policy by manipulating management board elections with a certain degree of success.

\*Mr C B SCHOEMAN: What about roads boards and hospital boards? [Interjections.]

\*Mr T LANGLEY: And what about Tattersall's? [Interjections.]

\*Mr SPEAKER: Order!

\*The MINISTER: It goes without saying that there was a reaction which further politicised those elections, and I regret that. Owing to the Government's policy of the devolution of power, management boards acquired certain legal powers. "Political" management boards—therefore management boards elected on the basis of



# Medical campus smoking ban?

THE Board of the Faculty of Medicine at UCT has decided to ban smoking on the medical campus.

"If the council approves then that's it," said Professor George Dall, the dean of the faculty.

Professor Dall said that the board had taken the decision in March to ban smoking in any public area on campus, including the restaurant, cafeteria and lecture rooms. The board had also decided that no ciga-

rettes may be sold on campus.

"The decision also falls in line with present practices at Groote Schuur Hospital where smoking is not allowed in certain areas," he said.

There are more than 900 medical students on the campus. Professor Dall said a researcher from the Department of Health who had done a survey recently "had been appalled by the number of students who smoked".

Case Files 18/4/84 56

(56)

## CP municipality blamed for shortage

# Siyathemba water crisis: TPA steps in

By Stan Hlophe  
and Abel Mabelane

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has agreed in principle to resolve the water crisis in Siyathemba, near Balfour, following a special meeting held between the Siyathemba Water Crisis Committee and the TPA on Friday.

A spokesman for the crisis committee, Ms Sue Prinsloo, yesterday said TPA director, Mr George Erasmus, had committed his office to relieving the situation.

She said Mr Erasmus who was accompanied by his assistant, Mr D Muller, had agreed to a number of proposals by the crisis committee's lawyer, Mr P Oosthuizen.

These included providing additional water pipes at the township golf course and providing schools with enough water to flush their toilets.

"These must receive top priority to alleviate the situation. The

local council and TPA have done nothing yet," Ms Prinsloo said.

The United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa) has called upon the Government to intervene in the water crisis as a matter of urgency.

In a letter to the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, Umsa requested the Minister to set a date on which Umsa, the Siyathemba Town Council and the Minister could discuss the water crisis in the township.

### Petition

The President of Umsa, Mr Tom Boya, said he deplored the fact that the Government had made it easier for the Conservative Party to govern their local authorities in a manner which had and still continued to cause the Government a lot of embarrassment both locally and abroad.

The acute water shortage in the township for the past eight

months is caused by the insufficient supply from the CP-controlled Balfour municipality, which has stopped the 30 000 residents from using "white water" 2 km away.

This led the crisis committee to petition the State President to intervene to help the community.

The crisis committee said in a statement the situation had given rise to explosive emotions as the community competed for water.

Black children found in Balfour town with buckets of water are allegedly sjambokked by white residents. The Balfour Municipality has closed taps and some churches had also removed their taps to ensure that Siyathemba residents are left without water, the statement said.

The Siyathemba Town Council mayor, Mr Dan Mophohoshe, denied that they had done nothing to improve the situation.

Mr Mophohoshe said the council was instituting legal action against the Balfour Municipality.

Water <sup>Soweto</sup> cuts in <sup>11/4/54</sup> <sub>(56)</sub>  
**Soweto**

WATER supplies to several areas of Soweto will be interrupted today for the purpose of making repairs to the pipes.

The areas affected are Jabulani, Mapetla, Molapo, Mofolo, Tladi, Phiri, Moroka, Dube, Moletsane, Senaoane, Jabavu and Chiawelo Extension 1.

Supplies will be cut from 8.30am until 3.30pm. Water supplies to the above areas will also be interrupted on Thursday between the same hours.

# THIRSTY RESIDENTS Cry out for water

Star 12/4/82 (56)

## Anger at CP municipality

By Stan Hiophe

Taps ... taps ... taps ... everywhere, but not a drop to drink. That is the situation at Siyathemba township, near Balfour.

The Star yesterday visited the water-starved township and the sister squatter area, dubbed as "Wag Plek", loosely translated as "waiting place", and it was evident that the 30 000 inhabitants were faced with a big problem. Thirst was written all over their faces.

The two water tankers supplied by the SADF at a cost of R1 000 a day for the entire population was like a drop in the ocean.

### Residents angry

Interviewed residents could hardly contain their anger against the actions of the CP-controlled Balfour municipality, which decided to cut water supplies to their black neighbours eight months ago. Citing a water shortage, the municipality has stopped the 30 000 black residents from using the town's water supply.

"The CP can deny us sharing the same facilities with them or living

alongside them, but when they deny us God's natural resources like water then they are worse than the devil himself," one woman pointed out.

The Star arrived when one of the tankers had just been delivered by two men in a tractor. Old and young alike rushed to the water point.

Loaded with buckets and water carriers it was clear that they had not seen water for some time.

"We are dying of thirst. This is the only water available from the tankers. It is dirty and full of all kinds of insects. We are paying R5 for this dirty water. It is far from purified and we have evidence that it is drawn from the dam nearby," Mrs Linah Mbele said.

Miss Nongqibelo Mofokeng echoed Mrs Mbele's sentiments and added: "We have survived simply because we still have a will to live. Why can't we have water like other people. We can't cook, wash, clean like any other proud community."

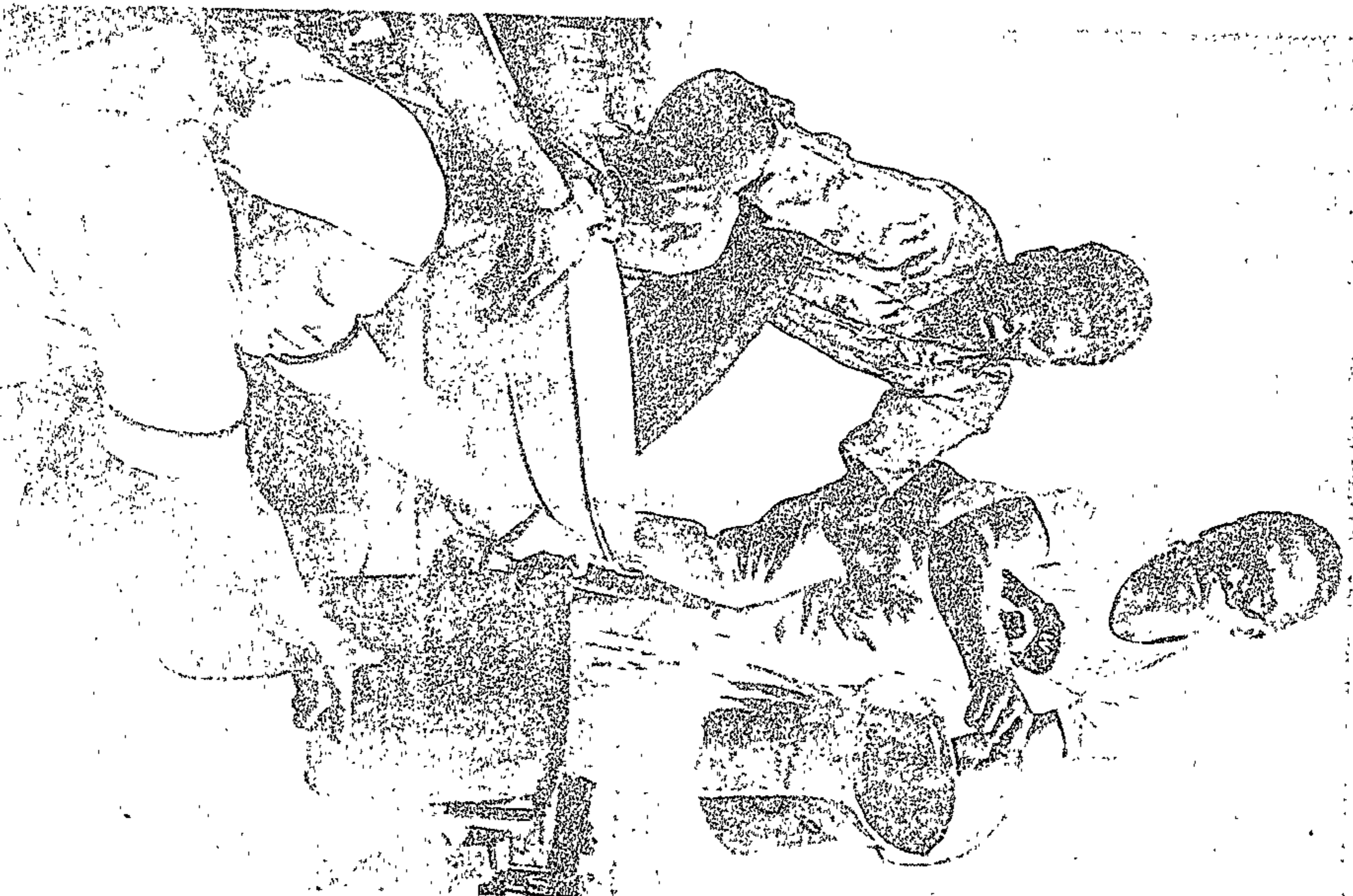
Mr Mandla Ngcobolo, a local trade unionist, described the situation as a health hazard.

"Having a bath is like asking for the moon. These water tankers are supplied at irregular intervals and cause a lot of confusion in the community," Mr Ngcobolo said.

A group of youths said when they approached the mayor, Mr Daniel Maphoshe, about the situation he allegedly threatened them with detention for incitement.

Mr Maphoshe denied an allegation that he was insympathetic to the community.

He also denied that the Water Crisis Committee had approached him on the issue



Staff of the Balfour Municipality on this

Section of the Star 12/4/82

B1029 12/14/89

# LABOUR MP SLAMS CP COUNCIL'S WATER POLICY

CAPE TOWN — The conservative Party-controlled Balfour Town Council in the Eastern Transvaal has been slammed by a Labour Party MP Les Abrahams, for denying water to the local black township of Siyathemba. *B1029 12/14/89*

The Balfour council was keeping water, one of life's basic needs, from the black majority in area, he said during the budget debate in the House of Representatives. "Is the CP trying to make the black people of Siyathemba die of thirst?" he asked.

The 4 500 white residents of Balfour used up to 75% of the domestic water available to the town but the remaining 25% was channelled through to 30 000 citizens of Siyathemba. *56*

**Seeking water**

"In desperation many of the residents of Siyathemba have walked to Balfour with containers in an effort to obtain water from taps in the town.

"This CP-controlled town maintains that the law does not compel it to supply Siyathemba. "It only sells its surplus water to the black township of Siyathemba. What a disgrace," he said. Siyathemba was a proclaimed area and should be supplied with essential services. "I for one cannot understand the attitude of people who first see to themselves and in the process deprive their brothers of a darker hue of God's gift to mankind — water," Abrahams said.

Star 13/4/89

(56)

## R254-m Kakamas water scheme

Construction would begin this year on a R254 million irrigation scheme at Kakamas in the lower Orange River Valley, the Director-General of Water Affairs, Mr G C D Claassens, said in a report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

He said it was proposed that 5 600 ha of irrigable land, subdivided into about 140 lots adjacent to the existing Kakamas Government Water Scheme, be developed in phases between 1989 and 1997.

The settling of a number of coloured farmers on a portion of the proposed development was also envisaged.

The area was well-suited to

sultana cultivation and the development was expected to be used mainly for this purpose.

The South African Dried Fruit Board already needed to produce more sultanas to supply overseas markets.

### EMPLOYMENT

If the area was used mainly for sultana cultivation the backlog in projected demand for the fruit should be eliminated by the year 2000.

The development also offered attractive advantages from a socio-economic point of view as almost 600 temporary jobs would be available during the construction stage and 1 800 per-

manent jobs on completion of the project.

The Government would buy the land needed for the irrigation development, divide it into lots, supply water and offer the lots for sale.

The works would cost about R110 million at March 1989 prices and R254 million if escalation of 15 percent a year was assumed.

There would be a negligible negative impact on the environment because water would be taken from existing canals and would be used for development in a relatively limited area which was not ecologically sensitive. — Sapa.

# Pollution crisis for rivers

By DI CAELERS

CAPE PENINSULA rivers appear to be in crisis with the news that every one of them is polluted or otherwise threatened in some way, except at their head waters.

Conservationists and scientists here are desperately trying to cope with problems inherited from decades of unwise management, according to Dr Jackie King of the Freshwater Research Unit at UCT.

She painted a bleak picture when she visited local rivers with the Cape Times yesterday as a preview to this weekend's first-ever River Day in the Western Cape.

Dr King stressed that the main threats to rivers were much less obvious than the visually unpleasant litter problem; catchment basins of rivers were very large and development "miles away" was having a negative effect.

Cape Town's City Council says that they have long recognised the importance of rivers as sites for recreation, nature conservation and as components of the stormwater management system.

City engineer Mr Des Riley said that they are very concerned at pollution of rain water which enters the stormwater



**POLLUTION . . .** Lotus River resident Mr Henry Wells surveys the unsightly and heavily polluted Lotus River which runs through the suburb. Picture: ANNE LAING

drains via city streets, roof-tops and pavements and is carried into rivers and vleis.

Cool drink cans, plastic bags, garden refuse and other less visible pollutants, such as fertilisers and insecticides, are

washed into the stormwater system.

"These pollutants can not only block the drains and cause flooding, but can also encourage the breeding of vermin, disfigure the city's prime tourist attractions and

damage the environment generally," he said.

Dr King said fertilisers encouraged plant growth in rivers in much the same way as they did on land and already Cape rivers are being overrun by alien plants.

Citing the Keyzers River as an example, she said that four plants, one of which had already been declared a noxious weed, had been brought to South Africa from South America: Parrots feather, Kariba weed, water hyacinth and Nile lettuce.

"Cape Town and other municipalities are spending millions clearing waterways of the weeds which thrive in our waters which are rich in nutrients."

The council is also pumping funds into the development of "detention ponds" on the Diep River in an effort to stop seasonal flooding of properties on its course.

"The water will spill into the ponds as it starts to rise, which only happens about two or three days a year, and the problem is clearly linked to bad planning.

"Development of the catchment basin erases the surrounding wetlands, which act as a sponge or safety valve when the waters begin to rise," said Dr King.

# Privatisation spells R8m saving on sewerage plant

B/Dam 13/4/89

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HELOISE HENNING

PRIVATISATION has brought about a capital saving of R8,5m on the construction of the new Zandvliet sewerage plant in the Cape Peninsula.

Initially the House of Representatives local government department budgeted the cost of the plant at R22m. It was designed to service 250 000 people in Khayelitsha and Blue Downs.

After the decision to have the plant constructed on a turnkey basis instead of the local authority taking control of construction and operation, the final cost was R13,5m, said Blue Downs project engineer Charl Krige.

The contractor will operate and maintain the plant at a quoted fee for five years, giving the local authority control over the plant's running costs.

Krige said the switch to a turnkey operation, cutting out the consultant, created competition among companies offering innovative design, construction and management of the plant.

The initial approach included tenders for private financing, but it was found that the interest rate on government funds could not be beaten by the private sector.



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# Booster pump brings water — and joy — to Siyathemba

TAPS are running again in Balfour's black township of Siyathemba which has been suffering from an eight-month water shortage.

Ms Sue Prinsloo, a member of the Siyathemba Water Crisis Committee, said yesterday the committee and the township's 30 000 residents were extremely grateful

to the Conservative Party-controlled village council which had installed a new booster pump to supply the township with water.

She said water started flowing this week. "But why on earth could they not have installed a new pump earlier? It only took them 15 manhours of work. This

whole crisis could have been avoided." Ms Prinsloo said the committee did not believe the CP council deliberately cut off water supplies to Siyathemba, as claimed by residents. "It is not a political problem. It is a commu-

nity problem."

Although the new booster pump successfully pumped water to the high-lying township, the committee would proceed with a petition to the State President, she said.

"After the first news-

paper reports, there was water for a while. But is just dwindled again. We want to make sure that the water stays."

Commenting on the town council's statement that R7 million was needed for an additional supply system, of which about R5 million was still needed, Ms Prinsloo said the Government should

provide the funds.

"Surely there must be R5 million lying around somewhere. And at the end of the day the rate-payers and taxpayers will anyway pay for it, not the Government."

"Money must be made available for the basic necessities in life such as water," she said.

35 accidents reported, at least one death

# Heavy rains cause thousands of rands damage in Natal

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — At least one person was killed as more than 150 mm of rain lashed Durban and flooded Natal South Coast roads at the weekend.

And the first snow on the Drakensberg — a sprinkling at Witsieshoek — brought Natalians their first taste of winter.

Damage amounting to tens of thousands of rands was caused and a number of sporting fixtures washed out.

A Weather Bureau spokesman said conditions were expected to improve in Durban today, but further falls were forecast for inland Natal, with thundershowers and lighter rains along the north coast.

Apart from damage to property, roads and causeways, the heavy falls caused at least 35 road accidents in Durban and power failures kept teams of technicians working round the clock.

The Natal South Coast received the biggest bat-

tering during the weekend. Ifafa was the worst hit with 194 mm, which left crops damaged, farm roads awash and causeways over the Ifafa river submerged.

Scottburgh had 190 mm, Winkelspruit 146 mm, Louis Botha Airport 106 mm and there was 102 mm in Durban North.

A number of Durban city centre streets were flooded, sand banks were washed away and in Chatsworth a number of residents feared their homes would crumble as water seeped in under doorways.

## Damage by heavy seas

Some beaches were closed on the north and south coast when it was feared that shark nets could have been damaged by heavy seas.

Durban Harbour was closed for five hours, stopping incoming ships because of rough seas.

Two Federation Professional League soccer matches had to be called off.

B/Dan 17/4/89

# Limited flood claims boost Cusaf profit

COMPOSITE insurer, Commercial Union Assurance (Cusaf), almost doubled its underwriting profit in 1988 and had its best year ever in long-term insurance.

The underwriting surplus was 95% higher at R21,3m. Chairman John Birkinshaw says in the annual report the company was fortunate that losses arising from the Free State and northern Cape floods amounted to only R2,3m.

MD Bill Rutherford says growth of 14,5% in net short-term premiums written was slower as a result of the re-appearance of softer market conditions, with increased competition from local insurers and fierce competition for large accounts from overseas markets.

Cusaf's solvency ratio rose to 70% from 43% in 1987 — all technical reserving being in accordance with the recommendations of the Melamet Com-

LIZ ROUSE

mission.

Rutherford says all three arms — short-term, long-term and investments — made a record contribution to the company's attributable profit of R31,2m. The dividend rose from 57c to 75c.

The record performance of the long-term arm was due to effective targeted marketing, careful selection of lives to be insured, efficient and economical administration of fixed-price insurance contracts, and successful investment of cash flow.

Retirement annuity sales were 82% up on 1987. New recurring premium income from other policies sold to individuals grew by 52%, with policies sold through direct mail accounting for 23% of this premium income.

Birkinshaw says life profits have

grown at an average of 20% a year for the past 15 years. In 1988, the growth was achieved despite the 75% increase in life company tax.

Although 95% of life profits are ploughed back for the benefit of with-profit policyholders, the 5% allocated to shareholders amounted to R1,9m.

The investment arm pushed up its income by 44%. General funds of the company were swelled by the proceeds of the share issue to UBS Holdings as well as strong cash flow from the profitable short-term operations.

Birkinshaw says the investment team committed a steady flow of funds to quality industrial shares, which they rightly judged would out-perform the mining sector and the high-flyers of 1987.

Birkinshaw will retire at the AGM in May.

# Rains save Natal's sugar cane

*B/Dam 18/4/89*  
DURBAN — Natal's wilting sugar cane crop was saved by double the average April rainfall over the weekend.

The 150mm downpour was the first rain in more than a month, after far below-average falls in March.

Fifty-year figures kept at the Botanic Gardens give the March average at 133mm, but only 31,8mm fell last

~~month~~ month.

*(56)*  
The April average is 81,9mm but the Botanic Gardens measured 151mm this weekend and the weather office at Louis Botha Airport recorded 143,5mm.

However, the rain caused tens-of-thousands of rands damage and washed out a number of sporting fixtures. — Sapa.

# 'Suburban' colliery still an issue

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

MIDDELBURG — Iscor would not go ahead with its controversial "suburban" opencast colliery without reaching agreement with Middelburg Town Council on the issue of pollution, an Iscor spokesman said yesterday.

She confirmed that Iscor was still very interested in the project.

"Negotiations between Iscor and the council on the pollution aspects of the mine are still under way."

Areas still being looked into were dust, noise and ground water pollution, and the effects of blasting on nearby houses. She said Iscor would like all parties, including residents, to be "sa-

tisfied in the end".

The chairman of the new Conservative Party-controlled Middelburg Town Council, Mr John Carlisle, would say only that the ball was back in Iscor's court. He promised that the interests of the residents would be safeguarded.

When news of the proposed colliery came to light last year it caused an uproar among residents. A "Stop the Mine" rally was held and 2 500 signed a petition. Angry ratepayers claimed the previous NP-controlled council had not notified them adequately of the Iscor deal, or the closeness of the mine to residential areas. The site is 1,5 km from the nearest house.

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20/4/80

# Less 'controlism', not more needed to save environment

Star 18/4/87

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Many South African conservationists say the best way to protect the environment against raw commercial greed is for the State to impose strong environmental laws. In a word: "Controlism" — strong central control by the State.

But elsewhere controlism is in retreat via *glasnost*, *perestroika*, Thatcherism, and so on. Is it really necessary here? Do we really need Pretoria — or can a wave of privatisation wash all the environmental threats away?

Controlism in the environment would be valid only if certain conditions were met. If the free market system is truly hostile to environmental quality and amenity, then State protection of the environment might be warranted.

## Scarcity value

If we decide State control is unnecessary then so are government conservation agencies, and even State-run national parks. In that case they should be privatised.

But let's look at environmentalism v private enterprise from another angle: Most environmental resources behave just as other resources do in the market place.

Scarcity leads to an increase in value. Look how private wildlife enterprises are booming.

Incentive has created a will and the means for the valued thing to be

Can private enterprise be trusted to protect the environment? Wits University's **PROFESSOR MIKE MENTIS** says it is already doing so. Professor Mentis is one of the leading opinion-makers on environmental matters.

maintained to meet demand.

When a thing becomes rare enough it becomes worthy of preserving. Look how many millions private enterprise is pouring into the conservation of rhino and elephant, look how it is supplying vehicles and aircraft to monitor the situation and hunt down poachers.

We must not forget that environmentalism is a very recent movement. While scientists have been sensitive to environmental issues for a long time the public became aware only a couple of decades ago.

Sensational events reshaped the traditional public view: Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller "Silent Spring" on how insecticides were killing years after they were applied and thousands of kilometres from their original target zones; the wreck of the supertanker the "Torrey Canyon" in the English Channel in 1967, the oil leak off Santa Barbara in 1969, the mass fish-poisoning in the Rhine, and the oil crises.

The world was dramatically alerted to the oversights of those who believed the sea, the sky and

the land were limitless resources capable of absorbing any waste.

The dramatic change in the public view forced market changes.

The private sector now employs environmental officers. Business in environmental impact assessment and management is growing.

Any manufacturer whose product is free of impacts on the environment has the edge on those whose products are damaging: people now buy roll-on deodorants instead of spray-on because they know about the ozone layer hole.

To be sure, there are still some very worrying issues.

## Coaching role

The ozone layer and the rising atmospheric level of carbon dioxide (and other "greenhouse gases") are examples. But, by and large, the public is demanding clean air and water, and has developed a will to share the planet with fellow wild creatures. These sentiments are strongly felt in the market place.

While the State can usefully play the role of coach it needs to restrain itself lest it obscure the healthy market signals, and thereby hinder rather than help.

Environmental care is not a defensible reason for continuing Governmental monopoly in the environment. Free market environmentalism is a plausible option.

Stw 1914/89

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## Export of cycads to Madeira slated

Permission was given by the State for the export of 725 "priceless" cycads worth about R700 000 to Madeira, because all conditions set out in an international conservation agreement had been met, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, said.

But Mr Rupert Lorimer (DP, Bryanston) said it appeared the exporter, Johannesburg businessman Mr Joe Berardo — "a friend of the National Party" who seemed to have "influence" — had apparently managed to "bend the regulations and export priceless specimens" classified as "endangered".

Speaking during a mini interpellation debate on a question by Mr Lorimer, Mr Heunis said according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), trade in certain cycad species was allowed if certain conditions were met.

These were that the export must not be detrimental to the species; that the exporting country must be satisfied the specimens were not obtained illegally; that the specimens were prepared and shipped in a way which minimised risk of damage; and that the importing country had issued an import permit.

Mr Heunis said: "In the case of the export of cycads to Madeira, all these requirements had been met and accordingly

there was no reason not to issue the Cites permit."

Mr Lorimer said that whatever the technicalities of the argument, he could not understand how these "priceless, living fossils that were possibly starting their growth when Van Riebeeck arrived at the Cape" could have been allowed to leave South Africa.

He believed it amounted to a contravention of the spirit and probably the letter of the Cites agreement and he appealed for a Government investigation.

He said he could not believe an export permit could have been granted unless "pressure was exerted by someone ... and it must have come from high up". "What special pull did Joe Berardo have?" he asked.

Mr Clive Derby-Lewis (CP, Nominated) asked whether it had been established that the plants had really ended up at the Madeira botanical gardens, or whether they were actually in the grounds of a new hotel being built there with South African capital.



## Farmer has solution to <sup>stev</sup> 19/11/89 water crisis

By Esmaré van der  
56 Merwe

A Balfour farmer, whose grandfather supplied the whole Eastern Transvaal town with water after World War 2, has offered a solution to the eight-month water crisis in the township of Siyathemba.

Mr Mauritz Mostert, an affluent farmer in the district, said yesterday the concrete reservoir from which Balfour residents got water in the 1940s could be utilised again to supply Siyathemba.

Mr Mostert said about R100 000 would be needed to lay pipes between the reservoir and the township, about 5 km from the farm.

But Balfour town clerk Mr Marthinus Joubert yesterday rejected Mr Mostert's offer, saying it only offered a temporary solution.

# Tough tasks for Sonny's successor

LITTLE more than a year from now, Shridath Ramphal will step down after 15 energetic years as Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Commonwealth presidents and prime ministers are likely to agree on his successor at their next summit in Kuala Lumpur this October.

Unless some unexpected candidate crops up in the coming months, there will be a choice of two: The former Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser, and Ramphal's Deputy Secretary-General (Political) for almost 15 years, Nigerian diplomat Emeka Anyaoku.

At this stage the odds would seem to lie with Anyaoku, who has secured, through Nigeria, strong support in Africa.

But Fraser is also popular in Africa, having a solid record of hostility to apartheid and having been co-chairman of the historic Eminent Persons Group, which travelled to South Africa in 1986.

Both candidates, in their quite different styles, have been busy lobbying governments around the world. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke is strongly seeking support for Fraser among his Pacific neighbours, even though the two were once bitter political enemies.

Ramphal's third five-year terms ends in June 1990. There is no limit to the number of terms that may be served, but Ramphal, who will then be 61, has decided to move on.

The Commonwealth Secretariat was set up in 1965 and to date only two men have held the post of Secretary-General: Canadian diplomat Arnold Smith until 1975, and then Ramphal. They are very hard acts to follow.

Smith set up the Secretariat from scratch at a time of intense post-colonial turmoil in the Commonwealth.

Ramphal, a former Foreign Minister and Attorney-General of Guyana, has put a firm personal touch on the development of the Commonwealth.

From the springboard of the Secretariat, he has become an influential international figure in world forums like the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, and in regional organisations, particularly those in the Caribbean.

The breadth and depth of his influence over more than two decades are forcefully conveyed in a recently published book: "Inseparable Humanity: An Anthology of Reflections of Shridath Ramphal".

**The successor to Commonwealth Secretary-General Sonny Ramphal will be named at the summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October. Two candidates are already in the field, but, as DEREK INGRAM points out, any successor will have a tough act to follow.**

It has been published to mark the 150th anniversary of Indian labour indenture to the West Indies, which began on May 5 1838.

Ramphal is the great-grandson of an Indian woman indentured on the sugar plantation in Guyana which contributed to the fortune of Sir John Gladstone, father of British Prime Minister William Gladstone (1809-98).

Ramphal's ancestry and legal career have given him a sense of history and a feel for the inequalities of mankind.

The book, which contains insightful commentary by Guyanese journalist and diplomat Ronald Sanders, is a reminder of the extent of Sonny (as he is known to everyone) Ramphal's influence.

He was a champion of the West Indies federation, and when it collapsed after only four years, drafted the constitution for its independence fixed for May 31 1962.

He continues to believe one West Indian nation is the way ahead for the Caribbean.

He went on to become a staunch supporter of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and at the same time threw himself into another, much wider battle for unity: The unification of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries as a single negotiating body with the European Economic Community (EEC).

Ramphal, as Guyanese Foreign Minister, became spokesperson for the Caribbean group spearheading ACP unity, a unity that holds to this day.



Stepping down after 15 years - Commonwealth Secretary-General Sonny Ramphal

Through the years Ramphal has remained a fervent supporter of economic and political integration, whether it be in the Caribbean or on the wider world stage.

In more recent years, the independence of Zimbabwe and the much greater problem posed by apartheid have been at the centre of his preoccupations.

But what follows next?

So far Ramphal has played his cards close to his chest, but it will be surprising if he does not choose to devote the next years to the causes that have always been dear to his heart — international unity and a better deal from the rich world for those Frantz Fanon so aptly called The Wretched of the Earth. — GEMINI NEWS

# 'It's greed sending cycads to extinction'

NEWS 20/4/89

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**CYCADS** — bread trees to some, living fossils to others — are being sent to extinction by greed.

This is the view of conservationists who say collection of these ancient and endangered plants for private gardens is the reason for their decline in the wild.

## CYCADS

The export of cycads is subject to the severe restrictions of the international

Cites agreement on the trade of rare, endangered or threatened species, and South Africa is a signatory.

A political row has broken out over permission for the export of more than 700 cycads to Madeira.

The cycads are destined for the botanic gardens there. But South African conservationists are demanding to know why so many are required — even the internationally-famous Kirstenbosch Botanic Gar-

den has just over 600 specimens.

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

Two species have already become extinct in South Africa and another four are on the brink of extinction — possibly down to as few as 10 or 15 specimens, according to Mr Douglas Goode of Durban Museum and author of a book on cycads now in production.

"Many species are endangered or threatened," he confirmed.

"And at least another 18 species are heading for the extinction list if nothing is done."

Why have these plants become so rare?

"Because they grow in incredibly difficult terrain. They're not your average plant," Mr Goode replied.

"It's often a long, hard slog to get them, and sometimes they're only accessible by helicopter.

"And because they're protected, people want them.

Mr Goode said most cycads could be cultivated fairly easily. However, they were very slow-growing, and the biggest and most desirable specimens may be hundreds of years old.

"To grow from seed to even a two-metre plant could easily take 100 years," Mr Goode said.

There is a substantial market for cycads and many people are tempted

by the high prices offered.

In a recent case a Pretoria man was fined R20 000 or three years in jail by a Nylstroom magistrate for removing 27 cycads from a farm in the Waterberg district.

Conservationist Mr John Comrie-Greig calls the exploitation of the species "a rich man's fad".

"Fines are laughable because the profits for stealing cycads outweigh these fines so heavily," he said.

## Government to probe export of plants

By TOS WENZEL  
Political Correspondent

**THE GOVERNMENT** is to investigate cycad exports which led to a row in Parliament this week.

Mr Rupert Lorimer MP, the Democratic Party's spokesman on environment matters, said today that more people had come forward with facts pointing to the breaking of nature conservation laws.

In a short and sharp debate in Parliament, Mr Lorimer said that it appeared that an exporter, Maderan-born businessman Mr Joe Berardo of Johannesburg, had apparently bent the regulations and exported endangered cycad specimens.

Mr Lorimer says that of the cycads exported to Madeira 53 were of the endangered species, about 230 in the "vulnerable" class, 51 "rare" and 29 "insufficiently known" because there are so few of them.

Mr Chris Heunis, the Minister of Constitutional Development, said that permission was given by the State for the export of cycads, worth R700 000, because all the conditions set out in an international conservation agreement had been met.

### Contravention?

Permits for the export of the plants were granted by the Cape department of Nature Conservation and provincial matters fall under Mr Heunis.

He said Mr Lorimer seemed to indicate possible contraventions of legislation dealing with the export of cycads and a possible breach of South Africa's international commitments.

He has asked Mr Lorimer for the facts on which he had based his statements "with a view to assisting in dealing with the matter".

Mr Lorimer said he would investigate the information given to him before going back to the Minister.



An endangered cycad

GRUESOME experiments on cats, rats, dogs and baboons — involving levels of brutality that would be illegal in most Western countries — are being conducted at the Roodeplaat Research Laboratory near Pretoria, say local animal rights groups.

They say foreign medical companies are also making widespread use of local laboratories to by-pass stringent controls in their own countries because of the minimal curbs on animal cruelty in South African law.

The *Weekly Mail* has uncovered evidence that animal experiments at the laboratory are also being conducted for cosmetic companies and to test military equipment for the South African Defence Force.

The Roodeplaat laboratory, a modern research complex located in dense bush some 15km north of Pretoria, has been singled out for criticism by the South African Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals (Saaapea).

Extraordinary secrecy surrounds the work being done there. The *Weekly Mail* visited the plant this week and found the entrance barred by large steel gates and the premises surrounded by a double row of two-metre-high wire fences. The inner fence is linked to an electric alarm and at night the passage between the wire barriers is patrolled by paramilitary guards and dogs.

The directors of Roodeplaat, which is run as a private company, say the security system is necessary because of the danger of industrial espionage and "the capacity of irrational anti-research groups to generate consumer resistance to particular brands of products".

But Saaapea believes the unusual security measures exist to prevent public scrutiny of the research being conducted at the plant. The effects of insecticides, antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs and other pharmaceutical products are tested at the laboratory.

Research includes "lethal dose 50" (LD 50) tests, in which the toxic lev-

# Behind the high fences, animals suffer for science

W.M.P.L.

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21-22/4/89

**South African law does not regulate experiments on animals. European medical companies are making increasing use of local laboratories to by-pass more stringent rules at home, reports EDDIE KOCH**

els of commercial products are established by force-feeding a group of animals with increasing quantities of a substance until half of them die, says Saaapea. Experiments such as the "tooth pulp test" and the "hot plate test", which measure the efficacy of painkillers by subjecting animals to pain and then giving them doses of medicine, are also carried out.

A recent edition of *Saaapea News* says Roodeplaat models itself on the controversial Huntington Research Laboratory in England. Researchers there are known to have drilled holes into the heads of apes and inserted electrodes into their brains so that the animals' mental reactions to stimuli can be measured. The organisation believes similar work on primates is done in South Africa.

Roodeplaat managing director Dr F Swanepoel told the *Weekly Mail* that he could not provide any details about the company's clients or the kind of experiments conducted for them. He also refused to confirm or deny the reports that the laboratory does research for the SADF.

But a source who worked at the centre said researchers at the laboratory once tested heat-resistant military clothing by shaving the hair off the legs of anaesthetised baboons, covering the shaven area with the material and then burning it with a blow torch. The baboons are said to have died from their wounds.

And in April this year a member of

fects of chemical weapons.

A representative for SADF headquarters in Pretoria said it was not policy to discuss contracts between the Defence Force and private companies. He emphatically denied the military was involved in research that made use of baboons.

The *Weekly Mail* source claimed that Draize eye tests, which involve the insertion of cosmetics into the eyes of rabbits until they go blind, were also carried out at Roodeplaat. Rabbits are used for these tests because they have no tear-ducts to expel the substances and have thin corneas which are extremely sensitive to harmful chemicals.

Dr Swanepoel acknowledged there were no specific laws in South Africa to cover laboratory experiments on animals, but said the general anti-cruelty laws had proved to be more effective in curbing laboratory abuse than the complex legislation in other countries.

However, another Roodeplaat director, Dr Schalk Van Rensburg, has admitted in the past that the legislative hiatus in this country made it possible for the laboratory to conduct work for companies from America, France, West Germany and Britain.

In these countries "constraints make it increasingly difficult and expensive to do research. They also make the existence of a versatile, independent contract research facility a very attractive prospect", he said.

"Ideally biological research should be conducted in a setting where there is a well-developed infrastructure, efficient and stable administration, available labour and expertise at a realistic cost, where public opinion is predominantly rational rather than emotive, and where essential animals, including primates, are readily available and relatively cheap. South Africa is a natural choice and in this regard has been attracting increasing foreign investment in recent times."

Saaapea estimates about two million animals are killed every year in animal experiments in South Africa and says that 3 000 rats, 100 baboons and monkeys, sheep, horses and goats are kept for testing purposes at Roodeplaats. Experiments are also done on university campuses and at the HA Grove Animal Research Centre in Pretoria.

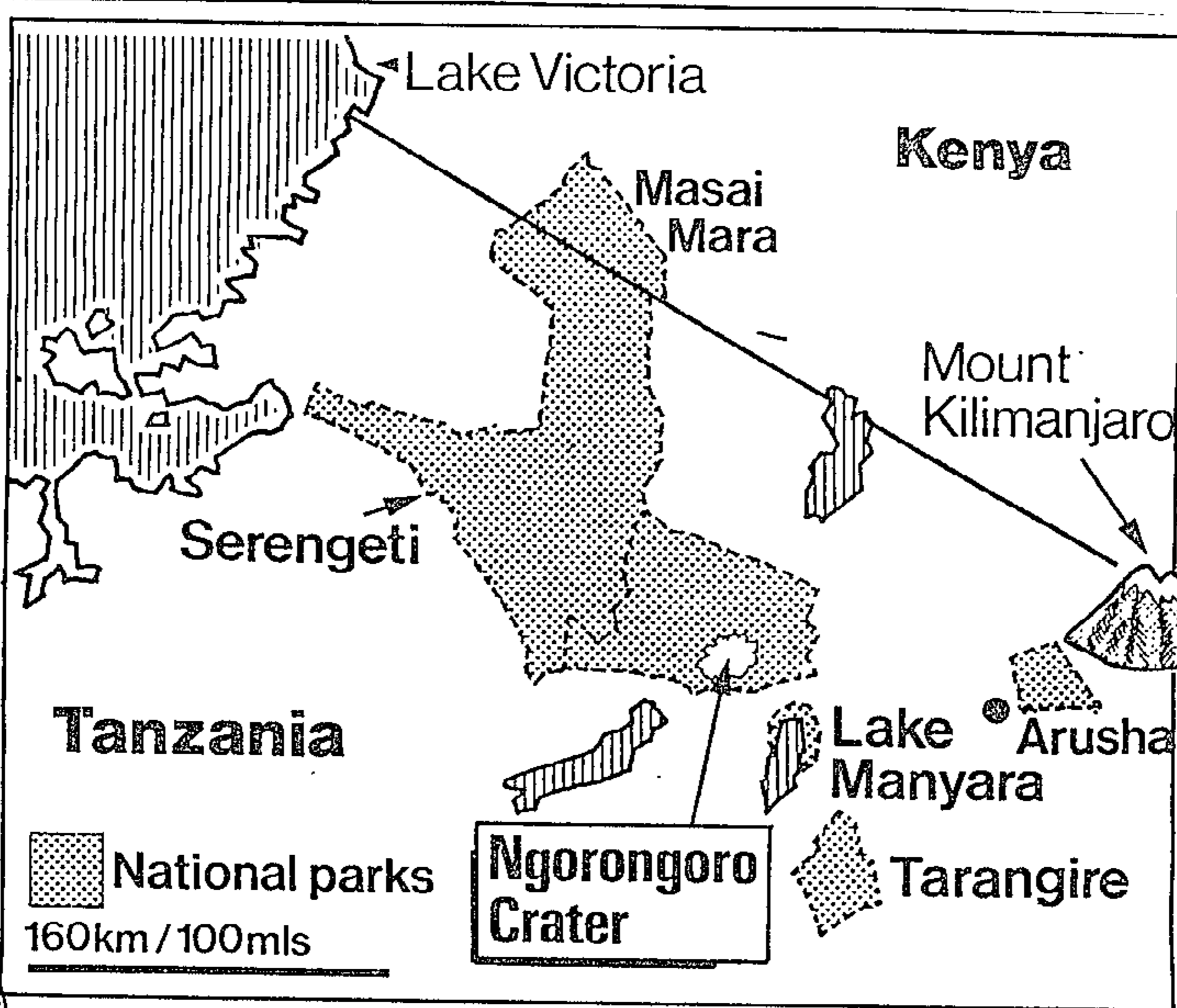


**The double fence around Roodeplaat ... security or a fear of public scrutiny?**

the SADF's medical services presented a paper dealing with dog nutrition, to the South African Society of Animal Producers. The soldier's address, printed at the top of the paper, indicates that he was stationed at Roodeplaats.

Asked to comment, Dr Swanepoel said the research paper was done by a national serviceman who had been seconded to Roodeplaat Breeding Enterprise, a subsidiary of his company. "This is the only supplier to clients that use dogs on a large scale and is open to all."

Documented examples of military experiments in other parts of the world include the use of pigs to measure the kind of damage to tissue caused by new firearms and mass poisoning of animals to test the ef-



The vehicles damage the eco-system while the poachers decimate the game in the Ngorongoro crater

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 25/8/84/EE-12  
 24/11/84

## Ngorongoro slowly dies .. of popularity

By KEITH SOMERVILLE  
in Ngorongoro

TOURISTS and poachers are putting the future of Tanzania's world-famous Ngorongoro Crater game park in jeopardy.

Tanzanian wildlife authorities say tourist vehicles have damaged the soils and paths — which in turn can affect the feeding and breeding habits of the animals — while poachers have reduced both the park's rhinoceros and elephant population.

Ngorongoro is one of the last refuges of the increasingly threatened black rhinoceros.

Tanzanian wildlife and tourist authorities are aware of the threat posed by tourist vehicles to the reserve's eco-system. Last July all but Land Rovers and similar four-wheel drive vehicles were banned from the park.

Tourists must view game in state-owned Land Rovers with a government driver/guide or pay for a guide to accompany them in their own vehicle. The cost of a day's visit to the crater has also been increased.

The measures are aimed not only at conservation, but also at earning hard currency. Tanzania has always lagged behind Kenya in terms of facilities for safaris and earnings from tourists.

Although well-meaning, the new regulations may actually increase the

damage and the disturbance to animals.

The Land Rovers are lighter and cause less damage to road surfaces. But safari groups are now using two Land Rovers instead of one truck — thus increasing the overall traffic in the park.

And state tourist corporation guides and drivers are far more willing to break park regulations than private operators, who are scared of being banned from the park and losing revenue.

Poaching has taken a terrible toll of the rhino. In 1986, there were around 30 in the crater. Now park officials estimate the population at between 10 and 20.

Regular visitors, notably tour guides from safari companies, say that despite the presence of constant anti-poaching patrols, rhinos are still sometimes lost to poachers. One was shot last year.

Most poachers are believed to be Somali Shiftas — well-armed bandits who are the scourge of parks throughout Kenya and Tanzania — and former soldiers who have fled Uganda.

Both groups are well-armed, usually with AK-47 assault rifles, and can outgun the anti-poaching patrols, generally equipped with World War II rifles and little ammunition.

The elephant population has also suffered badly. In the year to last June, 32 elephants are known to have been killed by poachers in Serengeti and two other Tanzanian parks. — Gemini News Service

**BUDGET VOTE:  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

*2/14/89* PRESENTATION ACCORDING TO STANDARD ITEMS (56)

Items	1989/90	1988/89
	R'000	R'000
Personnel expenditure .....	54 543	49 607
Administrative expenditure ....	10 303	8 770
Stores and livestock . . . . .	13 572	11 489
Equipment .. . . .	15 376	16 657
Land and buildings . . . . .	—	—
Professional and special services .. . . .	18 128	16 556
Transfer payments . . . . .	48 694	46 612
Miscellaneous expenditure	—	—
<b>Amount to be voted</b>	<b>160 616</b>	<b>149 691</b>

Departmental and miscellaneous receipts R21 727 000  
 1989/90 Officials earning R80 000 and more — 10  
 1988/89 Officials earning R59 200 and more — 10  
 Source Estimates of Expenditure

# Taps running again in CP town



MAYORS of Balfour and Siyathemba, Mr M J Claesen and Mr Daniel Maphohoshe, holding a jar of water to symbolise the new spirit of sharing.

BY THEMBA MOLEFE

THE acute water shortage at Siyathemba township in Balfour was the result of the abolition of influx control laws and the flood of squatters to the township.

Balfour mayor Mr M J Boksburg said: "The difference is that we have not done what Mr Claesen said the town council would not answer had been having water problems for the last 25 years and that it was not connected to the Rand Water Board supply system."

This was said by the Conservative Party controlled Balfour Town Council.

Mr David Maphoshe, the mayor of Siyathemba, denied that it deliberately stopped the water supply to Siyathemba and yesterday took the Press on a tour of the area.

Journalists were shown a new system which it said would increase the supply to the township by 400 kilolitres a day.

He said the CP had nothing to do with the running of the council because "the council is responsible to the community."

Replying to a question whether there was any difference between the Balfour council and the Boksburg Town Council, Mr Claesen said: "The difference is that we have not done what Mr Claesen said the town council would not answer had been having water problems for the last 25 years and that it was not connected to the Rand Water Board supply system."

to Page 2

## Taps are running

From Page 1

Balfour Council has having delayed negotiations over the crisis and accused whites in the town of refusing to let Siyathemba residents draw water from their taps.

Mr Maphoshe said the crisis was still real in Siyathemba but that water was running again from taps in the area.

The Balfour Council also dismissed claims that the water supplied in tanks to the residents was dirty and blamed the "black Press" for writing sensational articles about the crisis.

17/12 water

# Greed pushes cycads to brink of extinction

56  
STW 1/9/89

OWN CORRESPONDENT

CAPE TOWN — Cycads — bread trees to some, living fossils to others — are being driven to extinction by sheer greed.

This is the view of conservationists who cite collection of these ancient and endangered plants for private gardens as the sole reason for their plummeting populations in the wild.

The export of cycads is subject to the severe restrictions of the international CITES agreement on the trade of rare, endangered or threatened species, and South Africa is a signatory.

Now a major political row has broken out over permission for the export of more than 700 cycads to Madeira.

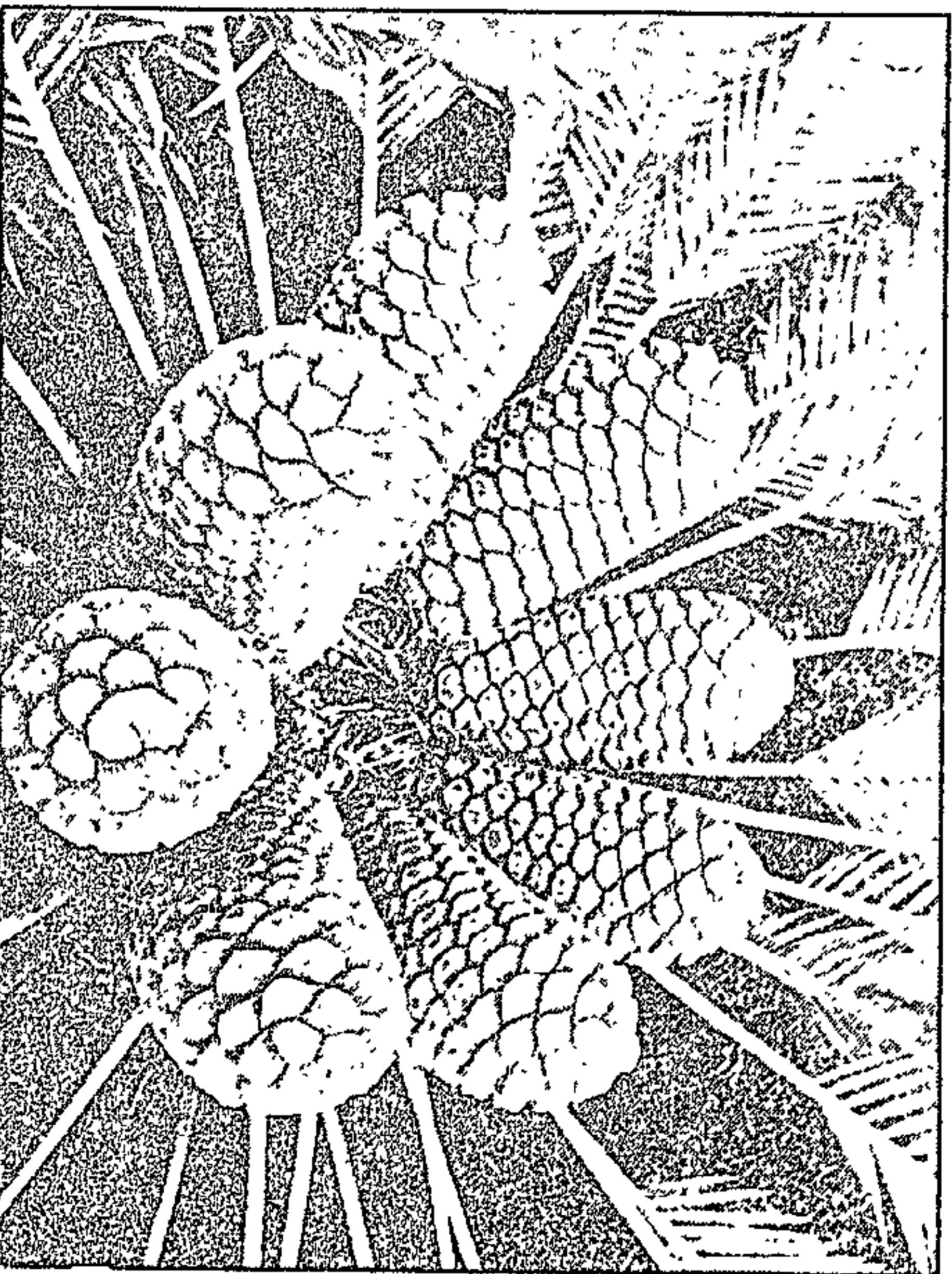
## More than Kirstenbosch

The cycads are destined for the botanical gardens there. But local conservationists are demanding to know why so many are required — even the internationally-famous Kirstenbosch garden has only just over 600 specimens.

Of the 30-odd cycad species in South Africa, two have already become extinct and another four are on the brink of extinction — possibly down to as few as 10 or 15 specimens, according to Mr Douglas Goode of Durban Museum and author of a book on cycads now in production.

"Many species are endangered or threatened," he confirmed.

"And at least another 18 species are



Cycads . . . conservationists allege their export is being used extensively as a means of beating currency export regulations.

heading for the extinction list if nothing is done."

Why have these plants become so rare?

"First, because they grow in such incredibly difficult terrain. They are not your average plant — people just don't get to see them," Mr Goode replies.

"It's often a long, hard slog to get them, and sometimes they are only ac-

cessible by helicopter.

"Second, they are protected, so people want them.

"And third, there's the mystique of living fossils. They have been around with very little change for 150 million years — they are very stable."

Mr Goode said most cycads could be cultivated fairly easily. However, they are very slow-growing, and the biggest

and most desirable specimens may be hundreds of years old.

"To grow from seed to even a two-metre plant could easily take 100 years," Mr Goode said.

Conservationists also allege that the export of cycads is being used extensively as a means of beating currency export regulations.

Because the different species are very difficult to distinguish, and with sympathetic middlemen at foreign institutions, it's an easy matter to grossly undervalue cycads on export permits and to invest the balance overseas.

## Many tempted

"It's a well-known means of sending money overseas — people don't realise there's so much money that can be made," one remarked.

There is also a substantial local market for cycads — and many are tempted by the high prices offered.

In a recent case a Pretoria man was fined R20 000 or three years in jail in Nylostroom Magistrate's Court for removing 27 cycads from a farm in the Waterberg district.

Conservationist Mr John Comrie-Greig calls the exploitation of the species "a rich man's fad" which has grown in momentum over the past 20-odd years.

"Fines are laughable because the profits of stealing cycads outweigh these fines so heavily," he said.



Water Affairs  
floats idea on  
curbing floods

CAPE TOWN — The idea of shared responsibility for flood management has been mooted by the Department of Water Affairs to save life and cut damage.

Water Affairs Deputy Minister Japie van Wyk said on Friday, during the Environment Vote of the Budget, risk acceptance should be divided between the state and public.

He added the department had been concentrating on development of flood level zoning, the flood aspects of town planning, dam safety laws and building dams to curb flooding.

Van Wyk said a drought committee had been set up in Port Elizabeth and all possible measures were being taken to reduce consumption. — Sapa.

# Asbestos in water system seen as threat to health

Star 24/4/87  
56  
By Shirley Woodgate  
Municipal Reporter

The extensive use of asbestos-coated filtration bags in water purification systems serving the PWV area posed a possible risk to millions of consumers, judged by the American experience, Johannesburg city councillor Mr Clive Gilbert said at the weekend.

Calling for full disclosure of research on the effects on asbestos on the workers at the various water and sewerage plants, as well as the incidence of asbestosis in the city, the Democratic Party councillor has tabled a searching list of questions for tomorrow's city council meeting.

He has asked for details of investigations on the effect on the health of the general public who use water from the Bushkoppies sewage purification works asbestos-coated filtration system.

Mr Gilbert said asbestos was widely used locally in buildings as insulation and in water filtration plants serving millions of residents, yet in America it had been recognised as an especially sinister carcinogen and declared a hazardous substance.

Quoting from an article in the influential *Fortune International*, he said asbestos had been implicated in the deaths and disabilities of thousands of shipyard workers, miners, and industrial labourers.

56

SOWETAN Monday April 24 1989

Page 3

# Parents' anguish over water cuts

FREQUENT and unannounced water stoppages in Moletsane, Soweto, have caused anguish to working parents as their children are turned away from child care centres.

BY PHANGISILE MTSHALI

Deputy Director of Entokozeni, Mrs Cecilia Silito-Tshishonga.

## Impossible

For three days last week Entokozeni Early Learning Centre sent away over 130 of its 176 children when the water was cut off without notice.

"The water stoppages are becoming a weekly occurrence," said the

"It is a great inconvenience to childminders and parents. Every day we have to turn away a number of children and the parents do not know where to leave them for the day. We sometimes ask parents to bring a

bucket of water before going to work."

Mrs Silito-Tshishonga said it was impossible to care for children when there was no water.

"Our children must be fed four times a day and we have 176 dishes to wash. They need toilets.

When one of them is hurt we must clean the wound, make a disinfectant solution to kill germs.

"We have over 25 infants who drink powder milk. Children have been ill because we used water from the

buckets.

"If health inspectors visit us during these times we will be in trouble. The council should provide us with an alternative."

An angry parent also telephoned *Sowetan* to complain about the incident.

## Chores

"The council should notify us before time if there is going to be a water stoppage," said Mr Joe Sekele, a parent.

"Right now our children are coming down with ailments and we have to pay for their treatment. Water is sometimes closed down on weekends when everybody is at home and doing their chores."

A spokesman for the water board in Soweto said his department has not received any reports and it has not closed down water in the Moletsane region.

If there is a water stoppage residents should telephone the department at 331-7468.

# Queries on asbestos bags at water works

EDYTH BULBRING

ASBESTOS-coated filtration bags at a Johannesburg sewage purification works have been identified as a health hazard.

City Council tenders and licensing committee minutes say the use of asbestos will be scrapped at Bushkoppies sewage purification plant.

DP councillor Clive Gilbert has tabled questions for today's council meeting on the effects of asbestos on workers at water and sewage works.

He said yesterday he would be surprised if the council adhered to Manpower Department regulations on industrial safety in places where asbestos was used.

Gilbert said local government regulations were necessary also to protect people who worked or lived in buildings where asbestos was present.

The US business magazine Fortune International reported about 90 000 Americans had in the past decade sued makers of products containing asbestos.

The mineral was restricted as a building material in the US in the 1970s.

Gilbert believed the health and safety departments did not inspect premises where there was asbestos.

"My submission is that the monitoring of asbestos in Johannesburg has been very slack and the council is not keeping up with the times on the dangers and hazards of asbestos."

He is also concerned no safety measures were practised in the demolition or renovation of buildings.

Asbestos from them was disposed of with general rubble and this, he claimed was a danger to the public.

Gilbert said workers were not protected when they removed rubble.

He advocated that asbestos waste sites should be provided and workers handling the material protected.

"To a certain extent asbestos is just as dangerous as nuclear waste. Once an asbestos fibre is in the lungs, it can never be removed," Gilbert said.

He welcomed scrapping of asbestos-coated bags at Bushkoppies but asked what effect the system had had on workers at the plant and people who had consumed the filtered water.

"It is a risk. Particles could have been consumed in minute quantities," Gilbert said.

He also wants to know if asbestos is used in other purification works.

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# Welcome rain <sup>4/16/85</sup> <sup>25/4/89</sup> <sup>56</sup> turns into torrents

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Staff Reporter

FLOODS which hit the Bot River area near Hermanus, damaging ploughed lands and sweeping away livestock, have tempered the rejoicing of Swartland farmers over rain that ended the drought at the weekend.

While most farmers in the Western Cape, Boland and Overberg are still celebrating, those with farms bordering the Bot and Swart rivers are still counting the cost.

The two rivers meet only a few kilometres upstream from the low-lying farmlands and on Friday night—for the first time in 35 years, according to one resident—the floodwaters synchronised to overrun grazing and ploughed land.

One of the luckier landowners was Mr A G Beukes, who considers himself fortunate to have lost only one Jersey cow in the flood.

Yesterday, with the help of five workers, he found two more of his cows which had managed to keep their heads above water when they were swept away. One of the animals was found about two kilometres downstream of his Nuwejaarsrivier farm.

"One of my neighbours, Dr G Reuvers of Vögelfontein, lost about 11 head of cattle and the Russels and Du Toits were also hit badly," he said.

Mrs Hilda du Toit, wife of Mr Pieta du Toit of Botrivier farm, told how the water swept past within about 50m of her house and the house of her close neighbours.

Some distance away, under a great amount of driftwood, lay a dead cow which workers had so far been unable to reach.

Her two sons were further upstream, battling to free a live cow which had been stuck in the mud for three days.



**COLLAPSED:** Council workers close access to a shop on Grotto Beach, Hermanus, damaged by floods.

56

27/4-3/5/85 with

# The great gorilla trek

BY linking gorillas to tourism, and thus cash, a conservation project appears to have averted the immediate threat of extinction from Rwanda's mountain gorillas.

A few years ago, gorillas in the Parc des Volcans in the country's north-west were fighting for their existence, threatened by poaching and the destruction of highland forests.

But Graig Sholley, director of the Mountain Gorilla Project, says the great apes are now doing well. The immediate danger of encroachment for farming has receded (although land remains a serious problem) and poaching is less rampant.

To view the gorillas means a steep five-and-a-half hour climb through mountain rainforest.

My journey started in the foothills of two volcanoes, Mt Visoke and Mt Karisimbi. The two peaks form the main habitat for the gorilla groups in the park.

It was on a saddle of land between the mountains that the late Dian Fossey set up her research centre, Karisoke. Fossey's story was recently made into a successful film, *Gorillas In The Mist*.

The starting point is at about 9 000 ft, with at least 1 000 ft more to climb before you see the primates.

An even steeper climb up the slopes of Mt Karisimbi follows the battle through the rainforest. Climbing is made more difficult by the fact that trees in the forest are surrounded by huge stinging nettles, wild celery, veronia shrubs and ferns.

Just inside the edge of

the forest we found night nests, devastated vegetation and dung. Eventually we heard the distant barking and hooting of a group of gorillas warning each other of our noisy approach.

For an hour we observed the group feeding, lounging around and playing. Play was the main activity of the young gorillas.

They seemed to take little notice of us or change their behaviour - a reaction that is general among the groups used to humans, according to Mountain Gorilla Project staff.

Seven groups have been labelled as research or tourist groups and have become increasingly accustomed to regular visits.

Tourism related directly to the animals has become the most important source of hard currency after tea and coffee exports.

Only six people can visit each group of gorillas used to humans each day and they pay dearly for the privilege: \$148 per person per day. This keeps the money flowing in while preventing over-exploitation. — GEMINI NEWS

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FRUMANOR

under freehold title and (b) how many such applications had been granted as at 31 December 1988?

**THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they have furnished the following information:

Cape Province:		Orange Free State:	
(a) (i)	(ii) Nil	(a) (i)	(ii) Nil
Western Cape	2 675	7 033	
Northern Cape	1 270		
Eastern Cape	6 031		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9 976</b>		

(b) Of the applications mentioned in paragraph (a) (i) the following had been granted as at 31 December 1988.

Transvaal:		Orange Free State:	
(a) (i)	(ii) Nil	(a) (i)	(ii) Nil
Johannesburg	4 483	14 640	
East Rand	9 373		
Pietersburg	628		
Witbank	1 657		
Pretoria	1 086		
Potchefstroom	2 574		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19 801</b>		

(b) (i) Johannesburg 4 016  
East Rand 9 373  
Pietersburg 333  
Witbank 1 398  
Pretoria 1 194  
(including 108 applications from previous year)  
Potchefstroom 2 574  
**TOTAL** 18 888

(ii) Johannesburg 145  
Witbank 5  
**TOTAL** 150

Natal.  
(a) (i) 2 982

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRUMANOR

(1) (i) The Transvaal Provincial Government gives financial support to needy local authorities on an annual basis. The following local authorities received support from these funds after the 1988 flood disaster:

(a) Local	(b) Amount 1988/89 financial year	(c) Purpose Authority	TOTAL	(ii) Yes.
Amalia	R 8 000	Purchase of storm-water drainage pipes.		(a) A list of local authorities and governments is attached (Annexure A).
Bloemhof	R 4 000	Repair of balancing dam (subsidence was not included in the policy)		(b) A list of payments to local authorities and governments is attached (Annexure B).
	R 10 000	Necessary repairs to abutment facilities, roads and water supply after the floods.		(c) The amounts are intended for the repair of dwellings and infrastructure such as roads, sewage, bridges and structures.
Christiana	R 16 500	Construction and repairs to earth and concrete walls on the Island above the diverting channel as well as the repair of sluices and main water channel at the sluice entrance.		(ii) (a), (b) and (c) No direct compensation for losses suffered as a result of flood damage in 1988 was paid to any local authority in Natal. However, the following amounts were paid to the local authorities indicated to assist them in repair work done to structures and infrastructure damaged by the floods experienced in September 1987 (Annexure C).
	R 40 000	Rescaling of various roads damaged by flood water.		(iv) Yes.

(2) Whether the provincial administrations have paid any amounts to local authorities as compensation for losses suffered as a result of flood damage in 1988: if so, (a) to which local authorities in (i) the Transvaal, (ii) the Orange Free State, (iii) Natal and (iv) the Cape Province were amounts so paid, (b) what amounts have been paid in each case and (c) for what specific purpose were these amounts intended.

(2) whether certain provincial administrations have made few or no payments of this nature: if so, (a) which administrations and (b) why?

**THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they have furnished the following information:

Local authority	Amount Allocated	Amount Paid out	Savings	Re-allocations
Nyakallong (Allanridge)	R 6 000,00	R 6 000,00	None	
Leratswana (Arlington)	R 65 000,00	R 65 000,00	None	
Bohlokong (Bethlehem)	R 78 500,00	R 87 510,12	None	R 9 010,12
Lephoi (Bethulie)	R 35 000,00	R 35 000,00	None	
Mangaung (Bloemfontein)	R 436 000,00	R 436 000,00	None	
Seretse (Boshof)	R 48 000,00	R 48 000,00	None	
Kgotsoeng (Bothaville)	R 311 500,00	R 309 000,00	R 2 500,00	
Phahameng (Bullfontein)	R 14 000,00	R 14 000,00	None	
Majiwemasweu (Brandfort)	R 13 600,00	R 13 600,00	None	
Hloholwane (Clocolan)	R 20 000,00	R 20 000,00	None	
Microjaneng (Dewetsdorp)	R 18 500,00	R 18 500,00	None	
Ha-Rasebei (Edenburg)	R 25 000,00	R 25 000,00	None	
Ngwathe (Edenville)	R 12 000,00	R 10 747,00	R 1 253,00	
Mahlatswetsa (Excelstor)	R 18 500,00	R 34 600,00	None	R 16 100,00

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FRUMMAN C.

Mecheleng (Ficksburg)	R 375 000,00	R 373 967,00	R 1 033,00	
Masjaing (Fouresburg)	R 250 000,00	R 250 000,00	None	
Namahadi (Frankfort)	R 615 000,00	R 615 000,00	None	
42nd Hill (Harrismuth)	R 198 000,00	R 198 000,00	None	
Phintona (Heilbron)	R 15 000,00	R 15 000,00	None	
Phomolong (Hennenman)	R 57 000,00	R 57 000,00	None	
Dipelaneng (Hobhouse)	R 12 000,00	R 12 000,00	None	
Tikwana (Hoopstad)	R 25 000,00	R 24 967,31	R 32,69	
Fumeleng (Jagersfontein)	R 313 000,00	R 313 000,00	None	
Ihoblong (Kestell)	R 8 000,00	R 8 000,00	None	
Dithake (Koffiefontein)	R 250 000,00	R 250 000,00	None	
Kwakwasi (Koppies)	R 58 000,00	R 58 000,00	None	
Maokeng (Kroonstad)	R 270 000,00	R 270 000,00	None	
Manyatseng (Ladybrand)	R 245 000,00	R 245 000,00	None	
Niha (Lindley)	R 130 000,00	R 130 000,00	None	
Moemaneng (Marguard)	R 57 500,00	R 57 500,00	None	
Meisimaholo (Oranjeville)	R 12 000,00	None	R12 000,00	
Fateng-Tse-Ntsho (Paul Roux)	R 125 000,00	R 125 000,00	None	
Bolokanang (Petrusburg)	R 79 000,00	R 79 000,00	None	
Mamafubedu (Petrus Steyn)	R 205 000,00	R 205 000,00	None	
Poding-Tse-Rolo (Philippolis)	R 54 000,00	R 54 000,00	None	
Choweng (Reddersburg)	R 130 000,00	R 130 000,00	None	
Petsana (Reitz)	R 80 000,00	R 80 000,00	None	
Mautse (Rosendal)	R 125 000,00	R 125 000,00	None	
Rweleleyahunya (Rouxville)	R 110 000,00	R 110 000,00	None	
Marwabeng (Senekal)	R 375 000,00	R 375 000,00	None	
Mofalatshepe (Smithfield)	R 71 000,00	R 70 100,00	R 900,00	
Maphodi (Springfontein)	R 18 000,00	R 17 160,00	R 840,00	
Marlwantlwang (Steynsrus)	R 165 000,00	R 163 981,90	R 1 018,10	
Masilo (Theunissen)	R 88 000,00	R 88 000,00	None	
Madikgetla (Trompsburg)	R 22 000,00	R 21 960,00	R 40,00	
Matlaneleng (Tweeling)	R 57 500,00	R 57 500,00	R 10,75	
Borwa (Tweespruit)	R 3 500,00	R 3 500,00	None	
Thapelang (Vanstadensrus)	R 10 000,00	R 8 588,69	R 1 411,31	R16 450,00
Tswelangele (Ventersburg)	R 45 000,00	R 45 000,00	None	
Tshepong (Verkeerdeyle)	R 3 000,00	None	R 3 000,00	
Rammuloisi (Viljoenskroon)	R 40 000,00	R 40 000,00	None	
Meloding (Virginia)	R 80 000,00	R 80 000,00	None	
Mokwallo (Vredefort)	R 32 000,00	R 32 000,00	None	
Ezenzeleli (Warden)	R 160 000,00	R 160 000,00	None	
Thabong (Welkom)	R 17 510,00	None	R17 510,00	
Oibing (Wepener)	R 88 281,00	R 88 269,73	R 11,27	
Monyakeng (Wesselsbron)	R 56 484,00	R 56 484,00	None	
Makelikerija (Winburg)	R 89 625,00	R 89 625,00	None	
Matlakeng (Zastron)	R 62 000,00	R 62 000,00	None	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R6 384 000,00</b>	<b>R6 384 000,00</b>	<b>R41 560,12</b>	<b>R41 560,12</b>

ANNEXURE B

Directorate Local Governments

Baanksele	2 548 000,00
Bethlehem	266 816,63
Bethule	173 380,00
Bloemfontein	1 240 894,12
Bloemspuit	6 786 000,00
Boshof	152 688,00
Bothaville	572 976,00

Amounts Paid out in respect of flood damages

Amount Paid

R 26 940,00

Dagbreek	49 000,00		
Bultfontein	234 607,12		
Clarens	53 646,00		
Clocolan	191 554,00		
Baily Duff	9 800,00		
Dealesville	68 462,90	Town	
Deneysville	59 512,00	Shakaville	1 250 000
Dewetsdorp	22 000,00	Bhekuzulu	205 000
Edenburg	48 123,84	Sibongile	0
Edenville	20 000,00	Sithembile	0
Excelsior	158 390,00	Steadville	125 000
Fauresmith	21 000,00	Enhlalakahla	20 600
Ficksburg	35 980,00	Lamontville	750 000
Fouresburg	90 000,00		125 000
Frankfort	127 042,00	Brunnville	180 000
Dawid Malan	4 560,00	Iizokolele	4 296
Vrignewaagd	2 500,00	Bhongweni	120 000
Hertzogville	26 296,00	Hambanati	550 000
Hobhouse	26 815,50		120 000
Hoopstad	223 948,00		255 000
Jacobsdal	30 000,00	Nkanyezi	0
Kestell	208 695,00	Klaarwater	90 000
Koffiefontein	25 850,00	Chesterville	80 000
Koppies	2 859,99	Shayamoya	25 000
Kroonstad	5 825 601,79	Dumbe	7 000
Ladybrand	12 312,00	Winteron	4 000
Lindley	69 800,00	Weenen	7 000
Marguard	10 000,00	Sobantu	200 000
Odenaalrus	5 785,74	Cedarville	5 000
Oranjeville	28 500,00	Dannhauser	5 000
Paul Roux	57 500,00	Colenso	58 335
Petrusburg	77 201,00	Durban	4 517 170
Petrus Steyn	84 503,00	Isipingo	5 950
Philippolis	13 910,00	Kingsburgh	39 139
Reddersburg	115 983,43	Kloof	522 386
Reitz	466 305,00	New Germany	43 618
Rosendal	28 000,00	Pietermaritzburg	2 000 000
Rouxville	16 959,50	Pinetown	1 222 684
Senekal	83 510,50	Port Shepstone	6 511
Smithfield	79 444,00	Queensburgh	34 156
Springfontein	25 000,00	Umlhanga	65 744
Theunissen	256 767,00	Verulam	29 346
Trompsburg	62 500,00	Bendigo	1 897
Tweeling	5 231,42	Gillits	229 802
Tweespruit	35 000,00	Ginginhlovi	6 934
Van Stadenrus	10 000,00	Hillcrest	131 443
Verkeerdeyle	41 650,00	Pennington	5 328
Viljoenskroon	60 412,00	Richmond	3 106
Villiers	148 777,00	Tongaat	490 314
Virginia	113 834,12	Umdloti Beach	42 035
Waterkloof	15 000,00	Umlhali Beach	4 085
Welkom	564 898,40	Umtentweni	558
Wepener	671 071,00	Umntinto North	37 485
Winburg	95 100,00	Weenen	2 675
Zastron	27 106,00	Assagay	54 842
Veekraal	100 000,00		

NATAL

Spent to date

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



Local Authority (Municipality)	Amount R	Purpose	Amount R
Blythedale Beach	611	Kamdeboo.....	110 833,00***
Botha's Hill	6 593	Kareeberg.....	70 000,00***
Camperdown	1 011	Kenhardt.....	3 402 330,00**
Canelands	15 366	Klein Karoo-Langloof.....	60 340,00*
Cato Ridge	576	Koup.....	282 635,00**
Darrall	1 500	Kuruman.....	409 338,00***
Drummond	303 874	Namaqualand.....	78 386,00***
Everton	3 061	Nuwe Roggeveld.....	29 506,00***
Mtubatuba	7 181	Outeniqua.....	32 319,00*
Wartburg	11 012	Prieska.....	846 884,00***
Zankwazi Beach	3 085	Sentrale-Karoo.....	259 134,00***
		Stellaland.....	782 884,00***
		Swartland.....	43 079,00*
		Vaalharts.....	1 607 932,00***
		Vaalrivier.....	1 914 900,00**
		Wynland.....	5 364,00*
			<u>12 345 807,00</u>

ANNEXURE D

CAPE PROVINCE

Regional Services Councils	Amount R	Municipalities	Amount R
Algoa	86 882,00*	Uppington.....	71 782,00
Western Cape	882 187,00*	Grand Total.....	<u>13 386 658,00</u>
	<u>969 069,00</u>		

Divisional Councils

Caledon.....	134 766,00*	* Normal flood damage
Calvinia.....	214 047,00*	** Normal flood and flood disaster damage
Cederberg.....	29 948,00*	*** Flood disaster damage
Drakensberg.....	1 017 970,00*	
Gordonia.....	618 777,00***	The financial assistance is for damages to roads and bridges.
Grootrivier.....	5 000,00*	
Hay.....	389 435,00***	

ANNEXURE E

Local Authority (Municipality)	Amount R	Purpose
Britstown	85 722	Repairs to damaged streets and sportsgrounds.
Danielsskool	114 376	Repairs to damaged streets.
Dibeng	14 000	Repairs to damaged gravel streets
Douglas	845 256	Repairs to damaged municipal buildings, water pumps, sewage pumps, streets and stormwater drainage, sportsgrounds, holiday resort and fencing.
Hartswater	19 500	Repairs to damaged streets, sewerage dams, water canals, electric substations and the earth wall of the raw water dam.
Katbu	100	Repairs to damaged sewage pumps.
Kenhardt	22 078	Repairs to damaged power lines, water pumps, water canal and fencing.
Kimberley	1 342 184	Repairs to damaged streets and sewerage pipes
Loxton	52 724	Repairs to damaged dam wall, water pipelines and fencing.
Marydale	30 000	Repairs to damaged dam wall and streets
Olfantshoek	4 847	Repairs to damaged bridge and streets.
Prieska	140 590	Repairs to damaged streets and stormwater drainage, weirs, sewage pumping stations, holiday fondavels, water purification complex and transformers.
Renallo	158 000	Repairs to damaged streets and stormwater drains and sewage purification works

Local Authority (Municipality)	Amount R	Purpose
Ritchie	612 593	Repairs to damaged streets, stormwater drainage, water purification works and fencing.
Stella	67 000	Repairs to damaged streets and stormwater drainage.
Strydenburg	2 500	Repairs to damaged streets and stormwater drainage.
Uppington	1 343 768	Construction of protective works at sewage pumping stations, temporary dams in residential areas, electric substations and water works, the laying of emergency water pipelines and repairs to the works in question after the flood.
Victoria West	72 500	Repairs to damaged streets, stormwater drainage, water pipes and causeway.
Vryburg	70 260	Repairs to damaged streets and the bridge at the sewerage works.
Walliston	2 002	Repairs to damaged fencing.
TOTAL	5 000 000	

THE WORLD

56

# The new Cold War: scramble for resources ravages the poles

THE widening Alaskan oil spill is a harbinger of what industrialisation promises for the fragile remnants of the pristine ecosystems of the North and South Poles.

Spurred by the energy crisis of the 1970s, the international oil companies — most of them headquartered in the United States — along with the Soviet Union have moved quickly to exploit the rich resources of the Arctic in order to provide energy to Western Europe, the US and Japan.

Over the last 20 years, nearly all of the US's 1 760km Arctic coastline has been leased out to oil companies. The coast is now pitted with hundreds of wells, oily access roads and feid pools of toxic wastes laden other toxic substances. The resulting pollution is extraordinary.

With Prudhoe Bay developed, the oil industry is pushing further north and east. To the north-west lies the Chukchi Sea, a wedge of water between Alaska and the Soviet Union, which beckons as one of the world's last promising sites for big petroleum discoveries. Shell oil proposes to begin exploratory drilling there soon.

All that's left of the Alaskan coast is a 200km strip in the far north-east, in

the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, part of an extraordinary habitat for vast concentrations of wildlife.

But this treasure is also the hottest oil prospect in North America, according to the petroleum industry which estimates it holds about 3,2-billion barrels of oil. And with the support of the state of Alaska, the Interior Department and President George Bush, the government is intent on turning the refuge into another Prudhoe Bay. Canada has protested, but to no avail.

The Canadian oil industry is dominated by American companies, and because Canada itself has an insufficient market for its energy supplies, it responds almost entirely to demand below the border.

Up to now, the Soviet Union has conducted a most vigorous exploitation of its far north. Siberia is twice the size of the US and contains half

the world's reserves of hydrocarbons, including vast stocks of coal.

The region provides most of the Soviet Union's oil, natural gas, electricity, timber and mineral resources, including gold, diamonds and platinum. The gas reserves are thought to exceed those of the Middle East.

A joint Norwegian-Soviet gas exploration project is pushing north into the Barents Sea, off the Svalbard islands. Much of the gas from Siberia is destined for Western Europe, where it has become the underpin-

ning of the economy. If industrialisation is in the process of devastating the Arctic, the process is just beginning in Antarctica where 33 nations recently signed a treaty for its mineral development. One and a half times the size of the US, the continent of Antarctica is almost completely covered with ice more than a kilometre thick and, unlike the Arctic, has no human population. The ice sheet alone accounts for more than three-quarters of the world's fresh water. Only a narrow 200 strip of coastline is habitable.

What makes Antarctica important is the Southern Ocean, which provides the rich wellspring of nutrients that support most of the fish populations of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Each year currents of cold water carry millions of tons of plankton and other organisms that form the basis of the food chain. Sweeping through the

fishing grounds off the coasts of Australia and South America, they feed the huge schools of fish that have been harvested there for years.

With the development of all weather fleets, fishing nations — in particular the Russians — have overfished three out of four of the Antarctic's commercial fish species and reduced one of them, the Antarctic cod, to near extinction. Fin fish have been so depleted that the fleets are now harvesting the 8cm krill, a shrimp-like creature that is the chief food source for whales, sea lions and penguins. In 1973 less than 20 000 tons of krill were taken in these waters. But by 1981, 500 000 tons were netted.

Two months before the Exxon Valdez oil spill in the Arctic, the Antarctic had its first major oil spill when the Argentine supply ship, Bahia Paraiso, wrecked and dumped oil into the rich fishing grounds off Palmer Station.

Greenpeace proposes turning the Antarctic into a world park, and that should be the goal in the Arctic as well. Otherwise, the world's new "Cold War" will continue to ravage the ecosystems of both poles. — Pacific News Service

# 19 feared drowned in E Cape storm tragedy

Own Correspondent

BISHO. — Nineteen people, including a number of school pupils, were believed to have drowned after a trailer and tractor on which they were travelling was washed away while crossing a bridge near Alice on Thursday afternoon.

A total of 20 people were believed to have been on the trailer at the time of the incident.

An extensive search between the Gaga River and the Tyume River, of which the Gaga is a tributary, continued yesterday.

Continuous rain hampered the search and only three bodies — two women and a man — had been found by late yesterday. The bodies have not yet been identified.

Police said only one person survived and was taken to Victoria hospital.

A spokesman for the hospital said a woman had been discharged on Thursday night.

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CAPE TOWN 29/4/89  
56

## Heunis announces plant inquiry

CMT Tim's 29/24/89 (56)

# Probe ordered into R700 000 cycad export

### Political Staff

A COMMISSION of inquiry is to be appointed into the export of rare South African cycads to Madeira, worth about R700 000, by Johannesburg businessman Mr Joe Berardo.

The Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, announced the inquiry yesterday.

The probe comes after strong criticisms by the Democratic Party spokesman on environmental affairs, Mr Rupert Lorimer, of the granting of the permit to Mr Berardo to export the cycads.

Mr Lorimer said in Parliament Mr Berardo was well known in National Party circles and was able to "bend regulations" and export, "supposedly as a donation", a large quantity of botanic specimens.

This was when South Africa had agreed to apply the international agreement on endangered species of plants.

The appointment of the commission was welcomed by both the DP leader, Dr Zach de Beer, and Mr Lorimer.

Dr De Beer said the announcement was "good news indeed".

"There are both environmental aspects and limits of financial impropriety. Investigation is sorely needed."

Mr Lorimer said: "Perhaps this means that the people who were responsible for this disgraceful action will receive the punishment they so richly deserve.

"There are unpleasant financial overtones which I believe should see the light of day.

"There is no reason why anybody who has friends in high places should not receive the same treatment as the man in the street."

Mr Lorimer also said he would do everything possible to assist the commission in its work.

In his statement, Mr Heunis said that as a result of allegations made in connection with the export of cycads, he had approached the State President to appoint a commission of inquiry.

The State President agreed and a commission of inquiry would be appointed "to investigate the circumstances under which permit number 133/1988 was issued by the Cape Provincial Administration for the export of cycads".

On March 14 Mr Heunis said the Cape permit 133/1988 was granted to Mr Berardo to export 725 specimens as a "private collection of cycads legally acquired for donation to the Botanical Gardens, Madeira".

Mr Lorimer later said during an interpellation that all the cycads were classified as endangered.

Mr Heunis said in his statement the commission would pay attention to:

- The identity of all those involved;
- "The origin of the cycads in South Africa, the means of transport with which and the route whereby they were exported and what eventually became of them";
- Whether any person was improperly influenced;
- Whether any irregularities took place in connection with the events; and
- "Whether all the actions were in accordance with South Africa's international obligations."

# Legal <sup>(S6)</sup> IVORY trade dying

News 30/4/89

## Auctions

## become

## a fond

## memory

**A**S AFRICA'S elephants are slaughtered in their thousands by poachers, legal ivory traders fear they will soon be forced out of business by soaring prices and growing public hostility.

"We too are becoming an endangered species," joked John Hisley, a Johannesburg-based buyer at an ivory auction held in Harare recently.

His friend from London, British buyer Tom Friedlein, said: "When I go to parties now I just say I'm in import-export, otherwise I might get thumped. If I said I was peddling drugs for a living, I wouldn't get a worse reception."

Hisley, Friedlein and several other regular buyers had come to Harare to attend what is probably Africa's last legal ivory auction, held once or twice a year at the headquarters of Zimbabwe's National Parks.

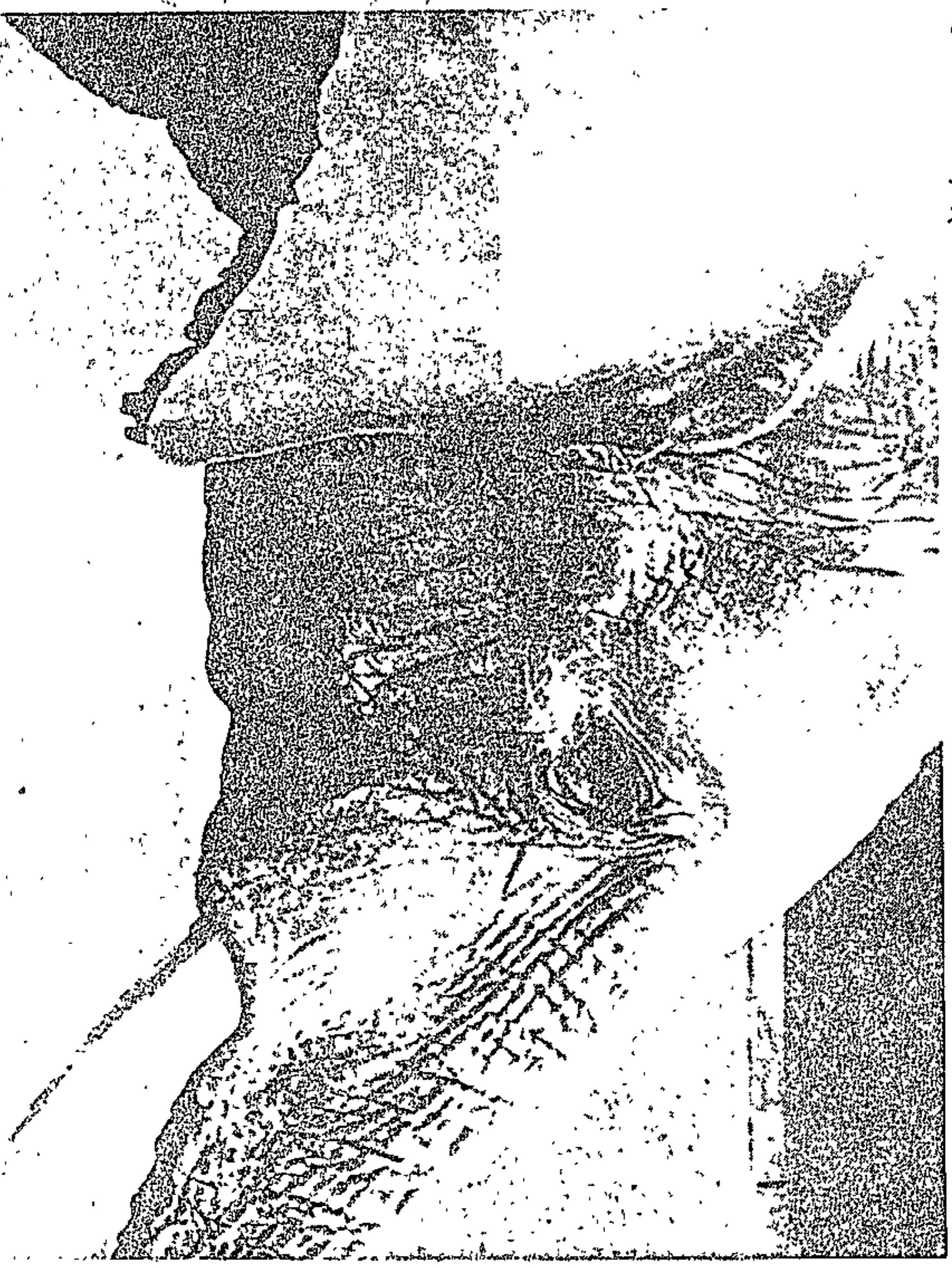
Laid out in lots on the asphalt in the April sunshine were five tons of tusks, each weighed, numbered and listed in a catalogue.

"Come along, gentlemen, you've come all this way, you must take something home," urged the auctioneer.

About half the ivory was embargoed, meaning it cannot be exported before being worked. It was snapped up by local craftsmen such as Patrick Mavros, Zimbabwe's best-known ivory sculptor, for up to R350 a kilo.

The remainder was free for export and fetched up to twice as much - big pairs of tusks weighing around 50 kilos went for R750-R875 a kilo. In less than two hours the sale was over and the auction had netted R1 680 000 for Zimbabwe's State coffers.

The ivory, sold only to registered buyers under tight control, mostly comes from an area of elephants in



**Poachers are rapidly making the African elephant an endangered species.**

Zimbabwe's national parks. Export and import permits are approved by the Swiss-based headquarters of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites).

But the days of Zimbabwe's legal ivory market may be numbered. "Prices were a good 25 percent up from last July - by next October they will be up by the same amount again," said Friedlein.

Rising prices and dwindling supplies are only one side of the problem for the traders. In North America and Europe, public fear of general all forms of trade

in wildlife products is running high, whether it involves elephant tusks or baby seal pelts.

"The legal trade is almost out of business," said Friedlein. The five tons auctioned here was only a small fraction of a worldwide trade estimated at between 500 and 1 000 tons annually - most of it illegal.

The problem is that even under Cites, too much poached ivory is legalised by governments. "It's difficult to draw the line between the legal trade and the illegal trade," said Hisley, who fears the "legal" trade will be "out of business" by next year.

such as Zimbabwe will be tainted by association with those that are not.

The traders believe the trend in Europe and North America towards tighter and tighter controls will continue. "I don't think the answer is to be in or it will go a 'vergreen' like the drug trade," Friedlein commented.

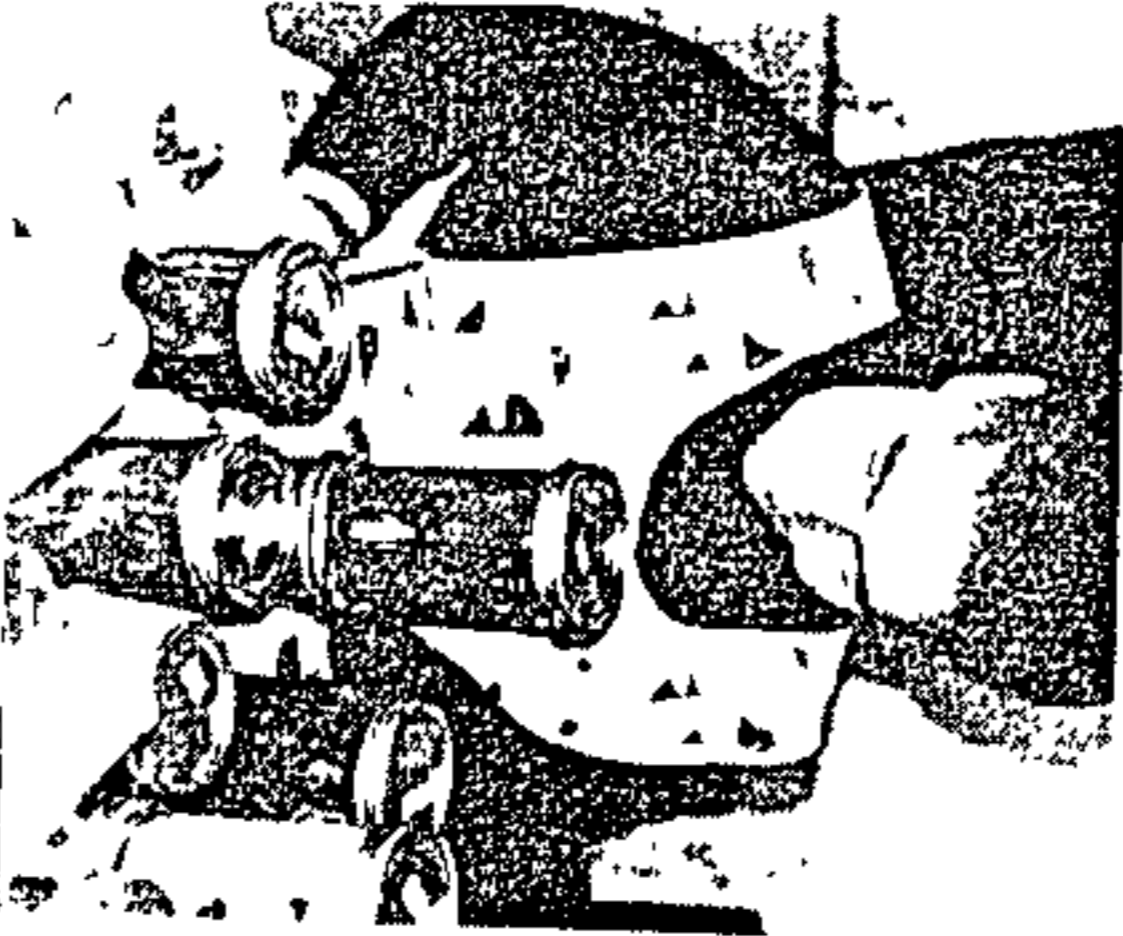
His resignation is shared by the Swiss-based World Wide Fund for Nature, whose President Charles De Haes last month launched a R43.2-million plan to save the African elephant. The plan involves a "green" fund to help in the

# In Rooifontein they farm the desert

CHE Times 2/5/87

## New land methods bring relief to residents

By MARIUS BOSCH



**SWEET WORK**... A Rooifontein woman writes down the details of home-made preservatives on stickers. The unique preservatives will be on sale in Cape Town soon.



**ROOIFONTEN FAMILY**... Farmer Mr Johannes Beukes with his wife and toddler in front of their traditional "matjieshuis" on the land of Namaqualand's Rooifontein community.

THE people of Rooifontein were on the verge of poverty two years ago. Today the men are cultivating vegetables in the barren Namaqualand and the women have started a home-preservative industry.

Rooifontein, about an hour's drive from Springbok, is one of the oldest Methodist communities in the country and one of two agricultural development projects run by Operation Hunger in Namaqualand.

The Steinkopf reserve is the site of the other project, where about 40 farmers are working land they rent from the local management board, Operation Hunger Regional Director Ms Roselle Frasca said.

"Namaqualand people do their own thing and they know how to live on very little," she said. "About two years ago Operation Hunger was alerted to the plight of the Rooifontein community by a local Methodist minister and the organisation started giving help to the community."

Mr Cornelius Peters, a 68-year-old farmer who has lived in Rooifontein all his life, says: "We are much better off since they had started helping us."

A full-time Operation Hunger agricultural adviser is based in Springbok and oversees the two projects.

Before the agricultural project was started, extensive research was done in the area by an Israeli expert on desert farming to ascertain the most viable methods of farming.

The aim of the project is to teach the farmers modern farming practice, with the emphasis on intensive vegetable-producing. For generations the people have relied on wheat irrigated by annual rain as their main crop.

At the Namaqualand Agriculture Centre at Steinkopf, agricultural adviser Mr Jan Geertsema is conducting experiments to find out what crops suit the arid area.

Throughout the Steinkopf reserve, farmers divided into eight groups are busy working about 120 hectares of the land.

"This is our bank," said one of the farmers, pointing to the freshly ploughed earth.

Ms Frasca said the ultimate aim of the project was the establishment of a viable farmers' co-operative.

"We had lots of problems and we have a long way to go but we have made a viable start."

The women of Rooifontein are bottling preservatives which they plan to market in the Cape. They have also started a sewing circle.

At the agricultural centre women make all the fencing needed by the farmers and plans have been made to sell the fencing to local white farmers in the area.

Operation Hunger will be involved in the project — which is funded by the Chairman's Fund of Anglo American and De Beers to the tune of R1 million over a period of four years — for five to 10 years, Ms Frasca said.



**WORKING THE LAND**... Rooifontein farmer Mr Gert Beukes cultivates the piece of barren land in Namaqualand he rents for R20 a year.

Picture: MARIUS BOSCH

(56) (10) (20)

# Bad air still hangs over scrapped Act

THE highest levels of air pollution in South Africa are recorded in the Vaal Triangle. And, says Mr Martin Lloyd, the director of air pollution at the Department of Health, the black townships and the absence of influx control are responsible for more than seventy percent of it.

Because of the High Pressure System prevalent over the Highveld, particularly in winter, pollutants emitted into the air cannot escape. This High Pressure System, causes what scientists call Temperature Inversion — thus "sealing" daily emissions in the atmosphere overnight.

Responding to Mr Lloyd's claim, the president of the United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa), Mr Tom Boya says his organisation takes "great exceptions to the remark"

The lack of infrastructure and electricity in the townships are largely responsible for people there living in Third

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

World conditions "People are forced to use braziers and any other type of heat they can find."

"It has become a trend to blame everything possible on the abolishment of Influx Control, which was clearly a positive move by the Government," says Mr Boya

The situation was worse before the abolishment of the Act. "If you look at residential areas created after the repeal of this law — places like Spruitview, Hospital View and Diepkloof Extension — there is virtually no sign of pollution," Mr Boya

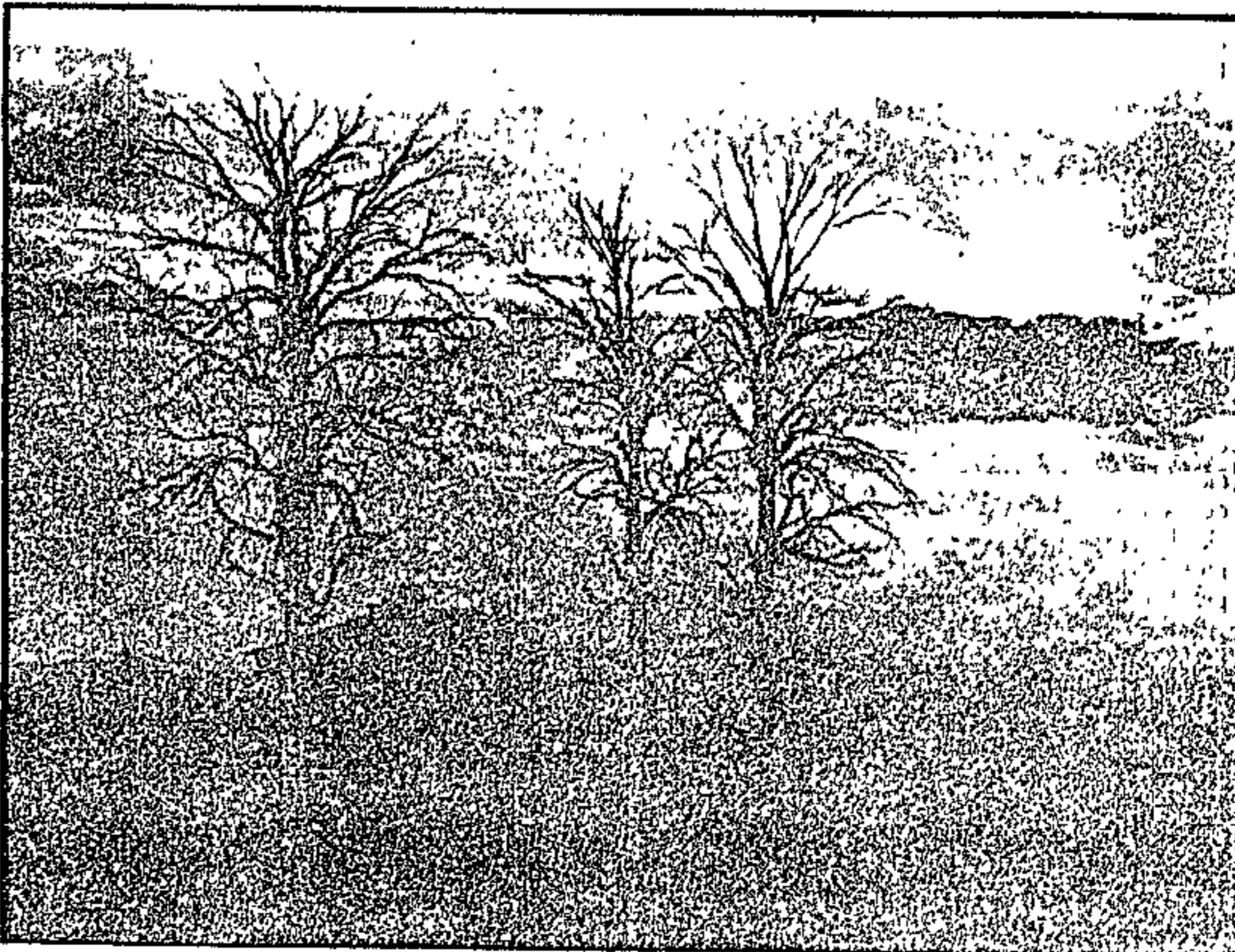
said. Ignorance, says Mr Lloyd, is why industry is blamed as the main source. The Vaal Triangle is one of the most densely populated areas with the highest ratio of cars and industry in South Africa. Because people see smoke billowing from industries in the area, they say it is the main cause.

"The townships cause more than seventy percent of the pollution," estimates Mr Lloyd. He says there is an Air Pollution Act which provides for the "cleaning up of industrial air pollution" Since the inception of the Act in 1976, his department has monitored pollution and he is convinced that "they have cleaned up".

"Because of rapid urbanisation — you know, Influx Control — most people don't even have stoves and build fires in tin drums". This he says, emits more harmful gasses than the neighbouring industries. "People don't see this plume of smoke from the black township, but readily blame the industries."

"We have done research which proves that even if the townships are electrified the people there won't get rid of their stoves because they need it for space heating as electricity is very expensive."

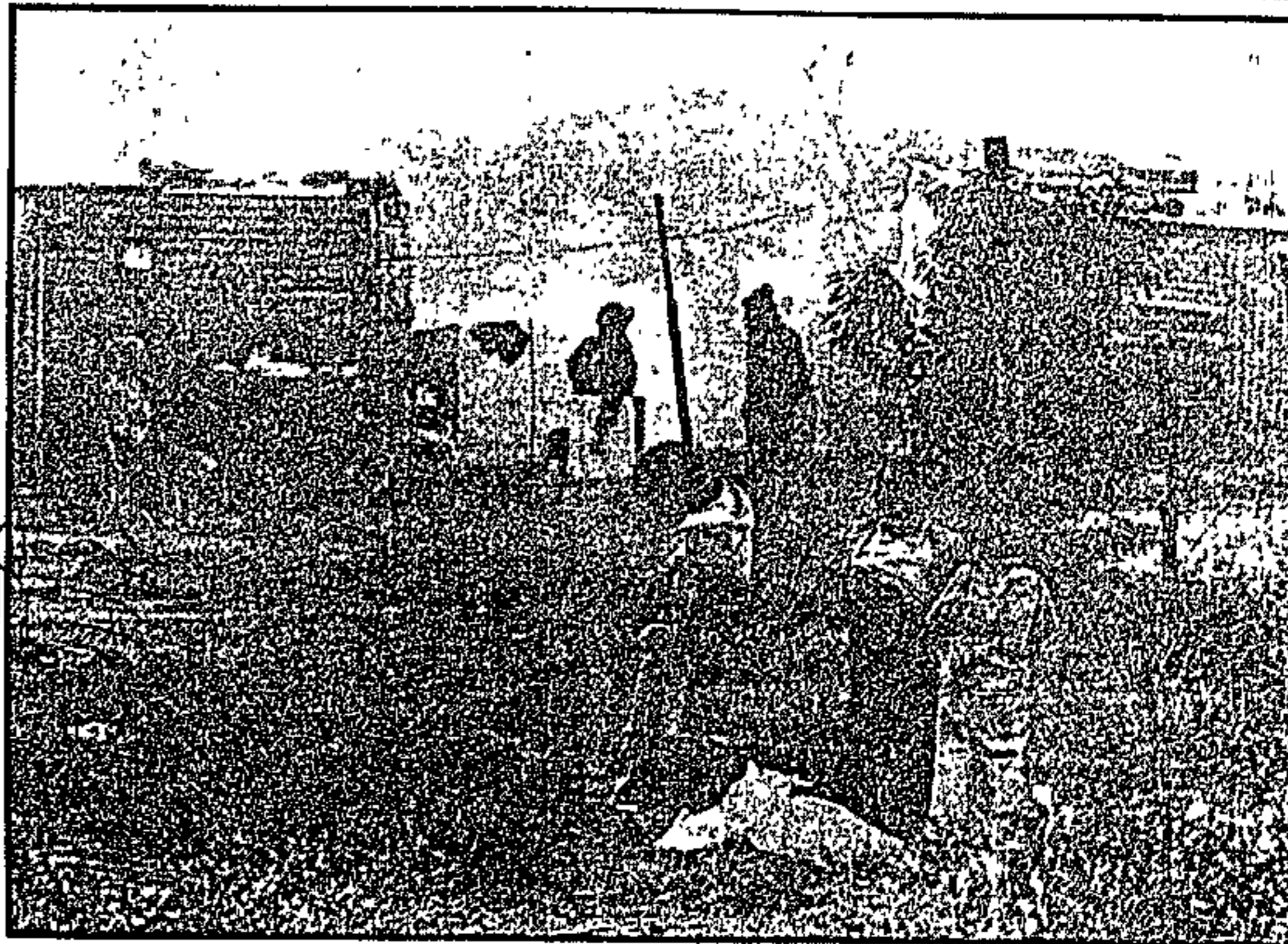
"It would cost the country hundreds of millions, and what do you do with all the old stoves?"



AT THE END of the day smoke settles over the townships in the Vaal Triangle in a dense fog reducing visibility to a couple of hundred metres.

Pics ISMAIL LAGARDIEN

## Influx and control of chronic pollution



SMOKE engulfs residents of townships in the Vaal Triangle.

# False Bay

## pollution

## set to rise

56

CAH Tom Fijen  
3/5/89

### Staff Reporter

THE pollution level in False Bay arising from the pumping of stormwater and sewage into the bay could rise dramatically in the future, a study by researchers of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has found.

Researcher Mr Tom Fijen of the CSIR's National Research Institute for Oceanography in Stellenbosch said the CSIR had conducted a two-year study on pollution in False Bay for the Department of Environmental Affairs.

### Diluted

The research showed that effluents discharged into the bay are slowly diluted and it is a long time before they are removed from the bay, he said.

Stormwater outlets in the bay discharge treated effluents into the surfline and frequently at the start of the rainy season the stormwater "is as bad as raw sewage", he added.

Researchers found traces of human enteric viruses, including polio, at discharge sites at the start of the study in late 1987.

At the time they warned shellfish consumers, swimmers and other recreational users of the sea of a serious

potential health hazard constituted by the discharged sewage in False Bay.

Mr Fijen said the new developments on the False Bay coast at Blue Downs and Khayelitsha would cause more sewage and stormwater run-off to be discharged into the sea.

"More and more people are using that part of the coast for recreational use," he said.

He added that no studies had been done to date on the impact of the discharged effluents on marine life in the bay.

"The influence on marine life may well be severe."

Mr Fijen said recreational facilities should not be built near stormwater discharge sites and "if possible effluents should not be discharged into the surfline".

Cape Town city engineer Mr Des Riley said the council did not see the discharging of stormwater and sewage into False Bay as a problem.

### Standard

"We treat all effluents to an acceptable standard," he said yesterday.

Regular tests were carried out and a system of regular monitoring of the discharged effluents was in force.

Mr Riley said the council could not comment on developments along the False Bay coast outside the municipal area.



310am. 5/15/89

# Call to maintain standards

36

ZILLA EFRAT

LOW-cost development on PWV dolomite land, which can experience several sinkholes weekly, will have tragic consequences if standards are not maintained, SA Geological Survey's applied studies on dolomite unit chief Dave Buttrick says.

In response to recent calls for local authorities to accept more rudimentary forms of housing, he is appealing to financial institutions, civil contractors and property developers to ensure standards are not lowered.

High-cost housing development on low-density stands can take place on dolomite, but the new guideline plan for the PWV area development is predominantly on dolomite land which is prone to sinkholes and surface ground movements which are more easily provoked by high-density developments. Efforts to cut corners and lower standards can least be afforded here.

Buttrick says sinkholes, which occur when water infiltrates dolomite land,

tend to happen more frequently during the rainy season. Five sinkholes occurred last week and there were 14 sinkholes in the last two weeks of March after the rainy period in the PWV area.

Before development on dolomite takes place, sites are investigated and classified according to risk. Appropriate precautionary recommendations are made. But Buttrick says standards are often not maintained, jeopardising the safety of those who will live in these developments.

Many planners, authorities and institutions believe investigations and precautionary measures are unnecessary and expensive and that the potential for loss of life and damage to property has been exaggerated.

Recommendations are often ignored and services in many developments do not conform to set standards.

THE water from a borehole for use by more than 35 000 residents of Siyathemba township, near Balfour on the South East Rand, is contaminated with human faeces.

This was revealed by the South African Health Workers Congress (Sahwco) yesterday in a report prepared by seven members of the organisation who visited the area on a fact-finding mission.

The report features results of a laboratory test conducted by the South African Institute for Medical Research.

It said the water was tested positively for contamination by three bacteria elements found in human or animal faeces.

The report found that the contamination degree was 1500 to

# Drinking water full of germs

BY MOJALEFA MOSEKI

2 000 times more than in normal township water supply.

The report said that sewage disposal trucks serving the township which still uses the bucket system, were washed out in the vicinity of the borehole which caters for the residents.

The only alternative available to

residents to drink clean water was through a scheme which they buy the water from Balfour for R1 for 25 litres.

Residents have also to pay for transporting the water from Balfour to Siyathemba — a procedure, which according to Sahwco, is expensive.

Many of the residents of Siyathemba are unemployed.

Sahwco said it sent a delegation to

Siyathemba after pleas from residents for help in alleviating chronic water shortages in the township. In the statement the organisation said it was considering taking legal action against the Balfour municipality "which was duty-bound to supply water" to Siyathemba, according to health rules.

The water shortage problem in Siyathemba started late last year after the October municipal elections in which the Conservative Party won Balfour. It is alleged that CP councillors cut the water supply to the township after the Rand Water Board imposed restrictions.

Siyathemba township had been receiving "surplus water" after the normal allocation had been made to residents of Balfour.



SIYATHEMBA mayor Mr Daniel Maphoho... fighting for residents.

SAK: 2 VSMJ ushira MATWON2

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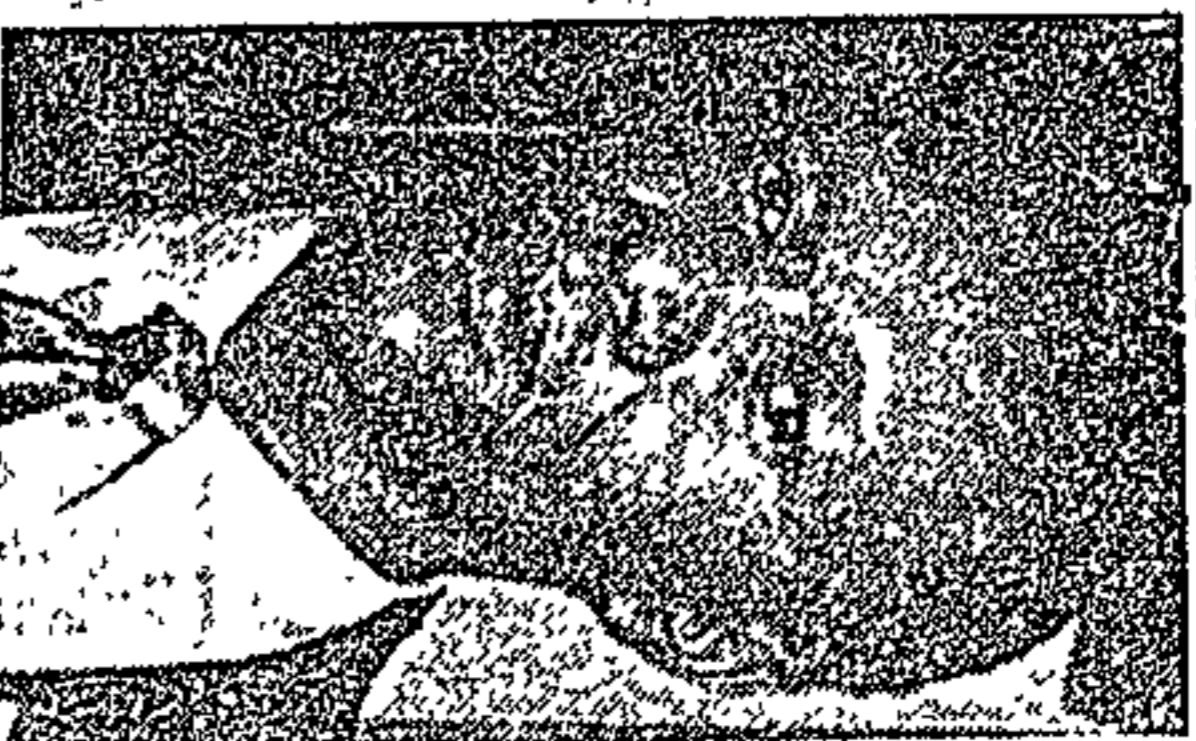
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SIYATHEMBA mayor Mr Daniel Maphoho fighting for residents.

Hummer

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THURSDAY, 11 MAY 1989

1048

45 001 - 50 000	49 603	965	867	349
50 001 - 60 000	55 159	799	812	340
60 001 - 70 000	24 779	252	326	127
70 001 - 80 000	12 043	70	174	40
80 001 - 90 000	6 573	36	68	16
90 001 - 100 000	4 026	26	67	6
100 001 - 150 000	7 336	36	109	9
150 001 - 200 000	1 898	5	39	2
200 001 - 250 000	702	0	11	1
250 001 +	901	3	11	5
Total	1 421 711	236 519	124 603	305 518

NOTE: The above statistics do not include taxpayers under the Final Deduction System.

Contract for sale of pinewood

332 Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether his Department has entered into a contract for the sale of pinewood for the manufacture of paper with a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) on what date (i) was the contract entered into, (ii) did it come into effect and (iii) will it lapse, (b) what quantity of wood was so sold and is to be so sold in each year of the contract, (c) at what price is this wood being sold and (d) what is the name of the company concerned.
- (2) whether he will make known the terms and conditions of the existing contract, if not, why not, if so, what are these terms and conditions?

B676E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes
  - (a) (i) Original agreement entered into the 1950, new agreements entered into in 1967 and 1975
  - (ii) 1 May 1950, 1 April 1967 and 1 April 1975
  - (iii) 31 March 2030
- (b) and (c) See answer to paragraph (2) hereunder

1047

Hummer

1049

THURSDAY, 11 MAY 1989

1050

Petroleum products: excise duties	
426. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Finance:	
What total amount was collected in net excise duties in respect of petroleum products in the (a) 1987-88 and (b) 1988-89 financial year?	
B847E	
The MINISTER OF FINANCE:	
(a) R443 679 026,53	
(b) R479 651 651,26	
Land and Agricultural Bank: housing loans	
486. Mr J B DE R VAN GEND asked the Minister of Finance:	
What total amount of money was on loan to employees of the Land and Agricultural Bank in the form of housing loans as at 31 December 1988?	
B925E	
The MINISTER OF FINANCE:	
R28 146 068,21	

- (2) No. The contents of existing contracts are confidential and can only be made known if the other party agrees, and no other legal reasons exist for not making the contracts known. Terms and conditions of new agreements will be made known to interested parties.

Personal bodyguards for members of Parliament

344. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

- (1) Whether during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available any members of Parliament made use of personal bodyguards provided by the South African Police; if so, what was the total cost involved;
- (2) whether he will furnish the names of the members of Parliament concerned, if not, why not; if so, what are their names?

B751E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

- (1) and (2)

In terms of a decision of the Cabinet on 25 May 1988, approval was granted for Ministers and Deputy Ministers to use members of the South African Police as drivers/bodyguards in the interest of their personal safety. However, it is not in the public interest or in the interest of the safety of Ministers and Deputy Ministers to make known information regarding this matter.

However, I am prepared to furnish this information to the honourable member on a confidential basis should he approach me for that purpose

## Dam levels 2 pc higher than those last year

Star  
12/5/84  
Pretoria Bureau

56

The level of South Africa's major dams had remained fairly static over the past week, the Department of Water Affairs reported yesterday.

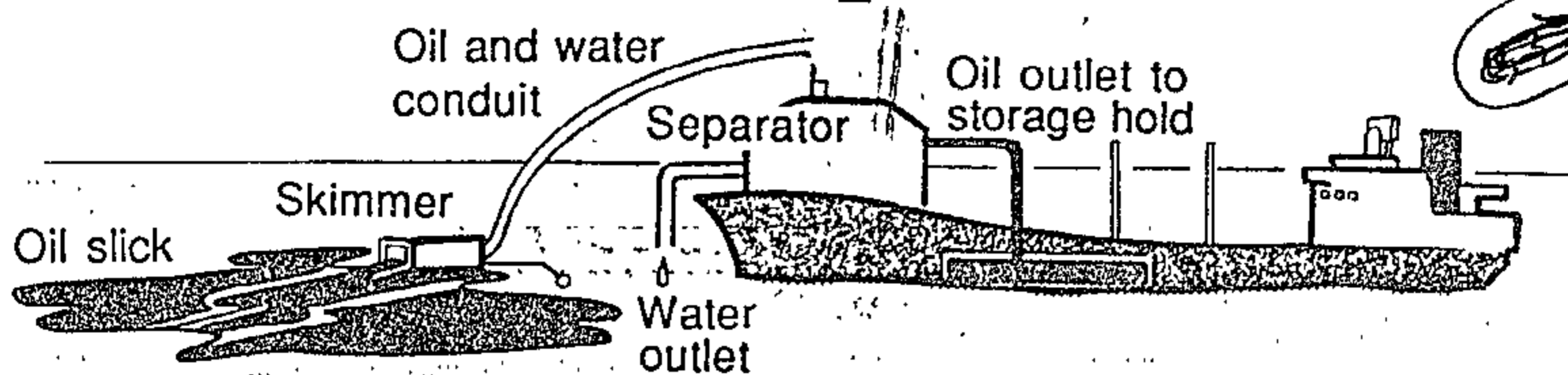
The Vaal Dam, which is the main source of water for the PWV area, is still at more than 100 percent capacity, while the Boskop, Klipdrif and Saulspoort dams are just on 100 percent.

There has been a slight increase in the capacities of the Buffelspoort, Koster, and Lindley's Poort dams in the western Transvaal, while there has been no major change in the level of dams in the eastern Transvaal.

Overall, the nation's dams show a 78 percent capacity — which is two percent more than at this time last year.

# White House phones Natal student on oil spill invention

Stat 13/5/87 (56)



PRESIDENT Bush has asked a Maritzburg law student for details of his oil spill recovery invention.

The call from the White House came on Thursday afternoon when a presidential secretary contacted Mr Saleam Essop (24) requesting information on the invention.

The inquiry came after a call from Mr Essop to the oil giant Exxon in which he had criticised their clean-up campaign of America's worst oil spill yet off the Alaskan coast.

"We are awaiting demands from the on-site command centre in Prince William Sound," said Mr Essop, a law student at the University of Durban Westville, who describes himself as having "more of a flair for science".

Mr Essop said Exxon had not contained the spill properly. The company had poured dispersant on the oil which, although it dissolved the slick, did not bind it for more than two days.

"If the oil is not recovered within 42 hours, it breaks away from

## SUE VALENTINE

the water. It has lost its viscosity and forms small, tar-like balls which damage the environment further."

Mr Essop said his device, which includes a skimmer and separator, is able to suck up the oil with about 20 percent water content, and then separates the two completely.

"Our prototype can pick up 20 000 litres of oil an hour. We could easily build bigger models that would suck up 100 000 or even a million litres an hour. If Exxon were keen on using it and had engineers on stand-by, they could build more units within the week.

"If the oil spill is concentrated, two or three units would be enough. If it is widely dispersed as I believe it is, we would need smaller units like our prototype."

Mr Essop said a unit similar to their prototype would cost about R15 000 to build.

"The situation is an environmental disaster. From a moral point of view we would gladly offer our services free of charge to the US people and government. Obviously the publicity we'd receive about the device would be to our benefit."

Mr Essop said he started working on the device about four years ago after a ship went down and spilt oil off the Natal coast.

"I've been developing it since then and we now have a perfect system.

"We had a demonstration last month which representatives of several major oil companies attended, as well as pollution control authorities. Not one of them criticised the system," he said.

● Sapa reported yesterday that an unnamed international oil company, based in South Africa has confirmed a R300 000 order for three of Mr Essop's oil treatment machines. It quotes Mr Essop as saying that it seemed likely the company will order more of the machines.

## SA should sell rhino horn stock - expert

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Conservationist Dr John Ledger has proposed that South Africa withdraw from the Cites agreement and sell its stocks of rhino horn.

He was reacting to a newspaper report at the weekend revealing a plot by an international smuggling ring to raid the Natal Parks Board (NPB) headquarters in Maritzburg and steal rhino horn worth R6 million.

The plot included the kidnapping and murder of two NPB staff members.

South Africa is a signatory to the Cites (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) agreement, also known as the Washington convention.

The agreement limits trade in endangered species for the protection of the species.

In terms of Cites, signatories may not trade at all in rhino horn.

Dr Ledger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, said Cites had proved "a dismal failure".

"While gentlemen countries like South Africa keep to the agreement, the crooks are cashing in," he said.

He said the Cites agreement had failed to halt the slaughter

of rhino in the rest of Africa.

"It's time for a fresh look — Cites is simply not working."

South Africa should turn the demand for rhino horn to its own advantage.

It should withdraw from the Cites agreement and negotiate directly with the Taiwanese for an agreement on controlled trade in rhino horn, Dr Ledger said.

"Countries like South Africa which look after their rhinos should have the right to sell the horn it has harvested with killing a single rhino."

By selling its horn it could allow free market forces to come into play.

According to the weekend newspaper report the planned raid on the NPB rhino stocks never took place because the ringleader, American lawyer Mr Dave Rogers, was arrested in Hong Kong for a passport offence.

At the time he was negotiating the sale of rhino at R22 000 a kilogram.

The plot was uncovered by the South Africa Police after a former Rhodesian soldier, Mr Brian Davies, acting as an undercover agent, infiltrated the syndicate.

# Threat to sue health union

THE Balfour Town Council has threatened legal action against the South African Health Workers Congress which revealed that water supplied to the black township of Siyathemba was contaminated with human faeces.

The telex to SAHWCO was sent by Balfour council secretary Mr J T Potgieter who demanded information on when the water sample was taken, where and at what time of day and the method in which it was collected before being tested in a medical

By MOJALEFA MOSEKI

laboratory.

