

ENVIRONMENT - 1990

~~ENVIRONMENT~~ -

JANUARY -

MAY

'Fears about botanic garden groundless

Spec 2/11/90

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In 1969, the city council, after representations, received, instructed the Parks and Recreation Department to investigate the feasibility of developing a botanic garden.

Later that year a report was submitted to the management committee, which decided that a botanic garden be developed and that the department submit a full report covering the issues involved.

It was recommended that about 80 ha of the 160 ha Jan van Riebeeck Park be developed as a botanic garden. At that time by far the larger portion of the ground was undeveloped, being natural veld grass.

The only facilities which existed were a golf driving range on the corner of D F Malan Drive and Thomas Bowler Avenue, two soccer

Controversy continues over the development of the Johannesburg Botanic Garden at Emmenteria. MR P J LOUBSER, senior director of the Parks and Recreation Department, responds to reports and letters published in The Star in recent weeks.

fields with changeroom facilities further down Thomas Bowler Avenue, and the basic infrastructure of the rose garden.

The department spent some five years on investigating the full implications of the development of a botanic garden and submitted a report in 1975. This report was accepted and it sets out the development of the garden which the department is at present implementing.

It was at that stage envisaged that the basic infrastructure of the garden would be implemented over five years. This, however, has proved impossible due to financial constraints and, after some 14 years of development, basic infrastructure such as roads and larger area layout have not been completed.

It must be noted that as a result of the council's decision that a botanic garden be developed, the infrastructure that exists today has been undertaken over the past 14 years. It is pleasing to note that the public is very conscious of the development which has taken place and is obviously very proud of it.

It is a misconception that it is the council's intent to change a park into a botanic garden, for it is in fact a botanic garden which has



The idyllic scene at the Johannesburg Botanic Garden at Emmenteria over which controversy continues.

given rise to the development which is there today and which the council is striving to bring to fruition.

Statements that the botanic garden will reduce the bird life are incorrect, for it is a fact that additional dams were created as a result of the planning of the garden specially to encourage bird life in this area as a result of the associated reed beds and islands. The development of the botanic garden will in no way decrease bird life — rather it may even increase it further.

Statements have been made that vistas will disappear. The original plans clearly indicated the creation of vistas which are an integral part of the planning of the botanic garden. These vistas will not disappear as they form a major feature within the garden.

Concern has been expressed that picnicking, kit flying and similar activities would not be allowed. This is a misconception which is borne out by the fact that the original rose

garden, which was in a baroque or more formal form, was redeveloped to present the roses in groupings, facilitating lawn areas to which the public today has access and where they are able to put out a blanket and enjoy a picnic.

The pathways to which objections have been raised, have been designed, in contrast to many of the major botanic gardens, to facilitate a person getting to his point of destination without repeatedly having to re-trace areas previously visited.

It is also hoped that in time, subject to finances permitting, a transport service in the form of tractor and trailer or horse-drawn carts will be available to take visitors on a guided tour through the botanic garden and in particular to cater for those who are unable to walk or for the elderly who cannot cover long distances.

The pathways have been designed not to detract from the beauty of the area but rather to enhance it.

People will be welcome to jog along these pathways. It will be far safer for them to jog in the garden than along public roads with their concomitant dangers.

Concern is also being expressed about the amount of money which will be spent on developing the garden. As previously pointed out, the development of the garden has taken place at a far slower rate than previously envisaged, specifically to cater for the financial capabilities of the city. The same principle will apply in the future and no undue burden will be placed on the Rate Fund.

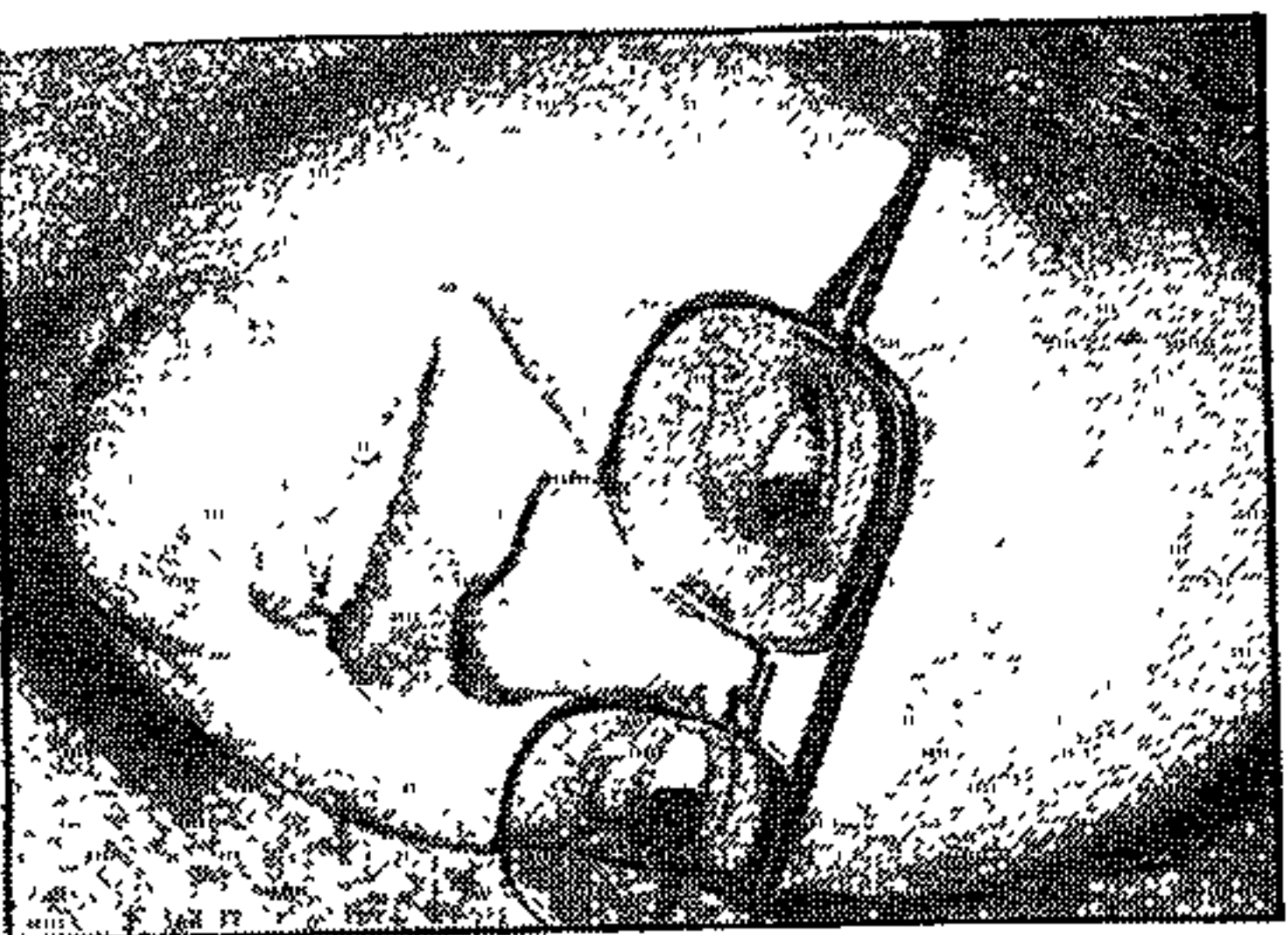
With regard to statements which have been made that the development of the gardens be stopped, as the plans approved some 20 years ago are not valid any more, it must be borne in mind that taking into consideration the rate of growth of certain species, and in particular trees, one does not plan a botanic garden and change its form every

couple of years.

The period taken to plan the garden indicates the intricacies and detail necessary for thorough planning and it should be appreciated that the garden at present is a long way from reaching maturity. The age of some international and even some national botanic gardens indicates the time it takes to develop a botanic garden. One need only think of our own Kirstenbosch and of gardens such as Kew, Edinburgh, etc.

As far as the locality eventually chosen for the botanic garden is concerned, it must be noted that it was sited in the area of the city which has the most abundant public open space. The name of the yard in which it is situated, speaks for itself, namely, The Parks.

The botanic garden undoubtedly is the main feature within this region and the work undertaken, and the interest shown, speaks for itself as to the value placed on this area of ground.



Mr P J Loubser, director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

'Mushroom'

cloud scare

Capt Tim's
3/11/1990 (56)

Fear for water supply at Rooi Els and Pringle Bay



"MUSHROOM CLOUD" ... The smoke and dust after an explosion at the weapons testing range in the Kogelberg mountains between Rooi Els and Pringle Bay. Ratepayers are demanding the site be closed.

Picture: ROBERT SINCLAIR

A "MUSHROOM-LIKE" cloud over a weapons-testing range near a False Bay holiday resort has fuelled ratepayers' fears for the safety of the area's water supply and galvanised a call for the site to be closed.

The cloud — seen from the Rooi Els and Pringle Bay resorts and visible as far as Simon's Town — was ascribed by Rooi Els residents to a blast at the site.

The incident happened "about August" last year, according to Pringle Bay resident Mr Robert Sinclair, who lives within sight of the test range and took pictures of the plume.

He said the plume was accompanied by a "peculiar" sound, "more like a whoosh than a bang", and that he had photographed similar plumes at least twice this year, the first on July 29 and the second in August.

'A phenomenon'

"Usually we feel a bit of a shudder, but did not feel any vibration with the one in August. We are very worried," he said.

The blast and ensuing cloud was described as "a phenomenon" by Somechem, the Armscor subsidiary operating the range, following written inquiries by the Wild Life Society in November.

"The mushroom-like cloud ... was apparently visible as far afield as Simon's Town," the letter said.

Ratepayers have charged that the explosion — and others of lesser magnitude — occurred within the local catchment area, raising the spectre of contaminated water.

The 500ha test site is situated in a mountainous basin behind a ridge inland of the road connecting Rooi Els and Pringle Bay.

Local residents approached for comment yesterday on the explosion and the apparent expansion of the test range were opposed to the facility — but some were

By JOHN SCUTT and CHARL DE VILLIERS

sceptical about the prospects of its closure.

Rooi Els builder Mr George Ryke said "The big explosion came with a dreadful bang. This test site is not a funny matter."

Blasts issuing from the terrain were becoming "bigger and bigger", and he might have to consider leaving the area if they continued, he said.

"We do not know what's landing in our drinking water each time they fire rockets. As far as I'm concerned, it's absolute iniquity," he said.

An application by the Wild Life Society to Somechem for access to the site was refused by Somechem general manager Mr J P van Wyk, because the society's representative did not have security clearance.

In his reply to the society's request, Mr Van Wyk further wrote on December 13, 1989: "With reference to the phenomenon we confirm that up to now we have not conducted tests other than the evaluation of our products."

"These tests will undoubtedly include evaluation of new products, but we can assure you that we will maintain continuous and uninterrupted steps to prevent any activity that may disturb the environment or create a nuisance for the neighbourhood."

With moves afoot to lead Eskom power to the terrain and, according to ratepayers, blasts which have become increasingly powerful, it is feared that the facility would be expanded, Rooi Els local council vice-chairman Dr Denis Cowen said yesterday.

"Following separate ratepayers' meetings in Rooi Els and Pringle Bay at the weekend, the Rooi Els local council has been requested to take all steps deemed necessary to get Somechem out of the area," he added.

The chairman of the Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association, Mr Jan Schuurmans-Stekhoven, said yesterday "Our commit-

tee is totally opposed to Somechem doing anything at all in the area. There is no way that we will tolerate the property being sold."

A petition had been circulated in Pringle Bay to collect signatures of locals opposed to the test site, he said.

Opposition to the site mainly rested on the proposed sale of about 400ha of land leased by Somechem for the past 10 years from the Overberg Regional Services Council to the Armscor subsidiary, Dr Cowen said.

While Somechem had bought two 100ha erven on the site from the former Caledon Divisional Council for R800 000, the erf in dispute was four times larger than these — but would cost the company only R500.

"The Overberg Regional Services Council admitted at a meeting on December 7 this year, that they were acting more in the interests of Somechem (which they wrongly equate with the state) than in the interests of ratepayers," the Rooi Els local council said in a statement to ratepayers last Saturday.

Not advertised

The Regional Services Council had not advertised the sale and was not entitled to re-transfer land to private ownership which had been excised by the Provincial Administrator for the benefit of the villages in question, the Rooi Els council said.

Overberg RSC chief executive officer Mr J S Marce could not be reached for comment.

The Buffels River dam lies almost in the middle of the test range which, according to the Rooi Els local council, includes an integral part of the dam's catchment area.

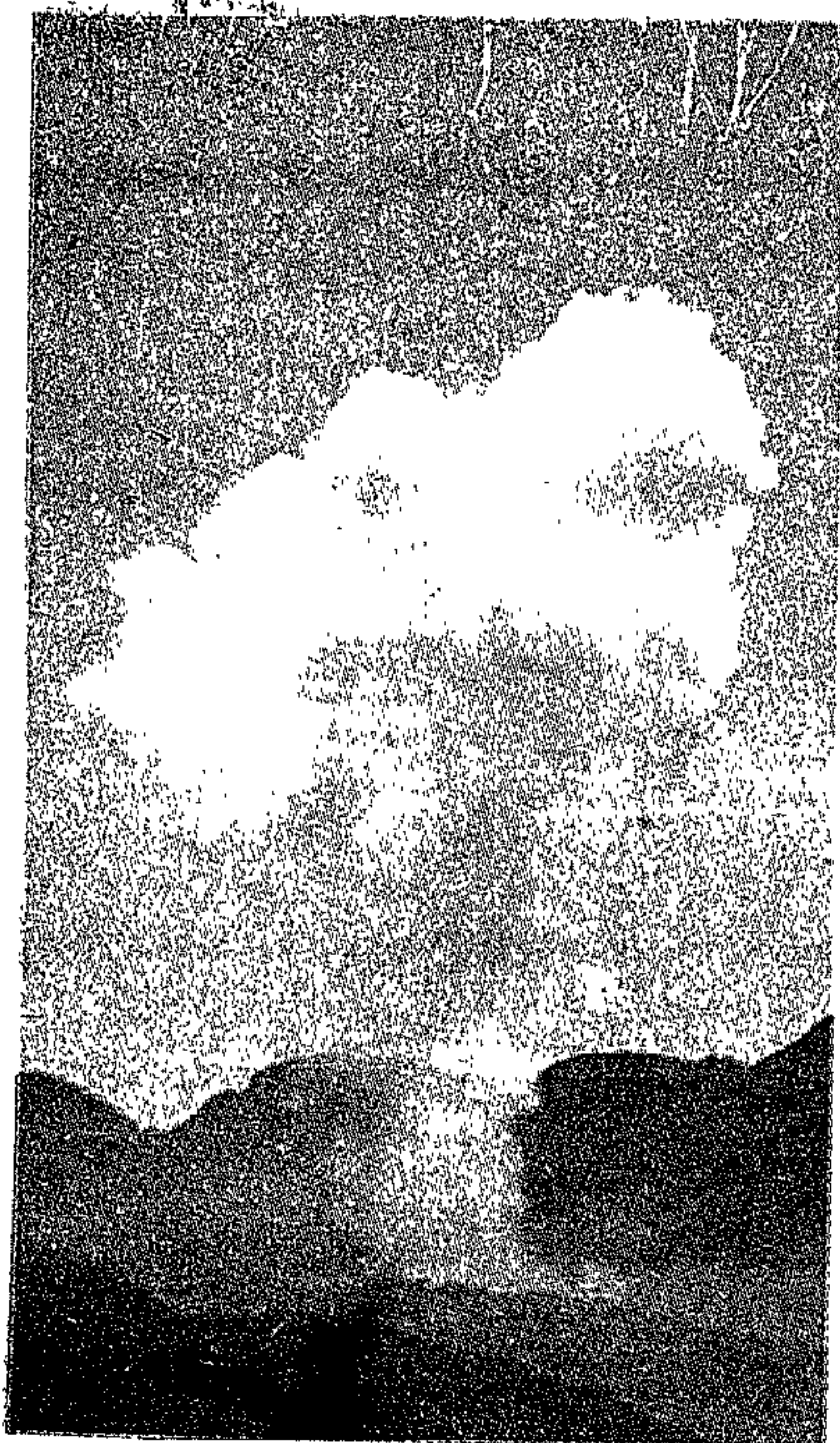
Approached for comment yesterday, Armscor spokesman Mr B R Retief said the corporation would be able to comment only once it had contacted Mr Van Wyk.

Mr Van Wyk was unavailable for comment yesterday as he is on holiday.

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Fear for water supply at Rooi Els and Pringle Bay



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Overberg RSC chief executive officer Mr J S Maree could not be reached for comment.

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ARK643 3/1/1990 (56) (257) (257)

RSC backs down on 'secret' Rooi Els sale, calls for public comment

By CLIVE SAWYER, Staff Reporter
OVERBERG Regional Services Council is to advertise for objections to the controversial proposed sale of land near Rooi Els to Armscor subsidiary Somchem, reversing an earlier decision that the sale would be "confidential".

A row broke out over the sale of the land after residents alleged that explosives tests in the area, which includes the Buffels River dam, could cause contamination of the water supply.

A RSC spokesman said the move was a compromise with the Rooi Els Local Council.

The RSC was empowered to sell land without advertising for objections if the buyer was a State department, the spokesman said.

This contradicts legal advice taken by the Rooi Els Local Council that sale of the land without advertising would be ultra vires.

Advertisements about the sale are expected to appear in the next two weeks. Once all objections have been made the matter will be referred to the Administrator for decision.

Asked if the sale would mean Somchem would control a larger land area, the spokesman said: "Wait until you see the advertisement. The public will be invited to scrutinise maps and other details at our offices."

The 400 hectares of land to be sold have been leased from RSC by Somchem since 1979 for R25 a year. The sale price is R500, according to a statement by the Rooi Els Local Council.

The land, known as Portion 186 of Hangklip farm 559, includes the Buffels River dam.

Residents' fears about the implications of development of the test site heightened after a mushroom-like cloud was seen above the test site in August last year, accompanied by a peculiar "whooshing" sound.

The explosion took place in the catchment area, residents allege.

Somchem general manager Mr J P Van Wyk assured the Wild Life Society in a letter that while new products would be tested from time to time, steps would be taken to protect the environment.

In terms of the the Armaments Development and Production Act, exact details of explosives research may not be disclosed.

(56)
CME TIPS 4/11/1990

Somchem mute about Rooi Els site

Staff Reporter

SOMCHEM, the Armscor subsidiary operating a controversial explosives-testing range near Rooi Els on the False Bay coast, yesterday remained mute to inquiries over residents' fears that blasts could pollute the resort's water supply.

Reports yesterday that the Overberg RSC had decided to advertise for objections to its proposed sale of 400 ha of RSC-owned land to Somchem could not be verified.

Ratepayers have charged that the proposed sale of the RSC land for R500 to Somchem would be "unlawful" and economically "prejudicial" to the seaside hamlet.

The test range between Rooi Els and Pringle Bay drew publicity this week after Rooi Els ratepayers reported a "mushroom-shaped" cloud over the facility which spans the settlement's local dam.

Ratepayers also claimed that Somchem, with the planned electrification of the site, seemed set to expand the facility which had caused residents to suffer "very loud explosions" for the past 10 years.

Armscor spokesman Mr Bertram Retief said yesterday that Armscor representatives had met with Somchem to draw up a response to Rooi Els and Pringle Bay ratepayers' allegations.

He declined to comment further, saying a press release would be issued yesterday. Despite inquiries, this had not been released by late yesterday.

Replying to queries yesterday, Overberg RSC chief executive officer Mr J S Maree said he could not comment on the proposed transaction with Somchem since the matter was "confidential".

He confirmed that the Rooi Els local council had met the RSC on December 7. The matter, however, was "not closed" and the Rooi Els local council had scheduled a meeting with Somchem, he added.

Rooi Els council to seek order expelling Somchem

CAPE TIMES 5/11/1990 (56)

Staff Reporter

THE Overberg RSC — previously reported as saying it sided with Somchem — will not favour any of the parties involved in the dispute over the proposed sale of RSC land near Rooi Els to Armscor subsidiary Somchem, RSC chairman Dr Pierre Rabie said yesterday.

But the Rooi Els local council, which has spearheaded opposition to a Somchem explosive-testing site near the resort, yesterday said it is to seek a court order expelling Somchem from the area.

Somchem plans to buy about 400ha of land, which it originally hired in 1979 at an annual rental of R25 from the former Caledon Divisional Council, for explosives and propellants testing.

Ratepayers claimed the lease was unlawful and the proposed sale price of R500 to be economically "prejudicial".

They also feared that Somchem's ac-

tivities could pollute the water in the Buffelsrivier dam, situated in the testing site, and its surrounding catchment area.

Giving assurances that the Overberg RSC would "follow the correct procedures" regarding the sale, Dr Rabie said advertising would allow "ample time" for objections.

Meanwhile, Armscor spokesman Mr B R Retief said yesterday that Somchem was willing to exclude "the area in which the dam and water purification plant is situated" from the deed of sale.

However, Rooi Els local council chairman Mr C J du Plessis yesterday dismissed this as "unacceptable". "If the dam and catchment area are excluded from this sale, very little will be left for Somchem to use."

The Rooi Els local council would ask the Supreme Court to review the lease and sale of the disputed land.

"Preferably, we would like a court order that Somchem be requested to leave the area entirely," he added.

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Deputy...

Siyathemba dry again

THE 25-year-old water crisis in Siyathemba Township, Balfour, which seemed to have ended last year, has reared its head again.

This time the harried residents of the small location have called on town committee members to resign.

And the mayor, Mr Daniel Maphohoshe, has appealed to the State

Fury as water crisis spoils festive season

By THEMBA MOLEFE

President, Mr F W de Klerk, to intervene in the crisis.

Last year Maphohoshe and the mayor of the white Balfour Town Council, Mr M J Claasen, jointly announced the water crisis had been resolved when a new system supplying the two towns was introduced.

There would be no more water cuts in Siyathemba, they said.

However, the township had a dry festive season with the water supply being stopped from the end of last November until New Year's Day.

Pipe

The town committee's explanation was that a pipe supplying the township with water had broken down and was being repaired.

In a recent memorandum to the town committee the Siyathemba Crisis Committee (SCC) said residents demanded the councillors' resignation because they had failed to

halt the constant water cuts in the township.

Residents said they had also failed to consult the community to thrash out the issue.

The SCC claimed the water cuts were deliberate

and racist as the neighbouring white Balfour town was not without water during that period and had also ordered the stoppage.

Therefore the Siyathemba Town Committee was "toothless," the SCC said.

Balfour and Siyathemba receive water from the same source and the supply to Siyathemba is controlled by the white Balfour Town Council.

SCC

The SCC said the town committee charged residents R10 a month for water and paid the white council more than R60 000 a month for water.

During the stoppage residents got water from tanks placed at various points in the township.

Others paid whites in Balfour R2 for a 25 litre drum of water.

SCC spokesman Mr Lucas Shongwe said residents felt the water drawn from an emergency

borehole in the township was contaminated and not fit for consumption.

He said: "The borehole is situated less than 50m from a sewerage depository dam and independent laboratory tests had proved the water was contaminated."

"To add insult to injury, residents also received huge water bills for December while the whole township was dry," said Shongwe.

A resident, Mr Azael Mbele, received a R28,50

water bill. The statement said he used 20 kilolitres of water in December alone.

Many other residents have received letters of demand from the town committee for water accounts which were in arrears.

The SCC said the situation was worse for residents of a squatter camp in the township because they used communal taps and had no running water or

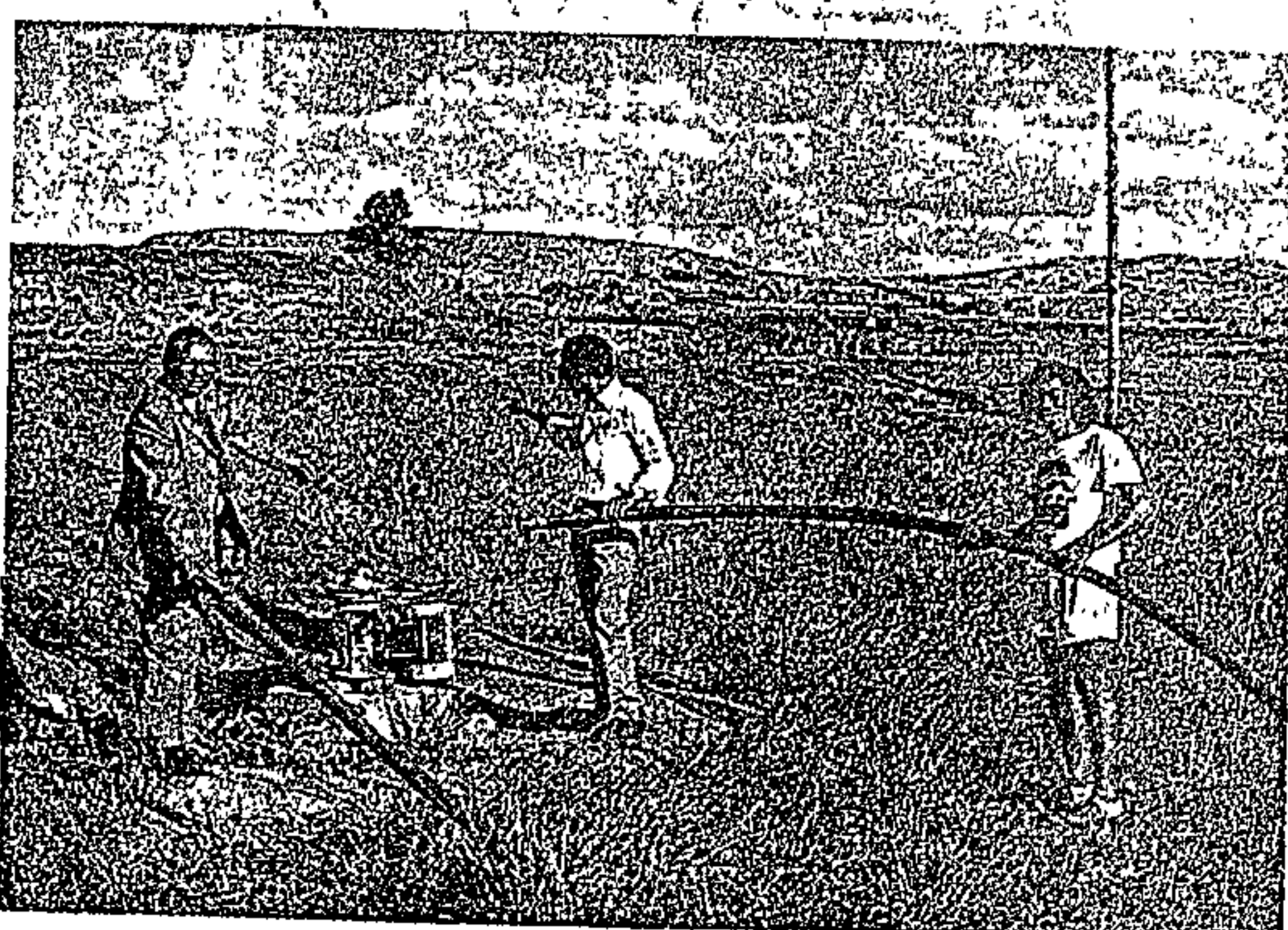
proper toilets.

In its memorandum the SCC also charged that refuse removal and nightsoil collection were irregular while residents paid for the services.

The water from the boreholes had been tested and was not contaminated, said Maphohoshe.

He admitted that there was a water crisis in the township and said the council would meet the SCC on January 10 to respond to the memorandum.

He said residents who believed there were irregularities in their water accounts should take them to the council's offices.



Siyathemba Crisis Committee members at the emergency borehole situated next to a sewerage repository dam. From left are Mr Molefe Letsoko (chairman), Mr Liphoko Lephatoane and Mr Khulu Mbonani.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

St Lucia: Minister's job at risk

Star
6/11/90

SL

JAMES CLARKE

THE save-St Lucia issue — which attracted at least 300 000 signatures including some from all five continents — may cost the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, his job.

There is widespread public disappointment in the Minister and, according to information reaching the Saturday Star, disillusionment within his department and disquiet within the Government.

While the governments of major countries are suddenly viewing environmental matters with the same concern they used to show only for defence, South Africa's Minister of Environment Affairs is rarely heard and largely inactive.

He has yet to take advantage of the new Environment Conservation Act which empowers him to declare his own environmental policies.

Official silence

It enables him to announce a policy calling for "integrated environmental management" — a system which requires all developers and mining companies to produce environmental impact studies for public comment. But he has not done so.

The Minister's silence — except to make an angry outburst against those petitioning to save St Lucia (he called them "leftists" and "fanatics") — is remarkable in view of the new wave of public concern and the growing number of environmental hot spots developing.

Since the "Save St Lucia" petition closed just before Christmas, a further 8 041 signatures have been received — and the wording is getting angrier.

The petition, which began in the

New wave of concern by angry public



MUM MINISTER: Gert Kotze's silence over St Lucia infuriates.

Saturday Star in September, has collected 225 000 signatures. Another 60 000 came from the *Natal Mercury*, and uncounted thousands more were sent to the Minister and the State President.

Among 300 signatures received yesterday were individual protesters from Greece, Jersey, the United Kingdom, the United States, West Germany and Australia.

In addition 3 234 signatures — including many from matriculants — have been received calling for the Minister to resign. He is perceived to be in favour of the huge round-the-clock titanium mine which will operate within 500 m of Lake St Lucia.

Mr Jan Glazewski, of the faculty of law at the University of Cape

Town, says there is now some doubt whether the potential of the Environment Conservation Act — initially widely hailed by conservationists — will ever be realised.

He points out that Mr Kotze has yet to announce a policy regarding the coast.

St Lucia is just one of many coastal areas "up for grabs". This is what is happening along the coast:

● A company has revealed advanced plans for a commercial fishing harbour and a small town next to St Francis Bay — the St Tropez of South Africa. Five hundred property owners met there last week and pledged to fight the threat.

● A mining company is ready to mine kaolin at Chapman's Peak on South Africa's most famous marine drive around Hout Bay. An official told a public meeting: "You cannot stop it because kaolin is a strategic mineral." But a government minerals expert told me: "That is absolute rubbish. People must stop using this misleading term."

Sewage threat

● The confined ecosystem of False Bay is threatened by raw sewage and the lack of a management policy. When, last month, the Minister launched Marine Day there, anglers were supposed to catch live fish. They finally had to buy fish from a shop because, at dawn, net fishermen had cleaned the area out of what fish there were.

● Plettenberg Bay's community, after a long and exhausting fight against a company which wants to build a huge yacht harbour and townhouse complex, now awaits some official reaction.

● Similarly, St Lucia, a kingpin in South Africa's wildlife package for tourists, awaits official word to decide whether it is a mining area or a nature reserve.

No danger in Rooi Els test site, says ^{CDE Imp} CSIR expert _{6/11/10}

Staff Reporter 56 7/11/10

SECRECY surrounding an explosives-testing site near Rooi Els justified fears that the local water supply, drawn from a dam straddled by the facility, could be polluted, a leading ecologist said yesterday.

However, coastal ecology expert Dr Allan Heydorn said yesterday that he had examined the site on Wednesday and found there was no danger of pollution.

Dr Heydorn, who was commissioned by Armscor subsidiary Somchem to conduct an environmental-impact study on the area two years ago, said testing did not have a detrimental effect on animal and plant life there.

"Fears that water could become contaminated are totally unnecessary. There is no danger of this," he said.

"But ratepayers do have reason to be concerned: They don't know what is happening at the range. My greatest concern is that outdoor lovers are having their freedom curtailed by not being allowed access to the area," he added.

Tests were limited to a "sacrificial area" about the size of a rugby field, he said.

Dr Heydorn, who is attached to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and compiled a definitive study on the country's coastal and estuarine ecology, is current director of the SA Nature Foundation.

Meanwhile, Sapa reported yesterday that Betty's Bay mayor Mr Gerrit Fourie has also expressed his support for the protest action launched by Rooi Els and Pringle Bay against the test site

Rooi Els seeks legal action over test site

56
Cape Times 8/11/90

Staff Reporter

ROOI ELS residents are set to take legal action in the ongoing verbal battle about the nearby Armscor test site and have asked their legal advisers to probe the intervention of the Administrator in the dispute.

The row follows reports last week that the Overberg Regional Services Council intended to sell the 400-hectare piece of land — on which the test site is situated — to Armscor subsidiary Somchem.

Residents also expressed their fears that the testing of explosives at the site could contaminate the local water supplies.

Rooi Els local council chairman Mr Charl du Plessis said yesterday that residents were seeking the protection of the Supreme Court "because at the moment, a court of law seems to be the only impartial body to deal with the matter".

Mr Du Plessis questioned the impartiality of the RSC, saying that Chief Executive Officer Mr J S Marree had said in December last year in the presence of RSC chairman Dr P Rabie that the council "was acting more in the interest of Somchem than in the interests of ratepayers".

Mr Marree declined to comment yesterday saying the whole matter "was confidential".

"We consider that the national interest, Somchem's interest and the interests of the greater Hangklip area would have been better served by more candour on the part of the Overberg RSC," Mr Du Plessis said.

Matters had not been improved by a statement by administrator Mr Kobus Meiring at the weekend that a decision by the RSC to sell the portion of land would be final in terms of delegations made by him, Mr Du Plessis said.

...the desalination

... is presently working at a building society and plans to continue working there on Saturdays while studying at university.

Kotze should resign — Jo'burg councillor



By Shirley Woodgate, *Star* 9/11/90
Municipal Reporter

Johannesburg city councillor Mr Dave Verster has threatened to picket the South African Nature Conservation Centre this month when Environment Affairs Minister, Mr Gert Kotze, visits Delta Park as a guest of the council.

He said he would also call on all conservation-minded people to support his protest on January 23.

"Mr Kotze has not only failed to act on conservation matters, he has sided with commerce and industry in controversial situations," said Mr Verster.

"This invitation by Johannesburg's management committee is therefore a slap in the face of all who care for conservation in South Africa.

"I am informed the ratepayers will foot a bill of R6 310 for 130 people who have been invited to the open day at the centre and some form of peaceful protest is clearly called for," he said.

"This is the man who has snubbed thousands of petitioners to save St Lucia and ignored the protest against kaolin mining at Chapman's Peak. Now he is to be the guest of honour of this city council.

"Despite having the new Environmental Act to back up positive moves, he has made no progress. I not only call on Mr Kotze to resign but object to this council entertaining him," said Mr Verster.

Management committee chairman Mr Jan Burger said the decision to invite Mr Kotze was fully justified. "Contrary to Mr Verster's perception, the Minister has done a lot for the environment."

SAP promotion announced

The Witwatersrand's chief police public relations officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Frans Malherbe, has been promoted to full colonel. — Crime Reporter.

Anglo and De Beers give R2,6-m

ANGLO American and De Beers have donated R2,6-million for urgent conservation projects of the SA Nature Foundation.

This is the largest un-earmarked donation given by the corporate sector for conservation in South Africa, and one of the largest in the world, said SA Nature Foundation chief executive Dr Allan Heydorn.

The chairman of Anglo American, Mr Gavin Relly, made the announcement in Switzerland at the annual meeting of the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), the leading international non-government conservation body.

The SA Nature Foundation is the Southern African branch of WWF.

The donation is being made as part of the WWF's 25th Anniversary Benefactorship, whereby 25 individuals, organisations and companies throughout the world each contributed \$1-million to WWF to commemorate its quarter-century of conservation achievement.

Of the 25 benefactors, eight are South African.

"This clearly shows the major commitment to conservation being made by South Africans and sets an important example to the rest of the world," said Dr Heydorn. "In particular, together with Gold Fields and Sappi, Anglo American and De Beers have clearly demonstrated recognition of the importance of conservation and shown the way for South African commerce and industry."

"The SA Nature Foundation is very grateful to Anglo American and De Beers," said Dr Heydorn. "It is a tremendously important act of faith in the work of the Nature Foundation and for conservation in general, serving as an inspiration and a message of commitment and hope," he said.

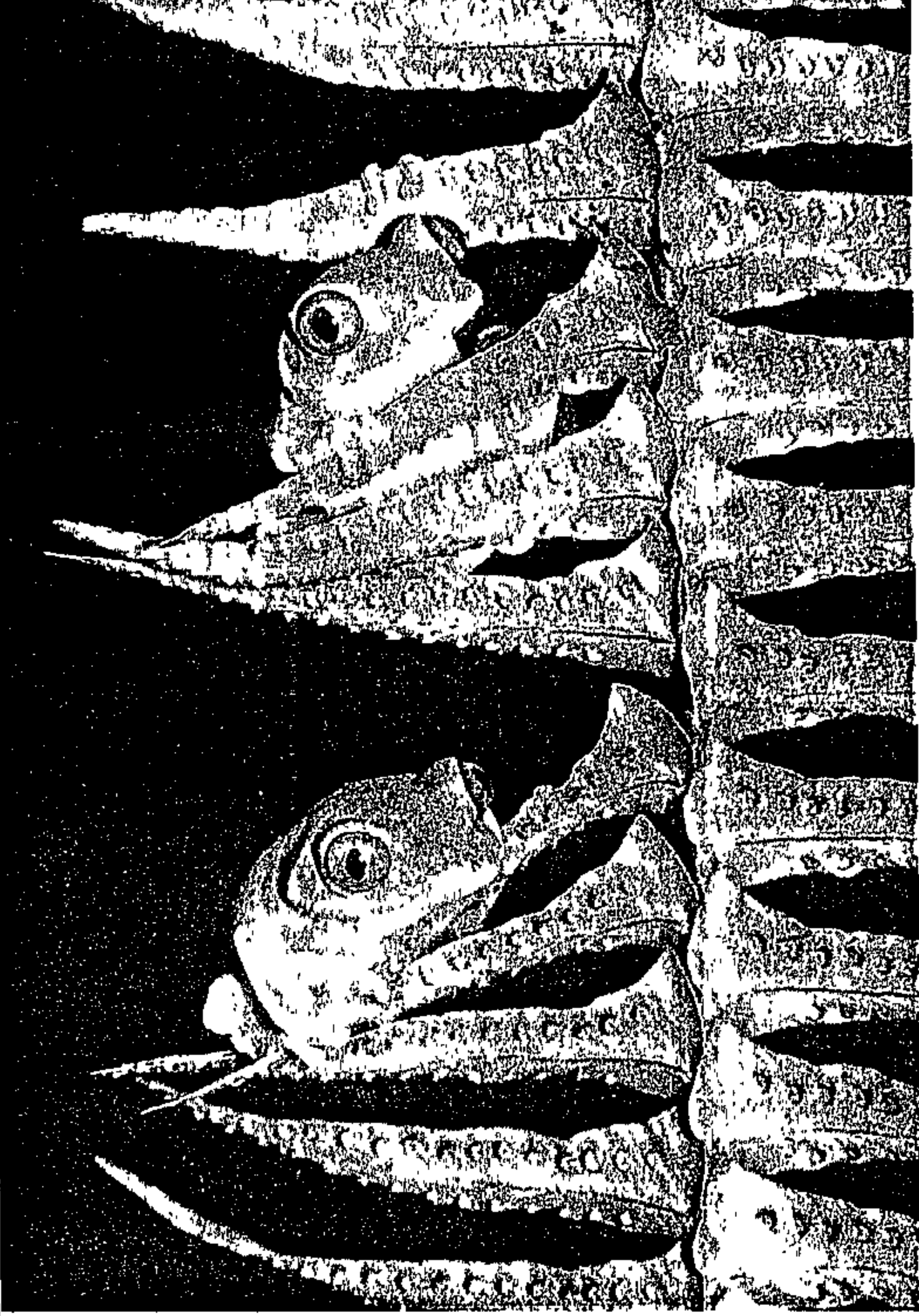
The donation will form the basis of a special fund. The interest from the fund will be used for urgent conservation projects, said Dr Heydorn. This enables the SA Nature Foundation to tackle larger projects immediately, such as the purchase of land to create new nature reserves.

"The advantage of this special fund is that it will continue to generate funding for conservation work year after year," said Dr Heydorn.

"The SA Nature Foundation will make every effort to add to this fund so that the annual interest generated will increase.

"I appeal to members of the public and companies to consider adding to this fund to give conservation in South Africa the means to meet the challenges of the future."

For further details of the work of the SA Nature Foundation, please write to SA Nature Foundation, P O Box 456, Stellenbosch 7600. This is also the address to which donations to this special fund can be sent.



How primary schools can play a lead role in environment drama

Some facts

PRIMARY school teachers have only a short time to enter their schools for the Envirovision performing arts competition. The closing date is March 31 1990.

Envirovision aims at promoting environmental awareness through the performing arts in primary schools throughout South Africa.

The competition presents an ideal opportunity for teaching staff to "workshop" a production with their pupils, helping develop children's talents in research and communication, and stimulating awareness of environmental problems.

schools," said Mr Ellenbogen.

"Schools should choose local environmental or conservation issues and develop a dramatic presentation using local research and information," he said.

"Judges will be looking for simplicity of presentation, originality, conviction, acting instinct and a strong dramatic theme."

Inquiries and entries should be directed to:

The Organiser, Envirovision, PO Box 1527, Hillcrest 3610.

The phone number is (031) 752414.



Frogs and ladders ... this enchanting photo seems to show two tiny, smiling frogs playing some amphibian variation of hide and seek, was taken by Dr R J van Vuuren.

It won the second prize in the prestigious 1989 Agfa Wildlife Awards and is made available by courtesy of Agfa.

BID 07 12/11/90
Parks Board to
up prices 30%

ACHMED KARIEM

THE National Parks Board is to increase tariffs by 30% from April, says chief director Tol Pienaar.

He said yesterday the board was compelled to increase charges because of commodity price increases. The board would soon provide a wide spectrum of accommodation for all income groups.

"This will vary from luxury overnight facilities to bush and hiking camps, caravan parks and even comfortable tent accommodation as in the 'ou dae' in the Kruger National Park," he said.

The board needed more funds because it had to rely on its own resources for activities such as the relocation of endangered species like the black rhino, and Lichtenstein's Hartebeest.

At least 700 000 visitors were expected in the Kruger Park, where hut accommodation during the year was 92% full for the April 1989/end-March 1990 financial year.

Environment 'is mankind's salvation'

Own Correspondent

56

DURBAN — People are beginning to see their own salvation in the protection of the environment, says Mr Roland Goetz, new director of the Wilderness Leadership School.

"To allow the extinction of an animal species has become tantamount to allowing their own extinction," he said in an interview at the school's headquarters at the Kenneth Stainbank Nature Reserve outside Durban.

Mr Goetz, who takes over from Dr Ian Player who has retired, said people had latched on to the proposal to mine the dunes at St Lucia and the threat to the survival of the black rhino as flagships for their cause.

But at the centre of this was collective awareness that the survival of mankind was under threat.

The St Lucia issue had resulted in the biggest petition ever in South Africa; the campaign to save the black rhino had raised hundreds of thousands of rands.

"Some people have questioned the large sums of money being spent on the black rhino when it could be used to help starving people.

"But the bottom line is that people are starving because of environmental problems. We are reaping the reward of our stewardship," Mr Goetz said.

Born and raised in Natal, he spent his early life on a farm in the Midlands before moving to Durban, where he was educated at St Henry's School.

HEROES

From the age of nine, he knew he wanted to be involved in conservation. Game rangers such as Dr Player — who founded the Wilderness Leadership School — and Mr Nick Steele, now director of the kwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources, were his boyhood heroes.

After school he won a five-year bursary to study museum services and joined the Durban Museum. This allowed him to become involved in research into small mammals and birds, which took him to Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

He stayed with the museum for eight years before joining the Natal Parks Board as its first ranger/naturalist in the northern Drakensberg.

Subsequently he moved to the Umfolozi/Hluhluwe Game Reserve complex and more recently he has been in charge of communications and education along the coastal region, from the Umtamvuma River on Natal's southern border to the St Lucia lighthouse in the north.

He has written several papers, as well as a number of field guides, including one on Umfolozi and Hluhluwe.

He was recently promoted by the Natal Parks Board to warden. He is also president-elect of the Durban Umgeni Rotary Club.

World ivory ban may cost SA park millions

ANDREW GILL

THE international ban on trade in ivory comes into effect today, and it could cost the National Parks Board between R4m and R6m, says NPB director of special services Anthony Hall-Martin.

The ban, announced at the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) conference in Lausanne last October, will effectively halt ivory sales by the Kruger Park — SA's only legal ivory seller.

The park has not reduced elephant culling, and ivory is being stockpiled.

In an attempt to overcome the loss of revenue, and cuts in its budget, the NPB has raised tariffs and embarked on an expansion programme to lure tourists.

Government contributions to the NPB decreased from more than R8m in 1988 to less than R3m in 1989.

Tariff increases of about 30% come into effect in April. Environmental education manager Johan Verhoof said yesterday the NPB was upgrading facilities and creating new ones in various parks.

The Kruger Park is running at 90% capacity all year round. No more development is being planned there because the board had decided on maximum accommodation of 4 000 beds.

Hall-Martin said SA had asked Cites to send experts to the country to investigate its elephant control measures, in an effort to return SA to the list of nations allowed limited ivory trade.

There would obviously be adverse reaction from some quarters but a scheme to identify the origin of tusks, run by the Parks Board and UCT, would counter possible allegations that SA was "laundering" ivory, he said.

Elephant leather would also be affected by the ban. "The leather sometimes brings in more revenue than ivory, and we have had to stockpile that, too," he said.

New batch of managers

BlDum 18/1/90
PIERRE DU PREEZ

THE second batch of graduates from the Joint Management Development Programme (JMDP) received their diplomas at a ceremony in Johannesburg this week.

The JMDP — a joint venture between 40 SA companies and various institutions including the Paris Chamber of Commerce and the Urban Foundation — is aimed at producing competent middle management.

The 29 graduates of all races completed a three-year course, including eight weeks of "off-the-job" training a year, with the balance being conducted in the workplace.

Jean-Claude Mas, the Paris chamber's vice-president, attended the ceremony.

Guest speaker Prof Karl Hofmeyr of Unisa said the "French connection" had helped make the JMDP a success, setting it apart from other programmes.

He said the challenge of being a manager now included an awareness of and willingness to become involved in broader SA issues and to speak out against inequities.

● See Page 8

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Closed, but signatures (56) still roll in

JAMES CLARKE

THE Saturday Star's public petition to save St Lucia from titanium mining is now nearing the 230 000 mark — even though the petition was officially closed four weeks ago.

A further 11 532 have been received since the petition closed. (Added to other petitions, well over 300 000 South Africans have protested against the possibility of mining St Lucia). *Star 20/1/90*

And so far 3 748 signatures have been received asking Mr Gert Kotze, the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, to resign after his derogatory remarks concerning petitioners.

● A placard protest, calling for Mr Kotze to resign, has been organised by Democratic Party city councillor Mr Dave Verster to coincide with Mr Kotze's visit to Delta Park next week.

Mr Verster said he had obtained permission for 100 people to stage a peaceful picket at the entrance to Delta Park from 9 am on Tuesday.

W/E (56) ~~257~~

us, January 20 1990 3

Somchem sale: Call for judge

By JOHN YELD
Weekend Argus
Environment Reporter

THE Rooi Els local council has offered to allow a retired judge to arbitrate the dispute over the controversial "sale" of land in the mountains above the village to the Armscor subsidiary Somchem.

The 400ha of land was "sold" to Somchem for R500 by the former Caledon Divisional Council on June 27 last year — just three days before the council was dissolved and its functions taken over by the new Overberg Regional Services Council (ORSC).

Somchem has leased the site since 1979.

The "sale" was discussed at an ORSC meeting in Bredasdorp on Wednesday, although the Rooi Els offer — made by fax on Tuesday — was apparently not passed on to the council's executives in time for consideration at the meeting.

ORSC chief executive Mr Sas Maree confirmed today that the issue had been discussed but declined to give details.

He also confirmed the land had not yet been transferred to Somchem and said objections would still be called for once the ORSC had surveyor's plans of the site.

The Rooi Els local council — which is not represented on the ORSC — has objected to the "sale" because it fears contamination of the town's water supply, and indicated earlier this month it was considering challenging the ORSC and Somchem in court.

In a statement today, council chairman Mr Charl du Plessis said its concerns "went well beyond legal issues".

"In addition to the settlement of legal questions, we want an impartial body to resolve several basic issues which will turn on expert scientific evidence.

"...We are prepared to have the relevant questions (11 are specified) submitted for arbitration and binding decision by

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Farmers' herbicide claim set aside

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — The Judge President of Natal, Mr Justice Howard, said he did not accept as a fact that any use of hormonal herbicides anywhere in South Africa results in damage to fresh produce growing in the Tala Valley.

Mr Justice Howard said this in a judgment on Friday in a matter between the Natal Fresh Produce Growers' Association (NFPGA) and Tala Valley farmers Mr Roger Evans and Mr Manfred Wild, and nine South African companies.

"Granted that hormonal herbicides sprayed on crops can be transported through the medium of water and air, I cannot accept that any that are applied by watering can to crops or domestic lawns in the Cape Peninsula or the far Northern Transvaal, for example, can possibly be deposited on fresh produce growing in the Tala Valley, or anywhere in Natal for that matter," he said.

Prevent manufacture

"All that I do say, without fear of contradiction by any truthful evidence that can possibly be adduced, is that the allegation (in the plaintiffs' particulars of claim to the effect that any use of hormonal herbicides anywhere in South Africa results in damage to fresh produce growing in the Tala Valley) is based on fantasy rather than fact."

Mr Justice Howard was giving judgment in an action in which nine companies have taken exception to an application by the NFPGA and the two farmers for an interdict which would prevent the manufacture or distribution of any hormonal herbicide products in South Africa.

In his judgment Mr Justice Howard set aside the particulars of claim.

Star 23/1/90

56

Stepping into shoes of foreign states

SA's growing links with Africa revealed

The Star's Africa News Service

South Africa is involved in about 120 aid projects in central, west and southern Africa, the director of the Pretoria based Africa Institute, Dr Erich Leistner, has disclosed.

In a paper presented at a symposium being held in Taiwan yesterday, Dr Leistner said South Africa was involved in agricultural, wildlife and nature conservation, education, training and health projects in those countries.

Although co-operation between South Africa and its neighbours is well documented, this is the first time that details of links between South Africa and more distant African countries have been disclosed.

Significant

Although Dr Leistner did not name the west and central African countries involved, it is significant that in almost all the areas of co-operation mentioned, countries in west and central Africa were receiving aid from South Africa.

Dr Leistner said South Africa was involved in 15 agricultural projects in African countries, the majority in central and west Africa. Four of the projects were in Swaziland, one each in Malawi and the Comoros and the rest in central and west Africa.

Besides a well known cattle project in Equatorial Guinea, Dr Leistner mentioned another successful project in west Africa which is being run by a private company. He did not name the company.

"West African countries have been severely hit by falling cocoa prices. South African experts therefore

have begun to introduce South African citrus — (navels and clementines) — and are confident that positive results will be forthcoming under tropical conditions," he said.

In an unnamed west African country a chicken and pig farm was experiencing difficulties due to the high cost of animal feed. South Africa experts had then started a scheme to produce soy-beans which can be readily grown in that country and is an important ingredient of animal food.

Dr Leistner said South Africa was also involved in 11 schemes concerning wildlife and national parks, most of them in central and west Africa.

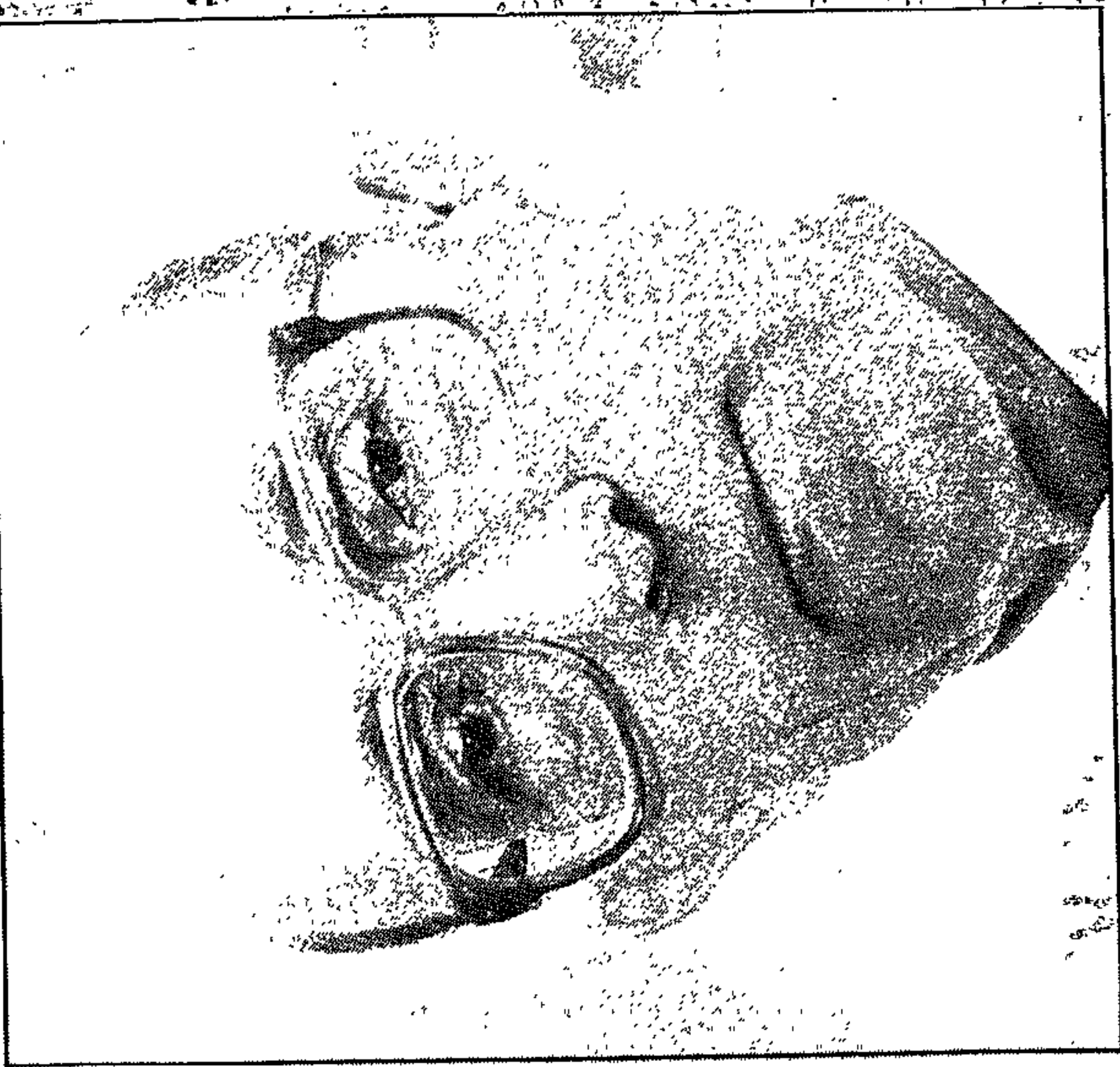
As far as health is concerned the director of the Africa Institute said South Africa had 20 projects in Africa. In 1985/86 1 716 patients from 13 African countries received treatment in South Africa.

South Africa had also equipped clinics in unnamed west African countries and African doctors regularly came to South Africa from as far afield as west and east Africa to gain the international recognised diploma in tropical medicines.

In west Africa, South Africa was also involved in two housing projects, a desalination plant as well as a power plant.

Quite a few students from central Africa were studying geology in South Africa, Dr Leistner said.

He said the growing rapprochement between South Africa and black Africa was due to several important developments, including the disillusionment of foreign investors over Africa's economy and policies, the end of superpower competition for influence in Africa and the growing awareness that Africa's former allies, be it the United States or the Soviet bloc countries, were losing interest in Africa.



Dr Leistner . . . South Africa is filling vacuum left by end of superpower competition and disillusioned foreign investors.

Cape Times 25/1/90

to spark new fighting

RENEWED in-fighting about the proposed Chapman's Peak kaolin mine issue seems set to break out at the quarterly meeting of the Fish Hoek Residents' Association tonight at 8 in the Civic Hall.

The point at issue is the stated belief of the Ocean View Management Committee that the mine would provide many new job opportunities — which the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group strongly disputes.

According to a statement from the Ocean View Management Committee — which claims to represent the largest community in the Noordhoek/Kommetjie valley — which was carried in a local paper, it has unanimous support for the mine.

The committee chairman, Mr Yusuf Chothia, this week consistently refused to speak to the Cape Times, but Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman Mr John Butterfield retorted that Mr Chothia's committee did not represent majority opinion in Ocean View, adding that Mr Chothia's daughter, Miss Rachmat Chothia, was helping the SCPAG's fight by collecting signatures against the mining venture.

Statement

"We have had tremendous support for our campaign from Ocean View residents," Mr Butterfield said. "It is nonsense to say that the management committee represents the majority of the people — it is not even elected by the bulk of Ocean View residents."

The published statement from the Management Committee said members of the public were being asked to sign petitions to say they did not want a new mine, but Ocean View residents were not being asked how they felt about the loss of over 100 potential permanent jobs. The statement added that the management committee felt mining was part of the lifeblood of the country.

Mr Butterfield replied that the statement was based on misinformation: "The proposed extraction plant on Chapman's Peak will be a highly mechan-

ised operation, and according to an ex-employee of Serina will only provide about 10 to 15 positions for skilled operators, which is hardly enough to ease the unemployment problem.

Distorted facts

"One only has to look at the present operation of an extraction and processing plant at Brakkloof, which only provides 80 to 90 jobs, including managerial positions.

"Certainly the new mine, which only deals with extraction, would not require duplication of all these posts," he added.

According to Mr Butterfield, much of the battle being fought was caused by distorted facts which misled the public.

"We have had to do some deep digging to get to the right story," he said. "For instance, we were initially informed that the life of the new mine would be nine to 12 years, but according to geologists the deposits could be mined for 70 to 150 years. Previously Serina stated the mine had a life of 30 years, but then this changed to 23 years. It is all very confusing.

"The next fallacy is that the deposits of kaolin are high-grade, a category of material which has to be imported, thus making this a strategic mineral. However, our investigations have proved that the kaolin on Chapman's Peak is in fact not high-grade, but the same as many other deposits which can be found up the West Coast."

"The new mine will eventually take over from Brakkloof, which will be divided up and sold for residential development.

"Initially we were told that the processing plant, the most offensive part of the operation, would remain at Brakkloof and raw material would be piped in. This has now changed, and the processing plant will be relocated either on the slopes of Chapman's Peak or right in the Noordhoek Valley itself."

Apathy

Asked if he felt the SCPAG would succeed in stopping the mining, Mr Butterfield replied: "Absolutely. There is just no way, given the facts, that the authorities can let this proceed."

The SCPAG had asked to participate in an open discussion on the issue, he said, because "we have encountered some apathy on the kaolin mine from the Mayor's and the Town Clerk's office in Fish Hoek, and wanted to bring the results of our latest investigations to the attention of the residents".

According to the Residents' Association chairman, Mr Paul van de Weg, the body passed a resolution against any activity which would cause an environmental upset about nine years ago, "but according to the anti-kaolin mine people they are not getting full support from Fish Hoek residents and we want to see if the resolution can be carried forward".

He appealed to all residents to make an effort to attend the meeting in order to voice their opinions. Residents who feel strongly about the issue can put their views in writing and send them to Mr G J Kotze, Minister of Environment Affairs, Private Bag X9039, Cape Town 8000.

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Kaolin mine unlikely to get go-ahead

Capit Junt 27/1/90
(56)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE chances of the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek being given official approval look remote.

The Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, yesterday took the unusual step of issuing a statement saying that the Provincial Administration had not received any application about the proposed mine.

Mr Meiring said no decision could be taken about the mine or about the Hey environmental report, which rejected the scheme, till an application had been received.

But he emphasised that his view remained that there should be a healthy balance between development and environmental issues.

Although he did not go as far as specifically rejecting the kaolin mine proposal, yesterday's preemptive statement, about an application not officially received, can only be regarded as being antagonistic to the kaolin mine proposal which has caused a stir among residents and environmentalists.

Moreover, government officials said there was no shortage of kaolin worldwide.

In the circumstances, it seems unlikely that approval will be given for the Noordhoek project.

In his statement, Mr Meiring said that no application for the Noordhoek project had been received, but he referred to the Hey inquiry which rejected the proposal in its report last month.

But the fact that Mr Meiring issued a statement yesterday on the kaolin mine, when it was not technically required, is an indication that the provincial authorities are not sympathetic to the project.

Yeoville residents call (56) for environment policy

By Shirley Woodgate,
Municipal Reporter

The encroachment of business into Johannesburg suburbs raised the need for a national environmental charter and, on a local level, a strict policy to protect residential areas, says Mrs Cynthia Pein.

Mrs Pein, founder of the Yeoville Ridge Committee — which was formed to block a Sanlam-backed shopping centre on Yeoville Ridge — said it was virtually impossible for cash-strapped residents to fight big business. Star 29/11/90

"Parallel with the population increase in the inner city suburbs is the establishment of new business and shopping centres in these areas," she said.

"We are led to believe the proposed centre on Yeoville Ridge is for the benefit of residents, but it appears it is aimed first at business enrichment.

"We are not convinced by the survey allegedly proving the need for another shopping centre in the area.

"Opposition to the multimillion rand project is growing after extensive lobbying but it is wrong that residents must constantly be on the warpath to retain their existing environment."

The architect, Mr Willie Meyer said if existing residential rights on the property were used, the alternative to the proposed centre could be three 16-storey tower blocks.

THE civil strife in Mapulaneng - the subject of peace mediation by the South African Council of Churches last week - erupted because of a lack of water in various villages, a Sowetan investigation has revealed.

And, pivotal to the deaths of activists in the area was the role played by Lebowa police in the fighting.

Mapulaneng is the traditional name of the numerous villages around the Bushbuckridge and Acornhoek areas. It is home to thousands of people and is no newcomer to violence.

In 1985, trouble erupted when Shangaan-speaking residents and their Sotho counterparts argued about borders of the Gazankulu and Lebowa bantustans. The fighting claimed several lives before it was settled.

The United Democratic Front has organised youths in the villages under the umbrella of the Bushbuckridge/Acornhoek Youth Congress (Bayco).

Memorandum

The youth congress is a powerful force in the area. It was under the auspices of Bayco that a march was staged to the Acornhoek police station in October last year to present a memorandum destined for State President FW De Klerk.

The memorandum listed several grievances including the lack of water, health facilities and the tribalisation of schools. It also called for the immediate removal of troops from the area. Thousands of people joined the march, which ended peacefully.

Residents had been paying levies to chiefs - including one for water - since 1955, but these services did not exist. So, after the march, Bayco decided that people should stop paying until the services were provided.

The chiefs were angered by this ruling because, according to Bayco activist Kelly Modipane, it denied them one source of income.

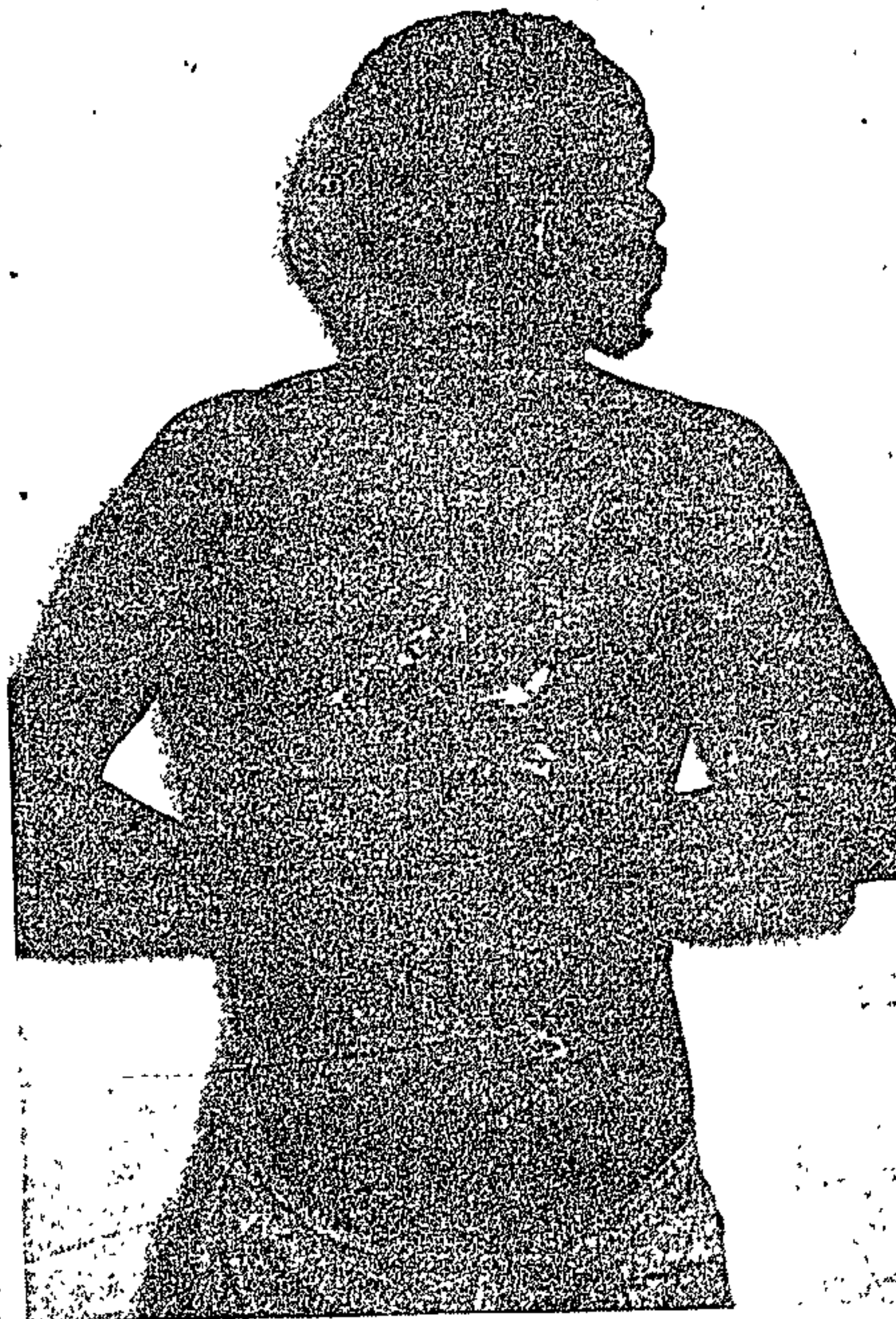
Cartridges

Days after the decision was taken, the home of Bayco president Jacks Modipane was attacked at night by men who hurled petrol bombs and shot into the house.

Cartridges found on the scene the following morning - 15 in all and an unused bullet - were taken to the Hoedspruit police station. There they were identified as

Shortage of water sparked the violence

The story behind the Bushbuckridge crisis



The wounds that tell the tale. Ripho Machate, a young Bayco activist, who claims he was assaulted by Lebowa police.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

those used by members of the police and army, according to a memorandum sent to Lebowa

Chief Minister M N Ramodike.

In this memo the rest of the tragic story unfolds.

Residents claimed police complicity in the attack and five days

later they marched to the police station to protest that no arrests had been made.

The march was disrupted by the notorious Mankweng riot unit - cited in many cases, including the death of UDF president Peter Nchabeleng.

Young girls were arrested and beaten up savagely, according to the memo. They were instructed to stretch their legs and were assaulted on their private parts with sjamboks and sticks.

Sjamboks

"Girls were instructed by members of your force to demonstrate how they made love with their boyfriends," the memo alleged.

Ripho Machate, a young Bayco activist, was arrested at the same time. When the girls came to court, he was absent. Repeated efforts to have him charged were frustrated by the police.

Consciousness

Ripho was eventually brought to court six days after his arrest. After his bail was fixed and paid for, the police refused to let him go. The following day he was back in court on a charge of escaping from custody. Bail was again fixed and he was later released.

Ripho has made an affidavit in which he claims to have been brutally assaulted at the police station. He said he was assumed dead when he lost consciousness and dumped in a hole.

* Continued on page 10

56

Sowetan 31/1/90

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...of her, the crisis of her Leon's infidelity is over. She understands so little of the real horror she has participated in. She is sad, but

...the fourth figure has added new layers to Apparently... as a whole.

Shaun de Waal

Apartheid's victims — the environment

W/Manf 2/21 - 8/2/90
● From PAGE 21

waste and store it and recycle it".

In another scene, white mothers are told by their doctors that air pollution is the cause of their children suffering from bronchitis and asthma. The pollution is so dense that "early in the morning you have to put your headlights on, you are going through such smog that you can't see where you are going".

The documentary makes the point that environmental degradation only became a public issue when it began to affect white communities.

For generations, black communities have suffered the environmental destruction that is a direct product of apartheid. But it is the homeland policy that is most destructive of the envi-

Matter of fact

IN last week's report on the recent Unisa International Piano Competition the gremlins were at it again. There were initially nine South African entries, of course, not one.

More importantly, when the allegations about the inclusion of Salvatore Spanó among the finalists were put to John Roos, the professional director of the competition, he strenuously denied them, and explained that the jury voting system made it impossible for any rigging of the results.

ronment. The film effectively uses the technique of switching rapidly from scenes of "homeland" degradation to South African Tourist Board sunsets and wildlife footage.

Directed at a British audience, it takes pains to explain the policies of forced resettlement and separate development. Subtitled interviews with a community threatened with eviction are gruelling and effective, as is a surreptitious interview with the farmer forcing them from their land — "They just can't stay. I bought the land. It's mine."

The producers of the documentary manage to steer away from yet another historic sociological documentary on apartheid by their grim reminders that relocation and overcrowding in rural ghettos cannot be separated from soil erosion, drought and the destruction of forests.

Old men bent over walking sticks recall vast grazing lands and plains.

The irony is that a country world-renowned for its natural resources is destroying its environment by proclamation and government policy. The danger the film points to is that long after apartheid has disappeared its legacy will remain — an environment destroyed.

● *South Africa — The Wasted Land* was produced by Debonair Productions, in association with the Television Trust for the Environment, for Channel Four Television. Producer: Toni Strasburg. Director: Jamie Hartzell

(S) STAR 2/2/90

Protest march, rally to be held in Alexandra

By Montshiwa Moroke

A protest march preceded by a mass rally at the local stadium, which thousands are expected to attend, will be held in Alexandra township tomorrow.

The march organisers have been given the go-ahead by Randburg's chief magistrate, Mr B van der Merwe, who met five members of the Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) in his office yesterday.

"We will be having about 200 marshalls to keep order at the mass rally and during the march. Our march is going to be disciplined and peaceful," the ACO said in a statement.

The rally, for which the Alexandra Town Council has granted permission, will commence at 1 pm and is scheduled to end at 2 pm.

Among the expected speakers are Mr Mayekiso, Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress leader Mr Nelson Mandela, Mr Popo Molefe, UDF general secretary, and Mr Elijah Barayi, Cosatu president.

"We hope the police will keep a low profile, we want no provocation for this march is legal. Our people have been told about the discipline required and they will maintain it," the ACO said.

Alleged poaching on large scale by Untag members

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — Nature conservation officials are reportedly investigating allegations that members of the Malaysian military contingent of Untag have been poaching large numbers of wild animals in the Damaraland and Kaokoland areas of north-western Namibia.

Die Republikein newspaper reported today that the investigation had been confirmed by the office of the Attorney-General in Windhoek.

The newspaper said an interpreter working with Untag in the alleged poaching.

2/2/90 STAR

Minister orders a new probe

By James Clarke (56)

An independent investigation into the handling of toxic wastes in South Africa has been ordered by Mr Gert Kotze, Minister of Environment Affairs.

Mr Kotze announced last night that the Foundation for Research and Development of the CSIR had been commissioned to find out how dangerous wastes can be processed and disposed of without harming the environment — especially groundwater resources.

The "information gathered will be regarded as strictly confidential," says the statement.

TWO WORKSHOPS

Conservation organisations will be invited to take part in at least two workshops which will include "open communication sessions".

The scientific investigation is to establish a strategy and action plan for the disposal of hazardous wastes and to "help South Africa avoid the mistakes made elsewhere in the world."

The Minister spoke of the serious concern regarding malpractices in the international transport of hazardous waste.

THOROUGH STRATEGY

He said "The disposal of hazardous wastes is likely to become one of the major environmental issues world wide during the coming decade. We want to draw up a thorough strategy and action plan before it becomes a major problem for us."

The Minister's statement follows public concern about a suggestion that SA was ideally situated to process hazardous wastes from countries with no disposal sites of their own.

It is also a response to the recent Basle Convention calling for new standards regarding international movements of problem wastes.

Law enforcement and the skills and facilities within South Africa will be investigated.

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Local greens in cleft stick over future conservation tactics

GRAVE environmental problems have created a groundswell of concern in South Africa over the past year, but the emerging green movement is divided over priorities and tactics in the final decade of an apartheid society.

Should South African ecologists work through the parliament which excludes the black majority? Which goals should come first when much of the black population is poor, jobless and crowded by law on to only 13 percent of the land?

"The people are in the unfortunate position of being subject to a complex blend of Third World problems, discriminatory laws, and First World pollution problems," said a launching statement by a new pressure group, Earthlife Africa.



MR GERT KOTZE: "They are fanatics who do not listen to reason."

Academic studies show that residents of the Transvaal's industrial areas breathe some of the world's filthiest air, topsoil is vanishing fast, pesticides are used promiscuously and rivers are poisoned by chemical spills.

Overcrowding

The concentration of blacks in rural homelands, where overcrowding leads to abuse of the soil, and in badly-run and impoverished townships where the air and streets are filthy, are part of apartheid's contribution to the problem.

Many South Africans want to go further than the existing, effective but limited wildlife conservation bodies, who have helped to preserve animal species in fenced-off reserves.

"We are looking at broad, green ideology; they are looking to conserve animals," said Earthlife founder member Mr Peter Lukey.

Earthlife campaigns on a wide range of issues, stressing opposition to plans to process imported chemical waste in South Africa and to build a second nuclear power station.

But Earthlife, which has sympathisers in neighbouring countries, has stayed out of parliamentary politics.

"A green party cannot exist in a non-democratic system," said Mr Lukey, adding that, if greens take part in race-based politics now, they could undermine their cause in the future.

A new Ecology Party, founded in late 1989 by marketing consultant Mr. Colin Slater,

ANTHONY BARKER

plans to contest by-elections.

"Let's get the party organised. The constitutional system will change and we want to be in place when it does," said Mr Slater, whose multiracial party claims to have about 1 000 members so far, and is trying to attract existing MPs to its camp.

Meanwhile the National Party has given mixed signals to the new green wave. It passed an Environmental Protection Act with potentially far-reaching powers last year.

But it also appeared set to support a proposed titanium mining project which is threatening the precious and delicate St Lucia nature reserve on the Indian ocean coast.

The African National Congress Environmental Affairs Minis-

ter Mr Gert Kotze recently castigated about 300 000 petitioners who opposed the project as extreme leftists.

"They are fanatics who do not listen to reason, but make everything an emotional issue," Mr Kotze said.

However, impressed by mounting public concern, the Government this year called for suggestions on future policy and announced plans to set up an advisory Environmental Council.

Other parties and groups are getting involved. The Democratic Party has formed regional ecological committees, the giant Anglo-American Corp issued a report concluding that economic growth and free enterprise were vital to a healthy future environment.

The African National Congress is also formulating an ecology policy, ANC economist Mr Max Sisulu said.

"The ANC believes environmental reconstruction constitutes a major task of a free and democratic post-apartheid South Africa," Mr Sisulu told reporters late last year.

Dirty coal

Environmental issues are not just the concern of prosperous whites — one of the older ecology groups is the Soweto-based National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) formed in 1976.

Its priorities are immediate practical issues like the need for affordable electricity in townships like Soweto, so people do not have to burn dirty coal

which makes the air almost unbreathable.

The 40 000-member group campaigns against litter, tries to ensure that dust from mine dumps is controlled, presses for sewage disposal and encourages tree-planting and responsible farming in eroded rural areas.

NEAC founder Mr Japhta Legetho told Reuters it will be hard to persuade black people of the importance of conserving rhinos and other animals, so long as the people do not have enough to eat and are forcibly deprived of land.

"As long as we have apartheid I do not think that environmental action will be very relevant, and any formation of an ecology party will be irrelevant," he said. — Reuter.

Vaal Triangle industry steps up pollution fight

MOMENTUM is gathering among SA industrialists to clean up the notoriously smog-bound area of the Vaal Triangle.

The Vaal Triangle Atmospheric Pollution Committee (APC) is one of a host of action groups which have emerged in the last year to combat pollution in the area.

The APC, chaired by the National Health Department, includes Iscor, Eskom, Sasol, AECI as well as community and environmental groups.

From Sasolburg, Martin Weir, production director of chemical giant AECI's Midland factory, has outlined his company's approach to the pollution problem.

"Photochemical smog is the Vaal Triangle's most severe pollution issue. The smog is the product of an atmospheric reaction between hydrocarbon and other chemical emissions with sunlight, the cause of the area's poor visibility. Our factory, now 25 years old, is an integral part of the triangle's industrial complex.

"All local industries have been approached by the Health Department to draw up a programme to reduce hydrocarbon emissions."

MATTHEW CURTIN

Weir gave details of AECI's current practical commitment to pollution control. The replacement cost of fixed capital investment at the Midland factory stands at R2,5bn of which R300m is associated with environmental control equipment.

A R6m incinerator came on stream in the New Year which, at an annual running cost of R100 000, converts waste gases to hydrochloric acid, a saleable and useful product.

Contributors

Other environmental control equipment includes dust collection plants; electrostatic precipitators which, according to Weir, filter stack emissions with 99,5% efficiency; and on-site monitoring equipment.

Weir says industrial emissions are only part of the pollution problem, with vehicle exhaust fumes and coal-burning in the black townships also major contributors.

A key issue in the fight against

atmospheric pollution is determining who is responsible for what amount of which sort of pollution.

To this end the Health Department, Wits University and Mintech have commissioned a Vaal Air Characterisation Study (VACS) to unscramble the area's pollution.

Prof Harold Annergan, of Wits's Nuclear Studies Department, who is co-ordinating the project, says VACS is a major step in the rationalisation of pollution planning and control.

The VACS project is still at the pilot study stage and due for implementation in 1991.

It will then be the only reliable method of identifying the performance of different polluters.

But despite these good omens for the Vaal Triangle's environmental future, some are not impressed.

Sandy White, a leading environmental commentator, member of Earthlife Africa and producer of a video, *Stopping the Coming Ice Age*, believes it is all too little too late.

"You simply have to visit the industrial complexes and see the extent of the environmental damage, quite apart from the air pollution."

New health centres may stay shut

CAPE TOWN — Ten newly built community health centres and a further 10 to be completed in the Cape Province this year will not be able to open unless the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) is allocated sufficient additional medical funds in the annual budget.

Annual running costs for the health centres, which are being built at a budgeted cost of almost R6,3m to alleviate growing pressure on provincial and academic hospitals, would amount to about R11,8m, say CPA officials.

The CPA, like the other provinces, regards health and the provision of medical services as one of its top priorities, and allocates more than

LESLEY LAMBERT

50% of its annual budget to this need, says Administrator Kobus Meiring.

But he adds that, as a result of rising costs and other medical priorities, the province does not have sufficient funds at this stage to operate the completed health centres. He is also concerned that strict reductions in government spending, necessary though they might be, could curtail vital community services like the health centres.

Meiring has held discussions with National Health and Population Development Minister Dr Rina Venter, who is understood to have taken the issue up with President F W de Klerk.

In a statement issued this week, Venter confirmed the meeting with Meiring and said her department was in the process of developing a long-term strategy to help alleviate problems currently experienced in the provision of health services.

She said funding of the services was only one of several issues under investigation.

Venter has on many occasions stated publicly that support systems such as primary health care services need to be properly developed to relieve the burden on academic and regional hospitals.

She has also repeatedly called on provincial authorities not to neglect these support systems.

Apartheid 'also hits ecology'

STAR 57290

The Star Bureau

LONDON — In the wake of the euphoria generated by President de Klerk's speech on Friday, Channel 4's environment programme, "Fragile Earth", has painted a grim picture of the ecological price of apartheid.

(56)
The documentary, "South Africa — The Wasted Land", reminds British viewers that white South Africans own 86 percent of South Africa's land, while blacks have just over 13 percent — all of the poorest quality. The demand on the homelands as a result of relocation puts pressure on and finally destroys the soil.

The consequences include widespread erosion and the destruction of the ability of the people to feed themselves.

Unable to seek out new lands, the relocated people become enmeshed in what one tribesman calls "a network of barbed wire" criss-crossing the land.

The film shows how the absence of electricity in the homelands forces the local populations to forage widely — as far as 14 km from their homes — in order to seek wood from trees vital to ensure the health of the soil. The impoverished soil is unable to hold vital rain and crops get steadily poorer.

Other environmental contaminants directly affecting blacks include illegally dumped toxic waste from abandoned asbestos mining operations.

Committee to look at Limpopo river system

PRETORIA — The joint SA-Botswana permanent technical committee on water is to study the Limpopo river system, Water Affairs director-general Klasie Claasens said here yesterday.

The study will evaluate the present use and availability of water in the system above the confluence of the

GERALD REILLY

Limpopo and Shashe rivers, and the development potential of the area.

Both governments, Claasens said, had recognised the international status of the Limpopo River and its tributaries.

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56

Govt raises penalties to halt ivory, rhino poaching

CAPE TOWN — Government has acted against ivory and rhino horn poaching by introducing hugely increased fines and prison sentences in its fight against the ever increasing black market trade.

Poachers now face a maximum fine of R100'000 or 10 years in jail for the "hunting or wilful or negligent killing of, or injury to, elephants and black and white rhinoceroses" says a memorandum to an amendment to the National

Political Staff

Parks Bill. Penalties were "not less than R3 000 and not more than R10 000, or, in default of payment of such fine, imprisonment for a period of not less than a year and not more than two years".

In terms of the Bill introduced in parliament yesterday the minimum penalties have been increased to

R10 000 or three years in jail.

The memorandum says: "In view of the still increasing illegal trade in ivory and certain rhinoceros products, as well as the prices received on the black market for these products, it is obvious the existing penalty is not an adequate deterrent.

"It has therefore become necessary to increase penalties drastically."

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56

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT mania is at last sweeping South Africa, and a more aware public is racing to buy items stamped with "ozone friendly" labels. Shampoos, furniture and even clothes these days display the new stamp of ecological legitimacy.

Certain products are said to damage the ozone layer: aerosols, refrigeration coolants, blowing agents for plastic foams and cleaning solvents. All of them contain a destructive molecule, chloro-fluoro-carbon, which erodes the ozone layer, damaging its ability to screen harmful ultraviolet rays.

But environmentalists — and some businesses — complain that some manufacturers mislead a generally ignorant public with their "ozone-friendly" advertising.

Says Dave Hidden of Pure Gas: "Some marketing people are illegally and fraudulently misleading the public to buy products. To say clothes or furniture or roll-on deodorants are ozone-friendly is like saying you shoes or trees are ozone-friendly. It is really stretching the imagination to incorporate products which are not even related to the issue."

Luckily for the aerosol industry, use of ozone-friendly substitutes presents no real problem. Prior to the panic, many aerosol manufacturers were already using non-CFC gases. The alternatives to CFCs are butane, hydrocarbon alternative propellant and di-methyl-ether, which are totally harmless, say environmentalists.

Though aerosols contribute to only 15 percent of the problem worldwide, the president of the Aerosol Manufacturers Association, Ray Rivers, says initially aerosols were responsible for half the CFCs emitted into the atmosphere in South Africa (where there are far fewer fridges

Corporate ecology's a good seller, but is it real?

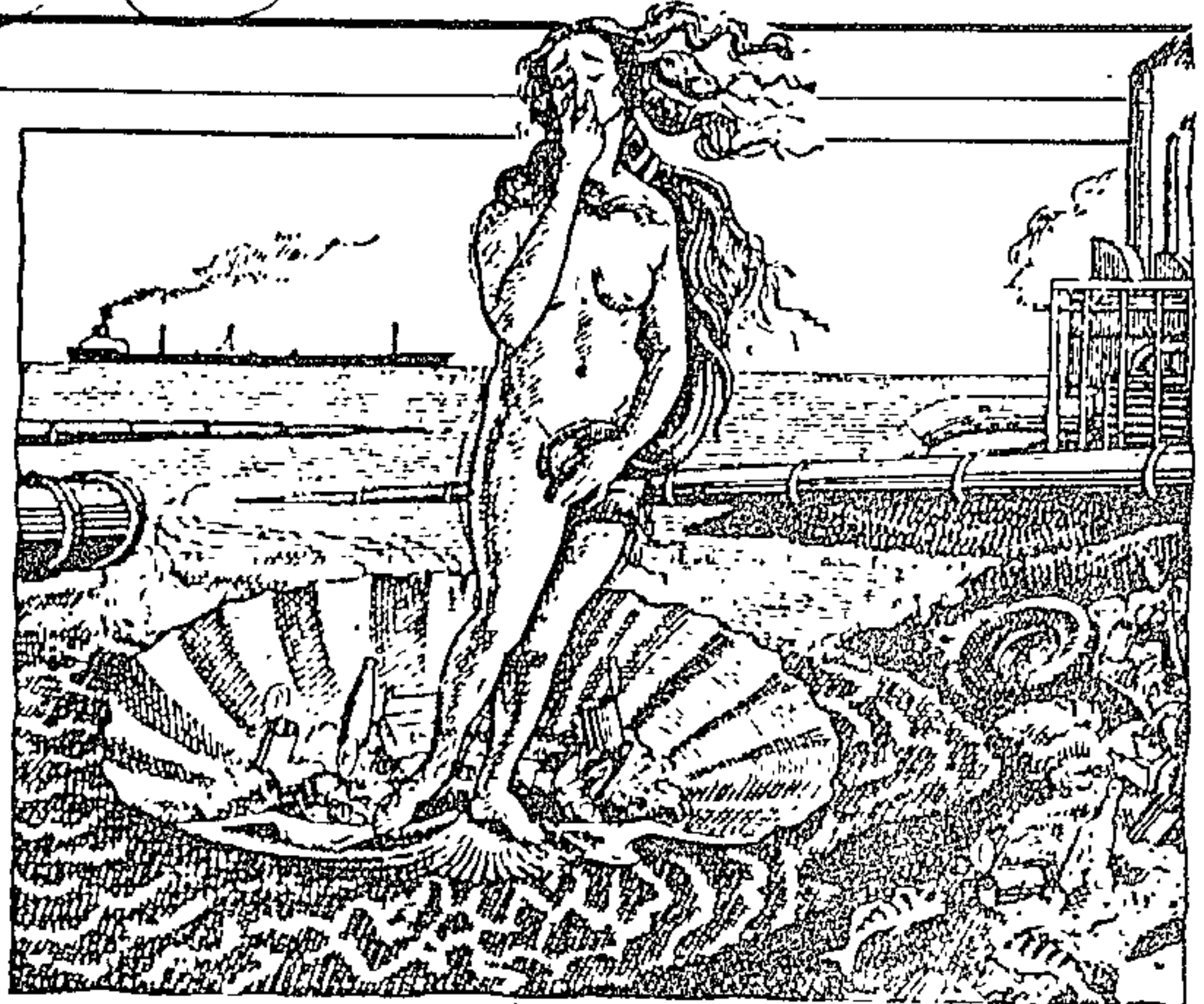
The public races to buy ecologically 'friendly' goods, but experts complain that much is no more than a marketing ploy.
PHILIPPA GARSON reports

than in other industrialised countries).

This situation, Rivers says, is changing monthly, and aerosols now contribute to about one third of the problem: "Most aerosol manufacturers have already switched from CFCs — by mid-1990 the whole industry will have converted to other gases."

Rivers says that much research has been necessary to produce aerosols as close as possible to their ozone-enemy predecessors, because the alternative gases have different evaporation properties.

Medicinal aerosol sprays still contain CFCs, and no substitute gases are currently available. Also the reams of red tape blocking fast changes in the medical sphere cause this sector of the industry to lag behind. But according to Rivers, medicinal aerosols contribute to only one



Consumers protest ecological damage — and business responds

percent of the problem.

The alternative gases are slightly cheaper than those containing CFCs, especially since the demand for CFCs has dropped significantly and the price of the gas has subsequently rocketed. AECI is South Africa's sole manufacturer of CFCs.

Companies are having to spend vast sums, however, to change their plants to accommodate the new gases which are more flammable when stored in bulk. Some, like Elida Ponds, are building entirely new factories. This company has spent R10-million on a new aerosol factory in Phoenix Industrial Park, Durban.

For those people who still use deodorant sprays, production of Elida Ponds' new ozone-friendly brands such as Ego, Impulse, Shield and Pears will start next month.

A more controversial issue is "ozone-friendly" refrigeration, which some say does not technically exist.

Most fridges, says Paul Tinker of Industrial Urethanes (an AECI subsidiary which supplies refrigerants to manufacturers), have reduced quantities of CFCs in their insulation foam. But the same concentration of CFCs is still present in the compressor system of fridges, and as yet, says Tinker, there is no substitute substance available. Many feel that until fridges are completely CFC-free, manufacturers should not advertise their products as "ozone-friendly".

According to AECI marketing manager, Keith Arkell, the production of an alternative refrigerant is in the pipeline. This product, refrigerant 22, contains similar molecules to CFCs, but these are less stable and disintegrate before they reach the ozone layer. Some companies, like Pick 'n Pay, are importing this gas for their new fridges. But Dave Hidden, MD of Pure Gas, sounds a warning note: "This gas is less ozone-damaging in that it contains five percent of the CFCs present in other refrigerants. However we cannot yet give the assurance that this has zero effect on the ozone layer."

He says the gas is only being considered overseas, "whereas here people are rushing ahead and grabbing onto the nearest solution to absolve

themselves of the problem".

Major progress is being made to convert from CFC to foam-blown packaging, which is abundant in the food industry.

While some companies are contemplating the switch, others, like Atlantis, a major food packaging supplier, have converted their whole factory to using butane as a blowing agent.

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If you can't re-use it, then don't use it

ALTHOUGH certain products may be ozone-friendly, they are not necessarily environment-friendly, says Henk Coetzee of the ecology group Earth Life.

"An insect repellent aerosol may be ozone-friendly but its contents may contain harmful ingredients which get washed into the ground water or sewage systems and contaminate the water supplies. Most cleaners, like air fresheners, have chemical odours added, and these often cause allergies."

Furthermore, cans are not biodegradable and contribute to the pollution problem. Some plastic containers, while not biodegradable, can at least be re-used.

In Coetzee's view plastic packaging presents a big problem: "Many of our goods are over-packaged as a marketing ploy. There has to be an emphasis on recycling and looking at alternative energy resources to coal, which is causing the greenhouse effect — a more serious problem than the threat to the ozone layer."

Pick 'n Pay has embarked on a major environmental campaign and is planning to bring out a range of "green" products in about three months' time. These will be available in almost every type of merchandise sold by Pick 'n Pay stores.

The chain has also embarked on a recycling campaign of glass and plastic, and glass recycling bins have been installed in nearby supermarkets and hypermarkets country-wide.

Pick 'n Pay brings out a bi-monthly called *Environment Update*, containing news about recent efforts to preserve the environment.

'Minister can stop mining at St Lucia'

THE Wildlife Society claims that the Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, has the power to stop mining at St Lucia.

It says the area can, under the Environment Conservation Act, be declared a "special nature reserve". This would serve to prohibit mining "irrespective of what rights the mining company might have under other legislation".

It claims the Minister could also use the Forest Act.

Meanwhile, Guy Young, writing in the journal of the Transvaal Horticultural Society, says

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JAMES CLARKE (56)

the public is being misinformed about RBM.

But the article fails to say who Mr Young is or what he does — he is, in fact, head of Anglo American's mining operations in Brazil.

He writes of a visit to the Richards Bay Minerals current operation at Richards Bay and he believes the mining of St Lucia's eastern coastal hills should go ahead.

But he reveals, to the dismay

of the conservation lobby, that RBM will not be replacing the existing pine plantations (which will be removed during the mining process) with indigenous forest. (RBM had previously said it would).

Mr Young says half the area will be replanted with pines "as feedstock for a charcoal industry which is being established".

● Meanwhile another 12 000 signatures have been received for the Save St Lucia petition — even though the petition was closed two months ago at 217 000 signatures.

Teaching environmental pride in townships

JACQUELINE MYBURGH

(56)

WHILE black townships look like they do, how can one convince black schoolchildren that there is a need for environmental awareness?

According to Mr Japha Lekgetho, chairman of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign in Soweto, it's all a matter of priorities.

Although townships ideally need to be properly structured with roads and sewerage facilities for conservation education to begin to have any meaning, Mr Lekgetho believes one can still be taught that environment is common property — not something belonging to either blacks or whites.

And while South African politics are on the brink of change and integration, it is essential to educate poli-

ticians regarding conservation.

"We must prepare people going into politics, so they know what conservation is — so they can legislate accordingly. Politicians tend to view everything from the economic point of view," he said.

With these facts in mind, National Beverages has embarked upon a programme to draw black schoolchildren into conservation efforts, focussing on problems that township children can relate to.

The Coke Conservation Week, launched at the Johannesburg Zoo this week, is aimed at schoolchildren from Soweto and other townships.

The NEAC has held workshops with trade unions and political organisations to get this message across. The conservation week starts on Monday and 4 500 children from schools in Soweto and Alexandra have been invited to take part in the two-hour programme featuring talks by leading authorities on environmental issues and a tour of the zoo.

The highlight of the tour, is an educational video featuring TV presenter Washington Sixolo. It gives an over-view of South Africa's ecosystems, wildlife, environmental problems, pollution and shows ways in which everyone can contribute to a better living environment and, consequently, an improved quality of life.

the export of kingklip so that at least the local market can be supplied?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, seeing that environment affairs are not my responsibility, I would like to suggest that the hon member for Bryanston submit a new question.

Noordhoek area: kaolin mine.

*7. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether he has received any representations regarding a proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek area; if so, (a) from whom, in each case, and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation?

B7E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Environment Affairs):

Yes.

(a) From approximately thirty organisations and individuals, the names of whom will be furnished on request to the hon member on a personal basis.

(b) (i) Objections were raised against the development for aesthetic reasons, increased traffic flow, decline as tourist asset, and the short term financial gain from it.

(ii) The contents of the answers in each case had the following purport:

In 1975 the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs undertook an investigation into kaolin deposits in the Republic of South Africa which indicated that the best kaolin deposit is situated in the Noordhoek vicinity.

In 1980 Serina (Pty) Ltd, who had acquired the rights of the Chaplin's Estate, applied to establish a kaolin mine. Due to public reaction a consulting firm (Farrel and Van Riet, Landscape Architects) was appointed to investigate the environmental impact of the proposed project. They found that mining could be allowed subject to certain conditions.

On 7 October 1983 specific areas

were reserved for the mining of kaolin in terms of section 4(1)(a) of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88 of 1967).

The present situation was spelt out in a press release by the Bureau for Information on behalf of my colleague Dr D J de Villiers, MP, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises earlier this month.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask whether it is not so that kaolin of equally high quality is available in the Stellenbosch area and also in the vicinity of Saldanha Bay on the West Coast?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I once again mention that environment affairs are not my responsibility. I think the hon member for Cape Town Gardens should rather submit a new question.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Noordhoek area: kaolin mine

*8. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether he has received any representations regarding a proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek area; if so, (a) from whom, in each case, and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation;

(2) whether it is his intention to grant a licence to mine kaolin in this area to a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) why and (b) when; if not, why not?

B8E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES.

(1) Yes.

(a) Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

(b) (i) The purport of the representations is that —

the mining of the kaolin should not be permitted;

the reservation in terms of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88 of 1967), whereby a portion of Chaplin's Estate, Noordhoek, has been reserved for the mining of kaolin, be rescinded and that the area be included in the adjacent area which has been reserved as a nature reserve in terms of the said Act; and

an interview in connection with the matter be granted and that the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group be involved in any further discussions which may take place in connection with the matter.

(ii) The concern making representations has been —

referred to my recent press statement in which my standpoint concerning the exploitation of the kaolin is set out, namely that a final decision on the matter will only be taken after the comprehensive impact study which is presently being undertaken, has been completed and duly evaluated by the authorities concerned; and

informed that in my opinion it will serve no useful purpose to have a discussion at this stage.

(2) (a) My predecessor in January 1988 already decided that kaolin may be mined on the reserved area. Considerations which were taken into account by my predecessor are that the rights to the kaolin in respect of the relevant area had been purchased in 1979 by the applicant company and that the land was specially reserved in 1983, in terms of the Physical Planning Act, for mining of kaolin.

(b) The necessary permit in terms of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88

of 1967), to use the relevant land for the purpose of a kaolin quarry will be issued as soon as the impact study which is presently being undertaken, has been evaluated and the conditions in terms of which mining will be permitted and which will be incorporated in the permit, have been formulated.

G H de Wet Committee: report

*9. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether he and/or his predecessor has received the report of the G H de Wet Committee into the influence of increases in the price of oil-based fuel on the South African economy; if so, (a) when was the (i) preliminary and (ii) final report completed, (b) what were the main findings of the report and (c) what actions arose from the report; if not, why not;

(2) whether the report will be made public; if so, when; if not, why not?

B9E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) YES.

(a) (i) November 1988.

(ii) 11 February 1989.

(b) The report by prof G L de Wet covers matters in connection with the fuel price structure, the influence of fuel price increases on the economy, spending patterns, comparative overseas prices, production costs and expenditure, the balance of payments and the inflation rate. The recommendations in the report has not yet been considered by Cabinet and can, therefore, not be announced.

(c) The report served before the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs which decided that line functional departments and the Economic Advisory Council should render written comments for consideration by Cabinet. The economic Advisory Council

cil concluded its consideration of the report on 17 November 1989 and its comments have recently been received and I have requested the National Energy Council to evaluate all comments during its meeting of 13 February 1990 and to make recommendations to me as soon as possible for consideration and submission to the Cabinet.

(2) No. The report contains classified information in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act 120 of 1977) which makes general distribution impossible. After the report has been considered by Cabinet, the decisions will be implemented and naturally announced. A full summary of the report which will not contain classified information will also be released.

Presidential Guard in the Comores: financing
 *10. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether any funds of the South African Government were used to finance the so-called Presidential Guard in the Comores; if so, in respect of such funds, (a) over what period of time were they used, (b) what did they amount to in total, (c) to whom were they paid, (d) what conditions were attached to the payment thereof and (e) what control did the South African Government have over their disbursement?

B11E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

All funds that were placed at the disposal of the Comores by the Department of Foreign Affairs, were at the request of the late President Abdullaah and as far as the Department of Foreign Affairs is concerned, account was given of such funds. If the Honourable Member should require more information I am prepared to provide this to him. At this stage, however, I do not consider it in the interest of relations between South Africa and the Comores to reply to this question more fully in public.

Black townships: public swimming pools

*11. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

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 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) Whether there are any public swimming pools in Black townships in the Cape Peninsula; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many and (b) in which townships;

(2) whether these swimming pools were open throughout the summer months of the past three years; if so, what total number of persons used these swimming pools; if not, (a) why not, (b) when were they closed and (c) what is being done to ensure that these swimming pools remain open?

B12E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) Yes, 3
- (b) Langa 1.

Guguletu 2

(2) (a) and (b) Yes, the three swimming pools were open throughout the seven summer months, except the Langa swimming pool which was closed during February 1989, and one of the pools in Guguletu which was closed for two weeks during December 1989 for reparations.

The total number of persons who used these swimming pools in the past three years is 806 000.

(c) No problems are experienced in keeping the swimming pools open

Black schoolchildren: expenditure

*12. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education:

What was the expenditure *per capita* on Black schoolchildren at State schools in the 1988-89 financial year (a) including and (b) excluding expenditure of a capital nature?

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The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) R764.73.

(b) R655.96

McNally Committee: recommendations

*13. Dr D J WORRALL asked the Minister of Justice:

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Whether the McNally Committee recommended the appointment of a judicial commission to investigate allegations regarding the activities of so-called death squads in South Africa; if so, with what result?

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The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

No. The Honourable Member is, however, aware that the State President has appointed a Commission of Inquiry on 2 February 1990 to investigate and report on, *inter alia*, the alleged incidence of murders and other unlawful acts of violence committed in the Republic of South Africa (including the self-governing territories) in order to achieve, effect or promote constitutional or political aims in the Republic of South Africa. The full terms of reference was published in the *Government Gazette* (No. 12286) of 2 February 1990. The Honourable Member is also referred to my speech during the Joint Meeting on Wednesday 7 February 1990.

McNally Committee: report

*14. Dr D J WORRALL asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether the report and recommendations of the McNally Committee will be made public; if so, (a) when and (b) by whom, if not, why not?

B17E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

No, not at this stage. The findings of the report may form part of evidence on which a court of law will have to make a judicial decision. The Attorneys-General concerned have informed me that it would therefore not be in the interest of justice to subject the report to public scrutiny. I share this view and any responsible person who wants the administration of justice to follow its course, will endorse this view.

McNally Committee: SAP contact with publication

*15. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether a lieutenant-general in the South African Police, in his capacity as a member of the McNally Committee, made any contact with editorial staff members of a certain

publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, (a) with whom, (b) when, (c) for what purpose, (d) with what result and (e) what is the name of this publication; if not, why not?

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The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

No

(a) to (e) Fall away.

The committee was instructed to investigate the allegations of a condemned prisoner and not the allegations which later appeared in the publication concerned

Military service: cuts

*16. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Defence:

How will the cuts in military service announced by him affect (a) conscientious objectors, (b) religious objectors and (c) persons placed in alternative service who are (i) currently serving and (ii) due to begin their service in February 1990?

Handwritten 13/2/90 B19E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(a) (i) and (ii)

The sentence for all persons refusing to render military service, remains unchanged. The Minister of Justice has, however, acceded to a request to amend the Prison Service's release policy for these persons in order that they can, as other prisoners, be considered for remission of their sentence on grounds of good conduct.

(b) (i) and (ii)

Religious objectors who, on 1 February 1990, have already completed half the total number of days community service which they were obliged to render, were exempted from the remaining period. Religious objectors who, after 1 February 1990, complete 50% of their service, will be exempted with effect from the date on which the half-way mark has been reached. The period of community service is continuously considered in relation to the period of national service

~~Handwritten scribble~~

ronically and that they had not originated in the SA Defence Force. No positive confirmation could be attained regarding to the origin of the messages, but indications point in the direction of Unilag

(ii) No steps were taken

(3) No SA Defence Force procedures determined that all intercepted messages had to be recorded on tape and transcribed and verified within 24 hours. The tapes were thereafter cleared for re-use.

Mr C W EGLIN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, was it in fact an official in his department who gave the information to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs as a *bona fide* interception and does he accept responsibility for the information which he gave to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I do not think that question is quite relevant. Those messages were going backwards and forwards for a long time and were received by the SA Defence Force on the frequencies used by Unilag. The hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs was informed about this on an ongoing basis. However, it is obvious that when this final message came through it was transmitted by the SA Defence Force to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, in view of the seriousness of this particular incident, is it not possible that the procedure could have been varied and that the tapes could have been kept for the inquiry to make use of?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we cannot keep all the tapes and transcriptions of what is going on at all times. [Interjections] This is history. I am sorry but I cannot reply any further to that question.

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's replies, was any effort made to verify the authenticity of the tapes with the United Nations Commission and Mr Martin Ahtisaari before the matter was acted upon in the way that it was raised publicly?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we have done everything in our power to trace the origins of these tapes but, as I have pointed out,

we could not get any more information than that which I have given to the House this afternoon.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I should like to ask if a person can therefore accept that the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs acted completely in good faith and within the restrictions of decency and correctness? [Interjections]

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the answer is yes. [Interjections.]

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply could I put my question again, namely: Was any attempt made to verify the authenticity of these tapes by contacts with Mr Martin Ahtisaari or his senior staff before they were put forward to the Cabinet as being authentic? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, all this happened in very pressing times and I am sure we have tried our very best to verify the information. I am afraid I cannot give the hon member any more information on this. [Interjections.]

Mr Yulindela Mbotoli: extradition

*4. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether the South African Government has received any request for the extradition of Mr Yulindela Mbotoli; if so, (a) what form did the request take, (b) when was it received, (c) what documentation was included with the request and (d) what was the South African Government's response to the request?

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B4E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- Yes
- (a) A request as contemplated in article 11 of the Agreement on Extradition between the Republic of Transkei and the Republic of South Africa;
- (b) 1 February 1990;
- (c) the documents required in terms of article 11 of the said agreement; and
- (d) the request will in due course be considered in terms of the Extradition Act, 1962

Air pollution: tests

*5 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether her Department or any other body under her control undertakes regular testing for air pollution, if so, (a) what specified tests for each type of pollution, (b) where does such testing take place and (c) what were the results of such tests in 1989?

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B5E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes,

(a) a wide range of tests for air pollution levels are carried out by the Department of National Health and Population Development, various local authorities, the CSIR and other research institutes, on a continuous as well as an *ad-hoc* basis.

The types of pollutants measured are mainly:

- Gaseous: Sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons and ozone.
- Particulates: Various types of pollution dust, trace elements, sulphates and nitrates

Different methods are used to measure the presence of the different pollutants and may vary from fairly simple to very sophisticated and expensive instrumentation for measurement as well as analysis.

(b) — smoke and sulphur dioxide:

- These pollutants are measured by 41 local authorities and regional service councils. Smoke is measured at 158 sites and sulphur dioxide at 123 sites.
- Motor vehicle emissions: Monitoring for these pollutants are done in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.
- Trace elements: Samples from 46 sites are analyzed for 13 different elements. The aforementioned monitoring pro-

grammes are ongoing to determine trends and some stations have been in operation for as long as 30 years

More recent investigations have been undertaken at Phalaborwa, Nelspruit, Richards Bay and Vereeniging

The Department also has access to monitoring results from institutions such as Eskom, Sasol and other private companies.

(c) as the statistical presentation of results are done on an annual basis, most of the 1989 results are now being processed.

The results of the 1988 monitoring programmes showed that all levels of pollution are in general well within internationally accepted levels.

If specific information is required, it can be provided.

†Rev of reply laid upon the Table with leave of House

Kingklip: shortage

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

(1) Whether a shortage of Kingklip has been experienced recently; if so, (a) why and (b) during what period;

(2) whether any action has been and/or is to be taken to rectify the situation; if so, what action, if not, why not?

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B6E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Environment Affairs):

(1) Yes

(a) Local production cannot meet the market demand.

(b) Throughout the year.

(2) Yes. Import permits are granted freely at present.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask whether he could, in the absence of the hon the Minister of Environment Affairs, approach him and ask him whether he would consider stopping

Cabinet nod for huge Natal nature conservation area

Own Correspondent (56)

DURBAN — The Cabinet has given the go-ahead for the creation of a Greater St Lucia conservation area — the third largest nature conservation area in South Africa.

The formal conservation area will be consolidated by linking existing reserves through the acquisition of farm lands and incorporating state forestry areas, and will be more than 275 000 ha.

The decision was announced yesterday by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, at a press conference at Bhangazi North in the Sodwana Bay state forest.

The area, to be managed by the Natal Parks Board, will include the Mkuzi game reserve, False Bay Park, Sodwana Bay National Park, the Sodwana state forest, the St Lucia game reserve, the St Lucia marine reserve, Cape Vidal state forest and a belt along the western shores of the lake.

Mr Kotze said the phasing out of all SADF activities would be negotiated, and the Cabinet had decided negotiations should proceed forthwith.

Mr Kotze declined to put a price on the land acquisitions other than to say it could run into "many millions".

Funds would be budgeted from the 1991 financial year onwards, but Mr Kotze made it clear both the Natal Provincial Administration and private bodies would be expected to contribute substantially, and the process could take a number of years to complete.

Referring to the controversial proposal to mine heavy minerals in the eastern shores area, Mr Kotze said an intensive environmental impact assessment was underway and would not be completed for some time yet.

Mr Kotze said his department would not be the sole judge of the impact study — a review committee of people with "very high standing as conservationists" would also give an opinion.

Kaolin mine go-ahead

Cape Times

14/2/90

56

By BARRY STREEK

A PERMIT to use the land in Noordhoek for the controversial kaolin mine would be granted — but conditions would be incorporated into the permit, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

The conditions would, however, be incorporated into the permit only after a comprehensive impact study had been completed and evaluated.

His statement, given in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by the local MP, Mr Jannie Momberg (DP, Simon's Town), seems to indicate that permission will eventually be given to the developers, despite the fact that the administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, said recently that no application had been received by the provincial authorities.

Dr De Villiers said he had received representations from the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group not to give permission for the kaolin mine, and the Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, said he had received similar representations from about 30 individuals and organisations.

Dr De Villiers said he had referred the action group to his recent statement about the impact study.

But he pointed out that his predecessor, Mr Danie Steyn, had decided, in January 1988, that kaolin could be mined on the reserved area.

● Mr Momberg said last night: "My reaction is that at this stage there is no clear indication that permission to mine will eventually be given and the fact that the final decision will rest on experts evaluating the environmental study on the impact of the mine gives me high hopes that mining will never take place against Chapman's Peak."

(56) SPARK 15/2/90

Probe results 'unacceptable'

By Jacqueline Myburgh

The team of scientists who drew up the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed St Lucia titanium mine should never have accepted the task, says the chairman of the South African Institute of Ecologists (SAIE), Mr B W van Wilgen.

An investigation by the institute, in terms of its code of ethics, showed that the time the mining company allowed for the team to assess the potential environmental impacts was far too short.

The team comprised Professor R R Lubke, Mr A M Avis and Mr P B N Jackson of Rhodes University.

The appraisal was requested by Richard's Bay Minerals mining company — and was later rejected by Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze.

Members of the SAIE were concerned that the authors of the environmental impact assessment, while publicly admitting the inadequacy of their report (because of the time constraint) had, nevertheless, publicly stated that the mining operation should proceed.

They also claimed to be members of the SAIE — yet Mr Avis was not a member of the institute.

The investigation concluded that Professor Lubke and Mr Jackson — both members of the SAIE — were not guilty of any breach of the institute's code of ethics. However, in their capacity as professional ecologists, they should have stuck to ecology, Mr van Wilgen said.

B/DW 15/2/90



POLITICS

B/DW 15/2/90

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B/DW 15/2/90



Venter 'was bombastic'

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Health Minister Dr Rina Venter's response to the nursing crisis was bitterly disappointing, DP co-leader Zach de Beer said yesterday.

He had received letters from 47 nurses showing dignity and restraint. "But they depict a crisis of frightening proportions in which these invaluable women are being forced by financial need" to seek jobs elsewhere.

Meanwhile, hundreds of hospital beds stood empty and patients suffered and sometimes died for lack of treatment, he said.

Venter's speech in the House of Assembly had "lapsed into bombast (I shall not be pressured) and abuse (The opposition parties are playing politics). No wonder the nurses who had come to listen to her were distressed. The government must act now, and stop wriggling."

DP warning against dune mining 'barter'

CAPE TOWN — There would be cause for serious concern if dune mining was allowed at St Lucia in return for the establishment of the new conservation area in Zululand, DP environmental spokesman Rob Haswell said yesterday.

Welcoming the creation of a large new conservation area in Natal, which will link St Lucia and Mkuze, Haswell said: "If this good news for conservation is to be tempered by approval of the dune mining at St Lucia, then there is real cause for concern.

"Environmental gems such as St Lucia are priceless and should be sacrosanct. They should never be part of any barter.

"The creation of this new park will only strengthen the conviction that mining in close proximity to it should not be permitted."

He said the DP fully supported this view and would continue to raise its voice on the St Lucia mining issue.

Sapa reports from Durban that when he announced the new conservation area, Kotze said too many of the country's ecologically sensitive areas had been lost.

Thus, the creation of the 275 000ha great-

Political Staff

er St Lucia conservation area would enhance the resilience of the belt, stretching from the Lebombo mountains in the west to the coast and into the marine reserve.

The scheme will involve linking existing conservation areas by acquiring the land in-between.

The areas to be linked will include the Mkuze game reserve, the St Lucia game and marine reserves, False Bay park, Sodwana Bay national park and the Sodwana Bay, Cape Vidal and Eastern Shores state forests.

Referring to the contentious proposal to mine dunes along the eastern shore state forest, Kotze said if the environmental impact study currently in progress indicated that mining would cause unacceptable disturbances, he would do everything in his power to prevent any such activities.

If the mining were allowed, however, it would be subject to stringent conditions that would ensure that the natural environment would be improved once the mining was completed. Less than 1,5% of the consolidated area would be affected at any one time. — Sapa.

CP's march against ANC

EDYTH BULBRING

A CP-organised march to protest against the release of Nelson Mandela and the ANC's unbanning is to be held in Pretoria tonight.

CP leader Andries Treurnicht and his deputy Ferdi Hartzenberg would address the gathering, a CP spokesman said.

More than 3 000 people attended a meeting addressed by Treurnicht in Parow on Monday and thousands were expected tonight, the spokesman said.

Permission for the march had been granted by the chief magistrate, he said.

A special Pretoria City Council meeting will take place this afternoon in which the CP caucus will ask the NP to rescind its decision to open Pretoria's amenities to all races on the basis that the NP did not seek this mandate in the September election.

FIM 16/2/90

Curbing vehicle pollution

(56)

At one time the Magaliesberg could be seen clearly from Johannesburg. Now even the downtown skyline is sometimes obscured by smog. Equipping new cars with catalytic converters to reduce dangerous emissions won't eliminate the problem, but it would be a good start.

Stringent legislation mandating converters has improved the air in the US; lead emissions are little more than one-tenth the 1975 level. Europe hopes to follow suit and after 1992 converters will be compulsory throughout the European Community.

This doesn't mean that converters will be coming to SA soon. SA lags so far behind Europe and the US in environmental consciousness that there is not even a consensus that auto exhausts are a serious problem. Even if there was a consensus, there's a Catch-22 situation to overcome: there are no converters because there is no unleaded petrol and there is no unleaded petrol because there are no converters. Some say government must force oil companies and car manufacturers to reduce auto exhaust emissions. But others say this is counterproductive and that a carrot approach is better.

Les Hall of Bosal Afrika, which plans to build converters in SA, says the small size of SA's vehicle population means that exhausts make an infinitesimal contribution to pollution. He says the costs involved are not "Mickey Mouse and there would have to be a real threat before there is legislation enforcing catalytic converters."

Rupert Lorimer, the Democratic Party (DP)'s environmental spokesman, disagrees. He says that without doubt, SA's pollution is affecting public health and is bad enough to warrant legislation. "Obviously the capital investment and the cost is not something to be happy about — but on the other hand we are poisoning our world."

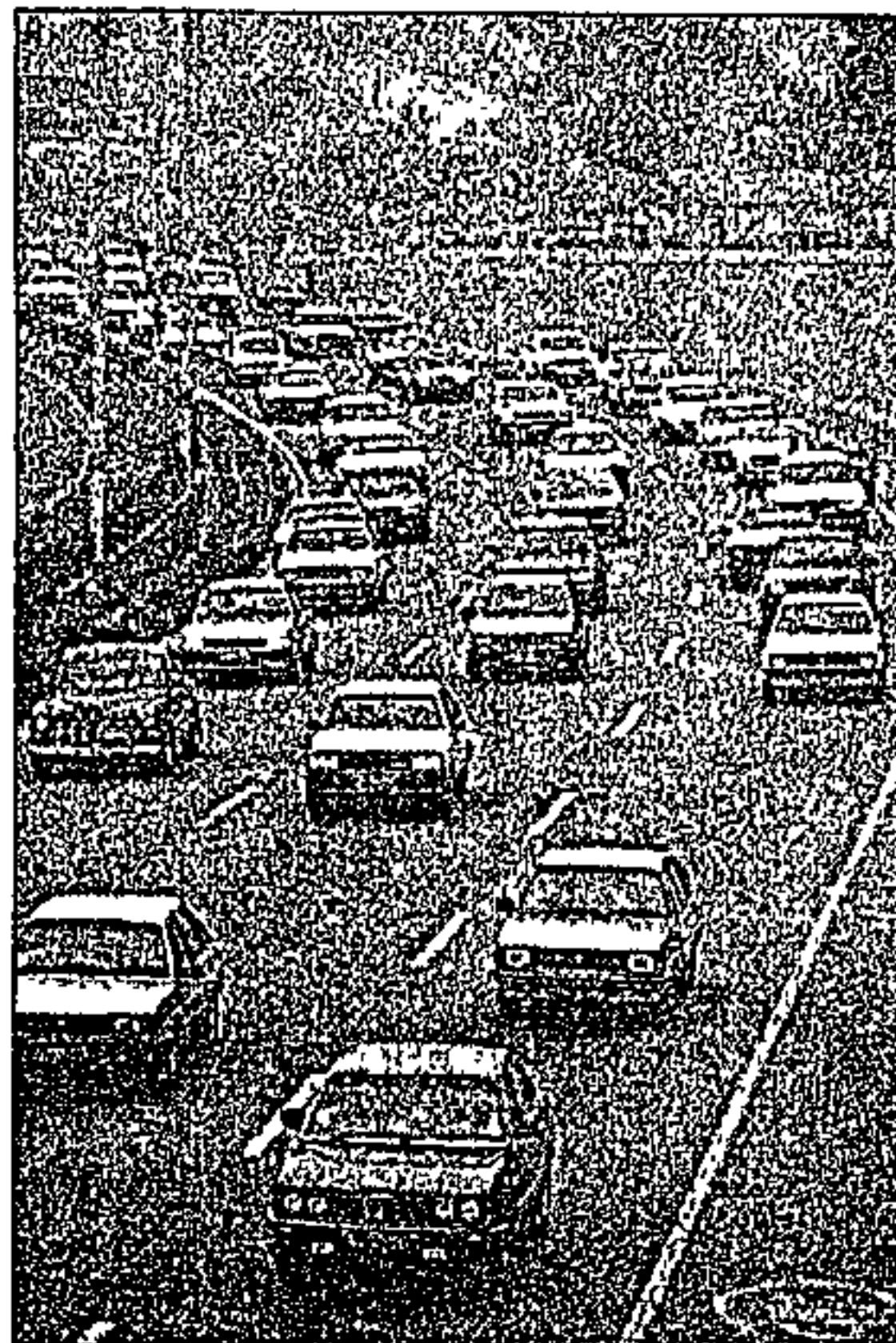
Martin Lloyd, chief air pollution control officer at the Department of National Health, says the two major contributors to SA's air pollution are smoke from domestic coal fires in the townships and sulphur dioxide emitted from power stations in the Eastern Transvaal. He says vehicle exhausts do contribute significantly to urban pollution, but the problem is not yet serious.

Platinum group metals — platinum, rhodium and palladium — are needed to make converters and unleaded petrol is needed to use them. The platinum metals pose no problem; SA produces more than 80% of the world's platinum-group metals and at least two companies plan to manufacture converters for export.

But while a domestic supply of converters will soon be available, the unleaded petrol

they require will not. Unleaded petrol is necessary because lead disables the converter. Lead is added to petrol to increase the octane level, which prevents pinking in the engine. To achieve high octane levels without using lead means additional refining, which is more expensive and reduces the amount of petrol obtained from crude oil. But in the US, unleaded petrol costs only a few cents per gallon more than ordinary petrol.

Shell MD John Drake says setting up the necessary refinery equipment to produce unleaded petrol for SA will take about five years, with costs running into hundreds of



SA's traffic ... losing sight of downtown

millions of rands.

The Automobile Association's Fred Bothma says he doesn't think the country can afford converters. He says the association would like the atmosphere to be clean, "but hell, you've got to be reasonable — there's 1 000 more important things you could spend the money on."

Not surprisingly, car manufacturers are not keen on moving towards converters. One reason is that they would increase car prices — about R500 for a small car and up to R1 500 for larger cars, according to Robert Scott of the National Energy Council.

Nico Vermeulen, director of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA, says: "Once the decision is taken to fit catalytic converters, it would take years to

(have an effect) because only new cars can be fitted with the exhaust systems. SA has a car population of 3,2m while only about 200 000 cars are sold each year. It could take 10-15 years to replace all the old systems." However, proponents say that's all the more reason to start now.

Oil companies and car makers may have to cope with environmental pressures sooner than they think. The DP's Lorimer says public awareness of green issues "will force government into legislating for converters within a good deal less than five years."

Algorax MD Danie Vorster says that though his company makes converters, pressure for legislation "will not come from our side" and that "if the ordinary man wants such legislation, he'll have to pay for it."

There are already moves in this direction. Earthlife Africa has put out a bumper sticker with the message: "This car would rather use unleaded petrol."

However, the Health Department's Lloyd claims vehicle-emission legislation will "definitely not happen within five years." And he doubts whether SA will need such legislation in 10-15 years. "We won't do it until we're absolutely forced to do it." However, he says the department would recommend legislation when it foresees dangerous levels of vehicle pollution.

Frank Vorhies, a business professor at Wits, opposes legislation specifically mandating converters or other pollution-control devices. He says he's concerned that the State doesn't know which technology is best. And he adds that laws like this usually become a floor as well as a ceiling. For example, if converters are required, there's no incentive to find cheaper and even more effective ways of cutting vehicle emissions.

The National Energy Council, for one, rattles off a stream of alternatives to converters: fuel conservation, improved traffic flow, mass transport, correct engine settings, smaller cars, alternative fuels and alternative modes of transport.

Instead of forcing the use of converters or other devices, Vorhies would like to see a tax on vehicle pollution that would encourage continuous research into finding new ways of reducing emissions. He says there could be a pollution meter on the exhaust system that would be checked much like an electric meter, and drivers would be taxed on how much gunk their cars spewed into the atmosphere. It would pay car owners to buy cars with converters to avoid the tax.

Another way would be to have an annual pollution check, he says. Many cities and states in the US require an annual "road-worthy" for pollution. Cars that don't pass

the test don't get a sticker and can't be driven. The schemes usually are financed by the charge for the sticker.

Government could also tax leaded petrol, making it cheaper to run a car on unleaded

petrol. In Europe, several governments encourage motorists to switch to unleaded petrol by levying extra taxes on leaded petrol.

While it's true that SA's entire car population wouldn't come close to matching the

number of cars in many US and European cities, it's also true that the US and EC countries wish they had started tackling their smog problem when it was only as serious as SA's is today.

FIM 16/2/90

(56)

(56)

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Environmentalism for business

SA ENVIRONMENTS INTO THE 21st CENTURY, by Brian Huntley, Roy Siegfried and Clem Sunter (Human and Rousseau/Tafelberg, R19,95)

IT IS often said of Wykehamists that they are released upon the world with the naive conviction that their opinions count. Clem Sunter is one who would not be naive in believing this to be the case.

The new head of Anglo American's gold and uranium division achieved the status of a phenomenon with his first book, SA and the World in the 1990s, and he is listened to earnestly in boardrooms across the country.

Now Sunter has teamed up with two biologists, Roy Siegfried and Brian Huntley, to superimpose environmental options onto the scenarios outlined in his earlier work.

A lot of valuable information has been collected on SA environmental issues over the past decade, but nowhere is it accessible to the layman and in particular, businessmen.

This information has been concisely synthesised and lucidly presented by the authors in the first part of the book.

I found it fascinating reading.

In the second part, the book's central thesis is enunciated: economic growth is crucial for environmental health and an improvement in the quality of life. Agreed.

The authors call for a free enterprise economy in order to achieve this, with the state intervening only

to discipline the free market to ensure that growth does not put resources and environment at risk for future generations.