The council said it was considering legal action "within seven days" if no response was received from Sahwco.

*Sowetan 19/5/87*  
A spokesman for Sahwco yesterday said they did furnish the council with the required information despite the fact that Sahwco "strongly objected" to the threats by the council. He said the organisation

welcomed legal action by the council as it was give "us a chance to expose the numerous violations of the Health Act and basic human rights" by the Balfour council.

The spokesman said since the report was released the council had fitted pipes and taps from which residents could draw water. It has also undertaken to install a pipeline to pump 600 kl a day into Siyathemba to increase the water supply. The arrangement ensured that the water was not contaminated.



# Morocco denies claims of toxic waste project

S6 wmail 19-25/89.

According to Pat Dolan, a director of the consortium, called Midco, the plans have been kept from the public to avoid alerting the competition. He denied the King had been misled on the true nature of the plant and said the words toxic waste were "probably lost in translation".

Plans to export large quantities of toxic waste to a Third World country would be extremely controversial. A series of recent incidents in which toxic waste was dumped in Africa and elsewhere without its true con-

## ● From PAGE 16

tents being disclosed has caused severe resentment in developing countries, and demands for stiffer controls of disposal in Europe.

A Canadian employee of the project, Clive Cornet, cast doubt on the how genuine the project was, saying he had grown uncertain about it as he sat in on a series of meetings planning it.

"I did not feel they were being hon-

est in their document to the King. They talked about putting the best possible gloss on the idea and they claim support from the highest levels in the Canadian government. As far as I know, that is not true.

"The whole thing seemed too clandestine and I did not think they had the necessary expertise. The Sahara is a very fragile environment with a large fresh water reservoir underneath. It would be a tragedy if that water supply were contaminated by a misconceived scheme."

# SA's at the centre of ivory smuggling trade, says US

More and more clues have been uncovered to indicate that South Africa has become the conduit for a major international ivory smuggling operation, reports  
**EDDIE KOCH**

SOUTH AFRICA was this week at the centre of mounting international controversy over claims that ineffective controls on ivory and rhino horn smuggling operations have turned this country into a major conduit for the trade.

The United States Interior Department — stirred by reports that most of the trade in illicit ivory from Zambia, Zimbabwe and Zaire is flowing across South Africa's borders — this week announced it would ask Congress for a complete ban on all trade in ivory.

Last week Kenya and Tanzania announced it would support such a ban, and an international meeting in October will discuss declaring the elephant an endangered species.

An estimated 200 to 300 elephants are being killed on the continent every day, making it possible that they will be extinct before the turn of the century. The rhino population in Africa has dropped from 65 000 in 1970 to 3 500 and is declining at a rate of 100 a month.

US congressmen this week complained that South Africa had become the major export outlet for smuggling rings responsible for the slaughter. Similar charges, commonplace in local and international conservation circles, have been fuelled by three separate controversies:

- A major South African dealer in legal ivory, AH Pong and Sons, was mentioned in evidence presented in court proceedings in Botswana as the recipient of goods found in a truck which contained a vast load of illicit elephant tusks and rhino horn.

- However, South African Police have failed to formulate charges against the dealer and refuse to disclose any details about the way they are handling allegations that Pong and Sons may be the biggest dealer in illegal horn and ivory in the country.

- In an interview on SABC-TV last month, John Ledger, of the Johannesburg-based Endangered Wildlife Trust, said that a survey of the international ivory trade had discovered that about 50 tons of elephant tusks, accompanied by what appeared to be official permits, had originated from South Africa in 1988.

South Africa's official records account for only 14 tons of legally exported ivory — seven tons from animals culled in the Kruger National Park and seven tons from ivory brought into the country legally from African states and then re-exported.

- Two members of the South African Defence Force, indicted in US

## Mystery in the Asiatic Bazaar

THE *Weekly Mail* this week investigated the activities of AH Pong and Sons after receiving claims, based on the Botswana court case, that the import and export agency was being allowed to continue operating despite the evidence presented in court.

The agency is run from a three-storey warehouse in a run-down section of Pretoria's old Asiatic Bazaar. Steel gates bar the entrance, which is monitored by an electronic video camera.

Storekeepers in the area said rumours that two brothers, Chong Pong and Gee Pong, were involved in the illicit ivory and rhino horn trade had been circulating in the area for years. One resident, who asked not to be named, said the Chongs' father owned property in Hong Kong and that ivory was sent to a depot there and then exported to buyers in Taiwan.

He added that Chong Pong had been charged about four years ago with illegal possession of rhino horn but the case had mysteriously been dropped.

Asked to comment on claims that evidence in the Botswana court had implicated his agency, Gee Pong said his

company had only ordered the copper in the truck. He vigorously denied that any of the illegal contraband was for AH Pong and Sons. "I have no idea of who it was going to," he said.

Pong confirmed his father lived in Hong Kong and had business interests there, but rejected claims that he had stockpiled a large quantity of ivory. He also acknowledged the agency had been charged with dealing in illegal horn four years ago, but said police had withdrawn the charges after being presented with proof that the horn had been obtained before South Africa began implementing an international ban on the goods.

Asked whether an investigation had been launched into the agency, a police representative said he could not provide any details to the press. He also declined to say whether charges had been formulated against either of the Pong brothers.

Dr Piet Mulder, director-general of Transvaal Directorate of Nature Conservation, said he could not provide any details about the Pongs "as this is privileged information".

courts on charges of importing illegal ivory horn into that country, have not yet been extradited to stand trial in the US, despite requests from the American government. The SADF has taken no action against the men and one of them is still an active member of the force.

The fracas around Pong began when Botswana customs officials, in October last year, discovered 700kg of ivory and 94 rhino horns in hidden compartments of a truck travelling to South Africa from Zambia, together with supplies of cobalt and copper.

After being arrested and charged with smuggling ivory and rhino horn, the owner of the truck, Antonio Vieira, told a Francistown magistrate that on October 7 he had flown to Johannesburg from Zambia to arrange delivery of the goods to AH Pong and Sons and a Johannesburg dealer called George Gerudis.

An international expert on the trade in rhino horn, Bradley Martin, recently claimed that South Africa was the major source of African rhino horn being sold in Taiwan. "There are regular flights between Taipei and Johannesburg on South African Airways and traders in Taiwan quite openly told me that horn is imported on these flights," he wrote in the conservation magazine, *Quagga*.

A hard-hitting editorial by Ledger in the same publication says: "A number of discoveries have made it clear that South Africa is guilty of harbouring some big-time criminals who have been making a huge profit by dealing in rhino horn and ivory ...

The fact that these people have probably been operating for a number of years is a serious indictment of our

government conservation departments ... (and) of our police, who have failed to catch the criminals."

Meanwhile the SADF has confirmed that no disciplinary action has yet been taken against Major Marius Meiring and Sergeant Waldemar Schutte, the two officers charged in the US for dealing in illicit ivory.

A statement from SADF headquarters in Pretoria said Meiring had resigned last year and that Schutte was still a member of the force. "The allegations concerning them are the subject of a South West Africa Police (Swapol) investigation," the statement said.

A Swapol representative told the *Weekly Mail* that no progress had been made in the probe into the pair's activities and that no charges had yet formulated — even though details about their alleged offences are contained in a lengthy report by the American undercover agent investigating the case.

"Is this an indication that Swapol does not regard the illegal trade in rhino horn as a serious offence?" asked Ledger. "If this is the case, then we should be seriously concerned about the future of black rhino in Namibia."

Mulder said he could not comment in detail on Ledger's claims that there was a 36-ton discrepancy in the amount of certified ivory leaving South Africa and the amount actually accounted for.

However, he said some 8 000 tusks, part of collections held by private individuals, had been exported in the last three years and this could make up part of the excess legal ivory that appeared to be finding its way on to the world market.

Potsdam area: discussions with Government of Ciskei

\*7. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether he or any official of his Department has held any discussions since 1 January 1988 with the Government of Ciskei regarding the future of the Potsdam area; if so, (a) when, (b) what are the names of the persons involved and (c) what was the (i) purport and (ii) outcome of these discussions?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: B1025E

A comprehensive development for the whole of the Potsdam area is at present being conducted by the Ciskei Government in conjunction with the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Meetings take place on a regular basis with a view to establishing bulk infrastructure, health services, schools, social infrastructure, etc. Personnel of the South African Embassy in Bisho attend these meetings where progress and technical aspects as well as problem areas are discussed.

Good Hope Teacher Training Colleges: bursaries available

\*8. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) (a) On what basis are bursaries made available to students at the Good Hope Teacher Training College in Khayelitsha, (b) which categories of students at this college are eligible for such bursaries and (c) at what time of the year are they advised of the outcome of their bursary applications;
- (2) what are the current fees for students at this college?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION: B1026E

- (1) (a) and (b) A limited number of contract bursaries are allocated to first year students. This is based on the basis of academic achievement in the first semester.
- Contract bursaries are allocated to all second and third year students

who were Departmental contract bursary holders the previous year and passed their courses, provided their conduct was satisfactory.

(c) First year students: At the beginning of the second semester.

Second and third year students: At the beginning of the first semester.

(2) Registration	R100,00
Indemnity fund	30,00
SRC fund	5,00
Stationery	25,00
Educational tours	30,00
Subject fund	25,00
Diverse	15,00
	<b>R230,00</b>

Potsdam area: visits by officials of Government Departments

\*9. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether his Department was consulted in connection with recent visits to the Potsdam area by officials of two Government Departments, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) which Departments were involved, (b) what was the object of these visits and (c) (i) when and (ii) on whose instructions did each take place?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: B1028E

No, but the Department of Foreign Affairs is acquainted with the problem which is in the process of being resolved.

- (a), (b) and (c) fall away.

Good Hope Teacher Training College: changes in procedures of awarding bursaries

\*10. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether, in respect of the 1989 or 1990 academic years, any changes are being effected in the procedures or basis of awarding bursaries or the number of bursaries to be awarded to students at the Good Hope Teacher Training College in Khayelitsha; if so, what changes?



(2) whether any current students will lose their bursaries this year or next year even though they passed or will have passed their examinations; if so, (a) which categories of students, (b) when and (c) what criteria will be applied in this regard?

B1027E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes.

A quota system has been introduced as from 1989 in respect of the allocation of contract bursaries to first-year students. There is no change in respect of the procedures or basis of awarding of contract bursaries to second- and third-year students.

- (2) Yes.

(a) Students who are found guilty of misconduct.

(b) On a date determined by the Director-General at the recommendation of the college council.

(c) Regulations issued by Government Notice R673 of 31 March 1983.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, arising from the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister may I ask him what the quota for 1989 is of the number of first-year students who will be eligible for bursaries, and what proportion that is of the number of students? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER:

Mr Chairman, if my memory serves, there are approximately 245 first-year students at this college and there are indications that approximately 98 of them will be given bursaries. [Interjections.]

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply of the hon the Deputy Minister may I ask, in the light of the fact that there has been a change in respect of first-year students in 1989 as compared to 1988, which he indicated in his answer, at what stage it was made known to this year's first-year students that they would not all be eligible to qualify for bursaries?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the information furnished to me by the Department indicates that these students were told about this arrangement when they registered at the beginning of the year.

Toxic waste: erection of treatment plant

\*11. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has been negotiating with any person or organization regarding the erection of a toxic waste treatment plant in South Africa for the purpose of treating toxic waste coming from non-South African sources; if so, with whom has he had such negotiations;
- (2) whether it is the intention to allow such a plant to be erected in South Africa; if so, where is it to be situated;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B1029E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.

(3) No, but in reply to a similar question in the House of Assembly on 23 February it was stated that the RSA may have to consider a plant to cater for its own requirements in future. At that stage, however, it could be considered to accommodate other countries to render such an undertaking viable but then only with the greatest caution. As far as the mere dumping of toxic waste in the RSA is concerned, the answer is a definite no.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, he will be aware of the press cutting that I sent through in connection with this particular question in which a certain individual indicated that he had been in the process of negotiating with the hon the Minister's department over the erection of a waste treatment plant. I take it that the hon the Minister categorically denies that such negotiations have been taking place?



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The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, there have been no negotiations whatsoever.

**Rent boycotts: rent arrears**

\*12. Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether his Department has authorized or approved the write-off of any rent arrears accumulating from rent boycotts by Blacks in Soweto or in any other areas of South Africa; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, (a) what total amount is owed by Blacks in respect of rent arrears and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (b) what steps are being taken to recover these arrears?

B1035E

**THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (Reply laid upon the table with leave of House):**

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they have furnished the following information:

No.

**NATAL**

- (a) (i) R3 105 017,74
- (ii) 31 March 1989

(b) Town committees are constantly encouraged to take active steps to recover outstanding rentals and where justified legal action is taken against offenders.

**ORANGE FREE STATE**

- (a) (i) R27 045 867,47
- (ii) 31 March 1989

(b) The various Black Local Authorities are collecting rent arrears according to their own approved By-laws.

**TRANSVAAL**

- (a) (i) R451 903 278 (Mainly Soweto and Lekoa)
- (ii) 28 February 1989

(b) Steps taken to improve recovery of rent and services charges:  
By Local Authorities:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(a) An action has been launched in which teams of officials go from house to house to collect arrear monies, and this has proved reasonably successful.

(b) In certain instances, mobile offices are used to collect rent and service charges before or after normal office hours.

(c) Defaulters are evicted by court order, and the electricity supply is disconnected.

(d) Personal interviews are conducted with tenants.

(e) Councillors arrange ward meetings with tenants to motivate them to pay.

*By the Transvaal Provincial Government:*

(f) Meetings are being held between the Administrator and members of the Executive Committee of Transvaal and the Mayors and Executive Committee Members of local authorities to address this issue, e.g. Soweto, Lekoa, Dobsonville, Jouberton and Ratanda.

(g) In cases where nothing is done to bring the council's financial position in order, councillors are discharged and an administrator is appointed, e.g. Diepmeadow, Embalenhle and Tokoza.

In order to address the financial problem of local authorities in the Transvaal, working groups, such as the Dr Simon Brand and Dr Deon Brand working groups, have been appointed.

**CAPE PROVINCE:**

- (a) (i) R73 081 332
- (ii) 31 December 1988

(b) The regional offices of the Community Services Branch are making active attempts on a continuing basis to collect the said accumulated amount in the three regions, in the following manner, namely the —  
(a) intensive training of councillors and chief executive officers of local authorities to bring home to them the

WV

responsibilities attached to their functions;

(b) taking of stringent steps against defaulting debtors by the institution of legal proceedings;

(c) intensive follow-up of unpaid/outstanding accounts of lessors and home-owners and by personal contact with them;

(d) education of Black residents by way of information brochures, circulars, etc. in which the importance of the regular payment of rental and service charges is explained to the residents.

**USSR: flight over RSA**

\*13. Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether, over the past 12 months, permission was requested by or on behalf of the government of the Soviet Union to fly over any part of South Africa; if so, (a) who requested such permission, (b) what parts of South Africa were involved, (c) where did these flights start from, (d) to whom did the aircraft concerned belong and (e) what was the purpose of these flights?

B1036E

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

- No
- (a), (b), (c) (d) and (e) fall away.

**UNTAG: deaths/injuries of personnel**

\*14. Mr H J COETZEE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has been notified by the representatives of UNTAG in South West Africa/Namibia of any deaths or injuries of UNTAG personnel since the arrival of the UNTAG forces in that country; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether any persons so injured are being treated in South West African or South African hospitals; if so, what are the relevant details?

B1038E

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

(1) The Administrator-General has not been notified in writing, but has been orally notified of the following incidents:

(a) 1 Military officer from Bangladesh was involved in an accident near the UNTAG bus at Suiderhof. He received treatment at the local hospital before he died.

(b) 2 British corporals were involved in a car accident in Ojiwarongo. One was killed instantly and the other died one week later in the Ojiwarongo hospital.

(c) A British officer was involved in a fight in which his jaw was seriously injured. He received initial treatment in the Grootfontein hospital but was later sent back to Britain for the necessary surgical treatment.

(d) A few minor cases have also been treated in the local SWA/Namibian hospitals.

(2) No member of the UNTAG personnel has been treated in South African hospitals.

**INTERPELLATION**

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign † used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

**Own Affairs:**

**Own Affairs: new legislation**

Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Chairman of the Ministers' Council:

Whether he still intends having legislation drafted, and introducing it, to give greater and wider effect to the concept of own affairs as defined in section 14(1) of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, No 110 of 1983; if not, why not?

B1095E.INT

\*THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, sections 14 and 15 of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act are entrenched and may consequently be

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## Vaal dam is 100 pc full (56)

*W. J. J. J.* Pretoria Bureau

The country's dams are still at a reasonably high level, according to information supplied this week by the Department of Water Affairs.

Overall content was 78 percent full, the same as last week and one percent lower than at the same time last year.

The Vaal dam, which supplies Johannesburg and other areas, is 100 percent full as are the Bloemhof, Boskop, Klipdrif, Koppies and Saulspoort dams in the Vaal River catchment area.

(56)

# Families left homeless by fire

MORE than 50 squatter families were left homeless when fires razed their shacks in Alexandra yesterday.

According to eye-witnesses, the fire started in one of the shacks after its occupants allegedly left a candle burning when they left for work yesterday morning.

Ms Maureen Maseleni (22) whose face still showed minor burns she received while trying to save her belongings from her burning shack, told *Sowetan*: "I was in my shack preparing break-

By NUNKA MKHALIPE

fast when I heard shouts of 'fire' from my neighbours. I dashed out and saw a billow of smoking fire from the shack just next to mine.

"I ran back into my shack and started throwing my belongings outside. In the process, my shack caught fire, then the next shack and all hell broke loose as more shacks burnt."

Two fire engines from the neighbouring Sandton municipality came to put

out the fire. Nobody died. Meanwhile, a man and his 30n died when a shack full of paint cans burst into flames in Tokoza on Wednesday.

Mr Ben Mathebula's body was burnt beyond recognition. His wife, Elissa, and their year-old son were rushed to hospital where the child died.

Mrs Patroni Kubayi, a cousin who lives in the same yard, said Mrs Mathebula told her the paint cans toppled off the wall at 8,30pm.

"My cousin struck a match to find out what

was wrong," Mrs Kubayi said. "A great ball of fire engulfed the bed. We noticed the flames and tried to get them out. They had locked the door with a big bolt and we could not get it open. Eventually, one neighbour smashed the door down and Elissa crawled out."

"I do not know when the funeral will be because we all come from Glyani. Mr Mathebula's brothers and an uncle said they would inform the family back home."

The *Sowetan* counted eleven containers of

paint and several bottles of a solvent in the shack. The landlady said the family had only been there a week.


## Bruised accused

A DISTRICT surgeon who examined terrorism accused Tony Yengeni, found bruises on his face, stomach and left arms and a cut lower lip hours after he was allegedly kicked in the face and assaulted during his detention, the Supreme Court, Cape Town, heard yesterday.

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# Nuclear alarm is sounded

THE test firing earlier this week of an Indian missile with a reported potential range of 2500km highlights an area of arms proliferation of growing concern to western governments.

The spread of ballistic missile programmes in the last two years is a main focus of the latest strategic survey published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

More than 20 developing countries have missile programmes and more than a dozen possess operational ballistic missiles, the report says.

Some of the weapons have longer ranges than some of those being removed from Europe and destroyed under the US-Soviet Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

The IISS calls for co-ordinated action by the US and the Soviet Union to stop the spread. Although it says neither is directly threatened, it

warns of the risk of local flare-ups. Both missiles and chemical arms are rapidly proliferating in areas where animosities are high and relations are tense, it says.

Israel with possible chemical and nuclear arms capabilities, could reach Soviet Black Sea bases with its Jericho missile, said to have a range of up to 1450km, it says. Arab states, although not thought to be nuclear-capable, have been buying missiles and chemical weapons at an increasing rate.

The report also cites Saudi Arabia's purchase of Chinese 2200km CSS-2 missiles, which could reach Israel or the Soviet Union, and Egypt's co-operation with Argentina, with Iraqi backing, in developing the 800km Condor II. This could reach the Falklands from the Argentine mainland.

It also quotes reports that Libya has been seeking 950km range missiles from Brazil.

India, with its new Agni missile, and Pakistan, which has tested a 300km weapon, could conceivably use these missiles to deliver nuclear warheads, the IISS warns.

Longer-range missiles like the Agni are difficult to justify unless they

carry nuclear weapons, it says.

Except for China, no Third World country is thought capable of making intercontinental weapons before the end of the century, but space-launch vehicles being developed in Brazil, India, Israel and Argentina could lead to long-range missiles in the future.

Meanwhile, the effectiveness of short-range missiles can be increased with new non-nuclear warheads cluster bombs or fuel/air explosives (spread in a cloud and then detonated) or chemical munitions. Missiles of under 500km, considered short-range by Nato, may be able to reach strategic targets in several regional situations, the report cautions.

An informal undertaking by six Western countries and Japan to restrict technology exports that could assist missile or space launch vehicle programmes, the missile technology control regime, has failed to attract support from other nations.

Both the Soviet Union and China have meanwhile continued their missile exports, the Soviet Union more selectively and the Chinese virtually without consideration of political or security implications, the report says. It describes China as something of a rogue elephant in the arms trade.

On East-West relations, the institute repeats its earlier, but apparently fruitless, calls for new and imaginative western thinking. While the world appears to be a safer, saner place than it has been for many decades, it is coming under different strains.



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# Bardot declares war on South Africa

PARIS — Former French film star Brigitte Bardot has called for a new type of war against South Africa.

She wants to stop its flourishing position as a world centre for the ivory trade. She named Tokyo and Singapore as the other two main centres.

## Appealing

Bardot, in a 56-minute television documentary, is appealing to the world to save elephants from being massacred.

It is not a new story for South Africans, but Europeans and Americans have been startled by her prediction that there will be virtually no elephants in

SOWETIAN Foreign Service

Africa in four years' time. "There are about 400 000 at present, but they are being killed for their tusks at the rate of one every four minutes. We can halt this massacre by refusing to buy any ivory object.

"It is pointless to ask governments to intervene. I have personally seen four French presidents about this problem, and apart from promises nothing has been done.

"I am therefore urging the world public to intervene with a consumer boycott. Nobody must buy any ivory statuettes, trinkets, key rings or chess sets or what have you.

"By the end of the year, the international ivory

trade will be in a state of collapse, and orders for ivory will start to fall off.

"This means that poachers in Kenya, Uganda and Zaire will no longer be able to sell tusks, and so will stop slaughtering elephants.

## Boycott

"Our consumer boycott can save the lives of tens of thousands of elephants in the next 12 months."

Bardot is a doer as well as preacher.

She said: "Recently I was catching a plane at Orly Airport (Paris) when I saw two men selling ivory articles. I told them that they ought to be ashamed.

"They said they were, but had to make a living. I told them to do something else, because they were accomplices in a massacre."

ENVIRONMENT 1989

JUNE - SEPT.



CHK Link 2/6/89 56

# More rain and cold

Staff Reporters and Sapa

**THE** first heavy rains of winter have highlighted the misery of the many living without adequate shelter in the Cape Town area.

Another cold front and more rain are forecast for the Peninsula.

Snow has also fallen on the Boland mountains. The Matroos, Skurwe and Theronberg mountains have a dusting of snow on the high peaks.

Heavy rain in the past two days has also shown up blocked storm drains and caused flooding in many areas of Cape Town.

Residents of Ravensmead and Heideveld were yesterday mopping up the mess after roads overflowed and flooded their homes, while city council teams were called out to these and several other areas, including Wynberg, Newlands and Manenberg, to unblock stormwater drains.

Yesterday Mrs Maria Francis revealed the plight of those forced to live in the open. She and her children have been living in a roofless, fenced-off area in a backyard in Heideveld since she lost her job and accommodation several months ago.

The area contains two iron bedsteads, a cupboard

and a chest of drawers, where she keeps their only clothes. She and the children sleep covered only by a piece of plastic.

A neighbour, Mrs Kathleen Passens, said she and her husband shared a shack in a nearby yard. The cardboard walls allowed rain to soak their belongings and they had been sick for weeks, she said.

In Dwyka Street in Heideveld, a council team was yesterday unblocking a stormwater drain which had caused the road to flood. A resident said this happened every year after the first real rains of winter.

In Ravensmead, residents of Edith Court in Stroebel Street were yesterday mopping up after ankle-deep water had receded. Floor coverings and furniture were carried outside and water was being removed in buckets.

An irate resident, Mrs S Hoorniet, said the flooding occurred every year and that it was time the council did something about it. Her neighbour had two small children with TB, she said, and the damp was bad for their health.

Mr Ted Doman, a spokesman for the city council, said the same problem arose every year after the first heavy rains of winter. "We do maintain streets

and stormwater drains on a regular basis, but there is often debris in the drains which doesn't show up until it causes a blockage."

Last year, the first heavy rains of winter caused extensive flooding of the Diep River in the Plumstead area. Four or five houses were badly flooded, and a traffic policeman was almost washed away under a house.

Subsequently the council canalised part of the river there and yesterday City Engineer Mr Des Riley said the new arrangement appeared to be working perfectly. No complaints had been received.

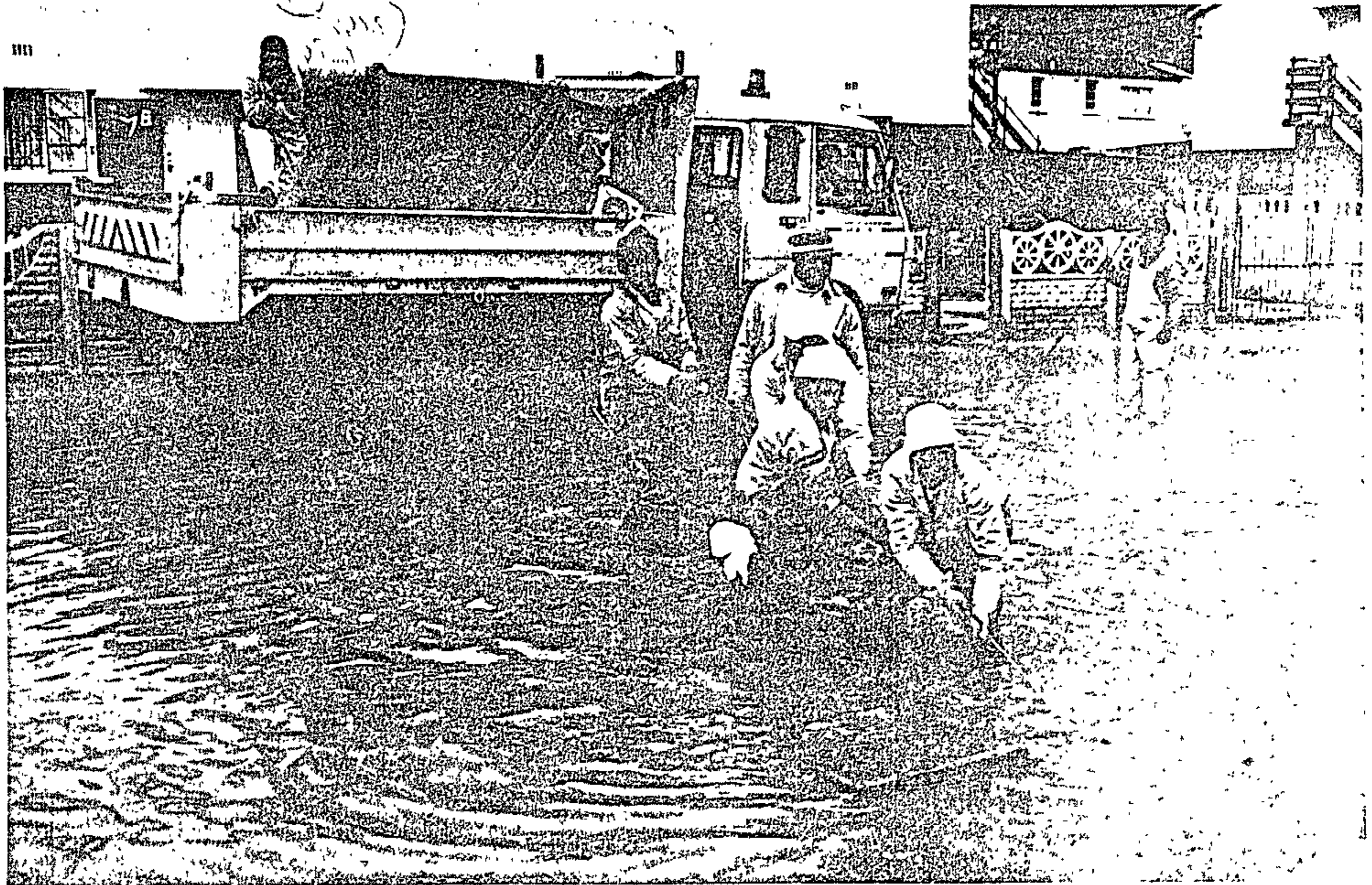
Further up the Diep River, six stormwater catchment basins have been constructed to contain floodwaters of the sort occurring only every few decades.

Mr Riley said yesterday that the fact that these basins had not filled up in this week's rains did not mean they were not working.

Meanwhile, Boland wheat and fruit farmers were elated at the rain which has fallen in the Swartland and Sandveld.

The highest rainfall figure of 23mm was measured in the Koue Bokkeveld.

However, in the Ceres area follow-up rain is ur-



**ABOVE** ... Council workers try to unblock drains in Dwyka Street, Heideveld yesterday after the heavy rains.

**RIGHT** ... Mrs Maria Francis and her children are among those who have to sleep in the open and the winter rains have made it unbearable.

## Bush and Thatcher

## Foreman 'negligent'

## Hard-living Keith a 'legend'

NEW YORK — Rolling Stone Keith Richards was crowned a "living legend" at the first Elvis Awards ceremony in Manhattan on Wednesday night.

Out Link 2/6/89 56

# rain and cold ahead

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However, in the Ceres area follow-up rain is ur-

gently needed to relieve the very dry conditions.

In the drought-stricken Redelinghuys district 12mm was measured and the wheat will now start appearing.

Other places where good rainfall figures were recorded were Aurora, Moorreesburg, Koringberg, Nieuwoudtville, Kamieskroon, Wellington and Kleinmond.

Agricultural conditions in the Southern Cape and Little Karoo remained poor, according to the general manager of the South Western Co-operative at Mossel Bay, Mr Pierre le Roux. Very little wheat has been planted and rain is urgently needed in the area.

He said last year's harvest of 17 000 tons was the poorest in many years.

The general manager of the Riversdale/Albertinia Co-operative, Dr Philipus Olivier, said no wheat had been sown in that area.

Last year the harvest was 18 000 tons while the annual average was 30 000 tons.

In the Oudtshoorn and Calitzdorp areas farmers were buying feed for their ostriches. The two main irrigation dams are both dry.



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## hatcher

### Foreman 'negligent'

### Hard-living Keith a 'legend'

NEW YORK — Rolling Stone Keith Richards was crowned a "living legend" at the first Elvis Awards ceremony in Manhattan on Wednesday night. "The living is hard," Richards

Dr Ledger says: "We have to convince people that through their consumer patterns and the substantial power they are capable of wielding, they can make the

off in Europe where The Green Consumer Book — Where to buy things that don't cost the earth has been snapped up by consumers.

has gone from 1-billion people in 1830 to 5-billion now. It will number 6-billion in 1995 and 11-billion in the next century at the current rate of growth.

"But what we have been warning about for years is now taking place. People are becoming aware of the strains being imposed on the

By Patrick O'Leary

SOUTH AFRICA is four percentage points short of the ideal balance between protected and unprotected areas.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Sources (IUCN) believes that at least 10% of a country should be formally conserved.

There is a scientific base for this figure. It is theorised that if 10% of an eco-system is protected, about 50% of it will ultimately survive.

South Africa's protected terrestrial areas make up 6% of its land area — 4% short of the ideal.

### Marine

SA has 590 protected areas, 547 of which are terrestrial and 43 marine and island reserves.

The total area under protection covers 7 554 997 hectares. It is made up of 277 888ha of marine and offshore islands and 7 277 109ha of terrestrial area.

Many veld types enjoy almost no conservation status. Of the 70 veld types found in SA, 38 have less than 1% of

# SA falls short of conservation ideal

56 5/1 Times 4/6/87

their area protected; 19 have between 1% and 5% under protection; eight have between 5% and 10%; and five have more than 10%.

The major protection deficiencies are in the grassland biome, the Nama-Karoo biome, the Succulent-Karoo biome, and the fynbos biome.

Several species are endangered and threatened. A total of 2 373 seed plants and ferns in Southern Africa are either critically rare or in danger of extinction.

There are 108 species of birds in the Red Data Book of SA. Five are endangered, 17 vulnerable, 42 rare and 35 indeterminate.

The definition of endangered is where an animal is in danger of extinction and is unlikely to survive if the causal factors continue.

This happens when the number of animals has been reduced to a critical level or where the habitat has been

degraded to the point of imminent danger of extinction.

Vulnerable is when a species is highly likely to move into the endangered category unless something is done about the causal factors.

Rare applies to a species with a small population, but not in immediate danger. They are still, however, at risk.

Indeterminate is a species suspected of belonging to one of the above three classifications, but which one it is cannot be determined because of insufficient data.

Reptiles and amphibians are also under extreme pressure — 93 species are threatened in SA. Of these, one is judged to be extinct and six are endangered.

Fifty species of fish from the continental waters of SA and Namibia are threatened in one way or another.

### Mammals

The position of mammals is also cause for concern. Of the 243 species of terrestrial mammals in SA, 42 may be considered exposed to some threat of extinction; three are endangered; 14 vulnerable and 25 are rare.

Butterflies are also falling under the cloud of environmental gloom — 102 of the 632 species that occur in SA exposed to some threat.

On a global level, it is estimated that of more than 10-million species or organisms,

or life forms, only 1.7-million have been catalogued.

It is estimated that 100 species are being driven to extinction every day. The tragedy is that the world does not know what it is losing.

According to environmentalists, destruction of the diversity of species is one of the biggest problems facing conservation.

### Decades

Because of the burgeoning human population and the enormous environmental changes brought about by man, the rate of extinction of species has reached almost epidemic proportions compared with earlier eras.

Before the changes brought about by large-scale, unco-ordinated agricultural, urban and industrial development, the decline and extinction of species would take place over long periods of time. Now, species are liable to extinction in only a few decades.

But why is it so important to protect wild animals and plants?

The Sites of Conservation Significance Programme says: "From the little we know, it is clear that the diversity of plants and animals which form part of ecological systems is critical to the survival of man."

That is good enough reason to take action now to save SA's heritage.

## Society with a mission

WANT to do your bit to save the environment, but don't know how? Join the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

The Wildlife Society is the largest and oldest non-governmental conservation organisation in SA. It is a non-profit making organisation entirely dependent on public and private funding.

Since its inception in 1926 it has grown into a country-wide network of seven branches and 59 centres. It has 28 000 members representing as many as 70 000 people.

Membership is open to everyone.

Information may be obtained from Susan van Zyl, Box 44189, Linden 2104.

longing naturally to the soil" — and that about sums it up.

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## Company with a <sup>(Sb)</sup> conscience

LINKING a commercial product to a conservation strategy has proved wise business practice for pharmaceutical company Lagamed.

Company spokesman Lucky Mavrandonis says: "We have linked our antibiotic product Eromel with a conservation strategy through the Wildlife Endangered Trust. Sales of the product grew from R60 000 in 1981 to more than R1-million in 1988.

This represents a growth of 1 979% in seven years and 333% in the past four years of the company's wildlife campaign.

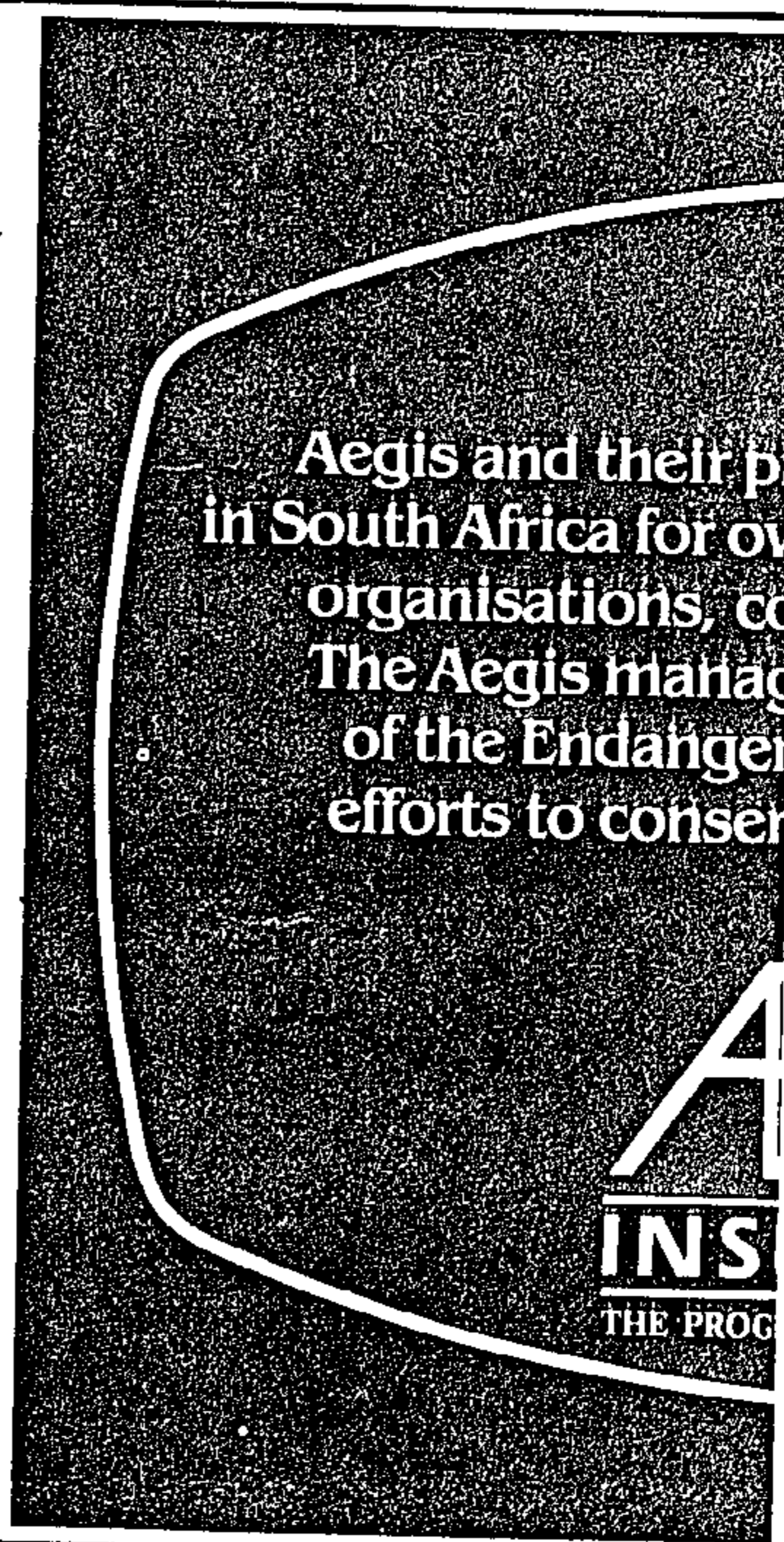
"Our 1989 campaign is working so well that the growth in the first five months is 90%. We have nearly doubled our sales and expect to reach about R1,8-million"

### Progress

Every prescription for Eromel results in a donation of part of the profits to a conservation project.

Lagamed prints educational material, informing doctors of the purpose of each project and its progress.

Lagamed has sponsored projects involving the wattled crane (1985), the roan antelope (1986), the pangolin (1987), and the ecological and



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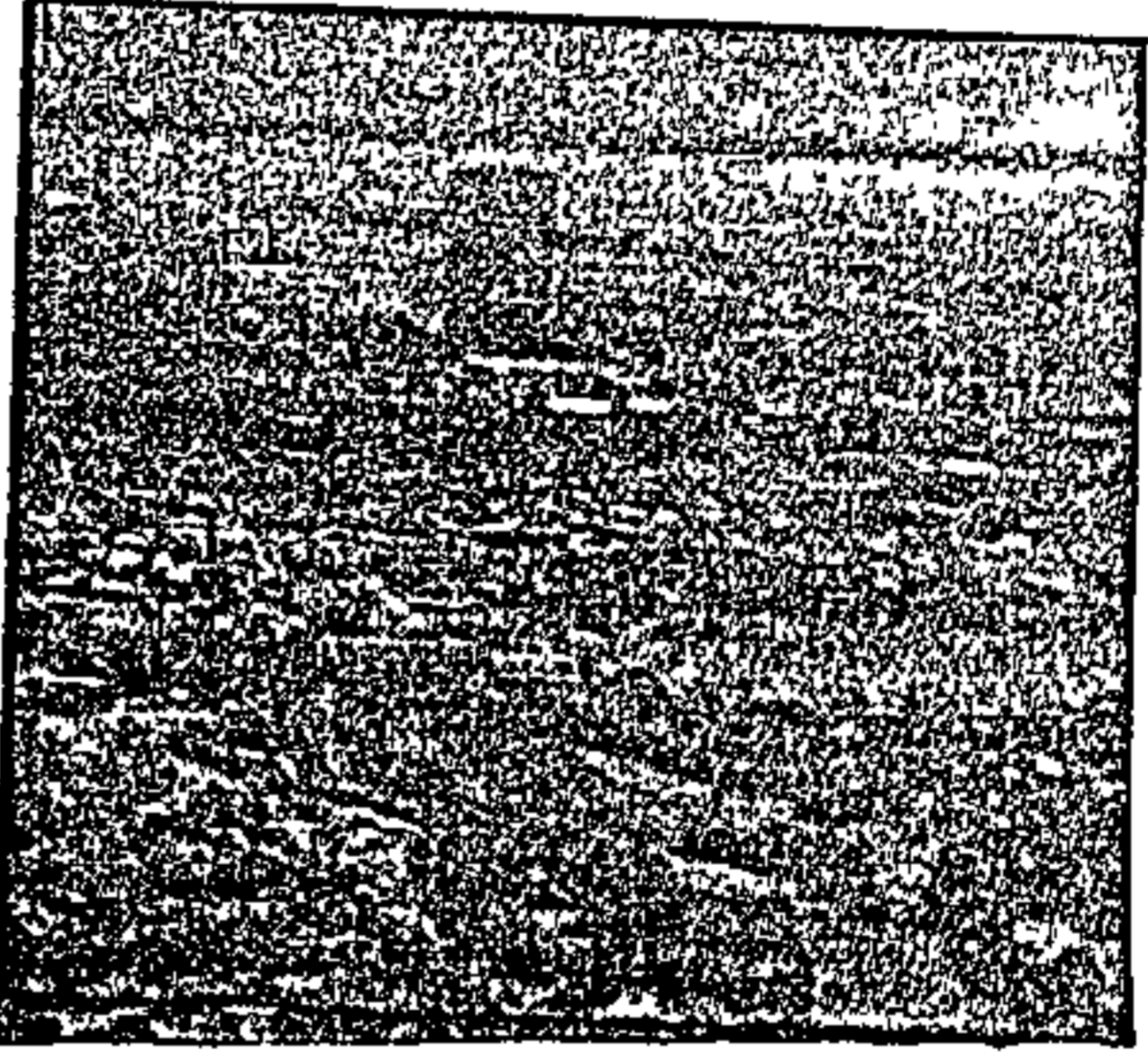
It has won the Endangered Wildlife Trust Corporate Award for four consecutive years.

Mr Mavrandonis has been appointed an adviser to the Rhino and Elephant Foundation. Not bad for a guy who hardly knew a thing about conservation and wildlife when he started on this programme.

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Sunday Times

# BUSINESS TIMES World Environ

## SA goes it alone <sup>(Sp)</sup> for a week

TOMORROW is World Environment Day ... and South Africa will be going it alone. This is in spite of the original intention of the Stockholm Conference for nations to put aside political differences for a day and focus attention on global environmental problems.

The event is co-ordinated by the Kenya-based United Nations Environmental Programme which sets a world theme for each year. Being a non-member, SA is excluded. Michael Cohen, deputy director of the Department of Environment Affairs, says: "We have written to UNEP on

two occasions, but have not received a reply.

### Awareness

"We have established our own theme and will use World Environment Day to evoke awareness of South Africa's environmental problems. We

have gone a step further than the rest of the world and extended our programme over a week."

This year's theme is Crack Down on Invaders, and will home in on the threat posed to SA's indigenous fauna and flora by alien plants and animals.

# Apathy as world goes down drain

By Patrick O'Leary

PUBLIC apathy is the environment's worse enemy, says Michael Cohen, deputy director of the Department of Environment Affairs.

Dr Cohen, whose department is co-ordinating South Africa's World Environment Day activities, urges everyone to become involved in environmental problems.

"South Africans suffer from the 'they' syndrome. When there's a problem, everyone says, 'They aren't doing anything about it.' Sel-dom does the buck stop at the door of a member of the public.

## Mindless

"If every individual accepted responsibility for his environment, we would go a long way to stopping some of the mindless environmental destruction that is taking place.

"The ordinary man should recognise that he is part of an ecosystem and his existence depends on the well-being of the environment.

"He is not on the outside looking in — he is part of a system that is rapidly being destroyed."

Dr Cohen says damage to the ozone layer is one example of environmental destruction. The ozone layer is a natural shield in the stratosphere which prevents harmful radiation from reaching the earth.

Scientists have discovered that the ozone layer is deteriorating, a seasonal hole occurring over the Antarctic. CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) have been named as the

main culprit. CFCs have been accepted for many years as a safe propellant for aerosol products. They are also used in refrigeration and plastic foam products.

Whether they alone or other chemicals being spewed into the air are responsible is still being investigated.

The ozone layer scare has brought home to the ordinary person the parlous state of the planet earth.

Dr Cohen says: "The scare has shown that man is changing the face of the earth through his consumer-driven demands.

"Conservationists have been trying to tell industry and the consumer this for years, but nobody has listened. Perhaps they will listen now and stir themselves from their indifference."

He urges consumers to demand from manufacturers, industry and the Government products and services that are environmentally safe.

## Children

To do this, however, consumers would have to educate themselves about environmental matters.

"It is not only for the Government to try to educate the public. Certainly, the Government must play its part. But parents must pick up the ball and begin the education



MICHAEL COHEN

process with themselves and their children. Businesses, which have gone on a relentless drive of consumption, must also become involved.

"If we are to avoid a global disaster, every individual and every business must become environmentally responsible."

His views are echoed by John Ledger, director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, a non-government body which is dedicated to the preservation of the diversity of life.

The trust is well known for its work in highlighting the plight of endangered species, such as the blue swallow, the

wattled crane and many others.

Dr Ledger says: "The world's exploding human population has led us into an era of galloping consumerism which is putting intolerable strains on the environment."

The rampant consumer drive has distorted priorities beyond all reasonable measures.

## Sport

"All around us are symptoms of an environmentally ill society, but it seems South Africans do not regard it as a priority for action.

"One need look only at the money spent on consumer-oriented activities, such as sport, as opposed to the amount available for urgent conservation work to see the huge disparity."

Dr Cohen would like to see a new era, in SA, the whole country, coming under conservation management.

"I am not pleading for a large nature reserve, but for a system where all development and all living patterns are based on sound conservation principles.

"I am pleading for a system where development planners weigh carefully the consequences of their actions in terms of the effect on the environment. I am pleading for an environmentally responsible living pattern for each individual.

"What should not be permissible, and what is not consistent with development, is the thoughtless levelling of indigenous forests and bush, the overgrazing of the veld, heedless destruction of wildlife habitat and other actions that destroy the opportunities for sustained, long-term use of resources.

"Man's activities are rapidly degrading the environment. He is being forced to give attention to ways of ensuring that a balance is restored between his demands on the environment and its capacity to restore itself."

St James 4/6/89

56

# Keeping South Africa beautiful naturally

Star 5/6/84

South Africa's Department of Environment Affairs has launched a project aimed at making the whole of South Africa a conservation area.

"We would like to see the entire country under conservation management," said Dr Mike Cohen (44), who heads the department's nature conservation side.

Stocky, black-bearded deputy-director, Dr Cohen, one of the most highly qualified conservationists in government service, believes that ultimately, any advanced country would tend to end up conserve, not only nature reserves, but all farmland and even its urban areas.

"We must learn to view all types of land as a limited resource — which, of course, is what land has become. Once we appreciate that we will begin to exploit it more wisely and sensitively so that nothing is squandered. And that's conservation."

Mr W F ("Bill") Visagie, director-general of environment, said at a function last month: "Our protected area approach is, and has been, the cause of many of our environmental problems."

"It has led us to believe that conservation applies only to individual land uses such as forestry, nature reserves and national parks. It has also been the cause of many conflicts between developers and conservationists because with this approach conservation is seen as a competing form of land use."

The Department of Environment set out five years ago to achieve its conservation goal the ideal way — with a minimum of taxpayers' money and a maximum of public co-operation.

It began by listing the obvious areas — the places treasured by the public.

## Physical links

In the first phase of conserving South Africa, Dr Cohen promoted the Southern African Plan for Nature Conservation.

"It was really just an inventory of the big stuff — mountain wildernesses, national parks and so on.

"We quickly realised the next step would have to be to establish physical links between these areas, otherwise there was the danger of South Africa ending up with increasingly vulnerable 'island' reserves."

To preserve South Africa-the-beautiful and to conserve the country's biological diversity would require corridors of indigenous vegetation between the large reserves, so that birds, insects and mammals — even plant life — could exist in between and even cross between territories to enrich genetic diversity.

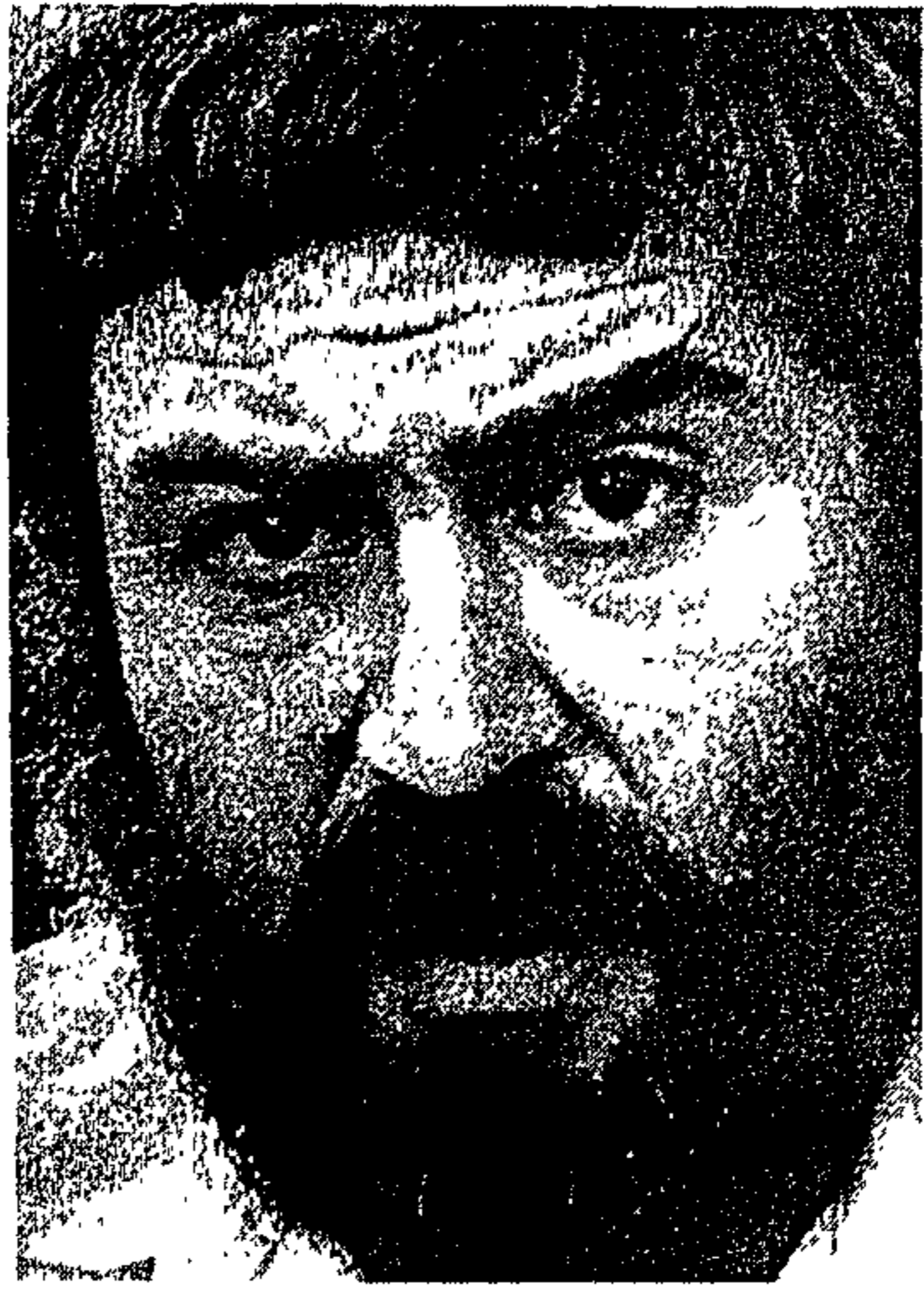
The first step was to win the approval of landowners.

"We first had to identify landowners who owned all the smaller fragments of South Africa's natural areas — from patches of indigenous forest, let's say, to caves or kranzes or patches of rare grasses."

The second phase was called the Natural Heritage Programme. This programme encourages private owners to register any important site they own as a Natural Heritage Site.

An electronics company, Telemecanique of Sandton, put up money to make site plaques and to financially assist landowners where necessary.

Today is world environment day. **JAMES CLARKE** looks at the work of the Department of Environment Affairs and its aim to make all of South Africa a conservation area.



Dr Mike Cohen, conservation expert ... "we must exploit wisely and sensitively".

Recently, a north west Karoo farmer reported he had a cave in which there were two species of rare bats. He said his cows were getting into the cave and disturbing the colony.

"One of the species of bats was endangered. We persuaded him to apply for help and he received R1 000 to protect the cave," said Dr Cohen.

There are now 97 National Heritage Sites and they include a farm which possesses blue swallows (South Africa's rarest bird), Mondi land near Sable which has some rare cycads and a kilometre or so of flat-topped acacias near Harberton, which form a tunnel over a public road.

## 'Stepping stone' parks

"In time, when we have hundreds of these sites, they will form a network throughout South Africa with some, perhaps, extending into corridors of natural habitat between bigger natural sites.

"Between the Suikerbosrand south of Johannesburg and the Magaliesberg to the north there will one day be continuous conserved areas traversing Johannesburg by using parks along urban streams and 'stepping stone' parks such as The Wilds and Melville Koppies."

In October, the department will be announcing the 100th National Heritage Site. In anticipation of this milestone the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr G H Kotze, recently launched phase three of the campaign to conserve the whole country. It is called Heritage 100.



# 'All I need is the air that I breathe'

Star 6/6/89  
56  
At a seminar on air pollution in the Vaal triangle recently, a speaker told delegates of an entry in an early South African encyclopaedia which described Vereeniging as a "resort" where invalids with lung ailments were sent to recuperate.

Today, sending anyone suffering from a chest complaint to Vereeniging would be rather like sending a seasick man on an ocean cruise.

The pollution in the Vaal triangle is serious enough for the medical authorities to have taken action. Last week, the South African Medical Research Council announced a two-year research programme, beginning early next year, which aims to establish the extent to which people's health in the Vaal triangle is affected by environmental air pollution.

A senior member of the council's research staff left for the United States at the weekend to study methods developed at Harvard University to measure the effects of air pollution on health. They hope to adapt the American model for use in the Transvaal.

The Vaal triangle, which has the densest accumulation of industry in the country and where township residents burn huge quantities of coal in their homes, is arguably the most heavily polluted area in South Africa. Although the effects of air pollution on health in the Vaal triangle have not yet been measured, residents, including doctors and specialists, report widespread chest and nasal complaints which are not easily cured.

## 'Well within limits'

Until now, residents who complained to the authorities and who called for action, were fobbed off with the answer that air pollution levels were being monitored constantly and were well within the internationally acceptable limits.

According to Mrs Carol Smith, vice-chairman of the local Anti-Pollution Appeal Committee (APAC) in Vereeniging, that does not explain why schools in the Vaal triangle have a noticeably high rate of absenteeism and that children with nasal and throat complaints do not appear to get better.

Mrs Smith said families who had recently moved to the area found that their children developed chest or nasal complaints which they had never had before.

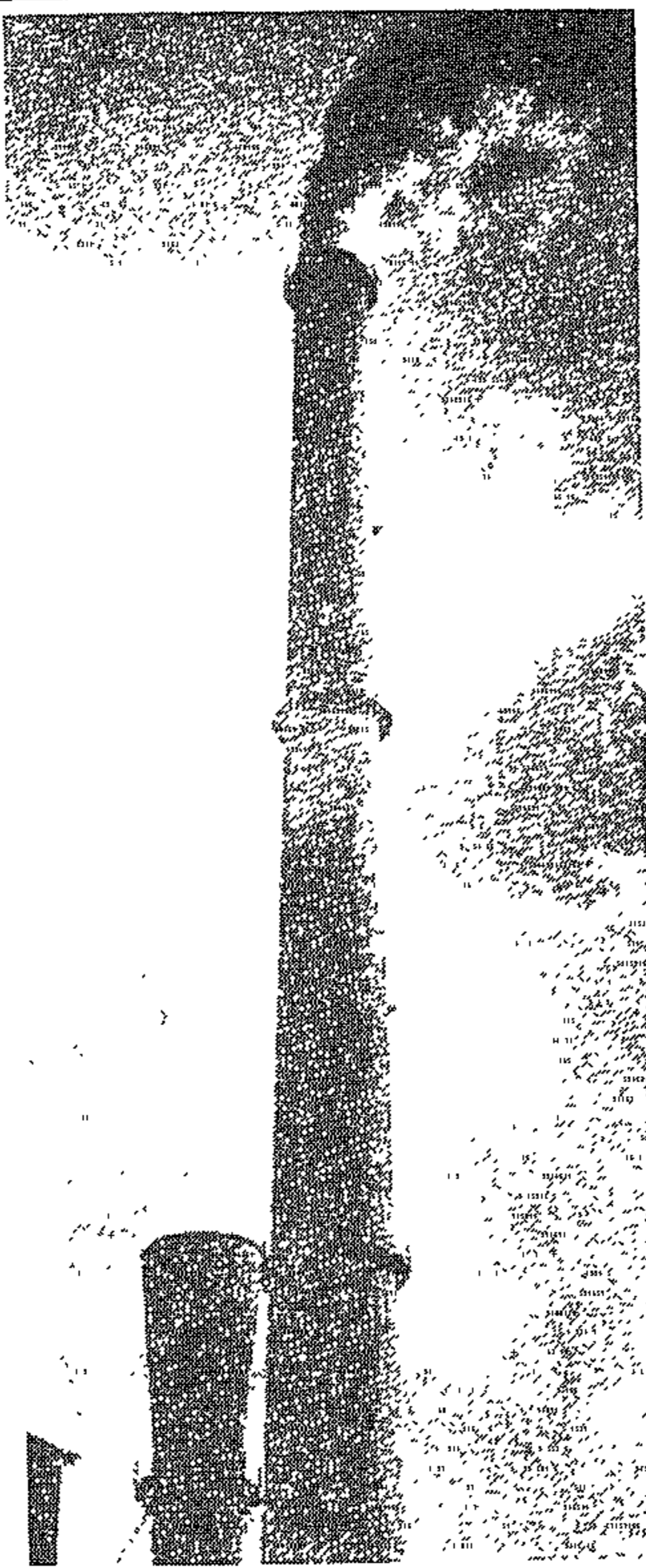
Two medical specialists in the area said while they had no statistics to back their statements, it was their impression that there were far more upper respiratory tract infections in the Vaal triangle than elsewhere.

One of the specialists, who cannot be named for ethical reasons, said he had found a higher incidence of these cases in his practice in Vereeniging than he had while working in Windhoek and Bethal.

He said pollution could break down the mucosa, the natural lining in the nasal pas-

By MELANIE GOSLING

"All I maintain is that on this earth there are pestilences and there are victims, and it is up to us, as far as possible, not to join forces with the pestilences." — Albert Camus.



Vaal triangle pollution has become serious enough for medical experts to take action.

sages, throat and mouth. Once this superficial protective layer was damaged, bacteria could enter the area and infections could result.

"The five oxygen tents in Sasolburg Hospital are usually fully occupied. Often patients have to be transferred to hospitals in Johannesburg or Pretoria.

"The authorities say they are monitoring all the gases in the air, but sometimes I wonder if all those monitoring boxes are not there only to pacify people."

The specialist said he had asked one industrial company in the area to allow him

to examine their medical aid claims, as part of a research programme, to see if significant numbers of their staff suffered from respiratory problems. The company refused him permission.

Another specialist in Vereeniging has treated several patients for respiratory problems who did not experience these complaints before arriving in the Vaal triangle.

"On occasions I have asked parents to take their children away from the area for three weeks and invariably the complaints have cleared up."

The chief air pollution control officer at the Department of Health in Pretoria, Mr Martin Lloyd, conceded that the Vaal triangle had a problem with visible air pollution. This was particularly bad in winter because of the high pressure system over the highveld which caused pollutants to accumulate rather than disperse.

He said the pollution was caused by the high level of industry in the area and the widespread use of coal in the townships.

The department had several monitoring stations in the Vaal triangle which measured the levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxide, smoke and the total amount of suspended solids. He said that with the exception of smoke, all these levels were within the internationally acceptable levels.

"The solution to the smoke problem is obviously to use electricity rather than coal. However, this presents a financial problem for people living in the townships," Mr Lloyd said.

## Detrimental to health

He said smoke from Soweto also drifted into the Vaal basin.

Dr Bernard Fourie, head of the South African Medical Research Council's Epidemiology Centre, said there was no doubt that environmental air pollution was detrimental to health.

"It is relatively easy to measure pollution levels, but there are tremendous problems in correlating these measurements with the health of the inhabitants of polluted areas."

One of the main problems was to distinguish between environmental causes and, for instance, exposure to cigarette smoking.

Dr Fourie said two or three major studies had been done on the subject in the Vaal triangle but these had unfortunately come up with "debatable" results.

Dr Fourie, who is hoping to begin his research programme — based on the Harvard University method — early next year, said it would be at least 18 months until any meaningful results were achieved.

"We have received complaints from medical practitioners in the Vaal triangle and the Eastern Transvaal about pollution and health," he said. "These need to be followed up and the Vaal triangle has been identified as the priority area."

# White Paper accepts education for life

By JAMES CLARKE

The Government's recent White Paper on Environmental Education represents a significant development for environmental awareness in South Africa.

In publishing the statement, the Government has aligned itself with the growing international feeling that central governments must address the problem of the deteriorating human habitat and public awareness is a fundamental necessity.

The White Paper is based upon the 12 "Tbilisi Principles of Environmental Education" drawn up at a major international conference on the topic held in Tbilisi (USSR) in 1977.

These principles, a remarkable example of international consensus in an area where agreement is often difficult to reach, include such basic concepts as environmental education being a lifelong process.

## Education

They call for an inter-disciplinary and cross-curricular approach to education and the right of active and meaningful public participation in decision-making.

The White Paper itself is unusual in the sense that its initial formulation and draft was not done by civil servants but by practising environmental educationists, making it one of the closest things we have to an official document with grassroots origins.

A negative aspect has been the many years delay in producing it, caused by conservative elements within the Transvaal Education Department. All other 16 education departments in South Africa were all for the Tbilisi principles but the TED considered some of them unpalatable.

## Govt takes big step on environment

A major strength of the paper lies in its stated aim of being "indicative rather than regulatory" and to "promote and not prescribe".

The Council of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA), whose membership includes a wide range of formal and non-formal educationists and conservationists, is generally pleased with the White Paper.

Dr Pat Irwin, Professor of Education at Rhodes University and a founder-member of EEASA, particularly welcomes the fact that the Government's objectives include "creating an awareness in the whole population".

He lauds the fact that the Government would like environmental topics brought in from pre-school to universities and "as a life-long process", and calls for it to be recognised as a vital element of active public participation in environmental decision-making.

Significantly, too, says Professor Irwin, the paper calls for the training of student teachers in environmental matters as well as encouraging in-service training.

The Department of Environment Affairs says it is willing to support research and assist education authorities in the production of materials for teachers and pupils.

The department deserves credit for piloting the paper through its various stages and difficulties.

Professor Irwin, who has a strong interest in conservation, has served as a member of several official committees and task groups on education and environmental affairs. He is also a member of the Bophuthatswana National Parks Board where environmental education is possibly at its most sophisticated and best developed in South Africa.

He says that in his experience black students are particularly positive towards environmental concerns which they rightly perceive as very relevant to a better kind of future including a fairer distribution and sustainable utilisation of the country's natural resources.

## Need

Due both to perceived need and an apparent demand, Rhodes University will, from 1990, be offering a part-time Master of Education degree course in Environmental Education.

In August this year EEASA will, at its annual conference, have the White Paper on its agenda. The annual meeting has, over the years, increasingly represented all sectors of the South African population.

It is described by Professor Irwin as "the most inter-active conference I attend. One always comes away from it with a feeling of well being for one's fellows and a sense of optimism about the future".

● If you would like to attend the conference, write to Mr Ephraim Morei or Mr Steve Johnson at P O Box 1021, Mogwase, Bophuthatswana 0302 or telephone (01465) 2-2405.

# Boost for environmental awareness

By James Clarke

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9/6/89.

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OZONE LAYER

## AECI pays the price

What do you do with a non-toxic, non-flammable, inexpensive product that cools buildings and mines, fills fire extinguishers, cleans electronic equipment and puts the fizz into aerosol cans?

You get rid of it, of course.

AECI, SA's only producer of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), is in the awkward position of having to steer industrial customers away from its product. CFCs, blamed for threatened destruction of the ozone layer around the earth, have become a target for environmentalists worldwide.

In the mid-Seventies, vague rumours abounded that spraying underarm deodorant or firing a stream of aerosol insecticide would somehow destroy the environment.

"In 1976, the idea was a lot of science fiction," says AECI chemicals marketing manager John Barnes.

Unsure whether the stories were truth or fiction, AECI decided not to go ahead with plans for a second CFC factory.

It wasn't a bad decision. It is now believed that chlorine in CFCs thins the ozone layer, lessening protection against damaging ultraviolet radiation. Higher levels of radiation are linked to skin cancer, cataracts and genetic complications. CFCs are also thought to act as "greenhouse" gases leading to global warming.

AECI now finds itself having to help its aerosol-manufacturing customers wean themselves off CFCs and on to alternative propellant chemicals, such as butane and dimethyl ether (DME) — manufactured by the company's competitors. It expects to phase out 70% of its aerosol business within 18 months.

Although butane is cheaper to use, companies have to consider the enormous cost of converting a factory to make use of the alternative. "Some don't want to spend the money to change over," says AECI's Transvaal sales director John Sharpe, who heads the team convincing customers not to buy its product.

CFCs are a tiny slice of the AECI chemical pie: about 1% of R4bn turnover in 1988. Exports account for about 5% of CFC production. Yet no matter how small the portion, it always hurts to lose a cornered market.

"We've got to be willing to lose money if we are committed to (reducing CFCs) as a goal," Barnes says.

AECI has actively supported adoption of the Montreal Protocol, which SA is expected to sign later this year. It limits CFC production and use to 1986 levels, beginning in July, and demands a 50% reduction of 1986 levels by 1998. SA uses about 1% of the world's CFCs.

Most of AECI's reduction will affect aerosols, which make up 50% of its CFC business.

The other half comprises CFCs for use in

airconditioning and refrigeration, manufacture of polyurethane (foam furniture) and polystyrene (hamburger containers), and solvents for the computer industry. AECI does not manufacture the type of CFC found in fire extinguishers.

Workable substitutes are available for part of the CFC use in polyurethane, polystyrene and electronics. The hunt, however, continues for an ozone-friendly aerosol propellant.

The problem is that butane and DME, while acceptable substitutes in most cases, are malodorous, flammable and not appropriate in all products, such as asthma inhalers, say industry officials.

Imperial Chemical Industries, which owns 38% of AECI, and DuPont, the world's largest producer of CFCs, are spending R130m each to build plants where they will conduct research on R134A, which does not contain the dangerous chlorine gas.

In the meantime, AECI board approval is being sought to spend up to R20m to convert the Sasolburg factory from production of hazardous A11 and A12 CFCs to ozone-friendly HCFC22 for use in new cooling systems.

Existing refrigerators and airconditioners will have to stay for now. "At this stage," Sharpe says, "there's really no replacement." ■

## SA to attend meeting on worldwide ivory ban

DIANNA GAMES

SA WILL meet the international conservation monitoring body, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), and other African members next month, to discuss making elephant products illegal.

The meeting comes in the wake of a renewed international campaign for a ban on ivory.

The SA Nature Foundation (SANF) estimates conservation in SA would lose R10m annually if such a ban prevented the sale of ivory from culling in the Kruger Park. A ban is expected to be agreed on at the international conference of Cites in October.

Experts and ivory dealers maintain a ban would not stop elephant poaching. Since rhino horn trade was stopped 15 years ago, Africa's rhino population has decreased from 20 000 to fewer than 3 000.

### Adverse

The SANF said it would support a ban to help isolate illegal ivory, while allowing for countries with well managed elephant populations, such as SA, Zimbabwe and Botswana, to sell culled ivory under strict controls.

The SANF said one report put annual elephant kills at up to 70 000. In 1970 the population was 2,5-million, which fell to 700 000 by 1987.

Rhino and Elephant Foundation chairman and National Parks Board research officer Anthony Hall Martin said an international ban would have an adverse effect on SA's flourishing ivory trade which helped fund conservation.

He said SA, as a Cites member, could ask to be exempted from a Cites listing, but it would be a politically unpopular decision.

SA would wait and see what stand Zimbabwe — which had elephant culls of up to 10 000 elephant a year — would take, he said.

# Fears over big sale of Chapmans Peak land

CAPE TOWN 22/6/89

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By MALCOLM FRIED

FIFTY-ONE hectares of vacant land lining Chapmans Peak Drive are up for sale in one of the largest single Peninsula property offers in years.

The land — Cape Farm 906 Hout Bay, owned by the Labia family — will not be available for extensive development in terms of local authority restrictions.

The Regional Services Council (RSC), however, is reported to be "very worried" at the possibility of the site going to foreign buyers.

Environmentalists have warned they would strongly oppose any attempt to exploit the land, the only non-state-owned land in the area.

The property is zoned "rural" and falls within the proclaimed Cape Peninsula Nature Area.

Chapmans Peak Drive is a declared "scenic drive". Only one house may be built on the site and would have to be below the road and not visible to motorists.

A spokesman for the Board of Executors, which is handling the sale, said tenders would be accepted.

The 51,3919 hectares have an RSC value of R17 990 and carried rates of



SEA VIEWS . . . A stretch of the 51 hectares of land for sale along Chapmans Peak Drive.

R862,08 for the past year.

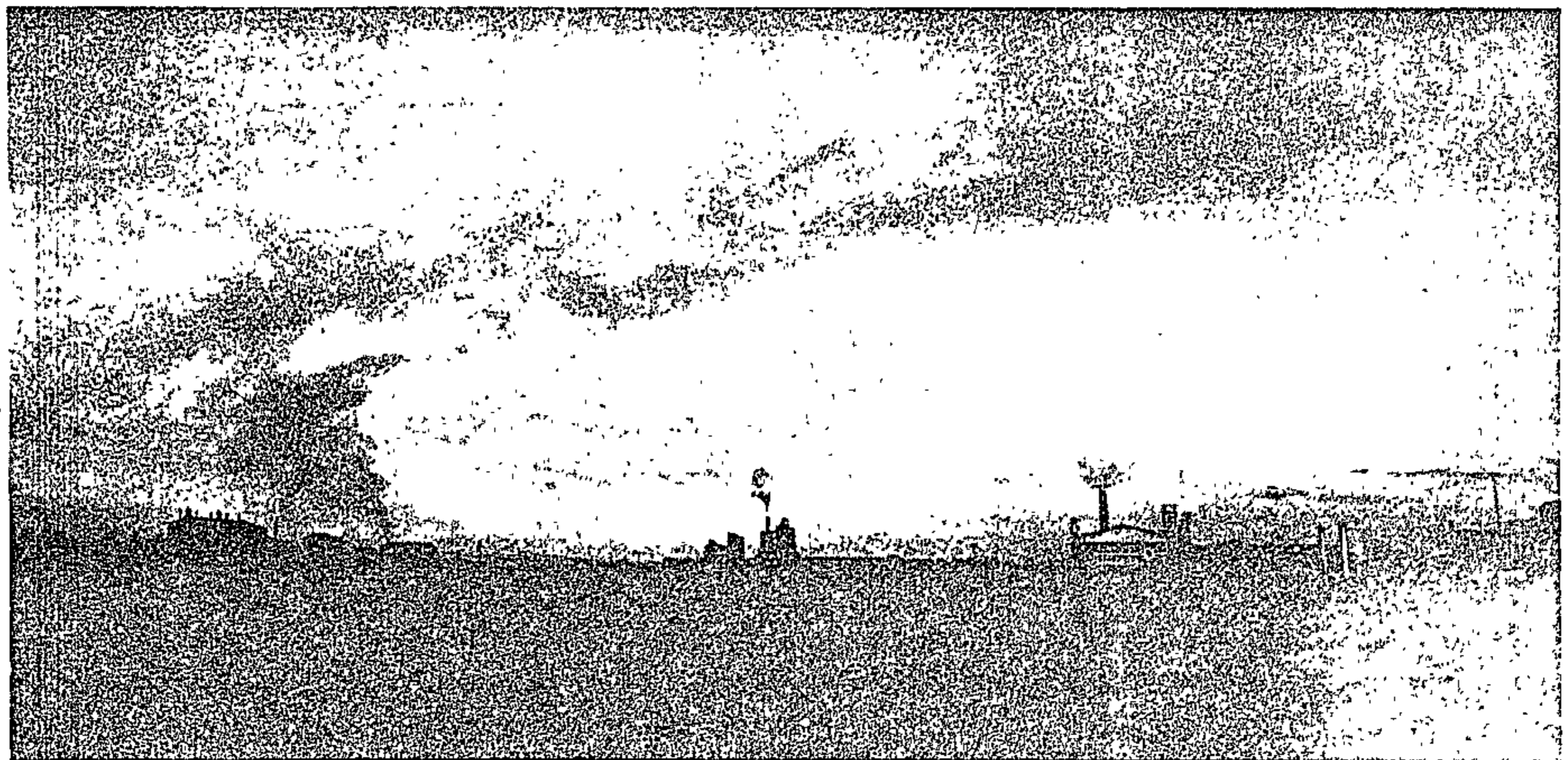
The Board spokesman said it was impossible to calculate a value for the land or predict a sale price as the area is vacant, has no farming value and cannot be greatly developed.

"It is a highly-sensitive area and plans for it would be difficult."

Several property agents said the site could be worth tens of thousands to a keen buyer.

One source said the RSC would be "very disappointed and upset" to see ownership of the land leaving South Africa, adding that the authorities would "go to great lengths to get the property under state control and are making approaches to the vendors".

In FW de Klerk's backyard, indignant mothers fight the smokestacks belching sickness and stench ...



A pall of industrial smoke: The Eastern Transvaal Highveld and the Vaal Triangle have some of the world's highest pollution levels — and worst respiratory problems

TURN right at Iscor and keep going. In the rearview mirror the steel giant with its cloak of many vapours falls behind as one heads into the territory of tranquil smallholdings in the heart of the Vaal Triangle. Better known to locals as the Vile Triangle. The Foul Triangle.

Jenny Mufford's garden is an image of innocence. Four-year-old Helen chases ducks across the lawn while the baby sleeps in the shade. The sky is clear and blue.

"Helen's nose hasn't stopped running since she was born," says Jenny. "and her cough and sinusitis are almost as constant. As a baby she spent the winter months sleeping upright to keep her chest from closing up completely. I expect it will be the same with the new baby this winter."

The Mufford family share their recurring health problems with most people in the area. The hospital in Vereeniging hosts babies in oxygen tents for parts of the winter period when temperature inversion brings the industrially poisoned air down like a shroud.

Vaal Triangle pharmacists derive a major part of their trade from medication for tonsillitis, sinusitis, bronchitis and upper respiratory tract infections. Children on medication have difficulty in studying. Parents try to ensure that school holidays are spent away from home, and doctors openly admit that the only solution for lingering and chronic cases is to move out of the area. The locals don't need to read about air pollution; they're demand-

# Under a clear blue sky, a baby sleeps. But beware...

ing something be done.

Jenny Mufford is the chairman of the Air Pollution Appeal Committee (Apac), a bunch of concerned mothers and others who believe the most problematic smokescreen faced by Vaal Triangle residents is the apparent disinformation which surrounds what is arguably one of the most polluted areas in the world. "We're the lunatic fringe," she explains.

"Air pollution is seen by government and industry as a public relations problem," says Jenny. "They employ experts to tell us that the sulphur levels are down, that there is no acid rain, and that mothers who fear for their kids health are neurotic. Yet steel and concrete structures all over the Vaal Triangle are crumbling under attack by acid rain and airborne corrosives."

Jenny joined the National Association for Clean Air (NACA) in 1986, and currently serves on its committee. In 1987 the *Vaal Star* newspaper collected 10 000 signatures to a petition supporting proposals to step up legislation on pollution control. The result was a meeting between Health Minister Willie van Niekerk and residents, a meeting which Jenny de-

**The skies above the Vaal triangle look peaceful and blue enough on a good summer's day. And industry experts say that pollution levels are down. But a group of local residents blame pollution for their children's illnesses and have launched a campaign to clean up the air. By ALISON CAMPBELL.**

scribes as a fiasco. "We were placated, patronised and provided with comparative pollution statistics from the United States which subsequently proved to be inaccurate. We got nowhere."

Inspired to go it alone, Jenny put out a questionnaire in the *Ster*, and received around 100 replies to questions like, "How many visits to the doctor have there been in the last three years?" "How many people in your family have coughs/bronchitis/sinusitis/running nose?"

People called to compare notes. For some it was the first time that they realised the problems were not exclusive to them.

The result was a paper called "Aspiration or Procrastination" which Jenny delivered at the 1988 International Conference on Residential Air Pollution hosted by NACA. She was the only individual to be involved in a private capacity.

She was joined by Carol Smith, a mother aghast at the deterioration in her children's health after living in the area for only eight months. The association formed the nucleus of Apac. Together they approached Vereeniging's MP, FW de Klerk, in an attempt to establish the state of existing pollution monitoring in the area.

The response was again placatory, the reassurance it offered less than adequate. As in previous instances, the women were assured that the major causes of air pollution in the Vaal triangle lay not with industry but with vehicle exhaust and smoke from the fires of black residential areas.

Steps had apparently been taken to monitor the problem. Instruments had been set up at the civic centre in Vereeniging to ascertain concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ozones in the air. Instrument calibration, recording and reporting were the responsibility of the CSIR, and

plans were afoot to expand the monitoring facilities.

The graphic result of existing monitoring would appear to back De Klerk's assertion that the problem is not critical. Annual and monthly levels look particularly innocuous. Until one takes into account the exact location of the monitoring sites (away from source and in some cases out of the prevailing wind), and the fact that readings are averaged out across a number of sources.

"We want monitoring on the chimney stacks, nothing less," says Jenny. "We believe the averaging system to be completely misleading."

While monitoring is the essential first step toward defining the problem, Jenny points out it is rendered ineffective without legislation to ensure that transgressors are brought to task. Apac believes that even where pollution control measures have been taken by industry, they are inadequate. Eskom records in Jenny's possession show the performance of their chosen device, the electrostatic precipitator, is rendered unreliable by being subject to intermittent overload. An additional irony lies in the fact that the low grade of South African coal inhibits the ionising process which is vital to the precipitator's proper performance. So additional sulphur is injected into the coal to bring it up to scratch.

Apac does not limit its activities to nagging industry. Members believe that the lack of public awareness is as much to blame for the extent of the poison air problem as is industrial or bureaucratic indifference.

Persistent petitioning by Apac has resulted in De Klerk agreeing to introduce environmental awareness curriculae to schools in the area. A demand for epidemiological studies to be set up in the Vaal Triangle has also apparently received consideration.

The investigation will take 10 years to complete at a cost of millions to the very taxpayers who are having difficulty in breathing, says Mufford. "A similar study in the US was carried out in just six months and a lot of new industries can go up in 10 years."

Meanwhile, the horror stories flourish. Informal monitoring records a litany of illness, stench, poisoned water, indignation and frustration.

In 1987 Van Niekerk concluded one overview of the situation with the statement that in the light of his department's investigations into the situation, it should be clear to Vaal Triangle residents that "the health of the public is not affected at all."

Therein lies the most dangerous smokescreen on the Highveld.

## A MAJOR STUDY INTO THE LINKS BETWEEN POLLUTION AND DISEASE

CONTROVERSY over foul air and the threat of acid rain in parts of South Africa has prompted a series of academic investigations into the link between atmospheric pollution and human health.

The Vaal Triangle — which, together with the Eastern Transvaal Highveld, has some of the highest levels of sulphur dioxide pollution in the world — has been singled out for special attention.

A major probe into likely links between serious respiratory diseases and air pollution in the Vaal Triangle has been launched by the Research Institute for Environmental Diseases (RIED) in Pretoria.

Head of institute Dr Bernard Fourie told the *Weekly Mail* the study, which is still in its planning stages, would investigate possible links between industrial contamination of the air and bronchitis, asthma as well as other forms of lung impairment.

"Minor ailments such as sinusitis and eye irritation, which people tend to accept as part of their day-to-day reality will also be investigated," said Fourie. While there was no evidence of higher-than-normal incidence of lung cancer in the Vaal triangle, this had not been ruled out and would form part of the study.

RIED has sent a senior researcher to Harvard University, which has one of the world's renowned centres for epidemiological studies, to study methods that could be adopted for the Vaal Triangle probe.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has, simultaneously, announced a large-scale project designed to measure the extent of air pollution in the Vaal area and to identify the sources of the contamination.

Two private consultants recently said coal-burning power stations and industries on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld were pumping out 57,5 tons of sulphur dioxide a square kilometre each year, making it by far the most polluted region in the world.

Although the CSIR's figures put the level of sulphur dioxide pollution at 31 tons a year, the organisation acknowledges these levels are comparable to the most polluted spots in the world.

Dr Bruce Wells, who is co-ordinating the CSIR study in the Vaal, said that although statistics were not readily available for the region, levels of sulphur pollution were likely to be lower in the Vaal because the region did not have as many big power stations.

However the situation was complicated by the fact that industries in the Vaal triangle were older and did not have the same facilities to disperse their contaminants into the higher levels of the atmosphere.

Wells said the CSIR focus would look at health problems as well as the dangers of corrosion and acid rain that result from industrial pollution. He confirmed reports that forest plantations along the length of the escarpment between the Northern Transvaal and Natal were showing signs of acid rain damage.

The Natal Parks Board has also reported that most of its game reserves have shown signs of acid rain damage to vegetation and the CSIR is planning to conduct further investigation into this danger.

Two separate studies, by Professor Saul Zwi at the University of the Witwatersrand and Professor AM Coetzee of Pretoria University, have found residents of polluted areas, especially young children and older people, are more likely than people from non-polluted areas to develop upper respiratory tract infections.

Fourie said the results of these studies were debatable because they had com-

pared health levels in polluted areas and non-polluted "control" areas without rigorously demonstrating the absence of disease-causing pollutants in the "control" region.

But ear, nose and throat specialists from the Vaal also report a higher incidence of chest complaints in the region than in less-industrialised areas.

A doctor, who cannot be named for professional reasons, said a recent meeting at the technikon in Vereeniging had indicated that one in every four students who came from distant areas began to develop chest ailments after their arrival in the Vaal area.

There was a great danger that repeated doses of sinusitis, blocked noses and sore throats could, if unchecked, develop into chronic cases of emphysema and bronchitis. Tumours of the lung were also potential dangers.

Another specialist noted that serious lung disease in the area are so widespread that the five oxygen tents at the Sasolburg Hospital are always occupied and patients are frequently transferred to Johannesburg and Pretoria for treatment.

Eddie Koch

## The plastic threat

The expected doubling of SA's production of plastic in the next decade is seen by conservationists as a severe threat to the sea and beaches along the country's coastline — unless both public and corporate efforts are harnessed to fight potential pollution.

Annual production of plastic is now about 550 Mt of which 210 Mt is converted into packaging material. About 60 000 t of used plastic is recycled each year, according to Packaging Council executive director Owen Bruyns.

In parts of the northern hemisphere plastic pollution is regarded as a major threat to the environment. At least 10 states in the US have banned its use in certain types of packaging, including shopping bags, and from 1991 Italy will allow only bio-degradable plastics to be used for wrapping.

While the problem is not nearly as severe in SA, unless preventative steps are taken soon it may become a significant contributory factor in the depletion of valuable marine life and could reduce tourism in some of SA's most popular holiday destinations.

Ardent anti-plastic pollution campaigner and secretary of the Cape-based Dolphin Action & Protection Group, Nan Rice, says the problem in SA will worsen unless action is taken now. She says research shows that even SA's most remote beaches are polluted by plastic material and that the sea off the coast is being increasingly polluted by kilometres of gill netting that breaks loose or is dumped by fishing trawlers. Rice believes part of the solution lies in persuading businessmen and industrialists to reduce the use of plastic at source.

Rice's group launched a campaign last year to heighten public and corporate awareness of the dangers of plastic pollution. The response so far has been marginal, but she acknowledges that it is a long-term project and does not expect significant results for about five years.

She believes recycling is an important step in curbing pollution and wants to see local authorities playing a bigger role. "It's a hell of a problem and it's going to get worse," Rice warns.

Equally concerned is Renier Schoeman, Nationalist MP for Umhlanga on the Natal north coast. He has raised the matter in parliament and been instrumental in estab-

lishing an organisation called Coast Watch in his constituency.

Schoeman says work by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute has shown an average density of 4 000 plastic articles/km<sup>2</sup> in the sea off SA's coast. A survey of 50 beaches found plastic waste on even the most remote ones and an average density of 1,1 object/m<sup>2</sup>. Packaging made up just over 50% of all plastic waste followed by fishing related products at 30%.

Schoeman says that a similar survey along the 140 km coastline of his constituency (a premier holiday destination) found the potential plastic pollution was, by extrapolation, 72 t. Intensive publicity has achieved a marginal increase in public awareness, but the "battle" is far from over.

The Packaging Council's Bruyns says the industry is obviously extremely concerned that some of its products end up as litter. "We promote recycling and education of users and consumers as the two most viable solutions to the problem. Plastic is with us to stay and we will see far greater use of it in packaging. But we will also see more concerted attempts to collect and recycle used plastic."

Efforts so far include a Cape Town company turning waste plastic into a wood substitute and a R10m supermarket packet recycling plant in the Transvaal.

Bruyns says though plastic accounts annually for only 1,7 Mt of SA's 15 Mt of solid

waste, the industry is willing to tackle the problem of potential pollution and is setting an example. He believes users of plastic packaging could play a bigger role and suggests, for example, that supermarkets encourage the return of used carry bags for recycling. ■

(56) *Final* 23/6/89.



# Bitter cold brings death

AR 445 26/6/69

By HENRI du PLESSIS and DALE KNEEN  
Staff Reporters

A BOY has died on a farm in the Bolland and a woman with hypothermia was rescued from a mountain by members of the Four-Wheel Drive Club as heavy rain and snow accompanied by bitterly cold weather descended on the Western Cape.

And there is more bad weather on the way, according to a spokesman for the weather bureau at D F Malan Airport.

A Kraaitfontein boy died after he and a friend were trapped for two hours in thick mud when a dam wall collapsed.

Karoois Sotal, of Herbertusdal farm, died and Adam Albertus, 10, was left partially paralysed after the two-hour ordeal last night.

Police said the boys were playing on the dam wall when it broke at 8.30pm.

### Engulfed by mud

The boys were washed away by the surge of water and were engulfed by a thick layer of mud. Karoois was buried but Adam was able to breathe.

The boys' parents found them at 10.45pm and called the police and ambulance.

Medics established that Karoois died of suffocation. Adam was paralysed from the waist down.

He was taken to Tygerberg Hospital, where he is said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Hiker Miss Elaine Theron, 23, of Cape Town, was rescued from the Landdroskop hut on the Bolland hiking trail above Grabouw when cold weather overcame her, said a spokesman for the Four-Wheel Drive Club.

Miss Theron was accompanied by Miss Gill Russell, Miss Ellen Roberts, Mr Hans With and Mr William Dizeel when the weather closed in.



Picture HANNES THIAAT, The Argus  
**RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING:** As if the rain wasn't enough, luckless pedestrian Lisa Scott of Cape Town had to contend with passing motorists as well. But she took it all in good spirit.

## P W due in Pretoria to chair Cabinet meetings

From ALAN DUMIN Political Staff

## Millard set to make it July No 5

From ALAN DUMIN Political Staff

### EMERGENCY UPDATE

#### Policeman shot after crackdown

The Argus Correspondent DURBAN. — A member of the police dog unit at E R Swart Square headquarters was shot dead in Kwamashu (north of Durban) today while on his way from work.

The policeman has not been named as his family have not been told.

Only a few hours before the dog unit recovered seven stolen cars valued at more than R60 000 and arrested 12 suspects in Kwamashu, Inanda and the city centre.

#### Press curbs

In terms of the emergency regulations reports, comment and pictures may be restricted.

#### Clothing prices set to follow textiles up

By TOM HOOD Business Editor

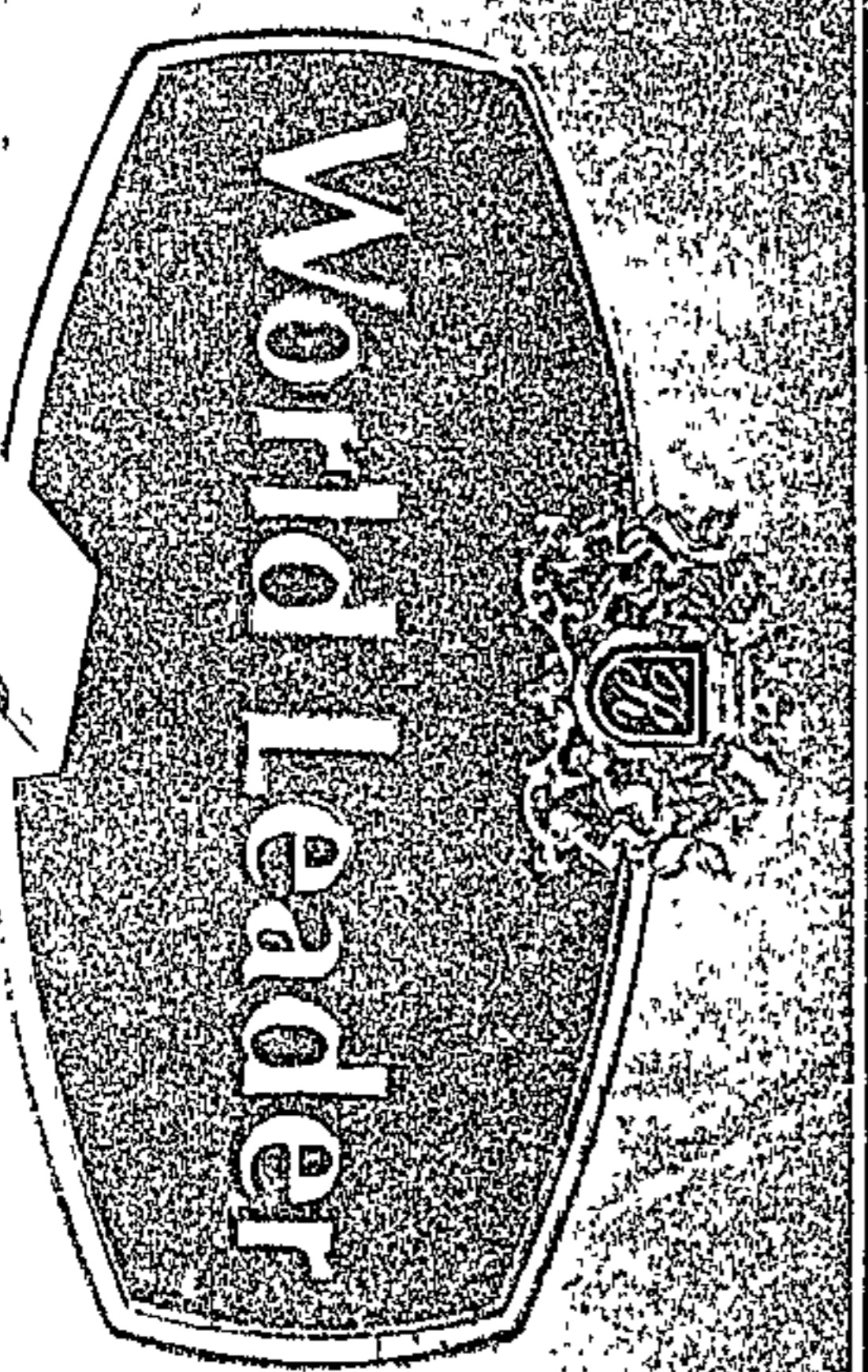
CLOTHING prices are set to rise because textile costs at manufacturing level are 19 percent higher than a year ago.

Factors boosting textile costs were dearer raw materials, the devaluation of the rand and domestic wage settlements significantly above the inflation rate, said Romatek group chief economist Mr Jon van Coller today.

Clothing prices rose last month at an annualised 23 percent after a 33 percent rise for April in terms of the consumer price index.

Mr van Coller said demand for textiles and clothing was being stimulated by the country's still-increasing money supply. Demand for cotton and wool was very strong internationally and synthetic fibre feedstocks remained scarce.

Footwear prices have risen slowly this year, but soared by 4.8 percent in April, equal to an annual rate of 58 percent.



died on a farm in the Bo- woman with hypothermia ed from a mountain by f the Four-Wheel Drive vy rain and snow accom- pitterly cold weather de- the Western Cape.

more bad weather on the way, spokesman for the weather bu- talan Airport.

In boy died after he and a friend or two hours in thick mud when a psed.

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**by mud**

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was accompanied by Miss Gill Rus- n Roberts, Mr Hans With and Mr when the weather closed in.

Members of the club's rescue wing were told of Miss Theron's plight by Miss Russell via the club's emergency radio in the hut at 3.10pm yesterday.

Club vice-chairman Mr Roy van Schoor, Mr Trevor Wyborn and Mr Neil Murray followed a jeep track up the side of the mountain accompanied by a doctor from the Mountain Club's Hottentots-Holland sec- tion.

The hiking party was brought down at 6.45pm after they were joined by two Bell- ville schoolboys, Jacobus Visag- ie, 16, and Gerhard Erwee, 17.

Miss Theron responded to treatment and went home after her ordeal.

A weather office spokesman said there would be a short break in the rainy weather to- morrow, but a "family" of cold fronts was approaching the Cape from the west and the sun would return with some strength only at the end of the week.

Temperatures would remain at a daily maximum of be- tween 12 and 13 deg C this week and more snow was like- ly by Thursday or Friday, he said.

Namaqualand, the Boland and Overberg would also be af- fected.

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Cold

# Drive to aid smog-hit children (56)

THEIR childrens' recurring health problems caused a number of mothers in the Vaal Triangle to band together and form an anti-pollution force which is fast becoming feared by industrial polluters.

Doctors' bills for four-year-old Helen's respiratory problems which have jammed the Mufford family's Vereeniging postbox since the day she was born were the driving force behind an anti-pollution campaign which is rapidly expanding in the area.

"Her nose has never stopped running and her cough and sinusitis are almost constant," said her mother, Mrs Jenny Mufford, an initiator of the Vereeniging-based Air Pollution Appeal Committee (Apac).

"As a baby Helen had to sleep upright in the winter months to stop her chest from clogging up completely," she said. "And the new baby, which is a couple of months old, will probably have similar problems."

Like many other families in the area the Mufford family blames its recurring respiratory health problems on the heavy industrially poisoned air that hangs over the Vaal Triangle.

Stew  
11/7/89  
PAT DEVEREAUX (56)

Oxygen tents at the Vereeniging hospital are in huge demand for babies during the winter period when temperature inversion causes the smog to hang like a cloud over the area.

Mrs Mufford and Mrs Carol Smith joined forces with a number of mothers in the area to form Apac.

Last year Mrs Mufford waded into battle with a paper titled "Aspiration or Procrastination", which she delivered at a conference on residential air pollution hosted by National Association for Clean Air.

Since then she and Mrs Smith have attempted to establish the state of existing pollution monitoring in the area and claim the responses from Government officials have all been placatory.

"We have been fobbed off with explanations that it is not industrial smoke which is causing the problem but vehicle exhaust and smoke from the fires in black residential areas," said Mrs Mufford.

But the fight won't stop there. The group recently organised a three-day Pollution Expo in Vereeniging which was supported by Vereeniging's mayor.



SHROUD: Hanging over Alexandra township, pollution from residents' fires has reached serious levels and is fast becoming a danger to everyone's health.

## Blaming townships for pollution 'not good enough' <sup>56</sup>

STATE Health Department attempts to fob off anti-pollution groups by blaming this country's severe air pollution problems on townships like Soweto and Alexandra are "just not good enough", said a number of people this week.

They claim township residents do not have a choice and the problem of air pollution and the solution of electrifying the townships should lie at the door of the Government's Health and Population Development and the Environmental

Affairs departments.

The Witwatersrand, Vaal Triangle and the Eastern Transvaal Highveld have some of the highest levels of sulphur dioxide pollution in the world and have recently been singled out for special attention for a series of academic investigations into the link between human health and atmospheric pollution.

Director of air pollution at the Department of Health, Mr Martin Lloyd, this week said black townships were responsible for more than 70 per-

cent of the air pollution problem.

He explained that temperature inversion is typical of the Transvaal winter climate and causes the smoke emitted from township fires to become "trapped". This is the smog that residents see hanging over the city and why it always appears worse in winter, he said.

"The only solution to the township pollution problem would be to electrify all township dwellings including squatting areas or to provide them with a smoke-

less fuel," he said. But added: "Both, of course, are very expensive."

Mr Lloyd explained that industrial areas emitted less pollutants as their factory stacks combusted more efficiently.

Responding, president of the United Municipalities of South Africa (Umsa) and former Mayor of Daveyton, Mr Tom Boya, said: "It has taken the Government 30 years to realise that Soweto needed electricity to reduce the high air

pollution caused by smoke. The inability of the Government to implement its White Paper on environmental conservation and its apathy concerning the quality of life, especially within black areas, has resulted in a lack of interest by the black community.

"The establishment of heavy industrial areas near black residential areas — such as Iscor next to Atteridgeville — also has a direct impact on the environmental awareness of people in the area," he said.

Mr Boya called on the Government to stop its neglect, monitor the air pollution levels in townships, which contribute to thousands of blacks suffering from respiratory diseases, and to embark on environmental awareness campaigns in the townships.

But, according to Anti-Pollution Appeal Committee (Apac) chairman, Mrs Jenny Mufford, "Even in so-called white areas the Government is lax. And when pollution control measures have finally been taken by in-

dustry, they are inadequate.

"It is no use blaming it on township people because they don't have the choice," she said.

"Overseas governments would never allow the level of emissions we have reached," explained Mrs Mufford. "In fact they even supply electricity on a sort of 'maypole system' at very cheap rates to those who live in the poorer sectors to prevent this sort of pollution," she added.

Senior lecturer at the University of Cape Town's department of electrical engineering, Mr Charles Dingley, currently doing research into the electrification of the underdeveloped urban and rural areas of South Africa, has studied inexpensive methods of providing power.

"On the Witwatersrand there are about a quarter of a million old type coal stoves in operation. These stoves are regarded as an investment and coal is cheap.

He described a number of systems used in third world countries he had visited. In Brazil and Costa Rica they sell wiring kits for about R50. The less stringent wiring regulations and a specific voltage system makes it impossible for people to electrocute themselves.

"South Africa could use this system and adapt its electricity voltage system to electrify all areas at very low cost," said Mr Dingley.

Star 1/7/89  
PAT DEVEREAUX

R250-m high-tech plant proposed

# Toxic waste dump planned for the Cape

Sta 6/7/89

Pretoria Correspondent

Plans for the building of a state-of-the-art facility for the treatment and disposal of toxic waste near Alexander Bay are being studied by a Government-appointed panel.

If the plan, which could result in the importation of 500 000 tons of toxic waste annually is approved, it could turn South Africa into a major toxic waste dumping ground.

The Government has denied approving the plan, but Director-General of Environment Affairs, Mr Bill Visagie, confirmed that a probe into the feasibility of such a project had been approved. He said the Cabinet had frozen all moves to establish a high-tech plant to deal with imported toxic waste. What was ongoing, he said, was the feasibility of the developer's proposal.

The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting in May following a proposal submitted by a Cape Town man. A Government-appointed panel is presently probing the possibility of erecting a disposal plant near Alexander Bay in the northern Cape.

The developer, Mr SD Sanders of Newlands, first approached the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology, Mr Danie Steyn, in October last year with a report on the environmental effects and benefits for South Africa of such a transaction.

## Enormous problem

"Mr Sanders as a citizen can make an application for anything he likes but, as the body responsible for the environment, we must consider it from an environmental and not purely monetary angle," Mr Visagie said.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze said in Parliament in February that toxic waste was becoming an enormous problem in developed countries. "No country in the world, I think, would be agreeable to having toxic waste dumped on it.

"... Some other time we in South Africa will even have to start looking to the processing of our toxic waste.

"If our own industry is not large enough, we could apparently accommodate other countries to establish a viable industry, but only with the greatest care," Mr Kotze said.

When approached Mr Sanders at first denied the existence of such a project, saying "you must have your wires crossed". When confronted by more details of the proposals, he referred all enquiries to Mr Steyn.

Mr Sanders is acting on behalf of investors from South Africa, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Switzerland, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Taiwan and Lichtenstein who visited the site in April.

According to Mr Sanders's proposal, the total cost of the project would amount to \$80-\$100 million (R220-R275 million).

Mr Sanders recommended that the project be started as soon as possible.

"The economic feasibility of the project is assured as it will cater for the urgent international need to dispose of huge volumes of special waste.

"An internationally recognised disposal facility with the highest standards of technology and monitoring will immediately attract a large portion of this vast volume."

# SA likely to lag over lead laws

SA SEEMS unlikely to follow the First World trend of enforcing stricter exhaust emission controls in cars.

Energy and car officials this week agreed that stricter emission controls would not be introduced until massive capital investment in oil refinery upgrading made high-octane, unleaded petrol readily available.

After a wave of environmental awareness, many western European countries and Japan have recently followed the US in introducing tough laws to curb exhaust pollution.

Most European authorities have coun-

tered the pollution threat by requiring the installation of three-way platinum-rhodium catalytic converters in the exhaust systems of all new cars by 1993.

The converters work by oxidising most of the toxic gases created by petrol-burning engines.

For converters to work effectively, the engine must burn lead-free petrol.

Members of the Field Commission — officials representing the energy and automobile industries — will meet in Cape Town this week to discuss the lead issue

ANDREW BUDDEN

B10am 6/7/89

56

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Two dams planned

# Ian Player in fight (56) to 'save' Natal river

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Two dams to be built on Natal's Umkomaas River were part of the long-term planning to supply Durban with water, a public meeting was told here last night.

The meeting was held at the Kingfisher Canoe Club at the Blue Lagoon, Durban, to launch a trust organisation to watch over the future development of the Umkomaas River.

Guest speaker was conservationist Dr Ian Player, who made a strong plea for one river in Natal to be left alone "to flow freely from the mountains to the sea".

Another speaker, Mr James Perkins, deputy chief engineer of the Department of Water Affairs, Natal, outlined future planning to meet the water needs of Durban and surrounding areas.

He told the meeting the Umkomaas River would eventually be dammed in terms of plans worked out by civil engineers.

He said it was the department's job to provide water cheaply. Conservation was expensive and he doubted that it was something the country could afford.

After the recent completion of the Inanda Dam on the Umgeni River, the next step would be to divert water to the Umgeni system from the Illovo River in the south.

Then engineers would turn to the Mooi River, and a dam would probably be built at the present pumping station built on the river during drought in the early 80s to pipe water to the Umgeni.

Only after that would water be taken from the Umkomaas River. Initially, no dams would be built on it.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Water would, however, be piped from the Umkomaas to the infrastructure established by then on the Illovo River.

The two dams on the Umkomaas, one at Ngwadini nearer the sea and the other at Impendle farther inland, would probably be built only by the year 2040, he said.

In his opening address, Dr Player asked if enough ingenuity were being applied in planning for the future. He mentioned the dam built at Josini at a cost of R66 million and said it had turned out a white elephant.

It showed that "people who build dams can make mistakes".

His appeal for the Umkomaas River was to "not choke it to death", but to preserve it for future generations. One river "had to be respected", he said.

At the end of the meeting a trust body was formed.

# The Greening of Europe: Suddenly, ecology is everybody's issue

MORE than 300 ecologists crowded into the annual meeting of Italian chemical giant Montedison Spa last week to demand the closure of a controversial plant and a seat on the board.

The ecologists, who have bought about 2 000 Montedison shares, arrived to make a protest unprecedented in Italy. Thirty of them asked to address the meeting.

"If Montedison doesn't close the plant, we will. We won't close it with bombs but with the power of reason," said Renato Galliano, a member of the Association for the Rebirth of the Bormida Valley.

The plant, near Savona in northern Italy produces a range of chemicals used for dye-stuffs, pigments, pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

Environmental groups say it is polluting the surrounding area and have held demonstrations outside the plant.

The demonstration was the first to be held since the success of the Green parties in European elections and is likely to become a familiar scene at company meetings throughout Europe as the Greens exploit the new-found enthusiasm for their cause.

The most far-reaching of recent moves was the decision by European Community environment ministers earlier this month to seek tough United States emissions standards for small cars from 1992.

This gives industry less than three years to fit three-way catalytic converters on cars with engines of under 1.4 litres.

The standards, expected to cut pollution from small cars by more than 70 percent, are much stricter than anticipated and reflect strong pressure from the European Parliament.

The debate will now turn to medium-sized and large cars, with the EC expected to call for US-style, or even tougher, standards in September.

The EC has also been instrumental in seeking cuts on chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs. EC environment ministers in March agreed to eliminate the most dangerous CFCs by the year 2 000 and to slash production and use of these CFCs by 85 percent as soon as possible.

The EC is also cracking down on member states which fail to enforce existing environmental legislation. In Britain this centres on the quality of drinking water, where the cost of raising standards to EC levels is likely to make the privatised water industry much less attractive to investors.

Proposals are also expected soon on reducing carbon dioxide, which contributes to the greenhouse effect, and on deforestation. Possibilities include tougher speed limits on motorways and debt relief for developing countries which fight deforestation.

The upshot is that Green issues have suddenly become important for

After the success of the Greens in the European elections in June, 'Greenness' is sweeping Europe. Multi-nationals trumpet their commitment to environmental reform. There are plans to rebuild power stations, use lead-free 'green' petrol and replace 'wasteful' appliances like light bulbs, TV sets and fridges.

Own Correspondent, Rome

big business in Britain and Europe.

Derys Henderson, chairman of ICI, recently described the company as "a pioneer in environmental research". ICI, often under fire for its environmental record, has appointed an executive director responsible for the environment, and is spending £500-million (R2.3-billion) on safety, health and environment and £100-million (R440-million) in the search for replacements to the chlorofluorocarbons which damage the ozone layer.

However, Henderson admitted ICI was not beyond reproach and stressed it had to continue to earn satisfactory profits to survive as a leading British-based, international company.

BP, which has carefully cultivated its pro-Green image, fell foul of the new enthusiasm for Green campaigns when it hit the headlines for an involvement in bulldozing tropical rainforests.

The environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth, will soon launch a campaign to expose more companies which are involved in destroying rainforests.

Ted Thiers, head of the Confederation of British Industry's Environmental Health and Safety Group, points to the potential of new markets created by the changing trend, estimating a potential worldwide market of between £100-billion (R440-billion) and £150-billion (R670-billion) for environmental-friendly products and technologies.

Many companies, such as Habitat and Laura Ashley, have been awarded the Friends of the Earth Good Wood Seal of Approval for agreeing to cease selling, or specifying tropical hardwoods unless they are obtained from a sustainable source.

Others, like Sansbury's Homebase, have begun labelling timber products, providing information on the source of the material. British Telecom is one of the first to instigate a company-wide audit of the effect of its operations on the environment and the cost of improving its "friendly" image.

All of the new vehicles in its 58 000-strong fleet will now run on



Our smog-filled world... the Greens and the EC have put strong pressure on the motor industry to use lead-free petrol and to seek tougher emissions standards which will drastically cut pollution from cars.

lead-free petrol and it is studying the cost and feasibility of converting the existing vehicles.

But the changes facing industry go far beyond this. Environmental groups suggest that a whole range of basic household products, like light bulbs, fridges, washing machines and television sets could easily be replaced by more energy-efficient models.

Fitting the latest energy-efficient light bulbs would cut by half the seven million tons of carbon dioxide, 10 000 tons of sulphur dioxide, 18 000 tons of nitrous oxide and 830

cubic metres of radioactive waste produced by domestic lighting.

The costs involved in the "greening" of Britain's electricity industry are playing a crucial part in calculating the price tag for next year's flotation.

Best estimates suggest generating companies must spend up to £1.5-million (R6.6-billion) at current prices to equip power stations with the latest technology to reduce the sulphur emissions which cause acid rain.

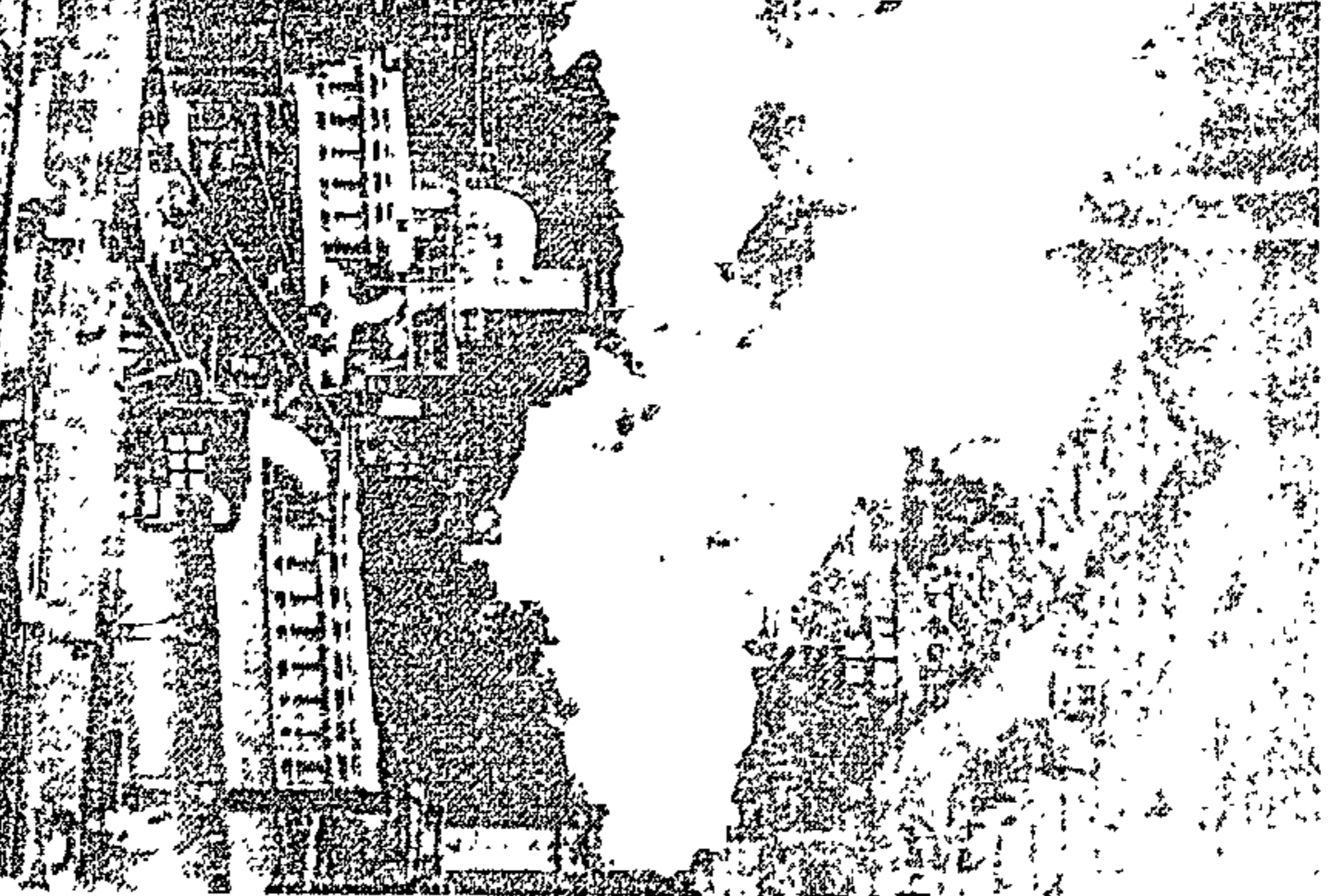
A £350-million (R1.5-billion) project to kit up Britain's biggest power station at Drax has already begun. The technology is designed to cut pollution by as much as 90 percent.

After the sell-off, nuclear fuel together with a key contributor from renewable sources such as wave and wind power will contribute up to 20 percent of energy needs.

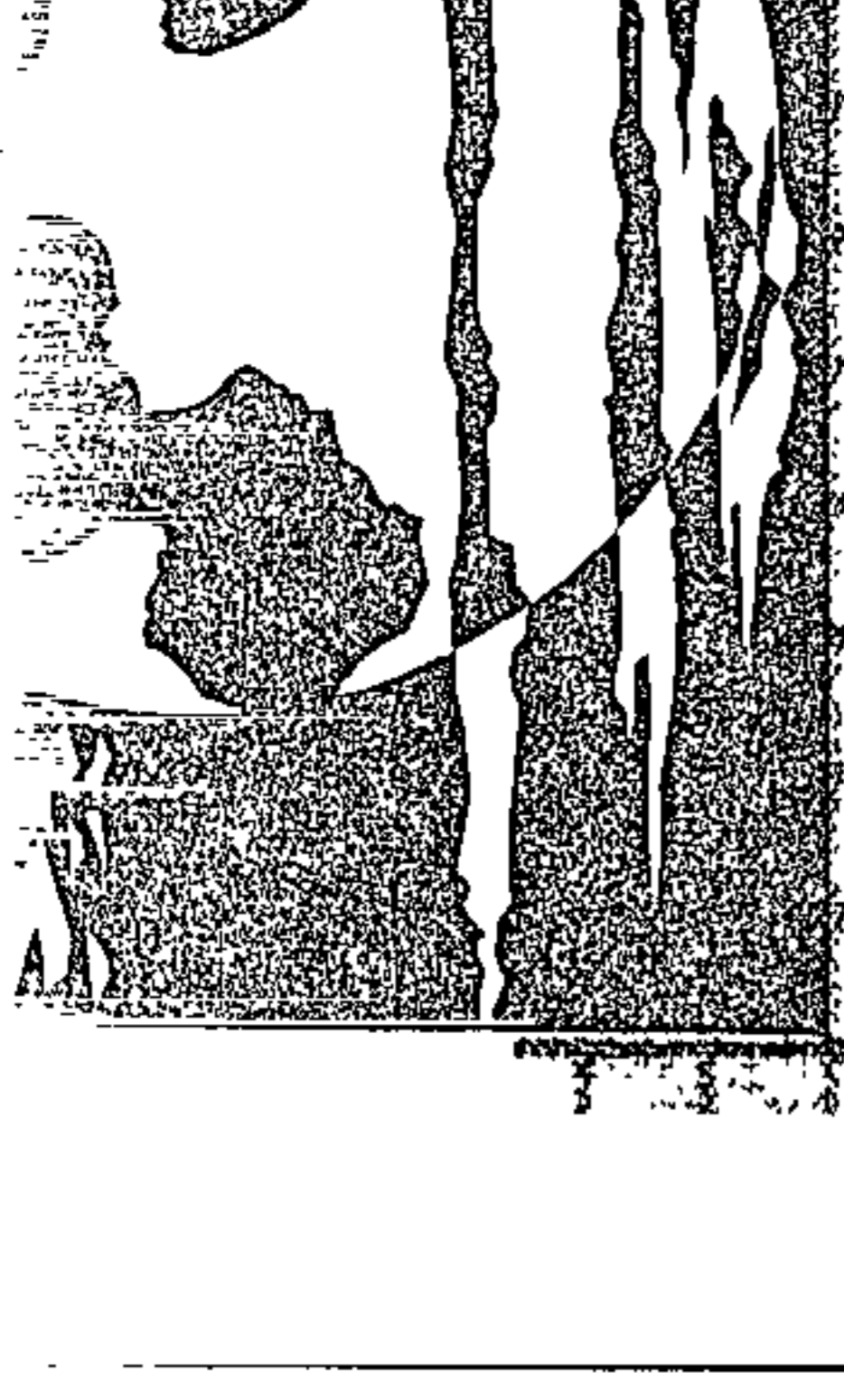
British companies are also being forced for the first time to consider seriously the radical policies of the Green Party, which advocates an economic and industrial strategy well to the left of the Labour Party's mainstream thinking.

The Green's radical agenda includes import controls, antagonism towards the Common Market, conservation and pollution taxes, major changes in

Health hazard... The greening of Europe is likely to spell increased pressure on factories which pollute the environment.

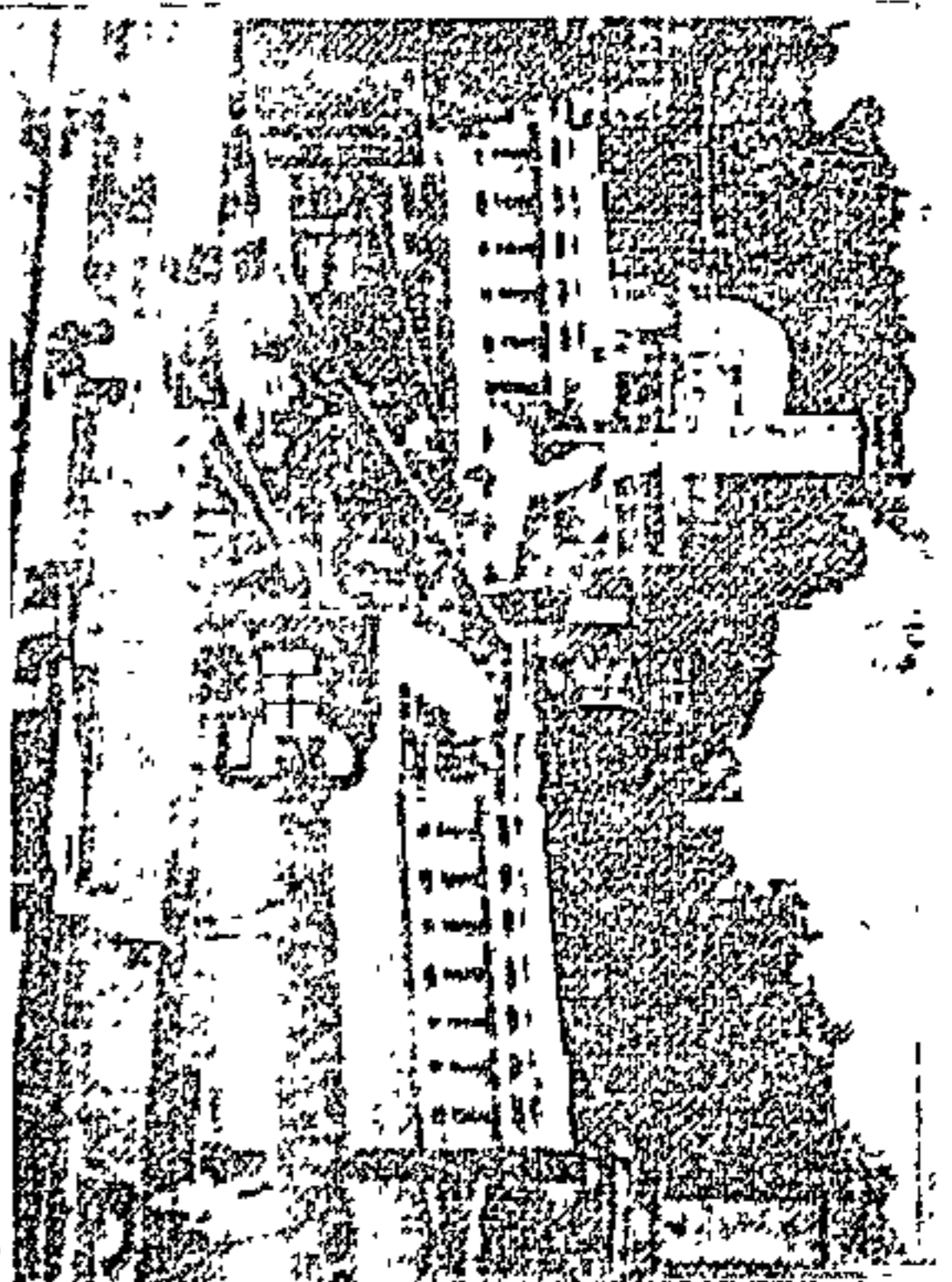


When wolf howl in my bed, what would I'll prey on's appetite look?