Aye, here is the rub: the problem of trade-offs between profits and sustainable yields. This is a genuine problem which the authors rather disappointingly gloss over in favour of rhetoric about the benefits of capitalism.

Although this may be fashionable,



□ SUNTER

it is unfortunately no more illuminating than socialist rhetoric.

The overfishing of the Namibian pelagic resources is a text-book illustration of the destruction of a resource by the "market".

In a slightly different vein, Sunter need not have looked further than his own boardroom; the overmining of its coastal diamond concessions by CDM, the wholly owned subsidiary of De Beers, as disclosed by the Thirion Commission in 1986.

Case studies like this merit discussion, as they illustrate the practical difficulties in defining terms, as exemplified by Natal judge Mr Justice Pieter Thirion and De Beers chairman Julian Ogilvy Thompson having entirely different opinions as to which practices constitute deliberate strategies of overmining.

The authors consider the most appropriate role for government to be disciplining the market to ensure that what voters consider to be a healthy environment ethic is maintained.

But who exactly the voters are determines the nature of this ethic. This is another crucial point which they do not explore, although its ramifications are obvious.

The lesson that we can learn from the West is perhaps not so much that only a free market system can save the environment but that only democracy can save it.

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Moss gas project: cost estimate

*23. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

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- (1) (a) What was the originally budgeted cost estimate for the Moss gas project and (b)(i) what is the latest estimate for the final total cost of the project and (ii) in respect of what date is this estimate furnished;
 - (2) whether he will make a statement on the viability of the project?

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) (a) The originally budgeted fixed capital cost for the FA gas reserve development phase and the onshore facility was R6 520 million before contingencies or R6 895 million with contingencies in escalated terms.

- (b) (i) R8 000 million in escalated terms for the mentioned development. The extent of additional capital investment for the development of further gas reserves will depend on the extent of reserves in the existing FA gas field. Should such investment be necessary, indications are that it could be long deferred and financed from the cash flow of the project itself.
- (ii) December 1989.

- (2) I have already issued a full statement on Tuesday, 13 February 1990.

Lead level: urban locations *(S6)*

*24. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the statistics on Cape Town given in the replies to Question No 528 on 23 February 1987, Question No 1218 on 14 June 1988 and Question No 506 on 26 May 1989, the average recorded lead level in all major urban locations has similarly increased;
- (2) whether she intends taking any action to ensure that such levels do not exceed the

continue from p 84

Rainy Days sites. The Department of Water Affairs requested that this latter site be fenced in and that a two weekly report on progress be submitted.

- (b) Yes.

- (i) and (ii) With the discovery of a further dumping site at Copes Folly as well as the delay in meeting the full requirements of the Department of Water Affairs in removing all the drums from the Table Mountain, Mattison and Rainy Days sites, another meeting was called on 2 February 1990. That Department instructed the company to completely remove all drums and contaminated soil from Copes Folly, before 16 February 1990. (Officials of the Department of Water Affairs have confirmed that this has been done). It was further stipulated that all drums from the Rainy Days site be removed by 22 February 1990 and from the Mattison site by 28 February 1990. In addition it was stipulated that all the sites should be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the Department.

It has now been established that all drums have been removed from all the sites and that rehabilitation measures are about to commence. The situation has therefore been 95% remedied. After in depth investigation by officials of the Department of Water Affairs it was concluded that no legal action could be taken in terms of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) as no water was polluted. The proposed regulations on solid waste disposal should address matters such as these in the near future.

PE: Group Areas Act

*26. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether he or his predecessor received an application by the Port Elizabeth City Council for the provisions of section 19 of the Group Areas Act, No 36 of 1966, to be made applicable to the entire municipal area, if so, (a) when was this application received, (b) what was the response thereto and (c) what action has been taken as a result of the application? *Handwritten: 20/2/90 B135E*

continues to p 85

stated maximum permissible concentrations for lead in the atmosphere: if so, (a) what action and (b) when? *(S6)*

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THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes for inland, no for coastal areas;
- (2) although an increase in the concentration of lead levels in air was found for inland regions, the levels to which the public is exposed to, remain well below accepted maximum allowable concentrations. It may however be expected that the trend will now be downwards after the lead content in petrol was further reduced from 0,6 to 0,4 gram per liter in 1989, (a) and (b) fall away.

Pietermaritzburg area: toxic waste dump

*25. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether his Department has taken any action as a result of the discovery of toxic waste dumps in the Pietermaritzburg area in (a) September 1989 and (b) January 1990; if so, (i) what action, and (ii) when, in each case; if not, why not?

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THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (a) Yes.
 - (i) and (ii) The Department of Environment Affairs, which has a co-ordinating function regarding pollution control, and the Department of Water Affairs, which has executive powers regarding water pollution and waste disposal control, both followed up the matter. The Department of Environment Affairs brought the matter to the attention of the Town Clerk of Pietermaritzburg. The Department of Water Affairs called a meeting for 21 September 1989 with ISP Recyclers. It was stipulated that the company must report back by 6 October 1989 on the method for the removal of the drums and any contaminated soil and the treatment of the waste. On 6 October 1989 it was agreed that the drums would be removed from the Table Mountain, Mattison and

continues to p 85

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *Handwritten: 20/2/90*

Yes.

- (a) 26 July 1985.
- (b) and (c) A smaller area was advertised and investigated by the Group Areas Board. Seven areas were proclaimed free trading areas by Proclamation 207 of 1986.

Tembisa scene of unrest: press

*27. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order: *Handwritten: 20/2/90*

Whether any members of the South African Police ordered members of the Press to leave a scene of unrest in Tembisa on or about 5 February 1990; if so, (a) why, (b) on whose instructions and (c) in terms of what statutory provisions or regulations?

(S6) B141E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

- (a) to (c) As far as could be ascertained only one television cameraman was warned, in terms of Regulation 2(3) of the Security Emergency Regulations, to leave the area.

This cameraman continually attempted to take close up photographs of the commander of a riot unit which was already deployed and busy dispersing a riotous crowd. On the one hand these actions hindered the officer in his attempt to maintain the public order and on the other hand, for that very reason, had the effect that the crowd who observed it, acted more sensationally and in so doing further disturbed the public order.

The officer warned the cameraman several times to cease his conduct. However, the cameraman did not heed these warnings. As a last resort, instructions were given for him to be taken to the Tembisa police station and warned to leave the area. He did not return to the scene of the unrest.

Protest march: free trains *(S6)*

*28 Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order: *Handwritten: 20/2/90*

- (1) Whether, with reference to the protest march held in Cape Town on 31 January 1990, the South African Police were in-

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 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Big business gives boost to environment

506 20/2/90 (56)

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Conservationists and businessmen joined forces last week when the ninth Goldfields environmental education centre was opened on the West Coast.

Pursuing its chairman's motto of "enriching man through conservation", Goldfields of South Africa provided funds to restore and develop a 19th century homestead into an education centre near Langebaan.

The centre, to be run by the National Parks Board, was also declared a national monument by Southern African Nature Foundation president, Dr Anton Rupert, on Friday.

Educating the Third World — in environmental terms — was a daunting task, but it would ultimately determine the future of life on this planet, the chairman of Goldfields, Mr Robin Plumbridge, said. He said it was the duty of conservationists and businessmen to join forces and to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and unemployment.

Conservation would benefit if natural resources were judiciously exploited to create wealth for the restoration of the environment.

Drop dune mining, Minister urged

Cash question mark over larger St Lucia

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Conservationists have warmly welcomed the Cabinet decision to create a 275 000 ha greater St Lucia conservation area — the third largest formal nature reserve in South Africa.

But they have also warned that the project may severely tax resources available for conservation, and that possible compromises may have to be made to the overall proposal.

White farmers who will lose their land in terms of the decision have reacted coolly, while there is also a question mark over the future employment of black farmworkers on the affected properties.

The decision, announced by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, means the Mkuzi Game Reserve, False Bay Park, Sodwana Bay National Park, Sodwana State Forest, St Lucia Game Reserve, St Lucia Marine Reserve, Cape Vidal State Forest and a belt along the western shores of Lake St Lucia will be consolidated.

Also included are the Eastern Shores State Forest — site of the proposed dune mining for heavy metals — as well as parts of State forests along the western shores of the lake and farmlands in the lower Mkuze area.

All SADF activities in the area will probably cease — including the controversial missile testing.

The new park will be unique in that five distinct ecosystems will be protected within its boundaries — marine, estuarine, coastal dune and grassland, and swamp and semi-arid savanna.

It will also link up with the northern Maputaland forest reserve controlled by the kwaZulu Bureau for Natural Resources.

Referring to the controversial proposal to mine heavy minerals in the coastal sand dunes in the eastern shores area, Mr Kotze said an environmental impact assessment was underway.

No decision would be taken before this was complete.

He said his department would

not be the sole judge of the issue, and that a review committee consisting of people "with very high standing as conservationists" would be consulted.

Should the studies prove ecologically disturbing, he would "fight" to stop the mining, but should they indicate that mining was acceptable, it would be permitted under "stringent conditions".

Mr Kotze declined to put a precise price on the land acquisition. About 40 pineapple farmers will be affected.

He said both the Natal Provincial Administration and private sources would be expected to contribute substantially, and that the process could take a number of years to complete.

"I can't give you definite time schedules, but I can give you this assurance that negotiations will start immediately."

Conservationists, while welcoming the decision wholeheartedly, were cautious — given some unacceptably long delays in the past, such as the acquisition of the corridor between the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe reserves.

Priorities

"If one talks of buying the entire area, then in fact I don't believe the country has those kinds of resources," said Dr Allan Heydorn, director of the SA Nature Foundation.

"However grateful one is of the support of the principles of conservation in this area, one must not underestimate the task of consolidating this area. Priorities will have to be set very carefully," he warned.

Dr Heydorn described the greater St Lucia area as superb and said it was heartening that Mr Kotze and the Government had taken steps to protect it.

Critical to the success of the consolidation plan was the conservation of the "all-important Mkuze swamps because the Mkuze River is a major source of water (for the system) and the swamps are a vital filtering mechanism".

Given the need to set priorities

for any land acquisition, this swampland should enjoy preference, Dr Heydorn said.

The Administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, and the Natal Parks Board have both welcomed the announcement.

University of Cape Town ecologist and Wildlife Society office bearer, Mr Ian Macdonald, welcomed the announcement and said the phasing out of SADF activities was particularly welcome.

Farmers and representatives of the farming community are unhappy with the announcement, and the Government clearly faces tough negotiations over the acquisition of their land.

There is also a question mark over the future employment of about 6 000 kwaZulu farm labourers if farms are sold to the Government.

Natal Parks Board director Dr George Hughes emphasised that there would be no relocations because of the consolidation. He also pointed out that the board was a major employer and that the consolidation would bring major employment opportunities, particularly on the fringes in the form of tourist facilities.

However, it is doubtful whether the board could accommodate all the farmworkers affected. It was also significant, if unfortunate, that there were no black representatives at the conference where Mr Kotze announced the consolidation plans.

Mr Robert Haswell, the Democratic Party's alternative spokesman on the environment, said the linking of the conservation areas was a welcome step, but added there would be real cause for concern if the dune mining was allowed.

"Environmental gems such as St Lucia are priceless and should be sacrosanct.

"Thus while congratulating Mr Kotze, I must emphasise that environmentalists will correctly view this new park as belated acknowledgement of the significance of this area, and its creation will only strengthen the conviction that mining in close proximity to it should not be allowed."

Rain causes Cape havoc

C.M. Staff Reporter
Trib 21/2/80 (56)

HEAVY rain yesterday caused a dam wall in Brackenfell to break, waterlogged a section of the Kenilworth Race Course and brought Hermanus to a standstill.

In Brackenfell, a wall of water was sent crashing through two houses in Vredeloof Road, near the Aroma Inn, about 3pm. Friends and neighbours who helped mop up picked up stranded fish, still alive, from the gardens of both homes.

Mrs Lana Smith, who lives in one of the houses, said the water reached the window sills.

By late yesterday afternoon a front-end loader was repairing

the dam wall by dumping sand on the section which had broken.

Residents said the dam was owned by the Lourens Trust. Officials of the organisation had told Mrs Smith earlier that the dam, which had been there since the now-developed land had been a farm, was going to be filled in eventually.

In Cape Town, a downpour disrupted morning peak-hour traffic. By 8am, 68mm had been recorded in Wynberg Park, 46mm in Newlands and 25mm on top of Table Mountain.

Rosmead Avenue and Prince George Drive were flooded because of blocked drains.

The rain also forced the SA

Turf Club to switch racing to its old track at Kenilworth today.

Six races will be run on the old track today and the going there is expected to be yielding to heavy.

Hermanus came to a standstill when 73mm fell in four hours from 9am, said town clerk Mr Charlie Sim. A local pharmacy was flooded, and some streets became 15cm-deep rivers as the stormwater system struggled to cope.

Streets at Onrus River were also flooded, and mopping-up operations there and in Hermanus were hampered by a stayaway of municipal workers.

● Cloudy, rain — Page 2

Ships' insurance to pay for spills — Minister

CAPE TOWN — In event of a major oil spill in SA waters, expenses could be claimed from the ship's insurance company, Transport Minister George Bartlett said yesterday.

This was the second reading debate on the Prevention and Combating of Pollution of the Sea by Oil Amendment Bill.

In reply, Bartlett said the State would do anything in its power to ensure the environment was cleaned up if a major oil spill occurred.

Port Elizabeth DP MP E W Trent

13/Dec 23/2/90
said oil pollution emanated from tanker casualties and from chronic operational spills discharged from vessels other than oil tankers.

There was also the illegal practice of cleaning tanks while at sea.

"Unless we are seen to be constantly vigilant, shipping companies will continue to take chances," he said.

This would mean that the increased penalties would have less of a deterrent effect than is intended by the legislation, he said.

Bartlett said government would not

hesitate to increase the revised penalties for pollution of the sea by oil if it was found they were not sufficient to act as a deterrent. (22)

He said that he was sure the increases would deter many of the people using SA's waters from polluting them. (56)

The fines might not appear to be as high as comparable penalties in the US and UK when judged by the exchange rate, but in purchasing power they were equivalent. — Sapa.

Commercial ventures to be let into nature parks

bid 23/2/90 (56)

CAPE TOWN — The present generation was probably the last that would be able to do something concrete about conservation, Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday.

Speaking in debate during the second reading of the National Parks Amendment Bill, he said the increasing demand for land for commercial purposes would make conservation options "less and less in the future".

The department was extremely proud of the recently-established West Coast reserve and it was hoped to establish a park in the Richtersveld in the near future. This park's natural vegetation would make it unique.

The department had embarked on a new concept of allowing certain commercial activities to continue in parks as was the case with the fishermen of Churchhaven carrying on with their activities. Once the Richtersveld park was established, certain farmers would be allowed to remain.

On a question about privatising the national parks, Kotze said: "Conserva-

tion costs a lot of money and if it were not for the private sector, which we bring in as much as possible, we would have problems.

"We would have to be careful about total privatisation. There are many private parks but they are expensive.

"The National Parks Board facilities are subsidised to a certain extent. If we had to privatise completely, fees would increase and not as many people would be in a position to visit the parks.

"The ideal is therefore a joint venture between the private and public sectors."

Meanwhile, a Bill increasing fines and prison sentences for the injury and hunting of elephants, black and white rhinoceroses was published in Cape Town yesterday.

The fine for hunting, wilful or negligent killing or injuring these animals is to be increased from a minimum of R3 000 and a maximum of R10 000 to R30 000 and R100 000 respectively.

The minimum prison sentence is also to be increased from one year to three years and the maximum sentence from two years to ten years.

A memorandum on the objects of the



● KOTZE

Bill said in view of the still increasing illegal trade in ivory and certain rhinoceros products, as well as the prices received on the black market for these products, it was obvious that the existing penalty was not an adequate deterrent.

"It has therefore become necessary to increase the penalty drastically".

Amendments to the Bill were technical adjustments and intended to clarify the existing legal position.

The Bill also granted the board the necessary power to take measures to ensure the safety of visitors, the memorandum said. — Sapa.

Handwritten signature and scribbles.

GROWING environmental awareness and campaigning has the chief executives of some companies squirming.

Talking to AECL managing director Mike Sander about "green" issues is clearly not the way to put him at his most relaxed — his is, after all, the group which produces all those chloro-fluoro-carbons (CFCs) which are said to destroy the ozone layer so that strange things happen to the weather.

And chemical companies, along with steel and electricity producers, have been prime targets for environmentalists lobbying for cleaner air and water.

But although Sander doesn't claim to have all the answers, he's certainly prepared to take on the questions. AECL, he says, is addressing environmental concerns.

Chemical factories can now be engineered to be cleaner and more protective of the environment than they were 20 years ago. AECL is lucky that all of its plants are relatively modern — the oldest dates back 15 years — so that "we are not serious polluters of the environment", says Sander. "But there's no question we could do better," he adds. It's policy to examine standards and tighten up if these are not good enough. The

AECL's chief spells out that awkward word: e-c-c-o-l-o-g-y

HILARY JOFFE asks the boss of AECL about that awkward chemical industry problem: the environment.

group has started to work with communities around its factories, sharing plans and information.

AECL is one of the members of the newly-formed Vaal Triangle Atmospheric Pollution Committee, chaired by the National Health Department and including Iscor, Eskom and Sasol as well as community and environmental groups.

On CFCs, Sander notes that there is still no viable substitute refrigerant. AECL closely monitors progress in research on alternatives. Through Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries, it can draw on research and can license any technology developed

overseas. ICI, which owns 38 percent of AECL, has a new plant which will be able to produce a substitute for CFCs — but at 25 times the cost.

Sander expresses concern though that the focus on CFCs may be diverting attention from damage to the ozone layer which has nothing to do with the chemical industry — for example by large amounts of methane produced in certain kinds of farming.

Methane also comes out of something — and here AECL is doing something positive. It has started extracting methane gas at the Johannesburg City Council's Robinson refuse dump, for conversion into chemical feedstocks.

This is one of AECL's projects aimed at developing products or processes focused on local opportunities and needs. This is where it concentrates its research spending — around



Mike Sander ... still no viable substitute for CFCs

1.5 percent of its turnover.

It is also doing biotechnological research to develop food supplements which improve the nutritional value of foods for animal or human consumption. These are amino-acids, presently being (expensively) imported, which can be made from raw materials produced in Africa, for example by the sugar industry. AECL sees this product as one which would be useful throughout Africa. It will spend R100-million on a new plant. One area of research, which was

stopped in its tracks by the government last year, was AECL's synthetic fuel project; to make methanol from coal. At the same time the government decided to shelve Gencor's T-project (oil from torbanite), clearly signalling it no longer regarded the oil embargo as a serious problem.

Sander says the methanol project was expensive and would have been justified only by a "serious strategic problem". AECL is now applying the knowledge base it acquired to petrochemical projects. But it did write off R15-million on the project in 1989.

AECL's financial results for the year to December, released this week, show it increased its bottom line profits by 23 percent to R314-million, from R255-million in 1988. This was despite difficult trading conditions resulting from a slowdown in the economy — the increase in turnover (sales revenue) to R4,7-billion was only just ahead of inflation at 17 percent.

AECL compensated for a slowdown in domestic demand partly by increasing exports, which made up 10 percent of its turnover compared to eight percent in 1988.

It also increased its earnings by making higher margins on sales.

Secret sea ice data is environmental key

STC 23/2140 (56)

Researchers trying to model how the climate will change as a result of the Greenhouse effect called on the superpowers to publish vital secret data gathered over the past 30 years by nuclear-powered submarines.

Also, in a move bound to embarrass political leaders, Dr Michael Schlesinger has warned the American Association for the Advancement of Science that none of the five groups worldwide

Secret sea ice data holds the key to the Greenhouse effect, writes **TOM WILKIE**, Science Editor of *The Independent* in London.

for Atmospheric Research, said it would take a couple of decades before the scientific community was able to provide definite information on the precise timing and magnitude of global warming. Politicians and policymakers would have to take action before exact numbers became available and they would have to rely on the intuition of the experts on climate change, Dr Schneider said.

Dr Syukuro Manabe has been refining one of the other leading models, the general circulation model at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Dr Manabe said that climate change was profoundly affected not only by the extent of Arctic sea ice but also by its thickness. However, researchers have no data on sea ice thickness that they can input to computer models. But the data exists — it has been gathered by sonar observations of Soviet and US submarines.

The climate modellers have realised that they need to take account not only of the movements of air through the atmosphere, but also of the circulation of currents in the oceans if they are to get reliable results from computer models.

Dr Manabe explained that they need to know the extent of sea ice — which they can get from satellite observations — and its thickness, if they are to map correctly the interchange and mixing between the atmosphere and the oceans.

The ocean has a tremendous capacity

to absorb heat and might act as a buffer and delay the onset of global warming, Dr Manabe said, adding that the top two and a half metres of the ocean were equivalent in terms of heat capacity to the entire atmosphere.

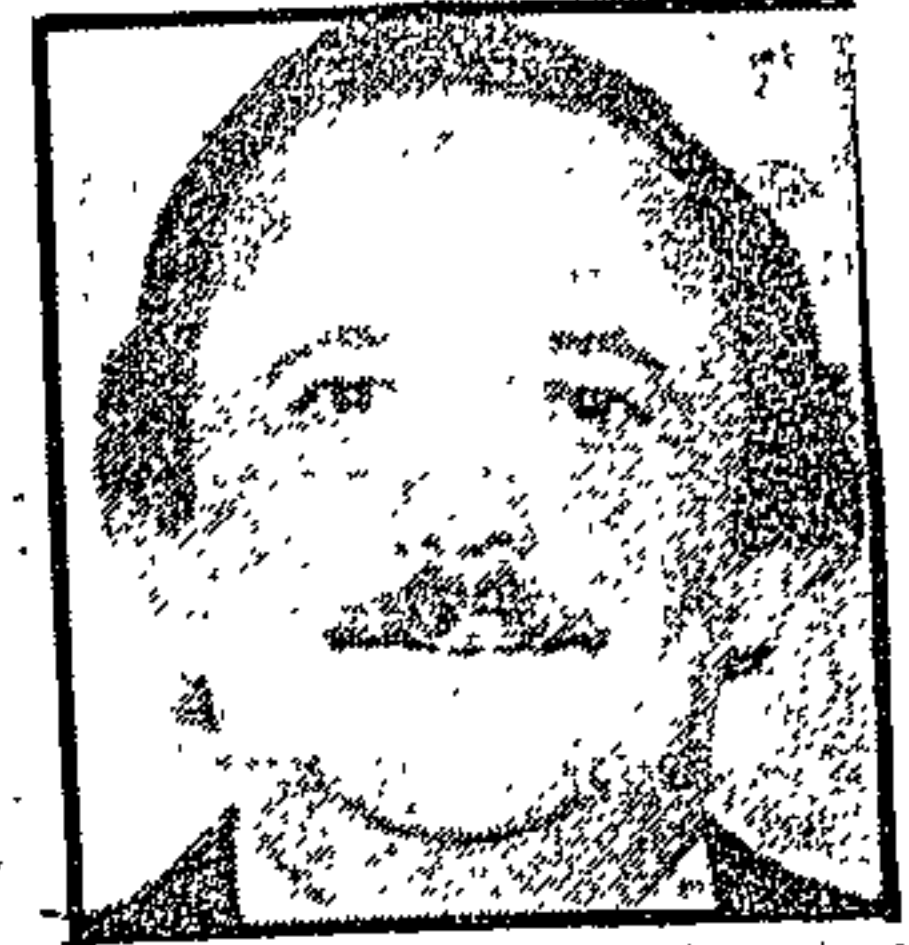
Dr Manabe has been refining his model to take account of vertical mixing as well as other ocean currents. There are a few places in the ocean where surface waters are mixed with deep ocean water. The model predicts that those places will not get as warm as places where there is no mixing.

Now that the modellers understand more about the ocean currents and their effect on climate change, they realised that they do not really know what clouds do. In the past, clouds were not thought to be important, Dr Schlesinger said. But now they had realised that two aspects of cloud cover played potentially vital roles in understanding the Greenhouse effect.

Increasing cloud cover would affect the "radiation budget" of the Earth — the amount of radiation absorbed compared with the amount that was reflected back into space. Also the density of the clouds, whether they were water or ice clouds, was important, Dr Schlesinger said. However, it would take a lot of work with extremely fast computers to begin to get an understanding of the problems of clouds.

"But in spite of the uncertainties and difficulties I am absolutely certain that there will be a rise in global temperature," Dr Manabe said. — Independent News Service.

Environmental legislation needs to be enforced



BRIAN STATHAM

ENVIRONMENTAL control legislation is not enforced strictly enough in SA and too little is being done to limit industrial pollution of water and atmosphere, say some observers.

But Eskom technical services manager Brian Statham says legislation is adequate and is "responsibly" enforced. However, there is a lack of adequate national co-ordination on environmental issues.

"The legislators take a corrective rather than a punitive approach, which has a more positive effect. It encourages people to become self-regulating," he says.

"But the different bodies and corporations involved in research and active in environmental conservation at all levels need to

pool their resources to make all of us more effective.

"There also needs to be some sort of reward system to encourage businessmen to prevent pollution and to help compensate them for costs incurred by doing so."

Impact

Either way, the impact on SA's natural resources continues to grow — and while Eskom is active in the field of environmental conservation the concentration of coal-fired power stations in the Eastern Transvaal has an undesirable effect.

Some 80% of the country's electrical power is produced from coal, which emits carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

Presenting as serious a problem as the power sta-

tions themselves — and far harder to control — are the waste dumps of duff coal which comes out of the cleaning process.

At present, this is unusable, but it is still combustible enough to smoulder when dumped, polluting both the air and ground water.

Industrial & Petrochemical Consultants MD Ray Swanepoel says: "SA's pollution control laws are more lax than those in most Western nations, and they are not rigidly enforced."

"Inevitably, there has to be a cost trade-off. The more anti-pollution controls there are, the more expensive the end product will be."

SA already has a higher rate of electricity price increases than most other nations. The installation of emission control equip-

ment and facilities would boost this further, as would the ongoing running costs of a more stringent pollution control programme.

"People tend to take the attitude that the polluter must pay — but in fact the cost of conservation must be met either through some form of tax relief or in increased prices for the goods."

Issue

Statham says: "The issue is: how much are South Africans prepared to pay?"

This question may be asked in the context of petrol as well as electricity. The move in favour of lead-free petrol is well entrenched, even in countries where consumers pay a premium for it.

Vehicles marketed today in most European countries

and the US tend to be fitted with catalytic converters for emission control, but these are not yet used in SA.

Castrol SA CE Deryck Spence says: "As yet, there are too few vehicles on SA's roads to warrant the extra cost, although it will become necessary in the foreseeable future."

In SA, controls over petrol content have become tighter over the years. While 20 years ago a level of 0,8g/l of lead was acceptable, this has been reduced to 0,4g/l and there is talk of a further reduction to 0,2g/l.

"An alternative to lead as an octane booster is oxygenated chemicals. These are fairly clean burning, but much costlier.

"Fuel prices hit the consumer on every front: it's an emotional issue," says Swanepoel.

Star 26/2/70
**Environmental
education vital (56)**

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Environmental education in schools is vital, says a visiting Israeli educator.

I Mr Yechezkel Harel, director of education of the Jewish National Fund in Israel, said, all countries should include environmental education in school curricula so that environmental issues were not viewed as problems for volunteers.

Children could also then educate their parents.

J Mr Harel said that in Israel it was against the law to chop down a tree and few people "would dare pick a wild flower".

vi- The fund was the "guardian" of trees in Israel and had planted 180 million trees in Israel since 1948, he said.

Concern for ^{star} environment (56) pays dividends ^{26/2/90}

Developers of a proposed harbour and housing scheme in the Cape have been forced to lower their sights, writes **RAY JOSEPH**.

Conservationists have forced developers of a proposed small-craft harbour and housing development at the upmarket eastern Cape village of St Francis Bay to agree to a drastically scaled-down project.

A furore broke out in the normally peaceful village, where some of the country's most powerful businessmen have holiday homes, when details of the development were revealed just before Christmas.

The decision to go back to the drawing board was taken after a round-table meeting between interested parties — only days after the St Francis Local Council rejected the proposal in its present form.

St Francis landowners feared that the original large harbour was an attempt to turn the picturesque village into a centre for the R80 million-a-year chokka (calamari) industry which operates off the coast between Port Elizabeth and Plettenberg Bay.

Mr Vic van Rensburg, the man behind the harbour development, said last week: "We're working urgently to address the various issues raised by the conservationists and also looking at the economics of the new project. If all goes well, we hope to have fishing boats behind a harbour breakwater by Christmas."

Proposed limit

Mr van Rensburg said the new scaled-down harbour would consist of a surface area of between 1,5 to 1,8 ha behind the breakwater, with mooring for about 75 pleasure yachts and motorboats and about 45 35 ft fishing vessels — which would exclude the large fishing boats from Port Elizabeth and Cape Town which operate in local waters.

This is a far cry from the original proposal of berths for 55 motorboats, 39 chokka boats, 31 ski-boats, 30 yachts and two trawlers.

Another departure from the original plan — which included a boat club, hotel, 15 shops, 282 houses, 66 flats and parking for 858 cars — is a proposed limit of no more than eight dwelling units per hectare.

The developers have made several important concessions which the St Francis/Kromme Trust — which spearheaded the objections to the harbour — believes could resolve the impasse over the harbour. These include scaling down the entire development above and below the high water mark and upgrading the developer's environmental impact study in consultation with Trust-appointed environmentalists.

A spokesman for the Cape Provincial Administration said: "The Administrator would be happy to see the maintenance of a sound balance between development and conservation to the extent that the parties involved can come to an agreement that will make it possible for everyone to be happy."

Kromme Trust spokesman Mrs Lindy Pagden said: "We've always said we will accept a small harbour with facilities for local chokka boats and recreational craft. After the meeting I feel much better and believe there can be a resolution to the problem which will be acceptable to all parties involved."

(3) what is the Government's policy regarding street children?

B231E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) 2055

(b) 1 January 1990

(2) Yes; financial assistance for the provision and running of registered institutions for youths and children in need, for example places of safety, subsidised children's homes, a state children's home, schools for industries and reform schools. The latter two are provided by the Department of Education and Training. Funds are also provided for the employment of social workers to render preventative and statutory services. Financial assistance is given in the form of maintenance and foster care grants.

(3) These children are dealt with in terms of existing laws, namely the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983) or the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977).

Licensing of private satellite dishes

*18. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether any applications and/or representations have been received by the Post Office for the licensing of private satellite dishes; if so, *Hansard 27/2/90*
- (2) whether any permits for such dishes have been granted; if not, why not?

B232E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) Yes, approximately 50 applications/representations have been received since June 1986;

(2) yes, the SABC is licensed to operate private satellite earth stations. I am awaiting the recommendations of a task group which has been formed to review the whole matter. After I have had the opportunity to study the recommendations a policy statement will be issued.

Prisoners sentenced to death: visits

*19. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) What procedures are in operation regarding visits to prisoners sentenced to death;
- (2) whether any changes in visiting procedures were implemented recently; if so, (a) what changes, (b) why and (c) on whose instructions?

Hansard 27/2/90

B233E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) There are no limitations on the amount of visits by family and friends to the relevant prisoners. Due to practical reasons and in order to utilise visiting facilities optimally and to minimise waiting by prisoners and visitors, a procedure was implemented according to which visitors are required to make prior arrangements for a visit with the relevant personnel at the prison. Such arrangements for a visit on a specific date and time may be made in any of the following ways:

- Telephonically
- Telegraphically
- In writing
- By facsimile transmission
- Personally:—after a visit, arrangements can be made on the spot for a next visit.

Concessions are made in respect of visitors who are visiting for the first time until they are fully informed of the procedure and are familiar therewith.

- (2) Yes.
 - (a) The arrangement that visits must be booked beforehand, was implemented.
 - (b) The more proportionate distribution of visits and the resultant optimal utilisation of the visiting facilities.
 - (c) The Head of the Prison.

Subject Flight Crew: differences between examination documents

*20. Adv J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport: *Hansard 27/2/90*

(1) Whether there were any differences between the examination documents handed out to the various candidates during the technical examination for aspiring commercial pilots in the subject Flight Crew that was written on 21 June 1988; if so, what differences.

(2) what percentage of the candidates for this examination were successful?

B238E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) and (2) No examinations in the subject Flight Crew were set on 21 June 1988. It can be mentioned for the honourable members' information that examinations for commercial pilot licences were set on 20 and 21 June 1988 and that the examination consisted of a part A and a part B and the passing percentages were 23,6% and 39,43% respectively.

Part A of the question paper dealt with the following—

Aviation Meteorology; Flight Planning and Performance; Radio Aids; Navigation; Instruments that include magnetism; Air Law; and Aircraft Technical (general).

Part B of the question paper dealt with the following—

Applied Meteorology; Applied Flight Planning and Performance Radio Aids; Applied Navigation that includes plotting; Operational Procedures; Communication; and Facilities.

RSA: water plan

*21. Mr A A BRUWER asked the Minister of Water Affairs:† *(56)*

(1) Whether a water plan has been drawn up for the Republic of South Africa; if so, (a) when and (b) how many hectares are considered for irrigation purposes in terms of this plan;

(2) (a) how many dams are expected to be built in the next five years and (b) where, in each case?

Hansard 27/2/90 B246E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes. In 1986 the Department of Water Affairs published a book in both official languages entitled "Management of the Water Resources of the Republic of

South Africa" which covers the full spectrum of the water resources of the RSA, including the expected demand for water by the various consumer sectors, the availability of water, policy with regard to water resources development and a large variety of other relevant aspects including matters such as water quality and environmental impact. The members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Water Affairs received copies of this authoritative book in October 1987 and I have already arranged that members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture and Water Affairs, who will in future handle the matters concerning the Department of Water Affairs, and who had not previously received a copy, will now each receive a copy. Any other member of Parliament requiring a copy can apply to the Parliamentary Office of the Department of Water Affairs and a copy will be furnished gladly. I am sending the honourable member an Afrikaans copy which he can study and keep for future reference purposes. *(56)*

(a) and (b) The Department of Water Affairs is not responsible for the development of all the water resources to facilitate irrigation development in the RSA, but Government water schemes will be developed as the need arises. Investigations into possible irrigation development are undertaken on a continuous basis in consultation with the other Government authorities concerned, whilst other institutions and private initiative are also actively undertaking investigations in this field. In total approximately 400 000 hectares throughout the RSA is under consideration for irrigation development, but since planning is a dynamic process which is directly and indirectly influenced by a variety of factors, such as demand and supply, priorities and the availability of funds, the occurrence of droughts and water shortages, to name but a few, it is not possible to give a fixed pattern of envisaged development.

(2) (a) At present 13 dams are either already approved or under consideration in the RSA and in some of our neighbouring states. The dams in our neighbouring states will also be able

to supply water to consumers in the RSA. The water supplied from these possible dams will, however, in the most cases not be exclusively allocated to a specific sector, such as agriculture. Experience has shown that multi-purpose schemes can, in most cases, supply water in the most economic way. The one dam will even have to be operated empty, viz the flood attenuation dam outside Ladysmith in Natal.

(b) The specific dam sites are, for obvious reasons, not made public beforehand. The Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) stipulates that a White Paper on a Government water scheme amounting to more than R20 million must, however, be Tabled in Parliament, before the construction thereof may commence. Members of Parliament will thus be informed in time of proposed schemes. For the information of the honourable member, I wish to mention that of the 13 possible dam sites which I already referred to, the majority under consideration are in the Transvaal and more than half thereof is in turn situated in the Eastern Transvaal region.

I trust that the honourable member, after having studied the Report on Water Resources Management, will have greater clarity in the way in which the utilisation of the water resources of the RSA is planned, developed and managed.

RSA: petrol/diesel produced by Sasol

*22. Dr P J GOUS asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

- (1) What percentage of the petrol and diesel consumed in the RSA during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available was produced by Sasol? Hansard 27/2/90
- (2) whether at the privatisation of Sasol the State gave guarantees in respect of selling prices of fuel to the new shareholders, if so, what price guarantees.

(3) whether the prices of locally produced fuel products are determined by market factors; if not, why not, if so, what market factors are taken into account? Hansard 27/2/90 B252E

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) Consumption figures of fuel as well as Sasol's production figures are classified information in terms of the Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act 130 of 1977). The percentage of petrol and diesel consumed in the country produced by Sasol cannot, therefore, be published.

(2) No. With the privatisation of Sasol additional protection of 3,6 c/l to the 0,9 c/l excise duty rebate was granted to the local industry to bring the total protection to 4,5 c/l. In Sasol's 1979 prospectus it is stated that prices of its fuels will be the same as those manufactured from crude oil.

(3) Yes. In view of the RSA's geographical situation, South African fuel prices are based on quoted international market prices of huge export refineries in Bahrain and Singapore. International supply and demand factors therefore play a role. The landed international market price in South Africa includes freight and local harbour charges. Local manufacturers of fuel, therefore, compete with the price at which products can be imported.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Housing for senior citizens

Mr H J COETZEE asked the Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing: Hansard 27/2/90
Whether he intends taking any steps to supplement the shortage of housing for senior citizens at homes for the aged and elsewhere; if not, why not; if so, what steps? BITOE INT

*The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES, WELFARE AND HOUSING. Mr Speaker, it is not clear what the hon member means when he says among other things that there is a shortage of housing for senior citizens at homes for the aged.

South Africa is one of the Western countries in which the highest percentage of its aged population receives institutional care. A total of 8,7% of the White aged population is cared for in homes for the aged. In most Western countries this figure amounts to between 3% and 6%. In the USA it is 5% and in England 2%.

Institutional care for the aged in South Africa is provided in subsidised homes which are operated by welfare organisations. There are 428 such homes, in which 31 070 aged people receive care. During the past 10 years the number of residents in these homes has increased by 51%. Three hundred and sixty people are accommodated in four homes for the aged and handicapped which are run by the department itself. Five hundred and thirty-four aged people are accommodated in four homes, which are run by a private enterprise on behalf of the State.

One hundred and twenty private homes which are run by individuals, welfare organisations or other institutions provide for 5 760 aged people.

With regard to category B old age homes, it is a pleasure for me to announce that the subsidy per resident has been adjusted upwards by R91,89 per month with effect from 1 October 1989. In co-operation with local authorities, welfare organisations and utility companies, good progress has been made in establishing housing projects for aged people in the sub-economic category in particular.

Four hundred and twelve projects, in which 25 500 aged people can be accommodated, have been approved. That comprises 6,2% of the total projected aged population for 1988. A provision of 10% for such housing projects is the ideal. Consequently we have a backlog that must be eliminated. The ideal, however, is that aged people themselves should be responsible for their housing as far as possible. They must be kept in the community for as long as possible.

The provision of welfare housing for the aged is aimed mainly at the sub-economic aged people in the country. Loans for the building of service centres, housing and old age homes are granted

at an interest rate of 1%, repayable over a period of 30 years. Welfare organisations receive large-scale subsidisation for the management of service centres and old age homes. [Time expired.]

*Mr H J COETZEE: Mr Speaker, I take cognisance of what the hon the Minister has told us. I wish to thank him for the subsidies which are being adjusted upwards.

Nevertheless it appears to me that the Government is not aware of the enormous shortage of housing for our senior citizens and State pensioners, the fathers and mothers of our White people. As a result of the hon the Minister's policy of converting old age homes into frail-aged sections in the future, only persons in group three are accommodated. What is the hon the Minister going to do about the immense shortage of housing for senior citizens who qualified for this in the past?

The hon the Minister is cutting off the source of supply from frail-care sections at old age homes. That is already being reflected elsewhere in the Budget. The hon the Minister is not even spending the money for which was budgeted. A considerable amount is being saved on the item care of the aged in the Budget. Why does the hon the Minister not negotiate with his colleague of National Health and Population Development to occupy those empty beds in White hospitals with infirm aged? I am sure the hon the Minister should speak to that hon Minister; she has a very soft spot for the aged in South Africa.

Is the Government aware of where these senior citizens find themselves at present? Allow me to inform hon members. Some of them live in the most terrible conditions imaginable in old, decrepit houses on farms, without transport, without water or electricity. That is where so many of our aged people are murdered. Some of them live in backyards in servants' rooms without ceilings and without essential facilities. I even came upon a group living in an old house which is going to be demolished. They have only a toilet and an old bath, without water. Water has not even been laid on.

Even worse is that if there is a place in a frail-care section for the husband or wife, the two old people are separated. The one who remains behind simply has to make do somehow. Hon members know how traumatic it is when two old people are separated.

P70.

CCB and that Mr Curren would not have been the next target of the CCB's activities?

†Adv C D DE JAGER: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, can he inform us when he became aware of the existence of this organisation?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have nothing to add to the answer that I have already given.

Mr S S VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply and in view of the statement of the hon the Minister of Defence that Mr Anton Lubowski was a SA Defence Force agent and would therefore not have been murdered by the CCB, can he tell this House why he withheld this crucial piece of evidence from the Supreme Court action on 14 February which could well have led to the release of another member of the CCB, Mr "Slang" van Zyl?

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply...

†The SPEAKER: Order! I have already allowed five supplementary questions and I am not allowing any further questions. [Interjections.] Order!

Limitation on lead in petrol

*5 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises. House 27/2/90

(1) Whether a further limitation of the quantity of lead in petrol is contemplated; if so, what limitation; if not, why not;

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



B218E
†The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) No, not at this stage. The lead content in petrol has been reduced by more than 50 per cent since 1986, and is now at a maximum of 0.4 g/l. This maximum is in line with many other countries. The National Energy Council is, nevertheless, co-ordinating a study to determine the technical and economic implications of the possible future introduction of unleaded petrol.

(2) No. Since the lead levels in petrol were reduced in two stages from the former maximum of 0.813 g/l, several announcements had already been made

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising from the reply given by the hon the Minister, could he tell the House when it is expected this study which has been instituted will result in a report?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, as soon as possible. Certainly before the end of this year.

Estcourt area: burning of industrial/domestic waste

*6. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether her Department has taken any action regarding the alleged large-scale burning of industrial and domestic waste on a farm in the Estcourt area owned by a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of her reply; if so, (a) what action and (b) what is the name of this person; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes,

(a) as soon as this problem was brought to the Department's attention, a notice was served on the owner of the relevant farm on 12 January 1990 in terms of the Health Act, 1977, to cease the burning of waste.

(b) Mr Tim Ralfe.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

*7. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether the sentences currently being served by two persons, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, have been in any way affected by the announcements made by the (a) Minister of Defence regarding the reduction in military service and/or (b) State President in February 1990; if so, (i) in what ways in each case and (ii) what are the names of the persons concerned; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(a) Yes.

(i) The State President has granted remission of sentence in terms of Section 69(1) of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) to all prisoners who have been sentenced in terms of Section 126(A)(1)(a) of the Defence Act, 1957 (Act No 44 of 1957), to the effect that their sentences in terms of the aforementioned section, are reduced by half.

(ii) The same as furnished by the Honourable Member.

(b) No.

Environment Conservation Act: regulations

*8. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether the regulations arising from the Environment Conservation Act, No 73 of 1989, have been finalised; if so, when will they be promulgated; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

No, in view of the fact that consultation has to take place with many other bodies, for instance local authorities, other departments, et cetera before regulations can be promulgated, and also in view of the fact that considerable legal technical problems are being experienced with the promulgation of regulations. I refer the hon member to Sections 24 to 28 of the Act. It is envisaged to publish noise control regulations in terms of the Act shortly in the Government Gazette for information.

East London area: certain security guard charged

*9. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether a certain security guard working in the East London area, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has ever been charged with any offences; if so, (a) with what offences, (b) with what result and (c) what is the name of this person;

(2) whether he has been subject to any inquiry regarding the deaths of any persons; if so, (a) how many persons were involved and (b) what were the circumstances of these deaths?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) and (2)

The incidents, in which Mr Sibrand Louis van Schoor is allegedly involved, are currently subject to a police investigation. I have requested the Attorney-General concerned to supervise the investigation personally. Apart from the above there were also a number of *post mortem* inquests in which the name of Mr van Schoor had figured.

Cape Town City Council: permit

*10. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department issued a permit to the Cape Town City Council on 15 September 1978, if so, what is the nature of this permit;

(2) whether the said City Council is currently complying with clause 8.1 of the permit; if not, House 27/2/90

(3) whether he has taken any action in this regard; if so, what action; if not, why not;

(4) whether he will issue this City Council with a long-term permit of this nature, if so, (a) when and (b) subject to what conditions; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, a permit was issued in terms of section 21(4)(a) of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) to discharge screened, macerated, raw sewage by means of a pipeline into the sea near the Green Point Lighthouse in Mouille Point, Cape Town.

(2) No, the pipeline was recently damaged in a severe storm resulting in it being shortened from 1 700m to only 280m. This occurrence considerably reduced the dilution capability of the sea-water on the effluent, which in return resulted in aesthetically unacceptable conditions and an increased health risk, associated with swimming and collection of filter feeders.

56

occurring in the vicinity of the damaged pipeline. Signs prohibiting these aforementioned activities have been erected in the affected area. Prior to this *fore majeure* the Municipality complied with the permit conditions in that the discharge was in such a way that no nuisance was caused and that no offensive conditions on the shoreline or the sea were created.

(3) Yes. The Municipality was informed in writing that the present situation is unacceptable and was simultaneously requested to take the necessary steps to rectify the situation. The Municipality subsequently initiated investigations in an earnest effort to rectify the situation.

(4) Permits for disposal of waterborne effluent at sea are not for a specified period but are subject to withdrawal or amendment at any time by the Minister of Water Affairs. Once the outcome of the investigations mentioned in (3) above is known, the Department of Water Affairs will study the matter further, with a view to, *inter alia*, possibly amending the existing permit. Should the Municipality decide on an alternative means of sewage disposal, a new application for a permit must be lodged and any such an application will be considered on merit.

Richard's Bay area: dumping of surplus gypsum

*11. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

(1) Whether surplus gypsum is being dumped into the sea in the Richard's Bay area; if so, (a) who granted permission for such dumping, (b) what quantities are being dumped and (c) what steps have been taken to monitor the situation.

(2) whether an environmental impact study has been conducted in this regard; if so, (a) what were the results of this study and (b) by whom was it conducted; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:
B225E

(1) Yes.

(a) The Department of Water Affairs, but only after consultation with specialists in that particular field and

strict permit conditions were laid down.

(b) A maximum of 5 200 tons per calendar month

(c) The quantity and quality of gypsum slurry leaving the factory premises are monitored by the Mhlathuze Water Board and the CSIR carries out comprehensive chemical and biological monitoring of the marine environment three times per year.

(a) Discharge to sea proved to be the preferable option from an environmental point of view.

(b) The CSIR, the Oceanographic Research Institute, Durban and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, under the guidance of a steering committee consisting of representatives from various Government departments, research institutes and other institutions concerned with the environment.

Emerald Hill/Hillandale/Perhill: free settlement

Answered 27/2/90

*12. Mr P C CRONJE asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether applications have been received for parts of Emerald Hill, Hillandale and Perhill, near Inchanga in Natal, to be declared a free settlement area; if so, (a) who has been approached for comment in this regard and (b) what is the present land utilisation of the properties concerned;

(2) whether he will furnish information on the present owners of these properties; if not, why not; if so, to whom do they belong?

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:
B226E

(1) Yes.

(a) Members of Parliament in whose constituency the land is situated. The Department of Agriculture. The Board notified all interested parties

of its intention by way of an advertisement in the Natal Witness and Tempo on 9 February 1990.

(b) Agricultural purposes.

(2) Key Ridge Estates (Pty) Ltd.
Mr G S Bartlett
Mrs B M Bartlett
Mrs E R Bartlett

Master of Education degrees: financial assistance

*13. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Administration and Privatisation:

(1) Whether any financial or other assistance is made available by the Commission for Administration to persons wishing to study for Master of Education degrees; if not, why not; if so, what assistance;

(2) whether Whites and Blacks are eligible for such assistance; if not, (a) why not and (b) what categories of persons are eligible; if so, how many (i) Whites and (ii) Blacks received such assistance in 1989?

Answered 27/2/90 B227E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND PRIVATISATION:

(1) Yes, assistance is available in the form of part-time bursaries to persons who have the intention of doing a Master's degree in Education:

(2) Yes:

(a) falls away;

(b) persons who have academically qualified to register for a Master's degree, provided that the subject of the study has been approved by the head of the department;

(i) none;

(ii) none.

*14. Mr K M Andrew—National Health and Population Development. [Question standing over until Tuesday, 13 March 1990.]

Sebenza Secondary School: SAP summoned

*15. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) On how many occasions were the South African Police summoned to the Sebenza

Secondary School in Old Crossroads in January 1990.

(2) whether he will furnish information on who summoned the Police; if not, why not; if so, (a) who, and (b) for what reasons, in each case?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) As far as can be ascertained on no occasion.

(2) (a) and (b) Fall away.

Crossroads Town Committee/CPA: returning of weapons

*16. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any official of the Cape Provincial Administration issued an instruction that any weapons issued to members or employees of the Crossroads Town Committee or employees of the Provincial Administration operating in Old Crossroads be returned immediately; if so, (a)(i) on what date, (ii) by whom and (iii) why was this instruction issued and (b) how many guns (i) have since been returned and (ii) remain to be returned?

Answered 27/2/90 B230E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

No.

(a)(i) to (b)(ii) fall away.

Number of street children

*17. Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department or the provincial administrations have made any estimates of the number of street children in South Africa; if so, (a) what is the estimated number and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished; if not, why not;

(2) whether the Government has allocated and/or intends allocating any financial assistance and/or facilities for street children; if not, why not; if so, what assistance and facilities:

... were being offered for information which would lead to the arrest of mur-

... who are hunting the police — you will be mercilessly opposed with everything at our disposal." he said.

New drought relief scheme

CAPE TOWN — The House of Assembly Administration hoped to announce a new drought relief scheme which would benefit farmers working to conserve their farms rather than those who exploited their land and then looked to government to take over the risk in the bad years.

This was announced yesterday by Agricultural Development Minister Kraai van Niekerk in the debate on the Additional Appropriation Bill.

The difficulty of distinguishing between these two categories of farmer when granting relief had been a cause for alarm.

The conservation-minded farmer would in future become the norm by which the necessity of relief was judged.

The department would give a report later on the full extent of

irregularities in disaster relief claims by farmers.

Because his department had not had sufficient manpower, farmers had in some cases been asked to make sworn statements of their flooding losses, he said.

Spot checks had shown that in seven out of 10 cases, the farmers' actual losses did not coincide with their reported losses.

Some of these were technical mistakes, but three out of 10 were clear, blatant, false statements, he said.

Because of this, it had been decided that officials should go through all claims.

These matters would be handed over to the police for investigation and the farmers concerned would have to repay the full amount plus interest, and face prosecution. — Sapa.

31001 24/2/90

56

R500m to save the city's water supply

CAPE TOWN 28/2/90

56 203

By PETER DENNEHY

MORE than R500 million will have to be spent before the next century to keep Cape Town supplied with drinking water, the city engineer said yesterday.

Mr Arthur Clayton was reporting to the city council and said summer water shortages were inevitable in the Western Cape before the end of this century.

He said, however, that these would be alleviated by contingency planning, and eventually sorted out when planned new augmentation schemes from the Riviersonderend and later the Palmiet River came into effect.

He said by 1994/5 water bills will have more than doubled in the city.

At present the average charge for water in the Cape Town muni-

cipal area is 57,2 cents per kilolitre, according to his report.

The expected increase this year will be 0,015c/kl. Next year the increase will be 0,34c/kl. In 1991/2 it will increase by 5,1c/kl, followed by increases of 12,1 then 22,2 and 28,4c/kl in the three years after that.

Mr Clayton said the director-general of water affairs had approved the council's application for an extra 93 million cubic metres of water a year from the Riviersonderend and Berg River scheme.

Annual consumption by the Cape Town Water Undertaking at present was 210 million cubic metres, or 82% of the available supplies. Demand was increasing at 4,5% a year, and it would ex-

ceed safe yields from presently available sources by 1993.

For these reasons it was essential that the Riviersonderend augmentation scheme should go ahead immediately, he said. Yesterday the council approved the first R200 000 allocation towards the scheme.

"The recent rapid increase in demand for potable water in the Western Cape will inevitably result in water shortages during the summer months prior to the proposed scheme becoming operational," he said.

A small dam is to be built near the Huguenot Tunnel. Water from this dam will be pumped into the Berg River valley and then to the Riviersonderend tunnel system for storage in Theewaterskloof Dam.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Handwritten: 28/2/90
 Buffalo River: cyanide effluent (56)
 43. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether cyanide effluent was discharged into the Buffalo River near King William's Town in 1988 and 1989; if so, on how many occasions in each year;
- (2) whether the culprits were prosecuted; if so, with what result; if not, why not;
- (3) whether any precautions have since been taken in the area concerned to prevent similar effluent spills from any source; if so, what precautions?

B57E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS.

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Fall away.

For the information of the honourable member. I wish to mention that a tubing manufacturer in King William's Town discharged cyanide bearing effluent into a storm-water drain on 21 December 1988 and 22 May 1989. Due to the prompt action by the officials of the Department of Water Affairs the effluent was prevented from reaching the Buffalo River. The company was prosecuted in terms of section 23 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) found guilty and sentenced to the maximum fine of R10 000 on both charges. This was the first instance of maximum fines being handed down by a court for such offences. The company concerned has re-evaluated its effluent treatment and control measures, whilst regular inspections by officials of the Department is taking place.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Conservation of agricultural Resources Act: prosecutions (3) General

45 Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture: *Handwritten: 28/2/90*

How many prosecutions were instituted in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, during the latest specified period of 12 months for which statistics are available?

B59E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Six during the period 1 April 1988 to 31 March 1989.

Shelters for battered women

56. Mrs CH CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether her Department is responsible for any shelters for battered women in (a) Cape Town, (b) Durban, (c) Johannesburg, (d) Bloemfontein and (e) Port Elizabeth; if not, why not; if so, how many such shelters are there in each of these cities?

Handwritten: 28/2/90 B142E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT.

(a) to (c) No

The Department of National Health and Population Development is responsible for the planning, co-ordination and monitoring of national policy regarding health matters, population development and social welfare. Rendering of actual services to the public is not within the line function responsibilities of this Department.

Ramsar Convention: international recognition for St Lucia Bay wetlands (56)

58. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Handwritten: 28/2/90*

- (1) Whether the St Lucia Bay wetlands area has enjoyed international recognition in terms of the Ramsar Convention since round about 1986; if so, what are the relevant details;

Continue A

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- (2) whether he has taken or intends taking any steps to have a total prohibition imposed on mining activities in the area known as Eastern Shores, east of Lake St Lucia; if so, (a) what steps, (b) in terms of which statutory provisions and (c) what are the economic-judicial implications of these steps; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he has received a petition in connection with this wetlands area; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to the petition;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B154E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
 - During October 1986 the St Lucia System was included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance in terms of the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention).
- (2) No.
 - I have no statutory authority to institute a total prohibition.
 - (a), (b) and (c) are not applicable.
- (3) No.
 - I have *not* received petitions in connection with this wetland area, but I have received petitions regarding the proposed mining activities in the Coastal Dune area at St Lucia. With regard to the proposed mining activities the answer is:
 - (a) The Star's CARE Campaign which includes the reaction of the public and the following organisations:
 - Endangered Wildlife Trust
 - Kangwane Parks Corporation
 - Zululand Society for the Protection and Care of the Environment (SPACE)
 - Trador Cash & Carry
 - Pick 'n Pay
 - (b) (i) A request to totally ban the proposed mining activities at St Lucia and demand the assurance that the Government regards Lake St Lucia as inviolate.
 - (ii) My reaction was that it is gratifying to see that so many South Africans have a strong and positive attitude towards environmental issues.

mental matters, the Government takes notice of petitions and that such petitions have to be evaluated.

Inevitably, it is not possible to respond to every signatory of the petitions but on several occasions and in press releases I have addressed this matter and have pointed out that I have no statutory authority to out of hand institute a prohibition regarding the proposed mining activities at St Lucia. I gave instructions that a comprehensive environmental impact study should be done which will be objectively evaluated and which will put me in a position to make meaningful recommendations regarding the environmental impact control measures.

(4) I have done so repeatedly. As recently as 13 and 18 February 1990 I addressed media conferences in this regard. I would like to repeat that I shall do everything in my power to stop the mining activities should the studies, now been undertaken, prove that mining will have an irreparable effect on the environment.

White fish landed

63 Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

How many tonnes of each species of white fish were landed during the 1989 fishing season?

Hansard 28/2/90 B159E
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Hake	136 604
Kingklip	1 650
Monk	4 955
Jacopever	1 034
John Dory	1 536
Angel Fish	1 150
Ribbon	8 945
Other	8 248

Cedarberg: State-owned areas (56)
71. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: Hansard 28/2/90

(1) Whether there are any State-owned wilderness, conservation or forestry areas in the Cedarberg; if so, (a) what areas and (b) what is the status of each such area;

(2) whether permission was granted to any persons to graze stock in any of these areas during the past five years; if so, (a) (i) to which persons, and (ii) for what reasons, in each case, and (b) in terms of what statutory provisions was such permission granted?

B176E

Hansard 28/2/90

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

- (a) (i) Wilderness Area
(ii) Water Conservation Area
(iii) Plantation Area

(b) (i) Wilderness Area, set aside in terms of section 15(1)(a)(ii) of the Forest Act, 1984 (Act 122 of 1984).

(ii) Water Conservation Area — section 1(xxxix) of said Act.

(iii) Plantation Area — section 1(xxxix) of said Act

(2) Yes, only emergency grazing on water conservation area.

(a) (i) To Brothers Nieuwoudt

(ii) As result of a fire caused by lightning on the State Forest which spread to property owned by the Bros Nieuwoudt and which destroyed their natural grazing, emergency grazing was allocated to Bros Nieuwoudt on humanitarian grounds and as a gesture of good neighbourliness and goodwill for a period commencing on 1 April 1989 until 30 April 1989 for not more than 420 head small stock on payment of the prescribed fee after they applied therefor.

(b) Section 11(2)(a)(ii) of said Act.

Central Energy Fund: amount collected

6. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

What total amount was collected on behalf of the Central Energy Fund in the 1989-90 financial year?

B194E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: Hansard 28/2/90

No amount was collected from levies on behalf of the Central Energy Fund in the 1989-90 financial year.

Other income:	R'm
Interest	477,09
Dividends	191,80
	668,89

Lake St Lucia: mining activities (56)

19. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received any representations regarding proposed mining activities at Lake St Lucia; if so, (a) how many, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation;

(2) whether any of these representations was in the form of a petition; if so, (a) who drew up the petition and (b) how many signatures did it contain;

(3) whether an environmental impact analysis is being undertaken in regard to the proposed mine; if so, by whom;

(4) whether (a) Parliament and (b) the public will be given time to respond to this analysis; if so, how long; if not, why not?

Hansard 28/2/90 B168E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

(a) Petition:

Two batches of petition documents were received by the Department of Environment Affairs. The verbal information received at the times of delivery was that the first batch contained 116 000 signa-

tures and the second batch 50 000 signatures.

A rough estimate carried out indicated that between 120 000 and 130 000 signatures were actually received.

"The Star" of 1 December 1989 claimed that 200 000 signatures were collected and in "The Star" of 5 December 1989, it was claimed that 278 148 signatures were collected. In "The Star" of 12 December 1989 it was reported that 217 000 signatures were collected. In the Pretoria News of 14 February 1990, 300 000 signatures were claimed to have been received. In the light of the above it appears that contradiction on the number of signatures exists.

Letters:

610 letters were received by the Department of Environment Affairs.

(b) The Star's CARE Campaign which includes the reaction of the public and the following organisations:

- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Kangwane Parks Corporation
- Zululand Society for the Protection and Care of the Environment (SPACE)
- Trador Cash & Carry
- Pick 'n Pay
- Rand Afrikaans University
- University of Natal
- University of the Witwatersrand
- UNISA
- Several schools
- Technikon Witwatersrand
- Birnam Business College Johannesburg
- St James Presbyterian Church
- Salvation Army Vereeniging
- Liberty Life Insurance
- First National Bank
- National Council of Women of SA

Individual petitions were also received from:

- The Wildlife Society of SA
- Earthlife Africa/Earthlife Natal
- Antarctic Declaration Greenpeace International
- Save our Lakes Campaign, Wansbeck
- Rennies Travel (Pty) Ltd
- Afro Ventures (Pty) Ltd
- L Suzman Ltd Petition
- Kimberley Municipality
- Kloof Municipality
- Meyerspark-Branch TvI Women's Agricultural Association
- Duvha Powerstation Witbank
- TPA: Hospitals, Johannesburg
- Eshowe High School Biology Classes

Afforestation

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

- (1) Whether his Department granted permission for further afforestation in 1988 and 1989; if so, what total area was involved in respect of each province for each of these years;
- (2) whether any studies are conducted before such permission is granted; if so, what studies;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
1988
Cape Province 1 712 ha
Orange Free State 0 ha
Transvaal 12 162 ha
Natal 30 959 ha
1989
Cape Province 53 723 ha
Orange Free State 0 ha
Transvaal 16 428 ha
Natal 56 124 ha

(c) (i) A request to oppose the proposed mining activities at St Lucia and demand the assurance that the Government regards Lake St Lucia as inviolate.

(ii) My reaction was that it is gratifying to see that so many South Africans have a strong and positive attitude towards environmental matters, that the Government take notice of petitions, and that such petitions have to be evaluated

Inevitably, it is not possible to respond to every signatory of the petitions but on several occasions and in press releases I have addressed this matter and have pointed out that I have no statutory authority to out of hand institute a prohibition regarding the proposed mining activities at St Lucia. I gave instructions that a comprehensive environmental impact study should be done which will be objectively evaluated and which will put me in a position to make meaningful recommendations regarding the environmental impact control measures.

Continue p. 241

and intermittent streams, steepness of terrain in three classes, evaluates the submitted farm map, recommends distances from streambanks and vleis areas and makes other recommendations on Conditions to be put in the permit.