Environment from a... (faint vertical text)





Health hazard ... The greening of Europe is likely to spell increased pressure on factories which pollute the environment



turn wolf down in my  
ered. What would I tell prey  
our appetite next?

Something in his voice made me  
throw caution to the winds. "Your  
appetite for evil life seems...  
inhabitable" I responded, chuckling.  
Another pizza fell prey to those powerful,  
but handsome jaws. I trembled, what  
would be their next  
victim?

**easy**

**Pizza**

**Foodlovers**

Special Foods now available at your favourite  
shop. The single roll, lasagne, pizza, pizza,  
salads, soups, curries, pastas, pizzas, etc.  
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The Green's radical agenda includes import controls, antagonism towards the Common Market, conservation and pollution taxes, major changes in the holding of land, a guaranteed basic income for everyone, an attempt to limit the power of multi-national corporations and a movement away from the idea that men and women should be committed to the idea of working a 40-hour week.

John Burton, who edited the Green party manifesto, said: "The current boom in consumption cannot go on. People are addicted to consumption but they want to be helped off it."

He said recent trends suggested that industry was moving away from "gigantism" towards smaller units and a more human working pattern.

No figure has been put on the cost of "greening" industry, although estimates have suggested that it will run into hundreds of billions of pounds.

A more telling criticism is that the introduction of a Green economic strategy would cause a massive surge in inflation, with firms passing on the cost of becoming environment-friendly to consumers. The cost of fitting catalytic converters to the 20-million cars on Britain's roads would be £8-billion (R35-billion) alone. — The Guardian, London

## Glasnost knocks Lenin off his pedestal

*No one is sacred in Gorbachev's Russia these days, not even Lenin himself, described in a long-banned, but finally published book as insolent, cruel and tyrannical.*  
**BY DAVID BENNICK**

THE boundaries of glasnost have been stretched still wider with the publication of a 1963 novel that contains the most hard-hitting criticism ever sanctioned in this country of Lenin and the Soviet state he founded.

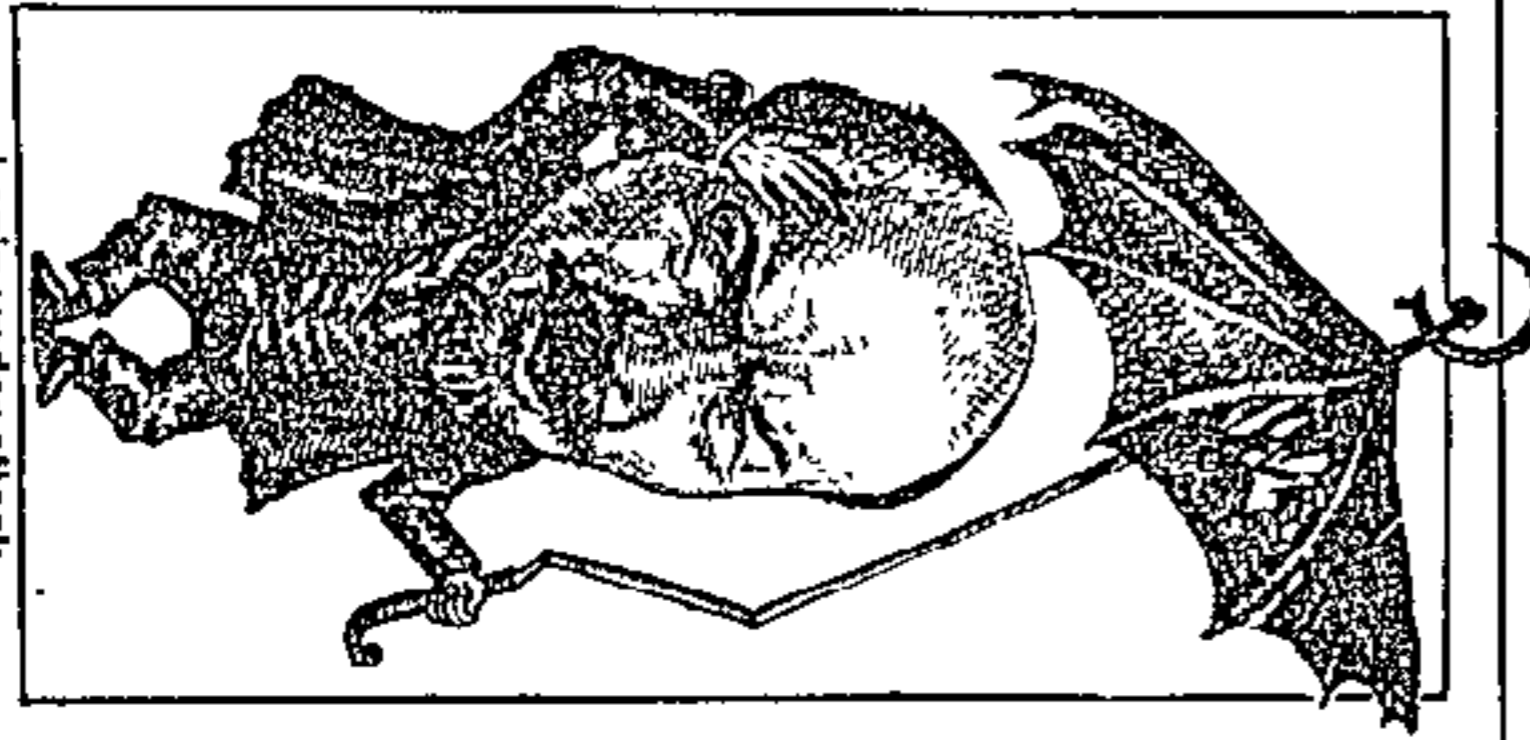
The reputation of Lenin, for more than 70 years the nation's ideological lodestar, had been virtually sacrosanct, with only the most gingerly and apologetic public criticism of him permitted. That has now apparently come to an end with the appearance in the literary journal *October* of the late Vasily Grossman's *Forever Flowing*.

The novel — ostensibly a memoir of a political prisoner who returns home after 30 years in the Arctic gulag — portrays Lenin as a ruthless fanatic, a mad revolutionary who destroyed the fledgling democracy of the 1917 February revolution and replaced it with what Grossman calls the "unfreedom" of the October, or Bolshevik, revolution.

"Lenin's intolerance, Lenin's impa-

ble drive to achieve his purpose, his contempt for freedom, his cruelty towards those who held different opinions and his capacity to wipe off the face of the earth, without remitting, not only fortresses, but entire countries, districts and provinces that questioned his orthodox truth — all these were the characteristics of Volodya Ulyanov Lenin," Grossman wrote.

Grossman, a Ukrainian-born writer who died in 1964, never saw *Forever Flowing* or his masterwork, *Life and Fate*, published in his homeland. The latter work, a monumental novel



Lenin under attack

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SC, said a Reserve Bank order protected Shefer's assets, freezing all furniture, mov-

portable loss because certain transactions would dissipate and/or conceal Shefer's assets.

## Mother claims detention was unlawful

ADELE BALETA

THE mother of a 21-year-old Section 29 detainee applied to the Rand Supreme Court yesterday for an order declaring his arrest and detention unlawful.

Thembane Mazibuko asked that her son, Veli Mazibuko, detained on June 26, be released. *BIDUM 7778M*

Mazibuko is a business management student at Wits University.

He was detained in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act and had been detained on two previous occasions.

Mrs Mazibuko has alternatively applied for an interim interdict restraining the police from assaulting her son or subjecting him to any unlawful pressure, pending

the outcome of the application.

In an affidavit she said a neighbour phoned her at work saying her house had been raided by police and her son assaulted. According to a witness, Mazibuko was slapped in the face and kicked while lying on the floor.

Police, who are opposing the application, claim he was active in an ANC cell. They alleged he was responsible for several terror attacks.

Mr Justice Schabert reserved judgment until today.

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A consortium hoping to establish a \$150m toxic waste treatment plant on the north western Cape coast is continuing work on the proposal, even though government has not yet given its approval.

Sidney Sanders of Newlands, acting on behalf of the international consortium which he would not name, yesterday said the company, which hoped to establish the local and imported waste-burning plant and a specially-created accompanying harbour, had not yet been formed.

Environment Affairs director general Bill Visagie confirmed yesterday that government had approved a probe into the project's feasibility.

But the Cabinet had said the application

## No official nod yet to toxic waste plant

should be frozen while a decision was made on whether to subscribe to Basel Convention regulations on the international movement and treatment of waste, he said. *BIDUM 7778M*

Sanders said if government came into line with the Basel proposals it would not affect the \$150m 500-job scheme.

He said no nuclear waste would be dealt with.

Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze has said SA would consider treating toxic waste from other countries only if it was necessary to make viable a plant catering for SA's needs.

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## Africa devises recovery plan

LONDON — Africa launched its own plan for recovery from economic stagnation yesterday.

A report by the Economic Commission for Africa, the UN thinktank based in Addis Ababa, called for "adjustment with transformation" and criticised the harsher aspects of reform programmes put forward by international financial institutions.

ECA executive secretary, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, called the 1980s "a lost decade" and said a quarter of Africa's population was now dependent on food imports.

He stressed reform was essential for Africa but said orthodox programmes of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had not produced sustained growth. — The Independent News Service.

### The Bookie's Bet

Gosforth Park tomorrow: Best bet — Diareus, Race 4. Best eachway — Fred's Ambition, Race 9.

## Uproar over toxic waste

By Esmaré van der Merwe  
Political Reporter

A Government investigation into the feasibility of a huge toxic-waste plant near Alexander Bay on the west coast has been described by opposition politicians and environment groups as shocking.

Government spokesmen confirmed yesterday that such an investigation was being made.

If approved, the plant could mean the importation of 500 000 tons of toxic waste a year, which would make South Africa a major dumping ground.

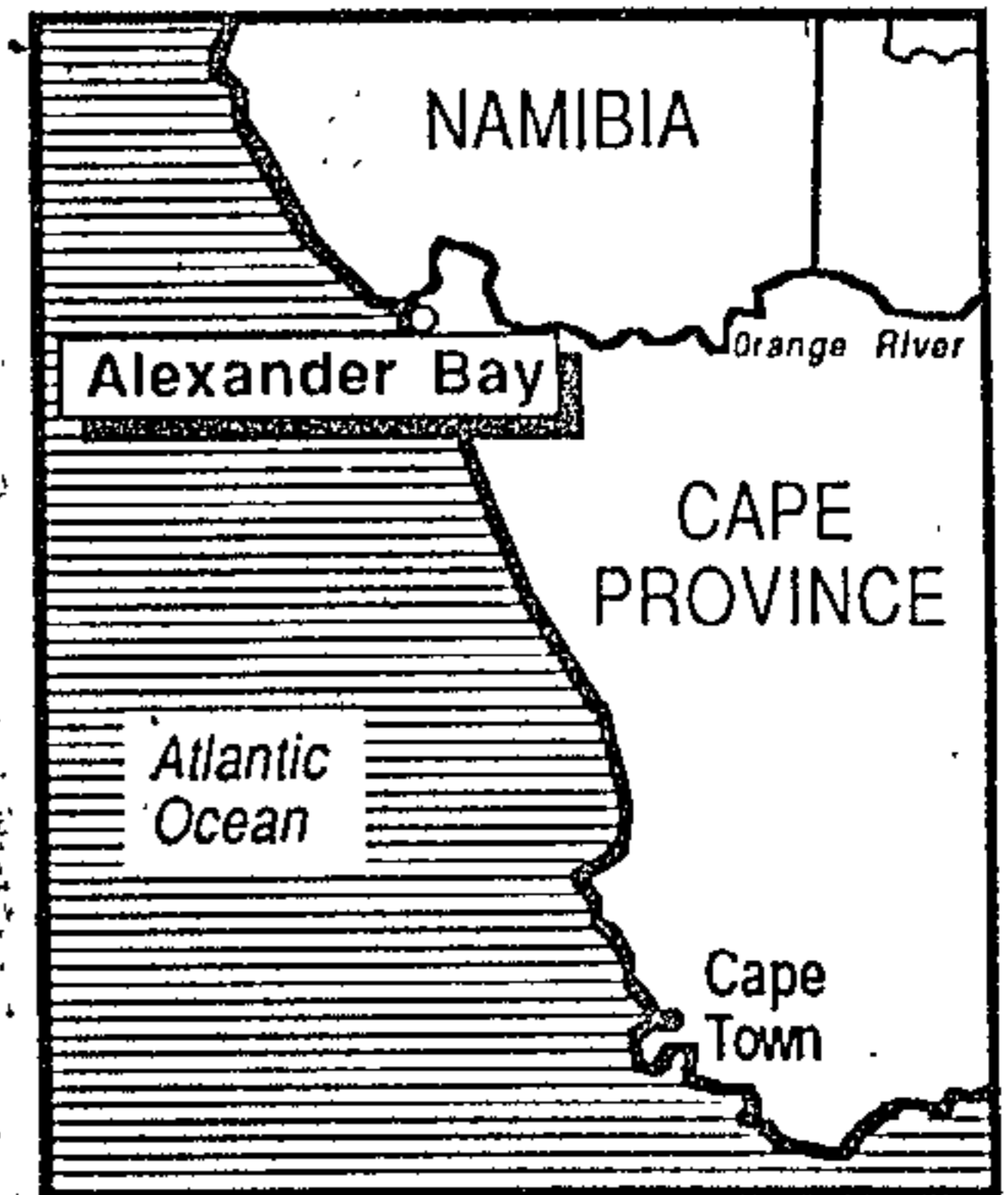
The Democratic Party spokesman on environmental affairs, Mr Rupert Lorimer, said the concept was horrifying. He would oppose it unless the final product was non-toxic and there were substantial financial advantages in terms of foreign currency.

The Conservative Party's environmental spokesman, Mr Carel Schoeman, also condemned the plan, saying the party would oppose it strongly.

Mr Boet du Preez, chief executive officer of the Habitat Council, the co-ordinating body for voluntary organisations concerned with the environment, said he was shocked.

While acknowledging the financial benefits of such a scheme, he said the potential danger of toxic-waste disposal along the coastline was considerable.

Professor Richard Fuggle of Cape



Town University's department of environmental science said a toxic waste plant had merit, but it should be carefully investigated and not endanger the environment.

The director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Dr John Ledger, said: "One's first reaction is of horror."

"But if a country has the expertise to dispose of toxic waste in a responsible way, one should rather opt for that instead of having it being thrown round carelessly"

Star 7/7/87

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# Border post move may hit Botswana

The Star's Africa News Service

GABORONE — In a move which could have serious implications for Botswana, the South African Government has given Bophuthatswana control of the Kopfontein border post, through which nearly all road traffic between Botswana and South Africa passes.

A Botswana government spokesman said in Gaborone that the SA Government had informed Botswana — which does not recognise Bophuthatswana as an independent state — of the handover through diplomatic channels.

## Two forms to fill in

A spokesman for the South African Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday confirmed that the border post had been incorporated into Bophuthatswana, and the farm Kopfontein on which the border post was situated had been incorporated last Friday.

Travellers said they were now required to complete both Bophuthatswanan and South African

forms when crossing the border.

It is estimated in Gaborone that about 95 per cent of the traffic between Botswana and South Africa goes through the Kopfontein border post.

The only other direct border post linking Botswana to SA in the vicinity of Gaborone is Derdepoort — but the road linking Botswana's capital with Derdepoort is a dirt road in bad condition.

A few months ago rail links between Botswana and South Africa were disrupted when the Bophuthatswana authorities demanded that Botswana train crews crossing the border at Ramatlaba apply for visas to enter Bophuthatswana.

As Botswana does not recognise the independent homeland, it refused to comply. A turnaround facility was built on the Botswana side of the border so that trains now do not enter Bophuthatswana.

Last year, rumours circulated in Gaborone that the SA Government planned to buy up farms in the South African corridor through Bophuthatswana along which the road to Kopfontein passes and then hand the land over to Bophuthatswana.

# 'Splashing Vaalies' anger PE locals

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Port Elizabeth residents, faced with stringent water restrictions, are battling to keep their water consumption down — and to control their tempers in the face of "splashing Vaalies".

The water-wasting antics of up-country visitors no longer used to water restrictions are drawing the ire of locals.

While locals are dreaming up

methods to save, holidaymakers from the Transvaal are "just wallowing in our precious water".

On Tuesday the Port Elizabeth City Council restricted each household to 500 litres of water a day from August 1. Existing measures — bans on watering gardens and topping up swimming pools — proved inadequate as dam levels continued to drop daily.

Seaside caravan park owner Mrs Corrinne McKiever said ten-

sion was running high between her guests as those from the coast watched in horror as the "insensitive characters from up-country splashed it about all over the place".

The City Council's Works and Traffic Committee ruled on Tuesday that householders would pay a flat rate of 79,05c/kl for water consumed up to 500 l/day. A penalty of R24/kl will be charged for additional consumption.

# Minister quashes toxic waste talk

w/c Argus 8/7/89 56

By FRANS ESTERHUYSE  
Political Staff

PLANS by a Cape Town developer for processing imported toxic waste near Alexander Bay, on the West Coast, will not get off the ground and no such applications will be considered by the government in the foreseeable future.

This categorical assurance was given by the Director-General of Environment Affairs, Mr Bill Visagie, to Weekend Argus.

He said: "The application can be regarded as having been turned down. We are not even looking at it."

Such applications were unlikely to be considered this century. The government had not even accepted in principle the establishment of toxic waste plants involving the treatment of imported waste, he said.

## Broad principles

He confirmed that an official investigation was being conducted into the whole issue of toxic waste disposal in the international context. However, only broad principles were being studied and the feasibility of establishing future projects would be examined.

There was no question at this stage of considering individual applications like the one from Cape Town developer, Mr Sidney Sanders, for a project near Alexander Bay.

Mr Visagie's assurances seem to allay fears expressed by politicians and environmen-

tal organisations that the proposed West Coast project, if accepted, could turn South Africa into a major toxic waste dumping ground.

He confirmed also that the Cabinet had frozen all moves to establish a hi-tech plant to deal with imported toxic waste. The Cabinet had requested an investigation into the principles involved in toxic waste disposal in the international context.

## Basle Convention

This decision was taken in May, following a conference in Switzerland where an international agreement known as the Basle Convention was drawn up. The agreement called on all countries to agree to stricter cross-border controls on toxic matter.

Mr Visagie said the government's policy on toxic waste, as stated in May by the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, in an interview with The Argus still stood.

The minister had said then:

"Our policy is that we don't accept waste of any kind, toxic or not, from foreign countries."

The minister qualified this statement by saying that if, in the future, a need should arise to import toxic waste in order to make viable any plants for the treatment of local toxic waste, then the government would consider such imports.

He explained then that South Africa had its own toxic waste problem. Because of industrialisation, reserves of toxic waste were building up which would have to be disposed of, just as was the situation in all other countries.

South Africa had the expertise to process this waste, but it was very expensive to put up such processing plants. However, it would have to be done at some time in the future.

Explaining further yesterday, Mr Visagie said that in or-

der to make a plant viable, a certain amount of toxic waste had to be processed. If South Africa's available supplies of waste were not enough to make a plant viable, additional waste might have to be imported.

However, this was a matter for the future. Present investigations were only to "explore the whole field" and not to consider any applications for toxic waste disposal.

Mr Kotze was not available yesterday to comment.

# Poisoners *St. Times, 9/17/87* pose threat *(56)* to SA food

By Robyn Chalmers

MALICIOUS product contamination, of which there have been more than 2 000 cases in the US since 1987, is rearing its head in South Africa.

Three cases of product contamination have been reported recently. The first involved the contamination of animal feeds, the second the poisoning of chocolates and in the third meat products destined for a supermarket were contaminated with ground glass.

## Disastrous

PriceForbes Federale Volkskas (PFV) Southern Transvaal deputy managing director Charles van der Byl says that in the first two cases the contamination was not detected and the result was disastrous.

"Fortunately, the meat contamination was spotted before the products were offered for sale.

"There was also a case in Britian where the manufacturer of baby food was subjected to extortion threats. Callers claimed that some of its products had been deliberately contaminated."

Mr Van der Byl stresses that the cost of product recall, sale loss and perhaps even the rebranding and re-marketing of an established product can be enormous.

"Several years ago international healthcare group Johnson & Johnson faced bills of up to \$100-million in product recall costs when Tylenol — a popular headache remedy — was contaminated and seven people died. Loss of sales amounted to \$400-million.

In the wake of such inci-

dents, insurance products have been developed to provide protection for manufacturers and distributors. The policies, which are available abroad but not in SA, are known as malicious products tampering, product contamination or product integrity insurance.

Mr Van der Byl says: "The insurance covers the costs of disruption to the manufacturer or distributor if a product is contaminated or if there is threat of contamination.

"Irrespective of whether a deed has been carried out or not, a company cannot afford to ignore the threat and must take recall action."

## Impossible

He says costs to the company include examination and analysis, destruction or rehabilitation of contaminated goods, value of goods destroyed, loss of profits, re-establishment and re-marketing of the product, business interruption and the recapture of lost market share.

The London and US-based insurers with which PFV is connected to offer SA companies a facility to insure against product contamination require detailed proposal forms as well as information on the company's crisis response and recall plans.

"Because it is practically impossible to make products totally tamper-proof, the risks are high and insurers have to be cautious. In arranging these facilities, companies invariably require professional assistance, including advice on risk management planning and procedures."

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# Foundation wants controlled ivory trade

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The Rhino and Elephant Foundation has supported calls for a ban on the ivory trade into Europe and North America, but is in favour of controlled trade from southern African countries to the Far East.

This is in line with the position taken by the South African delegation to the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Gaborone last week.

Delegates from 15 African states were unable to reach agreement on a world wide ban, with representatives from north Africa — where elephants herds have been seriously depleted — in favour of the ban and those from southern Africa — where there is an abundance of elephant — opposed to it.

It is estimated that 80 percent of all elephants currently alive in Africa are outside protected conservation areas.

Dr Clive Walker of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation believes the southern African countries have enough ivory to sustain the demand from the East and that the legitimate ivory trade should be allowed to continue, with the application of strict controls and checks.

But present levels of trade could not be sustained and a ban on imports to the West could substantially help to slow down the trade.

However, the local trade in elephant products, such as those obtained through the Kruger National Park's culling programme, was in no way endan-

gering the elephants and should be allowed to continue.

South Africa currently draws well over R7 million annually through culling.

Mr Walker said his organisation supported the proposal made by South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambique at the Gaborone meeting of establishing a Regional Ivory Marketing and Control System.

These countries were unified in their objective of reducing the ivory trade to the lowest possible level, using the entire elephant carcass to maximise revenue and ensure that the control of the resource and its revenues are retained locally.

Full details of this scheme were expected to be announced at a meeting of Cites in Switzerland in October.

## POSITION

The Rhino and Elephant Foundation has taken the position that:

- Poaching over the past 20 years is primarily responsible for the threat to the elephant.
- The escalating price of ivory, official corruption and deterioration in the economies of most African states is the major force behind this over-exploitation.
- African governments, with few exceptions, will be unable to prevent the continued decline of their elephant populations.
- A reduction in demand is likely to lead to a reduction in poaching.
- African countries have yet to work out how many elephants they can sustain.

# A-G not neutral — Namibian Church

WINDHOEK. — The Council of Churches in Namibia, which represents close to one million christians in the territory, has questioned the "partiality" of the South African Administrator-General in his handling of the Namibian independence process.

In a letter to the United Nations Security Council, CCN Chief Dr Abisai Shejavali said Mr Louis Pienaar was "unable to use his powers to solve problems" plaguing the implementation of the UN settlement plan.

In terms of the Security Council's resolution 435 of 1978, South Africa's administrator-general is expected to govern Namibia during its transition period with the utmost partiality.

However, observers have suggested that Pienaar shares the sentiments of the Pretoria government as far as a Swapo victory at the polls is concerned.

South Africa is believed to be covertly backing anti-Swapo parties, alliances and fronts which will be contesting the UN-supervised elections scheduled for November.

In his letter to the security council, copies of which were sent to Pienaar and UN special representative Martti Ahtisaari, the head of Namibia's Churches asked the world body to exert whatever pressure they can to bring Pienaar to accept and understand "honest brokering".

Shejavali asked the Security Council to empower Ahtisaari to "take firmer supervision and control of the Resolution 435 process to remove the hostile environment into which our compatriots are forced to return".

Shejavali told the Security Council: "With the presence of Koevoet in the ranks of the South West African Police, and with the police in the North being commanded by General Hans Dreyer, the founder of Koevoet, the atmosphere is not conducive to free and fair elections."

A three-day general strike in the north, which ended at the weekend, was called in an attempt to get the UN special representative to take action to get Koevoet out of the police.

However, the strike was dismissed by former Koevoet commander, General Hans Dreyer, as "pure propaganda instigated by hostile elements".

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# Shedding new light on Africa's droughts

MAJOR increases in agricultural production have been achieved in Africa's drought-prone Sahel region in the past 20 years.

In a new report by the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), some cherished myths have been shattered.

The document reviews the IUCN's Sahel Programme, which began five years ago as a result of "deep alarm" at the effects of drought in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

The Sahel region includes large portions of Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkino Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Despite the harrowing images of starvation, each Sahelian region appears to be producing more food than it is consuming and there are no trends of declining nutritional status among the population.

However, at this stage output is not enough to keep pace with a population growth rate which is among the fastest in the world, observes Dr Michael Norton-Griffiths, editor of the report.

In addition, drought years have had little influence on the steady growth in livestock, which have increased from 168 million to 233 million in the last 25 years.

## Starving

Another drought myth is that the total amount of rain is the key to agricultural productivity.

Even in the worst drought years, all the countries of the Sahel have continued to trade in agricultural produce. During the Ethiopian famine, for example, Ethiopian melons were being exported to Europe at the same time as Ethiopians were starving.

But then famine is rarely about a lack of food but more reflective of how certain groups of people are unable to buy food, argues Norton-Griffiths.

Perhaps the most damaging myth of all to be debunked by the report is the theory known as the "Tragedy of the Commons".

This widely-held idea postulates that common ownership of land leads to rural people degrading their natural resources.

## Resources

It is based on the argument that two competing users of a public pasture or forest will both choose to deplete the resource for immediate gain in the belief that if one conserves there is no guarantee that the other will do so.

This theory has helped boost the colonial policy of individual land ownership, which is seen by governments and international agencies as necessary to development.

The report blames land tenure concepts imposed from above for creating situations in which poor people have been progressively excluded from resources, production has not increased, and the environment has not been conserved.

But research among African pastoralists has shown that systems of common property are widespread, and work, because it is in everyone's interest to make them work.

What has gone wrong is not community control, with its careful system of checks and balances, but misguided state intervention. The state as a whole does not emerge well from the report. — GEMINI NEWS

14/7/89.

TIMBER (56) (18) Fmail

### Growing a future

New afforestation projects totalling 110 000 ha planned by Sappi and Mondi are a step in the right direction — but not enough to prevent SA's timber surplus from being depleted by the year 2007.

This is the view of Forest Owners' Association (FOA) director Mike Edwards. Based on current plantation area, and allowing for improvements in yield, the FOA estimates a potential cumulative shortfall of 18m m<sup>3</sup> of softwood and 32,5m m<sup>3</sup> of hardwood by 2010.

Sappi CE Eugene van As disagrees. While he concedes that there is an existing shortage of hardwood (Eucalypts), and that a shortage of softwood (pine) will develop, this won't be permanent.

"People who predict a timber shortage presume no one will do anything about it and forget about free market forces. Many — small companies, big companies, farmers and probably even the State — now know timber is good business and will plant more than they did before. I don't believe we're



running into a lasting shortage." Quoting from an exhaustive survey of SA's timber reserves and usage conducted by the FOA last year, Edwards remains adamant: "We need an additional

40 000 ha/year to be planted for the next five years and 16 000 ha/year thereafter — but we're only getting 23 000 ha/year.

"And, while the new schemes launched by Sappi and Mondi will assist and stimulate interest, they don't alter our forecast."

Sappi recently announced that it is involved in a joint venture with the Mozambican government which might lead to it planting 50 000 ha of new forest in Mozambique, in addition to the 240 000 ha it already owns in SA. The cost of the Mozambican venture will be more than R50m. While Sappi will commit only a few million rands, it may be difficult to raise the balance "as it will have to be raised by the joint Mozambican company."

Meanwhile Mondi, which has 220 000 ha under trees, is involved in a R110m joint venture with Anglo American Corporation and De Beers to develop 60 000 ha of plantation in the Ugie, Maclear and Elliott regions of the north-eastern Cape over the next seven years.

The difference in the scope of the investments is that Mondi will ultimately own its forests. While Sappi will manage its project, and guarantee a market for the timber in its mills, the Mozambican government will retain ownership of the land.

However, there are still some obstacles to be overcome. While he expresses confidence in the scheme (the Mozambican soil is similar to that of Sappi's estates in northern

(56) (18) Fmail 14/7/89.

Zululand), Van As warns: "We are not yet committed to planting 50 000 ha. We did a prefeasibility study and we are now conducting a full feasibility study with overseas consultants. Everything depends on the outcome of that study.

"We hope to plant a pilot area this year. If everything goes well, we'll plant most of the area to Eucalypts, which we'll start harvesting in eight or nine years."

Mondi, which anticipates that demand for SA timber will increase by 56% over the next 20 years, has the blessing of the forestry branch of the Department of Environment (DE). According to the DE, the eastern Cape area is suitable for development under the National Forestry Plan and the necessary permits will be granted.

A Mondi spokesman agrees SA appears to be running into a timber shortage. One obvious way of preventing it is to plant more trees and increase the yield of the land under timber. Another option is cloning, which can double yields, but can be hazardous unless skilfully done. Desirable, as well as undesirable attributes of parent stock are cloned.

Timber sales from plantations were worth R530m in 1987, compared with R450m in 1986. Total 1987 production increased by 1,14m m<sup>3</sup> or 8,3% to 14,8m m<sup>3</sup>, with sales of pulpwood, sawlogs, mining timber, poles, matchwood, charcoal and firewood totalling R583m.

**SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE HAS TO DISPOSE OF TOXIC WASTES ... JUST AS LONG AS ITS NOT DONE 'IN MY BACK YARD'**

# Not in my backyard: SA and the global junk heap

TWO freighters, left to wander the world's oceans in a desperate search for a port at which to offload their cargoes of toxic waste, last year came to symbolise the Third World's growing resistance to the prospect of becoming the globe's garbage heap.

After two years at sea and being snubbed by at least 11 countries, the Pelicano was reported to have dumped 60 000 tons of arsenic, mercury, dioxin and other toxins on the floor of the Indian Ocean. The tanker Karin B suffered a similar banishment after secretly dumping barrels of industrial toxins in Nigeria last year.

Although the South African government is clearly sensitive to the stigma that accompanies the importation of other countries' refuse, the possibility that fugitive shiploads of toxic waste may be welcomed here has become a real possibility.

Last week Director-General of Environment Affairs Bill Visagie rejected reports that the government had approved plans to build a plant capable of recycling 500 000 tons of imported industrial waste a year near Alexander Bay in the north-west Cape.

An application by a Cape Town businessman to undertake the project had been rejected and all plans to build a high-tech plant to deal with toxic waste had been frozen, said Visagie. The government was merely looking into the feasibility of such a scheme and it was unlikely that any construction would take place this century.

But the director-general's cautious statement was slightly out of step with Environment Minister Gert Kotze's report to parliament in February this year that Pretoria was seriously considering building a waste disposal facility in South Africa.

His statement came as no coincidence. Three months earlier MPs had been supplied with a leader article from the *Financial Mail* analysing the lucrative possibilities of such a policy, together with a suggestion that the scheme was worthy of parliamentary support.

Given the sorry state of South Africa's foreign exchange reserves and its balance of payments problems, the importation of toxic waste represents a seductive solution to Pretoria's fiscal stress.

"Vast sums of money are available ex-America to anyone who is prepared to handle their waste in a safe and professional manner," said com-

**Should South Africa allow the importing of toxic wastes no other country wants? It could be a seductive solution to our foreign exchange problems ... and a dangerous one**  
By ALISON CAMPBELL and EDDIE KOCH

pany director Peter Petter-Bower in an interview with the *Weekly Mail*. "We are talking about billions of dollars, enough to solve the country's balance of payment crisis."

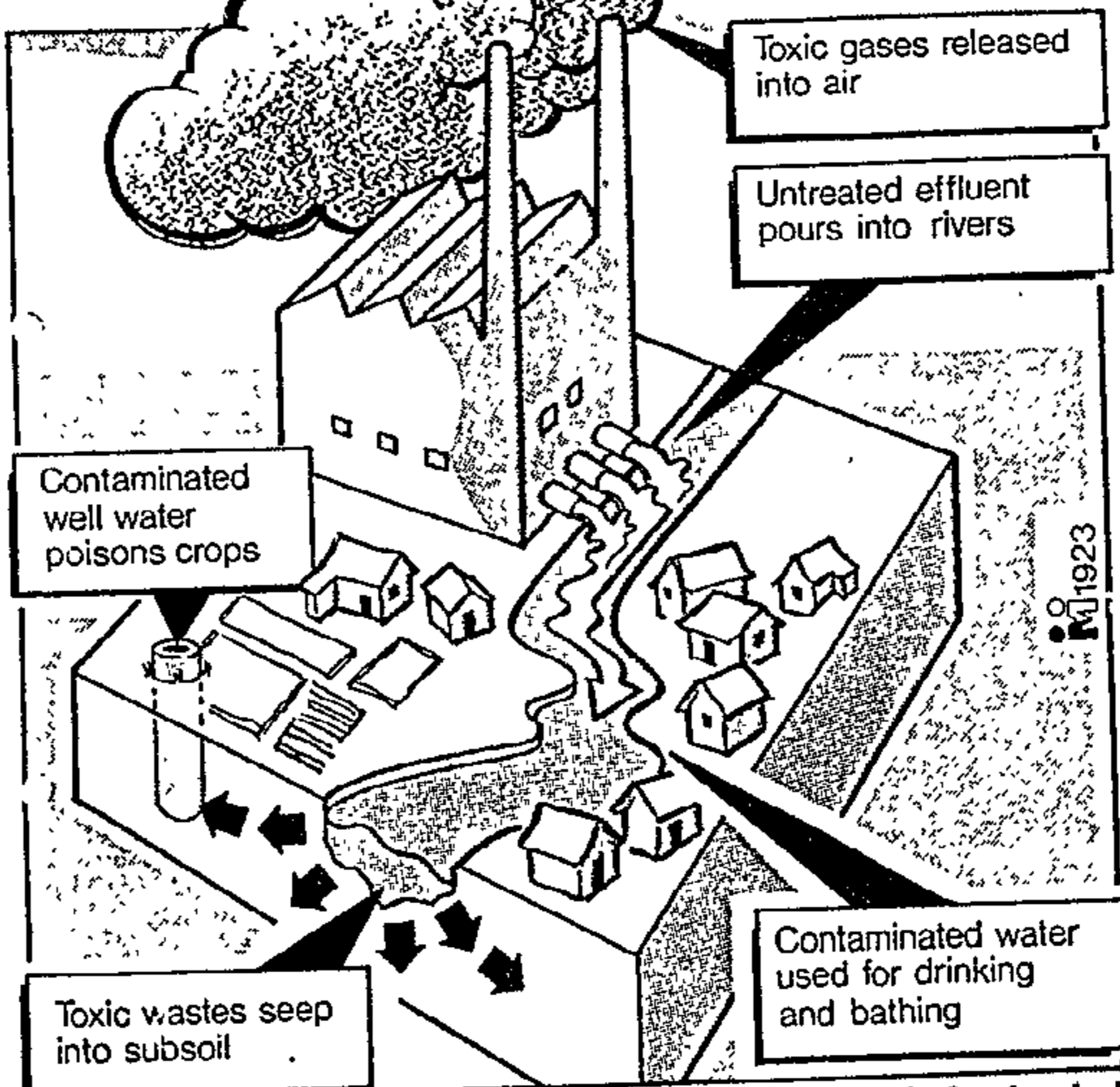
Petter-Bower's firm, Prodev, earlier this year failed to persuade the Botswana government to sign a multi-million dollar deal to import and bury poisonous waste from the United States.

The company, based in Guernsey with four former Zimbabweans now resident in South Africa as directors, was also asked by a middleman in the US to approach the South African government about a possible deal. Petter-Bower says Pretoria rejected the offer in 1986.

The environmental group, Greenpeace, reports that stringent controls on recycling in the industrialised world have turned the eyes of those who trade in the toxins to Africa, where the cost of dumping can be one percent of that in the West. A major wave of dumping began after the European Economic Community introduced stringent controls in 1986. A recent BBC documentary reported that Guinea Bissau dropped plans to take just 15 tons of poison waste from industrialised countries — even though the consignment was worth three times the country's GNP.

Kotze's assurances to parliament that government plans include a strict "no dumping" requirement, as well as his emphasis on the "circumspection" with which waste would be selected for import, have done little to convince environmentalists that financial considerations will not inevitably prevail over good sense.

Much of the outcry which has greet-



**Industry's dumping ground ... there is a lack of control of untreated toxic wastes being released and contaminating the environment**

ed official announcements about the possibility of toxic waste is in line with what the disposal industry calls the NIMBY syndrome.

"Not In My Back Yard", the rallying cry of environmentalists worldwide, say those in the industry, poses something of a quandary for those who claim to be concerned with the welfare of the planet as a whole. After all, industrialised countries will continue to generate toxic by-products and the problem will not just go away by itself.

"Someone, somewhere is going to have to do it and it would be far better done responsibly by highly qualified scientists under international supervision than left to rot on some Third World shoreline," says economic geology consultant Dennis Toens, who used to work for the Atomic Energy Corporation.

The distinction between processing and dumping is also implicit in a

United Nations convention on waste, adopted in March this year, which imposes a ban on the export of hazardous materials to countries not equipped to handle them properly.

The effective treatment and disposal of toxic waste requires technology, expertise and geologically suitable areas which private enterprise in South Africa claims to have access to. The aim is to make the toxins less dangerous, preferably inert, and dispose of residues in geologically suitable sites.

Wastes too dangerous to dump in their raw form can be either organic (pesticides, phenols and fuel compounds) or inorganic (acids, alkalis, heavy metals and cyanide compounds). Treatment involves neutralisation, precipitation, oxidation or reduction which produces a solid residue that then goes to the landfill site.

Of greater concern are substances for which there is no treatment. Poly-

chlorinated biphenols (PCBs), arsenic compounds and others are merely sealed in concrete and dumped in half-a-dozen landfills which already exist in South Africa.

These landfill sites are classified as Class 1 or Class 2, depending on their suitability for wastes. Class 1 sites, suitable for receiving liquid and highly toxic materials, require meticulous geological and hydrological examination to ensure the ground is virtually impermeable so that contamination of groundwater will not take place. And once operational, the landfills and the water around them are constantly monitored.

But the fact remains that no amount of expertise can counter the havoc that could be caused by inadequate legislation and government control on waste disposal operations. Professional waste disposers in South Africa confirm that South Africa's record in this area is a cause for nervousness and many have been putting the screws on the government in the hope that this will lead to a tightening of legislation.

There is also evidence of a lack of effective legislative control on the manufacture and use of pesticides in South African agriculture, allegations of abuse by a major recycling plant in Natal, and signs that high levels of toxins are already affecting the marine life off South Africa's shores.

The Indian Ocean site where the Pelicano dumped its toxic ash remains a mystery to ecologists. The ship's captain claims the load was left in a port but refuses to disclose where. What is known is that 15 000 tons of a similar ash killed a large part of the vegetation on the Guinean Island of Kassa where it had been dumped.

Ecological disasters on this scale are not likely to occur under South African conditions. But unless the government deals effectively with some of the problems that have already surfaced around toxic waste, it will not find it easy to make a comforting distinction between its own sanitised back yard and those which lie to the north.

In the meantime ecologists are likely to stick to their argument that countries which generate toxic waste should find solutions — even if they are more expensive — in their own backyards.

## The mysterious poisons in the Umgwen

A SOUTH AFRICAN company in Natal, Thor Chemicals, has been listed by the Greenpeace environmental group as a major importer of toxic mercury waste from firms in the United States.

The company acknowledges importing mercury refuse from the US, but insists that it is all recycled and no toxins are released into the water or atmosphere from its Cato Ridge plant.

But a specialist researcher based in Pietermaritzburg told the *Weekly Mail* this week that traces of mercury had been found in the Umgweni river about 20km downstream from the Cato Ridge industrial estate and that the likely source of the toxins was the Thor plant.

Mercury does not break down easily once it enters the environment and the food chain. The chemical has been linked to disorders of the nervous system in humans.

"There have definitely been traces (of mercury) and the Umgweni Water Board has suggested ways and means that Thor Chemicals can deal with the problem," the researcher said.

The Greenpeace study, produced by international expert on industrial waste Jim Vallette, found more than three million tons of toxic waste had been sent to Third World countries as well as South Africa and East Bloc countries between 1986 and 1988.

"In a deal between Thor Chemicals of Natal, South Africa and American Cyanamid of New Jersey, 120 drums of mercury-contaminated wastes have been exported from the US to South

By EDDIE KOCH

Africa each year since 1986 ... A spokeswoman from American Cyanamid said the shipments are scheduled to continue beyond 1988," the Greenpeace study said.

"The wastes are exported twice a year via Jersey City, New Jersey, and are imported via Durban, South Africa. The wastes are then shipped to Thor Chemicals in Cato Ridge, where the sludge is burned in a smelter."

Most of the imported waste came in sludge form, but in 1986 it included contaminated steel pipes and rings, cleaning liquids and mercury-contaminated lime. Lime is used in toxic waste dump sites to prevent the spread of dangerous substances into the underground water table.

Thor director Stephen van der Vyver told the *Weekly Mail* that the imported waste was a by-product of catalysts that had been manufactured by the Natal company and exported to clients overseas.

As a service to these clients, Thor repurchases the mercury-containing material after the compounds had been used and then extracts the mercury by means of a condensation process.

The recycling process was highly sophisticated and left behind an ash that was completely non-toxic, said Van der Vyver. No poisons were dumped or buried by the company in South Africa and no waste was emitted into the air or water.

But the Natal-based researcher told the *Weekly Mail* that traces of mercury found in the Umgweni River, a tributary of the Umgweni River which flows into the Indian Ocean, suggested that some waste was being released by the company.

The toxins could have reached the river by being released directly into a nearby waste water plant which is connected to the river, or by percolating underground through the soil around a dam on Thor's premises, the researcher said. These are located some 10km from the Umgweni river.

Asked to comment on the allegations, a representative for the Umgweni Water Board acknowledged that 50 micrograms of mercury per litre of water had been found in the Umgweni about two months ago. These levels are 30 micrograms higher than the legal limit in South Africa.

Dr Hilton Furness, manager of water quality for Umgweni Water Board, said a particular company, which he declined to name, had been asked to make improvements to its plant. Since these had been carried out, unacceptable levels of pollution had been discovered.

Director-General of Environment Affairs Bill Visagie said Thor specialised in recycling spent catalysts, extracting mercury and then using this to manufacture new products. "As far as pollution control over the company is concerned, they have to comply with certain requirements of the Water Act of 1956. This department is not aware of any problems with Thor Chemicals in this regard," he said.



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## SA in move to defy ivory ban - report

The Star Bureau

LONDON — South Africa is to join Zimbabwe and Botswana in a move to defy the proposed international ban on ivory trading, according to a report here.

The *Sunday Telegraph* reported the southern African nations were angry they had not been involved in negotiations over the ban, expected to be ratified in Switzerland in 10 weeks' time.

All three countries have increased their elephant populations in the past 10 years. They carry out annual culling which raises millions of pounds from the sale of meat, hides and ivory.

Tanzania and Kenya, behind the drive for the trade ban, have massively reduced elephant

populations. The United States supports the move for a ban.

"Regardless of what the 102-nation convention meeting decides, Zimbabwe, Botswana and South Africa will begin their marketing system this year, with public auctions in such cities as Harare and Osaka," writes Fred Bridgeland in the *Sunday Telegraph*.

"Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia will also join the system. Namibia is expected to join when it becomes independent next year and an invitation will be extended to Angola when a government of national reconciliation has been established."

The organisation will market to the Far East, according to the report.

PERSISTENT rain yesterday led to flooding in several residential areas — and in Kommetjie several residents were forced to dig ditches to divert water from their homes.

Neighbours Mr Terry Wright, Mr Howard Murray and Mr Johan Roelofse of Flamingo Road, Kommetjie, cleared sticks and other flotsam from narrow pipes in a culvert behind their homes when a stream behind their homes swelled alarmingly.

Last year their houses were so badly flooded that Mr Roelofse lived in a caravan for several months.

This time they were alerted to

## Floods hit Peninsula

CAP 7615 17/7/87 (56)

the danger earlier and dug ditches and moved concrete blocks to divert water which had risen to within inches of their front doors.

They complained that the local authority had "done nothing" to alleviate the situation, although an official did come around yesterday morning to check on them.

A City Council spokesman said

flooding problems had been experienced at:

● Rockey Road in Mitchells Plain, where cars had stalled in water after a stormwater drain overflowed;

● 147 Victoria Road, Woodstock, where a gully had become blocked;

● lower Burg Street in the city where a broken pipe had to be repaired;

● Juliana Court and Sneeuweg Road in Heideveld, Campbell Road in Crawford, Lilac Street and Eland Street in Kewtown, Large Road in Bonteheuwel, and the corner of Cathkin and Groenberg streets in Heideveld.

# Bigger freeze is on the way

Cape Times 19/7/89 (56)

SNOW and rain fell over large parts of the country yesterday — and Capetonians can expect even colder weather.

According to the weather office at DF Malan airport, the rain will clear partially this afternoon and on Thursday and Friday "it will be fine".

"However when the cloud cover lifts it will be colder as there will be more radiation," the spokesman said.

It rained for the better part of yesterday over most the Cape Province and the temperature in Cape Town on Monday night was 5° C.

The heaviest snowfalls appear to have fallen in Namaqualand and the Karoo, where many farmers could not take their children to school yesterday because of thick snowdrifts.

The town of Leliefontein in Namaqualand was cut off from the outside world at one stage yesterday morning and at Sutherland it was still below freezing at 10am yesterday.

In the Boland the mountains were still blanketed in snow and more is expected.

Mrs S Conradie of Ceres said the snow was "hanging from the trees. All the mountains are white and its a real picture up at Gydo and Swarmoed

passes. It's been raining all day so the snow's melting and it's freezing cold."

Heavy snow was also reported on the Swartberg range between Oudtshoorn and Prince Albert.

At most of the towns in the Boland the rainfall for July is higher than it was during the same period last year. Good downpours have been reported at Ceres, Tulbagh and Wolseley.

Colesberg last night had its heaviest snowfall in human memory. About 5cm of snow fell and was lying thick on the ground and on rooftops.

Snow blanketed much of the North East Cape and parts of the Border and Ciskei yesterday.

A number of roads were closed as snowfalls blocked off passes, and in Burgersdorp many children could not get to school on the first day of the term as the heaviest snowfall in almost 50 years hit the district.

It snowed lightly in Bloemfontein, where trees and lawns in parts of the city were white with snow.

In Natal, the cold front from the Cape was sweeping in and was expected to bring substantial rainfalls to the region and snow to the Drakensberg and surrounding areas.— Staff Reporter, Own Correspondent and Sapa

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# Africa balks on the environment

ENVIRONMENTAL issues can bring down a government, as the Netherlands recently learnt. But the day that an African government resigns over the environment still seems light-years away.

This emerged during the first Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, held recently in Kampala.

Environmental experts had drafted a blueprint for immediate action called the "Kampala Commitment".

However, delegates from 40 African countries watered it down into an easier-to-swallow "Kampala Declaration", a vague statement of intent rather than a promise of change.

The document makes a general commitment to food self-sufficiency, better use of waste, better management of demographic pressures, energy self-sufficiency, better planning for industrial production and attempts to reverse the process of desertification.

With its release, the possibility of direct and immediate action to halt the alarming decline of the African



Adebayo Adedeji of the UN Economics Commission

**Hopes were high when government ministers from 40 African countries met in Uganda to discuss ways of preserving the environment. But in the end, they backed down from taking action and agreed only on a vague statement of intent. Even that may be too much for some African leaders to accept, reports FRED de VRIES:**

environment vanished. The conference was a follow-up to the international report, Our Common Future, chaired by Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, which calls for global action to stop environmental decay.

The Brundtland Report says that Africa's environmental problems are the direct result of poverty and are

strongly related to the global economic structure which is based on unequal exchange.

In order to survive, Africa over-exploits its natural resources. The most pressing problems are deforestation, desertification, lack of food and lack of energy self-sufficiency.

The rate of deforestation is particularly alarming. Nigeria loses 300 000

hectares of forest annually and Uganda will have no trees left by the year 2 000 if deforestation continues at the current rate.

The loss of forest will have a major impact on food security, soil and water conservation.

Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni put his finger on an underlying problem.

"If 60 percent of your money is going to pay debt," he pointed out, "where do you get money for environment?"

But the debt issue did not receive much elaboration in the final declaration.

Some African countries, such as Lesotho and Ghana, appeared from their conference presentations to be paying attention to environment in their economic planning.

For others it will be hard to push through even the mild Declaration. The fact that many countries were represented only by the relatively weak ministries of education and environment will not help.

The Kampala Declaration required no real commitment to sign. Even so, it will require genuine commitment to execute.

— GEMINI NEWS

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# Boksburg to try to re-close lake roadway

Star 21/7/89  
Staff Reporter

The Boksburg Town Council will look into means of re-closing the roadway running along the northern boundary of the town's whites-only lake after a successful court application to reopen it.

The road, which was closed after the CP took control of the council last September, was opened after a court interdict was granted this week to the applicant, a retired property owner and developer, Dr Karl Hechter Schultz.

Dr Schultz's action was on the instructions of Lawyers for Human Rights.

Although the Boksburg Town Council has also agreed to pay Dr Hechter-Schultz's costs, the national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr Brian Currin, said that the legal costs would ultimately have to be borne by Boksburg residents unless the town councillors decide to foot the bill themselves.

When Boksburg Lake was exclusively reserved for whites in November, a gate was erected on the lake road to prohibit the flow of traffic

In his supporting affidavit, Dr Hechter-Schultz said all Boksburg residents had a common right to use the Boksburg lake as a park and the road had been used by the public for more than 30 years.

Mr T J Ferreira, chief whip of the CP caucus in Boksburg Town council, said legal alternatives on how to close the road again would be "looked at".

# Pulp mill smell 'not a health hazard'

Star 21/7/89  
Own Correspondent

Scientific evidence world-wide suggested that the smelly emissions from the Mondi pulp mill at Richards Bay were not a major public health factor, the company said in a statement issued yesterday.

Mondi was reacting to recent newspaper reports in which residents of the harbour town complained that air pollution was having a large effect on people's health.

Mondi and Indian Ocean Fertilizers were cited as the two biggest causes of the air pollution.

In the statement the company said: "While the concern of pressure groups in the Richards Bay area is understandable, their identification of Mondi as a major villain is mistakenly and emotionally based on the assumption that because our emissions are odorous they are dangerous."

The company said the pulp mill would always generate some odour in the form of organic chemical compounds known as reduced sulphides.

## ORGANIC DELAY

These gases were present naturally at low levels as they were generated from vegetative and organic decay, particularly in marsh areas. However, due to the very much larger organic wood use in the pulp mill, they were generated to a greater extent in the mill's processing operations.

Besides their characteristic smell, these compounds had another unique property — the smell threshold was extremely low and they could be detected by the average person at levels as low as one part to 500 million parts of air.

These compounds had been generated by kraft pulp mills — such as the company's plant at Richards Bay — for more than 100 years and despite the unpleasant smell had never been scientifically identified as a public health hazard.

Mondi had paid more than R50 million to install the latest technology to minimise emissions.

In planning the mill, Mondi had commissioned industrial development experts to select the best location.



# UCT prof plans to 'tuskprint' the jumbos

SKA  
25/1/84  
By Sue Valentine

56

Plans by a Cape Town University archaeologist to "tuskprint" Africa's elephant population could be a winning shot against the continent's ivory poachers, claims the university.

Professor Nikolaas van der Merwe, who holds chairs in archaeology at UCT and Harvard University in the United States, is one of the world's experts in analysing the chemical composition of traces of past civilisations.

He plans to use isotopic tests to measure bone and ivory samples in every game reserve in Africa — thus establishing a "grid" of information through which the origin of poached material can be quickly identified.

In this way Professor van der Merwe will be able to identify the "prints" of different elephant populations, which are being slaughtered at the rate of about 100 000 a year for their ivory.

Environmentalists hail Eskom decision

# Search for Natal nuclear sites ends

**Own Correspondent**

**DURBAN** — A weekend announcement that Eskom had decided to discontinue its search for nuclear power station sites along the Natal north coast because of the unsuitability of the area has been widely welcomed.

Some environmentalists yesterday suggested that Eskom should concentrate on developing other forms of energy generation.

Eskom, in a statement, said extensive investigations had been conducted along the northern Natal coastline.

## Technological changes

"The studies included an assessment of the population distribution and densities as well as the nature of population settlement," it said.

"Relevant engineering factors related to sites were also considered. These studies show that there are at present population, environmental and site-related factors which limit the suitability of available land within the investigated area."

The statement added, however, that changes in technology might take place in future which might enable Eskom to reconsider some of the areas that had recently been investigated.

Mr Mark Gandar, of the Maritzburg-based Society Against Nuclear Energy, said the announcement came as no surprise and he welcomed it.

He urged Eskom to call off its programme of pursuing nuclear technology. "We felt all along that the Natal coast was quite unsuitable. But we are opposed to nuclear power development anywhere in South Africa on the grounds of health,

economics, the threat of a major accident and the fact that nuclear power stations can't be developed in isolation but are part of an extensive and polluting nuclear fuel chain."

Mr Gandar said the Eskom statement left the door open to reconsider the Natal north coast and he would therefore go ahead with planned meetings on the issue in Eshowe and Mtunzini tomorrow and on Wednesday.

Mr Keith Cooper, director of conservation of the Wildlife Society of South Africa, said: "The decision is to be welcomed because the Natal area under investigation has great potential for tourism and there could well be a conflict between the interests of tourism and conservation on the one hand and nuclear power on the other."

## Vigorously opposed

"The Wildlife Society is not totally opposed to nuclear power stations provided they are sited at the right places — and we don't see nuclear power being the best form of energy as far as Natal is concerned. We would prefer to see energy being generated by other means but we also have problems with burning coal."

Mr Renier Schoeman, MP for Umhlanga and chairman of Coast Watch, said: "As one who has been vigorously opposed to the siting of a nuclear power station in this area from the time it was first mooted, I am delighted that finality has now been reached. I have been particularly busy behind the scenes in the past few months because I got the impression that the uncertainty was having a negative effect on the property market on sections of the coast."

August 5, cars, bak- ... will be charged R3,70 a journey ... mated  
once they use the toll road for more ... be R10  
cession

# The homeland that's rewriting the records

By Norman Chandler,  
Pretoria Bureau

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Has the Government sneaked in a new homeland and forgotten to tell us about it? Cynics would say it is possible, given the State's record of "no-speak" when all that is needed is information.

If the State hasn't officially declared a new "state", then the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply obviously thinks there should be one. They have called it Bechuanaland.

Bechuanaland, they insist, is on the banks of the Molopo River ... a usually dry riverbed which is the border between South Africa and Botswana, which was known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate when Britannia ruled supreme.

In those days Bechuanaland was the name for not only today's Botswana, but also a huge stretch of country inside South Africa which was known as "British Bechuanaland".

The geographical descriptions fell out of general usage decades ago, but someone forget to tell public servants, whose job it is to look after the farming community of the vast area bordering on the Molopo River and stretching from Bophuthatswana's borders to Namibia

The latest edition of the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply's publication, *Agricultural News*, has a double-page feature on research being undertaken in "Bechuanaland".

It features what is being done in the

remote areas of what official, modern maps of South Africa tell us is in fact the Gordonia district of the northern Cape. An area called Bechuanaland doesn't even rate a mention as a sub-district.

The publication even describes agriculture and water supply official Mr Japie Dry (an appropriate name for someone working in that area) as "Assistant Director: Information for Bechuanaland" and who, by some miracle of geographic convolution, falls under the aegis of the Free State region of the department.

No one's saying if Mr Dry needs a passport as he travels to a country which doesn't officially exist ... except in the dusty archives of history.

# Future in EC is <sup>Star 26/7/87.</sup> the top priority

LONDON — Newly appointed Foreign Secretary Mr John Major yesterday listed Britain's future in the European Community and the development of East-West relations as the most important issues facing him. (Sb.A)

Mr Major (46) told journalists his promotion from a junior Cabinet position by Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher came "entirely out of the blue". He felt apprehensive and said the job was "immensely interesting but frankly daunting".

But he showed no signs of nervousness when he turned up at the Foreign Office 10 minutes early — "I don't wear a watch" — and caught his new staff on the hop.

Mr Major would not comment on specific problems: "I have an old-fashioned feeling that one should be briefed and knowledgeable before one holds forth on a subject."

One of his first official functions as Foreign Secretary will be a meeting this week with Soviet Defence Minister Mr Dmitri Yazov.

Asked if he was planning to visit Washington, Mr Major said he thought a trip would be likely before too long. — Sapa-Reuter.

From page 1

statement by a presidential spokesman that police vehicles may be used when it comes to the president's safety or the safety of his property as "laughable".

Meanwhile, General Johan van der Merwe, acting commissioner of police, has announced an investigation into allegations that the game was illegally transported in a police vehicle.

Neither the State President's office nor constitutional experts could identify any law yesterday which authorised the state transport of game for the president after a hunting party, writes the Cape Times Johannesburg correspondent.

Some official sources said the police transport would be paid for out of the State President's budget as the vehicle and the police driver were both part of his security contingent.

The use of false number plates was in terms of security practice and Mr Botha had not broken any regulations, the sources said.

The DP's spokesman on finance, Mr Harry Swartz, said there were no groundrules covering the perks of office to which the State President was entitled.

"If it had been me I would have done it at my own expense. But what he has done is theoretically legal because he has that kind of power, provided it falls within some head of budget."

The presidential couple was involved in another storm recently over a R100 000 tea party for Mrs Elize Botha. After an official inquiry the bill was eventually picked up by the Defence Force Ladies' Association

(Reports by O Pollok, 12 Devonshire Place, Durban; D van Zyl, 514 First National Bank Building, Pretoria; M Woods, 11 Dagonal, St. Johannesburg)

Staff Reporter

**THE** furore over the alleged illegal transport of game shot by President P W Botha grew last night with opposition politicians hitting out at "cosy little arrangements" by the ruling Nationalists over the years.

"Does a man who earns R14 000 a month not have the money to pick up the bill for this?" Democratic Party co-leader Mr Wynand Malan asked at a meeting in Vereeniging

The real question, he said, was how many "cosy little arrangements" had been made over the years where taxpayers' money was used to assist Nat leaders in their private capacities

At a meeting in Umhlanga, DP co-leader Dr Denis Worrall said the Nats had the arrogance which flowed from 41 years of rule and had created a hanger-on syndrome — "hence the emergence of the NP as the party of big business".

"Contracts, concessions and permits largely depend on who you know," he said.

### 'Becoming a habit'

"It was not long ago that President Botha, Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and others used army refrigeration trucks to take their venison from a farm in the Free State to Pretoria," said Dr Worrall.

These were publicly known examples, but it had become a habit of "mind, and behaviour" which was also affecting people in the private sector.

The issue of Mr Botha's hunting trip blew up when Conservative Party MP Mr Fanie Jacobs charged that several carcasses of game, including kudu, wildebeest and blesbok, had been transported in a police vehicle with false number plates.

Mr Jacobs alleged that the SAP sign on the vehicle had been covered by a red label — "apparently to conceal the fact that it was a police vehicle".

The driver was stopped at a road block and admitted that he had no written permission to transport venison as required.

A spokesman for Mr Botha's office confirmed that state transport had been used after Mr Botha had hunted on the farm of a wealthy friend, Mr Pieter Jacobs, near Fauresmith in the Free State on July 20.

Mr Jacobs, a horse breeder, last night told the Cape Times the whole matter "was a storm in a tea cup".

"Nothing illegal took place," he said from his farm Zuurfontein.

He said the CP had got hold of the wrong facts, but would not elaborate.

"This is a private matter," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Mr Fanie Jacobs described a

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# SAMORIS, AWARDS FOR MRS ELIZE BOTHA

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26/7/89  
CAPT TUN 11



# When that sinking feeling threatens lives

In December 1963 an ore-crushing plant on the Driefontein mine slid into a 60 m-wide sinkhole, killing 24 workers. Six months later the Blyvooruitsig sinkhole swallowed up six people living in two houses

These two events graphically illustrated the dangers of residential development on dolomitic ground, but seemed to have made no impression on the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning when huge township developments were announced in June last year despite warnings by Government and private-sector geologists.

A year later the Government is still looking at residential developments in a 13 000 hectare area west of Soweto, but has made only less than a quarter of that land available to residential development and is examining an alternative "mega-city" south of Johannesburg

Nevertheless, according to initial research by the Geological Survey at the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, at most a third of the 3 000 ha in "Soweto-West" currently under investigation is suitable for residential expansion and should be used only for "middle-class" housing.

## Congested townships

The Geological Survey has long called for careful planning in response to recent calls for local authorities to accept more rudimentary forms of housing

The head of the Unit for Applied Studies on Dolomite at the Geological Survey, Mr Dave Buttrick, says "no low-cost development whatsoever should take place on PWV dolomite".

In the worst-case scenario, he says that up to 250 people, living in one of the highly congested planned townships, could be swallowed by a single sinkhole.

The core region of the PWV is surrounded by a girdle of dolomite and up to 2 million people already live on dolomite, but these developments are essentially middle-to-upper class housing. But Mr Buttrick points out that

South Africa's sinkhole threat is the worst in the world. In the sixties, 40 people died because of sinkholes in the Western Transvaal. Twenty-five years later the threat has not disappeared. Indeed, rapid township development on dolomitic ground raises the possibility that hundreds of lives will be lost unless the authorities act soon. **SVEN LUNSCHÉ** reports.



A gaping chasm at Blyvooruitsig became a grave for six people when two houses were swallowed up in 1964.

even in those areas, sinkholes develop and "over 95 percent of those sinkholes are artificially induced as a consequence of man's activities". The essence of low-cost housing involves placing the greatest possible

density of housing at the lowest possible cost in the available space. Stands are normally 300 sq m in area but the poor social status of the inhabitants of many of the housing schemes ultimately results in greater

additional concentrations of people, often exceeding the population design capacity by up to 600 percent," Mr Buttrick says. "Research has shown that up to 38 people may live on such a 300 sq m stand and if sub-standard services are implemented, ground movements will occur far more readily. "The high concentration of people, resulting in a continuous population coverage of the landscape, dramatically increases the probability of loss of life," he warns.

A number of sinkholes have already appeared on sites in Vosloorus on the East Rand, and residents in Khutsong on the West Rand last year faced the prospect of going homeless after large areas of ground began sinking and four houses were declared unsuitable for occupation.

Also on the West Rand it is understood that the local regional services council is looking at ways of resettling many residents of Bekkersdal, a township in the centre of the "Soweto West" area and particularly prone to sinkhole development.

## Precautions

Mr Buttrick points out that in many developments, the recommendations of geologists' reports have been ignored and the services in these townships often do not conform to recommended or prescribed standards.

"It is imperative that as pressure mounts for land to be made available for residential development, particularly low-cost housing on dolomitic land, that the standards and precautionary measures are not relaxed," he warns.

As the black townships in the PWV area are already populated to full capacity, the pressure to accommodate the millions who are expected to move to the Witwatersrand over the next few years will prove a major social, economic and political headache for the Government. Geological problems associated with high-density settlements have added a new dimension to the dilemma

Star 277189 56

# PW's buck carcasses: Top probe

CM 7-215 27/7/87

(SC)

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The auditor-general has launched an investigation into the alleged misuse of government transport by President PW Botha.

Earlier this week the Conservative Party claimed a police truck with false number plates transported buck carcasses labelled "State President PW Botha" one day after the president had been on a hunting trip in the Free State.

The deputy auditor-general, Mr Henrie Kleuver, said yesterday when "matters like this come to our notice we investigate them properly". "We are investigating the matter. We have made certain inquiries and are waiting for replies."

Meanwhile, buckpassing between officials as to who would foot the bill for the errand continued yesterday.

The standard practice is that the department which provides the service pays for it. In this case it appeared the police would have to foot the bill, Mr Kleuver said.

The head of police public relations, General Herman Stadler, said: "If it was a genuine trip, it would come out of the police budget."

Police Quartermaster-General Le Roux Stemmet said as "it was a normal police duty", the costs would be paid for out of the maintenance of vehicle and fuel votes in the police budget.

"But the conveying of meat is something else," he added.

Police are investigating the matter but have not yet released a statement.

But official sources said there was nothing illegal in the use of the vehicle, which had been authorised by the head of the presidential guard unit.

The vehicle was already in the area as part of the president's guard that travels wherever he goes. It was equipped with equipment necessary for the president's protection, sources said.

The driver, Sergeant Vernon Day, a member of the presidential guard, had the necessary permits to transport the carcasses, the sources said.

A traffic officer, who allegedly reported the matter to CP sources, was in the police station when Sergeant Day stopped to ask directions which the traffic officer gave. The duty police officer made an en-

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## PW's buck meat

CM 7-215 27/7/87

(SC)

try into the charge office's record book. The traffic officer, who gave the directions, was later refused permission to see the book. He waited until a black constable was on duty and then tipped the book and read the entries, an illegal act, the sources said.

Later, in the company of an off-duty police officer, he stopped Sergeant Day en route from the farm Zuurfontein, belonging to Mr Pieter Jacobs.

He questioned the sergeant, who, in good faith, told him he was a police officer on duty on an errand for the president.

He told the traffic officer the false number plates had been fitted in terms of the unit's security practice. The sources said this was not illegal and the plates had been issued within the strict regulations set down by the quartermaster.

The CP claimed in a statement yesterday the traffic officer was being "placed under great pressure". "An SAP colonel approached him and asked him to make a statement. He allegedly told him in an intimidatory manner that if he gives out any information to any political party, action would be taken against him."

"The colonel also said the CP's information was too precise and the matter would be taken up with his superiors."

Official sources said a colonel was involved in the investigation because of the high-level of government involvement. Other sources said the traffic officer was being investigated because he had gained illegal access to police records.

It is understood the dossier compiled by the police following their investigation into the matter was submitted to the Free State attorney-general Mr T P McNally yesterday.

He is expected to make a decision soon.

[Report by Mandy Jean Woods, 11 Diagonal St, Johannesburg]

C. Thibault  
2/17/89  
56

# Floods force residents to move

Staff Reporter

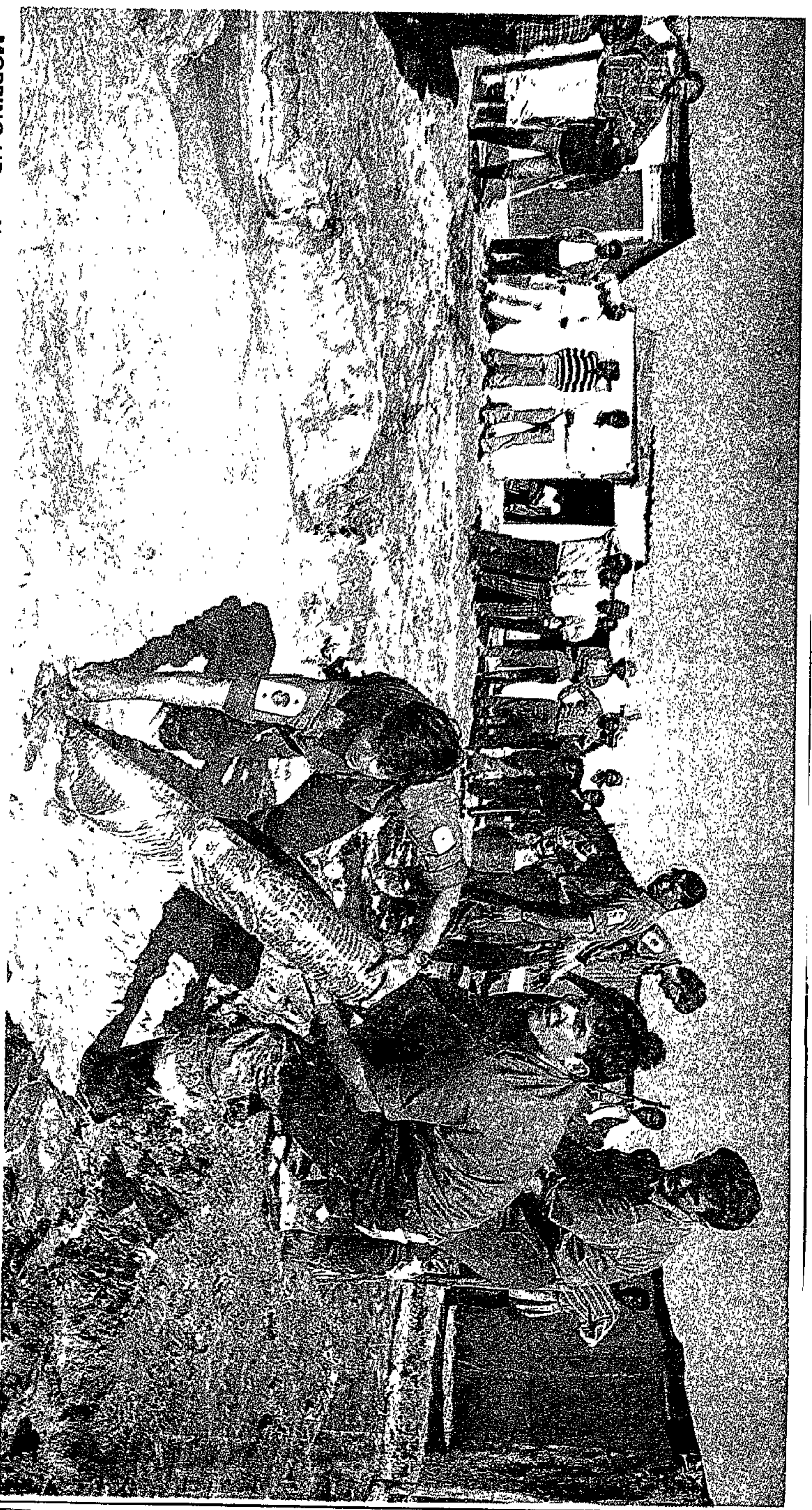
**EVEN MORE** Khayelitsha residents could be forced to evacuate their homes, and flooding in the area could reach crisis proportions if more rain fell, officials said yesterday.

Lingeletu West Chief Executive Mr Graham Lawrence said about 500 people had to evacuate their homes on Wednesday.

The heavy rain of the past few days has turned parts of the sprawling squatter settlements in Khayelitsha into mud-baths, and yesterday army and navy personnel were pumping water from the dams of water among shacks in sections of Site C and the Greenpoint area.

Mr Lawrence said the crisis could be attributed to the lack of drainage in the areas — which were originally intended only as temporary relief camps.

CPA engineers assisting in the cleanup said a temporary solution would be to dig a canal to drain some of the worst-affected areas.



**MOPPING UP . . .** Navy personnel yesterday helped to pump floodwater from areas in Khayelitsha after heavy rains caused hundreds of people to evacuate their homes this week.

Picture: ANNE LAINING



# CAPE TOWN

CMC Times 3/17/89 56

## Man blown off roof — dies

AT LEAST one person died, houses were wrecked and scores of trees were uprooted yesterday as north-westerly winds of "more than double gale-force" speed and accompanied by driving rain left a trail of destruction in the Western and Southern Cape.

The storm ripped off roofs, caused numerous walls to collapse, disrupted traffic and severed overhead powerlines, leaving several suburbs without electricity for most of the day and night.

In Stellenbosch, a man died after being blown off his roof which he had been struggling to repair in the storm that bore winds of up to 120 km/h. He had not been identified by late last night.

In Erstein River, a Stratford Park family lost their home when a large pine tree toppled over in the fierce winds, crushing the building.

A D F Malan weather office spokesman said the north-westerly wind had gusted at up to 62 knots, while gale force was 30 knots.

### More pictures — Page 7

"That is about 110km/h," he said. "On average, it's about 80km/h. We are close to the vortex of the cold front."

In Lansdowne, crowds fled down the main road as massive sheets of wind-tossed corrugated iron roofing "flew after us like bits of newspaper", according to one resident.

The owner of a glass repair firm, Mr Hans Rack, reported booming business as a result of glass smashed in the winds.

Mr Nick Vogiatzis, who runs a steakhouse in Mouille Point, said two thick glass windows of his restaurant had been smashed by the wind.

The store, up-ended a container used as a construction office in Marina da Gama, a 30m-long section of metre-high brick wall blew over in Lansdowne Road; tiles flew off Claremont Flats; and uprooted trees virtually blocked off Stanhope Bridge in Lansdowne Road.

In Athlone, a floodlight tower was ripped out of the west ground. As a result, a week of sports fixtures at West End Park may be disrupted, according to administration manager Mr Gerald Paulse.

The owner of the wrecked Erstein River house, Mr



**PARKING WOES** ... Mr Mauritz Hill with his son Justin at the crushed remains of his wife's car which he had parked under the tree to shelter it from the storm.

Picture: ALFENN SHEPPARDT

Ronald Sauls, of Gyslaar Street, said he "counted his blessings" that the small, two-roomed dwelling in the new suburb was insured.

His three children, Oswald, 15, Dunachia, 9, and Devan, 5, had been in the kitchen at 11am when they felt the house shake violently as the tree crashed on to the roof and branches tore through the ceiling and into the room, he said.

Onlookers said the tree had fallen because the water-logged sandy soil could no longer hold its roots in place.

Neighbours felt the accident was the "last straw" in the "nightmarish winter" they had experienced since recently moving into the new township.

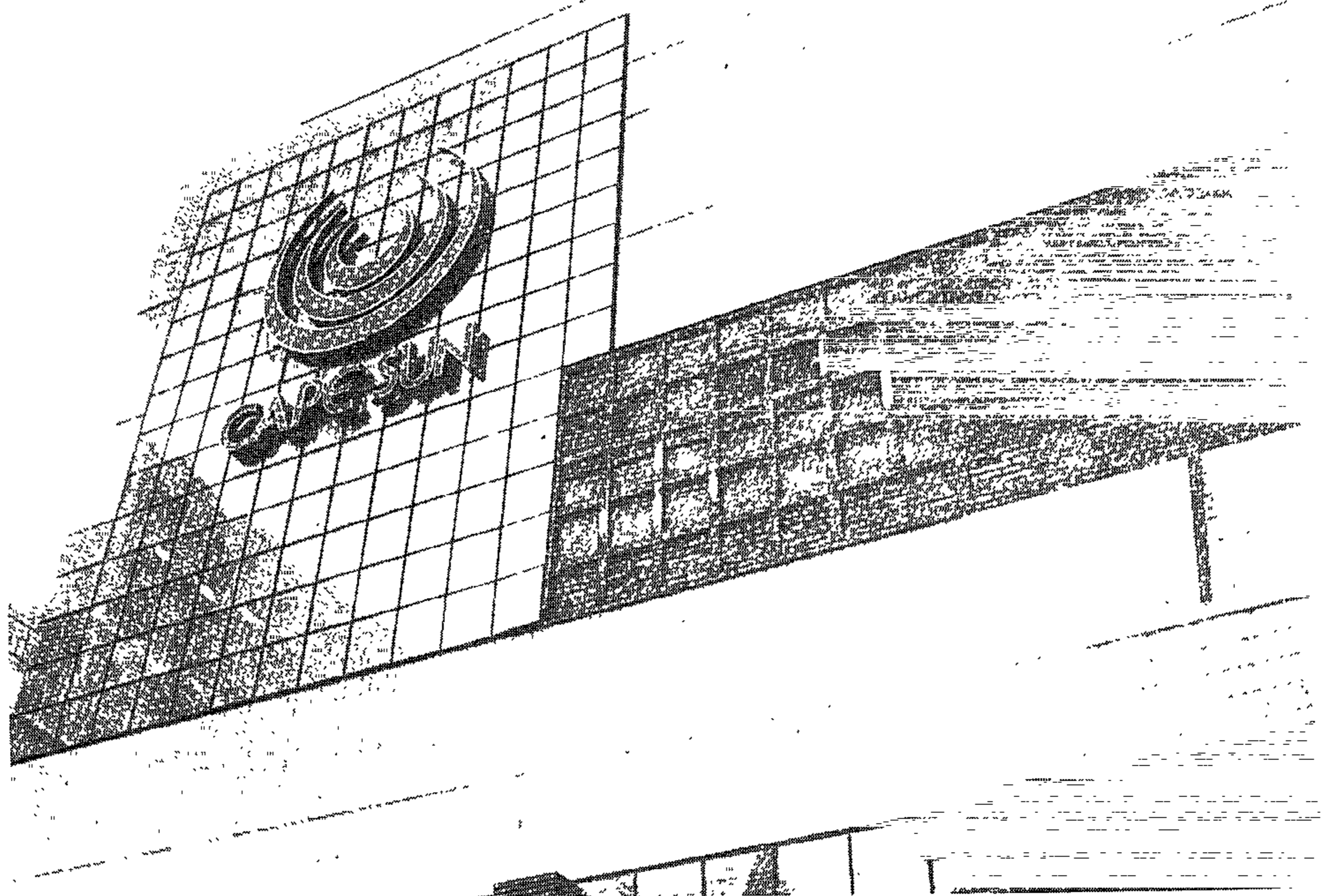
About 20 residents told the Cape Times of the

"never-ending damp" that was claiming "the lives of our children".

"We pay R1 000 a month for these new two- or three-roomed boxes, and all we've had since we moved in, is damp walls, soggy carpets and flooding everywhere," said a founder member of the new

To Page 7

# Sunday's Big Blow



**OFF THE WALL . . .** A large panel on the side of the Cape Sun Hotel crashed to the ground in Burg Street yesterday, after it had been ripped off in the gale. General manager Mr Marc Gavril surveys the damage in the street (below). Picture: Richard [unreadable]



From page

Devon Park Action Committee, Mr Gary Herne. One couple, Mr Louis Kleinbooi and his wife Louisa, said their three-month-old baby had died of pneumonia three weeks ago because of rising damp in their six-month-old home.

An angry father, Mr Mervin Kruger, said his four-year-old daughter Nerina had contracted tuberculosis since his family moved in last November.

In Hanover Park, two neighbouring families in Downburg Street were forced to vacate their semi-detached council homes when an old oak tree smashed on to their roof. No one was hurt.

Mr Justin Hardcastle was having his morning shave when he heard a loud crash: A tree had fallen on to the roof of his sister's house nextdoor.

In Kenilworth, the wind ripped off the roof of a row of garages at Treehaven Close and residents braved the driving rain to try to salvage their possessions.

Mrs Maria Jorgensen said that from her lounge she had seen the wind "peel off" the roof over about nine garages.

Mrs Sophia Constantinides, supervisor of the complex, said she had received a flood of complaints from people about water dripping into the flats after tiles had been ripped from the roofs.

Mr Nick Rheder, also of Treehaven Close, said he watched the wind curl up the metal roof of garages beside his block of flats as if it were opening a can, even though a concrete beam was still attached to the roof.

The beam was then dumped in front of the garages, trapping cars until a bulldozer was brought in to remove it.

In Rondebosch, resident Ms Vicky Holdsworth said she saw sheets of roofing being ripped from her block of flats, Olympus Court in Belmont Road, and land in trees a block away.

## Truck blown over

In Meadowridge, residents reported that an old landmark in the area, a large lone pine that guarded the Owen-New Kendall Road intersection, had crashed into Kendall Road, blocking the main traffic route.

In Kenwyn, truck driver Mr Samuel Fani had a nasty experience when a gust of wind blew over the truck in which he and an assistant were parked on a field.

Kenwyn resident Mr David Trengrove reported "gusts of wind reaching about 60 knots" which blew down several trees in Chukker Road soon after 1.30pm. "Our electricity has been off since then," he said.

In Claremont, resident Mr Mauritz Hill made an unfortunate choice when he parked his wife's car under a bluegum tree near the corner of Selous and Lansdowne roads to shelter it from the rain.

Minutes later, he heard a crash and saw that the tree had almost flattened the car.

In Constantia, Mr Paul Malherbe was travelling along Spaanschemat River Road just after noon when the wind blew a massive tree down in front of him.

"If I hadn't braked it would have landed on top of my car," he said. "As it was I smashed into the tree, damaging the front of the car and smashing the windscreen."

Mr Malherbe's vehicle was trapped in the branches and had to be freed with the use of a chainsaw.

Mr Richard Smith of Pinelands said he had seen a massive willow tree topple in Newlands and then briefly rise to its full height again as the wind picked it up.

In Worcester, Mr and Mrs Rudy Brits, of Wellington, had a narrow escape when the caravan they were towing with their bakkie was blown over.

At Hermanus, Onrusrivier and Kleinmond the wind exceeded 100km/h at times and serious damage was caused to buildings and trees.

In Kleinmond, Mr Peter Slingsby reported that a local supermarket had a section of its roof ripped off yesterday morning; the rest was blown off in the afternoon.

The roof smashed into those of six other houses before landing about 33 metres away. Electricity supplies had been on and off for about four hours and there were reports of caravans being blown over and a large number of trees uprooted, he said.

Mr Ted Doman, public relations officer for the City Council, said 82 trees had been blown over, damaging electricity lines, while many more had damaged property when they toppled over.

"There are problems everywhere from Steenberg to Bakoven, but the largest area still without electricity is Claremont, Rondebosch and Mowbray. Most of the Mitchells Plain problems have been cleared up.

"Our teams will probably work right through the night. We have several teams out clearing the trees so that electricity lines can be restored."

A traffic spokesman warned that whenever winds reached gale force it was dangerous for motorcyclists to ride on the Foreshore freeway.

Escom spokesman Mr Charlie Cooper said whole towns in the Southern Cape like Sutherland, Caledon and Ceres had no electricity. Cuts had occurred in the Elgin area and part of Durbanville as well.

"Dodekraal in Bellville is off, as is Hermon, Klipheuwel, Banhoek near Stellenbosch, Lynedoch, and Faure Eerste River."

He appealed to consumers for patience and asked them to "spare a thought for the guys going out to fix the lines".

● The body of Mrs Anna Jantjies, 49 of the farm Kleinvlei, Citrusdal, was found in the Olifants River on Friday after she had been missing for five days.

A Boland police spokesman, Captain Johan Loubser, said from Paarl yesterday that Mrs Jantjies had disappeared on July 22 after saying she intended to cross the river at a spot which was usually shallow.

Heavy rains had swollen the river, and she was apparently washed away by the current.

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**FLATTENED . . .** Mr Tony Jardim beside a brick wall which the wind pushed over beside the Brontë Building in Lansdowne Road. Picture: Henry Ludski



**A CRUSHING BLOW . . .** Stratford Park, Eerste River, Mr Ronald Sauls, his wife, Charmaine, and their children, Oswald, 15, Dunachia, 9, and Devan, 5, (above) stand in the wreckage of their new Gyslaar Street home which was crushed by a huge pine tree yesterday morning. Nobody was hurt in the incident. Neighbours, who complained about a "nightmarish winter" of "never-ending damp" and "soggy carpets" in the new Eerste River township, said the tree fell because the waterlogged soil could no longer hold the roots in place.

Picture: RICHARD BELL



**TIMBER!** . . . Municipal workers clear up fallen trees that disrupted traffic in Newlands yesterday.

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**Tornado, fire kill**

**UMTATA** — Four people died after a tornado and veld fire simultaneously hit Bethania in Mount Fletcher, near the borders of Lesotho and Transkei, at the weekend. The tornado blew a number of roofs off houses while the fire burnt down several more. — Sapa

# Now poachers are in Koevoet's sights

**WUDOM GAME RESERVE** (Namibia) — Automatic rifles at the ready, the trackers call-sign Zulu Four Foxtrof fan out in the redwood forest, looking for the spoor of their elusive quarry.

Behind them, rumbling and ominous in the thick, treacherous sand, comes their Casspir-mounted troop carrier, its bullet-scarred, mounted glass bearing testimony to duels the death with Swapo insurgents.

The men of the officially defunct Koevoet (the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Unit) whose members, at the height of the 1980s war, sported T-shirts proclaiming "Killing is our business and business is good") are back in action.

Now, however, their battleground is the remote north-eastern area of Namibia, where poachers have been taking a fearful toll of dwindling elephant and other protected-game populations. Their enemy is just as elusive as the Swapo insurgents they used to hunt through the villages of Ovambo, only now the chances are slim that the Koevoet men will die in the searing hell of direct hit from an RPG-7 rocket.

Scores of the hardened bush fighters have already been deployed in the Kaodom game reserve in Kavango and in neighbouring eastern Caprivi in an attempt to stop the laughter of the wildlife.

## Increased since pull-out

So far this year, poachers have killed 36 elephants and 28 black rhinos in rands all around Namibia. Most of the rhinos have been poached in the north-west, with the Etosha National Park being particularly hard-hit, losing 23.

The elephants have been shot mainly in the north-east, the poaching having, ironically, increased since the SADF withdrew from its bases in Kavango and Caprivi in terms of the Resolution 435 independence procedure.

The Department of Nature Conservation in Windhoek, battling a shortage of finance and manpower, has not been able to cope. Private anti-poaching and game-guard operations, like the ones currently running successfully in Damaraland and Kaokoland, do not exist in the north-east.

## Enter Koevoet

Or, more precisely, the former members of the SWA Police Counter-Insurgency Unit, Koevoet, which means crowbar in Afrikaans, is a sobriquet informally bestowed on the unit in 1986 but never officially adopted. The unit was officially disbanded in November last year, only to be reactivated during the Swapo incursions in April, when the bloodiest clashes of the 23-year war took place.

Since then, anti-South African groups, led by Swapo, have been baying for Koevoet's blood. They have called for the dismissal from the police force of all former members of the unit and have demanded that all Casspirs be withdrawn as they are considered by the people of northern Namibia to be highly intimidating.

Administrator-General Louis Pienaar has replied that the men will be dismissed only if it is proved they are guilty of misconduct. He has ordered that the numbers of Casspirs in operational service in the north be reduced from 380 to 60.

The police commissioner, Major-General



Disembarking from their Casspir on a hunt for poachers, members of the anti-poaching unit file past the decaying remains of an elephant slaughtered for its tusks.

Poachers in Namibia are meeting their match in the men of the feared Koevoet counter-insurgency unit, reports **BRENDAN SEERY** of The Star's Africa News Service.

Dolf Gouws, has said some of the mine-resistant vehicles must be kept in service because of the continuing danger from mines and the possibility of further incursions by armed Swapo combatants.

None of this, however, has halted the anti-Koevoet clamour, which United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says has reached "psychosis" proportions in northern Namibia.

## Regular patrols

The deployment of former members of the unit into anti-poaching units is therefore part of the attempt by the authorities to reduce their high profile and defuse some of the tensions in the north.

Zulu Four Foxtrof is based at "Peet se Kamp", near a water-hole in the sandy woodland of the Kaodom.

Blond 24-year-old Constable Peet Nel, who comes from Giyani in the Northern Transvaal and has been in Namibia for three years with Koevoet, says the unit is operating in the same way as it did during the war against Swapo. Four Casspirs, each commanded by a white NCO, with 10 black policemen, move out on regular patrols, "casting" for tracks of poachers.

The tactic, with the highly skilled and experienced Ovambo and Kavango trackers moving ahead of the Casspirs, is chillingly efficient.

"Once we're on to them, they won't get away," says Constable Nel.

As an example, he points out a poachers' hideaway — its name, "Mahuku Stasie", is carved into the trunk of a kiat tree — where the police caught four poachers red-handed after they had killed a number of giraffes and roan antelopes.

Sometimes, though, the men of Zulu Four

Foxtrof have been just too late to nab their villains. One particular group of poachers makes lightning raids into the area and then flees to a rendezvous with a pick-up truck to make a getaway.

In the western Caprivi, 200 km away, Sergeant Johan Mostert, a brawny "South wester", reckons about 14 elephants have been poached recently in the area in which he and his unit — Zulu Four Victor — have been operating. But they have caught some of the culprits and had the satisfaction of seeing one man put behind bars last week for an effective 10 years for poaching four elephants.

According to SWA Police liaison officer Chief Inspector Klerie du Rand, the former Koevoet men are no longer needed in the border area because the security situation has improved considerably since April. They are available to carry out normal "crime prevention duties" which include apprehending and prosecuting poachers. Trained as policemen, they are familiar with investigation techniques and prepara-



A helicopter used by the former Koevoet members in their hunt for poachers touches down near a heap of elephant bones, remnants of an earlier poaching raid.

tion of court dockets, he says. Chief Inspector du Rand says that since the anti-poaching units were first deployed in the north-east in June, they have made more than 30 arrests and secured a number of convictions.

The South African Democratic Party's spokesman on the environment, Mr Rupert Lorimer, visited the units last week and expressed his admiration for the work being done by the former Koevoet fighters. "I realise that the use of these men is

politically sensitive but in the circumstances it is necessary," said Mr Lorimer, adding that he believed there was no alternative to using the Casspirs, which are ideally suited to fast patrolling in the tough conditions of Kavango and Caprivi.

The MP said the slaughter of elephants was "quite horrifying" and could lead to a catastrophic collapse of the elephant population within the next three years if units such as the former Koevoet ones were not kept in the field.

# 75 families lose homes, children hardest hit

Staff Reporter

Cape Times 3/8/89 (56)

A TOTAL of 75 families lost their shacks in Sunday's storm at Miller's Camp near Nyanga. Many of the other 300 families at the camp are still cleaning up the storm damage.

The hardest-hit victims of the disaster are the 500 children who live in the community. They had

few clothes to begin with and the storm washed away what little there was.

Fortunately, relief has already begun — the Red Cross arrived yesterday with tents and blankets for the homeless.

Local authorities are pumping water out of the hardest-hit areas

but the lone pump has made little progress against the newly created lakes.

Operation Hunger, which has long provided food for the camp, launched an appeal for children's clothing yesterday. Anyone wishing to donate clothing should contact Ms Roselle Frasca of Operation Hunger at 797-3667.

# Sea pollution: Sewage outlet repairs delayed

By JOHN YELD  
Staff Reporter

STORMY conditions are delaying repairs to the Green Point marine outfall sewer and swimmers have been warned to stay away from the area until further notice.

This follows the pollution controversy at Muizenberg, Three Anchor Bay and Mitchell's Plain after routine tests by the city council showed faecal counts above stringent European Community standards at three of the its 33 monitoring points.

Inspections by the council's diving team on Monday showed the Green Point pipeline had been seriously displaced from its original route during recent storms, city engineer Mr Des Riley and medical officer of health Dr Michael Popkiss said in a joint statement.

"Immediate interim remedial action taken yesterday afternoon needed deviating the sewage flow through the old marine outfall, which has leaks.

"It is planned to route the sewage back through the new outfall by tonight, discharging 500m offshore," said the statement.

They added that the quality of the sea would be monitored on a daily basis and advised the public not to swim in the area demarcated by warning boards until further notice.

### Evaluating smell

Mr Riley said he would send senior council officials to evaluate the smell at Green Point today.

If it was objectionable, "every effort" would be made to push sewage through the new outfall until conditions improved sufficiently to resume

work on this system, when the old outfall would be brought into temporary operation again.

However, Mr Riley said early today that diving conditions were "very bad" and that work on the pipeline, which involved placing three-ton, triangular concrete stabilisers, would probably be delayed.

The Metro emergency service's heavy recovery vehicle, which is fitted with a big hydraulic crane, was sent down to the docks to help load the blocks.

The Cape Town-based salvage vessel, Deep Salvage 1, which was involved in the recent search for the missing steamship Waratah off the Transkei coast, has been chartered to help with repairs to the pipeline.

● See page 15.


A boost for industry . . .

# Tracking fish by satellite

*CM. 7up 3/8/89* *File* *SA*

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

NAVIGATION by satellite — using equipment already available in Cape Town — will increase the profits made by the SA deep sea fishing industry in about two or three years' time. Irvin & Johnson trawling fleet manager Ron Whitehead said yesterday.

It will enable skippers to navigate with a precision unknown before, in all weathers, and will lead to the discovery of new fishing grounds.

Meanwhile, the SA Navy hydrographic department has produced a set of comprehensive, large scale charts showing conditions on the sea bottom in fishing grounds far off the coast, and the exact whereabouts of obstructions such as wrecks.

These will help avoid the loss of trawling nets, costing about R40 000 each, and fishing time until lost gear is replaced.

The charts were on show to people in the industry at a function in the Royal Cape Yacht Club yesterday.

Whitehead said there could be no doubt that the new charts would have "an increasingly dramatic effect on the performance of the SA deep sea trawling fleet".

He explained that until now such charts had existed only for coastal waters. Trawler skippers had produced their own of the fishing grounds about 200 nautical miles from the coast, based on information painstakingly collected over the years and passed on from father to son.

Much of this information was re-

corded on the Decca electronic navigation system in use for the past 20 years, which was now out of date and would be switched off in about 10 years.

The information would then be lost unless it had been transferred to the new charts.

"The era of satellite navigation is with us already," said Whitehead.

"As we move into the 1990s the American GPS (ground positioning system) satellite navigation system will become fully available.

"This system will provide 24-hour-a-day, worldwide, all-weather coverage to an accuracy of a matter of metres."

The new charts would be "ideally suited for the change over to this new navigation form enabling SA's trawlers to take full advantage of this technology".

Whitehead said the satellite navigation system was a spin-off from the US defence programme. It was already available and the equipment to use it could be bought in Cape Town.

But it was not yet installed in his company's trawlers because it was not available all round the clock.

"We shall have it as soon as it is available 24 hours a day, in two or three years' time."

He said Irvin & Johnson had asked the Navy to produce detailed charts of the fishing grounds.

Although the information had been expensive to collect, the Navy would make the charts available to everyone, at a cost of about R5 each, as a public service.



56 juw 4/8/89.

# Police crack ivory racket, seize 106 tusks

By Melanie Gosling

Conservationists have welcomed a police breakthrough in uncovering a major ivory smuggling network this week.

A man has been arrested and illegal tusks valued at R500 000 seized in Cape Town.

Police found 106 tusks weighing 673 kg and one rhino horn. Conservationists said R500 000 was a conservative estimate of the value of the shipment.

The director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Dr John Ledger, congratulated the special police unit which uncovered the racket. He said this was the result of a tip-off to the Cape Nature Conservation Department.

"The Endangered Wildlife Trust will give a substantial reward to this person, who must remain anonymous because there are too many dangerous people involved in the illegal ivory trade.

## Reward offered

"We are prepared to make a reward to anyone who supplies information leading to a successful conviction."

Dr Ledger said the presence of small tusks in the haul suggested the elephants had been poisoned.

"We've had reports from Mozambique that poachers are poisoning water holes which, of course, kills the babies and a lot of other wildlife, too."

Dr Martin Brooks, a member of the African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, said last night that the special police unit had conducted an excellent operation.

Mr Keith Cooper, conservation director for the Wildlife Society of South Africa, said it had been a tremendous breakthrough.

"Now they've cracked this first major case, we hope it will lead to a complete eradication of South Africa being used as a clearing house for getting ivory out of the continent," he said.

# Europe's birds wing 56 their way towards crisis

IN the last decade nothing has done more to inspire concern for the conservation of the globe's fauna and flora than television images of vast forests in South America reduced by fire to little more than a graveyard of charred stumps.

However, the audience might come to see conservation as an issue involving only the developing world. A recent report by the International Council for Bird Preservation and the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau, "Important Bird Areas In Europe", has been a vital reminder that the developed world faces conservation problems.

The European continent has one of the largest and most sophisticated conservation movements. However, it has also experienced the longest and most intensive industrial and agricultural development, and is one of the most densely populated regions in the world. About 500 bird species in Europe including Turkey, western USSR, and the islands off north-west Africa compares unfavourably with small tropical countries like Costa Rica or Nepal (with 900 and 835 species respectively).

Perhaps a more worrying indicator of impending crisis in Europe has been the report's identification of a further 195 species and sub-species — over a third of the continent's total — which are threatened in Europe. Thirty of these are birds of prey, such as the peregrine falcon. Their place at the top of the food chain often means they are the first to suffer the consequences of ecological deterioration. They are, therefore, important indicators of the continent's wider environmental health.

Although all the countries of Europe have internal legislation to protect their natural heritage, the need for

*A recent study has revealed that one third of European bird species are under threat.* **MARK COCKER** reports

internationally co-ordinated effort is especially important for birds. Some migration routes taken by waders, for example, cross dozens of national borders between their breeding grounds on Soviet tundra and their wintering grounds on the South African shoreline.

In the Mediterranean basin cohorts of Latin hunters, flouting national and international legislation, go out in spring and autumn to do battle with passing migrants. Their annual tally is about 900-million birds — and one in seven of all migrants in is thought to end up in a Mediterranean pot.

The European Community's Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds has only been partially successful in achieving its aims. It imposes strict legal requirements on the signatory governments to safeguard bird diversity and their habitats.

But EC development policies are often at odds with its conservation measures. In Greece a high proportion of its wetlands, some of outstanding international importance like the Evros Delta, are threatened. On one hand, the EC requires protection of these areas in accordance with its Wild Bird Directive, and yet on the other, funds development projects that seriously threaten the sites.

The International Council for Bird Preservation points out that birds are not the only aspect of the region's wildlife heritage under threat. Most other forms of life face similar predicaments. The decline of birds will herald the disappearance of all, their protection will safeguard entire ecosystems. — The Guardian, London

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INDUSTRIAL pollution in ocean waters off the Natal coast is high enough to kill the first-born calves of female dolphins and to seriously impair the reproductive system of rare species of the mammal, says a senior researcher.

Victor Cockburn, curator of the marine mammals research division at the Port Elizabeth Museum, told the *Weekly Mail* he had discovered high levels of deadly polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) and DDT in the blubber of bottle-nose dolphins caught in shark nets off the Natal coast.

Levels of the toxins, which undermine the immune system of animals and reduce their reproductive capabilities, were twice as high as those found in Doll's porpoises of the Japanese coast and 10 times the levels found in the St Lawrence Estuary.

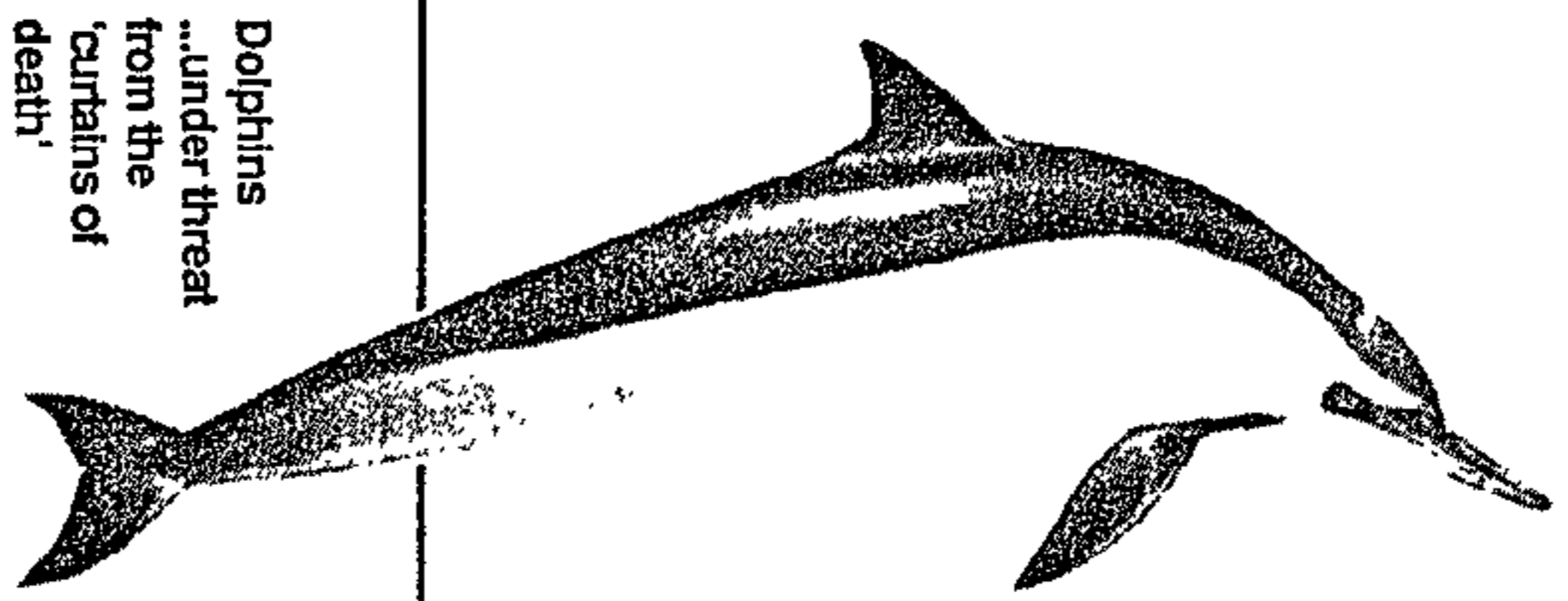
The St Lawrence River in Canada is fed effluent from the industrial belt around the Great Lakes in the United States and is one of the most polluted rivers in the world.

Perhaps even more startling is Cockburn's discovery that the blubber of dead dolphins contains smaller quantities of the banned chemicals, lindane and dieldrin.

These two pesticides, together with DDT, are among the most toxic commercial chemicals in the world and easily enter the food chain because they take an extremely long time to break down. They have been listed as part of the "dirty dozen" — a list of pesticides that have been targeted by environmentalists world-wide.

DDT is used by "homeland" health authorities all over South Africa to control malaria as well as by farmers who obtain special licences to do so. But lindane and dieldrin are banned in South Africa, as in most other parts of the world. Cockburn's findings, due to be published in a forthcoming edition of the *SA Journal of Marine Science*, suggest the banned pesticides may be being used illegally in Natal.

PCBs — highly toxic by-products of factories that make high-temperature electric motors and neon



Dolphins ...under threat from the 'curtains of death'

# Natal's sea of toxic waste: Industry blamed for the death of dolphins

The 'dirty dozen' is a list of deadly chemicals environmental groups want banned world-wide. Yet high levels of DDT and other pesticides pose a threat to dolphins off Natal's coast and have been linked to a mysterious disease that cripples women in the Kosi Bay region. By EDDIE KOCH

nose dolphins pass on about 90 per cent of the 160 milligrams of PCBs and DDT they have stored," says Cockburn. "Work has been done to show that one-tenth of these levels will kill baby monkeys."

Cockburn says his findings indicate that the efficiency of the reproductive systems of blue-nose dolphins and hump-back dolphins, both on the endangered species list, could be seriously impaired. Because the toxins damage the immune systems of mammals, they have also been linked to the virus epidemics that last year killed vast numbers of seals and some dolphins in the North Sea.

There are about 1 000 bottle-nose dolphins in Natal's coastal waters and just 150 hump-back dolphins. DDT spray contaminates plant life

lower in dolphins on the south coast of Natal where there is less industrial and agricultural activity. Skiboat fishermen from the Richards Bay area were this month reported as saying that effluents pumped directly into the sea by the huge paper mill and fertiliser plant in the area were not being dispersed and that the seabed of the port was covered in a layer of sludge.

A representative for the Department of Health in Pretoria told the *Weekly Mail* that some 126 000kg of DDT is used each year to control malaria in South Africa.

"In the South African malaria control programme DDT is exclusively used for internal house-spraying and not to control larvae in water. In this way no ecological pollution occurs," the representative said.

"Here, as well as in South America, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana and Namibia, DDT remains the most effective pesticide to control malaria. DDT is recommended by the World Health Organisation for malaria control in all of these countries."

●Meanwhile the Cape-Town based Dolphin Action and Protection Group says evidence is mounting that a more ominous threat to the survival of dolphins — the use of vast drift nets by commercial fishing vessels — is making an appearance in South African waters.

Such nets, used primarily for tuna fishing, reach 30m into the sea and are sometimes 40km long. They have been dubbed "curtains of death" because they ensnare not only tuna but any other form of bird and fish life. "Ghost" nets are often cut loose by fishing trawlers and abandoned in the open ocean where they continue to kill sea life long after they have any commercial use.

## DDT linked to mystery disease in Kosi Bay

A MYSTERY bone disease that afflicts one in every three women in the KwaZulu district of Kosi Bay has been linked by researchers to the widespread use of DDT in the "homeland".

By EDDIE KOCH

estuarine around Kosi Bay for protein and this could be a source of high intake of DDT. MacLaren said the prevalence of the disease appeared to diminish in

lights — are included in most of shipments of industrial waste sent for dumping in the Third World. In South Africa, they are supposed to be stored in specialised industrial waste sites designed to eliminate any possibility of dangerous toxins entering the water table.

Cockburn says he found 16 parts per million of PCBs and DDT in blue-nose dolphins and levels three times as high as that in the rare hump-back dolphins. Research has shown that 90 percent of these toxins, stored in the blubber of the animals, is passed on in the milk of female dolphins to first-born calves. "It looks as though Natal bottle-

# Pollution exported to poor countries

6/8/89  
56  
CROSS

**A** LEADING Soviet economist has accused multinational companies of exporting pollution to poorer countries and has demanded a Soviet referendum on the desirability of joint industrial ventures with the Soviet Union.

Valentin Katasonov, writing in the latest edition of the influential weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, said multinationals sought to set up joint ventures in less developed countries to evade tough pollution controls at home.

He urged a freeze on talks on joint industrial ventures until the Soviet parliament had passed new laws to protect the environment.

"International monopolies follow a double standard on economic policy," Katasonov said.

"At home they meet the strictest demands for protection of the environment and people's health, but abroad, especially in countries lag-

ging behind economically, they ignore elementary precautions."

Citing industrial accidents in developing countries, including the disaster in Bhopal, India, he accused Western companies of "ecological colonialism".

"They imposed on the developing countries ecologically dangerous production, ageing and 'dirty' technology, and building dangerous factories and energy facilities," he said.

There was no central Soviet body to regulate the activities of the more than 500 registered joint ventures, especially with regard to air and water pollution.

"The most serious danger lies in the coinciding desires of the international monopolies to economise here at the expense of the environment... and the interests of some of our departments and bureaucrats."

Katasonov singled out petrochemical projects

for close scrutiny, including the big Tengiz Oil Field Project, led by a consortium of US, Japanese and Italian firms.

The Soviet authorities, who are keen to encourage foreign investment and technology transfer, have allowed much greater freedom of expression under President Mikhail Gorbachev's glasnost policies.

Katasonov's essay coincides with a rash of news reports on the ravages of pollution.

More and more Western companies are scrambling for a stake in what many see as one of the world's great untapped markets.

A consortium of firms is leading the development of a large petrochemical complex at Tengiz, near the Caspian Sea. The firms - Italian, American and Japanese - are expected to invest \$750 million each. - Sapa

# City beaches condemned

CME *trials*  
8/5/89

(56)

## Pollution count high at three areas

By PETER DENNEHY

**IN a shock report, three Cape Town beaches have been condemned because of a high animal and human pollution count.**

Yesterday a City Council report said that beaches at Three Anchor Bay, Muizenberg and Mitchells Plain did not measure up to standards for bathing waters set by the European Economic Community.

A bacteriological report by the council's principal scientific officer — now before two council committees — showed that faeces counts at these beaches is too high.

And the report notes that while the city has separate systems for stormwater drainage and sewage, faecal traces can be found in both systems because rainwater also carries away dog faeces on sidewalks.

### Low quality

The report was for the 12-month period ending June 1989.

Bacteriological counts are done regularly at at least 33 points around Cape Town and the results are reported to the council.

The low water quality at Three Anchor Bay and Muizenberg was probably due to the large amount of stormwater that flowed into the sea, at these places, the report said.

Mr Hank Beekman, assistant city engineer, said last night that he was sure the problem at Three Anchor Bay was not being caused by the marine sewage outfall pipe at Green Point.

At Mitchells Plain the most important factor was "the quality of the wastewater discharged", according to the report. This in turn was governed by the capacity of the sewage treatment plant in the area and whether bacteria were being killed.

Mr Beekman said that the ponds at the council's Mitchells Plain treatment plant had been "doubled" recently and that the EEC standard was now being attained.

# Cattle are poisoned in Phalaborwa and humans could also be

# The copper-coated killing fic

Controversy surrounds the death of cattle at Phalaborwa in the Eastern Transvaal. That the animals died from copper poisoning has been established — where the copper came from, however, is debatable. Vets from Onderstepoort believe the Phalaborwa Mining Company is polluting the area but the mine says it is operating within the legal limits. DAWN BARKHUIZEN reports.

Investigations have been launched after more than 45 cattle died from copper poisoning in Phalaborwa and high levels of copper were found coating grass in the area.

Scientists from the Department of Agriculture and Water Supply's Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort believe copper emissions from the Phalaborwa Mining Company (PMC) on the outskirts of the town have polluted the area.

The Kruger National Park — less than 2 km away — is testing animals, soil and plants.

Dr Braam Mouton of the Research Institute for Environmental Diseases says copper is as toxic as lead (both have the same Threshold Limit Value) and the ingestion of large amounts can cause brain, kidney and liver damage to humans.

He warned that an overdose can cause potentially lethal renal failure.

If allowed to continue, there was a potential long term hazard to townsfolk and the possibility of copper getting into the water systems, he said.

The Department of National Health and Population Development, which is also investigating and controls the copper smelting process, says people in Phalaborwa are not at risk.

"It seems only animals that chew the cud would be affected. The only way people in Phalaborwa can ingest copper in small doses will be if they do not wash home grown vegetables such as lettuce," a statement said.

In the form found in Phalaborwa, copper was not dangerous if inhaled.

### Legal limits

The department said all dust emissions from the PMC stack were kept within the legal limits by means of a precipitator, but The Star learnt this apparatus did not function between August 1988 and last month.

The PMC general manager, Mr George Deysel, "put a question mark" on the findings by Onderstepoort and said "We work within the limits laid down by the health authorities. We have seen no signs of copper toxicity in the area."

He admitted that the precipitator had been inoperative, but said gas scrubbers cleaned emissions.

He said these were shut down for maintenance, generally scheduled for two weeks twice a year. During this time combustion particles were emitted through the stack, causing the brown plume of smoke seen hanging over the town.

A brown plume has been seen frequently — by townsfolk and visitors.

Researchers from Onderstepoort found copper on the grass outside Phalaborwa to be abnormally high; they measured as much as 1 275 ppm (parts per million) on a farm directly downwind of the factory.

In a report they said: "We established the prevailing wind direction was from the south-east. This would blow the pall of smoke seen hanging over the mine to the north-west, where the farm lay."



Financially crippled . . . farmer Mr Antoon Lombard has lost one third of his stud cattle due to copper poisoning. ● Picture by

It was concluded the copper had rained on to the earth as investigations showed high concentrations on grass, smaller amounts in top soil and even less deeper down.

The issue came to light after cattle owned by Phalaborwa farmer, Mr Antoon Lombard, and others on adjacent farms were found to have been killed by copper poisoning.

Mr Lombard's farm is directly downwind of the PMC.

The Onderstepoort team found between 600 ppm and 1 800 ppm of copper in livers it tested. The le-

thal oral toxic dose for a cow is 200 ppm.

The Department of National Health and Population Development said while copper levels were high "this is to be expected in the vicinity of such a large mining complex."

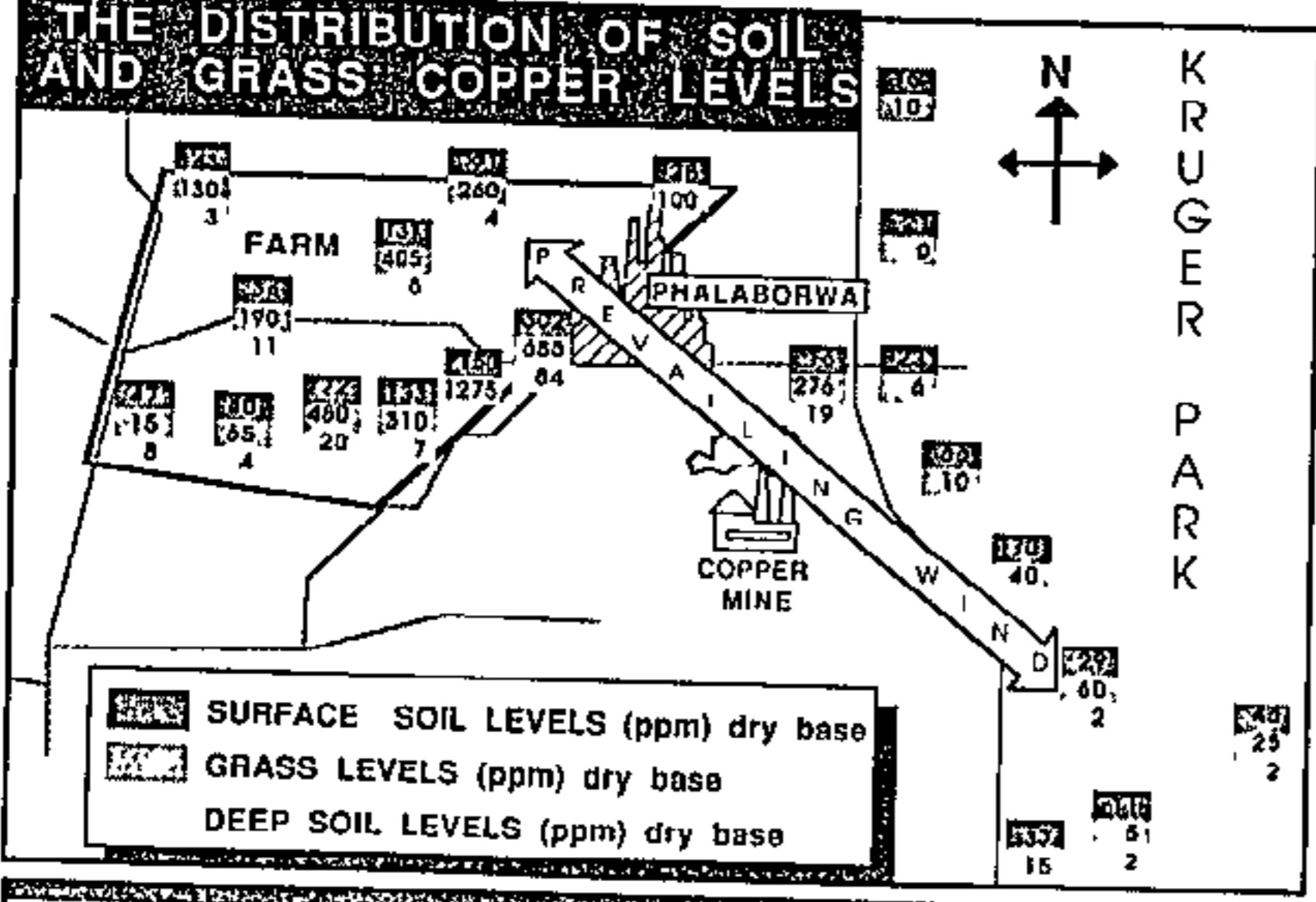
"A vast quantity of waste is discarded on dumps, all containing small amounts of copper, and it is quite possible that an amount of wind-blown dust containing copper has been deposited over the 25 years of mining activities which involves open cast mining, blasting and handling of dusty material," the department said.

"We have no intention of closing down the mine

and it is unlikely that we claims against it. Please it would mean closing the well as the two adjacent bla."

Two years ago the mine mine in South Africa with ployees

● Mr Deysel denied claims National Parks, Dr U P slime dam wall collapsed contents flowed into the K Selati River, poisoning fish.



## Despairing Toon finally gave up all

By Dawn Barkhuizen  
Phalaborwa stud breeder Mr "Toon" Lombard and his wife, Drieme, this week gave up hope and sold all their cattle.

For a man who loved his animals and who dreamed of farming ever since he bought his first two cows 20 years ago, it was a desperate step.

42 prime stud animals valued at between R150 000 and R200 000. He had trekked from vet to vet, but the animals carried on dying, leaving the vets baffled.

Fat, healthy cows would wither away.

There were no pests or pesticides in the area. There was no poison on the grass — or so he thought.

By the middle of the year more than one-third of Toon Lombard's animals were dead and a number had substantially damaged livers.

By then animals on nearby farms had started dying. Five animals owned by Mr Andy Tonsing have died since March. Mr Tonsing slaughtered six more when they began showing similar symptoms.

Animals that died on another farm a few kilometres down the road are being tested.

The cause — a rarity in South Africa — was finally pinpointed by a team from the Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort. The

animals copper.

While slowed animals solved animals.

The farm had plain to calves garden voice.

That is cows died not bear sold even owned.

poisoned in Phalaborwa and humans could also be at risk

# Copper-coated killing fields

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Financially crippled... farmer Mr Antoon Lombard has lost one third of his stud cattle due to copper poisoning. Picture by Dawn Barkhuizen.

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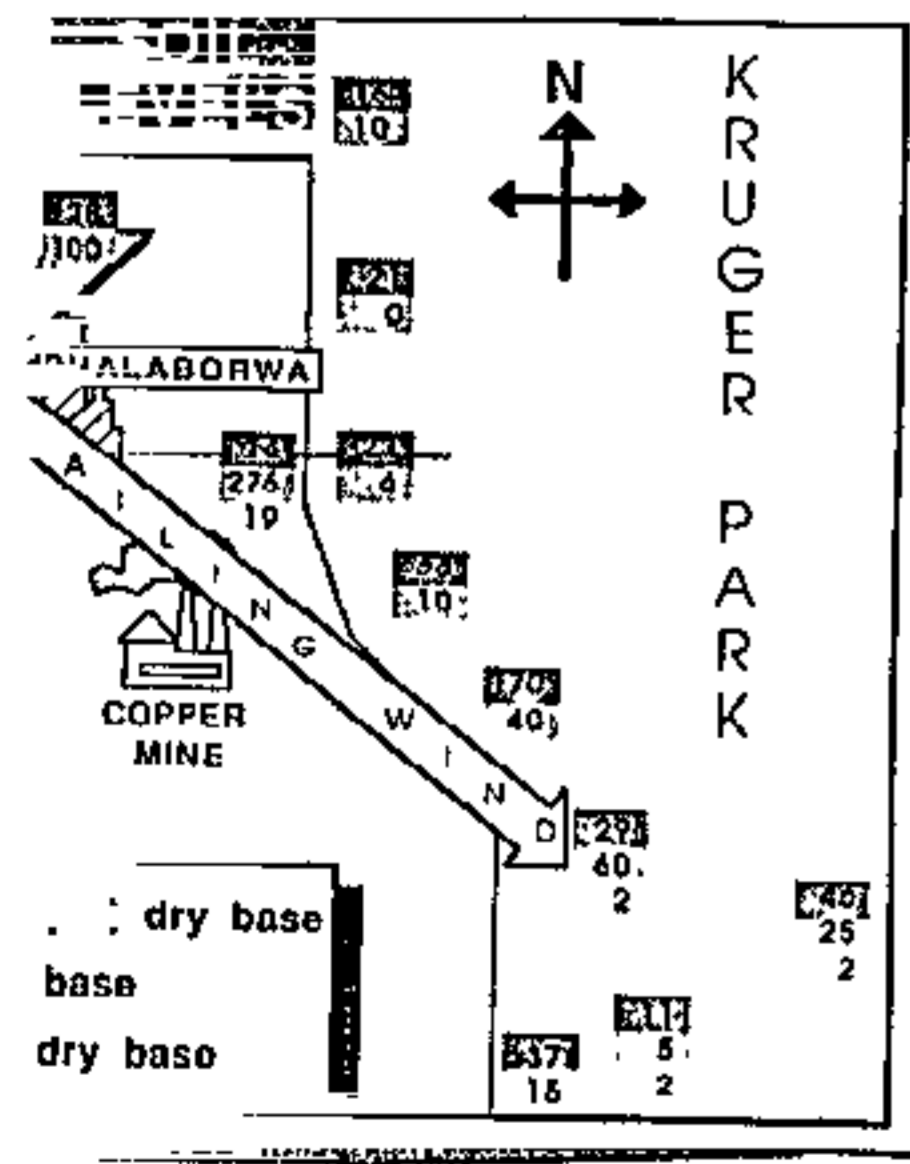
"A vast quantity of waste is discarded on dumps, all containing small amounts of copper, and it is quite possible that an amount of wind-blown dust containing copper has been deposited over the 25 years of mining activities which involves open cast mining, blasting and handling of dusty material," the department said

"We have no intention of closing down the mine

and it is unlikely that we will be involved in any claims against it. Please keep in mind that closing it would mean closing the town of Phalaborwa as well as the two adjacent black towns"

Two years ago the mine was voted the safest mine in South Africa with more than 1 000 employees

Mr Deysel denied claims by the chief director of National Parks, Dr U Pienaar, that the mine's slime dam wall collapsed last year and that the contents flowed into the Kruger National Park's Selati River, poisoning fish.



## Despairing Toon finally gave up all hope

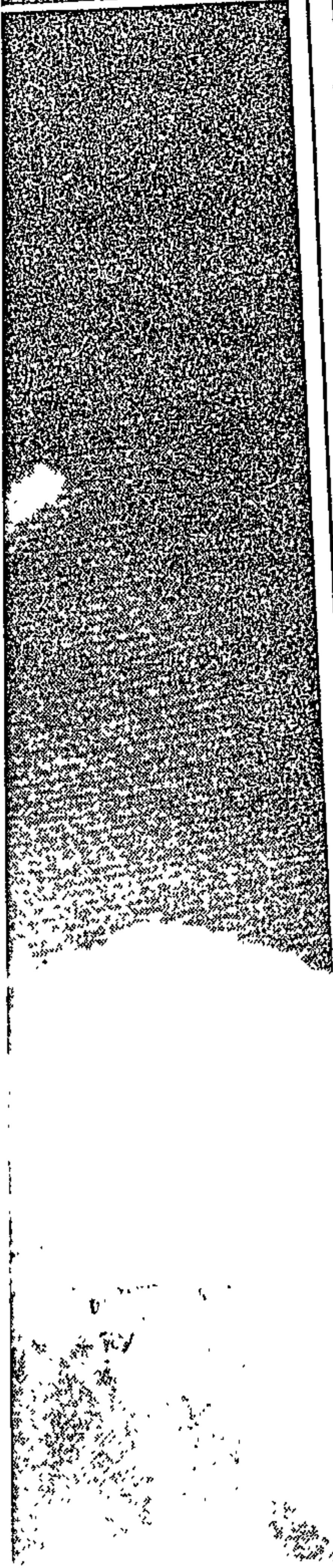
By Dawn Barkhuizen Phalaborwa stud breeder Mr "Toon" Lombard and his wife, Drienie, this week gave up hope and sold all their cattle For a man who loved his animals and who dreamed of farming ever since he bought his first two cows 20 years ago, it was a desperate step. He had already replaced his farmers' hat with a hard hat and was working a 12-hour day in steel construction, treating his sick animals in the dark when he came home Within six months he lost

42 prime stud animals valued at between R150 000 and R200 000 He had trekked from vet to vet, but the animals carried on dying, leaving the vets baffled Fat, healthy cows would wither away There were no pests or pesticides in the area There was no poison on the grass — or so he thought By the middle of the year more than one-third of Toon Lombard's animals were dead and a number had substantially damaged livers

By then animals on nearby farms had started dying Five animals owned by Mr Andy Tonsing have died since March Mr Tonsing slaughtered six more when they began showing similar symptoms Animals that died on another farm a few kilometres down the road are being tested The cause — a rarity in South Africa — was finally pinpointed by a team from the Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort The

animals were poisoned by copper While medical treatment slowed the rate at which animals were dying, it has not solved the problem and the animals are still dying. The fact that Toon Lombard loved his animals was plain to see His orphaned calves lived right in his front garden and followed his wife's voice That is why when two more cows died last week he could not bear it any longer and sold every single animal he owned.

o orbit



ly Space centre in Florida

# Copper rain blamed for (56) cattle deaths

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Medical, mining and conservation authorities have launched investigations after more than 45 cattle near Phalaborwa died from copper poisoning this year.

Investigations by a team from the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute point to the nearby Phalaborwa Mining Company, which has a smelting unit on sight, as being the source of the copper.

Scientists believe PMC is causing copper to rain down on to nearby farms. Tests reveal excessively high levels of copper on the grass on a farm bordering the town, but not in the soil underneath.

The farmer hardest hit, Mr Antoon Lombard, this week gave up all hope and sold his surviving cattle. *Stev 9/8/89*

## DEFENDED

The PMC has defended itself with general manager Mr George Deysel questioning Onderstepoort's findings.

He says his company has stuck to legal parameters.

The Department of Health and Population Development, has assured people of Phalaborwa that they are not at risk — unless they eat unwashed, home-grown vegetables.

The Research Institute of Environmental Diseases has warned that copper, if ingested in high doses, is highly toxic and can be fatal. There was a potential long-term hazard to town-folk and the possibility of copper getting into their water.

● See Page 6 M.

LDVMSM



# Sewage and stormwater threatens False Bay

ARBUS 9/8/89

By ANTHONY DOMAN  
Staff Reporter

**A**N ecological timebomb is ticking away on the False Bay coast as sprawling housing development close to the shore threatens to dump ever increasing amounts of pollution — including human and animal excreta — into the sea.

While the increase in sewage itself poses a problem, a major danger is stormwater runoff, according to virologist Professor Willie Grabow.

Professor Grabow, head of the Department of Medical Virology at the University of Pretoria, was commenting on this week's pollution scare at Peninsula beaches.

In his previous position with the CSIR's National Institute for Water Research he dealt with marine pollution of this sort.

A City Council report identified the trouble spots as beach areas at Mui-zenberg Station, Three Anchor Bay and the Mitchell's Plain waste water outlet.

Standard European Economic Community criteria were not met at these points.

The council's handling of sewage disposal was in the news as recently as two months ago, when a power cut caused a sewage overflow into Sandvlei. The popular recreation area was off limits for two days.

The deputy city engineer in charge of sewage and drainage said at the time that changes to Cape Town's sewage disposal system to prevent recurrences of the overspill were not necessary.

## Pollution turns tourists away

From LESLIE CHILDE  
The Argus Foreign Service  
in Rome

**A**LARMED hotel owners along Italy's Adriatic Riviera estimate that the algae and slime which have been invading the sea along vast stretches of beach for most of the summer has so far cost them nearly R6 000-million in cancelled bookings.

They say trade has plummeted by up to 35 percent at many resorts.

Rimini's most famous, and biggest, hotel has emphasised the disaster by closing its luxurious annexes for the rest of the season because of a lack of customers.

Hoteliers disclosed their financial losses after the government earmarked yet another R3 200-million in

Professor Grabow said sewage generated through sewage systems was generally well treated.

"But there is very little you can do about stormwater runoff." This run-off was caused in built-up areas through water not being able to soak into the ground and having to be led away.

Housing schemes needed to be properly planned to take marine pollution into account, he said. "Houses should not be built right on the beachfront. Thus there is major concern about the developments on the Cape Flats with no buffer zone between them and the sea."

These developments were putting "tremendous pressure" on False Bay.

A huge stormwater detention pond had been built near Monwabisi. "But this is one drop in the bucket," he said.

"It is right that there should be concern. For that reason there are a number of bodies involved in research in this matter."

However, planning to combat pollution was not easy. "People tell planners to take this problem into account. But the planners say, 'We have to establish housing. That is our top priority. Afterward we can look at marine pollution'."

The issue also raised "political problems", he said.

"Authorities will have to start thinking of putting out more deep sea pipelines. These pipes would have to be placed in extremely deep water, taking into account the special problems of False Bay such as currents and underwater topography."

What actually happens when pollution exceeds safe levels?

"Well, you have a potential health risk which is very difficult to define. And of course, as the municipality in-

creases in size, the extent of the health risk increases."

The measure of this particular type of pollution was the "faecal coliform count".

"Coliforms are associated with human excreta and they indicate the potential presence of pathogenic microorganisms," he said.

The most common infections caused by this were gastro-enteritis, hepatitis and a variety of eye and ear infections.

"Although gastro-enteritis has a very low mortality rate, it has a high rate of socio-economic problems," he said.

Even more dangerous, though less common, would be typhoid.

Then there was the "aesthetic aspect".

"People just don't like the thought of it being in the water."

He pointed out that in a city such as Cape Town, with its dependence on tourism, this sort of pollution could spell disaster.

In Gordon's Bay, the senior health inspector recently reported that rain washed river sewage into False Bay.

Rivers that dried up in summer were often used as toilets. When winter rains fell the sewage was washed into the bay, health inspector Mr W H Johnson told the Town Council.

However, although elements from rivers polluted the sea and poisoned marine life, there was no health risk to humans, he said.

A Department of Water Affairs source said the department was "aware of the problem".

"We have had talks with the council. In fact we have sat in on various committee meetings."

Housing development was "the big problem", he said.

emergency aid for the stricken area.

The measure benefits businesses stretching from Venice to Pescara — hit for the past six weeks by a still mysterious white coloured and oily scum lapping the water's edge.

"The decline mainly affects foreign tourists who have heard, seen or read all about the unpleasant, evil-smelling slime," said an official.

□ □ □

From Washington it is reported that beach-goers ready to frolic in US coastal waters should be prepared to encounter contamination from toxic chemicals, sewage discharge and medical waste, a private environmental group said Wednesday.

"Few regions of the country have escaped the effects of coastal pollution,"

the Washington-based Natural Resources Defense Council said in a new report.

The report, which examined a variety of ocean pollutants, suggested the trend toward growing coastal contamination can be reversed over the next decade, but only through strict pollution-control measures and reductions in development along coastal areas.

"Each year our factories dump no less than 5 trillion gallons of wastewater into coastal waters," the report said.

"We flush another 2,3 trillion gallons of sewage into them. And every time it rains or snows, massive amounts of poisonous substances, including gasoline and pesticides, are carried into the sea as runoff from our city streets and farms."

## Global temperature

The FAO working group identified several trends as a result of this process:

- Average global temperature, which has risen by about 0.5 degrees C in the past 120 years, may rise about 1 degree C by the year 2010 and possibly 4.5 degrees C by 2050.

Towards the Arctic, the rise could be more than twice the average and could happen faster. In temperate zones, winters would tend to be shorter and warmer, summers longer and hotter.

- There will be more rain in the higher latitudes, more intense rain in the humid tropics and a possible decline in summer rainfall in middle latitudes. So temperate-zone winters would be wetter and summers drier, while the already dry sub-tropics could become drier still.

- Rainfall and temperature will be more variable with longer runs of wet and dry years, more frequent floods and droughts and more intense mid-season dry spells.

- Extreme conditions, such as hurricanes, are likely to become more common.

- The balance of soil and water in the major temperate cereal-growing areas will deteriorate.

- Sea level will rise. Some estimates put the increase at 30-50 centimetres by 2050, due not so much to the melting of polar ice-caps as to the expansion of oceans as they warm up.

As more than half the human population lives within 40 kilometres of a coastline, even a modest 30 percent rise could affect millions of people, especially in Asia.

The first impact of climate change on agriculture is expected to be felt by the year 2000, probably as a result of increased concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and higher temperatures. Initially, the net effect may be positive.

Gains in productivity projected for the year 2050 range from about 3 percent in the tropics to more than 30 percent in higher latitudes.

But a range of negative effects is also projected. Higher temperature and increased cloudiness could reduce photosynthesis. Heat stress would be more frequent in the tropics, while reduced snow cover in the higher latitudes would expose winter crops to more frequent frost.

## Food production

In the longer-term, mean or night-time temperatures may rise enough in the tropics and subtropics as to seriously affect food production by inducing sterility in rice, reducing tillering in wheat, lowering flower set in white potatoes and killing fish in inland waters.

Warming would extend forests towards the pole in northern latitudes, but the increasing aridity in the tropics would almost certainly lead farmers and herders to make further incursions into forests in a vicious cycle that would contribute further to the greenhouse effect.

The effect of climate change on water resources for agriculture would be greatest in areas dependent on irrigation.

Computer simulation indicates that in semi-arid basins, a 25 percent drop in rainfall would make it necessary to increase storage capacity by about 400 percent in order to maintain present levels of water yield from storage.

Threats are also posed by fluctuations in rivers, as has already been seen in Africa, and by increasingly frequent floods and droughts, which are bound to accelerate land degradation.

Finally, the rise in sea level would increase seawater intrusion into coastal and delta areas, affecting water supplies for agricultural production and rural populations, and inundating coastal fisheries. —

GEMINI NEWS

(56)

South  
17-23/8/89

# Hot and bothered over freak weather

The freak weather being experienced in some parts of the world could prove to be a foretaste of more lasting climate changes expected to take hold as a result of the greenhouse effect. Now a UN working group has pinpointed which areas will be hardest hit by the global warming. PEGGY POLK reports:

RESULTS from a working group within the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reinforce predictions that global warming — the greenhouse effect — could begin affecting agriculture, forestry and fisheries within 15 years.

And the possible changes range from a rise in the sea level to an extension of the range of tsetse flies, ticks and mosquitoes, posing a threat to humans as well as animals.

Says FAO director-general Edouard Saouma: "We must begin now to prepare for what is in store for the world. Although scientists are still debating just how serious these changes will be, it is clear that few countries will remain unaffected."

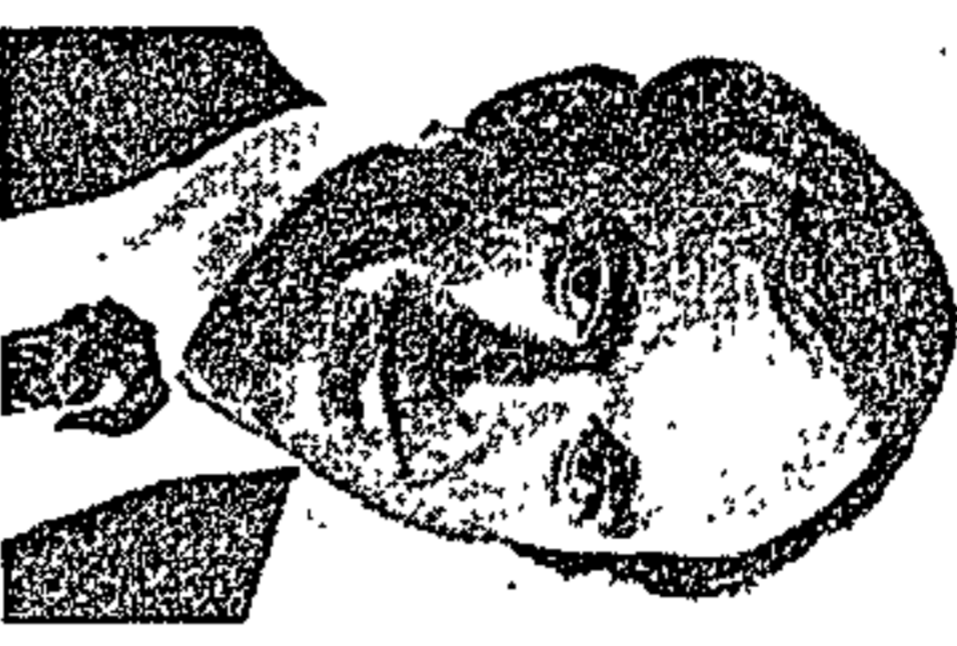
Many food-deficit countries seem likely to suffer most, but food-surplus countries will also experience changes.

Some greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), absorb heat that would otherwise escape into the atmosphere. But human activity arising from industrialisation has sent CO<sub>2</sub> levels rocketing, and as the concentration of the gases rise, so does the earth's temperature.

# Green — 56 — challenges for SA in the 1990s

By Robyn Chalmers

THE major issue of the 1990s in South Africa will not be black against white, but green, says Anglo American executive director Clem Sunter.



Clem Sunter ... environment the issue of 1990s.

Mr Sunter spoke to 300 businessmen at Midrand this week on the latest options for SA. He updated the scenarios he painted four years ago in his book SA in the 1990s, and spoke about his new book SA and the Environment into the 21st Century.

## Topsoil

"The greenhouse effect is a very real danger which cannot be overlooked. In addition, 400-million tons of topsoil in SA are disappearing into the sea each year." The population explosion was adding to the environmental problem. The present population of 35-million was expected to increase to about 100-million by 2020 or 2030. The world was adding a billion people to its population every 12 years. Economic growth and the environment were two areas which the world had to concentrate on, he said. It had to

Countries which had achieved a work ethic had done so by having a small government which was a support for workers, low income tax — the top tax rate in Japan was 28% compared to 45% in SA plus 13% GST — a sound family system and a clean government operating in a multi-party system holding regular elections.

The winning nation of the world in the economic sense was Japan, he said. America was going through a mid-life crisis and perestroika was a nightmare in Russia. The average Russian was worse off now than 10 years ago, inflation running at about 10%. Unless the economy developed rapidly, he believed Russia would face another revolution.

## Beer

After the general elections, SA would be faced with the same high road and low road options painted in his previous book. To achieve the high road, SA would have to build on its excellent infrastructure, good mineral resources, and promote the thousands of entrepreneurs in the population.

"The economy has opened up a little in the past four years which has allowed the informal sector and small businesses to expand. These are forces which can change the face of the SA economy, and must be recognised as such." This can be seen in the beer sales of SA Breweries (SAB), for example, which have risen by 6% to 8% in the past year. This can only be attributed to a rise in the disposable income of blacks.

GROWTH of real gross domestic product (GDP) will be about 2% this year and will drop in 1990, says Sanlam in its August Economic Survey.

By Robyn Chalmers

This compares with growth of 3.2% in 1988. Sanlam says that to prevent further severe imbalances in the economy, and consequently more restrictive measures, it is vital that the public sector keep expenditure within limits. Although it is too early to make definite deductions about Government overspending of budgeted figures, Sanlam says figures for the first quarter are cause for concern.

## Curbs

As a percentage of GDP, Government spending rose to 32.8% in the first quarter of 1989 compared with 29.2% in the same period last year. This means that Government spending for the rest of the financial year will have to be well below the budgeted 15% increase. "With indications that the economy is taking longer to cool down than expected, an over-relaxed fiscal policy would mean that monetary policy will have to be relaxed on more and for longer to

limit total spending in the economy. "In other words, interest rates will have to remain high for some time yet." Sanlam says there are indications that the economy began to cool in the second quarter. It was particularly evident in retailing where real sales of durable household appliances levelled off.

## R105m Cape Project

Business Times Reporter

SYPRETS and Fintrust joint-venture company Capgro is breaking new ground with a huge multi-use property development at the Cape.

The first two phases of N1 City, near the motorway between Cape Town and Bellville, will provide a shopping centre and a 7 000m<sup>2</sup> entertainment complex at a cost of R105-million.

Later development of the 45-hectare site will include office parks, clinics, a film studio, an exhibition and conference centre, a fitness centre, a hotel and medium-density residential accommodation.

N1 City was planned after a study of similar successful developments in Europe and North America, says Capgro managing director Jacques Pauw.

The first phase will be a 15 500m<sup>2</sup> OK Hyperama costing R25-million, due to open in August next year. The R80-million second phase, which opens in October 1990, covers 32 500m<sup>2</sup> with shops for Pick n Pay, Woolworths and Edgars. It includes the 7 000m<sup>2</sup> entertainment centre with a synthetic ice rink, a mini-golf course and 10 cinemas.



# Tests show high pollutant levels

Cape Times 25/8/88 56

By PETER DENNEHY

SPOT tests of the water near the Mouille Point lighthouse, close to the truncated sewage outfall pipe, have indicated pollutant levels there of up to 30 or 40 times that of the most stringent "guideline" level for bathing.

The Cape Times commissioned three spot tests this week, two of them in areas where the City Council has already put up signs saying: "Water unsuitable for swimming or surfing".

The third test was done right on the other side of Sea Point at Saunders Rocks, just to see whether the faecal coliform count there was within limits laid down by the European Economic Community.

Faecal coliforms are "indicator organisms" which are not particularly pathogenic in themselves, but are useful in estimating the "degree of faecal pollution of water", according to City Engineer Mr Des Riley.

Saunders Rocks passed its spot test swimmingly, with a count of only 30 faecal coliforms per 100ml of water, whereas the strictest EEC guideline allows up to 100 coliforms 80% of the time.

However, at the base of the Green Point sewage outfall pipe (at Mouille Point lighthouse) 4 750 faecal coliforms per 100ml sample were measured on Tuesday.

At the small rocky beach on the Granger Bay side of the lighthouse, 3 900 faecal coliforms per 100ml



**FAECAL FISHING . . .** The water is tested at the base of the Green Point marine outfall pipe using a sterilised cooldrink bottle with a line attached to it, as the boundary wall is about 4m high there.

sample were measured.

Mr Riley said raw sewage gave measurements of up to 100 million faecal coliforms per 100ml. He said the Cape Times's results were higher than most of the council's, but much depended on where the sample had been taken.

The council would not release its own results before more samples had been taken, he said.

Spot-test water samples were analysed for the Cape Times by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's Division of Water Technology.

The researcher who did the tests said there were three EEC guidelines which now formed the South African standard. More than just spot testing was required for a truly scientific determination of levels, she said.

"There must be not more than 100 faecal coliforms per 100ml 50% of the time in seven samples; not more than 400 90% of the time in 25 samples; and not more than 2 000 99% of the time in 100 samples."

The marine outfall pipe, which is 1,7km long, was now discharging about 500m from the shore because a damaged section had to be removed after it was displaced in the big storm at the end of last month.

Curiously enough, dozens of sea birds have taken to sitting in the water at about the point where the discharge comes to the surface. Mr Riley said that in his experience of diving in such spots, fish were not attracted there.

56 w mail 25-31/8/89.

THE WORLD

# Plan for ecological refugees, warns UN

*Coastal areas face massive flooding as the earth warms up, the oceans expand and the ice caps melt. But, bar a handful of planners, the world is not ready for this crisis.*

By MICHAEL PARRISH

IT still seems more science fiction than fact — the prediction that global warming will cause a cataclysmic rise in ocean levels that could leave coastal areas inundated worldwide.

And even though it may be more than a decade before it's known whether the theory is accurate, a small but growing band of planners, politicians and environmentalists isn't willing to wait. Already, they're preparing for the flood.

A dramatic, if gradual, rise in sea level could be one of the most calamitous effects of the increase in earth's temperature from heat trapped by gases in the atmosphere. These gases, released since the first smokestacks of industrialisation pushed skyward, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons. Their effect in the upper atmosphere has been compared to rolled-up windows in a car left out in the sun.

Like any other material, the ocean expands and rises as it warms. Estimates deemed plausible by the United States Environmental Protection Agency range from 0.6m to 2.1m of rise around US shores by the year 2100, just from this great swelling. But in worst-case scenarios, one or more major polar ice sheets could rapidly melt, making the rise much higher still.

Coastal decisions — from the building plot of a bungalow to nationwide strategies for wetlands preservation — are now based on time-spans ranging from 30 to 100 years. Yet planners worry that rapid ocean rise isn't yet being considered.

Inexpensive, long-range moves now, planners say, would involve relatively minor inconveniences and would be well worth the effort compared to the costly, destructive, ad hoc defenses likely to be thrown up if the big waves do arrive.

Recently, the White House Council on Environmental Quality agreed, warning that government may have to adjust for global warming "before all the uncertainties are known".

Still, serious plans for global warming can seem like so much hot air to many dubious politicians, developers and civil engineers, who are

being told again — as in the on-again, off-again energy crisis — that disaster is just around the corner.

When a staffer recently presented a study on sea-level rise to the California Coastal Commission, he described a future in which dikes might be thrown up in Malibu and the sand could disappear from its beaches.

"I'd hate to have to tell some guy who wants to build a house in Malibu ... that we think the ocean's going to come in your front window," protested Commissioner Steve MacElvaine, who called for a more careful review of the scientific evidence.

The trouble is, as many scientists see it, sea-level rise could be here a lot sooner than he thinks.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration says that the ocean has been warming and rising twice as fast as previously observed — a confirmation of greenhouse theory, though still not proof.

And no-one knows how high the water could go.

Sceptics argue that it's too soon to base policy on shifting predictions. But many in the public-regulation game in the US sense a need for urgency.

"Every time we make (construction) permit decisions, it's a 40- to 50-year decision at least," says California Coastal Commissioner Madelyn Glickfeld, of Malibu. "To not be concerned about things that are 40 to 50 years in the future is shortsighted."

The sea has been lifting in a natural cycle since the last Ice Age peaked 15 000 years ago. Yet that should bother only the most long-range worrier. In the past century, the ocean has gone up a mere 10cm to 15cm.

What concerns most scientists is the prediction that global warming, which most now believe is real, could greatly accelerate that rate. In that case, the sea will expand and rise, overflowing coastlines around the world and drowning out such low-lying areas as the Marshall Islands, including Bikini and Eniwetok atolls, the former atom-bomb test sites in the Pacific. Eventually, in most scientists' scenarios, there would be a migration of refugees from the West Coast and from Mexico and Central America, people dubbed by the United Nations "ecological refugees".

The UN warned that over the next 60 years, rising oceans could flood the settlements of one billion people.

The study advised nations to be ready to assist shore-based businesses and homeowners if their land must be abandoned. — Los Angeles Times



**DOGGY PADDLE:** A dog takes an impromptu swim as he and his young master evacuate their flooded home.

Pictures LEON MULLER, The Argus

## Western Cape set for another storm

By SHARKEY ISAACS and ANTHONY DOMAN  
Staff Reporters

SCORES of families in the Peninsula, whose homes were devastated by floods at the weekend, are bracing themselves for another onslaught of violent August weather.

Gale-force winds are set to batter the Western Cape in a repeat performance of the storm that caused widespread damage, particularly in the areas of Ravensmead and Mouille Point, where homes were flooded and windows were blown out.

Strong north-westerly winds, reaching gale force on the south-west coast, are forecast for today. The weather, in general, will be partly cloudy to cloudy with light local rain, according to a spokesman for the D F Malan Airport weather station.

Rain is forecast for tomorrow and Wednesday. Temperatures are set to plunge further on Wednesday, and southern Cape mountains can expect snow.

However, by Thursday this is expected to clear.

### SECOND TIME

Hardest hit by the weekend's storm was Ravensmead, where dozens of houses were flooded for the second time this winter.

Rescue teams from the Metro emergency service had to wade through waist-deep water to reach stranded families in two streets early yesterday.

They used a rubber dinghy to rescue about 20 people, mostly children and a few elderly people, from flooded homes in Forbes and Marion crescents.

A spokesman for the Parow municipality said this area was plagued by regular floods but the council was dealing with the cause.

Cape Town City Council reported only minor flooding when stormwater drains overflowed. "But this subsided after an hour or two," a spokesman said.

Western Cape Regional Services Council workmen were on standby, but no major incidents were reported.

In Ravensmead, stormwater drains, unable to cope with the deluge, sent the water up to window-level at about a dozen houses on the curved sections of each road.

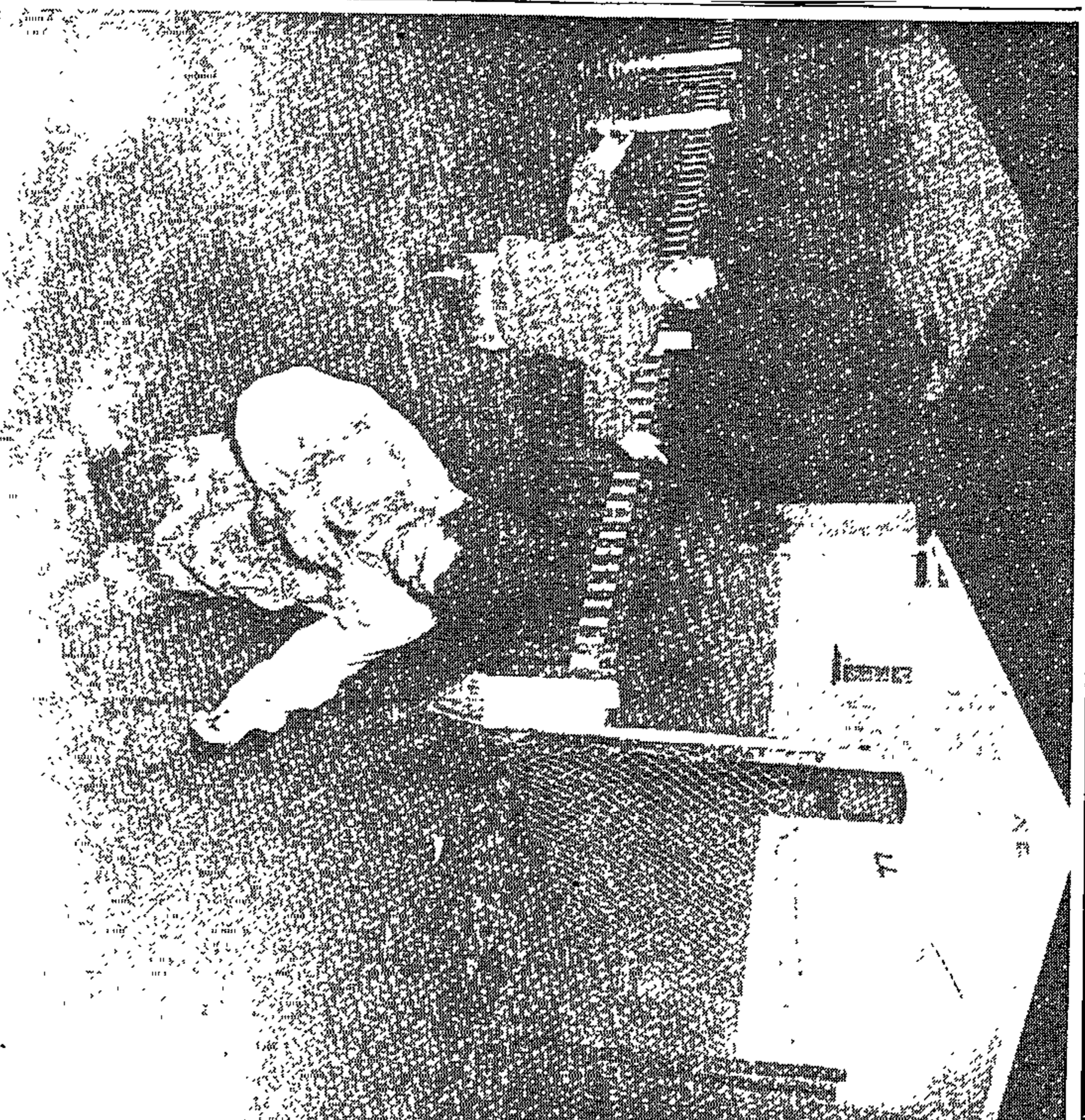
### EVACUATED

About 30 evacuated occupants were given shelter for the night at the Moravian Church, Ravensmead, by the Rev Bernard Lottring.

Mr Abduraghmaan Abrahams of 53 Forbes Crescent said he waded through waist-deep water to carry his three children to the Metro rescue team's dinghy.

(Turn to page 3, col 1)

**EVACUATION:** Metro men in rubber suits wade waist deep through floodwaters to rescue a stranded family and the children of neighbours in Ravensmead.



**WATER HAZARD:** Two Ravensmead residents head for the safety of higher ground through waist-deep water.

Pictures: LEON MULLER, The Argus

# W Cape braced for another storm

(Cont. from page 1)

"The water was knee-deep in my home when I carried the children to safety."

"Metro staff took my children to the church, where they spent the night, while I remained at home."

"I fell asleep about 8am after the water subsided and left me with wet furniture and electrical equipment."

Water also flooded the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Harding of 46 Forbes Crescent. Mr. Harding, a Boy Scout District Commissioner, his wife, Marie, and their daughters Prudence, 19, and Liorna, 16, had just arrived home from a Scouts' social function about 11.55pm when they noticed water in the street rising.

Prudence, a matric pupil at Kensington High School, said: "We had just enough time to

change our clothes and pack a few essentials before rushing out again."

## PRECAUTION

"My mother had taken the precaution of parking our car up the road. We had to walk through knee-deep water to reach it."

"We spent the night at my uncle's home and my father asked our neighbours, Mr and Mrs David Mannel, and their family to join us when we discovered they had nowhere to go."

"This is the second time this year our homes have been flooded. Our home and other houses in the area were flooded on May 31. Municipal workers put an extra drain in our road after the floodwaters in 1985, but this is clearly not enough as all the water in the road runs towards the curved section of the crescent near our

home.

Mrs Sally Cloete of Marion Crescent said she was awakened by the edge of a wet blanket when she turned in her sleep.

"I immediately realised our house was being flooded. This was confirmed when I stepped on to the floor into water up to the base level of my bed."

"The shock caused me to cry out and this awakened everyone," she said.

## SANDBAGS

Her son-in-law, Mr Harry Goliath of Elises River, his wife, Elise, and their family spent the night with Mrs Cloete and were also affected.

Mr Goliath said: "I took the precaution of putting sandbags near the front and back doors before going to sleep, but the pressure water was so great it seeped under the doors."

Flooding also occurred in Northway and Jopie Fourie streets in Ravensmead.

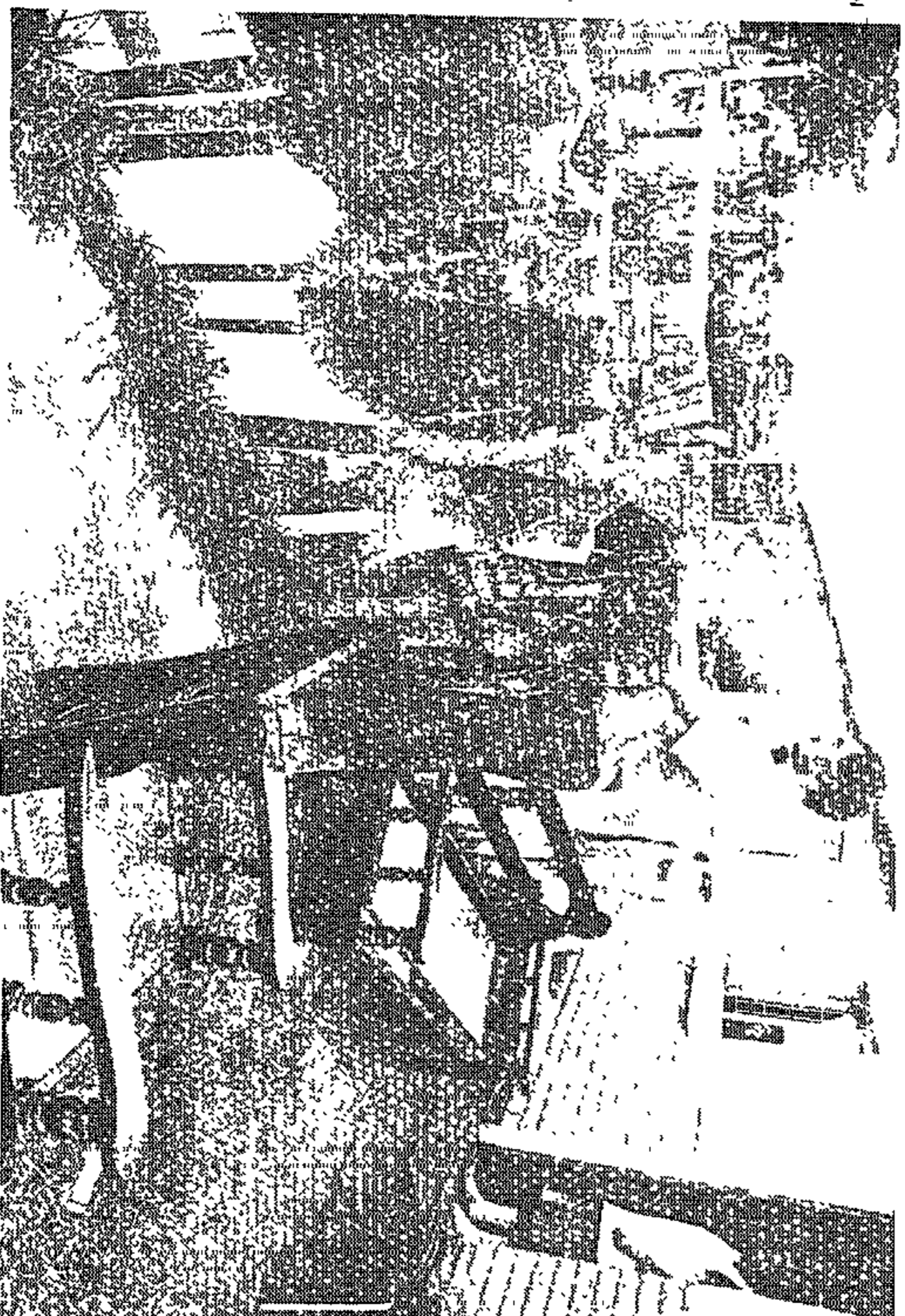
Mrs Clara Vergotine, of Northway Street in a part of Ravensmead near De la Rey Road, said she was asleep about midnight when water streamed underneath the front and back doors.

"I put on rainboots and took my two grandchildren to safety," she said.

"The whole of Northway and Jopie Fourie streets were flooded," she said.

A spokesman of the Parow fire brigade said flood waters started to subside about 90 minutes after the rain had stopped.

Yesterday, Mrs Irene de Bruyn of Ravensmead and a team of relief workers gave soup and cooked meals to flood victims in the area.



**MOPPING-UP:** A resident hangs saturated mats on his fence to dry after the rain stopped and the floodwaters subsided.

# R20m for new city outfall?

Staff Reporter

THE damaged Green Point sewage outfall may have to be replaced at a cost of up to R20 million.

Mr John Muir, chairman of the utilities and works committee, said the pipeline had been damaged in the storms of July 15 and July 30.

A source within the council said that with the cost escalation over the five years since construction of the pipe — which was built for R13,5m — plus interim repairs to the old one, the total bill could be up to R20m.

The building of the outfall pipe first met with opposition when the scheme was being considered in the late '70s and recently the council has come under heavy criticism for its sewage disposal.

● In June raw sewage spilled into Sandvlei, near Muizenberg, when contractors accidentally broke a major electricity cable.

● Earlier this month the council reported that unacceptable levels of pollution caused by animal and human waste had been measured at three city beaches.

● Three weeks ago bathers were warned to stay out of the water at Green Point and Mouille Point after damage to the outfall pipe.

Mr Neil Ross asked Mr Louis Kreiner, chairman of the amenities and health committee, whether there would be any danger to the health of anyone who swam in the sea beside the pipeline.

## 'Archaic and short-term answer'

Mr Kreiner replied that there was an increased danger of exposure to "pathogenic organisms". Shellfish should also not be harvested from the areas where warning signs had been put up.

Residents in the area have complained of a "foul smell" and the council was criticised for using an "archaic and short-term answer" in pumping macerated sewage into the sea via the pipeline.

Mr Muir said yesterday that anchorages had been sheared "relatively close inshore" and the pipeline had been "displaced into three bows".

Consideration was being given to alternative designs to the pipeline, such as building an onshore treatment works or pumping sewage to the Athlone Disposal Works.

However, "it appears likely that a replacement outfall is the most economically viable alternative", as informal estimates have put the cost of building an adequate onshore treatment plant in that area at up to R100 million.

In April the council expects to go out to tender for a two-year construction contract, at the minimum, for an alternative design of pipeline. Mr Muir reported that the only way of ensuring that such damage did not recur was to "trench the pipeline into the sea bed".

984 Times

30/8/87

56



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# Water scheme: SA, Lesotho agree

Own Correspondent

CAP TWP  
5/18/89

(SB)

**PRETORIA.** — The South African and Lesotho governments have reached agreement on the development of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project.

This was announced here yesterday after a meeting between SA Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha and Lesotho's ruling military council chairman Major General Metsing Lakhanya.

At a conference afterwards Mr Botha said there was now no talk of delay in carrying out the scheme, which was strongly in the interests of both countries. SA would benefit with a reinforced water supply, and Lesotho financially from the water payments.

Mr Botha said acting State President

Mr F.W. de Klerk's recent meeting with Southern African leaders and certain common policy issues involving the two countries were reviewed.

"We looked at the economic situation in the region and the need for all countries to go forward in the interests of economic development and growth," Mr Botha said.

Gen Lakhanya said only good could come from closer co-operation in Southern Africa. The water scheme was an example of this.

Asked when civil government would be restored in Lesotho he said his government was in the process of establishing ways and means to bring this about. "We are working on a time schedule on the basis of what is best for Lesotho."

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CAPG Times 31/8/88

# Man dies in devastating Natal fires

Own Correspondent

**MARITZBURG.** — Devastating fires which caused damage running into millions of rands to forestry and grazing in the Natal Midlands on Tuesday killed a 38-year-old farm labourer who was trapped in a circle of flames while fighting the blaze in the Ahrens district near Greytown.

A senior police spokesman confirmed the death yesterday. The labourer was engulfed by flames while fighting a blaze which destroyed a private estate.

The fire was under control yesterday, though remnants continued to smoulder and firefighters were keeping an eye on the situation and continued to damp down hot spots.

The fire at Ahrens is believed to have been caused by a motorist who threw a lighted cigarette or match out of the window of his car.

In Tuesday's prevailing hot and dry conditions the fires were fanned to enormous heights by winds of up to 70km/h.

In the Seven Oaks district 150 hectares of Sappi forestry was destroyed.

The fire also destroyed hectares of timber on a private farm owned by Mr Dim Royden-Turner which is surrounded by Sappi forests.

In a press statement released in Johannesburg, Sappi managing director Mr Eugene van As, said Sappi's production would not be affected.

## SAB gives conservation award

South African Breweries' Natal division has just presented its annual R5 000 award for conservation journalism — and all three nominees came from Johannesburg.

The SAB has a Natal panel of judges and awards are made only on public recommendation. Star 21/9/89.

The award, presented in Durban this week, went to Danie van der Walt, the man who, eight years ago, devised (and now produces) the SABC-TV conservation programme 50/50.

Runners up were David Holt Biddle of SABC and James Clarke of The Star.

● SEE PAGE 11.



THE WINNER: Danie van der Walt.

# Conservationists hit at 'violation'

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE "violation" of Driftsands nature reserve by a sandmine and a proposed dam has been attacked by conservationists.

Fears have been expressed that this provincial reserve — the largest proclaimed nature reserve on the poorly-protected Cape Flats — may be deproclaimed.

At a recent forum attended by representatives of teachers' training colleges, the two universities, the Wildlife Society, the Botanical Society, Cape Bird Club, and local and government planners, speakers emphasised the importance of the flora and fauna to the dunes and wetland systems in the reserve.

The forum was called following the "violation" of the reserve by a large sandmine and the proposed construction of a retention dam within its bound-

aries, according to a statement by convenor Mr Barrie Low, curator of the Cape Flats Nature Reserve at the University of the Western Cape.

The reserve encompasses several habitat-types, including dune scrub and part of the Kuils River wetlands.

"Wetlands are recognised as being among the most threatened habitats in the world," said Mr Low.

"The reserve has been earmarked for development in the near future and will have to be deproclaimed.

## "Sadly lacking"

"Management of Driftsands has been sadly lacking in the last few years which is seen by increasing numbers of Port Jackson and the dumping of building rubble."

Mr Low said participants to the forum had emphasised the importance of Driftsands for conserving rapidly dwindling

dune areas on the Cape Flats, but even more so as an area for recreation and education of local communities.

"Outrage was expressed over the violation of a proclaimed local authority nature reserve and that development seemed not to take into account the social worth of these areas."

The forum decided to approach the Minister of Environment Affairs to address the violation of a proclaimed nature reserve and the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning and the Administrator of the Cape regarding the future use of the reserve.

It is managed by the Cape's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation.

Provincial Administration spokesman Dr Annelie Rabie said they would not reply to Mr Low's statement until they had received a formal approach from the forum.

By HELENA PATTEN and ANTHONY DOMAN  
Staff Reporters

ARGUS 4/9/89 46

**FORTY families on farms and smallholdings in Klipheuwel near Durbanville are cut off by the flooded Mosselbank River.**

There is only one road in and out of the rural enclave and the bridge is metres under water because of heavy rain.

P. 1. 0.

was nursing a broken knee after a riding accident.

Meanwhile the D F Malan Airport weather bureau predicts the Western Cape's bad weather is expected to continue until at least late tomorrow.

The Peninsula can expect cloudy and cold conditions with showers today, clearing partially tomorrow. Today's maximum temperature of 14 deg C is likely to be made even chillier by a blustery wind.

Rivers were swollen and running strongly today, with the Black and Liesbeeck virtually full to the brim.

### **65-knot gale**

Gale-force winds of up to 65 knots lashed the Peninsula as a "severe" cold front passed over yesterday. However, storm damage was limited.

Within the Cape Town municipality, brief minor flooding occurred. In the 24 hours to early today only one house, in Steenberg, had been reported flooded, a spokesman said.

An official of the city council's parks and forests department said "a couple" of trees had had to be removed after being blown down. Reports of

(Turn to page 3, col 8)

Some houses are flooded, land is under water and some people who live there and work in nearby areas like Durbanville will soon run out of food.

Cages of chickens and ducks which a farm was preparing for sale floated away and were retrieved yesterday.

Although many of the farms rely on their own livestock for meat, they will be short of bread and other essentials.

Mrs Barbara Herholdt of Klipheuwel said farms and smallholdings on her side of the bridge were cut off every winter for up to three days.

### **Baking bread**

She is preparing to bake bread as her supplies run out. She has helped workers with food in the past when the bridge was under water.

The only way to get out of the area is to swim against a fairly strong current or take one of three daily trains — one at 6am and the others in the afternoon.

Mrs Herholdt said the community had written countless letters to authorities to no avail. They want the regional services council to raise the bridge.

The RSC told them every year that it is a minor road, but they would "see what they could do."

Last year they had repaired the bridge, but no attempt had been made to raise it and the present flooding had damaged the repairs that had been made.

### **Stay away**

Mrs Herholdt said children are being forced to stay away from school, and a coloured school in the cut-off area is inaccessible to children coming from the other side of the bridge.

She said there were many babies in Klipheuwel and there was concern at being cut off from medical help. She herself

omed

FORTY FAMILIES CUT OFF

## Families marooned

(Cont from page 1)

flooding had come in from Athlone and Wynberg, he said.

In the Parow area, scene of heavy flooding at Ravensmead last weekend, rescue services reported only minor problems.

"We had some flooding in Panorama, at Mozart Crescent," said a spokesman for the fire brigade. "The water began damming up and flooded one house."

In spite of a north-westerly wind reaching 65 knots — force 12 — in Table Bay harbour as the cold front passed at midday yesterday, shipping movements were only slightly slowed.

"No ship actually couldn't sail," said a spokesman for the Port Captain's office.

The wind had moderated to about 20 to 30 knots today.

### 110mm of rain

At Dutoitskloof Co-op Wine Cellars near Rawsonville, 110mm of rain was measured. Mr Piet Marais of the cellar said heavy rain fell but no damage was reported by farmers and the water was welcome to all but those who were behind in their work and prevented from going outdoors by the weather.

Heavy rain also lashed Strand, Paarl and Somerset West. At Strand no damage was reported, but at Somerset West the municipality was still waiting for reports.

At one stage, Paarl's main road was flooded, but the stormwater system coped and the water drained away.

The Berg River was reported to be flowing strongly, but was in no danger of flooding, a municipal spokesman said. Today the municipality's engineer said that apart from some blocked stormwater drains the rain had not caused any undue problems.

At Kirstenbosch botanic gardens good rainfall was recorded at the weekend.

On Saturday, the figure was 21,2mm, but this increased to 37,7mm yesterday and 40,5mm today.

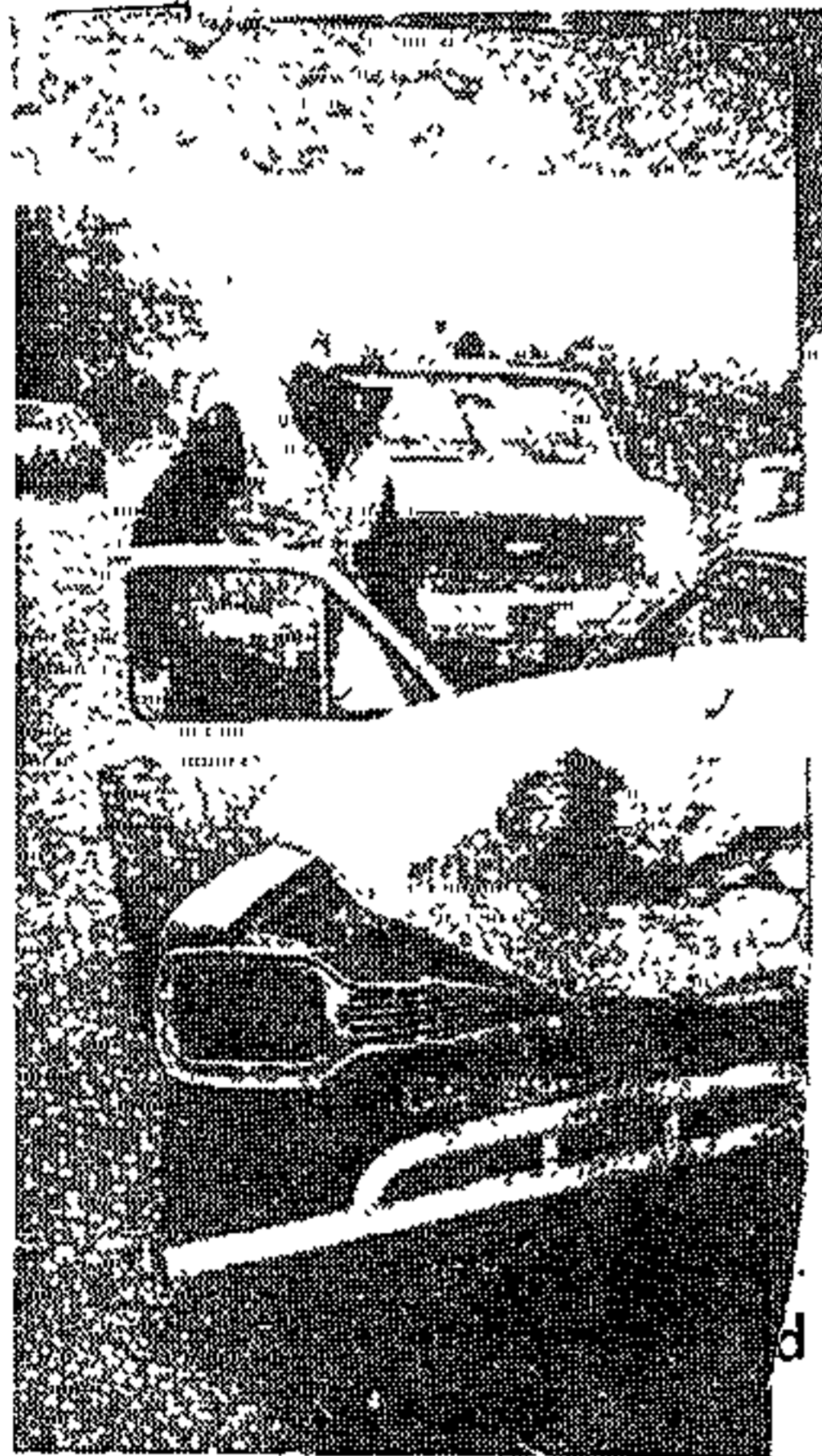
At Somerset West trees were uprooted and telephone poles blown over.

The chief engineer of the Western Cape Regional Services Council, Mr John Clarke, said his department had had to deal with only two trees blown down, in Tokai and Zwaanswyk.



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

**ANGRY SEAS:** The pavilion at Sea Point disappears behind a curtain of foam and spray as angry seas, whipped up by a 90km/h north-westerly wind, thunder against the promenade yesterday.



## es in mood aid of ch

he eighth R10 000. In addition here are 300 prizes of one Krugerrand each.

For the first time subscribers who register as Millionex shareholders by the end of September will put themselves in the running for a fabulous "early bird" prize, a "Krok" of gold containing 10 Krugerrands valued at more than R12 000.



Picture: JIM McLAGAN, The Argus.

**BLOWN DOWN:** Gale-force winds blew down this garden wall in Sandown Road, Rondebosch. Mrs. Lynne Hill inspects the damage.

# Report on Natal mining

Star 4/1/87  
Own Correspondent (56)

DURBAN — A preliminary report on new mining developments on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia will be submitted by Richards Bay Minerals tomorrow for approval.

The company, which came under fire because of alleged damage to the coastal dune systems, has put plans into operation to mine the ecologically sensitive areas north of Richards Bay, a mere 2 km from the wetlands of Lake St Lucia.

An advertisement giving details of the proposal was placed

in the *Zululand Observer* on Friday but many residents in the area felt that the public had not been given sufficient time to comment on the issue.

Professor Roy Lubke, a Grahamstown environmental consultant who is conducting the assessment of the proposed mining area for Richards Bay Minerals, said he would welcome meaningful comment from the public so that it could be included in the report.

His home telephone number is (0461) 26046. He can be contacted at work on (0461) 22023.

# Snow blocks Boland mountain passes

Staff Reporters

THE heaviest snowfalls in 20 years have fallen in the Boland and surrounding areas over the past 24 hours.

In the South-Western and Southern Cape — from the Simonsberg range at Stellenbosch to the Koue Bokkeveld and Touws River — temperatures dropped below zero and snow covered many of the mountain ranges.

But a spokesman for the Weather Office at DF Malan Airport reported that the cold conditions were "not unusual for this time of year, but were the last of winter" before the usual signs of spring.

He said that temperatures were expected to start rising from tomorrow, and "should be in the 20s by the weekend".

At noon yesterday snow was still falling in the Koue Bokkeveld.

A spokesman for the Provincial Traffic Department at Worcester said the Gydo Pass, which links the Koue Bokkeveld with Ceres, the Theronberg Pass which links the town with Touws River and parts of the old Du Toit's Kloof Pass were closed from noon yesterday.

The passes were reopened later in the day.

Although the Hex River Pass was "very slippery" and the Bain's Kloof Pass was covered with a thin layer of snow, it remained open. No accidents were reported.

The lowest temperature was at Sutherland, where it sank to minus two degrees yesterday and is expected to drop to minus four today.

Temperatures at Calvinia were slightly higher at two degrees, while Worcester was little warmer at six degrees.

Ceres recorded a rainfall of 72mm yesterday.

Mrs Lisa Niewenhys of Uitvlugt farm near Montagu said there was "thick snow lying low on the mountains".

Some of the inhabitants of the snow-peaked Boland towns were "quite pleased" with the sight.

A Mr Langeveld of Worcester said the mountains were "a beautiful sight, especially yesterday morning".

The Kleinswartberg range at Ladismith, the Kaaimansgat at Villiersdorp, the Langeberg at Swellendam and the Hantam at Calvinia were also covered in snow.

● Two cars were trapped on Michells Pass, near Ceres, which was not closed to traffic yesterday.



**SNOWFALL . . .** The peaks of mountains in the Du Toit's Kloof Pass near Worcester were covered with snow yesterday after a heavy fall on Tuesday night.

Picture: OBED ZILWA



# 40 feared drowned as lorry plunges into flooded river

*News 7/19/89*

From DON HOLLIDAY  
Staff Reporter

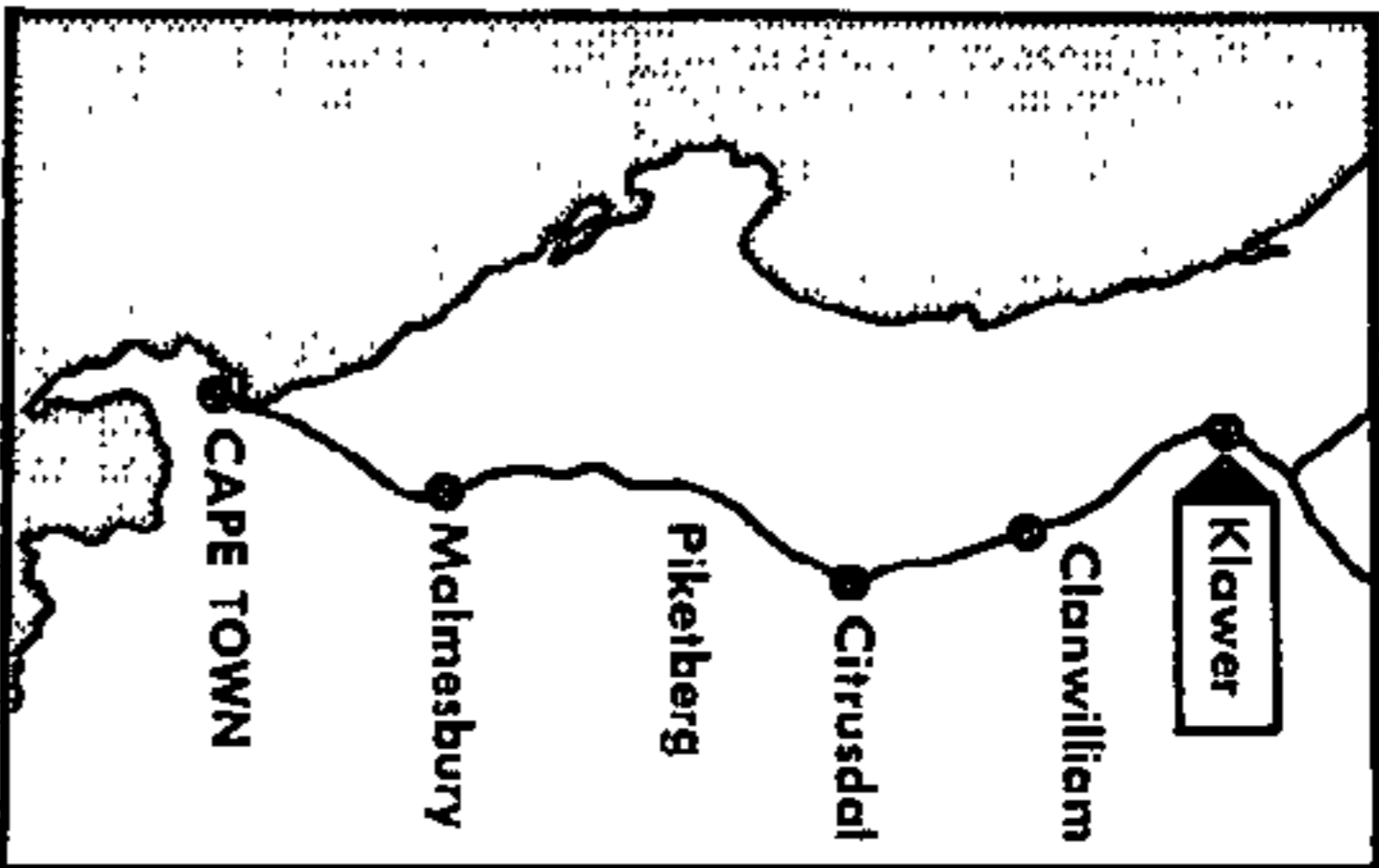
**KLAWER.** — More than 40 people — many of them women and children — are missing and feared drowned after a three-ton lorry in which they were travelling burst through the concrete railing of a bridge over the flooded Olifants River near here last night and landed in the water.

They were mostly contract farm workers from Calvinia, employed on Uitkyk farm.

The lorry was taking them back to their homes on Trawal farm.

A register showed there were 53 people on the truck. Only 10 were saved.

The lorry was driven by farmer Mr Smit Rossouw of Rossouw Boerdery. As the lorry crossed the bridge it crashed through the right-hand



railing and plunged into the river, which is at its highest level of the year. The Klaver police were first

on the scene and emergency services units from Moorreesburg and Cape Town were called.

A search using floodlights continued until late last night but had to be aborted because of bad visibility on the strong flowing river.

Divers took to the water again at 8am today.

Clothing was found caught in trees in the river.

Detective Warrant Officer H A van Langelaar said there were about 10 children under the age of 10, about 20 men, including Mr Rossouw, and about nine women still missing.

Six of the survivors were taken to Vredendal Hospital.

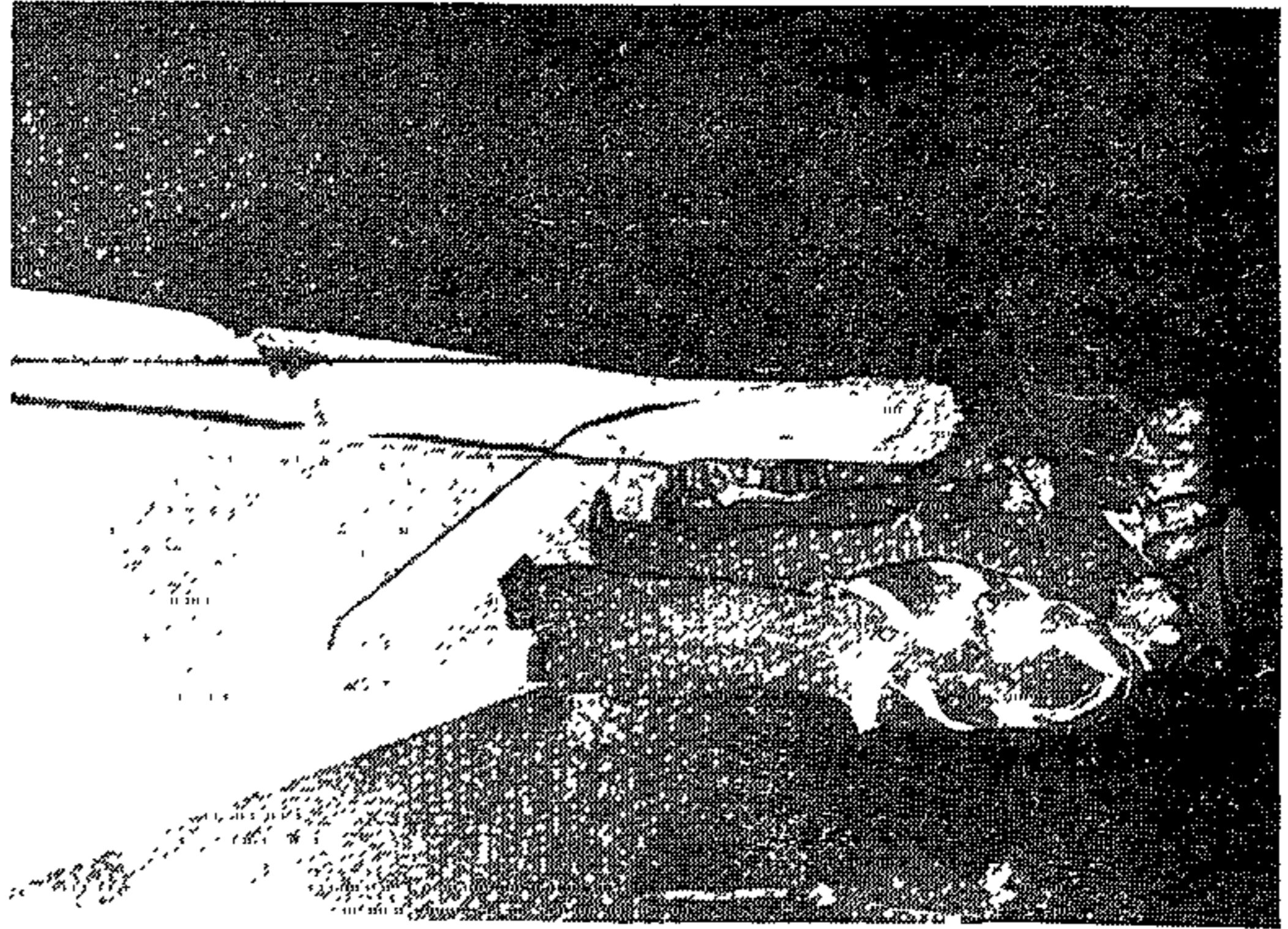
People at the scene today said the lorry had started its journey from a side road only 150m from the bridge.

● See page 2.

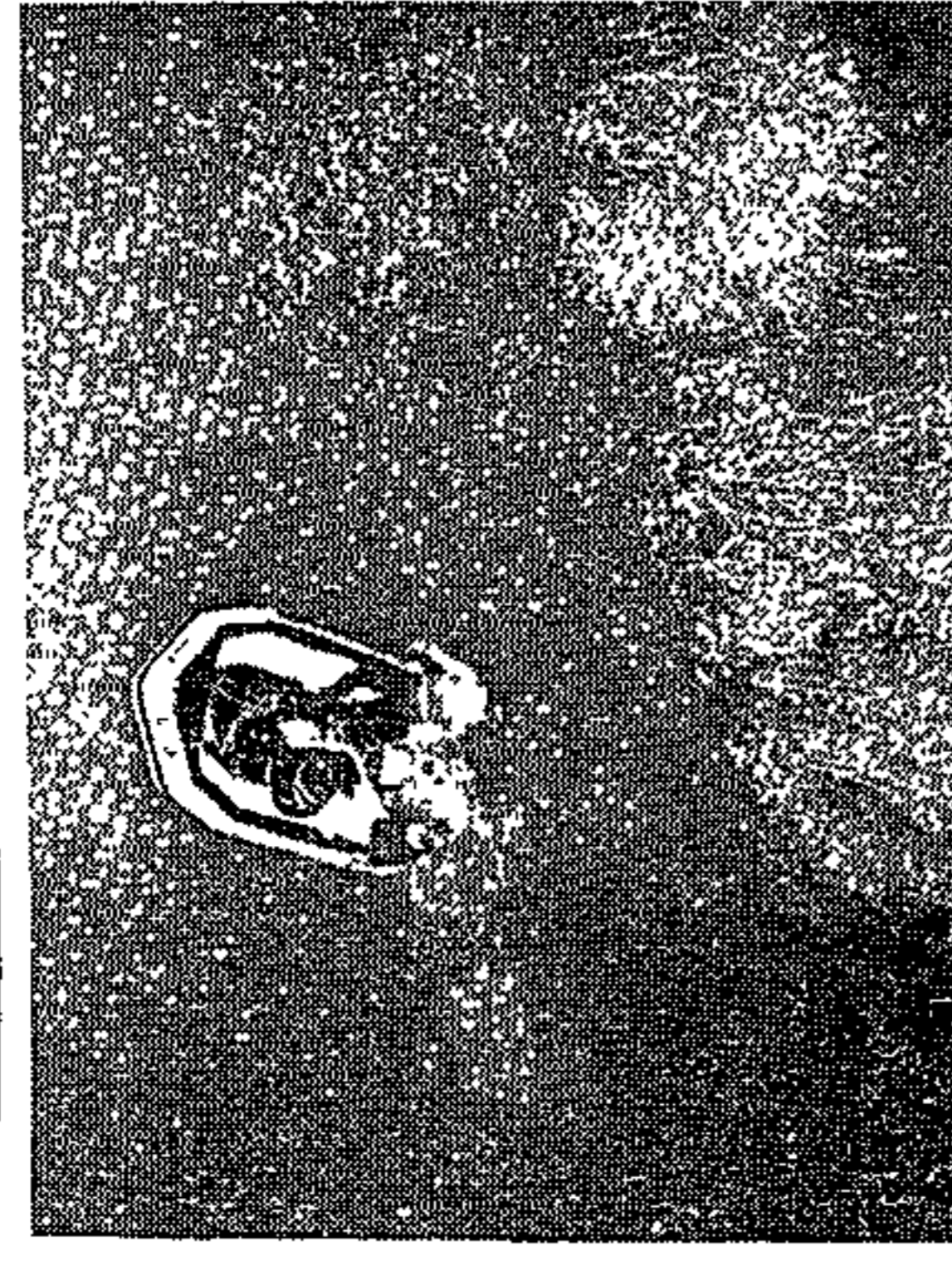
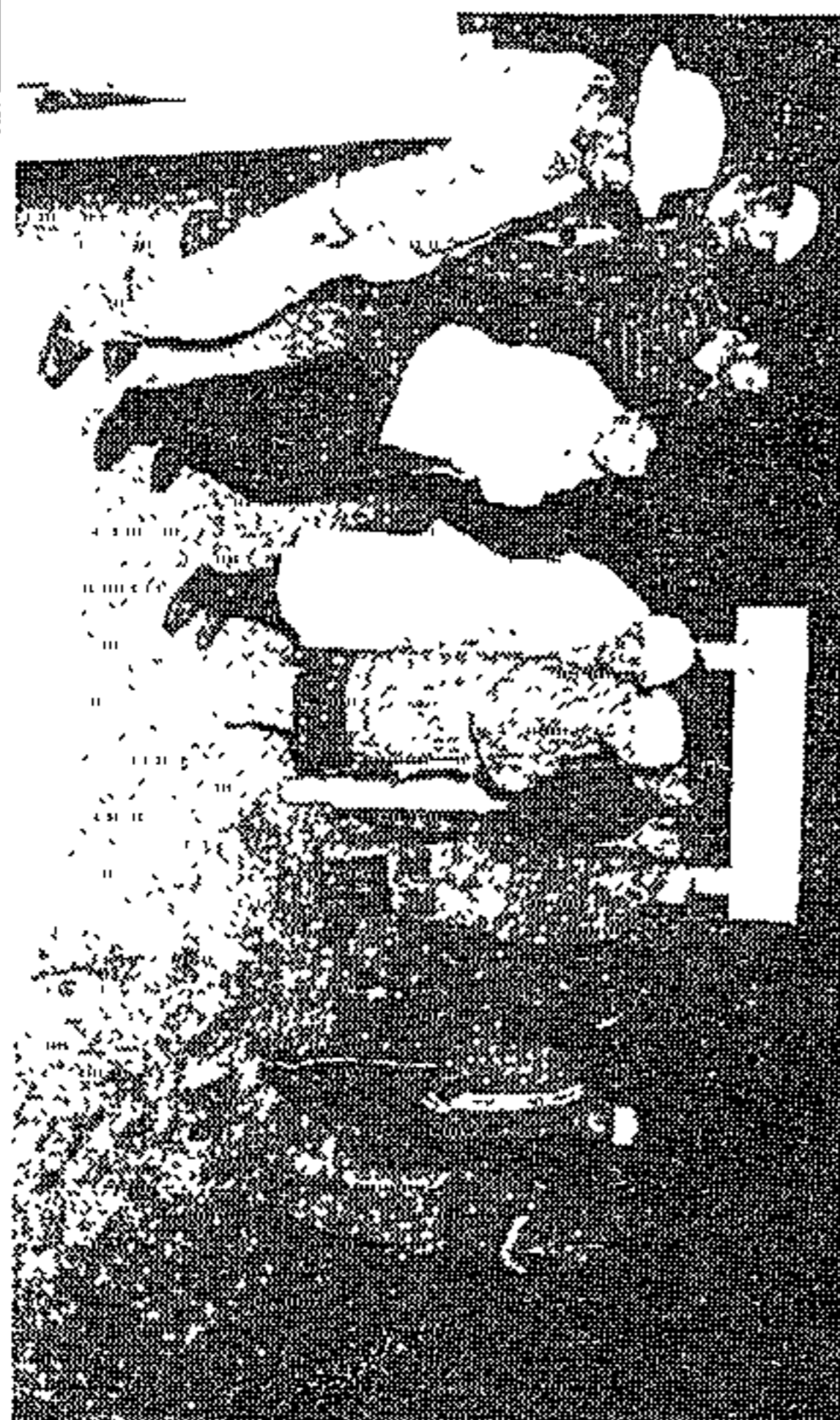
**DEATH PLUNGE:** Concerned policemen, above right, stand at the broken rail on the bridge over the Olifants River near Klaver where the lorry went out of control.

**Right:** Metro rescue workers in an inflatable boat drag the river.

**Left:** Anxious survivors wait on the bank for news of their companions. More than 40 people are feared drowned.



Pictures: DION TROMP  
The Argus



## SA dams remain at a constant 71 pc full

The level of the country's dams remains constant at an average of 71 per cent, the Department of Water Affairs said in a statement yesterday. (56)

Of the major dams, Hartbeespoort is 93 percent full, Lindley's Poort 89, Ebenezer 96, Bloemhof 95, Vaal 91, Grootdraai 82, P K le Roux 81, Hendrik Verwoerd 56, Midmar 87 and Pongolapoort 71. *Star 7/9/87*

# Use of metals may become an environmental issue

8 Jan 7/9/89.  
THE impact of environmental issues on the use of metals, though difficult to judge, may be the most important consideration for the mining and metals industry in the "green" 1990s, suggests Mr Andrew Smith, an analyst with the UBS Phillips & Drew financial services group.

"And because environmental pressures will not go away, these changes may be more profound than those which followed the 1970s oil price shocks," he adds in a detailed study in his latest Base Metals Outlook.

Mr Smith says the impact of increasing "green" concerns may be felt more on demand for metals rather than on mining and refining.

"It is conceivable that environmentally aware consumers in the 1990s will come to see goods more transparently, partly as a collection of raw materials and energy inputs.

"Attributes of durability and recyclability will become even more important. Experimentation with metals and metal

substitutes will increase," he says

Taking the example of the car industry, which accounts at present for 27 percent of all zinc consumed, 16 percent of the copper, Mrs Smith points to three likely trends in material use in the mid to late 1990s.

● Plastics continue to be substituted for metals to achieve both weight reduction and lower-cost corrosion protection.

● Aluminium gradually becomes a more serious competitor for steel in car frames (although the aluminium industry's expectation of a 2.5 million-ton aluminium car frame market, a 20 percent addition to demand, "looks a little optimistic."

● New metals, metal compounds and new composite materials could replace traditional metals, for example magnesium for aluminium and zinc in castings; titanium alloys in springs and valves, and magnesium/fibre or aluminium/fibre in pistons. "Cross fertilisation of ideas between the car and the aerospace industries may help reduce the cost

penalty of these weight-saving alternatives," Mr Smith suggests.

On the supply side, Mr Smith points out that mineral-rich developing countries are becoming more sensitive to environmental issues and the demands such countries are beginning to make can be met only by larger companies.

"Undercapitalised, smaller companies will find it more difficult to gain entry to what were once easy Third World pickings. In this sense, big may be beautiful in the green 1990s." — Financial Times.

# Rescue struggle at river's banks

By BRONNWN DAVIDS

POLICE divers yesterday recovered the body of farmer Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, whose lorry carrying 64 farm labourers and children plunged into the Olifants River on Wednesday night.

The body was found at 6.10pm after rescue workers battled throughout the day to secure cables for the retrieval of the truck, which crashed through a three-metre concrete barrier.

The accident happened about 10km outside the Namaqualand town of Klaver.

After the body was brought to the banks of the river, the cables snapped, sending the vehicle plummeting into the water again.

Police and Metro personnel will resume their grim search for bodies today.

Yesterday, grieving survivors told of the tragedy which claimed the lives of 52 women, men and children.

They told harrowing tales of how family members and friends were swept away when the lorry in which they were travelling plunged about 14 metres off the Kransburg bridge into the swollen river.

Mrs Hendrina Klaaste, 29, cried bitterly when she



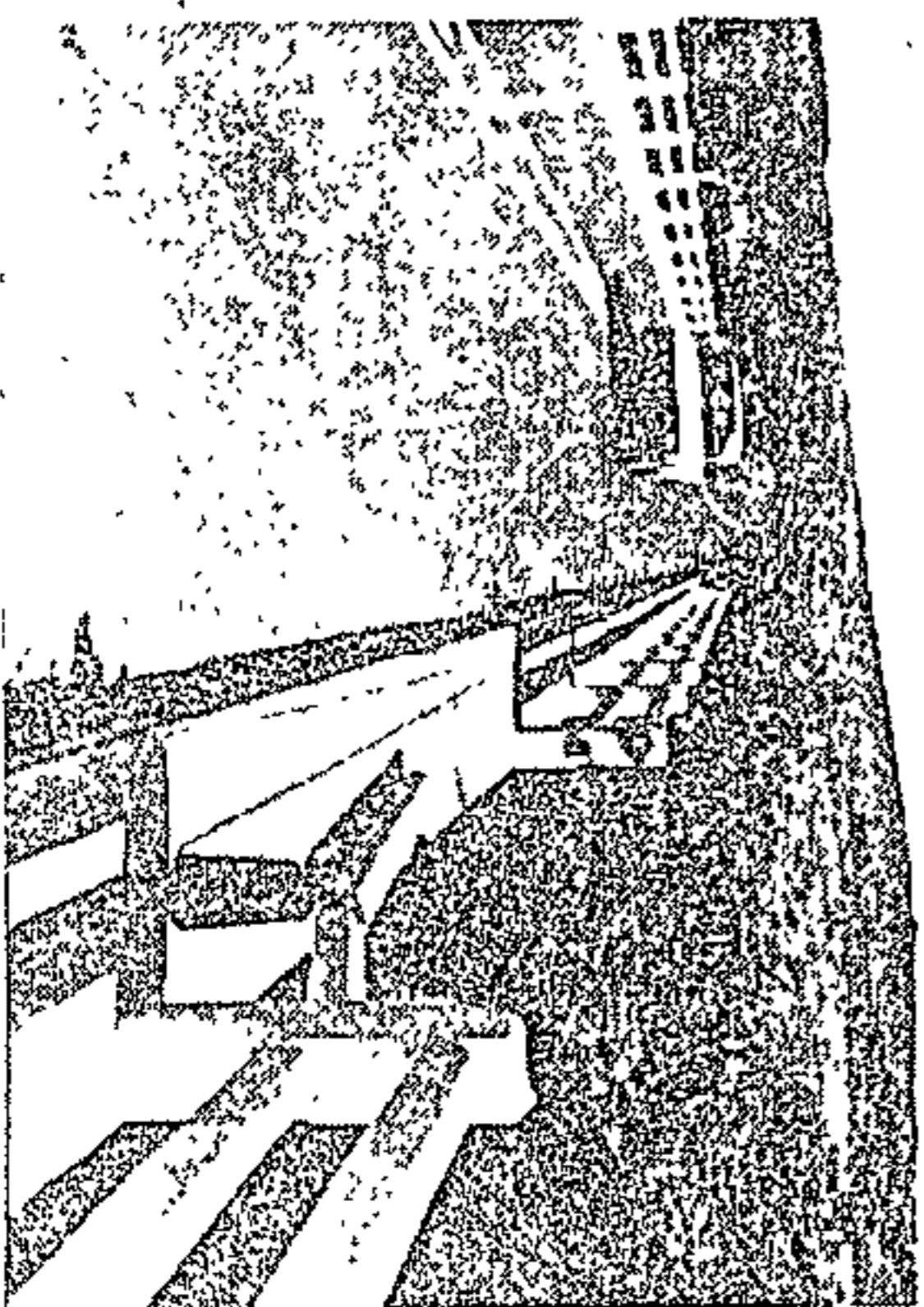
told the Cape Times that her children, Granville, 8, and Tessa, 5, were still "in the water".

"We were coming from work when the lorry started skidding from side to side on the bridge. The boss tried to control the lorry but he could not."

Mrs Klaaste was one of 12 survivors rescued from the bank of the Olifants River about 9pm on Wednesday night. They were taken to Vredendal Hospital where Mrs Katrina Mathys, 39, underwent surgery. The others were discharged yesterday.

Police liaison officer Captain Hendrik Opperman said Mr Rossouw, 26, of Rossouw Broedery, a large family farming company, was taking 64 workers and children back to their homes at the farms de Hoek and Trawal.

The bodies of a two-year-old baby, a 45-year-old woman, a five-year-old toddler and a 30-year-old woman were found at 9.30am yesterday, caught in the bushes on the river bank.



**ABOVE:** The bodies of those who drowned in the Klaver tragedy on Wednesday are brought to the river bank during rescue operations early yesterday along the Olifants River.

**LEFT:** Two strands of wire mark the gap in the bridge where the lorry carrying the passengers crashed through the safety barrier.

# Outrage over threatened rape of Natal

See 9/9/89

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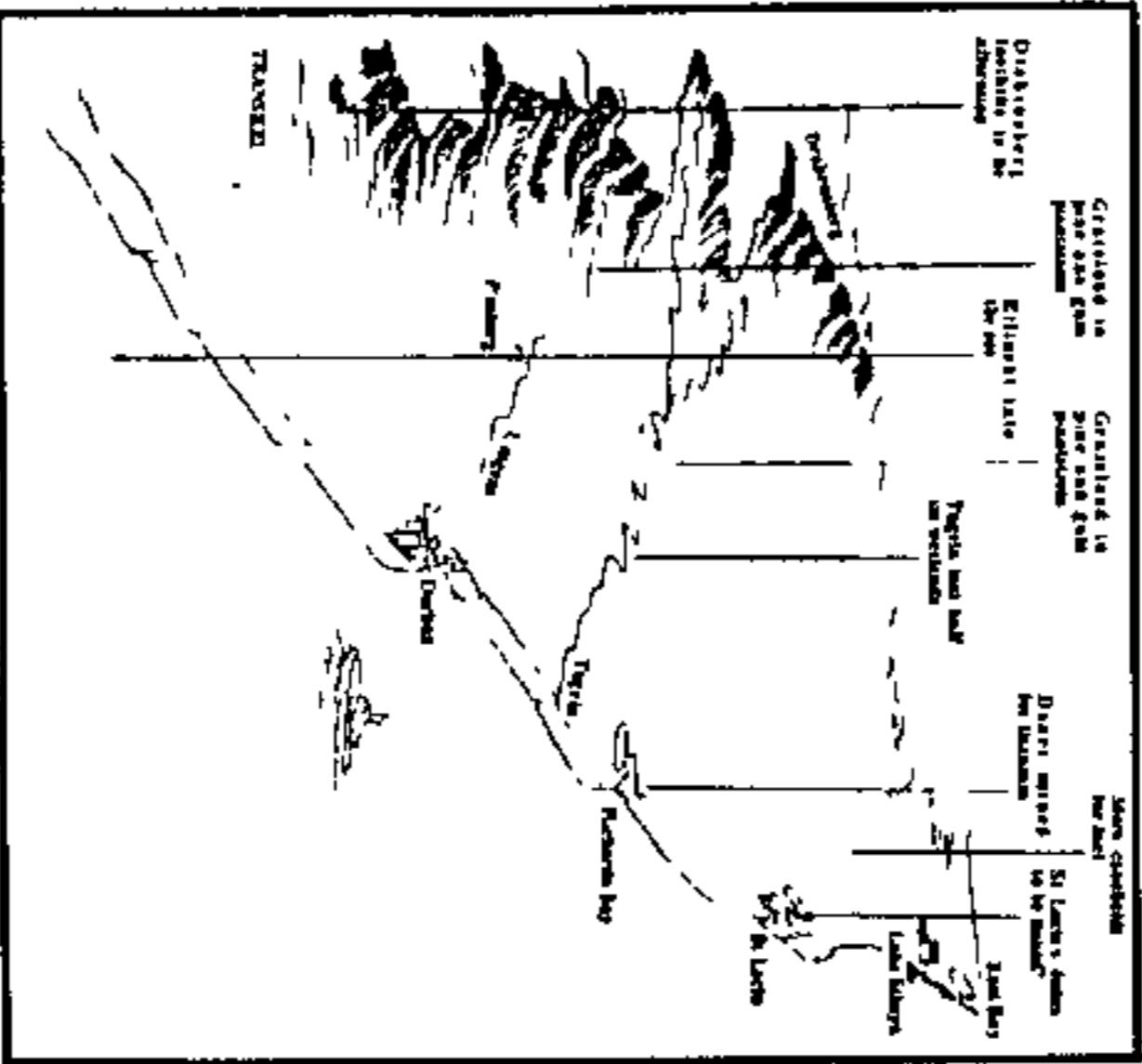
JAMES CLARKE

A WAVE of national outrage is building up over a Canadian mining company's "urgent" request to mine titanium in Lake St Lucia Game Reserve in Natal.

The threat is part of a broad-fronted assault on Natal that could render the province unrecognisable.

The Government, whose decision on St Lucia is expected by the end of the month, will be flying in the face of its own recently amended Environment Conservation Act if it gives the go-ahead. The Act lays down that, all such developments must first be subjected to an environmental-impact study and published.

The St Lucia estuary, Africa's largest, is one of South Africa's most famous wildlife areas. Richards Bay Minerals (RBM), a subsidiary of a Quebec-based company, says St Lucia's forest-covered dunes are impregnated with \$3 billion worth of titanium — used in paint and aerospace alloys. But to remove the



THE TARGETS: Goodbye to the way it was.

dunes will kill the natural forests and drastically affect the lake's ecology. The dunes shelter the estuary from the Indian Ocean and provide a habitat for many species of animals, including rhino.

The mining operation would continue for 15 years around the clock. A floating factory would treat 73 000 t of sand a day and need, daily, 35 000 t of water from the wetland.

Ironically, the region has recently been listed as an internationally important wetland, and the SA Wildlife Society has asked for it to be listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as a World Heritage Site.

RBM is a popular company and is currently running the Richards Bay area's dunes. It is known for its input into local education and job creation and for its expertise in trying to get indigenous vegetation to grow back on mined-out sand dunes.

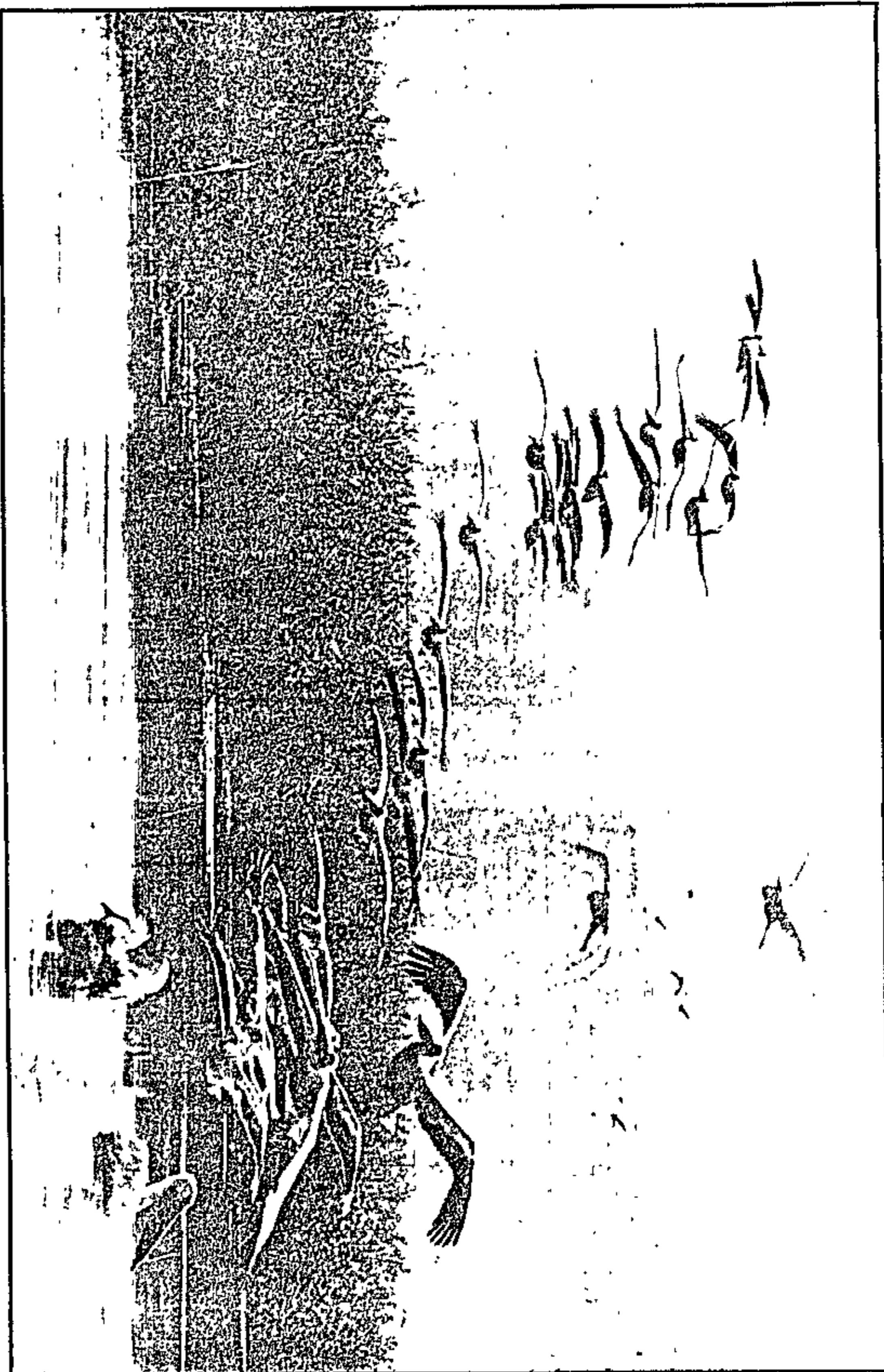
The St Lucia threat, however, is only one aspect of the Natal crisis. The forestry division of the Department of Environmental Affairs has recently given farmers in the Natal Midlands, including the Drakensberg foothills, permission to cover three quarters of their farms with pine and gum plantations. If this happens some of South Africa's finest pasture land will be sacrificed.

Forestry's policy has triggered a frenzy among timber companies to buy up whole blocks of farms. One parcel of farms measuring 50 000 ha has just been negotiated. Despite the profound ecological effects afforestation has, there have been no environmental impact studies published.

A forestry spokesman told me that foresters now receive a "rounded education" and can judge whether impacts will be acceptable.

Another assault on the Natal/Zululand landscape is expected from the sugar industry. A new wave of sugar farms is expected to spread north and west from the North Coast fields of Natal — for synthetic fuel production.

Zululand's thornveld and many of its rivers



IN PERIL: Lake St Lucia, seen here, could be sacrificed for foreign exchange mining.

and estuaries are threatened as a result.

Natal conservationist Dr Ian Player of Natal Parks Board told me this week: "From a conservation point of view, Natal has been overwhelmed — now only pockets of resistance are left."

He said he did not blame industry for St Lucia's crisis — "I blame the Government."

"We haven't even got a national conservation strategy."

A forestry official confirmed this week that out of 23 300 ha of grassland afforested nationwide in 1987, 1988, two thirds were in Natal.

He expected a 10 per cent jump next year. But

Natal sources expect a doubling.

Other problems adding to the Natal crisis

● Natal's coast is threatened by a move to allow seaside towns to save money by discharging raw sewage into the sea.

Some industries already dump in the sea.

● Natal's most important catchment — the Fugela valley — has lost half its wetlands (vital to river flow). They have been blotted up by timber plantations and drained by farmers.

Some tributaries have been filled in, according to ecologist Dr George Begg of Mantzburg.

The same source says 90 per cent of Natal's natural lowland forests have been wiped out.

This week I spoke to scientists in Natal Parks, Natal University and in the Transvaal and the consensus was that

● Afforestation will cause immense social disruption because forestry, unlike farming, is not labour-intensive. An average 100 ha farm would support 70 or more people — now most will go to the cities.

● Titanium mining will irreversibly alter the ecology inland.

● The spread of cane fields will turn vast areas into a monoculture and divert good land from food production.

Natal Administrator Mr Radebe's Cadman has asked the Government to regard St Lucia as inviolate.

Dr Nolly Zoloums, president of the Wildlife Society, has written to the Acting State President, Mr F.W. de Klerk, saying that nothing should be done at St Lucia until environmental impacts and legal and international implications have been studied carefully.

Dr Zoloums told me that nothing should be done at St Lucia until environmental impacts and legal and international implications have been studied carefully.

Picture JOHN PITTS

**PERSIAN RUGS**

Victor Lidchi announces . . .

**1. Opening**

of the cycling and unique

# Being dumped on is no joy to thousands

FOR the thousands of people living close to mine dumps on the Witwatersrand, beware. It is that windy time of year again — bringing with it gusts of sand from the aged dumps, an aggravating factor to the already polluted air we breathe.

During August and September, the level of dust particles from the mine dumps rises dramatically, particularly from those that are being reprocessed by the mines to extract lucrative gold deposits and which are left relatively unprotected from the wind.

Mine dumps — an eyesore Johannesburgers have learnt to live with, and some even grown to love — are normally grassed to prevent dust leaving the dumps.

## Recycled

Dumps being recycled for gold are identifiable by the absence of grass covering. These dumps will eventually disappear from the city's skyline altogether and the land will be used for development.

In the meantime, residents and people working in the area endure periods where dust flies into their eyes and sand sweeps under their front doors.

One victim of the dust is businessman Mr Jeff Goldberg, whose company in Amalgam is situated close to a Rand Mines dump which is being recycled.

"The dust is very visible, and on windy days it blows into our show-room and on to our cars parked outside, leaving them caked with white dust. It makes us wonder what is being blown into our lungs.

"The mines are reaping a large profit from the gold, and the environment is suffering, we are suffering and I wonder how the city is suffering," Mr Goldberg said this week.

Dr T Davies, an occupational therapist from the Department of Community Health at Wits University, said the dust generated from the dumps was a nuisance factor, not a health hazard.

Rand Mines is at present recycling four mines on the Reef. Last year two of them, located at Crown Mines and City Deep, accounted for an operating profit of R30.9 million

SL  
9/9/87

JANET HEARD

Rand Mines has confronted the problem of dust by introducing sophisticated techniques to minimise dust leaving the surface.

Mr Arthur Horne, a senior technician at the Schonland Research Centre, attached to Wits University's Nuclear Physics Department, said the centre had been working closely with Rand Mines to study the impact of dust on the surrounding area.

He said dust levels were carefully monitored every month.

"It is a nuisance, not a health hazard," he said, adding that the ceilings of buildings were centimetres deep in dust. Other nuisance factors included eventual damage to machinery and computers from accumulated dust.

Mines do not pay out any compensation for possible damage to equipment.

Rand Mines Milling and Mining Company manager Mr Ulrich Herrmann said that, working in the heart of a mine dump himself, he appreciated the nuisance factor the dust created.

However, he said, the dust levels recorded reached above-acceptable proportions only during the six-week spring period when the wind frequently rose to more than 15 km/h.

## Coating dumps

Apart from recording dust levels, Rand Mines also utilises 400 000 l of water per hour to reduce the amount of sand leaving the dump. Water pumps operate continuously for 10 hours a day, which costs the company about R75 000 a month.

Between R20 000 and R30 000 a month is spent on a plasticiser, which coats the dumps with a film to prevent sand movement.

Mr Herrmann said the entire project would be complete in 18 to 20 years. The recycling of the Crown Mines dump, which began eight years ago, should be complete in about 18 months.

In the meantime, the dust problems arising from these dumps are unlikely to blow away.

## Fund to help

Weekend Argus Reporter RELATIVES of the Olifants River lorry disaster will benefit from a fund established by The Argus, which already stands at R1 200.

People wishing to contribute should send donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, PO Box 15399, Vlaeberg, 8018.

The money will be sent to the NG Sendingkerk, which has a fund to help communities in dire need.

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# Why did the Lord do this to us? Mother's grief after 52 drown

56

**KLAWER.** — "I don't know why the Lord did this to us," a tearful Mrs Sophie Rossouw said, battling to accept the death of her son "Smiltje" who drove the lorry that plunged into Olifants River with 64 people on Wednesday.

Slumped in a chair on her stoep overlooking the family plot at Trawal, Mrs Rossouw's mournful figure summed up the grief in the region.

Namagualand is in mourning. For the first time in many springs, the area's floral beauty is fading in the face of human tragedy.

In fact, many of the early spring daisies will be used next weekend on the graves and coffins of the 52 men, women and children who drowned at dusk. Only 12 survived.

Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw's death has broken his mother and placed a question mark over the prominent Namagualand family's continued farming operations.

"I don't know why the Lord did this to us. "Look at me, I'm finished Eighteen months ago I lost my husband, and now it's Smiltje". "I feel so empty. All of us are shocked. The workers and we as farmers were very close to each other. This is a terrible

are not just the workers, but the families. The children are in the same way. It's a terrible loss. The workers were very close to each other. This is a terrible

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By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus  
Reporter

was no one else to take care of them during the day.

Two of Mrs Rossouw's surviving four sons are studying in Cape Town and she doubts if they will cope with the family business.

"I think we'll have to sell up now," Mrs Rossouw said.

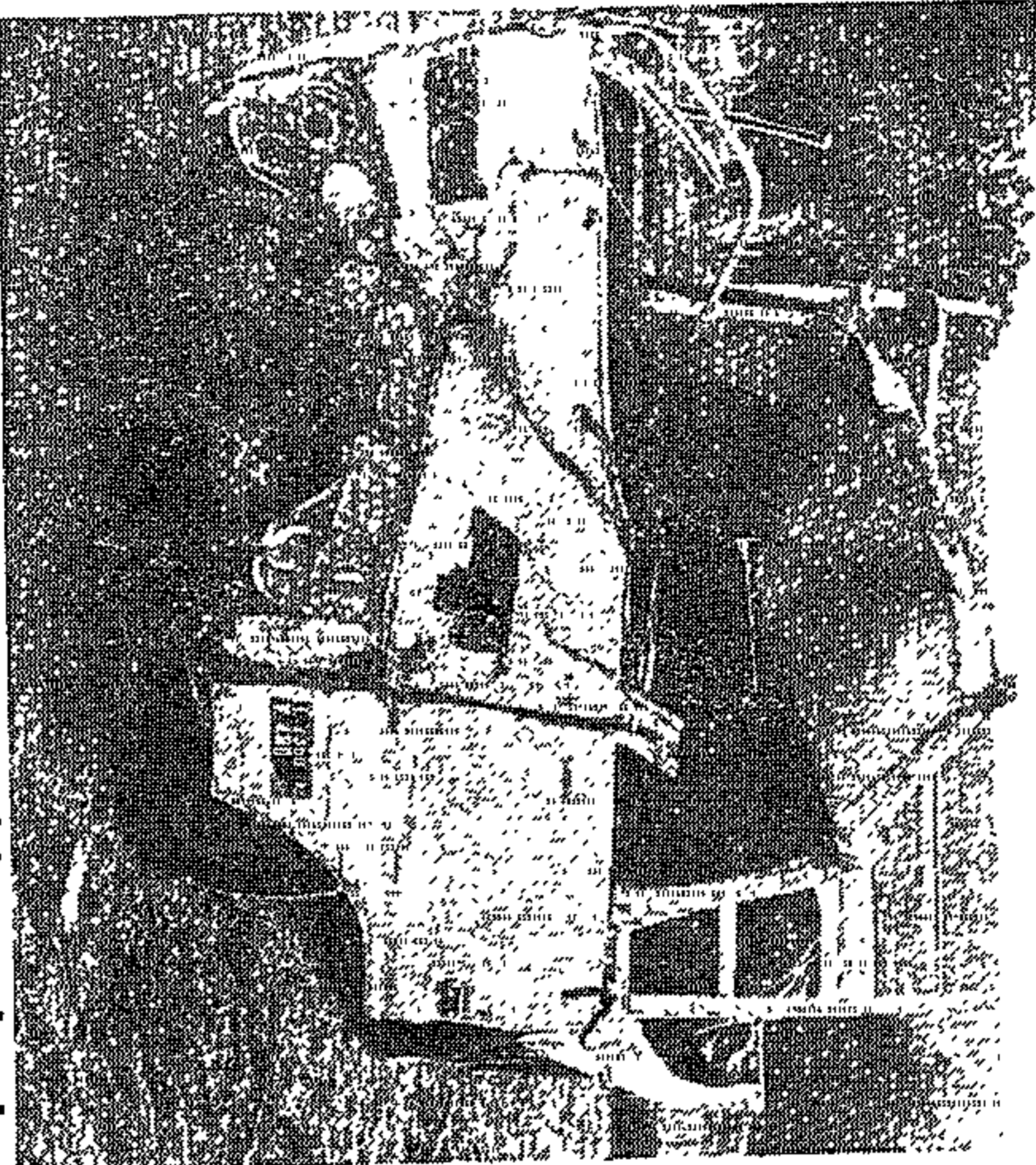
### Harrowing tale

By yesterday, eight bodies had been recovered and shocked survivors were telling their harrowing tale over and over again to news teams and members of the close-knit farm labourer communities around the towns of Trawal, Klawer, Vredendal and Calvinia. And as they told their stories, the heroes and heroines of Wednesday's disaster emerged.

Waterworks labourer Mr Koos Arendse was on his way to church from his home on the bank of the Olifants River when he saw the lorry

are not just the workers, but the families. The children are in the same way. It's a terrible loss. The workers were very close to each other. This is a terrible

are not just the workers, but the families. The children are in the same way. It's a terrible loss. The workers were very close to each other. This is a terrible



Back on dry land, the Rossouws' lorry clearly shows the impact with which it struck the bridge railing before plunging about 14m.

- Medium of instruction
- Mental Health
- Metal products
- Migrant Labour - Other areas/C
- Migrant Labour, S.A. - General



Mrs Sophie Rossouw and son Willem at their Trawal home.

Pictures WILLIE DE KLERK, Weekend Argus

# Klawer tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr Arendse said he ran back home and used a two-way radio that he normally used for work to contact his supervisor, who radioed to the police for help.

"When I went outside again, I could hear the screams again. Some of them shouted: 'Oh Lord, help us, help us!'. Some were holding on to trees and shouted that they couldn't hold on any longer.

"One woman shouted: 'Will they come to help us?' after I told them I had called for help. Some of them knew me personally and called on my name for help. I felt I could jump in but I thought should rather stay on the bridge to get more help."

One of the first people who stopped was Mrs Naomi Rossouw, sister-in-law of the lorry driver. She had also seen the lorry plunge about 14m into the water.

Mr Arendse recalled how Mrs Naomi Rossouw leaned over the bridge railing and called out to victims, including her brother-in-law Smit, to hold on to tree tops rising above the 11m deep water.

"The voices became fewer and

quieter as many were swept down river," Mr Arendse said. "Some of them were just too tired because the river was strong."

Mr Arendse said the first policeman arrived 15 minutes after his radio message, and an emergency service units from Moorreesburg and Cape Town arrived as the light faded and during the course of the night.

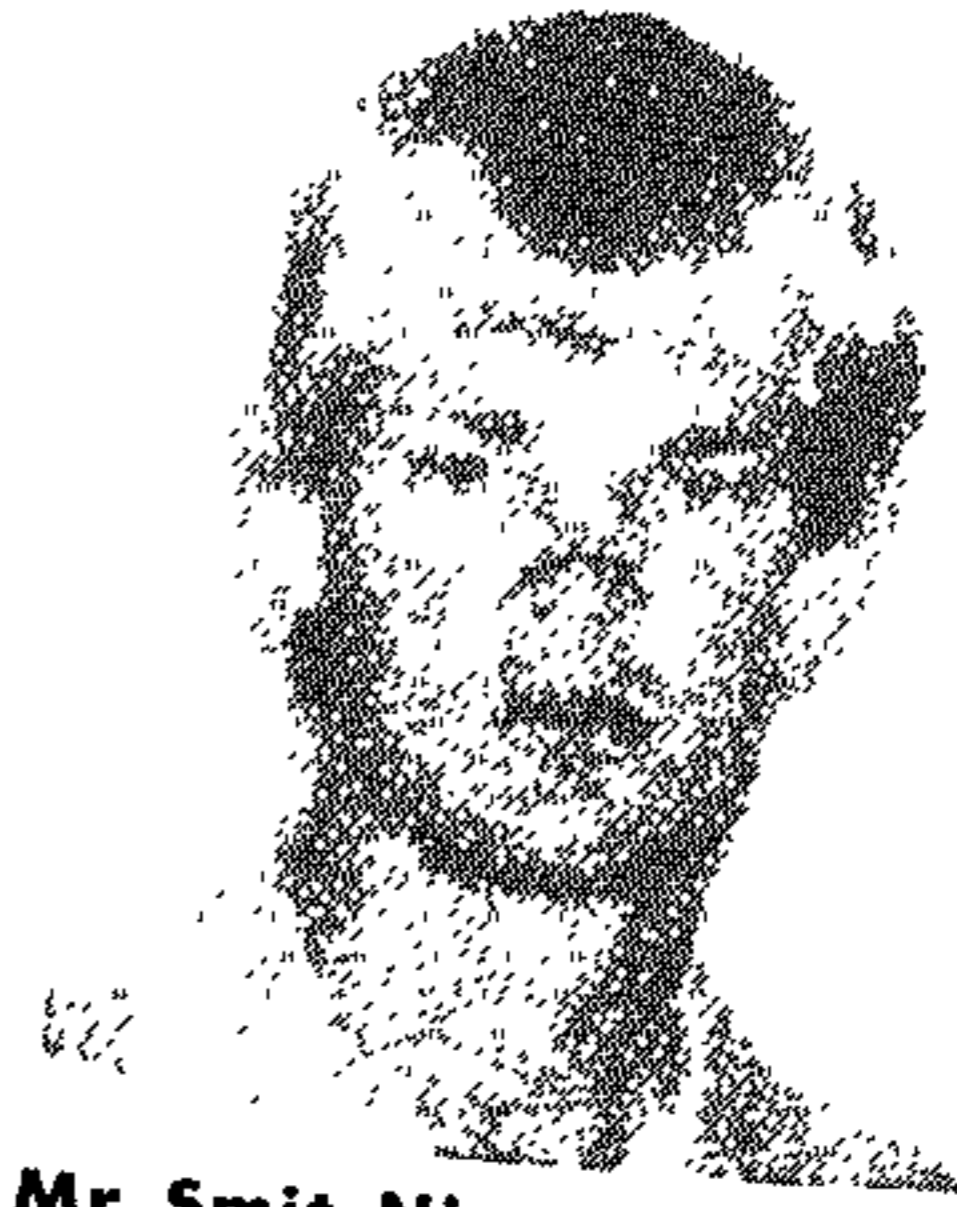
## Flooded

The river tragedy came at the end of the farm labourer's 11-hour day in vegetable patches and vineyards on Uitkyk farm on the eastern side of the river.

They were on the way to De Hoek and Trawal farms and were crossing the Kransburg bridge because a drift further upstream and closer to their homes had been flooded.

Survivor Mrs Katriena Matthys, 34, said the workers were relaxed and conversing animatedly in groups when the truck hit the bridge railing. With her was her 19-year-old daughter, Anna, who is also feared drowned.

"I heard something cracking in the cab and the next moment I was in the water. I swam to a



**Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, 26, who drove the ill-fated lorry.**

thorn bush and held on for more than an hour. It was dark when they found me."

Mrs Matthys, whose left shoulder is injured, said she had given up hope for her daughter. "I don't think she made it and I just thank God that I'm alive."

Sixteen-year-old Jacob Coetzee helped three people to safety after he landed in the strong current. Sadly, none of them was his 11-year-old sister, Ronel, who was swept away.

"I couldn't see or hear her. I think she disappeared while I was helping the others. Hours passed before they found us holding on to trees."



# 'Rape' cry at mining plans

51 Times 10/1/87 By TERRY van der WALT (56)

CONSERVATIONISTS vowed this week to fight plans to strip-mine coastal beaches near Lake St Lucia, a project they fear will be the rape of one of the world's most sensitive ecological areas.

Battle lines between conservationists and a mining company were drawn after a team of consultants told 400 people at a public meeting in Mtubatuba in northern Natal that it would be relatively safe to mine the area.

But conservationists have claimed that the consultants' three-month survey — paid for by the Richard's Bay Minerals mining company — was rushed and inaccurate.

RBM intends investing millions of rands in strip-mining the unspoilt beaches along the St Lucia estuary's eastern shore for minerals such as ilmenite, rutile and zircon.

The consultants, three botanists from Rhodes University, have discounted suggestions that their findings were influenced by RBM funding and said their study was thorough and objective.

Professor Roy Lubke, who led the survey, said environmental problems could be prevented but admitted that the St Lucia area's popular Mission Rocks trail would be out of commission for "a probable 20 years".

## Treasure

This has not convinced Dr Nolly Zaloumis, president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, who has appealed to Acting State President Mr F W de Klerk to delay RBM's plans until further studies have been carried out.

Natal Administrator Mr Radclyffe Cadman and the Natal Parks Board have also opposed RBM's plans and have called on the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs to delay the project.

Dr Zaloumis said that Mission Rocks would be lost forever if RBM was allowed to move into the area.

"St Lucia is a natural treasure and damaging or interfering with this one area will spoil the whole," he said.

The Duku Duku forests near Mtubatuba, already under threat from squatter settlements, could be flooded when storage dams are built to service RBM's strip-mine, he said.

Dr Zaloumis said RBM's preparations for the mining operation had not followed all the requirements laid down in the new Environmental Act.

Readers invited to fight 20-year scheme

# Canadians want to mine at St Lucia

By James Clarke

This is Lake St Lucia, Zululand — Africa's largest estuarine system and one of the wildlife gems of the world.

In the background are the high dune forests that protect the area from the Indian Ocean and which a Canadian mining company wants to mine.

It has asked the Cabinet to give it urgent and special permission to mine titanium, a metal used in paint and alloys, and it wants a decision by the end of the month.

Mining the dunes will entail bulldozing the forests away and processing the sand through a huge floating factory operating day and night for 20 years.

St Lucia's protective dunes are not safeguarded by law.

The mining company says St Lucia's minerals are worth R5 000 million. But conservationists point out that most of the profit will go

overseas and, in any event, tourism will soon be earning that much every year.

The mining company says it will sponsor local schools and clinics. But conservationists say that when the minerals are finished the factory will move on, leaving the population without jobs.

Readers of The Star can help save St Lucia just as they helped save Kruger Park from being mined for coal 10 years ago.

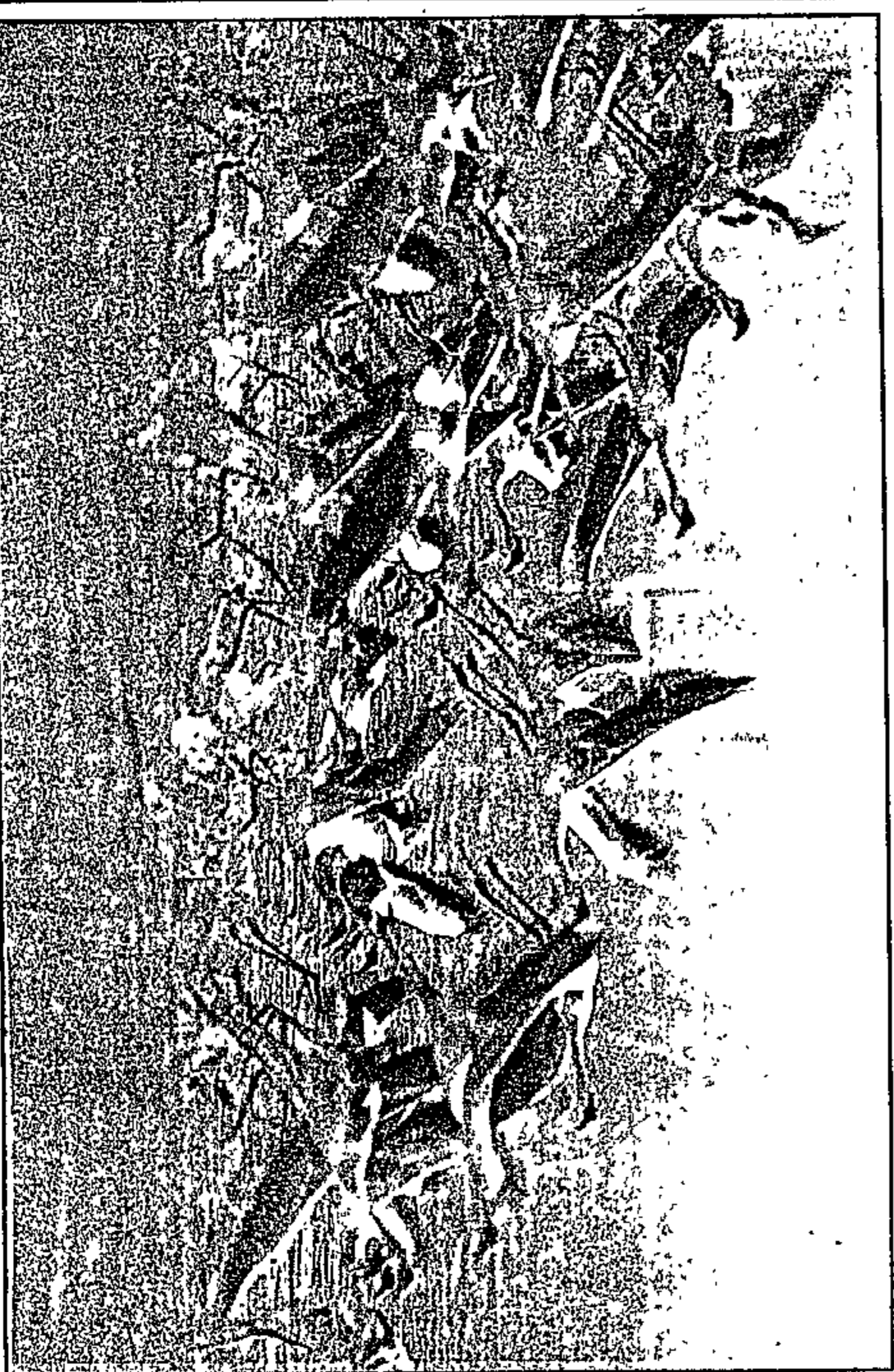
### Inviolable

If you feel that St Lucia should not be mined, then write on a piece of paper "We, the undersigned, oppose the mining of St Lucia's dunes and demand the assurance that the Government regards Lake St Lucia as inviolable."

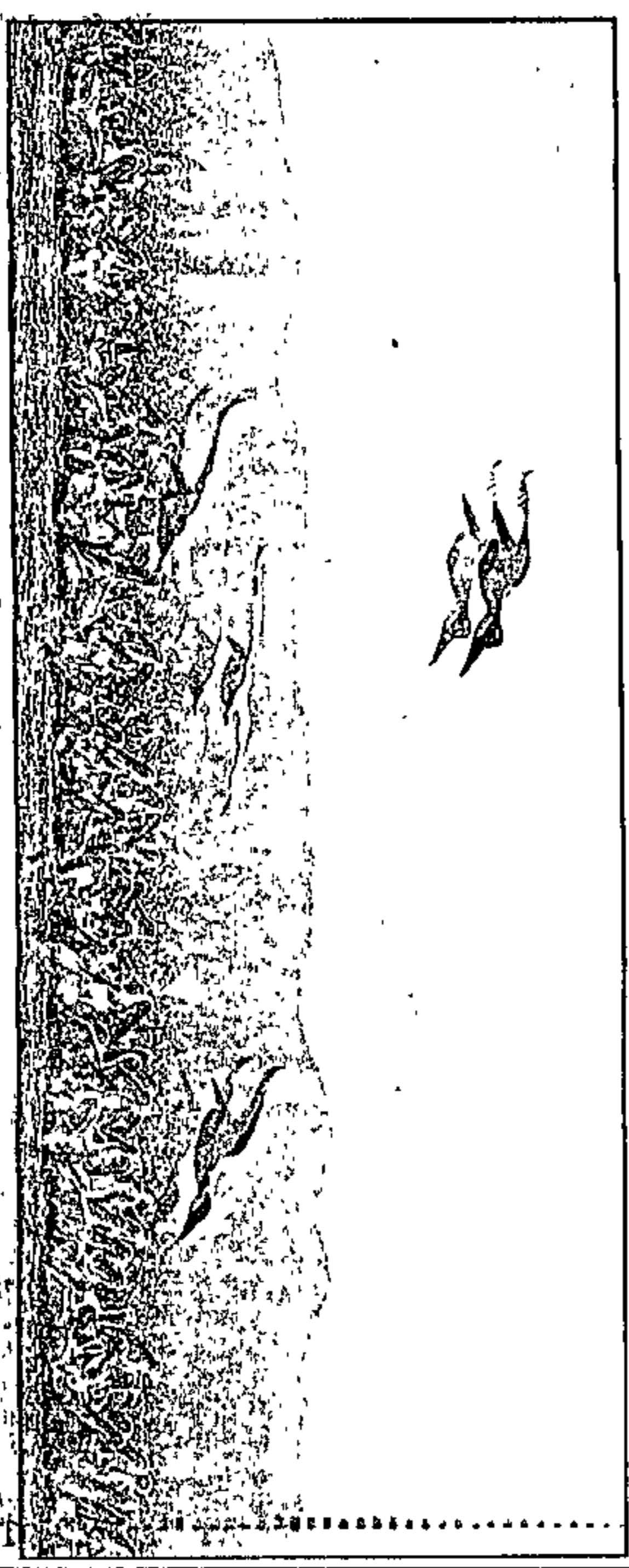
Now get everybody you know to sign it. Then send it to CARE, The Star, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.



The dune forest sweeps down to the sea — a Canadian company wants to remove the forest and mine the underlying sand for titanium. ● Picture by Dr Nolly Zoloumis.



Flamingos (left) take off from Lake St Lucia, while pelicans (right) perform a fly-past. The dune forests are seen in the background. ● Pictures by John Potts.



# Swift support for petition (Sb) Minister (Sb)

By James Clarke

Hundreds of readers have responded to the call by Saturday Star to save Lake St Lucia's forested dunes from being mined for titanium. And thousands more signatures are pledged.

The Wildlife Society has put out a nationwide appeal, and shops, schools and universities are collecting signatures.

Mr Peter Lourens of Linden Cycles in 3rd Avenue, Linden, Johannesburg, said: "I stuck the story on my counter, and all my customers are signing the petition."

Pretoria Technikon students signed up 145 in an hour.

By yesterday morning a dribble of protest letters began to arrive at The Star's CARE campaign office. By mid-afternoon a steady stream was arriving.

People — especially younger people — are angered by the news that a Canadian mining company has asked for special permission to mine the area for 20 years — day and night.

The decisive factor in the petition is likely to be the Wildlife Society, which 10 years ago solicited most of the 130 000 signatures when The Star's CARE campaign launched a petition to save the Kruger Park from being mined for coal.

● See Page 8.

## promises St Lucia probe

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Environment Minister Gert Kotze has given an assurance to the Democratic Party that no decision will be made on mining the ecologically sensitive St Lucia region without a full investigation.

In a statement yesterday, DP environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said he had taken the issue up with Mr Kotze who in turn was to discuss it with Economic Affairs and Technology Minister Mr Danie Steyn.

Mr Lorimer said he had expressed his "grave concern" about the mining proposals by Richards Bay Minerals & Mining, under fire for its mining of dunes in the Richards Bay area.

"At this stage the DP is totally opposed to the scheme."

# Caltex gives R10 000 to Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

CALTEX South Africa has given R10 000 to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund.

The cheque, the biggest so far, has sent the fund soaring to R13 512,50.

Mr Moegsien Harris, Caltex co-ordinator of social responsibility programmes, Western Cape, said: "Caltex is committed to a programme of helping educational, welfare training and advancement of disadvantaged communities.

14/9/89  
"Our gift will help to bring some relief to those rural farm-worker families who have been hard hit by the tragic accident.

"There is no doubt when a tragedy like the lorry disaster hits a poor farming community like the one at Klawer then its affects us all.

"All of us feel deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the bereavement suffered by the families."

He described the gift as "a small token to assist the families of all

those affected, including the survivors".

Accepting the cheque on behalf of the fund, the editor of the Argus, Mr Andrew Drysdale, said he hoped it would encourage other companies to contribute to the fund.

At least 40 people died last Wednesday when a lorry laden with rural contract workers, their relatives and a farmer crashed through safety railings on a bridge spanning the fast flowing Olifants River and plunged into the water near Klawer.

Only 12 half of the passengers, mostly women and children, were saved.

The fund was launched by The Argus with a gift of R1 000. An additional R200 was given by the community newspapers The Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo. Mail-room staff of The Argus also raised R245,50.

Yesterday gifts from 46 readers boosted the fund by R2 067.

People who want to contribute to the fund should send donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, P O Box 15399, Vlaeberg 8018.