- (3) No; (56)
The Afforestation Permit System is already in use for 17,5 years and is continually being adapted to circumstances. No special statement is now deemed necessary. 28/2/90

Pupils: total enrolment

84. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education.

- (1) What was the total enrolment of pupils at (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in 1989;
- (2) what was the daily average (a) number of pupils attending (i) primary and (ii) secondary school, and (b) percentage absent.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

SCHOOL	STD 6	STD 7	STD 8	STD 9	STD 10
Kwamagxake Secondary	251	289	235	194	86
Kwazakhele Secondary	229	232	239	328	199
Mzontsundu Secondary	443	416	298	0	0
Masibambane Secondary	297	280	174	131	0
Tamsanqa Secondary	143	280	248	260	135
Douglas Mbopa Secondary	501	410	364	230	72
Loyiso Secondary	336	287	313	298	161
Ndzondelelo Secondary	367	381	304	123	0
Phakamisa Secondary	241	178	197	165	74
Khwezi Lomso Comprehensive	339	207	259	266	143
Newell Secondary	0	354	334	373	175
Cowan Secondary	124	228	338	477	320
Itembellhle Comprehensive	360	325	297	357	134

Noise pollution

122. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department is involved in testing levels of noise pollution; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the levels of noise above which action has to be taken, (b) how many decibel meters are available in his Department and (c) how many persons are involved in the testing of noise pollution;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for the monitoring of noise pollution emanating from vehicle use on national highways; if not, which Department is responsible; if so, what is the maximum level of noise permitted in urban residential areas;

(3) whether any action has been taken to reduce the levels of such noise pollution; if not, why not; if so, what action.

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

tee rate at (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools, in that year?

28/2/90

B181E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) (a) Pupils in primary schools 1 576 639.
(b) Pupils in secondary schools 488 015.
- (2) (a) (i) No figures available.
(ii) No accurate figures available.
- (b) (i) No figures available.
(ii) The average absentee rate is assessed at 16,3%.

Port Elizabeth/Ibhayi area: distribution of pupils

94. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Education:

What was the distribution of pupils in Standards 6 to 10 in each high school falling under the control of the Department of Education and Training in the Port Elizabeth/Ibhayi area in 1989?

B193E

B284E

P.T.U

House
WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1990

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
I have no statutory authority or duties assigned to me for the testing of noise levels.
(a), (b) and (c) are not applicable.
- (2) No.
Provincial Administrations or local authorities depending on the authority responsible for law enforcement.
- (3) Yes.
It is envisaged to publish noise control regulations in terms of the Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No 73 of 1989), shortly in the Government Gazette for information. The Act determines that regulations which may affect the activities of local authorities, may only be made applicable with the concurrence of a local authority to its jurisdiction area.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1)(a)(i)	(1)(b)(i)	(1)(b)(ii)
Athlone Boys'	610	370
Athlone Girls'	580	322
Jeppie Boys'	730	917
Jeppie Girls'	730	693
Kensington	642	303
Malvern	642	263
Queens	650	903
Bryanston	690	913
Chinese Kuo Ting (SA)	200	142
Fourways	730	543
Hyde Park	730	566
Sandown	710	903
Wendywood	730	827
Highlands North	550	385
Northview	730	459
Sandringham	730	1 063
Waverley Girls'	730	401
Blaigowrie	690	326
Ferndale	732	545
Greenside	730	1 017
Linden	730	852
Northcliff	670	1 058
Randburg	690	1 201
Rand Park	670	1 417

Continued

On request by local authorities that (of) the regulations be made applicable to their areas, the regulations will accordingly be promulgated.

(4) Publication of the regulations in the Government Gazette is regarded as sufficient. Local authorities may consider promoting the regulations at local level by means of campaigns.

Own Affairs:

Johannesburg municipal area: schools

8. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) (a) What are the names of the (i) high and (ii) primary schools under the control of his Department in the Johannesburg municipal area and (b) what is the (i) potential capacity of, and (ii) actual number of pupils attending, each such school;
(2) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B78E

House 25/2/90

(f)(a)(i) (contd.)

Roosevelt	730	(1)(b)(ii) 915
Die Kruin	350	230
Helpmekaar Meisies	670	434
Helpmekaar Seuns	690	349
Johannesburg Art, Ballet, Music & Drama	460	441
John Orr Technical	720	674
King Edward VII	730	900
Parktown Boys'	690	827
Parktown Girls'	650	671
D F Malan	730	540
Langlaagte Technical	660	308
Western	690	220
Vorentoe	690	922
Die Fakkell	1 130	1 011
Forest	1 050	921
Mondeor	850	1 019
President	1 090	808
Sir John Adamson	1 150	974
Glenvista	850	579
J G Strijdom	730	395
The Hill	910	1 026

(1)(b)(i)

(1)(b)(ii)

(1)(a)(ii)

Bertrams Junior	101	(1)(b)(ii) 67
Bezuidehouth Valley	125	31
Cyrlidene	425	363
Eastgate	300	205
Fairview Junior	125	73
Hillcrest	375	288
I H Harris	300	161
Jeppie High Preparatory	500	591
Johan Rissik	200	157
John Mitchell	375	142
Kensington	350	177
Kensington Ridge	375	260
Leicester Road	350	474
Malvern	375	232
Malvern West	425	98
Observatory East	425	179
Observatory Girls'	325	145
Sir Edmund Hillary	500	381
Bucleugh	600	513
Bryandale	524	877
Bryanston Laer	250	293
Bryanston Primary	475	859
Bryneven	550	653
Chinese Kuo Ting (SA)	475	179
Craighall	525	497
Halfway House	650	921
Montrose	525	652
Rivonia	475	880
Rosebank	525	227
Sandown	600	572

Continued

**Kotze makes
810am 1/3/90
promise over
St Lucia mine**

CAPE TOWN — Environment Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday he would do everything in his power to stop mining around St Lucia if studies now being done showed it would have an irreparable effect on the environment.

He said in reply to a series of written questions in Parliament by Rob Haswell (DP Pietermaritzburg South) and Joseph Chiole (CP Pretoria West) that he had been heartened by the number of people who had signed petitions protesting at the proposed mining.

Letters (56)

"My reaction was that it is gratifying to see that so many South Africans have a strong and positive attitude towards environmental matters, that the government takes notice of petitions and that such petitions have to be evaluated," he said.

There had been varying reports on how many had signed the petitions, but between 120 000 and 130 000 signatures had been received.

Kotze said his department had also received 610 letters on the subject.

It was not possible to respond to every signatory individually but he had repeatedly pointed out he did not have the power to stop the mining.

"I gave instructions that a comprehensive environmental impact study should be done which will be objectively evaluated and which will put me in a position to make meaningful recommendations regarding the environmental impact control measures," he said.

Star 13/90 (56)

Fewer oil spills mar SA's coast, say researchers

CAPE TOWN — Oil spills in South African coastal waters had decreased markedly during the second half of the past decade, says an article by two South African researchers of the Department of Environment Affairs.

The research by Mr Anton Moldan, head of the pollution division, and Ms Allison Dehrman, oceanographic technician of the pollution division of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI), was published in the British *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

From 1984 to 1987, one oil spill was seen about every 3,5 hours, whereas during 1988 the number of sightings dropped to one spill every 5,7 and in 1989 to one spill every 6,11 flying hours.

The amount of oil dispersant used over the past five years also decreased significantly.

MAXIMUM FINES UP

The department says in the light of these trends and the proposed increase in fines for illegally discharging oil in SA waters, announced by Minister of Transport and of Public Works and Land Affairs Mr George Bartlett, there seems to be a greater awareness of the potential environmental damage caused by oil spills.

Proposed legislation provides for the maximum fine for illegally discharging oil to be increased from R20 000 to R200 000.

The article by Mr Moldan and Ms Dehrman says ships rounding the South African coast discharge oil illegally on a regular basis and to date 29 ships' masters have either been prosecuted or paid admissions of guilt for illegal discharges.

UNIDENTIFIABLE SPILLS

One ship's master was caught in 1985 and this increased to seven in 1988 and 1989.

Many transgressors still went unpunished.

Of the spills sighted between 1985 and 1988, an average of 78 percent were unidentifiable.

Mr Moldan says the battle against oil pollution should continue, even though it seems that its incidence is decreasing.

"Oil still contaminates our shorelines and every effort should be made to reduce this level of contamination."

The increased fines should also help, Mr Moldan says. — Sapa.

Hike in water tariffs

sewefan
2/3/90

56

By SY MAKARINGE
WATER tariffs will be increased by 12 percent from the beginning of April.

This was announced this week by Mr Vincent Bath, executive director of the Rand Water Board.

Bath said a typical householder's water account within the board's area of jurisdiction would vary from R20 to R50 a month, depending on consumption and water rates applied by the different local authorities.

The increase meant that consumers would from April 1 pay 52,75 cents a kilolitre - an increase of about 5,65 cents on last year's rates.

Bath said the increase was well below the current inflation rate.

3/3/90

2 Cape Times, Satu

Robben Island to remain unspoilt

Political Staff

THE government has reiterated that Robben Island will be conserved and will not be turned into a tourist resort.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday that through the years a number of people had dreamt of Robben Island as the main tourist attraction in South Africa.

He said at the handing over of two new ferry boats at Robben Island that proposals for the development of the island included visions of a millionaire's paradise.

"I do not challenge the feasibility of such visions. What I do, however, challenge is the question whether this jewel could be sacrificed to the mere whims of those seeking enrichment.

"I declare myself very strongly in favour of conserving and protecting this island's heritage. This is also the official government view."

The government was, however, aware of the needs of interest groups and tourists to visit the Island.

An ad hoc ministerial committee was appointed in 1983 to look into the matter. It recommended greater access to the island, which has been implemented.

Saving the environment

Challenges of the future

“THE new South Africa,” the phrase is on everyone’s lips — from the State President, Mr F W de Klerk, through concerned, essentially conservative environmentalists and nature lovers to the most radical of township comrades.

Most agree that this “new” South Africa of the future must be a very different place politically to the present, but environmental concerns in this projected future structure have been largely ignored.

What is exceedingly clear is that South Africa cannot escape the major global environmental issues of the next decade: global warming, or the so-called “greenhouse effect”, the effects of ozone depletion through the extensive use of CFCs and other gases; uncontrolled human population growth; the build-up of acid rain; problems relating to the safe disposal of toxic wastes; the loss of biotic diversity; and alternative energy options as reserves of traditional fossil fuel resources move ominously closer to depletion.

Housing

South Africa will have to pay its share of the international financial burden to cope with these problems, and it’s likely to be a very expensive exercise — for example, the capital outlay for the desulphurisation of a single 360MW power station is more than R500-million, with another R100-million in annual running costs.

But perhaps more significantly, environmental concerns will have to compete for available funds with other, more politically sensitive domestic needs such as the provision of housing, services and education, as the majority of the population rightly demand redress for decades of deliberate short-channelling over the past years, squandering immense opportunities for conserving more of South Africa’s natural heritage and instituting effective programmes for handling looming

Millions of rands have been channelled to foreign governments like the Comores and organisations like Renamo, yet no money has been available to save areas of invaluable natural and cultural heritage — such as Verlorenvlei near Islands Bay, one of the most important Cape estuarine/lacustrine systems and rated a national conservation priority since at least 1976.

Urgent action

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé runs a “Cinderella” department which struggles along on a budget of just R160,6-million — bigger only than the Bureau for Information and the central National Education department.

However, recommitments for historical wrongs are not going to solve the pressing environmental problems of the future. What is needed is urgent action, and there are two critical areas in particular which need attention.

The first is the provision of adequate finance — and to a

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By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

large extent this will depend on what monetary value the ordinary taxpayer is prepared to put on his or her immediate environment, in comparison with other demands like housing.

Because of past actions in a time when environmental concerns were largely unknown — the international “green consciousness” still a thing of the future — much of South Africa’s land surface has been allocated, alienated or effectively expropriated for totally unsuited or environmentally damaging purposes.

But to redress this state of affairs will be extremely expensive — if, for example, public opinion demands buying out legal mining rights for heavy minerals on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia or kaolin mining rights on the slopes of Chapman’s Peak, pineapple farms in the Mkuze River floodplain, or hotel development concessions on ecologically sensitive parts of the coast.

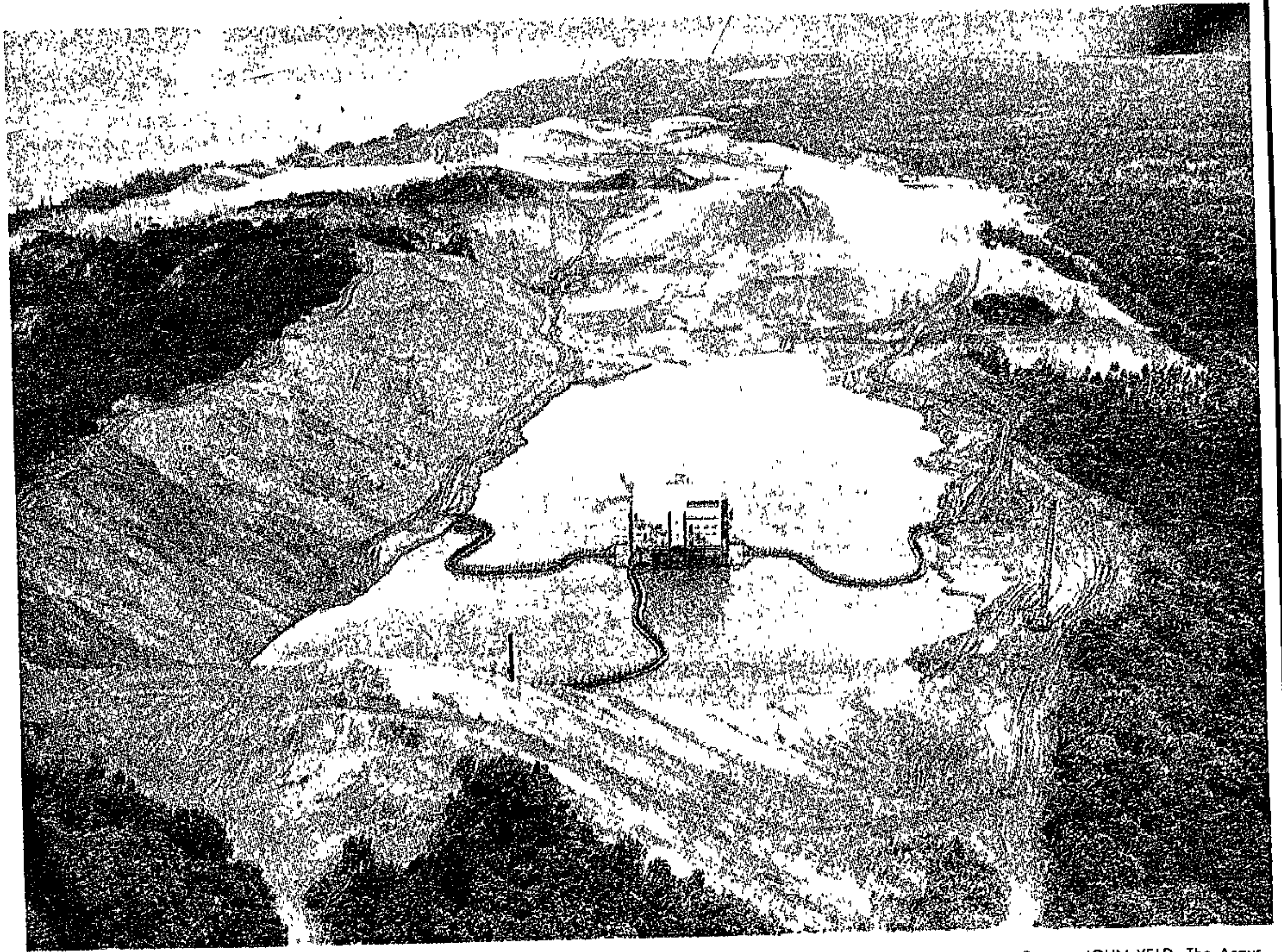
The future

Such “reactionary” conservation measures are likely to cost hundreds of millions of rands and the tax-paying public will have to pick up the tab — either in the form of vastly increased budgets for conservation departments, or through directly subsidised State action such as expropriation, litigation and subsidies.

The second area of urgent attention is the need for the immediate involvement of all South Africans in environmental decisions which affect the future.

That this is problematic in a period of intense political manoeuvring and negotiating is obvious, but the existing, white-dominated state of affairs is untenable and there are openings for co-operation which have been almost totally shunned or — perhaps worse — grossly mishandled.

For example, in November last year a new Council for the Environment was appointed in terms of the updated



Picture: JOHN YELD, The Argus

Strip mining for heavy minerals in the coastal dunes of northern Natal — can we strike a proper balance between conservation and the exploitation necessary for future economic growth?

ed Environment Conservation Act. Although the Council has had its share of problems and criticism, it is an influential body which has produced valuable guidelines for future environmental policy — albeit in terms of white values.

Mr Japhta Lekgetho of Soweto, president of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, was appointed to the new Council — but apparently without even being invited. He reported having received notice of his appointment on the same day as it was announced in the media, and that he had at no time been consulted as to whether he would serve on the Council. Not surprisingly,

he refused to take up the offer.

Other statutory conservation bodies such as the National Parks Board have no significant black representation, while control of provincial nature conservation departments rests with white-dominated, politically appointed executive committees not answerable to any popular constituencies.

Exception

The fault lies only partly with the government. In the struggle for political rights, environmental concerns have been almost totally overlooked by the mass democratic organisations. It was only in the past few months that

the African National Congress belatedly produced a set of environmental policy guidelines — and which are in any event open to criticism on ecological grounds.

The one notable exception to the lack of debate on our environmental future is Anglo American director and futures scenario guru Clem Sunter, who recently co-authored *South African Environments Into the 21st Century* with distinguished ecologists Professor Roy Siegfried and Mr Brian Huntley.

To ensure that the much-vaunted "New South Africa" does not degenerate into an environmental wasteland —

the "Paradise Lost" scenario of Sunter *et al* — is going to demand economic sacrifice and political compromise.

"Dragging politics" into environmental issues is inevitable, the authors suggest.

"The answer is that life is multi-dimensional. At the core of sustainable development lies economic growth, the state of the environment and the quality of human life. Each of these three dimensions is essential for the other two to exist ...

"Wiping the slate clean of apartheid is one thing; we are fairly confident that this will happen. But what replaces it is even more important ... In the end, the choice is yours."

Experts count ^{CMT} cost of Black ^{Thur 7/3} River pollution ^{6/3/90}

By CHRIS BATEMAN ⁽⁵⁶⁾

VIRTUALLY all life in the Liesbeek River between Josephine Mill and its confluence with the Black River had been destroyed by Thursday's pollution spill, independent experts said yesterday.

A City Council scientific services branch spokesman yesterday confirmed that council workers "might" have polluted the river by allowing contaminated soil from a disused dumping site at Rygersdal to slip into the river.

The council is rebuilding a wall and walkway running along the river at Rygersdal. He said it was also possible diesel oil had leaked into the river from one of the excavation machines.

Ohlsson's Breweries and the South African Transport Services (SATS) have denied responsibility.

CCC spokesman Mr Ted Doman yesterday said tests to determine what the toxin was and its origin would take "a couple more days".

Mr Stef Snel, of the independent environmental group Earthlife Africa, said the pollution had been monitored and it was believed the source was a stormwater outfall pipe next to the Josephine Mill.

Council cleansing staff have removed more than 600 dead fish, mainly carp, from the river.

The general manager of Ohlsson's Breweries, Mr Sam Montsi, said tests had revealed high CO₂ and PH levels in the river.

He said he had talked to Earthlife members and inspected the outfall pipe. His laboratory technicians had also taken samples from it, reporting that the water was "sufficiently clear to drink".

The company stored sewage and effluent in a tank during the day to prevent overloading the CCC system and released their effluent through a separate conduit at night, he said.

One of his engineers had been told that the CCC had been excavating near the river and that some material from this had slipped into the Liesbeek.

Mr Snel said there was "substantial" evidence of aquatic life above the Josephine Mill outfall pipe.

only deals with the stabilization of agriculture. The proclamation of the Designated Area does not replace existing development and stabilization initiatives which have been implemented since 1975. It is rather a temporary, timely and supporting measure to attain wider regional development goals.

Black city councillors: unauthorized loans

*2. Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

- (1) Whether any Black city councillors in the Orange Free State were granted unauthorized loans in the 1984-85 financial year; if so, what action has since been taken to recover the amounts owing;
- (2) whether the loans concerned were granted by an official; if not, who granted them; if so,
- (3) whether this official is still in the employ of the Provincial Administration: Orange Free State; if so, (a) why and (b) what action was taken against him? B249E

†The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, one loan of R5 000,00.

In the process of collecting debts from debtors during June 1989, it was found that this particular loan had been granted to a councillor in the Orange Free State. The case was handed over to the attorneys during January 1990 for further steps.

- (2) Yes.

An officer of the former Orange-Vaal Development Board and confirmed by resolution of the said board.

- (3) No.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

Comores: money spent on tourism

*3. Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:†

Whether his Department spent any amounts of money in the 1988-89 and 1989-90 financial years, respectively, to promote tourism to the Comores; if so, what are the relevant details? B322E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (for the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism): †

No.

6/3/90

Note: The South African Tourism Board promotes tourism to the RSA and not from the RSA to other countries.

Pietermaritzburg: additional police stations

*4. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether it is the intention to establish any additional police stations in the Greater Pietermaritzburg area; if so, (a) where and (b) when; if not, why not? B325E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) and (b) Police stations are being planned for Imbali, Taylor's Halt and Mpopomeni. However, no indication can be given when these police stations will be taken into use, because various factors, inter alia the availability of funds, influence the planning.

Mr M A TARR: Mr Speaker, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, could he give this House the assurance that in view of the very serious unrest situation in the area, the construction of these police stations will get the highest possible priority?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the answer is yes.

Drakensberg: cableway

*5. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether his Department has been informed of a proposal to build a cableway in the Amphitheatre of the Drakensberg; if so,
- (2) whether his Department is in any way involved in the matter; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B326E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: †

(1) No

(2) Falls away

(3) Falls away

National Manpower Commission: report

*6. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether the National Manpower Commission's report on conditions pertaining to farm labour has been made available to him; if so, on what date;
- (2) whether he intends tabling this report; if so, when; if not, why not? B327E

†The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) No. An advice on the possible statutory measures for the regulation of the conditions of employment of farm and domestic workers was submitted to the previous Minister of Manpower in 1984.

(2) Falls away.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising from the answer of the hon the Minister, does he or his department intend to take any action on the report that has been lying in the hands of the Government for six years now?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, that report was asked for by my predecessor to advise him, and he decided six years ago not to publish it. Hon members will understand that the information contained in that report is probably six or seven years old. The Manpower Commission is at present on my instruction busy looking at different aspects of the Labour Relations Act. Naturally this aspect will also be under review in that re-examination. To now Table a report whereof the information is seven years old—the hon member will well understand that labour relations and the laws connected therewith have changed considerably, especially since 1984—would not be appropriate as it would be a completely obsolete information document.

Humewood, PE: site occupied by SADF

*7. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence: †

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 15 on 14 February 1989, the site occupied by the South African Defence Force in Humewood, Port Elizabeth, is still available to the City Council of Port Elizabeth; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that a final decision will be made in this regard;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? †

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes. In 1989 negotiations between the City Council of Port Elizabeth, the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs and the SA Defence Force took place during which it was decided that a land exchange transaction would be acceptable to all parties. The SA Defence Force, after having completed its recent rationalisation programme, is at present busy finalizing its requirements in accordance with which the City Council is to develop the replacement property. Availability of funds by the City Council will ultimately determine when the SA Defence Force can occupy the new site and vacate the existing one.

- (2) No.

Margo Commission: report completed

*8. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Transport: †

- (1) Whether the Margo Commission's inquiry into the Helderberg air disaster of November 1987 has been completed; if so, (a) what were its main findings and (b) when will the report on the matter be made public; if not, (i) why not and (ii) when will it be completed;
- (2) whether the Government has received any interim report from the Commission; if so, to what effect;
- (3) whether, independent of the Margo inquiry, any practical steps have been taken in the light of the Helderberg disaster to prevent any recurrence of the accident; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether all liabilities arising from the accident have been settled; if not, why not?

(g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,
(h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.

15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.

16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).

17. All refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.

18. The Transport of employees to and from a collection site shall be provided by the Permitholder. All labourers employed by the Permitholder shall be in the charge of a supervisor who shall bear the necessary authority.

19. The Permitholder shall, if required, make arrangements with the local authority concerned for the provision of seaweed drying sites.

20. Access to and egress from the seashore shall be only by way of routes approved by the State, a local authority, or the owners of private property. Permission to utilize access routes or to exercise other rights in State forestry land must be obtained from the Department. The Permitholder shall in any case, as far as possible, restrict off-road use of its motor-

powered vehicles to the wet-sand area and take every reasonable precaution to avoid damage to the environment, especially those sections that seem sensitive such as potentially or actually unstable sand-dunes.

21. The authorized officials of the Department and the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (CPA) may inspect any of the activities, premises or records involved in terms of this permit.

22. If the Permitholder does not itself qualify as a local secondary processor of its collection/harvest, these shall be offered, at a competitive price (if necessary, subject to arbitration) to any third party qualifying as a local secondary processor before they may be exported.

23. In consideration of certain public sensitivities, the Permitholder should attempt to promote a favourable public image in respect of the nature and execution of its collecting/harvesting activities, especially in localities where his employees may attract public antagonism. To aid such public relations strategy, the Permitholder and its agents, but especially its subcontractors and field supervisors shall liaise and co-operate as far as possible with the relevant local authority, and notify beach constables and conservation officers of an impending collection/harvest; the public shall be informed on site by temporarily erected signboard-displays explaining concisely the authority, activity and duration of the activity. In addition, the Permitholder and its said agents shall be in possession of and familiar with current relevant research findings.

(2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration

(3) No.

Persons/communities: resettled

*21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any persons or communities have
Hansard 6/3/90

been resettled under section 5(1)(b) of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, No 52 of 1951, as amended in 1988; if so, (a) how many persons or communities, (b)(i) from which areas and (ii) to which areas and (c) who applied for the resettlement in each case?
Hansard 6/3/90 B346E

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Yes

(a) 46 Persons

(b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwanobhule (Uitenhage)

(c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request

The squatters at Greenbushes occupied an unoccupied Farm and was a nuisance to the neighbour on whose request they were relocated.

Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal
No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

*22. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs: Hansard 6/3/90

Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the purport of and (b) response to these applications?
B348E

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

SAP: four-year short-service contract

*23. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order: Hansard 6/3/90

(1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of

national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
Hansard 6/3/90 B349E

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2)

After the announcement by the State President on 7 December 1989 that National Service is being reduced to 1 year, the South African Police, in consultation with the South African Defence Force, decided in principle to reduce the minimum period of duty in the South African Police to 2 years. This decision will be in force retrospectively from 1 December 1989. In other words, any member who completes 2 years' service on or after 1 December 1989 and thereafter takes his discharge, will be exempted from National Service and be incorporated in the Police Reserve.

Black River: pollution levels

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Hansard 6/3/90

(1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
B351E

THE MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) No, it is the responsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

- (1) (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (3) Yes, insofar that discharges into the Black River of treated industrial and sewage effluent must comply with the requirements of the exemptions, issued to dischargers in terms of section 21 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956).
- (4) Yes. The aim of water pollution control is the preservation of the water environment so that water of a quality acceptable for industrial, urban, agricultural and recreational use and for the propagation of the fish and wildlife species that could reasonably be expected in a particular environment continues to be available. The protection of human health is of particular importance.
- An important aspect of water management in coming decades will be the prevention of the pollution of the water resources of the Republic of South Africa by ever-increasing quantities of urban, industrial, mining and agricultural effluent and the integration of this effluent into the water supply. Preventive measures will need to include the identification and control of diffuse sources of pollution, especially polluted runoff from urban, industrial and mining areas.
- In keeping with the principle that "the polluter pays" effluent discharges are controlled at their sources. The quality of effluent must comply with statutory standards, which take due cognizance of appropriate technology and current socio-economic requirements.
- In granting exemptions from the General Standard applicable to effluent discharges in public streams, consideration is given to the location of discharge points, the physical, chemical and biological properties of receiving waters and the interests of downstream users. Close monitoring of receiving waters is a prerequisite for the effective evaluation and adaptation of pollution control strategies and policies.
- In this particular case the said Municipality regularly submits reports on the water quality of the Black River catchment to the Department of Water Affairs as part of an ongoing task of the Department to ensure that the quality of discharges com-

ply with the requirements of the exemptions mentioned in (3) above. The quality of the treated effluent is closely monitored by the Department of Water Affairs, to check that it complies with the exemption conditions. This monitoring is aimed at addressing problems as they occur in a changing urban environment and could lead to the revision of exemption conditions according to the needs to maintain acceptable standards of water quality in the river.

Discharges of effluent and the quality of such discharges can be controlled and monitored. All cases of pollution are thoroughly investigated and the Department will not hesitate to lay charges. Runoff from urban areas, particularly storm-water, is not easy to control and such runoff is increasingly becoming a problem.

There is close and regular liaison between the Department of Water Affairs and, *inter alia*, the Department of Environmental Health and Population Development and local authorities insofar as water pollution is concerned. Within a municipal area water pollution control rests, in the first instance, with the local authority concerned but the Department of Water Affairs can jointly or independently deal with such matters as well.

I am aware that in this particular case certain signboards were erected by the Municipality concerned in order to warn the public of a possible health hazard.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Hansson 6/3/90

J G Strijdom Hospital: own-affairs hospital

Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing:

What were the (a) advantages and (b) disadvantages in regard to declaring the J G Strijdom Hospital an own-affairs hospital?

B408E.INT

*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES, WELFARE AND HOUSING: Mr Speaker, in the first place (a) the advantages. (i) This gave the University of the Witwatersrand an opportunity to reduce by a few hundred its 5 000 academic beds. This reduction is still a long way from the 2 000 to 3 000 beds regarded as sufficient for training by most universities in South Africa and elsewhere, however.

(ii) It gave the department an opportunity to determine the true needs of the community served by the hospital. A decision was taken to develop a 60-bed ward for chronically ill frail aged, something for which there is a great need.

(iii) A decision was taken to extend psychiatric services and to double the beds from 30 to 60.

(iv) Taking the growing need for beds at the Coronation Hospital, barely 2 km from the J G Strijdom Hospital, into consideration, it was decided to make two 30-bed wards available for medical and surgical patients of the first-mentioned hospital. (v) This decision to make the facilities of the J G Strijdom Hospital available to the Coronation Hospital not only means more effective utilisation of manpower and equipment, but also that patients in both hospitals will be provided with better medical services.

(b) Disadvantages: (i) The decision of the University of the Witwatersrand to withdraw from the hospital initially seriously damaged the morale and quality of service at the hospital. Patients suffered as a result of the uncertainty as to whether or not care was available for them.

(ii) The perception was created that the hospital had been paralysed and was closing, and that patients were being forced to go to private practitioners. (iii) A further disadvantage was that the hospital was politicised and the impression created that it was an apartheid hospital. The term "Whites Only" was linked to it, despite the fact that the hospital has never been restricted only to Whites. These problems are at present being converted into opportunities.

The hospital is undergoing a positive change. Certain wards are fuller now than they were even before the announcement of the university's withdrawal. A purposeful attempt is being made to make better use of the additional available space at the hospital. The two wards for the Coronation Hospital, which are manned by academic staff and can also be used for other J G Strijdom patients, have led to a new spirit of goodwill and co-operation between the J G Strijdom and Coronation Hospital staff and patients.

We have learned just how important it is to be sensitive to everyone's health needs, and also how important it is to negotiate in a spirit of trust and to use our experience and infrastructure to the benefit of all.

Mr M J ELLIS: Mr Speaker, the advantages given by the hon the Minister with regard to changing the status of the J G Strijdom Hospital are very thin and I think bear very little relevance to what one hears from other people who are directly associated with that hospital.

I do want to warn the hon the Minister again that he should not try to hide behind the decision to open two wards at that hospital to cater for the overflow of patients from the Coronation Hospital. That hospital is grossly overcrowded and he knows that. But it is a small step, and while we accept that it is an important step, it must never be used to condone the original decision to make the J G Strijdom Hospital an own affairs hospital.

It is almost a year ago since that hospital did change its status. The decision to change its status was taken without consulting the staff of that hospital, or the medical school of the University of the Witwatersrand who ran the academic side of that teaching hospital, and it has never been made clear why the decision was taken or what in fact was to be gained from it, or who was really responsible for taking it.

However, what is absolutely clear despite what the hon the Minister has said in defence of the situation, is that it was a severely flawed decision, both in judgement and in execution. If there were any advantages to be gained, either political or other, those advantages have been totally overtaken by the disastrous consequences of the decision which have so adversely affected both the hospital and in particular the Government's credibility in terms of its health policies.

Even after the decision was taken, the Government had to admit that the only real change in administrative matters was that the finance for the hospital would now be provided by the House of Assembly and not by the province as had been the case although, curiously enough, estimates would still be proposed by the provincial administration. Everything else would remain in the hands of the provincial authorities. This adds emphasis to the fact that the real change which came about in that hospital was that it could cater for White patients only, whereas before it had catered for patients of all colours. It was a hospital ideally suited for taking patients of all colours.

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes, *Handwritten: 6/3/90*

(a) seven members of public and one member of Parliament,

(b) from 11 June 1987 to 5 July 1989. Unfortunately information is only available as to the past three years,

(c) (i) in general, representations were based on people's fear of tartrazine. Requests were made for either the banning of this colourant or stricter control over the use thereof in foods,

(ii) as tartrazine is a substance which is harmful, to certain individuals only, a regulation has been published in terms of section 15(1) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 in Government Notice no. R908 of 1977 as revised by Government Notice no. R2298 dated 26 October 1984. This regulation prohibits the sale of any foodstuff containing the colourant TARTRAZINE C.I. no. 19140 unless the word "tartrazine" appears in the list of ingredients in letters not less than 2 mm in height.

Hydroquinone

*19. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

What steps have been taken with a view to implementing the banning of the manufacture and importation of products containing hydroquinone, as announced in the reply to Question No 8 on 21 February 1989?

Handwritten: 6/3/90
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Government Notice R1227, published in the Government Gazette dated 24 June 1988, prohibits the use of hydroquinone in cosmetics as from 1 January 1991.

However, I am considering advancing the date of this prohibition.

Seaweed: permit for certain company

*20. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Handwritten: 6/3/90
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) Whether a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been granted a permit to gather seaweed off the east coast of South Africa; if so, (a) who granted this permit and (b)(i) when and (ii) subject to what conditions or specifications was it granted; *Handwritten: 6/3/90*

(2) whether his Department monitors the gathering of seaweed by this company; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether the gathering of seaweed by this company has in any way affected the local environment; if so, in what ways? B345E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes

(a) Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr G J Kotzé, MP

(b) (i) 1 November 1988

(ii) The Permit Conditions are:

1. The Permitholder shall be a member of the South African Concessionaires' Association (SASCA).

2. This permit shall be subject to the following fees, payable to the Department of Environment Affairs, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012 (the 'Department'):

(a) Annual permit fee of R1 500,00 per concession area payable in advance; and

(b) A levy of R4,00 per ton (dry mass) of all seaweed collected/harvested, shall be payable before or on the 15th day of May each year, and thereafter at six-monthly intervals. The levy shall be submitted together with an appropriately completed levy form V1/13/5/11L. Should payment not reach the Department of Environment Affairs before or on due date, interest at the standard rates for Government loans and advances shall be payable from the due date to the date of receipt.

3. Should the Permitholder fail to pay the annual permit fee and/or levies as pre-

scribed in clause B3 above by due dates and still fail to pay such fees within 30 days after payment has been demanded in writing by the Department of Environment Affairs, the Minister of Environment Affairs and of Water Affairs (the 'Minister') may cancel this permit without further notice, and the Permitholder shall be liable for all fees plus interest due in terms of this permit.

4. The Permitholder shall, on the prescribed form V1/13/5/1E, furnish monthly to the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012, the details specified.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Minister may at any stage during the period of validity of this permit amend or supplement the conditions contained therein, or withdraw and cancel the permit in its entirety, by giving notice of his intention to do so and his reasons therefor, in a prepaid registered letter addressed to the *domiciliurn citandi* of the Permitholder, in which case, the Permitholder shall be entitled to a *pro rata* refund of the permit fee.

6. Subject to review, this permit may be extended:

(a) for two further periods of five (5) years each, or

(b) indefinitely, should the Minister be satisfied that the Permitholder processes locally. To qualify as a local secondary processor a Permitholder shall within the Republic of South Africa convert to final consumer-use a substantial proportion of raw material it handles.

7. The Permitholder may surrender the permit by giving six (6) months' written notice to the Department of Environment Affairs, in which case the Permitholder shall be entitled to a *pro rata* refund of the permit fee.

8. This permit is not transferable.

9. The Permitholder indemnifies the State against all expenses, losses, actions and claims, including claims for damages, injuries to persons or damage to property

and all costs between attorney and client which the State may be adjudged or obliged to pay, arising directly or indirectly from any action which may be taken by any person(s) as a result of the granting of this permit, or as a result of any act performed by the Permitholder, its employees, contractors or customers, on the said land pursuant to the permit. The Permitholder shall be held responsible for any contravention its contractor(s) may commit while in its employ.

10. The Permitholder may at any time apply in writing to the Department for permission to collect/harvest seaweeds excluded from this permit.

11. Nothing contained in this permit shall detract from the powers conferred on the Minister and the State President by Sections 4, 5 and 10 of the Seashore Act, 1935 (Act 21 of 1935), in relation to third parties.

12. Seaweeds shall be collected/harvested only by collectors in the employment of the Permitholder or of its accredited representative(s) or contractor(s).

13. Seaweeds shall be harvested by hand-plucking or such other method(s) as is/are prescribed by the Department.

14. The Permitholder shall ensure that its employees, while engaged in collecting/harvesting operations:

(a) shall, as soon as possible, remove and return to the sea all limpets accidentally included with the collected/harvested seaweed;

(b) do not collect any shellfish;

(c) do not create a public nuisance whether by reason of unacceptable noise, smell, or anything likely to endanger public health;

(d) shall comply with all regulations relating to public health;

(e) shall make use of authorised and satisfactory sanitary facilities that shall, if necessary, be provided by the Permitholder where appropriate;

(f) are distinctively dressed so as to be readily identifiable;

(g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,
(h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.

15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.

16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).

17. All refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.

18. The Transport of employees to and from a collection site shall be provided by the Permitholder. All labourers employed by the Permitholder shall be in the charge of a supervisor who shall bear the necessary authority.

19. The Permitholder shall, if required, make arrangements with the local authority concerned for the provision of seaweed drying sites.

20. Access to and egress from the seashore shall be only by way of routes approved by the State, a local authority, or the owners of private property. Permission to utilize access routes or to exercise other rights in State forestry land must be obtained from the Department. The Permitholder shall in any case, as far as possible, restrict off-road use of its motor-

powered vehicles to the wet-sand area and take every reasonable precaution to avoid damage to the environment, especially those sections that seem sensitive such as potentially or actually unstable sand-dunes.

21. The authorized officials of the Department and the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (CPA) may inspect any of the activities, premises or records involved in terms of this permit.

22. If the Permitholder does not itself qualify as a local secondary processor of its collection/harvest, these shall be offered, at a competitive price (if necessary, subject to arbitration) to any third party qualifying as a local secondary processor before they may be exported.

23. In consideration of certain public sensitivities, the Permitholder should attempt to promote a favourable public image in respect of the nature and execution of its collecting/harvesting activities, especially in localities where his employees may attract public antagonism. To aid such public relations strategy, the Permitholder and its agents, but especially its subcontractors and field supervisors shall liaise and co-operate as far as possible with the relevant local authority, and notify beach constables and conservation officers of an impending collection/harvest; the public shall be informed on site by temporarily erected signboards displaying explaining concisely the authority, activity and duration of the activity. In addition, the Permitholder and its said agents shall be in possession of and familiar with current relevant research findings.

(2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration

(3) No.

Persons/communities: resettled

*21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any persons or communities have
Hansford 6/3/90

been resettled under section 5(1)(b) of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, No 52 of 1951, as amended in 1988; if so, (a) how many persons or communities, (b)(i) from which areas and (ii) to which areas and (c) who applied for the resettlement in each case?

Hansford 6/3/90 B346E
The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Yes

(a) 46 Persons

(b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwantobhule (Uitenhage)

(c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request
The squatters at Greenbushes occupied an unoccupied farm and was a nuisance to the neighbour on whose request they were relocated.

Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal

No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

*22. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs: Hansford 6/3/90

Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the (a) purport of and (b) response to these applications?

B348E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

SAP: four-year short-service contract

*23. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order: Hansford 6/3/90

(1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of

national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? Hansford 6/3/90 B349E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2)

After the announcement by the State President on 7 December 1989 that National Service is being reduced to 1 year, the South African Police, in consultation with the South African Defence Force, decided in principle to reduce the minimum period of duty in the South African Police to 2 years. This decision will be in force retrospectively from 1 December 1989. In other words, any member who completes 2 years' service on or after 1 December 1989 and thereafter takes his discharge, will be exempted from National Service and be incorporated in the Police Reserve.

Black River: pollution levels

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Hansford 6/3/90

(1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B351E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) No, it is the responsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes, *Handwritten 6/3/90*

(a) seven members of public and one member of Parliament,

(b) from 11 June 1987 to 5 July 1989. Unfortunately information is only available as to the past three years,

(c) (i) in general, representations were based on people's fear of tartrazine. Requests were made for either the banning of this colourant or stricter control over the use thereof in foods,

(ii) as tartrazine is a substance which is harmful to certain individuals only, a regulation has been published in terms of section 15(1) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 in Government Notice no. R908 of 1977 as revised by Government Notice no. R2298 dated 26 October 1984. This regulation prohibits the sale of any foodstuff containing the colourant TARTRAZINE C.I. no. 19140 unless the word "tartrazine" appears in the list of ingredients in letters not less than 2 mm in height.

Hydroquinone

*19. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

What steps have been taken with a view to implementing the banning of the manufacture and importation of products containing hydroquinone, as announced in the reply to Question No 8 on 21 February 1989?

Handwritten 6/3/90
B344E
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Government Notice R1227, published in the Government Gazette dated 24 June 1988, prohibits the use of hydroquinone in cosmetics as from 1 January 1991.

However, I am considering advancing the date of this prohibition.

Seaweed: permit for certain company

*20. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Handwritten 6/3/90
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) Whether a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, has been granted a permit to gather seaweed off the east coast of South Africa; if so, (a) who granted this permit and (b)(i) when and (ii) subject to what conditions or specifications was it granted;

Handwritten 6/3/90

(2) whether his Department monitors the gathering of seaweed by this company; if not, why not; if so,

(3) whether the gathering of seaweed by this company has in any way affected the local environment; if so, in what ways?

B345E

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes

(a) Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr G J Kozé, MP

(b) (i) 1 November 1988

(ii) The Permit Conditions are:

1. The Permitholder shall be a member of the South African Concessionaires' Association (SASCA).

2. This permit shall be subject to the following fees, payable to the Department of Environment Affairs, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012 (the 'Department'):

(a) Annual permit fee of R1 500,00 per concession area payable in advance; and

(b) A levy of R4,00 per ton (dry mass) of all seaweed collected/harvested, shall be payable before or on the 15th day of May each year, and thereafter at six-monthly intervals. The levy shall be submitted together with an appropriately completed levy form V1/13/5/1L. Should payment not reach the Department of Environment Affairs before or on due date, interest at the standard rates for Government loans and advances shall be payable from the due date to the date of receipt.

3. Should the Permitholder fail to pay the annual permit fee and/or levies as pre-

scribed in clause B3 above by due dates and still fail to pay such fees within 30 days after payment has been demanded in writing by the Department of Environment Affairs, the Minister of Environment Affairs and of Water Affairs (the 'Minister') may cancel this permit without further notice, and the Permitholder shall be liable for all fees plus interest due in terms of this permit.

4. The Permitholder shall, on the prescribed form V1/13/5/1E, furnish monthly to the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Rogge Bay, 8012, the details specified.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Minister may at any stage during the period of validity of this permit amend or supplement the conditions contained therein, or withdraw and cancel the permit in its entirety, by giving notice of his intention to do so and his reasons therefor, in a prepaid registered letter addressed to the *domicilium citandi et executandi* of the Permitholder, in which case, the Permitholder shall be entitled to a *pro rata* refund of the permit fee.

6. Subject to review, this permit may be extended:

(a) for two further periods of five (5) years each, or

(b) indefinitely, should the Minister be satisfied that the Permitholder processes locally. To qualify as a local secondary processor a Permitholder shall within the Republic of South Africa convert to final consumer-use a substantial proportion of raw material it handles.

7. The Permitholder may surrender the permit by giving six (6) months' written notice to the Department of Environment Affairs, in which case the Permitholder shall be entitled to a *pro rata* refund of the permit fee.

8. This permit is not transferable.

9. The Permitholder indemnifies the State against all expenses, losses, actions and claims, including claims for damages, injuries to persons or damage to property

and all costs between attorney and client which the State may be adjudged or obliged to pay, arising directly or indirectly from any action which may be taken by any person(s) as a result of the granting of this permit, or as a result of any act performed by the Permitholder, its employees, contractors or customers, on the said land pursuant to the permit. The Permitholder shall be held responsible for any contravention its contractor(s) may commit while in its employ.

10. The Permitholder may at any time apply in writing to the Department for permission to collect/harvest seaweeds excluded from this permit.

11. Nothing contained in this permit shall detract from the powers conferred on the Minister and the State President by Sections 4, 5 and 10 of the Seashore Act, 1935 (Act 21 of 1935), in relation to third parties.

12. Seaweeds shall be collected/harvested only by collectors in the employment of the Permitholder or of its accredited representative(s) or contractor(s).

13. Seaweeds shall be harvested by hand-plucking or such other method(s) as is/are prescribed by the Department.

14. The Permitholder shall ensure that its employees, while engaged in collecting/harvesting operations:

(a) shall, as soon as possible, remove and return to the sea all limpets accidentally included with the collected/harvested seaweed;

(b) do not collect any shellfish;

(c) do not create a public nuisance whether by reason of unacceptable noise, smell, or anything likely to endanger public health;

(d) shall comply with all regulations relating to public health;

(e) shall make use of authorised and satisfactory sanitary facilities that shall, if necessary, be provided by the Permitholder where appropriate;

(f) are distinctively dressed so as to be readily identifiable;

(g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,
(h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.

15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.

16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).

17. All, refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.

18. The Transport of employees to and from a collection site shall be provided by the Permitholder. All labourers employed by the Permitholder shall be in the charge of a supervisor who shall bear the necessary authority.

19. The Permitholder shall, if required, make arrangements with the local authority concerned for the provision of seaweed drying sites.

20. Access to and egress from the seashore shall be only by way of routes approved by the State, a local authority, or the owners of private property. Permission to utilize access routes or to exercise other rights in State forestry land must be obtained from the Department. The Permitholder shall in any case, as far as possible, restrict off-road use of its motor-

powered vehicles to the wet-sand area and take every reasonable precaution to avoid damage to the environment, especially those sections that seem sensitive such as potentially or actually unstable sand-dunes.

21. The authorized officials of the Department and the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (CPA) may inspect any of the activities, premises or records involved in terms of this permit.

22. If the Permitholder does not itself qualify as a local secondary processor of its collection/harvest, these shall be offered, at a competitive price (if necessary, subject to arbitration) to any third party qualifying as a local secondary processor before they may be exported.

23. In consideration of certain public sensitivities, the Permitholder should attempt to promote a favourable public image in respect of the nature and execution of its collecting/harvesting activities, especially in localities where his employees may attract public antagonism. To aid such public relations strategy, the Permitholder and its agents, but especially its subcontractors and field supervisors shall liaise and co-operate as far as possible with the relevant local authority, and notify beach constables and conservation officers of an impending collection/harvest; the public shall be informed on site by temporarily erected signboards displaying explaining concisely the authority, activity and duration of the activity. In addition, the Permitholder and its said agents shall be in possession of and familiar with current relevant research findings.

(2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration

(3) No.

Persons/communities: resettled

*21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

Whether any persons or communities have

been resettled under section 5(1)(b) of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, No 52 of 1951, as amended in 1988; if so, (a) how many persons or communities, (b)(i) from which areas and (ii) to which areas and (c) who applied for the resettlement in each case?

Answered 6/3/90 B346E
The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Yes

(a) 46 Persons

(b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwanobhule (Uitenhage)

(c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request
The squatters at Greenbushes occupied an unoccupied farm and was a nuisance to the neighbour on whose request they were relocated.

Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal

No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

*22. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs: Answered 6/3/90

Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the (a) purport of and (b) response to these applications?

B348E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

SAP: four-year short-service contract

*23. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order: Answered 6/3/90

(1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of

national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? Answered 6/3/90 B349E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2)

After the announcement by the State President on 7 December 1989 that National Service is being reduced to 1 year, the South African Police, in consultation with the South African Defence Force, decided in principle to reduce the minimum period of duty in the South African Police to 2 years. This decision will be in force retrospectively from 1 December 1989. In other words, any member who completes 2 years' service on or after 1 December 1989 and thereafter takes his discharge, will be exempted from National Service and be incorporated in the Police Reserve.

Black River: pollution levels

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Answered 6/3/90

(1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

(2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

(3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not, if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B351E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) No, it is the responsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

(3) (a) Yes.

- (b) J S Slabber—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 L Redelinghuys—Transferred to Good Hope College.
 G M W Visser—Services utilized at the Umzingisi Special School.
 P H de Wet—Transferred to Head Office.
 C S Kelly—On sick leave pending application for early retirement due to ill health.
 J J Schutte—Transferred to Head Office.
 H S J Coetzee—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 W Slabbert—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 C W van der Vyver—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.

Harms Commission: investigators

*13. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice: *Hansard 6/3/90*

Whether, with reference to his statement on 7 February 1990, a team of investigators to be put at the disposal of the Harms Commission has been appointed: if so, (a) what are the names of the persons involved, (b) what are their qualifications and (c) by whom are they employed at present? *B338E*

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (a) (i) Advocate T P McNally, SC.
 (ii) Advocate L J Roberts, SC.
 (iii) Major-General R N van der Westhuizen.
 (iv) Lieutenant-Colonel J P Wright.
 (b) (i) Advocate McNally is the Attorney-General of the Orange Free State and has been controlled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.
 (ii) Advocate Roberts is a Deputy Attorney-General of Natal and has been enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.

(iii) Major-General Van der Westhuizen is a member of the Detective Branch at the Head Office of the South African Police.

- (iv) Lieutenant-Colonel Wright is a member of the Detective Branch at the Head Office of the South African Police. *Hansard 6/3/90*
 (c) Advocates McNally and Roberts are employed by the Department of Justice while Major-General Van der Westhuizen and Lieutenant-Colonel Wright are employed by the South African Police.

Lead concentration exceeded *Hansard 6/3/90*
 *14. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether the maximum allowable concentration of lead in the atmosphere, as specified in the reply to Question No 506 on 26 May 1989, was exceeded in Cape Town on any day in 1989; if so, on how many days? *B339E*

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT: *SG*

No, the concentration was never exceeded during 1989.

Hout Bay: development of harbour area

*15. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: *Hansard 6/3/90*

- (1) Whether any progress has been made with the plans for the development of the harbour area at Hout Bay; if not, why not; if so, when will the plans be finalized;
 (2) whether, in considering these plans, his Department or the Cape Provincial Administration has commissioned an environmental impact study relating to such development; if so who undertook the study;
 (3) whether this environmental impact study will be made public; if not, why not; if so, when;
 (4) whether his Department or the Administration has discussed the plans for the proposed development with representatives of the local community; if not, why not; if so, (a) with what representatives and (b) when? *B340E*

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *Hansard 6/3/90*

- (1) Major developers were asked to submit sketch plans for the development of part of the harbour at Hout Bay for purposes of tourism. Two groups of developers came to the fore, and the preliminary plans of these two groups are at present with the Provincial Executive Committee for a decision and the appointment of one of them. Subsequently the successful developer will be asked to submit full architectural plans, which, if necessary, will be subjected to an environmental impact study.
 (2) Falls away.
 (3) Falls away.
 (4) No, because there are as yet no final plans which can be discussed with the local community. The final plans will be open to inspection by interested parties.

Mr C W EGLIN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I take it that although they are called "final", the plans will not actually be finally formalised until an impact study has been done and approved and until the local residents have been consulted and have made their input?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, what is happening at the moment is that two different plans are being evaluated. One of these developers will then be asked to present architectural plans, as they are rather expensive items. Once they have been received, those plans will be submitted to the local community for their input and comment.

Brown's Farm: housing

*16. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) How many persons will Brown's Farm be able to accommodate after it has been developed; *Hansard 6/3/90*
 (2) whether any other land has been allocated for those persons who were forced to leave the Crossroads area in 1986 and cannot be accommodated on Brown's Farm; if not, why not; if so, what land? *B341E*

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *Hansard 6/3/90*

- (1) The assumption is made that the 248-ha development area at Philippi is at question. A total of 5 036 even is to be developed, and at a family size of 6 the estimated number of people is in the order of 30 000.
 (2) No. Current indications are that the development area will be sufficient for inter alia the particular category of people.
Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Cape Town railway station: certain police officer *Hansard 6/3/90* present

*17. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether a certain police officer, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was present on the third-class concourse of the Cape Town railway station on the afternoon of 31 January 1990; if so, why;
 (2) whether this officer or any policemen under his control took any action there; if so, what action;
 (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *B342E*

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes. The officer was in charge of a group of policemen who were performing duty on the station.
 (2) No.
 (3) No.

Hansard 6/3/90 *Tartazine*

*18. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: Whether her Department has received any representations regarding the use of tartazine in foodstuffs during the past five years; if so, (a) from whom, (b) when, and (c) what was the (i) purport of and (ii) response to these representations, in each case? *B343E*

- (g) shall be in possession of appropriate authorization; and,
- (h) are accommodated in a manner satisfactory to the local authority.
15. The Permitholder shall ensure that collecting, harvesting, drying and other treatment of seaweed in areas to which the public has legal access shall be carried out with proper and effective control so that the lawful use of the seashore by the public shall not be obstructed.
16. No permanent or semi-permanent structures whatsoever, shall be erected on the seashore without the written approval of the Minister. No compensation shall be due to the Permitholder for any such structures should the permit be withdrawn for any reasons, and the Permitholder may be required at its own expense to remove such structures and restore to original status the affected site(s).
17. All refuse or any obnoxious substance resulting from the Permitholder's and its employees' activities above high-tide level especially on recognized beaches and in public places and thoroughfares shall be promptly removed, burnt or otherwise destroyed or disposed of in such manner and at such place as shall be directed by the relevant Health Officer, local authority or Sea Fisheries Control Officer.
18. The Transport of employees to and from a collection site shall be provided by the Permitholder. All labourers employed by the Permitholder shall be in the charge of a supervisor who shall bear the necessary authority.
19. The Permitholder shall, if required, make arrangements with the local authority concerned for the provision of seaweed drying sites.
20. Access to and egress from the seashore shall be only by way of routes approved by the State, a local authority, or the owners of private property. Permission to utilize access routes or to exercise other rights in State forestry land must be obtained from the Department. The Permitholder shall in any case, as far as possible, restrict off-road use of its motor-
- powered vehicles to the wet-sand area and take every reasonable precaution to avoid damage to the environment, especially those sections that seem sensitive such as potentially or actually unstable sand-dunes.
21. The authorized officials of the Department and the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (CPA) may inspect any of the activities, premises or records involved in terms of this permit.
22. If the Permitholder does not itself qualify as a local secondary processor of its collection/harvest, these shall be offered, at a competitive price (if necessary, subject to arbitration) to any third party qualifying as a local secondary processor before they may be exported.
23. In consideration of certain public sensitivities, the Permitholder should attempt to promote a favourable public image in respect of the nature and execution of its collecting/harvesting activities, especially in localities where his employees may attract public antagonism. To aid such public relations strategy, the Permitholder and its agents, but especially its subcontractors and field supervisors shall liaise and co-operate as far as possible with the relevant local authority, and notify beach constables and conservation officers of an impending collection/harvest; the public shall be informed on site by temporarily erected signboards displaying explaining concisely the authority, activity and duration of the activity. In addition, the Permitholder and its said agents shall be in possession of and familiar with current relevant research findings.
- (2) Yes, in conjunction with the Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation (Marine Control) of the Cape Provincial Administration
- (3) No.
- Persons/communities: resettled
- *21. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:
Whether any persons or communities have
Hanssed 6/3/90

been resettled under section 5(1)(b) of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act, No 52 of 1951, as amended in 1988; if so, (a) how many persons or communities, (b)(i) from which areas and (ii) to which areas and (c) who applied for the resettlement in each case?

Hanssed 6/3/90 B346E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Yes

- (a) 46 Persons
- (b) (i) Brackenfell 1 Person
Greenbushes (Port Elizabeth) 45 Persons

(ii) The person from Brackenfell to a home for the aged at Langa
The 45 persons from Greenbushes to Kwanobhule (Uitenhage)

- (c) The squatter at Brackenfell was relocated at her own request
The squatters at Greenbushes occupied an unoccupied farm and was a nuisance to the neighbour on whose request they were relocated.

Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal

No. Rest of question falls away.

M-Net: broadcasting licence

*22. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs: Hanssed 6/3/90

Whether the South African Broadcasting Corporation has received any representations from M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence; if so, what was the (a) purport of and (b) response to these applications?

B348E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

- (a) and (b) fall away.

SAP: four-year short-service contract

*23 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order: Hanssed 6/3/90

- (1) Whether members of the South African Police who committed themselves to undertaking a four-year short-service contract in lieu of a two-year period of

national service will be granted a similar reduction in their service obligations as has been granted to national servicemen; if not, why not;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
- Hanssed 6/3/90 B349E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) and (2)

After the announcement by the State President on 7 December 1989 that National Service is being reduced to 1 year, the South African Police, in consultation with the South African Defence Force, decided in principle to reduce the minimum period of duty in the South African Police to 2 years. This decision will be in force retrospectively from 1 December 1989. In other words, any member who completes 2 years' service on or after 1 December 1989 and thereafter takes his discharge, will be exempted from National Service and be incorporated in the Police Reserve.

Black River: pollution levels (56)

*24. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Water Affairs: Hanssed 6/3/90

- (1) Whether his Department is responsible for the testing of the pollution levels in the Black River in the Pinelands/Mowbray area; if not, whose responsibility is it; if so, (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe;

- (2) whether his Department is responsible for indicating that the river is not safe for swimming or canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is it;

- (3) whether his Department is taking any steps to ensure that the river is rendered clear of pollutants; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
- B351E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) and (2) No, it is the responsibility of the Municipality of Cape Town.

- (1) (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (3) Yes, insofar that discharges into the Black River of treated industrial and sewage effluent must comply with the requirements of the exemptions, issued to dischargers in terms of section 21 of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956).
- (4) Yes. The aim of water pollution control is the preservation of the water environment so that water of a quality acceptable for industrial, urban, agricultural and recreational use and for the propagation of the fish and wildlife species that could reasonably be expected in a particular environment continues to be available. The protection of human health is of particular importance.

An important aspect of water management in coming decades will be the prevention of the pollution of the water resources of the Republic of South Africa by ever-increasing quantities of urban, industrial, mining and agricultural effluent and the integration of this effluent into the water supply. Preventive measures will need to include the identification and control of diffuse sources of pollution, especially polluted runoff from urban, industrial and mining areas.

In keeping with the principle that "the polluter pays" effluent discharges are controlled at their sources. The quality of effluent must comply with statutory standards, which take due cognizance of appropriate technology and current socioeconomic requirements.

In granting exemptions from the General Standard applicable to effluent discharges in public streams, consideration is given to the location of discharge points, the physical, chemical and biological properties of receiving waters and the interests of downstream users. Close monitoring of receiving waters is a prerequisite for the effective evaluation and adaptation of pollution control strategies and policies.

In this particular case the said Municipality regularly submits reports on the water quality of the Black River catchment to the Department of Water Affairs as part of an ongoing task of the Department to ensure that the quality of discharges com-

ply with the requirements of the exemptions mentioned in (3) above. The quality of the treated effluent is closely monitored by the Department of Water Affairs, to check that it complies with the exemption conditions. This monitoring is aimed at addressing problems as they occur in a changing urban environment and could lead to the revision of exemption conditions according to the needs to maintain acceptable standards of water quality in the river.

Discharges of effluent and the quality of such discharges can be controlled and monitored. All cases of pollution are thoroughly investigated and the Department will not hesitate to lay charges. Runoff from urban areas, particularly storm-water, is not easy to control and such runoff is increasingly becoming a problem.

There is close and regular liaison between the Department of Water Affairs and, *inter alia*, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of National Health and Population Development and local authorities insofar as water pollution is concerned. Within a municipal area water pollution control rests, in the first instance, with the local authority concerned but the Department of Water Affairs can jointly or independently deal with such matters as well.

I am aware that in this particular case certain signboards were erected by the Municipality concerned in order to warn the public of a possible health hazard.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs:

Hanssa 6/3/90
J G Strijdom Hospital: own-affairs hospital

Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing:

What were the (a) advantages and (b) disadvantages in regard to declaring the J G Strijdom Hospital an own-affairs hospital?

B408E.INT

*The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES, WELFARE AND HOUSING: Mr Speaker, in the first place (a) the advantages. (i) This gave the University of the Witwatersrand an opportunity to reduce by a few hundred its 5 000 academic beds. This reduction is still a long way from the 2 000 to 3 000 beds regarded as sufficient for training by most universities in South Africa and elsewhere, however.