**T**HE ghost of Barney Barnato, the legendary mining magnate and founding chairman of Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), has returned to haunt the Rand Water Board.

In 1903 the words "Rand Water Board" were an unpleasant sound to the ears of Barnato.

From 1896 Barnato and his water company — the Johannesburg Waterworks Estate and Investment Company — had exploited the huge underground water reserves at the farm Zuurbekom, south-west of Johannesburg, supplying the Witwatersrand with most of its water requirements.

But in 1903, in spite of a bitter fight from Barnato, the Transvaal government passed an ordinance that forced him to sell the water rights, and other assets, of his water company to the Rand Water Board (RWB).

Zuurbekom remained the main source of the RWB's water supply to the Rand until 1923.

Now JCI and the RWB are about to go to court over water being pumped from one of JCI's mines, near Zuurbekom.

Three years ago JCI's Western Areas gold mine (WA) was given government permission to drain underground water reserves from above

# The ghost of Barnato

B/D Bay 14/9/89.

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## walks again

REINIE BOOYSEN



its workings. Millions of litres of water are still being pumped every day into the nearby Rietspruit River, which ultimately flows into the Vaal River.

The RWB is claiming that its consumers have been deprived of the benefit of some of this water in terms of the water rights now vested in it. And it is to take its dispute with JCI to the Supreme Court. It says

pumping activities at WA have deprived it of millions of rands worth of water, and is claiming R117m in damages for past and future losses.

JCI is to contest the claim on the grounds that the RWB does not disclose a cause of legal action. The Supreme Court will be confronted with an intriguing dispute.

The detail is complex. WA was given permission to dewater the western portion of the so-called Gemshokfontein Compartment, part of which lies under the farm Zuurbekom. It is a huge underground, honeycomb-type reservoir of water situated in the kilometre-thick layer of porous dolomitic rock above WA's gold-mining operations.

His permission was granted against strong opposition from the RWB, and after years of lobbying by WA. (Government controls the dewatering of dolomitic compartments on the West Rand gold belt because of the danger of ground subsidence.)

Previously, WA had to release on surface water pumped from its underground workings. From the surface it seeped back into the compartment, so that the level of the water table was maintained.

WA chairman Ken Maxwell says because of erosion the water was reseeping into the workings at an accelerating rate, and pumping costs were reaching prohibitive levels. He adds the water was creating enormous problems for mining —

not the least being a danger that drilling and blasting could puncture underground water sources, causing a sudden inflow of water at high pressure.

The only solution, says Maxwell, was to pump the water into the river instead of onto the surface and keep the underground compartment dry through continuous pumping (compartments are recharged naturally through surface drainage).

The problem, however, is that the RWB has the right to abstract water from the Gemshokfontein Compartment, and from the larger Zuurbekom Compartment to the north, as they are both overlain by the farm Zuurbekom.

In terms of its function as a statutory (non-profit) wholesaler of water in the greater PWV area, water from these boreholes is supplied to Carletonville, and the gold-mining belt around it.

The western portion of the Gemshokfontein Compartment is separated from the eastern portion by a dyke (the Magazine Dyke) — mining parlance for an intrusion of extraneous rock normally impermeable. It is separated from the Zuurbekom Compartment, to the north, by the Panvlake Dyke.

The RWB says it decided — in consultation with the Water Affairs Department — to draw water from the Gemshokfontein Compartment to alleviate the drought at the time of the recent water crisis (and to supplement its water resources).

It says it established wells in the eastern portion of the compartment, and would have established a well (or wells) in the western portion had WA not embarked on its dewatering programme.

The RWB says the water table in the eastern portion of the compartment started to decline as a result of WA's dewatering the western portion — in other words, water was seeping through the dyke.

It says it stopped pumping, on the advice of the State Co-ordinating and Technical Committee on Ground Subsidence and Sinkholes, when the water level in the eastern portion dropped to a level that threatened the stability of the surface of the land, when further pumping could have resulted in sinkholes and subsidences.

And it says it should be compensated for the loss of this water, and for the water it was prevented from drawing from the western portion.

It says this water has had to be replaced by water bought from the Water Affairs Department, purified and pumped from the Vaal Dam to Carletonville (at increased cost to its consumers, says the RWB).

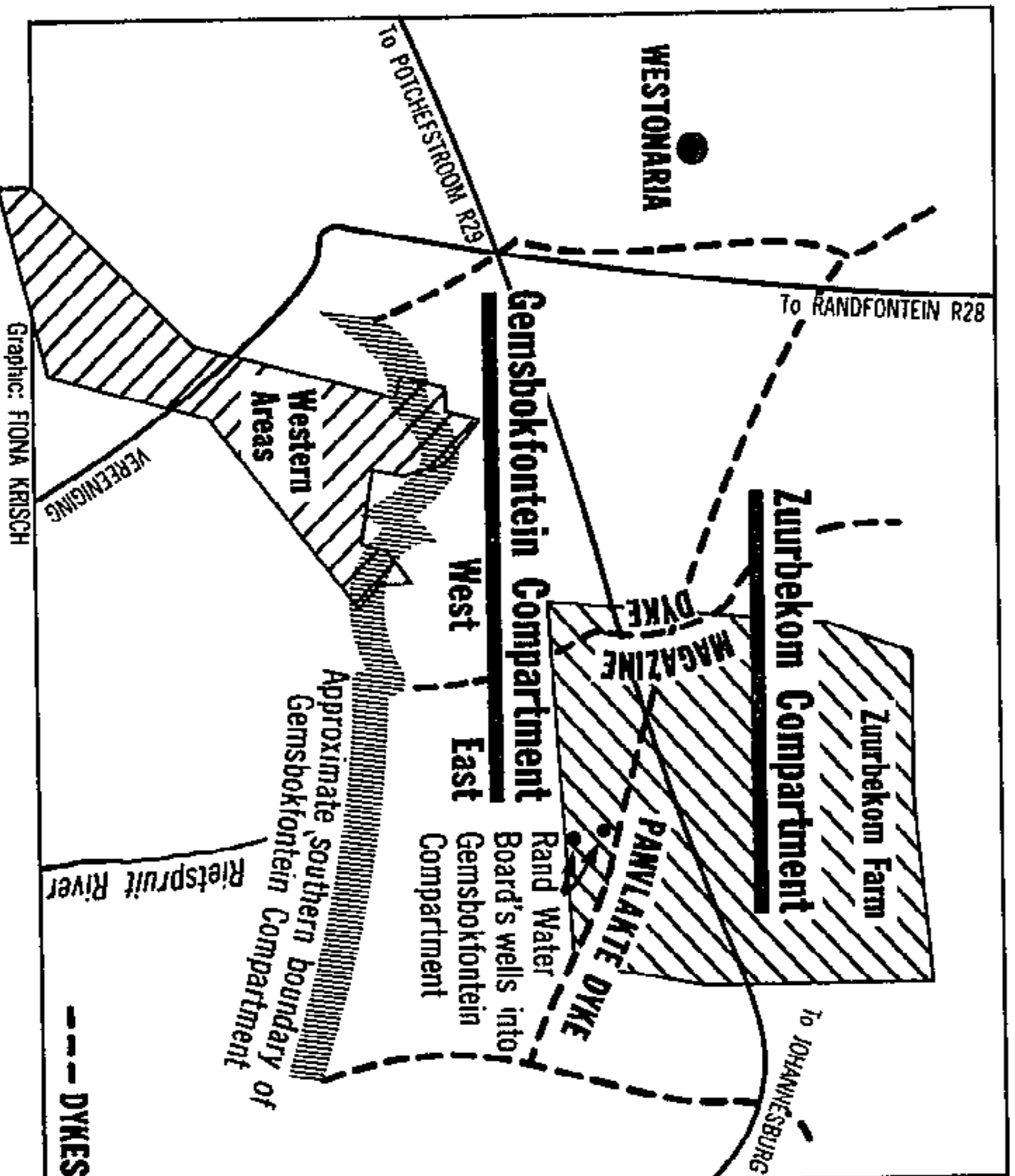
Although the water that was pumped from this source represented only a small proportion of the RWB's total requirements, it calculated that the total value of past and future losses (to its consumers) was R117m.

The RWB has rejected a compromise offer by WA to pump its water back into the eastern portion. It says the water is not pure enough, after its passage through the mine workings and pumping facilities.

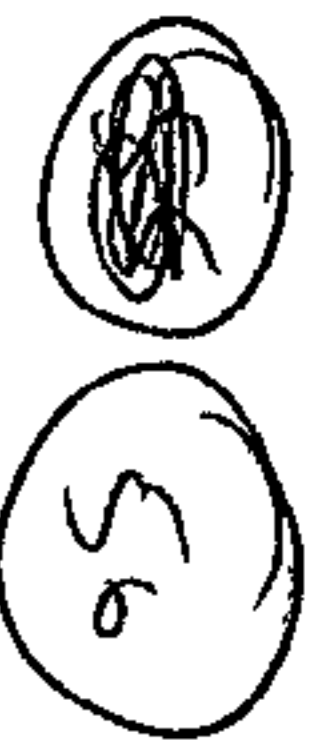
But WA says it is not clear that water is seeping through the dyke, from east to west, and that its pumping is not affecting the water table in the eastern portion.

"In fact," says Maxwell, "when they heard that we had obtained permission to dewater the western portion of the Gemshokfontein Compartment, they decided to reopen an old borehole in the eastern portion, and start pumping — just to make a point. In time their pumping reduced the water table to an extent which forced them to stop pumping because of the danger of surface subsidence."

The court will have to decide which of Barnato's corporate descendants has the rights to the water he once dispensed for a profit.



Graphic: FIONA KRISCH



A SMALL stretch of sand dunes occupying just 20 square kilometres of Northern Natal's coastline has become the focus of one of South Africa's most heated ecological controversies.

Popular protests against plans by a mining consortium to mine the dunes north of St Lucia — recognised as one of the world's precious wildlife sanctuaries — is set to unite environmental and opposition groups from across the political spectrum.

Already two national petitions have been launched to save the reserve; high-level protests have been handed to Acting State President FW de Klerk; and members of extra-parliamentary movements, which have never yet taken up a "Green" issue, are thinking of entering the fray. The cause of the anger is a decision by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) —

# Biggest-yet nature row over dunes

a mining company owned jointly by Gencor, Old Mutual and a mining corporation — to mine the dunes for a rare mineral called titanium that is used in the manufacture of military aircraft and warheads.

RBM has asked the government for permits to begin mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia — the biggest estuarine system in Africa. The region is recognised by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of the world's few natural heritages.

Popular anger at this prospect has galvanised a unique range of organisations into protest action.

Two national petitions have been launched to oppose the scheme. One

**Meanwhile on the opposite coast to Koeberg, another ecology row wages, over plans to mine in a wildlife sanctuary. EDDIE KOCH reports**

is administered by the group Earth Life Africa, the other by the *Star* newspaper.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has submitted a high-level protest urging De Klerk not to grant the permits.

The Democratic Party submitted complaints to Environment Minister Gert Kotze and has obtained an assurance that mining will not be allowed without a full investigation.

Individuals in the leadership of the mass democratic movement in Natal have expressed an interest in the controversy and say the issue is likely to be placed on the agenda of local United Democratic Front affiliates for discussion. If the MDM joins the protest, it will be the first environmental campaign to be launched by extra-parliamentary resistance groups.

The SA Council of Churches and the Witwatersrand Council of Churches are reported to be discussing the campaign to save St Lucia.

Local farmers in the area have threatened to blockade roads into the area with trucks to prevent RBM from bringing in equipment and la-

bour.

The titanium reserves of St Lucia, estimated to be worth R5-billion and capable of generating government revenue worth R1-billion, were chosen after similar sites in the United States and Madagascar had been rejected, largely because of opposition from environmental lobbies.

The operation will also allow South Africa to monopolise the international supply of titanium, which is valued by armaments manufacturers as a durable and lightweight material that can be used to make aircraft skins and warhead coatings.

Ecologists fear that the foreign currency-earning potential and strategic value of the scheme will induce the government to grant the mining rights without considering its environmental impact.

# Water could become hot issue

Stev 15/19/87

56

In some parts of South Africa the whites drink ten times as much water as blacks. The whites' facilities were provided long ago when money was "cheap". Providing facilities for blacks in new squatter townships is becoming too expensive, and this could become a serious political hot potato, writes **WINNIE GRAHAM.**

In Houghton, Johannesburg's prestige suburb, residents use 500 litres of water a day on average. In squatter settlements round the Reef, it is five litres.

"It's a question of living standards," said Mr Claus Triebel, managing engineer (planning) of the Department of Water Affairs.

"Man can probably survive on five litres — enough for cooking and drinking — but he'd feel better with 10 or 15 litres, to include washing."

Mr Triebel estimated that the average white South African uses 200 to 300 litres a day. As the cost of providing water rises, urban dwellers can expect to pay more for the essential resource.

Millions of people are leaving homes in rural areas and coming to the cities in search of a better life. They arrive with little — and make do with less. But there's one resource they must have: water. However, is there enough to meet the needs of the burgeoning urban population?

Mr Triebel warned, "Eventually demand could outstrip supply. With desalination, of course, we have an endless supply, but that process is very costly and it is unlikely we can afford to desalinate water on a large scale. Our main concern is providing water at affordable prices."

The Department of Water Affairs monitored the situation in Cape Town last year, where a possible 320 000 new squatters settled, and found there had been only a slight increase in water demand. But the picture could change as squatters upgrade their homes and use more water for domestic purposes.



Water, water everywhere . . . but unlike the water about which the ancient mariner was musing, this is for drinking. Most people in rural South Africa still depend on rivers and dams such as this for their supplies.

## Mushrooming towns

Population growth in South Africa is mushrooming towns

**POPULATION GROWTH AND WATER DEMAND IN RURAL AREAS**

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### Human productivity

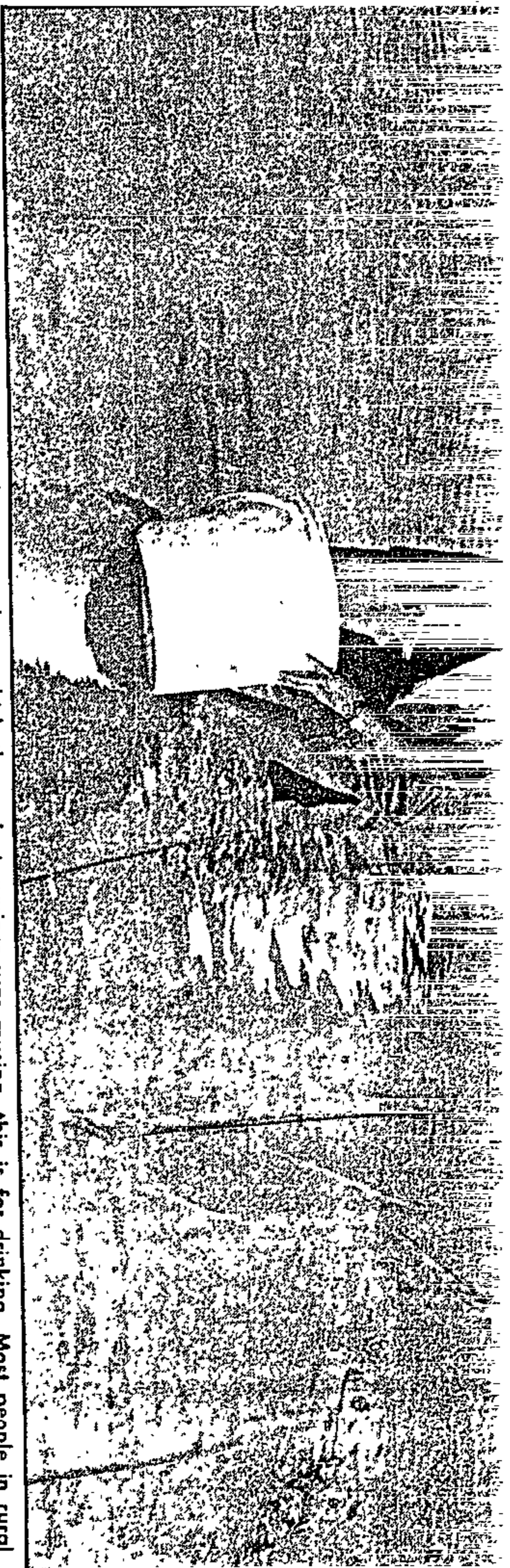
Access to adequate supplies of clean water affects not only the health and general development of the population, but has far-reaching consequences for human productivity, crop cultivation, livestock production and small-scale industry.

South Africa's water resources, Mr. Triebel explained, were not evenly distributed. Water had to be brought from areas where it was plentiful, to areas where people came to work but found little or no natural supply.

The older cities had established supplies, laid on when money was "cheap". The new black authorities had to make use of remaining sources, but costs were high and there was also serious inflation. "We have to find ways of equalising tariffs so that people pay roughly the same," he said.

"Water has become a political hot potato. Whites feel threatened that 'their' water is being used by blacks, and blacks are resentful that the whites have taken all the 'cheap' water and used all the best sites for their dams."

Mr. Triebel was reluctant to say just how many people South Africa's water resources could support. Some put the figure at 80 million, but this is often contested. "It will be less if everyone wants abundant and affordable water," he said.



Water, water everywhere ... but unlike the water about which the ancient mariner was musing, this is for drinking. Most people in rural South Africa still depend on rivers and dams such as this for their supplies.

## Mushrooming towns can precipitate crises

With nearly half the urban population living in the PWV complex, the area supplied by the Vaal River is the most important in South Africa.

According to "Management of the Water Resources of the Republic of South Africa", the population of the Vaal River supply area will increase at 2,6 percent a year — from 5,8 million in 1980 to 12,8 million in 2010 — with water demand increasing 294 percent.

### Recycled effluent

The water which the Rand Water Board obtains from the Vaal comes from both natural sources and recycled effluent.

The book adds: "The rapidly increasing demand has necessitated the importation of water from the Tugela River since 1974... the Usutu-Vaal scheme has transferred water from the Usutu River to the Vaal since 1985..."

"The dolomitic ground water in the PWV area is being investigated as an emergency supply for urban use during droughts. Supplementary water from the Orange River, or increased importation from the Tugela, would satisfy the estimated demand until well after 2010."

But while water availability is a problem, the declining quality is cause for even more concern.

With increasing industrialisation, urbanisation and irrigation, as well as the greater use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides, rivers and waterways are becoming increasingly polluted.

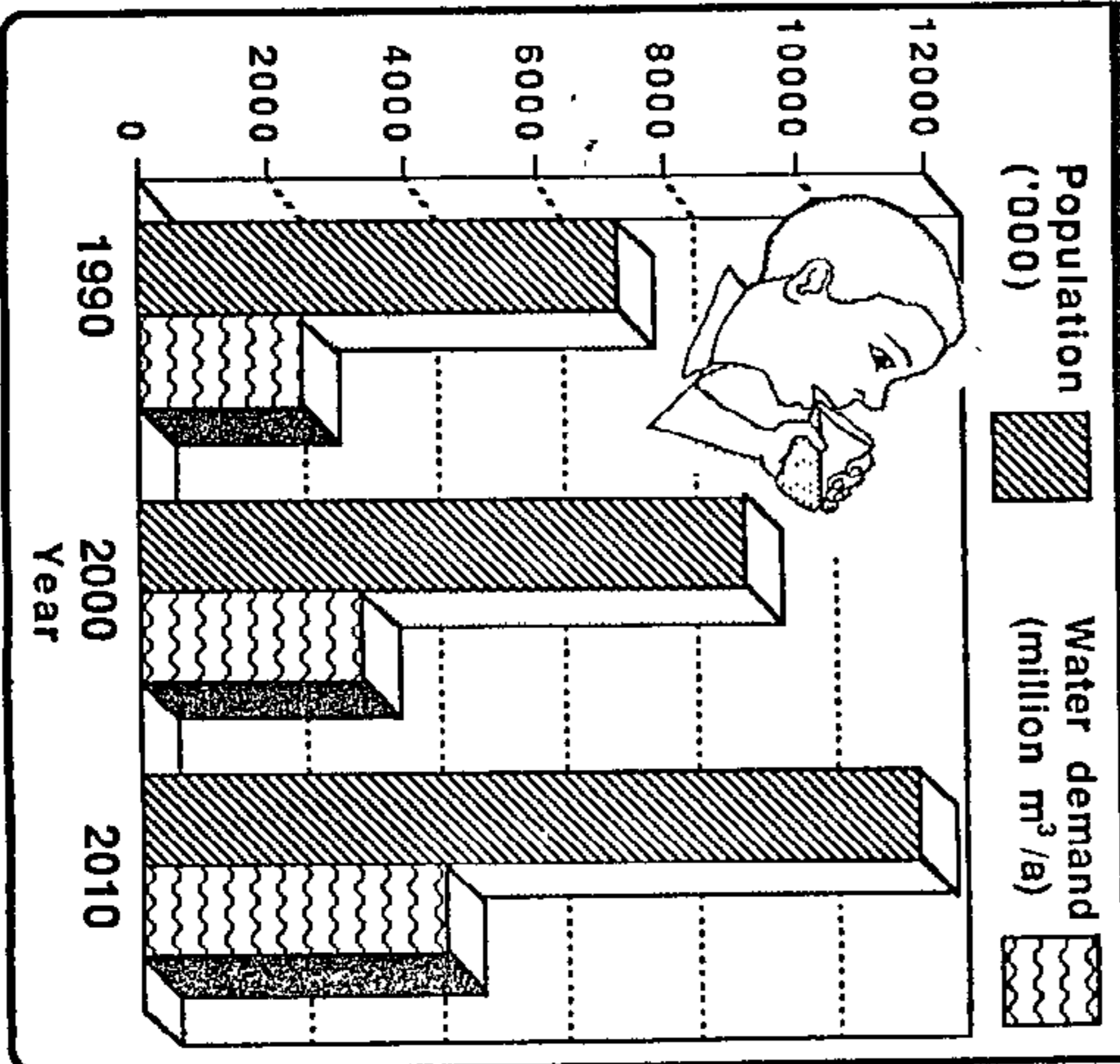
The deterioration in the quality of water is caused mainly by "point source effluent discharges, and diffuse wash-offs into river systems".

In Natal, pollution by giant riverside shanty towns along the Umgeni and Umzinduzi rivers, which supply water to Durban and Maritzburg, could become so serious that the water could be "unusable", according to an Umgeni Water report.

Findings on the conditions are in a comprehensive report. It said settlements mushrooming on the banks of the river pose the "biggest threat to the quality of water."

The problem on the Reef is not as frightening. Salinity in the Vaal is being studied carefully. Apart from salts from effluent, evaporation results in a gradual increase in the salinity levels of dams.

## POPULATION GROWTH AND WATER DEMAND IN THE PWV AREAS



This graph by Liz Warder is based on information from "Water Resources of the Republic of South Africa", compiled by the Department of Water Affairs. It shows the growing demand to come.



## Govt may 'make it difficult' to (56) mine sand dunes

By James Clarke

In the face of mounting public concern the South African Government may "make it difficult" for a Canadian company to mine the forested sand dunes along Lake St Lucia's eastern shores. *Star 15/9/89*

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said last night the Government first wanted the mining company to do a detailed environmental impact analysis and that this would be then be evaluated to see that mining operations did not, for instance, damage the hydrology of St Lucia.

He told The Star's political staff that while the Government could not technically stop the area being mined it could make it very difficult

Thousands of signatures protesting the mining are pouring into The Star's CARE campaign office.

St Lucia is a wildlife paradise whose sheltering coastal dunes are impregnated with titanium worth R5 000 million.

Richards Bay Minerals wants to mine it — night and day — over 20 years.

TV personality Adrian Steed said: "St Lucia is one of my favourite places. Everybody I know is appalled at the threat."

15/9

56



Residents of Kattlehong and Tokoza have been without water for two months and there is no respite in sight. Many residents travel as far as Vosloorus to fetch water daily. Residents say the fetching of water is time-consuming and unnecessary and appeal to the councils in the areas to do something about the shortage. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU.



Nightsoils spills from buckets in Alexandra township posing the <sup>Soweto</sup> threat of an an epidemic in the township.

# 15/9/89 Big stink hits Alex

NIGHTSOIL, which has not been collected for more than six weeks, has begun spilling into the yards and streets of Alexandra Township.

Angry families yesterday blamed the town council for the mess which had left the township engulfed in a big stench.

Residents said they paid R1 per household for the service and new buckets but the situation had worsened.

Mr Michael Yende of 11th Avenue has been emptying his nightsoil bucket into a trench in the township. The council's nightsoil trucks have not been seen for weeks.

Mr Joseph Kudumela,

By MATSHUBE  
MFOLOE

in whose backyard night soil had accumulated in heaps, said he had consulted with the council on several occasions about the mess but in vain.

Miss Elizabeth Motung said she was worried by the accumulation of waste which she said an epidemic could break out.

The mayor, Mrs Agnes Pooe, said she was not aware of the problems and her council would investigate immediately.

# Final plans for Klawer mass burial

APR 15/19/57 (56)

By SHARKEY ISAACS, Staff Reporter

FINAL arrangements are being made for the mass burial of at least half the victims of the tragic Olifants River lorry accident as readers swelled contributions to the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to R17 128,50.

Among the latest gifts sent were R200 collected by 700 pupils at Strandfontein Primary School and a R1 000 cheque from the Standard Bank. The school's gift was handed over yesterday to the fund by pupils Dorian Morris and Nazreen Damon.

Meanwhile, police have disclosed the accident last Wednesday claimed the lives of 53 people and not 40 as was at first believed. Only 12 of the passengers, mostly women and children, were saved.

The lorry, driven by a farmer and laden with rural contract workers and their relatives, crashed through safety railings on a bridge spanning the fast-flowing river. It plunged into the water.

Captain Hendrik Opperman, a police liaison officer, said it had been difficult to ascertain the death toll because the victims were seasonal farm workers and their families.

Police intensified their search this week with the help of two teams of divers and a helicopter. They discovered 11 more bodies yesterday which brought the number of victims retrieved to 34.

"We hope to locate the other 19 missing people with renewed efforts tomorrow," Captain Opperman said.

Surveys among farm-workers in the area

## KLAWER DISASTER FUND

have showed 17 of the victims came from Klawer, more than 20 from Calvinia, three from Carnarvon, one from Piketberg, one from the Northern Cape, and two from Moorreesburg.

The Rev David Willemsse of the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, Klawer, yesterday said the town's "disaster committee" was making final arrangements for a mass burial on Sunday afternoon.

But the Rev James Frans of the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, Calvinia, said it was not certain that funerals would be held in his town on Saturday because his colleague and co-priest, the Rev Adriaan Louw, was ill. The funerals might have to be postponed until early next week.

Latest contributions to the fund are

Previously acknowledged:	
Caltex Oil (SA) (Pty) Ltd	R10 000,00
Mr S Kalam of Mitchell's Plain	R10,00
A V B Proctor	R12,00
B B Hodgkiss	R10,00
G H Kaje of Knysna	R20,00
NR Smith	R25,00
Standard Bank	R1 000,00
P Groefies of Lansdowne	R25,00
E G Bettsworth of Bloubaerg	R50,00
A Pensioner	R5,00
P W Kallis of Table View	R25,00
Ron Bell	R10,00
E Faustmann	R50,00
CT Kohn of Milnerton	R20,00
MA Parfitt of Somerset West	R100,00
DC Low	R20,00
W Laubser of Mowbray	R20,00
Mrs E E Hoffman	R10,00
OLC Shephard	R20,00
TH Hampton of Table View	R25,00
PA Carney	R15,00
E Bell of Table View	R25,00
Ebenezer Ned Geref Sendingkerk	R100,00
Miss Ann Kreitzer of Mouille Point	R50,00

G E L Reese	R10,00
Anonymous	R10,00
A Rother of Sea Point	R10,00
Mrs F E Russell of Durban	R50,00
M J H Bester of Thornton	R20,00
D Grimaldi	R20,00
A James of Tokai	R20,00
ER Nodder of Newlands	R10,00
Anonymous	R2,00
Mr and Mrs S Livesey of Athlone	R70,00
R Y Deitschlander	R20,00
Cecil and Thelma Skotnes of Oranjezicht	R50,00
R V Alexander	R60,00
Mr Benjamin	R20,00
DC Watson of Fresnaye	R50,00
Boulevard Play Centre	R25,00
Anonymous	R15,00
Mr H Jenkins of Plumstead	R50,00
M Freeman	R50,00
WR Mentoor	R25,00
OK Martens of Kraalfontein	R10,00
A E Ordansky of Oranjezicht	R5,00
RB Chilton-Young	R50,00
PH Raines of Somerset West	R10,00
GS Cubitt	R40,00
DM Milner of Deep River	R20,00
A M Grogan of Cape Town	R50,00
EL Tuchten	R50,00
Anonymous	R50,00
RB Moss	R15,00
R van Druten	R50,00
RE Chalkin of Langebaan	R30,00
H Kaje of Gatesville	R20,00
JL Harpool of Pinelands	R200,00
Anonymous	R100,00
M G and D W Williams of Constantia	R100,00
K D Feilchenfeld	R50,00
C Appel of Elsie River	R20,00
J M Smuts of Constantia	R52,00
Mitchell's Plain Primary School	R200,00
Metropolitan Church Association	R100,00
Miss D H Reid of Meadowridge	R50,00
E K Sleggs	R10,00
Mrs J M Schnepberger of Sea Point	R10,00
Anonymous	R10,00
Mrs Sheila van Berk of Bergvliet	R25,00
A H Krauss-Mars of Hout Bay	R20,00
Alice Mertens of Stellenbosch	R50,00
J R Court of Bonteheuwel	R2,00
Anonymous	R100,00
P M Davey of Rondebosch	R25,00
I Choritz of Sea Point	R18,00
G P M Ruiwel of Constantia	R50,00
I Matland of Mowbray	R10,00
Mrs E Fish of Wynberg	R25,00
The Argus	R1 200,00
TOTAL	R17 128,50

# Govt could put curbs<sup>56</sup> on mining at St Lucia

CAPE TOWN — Technically, government could not stop the mining of titanium in the dunes on the eastern shore of Lake St Lucia, but it could lay down strict conditions for it, Environment and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday.

However, he confirmed that until a detailed environmental impact study had been made and evaluated, no decision on the mining of the proposed area could be taken.

Special attention would also have to be given to the hydrological aspects of the impact study.

"This area is ecologically very sensitive and government will handle it with the greatest degree of circumspection," he said.

## Conditions

In an interview, Kotze explained that it was technically impossible for government to entirely stop the mining operation because the granting of a prospecting licence implied that if worthwhile deposits were found, exploitation could follow.

However, the new Conservation Act determined that the Minister could lay down conditions under which the operations could continue.

His department was not satisfied with the impact study which had already been commissioned by the mining company.

"My department can lay down con-

## Political Staff

ditions for continued mining operations which could take some time to determine," said Kotze.

"We will not delay it unnecessarily, but we must first have a detailed impact study to determine what conditions are necessary for the maximum conservation effect.

"We must also look seriously at rehabilitation aspects," he said.

Rupert Lorimer, DP environmental spokesman, said he had been given an assurance by Kotze that "no hasty decision" would be made to extend operations.

"He has assured me that no decision will be taken before an in-depth environmental impact study has been undertaken, with special reference to the source of water supplies for the project," said Lorimer.

Kotze had assured him he would not base his decision on any superficial reports that did not cover every aspect of the possible results of further mining.

He said Kotze was not prepared to work to any deadline laid down by the mining company and would place the matter before the Cabinet only when all relevant factors were before him.

"I welcome these assurances as I believe the consequences of this development are so serious that the project cannot go ahead as presently envisaged," he said.

# Mill effluent not 'poison'

Fish were suffocated, says paper company

The Ngodwana paper mill in the Eastern Transvaal has raised an outcry over the environment after an effluent spill into the Elands River over the weekend killed thousands of fish and raised fears that the spill was toxic. Completed in 1985, the mill has become the central point of the small town near Nelspruit. **PAULA FRAY** reports

In the early hours of Saturday, an effluent spill entered a storm-water drain at the Ngodwana Mill, bypassing the mill's effluent control system. The spill was undetected until spotted during routine monitoring.

At this stage, some of the effluent — which consisted of ligno sulphonates and soap skimming — had entered the Ngodwane River.

This is, according to Sappi Ltd managing director Mr Eugene van As, what happened over the weekend before local residents found thousands of dead fish in the river and its tributaries, raising fears among the local residents that the water was now toxic.

According to Sappi the compounds are not toxic but the chemicals consumed much of the river's oxygen — largely because of the soap skimming.

The fish died as a result of oxygen deficiency at the source of the spill.

"Although the company does not believe there is any risk of toxicity, water samples are being flown up to the CSIR for detailed analysis," Mr van As said.

He said the spill entered a storm-water drain and by-passed the mill's effluent control system completely. It was therefore undetected for some time. Routine monitoring indicated effluent in the storm-water drain and the drain was immediately closed.

If the effluent spill was initially unnoticed, the smell accompanying the mill is not.

Residents and visitors complain of the "putrid" smell of sulphur throughout the area.

Local fears are that the spill will unbalance the ecosystem and it is not yet



As the effect of the effluent spill in the Elands River takes its toll, workers remove hundreds of dead fish from the water.

Picture by Clyde Johnson.

known what the effect will eventually be on the environment.

Residents and environmentalists have reacted with outrage.

However, according to Dr Peter Ashton, the programme manager of water quality information systems at the division of water technology at the CSIR, the ecosystem should balance out "fairly quickly".

### Concentrated

He said the compounds had an oxygen deficiency effect. "If the effluent which was accidentally discharged into the river was very concentrated it would have a heavy demand on oxygen."

He said fish and other life in the river would suffocate. However, he added, the river had many tributaries which had similar life forms. If the animal life in one part of the river died, it would be recolonised soon.

This was, he said, what happened when rivers dried up during drought. The mill processes up to 7 000 tons of

wood a day — about 500 truckloads.

According to Sappi, it is one of the most modern pulp and paper mills in the world and the largest single private sector investment in South Africa.

When Sappi started production of pulp and paper 50 years ago, water was limited, effluent disposal a major problem and, because there were virtually no natural resources, straw had to be used as the basic fibre resource.

"Against this background, Sappi has established itself as a world leader in water conservation and effluent control," said Sappi's information booklet.

### No effluent

"Making use of Sappi-developed technology, combined with the state-of-the-art plant, Ngodwana is also the world's only bleached kraft pulp and paper mill that discharges no effluent into the local river system."

A dam has been specifically built on the Ngodwane river to provide a continuous supply of water to the mill.

Using Sappi-developed conservation techniques, Ngodwana mill uses some 75 per cent less water per ton of paper than world industry standards.

According to McGraw-Hill's Encyclopaedia of Environmental Science, a large part of a tree harvested for pulp, paper or lumber becomes waste. Finally, pulp and paper mills discharge effluent containing about 50 per cent of the log. Waste from the wood industry has great pollution potential and is usually destroyed by burning.

This is not the first time the mill has been the centre of controversy.

In November 1987, a huge blast ripped through the mill, injuring 48 people and causing extensive damage.

The explosion, which occurred in the chemical storage area, was then described as an industrial incident and sabotage was not suspected.

The Paper, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Pwawu) claimed then that Sappi was trying to "cover up the extent and cause of the blast".

Search for paper not just over

# Long row of timber crosses marks the resting place

MCUS 18/9/87  
 56

By TYRONE SEALE  
 Staff Reporter  
 A LONG row of simple timber crosses in the Calvinia cemetery marks the resting place of 23 of the town's residents who drowned in the Olifants River 12 days ago.

And in the Namaqualand town of Klawer, a mass grave holds another 12 of the 52 people who drowned when a lorry driven by Mr Smit Rossouw, 26, smashed through a railing on a bridge over the river and plunged into the strong current. Only 12 survived.

Mr Rossouw, a member of the prominent family which runs the farms where the victims worked, was buried separately in Klawer on Saturday.

The labourers, most of whom worked at Trawal more than an hour's drive from Calvinia, were starved of life's luxuries.

They worked up to 11 hours a day and earned very little. Mothers took their babies along to the vegetable fields and vineyards where they toiled, because there was no one to take care of them at home.

### Knew suffering

They knew what it was to suffer and to share their meagre resources.

But this weekend, the compassion and charity of thousands of concerned South Africans provided a dignified final farewell for the Olifants River victims.

Numerous speakers at the Calvinia service on Saturday thanked contributors to the Klawer Disaster Fund for their concern.

The service was attended by more than 2 000 people who crowded into and leaned through the windows of the 1 500-seater Ned Geref Sendingkerk in the dusty Hantam town.

Among the mourners were the mayor of Calvinia, Mr Christie Rheeder, and his wife Viola.

"Our deepest sympathy goes to all who lost family and friends," Mr Rheeder said. "When we lay a wreath this afternoon, we want you to know it is a symbol of the sympathy of the entire community."

Father Chris Hendricks of the Klawer Anglican church said: "Not only Calvinia and Klawer lost people in the Kranskop bridge disaster, but communities at Piketberg, Leipoldtville, Postberg and Carnarvon were also affected."

"(Memorial) services must still be held there."

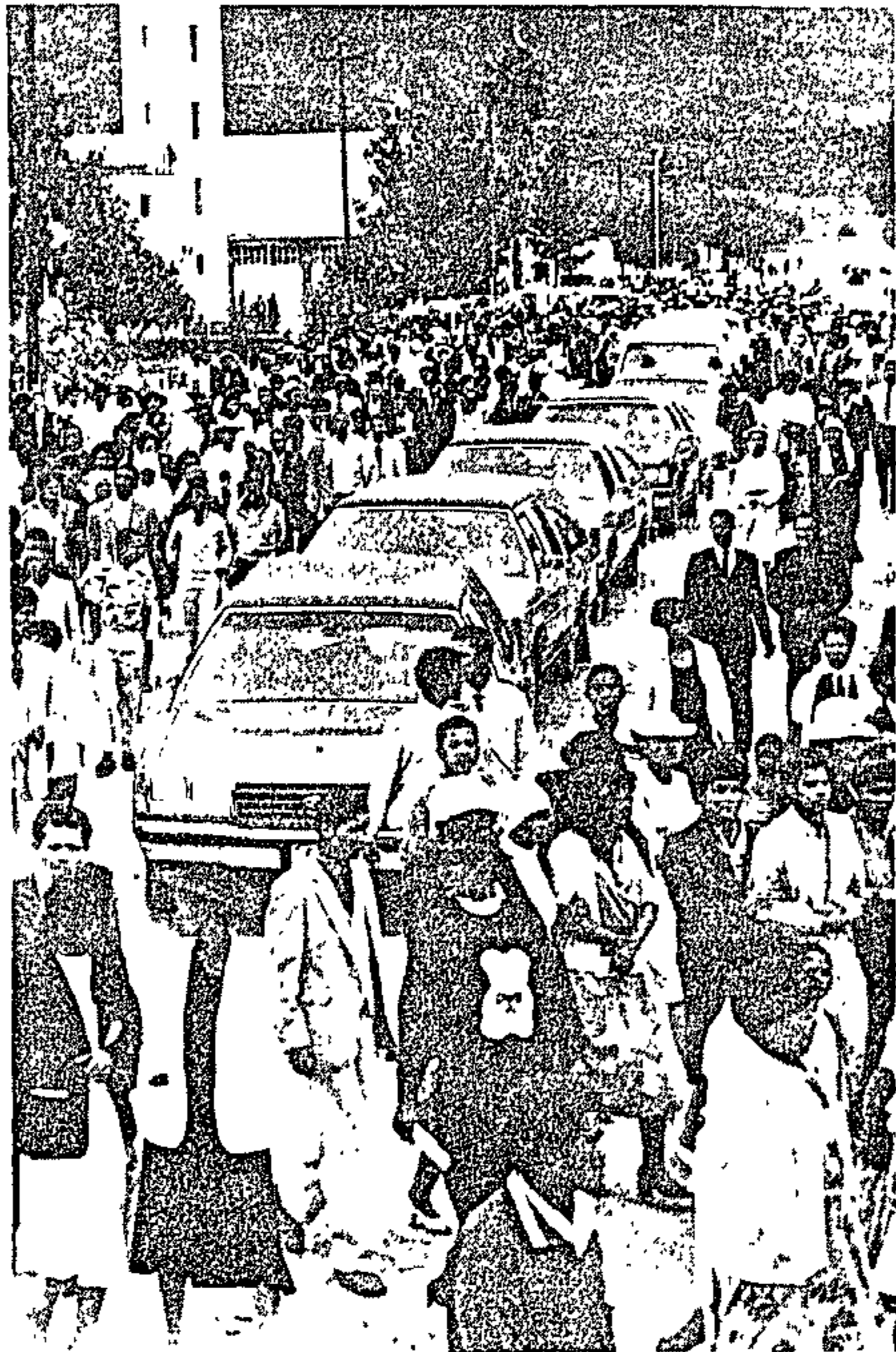
The Rev Attie Louw urged mourners to "hold on to your faith".

"More than 22 people have died in the floodwaters of the Olifants River. How do you hold on to the truth that is in Christ when your heart is broken over people who have been swept away by water and people whose bodies you can't even view?"



Pictures DION TROMP, The Argus

**CASKET COLUMN:** Undertakers, right, line up along the mass grave as church officials, in the foreground on the right, each take a handful of earth to scatter over the coffins.



**TRADITIONAL PROCESSION:** The procession leaves the Calvinia Ned Geref Sendingkerk for the nearby cemetery.



# Startling details of St Lucia mine plan

*Mbus 18/9/89 56*

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — As the number of signatures protesting against the threat to mine St Lucia estuary reaches into the thousands, the Natal Parks Board has issued a statement revealing some startling details of the mining plan.

Only last week, says the statement, did the board learn that a mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, intends damming the Umfolozi river and inundating part of the Dukuduku forest.

No environmental impact report has been made on the plan — yet the government was on the verge of giving

the go-ahead, according to the statement.

The chairman of the board, Mr C Dering Stainbank, said he hoped that RBM's principal South African shareholders — Gencor, the Old Mutual and the Industrial Development Corporation — “are keeping themselves informed of the situation and that RBM's Canadian principals are aware of the position.”

## Anti-SA

Ironically, while the Quebec-based RBM seeks permission to mine St Lucia, a public opinion poll in Canada revealed recently that 56 percent of Canadians were anti-South African and wanted tougher sanctions.

The Southern African Nature Foundation has strongly criticised the mining plan even though its fourth most generous donor is Gencor (R12 500 a year) Old Mutual gives R7 000 a year.

Mr Stainbank, speaking for the Natal Parks Board, said he was delighted the government had now demanded a proper environmental impact assessment.

He said that “some of the most important environmental issues had not even been addressed by RBM and had certainly not been considered by the Department of Environment Affairs and the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.”

He said that “until a few days ago the board had not

been told RBM proposed to dam the Umfolozi River and inundate part of the Dukuduku forest to supply water for the dune mining.”

As far as he knew “no environmental studies at all had been done on the impact of the water supply proposals and this aspect had been omitted from the brief of RBM's environmental consultants.”

A Natal lawyer who did not wish to be named said that legally RBM need not have made an environmental report and that it had done so only “out of respect to the public.”

He was among many who phoned The Star, sister newspaper of The Argus, and commented on the weaknesses of the newly amended Environmental Conservation Act.



# Water supply back



Sowetan 18/9/89

The water supply at the East Rand townships of Katlehong and Tokoza has been restored.

Thousands of residents in the two areas have been without water since last Monday after the main pipe supplying the townships burst. The pipe is connected to the Alrode reservoir.

Men, women and children walked to the nearby Vosloorus township to fetch water. Some used trucks, vans, cars and wheelbarrows.

Eleven-year-old Sonto Nkosi who was in the company of other children searching for water in Katlehong was struck by a car and had to be treated for shoulder and leg injuries at Natalspuit Hospital.

The mayor of Katlehong, Mr Dominic "Styles" Magagula, said the pipe was damaged by a grader

# Klawer: Thousands at mass funerals

Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the two mass funerals — one of them at Klawer and the other at Calvinia — which were held this weekend for 39 victims of the Olifants River lorry disaster.

Yesterday, 16 of the 39 were buried at the Karoo-kop cemetery. The cemetery is near the Kransburg bridge, where the lorry driven by farmer Mr Smit Rossouw, with 64 labourers and children as passengers, plunged into the flooded Olifants River on Wednesday, September 6.

The Rev Chris Hendricks, the Anglican priest at Klawer, said hundreds of mourners attended the inter-denominational service conducted by the Rev Dawid Willemse. The service was held at the Klawer NG Sendingkerk.

Speakers at the service included Mr Chris April, MP in the House of Representatives; Mr L F Lategan, chairman of the Namaqualand Headmasters' Association, and the Rev D K Abrahams, regional chairman of the NG Sendingkerk.

Among those buried yesterday were eight pupils from the Karoo-kop farm school. They were brothers Jan Karools, 13, and Jacob Karools, 10; Johanna Nansie, 12; Karelina Cloete, 15; Kathleen Cloete, 11; Lydia Abrahams, 8; Petrus Lewis, 14 and seven-year-old Jacqueline Lewis.

The mass burial at Calvinia, at which 23 of the victims, eight of them children, were buried, was held on Saturday. The funeral coincided with that of the driver, Mr Rossouw, which took place in Klawer.

More than 1 000 people attended the funeral service for the 23, which was held at the Calvinia NG Sendingkerk.

● Police liaison officer Captain Gys Boonzaaier said yesterday that although most of the bodies of the 53 people drowned in the disaster had been recovered, 11 were still missing.

He said the missing bodies were probably trapped under mud and thick tree branches.

A decision would be made today on how long the grim search for bodies will continue.

# Mobil's R5 000 boosts Klawer disaster fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

APR 5  
1979

A CHEQUE for R5 000 from the Mobil Foundation of South Africa has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to more than R26 000.

Mr Phumlani Tyali, the foundation's community development manager, said he hoped the gift would bring temporary relief to families affected by the disaster.

The Olifants River lorry accident in which 53 people, including children, were killed had brought home the plight of rural farm workers and the disaster had also highlighted a seasonal farming system in which working parents and their families were ferried by lorry.

Mr Tyali said: "We also plan to visit the affected communities and discuss self-help projects with them to enable them to become economically independent."

"This is in accordance with the policy of the Mobil Foundation to help communities gain economic independence."

The fund, which at presents stands at R26 104.50 was launched by The Argus with a gift of R1 000.

An additional R200 also has been given by the community newspapers, Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their do-

nations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Viaeberg 8018.

The money will be sent to the Ned Gerel Sendingkerk which runs a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

● See page 3.

Many thousands of signatures raised

# Protests over Lake St Lucia flooding in

Star 19/9/89 (56)

By James Clarke

Hundreds of letters and telegrams are daily pouring into The Star pleading for Lake St Lucia to be spared from being mined by a foreign country — most, so far, have come from the Transvaal.

Dr Ian Player, former conservator of Zululand and now on the board of Natal Parks, told me: "Natal people mock the 'Vaalies' — now they must thank God the Transvaaler is showing more concern for St Lucia than the people of Natal."

The public response to The Star's "Save St Lucia" plea has been as swift and determined as the time the government announced it was going to allow Iscor to mine coal in Kruger Park.

## Petitions

Some readers have, individually, collected hundreds of signatures and at least one has reached 1 000. Several government and quasi-government agencies have joined in the drawing up of petitions, reading:

"We, the undersigned, oppose the mining of St Lucia and demand the assurance that the government regards St Lucia as inviolate."

The Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, was quoted in Zululand a few days ago as having said: "The mining operation can go ahead with all the benefits that it can give the country." But he has subsequently told our Parliamentary staff that he will not consider the mining permit application from Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) until it had convinced him it could mine the dunes without wrecking Lake St Lucia's ecology.

The mining company stated on SABC's 50/50

programme on Sunday that it wants to mine only where the sand dunes have been planted with pine trees. (Twenty years ago the Department of Forestry planted the pines in 40 percent of the dunes but stopped when it found the trees were blotting up the lake's fresh water input).

Dr Player told me that the government is entirely to blame for the St Lucia crisis: "Twenty years ago it appointed a commission of inquiry which found St Lucia could not survive as a valuable wetland unless the dunes were incorporated and unless Mkuzi game reserve and other contiguous areas were proclaimed inviolate.

"Nothing happened.

"We must tell RBM it is no good doing another environmental impact report. It is wasting its time. We will never condone the sacrifice of St Lucia — and that is what a mining operation means."

Meanwhile the Canadian Ambassador has denied RBM is Canadian. He says it used to be — until June this year. Now it belongs to a British company. But RBM "shares a business relationship with Qit-Fer and Titane of Quebec".

Many petitioners have expressed anger that a company with ties with Canada — a country which, as one petitioner put it, "does its damndest to destabilise our economy" — should be allowed to make a quick profit out of a treasured South African beauty spot with endless tourist potential.

The Star's CARE campaign says: "The public response has been enormous. If we are going to fight off this threat it must be unmistakable." Send your protest, with as many names as possible, to The Star, CARE, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

# Letters of protest to Sappi

(56)



**UNRELENTING:** President Corazon Aquino at Thursday's press conference regarding her decision to prevent the burial of the remains of Mr Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines. The US has said it would not allow Mr Marcos's body to leave Hawaii.

## Burial ban inhuman, says Mrs Marcos

**HONOLULU** — From the side of her husband's coffin, Mrs Imelda Marcos is pledging to return former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos's body to his homeland for burial, despite the Presidential

the cardiac arrest listed as the cause of death.

His successor, Mrs Corazon Aquino, refused to allow Mr Marcos's body to be returned to the Philippines for burial in the interests of "the tranquility of

is resting at peace forever?" Mrs Marcos asked, gesturing toward her husband's coffin.

Mr Marcos's face was visible beneath a pane of glass over the coffin. His body was dressed in an off-white Filipino shirt called

but she did not elaborate. Mrs Marcos (60) said she had made no funeral plans. She added that she would not consider the possibility of burying Mr Marcos in the US while she had hope Mrs Aquino would change her mind.

## Residents outraged over effects of recent disaster

CLYDE JOHNSON

**NGODWANA** — A group representing very concerned residents throughout the Lowveld yesterday handed a letter of protest to Sappi Kraft's plant manager, Mr Alan David Tubb.

The letter, drafted by White River environmentalist, Mr Don Richards, was given to Mr Tubb by Mr Johan de Waal and 19 other representatives of the people of the Lowveld.

It read as follows:

"The recent disaster in the Ngodwana, Elands and Crocodile rivers and the loss of life caused by the spill from your tank last weekend, has highlighted the ever increasing deterioration of our total environment in the Lowveld.

"There has been growing concern among the people of the Lowveld regarding the pollution caused by the Sappi Kraft paper mill at Ngodwana.

"The spill has not only killed thousands of fish but will have a disastrous effect on the total river ecosystem which take many years for nature to heal.

"Rivers are the life-blood of our communities, and the survival of man, let alone other living organisms connected to the river system, depends on conservation and utilisation.

"Another grave concern is the air pollution caused by your factories. Residents as far afield as Nelspruit and White River have to put up with the appalling smells and smoke effluent.

"Environmentalists and people throughout the Lowveld protest vehemently against this environmental degradation of our beautiful area, the dirty air we often have to breathe and the loss of plant and animal life.

"We realise that your organisation provides many job opportunities and supplies the country with the bulk of our paper needs.

"We appreciate this, but urge you, sir, to remove these environmental hazards from our air and water.

"God created this world and made all things good. He was pleased with what he made. Man was created to be the custodian of beauty and it is our duty to keep wise custody."

Another letter, written by Rupert Chilton (9) of Nelspruit, was also handed to Mr Tubb by this conservation-

minded little boy.

All it said was:

"Stop murdering the fish and please stop throwing rubbish in our rivers."

Meanwhile angry Lowvelders continue to express anger at Sappi's spillage into the Elands River which killed thousands of fish and other aquatic life.

Mr Eric Ansley, whose Schagen farmhouse overlooks a long stretch of the Crocodile River said yesterday the stench was unbearable.

"Sappi has admitted responsibility and they should be compelled to clear the river of rotting fish along their path of devastation," he said.

The strong smell of chemicals drove away three hippo which for more than 18 months have lived in the vicinity of his home.

Yesterday darter birds, in search of food, patiently waited for fish to arrive but nothing appeared.

"They too will be compelled to leave the area or die of hunger," said Mr Ansley.

### Advertisement

A four-page advertisement in English, Afrikaans and Swazi — placed by Sappi — appeared in Nelspruit's local newspaper, the *Lowvelder*, yesterday.

It read as follows:

"We want the Lowveld to know that we are as concerned as you are.

"We spend many millions of rand annually to protect and conserve the environment.

"The weekend spillage from our Ngodwana mill and the impact of the environment which that spillage has had are matters of grave concern to us.

"We have therefore appointed an independent environmental commission to assess the impact of the spillage and to make recommendations on the steps which should be taken in the long and short term to restore the environmental balance of the river and all forms of life dependent on it.

"The commission will be chaired by Dr Douglas Hey and will consist of Professor Michael Britton, Dr Salmon Joubert and Dr Jane Harris.

"Sappi will make the findings of this commission public and report back to the Lowveld."

but she did not elaborate. Mrs Marcos (60) said she had made no funeral plans. She added that she would not consider the possibility of burying Mr Marcos in the US while she had hope Mrs Aquino would change her mind.



# 10 000 sign to stop St Lucia mining project.

By James Clarke

Ten thousand signatures, begging the government to spare Lake St Lucia from titanium mining, had been received by The Star up to last night. Letters continued pouring in today.

The mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, was recently sold by Canada to RTZ Corporation in Britain — but the product goes to Canada, a bitter economic foe of South Africa's.

## 1 200 SIGNATURES

One petitioner, Ms Katherine Adam, sent in almost 1 200 signatures, most of them collected by herself and her friends in the Four Ways area.

Government workers have sent in their signatures, as have many at SAA, Wits Technikon, Rosebank Clinic, and several offices, factories and schools.

The Wildlife Society has asked all its branches, nation-wide, to collect signatures and post them to The Star from where they will be delivered to the

Minister of the Environment.

Ten years ago the society helped The Star petition successfully against coal mining in Kruger Park — its members collected over 100 000 signatures.

Some organisations, such as the SA Ornithological Society, have petitioned the State President on behalf of their members.

People from Natal are telephoning The Star for advice and several meetings have been held in the province over the past four days to form pressure groups.

The Star's CARE campaign has appealed to readers who regard Lake St Lucia as sacrosanct to write on a piece of paper: "We the undersigned oppose the mining of St Lucia and demand the assurance that the government regards St Lucia as inviolate." Then get people to sign it. Even one signature helps.

Send it to CARE, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

# Plans for mine on city peak

CME Times 20/9/89  
56

By MARIUS BOSCH

PLANS for the establishment of a new kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak are currently under way, and the mine could be operational at the beginning of 1991, a spokesman for a mining company said yesterday.

The mine would be established on a portion of Chaplin's Estate in Noordhoek, which belongs to the sons of former environmental affairs minister Mr John Wiley, who committed suicide two years ago.

A city firm of engineers is currently conducting a R500 000 feasibility and environmental-impact study on the site bordering the Chapman's Peak road above Sun Valley.

Mr Marius Diemont, the PRO acting for the company Serina, which owns the mineral rights to the site, said the study, which started in June this year, was expected to be finished by the end of 1989.

## Opposition expected

"Some opposition from residents is expected, but that is why a comprehensive study is being done," Mr Diemont said.

Some of the problems being examined are the discharge of stormwater and aesthetic impact on the environment.

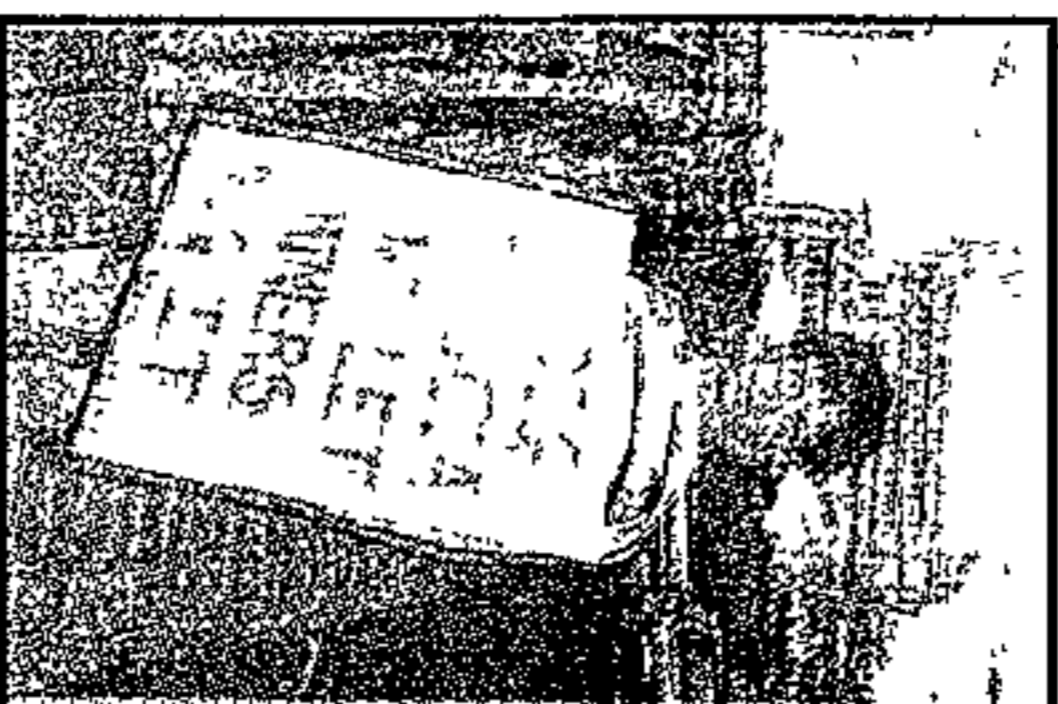
Mr Tony Dell, one of the engineers involved in the survey, said the 27ha area contained a high grade of kaolin, which is used in the manufacture of paper, ceramics and paint.

Mr Wiley — who bought the estate in 1983 — was involved in a Supreme Court action in 1985 over the ownership of the mineral rights on the De Goede Hoop Estate, of which Chaplin's Estate forms a part. He later accepted a court ruling that he and his company did not have claim to the rights.

The mineral rights were sold to the Serina mining company in 1979.

THE EARTH

Preserving the planet is more important than digging it up, say members of a burgeoning powerful but peaceful force in South Africa.



Pictures by Andrew Bannister of Earthlife members in action.

# Earth Life Africa <sup>56</sup> <sup>21/9/89. Skw</sup> peaceful, but powerful

It's green, it's growing and it's giving money-making monopolies grey hairs. It started off in a university student's humble digs and mushroomed into a major movement making waves in big companies, corporations and campuses throughout South Africa.

Its members are multiplying every day. They range from chemical engineers to undertakers but all have a common vision — to see the South African fauna and flora flourishing as a permanent feature in our political landscape.

Earth Life Africa is a peaceful but powerful force opposing pollution and taking a hard line against local companies hellbent on destroying the environment.

Based on the principles of the Greenpeace movement in Britain, Earth Life Africa infiltrated all the major campuses in South Africa before going public earlier this year.

"We were fed up by the lack of environmental pressure groups in South Africa," said Mr Peter Lukey, a founder-member.

A former civil engineer, Mr Lukey became disillusioned with building roads and returned to Wits University to study a BSc Life Sciences.

"I realised preserving our planet was more important than digging it up. Grave problems including ignorance of environmental issues, wasteful attitudes towards natural resource utilisation, inappropriate use of technologies and contempt for life on Earth had to be dealt with.

"The Greens movement is enormous overseas, but nothing was being done about it here," he said.

In Britain, the Green Party put so much pressure on the "grey" or established political parties that a "if you can't beat them, join them" policy has been adopted by Mrs Thatcher.

In addition to her ozone-friendly speech to the Royal Society in September last year, Mrs Thatcher will be using her United Nations General Assembly address in New York this autumn, to launch an international Green Crusade against pollution. Earth Life Africa aims to stimulate

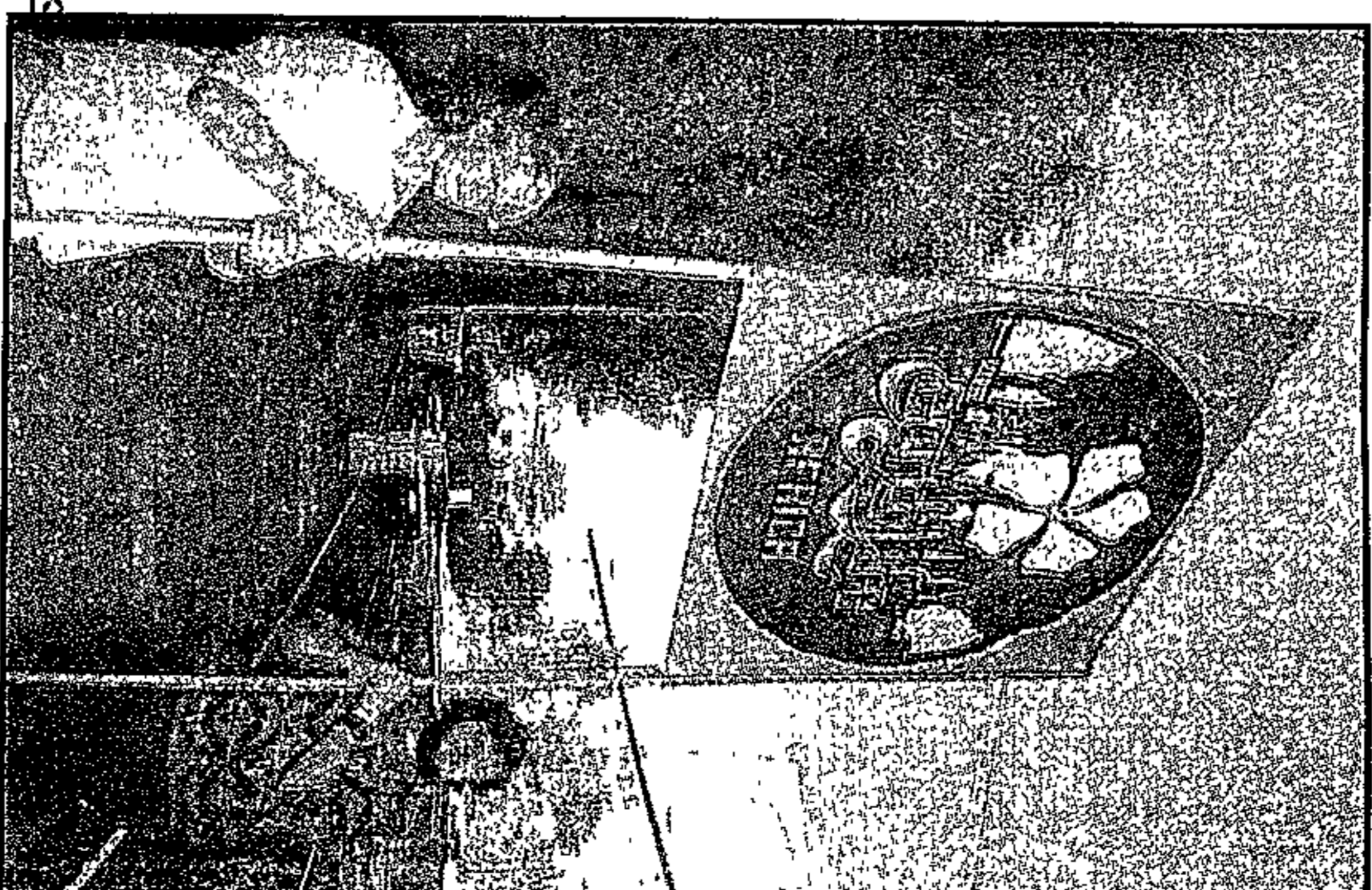
environmental awareness through re-education and by forging links with similar organisations on a global basis.

They are realising these objectives through active involvement in the following areas:

- Ongoing scientific investigation and proposal of viable alternatives or solutions.
  - Participation in and support of community environmental campaigns.
  - Offering input for other organisations in the form of resources and seminars.
  - Lobbying support from private business.
  - Introducing biospheric issues at schools, technicons, universities and other learning forums.
- Another important project is called "greening the consumer".
- "We each have an important role to play in conserving our ecology through consumer awareness," says member Bev Geech. "The products we buy make a huge difference."

They are encouraging consumers to avoid products which:

- Endanger the health of the consumer.
  - Cause significant damage to the environment during manufacture, use or disposal.
  - Consume a disproportionate amount of energy during manufacture, use or disposal.
  - Cause unnecessary wastage because of over-packaging or an unduly short useful life.
  - Use materials derived from threatened species or threatened environments.
  - Involve unnecessary use of or cruelty to animals — whether for toxicity testing or other purposes.
  - Adversely affect other Third World countries.
- Earth Life Africa has branches in Maritzburg, Stellenbosch, Durban and Cape Town.
- Anyone is welcome to join the organisation by telephoning (011) 726-2467.
- CAROLINE HURRY





# Mine on Wiley estate poses pollution threat

12/19/89

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A MAJOR new kaolin mine on the Noordhoek estate of the former Environment Affairs Minister, the late Mr John Wiley, could be operational by 1991 if the mining company gets government approval.

Consulting engineers are undertaking a R500 000 feasibility study and environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the company, Serina, which already produces 36 000 tons of kaolin annually from its mine at Brakkekloof between Fish Hoek and Sunnysdale.

Deposit at the site of the proposed mine on the western slopes of Noordhoek on the Chaplin Estate, is expected to produce 50 000 tons a year for 30 years, and, according to a report by the consulting engineers, it is "intended" that mining start in 1991.

Kaolin is most widely used in the ceramic industry but also in the paper, rubber, paint and pesticide industries.

## Valuable clays

High-grade kaolin deposits in the Peninsula — all in the Fish Hoek-Kommetjie-Noordhoek area — are some of South Africa's most valuable clays for ceramics, and are used mainly in the production of hotelware and porcelain dinnerware.

Described in the engineers' report as being an "ecologically sensitive" area, the 27-hectare site to be mined is mainly afforested, with a mixture of indigenous woody trees and alien vegetation.

According to a survey by Mr Ernst van Jaarsveld of Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, the area is heavily infested with exotic plants and there are few remains of the original mixture of mountain fynbos, strandveld and afro-montane forest vegetation.

The consulting engineers said it might be possible to rehabilitate the site back to fynbos after mining — if neighbours also cleared alien vegetation.

The new plant would operate around the clock and the quarry would be in operation from 7am to 5pm and "occasionally" on Saturdays.

## Noise, dust

Potential noise pollution is of major concern, and Serina would probably be obliged to fit special silencers to vehicles and to provide suitable shrubbery to absorb mechanical noise.

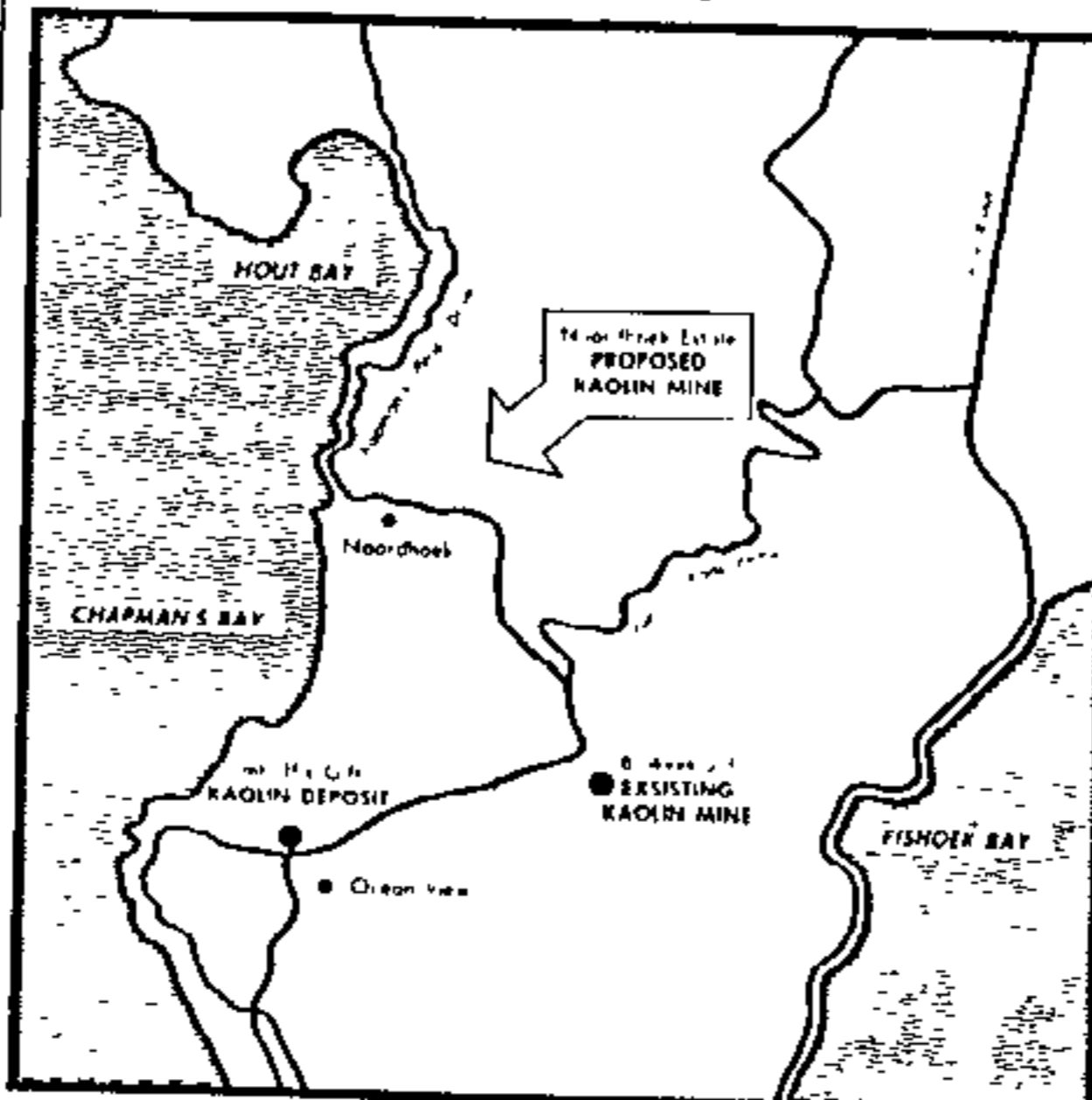
The new mine would also significantly increase traffic on the access road to Fish Hoek, which could mean redesigning the road completely.

Water pollution is also a possibility and the company would have to prevent polluted water entering the groundwater.

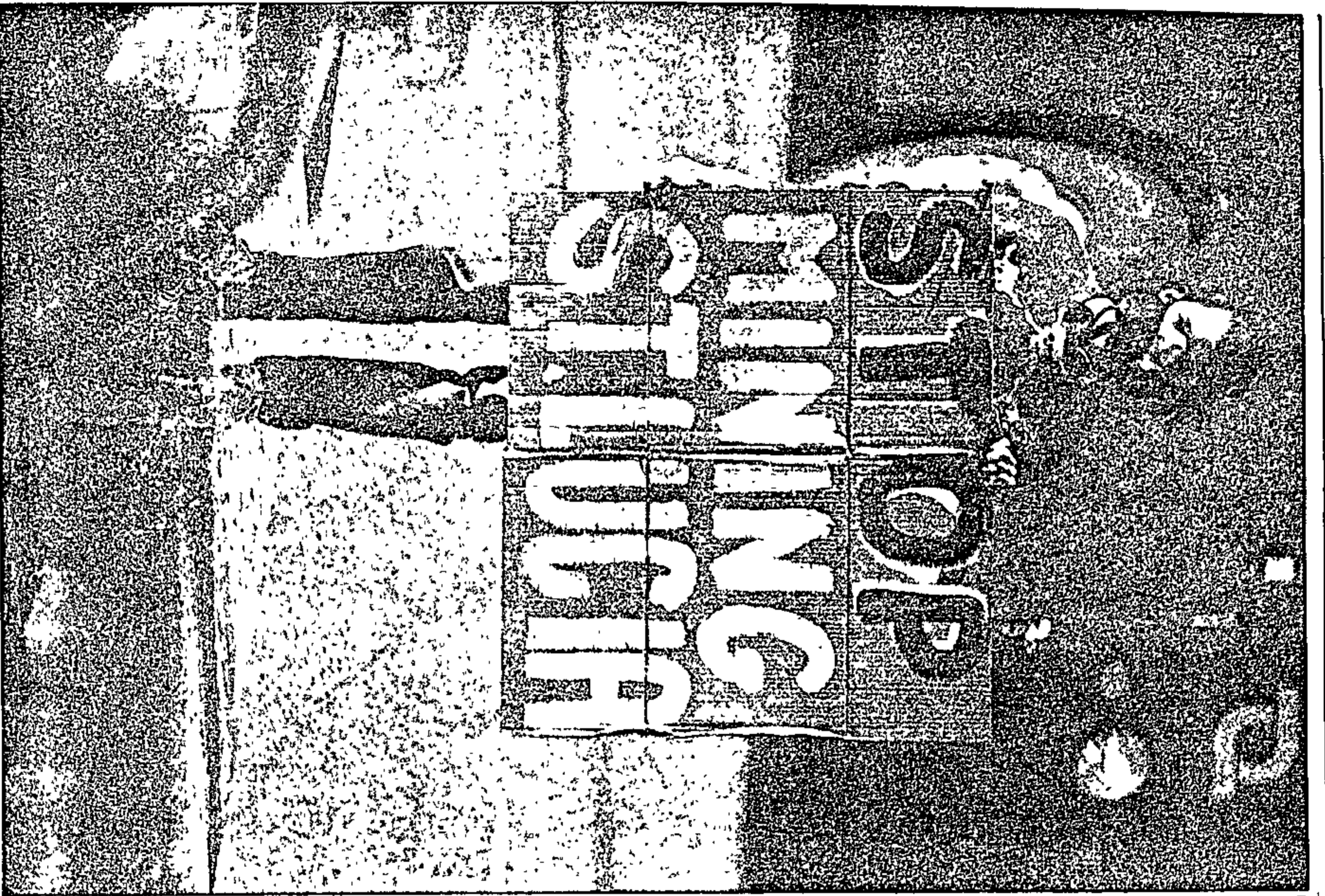
Other major concerns considered in an EIA would be erosion, the socio-economic structure of the region and the effect on the local community.

According to Serina, kaolin is a strategic mineral and its production saves South Africa about R25-million a year in foreign exchange. Production meets about 60 percent of the country's need but the new mine could eliminate imports.

The company also said it employed 145 people from the area at an annual cost of R1,8 million, "much of which is spent locally."



The map shows the location of the proposed kaolin mine at Noordhoek.



Students of the University of the Witwatersrand yesterday picketed against proposals to mine St Lucia. This was before the announcement that the mining company had postponed its plans. Picture by John Hogg.

# St Lucia's dunes are safe for now

21/9/89 56

By Dawn Barkhuizen

The public has won the first round in the battle to save Lake St Lucia's dunes from being mined. Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has postponed its application to mine titanium in the game reserve's eastern shores.

A company statement said yesterday. "After reviewing the preliminary environmental impact report, RBM has decided to defer its application to mine the dunes... until additional studies have been completed."

## PUBLIC OPPOSITION

But a spokesman for The Star's CARE campaign said last night. The battle is not won until the Government agrees that St Lucia cannot be mined in any circumstances.

RBM's announcement came amid furious public opposition, including student demonstrations and a protest from Natal farmers, who threatened to blockade roads if the mining went ahead.

More than 15 000 letters have already poured in to the CARE offices from people supporting the "Save St Lucia" drive.

RBM spokesman Mr Brian Taylor yesterday denied that the company's new approach was the result of mounting public pressure. He said it had been made on the recommendation of consultants compiling an environmental impact report.

"We have decided there are areas requiring further study,"

## Restrictions

The Star is being produced under the severe restrictions of the emergency regulations.

he said. "We will wait for the studies to be completed."

He said studies would comply with guidelines recommended by the Council for the Environment.

The St Lucia area is a rare wildlife paradise and major tourist attraction. RBM recently gave tens of thousands of rands to the Natal Parks Board and other wildlife bodies.

While the decision for further investigation has been lauded by some conservation groups, others say the project must be halted completely.

The Wildlife Society's conservation director, Mr Keith Cooper, said in Durban he was glad RBM had taken the public's wishes into consideration and not just blundered ahead.

Dr Ian Player, former conservator of Zululand and now on the board of the Natal Parks Board, said. "We must tell RBM that it is no good doing another environmental impact report. It is wasting its time. We will never condone the sacrifice of St Lucia — and that is what a mining operation means."

## PROFITS

RBM says the titanium it wants to mine, a mineral used in paint manufacture, and destined mainly for Canada (but the actual profits will go mostly to Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation shareholders in Britain), is worth about R5 000 million over 20 years.

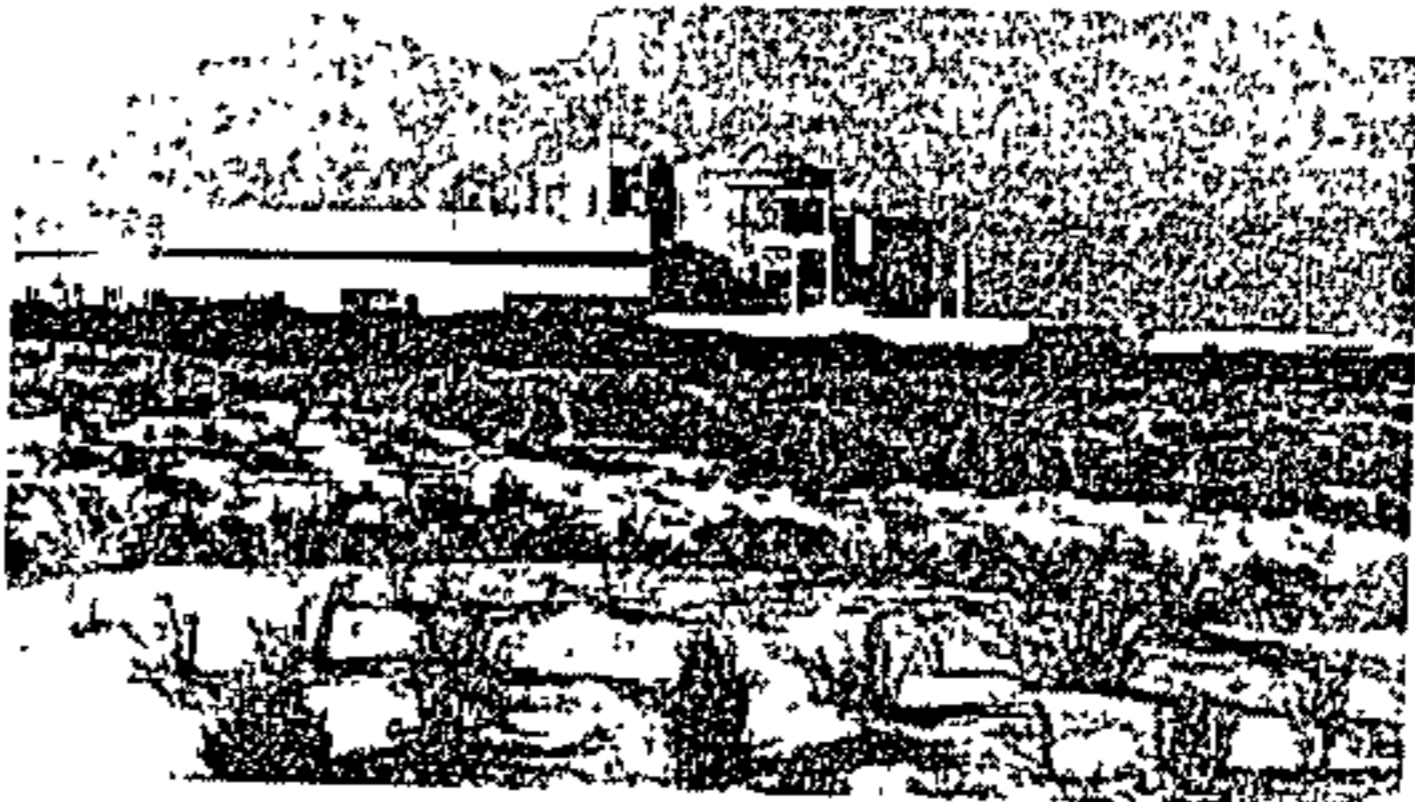
The CARE campaign spokesman said: "St Lucia cannot be sold to Canada or Britain at any price. Mining there will change the ecosystem and threaten one of South Africa's most beautiful areas."



**NUCLEAR POWER: THE OFFICIAL VERSION IS THAT IT'S NO THREAT TO THE NEIGHBOURS; THE CRITICS SAY THE THREAT WILL LAST CENTURIES**

# Koeberg's two faces

*Our nuclear programme is either safer than Sandy Bay ... or a menace for fifty thousand years*



Koeberg ... less radiation than the beach sand around it

**Eskom takes EDDIE KOCH on a tour to prove that Koeberg is perfectly safe**

WHEN a new nuclear power station has been fired up and starts to deliver a constant flow of megawatts, the plant is said, in the jargon of the industry, to have reached a "critical" phase.

During a tour of the Koeberg power station near Cape Town this month, Eskom assured journalists that this was merely an unfortunate choice of phrase and that nuclear-generated electricity was the cleanest and safest form of power available to South Africa.

But the Chernobyl catastrophe in the Soviet Union has established beyond doubt that the nuclear industry deserves the terminology it has inherited, says a lobby of local ecologists. And while other industrialised countries are exploring energy supplies that have less cataclysmic prospects, apartheid and international isolation are forcing South Africa along the path to nuclear power.

During its show-Koeberg-to-the-media tour, Eskom representatives highlighted the following facts to back their claim that during its "critical" phase the power station is, in fact, no threat to the ecology and the people around it:

- Radiation is a natural phenomenon and the levels emitted from the granite rocks on the beach of Sandy Bay, on the same coastline as Koeberg, is about 450 times the radiation that the power station adds to its immediate environment.

- The massive amounts of soot, dust and sulphur dioxide — which cause acid rain and pose a threat to the ozone layer — are absent from Koeberg. A coal-fired station the size of Koeberg churns out two million tons of ash a year; Koeberg produces just 22 tons of waste.

- Unlike the Chernobyl power station, the French-designed nuclear reactor in South Africa is protected by an encasement of steel and concrete that is capable of withstanding the impact of an out-of-control Jumbo jet and most explosions that might occur inside the reactor.

- The highest dose of radiation that an individual worker has ever been exposed to at the plant is little more than half the legal limit. During the seven years that it has supplied nuclear power, Eskom boasts that not a single worker has died from radiation exposure or any other form of industrial accident at Koeberg.

Earth Life Africa, a recently formed organisation of environmental activists, disagrees.

"There is a need to look at the whole chain of nuclear production, from the mining of uranium for fuel to the handling of deadly plutonium waste, before one can assess the amount of environmental contamination that a nuclear power station can produce," says representative Henk Coetzee.

Power stations like Koeberg create some of the most potent toxins known, during the reactive process. These include radioactive iodine, which concentrates in the thyroid gland and causes cancer; strontium-90, which is absorbed into human bone marrow causing highly malignant tumours as well as leukaemia; and plutonium, which breeds malignancies and can cause great deformities in a developing foetus.

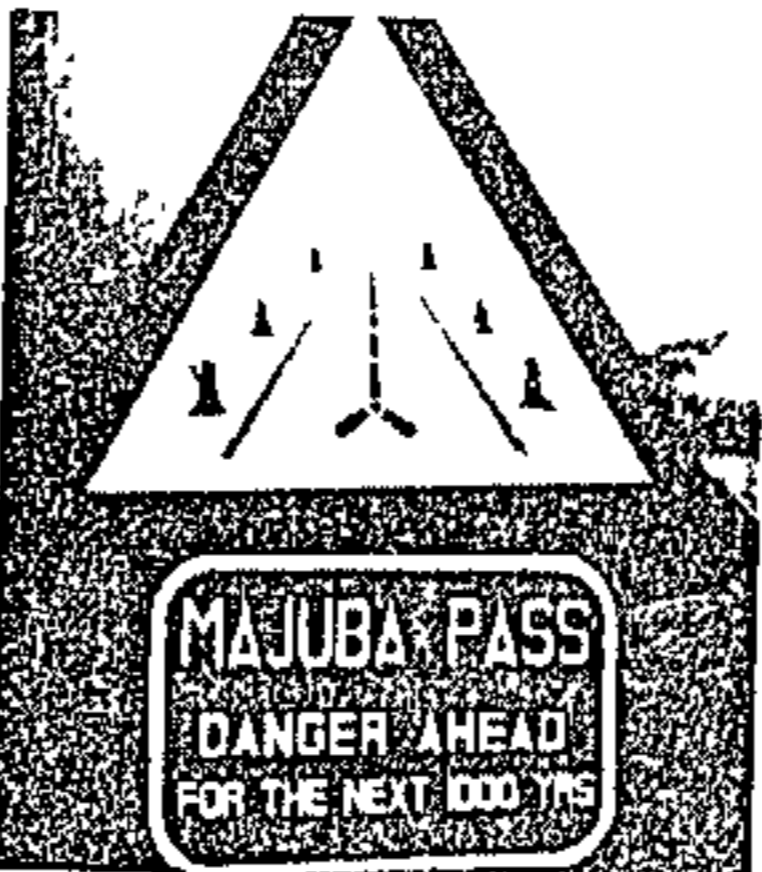
Plutonium, named after the god of the underworld, is potent enough for just one millionth of a gram to kill a human, says Coetzee, who works at the University of the Witwatersrand as a research geologist. Only 2.5kg of plutonium would be sufficient to kill every man, woman and child on earth.

The Koeberg power station produces 400kg of plutonium a year, says Coetzee. Eskom says the figure is closer to 100kg. The waste has a half-life of 25 000 years — it takes this long for half of the substance to decay. And for all of South Africa's energy needs to be supplied by nuclear power at least another 25 years.

berg's will have to be built. Eskom stores these lethal substances underwater in a spent-fuel tank at Koeberg, which is not located in the containment that protects the plant's reactors. Within 30 years these will have to be removed and stored permanently — and Eskom admits that it does not yet know how and where it will dispose of its high-level wastes.

Eskom's agreement with Framatome, the French company that built Koeberg, states that the spent-fuel must eventually be sent for reprocessing to France. There the wastes will be extracted. France will keep the plutonium for fear of it being used by Pretoria to make nuclear weapons. The rest will be sent back to South Africa for storage.

Most other nuclear countries plan to store their nuclear waste in deep under-



Sign erected by ecology activists after a truck spill nuclear waste on a Natal road derground caverns carved into rock that is impermeable to water. "But there is absolutely no place on earth

where it is safe to keep these substances," says Earth Life member Peter Lukey. "No rock type can be said to resist seepage or be safe from tremors and earthquakes for the thousands of years that the waste will be highly radioactive."

In 1976, dissident Soviet physicist Zhores Medvedev reported a vast nuclear explosion had been sparked by waste stored underground in the Urals. Whole towns had to be evacuated, rivers and lakes in the region were isolated by canals, and maps of the region were mysteriously redrawn. The Soviet Union, which denied the reports for years, has recently acknowledged the catastrophe.

In the year that the accident occurred, Sir Brian Flowers, head of a British Commission on Environmental Pollution, reported: "We must assume that these wastes will remain

dangerous and will need to be isolated from the biosphere for hundreds of thousands of years. In considering arrangements for dealing safely with such wastes, man is faced with time scales that transcend his experience."

South Africa's political instability exacerbates the dangers inherent in producing high-level nuclear waste, says Earth Life. There is no guarantee of social stability in the immediate future and the country's fragile international status makes it necessary for the waste to be transported over long distances before being reprocessed in France.

"Planes crash and ships sink," says Coetzee. "This arrangement greatly increases the chances of an accident." The potential for such a disaster was highlighted last year when a truck loaded with radioactive uranium powder, to be used in the manufacture of nuclear fuel rods, overturned on the Majuba Pass in Natal.

The government's concern for the security of its plants is reflected in a ruling that nuclear power stations may not be built within 100km of a foreign border and 50km from a "homeland" border. Ironically, while journalists were being shown around Koeberg, barricades were burning 30km away in the streets of Cape Town.

South Africa also does not have the capacity to recycle its spent nuclear fuel. If a French government decided to cut all ties with Pretoria, this country would be left with hundreds of kilograms of highly toxic waste and no immediate method of disposing of it.

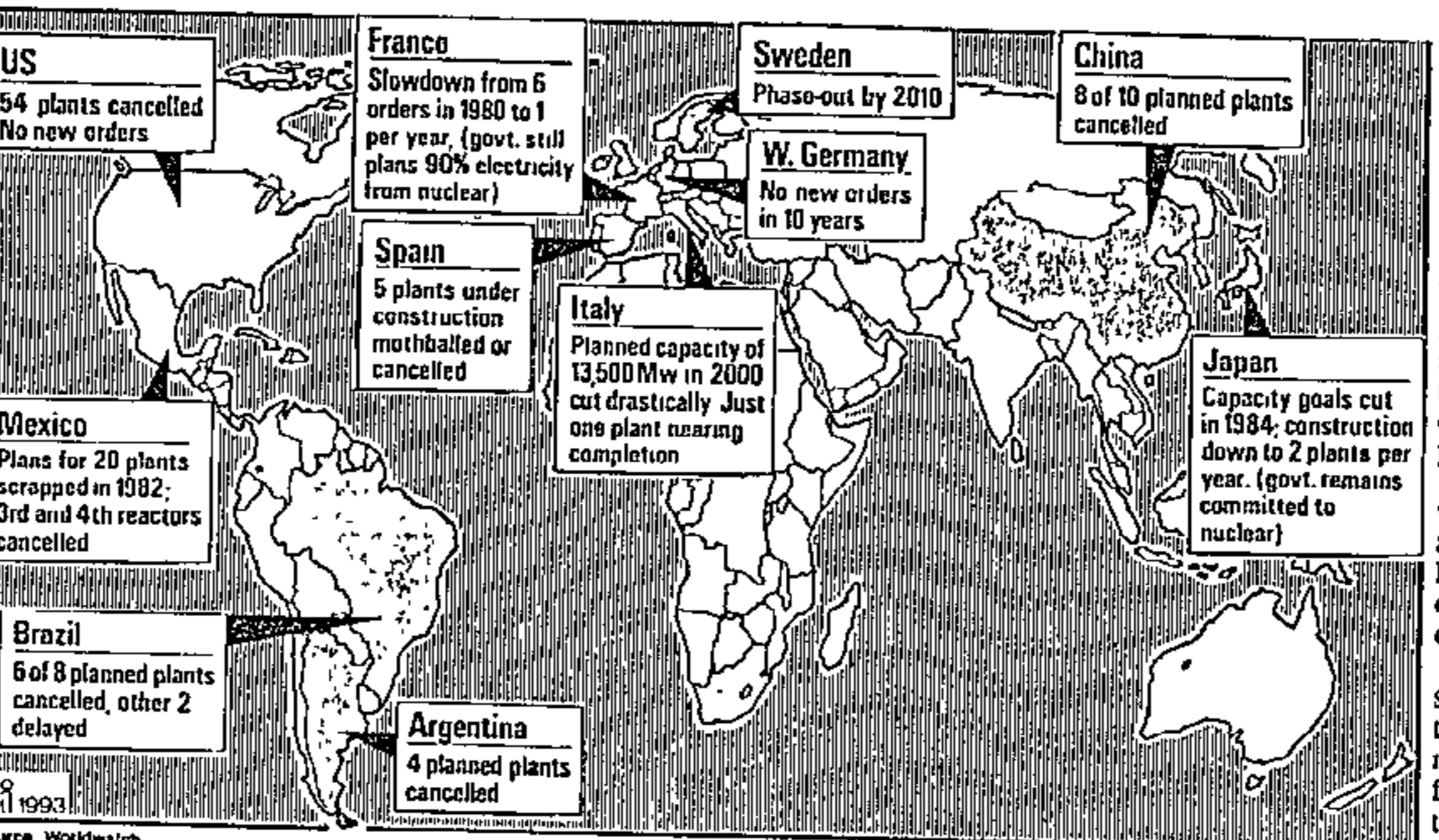
Earth Life is also concerned by the potential for nuclear power stations to undermine what civil liberties are left in this country. Koeberg is already surrounded by a massive security apparatus and some of these facilities are let to the SA Police for the housing of *kitskonstabels*.

The Nuclear Energy Act gives the minister of energy affairs powers that are as harsh as the media restrictions imposed by the State of Emergency. These include the discretion to bar the publication of any information related to a nuclear accident — making it theoretically possible for incidents to have occurred at Koeberg which the public is not aware of.

While apartheid and international isolation magnify the dangers that surround nuclear power stations, Pretoria's policies have cut the country off from cheaper and safer sources of power in Southern Africa.

Just one dam on the Zaire River, which would be cheaper to build than a power station and has none of the hazards associated with nuclear power, would be able to supply the whole of South Africa's electricity needs.

But the failure of Mozambique to supply even small amounts of electricity to South Africa from its Cahora Bassa Dam, because of sabotage from right-wing rebels, illustrates that the importation of hydro-electric power will become an option only when regional conflict and aggression in the region is put to a stop.



While the rest of the world cuts back on its nuclear power, apartheid is forcing us along this route.

## Satellites spot the the ideal toxic dump: Right here

THE construction of nuclear power stations in South Africa will increase the prospect of this country becoming a dumping ground for toxic waste from Europe and America.

Earth Life Africa this week released documents to the *Weekly Mail* that indicate South Africa is being targeted by the international nuclear industry as a prime site for the dumping of industrial poisons.

Dennis Toens, energy consultant for Eskom, told reporters on the visit to Koeberg this month that the existence of high-level radioactive waste at the plant meant South Africa would have to build a site to dispose of it.

"South Africa does not have enough waste to finance a mega plant to incinerate and dispose of it. Because of environmental pressure groups and population constraints there are not

many waste sites overseas," he said. "It would be better if these processes could be conducted here by scientists, rather than that the waste is brushed under the carpet. If this means the importation of limited amounts of overseas toxins then that's one way to go."

Earth Life representative Peter Lukey says South Africa is a highly industrialised country that has the expertise to handle the toxins but shares the Third World's desperate need for foreign currency. Satellite surveys have identified tracts of the Kalahari Desert as some of the most suitable land in the world for waste-storage.

Earth Life this week released a letter, sent by a waste dealer in Israel to a South African manufacturer of mining equipment, which illustrates how South Africa is being handed as

a potentially prime market for the international trade in toxins.

The letter, from Dr Avraham Azriel of Agam Consulting and Management in Tel Aviv, says: "As you may well know, most industrialised countries encounter nowadays the problem of storing dangerous waste materials (mostly from chemical and medical industries)... Presently, new deposit locations are required and in fact that is the main reason for approaching you."

"In order to give you an idea of overall funds rolling in this operation: wastes are shipped on average (sic) 750-ton ships and customer pays US\$4 a kilogram (about US\$3-million a ship). Foreseen gross activity is in the rough borders of US\$50-million, with each country... Agam claims to deal with waste

from 15 nations — including England, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Taiwan and South Korea — suggesting the annual turnover for a local company that imported waste would be in the region of a staggering US\$750-million.

"We have to get an official permit or letter from the government and yourself pointing out clearly that the country in question is ready and willing to accept these wastes, and what possibilities exist to store these wastes underground. Please advise as to what size of ships can enter port. Permits and contracts have to be for a period of 10 years," the letter says.

"Alongside payments per shipment to host government the operation will create jobs for many local people and cause remarkable environmental development."

# Pupils raise R1 000 for Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

*MCS 27/87 56*  
A GIFT of R1 000 raised by pupils at Stephen Road Primary School, Lotus River, has helped the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to soar beyond the R30 000 mark today.

The money, collected within a week by pupils, swelled the fund to R30 510,50. They raised the money mainly from school collection lists and the proceeds of a debutante dance.

Headmaster Mr Kenneth Williams said their combined fund-raising efforts were "particularly" significant because about two thirds of the school's pupils came from under-privileged families.

"They know what difficulties and hardships face under-privileged families and were so moved by the Klawer lorry disaster that they approached me to issue them with collection lists. They also asked teachers to help them organise a debutante dance to raise money to help the families of victims of the accident."

Among the other gifts sent this week were donations of R5 000 from the Mobil Foundation of South Africa, R750 from the Methodist Church of South Africa, Ottery, R616 from Paul Devereux and Staff, R200 from the Dove Club of Athlone, and R200 F A Smithers of Saldanha. Dozens of other readers sent smaller gifts from R5 to R100.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of accident victims with a R1 000 cheque. An additional R200 has also been given by the community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches advise on the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

22/9/89

PROMOTIONS

(56) *Final*

### Greening grocers

Supermarkets in the US and Europe have taken conservation issues seriously since the early Eighties. Now at least one local supermarket chain is following suit.

Pick 'n Pay has launched an advertising campaign featuring a 14-point programme to cut pollution and promote health.

Using the slogan: Don't let the 20th Century kill the 21st, Pick 'n Pay is pushing a host of green causes, such as organic foods, unleaded gas and ozone-friendly compounds for use in aerosols, refrigerators and air-conditioners.

Of course, attaching your name to a good cause never hurt sales. Befriending the environment is aimed at boosting the bottom line as well as protecting the Earth - - above and below.

Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman, astute at promoting his business, maintains the goals dovetail.

"I'm like a jockey in the race," he says. "I sense which way to go and I steer the company in that direction. Yes, it is good for the company, but what is good for Pick 'n Pay can still be good for the environment."

How much will Pick 'n Pay do for the environment? The fine print of the 14-point programme commits the chain to little concrete action. Instead of promising to take steps — such as opening recycling centres at its stores and replacing plastic bags with paper bags — the chain says only that it will encourage recycling and the use of paper. Several of the points are outside of the chain's control.

Pick 'n Pay claims the threat of bombs keeps it from installing bottle banks for glass and plastic containers and that the higher cost of paper bags mitigates against a switch from plastic.

The chain has, however, begun work on some of its pledges.

It's opened its first store with ozone-friendly refrigerators, in Bloemfontein; its No-Name products are now all environment-friendly; and it took part in the nationwide tree planting on Arbour Day.

Checkers and OK Bazaars say they have also taken green steps. Checkers MD Clive Weil says he believes in making environmental changes at his stores before starting an advertising campaign but he is sceptical about the sector's ability to carry out a successful green campaign.

One reason is the cost. Replacing the refrigeration systems in all the country's supermarkets will run into hundreds of millions of rand, Weil says. He also believes the environmental awareness of shoppers lags that of retailers. By comparison, consumers in the

US and Europe caught the conservation fever first and told stores to adapt or lose business.

Checkers put paper bags on trial in a few stores but shoppers ignored them because they don't have handles. Eventually they were withdrawn. ■

## Mining vs nature

The outcry over plans to mine the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia is subsiding slightly now that government is forcing Richards Bay Minerals to suspend its scheme pending a full environmental impact study.

This does not mean, however, that the debate over the proposed titanium mining operation is over; it will continue but in a more rational and less emotional tone.

The issue is simple, which is more beneficial to the country — short-term cashing in on the favourable world titanium market or long-term benefits of turning the area into an international nature reserve and tourist attraction? Higher foreign exchange earnings are an immediate gain, and, to a lesser extent, more jobs. Long-term benefits are harder to measure.

The value of mineral deposits in the St Lucia area is pegged at R5bn, at current world prices. If 3 000 t/hour were mined 24 hours a day the company would need 15 to 18 years to work the 25 km strip between St Lucia and Cape Vidal.

Environmentalists can't throw any numbers about but they argue that the richness and diversity of the land and water systems of St Lucia represent a non-depletable and potentially greater source of foreign exchange as an international tourist reserve. The tourist windfall, they say, will be even greater if the estuary — the largest of its type in Africa — is linked with reserves further north, in accordance with still sketchy plans. What environmentalists cannot do at this stage is put a figure to this value, though they are working on projections.

An interesting feature of the St Lucia controversy is the depth of public support conservationists draw. The anti-mining campaign ranges from petitions circulated in Durban supermarkets to schools sending objections to the company's parent in Canada — Quebec Iron and Titanium.

Unexpected support comes from sugar farmers on the North Coast. After losing one of their big export markets when Canada hit the sugar industry with sanctions seven years ago, farmers are irritated that a Canadian company now stands to make vast profits by exploiting minerals in their backyard. ■

# Fight to save St Lucia goes on

By EDDIE KOCH

ENVIRONMENTAL groups say this week's announcement that a multinational company has postponed plans to mine sand dunes near St Lucia in Natal will not put a halt to their campaign for the rare ecological area to be conserved.

Canadian-owned Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) this week said it had deferred an application for mining rights in the area so that it could carry out a thorough study of the impact that its scheme will have on the area. The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa welcomed the news but warned that RBM may still go ahead with its plans to mine the dunes for titanium after the survey had been completed.

The study will comply with regulations laid down by the Council for the Environment, a body that advises the government on ecological issues, and will take between six months and two

years to complete.

The Wildlife Society, together with a range of other organisations, last week launched an unprecedented protest against the company's scheme as well as indications that government approval for it was imminent.

RBM says the deferment was not motivated by the public outcry.

The Wildlife Society says it will also use the tremendous public and media interest that has been generated to try to have other threats to the area resolved. These include the commercial planting of pine trees in the area that are encroaching on high-water grasslands and causing the destruction of indigenous riverine forests in the catchment area of the Mkuze River, that feeds the St Lucia estuary.

56 WMAI

22-28/9/89

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# Only your signature can protect St Lucia's dunes from the miners

RICHARD Bay Minerals, according to well-informed sources, is going to insist on mining St Lucia's coastal dunes as soon as it has rewritten its environmental impact reports.

The petition to save Lake St Lucia game reserve from becoming a mining area is the only method the public can use to save off the miners.

St Lucia 231159

Meanwhile, one interesting difference between the St Lucia petition and the petition, 10 years ago, to save Kruger Park from a similar fate, has emerged according to petitioners "everybody" wants to sign the "Save St Lucia" petition.

In the Kruger Park petition — for which The Star and the Wildlife Society reaped a decisive 130 000 signatures — some people who were approached refused to sign, mainly because they believed Iscor was more valuable than the Kruger Park.

Another difference in this petition — hundreds of black people are signing. By last night, 36 000 signatures had been collected.

JAMES CLARKE

A Pretoria Technikon student, Mr Calvin Stead, who delivered well more than 2 000 signatures to The Star, told me: "Nobody refused."

When Mr Tom Sutherland, on a No 22 bus to Cyrillene in Johannesburg, asked the woman sharing his seat to sign, she took the form to all the others on the bus.

Two Std 5 children from Cyrillene Primary School, Lisa Dorfman and Menelaos Lagoudis, brought more than 2 100 signatures to The Star. An accompanying parent said: "The children want to be able to see St Lucia the way it is now."

A Sandton woman said: "I went to the cake shop and I had to sign. Then I got to the hairdresser who had his own list. I

said I had already signed but he insisted — sign, or he wouldn't do my hair." Catherine Adams and her friends collected 1 210 in Fourways. Just over 500 signatures came from Edgars offices; other wads of signed petitions came from First National Bank's head office staff and from Nashua and South African Airways.



# St Lucia plan still hot issue

W/E 4/6/89 23/9/89  
By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

(56)



Picture: IAN MACDONALD

**The Makaketaan Peninsula of Lake St Lucia is an internationally-rated conservation area. In the background are the ecologically-sensitive dune forests which would be destroyed if strip mining for titanium was approved.**

A PROPOSAL to strip mine the ecologically-sensitive dune forest areas of St Lucia in northern Natal has led to the biggest and most concerted protest by environmentalists since the De Hoop saga of the early 1980s.

Canadian mining company Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) announced this week it had deferred its application to mine the dunes until further studies had been completed, and Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé is on record as saying that no decision will be made without a "full investigation".

However, the controversial issue has touched the public consciousness, and conservationists are unlikely to lessen pressure in the months to come.

Ironically, if the proposed mining operations do get the go-ahead, South Africa is likely to find itself accused of breaching an important international conservation treaty affecting both Lake St Lucia and De Hoop.

## International responsibility

The two areas are registered as wetlands of international importance by the Ramsar Convention, which protects migratory bird species.

In terms of the convention, South Africa has accepted international responsibility to preserve the areas and to guarantee their continued existence.

The government would be severely embarrassed in conservation circles if it were seen to have allowed any registered wetland to be damaged or destroyed.

At stake for the mining company are deposits of rare minerals — particularly titanium — found in the dunes to the east of Lake St Lucia, in the area known as the Eastern Shores.

According to some reports, the titanium reserves of St Lucia are estimated to be worth R5-billion, which could generate as much as R1-billion for the government by way of taxes and other indirect revenues.

The decision to apply for the mining rights in this area followed a rejection of applications in the United States and Madagascar — mainly because of opposition from conservationists.

Although RBM has won awards for previous efforts at rehabilitating land, after mining in northern Natal, its activities have remained controversial and ecologists are adamant that it would not be possible to re-establish the natural dune forest systems of St Lucia after mining.

The forests are recognised as a unique ecosystem supporting the greatest natural diversity of any ecosystem in the country, according to ecologist Mr Ian Macdonald of the University of Cape Town.

"These forests are the real extensions of tropical biota into South Africa. "This mining is not like gold mining, for example — it will mean the total destruction of the whole ecosystem," he said.

Mr Macdonald argues for a national strategy to protect dune systems all the way along the southern African coast, noting that there are also

threats to dune forests in other areas, such as the Transkei.

"This mining would, in reality, make the whole St Lucia conservation complex a non-entity."

The Natal Parks Board said it had learned only two weeks ago that RBM planned to dam the Umfolozi River and inundate part of the Dukuduku forest to supply water for the dune mining.

No environmental impact report had been made on the plan, the board said, and chairman Mr C Dering Stainbank said that, as far as he knew, "no environmental studies at all have been done on the impact of the water supply proposals and this aspect has been omitted from the brief of RBM's environmental consultants".

However, a top official in the Department of Environment Affairs decried as "nonsense" the board's claim that the government had been on the verge of approving this part of the project.

Earlier, in a strong letter to State President Mr F W de Klerk, the Wildlife Society said it had been invited to comment on the terms of reference for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) called for by the Department of Environment Affairs and financed by the mining company.

The letter, signed by society president Dr Nolly Zaloumis, said: "In our view, the EIA is inadequate and incomplete, and for these reasons cannot be used as a basis for a decision of such importance as this.

"Furthermore, the EIA was commissioned on the basis that mining would, as a fact, proceed and it does not properly evaluate whether, in the public interest, the option to mine is preferable to the option not to mine."

One reason the government might have for wanting to approve the mining project would be to give it an effective monopoly over the world supply of titanium, widely used in the arms industry for aircraft and warheads.

But so far thousands of signatures have been collected for two national petitions, and all the major conservation organisations — including the umbrella Habitat Council, the Wildlife Society and the SA Nature Foundation — have expressed deep concern.

## Farmers threaten blockades

In Johannesburg, students of the University of the Witwatersrand this week picketed against the proposed mining developments. Local farmers have threatened to blockade roads should mining go ahead; more than 15 000 letters have poured into the Care campaign offices of Weekend Argus's sister newspaper Sunday Star and the Democratic Party has also expressed opposition.

Most significantly, leaders of extra-parliamentary groups such as the United Democratic Front have indicated that they might enter the fray.

By taking a stance on an environmental issue for the first time — with their vast memberships and organisational ability — such groups would introduce an element into the conservation debate which neither the government nor existing conservation bodies could ignore.

# Little people win St Lucia Round 1

BY RYAN CRESSWELL

THE first round of a bitter battle to save Lake St Lucia's forested dunes from being mined has gone to the little man.

The David and Goliath battle has largely been fought between ordinary people who are concerned about conservation and a giant company, Richards Bay Minerals (RBM).

This week RBM announced it had postponed its application to mine titanium on the Natal game reserve's eastern shores.

Meanwhile, 16 organisations concerned about the St Lucia issue have banded together to form a larger body, provisionally called the Zululand Environment Alliance (ZEAL).

Spokesman Jim Phelps of Empangeni said the fight would go on to get the entire area declared inviolate in terms of the Environmental and Seashores Acts.

He said ZEAL was worried about the full Environmental Impact Assessment that will be carried out in the area. The body believed even the possibility of mining should not be entertained.

Mr Phelps said: "The people who have joined ZEAL are from all walks of life. We have shopkeepers, teachers, housewives, lawyers and farmers. They are good, ordinary, simple people concerned about their environment.

"Even the fishermen are involved. At our inaugural meeting on Monday night, two angling clubs were represented and we will contact more clubs. The fishermen are out there in the early morning appreciating nature. We will just help them realise the broader issues.

"Lots of women are also involved. They played an important part monitoring things at Richards Bay. Our aim is to reach schools and wildlife associations as well as people in the street."

# SA and black states link to form ivory cartel

Times 24/9/87.

SOUTH AFRICA and five black neighbours have sunk their racial and ideological quarrels to form an international ivory-selling cartel, angrily thumbing their noses at the developed world's "eco-freaks".

Announcing the formation of the cartel at a Press conference in Harare, Zimbabwe's South African-born Minister of Natural Resources, Mrs Victoria Chitepo, lashed out at the ignorance of the Green movement

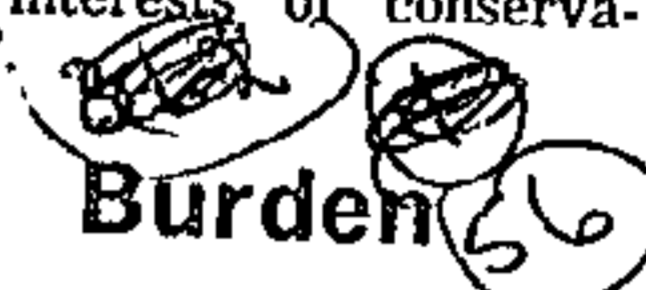
By DON JACOBS  
Harare

in North America and Western Europe over the realities of elephant conservation in southern Africa.

While poaching has decimated herds in Kenya and Tanzania, exploding elephant populations in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique have to be culled to check damage by marauding tuskers to the crops of peasant farmers.

imports of ivory or elephant-skin products.

A united front by southern African states would defuse expected protest marches by the Green movement at next month's scheduled meeting in Switzerland of the Convention for Trade in Endangered Species, announcing a rejection of the ban and a "common marketing strategy in the interests of conservation".



## Walkin' back

FORMER child star Helen Shapiro is releasing a new single — 28 years after topping the charts with Walking Back To Happiness.

## Call for aid

THE Organisation of African Unity has urged members and the world community to raise more than R600-million to help destitute people in Angola.

## United

The statement said Africa was "frankly tired of the patronising approach" of the vocal Green lobbyists in the developed world who failed to consult southern African governments before demanding the European Community and the United States ban

"For years the rural people of Zimbabwe have carried the burden of large elephant populations in the country," protested Mrs Chitepo. "We cannot allow international conservation politics to divert us from our primary responsibilities."

Game rangers say southern Africa's estimated 200 000 elephants are in no danger of extinction.

# Conservationist lashes Hout Bay plan

CAPE Environmental Trust chairman Mr Graeme Binckes has lashed out at developers in Hout Bay who, he said, regarded the environment "as existing purely for exploitation and personal gain".

Mr Binckes said developers were facing "increasing public opprobrium" and delays in completing projects because of the "initial failure to consult public opinion, which is increasingly percipient, forceful and well-organised".

In a statement to the Cape Times, Mr Binckes said: "Those concerned for our fragile environment and its long-term

economic contribution are increasingly nauseated by the bluster of certain developers who look upon it as existing purely for exploitation and personal gain."

"Unprecedented environmental pressure" in Hout Bay, he said, had resulted in much of its environmental quality being eroded.

"With the growth of tourism the natural environment of the Peninsula, combined with its historical buildings, represents its strongest economic base and must not be allowed to deteriorate further for the purposes of short-term

profit."

Mr Binckes said the controversial Hout Bay Sentinel project had resulted in rubble and red clay being allowed to "cascade down the mountainside". In certain tidal conditions, he claimed, this was washed up on Hout Bay and Flora Bay beaches.

He suggested that when "sensitive areas" were involved, the "relevant authority require the provision of bank guarantees in order to ensure a development will in fact be carried out to completion in the form approved".

## No further petrol price hike this year, says NEC

B 10am  
25/9/89

ZILLA EFRAT

(56) ~~56~~

ANOTHER petrol price increase this year was "completely" unlikely, a National Energy Council (NEC) spokesman confirmed at the weekend.

He said at present everything looked prosperous on the fuel pricing front.

A petrol price increase was unlikely on the cost factor side, but could become possible if there were dramatic changes in the rand exchange rate or crude oil prices.

He said gloomy predictions in the first half of this year that SA would have another petrol price rise in October or November had not come true.

According to a statement released by the NEC, in August motorists in the PWV area underpaid 0,02c a litre for 93 octane petrol.

The NEC said the weakening in the exchange rate in August increased the rand value of the international list prices of fuels.

This resulted in a swing from the over-recovery of 0,011c a litre for 93 octane experienced in the second half of July, after the 6c a litre price increase on July 15.

Motorists underpaid 8,743c a litre in the first half of July and 12,489c a litre in June.

In August, the diesel price remained in an over-recovery situation. Motorists overpaid 0,894c a litre, after paying 1,374c a litre too much in the second half of July.

In the first half of July, before the 2c a litre rise in the diesel price on July 15, motorists had been paying 1,109c a litre too little.

# Hopes for new gold mine's listing

SOUTH Deep — a possible new JCI gold mine south of its Western Areas gold mine — will hopefully be listed separately on the JSE within the current year (to June 1990), says Freddev chairman Vaughan Bray in his 1989 review.

He says the project has been delayed following the need to optimise the mining plan, so as to reduce initial capital expenditure requirements and improve the early flow of revenue.

But, he says: "Studies show that the financial viability of the project has been enhanced as a result of these changes."

The gold deposit which the South Deep project encompasses is possibly the largest in the world — but it presents enormous problems for mining engineers.

The biggest problem is depth; the gold reefs — the Ventersdorp Contact Reef and the Massive and Individual Reef units of

REINIE BOOYSEN

the Upper Elsburg Reef zone — are between 3 000m and 3 400m deep, resulting in very high ambient rock temperatures and highly stressed rock conditions.

The other technical problem is the sheer width of the main gold reef to be exploited — the Elsburg Massive, which is between 50m and 150m thick. An SA gold mine's reef width is ideally around a metre, and the empty space left behind after ore extraction is supported against rockfalls using timber, steel and concrete pillars.

But the Elsburg Massive presents a completely novel situation. Analysts suspect JCI will first mine the Ventersdorp Contact Reef to de-stress the rock structure before tackling the Elsburg Massive underneath.

# Mandela: govt mum

MIKE ROBERTSON

GOVERNMENT has refused to be drawn into speculation that Nelson Mandela will be released before the weekend.

Asked about a report carried in Beeld which said there were rumours that Mandela could be released before the weekend, Constitutional Development Minister Gerit Viljoen said: "No comment".

A senior government source told Business Day last week that Mandela's release could be expected in January or early February. The source said Mandela's release would be preceded by the release of other long-term prisoners and would be part of a controlled process for getting serious negotiations off the ground.

The rumours also had it that Mandela would be the main speaker at the re-burial of Paramount Chief Sabata Dalindyebo.

President F W de Klerk's new Cabinet will meet tomorrow.

# Poison spill cuts Nelspruit's water supply

PUMPS supplying water to Nelspruit were shut down yesterday after poison was detected in the Crocodile River following an accidental chemical spill at the Ngodwana Paper Mill belonging to Sappi.

A Sappi spokesman confirmed that a "minor spill" of toxic chemicals had taken place on Saturday morning.

The chemicals — sodium compounds and hydrolised lignins — were spilt into Ngodwana River from the Ngodwana Paper Mill in the eastern Transvaal.

Sappi Kraft Mill GM Barry Melrose said he regretted that the spill into the Ngodwana River had also caused the chemicals

DANIEL SIMON

to enter the Elands River which in turn flows into the Crocodile River.

Immediate action had been taken by management and staff at the mill, he said.

Strategic points along the river were manned and samples of the water taken at regular intervals. The dilution levels reflected in their samples were "not toxic".

"The outlet valve of the Ngodwana Dam was opened to dilute any chemicals and reduce the possible effects these may have on the river.

"We are aware there have been reports of fish dying and we understand that these are mainly Yellow Fish.

"Studies are being made at this moment, along with other interested bodies, to determine the extent of any impact," he said. Melrose said he believed the affected fish were those from the source of the spillage which washed downstream after the dam discharge valve was opened.

He added mill management had been working in close co-operation with Water Affairs, local farmers and the Irrigation Board to ensure "every effort" was being made.

## Key Market Movements — Sept 22 to Sept 25

# Bank boosts fund by R10 000

Staff Reporters

ARRUS 26/9/89 (56)  
A DONATION of R10 000 has been made by First National Bank to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund, swelling it to more than R43 000.

Regional general manager Mr Bob Wood, in handing over the cheque, extended the bank staff's sympathy to the families bereaved by the tragedy.

Readers have sent in a stream of donations ranging from R5 to large amounts.

The Mobil Foundation of South Africa has contributed R5 000 and Caltex R10 000.

The Argus launched the fund with R1 000 for the families of the accident victims.

An additional R200 has been given by community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute should send their donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg 8018.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which administers a fund that helps communities in times of dire need.

The church's regional welfare branches make recommendations about the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

50 000 (56)  
Star 26/9/89  
support  
St Lucia  
campaign

By James Clarke

The Star's Save St Lucia petition has topped the 50 000 mark — and signatures continue to pour in.

Up to last night 51 111 signatures had been received from shops and offices, from schools, technicians and universities as well as from individuals, some of whom have collected more than 1 000.

A mining company wants to mine titanium in Lake St Lucia dunes and sell the metal to Canada. It has been forced to withdraw its application in the face of a public outcry and because the Government felt it had dismissed certain environmental side-effects.

The company is to try again — and St Lucia's dunes are not protected.

The Star's CARE campaign believes the only way to save St Lucia is to show the Government that people want it proclaimed as inviolate.

The petition continues for at least a fortnight.

● Write: "We the undersigned oppose the mining of St Lucia and demand the assurance that the Government regards St Lucia as inviolate" and then get everyone you know to sign. Send to CARE, The Star, Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.



# Uncertainty over effects of Sappi spillage (56)

CONCERN is mounting over the extent of the water pollution problem caused by the spill of process chemicals from Sappi's eastern Transvaal Ngodwana paper mill at the weekend.

Thousands of fish have already died and the Nelspruit Town Council took the precautionary step on Monday of switching off all pumps drawing water for domestic use in the area.

It is still not clear what effect the sludge of ligno sulphonates and soap skimmings will have on the ecological balance of the Elands and Crocodile rivers.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa

BIDcom 27/1/89

DANIEL SIMON

(WSSA) said yesterday it was alarmed over the increasing incidence of cases of "severe pollution" to rivers as a result of industrial leakage. In a statement, WSSA PRO Erina Botha said the organisation wanted to see the results of the investigation made public, including the causes and the preventative action taken.

WSSA's Nelspruit centre chairman B Guerin yesterday said it was apparent that a water pollution problem of considerable proportions had arisen as a result of certain undisclosed actions at the Sappi mill.

"This situation, and its satisfactory resolution, is of major local concern and may indeed have international implications should its effects be felt either in the form of human or livestock fatalities along the Crocodile River as it flows through Ka-Ngwane and ultimately Mozambique."

Guerin said the centre was certain Sappi shared its desire to see the current issue resolved satisfactorily but the overriding consideration of all parties was to "eliminate" the possibility of any further ecological disruption of this magnitude.

To Page 2

Man Mark

## Sappi spill (56)

Sappi said yesterday the effluent spill, which received wide publicity, had created fears of possible poisoning of the rivers that were totally unfounded.

"No poisonous chemicals entered the river at all. Neither the ligno sulphonates nor the soap skimmings are toxic," Sappi said in a statement.

It said that although there had been reports of fish gasping for air along the river, this was probably related to the

sludge of soap skimmings which was slowly diluting as it moved down the river course.

"The chemical oxygen demand in the river rose dramatically because of the presence of these materials and this would have affected the fish in the immediate vicinity of the spill source."

"There is absolutely no threat to any human, animal or plant life from the pollution and the quality of the river was normal within hours of the event."