(ii) It gave the department an opportunity to determine the true needs of the community served by the hospital. A decision was taken to develop a 60-bed ward for chronically ill frail aged, something for which there is a great need. (iii) A decision was taken to extend psychiatric services and to double the beds from 30 to 60. (iv) Taking the growing need for beds at the Coronation Hospital, barely 2 km from the J G Strijdom Hospital, into consideration, it was decided to make two 30-bed wards available for medical and surgical patients of the first-mentioned hospital. (v) This decision to make the facilities of the J G Strijdom Hospital available to the Coronation Hospital not only means more effective utilisation of manpower and equipment, but also that patients in both hospitals will be provided with better medical services.

(b) Disadvantages: (i) The decision of the University of the Witwatersrand to withdraw from the hospital initially seriously damaged the morale and quality of service at the hospital. Patients suffered as a result of the uncertainty as to whether or not care was available for them. (ii) The perception was created that the hospital had been paralysed and was closing, and that patients were being forced to go to private practitioners. (iii) A further disadvantage was that the hospital was politicised and the impression created that it was an apartheid hospital. The term "Whites Only" was linked to it, despite the fact that the hospital has never been restricted only to Whites. These problems are at present being converted into opportunities.

The hospital is undergoing a positive change. Certain wards are fuller now than they were even before the announcement of the university's withdrawal. A purposeful attempt is being made to make better use of the additional available space at the hospital. The two wards for the Coronation Hospital, which are manned by academic staff and can also be used for other J G Strijdom patients, have led to a new spirit of goodwill and co-operation between the J G Strijdom and Coronation Hospital staff and patients.

We have learned just how important it is to be sensitive to everyone's health needs, and also how important it is to negotiate in a spirit of trust and to use our experience and infrastructure to the benefit of all.

Mr M J ELLIS: Mr Speaker, the advantages given by the hon the Minister with regard to changing the status of the J G Strijdom Hospital are very thin and I think bear very little relevance to what one hears from other people who are directly associated with that hospital.

I do want to warn the hon the Minister again that he should not try to hide behind the decision to open two wards at that hospital to cater for the overflow of patients from the Coronation Hospital. That hospital is grossly overcrowded and he knows that. But it is a small step, and while we accept that it is an important step, it must never be used to condone the original decision to make the J G Strijdom Hospital an own affairs hospital.

It is almost a year ago since that hospital did change its status. The decision to change its status was taken without consulting the staff of that hospital, or the medical school of the University of the Witwatersrand who ran the academic side of that teaching hospital, and it has never been made clear why the decision was taken or what in fact was to be gained from it, or who was really responsible for taking it.

However, what is absolutely clear despite what the hon the Minister has said in defence of the situation, is that it was a severely flawed decision, both in judgement and in execution. If there were any advantages to be gained, either political or other, those advantages have been totally overtaken by the disastrous consequences of the decision which have so adversely affected both the hospital and in particular the Government's credibility in terms of its health policies.

Even after the decision was taken, the Government had to admit that the only real change in administrative matters was that the finance for the hospital would now be provided by the House of Assembly and not by the province as had been the case although, curiously enough, estimates would still be proposed by the provincial administration. Everything else would remain in the hands of the provincial authorities. This adds emphasis to the fact that the real change which came about in that hospital was that it could cater for White patients only, whereas before it had catered for patients of all colours. It was a hospital ideally suited for taking patients of all colours.

only deals with the stabilization of agriculture. The proclamation of the Designated Area does not replace existing development and stabilization initiatives which have been implemented since 1975. It is rather a temporary, timely and supporting measure to attain wider regional development goals.

Black city councillors: unauthorized loans

*2. Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

- (1) Whether any Black city councillors in the Orange Free State were granted unauthorized loans in the 1984-85 financial year; if so, what action has since been taken to recover the amounts owing;
- (2) whether the loans concerned were granted by an official; if not, who granted them; if so,
- (3) whether this official is still in the employ of the Provincial Administration: Orange Free State; if so, (a) why and (b) what action was taken against him?

B249E

†The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. one loan of R5 000,00.

In the process of collecting debts from debtors during June 1989, it was found that this particular loan had been granted to a councillor in the Orange Free State. The case was handed over to the attorneys during January 1990 for further steps.

- (2) Yes.

An officer of the former Orange-Vaal Development Board and confirmed by resolution of the said board.

- (3) No

- (a) Falls away.

- (b) Falls away.

Comores: money spent on tourism

*3. Adv C H PIENAR asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:†

Whether his Department spent any amounts of money in the 1988-89 and 1989-90 financial years, respectively, to promote tourism to the Comores; if so, what are the relevant details?

B322E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No
- (2) Falls away
- (3) Falls away

National Manpower Commission: report

*6. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether the National Manpower Commission's report on conditions pertaining to farm labour has been made available to him; if so, on what date;
- (2) whether he intends tabling this report; if so, when; if not, why not?

B327E

†The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) No. An advice on the possible statutory measures for the regulation of the conditions of employment of farm and domestic workers was submitted to the previous Minister of Manpower in 1984.

- (2) Falls away.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising from the answer of the hon the Minister, does he or his department intend to take any action on the report that has been lying in the hands of the Government for six years now?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, that report was asked for by my predecessor to advise him, and he decided six years ago not to publish it. Hon members will understand that the information contained in that report is probably six or seven years old. The Manpower Commission is at present on my instruction busy looking at different aspects of the Labour Relations Act. Naturally this aspect will also be under review in that re-examination. To now Table a report whereof the information is seven years old—the hon member will well understand that labour relations and the laws connected therewith have changed considerably, especially since 1984—would not be appropriate as it would be a completely obsolete information document.

Humewood, PE: site occupied by SADF

*7. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 15 on 14 February 1989, the site occupied by the South African Defence Force in Humewood, Port Elizabeth, is still available to the City Council of Port Elizabeth; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that a final decision will be made in this regard;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes. In 1989 negotiations between the City Council of Port Elizabeth, the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs and the SA Defence Force took place during which it was decided that a land exchange transaction would be acceptable to all parties. The SA Defence Force, after having completed its recent rationalisation programme, is at present busy finalizing its requirements in accordance with which the City Council is to develop the replacement property. Availability of funds by the City Council will ultimately determine when the SA Defence Force can occupy the new site and vacate the existing one.
- (2) No.

Margo Commission: report completed

*8 Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether the Margo Commission's inquiry into the Helderberg air disaster of November 1987 has been completed; if so, (a) what were its main findings and (b) when will the report on the matter be made public; if not, (i) why not and (ii) when will it be completed;
- (2) whether the Government has received any interim report from the Commission; if so, to what effect;
- (3) whether, independent of the Margo inquiry, any practical steps have been taken in the light of the Helderberg disaster to prevent any recurrence of the accident; if so, what steps;
- (4) whether all liabilities arising from the accident have been settled; if not, why not?

B330E

Handwritten: 6/3/90

(3) (a) Yes.
 (b) J S Slabber—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 L Redelinghuys—Transferred to Good Hope College.
 G M W Visser—Services utilized at the Umzingisi Special School.
 P H de Wet—Transferred to Head Office.
 C S Kelly—On sick leave pending application for early retirement due to ill health.
 J J Schutte—Transferred to Head Office.
 H S J Coetzee—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 W Slabbert—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.
 C W van der Vyver—Services temporarily utilized at Area Office.

*13. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice: *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

Whether, with reference to his statement on 7 February 1990, a team of investigators to be put at the disposal of the Harms Commission has been appointed; if so, (a) what are the names of the persons involved, (b) what are their qualifications and (c) by whom are they employed at present? *Handwritten:* B338E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (a) (i) Advocate T P McNally, SC.
- (ii) Advocate L J Roberts, SC.
- (iii) Major-General R N van der Westhuizen.
- (iv) Lieutenant-Colonel J P Wright.
- (b) (i) Advocate McNally is the Attorney-General of the Orange Free State and has been controlled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.
- (ii) Advocate Roberts is a Deputy Attorney-General of Natal and has been enrolled as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.

(iii) Major-General Van der Westhuizen is a member of the Detective Branch at the Head Office of the South African Police.
 (iv) Lieutenant-Colonel Wright is a member of the Detective Branch at the Head Office of the South African Police. *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

(c) Advocates McNally and Roberts are employed by the Department of Justice while Major-General Van der Westhuizen and Lieutenant-Colonel Wright are employed by the South African Police.

Lead concentration exceeded *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

*14 Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: Whether the maximum allowable concentration of lead in the atmosphere, as specified in the reply to Question No 506 on 26 May 1989, was exceeded in Cape Town on any day in 1989; if so, on how many days? *Handwritten:* B339E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT: *Handwritten:* SC

No, the concentration was never exceeded during 1989.

Hout Bay: development of harbour area

*15. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

- (1) Whether any progress has been made with the plans for the development of the harbour area at Hout Bay; if not, why not; if so, when will the plans be finalized;
- (2) whether, in considering these plans, his Department or the Cape Provincial Administration has commissioned an environmental impact study relating to such development; if so, who undertook the study;
- (3) whether this environmental impact study will be made public; if not, why not; if so, when;
- (4) whether his Department or the Administration has discussed the plans for the proposed development with representatives of the local community; if not, why not; if so, (a) with what representatives and (b) when? *Handwritten:* B340E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

(1) Major developers were asked to submit sketch plans for the development of part of the harbour at Hout Bay for purposes of tourism. Two groups of developers came to the fore, and the preliminary plans of these two groups are at present with the Provincial Executive Committee for a decision and the appointment of one of them. Subsequently the successful developer will be asked to submit full architectural plans, which, if necessary, will be subjected to an environmental impact study.

- (2) Falls away.
- (3) Falls away.
- (4) No, because there are as yet no final plans which can be discussed with the local community. The final plans will be open to inspection by interested parties.

Mr C W EGLIN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I take it that although they are called "final", the plans will not actually be finally formalised until an impact study has been done and approved and until the local residents have been consulted and have made their input?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, what is happening at the moment is that two different plans are being evaluated. One of these developers will then be asked to present architectural plans, as they are rather expensive items. Once they have been received, those plans will be submitted to the local community for their input and comment.

Handwritten: Brown's Farm: housing

*16. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:
 (1) How many persons will Brown's Farm be able to accommodate after it has been developed; *Handwritten:* 6/3/90
 (2) whether any other land has been allocated for those persons who were forced to leave the Crossroads area in 1986 and cannot be accommodated on Brown's Farm; if not, why not; if so, what land? *Handwritten:* B341E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

- (1) The assumption is made that the 248-ha development area at Phillippi is at question. A total of 5 036 even is to be developed, and at a family size of 6 the estimated number of people is in the order of 30 000
- (2) No. Current indications are that the development area will be sufficient for inter alia the particular category of people.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Cape Town railway station: certain police officer present *Handwritten:* 6/3/90

*17. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether a certain police officer, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was present on the third-class concourse of the Cape Town railway station on the afternoon of 31 January 1990; if so, why;
- (2) whether this officer or any policemen under his control took any action there; if so, what action;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *Handwritten:* B342E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes. The officer was in charge of a group of policemen who were performing duty on the station
- (2) No.
- (3) No.

Handwritten: 6/3/90

*18. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: Whether her Department has received any representations regarding the use of partrazine in foodstuffs during the past five years; if so, (a) from whom, (b) when, and (c) what was the (i) purport of and (ii) response to these representations, in each case? *Handwritten:* B343E

56

Black River effluent 'is monitored'

Political Staff

DISCHARGES of treated industrial and sewage effluent into the Black River in the Pine-lands/Mowbray area had to comply with the provisions of the Water Act and were regularly monitored, the Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said yesterday.

Cape Town Municipality regularly submitted reports on the water quality of the Black River catchment to the Department of Water Affairs to ensure that the quality of discharges complied with the requirements of exemptions granted in terms of the Water Act.

"The quality of the treated effluent is closely monitored by the Department of Water Affairs to check that it complies with the exemption conditions.

"This monitoring is aimed at addressing problems as they occur in a changing urban environment and could lead to the revision of exemption ac-

ording to the needs to maintain acceptable standards of water quality in the river."

Mr Kotze said in reply to a question tabled in the House of Assembly by Mr Roger Burrows (DP, Pinetown), that discharges of effluent and the quality of the discharges could be controlled and monitored.

"All cases of pollution are thoroughly investigated and the department will not hesitate to lay charges," he said.

"Runoff from urban areas, particularly storm-water, is not easy to control and such runoff is increasingly becoming a problem."

An important aspect of water management in coming decades would be the prevention of the pollution of the water resources of South Africa by ever-increasing quantities of urban, industrial, mining and agricultural effluent and the integration of this effluent into the water supply.

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Dune mining: the Minister's views

Star 7/3/90

(42) (5b)

As a result of my recent criticisms of Mr Gert Kotze, in his capacity as Minister of Environment Affairs — I questioned his attitude over the proposed mining in the Lake St Lucia area and suggested he was not committed enough to environmental matters — he invited me to an open discussion with him in Cape Town.

For 90 minutes we exchanged views, mostly about the Minister's attitude to St Lucia, but also about his public image.

We also discussed the Government's attitude towards environmental matters

It was a private meeting and I took no notes. But afterwards I suggested to the Minister that what had transpired was of public interest and he agreed to my preparing an article.

The talk, which was frank, took place in the Minister's 15th floor office in the Hendrik Verwoerd Building, Cape Town

During the meeting the Minister:

- Said he would not give the mining activities, in the Eastern Shores State Forest (these forested dunes form the backdrop to Lake St Lucia), the go-ahead if the environmental impact assessment (EIA) showed the effects of mining would be unacceptable. He claimed he had made this point on numerous occasions.

- Gave an assurance he was not indifferent to public petitions.

- Said he did not believe the general environmental lobby in South Africa was leftist and fanatic. The Minister claimed the media had unfairly portrayed this impression. (I insisted that his speech — he gave me a copy — unquestionably attacked the South African environmental lobby.)

- Said he had no control over many situations, such as fisheries inspection services, and that he was worried about divided control.

I conceded that Mr Kotze had done more than he had been credited with concerning the environment.

Since he became Minister of Environment Affairs on April 1 1987:

- The White Paper on Environmental Education (which was praised by The Star) has been published

- The new Environment Conservation Act has been promulgated.

- There is a new Sea Fisheries Act

- The department is helping the President's Council to investigate a national environmental management system.

- New major conservation areas have been declared and existing ones expanded, including the Richtersveld, West Coast, Karoo, Vaalbos (national parks) and the most recent, Greater St Lucia Conservation Area.

- Richards Bay Minerals has been forced to prepare a second and, this time, much more comprehensive environmental impact assessment of its proposed mining operation next to St Lucia Game Reserve.

The Minister agreed that environmental legislation was at present fragmented and that as a result conflicts of interest were occurring among departments. He said he hoped the President's Council investigation would find a way of rationalising environmental controls.

The Minister of Environment Affairs explains his attitude towards the St Lucia mining controversy to JAMES CLARKE, founder of The Star's environmental campaign, CARE.



The forested dunes that form the backdrop to Lake St Lucia: the shore of Eastern Shores State Forest which is threatened by mining activities.

The Department of Environment Affairs had no control over air pollution, very little over water resources and none at all over soil erosion (possibly South Africa's worst problem). Other environmental controls had been devolved to lower tiers of government, not always with good results.

My view was that the Greater St Lucia Reserve, proposed 20 years ago, was sensible planning and would probably have come about anyway — and that the land the mining company wanted was in the most vital and scenic part of that area.

It was, I said, one of South Africa's few remaining relatively unspoiled great landscapes

The Minister agreed "the whole St Lucia area is one of South Africa's most precious natural treasures", but argued that the proposed mining area did not form part of a nature reserve and never had

He said the original natural state of the site of the proposed mine had long been degraded. Of the 1 300 ha which the mining company required, 59 percent was a pine plantation, 27 percent indigenous vegetation and 13 percent grassveld.

The Minister said he had been the first to blow the whistle on the mining issue by turning down the mining company's hurried environmental impact assessment, which was totally unacceptable.

The mining company was anxious to start mining because certain lucrative contracts had suddenly become available, but, said the Minister, "I was not prepared to budge."

I asked the Minister if the next EIA would be a genuine one. Would the public be allowed time to examine it? (He indicated "Yes"). Would the mining

company be obliged to show that it had no alternative but to mine in the Lake St Lucia region? ("Yes") Would it be forced to show what alternatives it had examined and why these were discarded? ("Yes").

I also pointed out that a genuine EIA would have to convince the public the damage to St Lucia's ecosystem and its tourist potential would be tolerable

The Minister agreed with this

I told the Minister that all professional ecologists I knew doubted the mining company could restore the water table, which its open cast mine would undermine by 11 m. St Lucia — a dual salt and fresh water system — during the last drought derived all its fresh water from these dunes.

The Minister said he was aware of this and had specifically demanded a complete analysis of the hydrological cycle and had requested specific assurance regarding the effects of dredging below the table.

I then asked the Minister: if the final EIA failed to satisfy him — if there was a threat of intolerable damage — would he refuse to accept the report and, therefore, effectively make it impossible to mine?

The Minister replied that if he was dissatisfied with the EIA he would "fight with all I have got against mining the Eastern Shores State Forest".

I suggested this contradicted an earlier impression that he was powerless against the Department of Mining and Energy: "You do have the power to stop the mining," I said.

"Yes," he said, "depending on the EIA."

I asked the Minister to explain why he thought the environmental lobby was leftist and fanatic.

The Minister replied he did not believe the general environmental lobby was leftist or fanatical and that he had in mind the overseas "Green" lobby (which was fundamental-socialist and often violently demonstrative about nuclear power, etc).

I said his speech had referred to the South African national election of October and the way environmental matters had moved to the forefront — and, in the same breath, he had warned that environmentalists were leftist and fanatic and anti-development.

Mr Kotze then quoted from the relevant section of his speech (in Bellville) which reads "The environment and environmental matters have dramatically shifted from the political back benches to the foreground during the latest election campaign. I want to stress that the source of the political pressures worries me, and most other conservationists.

"It is clear that the pressure emanates from the extreme left of the political spectrum. Although the pressure itself is not a bad thing ... the persons who are applying it are often fanatical in their outlook. These fanatics are not prepared to listen to reasons and often cause, through their actions and words, an extremely negative climate in which all development, whether it is essential or not, is branded as evil."

The Minister gave an assurance that he did take the (Save St Lucia) petition seriously, but that he must have the right to evaluate petitions.

● Footnote: This was a week before the Minister claimed in Parliament he had received only about 130 000 signatures. (The Star in fact has hand-delivered 217 728, the *Natal Mercury* delivered 61 000 and thousands more were sent by the public direct to the department.)

HERE'S SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT



The Star

'Humankind is consuming a fossil-fuel bonanza'

'Resources destroyed'

“No nukes good, all nukes bad!”

Orwellian-like chants against any form of nuclear power were popular rallying cries during environmental protests in the 1960s and 1970s.

The issue was simple — nuclear power was extremely dangerous, very expensive, shrouded in secrecy and associated with the development of nuclear weapons. There was no permanent solution to the safe storage of radioactive waste that would remain lethal for thousands of years.

Then the 1980s arrived, and the irrefutable knowledge that the earth and its fragile protective mantle, the atmosphere, were being rapidly poisoned — particularly by pollution associated with traditional energy forms like the burning of fossil fuels.

“Greenhouse effect” became a household phrase, “acid rain” the new rallying cry.

In 1973 with the shock, Opec-inspired oil price increases, the limits — and eventual depletion — of existing fossil fuel reserves were appreciated publicly for the first time.

‘Destroyed’

“Humankind is consuming a one-time bonanza of non-renewable fossil fuels and other mineral resources that formed over eons and which are now being destroyed or dispersed in decades,” explains Dr Anton Eberhard of UCT’s Energy Research Institute.

And the over-exploitation of other energy resources like firewood in the Third World is causing an environmental crisis in the form of severe deforestation and soil degradation, he adds.

“We are doing the same with vital resources not usually thought of as being non-renewable: forests, fertile agricultural soils, ground-water



Dr Anton Eberhard

inevitable is still open to some debate.

What is more likely is that the environmental costs associated with the continued use of fossil fuels will be deemed unacceptable, and that an increasing use of alternative energy resources will be demanded.

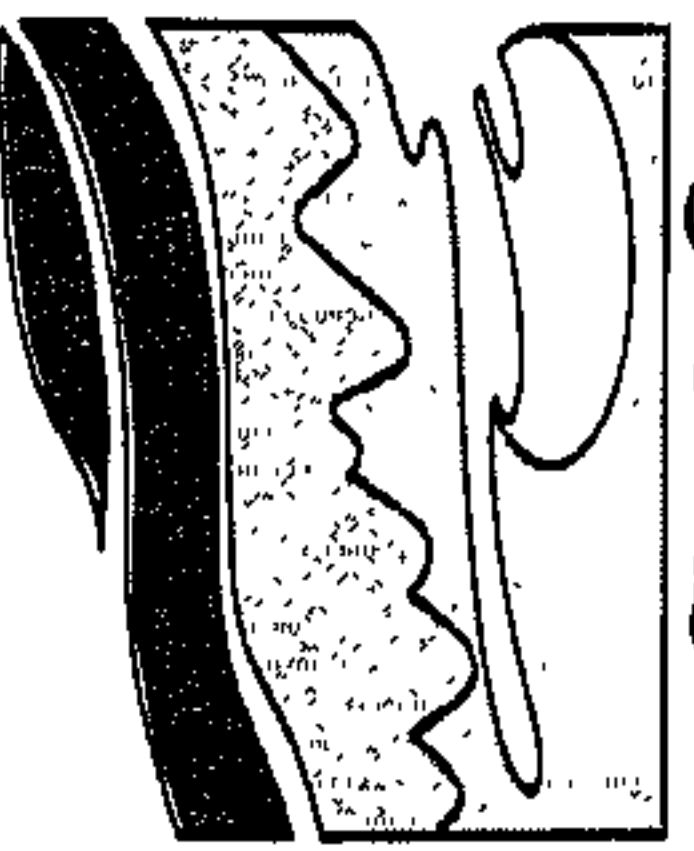
Exhausted

About 70 000-million tons of oil have already been consumed. Remaining known world reserves of oil are estimated at about 90 000-million tons. At present consumption rates, there is a fair degree of certainty that by 2020 — when most of today’s population will still be alive — all significant oil reserves outside the Middle East and Mexico will be exhausted.

Oil, natural gas and uranium (without fast breeder technology, not yet commercially available) will be the first fuels to disappear, and there will be a significant shift to coal, with estimated world reserves of around one billion tons.

Not only will this hasten the exhaustion of the coal resource and cause the price to escalate markedly, but it will have huge global environmental consequences — such as increasing amounts of acid rain, smog and air pollution;

The Argus



ENVIRONMENT WEEK

signs of acid rain are being detected in streams along the Drakensberg escarpment and in the forests.

Mr Waldo Stumpf, chief executive officer of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa, is adamant that only nuclear power can produce South Africa’s 30 000 megawatt electricity base-load once fossil fuels are no longer available or environmentally acceptable.

He “fully endorses” efforts to use solar power where applicable and ultimately all sources of power will have to be used in partnership, Mr Stumpf said at a recent public meeting in Cape Town.

“But nuclear power is the only alternative once the coal runs out,” he argued.

Clem Sunter, Roy Siegfried and Brian Huntley note in *South African Environments Into the 21st Century* that an evaluation of the relative risks to human health of coal-based versus nuclear-based electricity would probably show that, in the long term, nuclear sources are more benign.

“Furthermore, nuclear power is becoming more attractive through the new generation of smaller, safer reactors, currently being developed,” they say.

co-operative projects may not be just a pipe-dream.

It’s in the country’s interest that renewable energy sources are developed “sooner rather than later”, says Dr Eberhard.

Large areas of South Africa remain unserved by the national electricity grid and the majority of the population — probably somewhere around 70 percent — therefore do not have access to the benefits of the country’s present cheap coal resources and reasonably cheap electricity, he points out.

“Extending the grid is extremely costly, and it is mostly in off-grid areas that the use of renewable energy technologies is becoming economically attractive. A concentrated research and development effort aimed at this sector will ultimately provide knowledge and experience of relevance to the long term energy needs of the country.”

But this will require a definite policy shift on the part of the government.

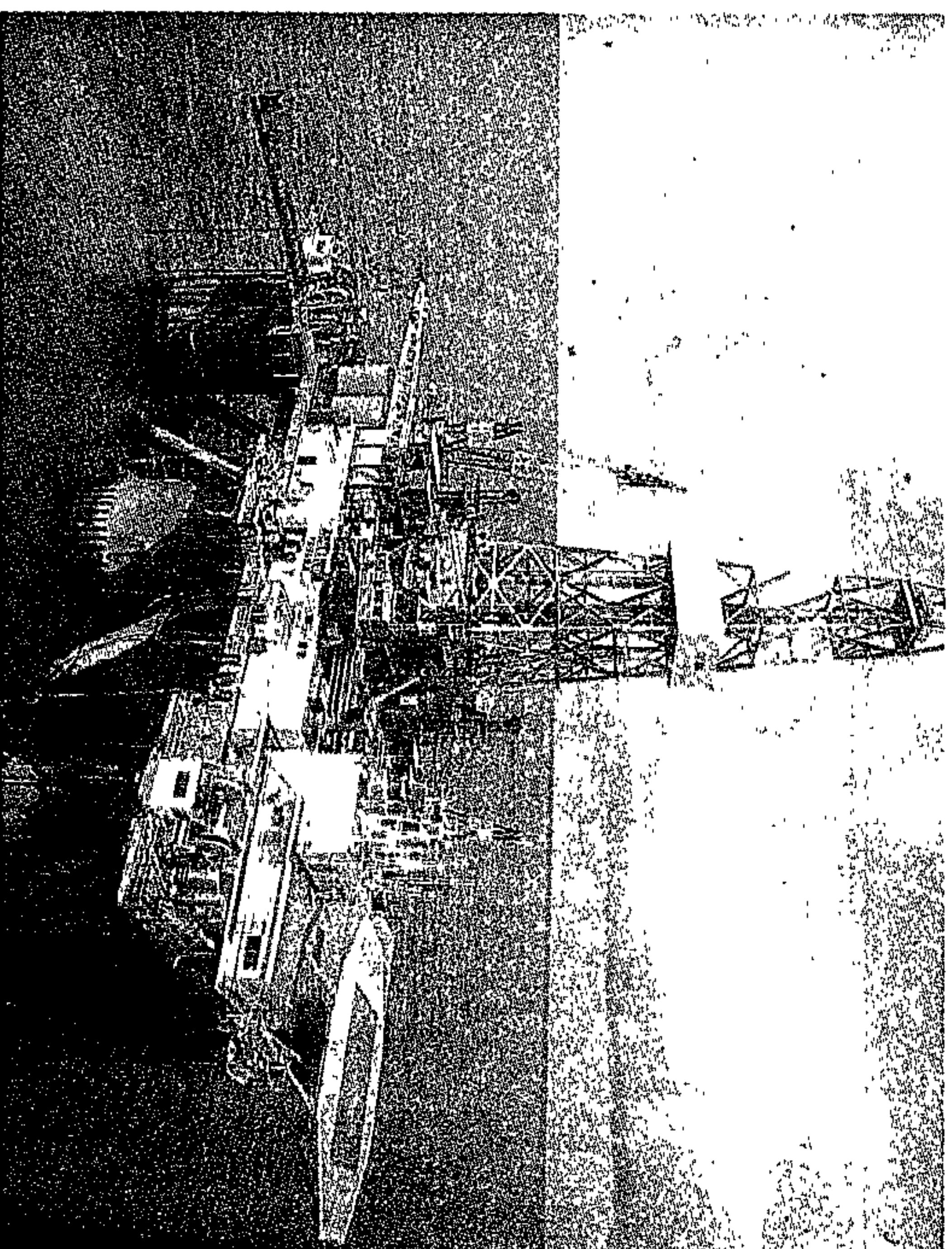
To date, the development of economically viable renewable energy technologies has been inhibited by a totaly skewed allocation of research and development funds, with nuclear research accounting for 99 percent of available funds and renewable energy research being awarded just 0.1 percent, Dr Eberhard argues.

‘Activists’

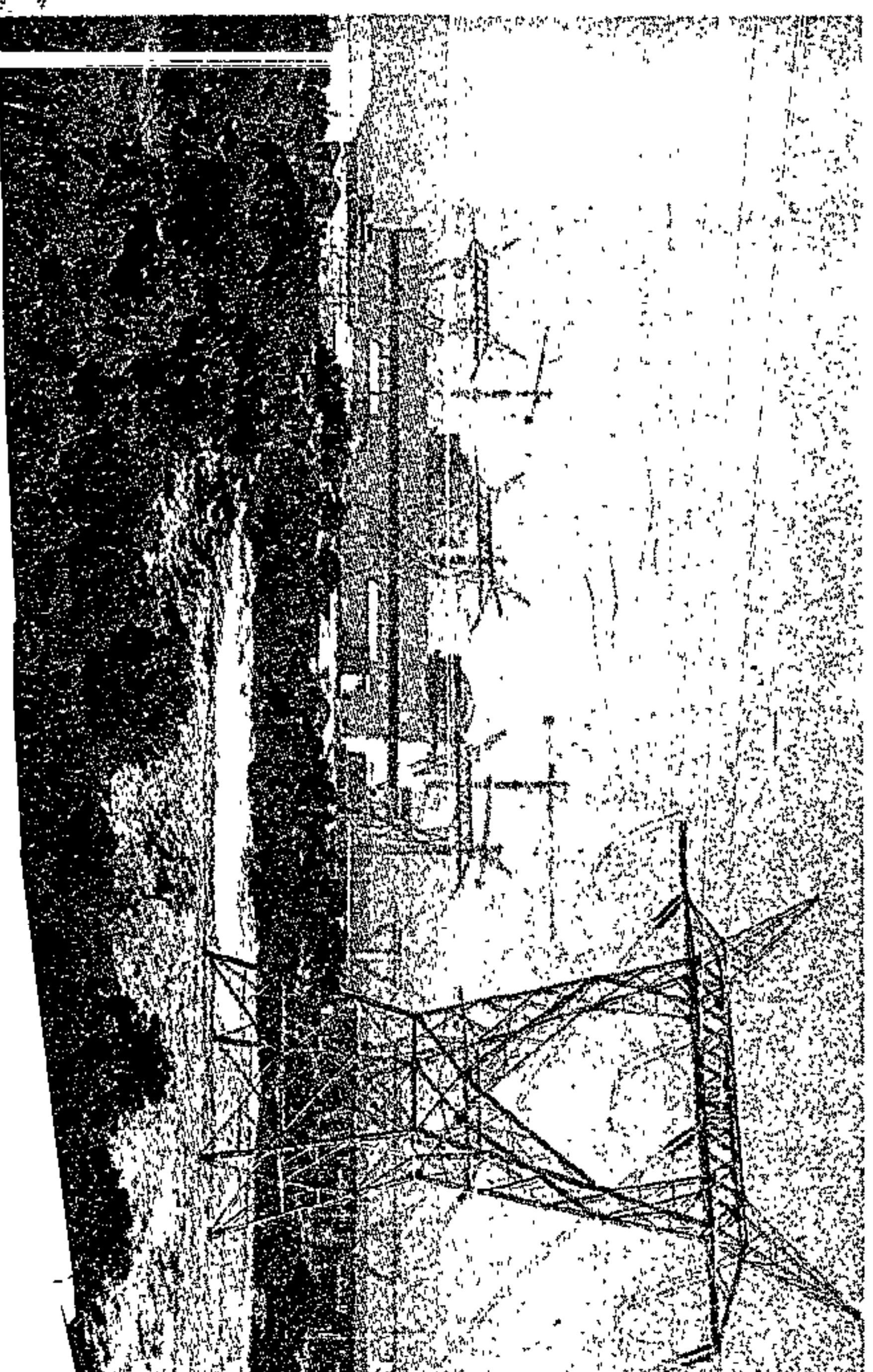
“This imbalance of research funding allocation reflects neither current energy consumption patterns, nor long term potential.”

Environmental concerns can no longer be ignored, Dr Eberhard says.

“It behaves each of us to actively pursue these concerns, in effect to become ac-



Traditional energy resources — fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas, exploited with traditional drilling rigs (above) — are being depleted at an ever-increasing rate. We may be forced to use nuclear power, such as that generated at Koeberg (below) — or are there cheaper, less environmentally risky alternatives?



and biodiversity. We are living off capital rather than our income."

The human population now consumes nearly 10-million tons of oil every 24 hours — as much as was consumed in an entire year less than a century ago. Since the beginning of the 18th century the human population has jumped dramatically by a factor of eight; the use of fossil fuels has soared by a factor of 80.

The huge growth of economic activity and production in the 20th century has depended on the massive exploitation of these unsustainable fossil fuels, and will eventually require a shift to renewable energy resources.

Just when this will become

global warming (the "greenhouse effect") and a resulting climatic change.

Already, heavily industrialised areas pump some 90-million tons of sulphur dioxide into the air each year. A 1 000KW coal-fired power station consumes 2.5-million tons of coal each year and produces 6.5-million tons of carbon dioxide, 9 000 tons of sulphur dioxide, 4 500 tons of nitrous oxide and 1 500 tons of ash.

The Eastern Transvaal highveld, where South Africa's major coal-fired power stations produce about 80 per cent of the country's electricity, is one of the worst areas in the world in terms of atmospheric pollution. The first

Dr Eberhard argues that South Africa does — or can — have access to abundant renewable energy resources, other than nuclear power, to sustain long-term energy needs.

"Sooner"

This is particularly true of hydro power, one of the cleanest, cheapest and most sustainable forms of energy for which the southern African sub-region has enormous potential. For example, the Zaire River alone has a potential of 70 000 megawatts — more than double South Africa's present capacity. And with recent political developments, major regional

tivists, to inform ourselves and join the debate about our future...

"Social and economic development have much to do with the questions of social and economic justice. If these processes are to be sustained they will have to address environmental questions. Economic activity will have to account for the environmental costs of production.

"As we move beyond the crude issues of race in a post-apartheid society, these questions will hopefully also become part of the debate about our future."

YOUR GUIDE TO



THEM
WORKERS
AND
THE
LAW

St Lucia petition at 230 000 mark

Star 9/3/89 James Clarke 56

The Star's petition to stop mining at St Lucia — in conjunction with the Wildlife Society — yesterday crossed the 230 000 mark.

The petition's *agterskot* — signatures received since The Star's CARE campaign called off the petition in December — reached 12 748 yesterday.

Another 61 000 have been collected by the Natal Mercury.

The Star has also received 4 148 signatures calling on the Minister of Environment to resign.

The choice is ours

FIM 913190

56



SOUTH AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTS INTO THE 21st CENTURY by Brian Huntley, Roy Siegfried and Clem Sunter (*Human & Rousseau/Tafelberg, 127pp, R26,95*).

Most people who take even a fleeting interest in SA politics must by now be aware of the terms "High Road" and "Low Road". They have become codewords for the options facing the country and have, therefore, seeped into the political vocabulary. Indeed, in their distilled force, they have probably changed the nature of the debate.

However, as Clem Sunter, star of the original roadshow, readily admits, the Anglo American teams which researched global and SA scenarios were guilty of one serious omission: they paid scant attention to the environment.

This was pointed out to Sunter by the men who were to become co-authors of this book, Brian Huntley of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and Roy Siegfried of the University of Cape Town. Both scientists, they were sceptical as to whether the "High Road" scenario could be achieved without excessive and permanent environmental damage. Put more simply: can we get high growth without destroying our natural resources? The answer is yes — but it won't be easy, and we'll have to act fast.

The authors produce a central thesis for the latest book: "That human wellbeing depends on a favourable interaction between economic development, environmental health and quality of life."

"Economic development" means providing the individual with the basics (shelter, clothing, food) as well as the opportunity to improve himself in order to gain access to some of the luxuries of life. "Quality of life" has to do with freedom and happiness and depends on a sound political structure. "Environmental health" means a beautiful countryside and clean beaches (the aesthetic side) and land that remains productive, towns which are pleasant to inhabit and air that is free of pollution (the practical aspect).

These three dimensions are mutually dependent. If one is missing, the others will not be possible at any satisfactory level.

One of the great problems facing those who attempt to preserve the environment is that their cause has been given such a bad name. As I have argued before (*The Executive* November 1989), good conservative businessmen are reluctant to take the Greens seriously. They include in their ranks too many fanatic vegetarians and pacifists, who seem to demand that one accepts the package they are presenting. In the Sixties, in particular, it was virtually impossible to be pro-environment unless you were also in favour of draft-dodging, abortion and bra-

burning. And the worst damage to the environmental cause has come from its association with socialism.

Just as well, then, that Sunter (who now heads Anglo's gold and uranium division) has such impeccable capitalist credentials. And his two co-authors, both professional ecologists, clearly agree with him:

"Socialism leads inevitably to the malfunctioning of the economy, which means that no money is available for conservation ... By denying that self-interest is a valid principle, socialists are suppressing people's innate ability to think in an efficient manner."

Those are simple assertions: they raise the hackles of socialist intellectuals who are unwilling to change a lifetime of adherence to a bankrupt ideology.

But they are backed up with piles of facts born of exhaustive research. Consider, for instance, that the black taxi industry is now worth some R3bn and, in five years, has created jobs, directly or indirectly, for 300 000 people.

The early chapters offer an excellent thumbnail explanation of the looming environmental crisis — for instance, exactly why ozone and chlorofluorocarbons are so important — and the book then moves on to possible options for SA.

We have big problems. We also have a great future, if we make the right moves now. This is why the debate between government and the ANC must move quickly to address the real problems. If they don't, the heritage will be a wasteland.

Natural disasters have caused enormous economic dislocation, with Natal particularly hard hit. In KwaZulu alone, 40 000 cattle died in 1983 (which may throw some light on why it is Durban that is experiencing such severe pressure on resources). Precious topsoil is being lost faster than it is being replaced; the Karoo is expanding and its grazing is overstocked by nearly 30%. Invasive alien plants are already costing agriculture billions of rands. Crop spraying has done more damage than good.

Our urban population will double in the next decade, and "the increase in numbers of the black population over the next decade will be greater than that of all the other population groups combined in the next 100 years." To house these people, we need 1 000

dwelling units to be built every working day until the year 2000. At present, it's estimated, five million blacks are without a permanent legal home.

Though only 50 000 white farmers have 70% of the arable land, and the homelands are tragically unproductive, we do have the capacity to feed all our people — if all land is made available to all. Money must not be wasted on expensive decentralisation programmes — except where these provide a sound agricultural structure to encourage free-enterprise farming.

Work has already begun in some areas on laying the ground for the "High Road." Mass electrification is essential; so is easy access to domestic water supplies. But education is woefully behind, to the point of



Author Sunter ... no raving Greenie

being an emergency.

Continued air pollution in the eastern Transvaal Highveld will, it seems, be inevitable even if we achieve the "High Road". It seems to me, though, that the authors have not paid enough attention to the use of nuclear power as an alternative.

The book is so dense that it has not been possible even to summarise all the areas covered. But one conclusion seems inescapable: to uproot poverty and get to the "High Road" we need 10% GDP growth every year for the next decade. With our infrastructure, mineral resources and natural entrepreneurs (black and white), it can be done.

The trick, assuming that a political solution is reached, will be to achieve it without taking the "Boom and Bust" option — high growth while pillaging natural resources beyond repair. To be a winning nation, growth has to be *sustainable*.

A thought: this book was written before the unbanning of the ANC and the release of Mandela. Nothing has changed — though the reactionary "wasteland" option may now be less likely.

David Williams

Study backs Noordhoek kaolin mine

CME Times 10/3/90 (56)

By PETER DENNEHY

AN environmental impact study, commissioned by Serina (Pty) Limited but done by independent consultants, has concluded that kaolin mining and the development of Noordhoek's tourist potential are "not mutually exclusive".

The study, done by consulting engineers Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten Inc, has just been completed in draft form and circulated to interested parties for their comments, which will be added to the final report.

It says the tourist industry is "sufficiently flexible" to tolerate the presence of a "well-managed" kaolin mining development.

The report, drawn up with the help of environmental experts, makes several recommendations on how the impact of the development could be contained.

One of the major recommendations is that the open pit should never be more than 150m by 200m in area at any one time, and filling and restoration of the site should take place at the same time as the mining, just behind it.

After the mining operations cease, in just under 20 years' time, the final contours of the hillside should be about 2m lower on average.

The report also recommends that noise from trucks and earth-moving

machinery should be contained by fitting extra silencers on them, beyond what is legally necessary.

Engines might also be muffled by extra covers over them.

About 16 000 tons of crude ore a month would be extracted out of total mineable reserves of 3 139 million tons. The ore body would be excavated from three cuts at low (35m above sea level), middle and upper (115m) elevations.

Mining would progress across six benches simultaneously, at a "face advance" of 30 metres a year.

Each cut would be 150m long, 100m wide and 30m deep, but excavation would be done "stepwise" so as to allow ongoing rehabilitation of paddocks during mining operations. Soil would be stockpiled for replacement.

The processing plant would be located on site, as it would be undesirable to transport the kaolin elsewhere by vehicle or pipeline.

As a compromise, the plant should be in the south-east corner, rather than on the more visible site where the engineers would have preferred it.

A retention dam would have to be built for the water used in the production process, so that suspended kaolin particles could be removed from it.

"Disposal into the adjacent spruit and subsequently to the natural wetland is considered to be the preferred route for disposal, after solids removal and pH correction."

By Brian Huntley

THE current generation of South Africans is the first with the power to destroy the country — economically, socially and environmentally.

But it is also the last generation that will have the chance to bring about the changes needed to guarantee a rich, healthy and sustainable future for all.

This is the message, illustrated with examples from around the globe, that we have attempted to communicate in "South African Environments into the 21st Century".

Rhinos, riverine rabbits and other rare creatures are deserving of every possible conservation effort.

But their survival, and the future of hu-

mankind, will depend on actions taken in the 1990s on a far wider front than single-species preservation.

Global problems that have already reached an almost unstoppable momentum include the greenhouse effect, the depletion of the ozone layer and the human population explosion.

In South Africa, our future is dependent on these global forces, but more immediately it depends on socio-economic issues and how we manage our environment — regardless of which group is in power by the year 2000.

I was frustrated by the apparent inability of most conservation organisations to deal with more than local issues, and inspired by

the novel approach taken by Anglo American's Clem Sunter in his "The World and South Africa in the 1990s".

So I approached Mr Sunter, and ecologist Roy Siegfried (Director of the Percy FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology) to join a study of the wider problems facing the environmental future.

The result is a 128-page paperback, now in its second printing, which has a "user-friendly" introduction to the complexities of the environmental problems, and solutions, ahead of us.

● South African Environments into the 21st Century is available from Russel Friedman Books, Box 73, Halfway House, at R26,05.

Now for 'greening' of black areas

SOCIO-ECONOMIC upliftment of people in the homelands and squatter camps, and the "greening" of townships such as Soweto, are important environmental issues South Africa must face, says leading conservationist Brian Huntley.

"We should be encouraging people to plant trees and to bring pot plants into their

homes. Quality of life includes colour in the landscape, shade, prevention of soil erosion and clean water.

"These aspects need urgent attention in the homelands and black townships," he said.

"Manpower and finance has to be made available.

"Socio-economic upliftment coupled to economic development is

essential to achieve a healthy environment."

Mr Huntley is the first Chief Director of the recently formed National Botanical Institute (an amalgamation of the National Botanic Gardens and Botanical Research Institute).

He is well placed to encourage environmental awareness and the physical enjoyment, by all South Africans, of

South Africa's unrivalled floral wealth.

He would like to introduce a programme of outward communication whereby the Botanic Gardens reach out to the wider community.

Frustrated with South Africa's tradition of environmental crisis management and the lack of a carefully analysed conservation strategy, Mr Huntley initiated the writing of "South African Environments in the 21st Century". He says it has "reached people outside the 'wild-life clubs fraternity', from Government and private-sector decision-makers to those who haven't yet considered that there is more to conservation than the cosmetic 'save the rhino' campaigns" **56**

Mr Clem Sunter, an executive director of Anglo American Corporation and co-author of the book, says:

"Brian has an encyclopaedic environmental knowledge and a holistic view of society which makes him effective in convincing businessmen of their responsibilities.

"Brian is also actively involved with conservation at an international level as a member of several committees of IUCN, the World Conservation Union."

We have 'last chance' to save SA



Important work ahead . . . Brian Huntley and his wife Merle.
Photo: National Botanical Institute.

New call for national indaba on environment

Environment Reporter

AR645 12/3/90 (56)

A NEW call for a national indaba on environmental issues has been made, this time by Maritzburg Democratic Party MP Mr Rob Haswell.

At the end of last year ecologist Mr Brian Huntley — subsequently appointed director of the new National Botanic Institute — made a similar call.

Embroidering on remarks in his maiden speech in parliament this week, Mr Haswell said there was a need for a national environmental indaba, just as there was for a new political dispensation.

“Let’s face it, our present ‘national’ monuments and ‘national’ parks have been ethnocentrically defined, and it follows that the new nation will have to define its own symbols and policies.

“This is not to say that the baby must be thrown out with the bathwater, but merely that the bathwater, like much of our environment, has become murky and needs to be replaced by clean water,” he said.

To stimulate debate and prompt the holding of an indaba, Mr Haswell proposed these principles:

- The environment belonged to all South Africans;
- A national environmental policy had to be relevant to all people everywhere in South Africa;
- The new plan had to be truly integrated and view South Africa as a single ecosystem;
- All existing government departments responsible for environmental legislation should be merged;
- The conservation of resources should occur throughout the entire country, not just in national parks;
- Ecological, recreational and economic perspectives needed to be applied to produce an overall plan;
- Wherever possible, “good neighbourliness” should be achieved, as high density land use and national parks did not make good neighbours;
- Existing pollution legislation should be reviewed and revised with stricter regulations and incentives;
- A national rural woodlot programme should be launched to provide affordable firewood for rural communities; and
- Parliament should vote more funds for the acquisition and maintenance of parks.

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) Yes. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (a) Pieter Hendrik Terblanche Kleynhans. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (b) B.Iur. LL.B.
- (2) No.
- (a) and (b) The first declaration of an organization to be a reporting organization in terms of section 3(1) of the Disclosure of Foreign Funding Act, 1989 (Act 26 of 1989), took place as recently as 10 January 1990 and a report will be tabled in due course.

Magistrate's comments

*16. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice: *Hansard 13/3/90*

(1) Whether, with reference to information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, he has noted the comments made by a magistrate in a judgment given in a recent court case which was subsequently overturned by the Supreme Court; if so, what is the name of this magistrate;

- (2) whether he intends taking any action as a result of these comments; if so, what action; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Question No 1 on Thursday 1 March 1990 in the House of Delegates.

Vehicles on beaches/dunes

*17. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether his Department of any provincial administrations have taken and/or intend taking action in regard to controlling the use of vehicles on beaches and coastal dunes; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) in terms of what laws and ordinances; *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (2) whether it is the intention to introduce legislation in this regard; if not, why not;

if so, (a) what legislation and (b) when? *B428E*

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- Natal:*
- (1) Yes. *Hansard 13/3/90*
- (a) (i) Zoning of the coastline into areas where vehicles would be permitted or prohibited, based on a survey of environmental sensitivity, analysis of carrying capacity and evaluation of user conflicts;
- (ii) establishment of a permit system to control vehicle activity.
- (b) In terms of section 10 of the Sea Shores Act (Act No 21 of 1935).
- (2) Yes
- (a) Amendment of General Seashores Regulations (1962);
- (b) 1991.

Cape Province:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Control over vehicles on beaches is exercised by local authorities. Regulations in this regard have been made over the years with the approval of various Ministers and, in more recent times, the Administrators. However, there is no legislation in terms of which vehicles can be prohibited on coastal dunes above the highwater mark. At present the Cape Provincial Administration is preparing a map which will fully reflect all sensitive areas along the Cape coast in order to consider intensified steps against vehicles.
- (b) Beach control is exercised under regulations made in terms of the Sea Shores Act, 1935 (Act 21 of 1935).
- (2) Yes.
- (a) Legislation to declare the use of any vehicle in any place other than a public road, except on land belonging to such user or with such landowner's consent to be an offence.

This will restrict the use of vehicles on coastal dunes.

(b) As soon as possible after all legal aspects in connection with such legislation have been investigated.

Mngweni River: mercury/other chemical pollution *S6*

*18. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Water Affairs: *Hansard 13/3/90*

- (1) Whether mercury and/or any other chemical pollution has been reported in the Mngweni River near Cato Ridge in Natal; if so, (a) by whom was such pollution reported, and (b) what was his response to these reports, in each case;
- (2) whether any tests have been conducted in the Mngweni River and/or the Umgeni River for mercury contamination; if so, (a) why and (b) with what result;
- (3) what is the internationally accepted maximum level of mercury pollution in water? *B429E*

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Umgeni Water Board.
- (b) The matter was investigated.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) Routine sampling is undertaken to determine chemical concentrations in the water and to trace possible sources of pollution
- (b) The results of the tests carried out at various sampling points varies from site to site and from time to time and is directly influenced by the river flow at the time of sampling. The tests indicated mercury contamination.
- (3) The maximum acceptable mercury concentration in water varies from country to country and from institution to institution. The requirements for the purification of waste water or effluent produced by, or resulting from the use of water for industrial purposes in the Republic of South Africa, determined in terms of section 21(1)(a) of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) was published in Notice

991 of Government Gazette 9225 of 18 May 1984 and lays down the maximum concentration of mercury at 0,02 milligrams per litre. *Hansard 13/3/90*

The mercury contamination in the vicinity of Cato Ridge appears to be due to seepage from a series of dams that store mercury-containing effluents on the property of a company that recovers mercury from industrial waste and which is situated in the catchment of the Mngweni River, a tributary of the Mgeni River.

Once the source of the mercury contamination was identified, the company concerned was instructed to investigate and rectify the problem, which subsequently led to the appointment of a consultant to determine the extent of the mercury contamination and to propose remedial action. Regular and thorough monitoring of the position is being carried out in the meantime by the company concerned. Once the report of the consultant becomes available it will be studied in depth and the necessary remedial steps will be taken to reduce the mercury contamination which is, to a large extent, the result of historical disposal practices. *S6*

At this point in time there is no need for concern regarding the presence of mercury in the rivers in question. There is close and regular liaison between water boards and the Department of Water Affairs, as well as between the other State departments, such as the Departments of Environment Affairs and National Health and Population Development when it comes to matters such as pollution and pollution control and this spirit of co-operation enables them all to deal effectively with cases such as the one presently under discussion.

Bezuidenhout Valley: new police station

*19. Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Law and Order: *Hansard 13/3/90*

Whether a new police station is to be erected in Bezuidenhout Valley; if so, (a) when will it become operational, (b) where will it be located and (c) how many (i) members of the South African Police and (ii) police vehicles is it anticipated will be stationed there? *B430E*

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- Yes.
- (a) to (c)

SABS to have environmental friendly mark

Political Staff

Sta- 13/3/90 (56)

CAPE TOWN — South African manufacturers who claimed their products were environmental friendly may soon have a South African Bureau of Standards yardstick to test their wares against.

This was announced yesterday by Mr Kent Durr, Minister of Trade and Industry.

The SABS has called a meeting for April 4 where about 30 people from relevant organisations will discuss what standards

should be met before a product could claim to be environment friendly.

Mr Durr wants to see how reliable are the variety of environment friendly claims presently on products. He asked the SABS to investigate with a view to coming up with their own "environmental friendly" mark to serve as an independent guide.

"The objective is not only to establish standards for an environmentally friendly mark, but to encourage the use of such

a mark in order to bring consumer pressure to bear, as a contribution to the environment," Mr Durr said.

The Government does not want to have to introduce laws to prevent untrue environment friendly claims, and would prefer to use moral coercion or public pressure.

One way would be to get the National Press Union not to accept advertisements for products that claimed to be environment

friendly but did not have the SABS mark.

Mr Durr said most people were already aware of the dangers of the greenhouse effect and the depletion of the ozone layer for mankind and the planet. Although South Africa's contribution as a developing land to these problems was relatively small in comparison with Europe and America, the issues had increasing socio-political importance for the country.

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

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B427E

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Handwritten: Hansard 13/3/90

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THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- Yes. *(Handwritten initials)*
- (a) to (c)

Environmental warning

CAPE TOWN — The future of agriculture was being shaped increasingly by environmental trends and resource constraints, Minister of Agriculture Mr Jacob de Villiers said yesterday.

He told the President's Council that the most prominent trends were continual loss of topsoil from croplands, conversion of cropland to non-farming uses, waterlogging and salting of irrigation areas, falling water-tables and the diversion of irrigation water to non-farm uses.

In reply to a question on whether the country could continue to develop

without water. Mr de Villiers said farming would have to be in harmony with the environment, and not at the expense of natural resources.

"If we overtax the environment, we will have insufficient water. It is not a good idea to take water from areas where there seems to be an over-abundance and move it to other areas where there is less. This could result in the desiccation of certain areas."

Natural resources were vulnerable and exhaustible. Effective conservation of these was important for the continued quality of life. — Sapa.

56

57

5702 14/3/90

Trends

Helping you keep up with the future

A London commodities broker has been sentenced to three years' jail for helping American taxpayers evade their taxes. — The Financial Times.



A British "environmental fragrance" company is launching pot pourri for ashtrays. Hot ash boosts its "natural action", emitting a sweet, sickly smell. — The Independent.

The biggest criticism levelled at satellite dishes is that they are unsightly. Now a UK firm has developed a dish that is almost transparent. — The Financial Times.

ECOLOGY

Those 'friendly' labels often hide the cruel truth

As consumer demand for "natural" cosmetics grows, toiletry and cosmetic grants are jumping on the green wagon and hiding conventionally produced and packaged products behind tags like "ozone-friendly" and "cruelty free".

Such definitions have no legal status. Indeed, fraudulent labelling is now so rife that the British Friends of the Earth organisation is setting up a green audit to monitor claims in Britain.

A similar scheme has been established in Johannesburg by the Realities Party which is already assessing certain well-known South African products.

"A product labelled 'ozone-friendly' is not necessarily friendly to the environment," says Mr John Nesbitt of the Realities Party.

"Certain products which claim to be 'ozone-friendly' are in fact highly detrimental to the Earth.

"We try to ensure that products are not tested on animals, and in the case of food and cosmetics, we test preservatives as well.

"We have designed a special label for products which we've tested and found to be 'environment-friendly' as well as 'ozone-friendly'.

"Any company which carries our label has to agree to regular 'spot inspections' and allow us access to their factories so we can see exactly how their products are made."

This week, the Minister of Trade and Industries, Mr Kent Durr, said some manufacturers were marketing "ozone-friendly" products which did not measure up to the claims.

He said the Bureau of Standards would be holding a meeting on April 4 to investigate the possibility of

an appropriate standard for environmentally friendly products with a standard symbol. This meeting would be attended by members of wildlife societies and other interested environmental bodies.

Mr Durr said the objective was not only to establish standards for an environmentally friendly mark, but also to encourage the use of such a mark to bring consumer pressure to bear as a contribution to the environment.

Mrs Bev Geach of Earthlife Africa says the job of green-gauging remains with the consumer.

"We all need to check products for unnecessary packaging and useless additives such as colourants.

"Try to avoid plastic packaging where possible and products that are difficult to recycle, such as aerosol deodorant cans," she says.

Much confusion focuses on whether a particular moisturiser, mascara or perfume has been tested on animals or utilised animal products.

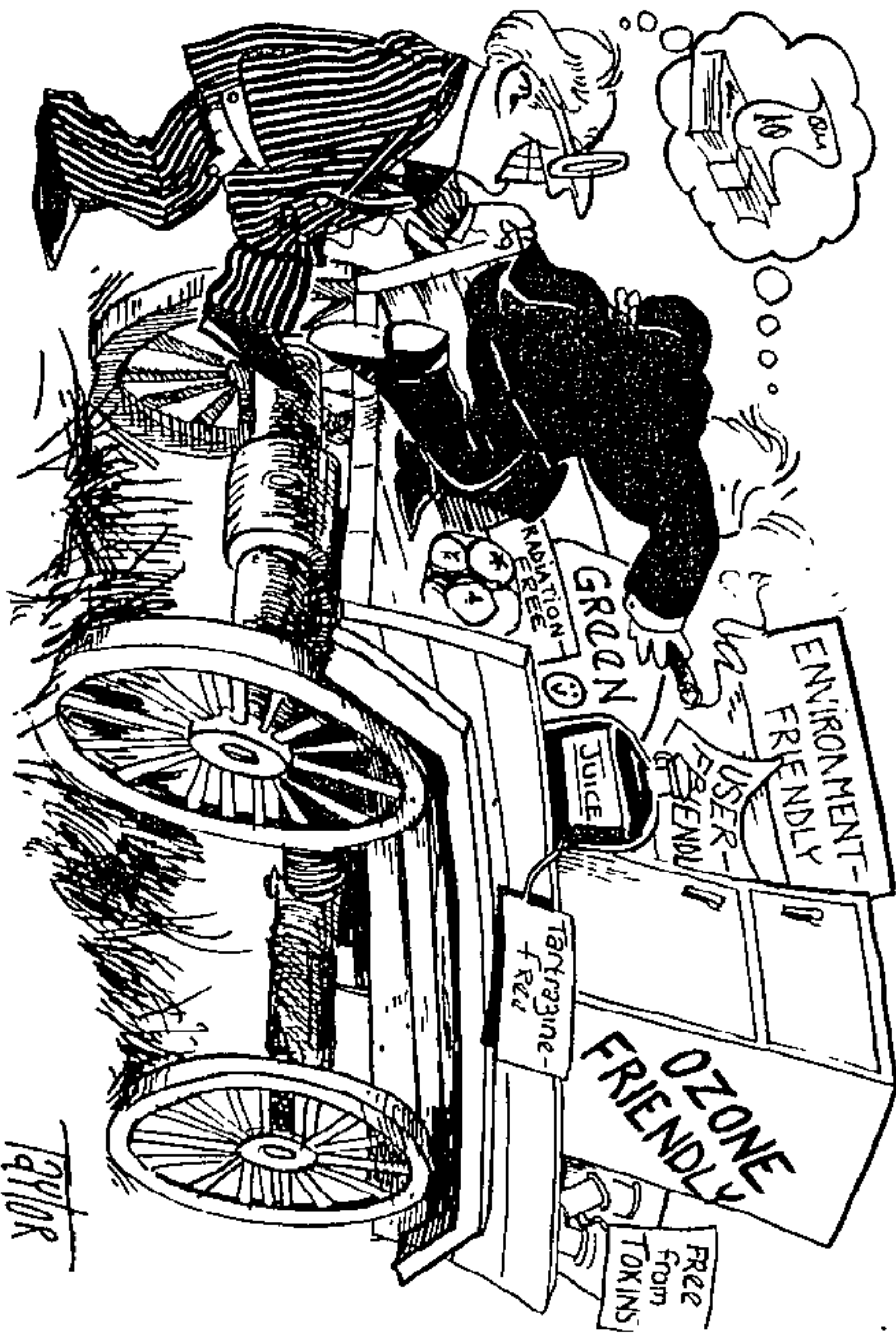
"Many cosmetics are labelled 'anti-cruelty' when in fact, they are holding of the kind," says Ms Christine Berry, a founder member of Beauty Without Cruelty.

"In many instances, the final product may not have been tested on animals, but many of the raw ingredients — 90 percent of which are imported — have certainly been used on animals."

"Several top companies glibly state their products have not been tested on animals and they are literally getting away with murder."

Readers requiring a list of "safe" cosmetic companies, as well as those which test on animals, can send a stamped, addressed envelope to Beauty Without Cruelty, PO Box 97, Newlands 7725. The service is free.

CAROLINE HURRY



Call to restrict size of families

CAPE TOWN — A balance had to be found between the production of food and the production of mouths to enable South Africa's resources to continue supporting the population, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Jacob de Villiers, said yesterday.

He was speaking after giving evidence to the President's Council on its investigation into a policy for a National Environmental Management System.

He said South Africa had more land than it would ever need for its population, but the question was whether the

resources had the carrying capacity to keep alive and support the ever-increasing population.

"We simply have to restrict the size of our families. However, I do not think this is something you can legislate against. You have to change people's hearts."

During evidence, Mr de Villiers said 95 million ha (89,7 percent) of the Republic was taken up by some sort of agricultural undertaking. Of this, 70 percent was suitable only for animal husbandry. — Sapa.

56

Star 14/3/90



Farming and mining clash

Alarm at water pollution in SA

CAPE TOWN — Pollution of water sources and the atmosphere in South Africa is reaching alarming proportions, Minister of Agriculture Mr Jacob de Villiers said yesterday.

He was giving evidence to the President's Council for its investigation into a policy for a national environmental management system.

Dumping grounds

Speaking about the influence which development projects could have on the agricultural environment and production, he referred to the situation developing in such areas as the eastern Highveld, where coal mining and processing takes place side by side with farming.

Apart from the fact that agricultural land was required for mining activities, processing plants and dumping grounds, the largescale generation of electricity and the manufacture of petro-chemical products had a detrimental effect on the quality of the environment.

He said the production capacity of agricultural land, disturbed as a result of high-yielding coal mining techniques, was detrimentally affected, because important aspects such as water-retaining capacity, fertility status and stability all deteriorated.

Because the extent of high-potential agricultural land was restricted as far as the extension of agricultural production, demands on land for purposes other than agriculture would have to be planned with great responsibility.

Between April 1978 and March 1988, agriculture had lost 130 046 ha to development projects. This represented an annual change of 13 000 ha.

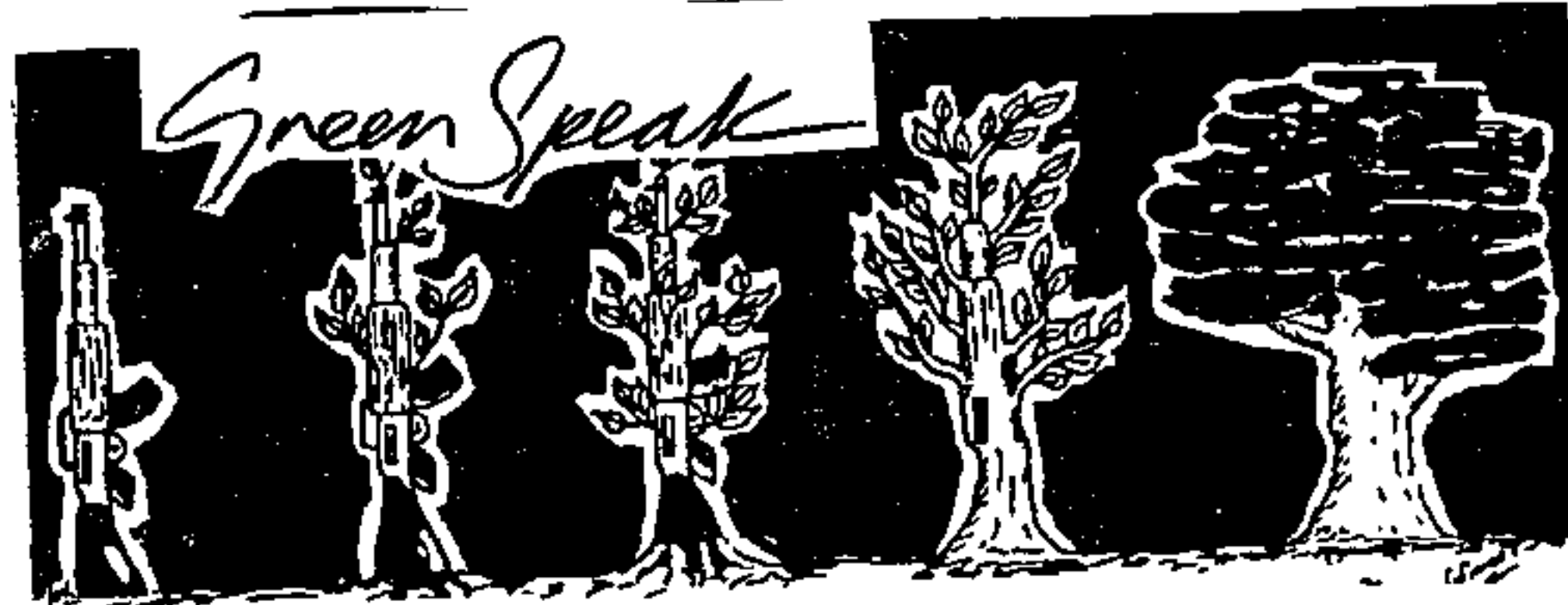
Mr de Villiers said industrial and township development also resulted in land adjacent to metropolitan areas being subjected to sub-division and fragmentation, to a point where units lost their agricultural character and were unable to make any contribution to production.

Land sacrifice

"It is estimated that smallholdings and rural residential complexes already comprise 3,2 million ha (2,9 per cent). Most of these units contribute little to agricultural production, and are used exclusively for residential purposes."

He said there was concern about the lack of consultation and co-ordination between State and semi-State institutions undertaking development projects.

Valuable agricultural land was sacrificed without alternative proposals being considered. — Sapa.



By Liz McKenzie

GREATER Cape Town will need about eight new housing developments the size of Mitchells Plain to house the increased population by the turn of the century.

This is one of many issues that pose a threat to our environment.

Because of mass urbanisation, we face major challenges in built up environments which will dramatically affect the way cities are planned in the next few decades. South 1573-2113/90

Africa's rate of urbanisation is the highest in the world, while South Africa's urban population is predicted to more than double from 16 million in 1985 to 35 million in the year 2000. This implies greater demands for housing, the provision of services, treatment of sewerage, health conditions and energy.

What happens in our own backyards affects the global system — and vice versa.

If each South African stopped using ozone-unfriendly aerosols, for example, we could reduce by half the country's contribution to ozone depletion. Aerosols, plastic foams and fridges contain CFC, (chlorofluorocarbons), an element which destroys the ozone layer, a section of the earth's atmosphere which protects living cells from harmful radiation.

The "greenhouse effect" — the warming of the earth's atmosphere caused by the burning up of non-renewable fossil fuels such as oil, and coal has already affected our climate.

The six warmest years in the last century occurred in the 80s, while the late Cape rains last year have been attributed to "the greenhouse effect".

In the negotiations for a new bill of rights, South Africa could do well to be guided by Namibia's new constitution which provides for environmental protection.

The underlying government policy on the land and its management affects every person's life.

The Nationalists' policy is to exploit coal and uranium, which are not renewable, to generate electric power. The potential of renewable resources such as hydro-electric power (using the energy of moving water) and solar energy has not been developed and realised.

Eskom produces about 60 percent of the African continent's electricity, yet 70 percent of South Africa's population has no access to the Eskom electricity supply grid.

In this country, 12 million people collect wood for fuel to prepare their daily food.

South Africa lags behind international trends with regard to pollution. It is internationally accepted that producers of pollutants must process them into a safer form. This is not yet the case here.

For example, hundreds of fish and other water-based forms of life were poisoned in the Liesbeeck River last week.

Our land, water and air form the life source on which we all depend.

The earth as a whole could be compared to the human body. Humans are but one organ dependant on all the other organs for survival. Not caring about ozone depletion or the effects of radioactivity is like cutting out our hearts or lungs.

The earth belongs to all of us. We must continue to make it a healthy place to live in, even when balancing the demands for urban and rural development, population pressure and sustained economic growth.

...tion at last, says ecologist

Star 15/3/90 By Jacqueline Myburgh (14) 56

The chief of the Ecology Party, Mr Colin Slater, has described the increase in the Environment Affairs budget as "good, but we could do with more".

Commenting on the almost 10 percent increase from last year's R160,6 million to R177,9 million allocated for environment affairs, Professor Richard Fuggle, professor in Environmental Studies at the University of Cape Town, said it was the first time he had seen some "action" in terms of an increased environment budget. He would be interested to see how the money would be allocated.

St Lucia petition keeps rolling on

By James Clarke (50)

10/3/90
The Star's petition to save St Lucia from being mined — closed three months ago — continues to attract thousands of signatures.

So does a second, quite unofficial petition, asking for the Minister of Environment to resign. The petition was suggested in Saturday Star.

Several hundred more signatures were received for the main St Lucia petition this week, bringing the aggregate total to 13 403. More than 300 000 signatures, from various quarters, have already been sent to the Minister.

Yesterday the "unofficial petition" produced another 142 signatures, bringing the total to 4 314.

'KILL ALL' NETS

The latest petitions asking for the Minister's resignation were organised by Redhill School in Sandton and the petitioners — mostly parents and associates — accused the Minister of not only not caring about St Lucia, but of blundering over his decision to allow Taiwanese fishermen to export, from Table Bay, thousands of tons of tuna caught with illegal "kill-all" drift nets.

News in Brief

Sappi fined R6 000 *9/11/15 16/3/16*

NELSPRUIT. — A fine of R6 000 was imposed on Sappi's Ngodwana Mill yesterday following the pollution of the Ngodwana River when thousands of litres of effluent spilled into the Eastern Transvaal river last September causing the death of hundreds of fish.

MAN's view of nature is undergoing a radical shift. We used to respect nature because of the vastness of the forces she could command.

Rousseau and others encouraged this view and those, like myself, who ventured into high mountains or to sea in small boats needed no further confirmation — nature was robust.

Today the common wisdom is that nature is fragile, threatened by an exploding human population and its increasing demands on all of our Earth's resources. Perhaps it was the invention of nuclear weapons and the realisation that man now had a force as powerful as nature's at his disposal which caused our view to change.

That there is merit in the new view I have no doubt; but I would question whether it has not gone too far, and whether we are not, in adopting this paradigm, doing more harm to ourselves than good.

Take for instance the relatively simple question of ivory trading. The new world-view of nature has it that many mammals are in danger of extinction, that trading in ivory makes the threat more real, and that a ban on trading is thus essential.

Doom

Yet in nearby Botswana there has been an explosion in the elephant population to the detriment of human life, and the possibility of paying for sensible management with culled ivory is removed by the ban on the trade.

Consider a more complex problem: the release of "greenhouse" gases by combustion of fossil fuels. The new world-view would have it that stringent steps must be taken to curtail these practices as soon as possible. The supposed threat of global warming, the rise in the level of the sea and the loss of valuable land could doom civilisation, according to this view.

But consider also that fossil fuels are the main contributor to energy; that the ease of use of energy was the prime determinant of the original Industrial Revolution and today is a key to the growth of developing nations.

Can the First World really cry halt to a practice which has made it wealthy, and which seems essential for the very survival of the Third World? I would not blame the Third World in the least if it were to turn on those who now sought to restrict the options available to it.

The damage is not only being done to First World-Third World relationships. The First World is also suffering from the new world-view. The number of cases is growing where effort is being squandered by a holier-than-thou view of the environment.

Dams are built and not filled in case a lately discovered fish should die; nuclear power stations stand



Phillip Lloyd

*a noted scientist,
asks if we are not
exaggerating the threat
to the environment*

Mother Nature's in better shape than we think

5/11/90 18/3/90 (56)

idle because no one can prove that they are entirely free of risk; purifying water with chlorine, which some doctors have called the greatest boon to health ever invented, is being questioned for its possible impact on our surroundings.

Underlying all of this is, I believe, is a lack of respect for the inherent forces of nature. There is some truth in the old view, just as there is some in the new.

Perhaps I can best illustrate this with the extraordinary tale of the ozone hole. To the man in the street there is no doubt that the continued use of underarm deodorants is likely to destroy the tenuous ozone layer and lead at least to an increase in cancers, if not the return of the Great Flood.

It was first suggested in 1973 that the propellants of underarm and other sprays, chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs for short, might affect ozone levels in the stratosphere. Scientists looked hard but found nothing until 1984 when the British spotted a hole in the ozone over the Antarctic.

Whether the hole has anything at all to do with CFCs is doubtful — in spite of intense study, major questions still remain.

But a springtime hole does not make a hollow. The hole disappears from the Antarctic for most

of the year. Globally the ozone layer may be between four percent thicker and 11 percent thinner than it used to be, with a most likely estimate of three percent thinner. Is such a drop — if it really is a drop — significant?

Of course not! Ozone helps to shield us from the sun's ultraviolet rays. There is an eightfold variation in the average annual ultraviolet flux over the globe, and the ozone is just a bit of our defence against that huge variation.

Another defence is tanning, which nature has evolved into high-melanin or "black" skin. Where there is high ultraviolet, as there is on the Highveld, we "whites" must rely on sun specs and block-outs if we wish to survive — genetically, we don't belong!

And that is the awful truth about the ozone hole, the sole cause of the panic about underarm sprays. The CFCs may affect the ozone layer, but we do not know for certain if they will — and even if they do, the effect on us will be small.

In 1908 our atmosphere suffered a catastrophe. It was hit by a meteorite so large that the shock flattened large stretches of Siberian forest. Various estimates of the energy involved suggest it was similar to the release of tens of millions of tons of TNT, or hundreds of nuclear warheads.

Pendulum

Astronomical photographs of that time have recently been analysed and show that for several years the ozone was reduced by at least 40 percent. I have been unable to find any evidence that this large drop in the global ozone layer affected human existence in any way.

To have two polarised views of life is nothing new — rather, it is almost the rule. We can take a laissez faire stand, believing that the pendulum will swing between the two poles periodically — and if it now happens to be near one pole, so much the better: there is a chance to right the wrongs done when it was near the other.

However, in the case of environmental issues it seems wrong to stand back and let the pendulum take its course. Progress on environmental issues is being slowed by the very polarisation of views.

It is therefore probably better to recognise the independent existence of the two views and establish the principles by which conflicts that arise from applying each view separately can be resolved.

If it is any comfort, it is unlikely that we are at present affecting the weather. The thought that we might be able to do so has been with us ever since witchdoctors first shook rattles to bring on rain.

Our newer rattles have as little effect. Nature is far stronger.

UCT expert to head study of St Lucia

ARGUS
19/3/90

56

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — The government has appointed an environmental expert to oversee a St Lucia impact study which will cost well over R1-million.

He is Dr John Raimondo, general manager of the environmental evaluation unit at the University of Cape Town, who has already held discussions with environmentalists and interested parties in Zululand.

The wide-ranging study has been launched as a result of a proposal by Richards Bay Minerals (RBM) to dredge-mine the Eastern Shores area of St Lucia.



Dr Raimondo's appointment was announced yesterday by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze.

Dr Raimondo's appointment was welcomed yesterday by Mr Jack Goedhals, RBM's deputy chief.

"What we want is to come to the right answers in the interests of the environment. Dr Raimondo's credentials are impressive," he said.

The study being carried was probably the most comprehensive of its kind. He agreed the cost would be well over R1-million.

Meanwhile, a three-man delegation from the Zululand Environmental Alliance (Zeal) and the Wildlife Society, Mr Oliff Aliveira, Mr Jim Phelps and Mr Jeremy Ridl, have held discussions with the Administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, about St Lucia.

MAKES DEMAND POSSIBLE

In a statement afterwards, the delegation said Mr Cadman had told them he had acted on a Zeal application to have the Easterns Shores State Forest declared a protected natural area by calling for a sub-regional strategy plan due to completed in June.

This would form the basis for a decision on the Zeal application and the future of the region generally.

The delegation said: "Environmentalists are pleased to learn of this development since it makes very possible the achievement of their demand to have the Eastern Shores area declared inviolate."

Anger at 'nominal' fine for big pollution spill

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Environmental bodies have expressed anger over the "nominal" fine of R6 000 imposed last week on Sappi Kraft paper mill at Ngodwana — which was found guilty by a Nelspruit magistrate of contravening the Water Act.

Hundreds of thousands of litres of effluent spilt from the mill into the Ngodwana river last year, polluting 36km of

water and killing hundreds of fish.

It then found its way to the internal stormwater drainage system, from where it entered the Ngodwana and flowed into the Elands and Crocodile rivers.

Condemning the sentence, Earthlife Africa said the fine was not in accord with "the government's claims of environmental awareness".

In many countries extremely severe fines were imposed on

environmental offenders.

For example, a company called Autex in the United States last year paid a \$6 million (about R15 million) fine for dumping waste in a river.

Eight months later the offence was repeated and the company was fined \$20 million (about R52 million) and closed down.

"The amount of R6 000 can be seen as a nominal fee for the killing of part of our natural heritage," an Earthlife Africa statement said.

The organisation called on the government to tighten up environmental legislation, making offences such as this less likely to occur, and to impose punishments which acted as a deterrent for any offences which may be committed.

Mr Colin Slater, founder of the Ecology Party, said: "We encourage the public at large to demonstrate their disgust by telephoning the managing director of Sappi and telling him what they think".

19/3/99 56

SA gets set for breakthrough in pollution control market

STAINLESS steel is used extensively in industrial applications, but there are areas where the material has been largely ignored in SA.

It is used extensively in equipment to prevent sulphur dioxide getting into the atmosphere.

But the industry says pollution has not become a major issue in SA and demand for stainless steel in pollution prevention is low.

Manufacturers do not see this situation changing in the near future.

However, the industry does see opportunities in the catalytic converters being introduced throughout the world to prevent air pollution from cars.

While the local market is non-existent, two local manufacturers have recently approached Middelburg Steel and Alloys (MS&A) to investigate the possibility of making the converters in SA for export, probably to Europe.

There are three main markets for stainless steel in SA.

Use of stainless steel in industry has almost reached saturation point, with the material being used in about 80% of possible applications.

However, in architectural applications, stainless steel use in SA is substantially behind the rest of the world.

MS&A estimates stainless steel is used in only 5% of potential applications.

56 The consumer market is another area where stainless steel has not penetrated, with only a 10% to 15% utilisation.

Given the almost saturated industrial market, the industry plans to concentrate its efforts on increasing the use of stainless steel in building and the consumer markets.

MS&A steel division GM Keith Luyt says stainless steel is being used extensively overseas as cladding for buildings but the trend has not reached SA.

"The trend is so well established in the overseas markets that manufacturers are even producing etched and coloured stainless steel panels.

The higher profit makes it worth a producer's while to divert a small portion of the mill's production into a special facility.

"Stainless steel is a low maintenance material which adds substantially to the structural strength of a building and it is pleasing to the eye.

"Stainless steel is also an important roofing material, particularly for chemical factories where the products would damage other roofing materials.

"Stainless steel is there for life, and with the cost of labour rising it is a cost effective material when the life-cycle costing is taken into account. There is no painting and no panel replacement because of scuff marks," says Luyt.

give us an indication whether or not this specific type of aircraft, which was used on this flight, is one of the new acquisitions of SATS?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I do not have the information at my disposal. I do not know whether it is a new one or not.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Oooooooo! Oooooooo! *Handwritten: 20/3/90*

†Mr SPEAKER. Order! The hon member for Overvaal does not have to agree or disagree with everything that happens in the House!

Botswana: two persons held captive

*13. Mr H J COETZEE asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

(1) Whether two persons whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, are being held captive in Botswana at present; if so, *Handwritten: 20/3/90*

(2) whether they are South African citizens; if so, (a)(i) on what grounds and (ii) since what date have they been detained and (b) what are their names;

(3) whether the Government is taking any steps to have them released and/or tried, if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B507E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(a) (i) and (ii)

They were detained on 21 June 1988 on various counts in terms of the National Security Act and the Penal Code of Botswana and were found guilty by the High Court of Law of Botswana on 8 December 1988 of assault with the intention to cause grievous bodily harm and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment and 8 strokes each. The sentence was confirmed by the Court of Appeal of Botswana on 4 July 1989 with the 8 strokes being set aside.

(2) whether she will make a statement on the matter? *Handwritten: Hansard 20/3/90 (85) B515E*

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No, the Department of National Health and Population Development have fully evaluated the relevant implications under the present constitution. Extensive measures to co-ordinate and eliminate duplication of health services already exist. At present the Department of National Health and Population Development is busy creating measures to ensure the optimal utilisation of resources.

(2) no.

*19. Mr M J ELLIS—Administration and Privatisation. [Withdrawn]

Heidelberg, Transvaal: autopsy

*20. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether, with reference to information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, an autopsy was held into the death of a certain person on 13 February 1990 near Heidelberg, Transvaal, if so, (a) when, (b) by whom and (c) on whose orders;

(2) whether any evidence suggesting a connection between an assault and the death of this person was found; if so, by whom;

(3) what were the other findings of the autopsy?

Handwritten: Hansard 20/3/90 B515E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1), (2) and (3)

The Magistrate of Heidelberg (Tvl) authorised on 21 February 1990 the performance of a *post mortem* examination on the body of an adult Blackman who as far as could be ascertained was the body of the late Thomas Mavimbela Thikitha

The South African Police is at the moment busy to investigate the matter and since a docket has as yet not been submitted to the Attorney-General or Public Prosecutor concerned I am not in a position to furnish any further information.

national and regional regulations and (b) economic schemes; if not, why not?

Handwritten: Hansard 20/3/90 B511E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No, the Department of National Health and Population Development is still awaiting recommendations from the National Air Pollution Advisory Committee regarding amendments to the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965.

(2) (a) yes,

(b) yes.

SADF: contact with publication/person

*17. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Defence. *Handwritten: Hansard 20/3/90*

Whether there has been any contact between him and/or the South African Defence Force and a certain (a) publication and/or (b) person, whose names have been furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, if so, (i)(aa) what was the nature of such contact and (bb) when did it take place and (it) what are the names of the publication and person concerned?

Handwritten: Hansard 20/3/90 B512E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

The Minister of Defence has no knowledge of the publication "Adage News" and has had no contact with the said person, Dr A Guenon.

There was contact between Dr Guenon and the SA Defence Force regarding the making of a feature film on the security situation in the RSA in which SA Defence Force scenes would have appeared.

The contact took place during December 1987 and early in 1988.

*18. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development.

(1) Whether her Department has taken any steps to consider the administrative, financial and national health implications of one department of health for South Africa, if so, what steps; if not, why not;

Tighter environmental legislation urged

'Nominal' fine on Sappi angers conservationists

By Helen Grange

Environmental bodies have expressed disgust over the "nominal" fine of R6 000 imposed last week on Sappi Kraft paper mill at Ngodwana, which was found guilty by a Nelspruit magistrate of contravening the Water Act.

Hundreds of thousands of litres of effluent spilt from the mill into the Ngodwana River last year, polluting 36 km of water and killing many fish. The effluent flowed into the internal stormwater drainage system then entered the Ngodwana River and the Elands and Crocodile Rivers.

Earthlife Africa called the fine a "mockery of all the Government's claims of environmental awareness". In many overseas

countries, extremely severe fines were imposed on environmental offenders, it said.

A company called Autex in the US last year paid a \$6 million (about R15,6 million) fine for dumping waste in a river. Eight months later, the offence was repeated and the company was fined \$20 million (R52 million) and closed down.

Incorrect site

Also last year, a large pharmaceutical company in the US was fined \$20 million for having a few barrels of waste on an incorrect site within its dumping area.

"The amount of R6 000, rather than being a punishment and a de-

terrent, can be seen as a nominal fee for the killing of part of our natural heritage," an Earthlife Africa statement said.

The organisation called on the Government to tighten environmental legislation, making offences such as this one less likely to occur, and to impose punishments which acted as a deterrent for any offences which may be committed.

Mr Colin Slater, founder of the Ecology Party, said: "How sad for SA children that an ecological disaster of this magnitude attracts virtually no penalty. We encourage the public to demonstrate their disgust by telephoning the managing director of Sappi and telling him what they think."

ANNEXURE B

ANALYSIS OF OFFENCES CONCERNING THE 72 069 PRISONERS WHO WERE SERVING SENTENCES OF TWO YEARS AND LONGER ON 30 NOVEMBER 1989.

(SEVERAL PRISONERS ARE SERVING SENTENCES FOR MORE THAN ONE OF THE OFFENCES MENTIONED BELOW)

VIOLENT OFFENCES 46 690
For example murder, robbery, assault, rape, etc.

ECONOMIC OFFENCES 100 157
Theft and other offences of which dishonesty is an element as well as illegal financial or economic transactions.

OFFENCES CONCERNING DRUGS 4 381
For example dealing in drugs and possession of drugs.

OTHER OFFENCES NOT YET MENTIONED 20 056

Drunken driving, possession of firearms and explosives without a licence, Aviation Act, contempt of court, failure in paying maintenance, etc.

ANALYSIS OF OFFENCES CONCERNING THE 12 459 PRISONERS WHO WERE SERVING SENTENCES OF MORE THAN 6 MONTHS UP TO 2 YEARS ON 30 NOVEMBER 1989

VIOLENT OFFENCES 4 139

ECONOMIC OFFENCES 11 635

OFFENCES CONCERNING DRUGS 1 349

OTHER OFFENCES 3 162

Upgrading of roads in Black areas

171. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Development Aid:

What total amount was budgeted for the 1989-90 financial year for the upgrading of roads in Black areas falling under his Department?

B390E

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID:

R6 773 000. No roads in the self-governing territories are included in the said amount.

1980 — 2,2%
1981 — 21,5%
1982 — 11,9%
1983 — 0,6%
1984 — 1,2%
1985 — 2,1%
1986 — 7,4%
1987 — 8,8%
1988 till the collapse of dam wall — 26,5%.

(b) (i) The cost to repair the dam and canal system (including professional fees) amounted to R3,93 million.

(ii) (aa) The cost to repair the N1 road amounted to R565 000.

(bb) The cost to repair the railway line amounted to R1,5 million.

(cc) The subsidy on the repair costs of riparian farms situated within the Irrigation District, amounted to R1 137 806.

The figures supplied above, reflect the total cost of the flood damage. The incremental cost as a result of the collapse of the dam wall cannot be calculated because of the uncertainty of by what amount the collapse of the dam intensify the flood and what damage would have occurred with a normal flood. The N1 road and the railway line were already under water prior to the collapse of the dam wall while the Bloemfontein/Reddersburg

road upstream from the dam were also damaged by floodwaters.

(2) No; No records exists of individual requests by farmers for the purchase of their water rights. In 1923 the irrigable area under the dam was reduced from 4 700 ha to 1 096 ha. In the late seventies the Irrigation Board requested the Government to purchase the water rights of the downstream farmers in order to further reduce the irrigable area under the dam.

During 1986 the Irrigation Board obtained a State loan with a one-third subsidy, of R820 000 to purchase 406 ha water rights from farms situated at the end of the irrigation scheme. This was after the Government investigated the availability of water.

(3) The estimated cost to purchase water rights will be in the order of R2,94 million. This figure is based on the following assumption:

(a) The existing debt of R0,8 million for the purchasing of water rights.

(b) The purchasing of existing water rights @ R3 100 per hectare for 690 ha

The price of R3 100 per hectare water right is based on land with an assured water supply of 900 mm per year while the Irrigation Board paid R2 000 per hectare in 1987 for a water right on land with an assured water supply of only 600 mm per year.

Black schools damaged

183. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Education:† Hansard 20/3/90

(a) How many Black schools were damaged by (i) Black pupils, (ii) terrorists and (iii) other specified elements in the period 1 July 1989 up to and including 31 January 1990, (b) what was the nature of the damage and (c) (i) how many of these schools have been taken into use again and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B458E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) (i) 30.

(ii) 0.

(iii) 25

(b) Window-panes broken.

Arson (Laboratories, administrative blocks and a few classrooms).

Furniture and equipment were damaged.

Fences and gates were damaged.

(c) (i) All except two.

(ii) 1 July 1989 to 31 January 1990.

Own Affairs:

Tierpoort Dam

52 Mr A P OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:†

(1) (a) What was the average content of the Tierpoort Dam in each of the latest specified 10 years for which information is available and (b) what was the total cost during this period of repairing the (i) dam after flood damage and (ii) (aa) N1 Road, (bb) railway line and (cc) riparian farms as a result of the breaking of the dam;

(2) whether any members of the scheme concerned requested the State in the past to buy out their water rights; if so, when;

(3) what is the estimated cost for the State to buy out the water rights of members of this scheme? Hansard 20/3/90 B453E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) The average contents of the Tierpoort dam in each of the preceding 10 years were:

station in the Cape Town police district in 1989?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Cape Town	20	21	243	346	39	503	701	352	1215	12
Camps Bay	—	—	12	26	7	5	45	27	152	0
Maitland	14	14	97	83	17	79	123	75	318	3
Milnerton	6	9	59	108	19	28	92	97	336	—
Pinecliffs	7	0	8	40	2	29	101	44	328	—
Sea Point	2	6	45	155	8	34	208	97	734	4
Kensington	12	2	166	148	26	42	49	136	129	2
Woodstock	17	7	118	216	18	111	294	243	824	48
Tableview	3	10	34	26	12	2	67	64	237	—
Melkbosstrand	—	9	6	7	0	0	0	0	35	0
Atlantis	61	14	452	531	89	147	74	744	436	14
Table Bay	11	0	72	23	2	8	9	35	70	4

Note: Because the South African Police is not satisfied with the crime situation in the RSA, crime tendencies are continuously monitored. I wish to assure the honourable member that everything possible is being done to prevent crime. When it is apparent that there is an increase in crime, active steps are taken to counteract this tendency.

Wynberg police district: offences

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Wynberg police district in 1989?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Wynberg	10	8	48	141	14	81	170	120	378	2
Fish Hoek	20	8	144	146	12	23	65	154	392	—
Simonstown	—	5	22	34	2	7	9	16	53	—
Rondebosch	—	2	26	40	3	27	260	44	424	6
Murzenberg	2	7	147	111	22	49	116	78	372	—
Mowbray	—	14	12	51	2	34	137	32	290	2
Hout Bay	14	4	125	96	20	23	31	72	234	—
Diepriver	2	10	38	102	9	41	182	60	539	—
Claremont	3	9	58	137	5	33	511	135	767	2
Steenberg	30	2	424	394	63	184	165	418	414	—
Kirstenhof	2	12	137	75	9	30	133	104	410	2

Note: Because the South African Police is not satisfied with the crime situation in the RSA, crime tendencies are continuously monitored. I wish to assure the honourable member that everything possible is being done to prevent crime. When it is apparent that there is an increase in crime, active steps are taken to counteract this tendency.

Vaal Triangle/Eastern Transvaal Highveld: pollutants

148. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:†

- (1) (a) What pollutants occur in the air of the Vaal Triangle and the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and (b) in what concentrations do these pollutants occur;
- (2) whether, with a view to the protection of human health and plant life: scientifically based levels of pollutants that may not be exceeded have been determined; if not, why not; if so, what levels;
- (3) whether the present levels of these pollutants in the atmosphere in the Vaal Triangle and Eastern Transvaal are lower than the maximum permissible concentrations that have been so determined;
- (4) whether her Department has inspectors that monitor industries in order to ensure that the conditions in respect of the release of pollutants are complied with, if not, why not; if so, what mechanisms are there in this regard?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

(1) (a) Mainly oxides of sulphur and nitrogen, hydrocarbons, smoke, metal-oxide dust and many lesser pollutants;

(b) not all concentrations are measured at all stations. It is impossible to supply all concentrations for all measuring sites, due to the large amount of data available.

As an example sulphur dioxide concentrations are quoted as ranging between 3.4 and 15.9 parts per billion as annual mean.

(2) yes, a list of maximum allowable concentrations are available. Some more important ones are listed below

- Annual mean.*
- Sulphur dioxide: 30 parts per billion
 - Nitrogen oxides: 200 parts per billion
 - Ozone: 10 parts per billion

— Suspended particulates: 150 microgram per cubic metre

— Smoke: 100 microgram per cubic metre.

Monthly mean:

- Lead: 2,5 microgram per cubic metre
- (3) yes, for about 99% of the time.
- (4) yes, regular inspections and measuring of emission and ambient concentration levels.

Persons: HIV positive

156 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

How many (a) White, (b) Black, (c) Coloured and (d) Indian persons tested HIV positive in 1987, 1988 and 1989, respectively?

Answered 21/3/90
B375E
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

The latest available information as at 30 October 1989. Information is not available regarding the respective years.

- (a) Whites 956
- (b) Blacks 907
- (c) Coloureds 91
- (d) Indians 10

Unknown population group 432.

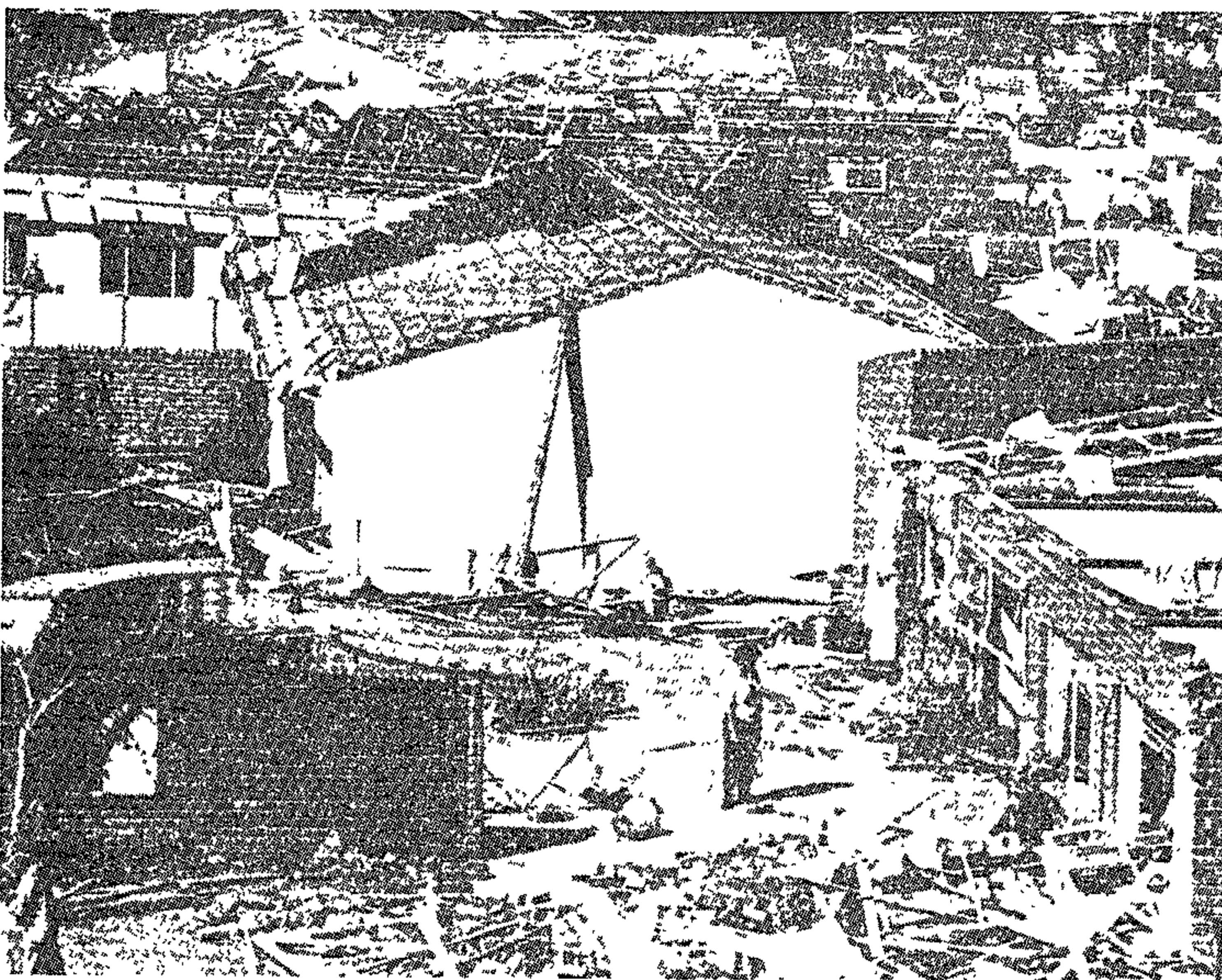
Tuberculosis

157. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(a) How many cases of tuberculosis were reported in each province in 1989 and (b) how many (i) cases of tuberculosis were hospitalized, and (ii) tuberculosis patients died, in each province in that year?

Answered 21/3/90
B376E
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

(a) Notifications for the reporting period during January to December 1989. It should be noted that "cases" of tuberculosis refer to notified instances of contact, not patients or people. Repeat notification of individuals per annum is thus possible. The following information is furnished as at 5 March 1990,



DEVASTATION: Flattened homes, ripped off roofs and broken power lines mark the path of destruction of the tornado that hit the Free State town of Welkom — about 400 houses and flats were damaged or destroyed.

Help pours in for tornado refugees

The Argus Correspondent

WELKOM. — Scores of shop owners and residents from Welkom and surrounding towns have flooded into the wrecked suburb of Riebeeckstad to contribute blankets, clothing and food to people whose homes were destroyed in a freak tornado on Tuesday.

Two people died in the disaster — one a service station worker, Mr Oziel Matlakala, and one a mine worker. Mr Matlakala died on admission to the Welkom hospital on Tuesday night after a wall collapsed on him in Riebeeckstad.

Of 61 whites treated at the Welkom Hospital on Tuesday night, 25 were admitted. One man, Mr Nicky Mostert, was in a critical condition after his car crashed during the storm.

"TIP OF THE ICEBERG"

Twenty-five black people were treated but only five were admitted to the Welkom Hospital.

Hospital superintendent Dr Flip Nel said: "The casualties are just the tip of the iceberg. The emotional damage will be realised later."

Injuries included fractures, cuts and broken placentas in pregnant women. One woman had to undergo a caesarian section last night. The houses of nearly 30 nursing staff and a doctor at Welkom Hospital were badly damaged.

Food was being prepared and distributed to refugees of the disaster from the Riebeeckstad school yesterday while hundreds of municipal and town workers helped the homeless to salvage what was left of their belongings.

Damage in the suburbs of Riebeeckstad, Rheeders Park and Flamingo Park — where the tornado cut a path of destruction about six kilometres long and about 500m wide — is expected to run to about R540-million.

Much of the cost will be brought to bear on Anglo American's Western Holdings mine, which owns many of the houses in the suburbs.

The Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, was expected to decide by today whether to declare Welkom a disaster area.

Meanwhile a disaster fund account number has been opened by Volkskas bank in Bloemfontein.

CAPP TELIS 22/3/90 (56)

Welkom tornado death toll rises

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The death toll in the Welkom tornado has risen to two, with the death of a man in the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital.

A man was killed on Tuesday when a section of roof fell on him at a Riebeeckstad shopping centre.

Mine production has been halted, emergency electricity supplies are in operation and schools have been shut in the aftermath of the tornado.

About 110 people were injured during the disaster, of whom 40 have been admitted to hospitals.

A 21-year-old Virginia man, Mr Nicky Mostert, is in a critical condition in the intensive-care unit of Welkom Hospital. He received serious head injuries when his car was blown off the road near the Alma power station.

The condition of one of the injured admitted to the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital, a young boy, has also been described as critical.

A miner was killed and production has been halted at the Western Hold-

ings gold mine near Welkom.

Eskom has concentrated its efforts since late yesterday afternoon on making emergency electricity supplies available to Welkom and the mines, after nine sub-stations were "demolished" in Tuesday's storm.

An air of deep depression was evident yesterday at Riebeeckstad in Welkom where many residents have been left homeless after the tornado that left a path of destruction through the suburbs of Rheeder Park, Flamingo Park and Riebeeckstad on Tuesday afternoon.

Craib Avenue and Lois Street, Riebeeckstad, were particularly hard-hit by the hurtling wind that tore off roofs, ripped out windows and flattened walls.

The Director of Education in the Free State, Mr Willem Odendaal, has decided to close three schools in Riebeeckstad for the time being as the conditions that pupils, parents and teaching staff are experiencing are of such a nature that normal teaching cannot be done, SABC radio news reports. — Sapa

Residents fear kaolin mine study may be a cover-up

By KIM CLARKIN

NOORDHOEK residents fear that the impact study on the proposed Chapman's Peak kaolin mine may be a cosmetic cover-up of the worst mechanical mining scenario.

According to John Butterfield, spokesman for the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, the Noordhoek and District Civic Association have rejected the study as they feel a great deal more input and research is needed.

"We have sent the report back to Serina (the mining company) with our comments and are now seeking expert opinion which will be detailed in a full response by the end of April.

"We fear, however, that this report may only be 'draft' in name as it has been indicated that a final report will be available in May — an unrealistic time to complete what is supposed to be an in-depth study.

Worst scenario

"It appears that the wheels will continue to roll whatever questions are raised," said Mr Butterfield.

He explained that the impact study merely dealt with the worst scenario

of a large, mechanical mine with an on-site processing plant in one of the most beautiful areas of the Cape.

"There is evidence from the study that the environment is being compromised for financial considerations, empirical data has been misinterpreted and that despite two years of research there are still no satisfactory solutions to serious problems such as the disposal of polluted water.

"The issue of the mine is built on the premise that kaolin is a strategic mineral, which it isn't.

"At no stage has a feasibility study been conducted to investigate alternative mining sites or substitute products for kaolin.

The impact study outlines that:

- There would be an exposed pit up to 40 m deep and at least 3 ha in area at any one time.
- A crude ore stock pile would cover 1 ha and two other stock piles of top soil and waste would be positioned on the mountain's upper slopes.
- A 20-metre-high processing plant would cover 1,3 ha on site.
- A large retention dam would be situated above the road for contaminated storm water and effluent.
- Effluent should be piped into an environmentally sensitive wetlands

● Noise levels would be the maximum permissible by SABS.

Independent study

Mr Butterfield said another disturbing fact which came to light at the presentation of the impact study was that even if other kaolin deposits were found Noordhoek would still be the first to be mined.

"One way to untangle the situation would be for the Minister of Environment Affairs or the CPA to commission an independent, in-depth study by a body like the CSIR," said Mr Butterfield.

The Chapman's Peak kaolin mine was given the green light in 1988 by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs and this decision can now only be reversed in a court of law.

According to Mr Willem Voigt, director of the Mineral Laws Administration, the minister will make the final decision as to the conditions Serina will be allowed to operate under, but the mine has already been approved in principle.

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Top unit to lead Lucia lake study

By James Clarke

The Department of Environment Affairs has appointed the country's top environmental evaluation unit to oversee what is going on at Lake St Lucia.

A company wants to mine titanium in the coastal hills above the lake for the next 30 years.

Last year, the company, Richards Bay Minerals, appointed a three-man team to do an environmental impact assessment (EIA). The study caused an uproar and was described by environmentalists as shallow and hurried.

The leader of the EIA team, Professor Roy Lubke of Rhodes University, was also unhappy, saying his team had been given far too little time to assess the potential effects of mining.

The Department of Environment Affairs rejected the EIA and asked for a more comprehensive one. Professor Lubke's team was recalled.

Now the Minister of the Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, has appointed the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit under Dr John Raimondo to co-ordinate a comprehensive environmental impact study.

In effect, Dr Raimondo will head a committee comprising Professor Lubke's group, the Department and RBM. The public now has more control over the situation.

VICTORY

A joint statement from the Wildlife Society, ZEAL and the Wilderness Leadership School says: "Environmentalists regard this as a major victory."

But the three bodies still suspect the Department's intentions. They say: "On the one hand, the public has been told that a 'no mining option' is to be considered."

"On the other hand, the EIA is also being described as a study to determine the conditions under which St Lucia will be mined."

Confusion has also arisen over whether the Eastern Shores (the coastal hills which are to be dug away from titanium) are to be included in the Greater St Lucia Park announced last month.

The fact that the Minister announced "intent" is not new, says the joint statement. Intent was announced in 1937 and then again in the 1960s.

The wildlife bodies fear the Eastern Shores, which form St Lucia's dramatic backdrop, will be sacrificed in order to achieve the Greater St Lucia Park.

The Minister told me recently that the Eastern Shores will be incorporated into the reserve, but gave the impression this would be after Richards Bay Minerals had finished with them.

The Zululand group, ZEAL, says the Administrator of Natal, Mr Radclyffe Cadman, has told them Natal has made a crucial move towards getting Cape Vidal and Sodwana state forests declared nature reserves and inviolate from mining. Both areas contain titanium.

Anglo and De Beers give R2,6-m

ANGLO American and De Beers have donated R2,6-million for urgent conservation projects of the SA Nature Foundation.

This is the largest un-earmarked donation given by the corporate sector for conservation in South Africa, and one of the largest in the world, said SA Nature Foundation chief executive Dr Allan Heydorn.

The chairman of Anglo American, Mr Gavin Relly, made the announcement in Switzerland at the annual meeting of the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), the leading international non-government conservation body.

The SA Nature Foundation is the Southern African branch of WWF.

The donation is being made as part of the WWF's 25th Anniversary Benefactorship, whereby 25 individuals, organisations and companies throughout the world each contributed \$1-million to WWF to

Special fund

will boost

conservation

projects

commemorate its quarter-century of conservation achievement.

Of the 25 benefactors, eight are South African.

"This clearly shows the major commitment to conservation being made by South Africans and sets an important example to the

rest of the world," said Dr Heydorn. "In particular, together with Gold Fields and Sappi, Anglo American and De Beers have clearly demonstrated recognition of the importance of conservation and shown the way for South African commerce and industry.

"The SA Nature Foundation is very grateful to Anglo American and De Beers," said Dr Heydorn.

"It is a tremendously important act of faith in the work of the Nature Foundation and for conservation in general, serving as an inspiration and a message of commitment and hope," he said.

The donation will form the basis of a special fund. The interest from the fund will be used for urgent conservation projects, said Dr Heydorn.

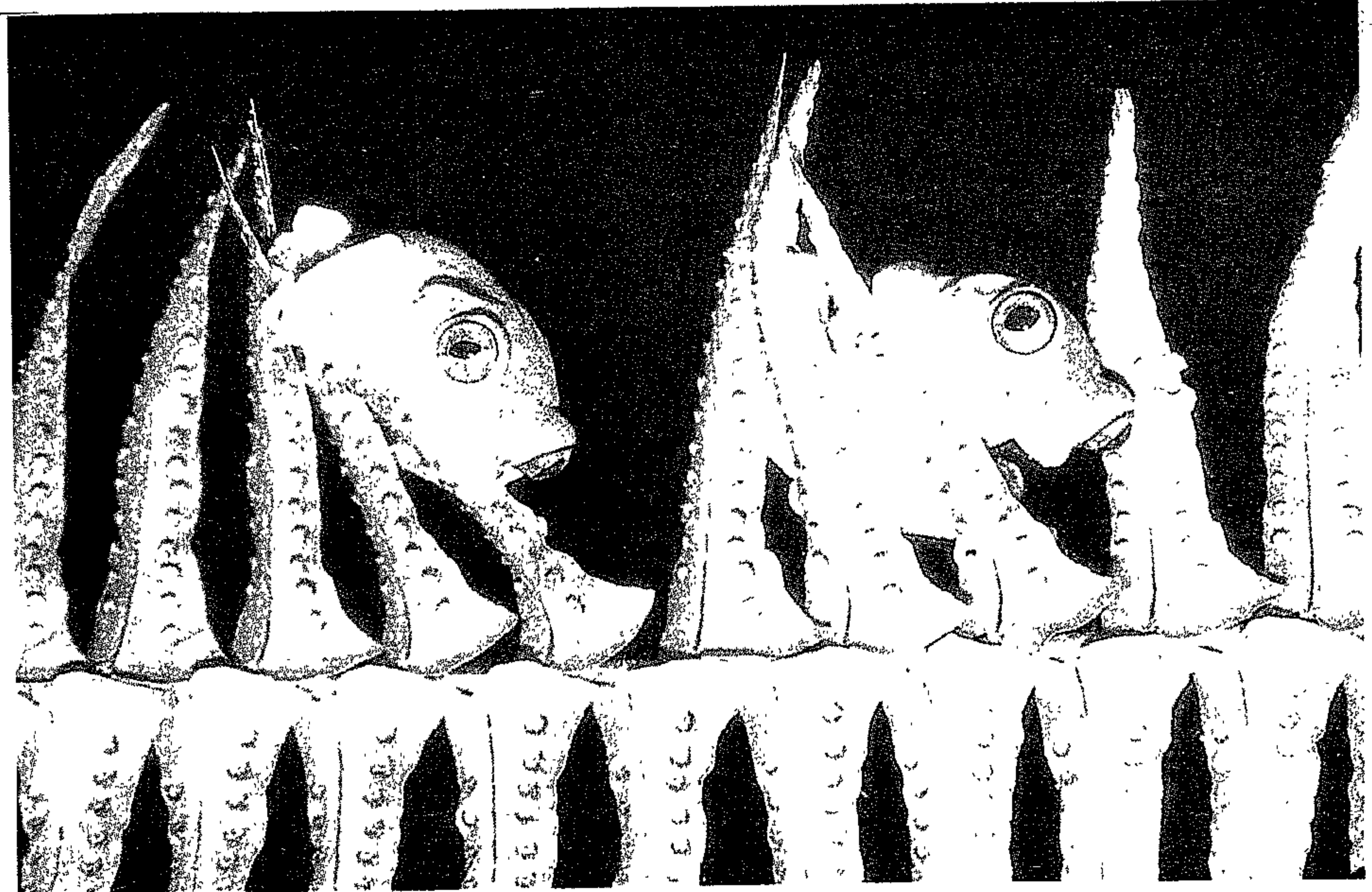
This enables the SA Nature Foundation to tackle larger projects immediately, such as the purchase of land to create new nature reserves.

"The advantage of this special fund is that it will continue to generate funding for conservation work year after year," said Dr Heydorn.

"The SA Nature Foundation will make every effort to add to this fund so that the annual interest generated will increase.

"I appeal to members of the public and companies to consider adding to this fund to give conservation in South Africa the means to meet the challenges of the future."

For further details of the work of the SA Nature Foundation, please write to SA Nature Foundation, P O Box 456, Stellenbosch 7600. This is also the address to which donations to this special fund can be sent.



Frogs and ladders
... this enchanting photo seems to show two tiny, smiling frogs playing some amphibian variation of hide and seek, was taken by Dr R J van Vuuren.

It won the second prize in the prestigious 1989 Agfa Wildlife Awards and is made available by courtesy of Agfa.

How primary schools can play a lead role in environment drama

PRIMARY school teachers have only a short time to enter their schools for the Envirovision performing arts competition. The closing date is March 31 1990.

Envirovision aims at promoting environmental awareness through the performing arts in primary schools throughout South Africa.

The competition presents an ideal opportunity for teaching staff to "workshop" a production with their pupils, helping develop children's talents in research and communication, and stimulating awareness of environmental problems.

Envirovision is a joint project of Southern Life, the SA Nature Foundation and Theatre for Africa, a new drama company headed by South African playwright and producer Nicholas Ellenbogen. Schools are invited to produce an original theatrical presentation of not more than 40 minutes, using any of the mediums of the performing arts, for example drama, song, dance, mime, music etc.

"By avoiding the necessity for a specific language or for elaborate sets and costumes, we are hoping to get a wide representation of South Africa's primary

schools," said Mr Ellenbogen.

"Schools should choose local environmental or conservation issues and develop a dramatic presentation using local research and information," he said.

"Judges will be looking for simplicity of presentation, originality, conviction, acting instinct and a strong dramatic theme."

Inquiries and entries should be directed to:

The Organiser,
Envirovision,
PO Box 1527,
Hillcrest 3610.

The phone number is (031) 752414.

Nine killed as heavy rains hit Natal

ARGUS
26/3/90

56

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Heavy rain throughout the weekend claimed at least nine lives, caused widespread damage to homes, roads and bridges, disrupted electricity supplies and caused traffic jams stretching for kilometres.

The worst-hit areas according to reports were the entire Natal coast and inland as far as Maritzburg.

Seven people were injured in a four-car pile-up near Southport on the N2 yesterday. Two of the victims were trapped in the wreckage and the jaws of life had to be used to cut them free.

The Old South Coast Road was closed from Marburg right down to Ramsgate as raging

rivers burst their banks and submerged three bridges.

Provincial officials in Maritzburg reported five people were killed and one was seriously injured when a car hit a bus on the N3 yesterday.

Three Indian men were killed in a collision between two minibuses near Verulam on Saturday evening.

The wet weather yesterday caused more than 10 accidents around Maritzburg although there were no injuries.

A three-vehicle pile-up occurred on the N3 when a minibus lost control on the wet road and hit a bank. Two cars then careered into it.

Meanwhile a 41-year old man was killed on the N2 highway near Umlazi on Saturday afternoon according to Durban's city police.

Also on Saturday at approximately 7pm a man was cut

free from a car after an accident at Ottawa. The 30-year-old man was admitted to King Edward VIII Hospital with serious head and back injuries.

In Durban eight robots were knocked out of action, and at least eight accidents around the city were reported in a 12-hour period from 5pm yesterday to early today.

Large patches of Greyville Road in Mariannhill were washed away and the road was closed to all traffic last night. A number of smaller roads in the Westville-Hillcrest-Kloof area were also damaged.

In Isipingo at least four families had to be evacuated from their homes and a number of families' household furniture was damaged.

A number of homes in the greater Durban area had power cuts at the weekend due to water related damage to cables and switches.

56
30/3/90 (56)



Lorimer speaks for environment

The Department of Environment Affairs appeared to be curtailing its operations rather than expanding them, Mr Rupert Lorimer (DP Bryanston), said in Parliament yesterday.

Speaking in the Budget debate, he said the "ridiculously low increase" in the amount for the Department was a disappointing aspect of this year's Budget.

The increase of R17 million to R178 million did not even match the inflation rate.

"At a time when large areas of South Africa are suffering serious environmental degradation, which is going to be extremely costly to put right in the future, the Government appears to regard protection of the environment as relatively unimportant," Mr Lorimer said. — Sapa.

Plettenberg Bay marina project is put on hold

Star 31/3/90

FRANK JEANS

56

PLETTENBERG Bay's conservationists have won the day! On the strength of opposition to the town-house development, Robberg Marina, at one of the area's most treasured sites, Stocks & Stocks has halted the project.

Mr Reg Edwards, executive chairman of S&S, says he has been advised by Mr J W Theron, MEC for the Cape Provincial Administration that it had been legally advised that the province was "not in a position to take a decision on the matter".

"My company's view was that pursuance of the recommended alternate route for obtaining necessary approval together with alternate design would seriously diminish the feasibility of the project," says Mr Edwards.

"A further motivation was the strong opposition to the development by members of the public and the media."

The S&S chairman points out that public sentiment was divided on the issue and that, although local residents were in favour, the strength and earnestness of the objectors was a "strong contributory factor".

"We must listen to the people on issues such as this," he says.

The decision to call off the development, he emphasised, did not preclude taking up the project at some time in the future "albeit in an amended form".

Act 'a gun without bullets'

Greenpiece

JAMES CLARKE



Star
31/3/90

56

A LAWYER told me that of all the dozens of pieces of environmental legislation we have, the 1988 Environmental Conservation Act was "the single most important" piece.

It empowers the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, (against whom, let it be said, I have nothing personal), to prepare regulations and declare policies.

It empowers him to "prohibit actions" (!) and once he announces the actions everybody must act in accordance with the law. It is written.

But the Ministry has yet to publish a single regulation under the Act. It is yet to formulate a single policy.

It's understandable in a way: under the constitution no Government department can override another. Therefore, to lay down the law, the Minister would first have to get the agreement of all Ministers.

Not easy.

The Act, as it stands, is more of a public relations gesture, a sort of loose-fitting legislative T-shirt, which the Government has donned to fool us.

Some departments do not even have the authority to consider the environment in their planning. Professor Andre Rabie of Stellenbosch said some could even be ruled *ultra vires* if they did.

Superior

On the other hand an Act is, logically, an indication of Government intent. So why has the Minister chosen to do nothing?

Look at this thing called IEM, mentioned in the Act. It stands for "integrated environmental management" and it is far superior to the simple EIA (environmental impact assessment) method. Also it allows public participation.

IEM, coupled with the Environmental Conservation Act, "would be one of the best pieces of environmental legislation in the world" my lawyer friend said.

UCT law lecturer, Jan Glazewski, put it this way: "The Minister has been handed a gun (the Act) but has so far failed to put any bullets in it."

What can we do to force the Minister to at least try to activate the legislation? How about suing him for not doing his job?

He might even welcome it.

We could go for what one lawyer described as "the art of the losing case". This is where you sue, even though there is little chance of a favourable judgement. The point being that it provides public exposure of the injustices.

Such a case would give the Minister a chance to demonstrate how, under present arrangements, he is really the Minister of Nothing Much.

Discussing this, a friend commented: "Let's not be too enthusiastic about losing."

Press has vital conservation role, conference told

Star
31/3/90

STAFF REPORTER

(56)

NEWSPAPERS have a four-fold role in the world's battle to stabilise the global environment, James Clarke, head of The Star's CARE campaign, told the Human Sciences Research Council's "Green Conference" which ended in Pretoria last night.

He said:

- Newspapers have an educative role.
- They are the ideal bridge between planners and the public.
- They "are ideally suited for the role of environmental watchdogs".
- "They should also be initiators — they can be a tremendous power for the good."

He told how The Star had helped promote the Magaliesberg as a protected area, promoted the concept of the National Hiking Way, help saved Kruger Park from being mined for coal, and led the public effort to create the 32 km-long Braamfontein Spruit River Trail through Johannesburg, Randburg and Sandton.

He said the public often has to lead the politicians when it comes to environmental action — "and the press is its essential ally".

Mr Clarke felt too few newspapers employed environmental specialists — "yet the subject area — embracing as it does town and regional planning, agricultural practice, atmospheric science, hydrology, population dynamics, wildlife conservations and so on — is a rich area for news and comment".

Study shows no proof of global warming

31/3/90

IRWIN ARIEFF

56

WASHINGTON — A new satellite study of world temperatures over the past decade has found no evidence of the global warming trend predicted by many scientists.

The new finding reported on Thursday is certain to fire up the debate in the scientific community over whether world temperatures are actually on the rise.

The latest report on global temperature trends is said by its authors, a team of researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the University of Alabama, Huntsville, to be the most reliable yet prepared.

It relies on data gathered by a series of satellites launched into the upper atmosphere in late 1978 by the US Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Variations

"While future global temperature variations were not specifically addressed, the decade from 1979 through 1988 showed no net warming or cooling trend," NASA said, summing up the report.

The government satellites were equipped with devices able to measure the temperature in a layer of air 965 km wide and 1 524 m to 6 096 m above sea level, a slice of the upper atmosphere where scientists predict the first telltale signs of global warming will appear.

Instead of a steady warming trend, the researchers found a seemingly random pattern of change from year to year. "The warmest year was 1987, and the next warmest was 1988, but the average of the first five years — 1979 to 1983 — was warmer than the most recent five," said Mr John Christy of the University of Alabama's Johnson Research Centre.

The years 1984, 1985 and 1986 were the coolest of the decade, Mr Christy and fellow researcher Mr Roy Spencer of NASA said. Their report is published in this week's Science magazine.

The two men said they found the satellite-based system for gathering temperature data to be far more accurate than any earth-based system and they recommended that it be adapted as the standard way to monitor future global temperature change.

"The resulting data should provide a greater focus of scientific debate on why temperature anomalies occur rather than whether they occur," the researchers said.

The satellite data is superior to land-based systems because ground-based thermometers concentrate on population centres, leaving vast areas unmonitored, they said. — Sapa-Reuter.

56

Report to focus on environment

Staff Reporter

A bi-monthly report on the state of conservation in South Africa will be launched in June and will survey environmental projects by companies and other organisations.

The first issue of the publication, called "Environmental action: what's really being done — and who's doing it", will spotlight the role of the business sector in environmental planning and will cover 50 major environmental initiatives now underway. It will also examine a range of new environmental-friendly products.

The editor-in-chief of the report is Mr Jan de Beer, a Johannesburg consultant. He says it will play an important role in co-ordinating environmental data and discussion.

"A vast, diverse and often confusing array of environmental information and action is now being generated in South Africa by companies, environmental groups, Government and the academic world. Our aim will be to collate this systematically, thoughtfully and in simple language," Mr De Beer said.

The report will not be sponsored by any vested interest and this independence would allow it to comment objectively, he said.

In addition to its survey content, each issue would contain an in-depth examination of at least one major environmental topic.

A board of advisers would assist in the compilation of the report. The advisers include Professor Richard Fuggle (director of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit), Mr Eric Hall (vice-chairman of the SA Council for the Environment), Mr John Hobbs (principal officer for Environmental Impact Management at Eskom), Professor Marius Leibold (Stellenbosch University), Mr Daan Malan (an authority on industrial health and member of the SACE) and Mr Gabriel Fagan (an architect and authority on urban planning who also serves on the SACE).

Workshop to aid conservationists

Staff Reporter

Environment week this year will be the setting for a workshop to promote the efficient management of conservation organisations.

Environmentalists who require either business or communication skills to assist in the carrying out of conservation efforts will have the opportunity to improve both their professionalism and the effective use of their resources.

Organised by Wanderers International Training in Communication, the workshop is partly sponsored by the Development Bank of Southern Africa which has an interest in conservation projects.

The workshop will take place from June 8 to 10 and the cost per person is R80.

Enquiries should be addressed to The Workshop Secretary, The Business of Conservation, P O Box 81377, Parkhurst 2120, or phone (011) 782-5046.

Welkom fund nears R1-m mark

Sta 56 Staff Reporter 4/4/90

The Welkom disaster fund, launched to assist the homeless in three Welkom suburbs hit by a tornado last month, is nearing the R1 million mark.

Yesterday there was R935 137 in the fund, but it was expected that the Administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, would boost it by R20 000.

Mr Meiring said yesterday that a motion of compassion for the victims of the tornado was accepted by the ex-

ecutive committee and it was decided to make the contribution.

Many of the victims of the disaster have moved back into their homes after temporarily repairing their roofs. Others are staying in alternative mine houses provided by Western Holdings Mine (Anglo American).

A decision will be made by the Welkom City Council this week on how to distribute the money.

W/Mail 5/4 - 11/4/90

Mossgas hit ~~by~~ by big strike ~~56~~

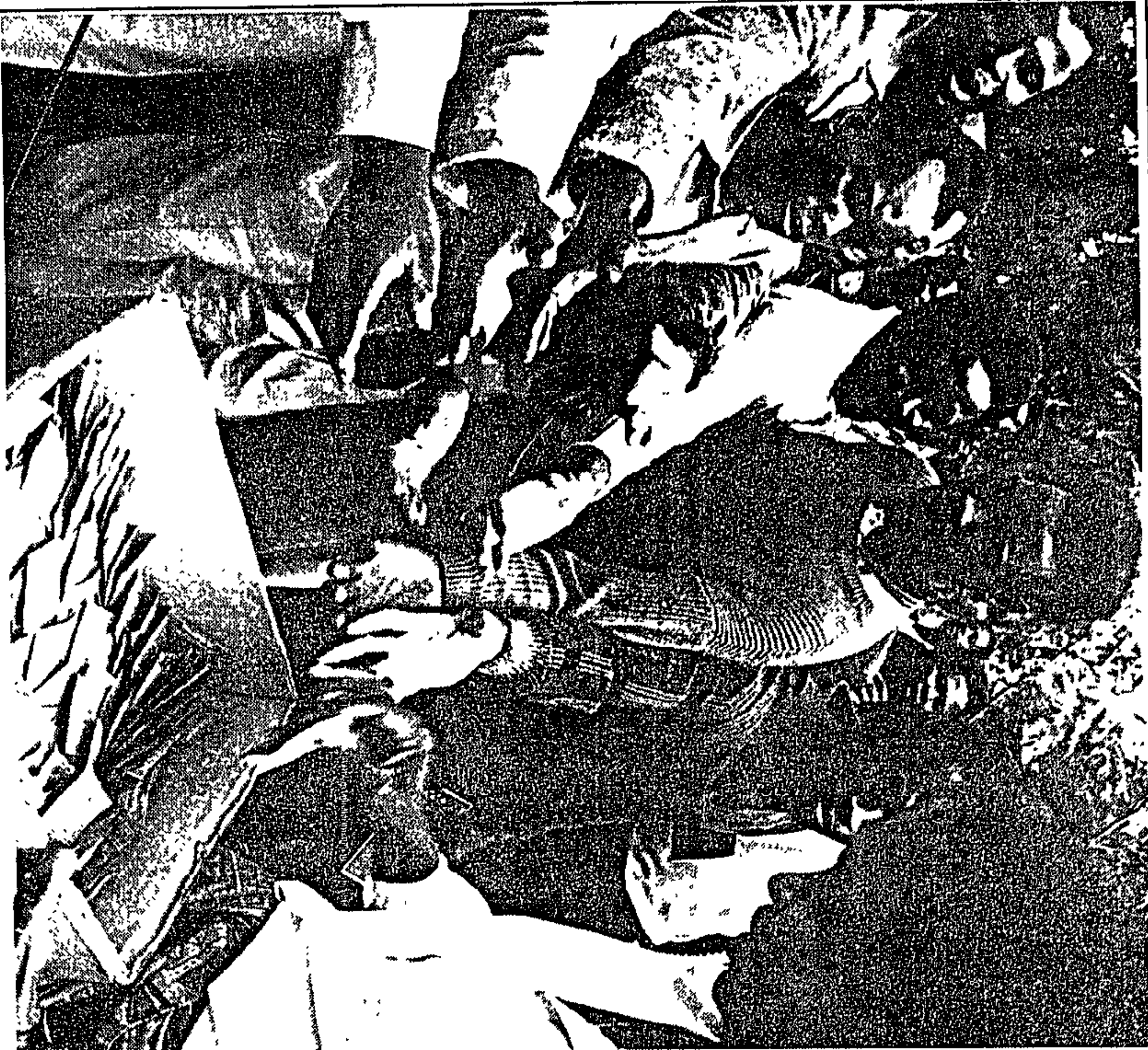
By JUSTICE SIGONYELA

CONSTRUCTION work on the on-shore refinery for the multi-million-rand Mossgas fuel-from-gas project in Mossel Bay has been halted by a strike among workers of the firms contracted to do the work.