BIDcom 27/1/89

From Page 1

# Alarm as sewage discolours sea

CAT.  
Times  
27/9/89  
S6



**KEEP OUT . . .** A large warning to Capetonians at Three Anchor Bay. "I wouldn't put my foot in the water," Mouille Point resident Mrs Gaby Woalsh, said.

Staff Reporter

DISCHARGE from the broken sewage outfall pipe at Green Point is discolouring the sea for several hundred metres — and forming a "cesspool" at its epicentre.

This is dramatically illustrated by an aerial picture taken by a local photographer who flew over the shoreline at the weekend.

Taken from a height of about 1 000m, this and other pictures made available to the Cape Times show a "bubbling" centre close inshore, with a brown stain spreading out from the the centre in concentric circles.

The stain extends for hundreds of metres towards Granger Bay.

According to the photographer, Mr Rob Schapiro, the epicentre looked "like a cesspool" and was surrounded by sea-gulls.

He estimated that the sewage was "bubbling out" about 100m offshore.

According to city engineer Mr Des Riley, the pipe was in fact discharging 280m out to sea.

Mouille Point and Three Anchor Bay residents and visitors yesterday expressed disgust at the state of the coastline and slammed the city council for "inefficiency".

Mr Jack Benatan of Westridge flats,

To page 3

From page 1

Mouille Point, described the effluent pipeline as "a waste of the taxpayers' money" and said a sewage treatment plant should instead have been built inland.

Miss Jessie Oswald of Vredenhof flats, Mouille Point, was concerned at the "terrible damage" to marine life along the coastline.

Mrs Winnie Valentine of Beach Road, Mouille Point, said smells off the sea two weeks ago were "so bad residents were worried it could affect their health".

Mrs Doreen McArthur of Beach Road, said: "Although I don't swim any more, it's awful for those who still want to."

Mr Riley told the Cape Times that interim work on the pipeline, to take the discharge further out,

could go ahead depending on the cost of tenders now being awaited.

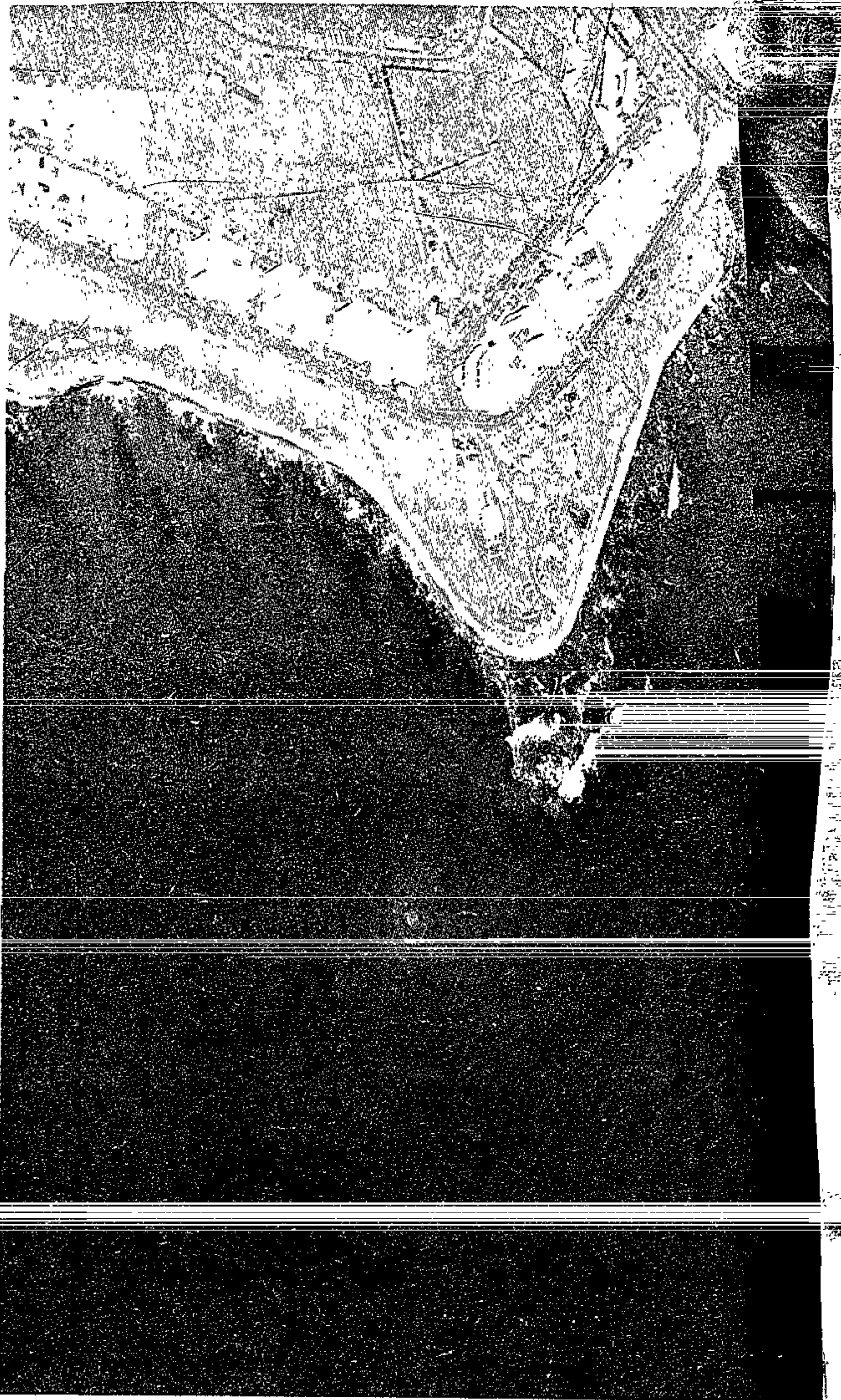
If the interim work went ahead, it would be scheduled to finish in about mid-December, Mr Riley said.

Mr Riley said he believed that water that did not meet the European Community's standard for acceptable bathing water extended from Granger Bay on the harbour side of the pipe, to "half-way between the Mouille Point lighthouse and Three Anchor Bay" on the other side.

If the water was looking murky at Three Anchor Bay, it was probably unrelated to the outfall pipe, he said.

The chairman of the Captour board, Mr Louis Kreiner, said the area "receiving publicity in regard to the sewage outfall" was a very small rocky one.

P.T.O.



**SPREADING STAIN . . .** The picture shows how the water discoloration from the broken sewage outfall pipe at Green Point reaches as far as Three Anchor Bay, the tiny bay at the top of this picture. Council authorities have denied this. Discharge from the pipe forms a "cesspool" at its epicentre, with a brown stain spreading out from the centre in concentric circles..

Picture: ROB SCHAPIRO, Flying Eye

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## Attempt<sup>(56)</sup> to resolve dispute<sup>(2/8)</sup>

By Melody McDougall,  
Vereeniging Bureau

Top management from the Rand Water Board gathered in Vereeniging yesterday in an attempt to settle the dispute surrounding the dismissal of about 400 employees at the Zuikerbosch pumping station outside the town.

The workers were dismissed on Friday after they had apparently participated in illegal strike action since last Tuesday.

The employees were demanding the immediate release of a shop steward from police custody and the removal of the hostel manager from the pumping station.

A Rand Water Board spokesman in Johannesburg confirmed the board's top management were involved in discussions at the pumping station yesterday in a bid to resolve the matter.

According to the spokesman the employees' grievances have been addressed as fully as possible by management, while representations have also been made to secure the release of the shop steward from custody.

She stressed that the board was not instrumental in the steward's arrest. She said despite numerous appeals to the employees and negotiations with union officials and representatives of the workforce — and an undertaking by the representatives and the union that the workers would return to work — the employees left management with no other alternative but to dismiss them after they failed to resume work by the 11 am deadline on Friday.

Water supply to reservoirs resumed

# Polluted river given all-clear by CSIR

By Clyde Johnson,  
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Using tests specially developed for emergency situations, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) last night declared water from the Elands River, polluted at the weekend by spillage from Sappi's Ngodwana paper mill, safe for human consumption.

Nelspruit's town clerk, Mr Dirk van Rooyen, confirmed last night that CSIR tests had proved that the Sappi spillage posed no danger to people.

Taps from the river system to Nelspruit's reservoirs were opened at 8 pm and water immediately started flowing in.

## First priority

Mr van Rooyen said he was relieved that all hazards had been removed. Priority number one was "the safety of our people and we could not afford to take any chances". He said gardening water restrictions would remain in force until all reservoirs were full.

The CSIR's project leader in biotoxicity testing, Miss Laetitia Slabbert, told The Star last night that water samples were

flown to Pretoria at 2.45 pm yesterday. By 6 pm it had been established that the water was safe for human and animal consumption.

She said the toxicity of the water had been significantly diluted because of the flow of the river.

"At this stage we have only tested samples from the abstraction point for Nelspruit's drinking water," she added.

The Elands River flows into the Crocodile River, which flows past Nelspruit. The spillage killed thousands of fish and polluted the water up to Nelspruit.

Angry farmers from as far as Komatipoort, conservationists and townfolk spoke yesterday of organising a protest outside the mill to demonstrate their feelings at what has been described as "a negligent and unforgivable incident".

Sappi's managing director, Mr Eugene van As, said there had never been any poison in the river. The word "poison" had created an enormous amount of panic.

"It was not poison but something called soap skimmings."

At 5 pm yesterday, dead fish were still floating down the Crocodile River.

Earlier, part of Nelspruit was

without water because pumps from the Crocodile River to the purification works were off.

From 9 am, houses in the business centre, restaurants and hotels were totally dependent on water being supplied by roving fire engines.

Mr Eric Ansley, whose Schagen farmhouse overlooks the Crocodile River, said dead fish were still drifting past at the rate of about 12 every five minutes late yesterday afternoon.

Strong reaction has come from the lowveld branch of the Wildlife Society.

In a letter to a number of lowveld organisations, including Sappi, the Kruger National Park, the Department of Nature Conservation, Nelspruit Town Council, the Chief Minister of kaNgwane and the kaNgwane Parks Board, the society's chairman, Mr Brian Guerin, has described the incident as a "pollution problem of considerable proportions".

Questions are being asked about the circumstances in which the pollutant was released into the river, its chemical nature, the effect on living organisms and the quality of water in all the affected areas.

● See Page 23.



# White Paper hampered by apartheid

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter  
 APARTHEID is a major stumbling block in the implementation of environmental education for teacher training.

This emerged during a two-day workshop attended by representatives from universities, colleges, departments of education, teacher organisations and various conservation bodies, organised by Dr Roy Ballantyne of the University of Cape Town's department of environmental and geographical sciences.

Participants attempted to design a plan for the implication of environmental education teacher training in the Western Cape, following the recent White Paper on Environmental Education by the Department of Environment Affairs.

The White Paper has been hailed by environmentalists and educationists as a significant step forward, but, ironically, the government's rigid apartheid-based educational system directly contradicts the aims of its own White Paper.

## Guiding principles

After two days of debate and discussion, the workshop agreed on certain guiding principles, department researcher Miss Peta Aston explained.

"One of the most significant was an acceptance by all participants of the non-exclusive — for example, non-racial — nature of environmental education and a commitment to reflecting this in the structure of teacher training.

"As a result, the formation of an independent, fully-representative forum was suggested.

"This forum — outside existing government structures — would address issues such as educating teacher trainers and the co-ordination and development of easy access to resources, for example," she said.

According to sources at the workshop, government education departments may agree to shed their responsibility in this area because of significantly curtailed budgets.

● Anyone interested in further information or becoming involved in the forum can contact Ms Aston or Dr Ballantyne at ☎ 650 2873.

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# 400 water board employees fired

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*Sowetan 27/9/87*  
ABOUT 400 employees of the Rand Water Board have been fired after failing to heed an ultimatum to halt their work stoppage and return to work last week.

The workers, all members of the Orange Vaal General Workers Union, downed tools last week in protest against the arrest of a union member at the board's Suikerbos plant near Vereeniging. They also demanded the transfer of a white manager alleged to have "shopped" a board employee, a Mr Richard Mohapi, who is also a shop steward.

The 400 workers have vowed not to return to work until their colleague is released, according to the OVGWU.

A statement from the board said the workers' grievances had been fully addressed by management, who had already made representations "to the highest possible level" to secure the release of the shop steward. In addition, the statement said, the board had called a disciplinary hearing in which the white manager concerned would be called to answer charges against him.

"Notwithstanding, the undertaking by the workers' representatives and union that the employees would return to work, the employees have declined to return to work by the final deadline of 11am on September 21, leaving management with no other alternative but to dismiss them," the board's statement said.

The board said the dismissals would not affect water supplies.

## Pollution: Elands River is 'without life' for 20 km

By Clyde Johnson,  
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Tests carried out on Tuesday by officials from Lydenburg's fisheries institute revealed no aquatic life in a 20 km stretch along the Elands River from where Sappi's spillage took place last weekend.

Using shock apparatus which temporarily stuns fish and other creatures, causing them to surface for a few seconds, conservation officer Mr Frik Rousseau did tests at intervals of about 500 m along the affected area.

### NOTHING SURFACED

"Not a single living organism surfaced and it was not until 20 km downstream that a few fish reacted to the test," Mr Rousseau said.

Fish killed along the 20 km stretch, now named "the river of death," included blue kurper, eels, yellow fish, red spotted mud fish, barbel and minnows.

Crabs, frogs and many forms of aquatic life also died after the spillage.

Although the concentration of dead fish appeared to have been within the 20 km area, conservation officers detected fish dying in the Crocodile River at Nelspruit's botanical gardens, more than 60 km downstream.

Mr Rousseau said helicopter spot checks carried out further downstream indicated that fish, though agitated, were out of danger.

The damaged river would, he said, take many years to recover, even if new fish were introduced.

● See Page 21.



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# Mining on Wiley estate

## Company will not give way

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A MINING company is poised to start exploiting a rich kaolin deposit at the foot of Chapman's Peak on an estate belonging to a former minister of environment affairs, the late Mr John Wiley.

Referring to public objections to the proposed mining operation, company managing director Mr Carl Tarrant yesterday said his company, Serina (Pty) Ltd, was intent on pursuing the project.

"There are people in the one corner who don't want us there. We, in the other corner, will continue. A compromise has to be reached," he said.

Final permission to embark on the project, scheduled to begin by the middle of next year, had to be given by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs, he said.

Serina has commissioned consulting engineering and environmental impact study on the gently sloping and mostly alien-covered 27ha claim fronting on Chapman's Peak Drive opposite Noordhoek.



**KAOLIN MINE**... A mining company which operates a kaolin mine near Fish Hoek intends exploiting a kaolin deposit on the Chaplin Estate, Noordhoek. The mountainside (left) will resemble that behind Serina (Pty) Ltd works manager Mr Andre Viljoen (right). Pictures: RICHARD BELL



Dell, local residents were mostly concerned about noise pollution and visual intrusion of the quarry, which is expected to be fully operational by 1991.

The open-air mine, once operational, will be run along similar lines to the Brakkekloof quarries belonging to Serina above Sun Valley, near Fish Hoek.

There kaolin-rich clay is excavated by hydraulic earth removers from large terraced pits and processed in a nearby plant from where it is transported by 30-ton trucks, averaging six trips daily, to railling points.

The excavated quarries are brilliantly white and highly visible unless screened by trees and draped with dark netting, as has been done at the Brakkekloof mine.

Mr Butterworth said dust during mining was not a major problem since excavated kaolin was damp.

Up to 85% of the clay-like material — priced between R250 and R450 a ton — was used by the paper industry, while another 12% was used by the ceramics industry.

Mining would entail digging elongated pits up to a depth of 40m, with the kaolin being extracted by water jets — which compromised

quality control through inadvertent mixing of kaolins — or mechanical methods, said Serina chemistry expert Mr John Butterworth.

Hydraulic mining was a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week process, while mechanical mining was mostly limited to daylight hours and week-

days. Once exhausted after about three years, the mined pits would be filled with excavated material and covered with topsoil and eventually planted with vegetation — possibly kikuyu grass.

According to consulting engineer Mr Tony

Nov 28/9/89

# Bruma Lake dream is a smelly nightmare

By Shirley Woodgate (S6)  
Municipal Reporter

The surfing, water-skiing dream for the R10 million Bruma Lake in Cyrildene, which was a gift to Johannesburg, has turned into a smelly nightmare less than two years after it was commissioned.

Democratic Party councillor Mr Clive Gilbert has called for an official explanation.

What was originally seen by the developers as the drawcard in the R500 million office park, Fisherman's Wharf speciality centre and residential area, became a cesspool of rotting debris and rubbish emitting a stench over the entire area.

Today it is empty so front-end loaders can shovel out 3 000 cu m of silt.

Built on council-owned land by a private consortium comprising Ozz, the Krok brothers and Lucem, the council is clearing away the rubbish washed down from the Jukskei River.

Parks director Mr Paul Loubser said it would never be possible to solve silting problems in the city's dams.

"In the case of Bruma there is a huge catchment area from Doornfontein down the Jukskei River. Even the dust from the streets eventually gets washed into the river and then into the lake which is the first place where the velocity drops. There is also the soil which has been washed into the dam from the surrounding undeveloped land.

Mr Cecil Long, chairman of the culture and recreation committee, said the debris stagnated during the winter until the summer rains.

"The material starts rotting and since the bottom is plastic lined, the only escape for the gases is to come to the surface of the water. We are looking at special equipment to remove debris from the lake without draining it. We may have to think of providing a trap higher up the Jukskei but this will cause flooding.

"It was a problem that none of us could foresee. Unfortunately, the whole problem has been created by the bad habits of some people," Mr Long said.

# SA to look at toxic waste disposal

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — An "exhaustive" investigation into the need to process foreign toxic waste in South Africa and the feasibility of such a process is underway, according to the Department of Environment Affairs. *SN 28/9/87*

The Minister, Mr Gert Kotze, said in a statement that an investigation to cover "all the relevant issues" would be held before any specific applications to establish plants would be considered.

Aspects of the investigation include:

- The future need for a processing plant (or plants) in South Africa and their economic viability.
- The need and desirability to import toxic waste to make local plants economically viable, and international and local socio-economic implications.
- An overall management plan, the required infrastructure and the technology of management of toxic waste.

Mr Kotze said the Department of Foreign Affairs was examining the implications of South Africa's participation in the matter.

Petition to be sent to Minister

# Row over Sappi pollution rages

By Clyde Johnson, Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Many Lowvelders are enraged over the pollution of the Elands River by a Sappi spillage — despite the CSIR's finding that water in the Elands and Crocodile rivers is safe for human consumption.

White River resident Mr Johan de Waal said he was in the process of preparing a petition.

"There are many people helping. We are hoping to get as many names as possible and will present it to the Minister of Environmental Affairs early next week," he said.

The letter, expressing strong opposition to this week's spillage and its consequences, will also be handed to Sappi Kraft's general manager Mr Barry Melrose at the millgate at Ngodwana.

Lowveld Farmers' Association chairman Mr Ed Meintjes, who is also representative of the National Vegetable Growers' Committee of SA, condemned the incident in the strongest terms.

"We as farmers depend on the rivers for our livelihood and cannot afford to live with any form of pollution," he said.

### Gift from God

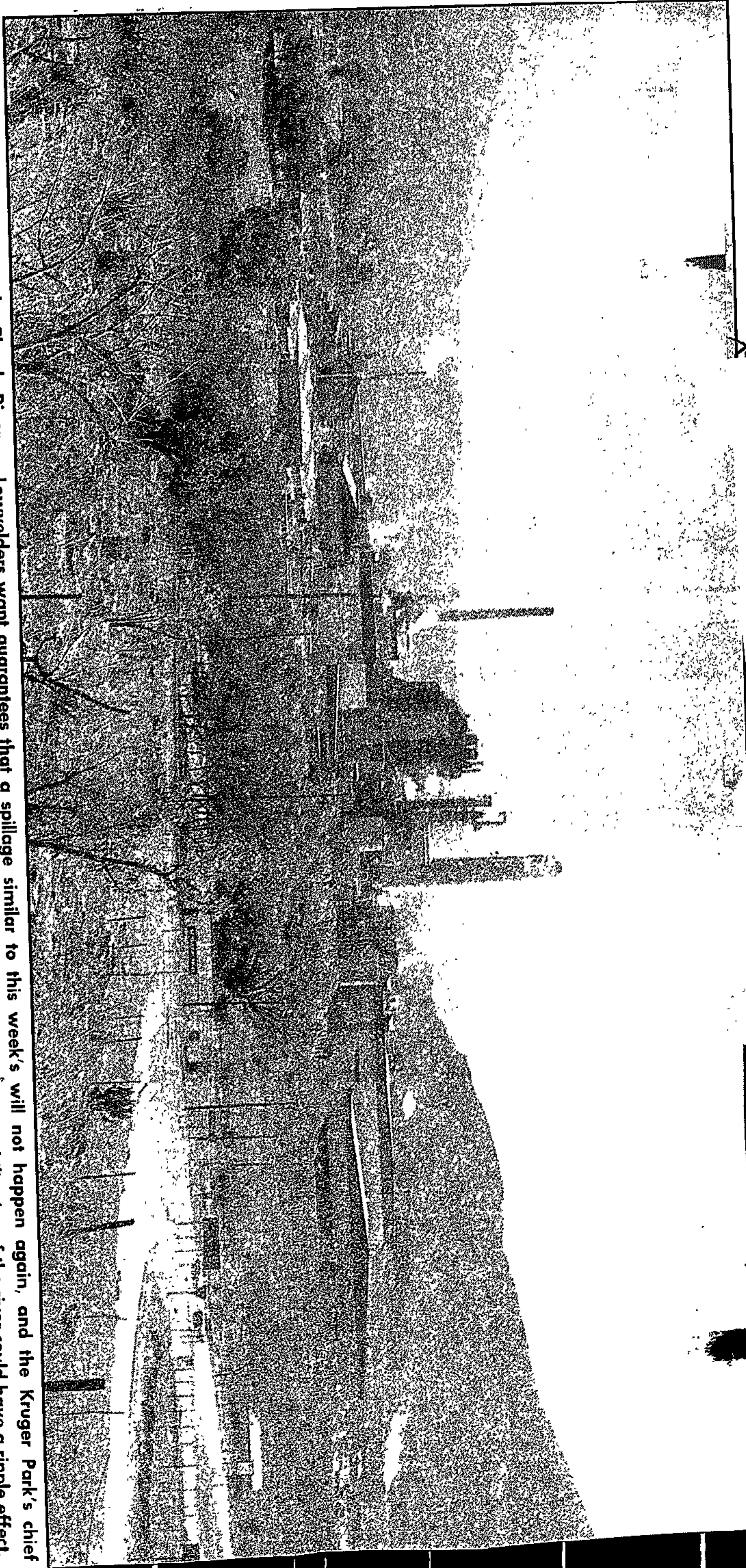
Thousands of fish were killed as a result of the spillage, and Nelspruit stopped drawing river water until tests had been conducted.

"The water we drink and the air is a gift from God and nobody has the right to tamper with them or pollute them in any way," said Mr Meintjes.

Mr Meintjes said all fruit trees and vegetables grown on his farm near Nelspruit were irrigated with water from the Crocodile River.

"This time the pollutant may not have been toxic, but what guarantee have we that poisonous effluent will not end up in the river in future?"

Kruger Park's chief warden, Dr Salmon Joubert, said although the spillage may not have been physically obvious in the reserve, destabilisation of the river at Ngodwana could have a ripple effect on the reserve and even on the river in its entirety.



Sappi's mill at Ngodwana on the Elands River... Lowvelders want guarantees that a spillage similar to this week's will not happen again, and the Kruger Park's chief warden, Dr Salmon Joubert, has entered the debate by saying that although the spillage

"While there may be no visible damage, tiny insects and other minute organisms could have been adversely affected and we may not discover the effects until much later," he said.

Dr Joubert said the spillage had caused a "distressing reaction" among conservators and nature lovers.

"I have no doubt that Sappi care for the environment and are aware that they have taken measures and spent lots of

money on precautions.

"But this type of incident has a demoralising effect and once again highlights the age-old argument between development and conservation."

### Catastrophe

Dr Joubert said destabilisation of any river obviously degraded it and this ultimately must cause catastrophe all along the way.

Mr Herman Stevenson (62),

born and bred in the Lowveld, said yesterday: "For years we have had to contend with smelly, dirty air from Ngodwana. Now they have gone and polluted our rivers."

"They destroy our natural vegetation and change our environment by planting pine and gum trees. These people make big profits. Surely the time has come for them to stop thinking in terms of money only."

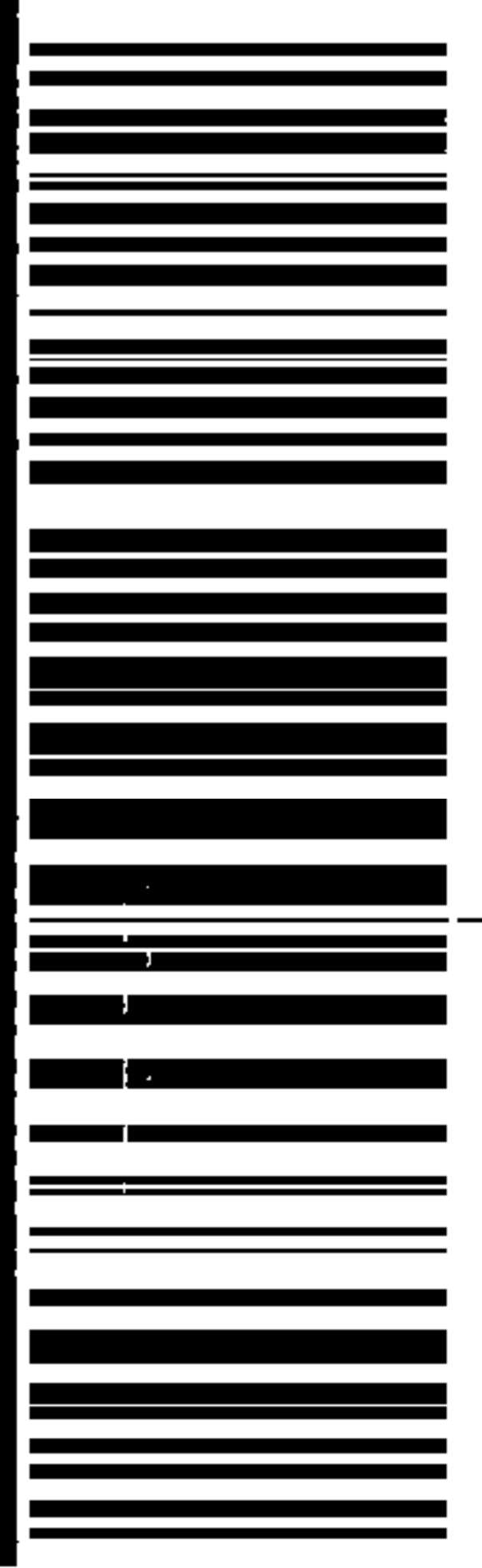
Mrs Judy Goldstone of Nel-

spruit, who for many years has "waged war" against Sappi's pollution, agrees.

### Hazard

"Up to now all the Health Department have told me is that Sappi is no health hazard. What nonsense."

"They are poisoning our air, now our rivers, what next? These people must be stopped before all of us, like the fish, die."



# Toxic waste in drums (56) of protest

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The contents of three drums which were dumped in the centre of Maritzburg on Monday morning have been tested and found to have toxic compounds.

Dr Tom Hetherington, the city's deputy medical officer of health, said yesterday that tests by Umgeni Water showed that the drums contained a form of paint sludge with toxic compounds such as benzine.

The department would probably prosecute anyone found responsible for dumping the drums.

It appears the action was intended to draw public attention to the dumping of thousands of drums of toxic waste at three different sites near Maritzburg.

A blackboard next to the drums bore a message: "Attention City Council. Toxic waste."

Environmentalists and city officials have all condemned the protest as irresponsible and a possible hazard to people and the environment.

# Drive for low visibility of mine

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JEP

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter  
THE developers of a proposed kaolin mine on the Noordhoek estate of former Environment Affairs Minister, the late Mr John Wiley, have promised that low visibility will be "priority number one".

Although consultants are still working on a R500 000 feasibility study and environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the company, Serina, it is confident of State approval for the project.

The mine could be operational by early 1991. During a press visit to the proposed site yesterday, Serina managing director Mr Carl Tarrant said "We will be concentrating on keeping the visual impact as low as possible."

## A little at a time

Although mining rights extended over 27 hectares, Serina would only mine a strip covering about one hectare at a time, with rehabilitation work starting immediately afterwards.

With settlement ponds, mechanical plant area and topsoil and overburden (deeper soil) storage sites, a maximum of about four hectares would be in use at any one time.

The mine is expected to produce 50 000 tons of kaolin annually for 30 years, and an average of eight 30-ton trucks daily would be needed to transport the finished product.

Serina's Brakkekloof mine between Fish Hoek and Sunnyside, which produces 36 000 tons of kaolin annually, has only six years to run, after which the 23 hectare site will be developed for housing.

## "Good neighbour"

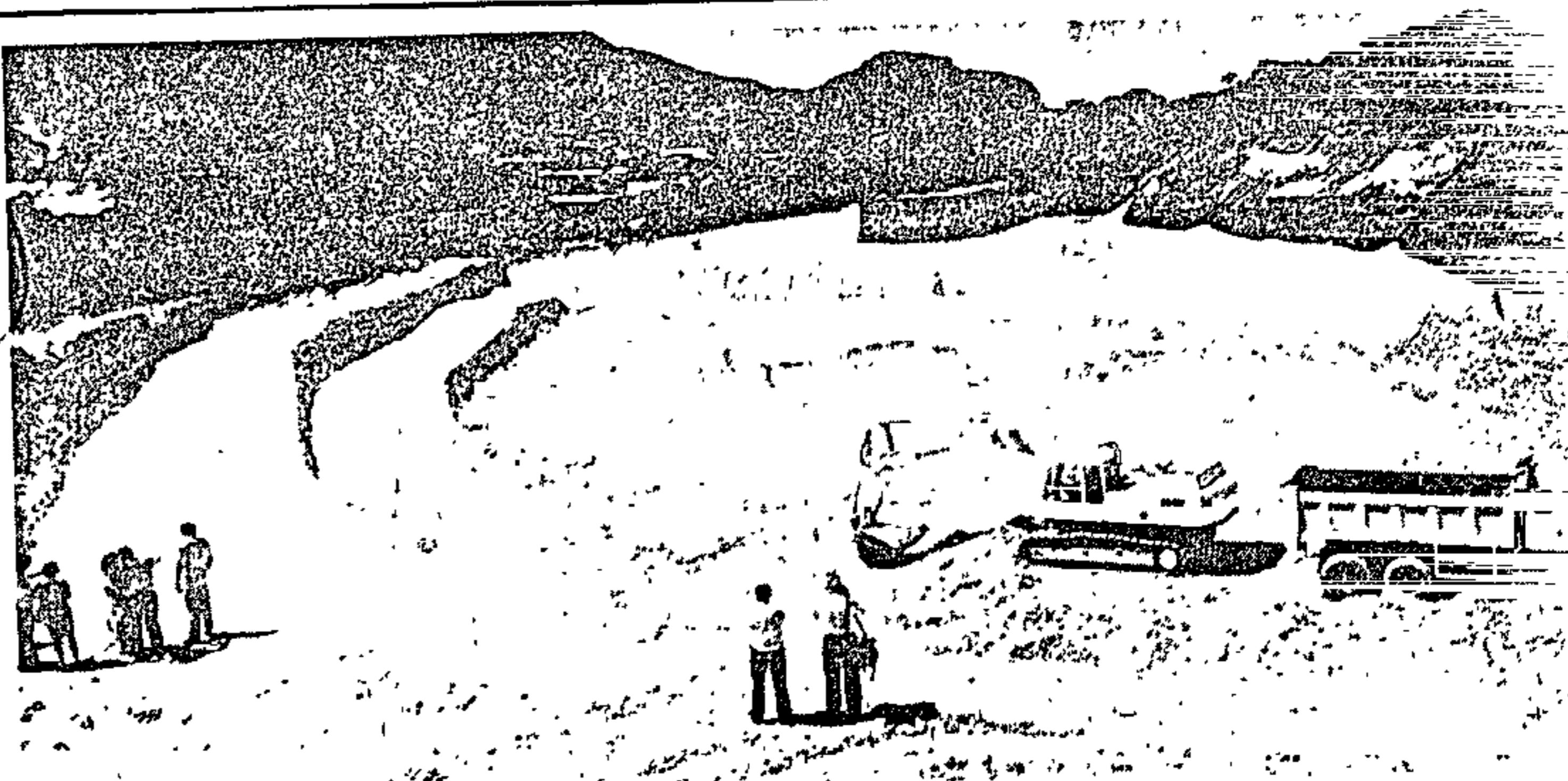
Works manager Mr Andre Viljoen said the company had "tried to be a good neighbour at all times" and that it would meet "all reasonable requests" from Noordhoek residents about the new site.

"To be honest, I don't think they want us there, but we will be there and we're going to have to meet somewhere in the middle."

"That's why we're doing this intensive study, with their (the residents') input at all times."

"I stay in Fish Hoek — I'm part of this community — and I'm not going to mess up my own environment."

● Noordhoek residents believe the government will allow kaolin mining on the Noordhoek Estate and are working to ensure that the impact of the proposed mine will be kept to a minimum.



Pictures: JOHN

**KAOLIN MINE:** Serina's existing mine at Brakkekloof between Fish Hoek and Sunnyside. This mine now has a life of only six years.

## Next best

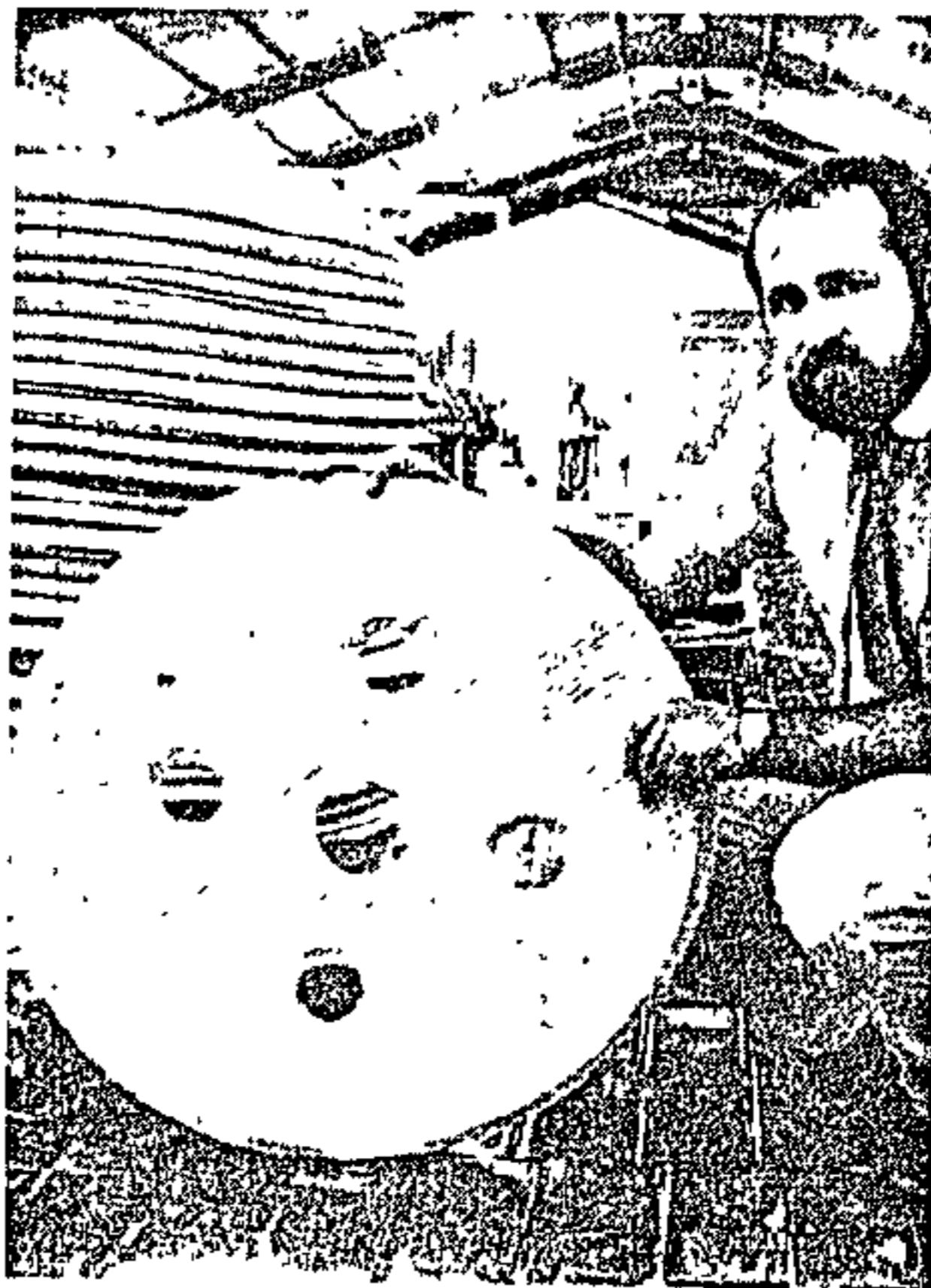
The chairman of the Noordhoek and District Civic Association, Mr John Cannan, said that although the "first prize" was no mine in the valley, his association was working on the basis that a mining permit would be issued.

"In 1982, after a tremendous effort on the part of the association and others, we thought we had received an assurance from the minister that there would be no mine," Mr Cannan said.

"But in 1984 he changed his mind and Serina was given a permit to prospect."

"We in Noordhoek feel a kaolin mine here would be like coal-mining in the Kruger National Park or titanium mining in St Lucia."

"We don't think it's desirable to mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak, but if we are forced to accept this by government action, then we want to get as near the right conditions as possible. We have to be involved if that's going to be a reality."



**END PRODUCT:** Serina works manager Mr Andre Viljoen with a wedge of pure kaolin. Most of these moist wedges are dried and broken into pellets or powder form before being transported.

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Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The joining up of the scattered game reserves and conservation areas in northern Zululand to form one of the largest areas of its kind in the world has been given added impetus by Sappi, which has guaranteed a R2,5 million donation to the Southern African Nature Foundation.

#### LAKE SYSTEM

The money will go towards linking up the Kosi Bay lake system, Lake Sibayi and the world-famous Maputaland turtle-nesting beaches and dunes south to Sodwana Bay, and inland along the Mozambique border, including the Ndumu Game Reserve and the Tembe Elephant Reserve.

## R2,5-m donation for linking of reserves

Unlike many other large conservation areas in Africa, this area, which embraces large sections of both Natal and kwaZulu, has a diversity of ecosystems and habitats which support a wide variety of animal and bird species.

Money towards the project is to be raised by the sale of a limited edition of 12 Gail Darroll prints for R2 000 a volume. A collectors' edition, bound in leather, will also be available for R4 000.

All subscribers will participate in a competition for a Gail Darroll painting.

# Another look at the High Road

In a new book, Clem Sunter teams up with two biologists and thinks the "High Road" scenario out again **JAMES CLARKE** reports.

Clem Sunter admits it "shook" him that, in all the research done by Anglo American's global and regional scenario teams — this was the research on which he based his popular High Road scenario — "scant attention" was paid to the environment.

The confession appears in the preface to "South African Environments into the 21st Century" by Brian Huntley, Roy Siegfried and Clem Sunter (Human and Rousseau Tafelberg) and is stunning coming from a man famed for his suggested formula for South Africa's political and economic recovery. It is a bit like the author of a book on fish forgetting to mention water.

The lapse on the part of Anglo's researchers may explain why South Africa's progress has carried such a huge pay-later tag. Anglo is into so many things.

With a hasty excuse for the mining industry (the damage caused by this industry, we are asked to believe, was worth it) the book contains a host of useful data on air and water pollution, water supply, agriculture, climatic change, population dynamics and a other topics.

Sunter got together with his co-authors (both top professional ecologists) after he learned they "were sceptical as to whether his 'High Road' scenario could be achieved without excessive environmental cost".

The short answer is really: "No — the cost will be enormous." But this book's main message is that a sound economy is a prerequisite to a sound environment (poverty-stricken countries cannot fight environmental decline) and to a good quality life. None of those three factors is possible without the other two.

Sunter and co do not actually modify his High Road scenario in the light of new thoughts and insights — rather they re-emphasise it but intersperse the dialogue with shock facts and environmental interjections.

Sunter's "rich heritage, High Road" approach to the future tries to prophesy how



Clem Sunter admits his scenario was based on research which paid little attention to the environment.

things will go regarding energy, water supply, even wildlife resources if South Africa opts for a vigorous and free economy, an end to apartheid and a more sensitive international approach. Some might disagree with the authors' hi-tech answers and their ready acceptance that Eskom cannot afford to clean up its sulphur emissions for years to come, but generally speaking the scenario is plausible.

## No real meshing

The environmental data are good and fresh (very fresh, for the authors bring in the recent CSIR's Eastern Transvaal Highveld air pollution report by Tyson et al, and the current Alaskan oil spill disaster) but there is no real meshing of the two inputs — we have Sunter's economist/political views juxtaposed with facts provided by the two ecologists.

The book amounts to a crisp, 126-page vital postscript to the High Road/Low Road scenarios and will interest most intelligent people — even economists and engineers.

It is agreed the High Road can work only if the environment is sound — if soil erosion is checked, if population growth is controlled, if urban areas satisfy the human spirit. From the cost point of view, we must bite the bullet.

The authors' appeal for action "now". We have to immediately begin reversing existing environmental ills — even if it is sometimes on soft evidence.

They believe "the growing linkage between human development and environmental health will be the dominant force in global affairs in the 21st century, possibly replacing military and economic power play as the focus of international concern."

Seeing that the authors specifically deny this book was a "High Road" afterthought, let's then describe it as an update — a situationer perhaps — by three impressive experts who are at some pains to dissociate themselves from the "Greens". The Greens, we are reminded, are inclined to be left and radical. "Where the Greens have gone wrong" is in entertaining thoughts of a healthy environment and socialism at the same time. Nowhere has socialism managed to produce an economy strong enough to pay for conservation and environmental improvement.

Using many colourful charts and tables the book reviews the greenhouse effect and the ozone phenomenon as well as the dynamics of our regional population and a host of other environmental facets.

There is also much useful insight into the agricultural constraints affecting the homelands: "Despite high unemployment levels in the homelands, labour scarcities can occur during peak periods of crop planting and reaping. Accordingly, 20 to 30 percent of arable land is left uncultivated in most years — quite an irony considering that the homelands have too many people on too little land."

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# PAC-SACC issue joint statement

The Star's Africa News Service

DAR ES SALAAM — The Pan Africanist Congress and the South African Council of Churches have issued a joint statement supporting one man, one vote elections to a non-racial parliament, with guarantees for individual rights, as the way to eradicate apartheid and usher in a non-racial future.

However, the SACC admitted that its mission of trying to reconcile the PAC with the African National Congress, from which it split in 1959 to pursue a racially pure struggle, had failed.

The leader of the SACC delegation, the Rev Frank Chikane, later said the two organisations seemed to be "as far apart as ever", despite the reference to a "non-racial" future in the final communique.

Delegations from the two organisations met at the PAC's headquarters here this week for five hours before issuing the statement. *Star 28/11/87*

The PAC delegation was led by its chairman and commander-in-chief of its military wing, Mr Johnson Mlambo.

Both agreed that apartheid could not be reformed, said the statement, and that defiance of the "unjust laws of an illegal regime was legitimate".

After being briefed on current developments inside South Africa, the PAC expressed its appreciation of the "positive" role played by the churches.

## Vaal Dam down to 87 pc *(S6)*

*Star 28/11/87*  
The Vaal Dam, one of the main sources of water for the PWV area, is down to 87 percent of its capacity, the Department of Water Affairs announced yesterday. At the same time last year the dam was 92 percent full. Levels of dams throughout the country were last week steady at 69 percent, compared to 71 percent last year. In the drought-stricken Eastern Cape dams the average is 40 percent.

## 40 000 in EL 'peace march'

*Star 28/11/87*  
A crowd of up to 40 000 people packed Oxford Street in East London for more than two hours early yesterday afternoon in what the organiser, the Border Crisis Committee, described as a march for peace, freedom and justice.

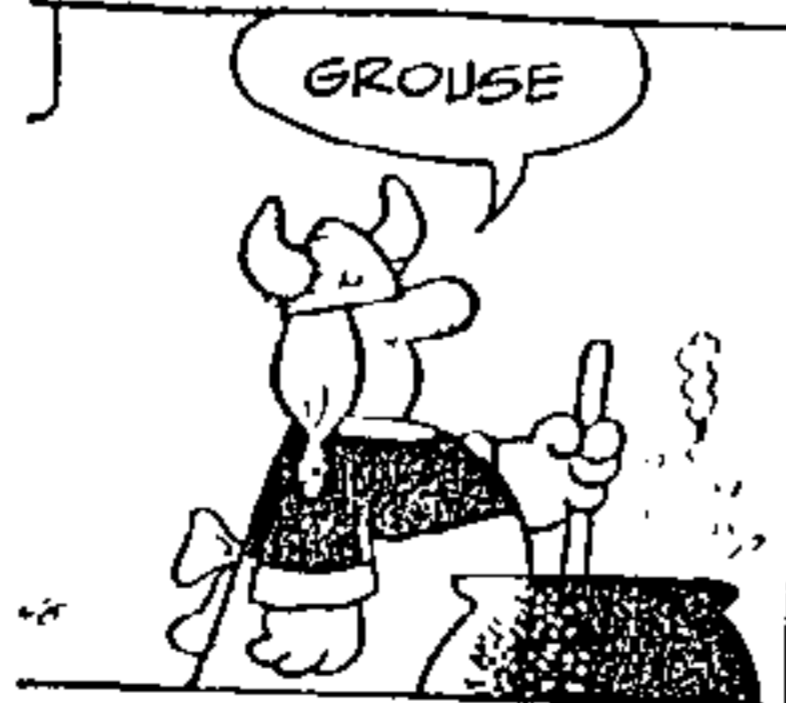
There were a few tense moments at the start of the march as the crowd surged forward at a trot.

Marshals, however, linked arms across the street and quickly re-established control.

The march was led by Anglican Bishop David Russell of Grahamstown.

At the end of the march Bishop Russell went to the

By Dik Browne



offices of the security police in Southernwood, where he handed senior police officers a statement and a petition which called for the release of two security detainees.

Police later said they had received no reports of criminal activity or violence during the march.



injured." Botha said he did not know the group's

with its commitments in terms of the tri-lateral agreement signed in New York on December 22 last year.

# Probe into Sappi spill

*By Day 28/9/84*  
AN INDEPENDENT commission of inquiry had been appointed to investigate the spill of process liquid into the Ngodwana and Elands River, Sappi announced yesterday.

The spill, which occurred on Saturday, caused water pollution problems and resulted in the death of thousands of fish and the Nelspruit Town Council switching off pumps drawing water for domestic use.

Sappi said the four-man commission would be headed by environmental conservationist and Cape limnologist Douglas Hey. Other members would be Prof Michael Bruton, director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology in Grahamstown; Salmon Joubert, head of the Kruger National Park, and Jane Harris, project leader: water quality information systems of the CSIR's division of water technology.

THEO RAWANA

The commission would determine the immediate impact of the spill and remedial action, investigate medium and long-term effects and make recommendations.

Sappi said a team of scientists from Pretoria conducted an aerial survey of a stretch of about 60km of river downstream from Sappi's Ngodwana mill yesterday morning to determine the extent of the pollution and to see how far downstream the effluent had moved.

They spotted the effluent moving through the Karino rapids. There were some dead fish near Nelspruit, but in the Kruger Park there were no signs of pollution.

Sappi reiterated that a thorough investigation was being conducted.

*Sneaky action promised*

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# Relly: 20 years of growth needed

WITHOUT a 20-year period of sustained economic development, SA stood no chance of reducing its population expansion and improving prospects for its environment, Anglo American chairman Gavin Relly said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of the book *South African Environments into the 21st Century* he said at the core of most environmental problems in SA and the world were too many people producing too many children causing too many pressures on the environment.

"Less income simply means more people and vice versa."

The book is co-authored by CSIR Foundation for Research Development ecosystems programmes manager Brian Huntley; SA Council for the Environment member Roy Siegfired, and Anglo director Clem Sunter.

Relly said man-made impediments to economic growth, such as sanctions imposed from abroad or internal restrictions on black and white entrepreneurs arising from an overregulated society could do nothing but worsen the overall picture for SA.

For a demographic transition to smaller family sizes to occur quickly, the fruits of labour must be spread across all layers of society. This means granting opportunities to everyone living here to participate in the wealth-creation process, said Relly.

"There must be universal access to the country's resources by the population as a whole — whether it be education, health, the economy minerals or land.

"Instinct tells me that, like it or not, the environment will become a major feature in business decisions as we move into the next century. It is therefore necessary for businessmen now to begin to understand the world of the Greens," said Relly.

He said one of the trickiest problems was to define the role of government within the context of preserving the environment.

"I believe the government is there to provide the broad rules for interaction between industry and the environment but it

TANIA LEVY

must not specify the specific tactics for controlling pollution.

"Rewards and penalties should be fixed for being better or worse than an affordable set of environmental standards. It should then be left to the private sector to devise the least expensive means of meeting those standards," said Relly.

The book concludes that human well-being depends on a combination of economic development, environmental health and quality of life.

"It is why apartheid and Marxism have both failed, because each ideology stresses one quality of human nature separatens and collectivism respectively — to the utter exclusion of all other qualities of human nature."

The final point made by the authors was that SA would have to develop its own shifting balance between the economy, the environment and the quality of life as there were no readily transferable models from the rest of the world and rigid prescriptions would be rendered obsolete by technological developments and changes in the marketplace, Relly said.



Relly ... too many children being born



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# Transvaal river 'biologically dead' following chemical spill

By EDDIE KOCH

FARMERS in the Lowveld are up in arms over reports that a huge chemical spill from the Sappi paper mill at Nogodwana has devastated the ecosystem of the Elands and Crocodile Rivers, forcing even crocodile and hippos to leave their habitat.

Dr Piet Mulder, the director-general of the Transvaal Directorate of Conservation, yesterday told the *Weekly Mail* that 22 species of fish, and probably most other forms of animal life, had been killed in a stretch of river downstream from the mill.

While the fish would eventually re-establish themselves from species that had survived the disaster in waters upstream from the mill, Mulder said it would take years for the river to get back to its normal ecological state.

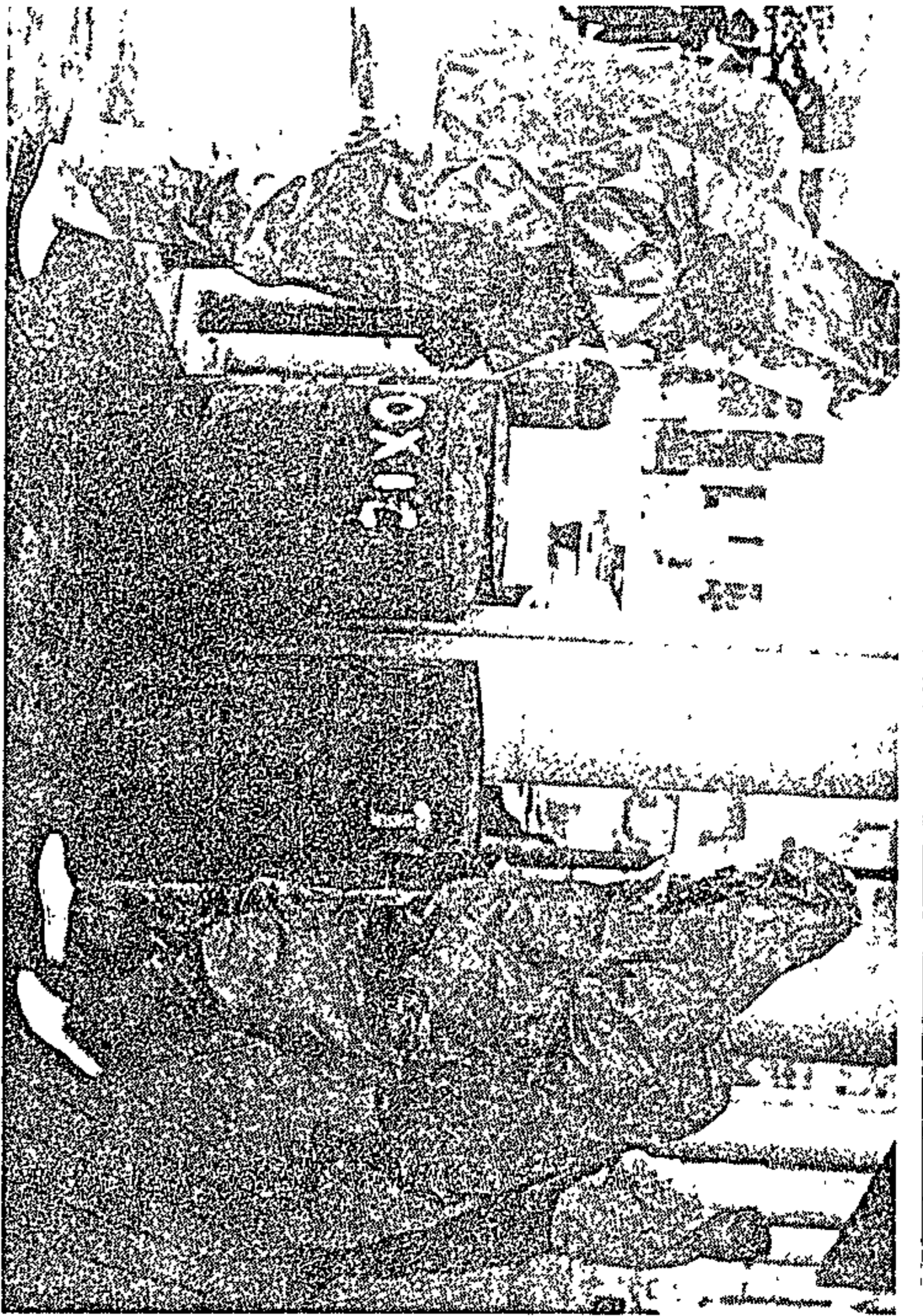
GP Visagie, assistant director of conservation, this week said the directorate's researchers could find no sign of life in the river and that it was — at least for the time being — biologically dead.

The owner of a farm on the banks of the Crocodile River near Alkmaar, Eric Ansley, this week reported that three tons of dead fish had accumulated at a weir on his property.

Other farmers reported that large groups of hippo and crocodiles had left the water this week, possibly because of the foul stench caused by the pollution or because the chemicals were irritating their skin and eyes.

A large spill of soap skimmings, which contained smaller amounts of toxic sulphates, occurred at the Ngodwana mill early in the week. The pollutant's major effect was to effectively suffocate the river by starving all forms of plant and animal life in the water.

Mulder said it was unlikely that the



Firemen in protective suits remove drums of toxic waste dumped in the centre of Pietermaritzburg. The protest was apparently a criticism of the authorities response to sites of toxic waste around the city

Picture: MEGAN SHERIFFS

small amounts of toxins in the spill would affect the hippos and crocodiles and he predicted that they would be able to return to the water shortly.

Meanwhile, Sappi, which is owned by Gencor, has announced that it has set up an independent commission of inquiry to determine the impact of the spill and the kinds of remedial action that could be taken.

Sappi's Group MD Hugo van Assaid the findings would be made public and fully discussed with farmers and other interested groups in the Lowveld.

He stressed the whole river system was not biologically dead and that species of life in sections that had not been polluted would eventually be able to restore the water to normality. Helicopter surveys had established that large groups of hippo were still active in the area, he added.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa this week asked for an independent inquiry and for the causes of the accident and preventative action taken to be made public "so that industry as a whole can learn from this disaster and that it can contribute to effective contingency measures to prevent industrial pollution of our water system".

Ironically, the Wildlife Society's incoming president is Gencor's director of corporate affairs, Naas Steenkamp.

The Sappi spill had taken place as part of a general increase in river pollution due to industrial leakage. Last year the Sasol I plant pumped toxins into the Vaal River while a phosphate company in the north-eastern Transvaal caused a scare by leaking poisonous chemicals into the Selau River running through the Kruger Park.

discretion is placed in the hands of the presiding judge, but the prisoner's status is in theory subject to periodic review by the state president.

At Tsafendas' trial the attorney general of the Cape, a Mr Van den Bergh, requested that Tsafendas be placed in a prison rather than a mental institution.

The 1916 Act was repealed by Act No 18 of 1973, but provision is still made for state president's patients to be detained in jails rather than mental institutions.

South African Prisons Services confirmed that Tsafendas had been moved to the medium security section of Zonderwater Prison, saying that the move had been prompted largely by newspaper reports on Tsafendas' predicament earlier this year.

Though there is a mental hospital for classified psychopaths at Zonderwater, the spokesman said Tsafendas was not being held in this institution but in the medium security prison.

Director of Wits University's Project for the Study of Violence, Lloyd Vogelman, welcomed the move. But he expressed reservations concerning Tsafendas' continued imprisonment. "Psychotic patients need support and care as well as confinement. Prisons are places of confinement and not places of care," he said.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE CENTRE

Is a non-profit community based organisation which services the area of NEWCLARE, WESTERN, CORONATIONVILLE and BOSMONT.

We have two vacancies:

### 1. TRAINEE CO-ORDINATOR

- The person will be involved in:
  - giving advice to the community
  - co-ordinating advice office activities
  - arranging training programs for community groups as well as Advice Centre volunteers.

### 2. ADVICE OFFICE WORKER

- The person will be involved in:
  - giving advice to the community
  - educational and training programs

# Disposal problems

(56)

Freund  
29/9/89

Government may be edging towards allowing the establishment of a R400m privately owned toxic waste disposal plant in the north-west Cape.

The plant, with a planned capacity of 500 000 t a year, would treat imported toxic waste, earn the country around R2bn a year in foreign exchange and provide about 500 jobs. But widespread social aversion to the issue means getting the go-ahead to develop is likely to be a long and slow process.

Environmental Affairs Director-General Bill Visagie says an "exhaustive" investigation into toxic waste disposal and the pros and cons of importing it is under way. The investigation will embrace all the "expertise" available. And, due to "potential political and economic implications," it will be as wide as possible and cover every contingency before any decision is made.

Aspects to be considered include the need for the plant and its economic viability, as well as the socio-economic implications: will it be a hazard that SA can do without, or will it be an efficient creator of jobs?

Visagie says Foreign Affairs officials are investigating the possibility of SA signing the Basel Protocol, an international agreement regulating the packaging, transporting and handling of toxic waste.

Though public reaction to a toxic waste disposal plant in the north-west Cape has generally been negative since it was mooted more than a year ago, the man behind the scheme, Cape Town businessman Sydney Sanders, believes the outcry is based largely on ill-informed perceptions.

He says it is significant that the most outspoken critics tend to be politicians and other laymen, while some leading environmental scientists are not averse to a properly designed and regulated disposal plant.

Sanders says the mere mention of the term toxic waste tends to conjure up images of radioactive material and other deadly substances sitting unattended like an ecological timebomb on some remote dumping site.

But the international consortium he represents has already presented government with what he believes is a thoroughly detailed scientific study of the environmental impact such a plant would have. Imported waste would be packaged to EEC standards and would pose no more of a risk than importing

hazardous raw chemicals at present being used in a wide range of industrial processes.

The consortium's plan is to build a state-of-the-art incinerator near Peacock Bay, 20 km south of Alexander Bay on the Cape west coast. The Bay was originally intended as the harbour for the Sishen mine and is "safe and suitable for ships."

The harbour to be built there, says Sanders, will be dedicated exclusively to the waste disposal plant. The region, some of which falls within the restricted diamond area, is virtually uninhabited, has very little rainfall and what little underground water there is, is



## Pollution kills... what is the solution?

extremely deep, so the possibility of contaminating it is remote. The area is also geologically stable. Eskom has its storage site for nuclear waste from the Koeberg power station at Vaalputs in the same region.

Sanders says his proposal is not for a dump site, but for an incinerator which will destroy all but the heavy metals in toxic waste. The heavy metals will be encased in concrete and stored. The plant will not handle nuclear or radioactive waste. He insists that if toxic waste is handled responsibly it presents no problem, adding the discovery of illegal and uncontrolled toxic waste dumps near Maritzburg in recent weeks has again highlighted the need for a more responsible approach to the problem.

The plant could be operational two years after a government go-ahead. At today's prices, imported waste could be treated at between US\$500 and \$1 000/t, depending on its composition. Sanders accepts there are risks, but believes they can be overcome. He also favours the establishment of an independent monitoring group to keep an eye on the

operation.

Government, he says, has now become "a bit bogged down" in the process of considering the scheme.

SA's representative on the hazardous waste working group of the International Solid Waste Association, Tom de Bruyn, says the decision whether or not to import toxic waste is a socio-political one. The main potential danger is in transporting it. If properly handled from the day it is shipped to the day it arrives at the incinerator, there needn't be any problem.

He says if it is decided that this country needs a toxic waste disposal plant, the options are for its cost to be subsidised by government, or for it to be paid for by treating imported waste. A possible compromise might be to calculate what volume of toxic waste SA will be producing in 10 years' time, build the plant to cater for that volume and import waste for 10 years until the plant is paid for. Imports could then be stopped and only SA's waste treated.

SA's most toxic waste materials — known as PCBs, which stands for poly-chlorinated biphenyls — are now disposed of by encapsulation in concrete and stored at sites in most of the main urban centres. Sanders says this means the waste is buried, but not eliminated as it would be in the incineration process.

Waste disposal experts generally agree that we cannot at present deal adequately with toxic waste disposal and that a serious problem is likely to develop in years to come unless a new approach is adopted.

De Bruyn says of the 500 000 t of chemical waste SA produces annually, 100 000 t is regarded as dangerous of which 10 000 t is considered very dangerous.

While making no apology for wanting to establish the plant for commercial gain, Sanders says his aim is not to take business away from existing waste disposal companies in SA.

His consortium would even be prepared to pay a "royalty" per imported ton into a fund to help subsidise the transport by other companies of SA's toxic waste to his plant for disposal. Countries which now import toxic waste for disposal include the UK (which takes Australia's waste), France and Holland.



Douglas Hey ... a passion  
for conservation.

## Hey to lead spill inquiry

By PAULA FRAY

Dr Douglas Hey, who will head the independent commission investigating the effects of an effluent spill into the Ngodwane and Elands rivers, has had a life-long passion for conservation.

He is an expert in the study of lakes and fresh water and the life in it (limnology) and graduated from Stellenbosch University with a doctorate in zoology. He spent a year overseas studying limnology.

Dr Hey (70) is not comfortable speaking about himself.

But he is honoured by his appointment and said yesterday he believed his limnology training would stand him in good stead.

As first director of the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Dr Hey helped lay the foundations for the department.

He helped establish protection for a number of ecosystems and was recognised as a pioneer for his work as a one-man commission of inquiry into the conservation of Table Mountain.

Since retiring as director after 27 years' service with the department in 1980, he has remained active in promoting conservation and is chairman of the management committee of the Cape Peninsula and Rietvlei nature areas.

### Investigation

He was chairman of the SA Nature Foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee for 14 years and served on the Council for the Environment.

In 1983 he chaired a committee appointed by the Government to investigate how Armscor's proposed missile testing range at De Hoop could damage the nature reserve.

● The commission will determine the immediate impact of the spill and will institute swift remedial action. It will also investigate medium and long-term effects and make recommendations. The other members are Professor Michael Burton, director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology; Dr Salmon Joubert, chief warden of the Kruger Park; and Dr Jane Harris, project leader (water quality information systems) of the CSIR's division of water technology.

# Sappi effluent spill is a tragedy, say officials

By Clyde Johnson and Sapa

Nature conservation officials have said the Sappi effluent spill into the Elands and Crocodile rivers is a tragedy and that vast stretches of the water network have been ruined.

The Directorate of Nature Conservation's director, Dr Piet Mulder, said in a statement yesterday great damage had been caused to aquatic life in the Elands River.

"It appears that the entire ecosystem food chain in part of the river has been destroyed," he said.

Deputy director Mr "Vis" Visagie said investigations had revealed that 800 000 litres of effluent called "black liquor", which includes caustic soda, spilled into the river on Saturday, wiping out 22 types of fish, including two endangered species.

He called the spill "a tragedy" and said the directorate was investigating the incident. There could be charges laid against Sappi.

The last major pollution of a river by Sappi was in 1985.

"It is ironic for Sappi to claim the effluent was not toxic, while all life in an entire river has died," said Mr Visagie.

The assistant director of fisheries, Dr Garth Batchelor, said about 60 km of the Crocodile River had been affected.

The two endangered species of fish — Barred Minnow and Inkomati Rock Cattlebarble and mudfish found dead in the affected rivers.

Total recovery would take a long time, Dr Batchelor said. "Some of the larger yellowfish found were between 15 and 20 years old." He added that no river in South Africa had ever experienced pollution on this scale before.

Kruger National Park warden Dr Salmon Joubert said a fresh-water ecologist was monitoring Crocodile River water where it entered the park, but little damage had been noticed.

## 'No evidence'

Sappi's managing director, Mr Eugene van As, said in a statement last night the company did not believe 22 species of fish had been "wiped out".

He said while it was possible that fish from 22 different species had been killed, there was no evidence these species did not still exist in the affected area.

"There is also no scientific evidence to substantiate the claim that up to 45 km of the river is totally dead. Tests conducted by the CSIR (yesterday) indicate normal water quality throughout the length of the river," Mr van As contended.

Sappi had appointed an independent commission of inquiry headed by Dr Douglas Hey and consisting of "eminent scientists specialising in the environment, water systems and aquatic life" to assess the situation, he said.

It is believed the fish were smothered by a lack of oxygen caused by the soapy water, said Mr van As.

He said it was "highly misleading" to say the effluent contained caustic soda.

The Nelspruit branch of the Wildlife Society has called for a full investigation into the "ecological disaster".

In a letter to the Department of Water Affairs, chairman Mr Brian Guerin asked for the incident to be investigated fully and the necessary prosecutions instituted.

"The rivers are now barren and it is likely the effects of this negligent act will be felt in the area for many years to come."

The whole aquatic chain had been destroyed, making the offer of reintroducing fish of no practical effect, he said.

Animals higher up in the food chain with specific requirements, such as others, crocodiles, fish eagles, cormorants and other piscivorous (fish-eating) species, would have to move from the area or starve.

Meanwhile, as more facts become known, enraged Lowvelders continue to express their anger and resentment at the spillage.

# Bruma Lake is no 'smelly nightmare', say engineers

THABO LESHILO

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THE consulting engineers responsible for Johannesburg's Bruma Lake have denied it is a "smelly nightmare", stressing that before construction, "very unhygienic conditions existed in the area of the lake".

The man-made lake, built as a gift to Johannesburg and hailed by the developers as the drawcard in the heart of the R500 million office park, Fisherman's Village, speciality centre and residential area, was this week said to have become a cesspool of rotting debris emitting a terrible stench.

Star 30/9/87.

## Common

Mr J J Brink, spokesman for Brunette Kruger Stoffberg, said: "The water smells no different to what it smells in the upper reaches of the river."

The concrete lining of the dam had no effect on the anaerobic fermentation occurring during rotting of organic materials which was common to every natural water body and in rivers.

"The fermentation does create odorous gases which in all cases escape to the atmosphere," he said.

This week, Democratic Party councillor Mr Clive Gilbert called for an

explanation into the "lake affair".

"Why are the ratepayers footing the bill for the clean-up? What guarantee do we have that this will not happen every two years and why was this situation overlooked by the design team?" he has asked.

Mr Brink said the lake was equipped with mechanical dosing facilities which were incorporated into the design to improve the quality of water entering the dam. "This will ensure that the water in the lake is of a higher quality than that in the river."

The dosing system is also designed to circulate the contents of the lake to prevent stagnant zones which could give rise to excessive anaerobic surface conditions, he said.

Silting of dams was a natural phenomenon and the velocity of the water through Bruma Lake during flood conditions should ensure that silting should not reach excessive proportions.

The 3 000cu m silt being removed was minimal compared with the 130 000cu m of the lake, Mr Brink said.

He said the desilting operation would be completed next week.



ENVIRONMENT — 1989

OCT. — DEC

# Sappi may face charges over rivers of death

By IVOR CREWS

POLICE confirmed yesterday that charges have been laid against Sappi for polluting rivers in the Lowveld. Charges were laid against Sappi's Ngodwana plant by the Department of Nature Conservation, said Colonel Faan Herbst, district police commander at Nelspruit.

The havoc caused this week by the deadly effluent spills from the Ngodwana Paper Mill into the Ngodwana, Elands and Crocodile rivers in the Eastern Transvaal enraged conservationists and residents, who demanded an explanation for the destruction.

Now there are fears that the pollution is spreading — as nature conservation officials yesterday began investigating reports that the Nels River was polluted and that dead fish were being found.

But Sappi technical director Andre Vlok said yesterday it was "impossible" for Sappi to be responsible for the

Nels River pollution. He said that water from the mill was not part of the same river system as the Nels River.

"Water would have to flow upstream from the mill to pollute the river," he said.

## Alarm

Tons of fish were killed by the original spill and Nelspruit residents, fearing poison, stopped drawing water from the nearby river until CSIR tests revealed the water was safe for human consumption.

Ecologists expressed alarm that the Kruger National Park could be affected by the most extensive pollution ever seen in a South African river. However, concern over animals in

the park was finally laid to rest when chief warden Dr Salmon Joubert said that water from the Crocodile River entering the park was monitored and "little damage" had been noticed.

Indications were that the effluent had been diluted to the point where it was "almost harmless".

The latest spill is not the first for the Ngodwana mill, which has been at the centre of past fires.

● In 1987 a huge blast ripped through the mill, injuring 48 people and causing extensive damage.

● In 1985 a spill occurred, but residents and the Department of Water Affairs were alerted by Sappi before extensive damage was done.

In terms of the Water Act, companies found guilty of polluting rivers with industrial effluents face a maximum penalty of R10 000 for a first offence and R20 000 for a second. This week's investigations have

revealed that vast tracts of water downstream from Sappi in the Ngodwana, Crocodile and Elands rivers are devastated by the pollution. Two endangered species of fish in the Elands River were among thousands of fish found dead.

## Protest

Concerned residents throughout the Lowveld handed a letter of protest to Sappi Kraft plant manager Alan Tubb.

The letter, drawn up by White River environmentalist Don Richards, was handed to Mr Tubb by 19 representatives of the people of the Lowveld.

It drew attention to the loss of life and the deterioration of the environment caused by the mill at Ngodwana and protested against the "disastrous" effect on the total river ecosystem which "would take many years to heal".

The letter also expressed concern about air pollution caused by Sappi factories. It said residents as far afield as Nelspruit and White River had to put up with appalling smells and smoke effluent.

Directorate of Nature Conservation director Dr Piet Mulder said: "It appears that the entire ecosystem food chain in parts of the Elands River has been destroyed."

He confirmed the mill's effluent had split into the river "again" — a reference to Sappi's earlier chemical spill.

At the time Sappi gave assurances that it would never again pollute a river.

Nature Conservation deputy director "Vis" Visagie said investigations had revealed that 800 000 litres of effluent called "black liquor", which included caustic soda, had split into the Elands River. "It is ironic for Sappi to claim the

effluent is not toxic while all life in the affected area has died," he said.

But Sappi managing director Eugene van As promised "swift remedial action" and appointed an independent commission of inquiry into the incident as well as an internal inquiry.

## Remedy

The independent commission is headed by Dr Douglas Hey, who is regarded as the doyen of environmental conservationists in South Africa.

The team consists of top scientists who specialise in the environment, water systems and aquatic life.

The commission will assess the situation on Tuesday and make recommendations to remedy the imbalance in the environment. Mr Van As said the findings would be made public. Sappi said the offending effluent was not toxic. It said the fish were

smothered by soapy water which starved them of oxygen.

Regarding the 22 species of fish killed, it said there was no evidence these species had not survived in the affected area.

Mr Van As said: "Every effort is made to ensure that spills do not occur. However, the latest incident was beyond the control of everyone concerned and I am confident the damage was not caused by negligence."

"We don't know what effect the spill has had on the rivers yet and nobody can reverse what has happened."

The spill occurred last Saturday when effluent entered a stormwater drain at the Ngodwana mill, bypassing the mill's effluent control system. It went unnoticed until spotted during routine monitoring.

By that time, however, it had entered the Ngodwana River and caused the death of thousands of fish.

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B/Day 2/10/89

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## PERMIT NEEDS MAY VETO ST LUCIA MINE

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Administrator of Natal has received no application for a permit for mining to take place at St Lucia, and for that reason alone mining cannot legally take place there.

Wildlife Society of Southern Africa spokesman Jeremy Ridl said this in reaction to an Environmental Affairs statement which said it would be very difficult to stop mining at St Lucia.

However, Ridl said, companies believed that having gained rights to mine under the Mining Rights Act, this was the only piece of legislation with which they had to comply.

"There are regulations promulgated under the Environment Conservation Act which require any person wanting to carry out activities such as mining to obtain a permit from the Administrator of Natal," he said.

"If and when an application is received by the Administrator, he has the discretion to grant or refuse to issue such a permit in a public statement.

"The Administrator has said that before issuing the necessary authority he will insist on a full environmental impact assessment and on the strength of that report he will exercise his discretion to grant or refuse the permit," Ridl said.

"If he believes it is in the public interest to refuse permission to mine then, notwithstanding the fact that the company may have the right to mine in terms of the Mining Rights Act, it will not be able to exercise those rights because provisions of the coastal zone regulations of the Environment Conservation Act will not have been complied with."

Ridl said the main principle of public support for the St Lucia issue had been demonstrated in two ways.

"Firstly, the public are becoming more aware of environmental issues, and secondly, for a change the public are prepared to do something about it," he said.

"At two public meetings in Richards Bay and Matubatuba people made their feelings known in very strong terms."

# Sappi spill won't hurt Kruger Park

CMT-726

2/10/89

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JOHANNESBURG. — The Sappi chemical spill will not affect the Kruger National Park, the park's chief research officer, Mr Willem Gertenbach, said yesterday.

He said dead fish found on the western boundary of the park on Friday could possibly have died higher up along the Crocodile River and drifted down.

This would probably be the only effect on the park of the spill, which is believed to have killed 22 species of fish higher up in the Crocodile River and its tributaries near the Sappi Ngodwana paper mill.

Conservationists claim the spill wiped out all aquatic life along a 20km stretch of the Elands River.

Mr Gertenbach said the chemicals had been diluted to such an extent by the time they entered the Kruger Park that they posed no danger.

Nevertheless park officials would continue to sample river water at least four times a day over the next week, before resuming the normal monitoring schedule.

● Reacting to weekend reports of charges laid by the Department of Nature Conservation against Sappi's Ngodwana paper mill, a Sappi spokesman said a court order had not yet been officially served.

He denied allegations that the spill had polluted the Nels River, which he said was upstream from the Ngodwana mill.

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TANIA LEVY

THE Sappi chemical spill will not affect Kruger National Park, chief research officer Willem Gertenbach said yesterday.

He said dead fish found on the western boundary of the park on Friday could have died higher up in the Crocodile River and drifted down.

This would probably be the only effect of the spill on the park. Thousands of fish have been killed higher up in the Crocodile River and its tributaries, near Sappi's Ngodwana paper mill.

Conservationists claim the spill wiped out all aquatic life along a 20km stretch of the Elands River.

But Gertenbach said that so far the chemicals had been diluted to such an extent that by the time they entered the Kruger Park they posed no danger.

Nevertheless, park officials would continue to sample river water at least four times a day during the next week before resuming the normal monitoring schedule.

Reacting to weekend reports of charges

~~REP~~ 56  
**Sappi spill 'will miss Kruger'**

laid by the Department of Nature Conservation against Sappi, a Sappi spokesman said a court order had not yet been served.

He denied allegations that the spill had polluted the Nels River, which he said was upstream from the mill.

Department of Water Affairs Highveld representative Nollie Ellis confirmed that reports of pollution and dead fish in the Nels River were being investigated.

An independent commission of inquiry into the spill is set to meet tomorrow.

Appointed by Sappi, the commission is headed by Cape limnologist and environmental conservationist Douglas Hey.

It includes the J L B Smith Institute of Ichthyology's Michael Bruton, Kruger National Park chief warden Salmon Joubert and CSIR water technology division representative Jane Harris.

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**Funnyman's income is far from Fawlty**

LONDON — Funnyman John Cleese is

Star 3/10/89

## St Lucia (56) controversy makes news in Britain

By James Clarke

The Star's petition to save St Lucia from being mined is set to pass the 100 000 mark today. Last night it stood at 96 000 as 11 000 signatures arrived yesterday.

Hundreds of petitions are now arriving from the platteland, particularly the Western and Northern Transvaal.

The petition may surpass that which arose from the attempt by Iscor to mine coal in the Kruger Park 10 years ago.

At the weekend the British *Sunday Telegraph* devoted a full page to the battle of Lake St Lucia, and the BBC also aired the controversy. Britain's ITN plans to follow suit.

### SUSPICIONS

The *Sunday Telegraph* reported that it is a British company which is seeking to mine the "wildlife paradise". It sees the battle as being between "big bucks and reedbucks".

The article, by Fred Bridge-land, the newspaper's southern Africa correspondent, says suspicions have been aroused by a letter from the Canadian Ambassador, sent to The Star, which stated that, as from June this year, Richards Bay Minerals, the company which wants to mine titanium at St Lucia, passed out of Canadian hands and was now owned by Britain's RTZ Corporation. But Canada will still get the titanium.

Richards Bay Minerals managing director Mr Roy McPherson is quoted as saying the mining operation would be environmentally sensitive.

# Hey leads probe into Sappi spill

CAPE conservationist Dr Douglas Hey is to head an independent commission of inquiry into the spill of process liquid into the Ngodwana and Elands rivers near Nelspruit in the Eastern Transvaal.

This was announced yesterday by Sappi, the company which owns the paper mill which allegedly caused the spill.

Dr Hey was the first director of the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation — a post he held for 27 years till he retired in 1979.

He still serves on many conservation bodies and lives in Cape Town.

Other members of the commission are Prof Michael Bruton, director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology in Grahamstown; Dr Salmon Joubert, head of the

## Plan for remedial steps against poison

Kruger National Park, and Dr Jane Harris, project leader: Water Quality Information Systems of the Division of Water Technology of the CSIR in Pretoria.

Sappi said the commission would determine the immediate impact of the spill and institute swift remedial action. They would also investigate medium- and long-term effects and make recommendations.

Twenty-two species of fish in the two rivers were reportedly wiped out as a result of the spill into the Ngodwana River, includ-

ing two endangered species.

The spill — 800 000 litres of poisonous "black liquor" — contained caustic soda, according to conservation officials.

● A statement of intended prosecution has been served upon the person who was in charge the night Sappi allegedly spilled.

Department of Nature Conservation law-enforcement officer Mr Ernest Rohm said Mr A K Kruger, who had been in charge of the section where the spill occurred, had been handed the statement by police yesterday.

Mr Rohm said this followed a charge being laid by the Department of Nature Conservation at Ngodwana police station on September 28.

Mr Rohm said the charge would eventually be against Sappi Pty Ltd. — Sapa and Own Correspondent

100 000 say 'no' to mining

# No really bad guys in battle for St Lucia

Dr Ian Player telephoned from his home near Howick on Sunday night. "I think we are winning this St Lucia campaign," he said. "I think public opinion is so overwhelmingly against it that the mining cannot possibly go ahead."

That same day at Delta Park, Johannesburg, the feeling at the Wildlife Society's annual general meeting was similarly optimistic. Even though the society's new president, with magnificent irony, is Mr Naas Steenkamp, chairman of Gencor, which is a shareholder in Richards Bay Minerals, the company which wants to mine St Lucia.

Yesterday the number of signatures protesting the mining of St Lucia's dunes passed the 100 000 mark and now seems set to exceed the number which, 10 years ago, protested against a move to mine coal in the Kruger Park.

One of the characteristics of the battle for St Lucia is that there are no really 'bad guys'. Richards Bay Minerals although the company erred in its assessment of the environmental impacts of mining St Lucia, has an excellent reputation for social and environmental sensitivity.

It recently won the Egptic award for the way it is trying to restore the vegetation on the runed-out dunes in the Richards Bay area.

Naas Steenkamp himself is a committed and very knowledgeable conservationist. He said on Sunday he did not see a conflict in his being president of the Wildlife Society and chairman

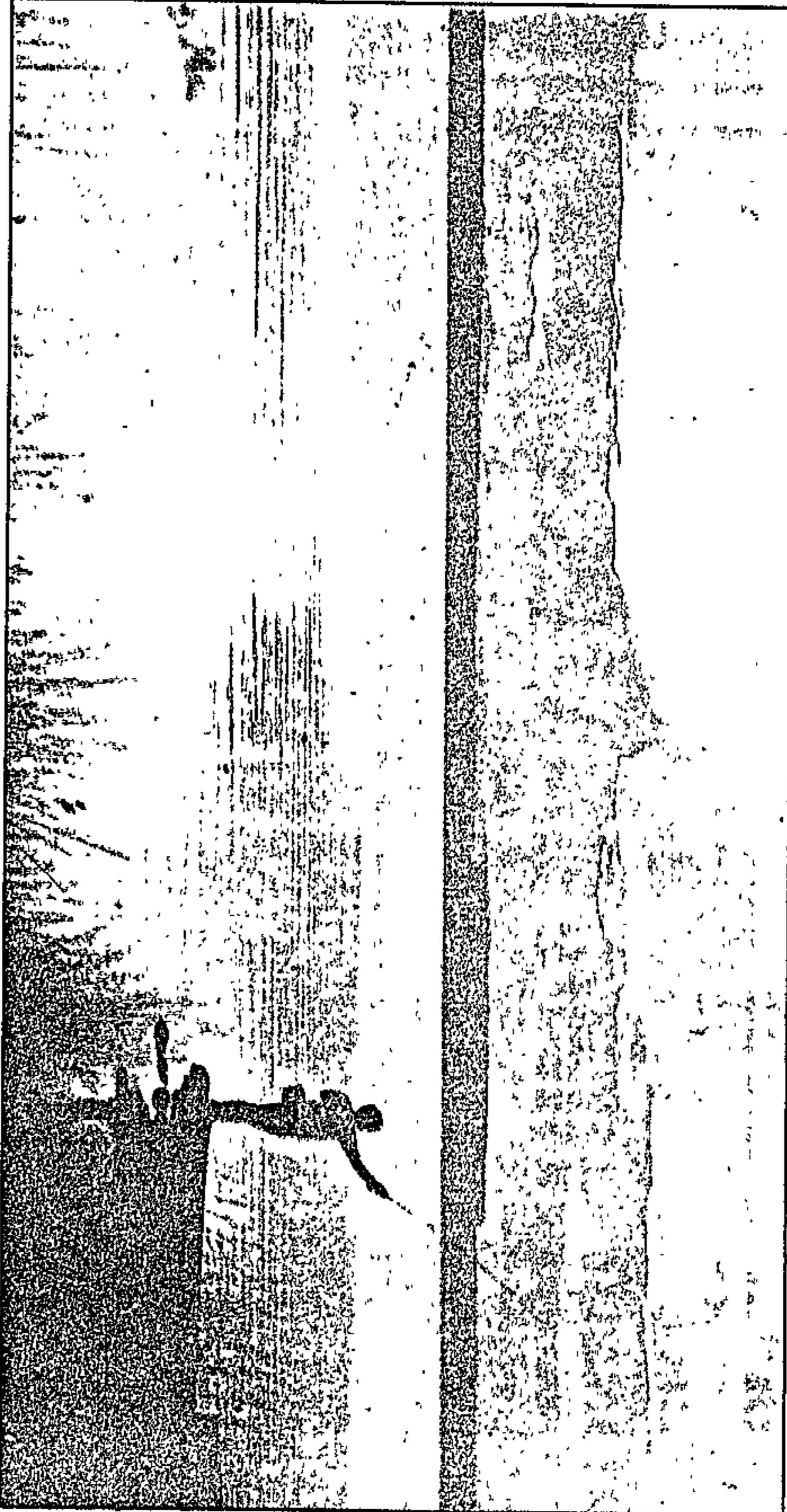
### By James Clarke

of Gencor, and he believed mining companies should be open and frank in their dealings with the public and ready to admit mistakes.

He did not divulge his stand on the St Lucia issue and I have been unable to make contact with him this week.

Ms Erna Botha, public affairs person with the society, told me she feels optimistic

Passinists might say the sun is setting over the tranquility of lake St Lucia, but 100 000 people have now signed the petition against mining in the Kruger Park.



about the St Lucia issue. She feels the great public response must sway the decision just as it did with Kruger Park.

But the case of St Lucia is different.

The game reserve is a provincial reserve and is not protected by the National Parks Act. The titanium-impregnated forested dunes, which form a serene

backdrop to the enormous lake, fall just outside the reserve.

The dunes are the favourite habitat of Natal's second largest concentration of black rhino.

On the other hand, Lake St Lucia, and the siltmuss of dunes which separates it from the Indian Ocean, has been declared under the Treaty of Ramsar (Ramsar is the Iranian city

where the treaty was signed) a wetland of international importance. South Africa, as one of the first signatories of that treaty, is honour-bound to protect St Lucia.

The lake is, in fact, the biggest estuary in Africa and among its bewildering variety of creatures are the young of many commercially important

fish which breed there. As a bird watching area it is one of the most rewarding on earth.

As growing world affluence causes tourism to grow in the 1990s and South Africa restores its image, St Lucia will become a celebrated place to visit. Already tourism is worth R1 500 million a year in over-

seas earnings and R2 500 million from domestic tourism.

One of the most forceful arguments used by RBM in its request to mine the area is that it will provide 600 "long term jobs" for the local population. It will mine for 15 to 20 years, but then what happens to the 600 workers and their families? Undoubtedly RBM will then

apply for permission to continue mining up the coast which is at present largely an unspoiled string of wetlands and dense dune forest. The Greater St Lucia Game Reserve — proposed by a government commission 20 years ago and now being pressed for by the Wildlife Society — must incorporate the coastal strip.

But the situation will arise where 600 titanium workers will become economic hostages and the public will be dared to sacrifice them.

The next move at St Lucia — should the mining people back off — is to create even more jobs and this can be done. St Lucia, as one of the world's most beautiful and biologically rich places, has permanent value as a tourist area. Mining for temporary gain will alter its scenic and ecologically no matter how sensitive RBM is.

And as a tourist area, St Lucia should be able to provide hundreds of permanent jobs. Tourism, even domestic tourism, has already caused Natal Parks Board's reserves to be hugely overlooked.

When overseas tourism takes off in the 1990s, as is predicted world-wide, the demand will rise for new hotel and rest camp facilities, for off-shore craft for big game fishing, for inland va-

tercraft, for game watching facilities, for meat production from culling, for hunting between St Lucia and Mkhuzi.

Hundreds of square kilometres of this southern Zululand region can be developed for tourism without undue impact on the beauty and serenity of the area. St Lucia village can become one of the most attractive tourist places in Africa.

56



# Commission arrives to assess river damage

By Clyde Johnson and Helen Grange

Members of the independent environmental commission appointed to assess the impact of Sappi Kraft's spillage into the Elands River arrived in Nelspruit yesterday.

The spill killed thousands of fish as well as other forms of aquatic life.

The commission members are Dr Douglas Hey, Cape Town limnologist and environmental scientist; Professor Michael Bruton, director of Grahamstown's J L B Smith Institute of Ichthyology; Dr Salmon Joubert, head of the Kruger National Park; and Dr Jane Harris, project leader of CSIR's water-quality information system.

Dr Hey will chair the commission and Miss Loretta Roos will be the secretary.

Yesterday morning, the members prepared an agenda and decided how the commission would be conducted. A helicopter will be placed at their disposal to enable them to travel to the affected areas.

A Sappi spokesman said yesterday the commission of inquiry had been appointed not only to assess the impact of the spillage but to make recommendations on steps to be taken to restore the environmental balance of the river.

The findings of the inquiry will be made public.

Two government bodies are taking action against Sappi.

The Department of Water Affairs is to request the Attorney-General of the Transvaal to investigate the spillage and the Transvaal Provincial Administration's Department of Nature Conservation started legal proceedings against the company last week.

The decision was made because Sappi had allegedly contravened the Water Act, which states that "any person who wilfully or negligently performed any act which could pollute public or private water in such a way as to render it less fit for the purpose for which it was, or could ordinarily be used, is guilty of an offence".

Lowvelders are demanding that Sappi be taken to court and a number of farmers are planning legal action.

## Spill: Commission briefed

*CAPL TWTB 5/10/89 (56)*  
NELSPRUIT. — The commission of inquiry into the Sappi spillage into rivers in the Eastern Transvaal met senior management staff at the company's Ngodwana mill on Tuesday, the company said yesterday.

A Sappi spokesman said the commission was "fully briefed" about the functioning of the mill, the precautions taken against spills and the circumstances of the recent spill.

A helicopter flight was arranged over the affected areas of the Ngodwana, Elands and Crocodile Rivers, and the commission spent the rest of the day gathering

relevant information. This included "a preliminary study of the impact of the effluent spill of the affected rivers and recommendations as to the immediate and long-term actions necessary to restore the ecological balance in the rivers".

The commission will then meet in Pretoria on November 6. — Sapa

## Bid for 'protected area'

# Director sure of St Lucia solution

An executive director of Gencor, Mr Naas Steenkamp — whose corporation is a shareholder in the company seeking to mine St Lucia — said yesterday: "I am sure a solution will be found. I have confidence in the judgment of my colleagues in Gencor."

Meanwhile, among the thousands of signatures protesting against the mining of St Lucia, have come individual letters from 240 children in Rustenburg, many of them from Fields Primary School.

Their signatures bring the total of petitioners to almost 110 000. Petitions have arrived from cities and towns in all four provinces, as well as from Namibia and Swaziland.

A spokesman at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria said: "Thousands are pouring in here too."

Mr Steenkamp was elected president of the Wildlife Society this week. When I suggested he was caught in the middle, he told me: "I have no difficulty marrying a conservation position with being a Gencor man."

He said: "I am not a mining man and must defer to the technical judgment of my colleagues."

Mr Steenkamp also said: "I am relaxed about my colleagues' attitudes."

He said Gencor was adamant about "following established procedures" regarding environmental impact assessments and abiding by the Environment Conservation Act which could, in fact, stop the mining.

Dr Jim Phelps of the University of Zululand, a member of the Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal), told me that Zeal was formally requesting the Administrator of Natal to use his power under the Act and proclaim the whole St Lucia Estuary, dunes and all, a "protected natural area". This would rule out mining.

"We have tried to give some focus to the petition — a legal focus."

Dr A E F Heydorn, director of the SA Nature Foundation, describes Zeal's move as the most meaningful so far. The Act empowers the Administrator to declare the area "protected" and therefore out of bounds to mining.

● See Page 14.

Stricken Cypriot tanker leaking oil off East London

# Pollution disaster facing Cape coast

STAFF  
5/10/89 (56)

## Port Elizabeth

A potential disaster is facing the Eastern Cape coast if further damage is suffered by a crippled Cypriot tanker which was trailing a 19 km-long oil slick off East London on Wednesday night.

The 268 000-ton tanker, Pacificos, has been leaking oil from a 15-metre long gash in its hull since yesterday afternoon.

It was lying about 60 km south-east of East London in a choppy sea and being buffeted by strong winds.

A spokesman for a salvage company said the 15-year-old ship was expected to head in the general direction of the coast of Port Elizabeth.

"The potential for a disaster is there if the tanker breaks up any further," Dr Lyn Jackson, a pollution research officer with the Department of Environmental Affairs, said last night.

Mr John Armstrong, salvaging co-ordinator for the salvaging company, Pentow Marine, said the "very heavy oil slick" was about 19 km long and 5 km wide in places.

## Plating missing

The oil was leaking from a 15-metre hole roughly amidships on the port side of the tanker. "We don't know how deep the hole is, but a substantial portion of the plating is missing, weakening the ship's structure," he said.

Mr Armstrong said two Kuswag pollution vessels would be in action, Kuswag Seven, the pollution patrol aircraft, left for the scene early today and the huge salvage tug, Wolraad Woltemade, was also expected to reach the stricken ship this afternoon.

A team of specialist divers was also on its way.

The captain of the ship declined to comment on the incident when contacted at sea last night.

A director of the representative company, World Wide Marine, Mr Nils Warner, said from Cape Town that the ship's owners' representatives and other experts from overseas would fly to the ship today.



After 36 gruelling hours battling the blaze which swept through the Entabeni forestry area in the northern Transvaal an exhausted fire-fighter, the flames reflected on the hose-pipe, pauses to select his next point of



Here to stay: Mathoplestad residents celebrate their reprieve from removal Picture: GILL DE VLIEG, Afrapix

## No Commonwealth stamp for ANC plan

THE ANC/OAU settlement plan for South Africa will not be formally endorsed at the crucial Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) meeting in Kuala Lumpur on October 18.

Despite intensive speculation that the African National Congress document — which was adopted by the Organisation of African Unity in Harare in August — would also become Commonwealth policy, highly-placed Commonwealth and diplomatic sources say it will not come up for formal consideration in Malaysia.

This will be a source of relief to the South African government, whose own plans for negotiations were preempted by the ANC move to map out its own position on a peaceful settlement, although it does not imply a Commonwealth rejection of the ANC principles.

A source in the Commonwealth office in London told the *Weekly Mail* yesterday that the official position was that the Commonwealth already had its own document, in the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

"The ANC/OAU document is not very far from our own," according to the source, "and so I would be very surprised indeed if it was to be formally proposed."

It is understood that the ANC/OAU proposals are not even included among the "background documents" being prepared for the week-long CHOGM meeting.

There are, however, significant differences between the EPG proposals and the ANC/OAU document, and it is believed that one or more Commonwealth leaders would refuse to endorse it if forced into such a decision.

Most crucially, while the British are known to have no problems with the document's preamble — or, indeed, with some two-thirds of the ANC's conditions, which overlap with those of the EPG — Whitehall will not go along with demands for an "interim government", believing it to be unre-

alistic at this stage, and therefore potentially counter productive. By SHAUN JOHNSON that of the remaining Rivonia trialists and United Democratic Front leader Oscar Mpetha.

Thus conflict between some European and African member states could be avoided by confining the ANC proposals to the realms of informal discussion during sessions on southern Africa in Kuala Lumpur.

It remains uncertain whether the expected clashes between leaders of the Frontline States and the British will materialise in the next fortnight. Certainly on the perennial issue of increased sanctions against Pretoria, Commonwealth officials believe that a workable agreement is attainable.

"We think there is a general feeling," a Commonwealth source told the *Weekly Mail*, "that there will be little question of the CHOGM pushing for further sanctions beyond putting pressure on financial institutions not to roll over loans for South Africa."

If this consensus holds, it will mean a firm commitment to maintaining economic pressure at its present levels, and a clear message to President FW de Klerk that major moves toward fundamental change are expected within a definite time-frame. This is not dissimilar to current United States policy on Pretoria.

British sources expect isolated calls for comprehensive mandatory sanctions to be made at Kuala Lumpur, but believe these will be ritualistic rather than a point on which the Commonwealth will suffer serious divisions.

And despite reports that, in order to defuse expected pressure on her in Malaysia, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would be able to "deliver" a released Walter Sisulu, British sources say they have "absolutely no indication" of when the ANC veteran will come out.

They think it highly unlikely, however, that he will be freed before October 18, although pressure is being maintained for his release along with

**FW decides: I can do without Guards**

*B/Dca 6/10/89*  
Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The white-helmeted State President's Guard, since 1967, has had its ceremonial wings clipped — by order of the President himself.

Without fanfare, the spit-and-polish guardsmen have been banished from their ceremonial duties at the President's offices and residences in Pretoria and Cape Town, it became known yesterday.

This is because F W de Klerk apparently wants more emphasis to be laid on the executive aspects of his position.

A spokesman for the Chief of the Army, under whose jurisdiction the State President's Guard falls, would not comment yesterday on what effect this would have on the future activities of the infantry unit.

"No finality about precisely which ceremonial functions are to be reduced has been reached," he said.

*(Signature)*

**New oil threat lurks from damaged tanker**

*B/Dca 6/10/89*

(56)

on the night in question. — Sapa.

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — A predicted switch in wind direction this afternoon could blow hundreds of tons of leaked crude oil from the stricken tanker Pacificos onto the coast around Port Elizabeth.

Last night, with the tanker steaming slowly out to sea under her own power, but into 4m-high seas lashed by gale force winds, an estimated 1 000 tons of light-crude oil was already spreading a deadly pollution trail across the ocean.

The 268 466 ton ship was holding a position about 54 (nautical) miles out to sea throughout yesterday.

With all communications between the ship and shore cut by the howling gale, gusting up to 70 knots (more than 100km/h), there were fears among potential salvors that the 268 466 ton ship could

break up if the weather remained bad.

Our East London correspondent reports that a second crack has been discovered in the hull of the supertanker.

The vessel's agents reported that the original crack had opened up and was about 30m long.

An estimated 500 tons of Basrah light-crude oil had leaked from the tanker by 9am yesterday and the ships' captain predicted that he could lose another 500 tons from ruptured cargo tanks during the course of the day and last night.

Already the oil slick of thick, red-brown light-crude is 24km long and running to the north-east of the ship away from the coast. However, if the wind changes it

will be blown back to shore. Yesterday Capt Braam Thomas of Pentow Marine in Cape Town, which hopes to win the salvage contract, said that the damage was worse than at first thought.

However, they did not expect to get an accurate assessment of the damage until divers had been able to make an inspection.

The Pacificos, with a full cargo of oil from the Red Sea for Brazil, was still under the command of her Korean captain and able to steam under her own power.

Thomas said it was still not known what had caused the damage. "Perhaps just the weather," he said.

Two Kuswag anti-pollution vessels are on the scene, but the wind and rough sea is preventing them starting anti-dispersant spraying.

*B/Dca*

*L. M. K. G.*

(56)

At a gathering of tribal elders in the Kosi Bay district last year a grey-bearded man in the audience stood up and said: "Show me a fish that can live out of water and then we can talk about *invelo* (conservation)."

Unprecedented public outrage over ecological degradation — fanned by scandals over toxic waste, river contamination and air pollution — has resulted in an upsurge of environmental awareness in South Africa:

This was illustrated most dramatically by the massive support given to a petition against plans to mine rare beach dunes near St Lucia, and by the outcry that followed the chemical destruction of the ecosystem in a stretch of river near the Sappi timber mill in the Eastern Transvaal.

But while this upsurge in "green" awareness has included calls for the formation of a European-style ecoparty in South Africa, the sentiments of the old man from Kosi Bay highlight some of the factors that have inhibited the emergence of a powerful eco-movement in the past.

The reasons for the absence of environmental issues from South Africa's political history stem from the fact that resistance and opposition to the policies of government and industry have been dominated by the burning issues of racism and exploitation, leaving little time and energy for organisation around ecology.

Environmental projects have often resulted in social dislocation and distress for black communities. In Kosi Bay, for example, a group of *indunas* and villagers have formed at least three civic committees to oppose attempts by kwaZulu's conservation department to extend the nearby nature reserve into their traditional settlements.

"If conservation means losing water rights, losing grazing and arable land and being dumped in a resettlement area without even the most rudimentary infrastructure and services, as was the case when the Tembe Elephant Park (near Kosi Bay) was declared in 1983," says rural fieldworker Richard Clasey, "this can only promote a vigorous 'anti-conservation' ideology amongst the rural communities of South Africa."

The same antipathy toward ecological issues is often expressed by residents of urban black townships, where a history of land dispossession and residential segregation has forced people to live in monotonous dormitory townships.

Asked whether resistance groups saw the need to take up ecological issues, a young black activist replied: "The people have long been alienated from the environment they live in. Why should they now be asked to protect the very land that has been taken from them?"

While these sentiments have resulted in a lack of political pressure from "below" for South Africa's natural resources to be protected, it is also true that at least until recently, both industry and the government have had scant regard for the environment.

The history of economic development in South Africa has been characterised by brutal patterns of exploitation. Congested "homeland" villages, eroded and overgrazed, have been countenanced because they provided subsidies for low wages paid by industrialists to migrants.

The lack of a political rights for black workers has contributed to the marked absence of a "welfare ethic" amongst local industrialists. This, in turn, has led in many cases to high accident rates in mines and factories, poor health and safety records, and a general lack of concern for the well-being of both black and white communities that live in industrial areas.

Government policies have also done little to inhibit such practices. Peter Glavovic, director of the Institute of Environmental Law at the University of Natal, says South African legislation is based on the "best practical means" approach to industrial pollution.

Unlike the "polluter pays" approach used by most industrial countries — involving the imposition of heavy taxes on plants that damage the ecology — Pretoria prefers a conciliatory

# 'Green', a potential platform for the fight to end apartheid

**More immediate factors like oppression and exploitation have inhibited environmental awareness. So too has the lack of legally binding regulations. But 'green' is now a growing issue. By EDDIE KOCH and DIRK HARTFORD**

approach.

Glavovic is concerned that South Africa's new Environmental Act, passed in June this year, confers extraordinary discretionary powers on Environment Minister Gert Kotze and does not lay down legally binding regulations to prevent pollution.

Although the Council for the Environment, which advises the minister, has drawn up far-reaching guidelines these are mere recommendations.

The law stipulates the minister must obtain consent from the ministers of finance, economic affairs and technology before issuing regulations, raising the possibility vested interests could block environmental measures.

At the same time it provides no formal channels through which ecology groups can influence official policy.

There are a range of other laws that have a potential impact on the ecology: the Water Act, the Hazardous Substances Act, the Health Act, the Mines and Works Act. These lay down legal limits beyond which offenders can be penalised for contaminating the ecosystem. But the limits and the penalties are much lower than those in other industrial nations.

"South Africa is in many respects still a developing country and the

government clearly doesn't want to overregulate or curtail operations so that this starts impacting on economic growth," says Glavovic. "My basic objection is to the very notion that national environmental policy should be determined administratively rather than legislatively."

Recent developments indicate that all this is beginning to change with the mushrooming of environmental groups. (See separate story).

White housewives in the Vaal Triangle have organised themselves to fight industrial pollution, forcing the government to order a high-level study into the effect the foul air is having on the health of their children.

While neither the African National Congress' constitutional guidelines nor the Freedom Charter mention the word ecology, figures in the exiled

organisation have indicated such issues are now the subject of debate.

A new slogan doing the rounds says: "It's time to put the green back in to the black, green and gold (the colours of the ANC)".

Inside the country, some militant trade unions have begun to explore the link between health and safety issues on the factory floor and ecological degradation: the SA Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu), whose members make pesticides, has been in contact with Natal farmers fighting for a ban on dangerous herbicides.

Democratic Party candidates made gains during the recent elections in some areas by standing on a "clean up the environment" ticket. And ecologists have begun to call for the formation of a "greens party". There are also moves toward ensuring the protection of the environment is included in a post-apartheid bill of rights.

In South Africa there are at least four areas in which there is the potential to build alliances across the divides of class and race:

● Air pollution does not discriminate. White housewives in the Vaal Triangle confront the same problem as the National Environment Action Committee (Neac), an organisation in

Soweto that campaign for clean air in the township.

● River pollution, like that caused by the devastating spill from Sappi's timber mill in the Eastern Transvaal, despoils white farming land and deprives rural black communities of precious water supplies.

● Indiscriminate use of pesticides, such as the Agent Orange-type herbicides that have destroyed millions of rands worth of vegetables in Natal, affects some farming groups as well as the agricultural workers who spray the chemicals and the factory workers who make them.

● While the irresponsible dumping of toxic waste in the Pietermaritzburg area poses a massive threat to the health of the squatter communities next to the dump, city residents are showing alarm at the way the poison has seeped into the water table.

In a polarised country like South Africa there are obvious antagonisms which will undermine the potential for broad-based, unified action. During the St Lucia uproar some local farmers voiced objections on grounds that mining "would bring hordes of black workers and a township" into the reserve.

However there are increasing signs that both political and ecological activists are realising that — if the needs of people like the old man in Kosi Bay are taken into account — there is vast potential for a new "green" alliance in the fight to end apartheid.



Erosion and overgrazing have impoverished homeland villages ... there is potential for a "green" alliance in the fight against apartheid

Picture: PAUL WEINBERG

## A brief guide to South Africa's ecological groups

A HOST of organisations are linking their names to the environmental mania sweeping South Africa. These range from small, regional groups which focus on specific issues to some of the most powerful political organisations in the country.

The following is a who's who of the main actors on the "green" stage and a brief look at how political organisations are dealing with the issue.

### Environmental groups

**The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa:** South Africa's biggest conservation organisation, formed in 1926, has 28 000 adult members, 12 000 junior members and 120 000 corporate members. Its brochure says it is concerned with the conservation of air, soil, water and "all forms of life".

It monitors abuses and reviews existing legislation. The society recently played a leading role in mobilising the public against plans to mine near St Lucia.

**Earthlife Africa:** Formed a year ago, this is the only group trying to organise nationally around "creating a new society where protection of the environment is a precondition". It has active branches in Johannesburg, Pietermaritzburg, Durban, Eshowe and Stellenbosch, and over 1 000 members.

Earthlife is focusing on Eskom's proposed second nuclear power station, the issues of toxic waste and air pollution. Smaller committees take up issues, from animal rights to tree planting.

Earthlife seeks to mobilise at grassroots level to pressure (through information, education and direct action) business and government to stop environmental destruction.

**The Endangered Wildlife Trust:** Based in Johannesburg, this organisation has about 5 000 members. It has been particularly vocal about complaints of lack of government curbs on illegal ivory and rhino poaching. It organised a major conference last year to deal with nature reserves and the need to improve

relations with communities on their borders.

**The Rhino and Elephant Foundation:** A small, highly specialised, group focusing on the threat to rhino and elephant in southern Africa. It raises funds, advises the authorities in South Africa and Namibia, and monitors the declining numbers of elephants and rhino.

**Environment and Development Agency (EDA):** This organisation organises rural communities around local development projects. It deals with the effects of erosion, the destruction of natural fuel and overgrazing. It provides training and education.

EDA plans to launch a journal next year to raise public awareness.

**The Zululand Environment Alliance (Zeal):** A coalition of local conservation groups which has begun a campaign to protect the shores of St Lucia and to have areas of Zululand's coast that have been put under pine plantations reclaimed for indigenous plants and associated life forms.

**Koebeg Alert:** Formed in the early 1980s in Cape Town to mobilise opinion against the establishment of the Koebeg nuclear plant, the small, local group highlights the danger of nuclear power stations through education, information and meetings. A similar group, **Society Against Nuclear Energy (Sane)**, has been formed in Natal.

**Air Pollution Appeal Committee (Apac):** Formed in 1988 by women in the Vaal Triangle, Apac is organising to pressure for effective monitoring of, and legislative control over, one of the most polluted areas in the world.

Its activities include pressuring industry, developing public awareness through information, protest marches and petitioning government to introduce environmental awareness curriculae into schools.

**National Environment Awareness Committee (Neac):** Formed in Soweto during the 1976 uprisings, Neac started off as a

Keep Soweto Clean-type operation when basic services had broken down. While this is still part of Neac's work, it has taken up a range of issues including tree planting and the development of the handful of "people's parks" in the township. It has also focused on air pollution in Soweto.

### Political organisations

**The Democratic Party:** In the recent elections, the DP was the only party to present an environmental programme. Its manifesto outlines four things it will do if it comes to power: set up an environment protection body; take strong action against poachers and dealers in illicit ivory; promote the use of lead-free petrol; and impose strict curbs on all other forms of pollution.

**The Conservative Party:** CP spokesman on the environment Karel Schoeman says the party had a general concern for ecological issues and was especially concerned about air pollution over the Eastern Transvaal, Highveld and the Vaal Triangle. If it comes to power the party would reintroduce influx control to prevent the despoilation caused by urban squatting.

**The National Party:** The NP had no eco-clauses in its election manifesto. However, as the ruling party, its approach is contained in the new Environmental Act and the guidelines for the Council for the Environment. While the guidelines are far-reaching, they do not have any legislative force and Environment Minister Gert Kotze wields vast discretionary powers.

**African National Congress:** As with all other political organisations in South Africa, environmental issues did not appear on the ANC's agenda until recently. This is changing. At a recent phone-in to the National Union of SA Students Congress, a representative said the movement was planning an enquiry into the state of the environment and what is needed to protect it. "The state and business are deliberately destroying the environment of South Africa... it is the

task of anti-apartheid forces to challenge this," says the ANC.

**Extra-parliamentary organisations:** A few organisations have begun to put the environment on their agenda. Idasa is to host a talk on "The ecological transformation of society" by a West German Green Party representative. The **Afrikaner Demokrate** have ecology as one of their policies. And leading activists in organisations like **Nusas**, **Five Freedoms Forum**, and the **UDF (Natal)** are talking of taking up the issue.

### Trade unions

Although the labour movement has become aware of a link between health and safety issues and environmental despoilation, few unions campaign actively around "green" issues. Exceptions include:

**The South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu):** A National Council of Trade Unions affiliate, the union has contacted Chemwatch, a group of Natal farmers and ecologists fighting for a ban on hormone herbicides. The union fears their members' exposure to chemicals in pharmaceutical factories. General secretary Humphrey Ndaba says members plan to pressure chemical firms to phase out ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons.

**The Paper, Print, Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu):** This union, a Congress of SA Trade Unions member, has some 2 000 members in the forestry industry and has taken tentative steps to educate them about the dangers of weed-killer sprays. Ppwawu has 1 200 members at the Ngodwana mill, scene of a recent chemical spill, and plans to discuss the effects of the spill on water supplies in townships where they live.

**The Black Mining Construction and Allied Workers' Union:** Affiliated to Nactu, this union has conducted a five-year campaign against the use of asbestos products. The union has some 2 000 members at the Penge asbestos mine.

# Argus's Klawer Disaster Fund tops R70 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

176 W  
6/10/89

A GIFT of R5 000 from the Foschini Group has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus beyond the R70 000 mark.

The cheque from the clothing and jewellery retail chain has swelled the fund from R65 134,70 to R70 134,70 in 24 hours.

Reserves were further boosted yesterday to R71 685,00 by a gift of R500 from the Look Alive Boutique (Pty) Ltd and a contribution of R1 185 from the Springbok Toeriste Forum.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when the lorry in which they were travelling crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been boosted by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches, institutions and individuals.

All contributions, however small, bring a measure of relief to the suf-

fering and hardship of the bereaved families.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

● See page 5.

INSIDE: Weather 2 Letters 14 Finance 17-18 Sport 19-20-23-24 Racing 22 TV — Page 3 of Tonight!



# SA 'Greens' set their sights on industry

STAA (56) 7/10/89  
INCREASING public concern about damage to the environment, expressed most recently through the petition to prevent mining at St Lucia and outrage at the Sappi spillage in the Eastern Transvaal, has led to the formation of a new political party in South Africa — the Ecology Party.

At a meeting held in Johannesburg this week, plans were finalised for the immediate formation of the party and the recruitment of members.

A spokesman for the party said that it

expected its support to come from the increasing number of people keen to see action taken against big industrial concerns seen to be primarily responsible for pollution and environmental ruin.

"These concerns seem to enjoy the protection either of legislation which protects the polluter rather than the polluted, or of politicians who are more interested in black/white politics than green," the spokesman said.

The Ecology Party, which has adopted a

green heart as its emblem, will have aims similar to those of the green movements overseas which have been so successful on the last 10 years in raising public awareness of environmental issues.

As a parliamentary political party, it will formulate its policies on the basis of "what is the bottom line for preserving the environment?"

Further information can be obtained from Colin Slater (011) 787-4468.

# Rotten trade in ivory must end?

Skus 2/10/89

(56)

THE Endangered Wild Life Trust has called on the South African Government to stop selling ivory, saying that the loophole for illegal ivory through South Africa would remain intact should they continue to trade.

"The ivory business is rotten to the core. By continuing to trade in ivory South Africa finds itself in the company of ruthless poachers, smugglers and criminals who will kill the last elephant in Africa to satisfy their greed," said Dr John Ledger, director of the trust.

The call comes on the eve of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) meeting in Switzerland where South Africa will join other southern African states in opposing an international ban on the ivory trade, holding out for strict controls.

"Cites has no hope of controlling a legal ivory trade from southern Africa or anywhere else. We believe South Africa should

## DAWN BARKHUIZEN

join America and Europe and get out of the ivory business altogether," he said.

"South Africa has not proved itself capable of controlling the illegal ivory passing through this country. Despite establishing the SA Police Endangered Species Protection Unit, and some success in intercepting illegal consignments, the big operators remain untouched and tons of illegal ivory are still flowing through the South African transport networks."

He said: "We feel strongly that the National Parks Board should not be involved in the ivory businesses. Their function is to act as custodian and protector of South Africa's wildlife heritage."

"The culling of elephants is a management decision — the elephants are not killed to make money from ivory. If they are, then the NPB has lost its direction."

While the Trust supported the principle of sustained utilisation of wildlife and regarded the NPB's efforts as an outstanding

example to the rest of Africa, nowhere else was this state of affairs attainable and elephants were being slaughtered at a rate of 70 000 a year for their tusks.

"More than 90 percent of all ivory coming on to the market is illegal and by South Africa continuing to trade in ivory we believe the loophole for illegal ivory through Africa will remain," he said.

"Ivory belongs in the same league as the ashtrays made from gorilla hands. In 1962 South Africa was one of the nations that killed 70 000 whales. The same number of elephants will die this year to satisfy the greed of the syndicates. South Africa should distance itself from this rotten business altogether."

South Africa obtains about seven tons of ivory annually from elephant culls in the Kruger National Park in a management programme aimed at keeping the park's population stable at about 8 000. This represents 1.5 percent of Africa's estimated 625 000 elephants — which have been reduced by uncontrolled slaughter from about 1.5-million 10 years ago.

# Environment a 'political battlefield'



Dr Player ... environment going to become a political battlefield.

By James Clarke

South Africa's best known professional conservationist, Dr Ian Player, said at the weekend that he would lie in front of the bulldozers should an attempt be made to destroy St Lucia for mining.

"The mining would be a mortal blow to conservation in South Africa," he told the Democratic Party congress in Durban.

Dr Player warned: "The environment is going to become a political battlefield and unless the DP allies itself with the environmental movement it will be bypassed by the

Greens Party."

Dr Player called for a national conservation strategy, saying too much was being lost in South Africa because of ad hoc environmental decisions.

## PARLIAMENT

He advocated that St Lucia region be proclaimed in such a way that only a two-thirds majority of the South African Parliament could deproclaim it.

● The Star's on-going petition to save St Lucia reached 122 249 at the weekend.

STAR (56)

9/10/89

## Effluent far above acceptable toxicity

# Sappi has killed Mandini River, say local residents

Own Correspondent

DURBAN - The Mandini River in Zululand is dead, and residents say Sappi killed it.

They say the damage to the rivers in the Eastern Transvaal, where tons of fish died, is mild in comparison with what has been done to the Mandini River.

An investigation last week found that residents were critical of Sappi's "lack of responsibility to the environment" but that many kept quiet because of Sappi's huge influence as the major employer in the area.

The water below the Sappi outlet pipe was tested and found to register 37,3 deg C, too hot for any river life. The thick, brown, vile-smelling effluent was robbing the river of life-giving oxy-

## Now paper company is planning to dump waste in the Tugela

Own Correspondent

DURBAN - Sappi has planned a multimillion-rand pipeline to pump its waste away from the Mandini River - and dump it directly into the Tugela River instead.

The pulp and paper giant, the income of which after tax last year was R567 million, has decided against purifying its effluent to acceptable standards before discharging it.

A spokesman for Sappi, Mr Brian Stockton, said the mill had "clarified" effluent water for many years. This was monitored by Sappi and the Department of Water Affairs.

However, the department's deputy director of water quality, Mr Gottfried Grobbelaar, said the quality of the effluent was "shocking".

He said Sappi was exempt from the Water Act, which lays down standards for effluent.

"It is not right that a company should be allowed to continue polluting a river like this. And I don't think the Mandini River should be violated like it is. However, the effluent from a paper mill is one of the most problematic."

### LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

He said Sappi had decided to build a pipeline to take the polluted water away from Mandini. "It's not environmentally desirable."

Mr Stockton said the pipeline was being installed at a cost of R6,5 million and was due to be finished by next September.

"Sappi has also commissioned the CSIR to carry out a R200 000 waste-load allocation study on the Tugela River."

Sappi declined to counter criticism that it was being environmentally irresponsible.

A spokesman for the local community, who asked not to be named because of his links with the mill, said: "Sappi has a history of fobbing off and showing a lack of accountability."

"It likes people to think it is environmentally conscious, by bringing out the 'Sappi Collection' of nature photographs and fancy publicity, but it is not prepared to clean up its own backyard."

"Sappi likes people to think it is one of the good guys, but it is guilty of hypocrisy because it keeps discharging waste into the water courses and air," said a community spokesman.

He said that in many European countries, factories had to pump effluent upstream, above the point where they drew water, to encourage them to keep their own water clean. He suggested that this be made law in South Africa.

gen as it decomposed on its way to the Tugela.

When fish last swam in the river, Mandini was just a railway siding with a trading store. Then came Sappi, bringing employment and development to the area. But it also brought devastating water pollution and a terrible smell.

There is a high turnover of residents in the town, colloquially known as "The Smell" because of the pervading stink. Many people have left, believing that the incessant smoke from the Sappi factory is the cause of a high incidence of respiratory disease.

For the Tiede family, who used to live on the river bank, the odour was so unbearable that they moved to Zinkwazi and now commute to Mandini every day.

Mrs Patricia Tiede said "The smell rises from the river in the late afternoon and gets into your house and doesn't get out until the next morning. It gets into everything - the furniture and your clothes all stink. People say you get used to it. But I don't know how anybody can."

She said her children were much healthier since they had left.

### Quality of life

Another mother, who asked not to be identified because her husband works for the mill, said "Sappi has been very good to us. I don't want to say anything bad about it. But it has destroyed our quality of life."

A local vet, Dr Margaret Hiza, said she and her two daughters suffered from allergic rhinitis which she believed was caused by the smoke.

Her husband, local farmer Dr Peter Ardington, said "There have been no studies to prove the health risks. But if it makes your eyes smart, what is it doing to the lining of your lungs?"

Dr Ardington said there had been a spirit of friendly co-operation between the pollution control committee of the Mandini Town Board and Sappi but that this was in jeopardy as the company had failed to meet its two-year deadline for improving conditions.

He said there had not been an outcry when Sappi originally started "killing the river" because the residents of Mandini at that stage were mainly Sappi employees who feared being fired.

But this had changed with the growth of border industries at Isithebe and more than half the residents were now not employed by Sappi and did not owe any loyalty to it.

"The factory was started in non-environmentally conscious days. It had a permit to discharge effluent, using the limited technology that was available then," said Dr Ardington.

"It appears that the river was written off as an industrial sewer right from the start."

### Survey results

Sappi is not the only industry polluting the area. The local sewage works and industries at Isithebe add their share of pollution to the river, but tests carried out by the town board show that Sappi is the major polluter.

Town clerk Mr Mike Press provided the latest survey results.

Above the outlet pipe, the amount of oxygen absorbed by pollution is 11,4 units. In the river below the pipe, the figure is 99. The maximum allowed by law is 10.

The chemical oxygen demand (the amount of oxygen consumed in digesting the organic material in the effluent) is 65 units. Below the pipe the reading is 429,8. The maximum allowed is 75.

Dr Allan Connell, marine biologist with the CSIR, said the best environmental solution was to treat the effluent until it would not do damage.

STAR (56) 9/10/89

The

## Sewage and industrial pollution levels being monitored

# Witbank faces effluent hazard

By Therese Anders,  
Highveld Bureau

WITBANK — The Department of Water Affairs is closely monitoring Witbank's Ferrobank industrial area where pollution hazards are posed by a broken municipal industrial effluent pipe and Anglo American's Vantra vanadium plant.

The department says contaminated water from both sources could overflow into the already highly acidic Brug Spruit during a storm.

The spruit, which according to the department already has unacceptably high levels of sulphates, ultimately flows into the Loskop Dam.

The Witbank sewerage pipe in Ferrobank — which, apart from sewage, contains industrial waste from other industries — has been broken for months.

### 'Poisonous water'

The effluent, which a sign warns is "poisonous water", has saturated an area above the Brug Spruit and was recently flowing down a municipal road.