The entire workforce of 5 000 went on strike last Thursday, but earlier this week the Mossgas consortium was claiming that half of them had "broken away" from the strike. Denise Gee, a spokesperson for Mossgas, said these workers were not back on site yet, as the firm wanted to avoid "confrontation".

She denied rumours that the workers who did "not wish to be associated with the strike" had been laid off. Employees of Mossgas itself were not involved in the action.

Unions join Greenpeace fight against waste dumps



Demand and supply... a nurse hands out condoms after a performance of an AIDS awareness play
W. News Staff - 11/14/90

LOCAL trade unions and ecology groups will join Greenpeace in an international campaign this month to block the import of hazardous industrial wastes to South Africa.

The campaign — the first to involve Greenpeace in a South African issue — coincides with a surge of interest by trade unions and resistance groups in the ecological effects of apartheid.

The planned protests follow disclosures that workers at Thor Chemicals, a multinational company that recycles deadly mercury residues in Natal, are suffering from nervous disorders allegedly caused by exposure to toxins.

Rod Crompton, general secretary of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), says his organisation is working with Greenpeace International and a number of American unions in a joint drive to stop industrial poisons from being dumped here.

CWIU is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). It organises workers at a number of plants belonging to Cyanamid South Africa, a company that has close links with Thor Chemicals.

"Our union is concerned with the health of workers in the workplace and with the condition of the environment in general," Crompton told the *Weekly Mail*.

Thor imports 10 tons of mercury waste from Cyanamid International in the United States every year and an unspecified amount from Thor factories in England.

"We believe in the principle that Western countries which export their waste and dispose of it in Third World countries should take responsibility for their own industrial poisons," says Crompton.

"We are sending a delegation to the United States this month to link up with a group of unions and Greenpeace, which is planning to launch a

Reports that workers are suffering from the effects of dealing with chemical waste has encouraged unions to give a higher priority to environmental issues, reports EDDIE KOCH

protest campaign in the middle of the month against companies exporting toxic wastes to South Africa.

Details of the campaign have not yet been released but it is expected to involve a series of protests at factories in both the US and South Africa in the middle of this month.

Earth Life representative Chris Albertyn says the environmental group will use the protests to back its demands that all imports of toxic waste to this country cease.

"We will also co-operate with the union movement to demand that Thor clean up the rivers and other parts of the environment that it has polluted and to ensure that the health of workers there is protected."

The campaign comes at a time when a range of unions and other resistance groups are planning to take up green issues.

The South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu) has the environment high on the agenda for its annual congress later this month.

Sacwu general secretary Humphrey Ndaba says the union — which is affiliated to the smaller National Council of Trade Unions — will examine issues ranging from air pollution to the manufacture and use of dangerous pesticides at the meeting.

"We are very worried about our members being exposed to dangerous chemicals in the factories," says Ndaba. "We are also aware that the companies are making pesticides and other chemicals that can endanger the health of farmworkers and members of the community."

sto. 6/4/90 (56) (B) (B)

Firm has not poisoned water, says official

By Jacqueline Myburgh

A company which imports toxic waste from Britain and the United States, Thor Chemicals, was not dumping mercury into the Umgeni River, the assistant director of water pollution control at the Natal Department of Water Affairs, Mr Lin Gravelet-Blondin, said yesterday.

Environmental pressure group Earthlife Africa alleged that Thor was poisoning "the drinking water for millions of people" in the Durban area.

However, Mr Gravelet-Blondin said the most recent tests revealed that the mercury levels in local streams which ran past Thor and into the Um-

geni, and in the river itself, were slightly above 1 microgram per litre of water.

The standards set by the World Health Organisation allow for 1 microgram of mercury per litre of drinking water.

"But the tests were done on raw river water, and in purification the water would be treated to comply with the standards," he said.

The very high levels of mercury measured in the river last year were correct, he said, but they had been taken near the factory site and were strictly localised.

Mr Gravelet-Blondin said Durban's drinking water would not be affected since it was supplied by Nagle Dam, which was upstream from Thor Chemicals.

Theft

Mr Stephen van der Vyver, the managing director of Thor, has denied that his company is poisoning drinking water.

● Last week, seven drums of mercury compounds were stolen from the Thor's premises. The contents were dumped inside and outside the premises. Thor cleaned up the waste.

"Samples are being taken of the soil and local water sources and Umgeni Water is monitoring the mercury levels on a weekly basis," Mr van der Vyver said.

The matter had been reported to the police.

A greener future with alliances

(56)
Greenpiece
by James Clarke
JAMES CLARKE



THE WORLDWATCH Institute in Washington — an independent body funded by various foundations and the United Nations — believes that international environmental alliances are likely to be formed in the near future.

One of its senior researchers, Mr Michael Renner, points out that the world is accustomed to interdependence in economic affairs and defence.

Yet, he says, we are only beginning "to comprehend that the same holds true for environmental relations as well".

Mr Renner, writing in the institute's journal, *Worldwatch*, describes how air pollution knows no international borders. Scandinavia's lakes and forests are damaged by sulphur fallout (acid rain) from Northern Europe. Canada inhales the United States' industrial pollution.

Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, said recently: "The biosphere recognises no divisions into blocs, alliances or systems. All share the same climatic system and no one is in a position to build his own isolated and independent line of environmental defence."

Mr Renner calls for "environmental alliances formed by nations to act against common ecological threats."

Moral right

I can foresee one such alliance between Western Europe, North America and possibly Japan — to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to check the greenhouse effect. This alliance would have the moral right to demand of other big carbon polluters (such as South Africa) that they also reduce emissions — or face a trade boycott.

After all, why should some countries spend billions cleaning up for the global good when others, by avoiding such expenditure, are able to export goods at cheaper prices?

Environmental co-operation has not had, up to now, a rosy history. Bangladesh suffered 25 million homeless in 1988 because deforestation in India and China allowed rivers to run wild through Bangladesh. China agreed to form a regional water authority to alleviate the problem, India declined.

The Dutch, who drink the Rhine after it has passed through 50 million German bladders, asked for an international inspectorate to track down upstream polluters. The Germans said no.

South Africa has a similar situation: rivers which arise on the highveld are shared by Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland. The Eastern Transvaal's air pollution drifts over Swaziland and Mozambique.

Answer? Why not use "environmental attaches"?



National Earth Day 1990

Press 8/4/90 56

Please help to save our planet

Plant a tree or fly a green flag and

show that you care

TODAY is Earth Day - when millions of people around the world will commit themselves to building a safe, just and sustainable planet.

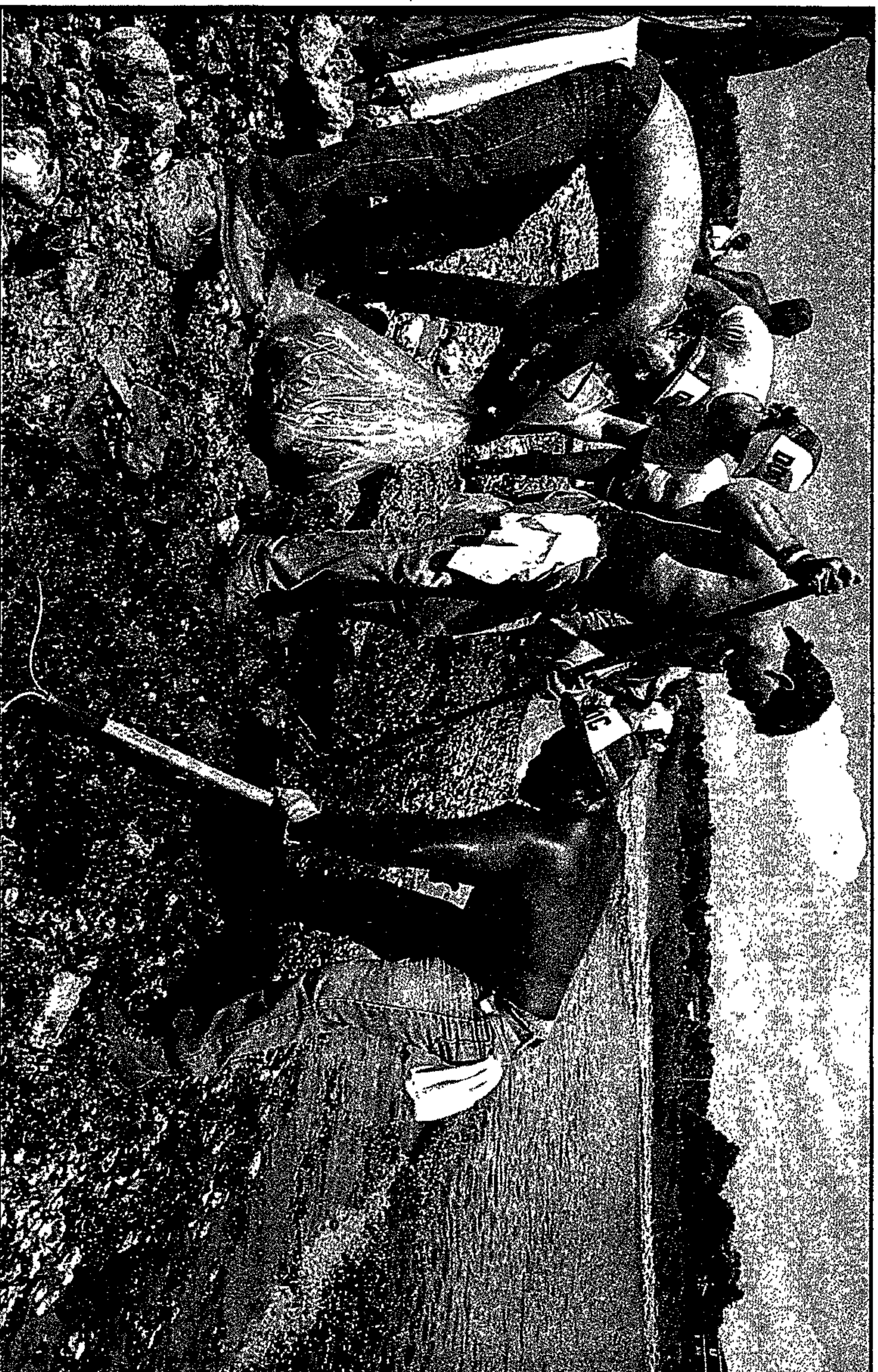
The Earth Day concept was sparked off by fears that if the people of the world did not act quickly and together, the future of the earth was in danger. It is rooted in a belief that people do count and, working together, can accomplish extraordinary things.

The environmental crisis - despite its global scope - is not beyond our knowledge or control. Indeed, the crisis is precisely because of actions we have taken and policies we have adopted.

Today marks the start of the "Decade of the Environment", to promote environmental programmes that preserve and encourage biological diversity, human health, industrial development and regenerative agriculture. It involves a broad cross-section of society in creating a groundswell of support for environmentally sound products, investments and policies.

Its goals include:

- A shift to renewable energy resources;
 - Slowing the warning of the earth by reducing carbon dioxide emissions;
 - A worldwide ban on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which destroy the ozone layer and contribute to global warming. The ban is to be implemented within five years;
 - The preservation of old-growth forests, in both temperate and tropical areas;
 - Introduction of packaging that is recyclable and biodegradable;
 - Stable population growth supported by sustainable industrial and agricultural practices;
 - Adequate energy for residential and industrial use;
 - Programmes for lessening dangerous waste;
 - Protection for endangered species and habitats;
 - Establishment of an international agency with power to safeguard the environment; and
 - A new sense of responsibility for the protection of the planet by individuals, communities and nations.
- This special day was first commemorated 20 years ago in America when millions participated in activities



Volunteers cleaning up a beach after an oil spill. This type of pollution kills marine and birdlife.

■ PIC: INPRA

others to do so:

- Fly a green flag at your home; and
 - Plant a tree or organise a tree planting event.
- Get in touch with the Wildlife [Wildlife](#) for more tips

to focus attention on the degradation of the environment. Denis Hayes, the originator of the first Earth Day, decided to make the 1990 Earth Day an international event to introduce the '90s as the Decade of the Environment. It is being co-ordinated worldwide from America and to date more than 1 000 organisations from 115 countries will participate in Earth Day activities.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa – with seven branches in major cities and 62 centres countrywide – is spearheading the Earth Day activities in South Africa and would like as many individuals, schools, youth groups and other organisations as possible to take part.

Nationally the society will focus on four major issues, but the various branches and centres have also planned individual activities.

You can get involved in Earth Day:

■ Wear something green on Earth Day and encourage

on how you can protect and save the environment.

National office: PO Box 44189, Linden, 2104, ☎ (011) 782-4716/7 or (011) 782-4723/4. Contact: Erina Botha.

Transvaal branch: PO Box 44344, Linden, 2104, ☎ (011) 782-5461. Contact: Di Jones

Natal branch: 100 Branch Road, Durban, 4001, ☎ (031) 21-3126. Contact: Judi Robinson.

OFS branch: PO Box 2099, Bloemfontein, 9300, ☎ (051) 36-6906. Contact: Mathilda Róos.

Western Cape branch: PO Box 145, Tokai, 7966, ☎ (021) 701-1397. Contact: Di Wilson.

Northern Cape branch: PO Box 316, Kimberley, 8300, ☎ (0531) 35214. Contact: Barbara Lewis.

Eastern Cape branch: 2b Lawrence Street, Port Elizabeth, 6001, ☎ (0411) 55-9606. Contact: Marilyn Conradie.

Border branch: PO Box 7608, East London, 5200, ☎ (0431) 43-9409.

Showbiz stars will highlight crisis

BUGS Bunny, "ET, the Extra-Terrestrial" and some of the world's biggest film and television stars will feature in a special Bop-TV programme on Sunday April 29, focusing world attention on the environmental crisis.

The two-hour programme is titled *Earth Day Special*.

The programme will feature movie stars Meryl Streep, Bette Midler, Chevy Chase, Bugs Bunny, Kevin Kostner, Ted Danson, ET, Geena Davis, Jane

Fonda, Barbra Streisand, Robin Williams and others still to be announced.

In addition to songs and sketches from Bugs Bunny and company, other TV celebrities such as the Huxtables from *The Cosby Show*, *The Golden Girls* and *Cheers* will provide sketches and discussions on the future of the earth.

Earth Day Special will be screened at 4.15pm and will replace *Jimmy Swaggart* and *True Confessions*.

We make the litter and we must clear it

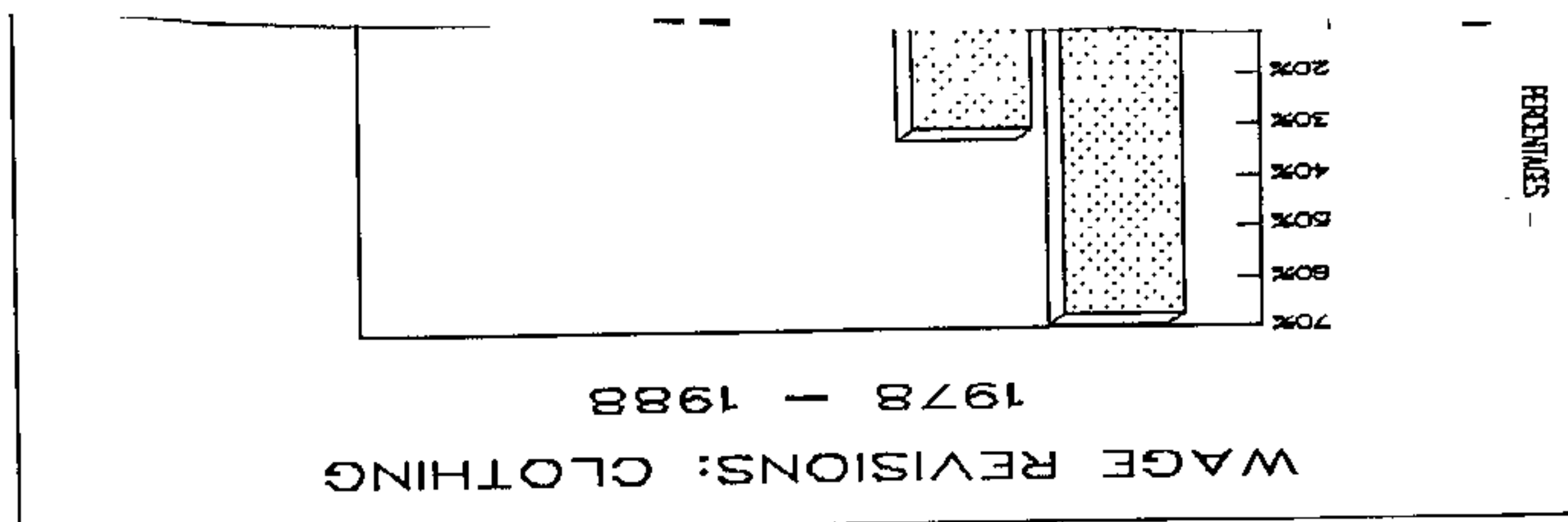
RUBBISH comes from almost everything we do. Waste is a by-product of our daily living – working, moving about and enjoying ourselves.

In our homes there are grocery bags and boxes; at school, orange peel, tissues and stationery; at work, cigarette packets and cartons. When we travel there are plastic cups, cooldrink cans and vehicle parts; when we play or relax, toys, gum, cinema tickets and newspapers; and when we eat, sweet papers, food wrappers, vegetable peels and lots more.

If we throw any of these items on the ground the result is litter. Litter does not just happen. It is created by people.

What can we do about it? Involve people in a Clean Community Committee, which involves members of the community in upgrading and beautification activities.

Each member educates others in his group about the litter problem, identifies "hot spots" in his own sector and involves his sector in long-term clean-up, upgrading and beautification activities to remove them.





The scorched red earth of Landplaas

BY NORMAN PATERSON
BLOATED sheep lying next to dirt roads, wind pumps drawing air, shrivelled cactus plants and a dam that's been dry since it was built three years ago.

This is the scorched Landplaas district, three hours' drive from Cape Town near Koekenaap on the West Coast, where farmers borrow water from their neighbours for coffee.

The area was declared a disaster drought area this week by the chairman of the National Drought Committee, Mr J J Bruwer, qualifying sheep farmers for state aid.

"The survival of the farming community of the Landplaas area is threatened," Mr Bruwer said. "It is therefore es-



SURVIVAL . . . Left: Mr Prins with a sun-withered cactus plant on his farm Elandsfontein, now declared a disaster drought area. Right: Mr Prins and Mr Jan Carstens on a dam wall Mr Prins built three years ago. The dam has never contained water.

state aid last year when they received rain in August following a long arid period. But August was the last time it rained, said Mr Prins.

"But if the infrastructure (such as installing a state irrigation scheme) does not improve, this land will be left deserted after we lived here for four generations."

They were taking to other activities to survive: Contract harvesting in the Free State, doing various jobs, even diving for diamonds off the West Coast.

One of them is Mr Jan Carstens of Swartbooisvlei.

"We can cope with inflation, high interest rates, whatever, but it is impossible to survive if you link them to drought."

that came to his farmhouse each morning.

There would be no wheat crop this year, following last year's crop failure.

"Our danger is, because we are so used to the dry conditions, we stick it out for too long." Farmers voted against

tems on his and 28 other farms were collapsing.

He had already reduced his sheep to 422. Farmers had to buy in fodder and kept sheep in kraals to prevent them from feeding on surviving poisonous plants in the veld. Mr Prins was even feeding springbok

you water plants with it they'll die."

Farmers were trucking in water at great expense from the distant Green River.

Mr Prins said the dusty, red plains he calls his farm had gone through a four-year drought and the ecosys-

Douw Prins of the farm Elandsfontein, who materialised barefoot in a cloud of dust when we reached his homestead.

"Things are rough here," said Mr Prins. "The only water we get comes off our roofs. The underground water is worse than salt water. If

essential that the disaster drought scheme be introduced for this area."

The farmers of the area were almost apologetic when the Cape Times visited them this week.

"If you've come here to hear us moan you've come in vain," said Mr

w/ Mail 12/4 - 19/490

Thor chemicals shut

By EDDIE KOCH

56

~~THE~~ South African government has shut down Thor Chemicals — the world's biggest toxic waste recycling plant — on the eve of an international campaign by Greenpeace against the dumping of industrial poisons in South Africa.

The decision by the Department of Water Affairs to suspend all production at the Thor plant in the Natal Midlands comes in the wake of claims by Greenpeace that the company is responsible for some of the worst abuses in the worldwide trade in industrial poison.

And the controversy surrounding Thor's plant has led to demands in the United States that shareholders in American Cyanamid, a multinational that sends vast amounts of deadly mercury waste to Thor, should disinvest if the company does not stop sending waste to South Africa.

Jim Vallette, Greenpeace's top campaigner against the toxic waste trade, says that 35 tons of highly toxic mercury waste from American Cyanamid, a multinational that has close links with Thor, has been shipped to South Africa for recycling between 1986 and 1989.

"American Cyanamid's practice of using South Africa as a cheap dump site demonstrates the severity of their corporate greed," said Vallette.

Mercury claims by Greenpeace 'sensationalism'

LONDON — The international environmental group Greenpeace this week accused a British company of contaminating drinking water in Zulu homelands with the reprocessing of mercury waste at its South African plant.

The company, Thor Chemical, denied that it had contaminated the air around the plant or the water in a nearby river that feeds the drinking supply for Durban.

Thor's mercury reclamation plant, the world's largest, receives wastes from companies in Britain, the United States, Italy, West Germany, France and Australia.

Among its biggest clients at Cato Ridge north-east of Durban is American Cyanamid. Greenpeace said the New Jersey-based company has shipped nearly 10 tons of toxic waste a year to the plant for the past four years. There was no comment from American Cyanamid, which did not return telephone calls.

Thor Chemicals was reported earlier this week from Durban to have been ordered by the Department of Water Affairs to suspend all operations until problems with mercury contaminated effluent seeping out into soil and the Umgeni River near the plant had been sorted out.

Brain damage

A Department spokesman said recent heavy rains had caused problems and that the Cato Ridge plant was co-operating. It was expected the operations suspension would be in force for about a month.

In a statement released on Thursday in London, Greenpeace said workers at the plant are regularly exposed to mercury fumes and had suffered a variety of mental disorders. Mercury attacks the central nervous system and can cause brain damage.

The statement also said sediment taken from the nearby Umgeni River and analysed showed mercury levels of 1 000 parts per million.

Villagers in kwaZulu use the water for bathing and washing.

"This is an astonishing level of contamination, among the highest ever recorded," Dr Paul Johnston, an aquatic toxicologist at Queen Mary College in London, was quoted as saying in the Greenpeace statement.

Johnston was quoted by The Guardian as saying the mercury contamination was "extensive and serious" and that some levels were "hundreds of times" above World Health Organisation maximum drinking levels.

Greenpeace said toxic runoff from an evaporating pond above the source

of the Mngeweni River was the main cause of contamination. In addition, they said, heavy rains carry contaminated soil into the waterway. The Mngeweni River feeds the Umgeni which provides Durban's water.

Old gold mines

Chris Priestley, a spokesman for Thor, accused Greenpeace of "sensationalism". He said that if the water were contaminated it would show up downstream in the Durban drinking supply, which it has not.

Priestley denied negligence and blamed mercury leaching at former gold mines on the site for contributing the high levels in the water.

"I have no evidence that leads me to believe any contamination arising is coming from Thor Chemicals itself. We must now investigate and find out why this is happening," he said.

Thor Chemical also denied allegations by Earthlife, a South African environmental group, that some of its black workers have been sent home from the plant after suffering bouts of "madness" associated with mercury poisoning.

Challenge

Priestley challenged Earthlife to produce a poisoning victim.

Mr Bill Garrard, managing director of Thor Chemicals, was quoted as telling The Guardian that workers are tested weekly for contamination and taken off the work if the mercury levels are too high.

Priestley said the company is performing an environmental service by processing mercury that might otherwise be dumped.

Mercury waste is recycled at the plant to extract the metal and then processed to make mercury catalysts for use in both the rubber and plastics industries.

Trade ban

In the past two years, the growing trade in hazardous waste has prompted a number of agreements on dumping in Africa. In December 1989, the European Community signed a waste trade ban with 68 states including many in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific.

In May 1988 and July 1989, the Organisation of African Unity adopted resolutions calling for a toxic waste import ban for Africa.

None of the measures include South Africa, which is not a member of any of the organisations, Greenpeace said. — Sapa-AP.

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The Star



MONDAY
April 16 1990
Johannesburg

South Africa's largest daily newspaper.
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Own Correspondent and
The Star Bureau

DURBAN - The American sister company of British-owned Thor Chemicals has made an application in the United States to export more than 13,000 kg of toxic mercury waste to South Africa.

The Government is expected to receive a request to accept this consignment within the next few days.

Reports in Britain have implicated Thor Chemicals, a UK-owned mercury recycling plant in South Africa, as dangerously contaminating rivers in Natal. The company has denied these claims.

The US company, American Cyanamid, has already made application

US bid to export toxic waste to SA

to the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to export the 13,000 kg of mercury waste to South Africa.

The State Department will pass on the request to the South African Government this week.

This information was given by the chairman of environmental organisation Earthlife, Mr Chris Albertyn.

He said the Government's response would indicate exactly where it stood on the issue of importation of toxic waste.

Thor Chemicals, in Cato Ridge near Durban, was instructed last

Levels of the poisonous chemical were said to be up to 750 times as powerful as the highest concentration found in Britain.

The programme named Thor Chemicals as legally exporting 16 tons of hazardous mercury waste from Britain to South Africa.

The company ships similar amounts from a number of other countries, including the USA.

Mr Albertyn said the managing director of Thor Chemicals in Britain, Mr Bill Gerrard, had confirmed that the company exported 16 to 20

metric tons of toxic mercury waste to South Africa in 1988, 16 metric tons last year and the 1990 figure is expected to be similar.

"This is a chance for the Government to act with responsibility, in the light of the fact that Thor Chemicals has been closed down because of poor environmental management, and to refuse to import the waste," said Mr Albertyn.

The News at Ten programme quoted Greenpeace scientist Mr Paul Johnson as saying:

"It's very unlikely that sediment

and soil contaminated at this level could be due to any other source... the levels fall as you move away from the plant.

But Thor Chemicals is confident that there have been no cases of mercury poisoning as alleged by Greenpeace.

Mr Gerrard admitted in England that an investigation was being carried out.

"And I think the best thing would be if we could get some facts - where it was found, how the samples were taken - and we can start looking into it and see if it's serious or not," he said.

"Our company in South Africa is saying it's not serious."

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SAK
17/4/90

Property &
Construction
56
FRANK JEANS



Major conservation role seen for architects

Architects can play a major conservation role by creating environments which people will appreciate and strive to preserve.

This is the view of one of Pretoria's leading architects, Albrecht Holm of Holm Jordaan Holm.

Speaking at a congress on man and the environment in Pretoria, hosted by the Human Sciences Research Council, he said:

"The architectural fraternity is leading the way in conservation and there is a strong care for history movement within the profession.

"Conservationists make the mistake of

drawing a distinction between man-made and natural environments.

"Today, what conservationists are fighting to preserve are man-made environments, which points to the fact that man must be an integral part of the environment."

Mr Holm believes man tends to preserve his immediate domain or environment very much like the way he preserves his own home, while caring less for environments more removed from his own.

"If, however, man viewed the environment as his home, it would have an enormously positive effect on the world's environment."

that the allegations were not made against himself or the ANC leadership but against the organisation's security department.

"I am thankful that Mandela said torture was not the policy of the ANC," he said.

● Comment: Page 8

Protest against toxic waste trade

THE issue of trade in toxic waste will be highlighted today when SA conservation bodies and Greenpeace mount protest action.

Members of Earthlife Africa say they will protest outside Johannesburg's Cyanamid factory, while the group's Natal branch — together with members of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union — will picket Thor Chemicals at Cato Ridge in Natal.

Earthlife spokesman Hendrik Coetzee said there had been reports of Thor workers suffering from mercury poisoning, but these had been denied by the company.

He said there was also a growing concern about the environment among workers, especially those in the chemical industries.

According to Coetzee, the US State Department would apply for a ruling next week which would enable it to export mercury sludge, "much of which would end up at Cato Ridge".

Coetzee claimed Thor Chemicals had been involved in

the pollution of rivers in the area. He said pollution levels in some cases were up to 750 times higher than any found in Britain.

Greenpeace will demonstrate today in Washington against trade in toxic waste. *B/P 17/4/90*

(56) Incineration plant

Earthlife and Greenpeace say waste must be treated at its source.

The SA group has already claimed some success with the halting of the Peacock Bay environmental incineration plant project on the west coast.

The public voted against the plant after a series of debates organised by Earthlife.

The organisation also helped collect thousands of signatures against the plan to mine St Lucia in Natal — deferred in part because of public pressure. — Sapa.

10 MINUTE X-WORD 7571

There are two sets of clues, b

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For written reply:

General Affairs:

Hour Bay: sewage

194. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

- (1) Whether an exemption permit has been granted to the Cape Western Regional Services Council to allow the discharge of sewage into the sea at Hour Bay; if so, when was it granted.
- (2) whether, prior to the granting of the permit, his Department required a feasibility study of an alternative land-based sewage disposal scheme to be undertaken; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether he will make public the results of such a study; if not, why not?

B474E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, on 2 May 1986.
- (2) No. Local authorities and/or other institutions, normally appoint professionally qualified specialist consultants to investigate sewage disposal alternatives and to make recommendations regarding the best possible means of disposal. Upon receipt of the report by the specialist, it is studied by the Department of Water Affairs to determine whether the resultant discharge would be acceptable. There is no statutory provision for compulsory investigation of alternative sewage disposal schemes but the Department can, and has in the past, in some cases requested that such schemes be investigated.
- (3) Falls away

Originally it was the policy of the Department of Water Affairs to eliminate the disposal of raw sewage into the sea as far as possible. This policy was adopted at that time because there was then little knowledge about the effects of raw sewage discharge on the marine environment and little expertise was available for the proper design of marine outfall pipelines. The Department of Water Affairs has a

according to the guidelines set by Report No 94 of the South African Scientific Programmes (Water Quality Criteria for the South African Coastal Zone). On the basis of this investigation the Department decided that the marine disposal of sewage under the conditions listed in the exemption issued would adequately protect the beneficial use of the marine environment at Hour Bay.

The present policy does not require an applicant to carry out a detailed and exhaustive comparison of alternative options for the disposal of effluent. I am also satisfied that at the time public opinion was taken into account and that it was not against the marine disposal of the effluent. It seems that since the time the exemption was granted public opinion has changed and turned against the marine disposal of sewage. If I now have to withdraw the exemption, it would result in fruitless expenditure by the Regional Services Council. As the exemption, when it was issued, met all the Department of Water Affairs' policy requirements, the said exemption remains valid and will not be reconsidered at this stage.

Civil pensioners

201. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) How many civil pensioners are there who retired (a) before 1960 and (b) during the period (i) 1960 to 1965, (ii) 1966 to 1970, (iii) 1971 to 1975 and (iv) 1976 to 1980;
- (2) what is the average monthly pension paid to pensioners in each of these categories?

Answers 171490

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a)	Before 1960	785
(b) (i)	1960-1965	1 373
(ii)	1966-1970	3 204
(iii)	1971-1975	8 590
(iv)	1976-1980	15 970
(2) (a)	Before 1960	R1 077,90

(b) (i) 1960-1965 R1 094,72

(ii) 1966-1970 R1 000,39

(iii) 1971-1975 R 988,55

(iv) 1976-1980 R 899,57

Bed occupancy rate at hospitals

212. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: What was the average bed occupancy rate in 1989 in each specific hospital falling under the provincial administrations? B495E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

PERCENTAGE BED OCCUPANCY, PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS

The average percentage bed occupancy for provincial hospitals during 1989 is not readily available. The average percentage bed occupancy for provincial hospitals during 1988 was as follows:

	No of Hospitals	No of Beds	Ave % Occupancy
Cape Province	83	17 476	76,18
Natal	26	11 015	77,13
OFS	27	4 650	78,59
Transvaal	65	21 762	66,49

Labour Relations Act: wage regulating machinery

219. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) How many (a) industrial council agreements, (b) conciliation board agreements, (c) arbitration awards, (d) Wage Board determinations and (e) orders in terms of the Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, were in force as at 31 December 1989;
- (2) how many (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds, (c) Indians and (d) Blacks were affected by each of the above five categories of wage regulating machinery as at that date?

Answers 171490

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(1) (a)	147
(b)	None
(c)	5
(d)	46
(e)	5

SA under fire for toxic waste import

18/4/90 56

The South African Government is under fire from the American-based Greenpeace Waste Trade Project for having allowed the importation of about 10 tons of toxic mercury waste each year, for re-processing at the Thor Chemicals plant near Cato Ridge, Natal.

And effluent from the plant may be poisoning the drinking water of thousands of Natal residents, according to levels measured by Greenpeace International and the US newspaper St Louis Post-Dispatch.

The plant was instructed last week by the Department of Water Affairs to suspend all operations producing mercury effluent until problems with the plant's disposal were under control.

Thor imported an estimated 75 000 pounds (about 35 metric tons) of toxic mercury waste from the US between 1986 and 1989, and it has been learnt the company receives waste from several other countries.

Greenpeace says:

The South African government gave its approval to the shipments in a cable dated October 3, 1989, which means Cyanamid is allowed to ship wastes to South Africa before October 2, 1990.

The government has made no attempt to halt the shipments of Cyanamid's mercury wastes, which US mercury smelters do not handle "because the environmental consequences of burning mercury heavily contaminated with organic chemicals can be severe," the organisation says.

The waste is loaded on to container ships at the Global Marine Terminal in Jersey City, New Jersey, and shipped to Durban by the Mediterranean Shipping Company. The wastes are then trucked to Thor Chemicals' mercury smelter on Cato Ridge.

Thousands of pounds of mercury wastes from the United States and Europe have been burnt at Thor.

The natural background level of mercury in soil is less than 0,1 parts per million. The US criteria for freshwater aquatic life protection is 0,000012 milligrams per litre of mercury, on average, in a body of water.

Greenpeace adds: "Results from nu-

merous tests for mercury in the sediment and water of Natal's Mngweni River far exceed these limits."

The Department of National Health and Population Development says:

The Regional Director's office has not been notified of any excessive levels of mercury in the Umgeni River.

Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd has been legally licensed, in accordance with the provisions of the Hazardous Substances Act, to carry on business as a supplier and manufacturer of Group I hazardous substances with special application to mercury-based products.

They also have a contract with American Cyanamid to supply them with catalyst, with the provision that the spent catalyst, mercury containing solvents and floor washings will be returned by American Cyanamid to Thor Chemicals for reclamation of the mercury. This contract has been in operation since 1986.

The spent catalyst, solvent and floor washings containing mercury are imported, not as hazardous waste for disposal, but as profitable raw materials for the production of mercury which is to be utilised in the manufacture of mercury-based products, a statement from the department said.

"The importation takes place under strict governmental control as envisaged by The Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal."

● In a statement yesterday, SA Cyanamid (Pty) Ltd expressed concern about the partial shut-down of Thor and made a veiled threat to take its business elsewhere in the world.

"Cyanamid has a task force that is examining mercury waste alternatives including another world-wide search for any other plant to recover and recycle this material, and is re-investigating modifications to the manufacturing process that would eliminate the use of mercury."

The statement directed further inquiries to the American Cyanamid Company in New Jersey.

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18/4/90
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E Tvl gets ready for Earth Day

By Norman Chandler,
Pretoria Bureau

What could be South Africa's biggest picnic is to take place in the eastern Transvaal on Earth Day — this coming Saturday.

The TPA said yesterday that members of the public would be able to plant trees at Swadini, an Overvaal resort, and that picnic facilities were being made available.

Mr Fanie Ferreira, MEC in charge of nature and environmental conservation, said it would be the first time South Africans would have a chance to take part in Earth Day, which is celebrated every 10 years.

Starting from sunrise on April 22, the celebrations include the pealing of bells, church services and other activities.

1810am 1814190

Environment conservation awards are to be presented

(56)

FOR the first time, annual awards to SA companies which have made exceptional contributions to environmental conserva-

ZILLA EFRAT

tion will be presented this year.

Editor-in-chief of Environmental Action Jan de Beer says the Environmental Action awards for 1990 will be adjudicated over the next few months by an impartial jury consisting of leading environmental authorities.

Industrial companies, as well as research bodies with industrial connections, throughout southern Africa will be eligible to enter for the awards.

They will be presented in various categories including product development and design, introduction and development of clean manufacturing technologies and the incorporation of sound environmental management.

B/D on 18/4/90

Firm announces mercury waste modification probe amid protests

US CYANAMID, US sister company of British-owned Thor Chemicals in Natal, announced yesterday it was investigating modifications to the manufacturing process that would eliminate the use of mercury.

SA Cyanamid released the information amid protest action in Natal and Johannesburg by the environmental group Earthlife Africa and Chemical Workers' Industrial Union (CWIU) members against the importation of toxic mercury waste to SA.

A picket was held outside the offices of SA Cyanamid in Isando and a separate picket by about 150 CWIU workers was staged outside Thor Chemicals at Cato Ridge in Natal.

Suspend

Thor Chemicals has been the target of attack by environmental groups, including Greenpeace International, who have claimed the company, which imports toxic waste from US Cyanamid and other overseas companies, was polluting Natal's drinking water.

The SA Water Affairs Department instructed Thor Chemicals last week to suspend part of its operations that produced mercury effluents until a problem with the plant's disposal of waste was under control.

The US Cyanamid statement said: "Cyanamid is concerned about developments at Thor Chemicals including the partial shut down of the facility."

It said a company task force was

ADELE BALETA

examining mercury waste alternatives and was reinvestigating modifications to the manufacturing process to eliminate the use of mercury.

"Cyanamid believes recovering and recycling chemicals is the most environmentally sound method of managing wastes generated by a manufacturing process," it said.

Earthlife Africa spokesman Hendrik Coetzee said any move away from mercury toxic waste was to be commended.

His organisation was not against the process of recycling waste but against the emission of toxic waste into the environment.

Environmental groups were concerned about the cross-border transportation of toxic waste as there was a high risk factor involved.

He said overseas companies such as US Cyanamid were taking advantage of SA's "poor environmental legislation" by exporting toxic waste to SA.

He claimed Thor Chemicals had been implicated in the pollution of rivers in Natal. He said pollution levels in some cases were up to 750 times more powerful than the highest concentration found in Britain.

But Thor Chemicals MD Stephen van der Vyver said testing by Thor and the water authorities showed no evidence of poisoning of drinking water.

Van der Vyver said operations at the plant were partially suspended because heavy rains in the area meant there was

a danger that dams containing mercury could overflow.

Our Maritzburg correspondent reports that about 150 protesters from Earthlife Africa and the CWIU, as well as a few residents of the nearby Mngeweni valley, gathered outside the gates of Thor Chemicals yesterday and marched, sang and waved banners.

The event was filmed by overseas television camera crews and Greenpeace International.

Van der Vyver spoke to reporters and protesters outside the factory gates after the demonstration.

He said the company did not believe it was causing any danger to the environment.

Scrutiny

Asked about alleged evidence of extremely high mercury levels in the Mngeweni stream below the plant, Van der Vyver said mercury had been found in sediment in one small area but none in drinking water.

"We do not believe we are causing any danger to the environment," he said.

Jim Vallette of Greenpeace said the Thor plant had come under increased scrutiny in recently months by environmental organisations, labour unions and SA government agencies.

The organisation has called on the US government to prevent shipments of mercury waste to SA. It has also called on US Cyanamid immediately to end its toxic waste exports.

3 exiled ANC leaders to return this month

The Star's Africa News Service
LUSAKA — The first three of the African National Congress's leaders in exile will move to South Africa permanently within the next two weeks, sources here say.

The three — Mr Henry Makgoti, Mr Steve Tshwete and Mr Reginald September — are expected to leave Lusaka ahead of the ANC delegation selected for the three-day "talks about talks" with President de Klerk, starting in Cape Town on May 2.

Their job will be to expand the organisation's internal structure.

They are likely to be based in Johannesburg to begin with.

Mr Makgoti (63), is deputy secretary-general of the ANC and head of its national secretariat. Mr Tshwete (49), is co-ordinator of the internal political committee and a member of the military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Mr September (65), is secretary of the ANC's department of political education and a member of the political-military council and the national working committee.

Mr Tshwete has been in exile since 1985, the other two considerably longer.

US protest over kwaZulu 'poisoning'

The Star Bureau
NEW YORK — Environmental protest groups demonstrated outside the American headquarters of Thor Chemicals at Norwalk, Connecticut, yesterday, accusing the company of environmental racism by threatening the health of rural populations in kwaZulu

by poisoning a river with dangerous chemicals.

The demonstration was organised by the international environmental protection group, Greenpeace, to coincide with what its organisers said was a larger protest at the company's mercury reprocessing plant in Cato Ridge, Natal.

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aircraft on a busy autobahn, where it was rammed by an oncoming car. About five people were slightly injured on the ground.

● Picture by Reuter.

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18/4/90

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BACKGROUND

Toxic waste merry-go-round may stop in Africa

In 1988, the Organisation for African Unity passed a resolution to ban all chemical waste imports to African countries.

But so far not one African country has signed the UN Basle Convention on waste traffic, which environmentalists see as an important step towards dismantling the continent's image as a dumping ground for the West.

The 1988 Convention was attended by most African countries. South Africa did not attend. All countries present approved the final draft of the convention, but they have yet to become signatories.

South Africa has decided to become a signatory of the convention, which requires that the import and export of toxic waste must be handled at diplomatic level. The matter is being considered by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

According to experts, every country in Africa has been approached at one time or another to accept hazardous waste for dis-

posal or storage.

For countries experiencing financial difficulties, such a proposition could be most attractive, because there is a lot of money to be made in toxic waste trade.

Africa may be targeted again soon, as the reunification of East and West Germany will change the politics of waste management, says Dr Graham Noble, head of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) solid waste management research programme.

In the past, West Germany has exported 200 000 tons of toxic waste to East Germany each year. With reunification, another site will have to be found for this waste. Could it be Africa?

Although waste incineration and disposal projects have been rejected by nearly every state down the African west coast, South Africa was almost lured by the prospect of cash last year.

A Cape Town businessman, on behalf of a consortium of investors, proposed the

In Cape Town, Natal, a mercury-reprocessing plant has had its operations partially suspended. **JACQUELINE MYBURGH** investigates where South Africa stands on the issue of toxic waste importation, and whether we should be the dumping ground for the rest of the world's poisons.

construction of a \$400 million toxic waste incinerator near Alexander Bay on the west coast.

The first waste was due to arrive — mainly from Europe — in South Africa by mid-1991. A public controversy broke out, however, and the proposals appear to have been put on ice for the time being.

Environmental groups pointed out the dangers facing the precious marine ecosystem off the west coast if a toxic waste incinerator was constructed there. The proposed site is 25 km south of the Namibia/South African border on the Skeleton Coast — so-called because of the number of shipwrecks along that stretch of coast, notorious for its fogs.

As a result of the debate triggered off

by the Alexander Bay proposal, the government commissioned the CSIR research programme. The brief was to study the feasibility and necessity of processing toxic waste imports, the future need for waste processing plants, their economic viability and international and local socioeconomic implications.

It is an objective programme, says Dr Noble, and the construction of a toxic waste incinerator may be considered, but just as one of many options.

He said it was difficult to say how much toxic waste was produced in South Africa, but it might be enough to merit construction of an incinerator to dispose of it.

Professor Richard Fuggle, head of the Department of Environmental and Geo-

graphical Science at the University of Cape Town, says a popular view is that each country should dispose of its own waste and there should be no trade in it.

But the technology to dispose of waste does not exist in third world countries and it becomes the responsibility of first world countries to dispose of it. Thus implies transport of the materials which is the most worrying factor to environmentalists, he said.

South Africa has accepted that it had a responsibility to dispose of toxic waste, says Professor Fuggle. A toxic waste incinerator had been considered as an option. But where should it be sited and who would pay for it?

The Government has adopted a "polluter pays" policy, which means the private sector will be footing the bill, he says.

The storage of toxic waste as practised now in land-fill sites is not satisfactory. What is poisonous now, will be poisonous in 100 years, say experts. And even if

the waste is stored in a sealed concrete container, there is always the chance of it being destroyed in an earthquake.

There are plenty of countries ready to export their toxic waste to a country prepared to accept it.

In Europe, which has the most advanced technology to deal with the material, the public protest is so great that industry cannot get permission to dispose of its waste.

This has resulted in the situation in which toxic waste is incinerated on board a ship in the North Sea. The vessel is believed to be owned by the Mafia.

One of the biggest incinerator facilities in the world is in Germany. Seven high temperature incinerators with a capacity of 200 000 tons a year are run by experts, but the owners have battled for a year to obtain permission to construct an eighth.

According to Earthlife, there is no safe way to dispose of toxic waste. The solution to pollution is to clean up, not to control it.

Some very different people join up against toxic waste

BLACK peasants, white farmers, ecologists, students, unionised workers and a traditional Zulu chief joined together for a demonstration this week outside the Thor Chemicals plant in Natal to protest at imports of toxic waste into South Africa.

The demonstration, organised by a coalition of ecology and anti-apartheid groups, was part of a co-ordinated international protest against Thor Chemicals in Natal and its associate company, American Cyanamid. Both multinationals are accused of polluting South Africa's rivers with large amounts of imported mercury.

The burgeoning controversy surrounding the Thor plant at Cato Ridge, the world's biggest recycling plant for high-grade industrial poison, has placed South Africa at the centre of a world-wide campaign by Greenpeace International to halt the global trade in the toxic waste. The organisation says Pretoria is the only government in Africa that allows the importation of industrial poisons.

The rally at Cato Ridge, where protesters carried placards saying "Health, Safety and the Environment Before Profits" and "South Africa Is

Not a Toxic Waste Bin", formed part of an international set of demonstrations co-ordinated by Greenpeace International.

On Sunday a demonstration in the United States — staged outside Cyanamid's factory in New Jersey by members of Greenpeace, the African National Congress, the South African Chemical and Industrial Workers' Union (CWIU) and a number of US labour organisations — was violently broken up by American police. Those injured included Greenpeace USA's executive director Peter Bahouth.

The next day Greenpeace representatives told a meeting of American Cyanamid shareholders in Portland, Maine that mercury waste from the multinational was responsible for turning rivers in Natal into some of the most polluted in the world after

The Thor Chemicals controversy has brought together a range of people who disagree on other issues but are willing to work together to save the environment. By EDDIE KOCH

being recycled at Thor.

Earth Life Africa, a local green group which organised the protest at Cato Ridge as well as a demonstration outside Cyanamid's offices in Johannesburg on Tuesday, says at least two workers from Thor have gone insane because of exposure to high levels of mercury toxins inside the plant.

The campaign — the first in which South African trade unions have joined forces with local and international environment organisations to

campaign on green issues — scored a victory before the protests began. Last week the government shut down the Thor plant after acknowledging for the first time that the company had problems preventing the contamination of water supplies in the Cato Ridge area.

Thor imports a staggering 10 tons of mercury waste from Cyanamid International in the US every year and an unspecified amount from Thor factories in Britain and Europe.

"But despite the South African government's forced shutdown of Thor, and mounting evidence that Thor has severely contaminated the Mngweni River (sic), American Cyanamid is not only continuing its mercury waste shipments to South Africa — it has applied to increase these shipments by another 9 000 pounds by Octo-

ber," said Greenpeace toxic waste expert Jim Vallette in a report to the company's shareholders this week.

CWIU general secretary Rod Crompton told the *Weekly Mail* that the Natal demonstration signalled the emergence of a powerful "rainbow coalition" between green groups and the trade union movement in South Africa.

"There is a growing realisation among the leadership of our union that health and safety cannot stop at the factory gate. What Thor shows so clearly is that what happens inside the factory impacts severely on the community that lives around it."

Chief Zibuse Mlaba says he joined in the protest because the river that flowed through the settlements administered by him had been polluted by a large abattoir and metal-smelting plant at Cato Ridge for many years.

"Blood flows in our river from the abattoir and my people are suffering from chest and stomach diseases which doctors say come from drinking that water. Now we hear about these other poisons in the river," he said.

"This demonstration is very important. We don't want the factories to close down. But I think they will realise they must solve these problems if the unions and the environment groups work together with my people."

Two white farmers from the nearby Tala Valley, where pollution from agricultural herbicides has been blamed for causing millions of rands worth of damage to vegetable crops, were among the protesters.

Said Earth Life representative Chris Albertyn: "This campaign is very exciting and is particularly significant at this time in South Africa's political history. It seems people who may disagree on other issues are prepared to work together to save the environment. This is a cause for conciliation, unity and peace in South Africa."

Thor Chemicals, a British-based multinational company, imports toxic waste to its recycling plant from Cyanamid in America, Thor in Britain and companies in Australia and Europe. Greenpeace says more than 40 tons of mercury waste have been imported to South Africa by Thor from Cyanamid alone but the full extent of the trade from Europe is unknown because of secrecy surrounding the companies' operations.

Thor Chemical Holdings in London refuses to disclose its operations in that Britain's register of companies in terms of a law that allows information that might "seriously prejudice" the interests of a company to be withheld. In the US government's toxic release inventory, Cyanamid describes its exports to South Africa as "waste minimisation".

Vallette says Cyanamid's wastes are sent here even though there are five smelters in the US, including one near the Cyanamid plant in New Jersey. The reason is that American smelters may only reprocess waste that has a three percent content of organic waste. The material that comes to South Africa contains 30 to 40 percent organic waste.

Thor says its recycling process is absolutely safe and pollutes neither the workplace nor the environment. But Greenpeace's technical report says highly toxic, bio-accumulative chemicals are formed in virtually every similar incinerator that has been studied by the organisation.

"The mercury smelter, like virtually every international dump site, most severely impacts those who are politically and economically disenfranchised. Thor Chemicals lies just outside the KwaZulu 'homeland' whose residents work at the plant for survival wages in exchange for exposing their bodies to some of industry's most deadly poisons."

The Greenpeace/CWIU/Earth Life campaign coincides with a surge of interest by anti-apartheid groups in environmental issues.

Earth Life was last year instrumental in blocking the construction of a multi-million rand plant at Alexander Bay in the north-western Cape that planned to recycle vast quantities of imported waste.

The people who fled war ... only to find a new deadly menace

The pathetic tale of a family which fled war and death ... only to be menaced by a new, invisible menace in the waters of the river they wash in

DORIS MBEJE lives on a mountain slope where the Umcweni River begins its path through the Valley of a Thousand Hills.

She is one of the many war widows who have settled here to find sanctuary from the fighting in the Natal Midlands, and instead found yet another deadly menace.

Mbeje and her children left Ntshongweni, a village about 20km south of Fredville, after her husband was shot dead in a robbery in January 1989.

Doris, her nine children and 10 grandchildren thought they had found safety — but the river they swim and wash in every night is one of the most poisonous in the world.

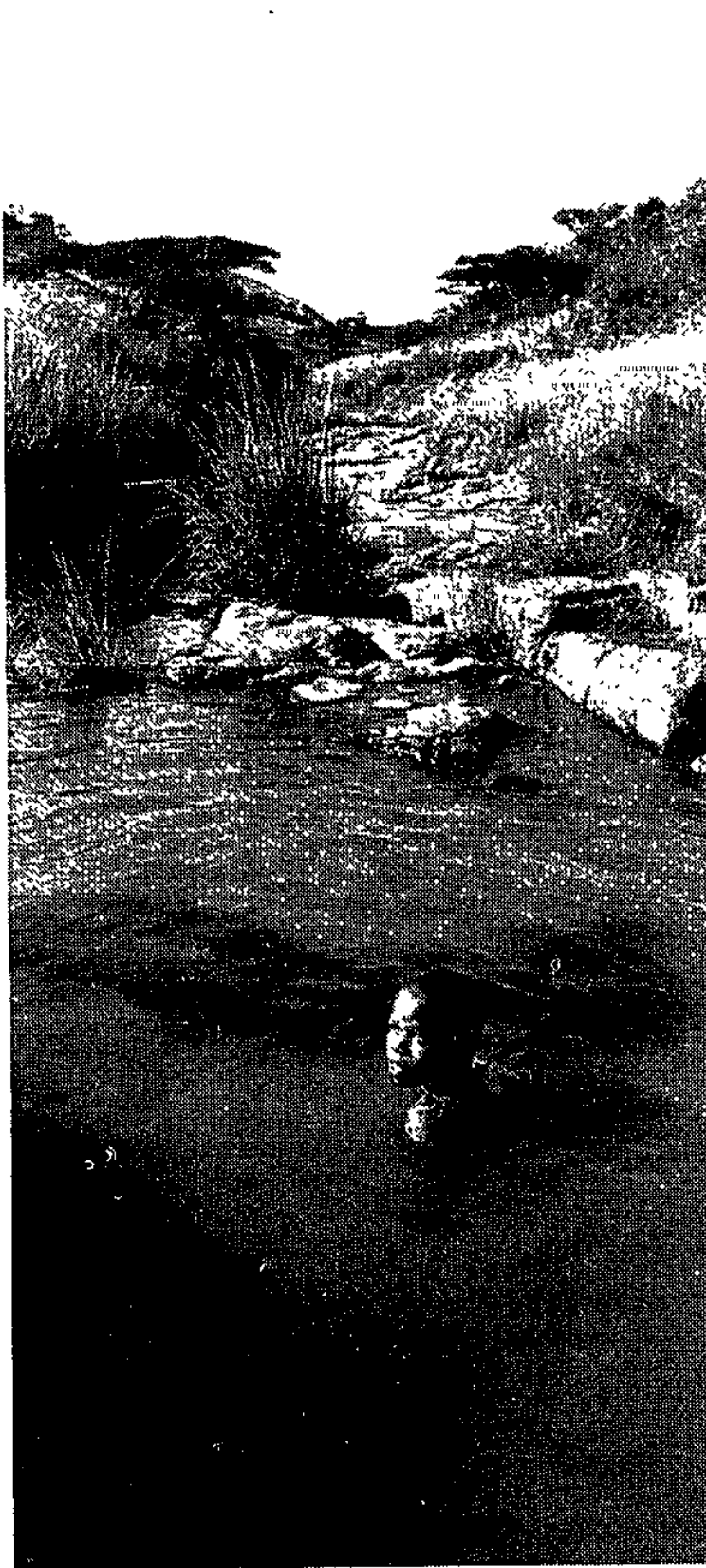
A team of researchers from Greenpeace International, the world's biggest environmental group, last month tested the water and sediment and found that the Umcweni had some of the highest levels of mercury contamination yet recorded.

"A sediment sample taken at the head of the Umgweni (sic) was contaminated by 1 764 parts per million of mercury — which is 8 810 times the United States standard for classifying waste as 'hazardous'," says a report by Greenpeace's toxic waste expert Jim Vallette, who had the samples tested by the Queen Mary College in London.

Sediment samples taken at a site just below the Mbeje household, less than one kilometre from the source of the river, registered levels of between 0,33 and 0,91 parts per million — well above the US standard of 0,2 for hazardous waste.

The Mbeje family — along with thousands of families who live along the course of the Umcweni — wash their clothes, dishes and bodies in these waters every day.

And, to make matters worse, mercury waste becomes more deadly and "bioavailable" — capable of being absorbed by the human body — when it mixes with bacteria in the sediments and soils of muddy rivers like the Umcweni.



Deadly refuge ... A child bathes in the Umcweni, a river heavily contaminated with mercury. Elderly Doris Mbeje (right), who brought her family here, is afraid to return to her war-ravaged home.



Pictures: CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix

The cause of this contamination, says Greenpeace, is a factory that stands on a plateau high above Fredville: Thor Chemicals, the biggest recycling plant for industrial waste in the world.

A few hundred metres down the valley from Thor the source of the Umcweni seeps out of the side of the mountain into a foul-smelling pool of stagnant water that is metallic blue in colour and flecked with an off-white scum.

From there it winds down to the sea, joining up with the Umgweni some 10km from its fountainhead at the Thor factory. The waters of the two rivers then flow through some of the most densely populated rural areas in South Africa, including the massive shantytowns at Inanda on the outskirts of Durban. It has been estimated that by the year 2000 over a million people will be living in the area managed by Umgweni Water

Board.

Many of the villagers who live on the banks of the rivers catch fish to supplement their diet. One of the more damaging characteristics of mercury is that it does not break down in the ecosystem and is stored in the flesh of fish.

A technical report compiled by scientists at the University of London on behalf of Greenpeace notes that mercury contamination can effect water up to 180km from the source of the pollution.

It recommends that sediment traps be installed in the rivers all the way down to Durban to prevent contaminated soil from reaching settlements in the valleys and around the city.

"Fishing activity on the Umgweni itself is obviously of potential significance to the local population and should be evaluated," it says.

Mercury is recognised as one of the 28 most dangerous "Red List" sub-

stances in the world. High dosages can destroy the central nervous system and cause birth defects. Non-fatal symptoms of mercury poisoning include mental deterioration, nervous tremors, fits of laughing and crying, the loss of all the senses and severe inflammation of the digestive system.

Greenpeace points out that Thor is the Nordic god of war and Mercury is the Roman god of thieves, vagabonds and merchants. But the symbolism is lost on the people in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, where their lives are dominated by war and hunger.

"I don't want to leave this place," says Mbeje. "Ntshongweni has many bad memories for me — my husband was killed there."

"Here there is peace and no killing ... We are people and people swim in the river. It makes the children happy and when the children are happy, we are happy."

Chemical groups try to silence allegations about crop devastation

By EDDIE KOCH

SEVENTEEN chemical companies, including some of the world's most powerful multinationals, are trying to suppress allegations that their herbicides are causing massive damage to South Africa's ecology.

The companies are also trying to force a group of Natal farmers, who made the allegations, into a humiliating apology for taking court action to prove their claims.

The move by the companies stems from a David and Goliath court action in which a group of Natal vegetable farmers this year failed to win a supreme court application to prohibit the manufacture and sale of all hormone herbicides in South Africa.

The farmers prepared affidavits for the case based on documented evidence that the widespread use of hormone herbicides, which work on the same principles as the Agent Orange used to defoliate forests during the Vietnam War, have caused millions of rands of damage to their vegetable harvests and have devastated other vegetation in the Natal Midlands.

The case — the biggest civil litigation in South African legal history — was rejected before the evidence was tested in court.

The court ruled that litigation should have been directed against the users rather than the manufacturers of the herbicides. The farmers were ordered to pay costs estimated to be as high as R750 000.

The companies say they will waive payment on condition the farmers forfeit their right to take legal action against any of the firms and refrain from any public campaigns aimed at highlighting the dangers of the products.

The farmers say they are also being "blackmailed" into paying for advertisements in 17 newspapers and magazines apologising for the court action and denying that they possess

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Chemical firms seek to silence pollution claims

scientific evidence of the environmental damage caused by their products.

A draft of the advert, drawn up by the companies' attorneys and leaked to the *Weekly Mail* by local environmentalists from Earth Life Africa, says: "The legal proceedings instituted by us have been withdrawn unreservedly on the basis that we acknowledge that hormone herbicide products are of vital necessity to the community in the eradication of various broad-leaf weeds if properly used in terms of their registrations ...

"We further state that we do not possess any scientific evidence that any hormone herbicide product presently used in the Republic of South Africa constitutes a health hazard in normal use ...

"Furthermore, we apologise to the manufacturers and the distributors of these products for the unnecessary expense and utilisation of manpower to which they have been subjected."

The companies also want the farmers "forevermore" to refrain from legal proceedings against any one of the companies and to prohibit them from engaging in any campaign against manufacture or sale of the herbicides.

The farmers have refused to accept the terms of the agreement. "This is simply blackmail," their representative and Tala Valley farmer, Roger Evans, told the *Weekly Mail*.

"We have collected hundreds of pages of scientific data about the damage these products have caused to vegetable crops and plants in Natal, which was never heard by the court. Now they are asking us to deny all this."

Attorney AC Couzyn, who is acting for the 17 companies, replied: "The reason for asking for the adverts is simply that we do not believe that the farmers had any scientific evidence." He refused to make any further comment.

The unrestrained use of dangerous pesticides on South African farms, where virtually no health or safety regulations are enforced, makes this country a multi-million rand market for pesticide manufacturers.