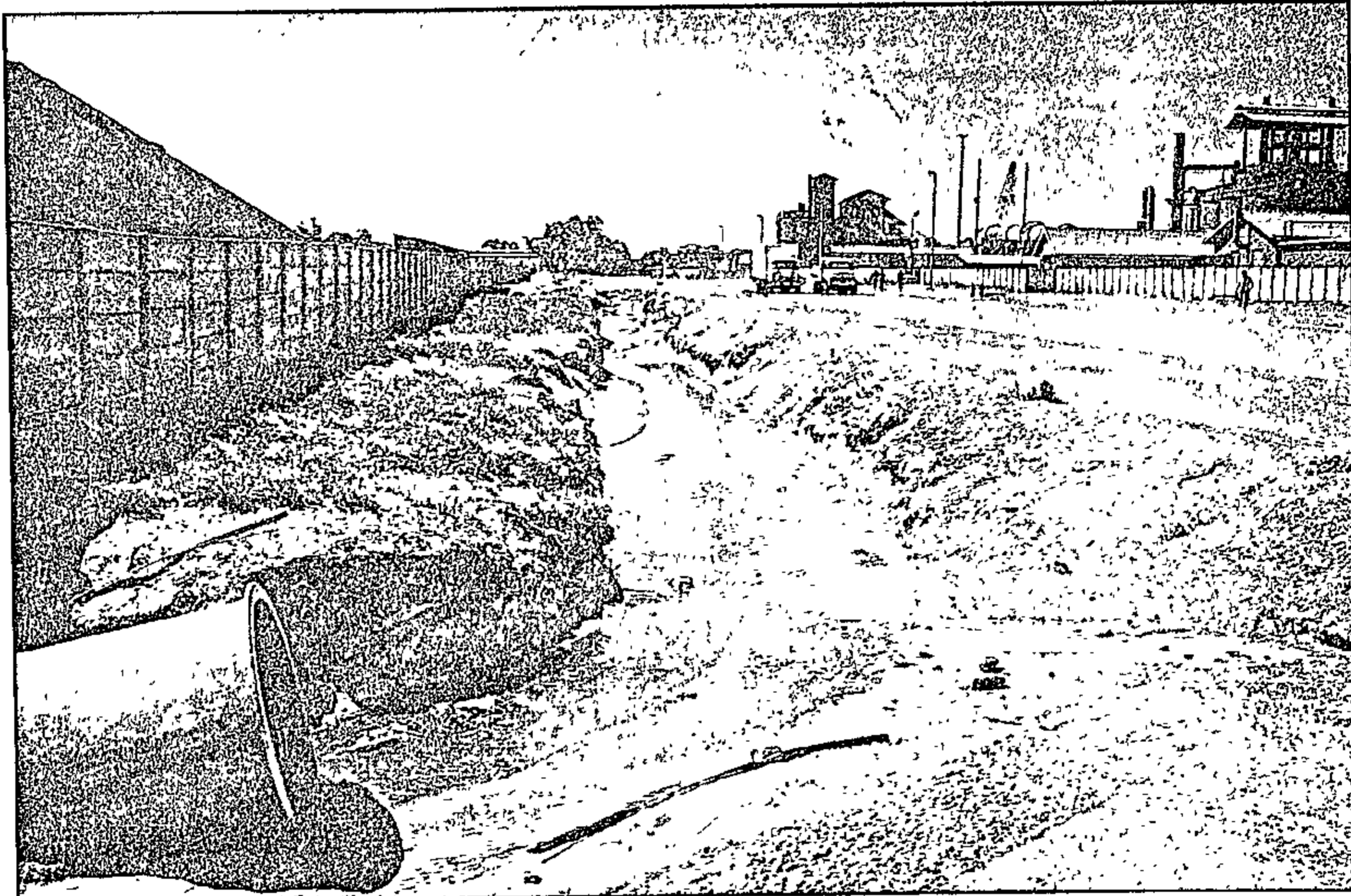
Some of the run-off has been contained in Vantra's plastic-lined dams. Although this area has been fenced in, Highveld Steel and Vantra's vanadium division labourers have broken down the wire and pass the "poisonous water" dams on a shortcut to their accommodation.

The council is now building a new sewerage pipe in the area, but it is unlikely to be completed before the summer rains.

At Vantra, industrial run-off, which the department says "contains some industrial waste", runs down an open ditch next to a public road.

The ditch is lined with yellow and white salt crystals.

The waste water heads towards a plastic-lined dam on



Waste water, which the Department of Water Affairs says contains some industrial effluent, flows from Anglo American's Vantra vanadium plant into an open ditch on a public road. The ditch runs towards a containment dam on Vantra property.

Vantra's property where it is then recycled into the plant.

When The Star visited it last week, one of the pipes was blocked and waste had evidently been flowing onto the road.

The Department of Water Affairs' deputy director of water quality, Mr Ron Morris, said that while the Ferrobank water pollution was a "headache" it was no worse than Witbank's other problem of acidic water seeping out of abandoned collieries.

He said the pollution posed no danger to the public, but could not comment on the danger to animal or plant life.

The water flowing down the Vantra ditch contained some industrial salts which could eventually reach ground water and the Brug Spruit.

"But I want to stress that over the last six months, at our insistence, there has been a huge improvement at Vantra.

"They have improved their general housekeeping, which has

prevented salts being dropped onto the ground inside the plant.

"This thing is not going to be fixed overnight, but I want to stress that while the situation at Vantra is still unacceptable to us, we have had their full co-operation."

Mr Morris said the department had met Vantra and the Witbank Town Council two weeks ago and the situation was being carefully monitored.

Witbank town secretary Mr Pieter Rorich said the council

was aware of the situation at Ferrobank but nothing more could be done until the new sewerage pipes were completed.

An Anglo American spokesman said the chemicals flowing out of Vantra into the dirt ditch for recycling were sodium sulphate, sodium carbonate and sodium metavanadate.

He said Vantra's plant effluent system was operated on a closed circuit and the effluent in the containment dam was recirculated back to the plant.

# Control of ivory sales 'has failed'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland. — A crucial meeting on wildlife trade opened yesterday with an admission that an elaborate plan to control ivory sales is not working and that African elephant populations are in an "alarming" decline.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands told 800 delegates and observers at a 10-day session of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that "all of us who supported the CITES ivory quota system must admit it has failed to control the illegal ivory trade".

Prince Bernhard, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) which supports calls for a total ban in ivory trading, warned delegates of alarming census reports.

"If there is any doubt on any issue, for or against trade, you must give the benefit of the doubt to the survival of the species. Once a species has gone, it has gone for ever."

He said illegal trading in wildlife was now the second-largest illicit trade in the world after drugs.

Delegates from 103 CITES nations must decide whether to list elephants on Appendix One, as an endangered species, forcing an ivory ban, or leave them on Appendix Two for threatened species.

Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana argue that their careful management entitles them to sell tusks from culled elephants, thereby financing their game reserves.

## 25 000 elephants killed

DAR ES SALAAM. — Tanzania, campaigning for a global ban on the ivory trade, said yesterday that poachers had slaughtered almost half the elephants in its largest game reserve in the past three years.

Wildlife director Mr Costa Mlay, speaking on the day an international conference on the proposed ban opened in Switzerland, said an aerial survey two weeks ago in the southern Selous Game Reserve counted nearly 30 000 elephants compared with 55 000 in 1986. — Sapa-Reuter

East African states argue that the continent's diminishing herds have been reduced by half in a decade to just over 600 000 and can be protected only with a total ban.

Efforts at compromise met with mixed reaction.

"The compromise approach has meant the death of hundreds of thousands of African elephants," said Mr Andrew Davis, a Greenpeace spokesman. "Only a total ban with a really concerted effort to shut down the markets can save the elephants."

Mr Simon Lyster, head of the WWF delegation, said even a total ban would not be enough.

"We must make the wearing and using of ivory as socially unacceptable as wearing a cheetah-skin coat," he said. — Sapa-AP

# Developing world needs \$1-trillion for electricity

SB  
B/Dam 11/10/89

THE developing world would need \$1-trillion to meet electricity power needs over the next decade, Eskom CE Ian McRae said on Monday.

Speaking on his return from the 14th World Energy Conference, held in Montreal, McRae said about \$200m would come from the World Bank and other multi-national sources.

He said the remaining \$800bn would be generated by the establishment of regional power grids, which would be self-funding.

He said Eskom's vision for southern African regional development, co-operation and optimising energy resources was well received by conference delegates.

## Participation

McRae said SA's image and credibility at the congress were high.

"We can now look forward with continued optimism that restraints on participation will decrease or be totally eliminated."

He said a number of power generating projects on a regional scale were in the pipeline, including the Cahora Bassa scheme, which would be back on line within the next two years.

Power grids would be going up in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi, and to the west there would be another one in southern Angola.

A link-up was being worked out with

THEO RAWANA

Zaire and there was further potential in the Zambezi River. There was also SA's involvement in the Lesotho Highlands scheme.

McRae said the fact that Botswana and Swaziland had coal augured well for the development of schemes.

"We will see progress in these projects and the World Bank will come in with the funds," he said.

He said the conclusion at the world conference was a reverse of the Munich congress in 1980 and that the energy resource base was not a problem in the foreseeable future.

"The world will be able to sustain its energy requirements for many years to come."

Sapa reports that McRae said SA was well-stocked in terms of future energy resources.

He said while SA did not have its own oil and would continue importing, the country's coal reserves, used mainly for making synthetic petrol, would last well into the latter half of the next century.

In terms of policy, McRae would not reveal statistics concerning SA's natural gas production.

He said, however, that the Moss gas project offered potential and would continue to be used for the production of synfuel.

There was great scope for nuclear

energy, now favoured by environmentalists above coal-produced power, in view of SA's infrastructure and considerable uranium deposits — enough to last at least until the end of the next century.

"We must determine what type of (nuclear) reactors to introduce and when," McRae said.

He predicted, however, that the present balance in SA's energy sources would still be more or less unchanged at the turn of the century.

It would remain at about 80% coal-generated electricity, 10% nuclear power and 10% hydro-electricity.

## Environment

Electrification of those black townships without power would make great inroads towards cutting air pollution, McRae said.

He said that in accordance with a resolution of the World Energy Conference Eskom would place greater emphasis on environmental issues.

Protection of the environment however had to be balanced against economical considerations.

Townships without electricity, where coal and wood was burned for power, particularly portions of Soweto, contributed significantly to air pollution, said McRae.

He said Eskom was working to electrify of all SA's black townships.

... imports or exports  
ned wildlife.

Zimbabwe's director of national  
parks and wildlife management  
Willie Nduku said his country

... countries be  
allowed to sell ivory after a two or  
three-year moratorium allowing  
herds elsewhere a chance to recov-  
er. — Sapa-Reuter.

# 'Not involved with Sue'

LONDON — The Russian Embassy here yesterday formally denied any involvement with Information Bureau Press Officer Sue Dobson, alleged to have defected to the Soviet Union via London.

A spokesman said: "The stories in the British Press are not true. She has not defected; nor is she with us."

ANC officials in London have also denied any knowledge of Dobson or her husband Peter, who are believed to be still in the British capital.

Sources in Windhoek yesterday said it was unlikely that Dobson had been a member of Windhoek's intelligence community, Sapa reports.

A large number of foreign diplomatic observer missions have been established since April 1.

Dobson disappeared from Windhoek on September 24, 11 days after she arrived on secondment to Administrator-General Louis Pienaar's office.

A former journalist, Dobson was an offi-

ROBERT GENTLE

cial of Pretoria's Bureau of Information on loan to Pienaar until the UN-supervised elections in Namibia from November 7-11.

She had not yet served a one-year probation when she left Namibia for Botswana, from where she left for London.

## Orientation

There is no point in recruiting for espionage the services of a low-key government official who in any event would have been in Namibia for a very limited time," a source said.

Other sources said Dobson's peculiar behaviour could have been caused by a nervous condition.

Officials said earlier she was still in an orientation phase in Namibia to prepare her for compiling news releases.

She had not yet been allocated a desk or a telephone when she left. — Sapa.

## School council opts for free settlement

THE Johannesburg High School for Girls' management council, in its continuing bid to save the school from closure next year, has chosen Education Minister Piet Clase's free settlement area option and have asked him how long the process will take.

In a letter to Clase, the management council asked that he meanwhile allow the school to be privatised with optimal state subsidy, as "the complexity of the free settlement legislation" would probably result in a lengthy delay.

A delegation which recently met Clase argued that opening the school to all races would solve the problem of poor enrolment figures. The neighbouring high-density "grey area" of Hillbrow had thousands of non-white children in need of a nearby school, they said.

At the meeting Clase said the options for keeping the school open were to privatise, in terms of which children who were not white would be allowed to attend, or to declare Hillbrow/Berea a free settlement area. — Sapa.

## Attempt to protect St Lucia's forest

EDYTH BULBRING

THE Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal) yesterday submitted an application to the Administrator of Natal to have the Eastern Shores State Forest area in St Lucia declared a protected natural environment.

The application was made in terms of the Environment Conservation Act. Zeal is an alliance of about 30 affiliated non-government associations in the Zululand region. The application will test the strength of the Act, passed in June this year.

The application also calls for the unification of the Eastern Shores, Cape Vidal and Sodwana State Forests as protected areas and it asks for the areas to be administered by the Natal Parks Board.

Sapa reports that the number of signatures on the petition to have St Lucia declared inviolate are approaching 200 000 countrywide.

ange

54,8

79,4

61,7

81,3

CURRENT ASSETS



# Africa split over jumbos

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7/12/89  
56*

LAUSANNE, Switzerland. — Southern African nations yesterday told an international conference on saving the threatened African elephant that they would oppose a complete halt to the trade in ivory.

Zimbabwe would flatly refuse to agree to a total ban, Mr Willie Nduku, Zimbabwe's director of national parks and wildlife management, said. "If you remove the elephants, you kill us."

African nations argued throughout the morning without narrowing their differences, and most of the rest of the world joined the debate in the afternoon.

## Money

"They are still split. They'll never reach a consensus," one delegate said.

The talks were taking place at the biennial conference of the UN-sponsored Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), an agreement by 103 states to limit trade in menaced species.

Countries like Kenya and Tanzania, alarmed by the swift depredation of their elephant herds by poachers, want elephants placed in CITES's Appendix 1, which would ban all trade.

Most conservation groups as well as Western nations support them, but the Southern African states say this would rob their conservation programmes of money they earn by selling ivory from managed herds. — Sapa-Reuters

**By Jacqueline Myburgh**

The latest move to save the eastern shores at Lake St Lucia from the proposed mining by Richards Bay Minerals is set to test the strength of a conservation Act passed in June.

In an application to the Administrator of Natal, the Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal) has appealed for the area to be declared a protected natural environment. According to the Environmental Conservation Act, the Administrator of Natal is the authority empowered to act in this case.

This application is the latest in moves to halt the proposed mining of the dunes on the eastern shores for valuable minerals such as titanium. Already, 200 000 signatures to save St

Lucia have been collected country-wide. This beats the record set 10 years ago when 130 000 signed to save the Kruger Park from mining.

Zeal's application, however, shifts the focus of the public outcry, since there is no direct reference to the mining controversy. The appeal is for St Lucia rather than against mining.

Zeal is an alliance of about 30 affiliated non-governmental associations in the Zululand region.

The alliance's application, which will be given the support of prominent conservationists and bodies in South Africa and abroad, calls for a moratorium on decisions by all government departments regarding the St Lucia eastern shores, until the area's legal status has been decided.

95  
28/10/11  
SAS

# Forestry industry plans vast expansion

South Africa's forestry industry has the potential to double its present plantation area, construct up to 21 new processing plants and create 150 000 new jobs over the next 30 years, according to the second strategic forestry development plan released in Pretoria.

The plan was compiled by the senior forest scientist at the Department of Environment Affairs, Dr Dick van der Zel, in collaboration with the Forestry Council's Planning Committee.

Dr van der Zel estimates that demand for roundwood timber will increase by an average 2,5 percent a year until the year 2010 to about 29,3 million cubic metres.

## PRIORITY

The report urges forestry strategists to plan for an expansion of 35 000 ha a year.

Thirteen priority development areas are identified: four of them in Natal, three in the Eastern Transvaal, two in the Eastern Cape and one each in Swaziland, Transkei, Venda and the Western Cape.

It is estimated that an additional 1 132 500 ha of forests could be established in these catchment areas without exceeding existing runoff limits or prejudicing other agricultural operations.

## EMPLOYMENT

This afforestation will create 56 625 permanent employment opportunities, plus roughly the same number of jobs in wood processing industries, with multiplied effects in other sectors.

The net effect would be to produce an additional 158 000 new jobs. — Sapa.

5 for 11/10/89

## Sappi donates R2,5m for conservation

SAPPI is to donate R2,5m to the South African Nature Foundation (SANF) today for the creation of a unique conservation area in Maputaland.

Sappi said the money was a gift to celebrate SANF's 21st anniversary, which coincided with the 25th anniversary of the World Wide Fund for Nature. *B 10 am 18/10/89*

"The R2,5m donation, will go towards the creation of a unique conservation area in Maputaland. (56) (18/10/89)

"It will link up the Kosi Lake system, Lake Sibayi and the world famous Maputaland turtle nesting beaches and dunes south to Sodwana bay and inland

DANIEL SIMON

along the Mozambique border, including the Nduma Game Reserve and Tembe Elephant Reserve," Sappi said.

Conservation of this area was of "international importance" because of the wide diversity of ecosystems and habitats which supported many animal and bird species.

Sappi said it had developed an innovative scheme to back the donation.

This entailed raising funds for conservation by selling a limited edition of 325 signed and numbered prints by wildlife artist Gail Darroll.

# Govt prepares to chop its role in forestry industry

PRETORIA — Government is preparing to reduce substantially its role in SA's forestry industry, Environmental Affairs director-general Bill Visagie said yesterday.

At a seminar here on the strategic forestry development plan, he said the industry had the potential to double its existing plantation area, build up to 21 new processing plants

**GERALD REILLY**

and create more than 150 000 jobs.

Visagie said it was no longer necessary for the state to retain the same level of involvement in the industry. Investigations into privatisation as well as the consolidation of forestry research under the CSIR supported this view.

On privatisation, he said that what-

*B/Plan 18/10/87*  
ever transpired there was little doubt the original mission of the department, that of overall planning and policy-making, would still operate.

According to the second strategic forestry development plan released at the seminar, the demand for roundwood timber would increase by an average of 2,5% a year until 2010, to about 29,3-million m<sup>3</sup>.

F  
a

THE Cape Times Centenary award panel of assessors, in their 14th annual report, say that excellent conservation work is being carried out in the Cape Province and that this is reflected in the number and impressive quality of the nominations received.

The award, the Cape Times Centenary Medal, is given for outstanding achievement in the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage of the region. It was instituted in 1976 to mark the centenary of the Cape Times.

The assessors, under the chairmanship of Alex Robertson, president of the Cape Institute of Architects, were Gavin Pike, vice-president of the Cape Institute of Architects, Peter Ibbotson, assistant editor of the Cape Times, William Ritchie, vice-president of the Institute of South African Architects, David van den Heever, past chairman of the Vernacular Architecture Society of South Africa, Wouter van Warmelo, conservation liaison officer of the Botanical Society of South Africa and John Rennie and Dirk Visser, both previous recipients of the medal.

Three medals were awarded in the non-professional category this year to Councillor Nicki Holderness, Professor Neil du Plessis and Nan Rice.

Two were awarded in the professional category to the editors and authors of *The Field Guide to the Eastern Cape Coast* and to Messrs Todeschini and Japha.

One medal in the corporate category goes to Lindfield Estates and one medal in the youth category to the Aperpium Club, McLachlan High School, Joubertina. Councillor Nicki Holderness, the Mayor of Simon's Town, was nominated by Revel Fox. She has worked consistently to raise the public's awareness of the historical importance of the town. At her instigation, the students at the UCT School of Architecture prepared measured drawings of buildings of historical merit in Simon's Town. These drawings were used, in conjunction with the Historical Society of Simon's Town, to promote conservation in the town.

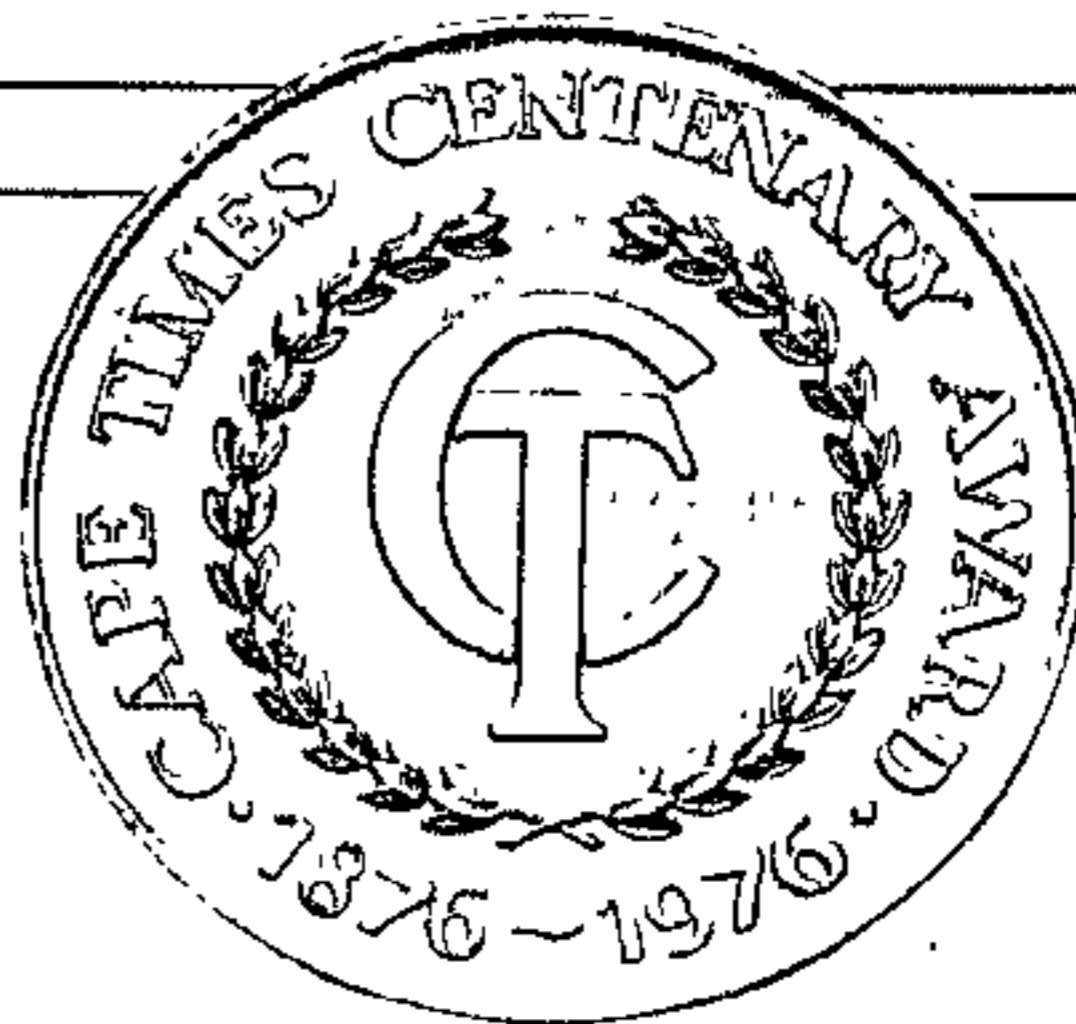
At her suggestion, in 1984, Simon's Town Council appointed an Architectural Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the architectural heritage committee of the Institute of South African Architects, and Council officials. This committee examines all building and development proposals which may affect the town's sensitive and historic central area.

Professor Neil du Plessis, until recently the Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of the Western Cape, was nominated by Barrie Low. He

# Assessors praise top-line work done in conservation

GM Times 19/10/89

56



The Cape Times Centenary Award.

## THE CAPE TIMES 14th CENTENARY AWARD



**NAN RICE ... nominated for her work in ocean conservation.**

was a member of a team of concerned academics at UWC who saw that inadequate conservation measures existed for the natural dune veld of the Cape Flats and was instrumental in having an area of 20 ha proclaimed first as a private nature reserve and then as a national monument.

He also played a commanding role in the planning and development of the Tygerberg Nature Reserve.

Professor Du Plessis has actively and continuously promoted the conservation and cultivation of South African

indigenous bulbous plants. Through her dedication, hundreds of thousands of people all over the world have been made aware of the need to conserve and protect our endangered marine mammals. The Plastic Pollution programme has spread beyond the marine environment and awareness of this growing threat is now a nationwide concern.

Nan Rice was nominated by the Hout Bay Museum, under the curatorship of Pam Wormser. Twenty years ago dolphins in the Cape Province received legal protection due to her efforts. She later founded the Dolphin Action and Protection Group.

Her efforts to protect the feeding grounds of the southern right whales led to the launching of the Save Antarctica Campaign and concern for the devastating effect plastic pollution was having on sea life and marine environment resulted in her starting the Save our Sea

Life — Prevent Plastic Pollution Campaign. Her successful launch a decade ago of Dolphin Whale Watch RSA continues to gain information about the movements and behaviour of whales and dolphins along the coast and in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The editors and authors of *Field Guide to the Eastern Cape Coast* were nominated by the chairman of the Grahamstown Centre of the Wildlife Society of Southern African, Dr Alex Weaver.

The book has become a landmark publication, led to the promotion of similar projects in other regions of South Africa and publicised the need for conservation of the coastal regions.

The editors, Professor R A Lubke, Professor M N Burton and Dr F W Gess, undertook an immense task of co-ordination, logistics, fund-raising and editing. The final publication, despite the large number of authors, is of consistently high quality, admirably serving the purpose of education and information regarding the importance and natural beauty of our environment.

Todeschini and Japha, associated architects and town planners, were nominated by Mike Munnik and by Joanna Marx, honorary chairman of the Vernacular Architecture Society of South Africa, and by Mrs S Parkfisch, chairman of the Franschhoek Trust.

Their Sea Point Conservation Study and Salt River Conservation Study, both commissioned by the Cape Town City Council, are models of their kind and will serve as definitive examples for other commissioning authorities.

The conservation plan prepared for the Franschhoek Trust and their booklet of guidelines for restoration serve as examples to other towns and villages to encourage the conservation and restoration of historic areas and have created interest in and knowledge of the buildings of the Western Cape whose value had not general-

ly been recognised before. Through their work and example they have contributed a great deal to the proper understanding of conservation as an essential component in the planning process.

Lindfield Estates was nominated by the Cape Town Heritage Trust, Graeme Binckes, director, for the restoration of Huguenot House at 66 Loop Street, Cape Town. Huguenot House is an outstanding example of its period, of considerable significance and is a prominent landmark in the west city.

It is apparent that these qualities were recognised by Lindfield Estates, who entrusted the restoration work to Mr Gabriel Fagan. Considerable archaeological investigation has been carried out, in the course of which a well was discovered in one of the rooms. Several jewelry items were found, including four 18th century sash windows, six wall cupboards and two doors.

The most notable discovery, however, was that of wall paintings, probably commissioned by Van Wielligh c 1800, in the front rooms. These have been painstakingly restored.

Lindfield Estates, as developers, are to be complimented on having seen this restoration through to completion.

A building of landmark quality has been returned to the city and it serves as an example to encourage developers to involve themselves with the architecturally and historically significant buildings of the city.

Response in the youth category was disappointing but fortunately the only nomination in this category was unanimously considered to be worthy of an award.

Six members of the Aperpium Landdianskluh of McLachlan High School, Joubertina have devoted themselves over the last two years to the eradication of the hakea tree in the Langkloof area.

The message was spread to as many people as possible by means of a video tape compiled by the group as well as slide transparencies and large exhibitions with accompanying talks by each of the members. A number of articles have been published and the team has been interviewed on radio.

The group — Johan van Jaarsveld, Eletta Olivier, Madeleine de Vos, Suzaan Kritzing, Sharlette Versluis and Annelie Basson — was nominated by Mrs Willemien Herselman.

The list of nominations, all of high standing and considerable merit, is indicative of the wide range of excellent conservation work being carried out in the Cape Province. The nominations, in addition to the winners are:

- William Jannes Jansen van Rensburg for his work in the field of archaeological conservation over the past 10 years
- Equitor for recycling and restoring six buildings in central Cape Town into what is now known as Stuttards Town Square
- Dr Fred Kruger for his contribution of the proper ecological management of Cape Mountain fynbos vegetation
- Algoa Regional Services Council for their efforts in saving the Kap River
- The Cape Natural History Club for organising lectures, outings and promotion awareness of the natural environment
- Dean Edward King, Dean Colin Jones and the Parish Council of work on St George's Cathedral
- Leonard Raymond for his enthusiastic contribution to conservation
- The Nahoon Trust for co-ordinating positive development of the Nahoon River and its tributaries and environs, and encouraging the preservation of all wild life in the area
- Mariëns van, Bart for his contribution to conservation through Die Woongids of Die Burger
- School of Architecture, University of Natal, for a study of Rhodes that has contributed to the conservation of Platteland villages
- Rupert Erskine for the restoration of the Auld House, Swellendam
- The Swellendam Trust for its contribution to saving various buildings in the town and district
- Mr J Swanepoel for assembling and refurbishing the Nutsall Road Houses in Observatory
- Jeremy Watson for his publication — *The Urban Trail* — which has led to a greater perception and understanding of the urban landscape of East London and for motivating and encouraging various groups to conserve the urban heritage

□ Pictures of the award-winning entries will appear in the Cape Times on Monday.

## Students hold St Lucia protest

By Carina le Grange <sup>56</sup>

More than 30 Witwatersrand University students today picketed against the proposed mining developments in St Lucia, Natal. *Star 20/9/87*

The students, from the Earthlink Africa Society, lined Jan Smuts Avenue from Empire Road to Ameshoff Street in Braamfontein and some held posters saying "Stop mining St Lucia". Many motorists gave the thumbs-up sign as they passed.

No police were visible.

One of the students, Mr Duncan Thompson, said they were picketing because the proposed mining developments threatened plant and animal life. "We have to get people aware that the strip mining will destroy South Africa's only wetland — the estuary at St Lucia."

● See Page 5

# Noordhoek gears up for kaolin war

56  
CMA Times 28/10/89

A MAJOR row is brewing in Noordhoek as local residents prepare to "go national" in their campaign to stop the development of a 26-hectare Kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

The residents, calling themselves the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG), have enlisted the support of local MP Mr Jannie Momberg, who has pledged to "fight this even if I have to lie in front of a bulldozer blade to do it".

Mr Momberg has promised to raise the controversy when he takes part in an environmental forum discussion televised live on M-Net tomorrow at 5.14pm.

Pick 'n Pay chairman Mr Raymond Ackerman yesterday promised to allow the group to place petition forms in his supermarkets.

The group this week put pamphlets in the letter boxes of hundreds of Noordhoek residents. They say their phones have "not stopped ringing since".

A Sanlam subsidiary, Serina (Pty) Ltd, plans to rotation-mine

the site on De Goede Hoop estate, which is owned by the family of the late Mr John Wiley, former minister of environmental affairs. Kaolin is used as a whitening agent in quality paper production, ceramics, paint and pills.

SCPAG spokesperson Mrs Heather Maltby said the buildings and mine would wreck the famous natural beauty of the area, drastically reduce property values, pollute the local wetlands and create constant noise in the tranquil valley.

She said a government geological survey had shown that adequate and viable alternative kaolin existed in less sensitive areas such as near Stellenbosch, Saldanha, Vredenberg and Grahamstown.

A 1981 environmental impact study commissioned by the government found that the visual impact on the side of Chapman's Peak would be severe and "practically irreversible", she added.

Mr Momberg challenged Serina to prove that equally viable kaolin deposits did not exist elsewhere.

"They say income will be R700 million over 30 years. Tourism would generate that much over five or six years," he said.

Mr Tony Dell, the Serina-hired engineer heading a R300 000 environmental impact study, said the Noordhoek kaolin represented the largest and best-quality deposits in the country.

While the production and administrative buildings would be semi-permanent and could therefore be rendered "virtually invisible" at relatively little cost, the rotation pit mining would require more ingenuity.

He said he was not a property expert but felt that land values would quickly return to normal once people saw the project in operation and their fears were allayed.

Noise was one of the more difficult problems because it was aggravated by the natural amphitheatre and a temperature inversion layer. This would be mitigated by using "extraordinary silencers" on vehicles and strategically placing earth mounds and tall vegetation, he said.



# Weekend Argus SPECIAL FOCUS: Environment



okoveld elephant herd... there is a world-wide focus on Africa's tuskers.

# SA and the ban on ivory

By JOHN YELD  
Weekend Argus

Environment Reporter

SOUTH Africa is expected to withdraw from a global ban on trade in ivory in a move that will please some local conservationists and bitterly disappoint others.

Although eminent organisations like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have hailed the ban — decided at Lausanne in Switzerland this week — as “a great day for the elephant”, some critics say the move will drive the lucrative ivory trade underground and make it more difficult to control.

After more than a week of intense debate and private bargaining at the 103-nation conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in Lausanne, South African sources indicated that this country is likely to join Zimbabwe, Bo-

tswana, Malawi and Mozambique in rejecting the decision to place the African elephant *Loxodonta africana* on the Appendix I list.

Burundi has also indicated that it will “take a reservation”, in Cites parlance.

Appendix I effectively bans all trade by laying down stringent conditions for the issue of permits by both the countries of export and import.

The export of any species or any product of a species listed in Appendix I requires the approval of both a “scientific authority” and a “management authority” of the country of origin to the effect that it was obtained legally and will not lead to the further impoverishment of the already endangered species.

In addition, a permit is required from the country of import to the effect that the “management authority” there is satisfied the species or prod-

uct will not be used primarily for commercial purposes.

The ban on the ivory trade was adopted overwhelmingly, placing the southern African nations out on a conservation limb.

## Commercial use

Although elephant herds have been decimated in many African countries — the number on the continent has dropped from more than 1,2 million to about 600 000 in the past decade — the reverse is true in most of southern Africa, and the rapidly expanding elephant populations of a number of national parks here are culled annually to ensure a proper ecological balance.

Together with approved sporting trophies, these legally obtained elephant products — particularly ivory — are then utilised commercially, providing further funds for conservation projects and/or local communities.

So why should these nations be penalised for effective management of their elephant herds in favour of other countries further north which cannot control the insatiable greed of poachers? And will the ban make any impression on the ivory trade.

The dubious presence of Burundi on the list of nations “taking a reservation” is one of the reasons why South Africa should support the global ban, according to Dr John Ledger of the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

The Trust has been a vociferous opponent of the ivory trade and of South Africa's role. Dr Ledger said he welcomed the decision for a world ban and had hoped for South African support.

“Nothing is more disgraceful or blatantly dishonest than Burundi's shameful record of lying and getting around the existing regulations,” he said. Although there was not a sin-

gle elephant in Burundi, it had traded some 1 500 tons of ivory, he pointed out. South Africa's reputation suffered by association, he argued.

Dr Ledger said the overall effect of the Cites decision would be to reduce the supply of ivory and he predicted a big drop in demand as the European Community and North American countries enforced the ban.

He also believed there would now be considerable pressure on Japan, which imports 40 percent of the world's ivory.

## Controlled

Although Hong Kong, the world's biggest ivory trading centre, has indicated it will abide by the total ban, the huge 670-ton stockpile of ivory already in that territory was a ready in that territory was a major problem and a source of political tension, Dr Ledger added.

“I believe the Cites commit-

tee may allow this ivory to be moved as a cushion to keep some ivory carvers going while releasing these stocks in a controlled way.

“In any event, there is effectively a moratorium on the ivory trade for the next three years which is a very good idea,” Dr Ledger said.

Mr Keith Cooper, the Wildlife Society's director of conservation, disagreed with Dr Ledger, and said he believed Kenya's recent action in burning stockpiles of ivory was incorrect.

“My personal feeling is that it's a resource, and we mustn't throw any valuable resource away.

“I really believe it's wishful thinking (that the demand for ivory will disappear) — once you ban something you actually push the price up and push the whole operation underground. You make it more difficult to catch the poachers.”

# RWB fires striking workers

By Drew Forrest

The Rand Water Board (RWB) fired about 400 workers at its Zuikerbosch pumping station near Vereeniging after they downed tools over the detention of a trade union shop steward.

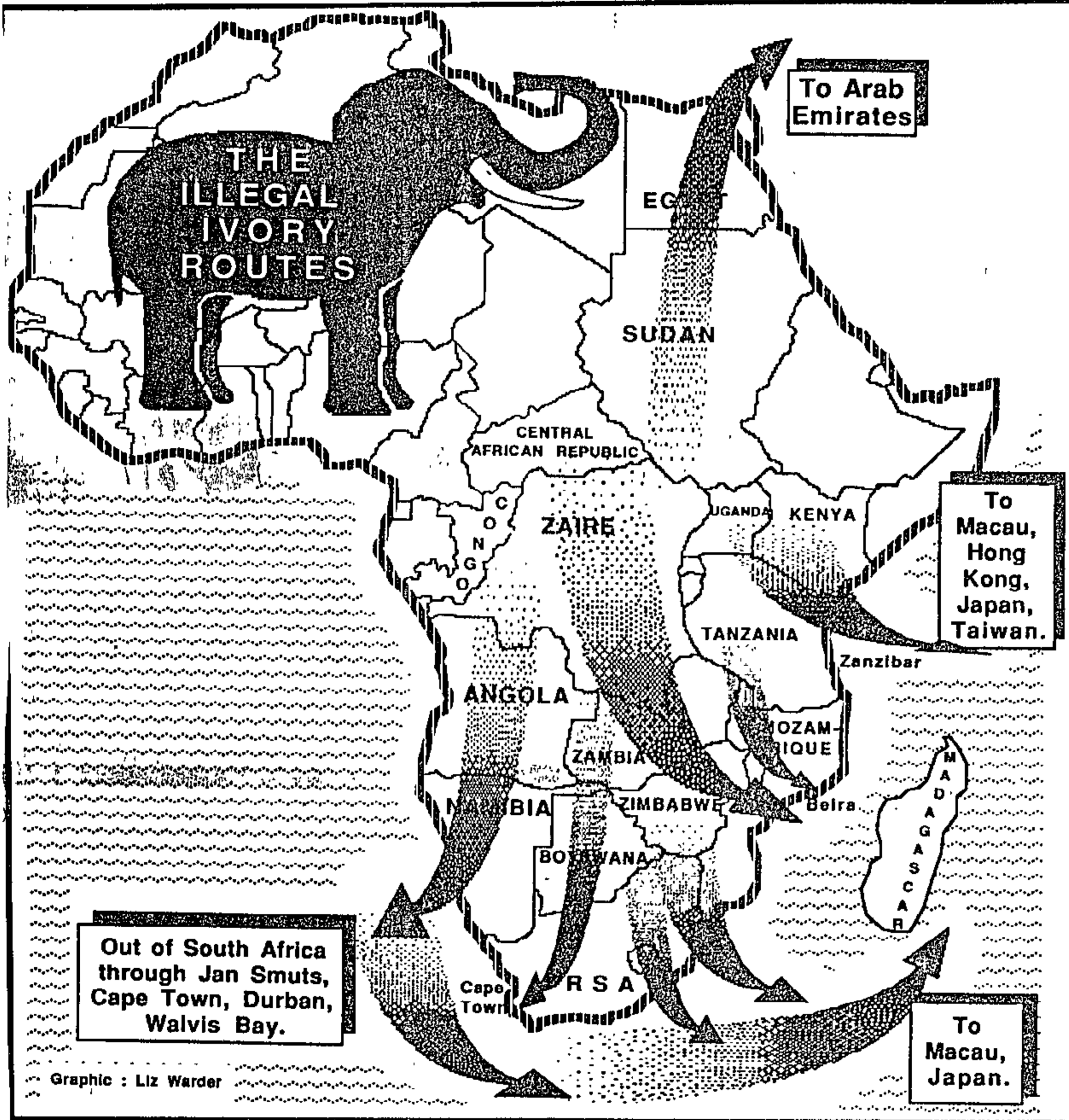
RWB spokesman Mr A Carstens said the mass dismissal yesterday came after numerous pleas to workers, ending with a return-to-work deadline. Water supplies would not be affected.

Mr Carstens said management had made representations "at the highest level" to secure the detained unionist's release.

Mr Steven Kolisang of the Municipal, State and Allied Workers Union said the workers were demanding the release of shop steward Mr Richard Ramagabe who was detained under emergency regulations on Tuesday after a union meeting.

The union was also demanding the dismissal of the compound manager, whom they believed was responsible for the detention. Star 22/9/89.

# SA to support controlled trade in ivory



Out of South Africa through Jan Smuts, Cape Town, Durban, Walvis Bay.

To Arab Emirates

To Macau, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan.

To Macau, Japan.

South Africa will support Zimbabwe's proposal for an ivory marketing system to be put to the world Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) when it meets next week in Switzerland. Minister of Environment Affairs and of Water Affairs Mr Gert Kotze announced in Pretoria yesterday.

Mr Kotze said in a statement that South Africa had a viable elephant population which was managed responsibly.

Judicious usage of this population was thus justifiable.

The considerable funds which were generated in this way were used directly and indirectly for the financing of important conservation projects and could not just be dismissed.

The South African delegation would therefore not be able to support proposals aimed at the elimination of all international ivory trade.

A proposal for a marketing system to provide for trading with selected buyers — in ivory generated in southern Africa had been worked out by Zimbabwe.

**ACCEPTABLE**

This system was in principle acceptable to South Africa, and its delegation to the Cites conference — to be held from October 9 to 20 — would support it.

Elephant populations in South Africa, where there are about 8 200 animals, were, in fact, growing with the emergence of private game farms.

Countries from northern and central Africa, where elephants have almost been wiped out by poachers, are pressing for elephants to be classed "schedule 1", prohibiting all trade. They have the backing of the rest of the world, including the Soviet Union and United States.

South Africa, along with Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Mozambique, envisages a central storehouse of all the raw ivory in the world. This would be stamped, registered on computer, and auctioned only to accredited carvers with checks by the authorities in all countries involved. — Sapa and Staff Reporter.

Huge amounts of illegal ivory leave Africa daily, bound for the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Japan and Macao. The European Community Commission sets the value at about \$335 million. While most is shipped or flown from the east

coast of Africa, smugglers from Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia prefer to use reliable South African transport systems rather than "sending it out on dhows that sink".

Graphic by Liz Warder.

See Page 11.



CAPE

# Breweries fund major conservation project

AR645 23/10/89 (56)

By HELENA PATTEN, Staff Reporter

THE opening of a new interpretative centre in the De Hoop Nature Reserve near Bredasdorp is also an open invitation to the public to enjoy a part of the reserve they probably do not know about.

The centre, substantially funded by SA Breweries, is at the Potberg Environmental Education Centre and was officially opened last week by Mr Deon Adams, MEC in charge of nature conservation.

The converted coach-house, featuring simple hand-painted panels about Potberg's fauna, flora and history, is aimed at achieving a better public understanding and appreciation of nature conservation, officials explained.

Other historic buildings on the former farm were adapted to an education role in 1978, but now they offer attractive accommodation to the public as well.

Potberg has served schools well in recent years and is fully booked until December 1990, said officer-in-charge Mr Norris Snyders.

At the opening Mr Adams emphasised the importance of environmental education.

"Man's indifferences towards the environment is often due to ignorance about environmental components and their inter-relationships.

"Few people realise that environmental degeneration in its extreme form will eventually endanger man's continued existence on earth.

He said it was with this conviction that the CPA's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation had in the past decade embarked on a programme to change attitudes of every resident of the Cape.

SAB, through its Swedish founder Mr Anders Ohlsson, has a long-standing association with Potberg and nature conservation.

Mr Ohlsson was one of the first owners of the farm and as a parliamentarian tabled the influential Game Act in 1886 which, among other things, limited hunting seasons.

● The centre may be visited daily during office hours. For further information contact Mr Gert Pretorius, ☎ 203-3390.

# R2,5-m Sappi gift to nature raises eyebrows

APC 45 23/10/89

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A R2,5 MILLION donation for nature conservation in Maputaland by the paper giant Sappi has raised eyebrows among environmentalists.

Last month there was a public outcry when a spillage from one of Sappi's paper mills devastated aquatic life in Eastern Transvaal rivers.

Sappi responded promptly, apologising for the spill and appointing an independent inquiry — and now it has announced a R2,5 million gift to the 25th Anniversary Benefactor Fund of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

The money will be channelled through the SA Nature Foundation (SANF).

Although additional funds for conservation are always welcome, there were suggestions from some quarters that the donation was "conscience money" following the spill.

However, SANF manager Mr Rob Soutter said the donation had been promised as far back as five months ago.

## NEW KEY AREA

Sappi has insisted the money be spent in the high-priority conservation area of Maputaland, which contains magnificent natural features such as the Lebombo Mountains, Ndumu Game Reserve, the Thembe Elephant Reserve, Kosi Bay, the Kosi Lake system, Lake Sibaya, pristine dune forests and — particularly — the important turtle-breeding areas beaches of north-eastern Natal.

"The aim is to establish a key new conservation area in northern Natal," Mr Soutter said.

"The area will include existing formal nature reserves as well as human communities in a fascinating and unique mosaic of nature and man. If this ideal development can be realised, economically-important development such as tourism, forestry and local craft industry will take place in harmony with the ecological and social requirements of the area.

"Overall, Maputaland can become one of the world's great conservation areas."

# Dune mining firm answers its critics

Argues 24/10/87 56

**The Argus Correspondent**  
DURBAN. — MR Roy Macpherson, managing director of Richards Bay Minerals, said in a television interview that the mining company had not been given an opportunity to put its side of the story in the controversy over its application for dredge-mining the Eastern Shores area of Lake St Lucia.

A massive protest has been mounted countrywide against the proposal.

Mr Macpherson said:

● Recently Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) has been the subject of considerable media attention because we have applied to mine a small area north of St Lucia village, the Kingsa/Tojan area.

Many of the items published have been inaccurate, misleading and aimed at achieving a negative, emotional response.

So, what is the truth of the matter?

Any responsible company will look to the future to protect its employee's jobs and its own viability. That is why we acquired prospecting rights in 1984 and 1986 over the dune area north of St Lucia.

Recently, acting fully in terms of the Council for the Environment's requirements, we commissioned an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), headed by Professor Roy Lubke of Rhodes University, to be done on the area. He was selected from a list of three candidates recommended by the Institute for Ecologists in Stellenbosch.

## St Lucia outcry

Professor Lubke assembled a multi-disciplinary team of scientists, and together they appraised the impact on the environment of mining the Kingsa/Tojan lease area.

After consideration of their draft report, RBM decided to continue with the EIA to complete the studies where insufficient work had been done to properly assess the full impact on the area. This additional work is expected to take another four to six months.

We agree that the St Lucia area has the undoubted potential to become an ecological gem. But at present, where mining operations are due to take place, this is no pristine wilderness.

The area to be mined has been botanically degraded by man, who lived there until about 25 years ago, and because 57 percent of the mining area is under commercial pine tree plantations.

Dune mining, unlike sugar farming or timber growing, does not occupy the land forever.

Would the mining envisaged not be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get rid of the pine trees, and, by rehabilitating the mined areas to indigenous vegetation, help recreate a genuine wilderness area?

This desirable rehabilitation would all be done at the cost of Richards Bay Minerals — not the taxpayer or the conservation bodies.

Close to the region where mining is due to take place live thousands of very poor Zulu families who have poor housing and sub-standard health, sanitation and educational facilities with few jobs available.

RBM can provide many of these families with a brighter future. Surely the basic needs of the many black residents in the area have at least equal importance to the recreational needs of the privileged few visitors to the area.

Finally, I undertake that RBM will mine the area with great care and with sensitivity to the environment and will leave the area, when mining is completed, in a better condition than it is today. Furthermore, RBM will cooperate fully with all the environmental bodies such as the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Natal Parks Board, the Wildlife Society, and other interest groups who are prepared to adopt a positive programme for the improvement of the area.

Experience over the last 12 years near Richards Bay has proved that it is possible to rehabilitate the dunes successfully. RBM won the prestige Eppic (Environmental Planning Professions Interdisciplinary Committee) award this year.

Our oldest "new" forests are only 12 years old, and already wild animals and birds have returned to these forests, and 175 different plant species are growing under the Acacia Karoo canopy.

Overall  
environment  
plan needed  
— professor

ARBUS  
25/10/87 56

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Staff Reporter

THERE will be conflict between developers and environmentalists until an overall authority is created to take objective decisions on land use, says a leading environmental ecologist.

Professor Roy Lubke of Rhodes University said development occurred on an ad-hoc basis because there was no blanket administration of the environment.

"Environmental ecologists would like to see a body like the Council of the Environment take a very strong stand on land utilisation," he said.

#### Eastern Cape

Professor Lubke was in Cape Town to accept the Cape Times Centenary Medal (professional category) awarded for *A Field Guide to the Eastern Cape Coast*, compiled by himself, Professor Mike Bruton and Dr F W Gess, all of Rhodes.

The book, which brings together the research of a large number of specialists, promotes conservation of the Eastern Cape coastline.

Professor Lubke said the number of environmental controversies, like the mining of the coastal dunes near St Lucia in Zululand and the development of a marina at Robberg in the Eastern Cape, showed a growing public awareness of environmental issues.

He warned, however, that public reaction to issues tended to be subjective and emotional and it was up to the environmental consultants to complete overall studies to ensure a proper perspective.

#### Impact study

He said it was also part of the World Wild Life conservation strategy that man should not be divorced from nature and the environment.

"Man is very much part of the environment and this has largely been ignored by the public in the St Lucia mining issue," he said.

Professor Lubke heads an environmental team which is completing an environmental impact assessment study for Richards Bay Minerals, the company which holds the prospecting rights for mining titanium from the coastal dunes at St Lucia.



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM,  
The Argus.

**CROWDED IN:** An attentive audience at the first major ecological debate in Cape Town.

140 000 sign  
petition to  
save St Lucia

*ARGUS 27/07/89*  
*SB*

#### Environment Reporter

THE FIGHT to save the dunes of St Lucia from destructive mining for titanium is far from over and tens of thousands of signatures have been collected in a nationwide petition.

The Star — The Argus's sister newspaper in Johannesburg — has collected more than 140 000 signatures. Renewed efforts are being made to collect more.

Organisers say the petition will continue until the government declares St Lucia safe.

One of the first to respond to The Star's CARE campaign was Johannesburg businessman Mr Graham Lesch, who gave his property company's advertising space in newspapers to boost the petition.

Mr Lesch has alerted his offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Mossel Bay, Port Alfred, Durban and Saldanha Bay to act as clearing houses for collecting signatures.

People wanting to sign the petition locally can contact the Status-Mark property group at Shop 34, Milpark Centre, Koeberg Road, Milnerton, 524121.



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# Picket gets stuck into clay miners

## Environment Reporter

NOORDHOEK residents are gearing up for a strong campaign against the proposed kaolin mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak and are enlisting outside support.

However, developers say they believe the level of protest is "very premature" as an environmental impact assessment is still under way.

Petition tables are being manned at supermarket centres tomorrow morning and participants in a fun ride over Chapman's Peak on Sunday will be welcomed with a protest picket at the site of the proposed mine.

Angry residents are due to meet at the Red Herring in Noordhoek next Wednesday to discuss the controversial mining proposal by kaolin producers Serina.

Fish Hoek resident Mr Vic Kabalin said there were several other kaolin deposits in less ecologically-sensitive areas which could be mined, including Saldanha Bay, Stellenbosch and Grahamstown.

"The only reason they want to stick to Noordhoek is because of the processing plant which they've set up there and which is about to die," he said

Serina's Brakkekloof mine between Fish Hoek and Sunny-

7/6/84 (50) (10/8)

dale, which produces 38 000 tons of kaolin annually, has only six years to run, after which the 23ha site will be developed for housing

Mr Neville Organ, an executive director of Federale Volksbeleggings which owns Serina, said Noordhoek residents had a right to be concerned, as was his company

"We do have very great concern for the environment and will continue to have. We have not taken a decision at this moment to develop the mine. We are still having an environmental impact study prepared, the terms of reference of which have been discussed

and agreed with various government departments and the local residents' committee.

"Until we have the results, any comments on the possible impact are very premature. We are in consultation with the relevant authorities and everyone's views will be taken into account before we take a decision to go ahead or not," he said.

Responding to Mr Kabalin, Mr Organ said kaolin deposits at Saldanha, Stellenbosch and Grahamstown were either not suitable or unavailable, and it was "unlikely" that the existing Brakkekloof processing plant would be used if the Noordhoek deposit was mined

# All avenues examined

S/Times 29/10/87.



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ENVIRONMENTAL concerns have not been ignored in the planning of the Mossel Bay gas project.

Extensive environmental studies have been conducted to gauge what effect it would have on the marine life, on the surrounding dunes and on the atmosphere.

Specialists from private sector and government have worked together on these studies.

The pipelines that will carry the gas from the platform to the refinery have been buried beneath the seabed.

This will prevent them being ripped up by the action of trawlers.

The gas itself is so light that it will simply disappear into the atmosphere in the event of a spill and, because it is sulphur-free, it will not damage the ozone.

Within a 500m radius of the platform the sea will be out of bounds while the

400ha onshore working area was chosen after intensive studies to monitor what the best possible site would be.

The Department of Environmental Affairs was involved in making this choice.

It is not just the natural environment that has come under scrutiny but the effect the project will have on the community of Mossel Bay has been closely examined.

A team from the University of Port Elizabeth was engaged to study the socio-economic profile of the community on a before and after basis.

This study will go a long way towards examining the effect similar projects will have on tourist potential in new areas being developed in the future.

Residents have also been asked what effect the arrival of newcomers is having on their community life.

... advanced enough to make items artificially."

resources.

Conservationists said the removal of a horn in an area

in poaching.

This came as they battled to maintain standards be-

## ENVIRONMENT: 3

# Showdown on toxic waste

By ALAN DUGGAN

ECOLOGICAL activists this week clashed with the man who hopes to build a R400-million toxic waste plant near Alexander Bay, on the west Cape coast.

In a spirited debate attended by 300 people in Cape Town, businessman Mr Sidney Sanders was attacked for his "arrogance and greed" in pressing ahead with a scheme that will allegedly place the environment at risk.

However, Mr Sanders fought back with scientific

data which, he said, made it clear that the proposed plant would present no threat to humans or the environment.

## Controversy

Mr Sanders has applied for a licence to build a "state-of-the-art" plant 20 km south of Alexander Bay to incinerate toxic waste from South Africa and overseas. Financial backing will come from foreign investors. His propos-

al has triggered a major controversy over toxic waste and has focused new attention on the production and disposal of these life-threatening substances by South African industry.

Mr Peter Lukey of the Earthlife Africa environmental pressure group said South Africa could not deal with its own toxic waste problem, let alone that of other countries.

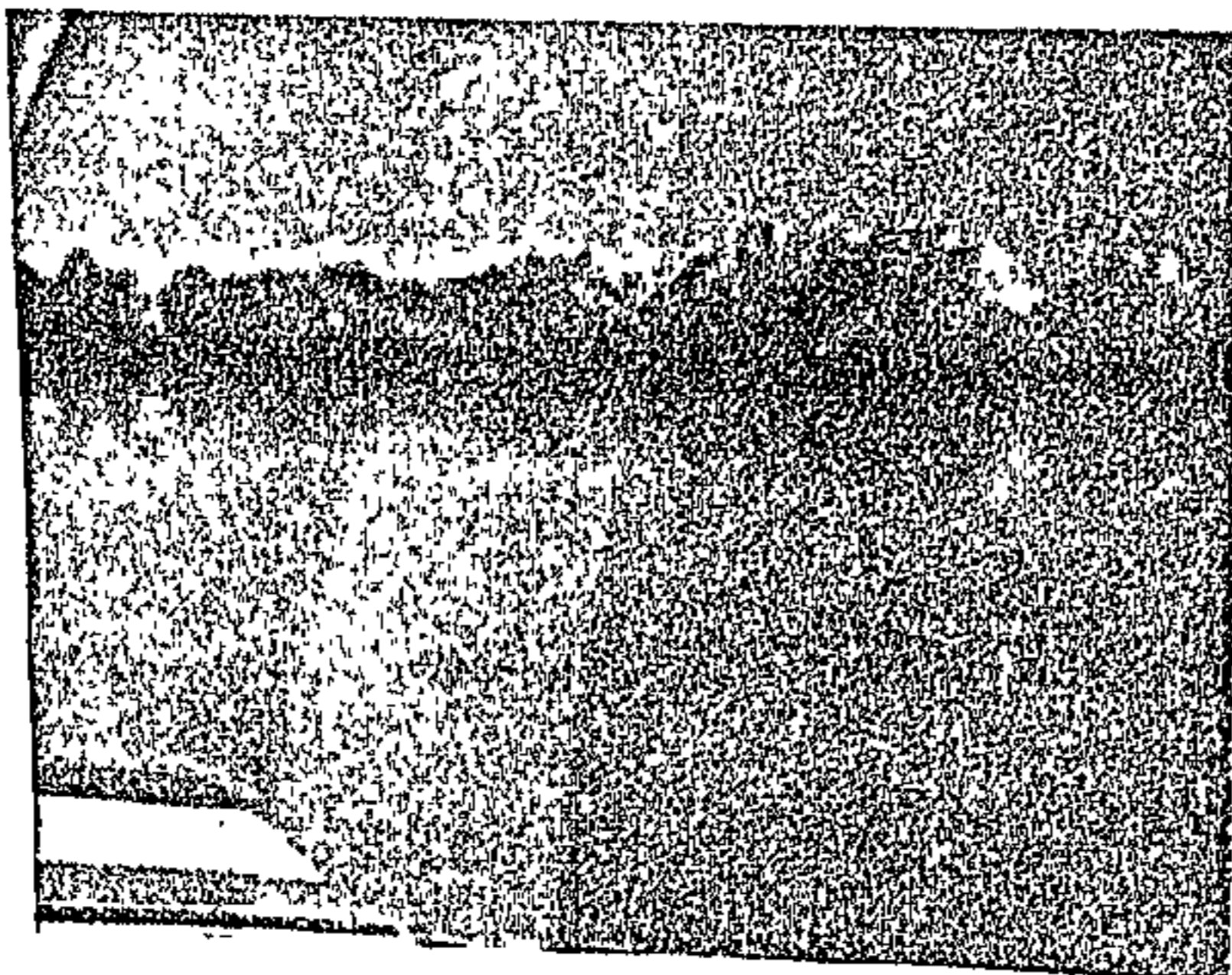
He warned that, if Mr Sanders obtained permission to import and process toxic waste, it might not stop there.

"Other companies will climb in too," he said.

Environmentalists believe the problem could be better tackled by placing the onus on industry to detoxify waste at its source.

After two hours of argument, a vote was called on whether South Africa should import and process toxic waste: Earthlife Africa said NO and won by 247 votes to 25.

Democratic Party MP Mr Rupert Lorimer, who chaired Thursday night's debate, told the audience the application to build the plant was "in limbo". The Government was still "feeling it way," he said.



83 000  
petition  
against  
St Lucia  
Star 30/9/89  
mining

JAMES CLARKE

TODAY, with "Save St Lucia" petitions still pouring in, the number of signatures stands at well over 83 000. It now appears set to outnumber the 130 000 collected in 1979 when the Kruger Park was threatened by mining.

The row may erupt in Britain. The *Sunday Telegraph* plans to run a page on the battle of St Lucia.

British RTZ Corporation recently bought Richards Bay Minerals from the Canadians and the British public is likely to react to the fact that a British company is threatening to mine a habitat of the black rhino, symbol of endangered species.

RBM's top executive flew from Natal, to Johannesburg to show the newspaper's representative RBM's side of the story. The BBC is also taking an interest.

**Zeal**

In Zululand 30 local organisations ranging from angling clubs to professional societies — collectively representing 5 000 members — have formed the non-racial Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal). Its priority: to fight off the miners.

In a press statement last night Zeal said Richards Bay Minerals had only "prospecting rights" and not automatic mining rights.

Zeal has made an unspecified counter application regarding the dunes to the Government via the Administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, who is known to be against mining.

Richards Bay Minerals says the dunes it wants to mine are not inside the game reserve; that it will rebuild the dunes; that, given time, the dune forests will regrow — and that, in any event, 40 per cent of the dunes are covered in pine forest (pine afforestation was stopped there after a tremendous public protest in the 1960s). It promised Natal Parks Board — to whom it recently donated R30 000 — that it would re-instate indigenous material in place of the pines.

RBM denies it will mine the beach dunes saying that only the dunes further in will be mined.

The "Save St Lucia" petition, begun in Saturday Star a fortnight ago, has spread right across South Africa.

Send your petitions to CARE, The Star, PO Box 1014, Johannesburg.

# Sappi employees help clear rivers

By Clyde Johnson, Lowveld Bureau

56

NGODWANA — Teams of Sappi employees, assisted by a number of volunteers, have been clearing the Elands and Crocodile rivers of dead fish.

Using rowing boats and canoes, they have removed decaying fish from the branches and undergrowth along the rivers over the past two days.

Sappi's general manager at Ngodwana, Mr Barry

Melrose, said teams would carry on until everything possible had been done. <sup>STAK 3/16/89</sup>

Investigations had revealed that aquatic life was present between Nelspruit and Alkmaar, he said.

Sappi Kraft announced yesterday that a team, appointed to do an environmental investigation to assess the impact of the spillage and make recommendations on steps to be taken, would arrive today.

# Discovery of 25 rhino skulls leads to arrest

MANDY JEAN WOODS

THE skulls of at least 25 white rhino, with their valuable horns cut off, have been found in the Kruger National Park, park warden Saloman Joubert said yesterday.

A former National Parks Board employee based in the Kruger Park was arrested yesterday in connection with the discovery and is expected to appear in the White River Magistrate's Court today.

Joubert said the rhino had been killed over a six year period between 1983 and 1988 and their bodies hidden under bushes in the area between Pretoriuskop and Skukuza.

The suspect, who had worked for the

board for 15 years before resigning late last year, had been in charge of patrolling this area, he said.

The investigation, conducted by the NPB and the Endangered Species Unit of the SAP, began in about September this year.

Joubert said a Pretoria University student, Danie Pienaar, who was assisting with the annual aerial census as part of his post-graduate work on white rhino, spotted rhino skulls hidden under bushes.

"He went to inspect them to collect ecological data and then he saw the bullet

marks. That started our investigation," he said.

Bullets and cartridges were found at the scene and subsequent investigations showed the animals had been killed by one specific weapon, he said.

Joubert said the park's census programme was not accurate enough to detect the loss of five or six animals in a year.

It was not known how many more, if any, white rhino — the park's population was 1 200 — had been killed or if any black rhino or elephants had been killed as well, NPB officials said.

56 P. Jay 2/1/89

Security police  
look into ANC  
newspaper ad

MADELE BALETA  
SECURITY police are investigating whether an advertisement placed in Vrye Weekblad last Friday, announcing the homecoming rally for recently released ANC leaders, constituted a criminal offence.

The Afrikaans weekly newspaper was notified of the investigation this week.

Vrye Weekblad editor Max du Preez said the ad, placed by the National Reception Committee, made no reference to the ANC.

As far as he was aware Vrye Weekblad was the only newspaper under investigation despite the fact that several other publications had run similar ads.

In a fax sent to Police Directorate of Public Relations' Gen Herman Stadler, Du Preez said he believed police were conducting a vendetta against the publication.

Stadler denied there was a campaign against the paper and said the action was in the course of duty.



Ranger Johan van Graan with the bones of a rhino found under a tree.

Picture: BRIAN HENDLER

(56) B. Day 3/11/89  
**Rhino slaughter accused in court**

FORMER Kruger Park game warden Ludwig J Wagener, 44, appeared in the Hazyview court yesterday on charges related to the illegal slaughter of 25 white rhino.

He was released conditionally on R5 000 bail and trial was set for November 24. It will be held at Skukuza, his attorney André Doman said in a telephone interview.

Wagener, who was arrested on Wednesday, was told he had to report every Monday between 5pm and 7pm at the Brits police station and to hand in his passport.

He was warned not to interfere with any Kruger Park personnel or state witnesses.

**MANDY JEAN WOODS**

National Parks Board (NPB) officials uncovered a trail of white rhino slaughter in September during the annual aerial census of the park's animals. Pretoria University post-graduate student Danie Pienaar spotted rhino carcasses hidden under bushes and found bullet holes in the bones.

At least 25 carcasses were found. Ballistics tests showed bullets lodged in several of the carcasses and cartridges found near the scenes were all from a the same .375 Magnum rifle.

56 Frouil

GREEN DEBATE

### Cape of storms

The debate is sweeping Cape Town. There is a growing public awareness of important ecological issues and businessmen and politicians had better pay attention.

Three topics in particular are gripping Capetonians:

- Plans to establish a R400m toxic waste disposal plant in the northern Cape to treat imported waste (*Business September 29*);
- Proposals to open a kaolin mine on the mountain slopes near Noordhoek, south of the city; and
- A damaged municipal sewerage pipe that is polluting the sea and beaches at Green Point on the Atlantic.

The public is getting militant. A debate on toxic waste disposal had about 300 people while others were turned away when the venue was full.

The audience voted overwhelmingly against the proposed plant but the man behind the scheme, Cape Town entrepreneur Sidney Sanders, says the debate was so emotionally charged that it served little purpose.

He now refuses to take part in debates in the city.

"I'm not prepared to be personally abused by people who don't know the facts or the details," he declares. He pulled out of a

similar debate in Johannesburg because he expected more abuse. Sanders says meetings in Durban and Maritzburg have been constructive.

The anti-importation argument in the debate was spearheaded by Earthlife Africa with the backing of the Cape Town Ecology Group.

There is no doubt the audience was heavily loaded against Sanders: his assessment, that most present were not interested in a constructive debate, may be correct.

There is concern that unless the emotional aspect of the debate is balanced, with calm assessments based on the facts, commercial and industrial development that affects the environment in any way could be prevented — regardless of whether the opposition is valid.

Sanders argues that many experts do not oppose his project in principle: it is laymen and ill-informed politicians who seem to have closed minds. He says his project still depends on a government investigation. The most recent comment, by Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze, indicated that a meeting of all interested parties would be arranged. But it seems public pressure will play a leading role in government's final decision.

Pressure is also mounting against a new kaolin mine in Noordhoek, an area regarded as environmentally sensitive. There is already a kaolin mine near Noordhoek but its

life is expected to end in about six years. The site is scheduled for housing.

The developer of the proposed mine, Serina (a Federale Volksbeleggings subsidiary), believes the protest is premature and says an impact study will be done before a final decision is taken.

Residents are already organising petitions and placard protests. They argue that viable kaolin deposits are available in less sensitive areas of the Cape and that Serina wants to mine in Noordhoek only to use the existing processing plant.

The city council is also under mounting pressure to stop pumping raw sewage (30 M/a day) into the sea off Green Point. The issue

3/1/89.

56 Frouil

was inflamed in June when the 1,7 km pipeline was damaged during a gale and was ruptured only 280 m from shore. Part of the coast is closed to the public because of dangerous pollution. Residents have also complained of the stench. The area is expected to be off-limits for at least two years though thousands of tourists are due for the Christmas season.

The council has decided to commission specialists to solve the sewage disposal problem. The issue is regarded by critics as a classic case of "penny wise and pound foolish." The marine disposal pipe was chosen because it was cheaper than a sewerage works. Critics now regard the estimated

R25m spent on the pipe as a waste of money. A new disposal site will cost at least R50m. While businessmen and, to a certain extent, local authorities are becoming increasingly sensitive to their ecological responsibilities, politicians still appear to be hopelessly out of touch.

This was illustrated before September's general election when the Wildlife Society sent 752 questionnaires on conservation and the environment to candidates. Only 110 were returned. From the information given in the questionnaires, the society classified only 10 candidates as people who had excellent records in conservation awareness and action.





Johannesburg Zoo's three-month-old Golden Lion Tamarins hitch a ride on their mother. The twins are a welcome addition to the small population of this endangered species of primate from Brazil. ● Picture by Etienne Rothbart.

By Helen Grange

Johannesburg Zoo is delighted — with the birth of two Golden Lion Tamarin monkeys, the most endangered primate species in the world.

Attempts by the zoo to breed these monkeys from two adults have until now failed. In 1983 a potential breeding male died of hepatitis, which meant getting another male from Los Angeles.

The female died in 1987 from pleurisy and a female was brought in from Frankfurt Zoo

## Jo'burg zoo strikes gold with birth of rare monkeys

56

Star 3/11/89

to replace her.

Twins were born in 1982, but died shortly afterwards, apparently due to parental ignorance. Then in 1984 the female gave birth to stillborn twins.

Since then there have been no breeding successes — until August 9 when triplets were born.

The smallest and weakest one died a few days later.

The remaining two are thriving and today, at almost three months old, can be accepted as the successful climax to a long breeding programme involving extensive monitoring of every aspect of lifestyle.

These are the only Golden Lion Tamarins on the African continent and the birth of these babies makes this the first contribution from Africa to the international breeding programme being conducted by 13 zoos worldwide.

This species has its home in the most densely populated part of Brazil and the major cause for its decline is forest destruction. Their population in world zoos has risen from 152 in 1980 to over 600 in 1989.

# Rhino deaths: ex-ranger released on R5 000 bail

(56)  
Stow  
8/11/89

By Clyde Johnson, Lowveld Bureau

HAZYVIEW — Kruger National Park's former senior game ranger, Mr Ludwig Johannes Wagner, appeared briefly in the magistrate's court here yesterday in connection with the alleged killing of 27 white rhino in the park.

Mr Wagner (44) was not asked to plead and no evidence was led.

His appearance comes after the discovery last month of 27 rhino skeletons in parts of the reserve that are not open to the general public.

All had bullet wounds in the skull and in each case the animal's horn had been removed.

Bail of R5 000 was granted by the magistrate, Mr Nic du Preez, on condition that:

● Mr Wagner made no contact with



Mr Ludwig Johannes Wagner leaves court.

any witnesses.

● He reported to the Brits police station every Monday between 5 pm and 7 pm.

● He refrained from entering the Kruger National Park and made no contact with the reserve either

by letter or by telephone.

● He handed in his passport at the Brits police station.

The hearing was postponed to November 24.

Mr Wagner, who resigned after 22 years' service with the Kruger National Park, works on a private game farm near Brits.

# Cops hunt mastermind of rhino massacre

By DE WET POTGIETER

POLICE are hunting for the boss of an international syndicate and poachers involved in the massacre of 27 white rhino in the Kruger National Park.

Former park employee Ludwig Wagner, 44, appeared in court in Hazyview this week on charges relating to illegal slaughter.

He was described by friends and former colleagues as an excellent and dedicated game ranger.

He was released conditionally on R5 000 bail and had to surrender his passport to Brits police.

Earlier police investigating the South African connection of an international smuggling ring between Africa and the Far East swooped on a private game farm near Brits this week.

The swoop is described as a breakthrough in exposing smuggling networks that use South Africa as a conduit.

A reliable source said syndicate bosses use any means at their disposal — in many cases blackmail — to force people to work for them.

"The competition among

the ivory and rhino lords is so fierce that they resort to any means to get their fortunes out of Africa," sources said.

The rhino horns were smuggled to Hong Kong soon after the animals had been massacred in a remote area of the park where tourists are not allowed.

This week's swoop followed an intensive investigation by Captain Faan Heine and Warrant-Officer Coenie Scheepers of the endangered-species police unit in the park.

Simes 5/11/89

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Quite a handful — or is it a pawfull? Sierra the pedigreed Irish greyhound has given birth to 15 pups and can't manage to feed them all. Her owner, Mrs Valerie Whitehead, is desperately looking for a foster mother to wet-nurse the large brood.

## Help! 15 hungry pups in need of a wet nurse

By Joe Openshaw

Between Monday at 5 pm and yesterday at 8 am Mrs Valerie Whitehead's two-year-old pedigreed Irish greyhound, Sierra, presented her with a litter of 15 pups — five bitches and 10 dogs.

Now Mrs Whitehead, of Hartbeest Street, Leondale, Germiston, is looking for a foster mother to help wet-nurse the pups because Sierra can't cope.

"I let half the litter feed at a time at three-hourly intervals.

"I also feed them by bottle to supplement their feeds," said Mrs Whitehead.

The father of the pups is an eight-year-old English greyhound called Spider who was trained for the tracks in England. Spider's grandfather, Supreme Fun, was champion grey-

hound at the Doncaster and West Houghton tracks.

Apart from the 15 greyhound pups, eight days ago two kittens were produced by Mrs Whitehead's pedigreed brown tabby Persian, Becky. Father is Barber Lai's Bruno — Percy for short — winner of two firsts at championship cat shows.

The world record litter, according to the Guinness Book of Records, is 23. It was produced in 1944 by Lena, a foxhound belonging to Commander W N Ely of Pennsylvania, US.

The record was matched in 1975 by the quaintly named Careless Ann, a St Bernard belonging to the Roddens of Missouri, US.

Mrs Whitehead's telephone number is (011) 865-3704.

56

## Natal nippers are having a shocking time

stop  
9/11/89

MARITZBURG — Meter readers here have been issued with cattle prods to fend off unfriendly dogs, and dog bites have stopped.

The prods, which have two torch batteries, were issued in August and had proved effective, said Mr Henry Moore of the city treasurer's department.

"The prods give a little bit of a nip and are an effective deterrent ..."

The local chairman of the SPCA, Mr Harold Hudson, agreed that the men were entitled to protect themselves.

### CRIMINALS

He was concerned, however, that criminals would catch on and use the prods to protect themselves.

"Animals will recognise the stick as a danger after being prodded a couple of times," he said.

Mr Hudson added that the SPCA was monitoring the situation and agreed that from an animal health point of view prods were not a problem. — Sapa.

# Cape Doctor set for a big blow

Staff Reporter

DON'T be fooled by yesterday's less windy weather. That treacherous south-easter was merely resting before giving us an extra hard blow today.

Many Capetonians breathed a sigh of relief when they awoke this morning to a calm, windless day and not to the howling Cape Doctor we've had to grow accustomed to for more than

two weeks.

But according to a spokesman for the Weather Office at D F Malan airport, the south-easter will be blowing strong to gale force today.

Yesterday the wind was merely moderate to fresh over most parts of the Peninsula and the Boland, he said.

A few wise and lucky sunseekers rushed off to the beaches on the Atlantic seaboard, where there wasn't a breath of wind yesterday.

A spokesman for the law enforcement office at Sea Point reported 500 people on beaches there, 300 at Clifton and 50 at Camps Bay.

At Muizenberg the wind was blowing yesterday morning, "but not as bad as it has been for the past weeks and it subsided slightly in the afternoon", a law enforcement officer there said.

There was a dark cloud hanging over the mountain and there were only one or two people on the beach as "it was not very pleasant to be

there", he said. There were more reports of wind on the False Bay coast yesterday, specially at Fish Hoek.

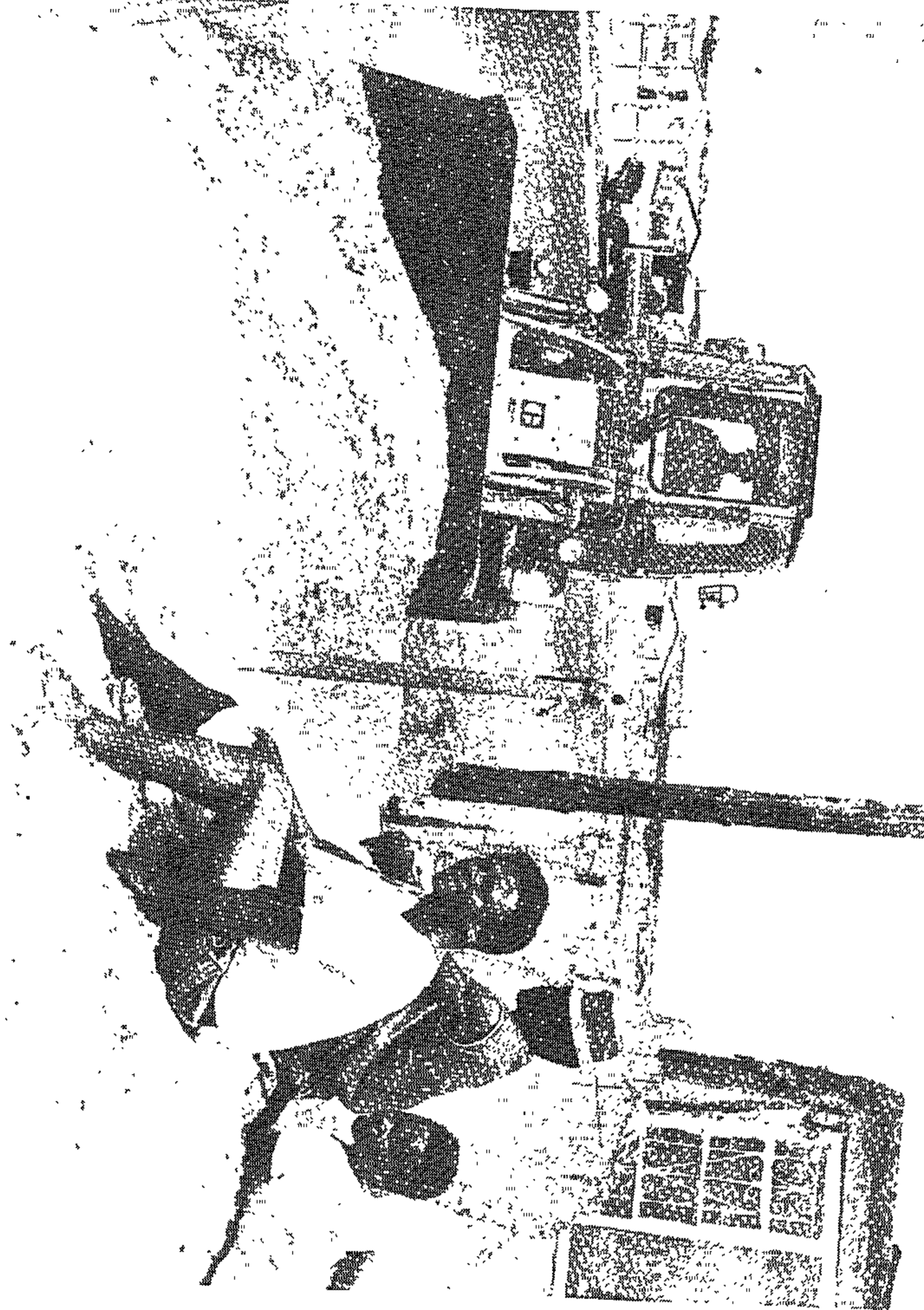
Khayelitsha residents, who have had the wind in large doses, were hopeful yesterday when bulldozers moved in and started clearing heaps of windblown sand from the sides of their homes.

Ms Gail Mamputa, who lives at Site B, said yesterday: "We could not even cook because of the sand blowing into the pots. There was sand

everywhere — it just piled up, even inside the houses. I'm so glad it stopped today. But looking at the mountains, it seems as if it's coming back."

A spokeswoman for the cableway said the cable car had made irregular trips, as the service had to be closed down when the wind was too strong.

During the big blow of the past weeks, the service was closed for only one entire day and there had been worse wind storms, she said.



**BULLDOZED** ... Mr Richard Dabeni (front), Ms Gail Mamputa and Mr Jacob Dada watch a bulldozer clear sand, blown by the south-easter, from the front of their homes in Khayelitsha Site B yesterday.



**AFTER THE STORM** ... Mr Richard Dabeni (left), Mr Jacob Dada, Ms Gail Mamputa and Ms Felicia Dada (right) are grateful for a little reprieve from the south-easter.

# SA TOXIC WASTE ZONE

# W Cape quarc's deadly dump

By MARK STANSFIELD  
Weekend Argus Reporter

SCRATCH South Africa's toxic waste itchy-bite and you'll find that it simply aggravates the itch — without giving relief, removing the symptoms or "curing" the problem.

Like the common cold, it's something that simply won't go away — even if we mask the symptoms by burying it.

The government has now appointed several teams of highly-skilled scientists to "cure" our country of this affliction, according to a Pretoria spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs — but while the hi-tech teams work on a permanent solution to the toxic waste disposal problem the heaps just keep on piling up.

## Deadly pile

Nobody is quite certain how much toxic waste there really is in South Africa, where all of it is buried or stored and nobody is quite sure of the best method to rid South Africa of it permanently.

Official estimates are that South African industries produce about 150 000 tons of toxic or hazardous waste every year and that at least 10 000 tons of this is intractable — meaning the waste can only be neutralised or made less harmful by high-temperature incineration. Until this can be done it can only be stored out of harm's

Like the common cold, it won't go away...

way. So if our industries have been producing 10 000 tons of intractable toxic waste a year for at least 30 years, then stored around the country at present is a mountain containing 300 000 tons of deadly killer chemicals.

This deadly pile lies spread in forgotten corners of factories and at official "temporary" storage sites (and if rumours are true it is being secretly buried in uncontrolled places by dishonest and unscrupulous operators where it will one day upset us all). It is stored in drums, containers, concrete blocks and dams — all of which, in time, must disintegrate.

Weekend Argus spoke to several waste disposal experts this week. All spoke of the dangers of "disposing" of such lethal and exotic-sounding compounds as tetra-ethyl-lead by burying it or encapsulating it in concrete.

They admitted that these methods are only temporary — yet this is what is being done because nothing else can be done. Nobody, it seems, was in charge of toxic waste disposal and there was no specific legislation controlling it.

According to information released by Mr. Leon Bredenhann, deputy director, Department of Water Affairs, existing legislation will be modified soon to help control the disposal of toxic and hazardous substances.

"There are a number of problems in determining the quantities of waste produced in South Africa. Secrecy is maintained on various patented chemical industrial processes and small industries are unwilling to produce accurate information."

A report on the disposal of hazardous waste in the Cape metropolitan area which was commissioned by the Director of Local Government in 1982 and completed in 1985 attempted to establish how much hazardous waste was being produced here.

A total of 2 876 companies in the Western Cape were pin-

pointed as possible producers of hazardous waste. All these companies were sent a questionnaire and were asked to estimate their hazardous waste output and to state where and how it was disposed of. Only 33.4 percent bothered to reply. The rest chose to ignore this important survey. Their reasons for doing so were never questioned.

Meanwhile our luxurious chemicals-get-things-done-faster lifestyle is killing us.

Like pigs living in a confined piggery we are slowly being bogged down by a chemical faeces situation of our own making. We've tried to hide it, bury it, but it refuses to go away. The pile continues to grow at such an astonishing rate that it could kill us unless something is done soon.

The methods of burying and encapsulating toxic and hazardous waste have been criticised by environmentalists in the past but Mr. Tom de Bruyn, branch chairman of the Institute of Solid Waste Management and the South African representative of the International Solid Waste Association summed it up by saying:

"Better to handle it, even badly, than not to handle it at all."

"At least this way it has a place to go to where it can be stored, no matter how temporarily, because when there's no facility available producers will simply hide it away where it cannot be controlled at all."

"Logically, why should they now come forward and be hammered under the law? We should declare an amnesty — it would be the only way to get it all out in the open, from where it can be stored safely until a permanent solution is found."

Dr. J. J. Malan of the CSIR's Foundation for Research Development said recently that waste management in South Africa "might portray a system that is controlled by the various Acts involved. But it nevertheless also shows signs of a lack of control."

"Waste management has to be enforced since it is always a cost, and industry will seldom apply it out of free will. But a control system must originate from the right base and be laid down by a joint effort of both industry and government."

There are indications, even in Cape Town's sewerage system, that small quantities of highly toxic chemicals — in-



**Not pretty in pink: This is one of several liquid toxic waste dump ponds at Vissershok. The area will remain a danger zone and uninhabitable for humans forever.**

cluding cyanide — are being flushed illegally, presumably by small industries which produce minute quantities of these harmful by-products.

A spokesman for the City Council's sewerage branch said the whole system was monitored "very strictly" on a 24 hours basis.

## Legislation

A government-sponsored survey on hazardous waste disposal in the Cape metropolitan area states that "the most common illegal disposal takes the form of dumping down municipal sewers."

"While the Cape Town City Council monitors the chemical content of the sewer system as closely as possible, offenders have an almost 50 percent chance of escaping detection."

Mr. Bredenhann said Department of Water Affairs officials were in the process of compiling legislation to control hazardous waste and its disposal.

By MARK STANSFIELD  
Weekend Argus Reporter

THERE is a stretch of land not far from Cape Town which may never again be inhabited by humans.

It has been designated a forbidden area for a very special reason — the ground there is being filled with toxic and hazardous liquids which come from as far as the Eastern Cape. Requests to dump toxic waste have also come from as far away as Natal.

The Western Cape has sacrificed a stretch of land to become the toxic waste dump for other industrial areas. We have the only "permanent" Class A hazardous and toxic waste dump between here and Johannesburg.

When this 7.5ha area is filled it will be covered over but will remain a potential death-zone and will be marked on maps as such — a place unfit for human habitation.

The site is called Vissershok, 25km from Cape Town. There are two very dangerous, but necessary dumps located there.



**Mr. George Lord, right, and Mr. Mike Greenhalgh of the Cape Town City Council sewerage department with blocks containing highly dangerous toxic chemicals.**

One is a place quilted in a hideous patchwork of noxious-smelling ponds — deep purples and oily greens and blues. And the death-dealing powers of their contents can be gauged by the dead grass and bushes which border many of them. Remarkably, there is one evaporation pond containing a beautiful pinkish-purple liquid in which reeds still grow and where weaver birds have built their nests out over the vile-smelling water.

Not far from this forbidden territory lies another smaller patch of land, also fenced off and kept locked, in which stand several large blocks of concrete hiding their lethal contents. It is here that the most dangerous of toxic wastes are "stored". Inside these concrete blocks are poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), DDT, arsenic and cadmium, among other deadly chemicals, and the road leading down to where they are stored is paved with concrete containing tetra-ethyl lead — a widely accepted method of disposing of this residue.

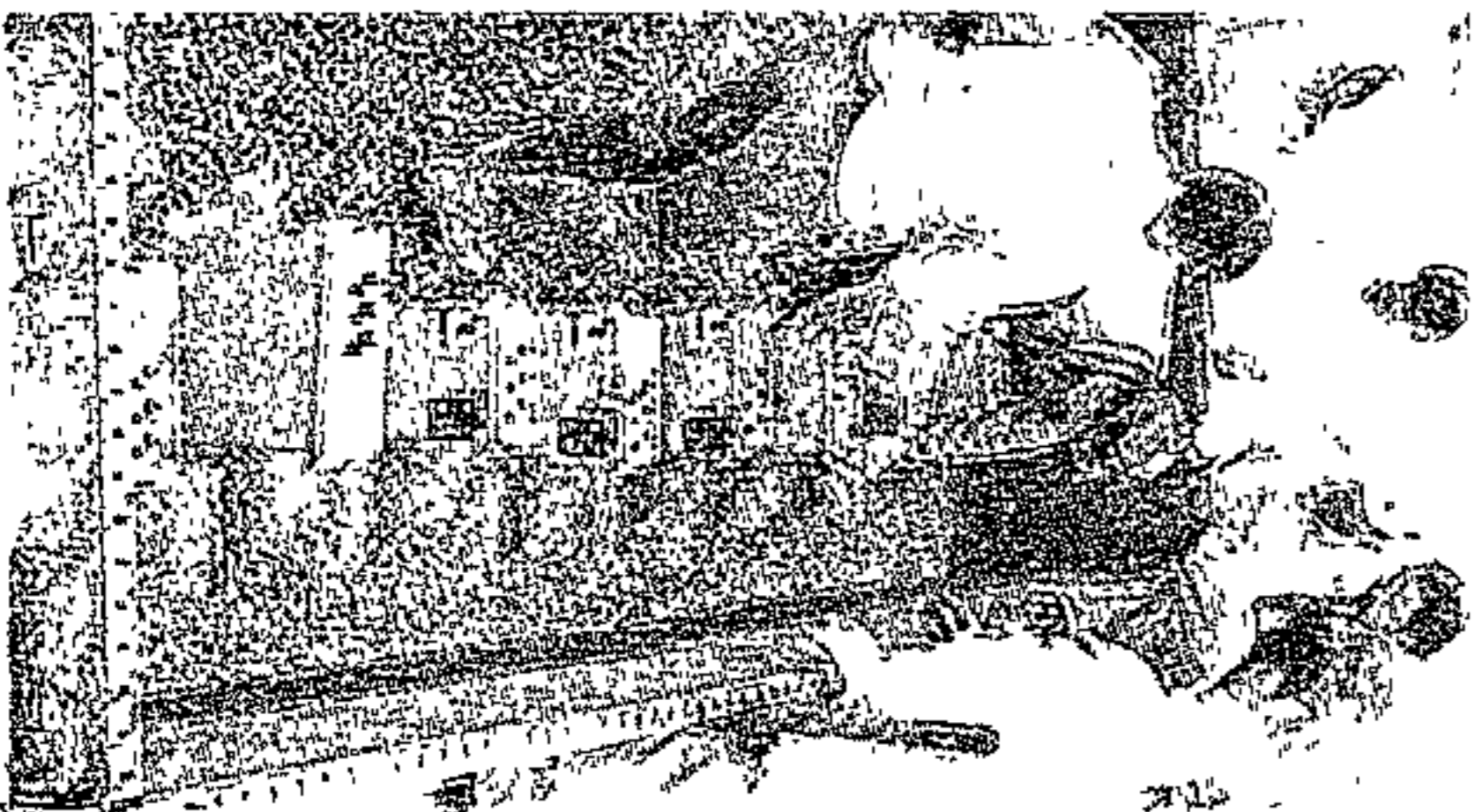
## Left exposed

City Council spokesman Mr. George Lord and Mr. Mike Greenhalgh, who accompanied Weekend Argus on a visit to the tight security encapsulation dump, said highly toxic substances were encased in 300mm concrete blocks (even the protective overalls used by the workers who do the encasing are thrown in) and a plan is drawn of the exact location of the contents inside the concrete. The blocks are left exposed because the council feels they may be lost if buried.

Both men agreed that storing such chemicals in concrete was only a temporary solution.

"It's not the right solution — we should be incinerating the stuff — but it's the best method we have at the moment," Mr. Lord said.

The encapsulating dump was started two years ago. The liquid hazardous waste dump has been in operation for about eight years. Several wells are used to sample ground-water around the site, which is on clay, as a check against contamination by the harmful contents of the dams.



**City Council employees encase cadmium batteries in concrete, where they will remain out of harm's way.**

# Hope for Africa's mightiest

WASHINGTON — The tide may be turning in the battle to save the African elephant, witnesses told a congressional hearing this week.

"For the first time in many years there is hope and confidence that the species' precipitous decline can be stemmed and even reversed in much of Africa," said Mr. Curtis Bohlen, senior vice-president of the World Wildlife Fund.

But the United States had to do more, including increasing spending for anti-poaching measures in Africa, according to Mr. Bohlen and other conservationists testifying before the House Sub-Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation.

"It has been bitterly disappointing to me to see how little money Congress has appropriated to the African Elephant Con-

## Tide turning

in battle to

save elephants

JOHN DIAMOND

ervation. Fund a palty \$350,000 for this fiscal year," Mr. Bohlen said. "That amount will not save many elephants."

Witnesses said worldwide recognition of the plight of the African elephant has begun to have an impact on poaching, which has been declining the population for years. Agreements by the United States and Japan to ban ivory imports and anti-poaching actions in Africa have been crucial to the effort.

Congressman Gerry Studds of Massachusetts, who chairs the sub-committee, said merely declaring the elephant an endan-

(56) saw 1/11/69

gered species was not enough. "Our goal is not simply to save a few elephants here and there for zoos and parks," Mr. Studds said. "Our objective must be to restore elephant populations to work with the international community and with the nations of Africa to bring those populations back up to sustainable levels, to provide a source of income for countries in desperate need of revenue."

Witnesses said that the banning of ivory trade had in some instances already had an impact on poaching.

"The absence of market demand and stepped-up enforcement efforts have combined to greatly reduce the toll on elephants," Mr. Bohlen said. "Ivory presently has no value in Tanzania where 1,840 poachers and traders have been arrested."

## Found

"Incredibly, tusks have been found washing down the Ruaha River, dumped by culprits who no longer can sell them."

Ms Susan Lieberman of the Humane Society of the United States said disagreements among African countries — some of which do not consider their elephant populations endangered — had to be settled before more progress could be made.

She also said steps had to be taken to curb recreational hunting despite arguments that costly hunting licences provide revenue to protect elephant herds.

Nevertheless, Ms Lieberman said the international agreements on banning trade and helping to fight poaching marked significant progress in the past year. The African elephant had been granted a cease-fire — Associated Press.

## Now we know where that graveyard lies

EIGHTY years ago, when Africa was still a mystery, romantics relished the mystery of where elephants went to die. Now we know where the elephants' graveyard is, and there's nothing romantic about it.

The horrifying slaughter, and, yes, the romance that pervaded the rancid world of the white colonialists and the hunters and the African potentates, have been photographed and beautifully embalmed in an extraordinary book about East Africa.

The book, "The End of the Game" by Peter Beard (Oxford University Press), comprises mostly sepia pictures — great pictures as well as faded snaps — and carries a melancholy text to match. It is written by the man who was Karen "Out of Africa" Blixen's friend and next door neighbour.

The book was in fact first published in 1965 but it had little impact outside East Africa. Now, 25 years on, it is suddenly blindingly relevant. JAMES CLARKE writes about it in Weekend in next week's Saturday Star.



THE KILL: A cloud of dust, a trumpeter of pain — the last moments for two elephants as hunters' guns explode. Worldwide recognition of the plight of the African elephant is having an impact on poaching, which has been reducing the population for years.



2 Cape Times, Monday, November 13, 1989

# DP goes for green vote

By ANTHONY JOHNSON  
Political Correspondent

THE Democratic Party last night unveiled plans to form an Environmental Action Forum to monitor and promote environmental causes in the Western Cape.

Announcing the move, the DP's spokesman for environmental affairs in the Western Cape, Mr Roger Hulley, said: "The DP is signalling its deep and sincere concern for sensitive environmentalism. 'We are determined to be known as a party with a well-developed 'Green' consciousness."

The strong new emphasis on environmental causes will see the formation of a number of formal local structures under Mr Hulley's chairmanship:

● An action committee of senior party members, supported by sub-groups of the party, that will specialise in specific environmental topics on an on-

going basis.

The specialist sub-groups will focus on subjects like coastal pollution; fynbos, flora and wilderness preservation; fauna and wildlife conservation; waste and litter; clean air; the built environment; fisheries and planning and development.

The MPs serving on the action committee are Mr Hulley (Constatia), Mr Ken Andrew (Gardens), Mr Jannie Momberg (Simon's Town), Mr Jan van Eck (Claremont), Ms Dene Smuts (Grootte Schuur) and Mr Robin Carlisle (Wynberg).

● An environmental forum comprising rank-and-file members who will support the action committee on an ongoing basis through membership of the specialised sub-groups.

The members' forum, which will be launched on Saturday, will meet in plenary session to help formulate DP attitudes on environmental issues as they arise.

● An advisory council of experts from various fields to lend their expertise to the DP on environmental issues.

Mr Hulley said last night: "We are also dedicated to interacting in a responsible way with the many concerned and responsible persons and institutions in the field with a view to serving their interests in Parliament.

"As a party which takes a long view of South Africa's future, we realise that when the race issue of the present time has been resolved, this country and Southern Africa as a whole will still need to deal with the full range of environmental issues which threaten the sub-continent.

"Timeous concern for the environment today is a vital investment in the collective future of all South Africans," Mr Hulley said.

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# Klawer Disaster Fund tops R88 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

All gifts, however small, bring relief to the bereaved families.

A GIFT of R500 from the Cape Friendly Society has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund beyond the R88 000 mark.

The fund, begun by The Argus, climbed to R88 503,40 with the help of R300 from the Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein, and R102,31 from the church council and congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis.

## VALUABLE

Gifts from readers R McClelland (R50), H K Walton (R25) and Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain (R10) also made a valuable contribution.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been bolstered by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches and individuals.

## THE ADDRESS

Those who would like to contribute should send their gifts to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, which has established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

Latest contributions to the fund:

## Previously acknowledged:

	R87 516,09
Cape Friendly Society	R500,00
Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein	R300,00
Church Council & Congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis	R102,31
R McClelland	R50,00
H K Walton	R25,00
Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain	R10,00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>R987,31</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>R88 503,40</b>



Evidence . . . Boondock Nature Reserve employee Mr Fabia Timane with two dead eels. Hundreds of bass, canary bream and other fish died in the dam.



A yellow mess . . . rocks and plants tarnished by waste, allegedly from a disused mining test tunnel in the Louw's Creek area near Barberton in the Eastern Transvaal.

• Pictures by Clyde Johnson.

(56) Jan 15/11/89  
**Pollution blamed on mine waste**

By Clyde Johnson,  
 Lowveld Bureau

BARBERTON — The drinking water of a village has been threatened and hundreds of fish, at least 40 eels and several other forms of aquatic life have died in the latest Eastern Transvaal river-pollution incident.

Waste, allegedly from a disused mining test tunnel, has washed into a mountain stream near Louw's Creek, north-east of Barberton.

Rocks and plants along a 1,5 km stretch of Revolver Creek have turned bright yellow and what was clear water is now a foaming mess.

Mr Luke von Johnstone, owner of Boondock's Nature Reserve near Louw's Creek, said fish started dying in his dam on Sunday.

By midday yesterday 30 eels and hundreds of dead fish had been removed from the dam and trees were wilting.

Water from Revolver Creek, in the Crocodile River's catchment area, flows past an abandoned mining test tunnel on Bien Venue farm. Close by is a dump, apparently of waste matter from the tunnel.

It is two years since work was done on the tunnel and it appears that during a storm last week about 10 percent of the dump was washed into the stream.

Louw's Creek police, the Department of Water Affairs and the Directorate of Nature Conservation have taken water and other tests, and the Lydenburg Fisheries Department was called in to assess the damage.

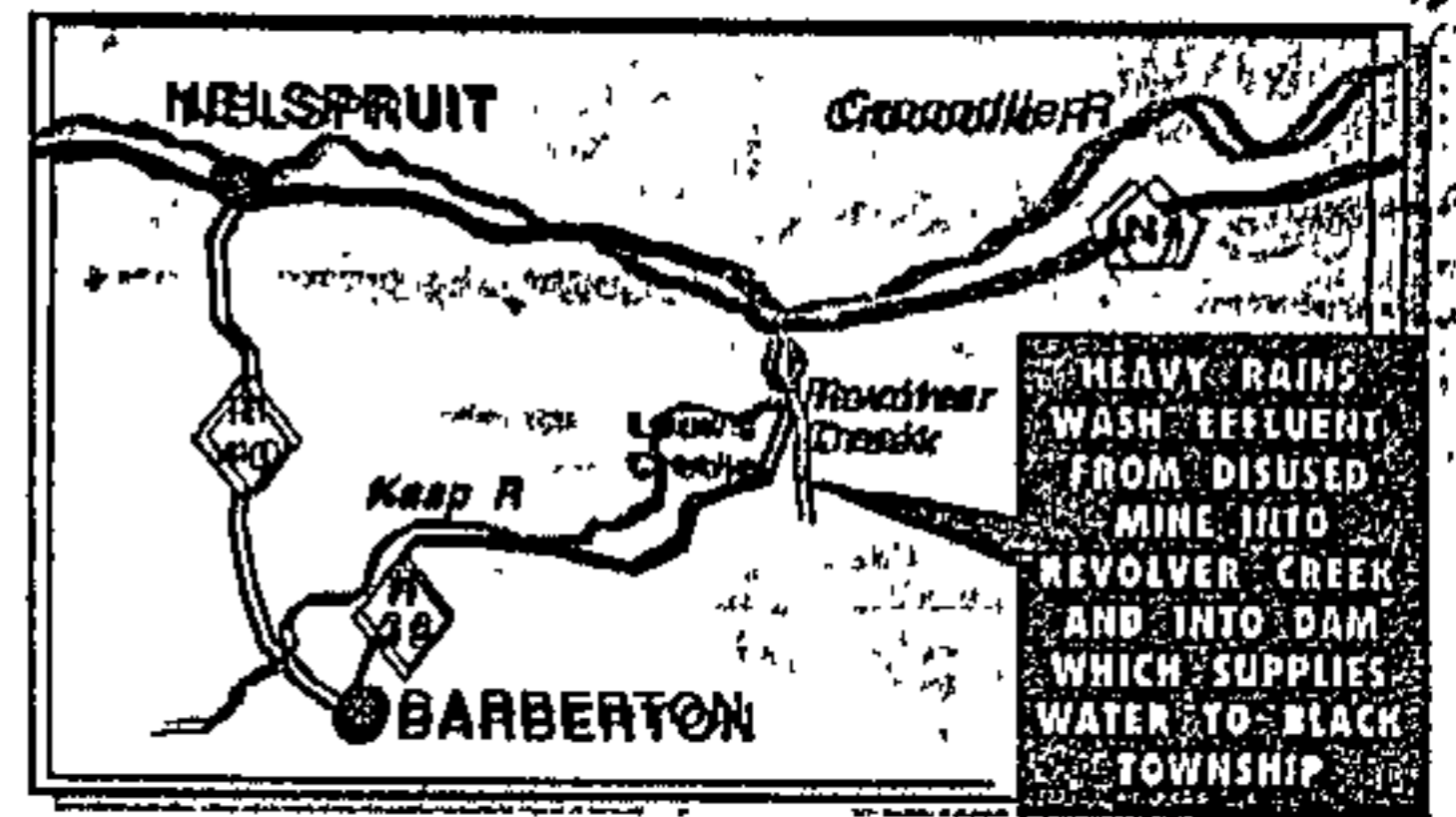
**CONCERN**

Public affairs manager of the gold division of Anglo American Corporation, Mr Adrian du Plessis, said operations at Bien Venue were curtailed in 1986.

Since then Anglo Prospecting Services continually ensured the area posed no threat to the environment, he said.

Tests taken in 1988 had indicated no pollutants. The reported contamination of the dam had caused the company great concern, and it had sent an environmental expert to the site.

"Should the tests indicate any responsibility by the company for the contamination of the dam we will take all steps possible to ensure the full restoration of the natural environment," Mr du Plessis said.



**Poachers fire at rangers**

Own Correspondent 15/11/89  
 DURBAN — Natal Parks Board staff operating against poachers in the Drakensberg are being armed following a recent incident in which a patrol was fired on by poachers in the Giant's Castle game reserve.

Dr John Scotcher, chief conservator, Drakensberg, said today that an officer and two guards had lain in ambush for poachers in the Injuthi Valley in the game reserve.

"It was daytime but very misty, ideal for poaching," he said. "Two hunting dogs came through the ambush and were both shot by the game guards, whereupon they were fired on by the poachers who were

following the dogs. "Our men returned the fire but no one was hit."

He said the poaching party had come from a kwaZulu area to the east. Eland was the prime target of poachers in the area.

"Poaching of game is an ongoing problem throughout the Drakensberg, but this is the first time to my knowledge that a patrol has come under rifle fire. Naturally we are very concerned and will monitor the situation very closely."

"We've stepped up patrols and, where previously some men carried knobkerries and such weapons, they are now being armed with rifles or small arms."

**School plan still secret**

The Department of Education and Culture and the management council of Johannesburg High School for Girls are both still keeping mum on plans to save the school.

A report-back meeting by the management council to members of the Save Our School Committee on Friday resulted in a memorandum being sent to the Department of Education and Culture, but no comment as to the contents of the memo is being made by any of the parties — Education Reporter.

**Kruger Park blaze**

The shopping complex at the Pretoriuskop camp in the Kruger National Park was burnt out on Monday night. The fire caused damage estimated at about R1.5 million.

Scores of people assisted the local fire-fighting unit, but they were unable to save the thatched building.

The nearby restaurant building was not affected. The fire apparently started in a storeroom at about 10 pm. The cause is not yet known — Lowveld Bureau.

**Add to the flavour and aroma of your usual tobacco...  
 Add Rum & Maple**

# Kaolin mine is not yet definite, says developer

Cape Times 16/11/89

Staff Reporter

THE development of the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek by Serina was "by no means definite", company director Mr Stan Adler said yesterday.

In response to a brief of objections put before him and Serina MD Mr C Tarrant by the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group last Wednesday, Mr Adler said there was very little he could say as a mining permit had not yet been issued.

"We are still waiting for the results of an impact study conducted by a firm of consultants on our behalf," he said. "This should be completed by the end of December or early January, but until then no mining permit can be issued."

Asked if he foresaw any difficulties in obtaining the permit, he said: "The permit could contain certain conditions that may be onerous or expensive for us to meet, but I feel certain we will be able to meet them and that, practically speaking, there will be no difficulty in our getting the permit."

He added that Serina was an "extremely environmentally conscious" company and would do all it could to preserve the environment.

Meanwhile, support for the action group grows daily as its campaign against the mine gains momentum. They hope to have a petition consisting of 250 000 signatures by the end of the campaign.

"We will do everything in our power to stop the mine becoming a reality,

even if it means invoking court interdicts every step of the way," said spokesman Mr Rory Sales this week.

"Our standpoint is non-negotiable. We feel it is against the interests of Cape Town, let alone the whole country, to allow the development to take place. A lot of people power must now be exerted."

The well-researched and thorough statement presented by the group at Wednesday's meeting stressed its total opposition to any exploitation of kaolin deposits in the area, which they consider to be a strategic resource due to its unique beauty and tourist value. It maintains that kaolin deposits in the area are not a strategic resource and asks why figures on the quantity and quality of the deposits have not been made available to the public.

The statement claims that the purported foreign exchange gain to be made from the mine will be more than offset by the losses to the environment, tourism, the local community and all South Africans in general. It maintains that objections and opposition to mining in the area raised in 1981/82 still apply, and actually enjoy more support today. Pollution is also inevitable, it says, and the wetlands and water tables are sure to be affected by the mine.

Action group spokesman Mr John Butterfield adds that there are no guarantees that the ecological and environmental precautions undertaken by Serina will be successful and adhered to in the future.

# Rescue mission

# — 36

news 16/11/89

56

# trapped

RESCUERS in the rain-lashed Eastern Cape are trying to reach 36 foresters cut off by the rising floodwaters of the Bavians and Kouga rivers in the Langkloof catchment area of the Paul Sauer Dam near Port Elizabeth.

The operation, begun in poor visibility by the Algoa wing of the Metro emergency service and a SAAF helicopter, is being hampered by fog and rain.

The search for the missing men of the Department of Nature Conservation was launched after a forester's bakkie was found abandoned.

A spokesman said it was not yet certain whether the driver reached safety on higher ground or was swept away in the swollen rivers.

## Burst banks

Widespread rain that has lashed the Eastern Cape for three days has cut off communities and people have been evacuated as floodwaters rise. Several rivers have burst their banks.

Consistent, heavy falls in the Eastern Cape have closed several roads, leaving some communities isolated. Sports events and domestic flights were disrupted but the rain has brought relief to several drought-stricken areas.

A spokesman for the provincial traffic department said the Grahamstown by-pass on the N2 was still closed after rain caused mudslides earlier yesterday. The road between Alexandria and Port Alfred and the road between Grahamstown and Port Alfred were under water in places and motorists had to use alternative routes.

P.T.O

## **Homes flooded**

In Port Elizabeth, homes were flooded, rivers broke their banks and flights were delayed after more than 80mm fell since 8am yesterday. More rain is predicted for today.

A spokesman for the weather office said there was little chance of it letting up today.

Water is pouring into the main dams from the catchment area and heavy rain is still falling.

At Bedford more than 115mm has fallen and people in 44 houses had to be evacuated in the township because of flooding. The town has been without electricity since Tuesday.

The little Fish River burst its banks near Somerset East causing damage to crops and in the town itself streets were under water. More than 150mm was recorded in the town with more than 190mm on some farms in the area.

In Adelaide, the Koonap River started to overflow its banks today and officials were keeping a watchful eye on houses. A spokesman for the municipality said it was possible some people would have to be evacuated.

In Port Elizabeth, rivers are running strongly and many houses were flooded.

In East London, the civil defence was called out last night as 100mm of lashing rain flooded homes in some suburbs.

By midnight last night 2,3m of water was flowing over the Nahoon Dam wall, and the Abbotsford causeway over the swollen river was closed.

Last night three flights were unable to make their scheduled stopovers at Ben Schoeman Airport because of the rain.

## **Karoo floods**

In the Karoo, more than 54mm of rain was recorded overnight at Beaufort West, bringing the total during the past two days to 124,5mm. Nearly 27mm fell in one half-hour.

At one stage floodwaters streamed through several houses in the Rustdene township, but no serious damage was recorded. — Argus Bureau, Argus Correspondents and Sapa.

# City men for new council on environment

Accus  
16/11/89  
56

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

TWO University of Cape Town professors and a Grassy Park teacher are among the members of the new Council for the Environment, appointed in terms of the updated Environment Conservation Act of 1989.

However, the council has already run into difficulties with the refusal of one member to take up his appointment.

Mr Japhta Lekgetho of Soweto, the president of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, said he had received notice of his appointment on the same day as it had been announced in the media. He had "at no time been consulted as to whether he would serve on the council".

Not only had he not been consulted, but he had also been publicly linked to a government body in a matter of

which he had no knowledge, said Mr Lekgetho.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs could not say whether Mr Lekgetho had been consulted and said he would have to investigate.

The new council will advise the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr G J Kotze, on the "growing ... environmental crises that not only cause serious degradation, but also threaten man's quality of life and even his survival", according to chairman Professor Roelf Botha of Pretoria.

Among the 22-member council are prominent UCT academics Professor Richard Fugle, head of the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, and ecologist Professor Roy Siegfried, director of the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology.

Also on the council are prominent Cape Town conservation architect Mr Gawie Fagan; Mr M Williams, a senior

geography teacher at Crestway Secondary School; Dr Allan Heydorn, director of the SA Nature Foundation; and Professor M A Rabie, professor of Public Law at Stellenbosch University.

⊙ A rhino conservation coordinating group has been established to avoid duplication in the widespread effort to save the endangered black rhino.

Although a comprehensive conservation plan for the black rhino has already been drawn up and approved by the six official conservation agencies in South Africa and Namibia, major fund-raising is required to implement this plan.

"With several organisations involved and the urgency of the situation, there was a danger of duplication of effort and confusion for the general public," explained Dr John Hanks, director of the World Wide Fund for Nature's Africa conservation programme, who is on a brief visit to South Africa.

# Water Board probes possible pollution source

56/ Star 16/11/88  
By Jacqueline Myburgh

Pollution officers from the Rand Water Board and the Department of Environmental Services will report today on whether or not a recycling plant in Dale-side, near Meyerton, is polluting the nearby Klip River.

Earlier The Star received reports from a resident in the area that a thick, black, oily liquid was running from the premises towards the river.

This week another resident, Mrs Jill van Eck, said she had found three dead fish in the

river which runs across the bottom of her property and asked whether their deaths could have been related to the alleged pollution.

After recent rainfalls in the area, the managing director of a light business adjacent to the Drumco recycling plant, Mr David Berry, said pools of storm water in the area had a "foul chemical smell". He intends submitting a sample of the water to the Department of Water Affairs for analysis.

Mr Willie Grobler, chairman of the management committee of the Rand Vaal Municipality,

told The Star of today's inspection of the plant. He said, however, he did not know about the dead fish, but would investigate the matter immediately.

He added that last week birds menacing farmers in the area had been sprayed with poison and some of these birds may have contaminated the river.

According to pest control laws, it is illegal to do this type of spraying near water.

A spokesman from Drumco, which has previously denied handling toxic substances on the premises, refused to comment on the dead fish.



## 210 000 sign to save St Lucia

(b6) THE Minister of Environment — who recently voiced his distaste for receiving petitions — has acknowledged receipt of the first pile of Save St Lucia petitions from The Star.

His letter said he would be making an announcement on St Lucia soon.

But the Minister did not respond to The Star's CARE campaign's request for an explanation regarding his remarks that many petitioners were "fanatics" and "leftists" and his derogatory remarks about the number of children who signed.

Star 18/11/89  
**JAMES CLARKE**

According to informed sources Richards Bay Minerals is currently working on an intensive public relations campaign to win support for its mining activities along the coast. Several sensitive areas are threatened.

The Star's petition which, through the Wildlife Society and dozens of other groups spread throughout South Africa, reached 212 000 signatures this week.

# Oiling of the Oceans

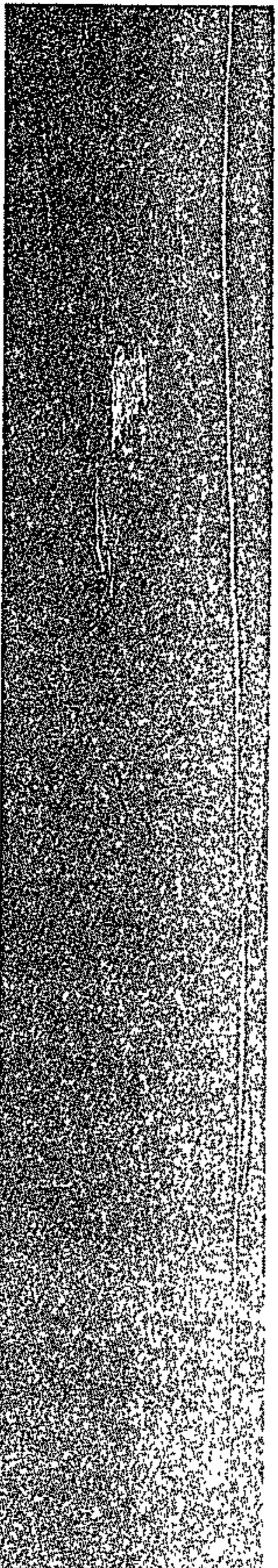
## 40km slick threatens Cape beaches

Capt Tins  
22/11/89  
56

**By MARIUS BOSCH**  
A MASSIVE 40km-long oil slick off Danger Point is threatening popular beaches of the southern Cape and is endangering the Dyer Island penguin population of 45 000.

It has already polluted the waters off Walker Bay, near Hermanus, which serves as a nursery for whales in summer.  
During an aerial survey of the area yesterday, several whales and their calves were seen frolicking in patches of sheen.

**Patrol aircraft**  
Dyer Island, which has the largest Jackass penguin colony off the South African coast, is only six kilometres from the coast.  
The heavy emulsifying crude oil, stretching from Danger Point near Gansbaai to Quoin Point on the southern Cape coast and about eight kilometres off-shore last night, was spotted by a Kuswag patrol aircraft yesterday afternoon.  
A Kuswag anti-pollution vessel has



**OIL THREAT**... An aerial view of Dyer Island where an estimated 45 000 Jackass penguins are under threat from oil pollution. Streaks of oil were clearly visible off the island yesterday.

been dispatched to the scene and will start spraying the slick with dispersants at first light today.  
Danger Point lighthouse keeper Mr J M de Kock said he could see several patches of sheen in Walker Bay.  
"The whole bay in front of Hermanus is full of shiny streaks of oil," he told the Cape Times last night.  
Department of Environmental Affairs pollution officer Dr Lyn Jackson said local authorities in the area had been put on alert and plans had been made to close off the mouth of the Uitenkraals River if any oil washes ashore.

She said a possible cause of the spill was a tanker washing out its oil tanks on Monday night.

However, no tanker was spotted near the slick by the Kuswag patrol aircraft.  
Although the wind was blowing from a southerly direction, a current seemed to be holding the slick in one place and no reports had been received of oil coming ashore, Dr Jackson said last night.  
The weather bureau has predicted a fresh south-easterly wind today, sparking fears among environmentalists of a major marine disaster.

The keeper on Dyer Island has been alerted to be on the look-out for oiled birds and Sancob has been put on standby.

"If the oiled penguins come in things will blow up around here," said Sancob manager Mr Jonathan Plowmann.  
He said crude oil would be very difficult to remove from the penguins — paraffin would have to be used.  
Captain T Spengler, the deputy port captain of Table Bay Harbour, said stiff penalties were levied against tankers spilling oil at sea.

He said when oil tanks were cleaned at sea, the excess oil had to be pumped into "stop tanks" aboard the tanker. The oil then had to be pumped into tanks on shore when the tanker reached port.

● A Department of Environmental Affairs contingency plan to protect Cape beaches against oil pollution involves several local authorities and government departments in the event of a serious oil spill off the coast.

If a slick appears, the DEA will inform local authorities to put key personnel on standby and when the slick draws closer local authorities will move equipment to the site where pollution is expected.

### River mouths

Detailed instructions are given in the plan about cleaning up oil pollution on beaches and capturing and cleaning soiled birds.  
According to the plan, river mouths should be closed to prevent the sea from washing oil up them during high tides.

The plan stresses that extreme care should be taken in cleaning up and if the environment is in danger of being damaged, it is often better to leave the clean-up to nature.

# New site for kaolin mine?

## Staff Reporter

**PLANS** to mine the kaolin deposits in Noordhoek may be abandoned in favour of an alternative source on the West Coast.

Representatives of the kaolin mining company, Serina Pty Ltd, are to visit a farm near St Helena Bay today to assess the viability of mining the deposits there, company director Mr Stan Adler said yesterday.

He said there was a possibility that Serina would consider mining that deposit in favour of the one in Noordhoek.

"We are continually looking at and investigating new kaolin deposits and if this one is of the quality we want we'll institute a geological investigation followed by some test drilling," he said.

He said the investigation process was not lengthy and could be completed in about one month.

Mr Bob van Niekerk, a partner in St Helena Kaolin, which owns the kaolin mining rights on the alternative site, said he was prepared to consider any offer Serina might make.

He said an independent professional institute had surveyed the property and concluded that "there was plenty

of kaolin on the site and that it was of a very good quality".

"If Serina is not interested we'll begin mining and go into serious competition with them," he said.

Media spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group Mr John Butterfield said the fact that Serina was even looking at alternative sites was "wonderful".

"Hopefully the blight that mining has put on the Peninsula in recent years will be removed to less environmentally and socially sensitive areas. This alternative should have been considered long ago but nevertheless we applaud Serina for doing it now."

According to an authenticated report issued by a German laboratory which analysed a sample of the kaolin from the St Helena site, the product is highly suitable as a paper filler and the whiteness suitable for the paper industry.

An unrelated geological survey company confirmed that the report indicated deposits of a high quality.

Other reports say the proposed site in Noordhoek could yield two million tons of white kaolin and eight million tons of a lesser grade, while the St Helena site has been assessed as having 4,5 million tons of very high grade kaolin.

## BIG GAME BRINGS BIG SPENDERS

BIG game hunters visiting SA bring in the equivalent of R52m a year in foreign exchange, according to a report by the Tourism Research Unit at the University of Pretoria. May 30, 1989

The report states that about 3 570 hunters visit SA annually with each spending R13 300 over a period of 11 days on daily tariffs and trophies.

"This figure is however only the tip of the iceberg. Airfares (some 66% flew SAA), gifts, curios, tips, taxidermists' fees and other expenses added to this figure," the report says.

Some 90% of foreign hunters consid-

Business Day Reporter

ered their visit to SA as "very successful" or "successful". About 55% indicated that they would return to SA again.

"A conservative estimate of the number of local hunters is 50 000 a year. More than 75% of the respondents indicated that they go hunting more than once a year. The average expenditure per local hunter amounts to R3 087 per annum," the report says.

During 1988, 26 000 hunting licences were issued. Expenditure on various items amounted to about R80m a year.

# Klawer fund closes at R90 000-mark

Argus 30/11/89

56

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

THE Argus is today closing its Klawer Disaster Fund after raising nearly R90 000 for the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

A gift of R1 000 from The Argus and an additional donation of R200 by the community newspapers, Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo opened the fund and the remaining R89 771,75 raised came from readers.

Donations came from all quarters and a large percentage was collected by schools, factory workers, sportsmen and churches with many gifts coming from in under-privileged communities.

### "Warms the heart"

Among the last gifts sent was a cheque for R250 from the Cape District Football Association and an accompanying letter from the general secretary, Mrs Sylvia Jefftha, to the Editor said: "My association would like to thank The Argus for their gesture of opening this fund. Besides making possible help for the victims it warms the heart to know that there are those who care."

The Argus has already presented a cheque for R65 000 to Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerk's Diakonaledienste, and the balance will be handed over soon.

Messages of condolence with the gifts were a noteworthy feature of many donations.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

Dr Pick said the public's response to the fund was "fantastic".

Latest contributions are as follows:

Previously acknowledged:	R88 503
African Life Assurance Co Ltd .....	R300,00
Cape District Football Association .....	R250,00
Springbok Toeriste Forum (re: Namaqualand Jewish Pioneers) .....	R250,00
Congregational Sunday School, Pniel, .....	R200,00
Staff at Hocroft Abtatoir County Fair Foods .....	R218,35
Peninsula Caravan Club .....	R90,00
The Volmoed Trust .....	R60,00

**TOTAL** R89 771,75.

● In addition to money raised by The Argus, funds totalling R324,189,99 were collected by other media for Sendingkerk's umbrella Klawer Disaster Fund. The following breakdown was given of the total: SABC's Radio Good Hope( R150 000), The Argus R89 771,75, Die Burger, R79 731, 51, and a gift of R20 000 from Rapport. Donations totalling R9 458,48 c were also sent directly to the Sendingkerk.

Further donations can be sent direct to The Klawer Disaster Fund, Ned Geref Sendingkerk, Private Bag X One, Belhar (7501). Anyone seeking further details can telephone 952 2151.

# Part to be used to build hall for all

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

PART of the money raised to help families of victims of the Klawer bridge tragedy in which 53 people died will be used to build a community hall to launch a long-term upliftment programme for the farming community.

The hall, to be run by a local committee, with a full-time community worker, will offer recreational and educational activities.

Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerk's Diakonaledienste, said the fund had two objectives — a short term and a long term.

So far R60 000 of the money raised had been spent, with about R34 000 going towards funeral expenses and the rest on medical costs, clothing and food for bereaved families and the care of survivors in the short term programme.

### EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Surveys of the crash victims showed 11 children had been orphaned by the accident. Most of the dead had been women and children and it had been established that only a few of the adults killed had been family breadwinners.

Some of the money would also be used for the temporary support of orphaned children placed in the care of unofficial foster families. The State would take over payment of their support as soon as a children's court had appointed legal foster parents for them.

Meanwhile, part of the money will be placed in trust for their education needs and special provision is to be made for their higher education and residential costs up to university level.

"The primary long term objective of the fund will be the building of a community hall for the benefit of the entire Klawer farming community," he said.

# One dead as rainstorms lash Natal

56

Star

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Deluges of over 200 mm, overflowing rivers and mudslides left one person dead, homes flooded and many parts of Natal awash today as traffic authorities warned of blocked roads and more rain to come.

30/11/89

Hardest hit by rain in the Durban region were Kloof, Gillitts and New Germany, which each had between 240 mm and 260 mm overnight. Weather forecasters in Durban said the rain would continue today and tonight, with moderate to heavy falls on the coast and inland.

In Northway at Durban North, a young man died early today when his car skidded in the rain and hit a lamp post. He has not yet been identified.

## HOMELESS

Spokesmen for Durban City Engineer, City Electrical Engineer, fire brigade and City police said that they had received hundreds of calls for help.

● The Star's Africa News Service reports from Mbabane that many people were homeless today after storms swept the country and cut power in most areas.

Early reports said the hardest-hit area was the major industrial site, Matsapa, near Manzini.

Bakeries, a brewery and a milk processing plant reported that there was no production yesterday because of power cuts after Tuesday night's storm.

A S.W.A. and Electricity Board spokesman confirmed the devastation and said reports were still coming in from remote areas.

CMC 7-9-85 11/2/89 (56)

# Devastation: Two die in Natal floods

Own Correspondent

DURBAN.—Flood-ravaged Natal was yesterday counting the cost of damage — estimated to run into hundreds of thousands of rands — amid predictions that more heavy rain is on the way today.

In Maritzburg, civil defence authorities and water staff were placed on the alert as rain continued to drench the capital and surrounding areas with the highest rainfall figures recorded since the 1987 floods.

The floods have claimed the lives of at least two men and left hundreds of people homeless. It has damaged houses, washed away railway lines, disrupted telephone services and closed several roads.

People yesterday told tales of how mud poured into houses and water flooded gardens and swept away cars.

A vain attempt to save a company car from raging floodwaters ended in tragedy early yesterday morning when prominent Durban businessman Mr Tom Gates, a general manager at Romatex Textiles in Durban, was swept away and drowned in a river at Bothas Hill near Durban.

Friends watched helplessly as he attempted to release the handbrake of his car so it could be towed after it had stopped in the middle of a river near the Chantecler Hotel. Mr Gates was thrown off his feet by the torrent and swept away.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

A black man was seen being swept down the Umlaas River in the Tala

Valley near Maritzburg. His body was later recovered in the overflowing Thornlea dam but he could not be identified.

Police spokesman Lieutenant Bala Naidoo said a vehicle was washed away in a waterfall near Gillits about 2.10am yesterday but the sole occupant of the vehicle managed to escape to higher ground.

The Indian township of Stockwell was completely cut off by flood waters. Thirty families had to be evacuated from their homes in the Tugela Basin after the Tugela River threatened to burst its banks.

Technical staff of the post office were working around the clock to repair damage to telephone lines.

The SATS had to lay on bus services to transport passengers where railway lines were washed away but a spokesman said SATS hoped to restore rail services later yesterday.

In an inaccessible area near Shongweni, a large washaway occurred on the main railway line and an 80m section of track was left hanging unsupported over a huge chasm.

A 30m waterfall was pouring down the section, where the overhead powerlines had also been washed away.

The area became so unaccessible repair workers and assessors had to be flown in by helicopter.

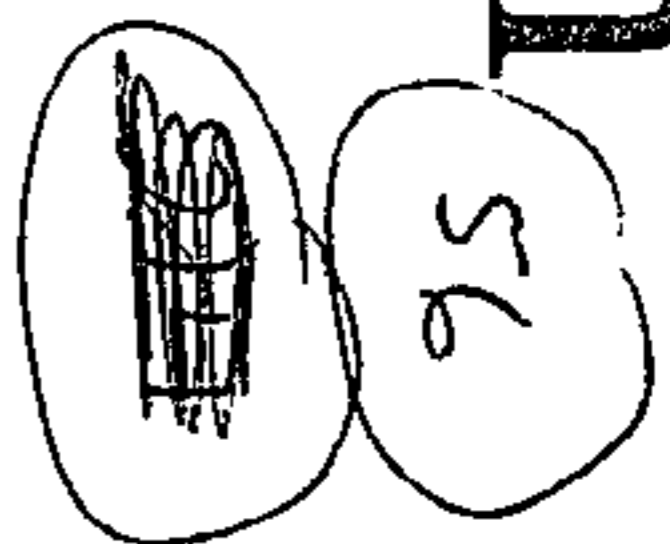
Most of Natal's beaches were closed on recommendation by the Sharks Board as nets were displaced in heavy seas.

The weather office predicted further heavy rains and thundershowers, but said this should begin clearing.



**FLOOD TOLL . . .** The car belonging to a Durban businessman is towed out of a river at Bothas's Hill near Durban. Mr Tom Gates died when he was swept away by the flooding river.

# Gencor poised to launch R5-bn energy company



Star 11/21/89

By Magnus Heystek, Finance Editor  
Investors can start preparing themselves for the listing of a massive energy-related company with a turnover exceeding R5 billion on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange some time next year.

And if rumours currently doing the rounds in the investment community have any validity, the listing will be preceded by the announcement of a major oil-strike off the South East Cape coast.

Gencor, South Africa's second largest mining house has in recent months been laying the foundation for the formation of a widely-diversified energy-related company, to be called Engen.

It will most likely house Gencor's strategically accumulated interests in Mossagas (30 percent), Soekor (a participation right of 20 percent), Mobil (100 percent), Trek (85 percent) and some other smaller energy-producing companies, including strategic stakes in two North Sea oil ventures.

Part of the listing will entail the de-listing of Trek Belegings with minority shareholders being offered either

cash or shares in the to-be-listed Engen.

Gencor's annual report, released yesterday, reveals some details of Gencor's vast energy-interests, particularly since the take-over of Mobil for R650 million in cash earlier this year.

According to the pro-forma figures the turnover of Gencor's energy interests would have amounted to R4,175 billion for the year to June 30 this year, a massive jump from the turnover of R1,1 billion the year before. Distributable income would have jumped from R37 million to R160 million with total assets estimated at R1,2 billion (R361 million).

## Trek deal

Earlier this month it was announced that Gencor paid R106,2 million for the 34 percent stake in Trek Belegings held by Shell SA and BP Southern Africa, which increased its stake to 84 percent. This has removed all obstacles to a closer working relationship with Mobil, which includes the refining and distribution of fuels for Trek.

Mr Bernard Smith, executive director of Gencor in charge of its energy interests, confirmed that plans are far advanced for the listing of its energy-interest next year, but declined to give more details. He indicated that a de-listing of Trek would make sense.

However, he said that Gencor has identified energy as a major growth area in the future and that the profit contribution from these interests are bound to grow in future. Prior to the Mobil deal energy contributed only 1,1 percent of the group's net assets. After the Mobil transaction this rises to 6 percent, not taking into consideration the latest deal with BP and Shell.

Particularly significant in the annual report are comments concerning oil exploration done by State-controlled Soekor, in which Gencor has a 20 percent participation right.

Of the eleven wells so far drilled in the Bredesdrop-basin off the South East coast, stretching roughly between Port Elizabeth and Mossel Bay, four have started producing oil and gas at what the report calls "encouraging rates".

"Although none of the accumulations discovered to date appear to be large enough to support a stand-alone development, the feasibility of exploitation by means of a mobile floating production system is being investigated.

"Extended testing of one reservoir yielded encouraging results and some 120 000 barrels of oil was recovered at a rate of 5 000 barrels per day.

Wells drilled in the past two years have contributed significantly to the understanding of the geological controls in the basin, and the Energy division believes there is potential for larger accumulations than those so far discovered," the reports states.

● Costs of Mossagas, the synthetic fuels venture in which Gencor has a 30 percent interest as well as the management contract, has risen by some R1,3 billion to R7,8 billion.

This is mainly the result of what Gencor calls "demand inflation" but also as a result of changes and additions to the original design which will increase product yield and improve operating efficiency.



# Austerity curbs may block ethanol fuel plans

Star 1/12/89

(56)

By Des Parker

DURBAN — The commitment to austerity in the De Klerk cabinet may put paid to the dreams of Natal's sugar industry of an ethanol-from-cane plant.

In spite of the Government's agreement in principle to the project, given by former deputy Economic and Energy Affairs Minister George Bartlett days before the September national elections, the whole plan remains firmly on the drawing board.

Two committees, with members drawn from state departments, the SA Sugar Association (Sasa), the oil industry and the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA (Naamsa), were formed last month.

They met in Pretoria this week to consider the concerns of the oil companies and the vehicle producers about the Sasa proposal to manufacture ethanol and blend it with petrol for Natal.

Although members would not comment after the meetings, a source said Sasa's technical arm, Sastech, would continue to investigate the concerns of the petro-chemical industry over the technical specifications of blend petrol.

## Pricing formula

A spokesman for the oil companies said today: "Despite the pronouncement last week by Kees van der Pol (Sasa's consultant on the ethanol project) that the proposal was on 'yellow', there will be no go-ahead until we are satisfied with the technical properties and the pricing formula.

"We must first be satisfied with

the technical specifications of the blend and, following from that, with the pricing formula — which at the levels the sugar industry is talking about would require price support from the State.

"Until we are entirely satisfied with these aspects, there will be no deal."

The source said the different stands on price being taken by the oil and sugar industries were "legions" apart.

## Subsidisation

"The Government has told them to sort this one out themselves, but the price the sugar industry wants for its ethanol is so far from what the oil companies are prepared to pay that it doesn't appear agreement will be reached without considerable subsidisation — either from State coffers or from the motorist at the fuel pump."

Although nobody spoken to was prepared to quote figures, the sugar industry must be concerned that the Government will be reluctant to load the cost of another fuel project on to taxpayers or motorists, particularly with the relative economic pragmatism of the De Klerk administration.

Already, the new Cabinet has refused to support synthetic fuel proposals put up by AECI and Gencor because, observers maintain, the authorities believe there is less of a threat to the free flow of oil to the country than there was previously, while there are more than enough alternative fuel arrangements.

On top of that, a consultant group reported recently to the Na-

tional Energy Council that the project had no "strategic" value.

However, the authorities may be strongly influenced by Mr Bartlett's election "promise".

There are also strong socio-economic advantages in the offing after Sasa's undertaking to open up the sugar industry to thousands of new black growers if it gets the go-ahead on ethanol.

Pollution-consciousness also will be a consideration with ethanol being more "environment-friendly" than the lead presently added to petroleum to boost its octane rating.

## Naamsa neutral

Nico Vermeulen, director of Naamsa, said vehicle manufacturers were "neutral" on the ethanol proposal but insisted that ethanol blend fuel must not cause corrosion of fuel systems or any fall-off in motor performance.

Differing conclusions were being drawn from research in countries running on ethanol blend into rusting of engine fuel components, protection against high-speed knock and the volatility of blend fuels in hot, humid regions, such as Natal.

"We have a responsibility to motorists," said Mr Vermeulen.

"If anything goes wrong with the fuel system of a car, it is the manufacturer who gets the blame, not the fuel producer and certainly not the manufacturer of additives.

"But if our concerns can be addressed and assurances given then motor manufacturers would have no problem."

(56) (K) Wmail  
1-7/12/89

# The ANC puts its policy on ecology

The ANC gives its first statement on the environment. EDDIE KOCH reports

THE ANC this week outlined its concern about key ecological issues facing South Africa in a wide-ranging interview with the *Weekly Mail*. It is the exiled movement's first detailed statement on its policy regarding the environment.

"There is a growing awareness within the movement on important ecological issues and the need to counter with vigour any degradation of the environment," said Max Sisulu, head of the ANC's Department of Economics and Planning. "The ANC is in the process of formulating policy on the environment."

He said the ANC believed it was impossible to pursue a rational ecological protection policy under apartheid because the system involved the manipulation of racial groups as well as natural resources.

"Widespread overgrazing, soil erosion and serious land degradation in the so-called homelands constitute the inevitable destructive consequences of apartheid," he said.

Sisulu's department, which is responsible for advising the ANC on ecological issues, prepared the following responses to questions by the *Weekly Mail*.

## Air and water pollution

The ANC was deeply concerned about high levels of atmospheric pollution in South Africa's industrial areas as well as signs that some of the country's major rivers have been seriously affected by industrial toxins.

"The ANC will be guided by the principle of seeking appropriate means of introducing environmental management into industrial development so that technical innovations also address sources of pollution, prevention and control ...

"Industry should look at alternative fuel-energy sources like solar energy to reduce the need to burn coal and other fossil fuels ...

"The issue of air pollution in the black townships is rooted in apartheid and its corollary, black poverty, which creates conditions where black people have no option to use pollution-free domestic fuel."

## Toxic waste

"The ANC respects the Basic Convention on the control of trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste signed by 196 states, including the EC, in 1989 ...

The news that the South African government intends to import and dump industrial toxins in the country comes as no surprise to the ANC.

"It is needless to reiterate that the planned facility will be dismantled with the rest of apartheid structures in a post-apartheid South Africa."

## Nuclear power stations

"The ANC believes there is no need to use nuclear power to generate electricity in South Africa because alternative sources of energy exist in huge coal deposits (which can be used with the correct technology) and abundant solar energy."

"These alternative sources have enormous potential in South Africa and fit the economic structure. What is needed is to divert the tremendous human and financial resources devoted to research on nuclear technology to research aimed at exploiting coal and solar energy."

## Nuclear weapons

"The ANC has stated that it is the military uses of nuclear power that is topmost on the agenda of the regime. Eskom's advanced plans for a second nuclear facility in the Western Cape are, therefore, in place in this respect."

"South Africa is today a leading exponent of nuclear weapons; it has accumulated tremendous expertise and technology for nuclear enrichment; there is a growing capacity in South Africa to develop nuclear capacity warheads; to develop nuclear power without outside support it has trained an 'army' of highly trained personnel in nuclear reactor technology which is only a short step away from nuclear weapons technology ...

"South Africa has carefully evaded the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which would require it to dismantle any nuclear weapons in its possession and clear facilities for inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency ...

"South Africa's nuclear research is a flagrant violation of the declared policy of African nations, endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, to respect Africa as a nuclear-free zone."

## Wildlife conservation

"ANC policy will emphasise state assistance to the communities involved in the management of wildlife resources, particularly in rural areas, on a sustainable basis ...

"The ANC supports the policy approach of some of the free Southern African governments which advocate full community participation in the management of wildlife resources and in the economic benefits flowing from this resource."

"If wildlife is perceived as an asset by the communities where it exists, they will take it upon themselves to protect it and not be party to poaching and smuggling ...

"A ban on trade in ivory and rhino horn will not stop poaching. A positive approach to protect these animals is to emphasise public participation in the management and rational utilisation of their products."

A SENIOR South African Defence Force officer this week told the *Weekly Mail* he had evidence that Unita rebels in Angola massacred thousands of elephants and sold their tusks to bankroll the rebel movement's war effort in Angola.

Colonel Jan Breytenbach, who played a prominent role in SADF operations in Angola, says Unita hunted down elephants in the Cuando Cubango region in the south east of the country with automatic rifles to pay for war materiel.

The bulk of Unita's equipment came from South Africa. Breytenbach says he received reports that the SADF established a front company, called Interframa Tradlog, to transport large quantities of ivory out of Angola through Namibia and into South Africa.

"The colonel, who is now retired, says Unita leader Jonas Savimbi kept a game area in the Luiana region, north of his Jamba headquarters, where journalists were taken to create the impression that the rebels did not poach wildlife.

Breytenbach says Savimbi used the area as a private game reserve where "influential" friends from overseas and South Africa were entertained and taken on hunting safaris. He declined to name these guests.

But Democratic Party MP Rupert Lorimer, who has had extensive contact with Breytenbach, says he will use the next session of parliament to ask if Defence Minister Magnus Malan and former State President P W Botha went on hunting trips in Angola organised by Savimbi.

Breytenbach has supplied the names of officers in the SADF who have more details about the alleged safaris into Angola by Botha and Malan.

The officer's claims contradict the findings of a military board of inquiry into earlier reports that up to 100 000 elephants were slaughtered to pay for South Africa's military aid to Unita. He says he complained at the highest levels of the army at the time but nothing had been done to stop the slaughter. He also informed a senior SADF general about the matter and wrote to Malan.

"I want to stress that I have no ulterior motive in making this information public. My biggest worry is the fact the elephants are dying out. I just want them to stop shooting the bloody animals."

Breytenbach, brother of poet Breyten Breytenbach, founded the SADF's 32 Battalion (made up of mercenaries) and served as commander of the 44 Parachute Brigade, both of which did active service in Angola.

He told the *Weekly Mail* that an earlier report, published in the *Sunday Times*, about Unita's involvement in the illicit ivory trade was accurate.

"I operated extensively in the Cuando Cubango before it became a theatre of war and also after Unita's massive extermination campaign had turned it into a sterile, lifeless green desert," says Breytenbach.

## Paratroop commander confirms: Savimbi's men shot thousands of elephants

Colonel Jan Breytenbach tells of animal massacres By EDDIE KOCH



JONAS SAVIMBI

"Elephants were mown down indiscriminately by the tearing rattle of automatic fire from AK-47 rifles and machine guns. They shot everything... bulls, cows and calves, showing no mercy in a campaign of extermination never seen before in Southern Africa."

Asked to comment on Breytenbach's allegations, SADF director of public relations Commandant A H Louw, referred the *Weekly Mail* to the report of a military board of inquiry into earlier claims that the military colluded in the killing of up to 100 000 elephant in Angola.

"Interframa Trading was used by the SADF to deliver supplies to Unita. This assistance to Unita is common knowledge," Louw said.

The board, headed by Brigadier Ben de Wet Roos, cleared the SADF of any involvement in the killings but found that small quantities of ivory, that it said had been captured by Unita from poachers, were transported by air out of Angola by the SADF on behalf of Unita.

The board, which said it had travelled thousands of kilometres and interviewed scores of witnesses, reported that there was no evidence to justify action being taken against SADF officers.

But Breytenbach's testimony, the



Colonel Jan Breytenbach

first to first to come from within the ranks of the SADF, suggests the inquiry, at the very least, was not thorough enough.

Last month the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) presented a report to the congress of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) which said:

"Unita spokesmen such as Jonas Savimbi confirmed that Unita used ivory to pay South Africa for military assistance. Another spokesman told an American reporter in 1988 that Unita earned US\$1-million from ivory sales the year before."

foodstuffs.

In October this year a light aircraft owned by Augusto crashed near Jamba, Unita's headquarters in southern Angola. At the time Lorimer, environment representative for the Democratic Party, said he had positive evidence the plane contained a load of ivory.

Speculation in Windhoek now suggests that the escape of Augusto's two employees has come as a relief to police authorities in the former South African colony and that the pair may have received assistance to flee the territory.

Colonel Johan Meintjies, in charge of the case, confirmed that only three of Augusto's men appeared in court this week to face charges. He said he had no knowledge of reports that the other two had been encouraged to jump bail.

Last year, at a time when relations between Unita and South Africa were strained, Savimbi himself said in an interview with the French magazine *Jeune Afrique*, that he paid Pretoria for its military aid with ivory and valuable hardwoods.

Later, after a visit to South Africa, Savimbi denied that he had made these claims. But *Jeune Afrique* stood by its report.

This was followed by an operation in which American undercover agents arrested a prominent rhino-horn smuggler and identified senior SADF personnel as being involved in smuggling rhino horn from Namibia and Angola into the United States.

The 10-month investigation led an American attorney-general to conclude that SADF members had been actively engaged in the killing and smuggling of endangered species and made an official request for the extradition of the SADF men, Major Marius Meiring and Sergeant Major Waldemar Schutte, so they could stand trial in the US.

Van Note said the slaughter had wiped what were once Africa's largest herds of elephant.

The military board responded by saying: "Small quantities of ivory captured by Unita from poachers and others in Angola, were transported by the SADF on behalf of Unita over an 18-month period from mid-1978 to the end of 1979."

"The board found that the amount of ivory transported over this period was less than 0,25 percent of the amount which Mr Van Note claimed."

Breytenbach's allegations came at the same time as news that two men have jumped bail and fled the country after being caught with a load of tusks from some 500 elephants in the back of a truck owned by Joaquim da Silva Augusto, a businessman with close Unita contacts.

Augusto owns a number of warehouses in Rundu on the Namibia/Angola border and a business that supplies Unita with provisions and

See also PAGE 18

# Rail, road and air links cut by Natal storms

MAG 11/12/89 56

The Argus Correspondent  
DURBAN. — As a watery sun broke through over storm-soaked Natal today, forecasters warned that more thunder storms were possible tonight, with heavier rain possible in northern Natal and Zululand.

With rail and rural road links still impassable, thousands of people are cut off by swollen rivers and washaways.

Because of continued cloud and heavy weather, particularly in northern Natal and Zululand, the movement of light aircraft has been restricted. This left Natal regional Red Cross Chairman Mrs Inka Mars stranded at Virginia Airport in Durban today.

Mrs Mars was due to fly to Ulundi to gather information about rural communities which need urgent emergency supplies.

An official of the privately owned airline said that two flights to Pongola, one to Ulundi and one to Mkhuze were delayed.

## Plea for aid

Mrs Mars said the Red Cross had hardly finished with relief work in areas hit by a tornado three weeks ago and made an urgent plea for financial help for communities devastated by this week's storms.

She said that it would take days — possibly more than a week — before the Red Cross had all the information and could start sending out relief work.

"Our biggest problem at the moment is to get information about the communities in need and once we have got this, we will be able to start moving," said Mrs Mars.

One of the hardest hit urban areas is Kloof, where on Wednesday and yesterday, 300mm of rain fell in 24 hours. The Town Clerk, Mr Hercules Hattingh said today that first estimates of road damage were around R250 000.

He said the Forest Hills area was split in two by the washaway in Valley Drive. It meant that many people would have to take a long circuitous route through Hillcrest and down Inanda Road to reach their homes.

## Account taken of full effects of mining

PRETORIA — Environment and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday he would advise a government committee considering the granting of mining rights at St Lucia that the effects on the greater area should be borne in mind.

He indicated he would not oppose the granting of mining rights.

Kotze said government would prescribe stringent conditions for the mining activities in the dunes of St Lucia, and for the rehabilitation of the area afterwards. A relatively minor part of the region would be disturbed by the mining project.

An impact study by a company seeking mining rights at St Lucia had been referred back to the company, but he expected it to be resubmitted.

The authorities would also prescribe that tarred roads be constructed in such a way that they could be used by tourists afterwards.

Kotze said the Environment Affairs Department had received many petitions opposing mining activities at St Lucia, and it was not indifferent to public opinion.

But petitions had to be valid and verifiable, and some of them had not been very imposing.

□ Kotze also said yesterday government would consider accepting toxic waste from foreign countries.

This would be done only in order to make a toxic waste process plant in SA financially viable. If the viability of such a plant hinged on the importation of toxic waste from abroad, government would have to make this decision.

At the moment no such plant was being considered, he said, categorically denying his department was considering the establishment of one on the west coast. — Sapa.



### Free State Development and Investment Corporation Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

(Registration number 05/16931/06)

("Freddev")

#### Settlement of dispute with Messina Limited

Shareholders were advised in the latest...  
efforts...

Minister questions quality of some petitions signed by 'okies' Star 11/2/89

# Govt non-committal on St Lucia

By Norman Chandler,  
Pretoria Bureau

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, yesterday recommended to a Cabinet committee that the controversial St Lucia Estuary area — where large scale mining for titanium has been proposed — be declared a conservation area.

But he told a media briefing in Pretoria that this proposal did not mean that mining of the St Lucia sand dunes on the Natal north coast would necessarily be stopped.

The Government has been flooded with petitions protesting against the proposal, but Mr Kotze questioned the quality of some of them.

He said: "We must look at the quality of the petitions, they must be evaluated. Some lists which have come in are not of the standard one would like to believe."

"Enthusiastic schoolteachers in pre-primary have written out petitions and the 'okies' sign them. We are pleased so many teachers are interested but there has to be an evaluation of the 200 000 signatures received so far," Mr Kotze said.

"Many of the petitioners do not have a good grasp of what they are signing," he said.

Richards Bay Mining (RBM) is undertaking a feasibility study into the possibility of mining after the public outcry.

Mr Kotze described the issue as emotional.

"The Government is taking cognisance, and must take cognisance, of public opinion over the mining of the St Lucia dunes. We have to have a balanced viewpoint, and that goes for mining in any area."

He said there were "scientific and emotional questions" which had to be looked at in regard to St Lucia.



Alexandra residents during one of three attempts to stage a protest march yesterday. Each time they were stopped by police.

## Police thwart three Alexandra protest bids

By Janet Heard and  
Kaiser Nyatumba

Three attempts by Alexandra residents to stage a protest march yesterday were thwarted by police using teargas and rubber bullets.

Four people, including three Alexandra Action Committee (AAC) members, were arrested, and police confirmed late yesterday that they were being held under the emergency regulations.

Security police took the names and details of photographers and reporters and in terms of the emergency regulations, ordered them to leave the township.

Tension has been building up in the township and thousands of residents stayed

away from work yesterday in protest against the "intransigence" of the local authorities who refused to grant them permission to air their grievances by holding a peaceful march.

The first incident occurred at about noon when about 300 people gathered to march to the town council offices.

A few minutes later police arrived, told the people the gathering was illegal and gave them a few minutes to disperse. According to reporters and eyewitnesses, as the crowd was dispersing, police fired teargas at them.

Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman told The Star the people failed to disperse and police were forced to take action.

When protesters tried again to march, the police officer in charge declared Alexandra an unrest area and took the particulars of the team from The Star and followed it out of the township.

According to Captain Opperman, another incident occurred at about 3 pm at 12th Avenue and John Brand Street. He confirmed the previous two incidents and said that each time police were forced to fire teargas and rubber bullets after the crowd failed to disperse.

The four who are being held under the emergency regulations are Mr Mzwanele Mayekiso, Mr Richard Mokane and Mr Paul Tshabalala, all AAC members, and Mr Siphon Khubeko, general secretary of the Print and Paper Allied Workers' Union.

THE WORLD

# Ask an elephant. If you can find one

**A maverick British wildlife expert argues that the best way to keep elephants alive is to allow hunters to keep on shooting them. He talks to CHRIS BENFIELD**

**P**UTTING elephants on the list of endangered species is the kiss of death, argues maverick British wildlife expert Peter Johnston. The recent summit of the Committee on International Trade of Endangered Species (Cites) is, he says, the "most outrageous manipulation of public opinion since Nuremberg".

The elephant has been sentenced to extinction. Ask a rhino, if you can find one. Johnston came "home" to Britain 18 months ago, from a colourful career in Africa. He was born in East Africa, went to an English public school, joined the Rhodesian police, then went to Kenya and into business which took him all over Africa and further east.

He now wants to set up a company called Commerce for Conservation which would promote the ranching of valuable animals, to take the economic pressure off remaining wild herds.

The rhino, he says, could be farmed quite easily — its horn cropped annually and even its dung and urine fetching a price on the Eastern medical market. The elephant is trickier because it needs such vast spaces. But the Southern African states maintain populations big enough to cull — which is why they exempted themselves, in Lausanne, from the general agreement to stop issuing export licences for ivory and wildlife experts have plans which could rebuild the desperate herds of the east, given investment.

The argument is that ivory could be gathered "humanely" by cropping the tusks of drugged elephants above the growing up and replacing the bark-cutting points with plastic.

It's not a popular solution with those who think the whole trade is sick and evil. At best it's a depressing idea of peaceful co-existence with wildlife. But Johnston says that for the world of factory farming to ask Africans to ignore the enormous market value of their own animals is hypocrisy smacking of racism.

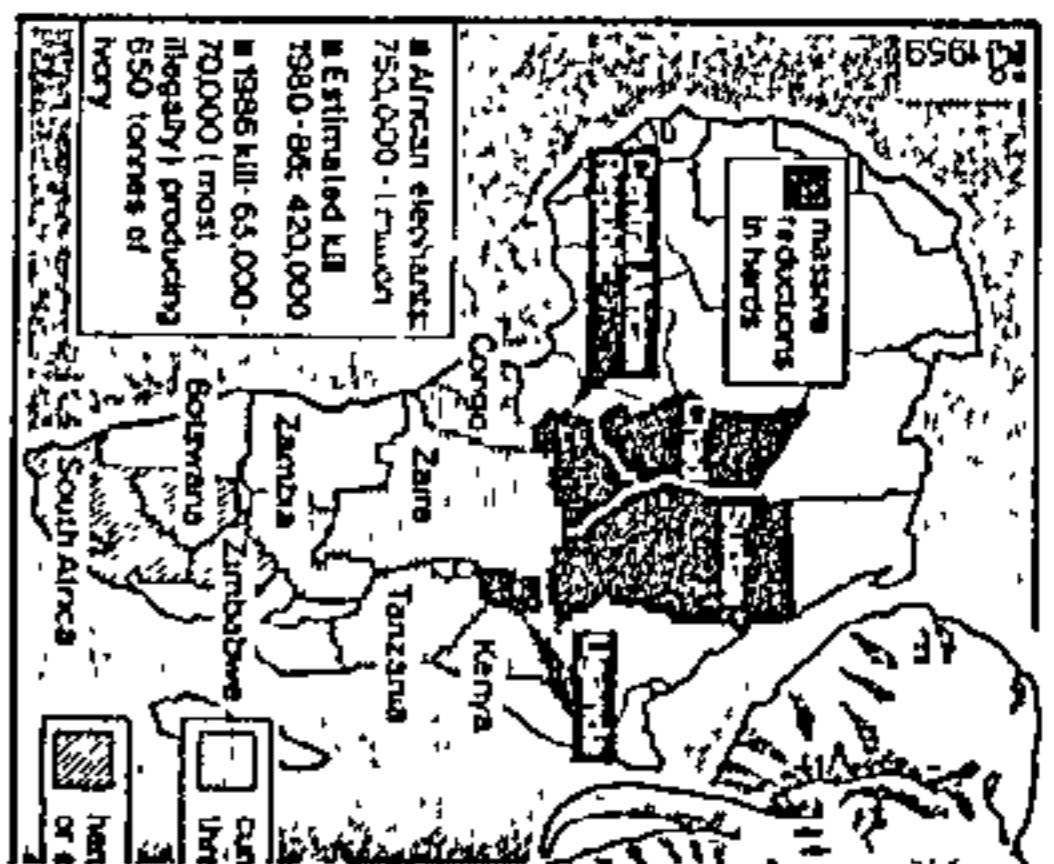
The Cites agreement was a United Nations initiative and is supported by star-studded organisations like the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh. A Appendix One provides for the control of trade in "threatened" species and Appendix Two for an emergency



## The taste that's stood the test of time.



56



Johnston thinks there will be a backla Lausanne disaster and he plans to launch project anyway. Meanwhile, Hong enormous stocks of ivory have been in Johnston reckons that is cosmetic in He talks of numberless rhinos and jungle trade in which even experts are pushing tinguish pig ivory from narwhal or horn. He tried to place a bet with Hill's, before the Lausanne conference further restriction on trade would shock price of ivory. No go, said Hill's — it dwindled to around 3 500 from 50 000 when it was declared endangered in 1975.

He argues that Eastern medicine and culture will still require bits of exotic wildlife, however Western attitudes change. The idea he put to Blue Peter and Ms Lumley was to start an "ivory tower" of billiard balls, ornaments, jewellery and other embarrassing inheritances from simpler times, for sale in Hong Kong at several times the depressed British price.

"In Europe, there are millions of kilos of ivory, from hundreds of generations of elephants, in the possession of hordes of people who don't particularly want the stuff, having inherited it or been given it or picked it up in junk shops when it was cheap. They could donate it with a card passing the proceeds to their favourite charity or — in the case of more valuable items — sell them through an organisation like Commerce for Conservation. The price of ivory will fall appreciably with every thousand tons sold. When bullets are worth more than ivory, elephants will enjoy a moratorium."

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# elephant. If you can find one

ants on the list of endangered species is the kiss of death. British wild-life expert International Trade of (les) is, he says, the valuation of public opinion sentenced to extinction can find one."

"To Britain 18 months later in Africa. He was an English public servant police, then went across which took him all up a company called

Commerce for Conservation which would promote the ranching of valuable animals, to take the economic pressure off remaining wild herds.

The rhino, he says, could be farmed quite easily — its horn cropped annually and even its dung and urine fetching a price on the East-Asian medical market. The elephant is trickier because it needs such vast spaces. But the South-African states maintain populations big enough to cull — which is why they exempted themselves, in Lausanne, from the general agreement to stop issuing export licences for ivory and wildlife exports have plans which could rebuild the desperate herds of the east, given investment.

The argument is that ivory could be gathered

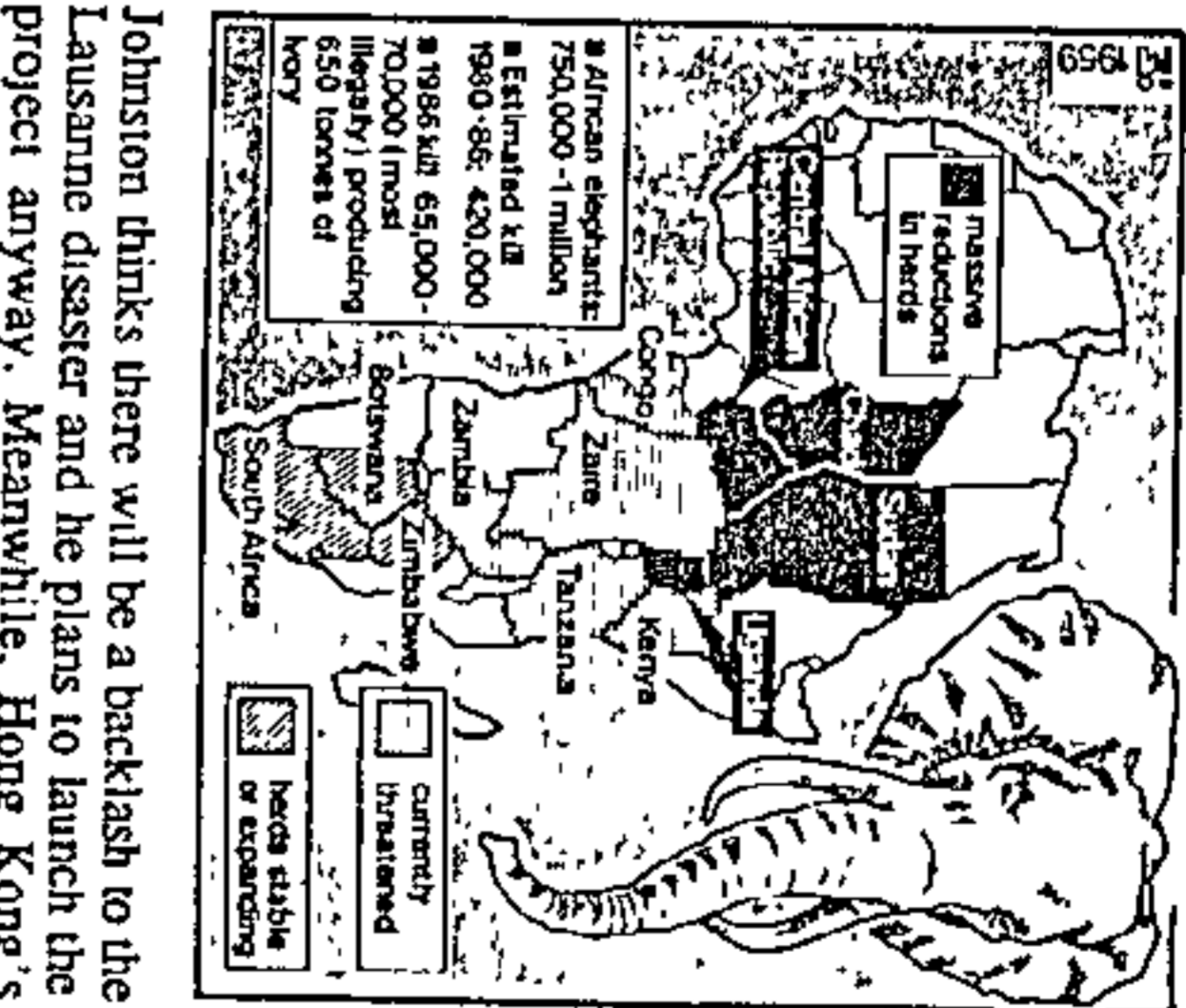
"humanely" by cropping the tusks of drugged elephants above the growing tip and replacing the bark-cutting points with plastic.

It's not a popular solution with those who think the whole trade is sick and evil. At best it's a depressing idea of peaceful co-existence with wildlife. But Johnston says that for the world of factory farming to ask Africans to ignore the enormous market value of their own animals is hypocrisy smacking of racism.

The Cites agreement was a United Nations initiative and is supported by star-studded organisations like the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund) chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh. Appendix One provides for the control of trade in "threatened" species and Appendix Two for an emergency

ban on exports of the remains of "endangered" animals.

The elephant has had "threatened" status but has now become seriously endangered in some countries because of poaching. The conservationist consensus is that black marketers are using the certificated trade out of Africa as a cover and that all trading in elephant ivory must stop. Johnston argues that the restrictive approach created the crisis in the first place, because it involved asking poor Africa to ignore the rules of survival for the benefit of the sciences of the West and wealthy.



Johnston thinks there will be a backlash to the Lausanne disaster and he plans to launch the project anyway. Meanwhile, Hong Kong's enormous stocks of ivory have been frozen.

Johnston reckons that is cosmetic nonsense. He talks of numbertless thows and junks and a trade in which even experts are pushed to distinguish pig ivory from narwhal or elephant horn. He tried to place a bet with William Hill's, before the Lausanne conference, that further restriction on trade would shoot up the price of ivory. No go, said Hill's — too obviously true. The WWF says that ivory prices have fallen in some African countries because of Cites and accompanying policing and propaganda. Johnston believes they are being cornered. "It's contrary to all the laws of economics and common sense to think that you can kill demand by stopping supply."

He points out that the Natural History Museum in London probably holds more rhino horn than East Africa, and the United Kingdom at least 10 tons, enough to knock the hell out of the market for five years. Chinese and other Far Eastern medicine is still based, as it always has been, on a vast pharmacopoeia involving animal and vegetable products.

"Because of this, the dried carcass of a porcupine is worth several hundred American dollars, the gallstones of a porcupine half a million dollars a kilo, and a rhino carcass upwards of \$40 000 in all. I recently saw an estimate that an elephant carcass is worth £4 000 if fully used — and poachers are wasteful, of course.

"But this valuable natural wildlife is allowed to die out while Africa swarms with goats. The goat is almost universally worth about 200 Kenya shillings, which is about £5. The by-products of a gazelle — comparable in body-

Such arguments were somewhere behind the wheeler-dealing which left the elephant in the worst of all possible worlds after Lausanne. Most delegations paid lip service, at least, to the line that the ivory trade must be squeezed to death: as called for by the WWF. Johnston says that charities for animals probably wield as much money and political influence as the ivory trade slush funds they accuse of corrupting Cites. He adds that the conservationists ceratificate the folly of their own case when they point out that the black rhino population has dwindled to around 3 500 from 50 000 when it was declared endangered in 1975.

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Where elephants die. Central and East Africa have seen the extinction of huge herds. Only in the south, where hunting is allowed, is the animal's future assured

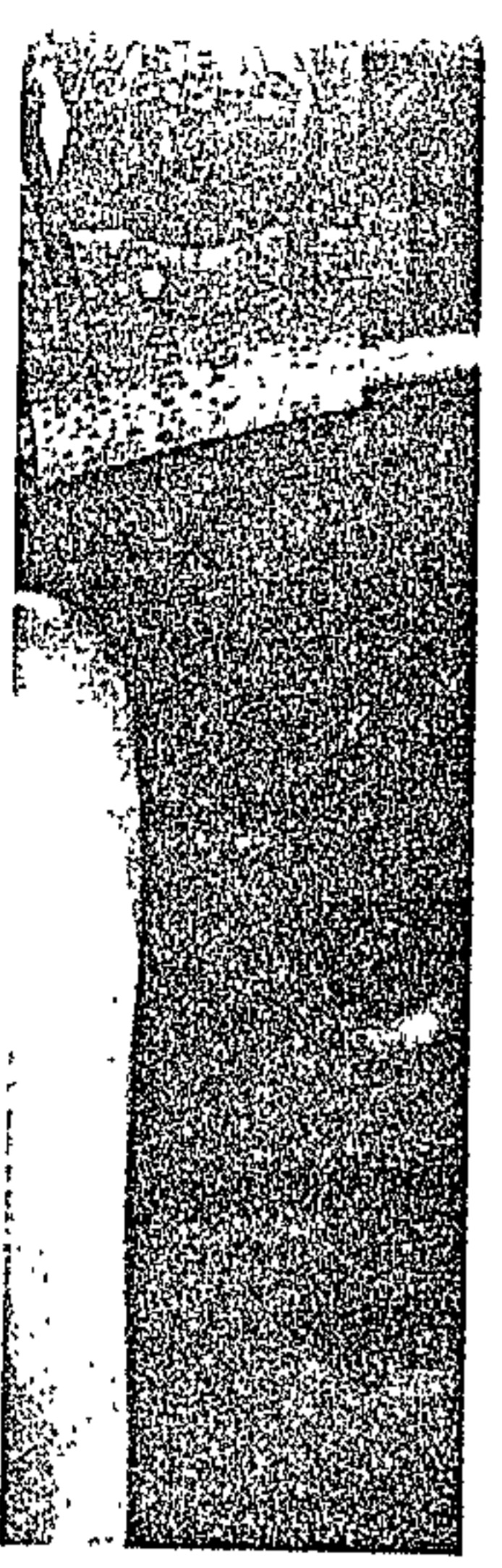
weight — are worth at least 10 times that before you start talking about venison and skins.

"The best way to preserve the old ecology of Africa is to make it profitable, encourage people to get rid of some goats and breed something which is scarce. But at the moment, if you can get a permit to cull, you still can't get a licence to export the byproducts, so nobody bothers."

He sees the WWF and its allies as a sort of lethal cross between the Cats' Protection League and the CIA wreaking havoc across the globe with sentimental ideas, influential backing, an expanding bureaucracy and a vested interest in identifying "emergencies" on which fund-raising appeals can be based.

Johnston admires to having friends in the ivory trade and an obvious commercial motive for his arguments. But he says: "My main interest is a great concern about mismanagement of the world's wild resources. I think the talk-producing charities are largely to blame. They have to start taking some alternative thinking on board before it is too late." — The Guardian, London

## The taste that's the test of time.



In Europe, there are millions of kilos of ivory, from hundreds of generations of elephants, in the possession of hordes of people who don't particularly want the stuff, having inherited it or been given it or picked it up in junk shops when it was cheap. They could donate it with a card passing the proceeds to their favourite charity or — in the case of more valuable items — sell them through an organisation like Commerce for Conservation. The price of ivory will fall appreciably with every thousand tons sold. When bullets are worth more than ivory, elephants will enjoy a moratorium.

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# Aspinall - 'Kaolin' mine a disaster!

w/lt m64 2/2/89

By VIVIEN HORLER  
and CHRIS WHITFIELD  
Weekend Argus Reporters

MILLIONAIRE British casino owner and zoo-keeper Mr John Aspinall is appalled by plans to turn part of the Noordhoek Valley into a kaolin mine and says it will be an "unmitigated disaster" for the area.

Mr Aspinall, who owns a large property in the valley, including the old Chaplin Estate manor house bordering the proposed mine, pledged to "do whatever I can" to help the conservation groups fighting the mine.

Speaking from his London office he said: "Parts of the area are already over-developed but this would be a tragedy for the people of Noordhoek, for the area at the base of Chapman's Peak and for anybody in Cape Town.

"It will affect the whole mountain ... it will be an unmitigated disaster."

## "Strategic"

Mr Aspinall said he understood a case had been made that kaolin mining was of strategic importance to South Africa.

"If that is genuine then I would have to agree with the mine going ahead, but I have yet to hear a convincing argument along those lines," he said.

"I am appalled and will do anything to help stop it."

Mr Aspinall has invested a considerable amount of money over the past two years restoring the manor house, clearing his land of alien vegetation and replacing it with fynbos.

His comments were welcomed by Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak campaign. "His sentiment mirrors that of the entire community, but not everyone is in his prominent position," said Mr Butterfield.

"Mr Aspinall has invested millions of rands in the improvement of this historic estate, which is to the benefit of the South African heritage, and it would be a shame if he felt forced to reconsider his investment because the peace of this beautiful valley had been violated."

But Mr Aspinall said he had no plans at this stage to sell his property, which he bought from the estate of former MP John Wiley, if the mine went ahead.

● Mr Stan Adler of Serena, the kaolin mining company which has the mineral rights to the controversial property, said reports that Serena had been looking at kaolin sources near St Helena Bay as an alternative to Noordhoek were misleading.

## "Additional source"

"We never said it would be an alternative - it would be an additional source," he said.

"We seek new sources of kaolin all the time, not just because of the uproar over Noordhoek. We will continue looking for sources of kaolin, because that's our business, that's our stock in trade."

But Mr Butterfield said he believed the company should be looking at alternative and not additional sources.

"The new Environmental Conservation Act contains safeguards which we believe would go a long way towards protecting this valley. But the Act hasn't yet been promulgated, and our worry is that the mine may go ahead and then six months later the Act becomes law and by then it's too late to save the valley."

■ (See Page 4 of Weekender)

# NEW SITE WON'T STOP Peak kaolin mine

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Staff Reporter

THE company which holds the mining rights to the kaolin deposit in Noordhoek now says it will not consider abandoning the controversial Chapman's Peak mining plan — even if a West Coast site is found to be suitable for mining.

"We may mine other areas — but there is no way we'd consider abandoning Noordhoek," Serina company director Mr Stan Adler said yesterday.

A statement released by Serina said the company looked continually for additional ore reserves and that any potential reserves were investigated.

Any that were subsequently acquired would increase existing reserves but this "certainly does not

mean that rights already owned would be abandoned".

Media spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, Mr John Butterfield, said Mr Adler's statement was "most unfortunate".

"This is most disconcerting and premature as they have not yet assessed the other site."

● The standpoint Serina took yesterday contradicted the one reported in the Cape Times earlier this week, in which Mr Adler was quoted as saying that it was "possible" the company would consider the St Helena Bay site as an alternative to the Noordhoek site.

Mr Adler yesterday said "there must have been some misunderstanding".

# Minister should resign – conservationists

THERE was swift reaction to the Minister of Environment's statement this week that he would not oppose the mining of St Lucia — many people want him to resign.

The Minister, Mr Gert Kotze, belittled the 300 000 who have signed petitions to save St Lucia and told a press meeting that mining would last only 20 years and that the mine's tarred roads could later be left for tourists.

Many members of the public phoned Saturday Star to say Mr Kotze must resign.

Dr Ian Player, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, issued a joint statement with Mr Jeremy Rydl of the Wildlife So-

Star  
2/12/89

**JAMES CLARKE**

(56)

ciety and Mr Oliff d'Oliveira of the Zululand Environment Action Group.

Their organisations are now taking the matter "elsewhere".

They said they were not surprised by the Minister's statement, "in view of his previous statements", but they were surprised by the timing, especially since the company had deferred its application to mine.

"We are appalled that as Minister of the Environment he should bow to pressure to issue a statement which clearly prejudices

the issue before all of the facts and implications for the environment are known.

"His suggestion that 'a relatively minor part of the region would be disturbed' is preposterous.

"We always believed that the Minister of Environment Affairs carried the torch for conservation. Obviously we were wrong."

They called upon the public to maintain pressure against mining.

Mr Brian Ashe of Durban, who set up exhibitions and petition-points for the Save St Lucia campaign, said: "We need just one more petition — the public must petition for the removal of the Minister."

# South Africa a'flutter over gift from Cuba

(56) By RYAN CRESSWELL

CUBA has opened the doors for an exchange of wildlife with South Africa by presenting the Government with a gift of 20 rare Caribbean flamingos.

The birds were flown from the Cuban national zoo in Havana via Luanda in Angola.

They were escorted by two Cuban veterinarians and arrived at their new home in Durban's Umgeni River Bird Park this week.

Dr Alan Abrey, managing director of the park, said the birds were "a goodwill gift" to

the South African Government.

He said: "This gift must indicate to what extent relations have improved between Cuba and South Africa. It is also an opening for the exchange of animals and birds between the two countries."

"We will probably be sending them some birds from our part of the world and I have heard they are keen to obtain two cheetahs from us."

Dr Abrey said he had scoured bird parks in Europe for Caribbean flamingos.

Then he asked the Foreign Affairs Department to put out a request for the rare birds when a South African delegation went to Cuba about two months ago.

"The department did a wonderful job and the Cuban authorities seem to have taken a lot of trouble with their gift," said Dr Abrey.

Caribbean flamingos are the largest variety and easily the most exotic with their bright orange-red plumage.

The beautiful birds are fairly rare and are difficult to obtain from Cuba.

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# Saved as dam bursts

*CML-Topics 4/12/89*

56

## Own Correspondent

**MARITZBURG.** — More than 400 people living near the Umlaas River between Umlaas Road and Shongweni Dam were evacuated at the weekend — hours before the Thornlea Dam in the Tala Valley burst and sent a wall of water, mud and debris rushing downstream.

The dam, with a capacity of 2,2 million cubic metres, was almost empty yesterday after the massive concrete wall caved in on Saturday evening following last week's heavy rains over Natal.

The flooding so far claimed at least one life and there have been unconfirmed reports of two other people having been washed away by floodwaters.

Police recovered the body of a black woman who drowned after falling into the swollen Umlaas River on Friday. She is believed to have plunged off the bridge while watching the floodwaters. She has not yet been identified.

There have also been unconfirmed reports of two more people having been swept away, but the station commander of Camperdown, Warrant Officer P J Vermaak, said he had received no official reports and no other bodies had been found.

The newly-formed district civil defence unit was placed on the alert when the Thornlea Dam began overflowing on Friday. Civil defence officials, local residents and the police, fearing a flash flood if the wall broke, immediately issued warnings to people living near the river to evacuate their homes.

By the time the wall gave way on Saturday, shortly before 6pm, four farms in the area and more than 400 local residents had been evacuated.

Fears that the Umlaas Road Bridge would be swept away by the flash flood did not materialise, though it was swamped and approaches to the bridge were washed away.

The water level rose three metres above the bridge at the height of the flood, according to reports.

By late yesterday repairs had been completed and the bridge was re-opened to traffic, according to traffic authorities. Earlier only a single lane was open to traffic.

Eskom power lines were also damaged in the flood, but by late yesterday most lines were reported to have been restored.

To farmers in the Umlaas Road/Tala Valley district — a prime vegetable producing area — the loss of the dam, which was their major source of water for irrigation, is a disaster.

The dam was built in 1984 and was in the throes of repairs to damage caused by the 1987 Natal floods when it was struck by the latest flood disaster.

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Subsidence causes coal pillar to ignite

# Fire threatens Witbank pupils

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

Choking black smoke and fumes are belching from a week-old subsidence over an underground coal fire close to a Witbank industrial area and within metres of where thousands of black schoolchildren take a short cut to school.

The children cut across the dangerous old Transvaal and Delagoa Bay (T&DB) colliery land as they make their way from the squatter camps and new residential areas west of Witbank to their schools in the old location. Over the years the mine fences have been pulled down and the danger signs removed.

## 30-year fire

The underground fire has been burning on and off for about 30 years since T&DB, now owned by Rand Mines, closed the mine in the early 50s. However, last week the heavy rains are believed

to have caused a large section of the mine surface to collapse, allowing air to reach the already smouldering fire. The result was a coal pillar igniting. The flames and thick black smoke were visible from the N4 highway west of the town.

According to painter Mr John Molefe, who uses the short cut over the mine every day, traffic officers blocked off the track last week warning the children and workers of the dangers of the subsiding ground.

"I'm scared," says Mr Molefe, "but this way is much quicker, so I take a chance."

He said he was more worried by the poisonous gas fumes along the 1 km long track than falling into the fire.

A Witbank council spokesman said the T&DB land was outside the municipal boundary and therefore not the council's responsibility.

Attempts to contact Rand Mines were not successful. A spokesman for the Government Mining Engineer's office said the onus lay with the mining company to maintain fences.

Minister ignores 278 000 signatures

# St Lucia: petition to halt mining fails

By James Clarke

(56) The petition to save St Lucia from being mined has failed.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, has announced that he will not oppose mining in the area, but the battle to save the estuary is far from over.

Yesterday, The Star's environmental campaign, CARE, delivered another 100 000 signatures to the Minister. Hours later, another 561 signatures were received by The Star, but the petition is now closed. The petition, which began in September, turned out to be the biggest by far on any issue in South Africa's history.

The Star with the help of the Wildlife Society and other bodies collected 217 728 signatures and the *Mercury* in Natal collected 60 420, bringing the number of counted petitions to 278 148.

But many thousands more were sent directly to the Minister and to the State President.

The Minister has claimed that many petitioners did not know what they were signing. He based this on some sent in by schoolchildren. But CARE, which has gone through 217 728 signatures, states that the vast majority of those who signed were adults. Many hundreds of letters were received from groups at universities, technikons, businesses and individuals.

The Minister may also decide to discard all

petitions which simply bear signatures and not names and addresses. Last week, he announced that, subject to a favourable environmental impact report, mining will be allowed to go ahead. He expects it to last 20 years and says the tarred roads, which the mining company will need, can later be turned to tourism.

Environmental scientists warn the operation will affect the ecosystem of Lake St Lucia. Mining will reach within a few hundred metres of the lake itself and will penetrate well below the water table.

South African conservationist Dr Ian Player said at the weekend: "Sanctions are behind this. They are forcing South Africa to sell almost anything at any price for foreign exchange.

"Sanctions have encouraged the rape of South Africa. What do those churchmen who urged sanctions have to say now?"

Ironically, Canada, which is South Africa's most vocal boycotter, will handle the marketing of St Lucia's titanium.

● On Saturday, the CARE campaign launched "a final petition". It urged the public to write on a piece of paper WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, CALL UPON THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS TO RESIGN and post it to CARE at The Star, P O Box 1014, Johannesburg 2000.

Star 5/12/89

SA

# Relief scheme needed for flood victims

Staff Reporter

SB

Operation Hunger is likely to undertake an urgent relief operation in Natal after receiving hundreds of appeals for help from the flooded Ladysmith area.

Speaking at the launch of Operation Hunger's eighth Gold Rush competition in Johannesburg last night, executive director Mrs Ina Perlman said field workers were trying to establish the extent of the damage along the Mkhuze River and gain access to areas where self-help schemes were thought to have been washed away.

"So far Operation Hunger has received 400 appeals for emergency aid and it looks as if the floods in Natal are far worse than anticipated. We are waiting with baited breath while our field staff are trying to get in," Mrs Perlman said.

The floods in Natal had only compounded a situation of horrendous and hideous need in SA, she said.

## Closing of factory

"This year was not a good year and economists predict that next year will be no better. 1990 holds out even less hope for those at the bottom of the heap and we must accept that unemployment for the unskilled will continue to escalate and retrenchments increase once the Christmas season is over."

Adding to Operation Hunger's nightmare were two events: the recent closing of a factory in East London and retrenchment of 2 000 men and the shut-down of a diamond mine in the Northern Transvaal.

Organisers hope that Gold Rush Eight will top the R4,3 million raised in the previous competition.

The draw for the 10 finalists for Gold Rush Eight will take place on March 31 at the Pick 'n Pay Norwood Hypermarket. The final will take place on April 7 in a street carnival at Zoo Lake.

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# St Lucia<sup>(5b)</sup> mining is subject to assessment

*Star 7/12/89*  
DURBAN — No mining at St Lucia will take place until a full and independent environmental impact assessment of the proposed venture has been undertaken and the assurance given that it would not result in permanent environmental damage.

This was said by the leader of the National Party in Natal and chairman of Natal NP working group on the environment, Mr George Bartlett. He was commenting on the proposed mining at Eastern Shores, St Lucia, and related environmental issues.

"Our recently formed working group on the environment has been and still is giving serious attention to these matters ... We are of the opinion that in assessing this highly emotive issue a number of major considerations have to be taken into account."

## JOBS

He said the proposed mining lease lay outside the Natal Parks Board land and inside the State-owned forestry land, and was located high up on the coastal dunes, way above the lake itself and the wetlands.

"Sight must not be lost of the fact that the present-day potential value of the proposed mining venture is approximately R7 000 million in 1989 rand values."

"The extraction operation will not only earn much and needed foreign exchange but will also create many jobs."

"Our working group is at present also actively canvassing the possibility of the creation of a large new game reserve encompassing St Lucia Lake, Mkuzi and Sodwana," he said. — Sapa.

**WEEKEND  
ARGUS  
PROBE**

**A** SECTION of Louw Street in picturesque Paarl resembled a chemical war zone this week as men clad in protective clothing, goggles and breathing masks removed about 25 tons of toxic chemical waste — some of which had lain in a warehouse for at least 14 years — to a safer site.

And Weekend Argus was told that two other similar "storage sites" are located in the Paarl district containing about 75 tons of chemicals, some of it extremely toxic. Which would be cleared out this month.

The potentially lethal chemical waste was removed from "storage" this week after a major distributor of agricultural chemicals in the area moved premises and the owner of the warehouse wanted to redecorate his property — an indication that the "ugly mess", as one of those engaged in the clean-up called it, may have continued lying around in the central Paarl warehouse until something serious happened.

The operation is part of a clean-up organised by International Chemical Industries (ICI)/Kynoch (the companies have amalgamated) whose Agrochemicals division supplies farmers in the Boland district with herbicides, pesticides and fungicides.

I was in Paarl this week when I accidentally came across the removal of the waste and stopped to have a look.

I was horrified that such a mountain of corroded drums, broken bottles and leaking plastic containers — most carrying red skull and crossbones warning signs, stickers saying "Poison, extremely toxic" and others with "Flammable liquid" clearly printed on them — had been allowed to deteriorate into a sinking, chemical mess potentially harmful to humans, animals and the environment.

MARK STANSFIELD was driving through picturesque Paarl when he accidentally came across an operation to clean up 25 tons of chemical toxic waste in an old warehouse. A number of the corroding canisters had been there for at least 14 years ... and there are another two warehouses harbouring 75 tons of similarly hazardous waste.

# Poison in a Warehouse



**Waste disposal to 'come clean'**

**I**NTERNATIONAL Chemical Industries/Kynoch were to be congratulated on deciding to "come clean" after storing potentially lethal toxic waste in a Paarl warehouse for about 14 years, experts in the field said. But they disclosed that thousands of tons of similar products lie hidden in warehouses all over South Africa or have been dumped in places where they could cause horrific damage to our ecology and our health in the future. Mr. Steve Kimber

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ARGUS  
3**

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Toddled drums, broken bottles and leaking plastic containers — most carrying red skull and crossbones warning signs, stickers saying "Poison, extremely toxic" and others with "Flammable liquid" clearly printed on them — had been allowed to deteriorate into a sinking, chemical mess potentially harmful to humans, animals and the environment.

One high-pressure gas container — discovered hidden on a ledge high above the floor of the building and containing Methyl Bromide, a lethal toxic gas — was so corroded that the removal men said they would need specialised personnel to handle it.

"It will have to stay here until we find someone who knows how to handle it... our company is not qualified to handle toxic waste which is under pressure. What a place to store it — I guess they operate on the 'out of sight, out of mind' principal," said one of the men.

It was later learnt that the deadly container had been "stored" on the roof by the previous tenants of the building — a fumigation firm.

One of the men engaged in the clean-up said most of the chemicals would have had "disastrous effects" if they had managed to leak into sewers or underground water supplies.

The contents of the warehouse have been removed to Waste-Tech's operational nationally in disposal site. Waste-Tech operate nationally in the removal of toxic waste and have four Class One toxic waste disposal sites in South Africa. Although many of the labels on containers of the chemicals removed this week had been corroded to such an extent that they could not be read, a few 50kg containers were labelled "Atrazine 50 WP", a schedule B2 herbicide which carried the warning that the contents should be kept away from all foodstuffs.

Others, some labelled "Valerone", carried the skull and crossbones warning sign, while others, containing "Fogor 20W" were labelled "poisonous". A few labelled "Ultracide" carried large stickers saying "Poison, extremely toxic". There was at least one container of crude calcium cyanamide.

Most containers were corroded or damaged. INTERNATIONAL Chemical Industries/Kynoch Cape Manager, Mr Ken Kempton-Jones, disclosed that some of the containers "may have contained substances banned by the government".

"But these, if present, would have been in small quantities," he said. Substances banned by the government because of their harmful effects include Dieldrin and DDT.

Mr Kempton-Jones said most of the chemicals had been stored in the warehouse and had accumulated over "about 14 years" because they were either past their effective shelf life or were damaged containers.



Pictures: MARK STANSFIELD, Weekend Argus.

A lot of what was removed is not toxic at all. We estimate that about a third of the 100 tons is harmless and there were no chlorinated compounds amongst what was in storage," he said.

When asked if ICI/Kynoch had other similar storage sites in the Cape, Mr Kempton-Jones said "a little bit was stored in the Eastern Cape at the moment".

"Most of the stuff has been brought down here (to Paarl) from our branches. We're having a major clean-up," he said.

"We are going about getting rid of our toxic waste in a responsible manner by giving it to Waste-Tech at tremendous costs... we could have simply taken it out into the country and buried it," he added, pointing out that under existing legislation this would be a legal method of getting rid of these harmful substances.

A BOOK issued by the government's Plant Protection Research Institute — the "bible" for most farmers and suppliers of agricultural chemicals — states clearly that "regardless of the toxicity" of a particular pesticide it can be buried — "as long as (the substance) can be covered with 0.5m of soil and as long as the burial site is not less than 100m from a sunken dam, earth dam, well, borehole or spring".

This method does not take into account the permeability of the soil and other ICI/Kynoch spokesmen said farmers had been using this method for years.

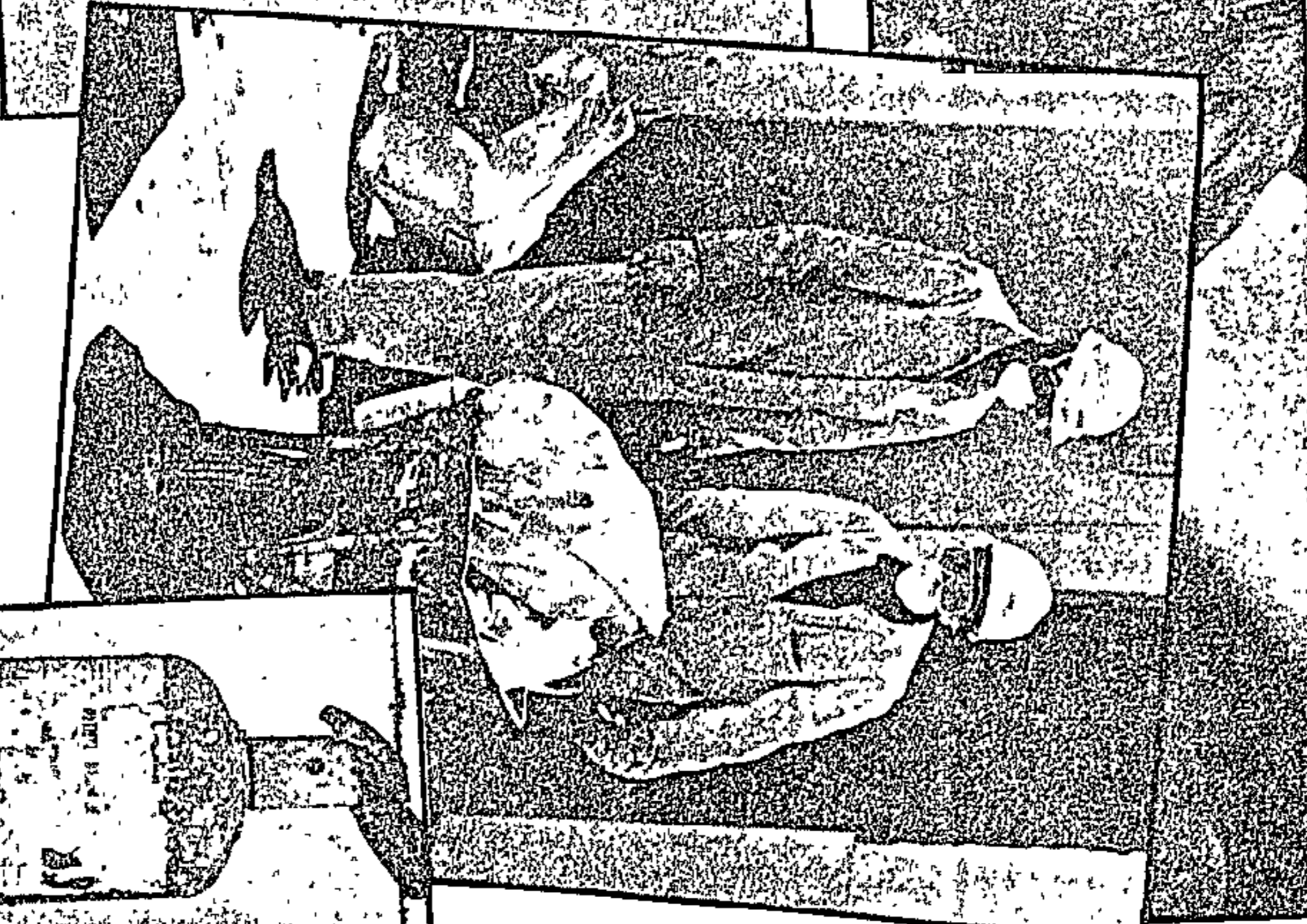
"Any farmer who approaches us on the subject of getting rid of toxic chemicals is referred to Waste-Tech from now on," Mr Kempton-Jones said.

A spokesman for Waste-Tech said masks and other protective clothing had been used because the chemicals were located in a confined space and because of the deterioration of the containers.

ICI/Kynoch Agrochemicals recently moved premises in Paarl and spent several million rand on ensuring that chemicals stored on their

**Above and right: Waste disposal workers remove toxic chemicals which had lain in a Paarl warehouse. Some of the chemicals had been lying there for up to 14 years.**

**Below, right: A used canister of Methyl Bromide found in the warehouse. The canister had been lying there for at least 30 years when the premises were used by a fumigation company who had built special chambers for the use of the gas.**



new premises could not leak into the nearby Berg River in the event of a disaster.

A special enclosed containment dam has been built beneath their storerooms should any chemicals leak out of the storerooms during heavy rain or flooding.

Several residents of the town have expressed concern at the building of a chemical storage plant close to the Berg River.

Mr Kempton-Jones says he was not aware of such concerns being expressed and the precaution of building the dam was taken of his company's own accord in the interests of safety.

annual operations or have been dumped in over South Africa or have caused horrific damage to our ecology and our health in the future.

Mr Steve Kimber, manager of Waste-Tech's Cape Town-based Class One toxic waste disposal site at Vissershoek, said many companies here had approached them and asked for routes to remove toxic waste from their premises.

"In most cases that is the last we ever hear from them... getting rid of toxic waste in a scientific manner costs money, so many firms simply carry on storing what they have or get rid of it in unorthodox ways rather than pay to have it removed and either stored or neutralised at our plant," he said.

An example of what is happening to tons of toxic waste was related by a toxic waste removal expert, who wishes to remain anonymous.

He disclosed that a few years ago, a Johannesburg chemical manufacturer had approached a government department about the disposal of cyanide, one of their waste products.

"The officials told them to store the canisters of cyanide in small concrete blocks. These accumulated on the premises over the years until about a year ago when the company's manager changed," he recalled.

"He saw all these blocks lying around and used them to build a retaining wall around the property. The government officials were horrified when they found out and told him to break down the wall and get rid of the cyanide blocks in a responsible manner.

"They apparently looked for disposal options but it would appear that they never utilised them."

"Out of curiosity I went around to the company's premises. The blocks had been removed... God knows where, but if I suspect, they were thrown away on a municipal dump site as builders' rubble, they have probably been salvaged and have been used somewhere. Who knows? We could be talking about township houses now built out of blocks containing cyanide," he said.

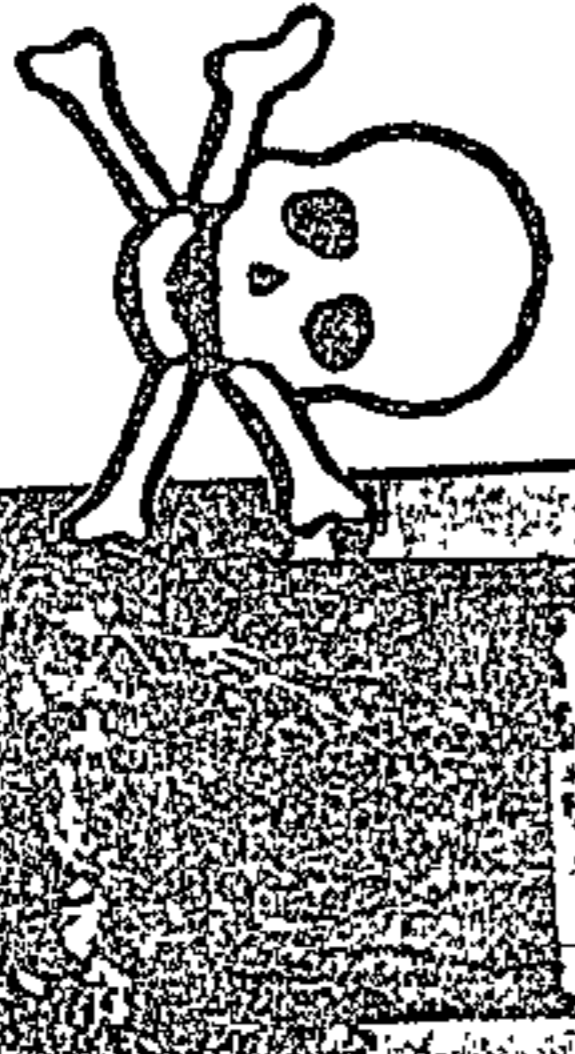
MOST toxic waste experts blame poor government legislation for the toxic mess in South Africa.

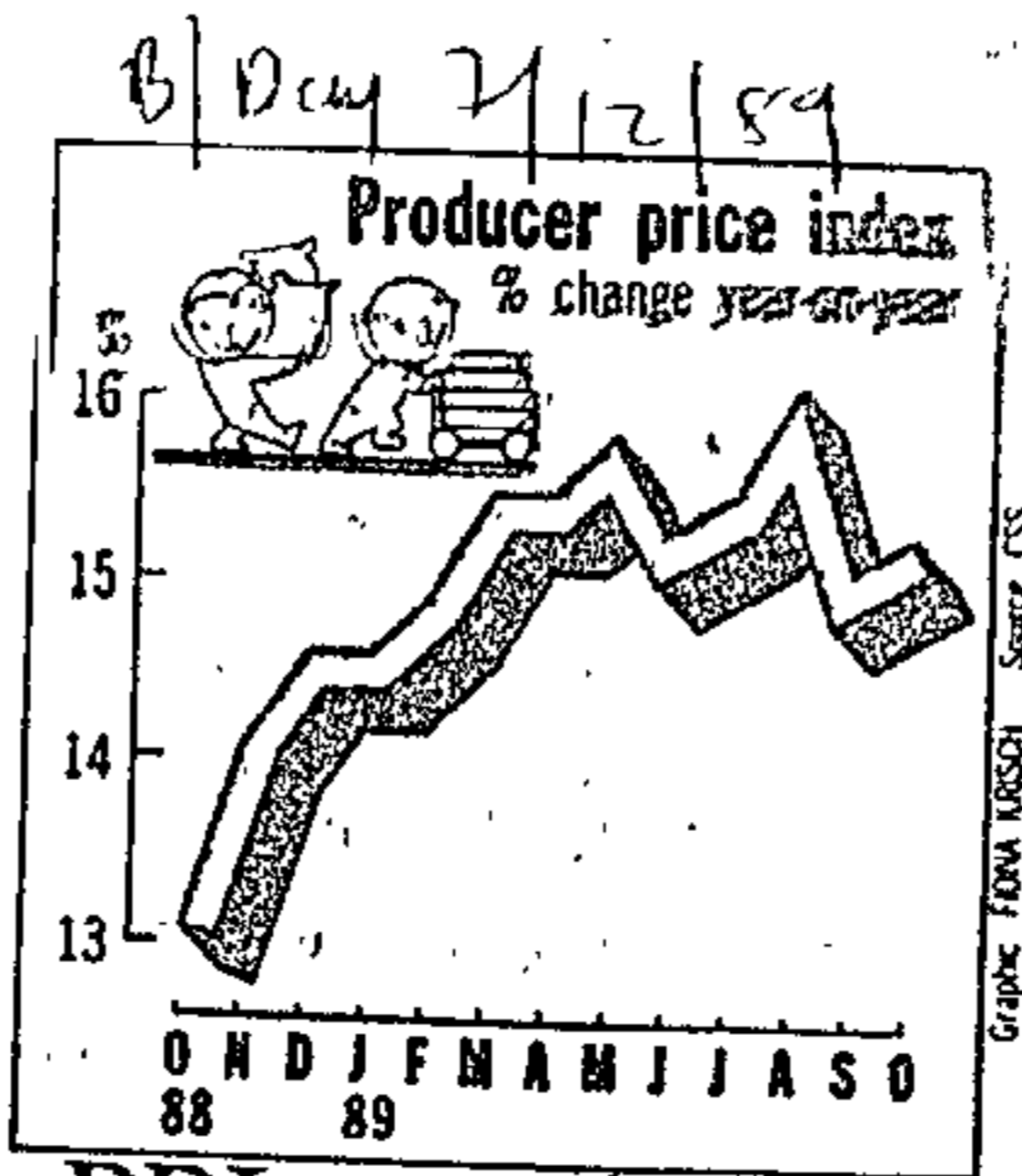
But that is soon to change. The government is in the process of drawing up new legislation and experts who have seen draft copies say both the regulation and penalties for not conforming have been tightened.

"I think we are finally entering the era of responsible management regarding the estimated 5 000 tons of toxic waste produced in this country every year," Mr Kimber said.

Waste-Tech have a virtual monopoly when it comes to the disposal of toxic substances in South Africa.

They operate four of the five existing toxic waste disposal sites nationally. The only other one is operated by the Cape Town City Council.





## PPI rate increase not alarmingly high — economist

244 FIONA FOURIE

The annual rate of increase in the PPI was 0,2 percentage points higher in October 1989, at 15,3%, from September's 15,1%, according to CSS figures released yesterday.

The PPI showed a 1,2% monthly increase compared with September 1989.

Rand Merchant Bank's Rudolf Gouws said the 1,2% PPI increase was "not as alarmingly high as would appear at first sight" if seen in the perspective of the previous month's "surprisingly low" increase of 0,4%.

He said these monthly statistics tended to be erratic because certain factors were measured in some months and not in others. Also, some commodities such as paper and furniture "all happened to go up at the same time this month".

"The basic trend is a slowing down of the PPI. The annualised rate of increase for the last six months is 17,6% and this has fallen to an annualised rate of 11,6% over the last four months," Gouws said.

CSS said locally produced commodities showed an annual rate of increase of 15,2% for October, 0,3 percentage points higher than the corresponding rate for the previous month.

The price index of imported commodities for October was 0,1 percentage point lower, at 15,2%.

Econometrix economist Tony Twine attributed the basic stability of the PPI to the "relative steadiness" of the rand against sterling, the Deutschemark and the yen during October.

He added that the price of meat in particular and food in general were helping to stabilise the domestic price index.

"These figures correspond with the lull in Consumer Price Index inflation, but Econometrix believes this lull to be temporary and that it will begin to accelerate in December or the first months of the new year".

The CSS accredited the PPI's monthly rise largely to monthly price increases for paper, paper products and printing (6,3%).

Also showing monthly increases were furniture (4,8%), ferrous (3,6%) and non-ferrous (4,5%) basic metals and rubber and plastic products (3,9%).

THE  
**WEEKLY MAIL**

**WORLD**

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# Hurt Rajiv still

# confident of a comeback



Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi waits, hoping differences in the ranks of the country's would-be rulers become apparent

OPPOSITION parties aiming to form the next Indian government must overcome ego clashes within the parties as well as a hung parliament — compounded by a complete polarisation of votes between two areas.

Although Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his cabinet resigned following the failure of his Congress Party to secure a majority in the country's new government, he continues to be a dark horse in the emerging scenario.

The Congress Party has said it will honour the people's verdict and sit in opposition, even though it continues to be the single largest party in the new parliament.

Gandhi has once again been re-elected as the party parliamentary leader, which automatically makes him the leader of the new opposition. The Congress Party clearly hopes that

**Power-play and back-stabbing by the new would-be rulers of India could put Rajiv Gandhi back in office. At least, that's what Gandhi's banking on, reports MG SRINATH**

the bickerings in the opposition camp will become more pronounced in the days to come and force party president Venkataraman to call on the Congress to form the government once again.

The four-party centrist National Front Party proposes to stake its claim to form the new minority government on the basis of support from the Hindu-leaning rightist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Communist Marxists.

Lal Krishna Advani, president of

the BJP, said two weeks before the elections that his party would play the role of "kingmaker" in the post-election scenario. His prediction has come true.

With a premium on every seat in the new parliament, the BJP has virtually resorted to muscle-flexing. Advani said this week his group was prepared to give "general but critical support to the non-Congress government".

There is no talk yet of the BJP joining the new set-up. A BJP source said: "Let the offer come from them (the National Front)."

If this happens, the Front regime will run into trouble from the Marxists, who have made it clear they would withdraw their support if the Hindu party formed part of the new set-up. The BJP has also said the same thing about the Marxists.

To top it all, there is an emerging tussle within the National Front for the post of prime minister.

Until the beginning of the week, Vishwanath Pratap Singh was a runaway favourite. But Chandrasekhar, a senior leader of the Janata Dal Party, one of the constituents of the Front, opposes Singh.

Chandrasekhar achieved national fame a couple of years ago by undertaking a walkathon from Kanyakumari town in southern India to New

Delhi in a bid to bring peace in Punjab. He is known as a Young Turk for his radical views.

His supporters, who number about 30 in the House, are confident that their leader will pull it off. But the ground realities are entirely different with the masses of India supporting Singh.

If Chandrasekhar refuses to heed the writing on the wall, it will once again be a sad replay of events in 1977 soon after the five-party Janata Party came to power, defeating the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Rajiv's mother.

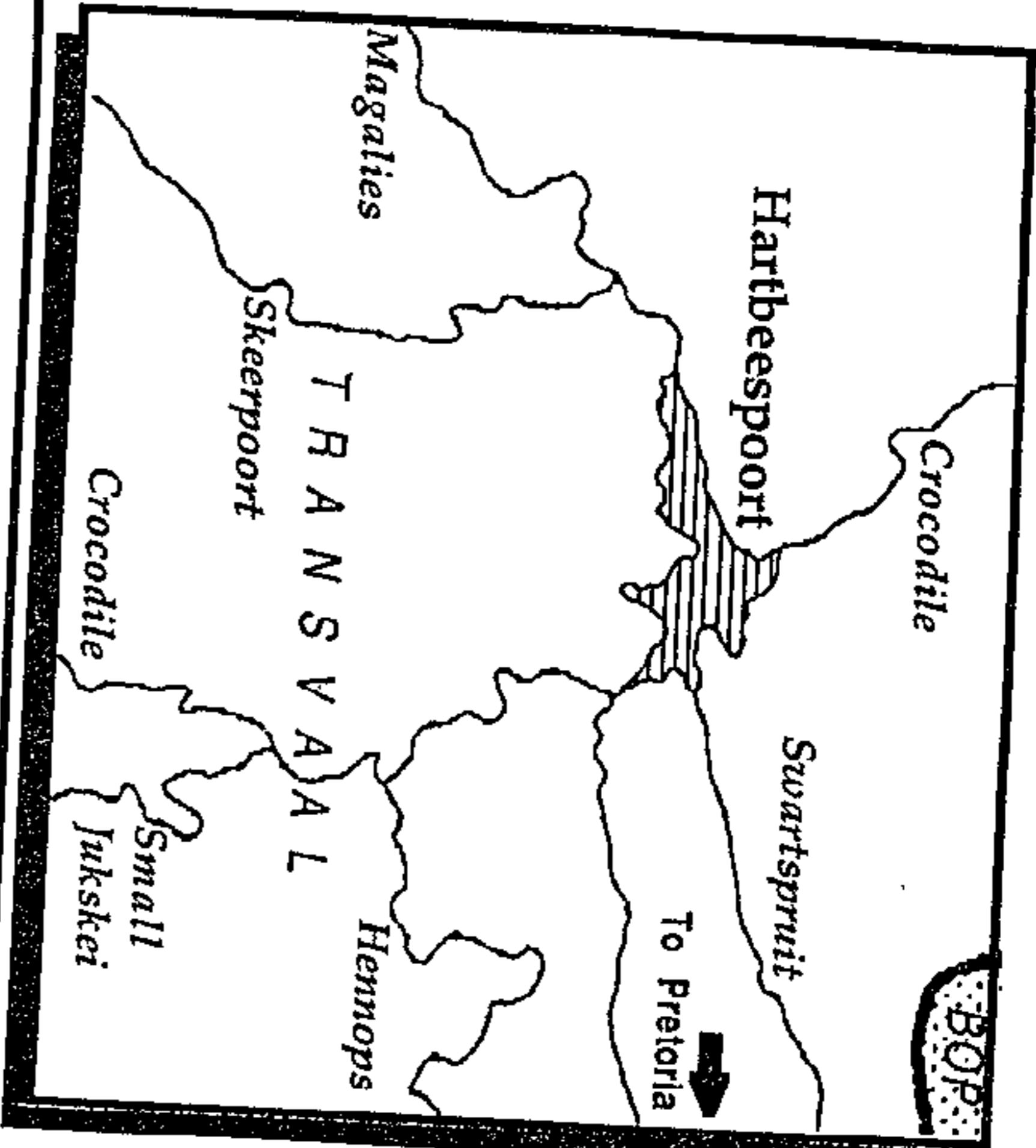
Internal contradictions caused its collapse within 30 months. The party got off to a bad start with controversies over the leadership, which ultimately went to Morarji Desai over other claimants like Charan Singh and Jagjivan Ram.

Singh and Ram could not swallow this "insult" and tried to undermine Desai at every stage. The grouping collapsed, leading to Indira Gandhi's triumphant return to power.

Unless the Front puts its house in order soon, the scenario may repeat itself and Rajiv Gandhi's prediction that the Front regime would not last more than 15 days may come true. — Deutsche Presse Agentur

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Wimail  
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# Plan to save polluted dam

The Hartbeespoort Dam has been described as the most polluted dam in the world, according to Dr Dirk Grobler, the deputy director of water quality control at the Department of Water Affairs.

Recently, however, he announced a plan to control the quality of water flowing into the dam, which is exposed to an enormous amount of pollution.

The aim is to control the quality of water in the Crocodile River catchment area which feeds the dam, and to investigate the quality of water demanded by different users of the facility and to assess the effect of the various pollutants.

The most serious quality problems at the moment are a result of plant fertilisers which led to the excessive growth of algae and hydrophobic plants in the dam. These plants have affected the use of the dam

for domestic water supply and recreational and ecological purposes. Possible pollution by micro-organisms from urban effluent threaten the recreational role of the dam and floating debris, from the catchment area and from people using its facilities, is busy destroying the aesthetic value of Hartbeespoort dam.

This type of pollution is, however, extremely difficult to control, as is controlling the problem resulting from urban stormwater drainage, since the source of the effluent cannot be pinpointed.

Problems with regard to the fertiliser in the dam have been addressed by declaring the catchment area as sensitive to the amount of phosphate in effluent, and a limit has been imposed.

Once the department has implemented the best strategies to attain optimum water quality control, their success will be monitored.

# Fish Hoek to query Kommetjie kaolin mine

12/12/89

By MICHAEL DOMAN  
False Bay Bureau

THE Fish Hoek council is to ask the Western Cape Regional Services Council (RSC) for more detailed information on a proposed open cast kaolin mine on a portion of the Imhoff's Gift farm in Kommetjie.

The proposed mine lies outside Fish Hoek's boundaries, but the municipality was asked for comments by the RSC because it is proposed to transport the mined kaolin by road through Fish Hoek.

Amenities councillor Mr Malcolm Wallace proposed that the council inform the RSC that it had problems with the proposed mine, particularly regarding the possible losses Fish Hoek might suffer in respect of wear and tear on roads and dust.

Councillor Mrs Pat Landon listed several potential problem areas regarding the mine. Her memorandum will be sent to the RSC for further comment.

## 60 000 tons

According to the RSC, it is expected that 60 000 tons of white (high grade) kaolin will be mined at the 200m by 1 000m site by Kommetjie Kaolin (Pty) Ltd, which has already gained the approval of officials from the Departments of Mines, Water Affairs and Agriculture for the project.

Kommetjie Kaolin plans to proceed with mining and processing kaolin, pending approval from the relevant authorities.

Mr Wallace said that during the first phase of the mine, the raw material would be transported to an existing processing works at the Serina mine at Brakkloof.

At a later stage, a processing plant would be built at Imhoff's Gift farm.

## Water requirements

The RSC indicated that the estimated 10 000 litres of water required daily would possibly be obtained from the nearby Wildevoëlwei Sewage Works, provided the quality was satisfactory.

The RSC said it was unlikely that existing areas like the adjacent Ocean View and Sunnydale would be significantly affected by noise or air pollution. There might be a problem, however, if there is residential development on other parts of Imhoff's Gift farm in the future.

● Kaolin is a high-grade clay for use in the paper industry, ceramics, paint and dyes, plastics and insecticides, soap, cosmetics and some toothpastes, as well as in medicines and white flour.

It is relatively scarce in South Africa and two-thirds of our kaolin is imported.

Kaolin is being mined at Brakkloof, in Fish Hoek, at a rate of 36 000 tons a year.

# City smoke ban vetoed

Cap Times  
13/12/89

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2 Cape Times, Wednesday, December 13,

From page 1

that the council's objectives could also be achieved if smoke-free areas were implemented in eating establishments on a voluntary basis.

The application to the administrator to promulgate the by-law would now be looked at again, he said.

"The situation will be monitored as we go along and we look forward to seeing significant progress in the next 12 months when the whole situation will be reviewed," he said.

Mr James Vivier, regional director of Fedhasa, said: "The smoking by-law is quashed — that's the main thing. We are very happy about that."

He was confident of getting restaurants to set aside non-smoking areas on a voluntary basis, which was fair enough, he said.

"We have never been against the anti-smoking thing, but you just don't impose it," he said.

City councillor Mr Arthur Wienburg, an arch-proponent of the proposed by-law, was upset by yesterday's events.

"The restaurateurs have had all the time in the world to implement voluntarily the measures required by council, yet most have made no effort to put their house in order. It appears that they are not interested in the health of their patrons."

He also thought it was "a disgrace" that the administrator "was not prepared to back up the medical officer of health and the full council where it was seeking to carry out the legal duties entrusted to it".

He wondered whether political considerations

By PETER DENNEHY  
**THE Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, has vetoed the city council's plans to drastically cut smoking in restaurants.**

Yesterday Mr Meiring turned down the city council's proposed by-law seeking a 50% ban on smoking in city restaurants.

The council had submitted its proposed by-law to him for his approval, as was required before it could become law.

Yet Mr Meiring said he was aware that "an organisation representing the restaurant trade" (the Cape Restaurateurs' Association) had given notice of its intention to contest the by-law in the Supreme Court.

Yesterday afternoon Mr Meiring chaired the last of a series of meetings, in the Provincial Administration building in Wale Street, of representatives of the city council, the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce and the Federated Hotel and Liquor Association of South Africa (Fedhasa) "in an effort to find an amicable solution".

## Court action

"All parties were given ample opportunity to state their views and it was subsequently agreed that the matter would be dealt with on a voluntary basis. To this end an ad hoc committee will be constituted, comprising representatives of the above parties.

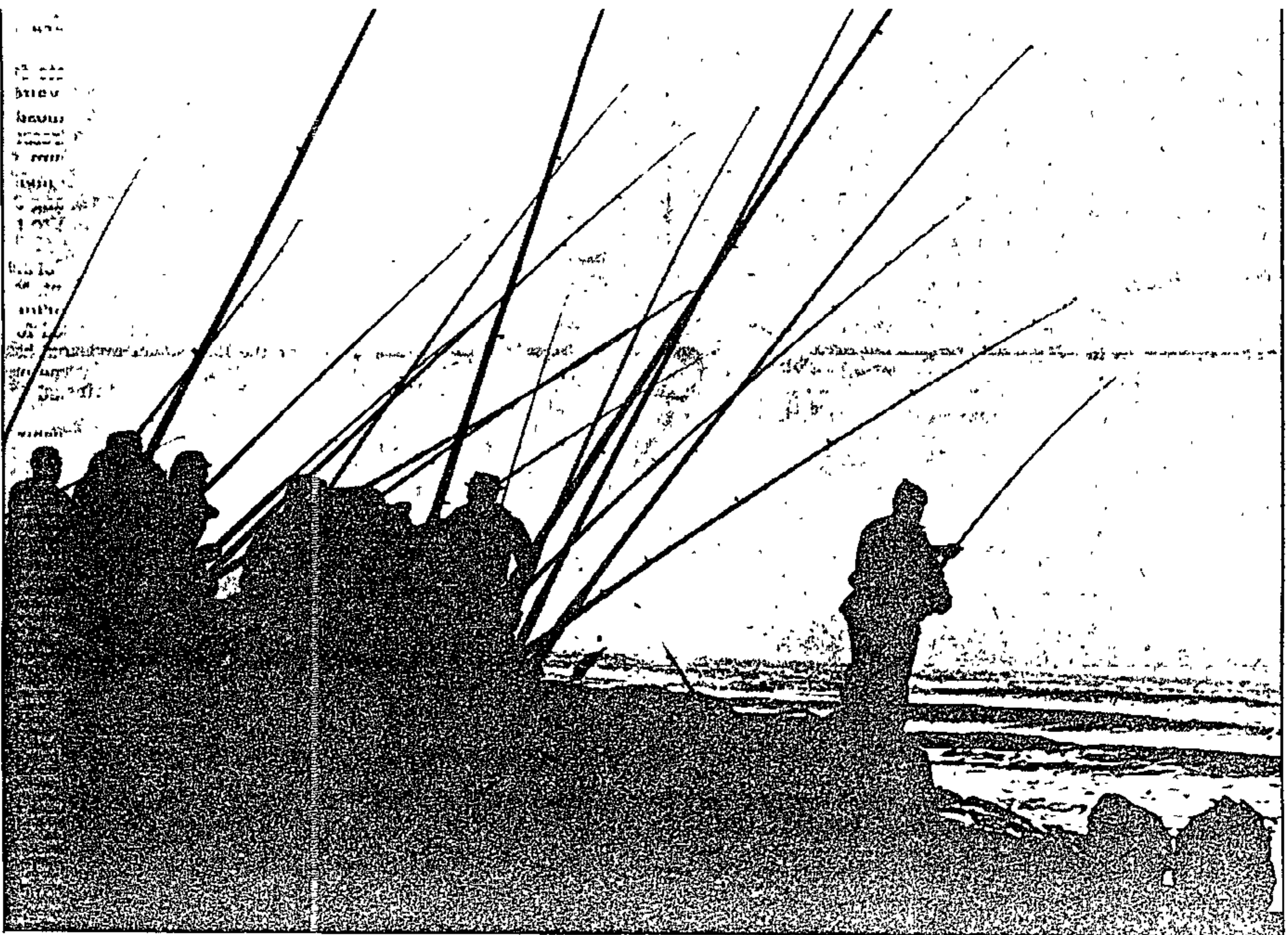
"The committee will decide on steps needed to further an educational programme rather than introducing regulatory measures at this stage."

Mr Meiring added that the Cape Restaurateurs' Association had agreed to withdraw their court action. He thanked all parties concerned for "the positive way in which they reacted to my appeal to come to a satisfactory agreement".

Mr Louis Kreiner, the city council's amenities and health committee chairman, who attended the meeting with the administrator, said yesterday



December 1989



Threatened species . . . Sights like these may become a thing of the past if the Minister of the Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, takes steps to regulate surf and rock angling aimed at, he says, preventing the depletion of SA's coastline fishing reserves. The Minister warns that catches may be reduced to zero by the year 2010.

# SA's coastline heritage threatened with extinction

Up and down the South African coast the old men will tell you that the fish they catch nowadays are smaller than in the old days, and how some kinds have almost disappeared.

Their fears have been confirmed by a statement issued today to mark South Africa's National Marine Day. It says that angling — the country's biggest participant sport, even inland — is seriously threatened by over fishing.

It warns that unless fishermen co-operate, "the destruction of this national heritage is imminent".

The Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, predicts that in 20 years' time rock and surf angling "could disappear completely" unless current measures to protect the more popular species succeed.

The theme for National Marine Day is "Oceans of Food" and is meant to focus attention on the sea as an important self-renewing larder.

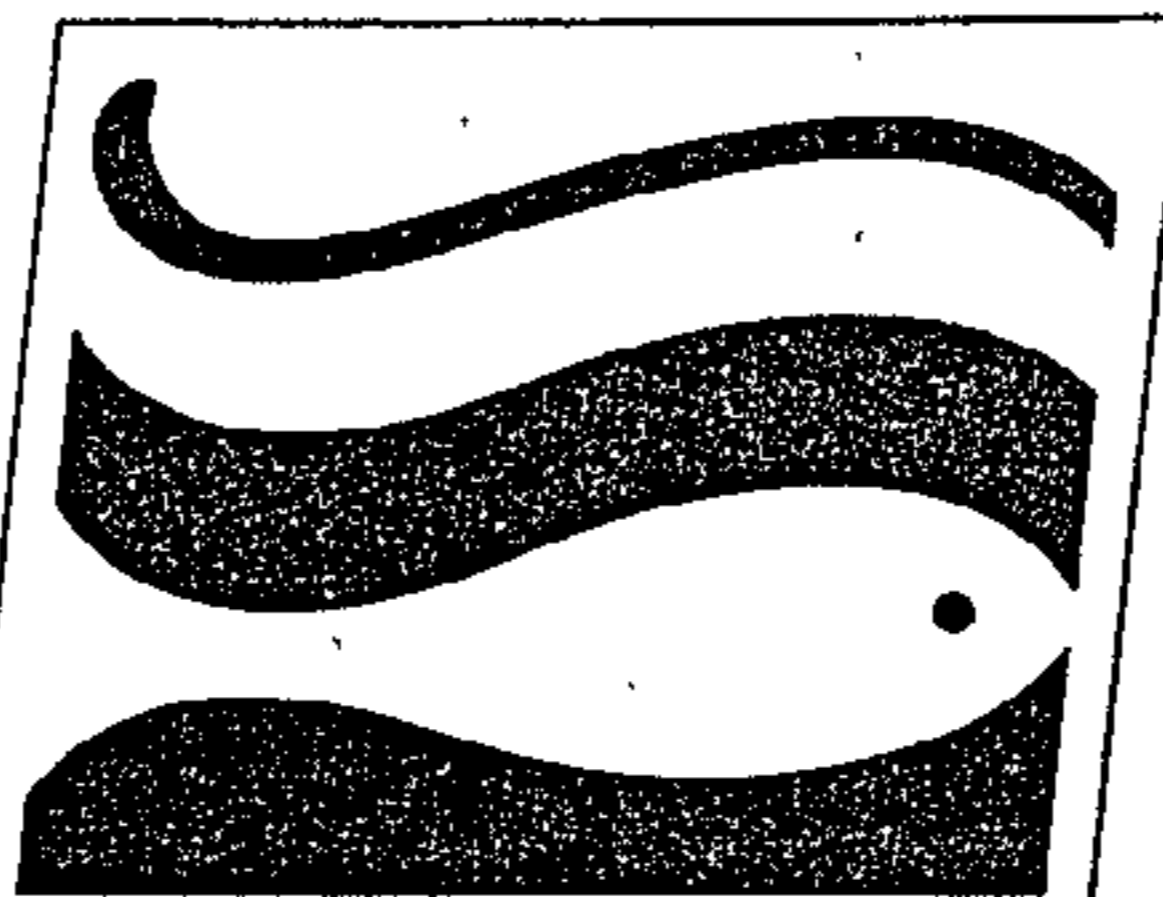
Angling provides food for many thousands of families.

The Minister's statement says that "catch tendencies over the past 50 years have indicated a definite decline in the average number of angling fish caught by rock and surf anglers".

Research for the department, by Bruce Bennett of the University of Cape Town, revealed that the variety of fish has declined progressively since World War 2.

The stumpnose (white and red), the roman and yellowtail, which all featured prominently in catches before 1980, have declined markedly "and could have been overfished". On the other hand, the state-

In a statement to mark Africa's National Marine day, the Minister of the Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, warns that because of over fishing, surf and rock fishing catches by the year 2010 may be zero. By JAMES CLARKE.



National Marine Day

ment suggests that as the data come from fishing competition records, the decline in these species could be because competitions are now held in quite different spots and different habitats.

"(But) it is evident from the catch data that a decline in total catches was the most likely reason and that this declining trend, if not arrested, indicates that catches will approach zero by 2010."

Several precautions are being taken including minimum sizes, bag limits, marine

reserves and closed seasons.

"Although some of these regulations have been unpopular with anglers, conclusive evidence now exists to prove the efficacy of these regulations.

"For example, it is estimated that if anglers observe the 35 cm size limit for galjoen their catches will be approximately three times greater in 10 years time."

The colourful galjoen, South Africa's national fish, has shown how effective marine reserves can be in fish conservation. In De Hoop Marine Reserve — now six years old — one used to be able to catch an average 20 galjoen in 100 hours of angling. Now you can catch 150.

Stumpnose, steenbras and other species have also recovered in the reserve.

The Minister says that all along the coast — and he singles out False Bay in particular — there are signs of "excessive exploitation pressure".

The tone of the lengthy statement indicates that anglers must expect more regulations and it calls for their understanding.

"Scientific information enables me to amend regulations according to the prevailing circumstances," says the Minister, who then gives an example of how, while he banned fishing for squid along the entire South African coastline during November, he revoked an existing ban on the catching of linefish in the area between the mouth of the Great Fish River and Cape St Blaize.

He said if anglers and fish resource managers do not join forces to protect the marine environment "the destruction of this national heritage is imminent".

Municipal Reporter

CITY restaurants are to set up a star-rating system — and establishments which do not make provision for non-smokers will not be awarded the full five stars. According to Mr Boris Savvas, chairman of the Cape Restaurateurs' Association, the association plans to implement the system within a year.

He said the association represents about 80% of the restaurant business by volume in the Cape Town municipality.

Mr Savvas said that one of the evaluation criteria would be whether a restaurant provided a smoke-free area, "and anyone who does not provide one will not get all five stars".

The new rating move comes amid a war of words between city restaurateurs and the city council.

The council had tried to introduce a by-law forcing all

## Smoking:

### New plan *Cape Times 14/12/89* for city *(S6) (S10)* restaurants

restaurants to make 50% of their floorspace a non-smoking area.

On Tuesday, Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring vetoed the proposed law, citing restaurateurs' opposition to the ban.

In spite of Mr Meiring's ruling, the confused row continued yesterday as the association threatened not to withdraw its Supreme Court action against the city council.

Mr Savvas said the association had agreed to abandon

the court action only if the council would revoke their resolution on the proposed by-law.

He also quoted remarks made in the Cape Times by councillor Mr Arthur Wienberg. Mr Wienberg had said in reaction to Mr Meiring's decision that restaurants "had had all the time in the world to implement voluntarily the measures required by council, yet most had made no effort to put their house in order".

Mr Savvas said that if the council endorsed Mr Wienberg's views or failed to rescind the resolution on the by-law, the matter will proceed for a "once-and-for-all" ruling by the courts.

● Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said he had never been in favour of the 50-50 rule (banning smoking in half of each restaurant) as it had not been shown that this would protect non-smokers.

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# Conservation row over West Coast coloured village

By ANDREA WEISS  
Weekend Argus Reporter

DETAILS of an upmarket coastal village for the "coloured market" on the environmentally-sensitive West Coast have been released at the prompting of Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotzé.

The land earmarked for the development is on Mud River Farm belonging to Mr Geoff Duckitt, which some environmentalists and Darling residents believe is of great botanical importance.

Although provincial approval has not yet been granted, Mr Kotzé has also advised the developer, Mr Marius Keuler, to apply for the area to be declared a free-settlement area.

Mr Keuler's objective is to provide "holiday accommodation" or a retirement area for "coloured" people.

## "Least sensitive"

"Because there is a tremendous awareness of the West Coast vegetation, we were obliged to find the least sensitive area," Mr Keuler said in a statement.

According to Mr Keuler, 13 departments — including Agriculture, Planning and Nature Conservation — were approached before plans were submitted to the Province.

Mr Keuler said: "The Department of Nature Conservation, the Park's Board and Botanical Society are particularly concerned about wetlands. These are the areas where the most plant species occur.

"Fortunately, luck was on our side and we were offered the farm Mud River, 50km from Cape Town and adjacent to Atlantis. The land, originally part of a structure plan of Atlantis by the Cape Provincial Administration, has no wetlands."

Mr Keuler also quotes Darling

mayor Mr Nico Smit as saying that no specimens for the annual Darling flower show were gathered on the farm because there were no "worth-while flowers" on this part of the farm.

Approached for comment please keep this phrase, conservationist and keen botanist Mrs Pixie Littlewort, who has spent many years documenting plants in the area, rejected the idea that wetlands were necessarily the richest botanical areas.

## Botanically unique

She said Grotto Bay was botanically unique as it was the only place on the West Coast where Renosterveld runs down to the sea.

Mrs Littlewort said she was not opposed to development but believed the proposed population density of the village would cause environmental problems and threaten adjoining farms like Buck Bay and Rondebey.

Access by vehicles to the beaches through the village would also threaten the sensitive beach areas, she said. Because of the good mixture of Strandveld and Sandveld, the area was a good source of plant material to re-establish vegetation elsewhere when attempting to restore veld.

"If we were allowed to keep only 50 hectares on that coast, then a good choice would be Grotto because it contains such a variety of veld types," she argued.

Residents of Darling have been speculating about the development for some time because of the implications it would have for other seafront farms.

Prices for the 500 erven of about 350m<sup>2</sup> each on the 60-hectare development have not been established as these would depend upon the cost of servicing the sites, according to Mr Keuler.

DR PHILIP LLOYD in his article of December 3 is correct when he says we need "a vigorous debate" on environmental issues.

I agree with his earlier statements where he raised the urgent need for attention to lead levels in petrol, air pollution in townships, the ozone layer and the spread of deserts.

I do, however, believe he is wrong in his dismissive attitude to the danger of dune mining on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

It is an issue that is not going to be brushed aside. It will grow in intensity because the people of South Africa know that something is seriously amiss.

By sneering at the 300 000 petitioners as "leftwing liberals who did not know what they were signing", the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs shows his inability to comprehend the gravity of the situation.

### Damage

He has alienated and antagonised organisations and individuals who could have been used to support his department. The Minister should have known that Dr A P Treurnicht recently visited the area and condemned the proposed mining. He can hardly be described as a leftwing liberal.

I regret to say that Dr Lloyd is not checking his facts. He states *inter alia* that "...the most likely area for mining was sufficiently remote from its (Lake St Lucia's) sensitive ecosystem to suggest there should be no effect on it". This is contradicted by many reputable scientists.

Dr Allen Heydoorn, an expert on coastal dunes, has publicly stated:

# Why the Lake St Lucia won't die down

(S6) 17/12/89

## Ian Player

noted conservationist,  
replies to Dr Phillip Lloyd  
in the St Lucia debate

"However many precautions are taken, the mining operations and associated infrastructure will irrevocably damage the St Lucia ecological system."

Dr D P Cyrus says: "The importance of the vegetation and the water seepage link to the lake itself cannot be overstressed. Changes on the eastern shores lead by chain reaction directly to the lake."

Dr Lloyd says: "...where mining is proposed is a 'no-name' area."

He is wrong. The area is known as "The Eastern Shores State Forest" and had Dr Lloyd checked this it would have saved him from another error. He says: "...it could prove costly to buy the land from its present owners." State land is owned by the people of South Africa.

It so happens that the forestry branch of the Department of Environment Affairs controls the land, but it doesn't own it any more than the Natal Parks Board owns Lake

St Lucia or Umfolozi game reserves.

Title is vested in the State. And herein lies the underlying problem that we in wildlife conservation have continually had to face.

Wherever there is State land such as a game or nature reserve, or in this case State forest, some other authority wants to take it over for some other purpose. The missile ranges on Lake St Lucia and in the De Hoop Nature Reserve, the proposed freeway through part of Harold Johnson Nature Reserve and the coal mining in the Kruger National Park are some examples.

### Wrong

Dr Lloyd accuses me of sleight of hand, claiming that I talk about mining "the Lake". If he spent more time there he would know that Lake St Lucia Game Reserve, the strip on the eastern and western shores as well as False Bay and St Lucia Park, are generally referred to as Lake St Lucia, or sometimes "the Lake".

I am only too aware that "the argument is about sand dunes and whether mining the dunes is wrong".

What is proposed is a 20km long strip of open-cast mining about half a kilometre wide, and if any-

one believes this is not going to have a detrimental effect, they will believe anything.

Dr Lloyd is wrong when he says 80 percent of the mining path is covered in "exotic vegetation". The figure is more like 56 percent and the remaining 44 percent consists of important forest and grasslands.

Dr Lloyd repeats an earlier statement that the Canadians are not involved in the mining operations. Well, it depends upon how you interpret "mining operations". Perhaps Canadians are not digging out the sand, but they have been involved in management, technology and particularly marketing. The reason any Canadian participation angers South Africans is because they have consistently stabbed South Africa in the back over sanctions. In fact, of all the Western nations, they have done the most to wound us. It won't be forgotten in a hurry, particularly by the sugar-cane farmers.

Dr Lloyd is incorrect when he says: "...man had been active there (eastern shores) for over 30 years without too much adverse impact".

Iron Age man has been in the area for over 900 years and certainly modified the habitat. Thirty-three years ago the Department of

Forestry removed the Tonga people from the eastern shores and dumped them in the Nyalazi-Mthababa area. The repercussions are felt to this day.

After the removals, the Department of Forestry began planting pine trees. The public outcry that followed was one of the reasons for the Government appointing the commission of inquiry which sat between 1964-66. The commission recommended that "...existing plantations should be cropped as soon as economically possible. The area should then be allowed to revert to indigenous vegetation."

### Duty

The pine trees have had the effect of drawing vital fresh water from Lake St Lucia and the pans surrounding the lake. One has only to see what happens when plantations are felled: Within days the water table rises.

To try to equate the damage done by the pines with what the mining is likely to do is laughable. I would earnestly ask Dr Lloyd to obtain and read the report of the commission of inquiry into Lake St Lucia 1964-66.

I hope he will then support the vast majority of South Africans who want to see the recommendations of the report followed to their logical conclusion: The proclamation of the Greater St Lucia Park extending from Mkuze Game Reserve to Sodwana Bay to St Lucia Estuary on the east, and to False Bay Park and the strip along the western shores.

We will then have done our duty to those who will follow us in the 21st Century.



**SIGNING UP ...** City Mayor Mr Gordon Oliver signs a petition against the proposed mine.



**RUMP MESSAGES ...** Even the horses were marked with anti-mining messages at a Noordhoek protest picnic. Pictures RICHARD BELL

# Expert opposes mine

By PETER DENNEHY

**LEADING** environmental expert Dr Douglas Hey and his committee have firmly rejected the proposed kaolin mine at Noordhoek.

He confirmed yesterday that he had recently submitted the findings of a study he and his committee had done to the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, who had commissioned it.

The members of the administrator's advisory committee on the management of the Cape Peninsula Nature Area had decided unanimously that the proposed mine "was not in the

long-term interests of the Cape Province or South Africa".

"The Cape Peninsula is world-renowned for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna," the report read. "Its greatest potential is outdoor recreation and tourism, and the long-term benefits from these sources far outweigh the short-term gains from mining."

The committee noted that open-cast mines were unsightly "and must detract from the scenic beauty of the area, particularly when situated on the boundary of a proclaimed protected natural environment." Scars of mining could be greened,

but the ecology of the mined area "can never be restored", the committee reported.

Sociological impacts of the mining would include "excessive noise, dust, the intrusion of heavy transport and the influx of workers".

Kaolin was not a strategic mineral, Kaolin was not the only source of kaolin in the Cape. There were a number of other kaolin deposits in the Cape, for example the Malmesbury district, Saldanha and Grahamstown, where the kaolin was also of a high quality.

Mr Meiring could not be reached for comment yesterday. Up to 1 000 signatures of people op-

posing the mine are being collected daily, according to Mr John Butterfield, media spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

On Saturday several hundred anti-mine lobbyists, including a horse-borne contingent and a brass band, gathered for a picnic in protest against the development.

Among the prominent people who dropped in — some by helicopter — were the Mayor of Cape Town Mr Gordon Oliver, the mayor of Simon's Town Mrs Nicki Holderness, Simon's Town MP Mr Jamie Momberg, Mr Mark Wiley and his wife Arlene, local Pick'n Pay director Mr Raymond Murray and actress Ms Lynette Barling

*Cape Times 18/12/89*

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## 2 500 call for Kotze's resignation (56)

By James Clarke *STAV*

More than 2 500 readers have now signed petitions calling for the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, to resign over his handling of the St Lucia mining controversy.

Schoolchildren, angered by the Minister's remarks about schoolchildren not knowing what they were signing, have also sent in signatures.

Twenty-five Germiston matriculants wrote:

"We, the undersigned, wish to

make it clear that, although we are still at school we are capable of understanding what we are doing ... we are the ones who will have to live with whatever mistakes are made by today's leaders." 19/12/89

A list of 23 names from Melville came with the comment: "This list does not include schoolchildren, left wingers or fanatics" — a reference to the Minister accusing the Save St Lucia lobby of being leftwing and fanatical.

from Turkey, a tap dance- annual event.

# 3 000 call for Kotze to quit

MORE than 3 000 signatures have been received by The Star demanding the resignation of the Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, over the St Lucia mining issue. Many signatories are angry scholars.

Twenty-six East Rand pupils — recalling how the Minister had earlier dismissed the "Save St Lucia" petitions sent in by schools — wrote: "We wish to make it clear that although we are still at school, we are all matriculants and are all capable of making our own decisions — we are the ones who will have to live with whatever mistakes are made by our leaders."

They then appealed to the Minister to step down.

(56)

**JAMES CLARKE**

Many petitioners, apparently anxious for the Minister to know they were unlikely to be "leftists" or "fanatics" (another jibe Mr Kotze made against petitioners), meticulously added their professional qualifications and addresses.

Meanwhile, the original Save St Lucia petition, which closed two weeks ago after The Star received 217 000 signatures, continues to draw hundreds of names a day. At least another 8 000 have come in.

The overall national total of signatures runs to well over 300 000.

STAR 23/12/89

*Don't miss the bus*

December 28 1989



CITY

NATIONAL

# '82 report gave planned kaolin mine the all-clear

News 28/12/89 56

By DAVID YUTAR and JOHN YELD, Staff Reporters

THE proposed open-cast kaolin mine on Chaplin's Estate, Noordhoek, would not cause irreparable changes to the "natural processes, habitats or landscape types", according to a report released this month.

The report by landscape architects Farrell and Van Riet was prepared at the request of the then director-general, Office of the Prime Minister, when kaolin mining in Noordhoek was first proposed in the early 1980s.

Details of the report have been disclosed by Serina, the company which holds the kaolin mining rights, but residents opposed to the mine have not seen the document and have rejected its findings.

### Allegations

Allegations had been made that Serina had withheld the report because it was critical of the proposed mine in the valley, but the company said in a Press release that it had only just had sight of the report.

According to Serina's Press release, Farrell and Van Riet said in the summary to the report, which was labelled "confidential, not for circulation", that the degree of "actual incompatibility with other ground uses" did not merit the refusal of a mining permit.

"The economic value of the deposit and its quality, together with existing processing facilities, make exploitation an asset for the economy of the country," the two authors were reported as saying.

### Delay

A spokesman for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said the delay in releasing the report had been due to factors "beyond its control" and "red tape".

Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group which is opposed to kaolin mining in the valley, said yesterday the group had not seen the "dated" report and could not accept its findings as quoted by Serina.

### Current opinion

"However, we know that this report was researched and tabled in 1982 and does not reflect current environmental and ecological opinion.

"It quite contradicts the finding of Dr (Douglas) Hey's most recent study as well as that of Serina's own commissioned Ford and Theron report, both of which conclude that mining in this area will result in permanent and excessive damage to the environment ...

"In the light of glaring contradictions we feel it's essential that the input of the ecological and botanical sources employed by Farrell and Van Riet be verified before (their) conclusions can be given any credibility."



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By JOHN YELD, Weekend Argus Reporter

**FEARS** of a contaminated water supply to the coastal villages of Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and part of Betty's Bay have led to the Rooi Els Local Council going public about what they believe is an unlawful decision to sell land to Armscor.

The council said that if necessary it would fight the matter in court.

The decision to sell nearly 400 hectares of prime mountain land above Rooi Els — land on which the Buffels River Dam is situated to provide water to Rooi Els, Pringle Bay and part of Betty's Bay — to the Armscor subsidiary Somchem for a token R500 was taken by the Overberg Regional Services Council (RSC).

In a statement to the annual ratepayers' meeting today, the Rooi Els Local Council reported that it had been "deliberately" kept in the dark about the proposed transaction. This, according to the council's two senior counsel, was unlawful.

The council is angry because:

- They fear the proposed sale endangers the Rooi Els and Pringle Bay communities by jeopardising their water supply;
- The value of the land "is vastly greater" than the agreed R500 price; and
- The council and the Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association had not been kept informed.

### Somchem "not welcome"

The council was also worried because they had information relating to an extension and change in the nature of Somchem's activities, but they had been advised not to reveal further details for fear of falling foul of the Armaments Development and Production Act.

Somchem's presence was "not welcome", said the council.

A council statement said the transaction had been cloaked in secrecy "because of alleged 'security considerations'" and the council had repeatedly been refused sight of the documentation underlying the dispute.

"Senior counsel have, however, advised that no secrecy validly pertains to the sale of the land itself or to the lease thereof."

The Rooi Els council said it would fight the matter and go to court if the RSC and Somchem did not provide "satisfactory and legally enforceable undertakings".

According to the statement, the former Divisional Council of Caledon decided to sell to Somchem a "very large piece of land" — 395,98ha or portion 186 of the farm Hangklip 559 — which included the Buffels River Dam.

The decision to sell it to Somchem had been taken "without any prior notification" to the ratepayers' associations of Rooi Els and Pringle Bay or to the municipality of Betty's Bay, the statement said.

The Divisional Council's successor — the Overberg RSC — was proceeding with the preparation of sale documentation, in spite of the "strong opposition" of the Rooi Els Local Council and the Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association.

Compared to the R500 "price" agreed for the land, Somchem itself had recently paid R800 000 for two adjoining portions of land at approximately R8 000 a hectare, while other comparable land in the area was worth about R6 000 a hectare.

"In market-related figures, we are therefore looking at approximately R2,5-million, not R500.

"(But) in actual fact, it is not sufficient to try to measure the value of the land in question in ordi-

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## Rooi Els outrage

From page 1

many market-related figures. Its real value to the townships is the replacement cost of another dam and catchment area — very many millions of rands."

The statement said the proposed sale of alienation had been kept secret and had not been advertised for the required objections.

"According to legal advice which the Rooi Els Local Council has taken from senior counsel, the decision to sell was *ultra vires* and invalid, and is not covered or protected by certain delegations and exemptions made by the Administrator."

The council believed the RSC had "neglected" its duty to the inhabitants and representatives of the townships. The RSC needed money to provide services — including the supply of water — and "should not therefore be making a virtual donation of what we have shown to be an extremely valuable asset to what is believed to be a profit-making company".

"In fact, the RSC admitted at

a meeting on December 7 that they are acting more in the interests of Somchem — which they wrongly equate with the state — than in the interests of ratepayers.

"This, too, the Rooi Els council finds a matter for grave concern."

The council also feared Somchem's activities if it was allowed "full and especially unmonitored" ownership of the land — particularly following a recent "phenomenon" about which it had been advised not to reveal further details because of a possible contravention of the Armaments Development and Production Act.

"We fear not only an imminent extension of Somchem's operation but also a change in the nature of their operation.

"More specifically, we fear that the Buffels River Dam will be contaminated, and that the catchment area for the dam will also be contaminated by a change in the nature of Somchem's operation."

In spite of exhaustive efforts, the RSC and Somchem could not be reached for comment.

# Only your signature can protect St Lucia's dunes from the miners

RICHARD Bay Minerals, according to well-informed sources, is going to insist on mining St Lucia's coastal dunes as soon as it has rewritten its environmental impact reports.

The petition to save Lake St Lucia game reserve from becoming a mining area is the only method the public can use to stave off the miners.

Star 23/1/89

Meanwhile, one interesting difference between the St Lucia petition and the petition, 10 years ago, to save Kruger Park from a similar fate, has emerged: according to petitioners "everybody" wants to sign the "Save St Lucia" petition.

In the Kruger Park petition — for which The Star and the Wildlife Society reaped a decisive 130 000 signatures — some

JAMES CLARKE

people who were approached refused to sign, mainly because they believed Iscor was more valuable than the Kruger Park. Another difference in this petition — hundreds of black people are signing. By last night, 36 000 signatures had been collected.

A Pretoria Technikon student, Mr Calvin Stead, who delivered well more than 2 000 signatures to The Star, told me: "Nobody refused."

When Mr Tom Sutherland, on a No 22 bus to Cyrildene in Johannesburg, asked the woman sharing his seat to sign, she took the form to all the others on the bus.

Two Std 5 children from Cyrildene Primary School, Lisa Dorfman and Menelaos Lagoudis, brought more than 2 100 signatures to The Star. An accompanying parent said: "The children want to be able to see St Lucia the way it is now."

A Sandton woman said: "I went to the cake shop and I had to sign. Then I got to the hairdresser who had his own list. I

said I had already signed but he insisted — sign, or he wouldn't do my hair."

Catherine Adams and her friends collected 1 210 in Fourways. Just over 500 signatures came from Edgars offices; other wads of signed petitions came from First National Bank's head office staff and from Nashua and South African Airways.