Documents prepared by Sandoz, one of the companies involved in the controversy, estimate that its sales division earns more than R500-million a year from distributing hormone herbicides in South Africa.

Hormone herbicides were invented in Britain during the 1940s as a weapon of war to decimate enemy crops. They were adapted to civilian use after World War II. They are used extensively on sugar, maize and forest estates around the world to kill broad-leaf weeds and work by caus-

ing deformities in the growth cells of broad-leaf plants.

Spraying with hormone herbicides does not damage maize and sugar, but these substances can drift on to vegetable farms where they deform crops and, in cases of extreme exposure, can kill entire harvests.

The chemicals are absorbed into the atmosphere and deposited as rain or dew many kilometres from the source of the spraying, where they cause damage to indigenous tree and plant life.

The *Weekly Mail* is in possession of a map from the Department of Agriculture which shows that at least 18 out of its 24 testing stations in Natal have found concentrations of various hormone herbicides in the rain.

In 1988, results from the government testing station in the Tala Valley area of Natal — passed on to the *Weekly Mail* — showed herbicide levels in rain samples that were 1 000 times the amount needed to damage vegetable crops.

Affidavits presented to the court state that in the last five years the percentage of first-grade tomatoes in yields has dropped from 70 percent to 15 percent a year. The average lettuce yield has dropped from 85 to 32 percent and that of cabbages from 80 to 45 percent.

Evans told the *Weekly Mail* that the farmers are being asked to state that the herbicides pose no dangers to human health even though their case did not deal with the medical risks posed by ingesting the chemicals.

But there is extensive evidence that the chemicals are linked to skin cancer, liver diseases, chest and nasal complaints and even birth defects. A recent search of medical journals about the effects of hormonal herbicides on human health produced more than 100 articles on the social and health effects of the chemicals.

The companies are Agrosolve, Applied Agricultural Products, BASF, Bayer South Africa, CH Chemicals, Ciba-Geigy, Evergrow Marketing, FBC Holdings, ICI Agrochemicals, Kynoch Crop Protection, Mayhaker, Sandoz, Sentrachem, Shell (SA), Staalchem Chemicals, Starke Ayres and Wonder Horticultural Products.

Shell head-office representative Colleen Channon-Bracher said last night: "This is not the sort of thing that Shell would get involved in. It wishes to make it clear that insofar as it may be implicated, the company wishes to disassociate itself from any request for undertakings referring to future legal procedures or campaigns, adverts or apologies."

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IN 21

TPA Earth Day events 'whites only'

By Therese Anders, Star
Highveld Bureau 20/4/90

The Transvaal Provincial Administration's Earth Day festivities this Sunday are to be a "whites only" affair in the middle of the racially segregated Overvaal resort at Swadini in the Eastern Transvaal.

One of the organisers of the event, Mrs Hester Theron, information officer at the TPA's Department of Nature Conservation at Swadini, said Overvaal's race policy had "unfortunately been overlooked" when the event was planned.

"We would not like black people to think that Earth Day and conservation does not affect them also," said Mrs Theron.

"It was decided to hold the Earth Day function there because Swadini resort falls within the nature reserve and because it was the white school holidays."

Mrs Theron stressed that while the service and tree planting would be closed to blacks, the TPA's visitors' centre in the nearby Blydepoort nature reserve was open to all races.

Hundreds of outings for Sunday: Earth Day

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Sunday is Earth Day.

Apart from heralding the '90s as the decade of environmental activism, the day offers many opportunities for South Africans to show their awareness.

More than 100 organisations will be taking part in a wide range of activities co-ordinated by the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa.

On Saturday, the Delta Park Earth Day programme kicks off (a day early) with the Wildlife Society's recycling campaign and competition.

The ecofair at Delta Park, Road Number Three, Victory Park, from 10 am to 4.30 pm includes a flea market, puppet show, guided educational outings through the park and a programme of conservation videos in the auditorium of the SA Nature Conservation Centre.

A march for conservation will start from the Cresta Centre parking area at noon.

The mayors of Johannesburg, Randburg and Sandton will

meet the marchers outside the Wildlife Society national office in Delta Park at 1.30 pm to receive an Earth Day declaration.

A recycling booklet by the Wildlife Society and The Star will be launched.

There will be guided hiking trails along sections of the Braamfontein Spruit. Contact Jill Sagar at 728-5189, or Peter Tobin at 728-1881 for details.

On Sunday, there will be a tree-planting ceremony featuring celebrities.

Rally

At 3 pm, a public conservation rally will be held under the chairmanship of Rupert Lorimer, DP spokesman on environmental issues.

The Emmarentia Sailing Club is having a special Earth Day race on Sunday, and is offering rides to the public to raise funds for conservation.

Earthlife Africa will be manning a stand at the Market Theatre flea market on Saturday and will screen a Greenpeace video in the nearby bar.

Kippies. On Sunday, Earthlife will be at Delta Park and the same video will be screened.

On Sunday at 10 pm there will be an environment vigil at Church Square, Pretoria. Bring your own candle.

On Saturday at the Killarney Mall, DP MP Brian Goodall will speak on environmental issues.

In Boksburg, a tree planting ceremony is being held at 9.30 am at Rolles Pan. For more information, phone Lynette Marée at 918-2110.

Those wanting to go on an outing to the Abe Bailey Nature Reserve near Carletonville should phone Dudley Walker at 53-2180 to book their place.

The Springs/Nigel centre of the Wildlife Society is organising a "Bring and Plant Day" at This Park on Sunday. Everyone is invited to bring one indigenous tree to plant and to enjoy a braai afterwards. Phone Sally Edwards at 363-2329.

An Earth Day walk and cleanup along the Three Rivers Nature Trail is being organised by E.Totardes. Phone 016-46203.



To mark Earth Day, The Star has produced a Directory of Recycling. That's Michelle Bruce — the reigning Miss South Africa — with a copy hot off the press. And it's not a T-shirt she's wearing, it's a "tree shirt" produced by the nursery industry to advertise Earth Day on Sunday.

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Weekend FOCUS 3

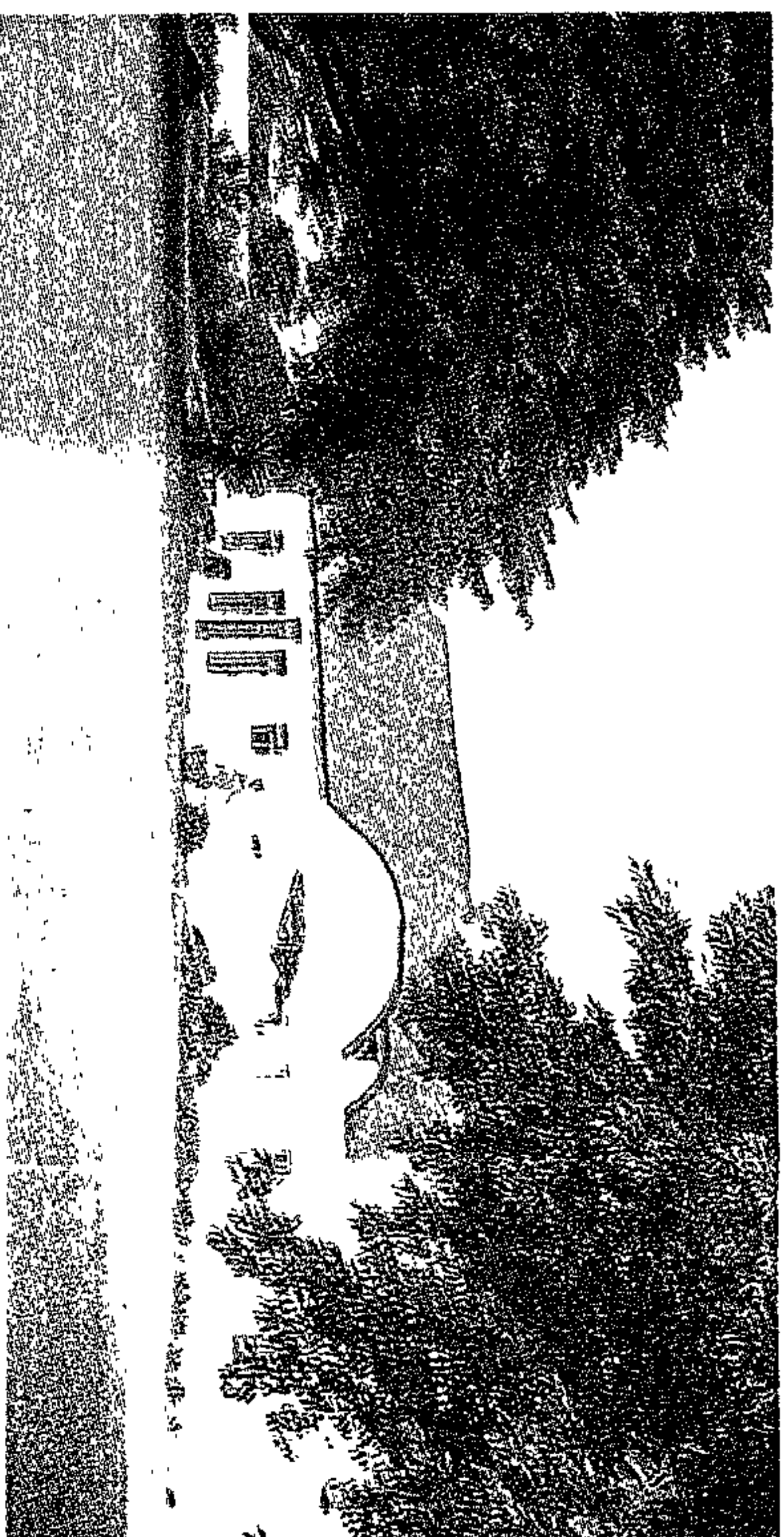


PARTS of the isolated De Hoop

Nature Reserve, east of Bredasdorp, are an example of natural fynbos, including protea species, with dramatic white sand dunes and beautiful isolated beaches.

A number of rare and endangered species of bird and animal life may be seen there. But recently there was harsh criticism of the reserve.

This week, Weekend Argus reporter JANIS FRASER and photographer WILLIE DE KLERK went to investigate.



Furmore Over De Hoop

SWELLENDAM National Party MP Mr Nic Koornhof came in at full bore when he launched his attack on the De Hoop Nature Reserve.

During the Provincial budget debate he lashed the department of nature conservation for failing to generate income by attracting tourists and singled out the state of De Hoop as "disturbing".

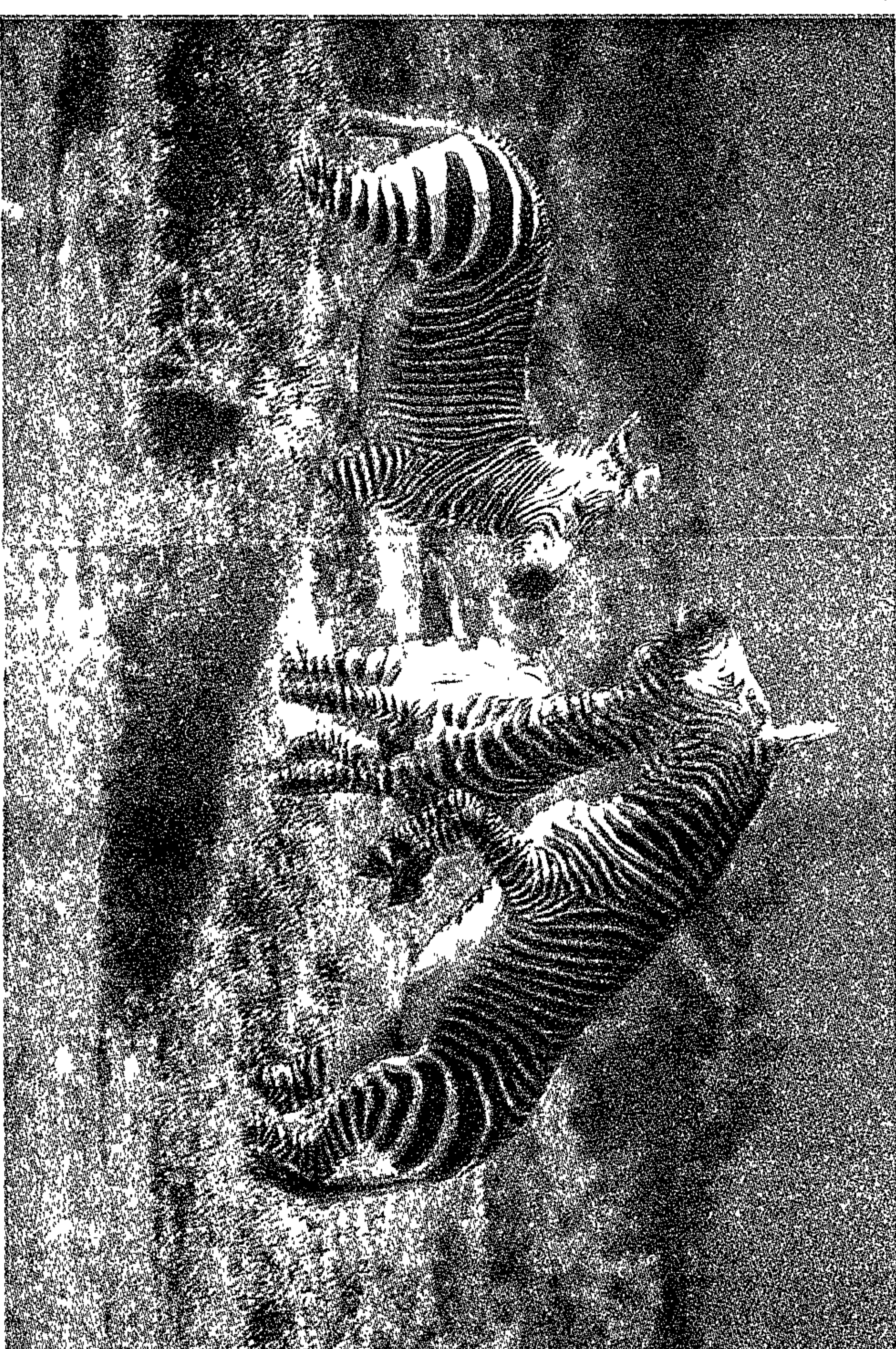
Among points which came up for strong criticism were the accommodation for staff and visitors; the siting of a pool and tennis court near the historic De Hoop homestead; a workshop and store-room near the main buildings and lack of tourist facilities. The number of buck at the reserve had declined drastically, he alleged and he urged the Administrator, Mr Kobus Meiring, to visit De Hoop to see for himself.

This week, as an aerial game survey was started at the reserve, senior department of nature conservation officials questioned Mr Koornhof's criticism.

Mr Johan Lensing, Senior Regional Officer (Western Cape), Mr Duncan Heard, Chief Nature Conservator (Reserves, Western Cape) and the reserve manager Mr Mike Scott said Mr Koornhof had never approached them with his complaints. If he had, they said, he would have found:

■ The staff accommodation which he criticised has, for the first time, provided homes with electricity, inside sanitation and modern kitchen facilities. In some cases previously, labourers and their families had lived in one room. The remainder existed for nearly 40 years in cramped, sub-standard accommodation, sharing communal toilets and cooking on coal

WEEKEND ARGUS SPECIAL REPORT



Top left: Historic De Hoop homestead, built around 1800 by the Grooten family.



Mr Harry Wood, former owner of De Hoop.

'IMPRESSED' OLD TIMER BY CHANGES

AMAN who was particularly distressed by the criticism of De Hoop was 85-year-old Mr Harry Wood, who, between 1946 and 1953, farmed sheep and Jersey cattle on what has become the reserve. The reserve was taken over by the department of nature conservation in 1957 and when Mr Wood last visited the farm five years ago he was distressed to find it "a sorry sight indeed." Last week he visited De Hoop again. "There has been an impressive change. There is a real offensive against alien vegetation. The fences have all gone. What bliss! The awful windbreak hedge of introduced spiker gums has disappeared.

"At last I feel the policy of the department has changed to an objective of conservation. "It has been mooted by a member of Parliament that De Hoop should be prostituted as a money-making tourist attraction. Should this ever happen, it will be disastrous and will ruin one of our great heritages."

WEEKEND ARGUS SPECIAL REPORT

Three-bedroom houses — an important asset in attracting long-term workers to such a remote area.

■ The complaint that staff houses with their washing and domestic animals in evidence are "right next to De Hoop" is incorrect. They are about half a kilometre away and when the new road to the homestead and offices is finished soon, visitors will not see the houses.

■ Allegations of lack of planning were equally off-beam the officials said. A comprehensive 21-page plan was drawn up five years ago and is being implemented as fast as funds become available. Six labourers' cottages and one larger building have been attractively restored as visitor accommodation, two other historic one-room cottages on the edge of the vlei are being restored and a camping and caravan site is being laid out among milkwood trees near the vlei. The conservators stressed that too many visitors would be a threat to the ecosystem.

■ Mr Koornhof's criticism that the road infrastructure is "pathetic" also came under fire from the officials. They pointed out that although this year's budget provided no money at all for internal roads in any reserve, staff at De Hoop had tackled the maintenance themselves with great success.

■ The tennis court about which Mr Koornhof complained had been there for 40 years they said. The siting could hardly be blamed on the department as it was built when De Hoop was still a private farm. The small swimming pool was built as a gift to the staff by building contractors who have been on site

OFFICIALS FIND NIP CHARGES OFF-BEAM

there for two years. Both were intended as recreational facilities for the staff and would be out of sight of visitors when the new development was complete.

■ Mr Koornhof's complaint that accommodation near the beach at Koppie Alleen stood empty 90 percent of the time was misleading, they said. The small complex was actually an education centre for students with sleeping accommodation. Lack of money to pay information officers was one reason why it often stood empty. Even senior staff from the department were banned from staying there and at the old beach house nearby.

■ Mr Koornhof's estimate that the bontebok herd had declined from 600 to 203 was also questioned. Mr Lensing said: "We never, ever, had 600 bontebok. The herd was around 380 and we have been following the drop in numbers for some years."

He said various reasons, including migration when the fence into Armscor land was removed, the translocation of 22 animals to other reserves and the escape of 32 when a fence was cut had all been noted in the annual charting of game. It should also be noted that De Hoop, with its sour grazing, was not the best habitat for antelope.

Mr Lensing said there could be confusion in the public eye between the functions of a National Park, such as the Kru-

ger Park — which attracted tourists to remain viable — and a department of nature conservation reserve.

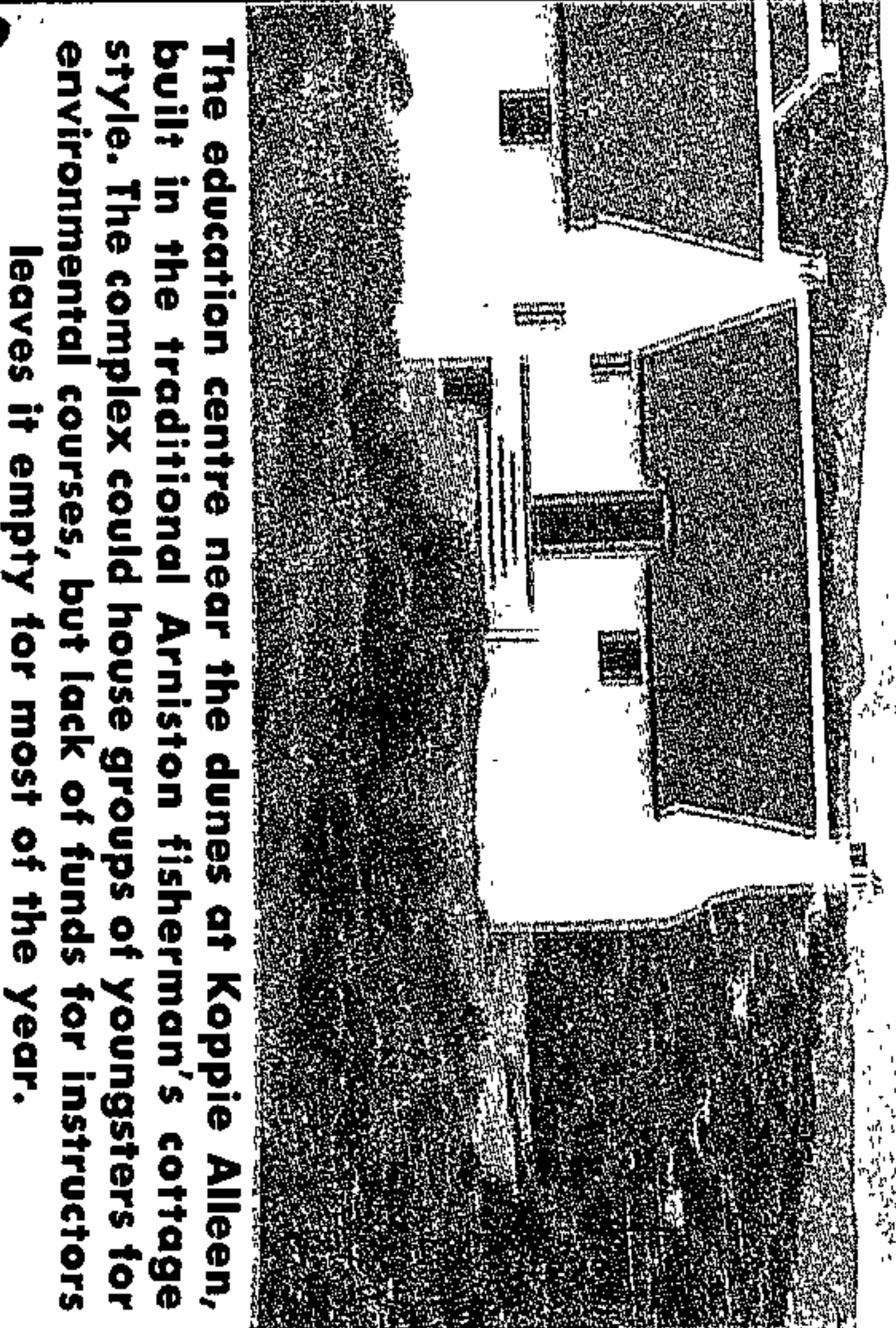
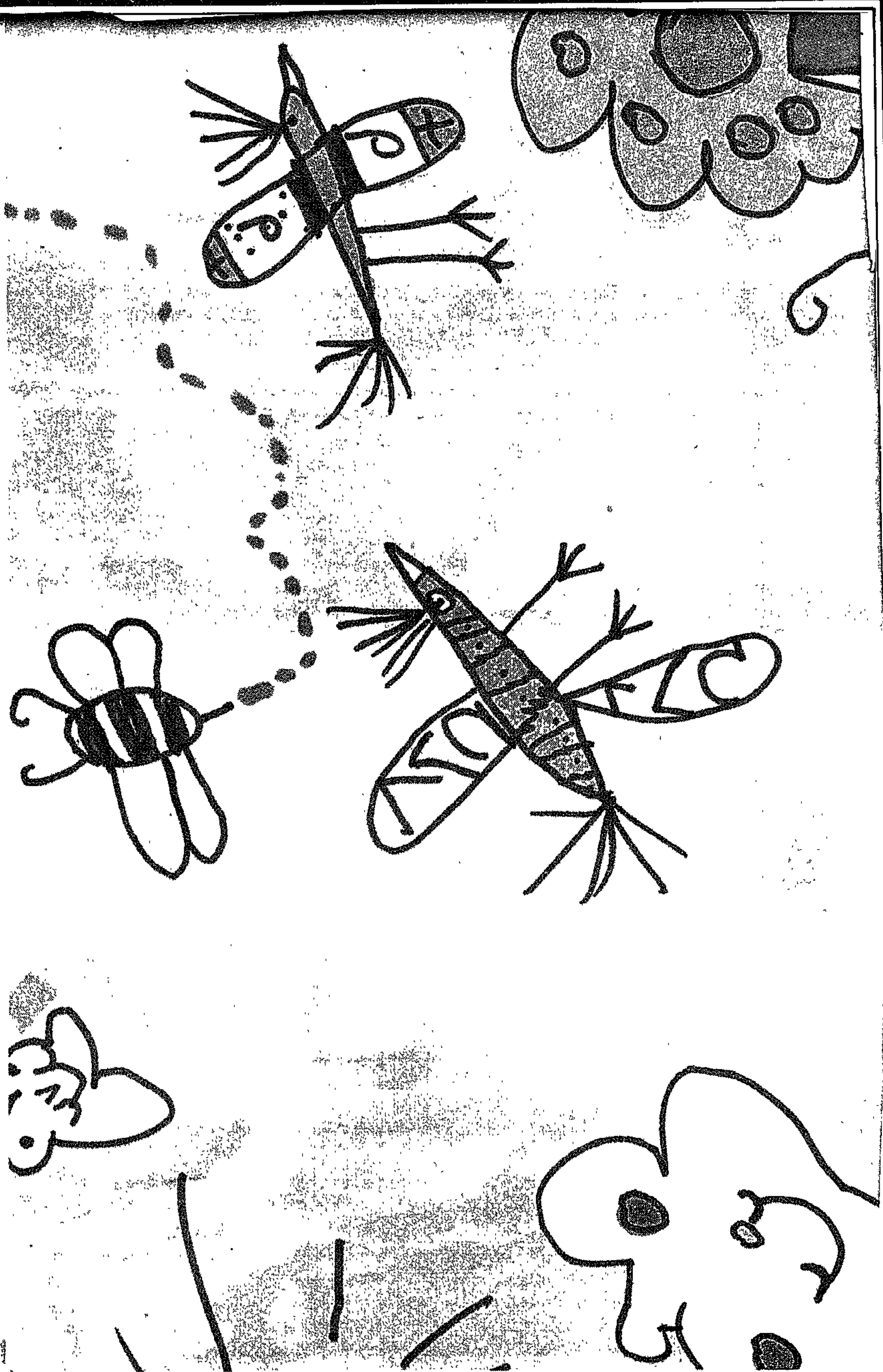
He said the department was a State body and not an autonomous body. Its objective was to conserve examples of ecosystems.

"Our function is not tourism. If the politicians want to change that they must do so by changing legislation. We welcome and want visitors, but when it comes to providing facilities our policy is to provide basic facilities for the person who wants to appreciate wildlife."

Top right: A delightful feature of the dramatic shifting dunes at Koppie Alleen is the troupe of baboons which often move through the area.

□ □ □ Above: The rare Cape mountain zebra, above, are thriving at the reserve. Threatened by extinction for the last 50 years, they were first introduced to De Hoop in 1963. Now the reserve has the fourth largest breeding population in the country.

□ □ □ Mrs Ann Scott, right, a technical assistant and wife of the reserve manager Mr Mike Scott, has compiled a comprehensive brochure on the reserve which details the fauna and flora.



The education centre near the dunes at Koppie Alleen, built in the traditional Arniston fisherman's cottage style. The complex could house groups of youngsters for environmental courses, but lack of funds for instructors leaves it empty for most of the year.

ALWAYS ready for the new media pundits, Hollywood heavy-thinkers and academic trendies, having declared the Cold War over, are advocating that swords be turned, not into ploughshares, but rather sold off to provide wetlands and pristine wilderness.

For them the environment will be the crusade of the 1990s, the great cause to sign on for. And the rallying cry is "the Greenhouse Effect".

Even President George Bush is not immune to the call and is dubbing himself the "Environment President". No doubt sincere, it is also an easy way of separating Bush's presidency from Reagan's which was widely thought to be aggressively anti-environment.

It is also a way of holding on to that Yuppie constituency which the Republican Party hopes to call its own. Anyone who has travelled in the United States, particularly through the "Rust Belt", or walked along the Atlantic shore, admits that the country has frequently abused its abundance.

Rivers and creeks foam with effluents, acres of countryside are given up to unsightly heaps of rusting cars, beaches are littered with discarded plastic bottles and packaging and whole mountain tops have been torn away by strip mining.

The legacy of the "throwaway society" is enormous. Curiously, one of the worst offenders in landfills, which are increasingly in short supply, turns out to be telephone books which, it now seems, are indestructible — even after spending 15 years under mounds of rotting garbage.

The seriousness of the situation has also been highlighted by such dramas as the chemical dumping at Love Canal, the infamous refuse-laden barge that sailed the sea like the Flying Dutchman destined never to find a port, and the invasion a summer ago of medical waste on some of the most popular beaches in the North East. Some prudent

Forget
SA ⁽⁵⁶⁾
S/T ^{Times}
go for
22490
green!

Judith Chettle

in Washington explains how the environmental crusade is influencing politics in the United States

changes have already been made, with encouraging results. Fish are spawning again in rivers they had long abandoned, communities are aggressively enacting recycling ordinances, tough emission standards for automobiles have been in place for some years, and shoreline development is increasingly limited.

But as always there are those who let the best be the enemy of the good and are insisting on changes so drastic that the whole fabric of society could be affected.

What these zealots now want is showing signs of pitting class against class, region against region and, for Congress the worst nightmare of all, key supporters against other equally key supporters.

The purists are impatient with the notion of weighing factory closures against job losses, or admitting that by insisting on even more changes to cars they will effectively kill the US car industry. And affluent themselves, they see no reason to extend that affluence to others by economic expansion.

Already the "Clean Air" Bill before Congress would

insist on power companies throughout the country cleaning up their emissions, an action which would result in higher electricity costs for their customers.

The impact of those costs would inevitably be heaviest on the poor and less well-off. Other Bills threaten closer monitoring of industrial waste, rigid limitation of development, and even tougher emission standards for cars of the 1990s.

Support for the environment used to be a no-sweat, easy vote-getter but, as various members of Congress are learning, those days are over.

One representative from the Mid-West complained about the new climate, noting that he had owed much of his support to the environmentalists in his home town.

But this group, based at the local university, were outraged when he recently refused to support the closure of a local factory they claimed was polluting the district.

The closure, the Congressman knew, would affect his other key supporters — labour — and put them out of work.

But the activists are ready with funds and lobbying organisations. Already strong grassroots-based campaigns exist and moves to confront corporations are next on the agenda.

One analyst suggested recently that the machinery to pressure companies, created by the anti-apartheid movement, remains intact to be called on for other causes and can be used on environmental issues.

As a spokesman for a research company noted: "The same people who worked on the South Africa issue are trying to work with companies on the environment — only they are joined by a broader universe of people this time. South Africa is far away, but the environment is right on our hands."

It seems that activists never die, they just change causes.

ACTIVES 4

Earth Day special

The environmental Rubic cube

"THE history of man is a series of conspiracies to win from nature some advantage without paying for it," is a comment attributed to the philosopher R W Emerson.

The truth of this observation has long been evident to environmental economists who have often proclaimed the impossibility of "free lunches".

The penalties for man's behaviour are at last emerging in the public consciousness and are being reflected in the mass media.

Much to the fore in recent months has been the plight of the black rhino, dune rhino in the St Lucia area, global warming and the hole in the ozone layer.

Each of these human impacts on the environment is the result of trying to win from nature some advantage without paying for it.

How do we begin to address environmental problems? First, we must recognise that environmental decision-making is a complex exercise which may involve economic, political, cultural, legal, technical and environmental inputs.

The difficulty of incorporating and weighing each of these six considerations in environmental decision-making is similar to that of solving the Rubic cube.

Remember, the Rubic cube is a puzzle involving a cube with six colours on movable blocks. The aim is to arrange the cube so that each of the six sides con-

5 Times 22/4/90

Rob Preston-Whyte

Professor in the department of geographical and environmental sciences at the University of Natal examines the environmental challenge of the 1990s

tains a single colour. Many have spent hours (or months) attempting to match colour and side on this tantalising toy, yet there are those who can resolve the puzzle in less than a minute.

The reason for their success is that, while the less competent attempt to arrange the colours on one side before moving to the next, the accomplished are capable of visualising all sides at once.

Efficient

With this information they are amply prepared to rapidly arrange the colours on each side of the cube.

Since most of us fall into the category who find the resolution of the Rubic cube problematic, it is hardly surprising that environmental decisions, which require a weighted evaluation of various inputs,

tend to be sub-optimal. The problems of environmental management can be developed further. Human impacts on the environment start when resources are identified, extracted and refined in order to satisfy the needs and wants of society.

This is a cultural activity for we can only recognise resources through the eyes of our culture. Stone age man would have ignored an oil well.

The efficiency and nature of our need relates to the technological and managerial abilities of our culture.

Unfortunately, the act of acquiring goods and resources produce environmental impacts in the form of air and water pollution, soil erosion and solid waste disposal problems.

Until recently, many of these impacts had gone unnoticed. However, we are now in the process of recognising these impacts and beginning to debate the benefits and costs of resource uses.

For example, are coal-burning power stations, with their resulting acid rain and health problems, more or less damaging to the environment than nuclear power stations?

A society can act most efficiently through its political and legal structures if all its members can agree on how to conduct their affairs. This common feeling is expressed by the ideology of the society.

An environmental ideology, therefore, would express a common attitude

towards the environment. We would all admit to some form of environmental ideology obtained through family links, schooling and church influences.

The problem, however, is that we do not all share the same environmental ideology. Instead, there may exist a wide ideological spectrum in the same society. Examples are the so-called "Greens" who tend to occupy one side of the ideological spectrum with technocrats at the other end.

Effective

In the absence of a shared environmental ideology, inadequate directives or no directives are relayed to our political representatives in government. This results in the relegation of environmental issues to the tacitly recognised agenda for non-decisions.

Alternatively, when environmental decisions are made by central or local government, the debate is influenced by conflicting attitudes held by people with different environmental ideologies.

Rather than encourage sound decision-making through thorough debate, decisions which affect the environment may often be taken by people capable of wrestling with only one side of the environmental Rubic cube.

In economic terms, the production of goods and services generates both internal costs and benefits. However, the true costs of goods and services, which should

include internal costs, is seldom evident. Pollution in its various forms is, therefore, largely a problem of failure to include the hidden costs of poorer health, increased cleaning bills and so forth in the cost of production and services.

Instead, our present system makes it profitable to pollute since the manufacturer is only required to pay the cost of production. External costs are, therefore, passed on to the consumer who eventually pays both actual and external costs.

The problem of how to internalise external costs and thereby minimise pollution is the subject of much debate. It is certainly one of the components of the environmental Rubic cube.

Essentially, it involves eliminating the free use of common property resources (such as atmosphere and water bodies) for the dumping of wastes and adding the costs of cleaning up the environment to our taxes and to the price of products and services.

However, this requires acquiescence by society through its political system, which in turn necessitates a shared environmental ideology.

Inevitably, the solution returns to the need for society to solve its environmental problems through its political and legal systems.

● Extracted from *Environmental Strategies for the 90s, an Indicator SA Special Focus* published to coincide with Earth Day.

Turn your garden into a wildlife sanctuary

C/Press *56*
ORGANISE a symphony concert in your garden! It's as simple as providing the plants that birds love, some shallow water and a little food.

In return you could wake up to the gentle concert provided by the wildlife in your own sanctuary. South Africa has more than 800 bird species resident or visiting our shores which means we are exceptionally lucky and you can get to know 50 or 60 species in your own garden.

With the many threats to our environment, gardening is not merely a luxury or hobby, but an important ecological contribution. The increase in the urban bird population is testimony to the importance of gardening. Hadedas, grey louries and wood hoopoes are now regular visitors, even permanent suburbanites!

Bushy evergreen trees and shrubs provide cover and nesting sites and a good supply of insects. Thick bush with a good mulch of fallen leaves underneath provides a good hunting ground for earthworms - a delight to robins, thrushes and bokmakieries. Climbers provide nesting sites for wagtails and many other birds. Flowering and fruiting plants attract insects and butterflies.

Indigenous plants might be an acquired taste for you, but your birds will be right at home in an indigenous garden, although many imported plants like pyracantha provide a rich harvest of berries during the lean winter months. There are many plants that will attract birds with either nectar, seed, berries, fruit or shelter - consult your nursery for a list.

Birds use water for bathing and drinking and love to play in the spray from the sprinkler or fountain. Bird baths, or shallow ledges (25mm deep) in your garden pond are ideal. Wagtails are adept at catching insects that fall into the pool and also eat mosquito larvae.

Even though bushes and trees provide many nesting sites, birds can sometimes use a helping hand. Swallows appreciate a permanent mud puddle before the rains come, or a small plank nailed onto a beam under the eaves to provide a platform on which to start a nest.

The lack of dead trees and branches can be compensated for by nesting boxes and nest-logs fixed two metres above the ground on walls, poles or in trees, facing away from sun and wind.

Use your yard to create a safe haven, a refuge for wildlife. Environment affects us all and only YOU can make the difference. Your modest efforts will help conserve wildlife.

Kotze to take steps if mine causes imbalance

CAPE TOWN 23/4/90 (56)

Staff Reporter

AT an Earth Day celebration in Noordhoek, the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, yesterday assured about 150 members of the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group that he would use all his resources to stop the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek if it caused an ecological imbalance in the area.

Two knapsacks containing a petition of more than 50 000 signatures were handed to the minister by Mr Jannie Momberg, Democratic Party MP for Simon's Town.

"I do not have the final say over the proposed mine sites here, but wish to assure you that I will use all my re-

sources to stop all the activities, if there is an ecological imbalance in this part of the Peninsula."

Mr Momberg said only two bodies could stop the mine — the government and the mining company, Serina.

He pleaded for the government "to take the decision to stop the mine and give the land back to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve to be protected for future generations".

Other Earth Day celebrations took place in the city as well as in other parts of the country.

● Environment-conscious groups marched through the streets of Johannesburg on Saturday morning in what was probably the country's first conservation march.



STOP THE MINE ... Philippa Dresner and Ingrid Finlay delivered two knapsacks containing the petition.

Picture: OSED ZILWA

Govt outlaws smoke stacks in bid to prevent acid rain on Highveld

LARGE industries which emit sulphur dioxides have been banned from building tall smoke stacks in the eastern Transvaal Highveld.

High rainfall acidity levels have been recorded and government wants to prevent irreversible damage to the environment, says Health Department chief pollution control officer Martin Lloyd.

In an interview yesterday, he said tall smoke stacks were previously believed to disperse polluted air harmlessly into the atmosphere.

Sulphur dioxide is emitted from coal burning industries and if not dispersed adequately eventually becomes acid rain.

Lloyd said about one million tons of sulphur dioxide was pumped into the atmosphere annually, but this level was low compared with other countries. In Europe, the figure was about 50-million tons annually.

However, where emissions were concentrated, like in the eastern Transvaal highlands, ir-

B10 am 24/4/90

EDWARD WEST

reversible damage could be done to the environment, he said.

He said if Eskom, for example, wanted to build a new power station in the Vaal Triangle, it would have to install additional equipment at great cost to prevent sulphur dioxide emissions.

A senior Eskom spokesman said the company controlled its sulphur dioxide dispersion with smoke stacks higher than 275m.

He said Eskom would have to fund additional expenditure of R1bn — or a 25% to 30% increase in electricity generating cost — at each of its power stations to provide for flue gas desulphurisation at its plants.

Expense (56)

A balance needed to be drawn between the cost of environmental control, which the consumer would have to pay for, and the extent of environmental damage.

Air pollution levels did not warrant additional expense yet,

he said. Eskom produces four fifths of SA's power from the eastern Transvaal Highveld.

Lloyd said visible pollution, or particular pollution, was also a problem in the Vaal Triangle. Critics were quick to blame industrial concerns for this pollution, but the blame was shared by a number of other sources.

Pollution arose from burning coal, from domestic and industrial appliances, from motor vehicle emissions and was aggravated by poor air dispersion in the area, topographical characteristics and rapid urbanisation.

The Vaal Triangle was a low-lying basin. As a result of the temperature inversion at night, cold polluted air containing smog from the Reef drained into the Vaal Basin and aggravated an already smoggy situation.

Many township homes still used coal burning fires. This was believed to be the major cause of early morning smog over places such as Vereeniging.

The only solution to this was the electrification of townships.

Introducing environmental awareness to the struggle

Soweto 25/7/90

56

I WANT to commend Sacwu for giving environmental awareness a place on the agenda of the workers' struggle.

I must also commend them for ignoring the view held by those who say we are simplistic or that we trivialise the struggle by linking environmental issues to it.

When you introduce environmental awareness to the agenda of the struggle, you are taking a holistic approach to the struggle, which is what Nation Building is all about.

Approach

This is an approach through which we should concern ourselves, not only with the achievement of political freedom, but also freedom from hunger, disease and ignorance which are today among the most serious problems facing former colonies of Africa, Asia and South America.

Because of its holistic approach to the struggle, Nation Building can be defined in many ways. I define it as a process of socio-political and economic reconstruction, through which we explore a number of routes that can lead us to the ending of apartheid.

The concept is about the empowerment of the masses, to help them know how to face challenges of a post-apartheid society.

Concept

Through this concept, we preach a revolution that will not only bring about a change of political leadership as the liberation struggle has done in most former colonies, but a revolution that will change the na-

On Sunday, Sam Mabe was one of the speakers at an Earth Day rally held by the South African Chemical Workers Union at Shareworld. This is a summary of the talk he gave on Nation Building and a Post Apartheid Environment.

tion's mentality, perceptions, values and norms.

There is a clear distinction between apartheid as a philosophy of tribal discrimination and, laws that enforce the economic exploitation and political oppression of the black or African people.

Our struggle should be aimed at doing away with both. But I wonder if political activists who seem to have assumed the monopoly of the struggle are aware of these differences as most of us seem to think the removal of apartheid laws alone will lead to our liberation.

The removal of apartheid laws is just one and comparatively the least crucial aspect of our struggle.

At a stroke of a pen, we could get rid of all apartheid laws in the statute books. But unlegislated apartheid is the most dangerous.

Victims

This is the apartheid that has become so entrenched in our mental make-up that even in the post-apartheid era, we will continue acting the way victims of apartheid are supposed to act.

As a system of interpreting social reality, Nation Building takes cognisance of the fact that the revelation of social reality is the first step towards changing society.

Since nationhood comes about because of the character of its people, you cannot build a nation without first developing people who constitute a nation's components.

A complete development of people means

building among other things, the spiritual, moral, cultural, economic, political, technological and academic character of the individual.

Attitudes

To do that successfully, you have to also address the environment in which he lives. This is because the environment determines many things about the people's cultural values, attitudes, norms and lifestyles.

It determines their relationship with their fellow men and with the Almighty God.

The environment also determines the health and wealth of a nation.

Living conditions in places like Mshenguville where the streets are not tarred, and where garbage is left lying in the open for many weeks, gives people tuberculosis and a variety of other diseases related to overcrowded and unhygienic living conditions.

Problems

In trying to disguise the effects of the environment on the make-up of our socio-political personalities, our education system has been designed in such a way that doctors and nurses are trained to provide medical solutions to problems caused by environmental conditions under which their patients live.

A nation that does not own the land on which it lives cannot be wealthy and a nation without wealth is no nation at all.

It is because we do not own the land that the Government of this country encouraged us to commit the crime of destroying our environment.

In townships of Soweto blacks were forbidden to plant trees as it was argued that trees

would lead to the collapse of their houses. But the houses would collapse because they were of very inferior quality.

In white suburbs, trees have become part of the white man's culture. It is a breach of council by-laws for anybody to remove a tree even from his own yard without getting permission from the local authorities.

The environment in which we live is being destroyed deliberately through the policies of apartheid.

Resist

To resist this onslaught against us, let us as a community of workers educate the nation about the environment.

By so doing, you will not only be removing the tangible chains that bind the people's hands and feet, but you'll be removing the psychological blinkers that would otherwise make us continue to be our own oppressors even after the collapse of apartheid.

By interpreting and telling the people the truth about their environment, you will be freeing the people's minds.

Struggle

There are many nations of the world that have perished or are about to perish today, because they failed to make environmental issues part of their struggle against colonialism.

If you plant a tree, you will be taking an insurance policy that will save our nation from ruin.

One Afrikaner friend jokingly told me the other day that we blacks were so fond of blaming colonialism or the white man for things that go wrong in Africa that sooner or later, the white

man would be blamed for the drought that is hitting Northern African countries like Chad, Ethiopia and Sudan.

It was until I visited Ethiopia two years ago that I stopped seeing any humour in the remarks passed by my Afrikaner friend.

I started realising that colonialism was indeed to blame for part of our lack of respect for the environment and consequently, we have had the so-called 'natural' catastrophes that have ruined a number of countries of Africa.

Desert

It is the absence of trees that is turning a greater part of Africa into a desert.

Fertile soil is being eroded when it rains in the mountains of Lesotho.

If we planted trees, we would increase the amount of oxygen that people scramble for in the overcrowded townships of Soweto.

If we had trees in Ethiopia, there would be no drought there because trees provide the humidity that causes rain.

If we had trees, our roofs would not be blown away by wind because trees serve as effective windbreakers.

Environment

Before you leave this meeting, I want you to commit yourselves to doing something from today, to ensure that we live in a decent environment. Commit yourselves to planting a tree to mark the significance of May Day, June 16, Heroes Day and all other dates that bear significance to our struggle.

For occasions like Arbor Day which comes in August, we could request our employers to give us half a day off from work in order to go and plant trees.

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I wish all of you a very green and pollution-free day.

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Moves afoot to streamline SA's R200-m hunting game

By Dirk Nel,

Northern Transvaal
Bureau

56

PIETERSBURG

Moves are afoot to promote closer co-operation between the Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (Phasa), the Confederation of Hunting Associations of South Africa (Chasa) and game farmers in order to streamline the country's hunting industry.

Mr Gerhard Swan, president of the Bushveld Hunters' Association, an affiliate of Chasa, told media representatives at the weekend that each of the three hunting sectors had their own price structures, and this often caused confusion among overseas and local clients, always keen to negotiate the best possible hunting deals.

He said discussions would be held between the three groups in June, to eliminate these and other problems. This would be in the best interest of everyone concerned, as hunting was a R200 million a year industry, which won many friends for South Africa.

Mr Swan pointed out that the game industry had four main components — overseas clients, local hunters, live auctions, and meat processing. It was up to each game farmer to concentrate on one of these aspects, depending on his resources and priorities.

NT/POLITICS

An attempt must be made to consolidate all conservation legislation in one Act, valid nationally but administered at provincial level, the Administrator of the Cape, Mr. Kobus Meiring, said in Cape Town yesterday.

Giving evidence before a President's Council committee investigating a national environmental management system policy, Mr Meiring said it was necessary to end the confusion that had arisen from fragmented and overlapping legislation. This was needed to prevent further "avoidable damage to the environment by development".

Conservation needs a single Act (56) Meiring

Pointing to the "polemic" over De Hoop nature reserve, he said the Cape Provincial Administration was open to criticism and welcomed the publicity given to the debate. But it could "not allow a wedge to be driven between the work we do and the work of another organisation such as the Parks Board". He believed that decentralisa-

tion of conservation actions was in the best interests of the Cape as well as South Africa.

A vital part of the Cape's conservation mission was to conserve the natural and cultural heritage in such a way that "coming generations would still be able to exercise reasonable options over these resources".

Mass tourism easily harmed

sensitive ecological areas, so it was essential that those areas should be managed by fully fledged government institutions such as the CPA.

"In this way they will not depend on revenue from tourism and it will be possible to resist successfully the inevitable pressure to provide more and bigger tourism facilities which could harm the environment."

Taxpayers as a whole, and not semi-State institutions and the private sector, should be involved in conservation of such ecologically sensitive areas as the De Hoop reserve. — Sapa.

Careful
lifestyle
mean a
healthy
future

Soweto 26/4/90

THE purpose of environmental education is to impart knowledge, skills and values to develop responsible life styles in harmony with the surrounding in its totality.

In a document titled: *Teaching For Environmental Conservation*, the Department of Environment Affairs stressed the necessity of public information about the crisis at the highest level.

The Environmental Conservation Act of 1982 urges all teachers to acquaint themselves with the scope and techniques of environmental education. To that extent, the council for the environment offers a guide entitled: *Teaching For Environmental Education*. The booklet is available free of charge upon request from the Director General, Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria 0001.

Destiny

Dr Sue Hart of Eco Link said environmental education was critical for human survival. "It transcends all boundaries. It is every man's concern. What happens to the environment, globally or locally touches man's life at root level: the food he eats, the water he drinks and the air he breathes."

It is this sense of common destiny that brought together representatives of environmental awareness groups from all over South Africa. They met at a conference organised by the Science Education Centre at Funda Centre in Soweto earlier this year to discuss the incorporation of environmental education into the syllabus.

A brief history of Environmental Education revealed that environmental concern is not an invention of our times. In Egypt, for example, wise men were sent out to assist and advise peasants on the importance of protecting one's environment.

Cape Times 26/4/90 (56)

Cape Times, Thursday

'Wall of death' boats let into harbour

By BARRY STREEK

THE government yesterday decided to allow about a hundred Chinese squid boats to enter Cape Town harbour with "wall of death" gill nets on board — despite an earlier ban on boats with such nets.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said the boats would be allowed into Cape Town harbour as a one-time concession "under strict conditions to replenish essential supplies between May and July of this year".

He added: "It is especially necessary that the boats call at Cape Town harbour to disembark approximately 500 South

African seamen who are serving on the boats at present.

"Most of them are from Cape Town and surroundings."

But Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said he believed Mr Kotze should have been much tougher.

"I believe that South Africa has to show its total disapproval of any operation which involves gill nets.

"We are assured that these gill nets have not been used since South African ban was imposed.

"The minister assures me that this is the last time he will accept any kind of excuse on possession of these walls of death nets.

"I hope this is true. I myself would have liked much firmer action," Mr Lorimer said.

In his statement, Mr Kotze said the concession followed an urgent appeal by the Taiwan Squid Fishery Association through the consul-general of the Republic of China in South Africa, Mr Louis Chou, that as an emergency measure the boats be allowed to call at Cape Town on their way back to Taiwan.

"The boats are at present catching squid in the region of the Falkland Islands."

Some had caught tunny with gill nets on their way from Taiwan to South Africa at the end of last year before they called at Cape Town earlier this year.

This tunny was caught outside South Africa's economic fishing zone.

However, when they arrived in Cape Town, Mr Kotze ordered that the masters of those boats not in possession of the necessary permits be prosecuted.

He also decided that no boats with gill net equipment, or tunny caught with gill nets, would be allowed into any South African port.

The Taiwan Squid Fishery Association had given an assurance that no further Taiwanese vessels with gill net equipment on board would call at any South African port, the boats had not made use of their gill nets and had only caught squid since they left Cape Town and all

vessels would remain in port no longer than necessary to disembark the South African seamen and to replenish bunkers, stores and fresh water.

"A few boats will off-load small quantities of squid in Cape Town harbour," Mr Kotze said.

"With our strict action earlier this year, South Africa demonstrated its disapproval of this unacceptable method of fishing.

"With this, South Africa took the lead in exercising pressure on countries whose fishing fleets employ this fishing method.

"We achieved what we wanted to achieve. I granted the request as a one-time concession in the spirit of good international co-operation.

PWV towns
Sta. 26/4/90
urged to join
project to
56

recycle paper

Sixteen Transvaal mayors were introduced to a system of paper recycling this week, and were encouraged to introduce it in their towns.

Paper Pick-Up, a community service offered by Mondi Paper, will collect old newspapers, magazines and pamphlets from homes for recycling.

The chief executive of Keep South Africa Beautiful, Mr Bill Heunis, praised the project.

"With the rapid population growth, urbanisation and the tremendous demands placed on our natural resources, remedial action is of paramount importance," he said.

To take part in the scheme, householders would have to leave paper outside for collection every two weeks. A leaflet would be delivered two days before to remind residents about collections.

Representatives of most towns in the PWV, excluding Johannesburg, attended the launch.

Paper Pick-Up was still too small to attempt to collect all Johannesburg's waste paper, a spokesman said, but the city would be included at a later stage. — Staff Reporter.

SCIENTISTS monitoring pollution in the air over the Highveld — which contains some of the world's highest concentrations of soot, noxious gases and acid rain ingredients — have suspended their work as government finances for the project have been cut.

Dr Gerhard Held, who heads an air pollution team at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), said research has stopped and staff were "sitting without anything to do" because the Department of Health has stopped its funding.

"Now is the time to starting devising remedial measures before it is too late and we have big forests dying from acid rain as they are doing in North America and Europe," said Held.

"It is important to document processes in the atmosphere and to assess whether we have reached a stage where gases have to be cleaned up before being emitted into the atmosphere."

Controversy about air pollution levels in the Eastern Transvaal highveld has raged since the CSIR produced a report two years ago saying coal-fired power stations and factories were responsible for emitting so much sulphur dioxide — the chief ingredient of acid rain — that environmental

Not a cent more for the dirty-air watch 56

Despite the very high pollution on the highveld, the government has cut funding for research into the problem. By EDDIE KOCH

conditions there were amongst the most adverse in the world.

This was followed by a report from a group of private consultants which said a dozen power stations and the huge Sasol oil-from-coal plant on the highveld were pumping 57,5 tons of sulphur per square kilometre into the air every year. The air over East Germany, the country with the most serious acid rain problem in the world, contains about half this amount of sulphur.

Dr Bruce Wells, a senior researcher on the CSIR project, told the *Weekly Mail* that evidence of acid rain damage was already being found in forest plantations as well as farms in the Eastern Transvaal and Natal.

"The costs of continuing the research are trivial compared to the

hundreds of millions of rands that may be lost in agriculture and timber plantations if the problem is not effectively dealt with."

The government's chief pollution control officer, Martin Lloyd, told the *Weekly Mail* that financial anomalies had arisen because the CSIR was changing from a government-funded body into a commercial operation.

"They mustn't blame the government. It's their problem. Now that they are operating on a commercial basis, they must compete with the rest of industry. We have to issue tenders, draw up new specs, get the legal people involved, issue new contracts ..."

Lloyd rejected reports that the situation had reached a critical stage on the highveld and said the government had "arrested" the situation by insisting that all new coal-fired plants be equipped with scrubbing equipment and filters that remove 70 percent of the sulphur and soot from their emissions.

But he said the established factories and power stations would not be required to install purifying equipment as it was too expensive. "We are relying on tall stacks to disperse the emissions into the upper levels of the atmosphere."

The CSIR research indicates the high-stack method simply causes polluted air to be trapped in the upper layers of the atmosphere. From there, 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.

Polluted rain has been blamed for killing a quarter of West Germany's trees and irreparably damaging 37 percent of Czechoslovakia's forests. In Sweden 400 lakes are said to be biologically dead because of acid rainfalls.

Air contamination in the Eastern Transvaal and the Vaal Triangle has been blamed for high incidences of ear, nose and throat ailments as well as more serious chest diseases.

Earth Life Africa, a local green group, has demanded that the research funding for the CSIR project be reinstated immediately and more effective pollution control legislation be implemented.



Shell pulls out of herbicides market

SHELL halted all sales of hormone herbicides in South Africa this week amid growing public anger at claims that a consortium of chemical companies is trying to suppress evidence about the environmental dangers of their products.

The Anglo-Dutch multinational said on Tuesday that it would immediately cease distributing hormone herbicides — including all of its existing stock — in response to growing public concern that the weedkillers can damage human health and devastate plant life.

Shell's dramatic move stems from disclosures by the *Weekly Mail* last week that 17 companies, including some of the world's biggest multinationals, were pressing a small group of Natal farmers to withhold evidence about the damage caused by the herbicides.

"The reason for our decision is that we are trying to operate in a responsible way and we are sensitive to public sentiment that is against the use of hormone herbicides," said Shell representative Colleen Channon-Bracher.

The company's directors took the step after a series of board meetings this week. Channon-Bracher said the decision did not mean Shell accepted allegations that the products were an ecological and health hazard.

Shell pulled out of the controversial hormone herbicides market this week, explaining that 'we are trying to operate in a responsible way'.

EDDIE KOCH reports
small part of Shell's operation in South Africa and their continued marketing here and were not simply worth the public wrath they had incurred, she said.

Earth Life Africa, a local ecology pressure group, announced it had asked Greenpeace International this week to help co-ordinate worldwide protests against multinationals that tried to muzzle evidence about the hazards of using hormone herbicides in South African agriculture.

Two powerful black trade unions said they would throw their muscle behind the campaign. The South African Chemical Workers' Union (Sacwu) resolved at its annual congress over the weekend to urge the South African government to extend

the embargo on hormonal herbicides to the whole country".

Sacwu is the biggest affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu).

Rod Crompton, general secretary of the Chemical Workers Industrial Union (CWIU), said his members were determined to fight the poor health and safety record of many multinational chemical companies in South Africa.

"These firms have been responsible for vast and largely unreported damage to the environment in the Third World." The CWIU belongs to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

Some 12 000 people in the Natal Midlands have signed a petition, organised by Earth Life, that calls for the use of all hormone herbicides to be suspended. This month a joint international protest by Earth Life, Greenpeace and the CWIU succeeded in shutting down Thor Chemicals, a Natal-based toxic waste recycling plant accused of polluting local rivers with high levels of mercury.

Chemical groups try to silence allegations about crop devastation

BY EDDIE KOCH

SEVENTEEN chemical companies, including some of the world's most powerful multinationals, are trying to suppress allegations that their herbicides are causing massive damage to South Africa's ecology.

Silence broken ... last week's *Weekly Mail* herbicides expose

Outrage over the use of hormone herbicides has escalated since a group of Natal vegetable farmers failed to win a Supreme Court application for manufacture and use of herbicides in South Africa to be suspended.

The farmers prepared affidavits for the case based on evidence that the widespread use of the herbicides have caused millions of rands damage to their harvests and have devastated other vegetation in the Natal Midlands.

But this was never heard in court as the judge ruled the application should have been directed against the users rather than the manufacturers of the

herbicides. The farmers were ordered to pay the companies legal costs, estimated at more than R1-million.

The consortium says it will waive payment on condition the farmers forfeit their right to take legal action against any of the firms again and stop public campaigns aimed at highlighting the dangers of the products.

The farmers say they are also being "blackmailed" into paying for advertisements in 17 major newspapers and magazines that apologises for the court action.

Shell says its decision to abandon hormone herbicides means that it has effectively conceded to the farmers' demands. The company will no longer associate itself with the consortium's approach to the issue of costs.

Earth Life representative Chris Albertyn welcomed Shell's decision to withdraw its supplies of the herbicides. "This is a victory for the public and we hope that other multinationals will follow suit."

Gerry Maritz, a representative of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Association (Avcasa), said: "If Shell in its infinite wisdom decided to withdraw, then so be it. That is their prerogative."

Maritz, who co-ordinated the consortium's legal strategy, said the companies were prepared to "enter into dialogue."

Environmental stand urged

GERALD REILLY

(56)

PRETORIA — No SA political party had a clear policy on the environment since none had seen the environment as the real basis for social and political survival, Westville University researcher John Butler-Adams said here yesterday. *B. Adams 277490*

As a result party political stances were characterised by various attitudes and variable ideologies and often "simply opportunistic and expedient" positions.

Speaking at the Knowledge Utilisation conference at the HSRC, Butler-Adams said to influence conservation policy, the researcher had to have an impact on party political policy. But his task in dealing with a "non-position" was difficult as there was no clarity about what ideological problems were to be encountered and overcome.

ANC plants 'green revolution' seeds

W/Mand 2714-315190 56
AFRICAN National Congress leader

Andrew Mlangeni yesterday planted a tree in Soweto to mark the start of a "green revolution" in the township.

Mlangeni was guest of honour at a tree-planting ceremony arranged by the National Environment Awareness Campaign (Neac) to highlight the fact that there is a growing environmental awareness among resistance groups.

"We believe that the people of South Africa are on the brink of regaining control of their land, a land which they have been denied for hundreds of years," said Neac President Japha Lekgetho.

"Through greed and disregard for human life in general, we find that the land has been abused to such an extent that it will take years of effort to retrieve it."

Lekgetho condemned the "misuse" of pesticides and fertilisers in South African agriculture and slammed the government for allowing imports of toxic wastes to South Africa.

He stressed that a solution to South Africa's ecological problems depended on the abolition of the Group Areas Act and the Land Act.

●The South African Youth Congress (Sayco) this month blamed apartheid for the "deliberate destruction of our land and environment" and vowed to fight for a greener South Africa.

Star 27/4/90 (56)

Forest Town filling station plan dropped after protest

By Guy Jepson

An application for rights to develop a filling station on Jan Smuts Avenue, Forest Town, has been withdrawn in the face of local opposition.

Mr Dave Nichol, chairman of the Forest Town Ratepayers' Association, said he had been notified of the withdrawal by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works.

An on-site inspection of the land in question — erven 47 and 48, two quarter-acre stands south of the Johannesburg Zoo — was scheduled for this week. The inspection was to have formed part of a procedure which follows an objection to an application in terms of the Removal of Restrictions Act.

"On being notified of the application, we distributed letters

to residents in Forest Town, suggesting they voice their concern by writing to the department concerned," said Mr Nichol. "I understand something like 250 objections were sent in. When all the objections were received by the applicant, I imagine his client decided not to go ahead with the application."

"This is a good example of ratepayers making a concerted effort to protect their neighbourhood."

"Through our association we have encouraged people to maintain their suburb — during the Johannesburg Centenary Year our slogan was 'Put the Forest back into Forest Town' and 100 Stinkwood trees were planted on our pavements. We have generated a considerable pride in our suburb."

Alarm over disposal

Political Staff

Star 30/4/90 (56)
THE DP has called for a crackdown on hospitals and doctors who dump medical waste — including human tissue and Aids-infected rubbish.

The party's spokesman on health, Mr Mike Ellis, said the disposal of medical waste has become a threatening problem.

"It includes an amazingly wide range of items including human tissue from operating theatres (including amputated limbs), dialysis wastes, dressings, needles and scalpels," he said.

"There have been shocking incidents of medical waste being found in rivers (Dusi canoeists often report human tissue in the river) and dumped in plots." He said this could cause infection, contamination and possibly even an epidemic.

His call for a clean-up followed a question he asked in Parliament to determine how provincial hospitals dispose of waste and whether any change is likely.

According to the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, hospitals burn their rubbish, have it taken away by a disposal service or flush it into the sewer system after disinfection. No changes in this system are being contemplated.

Poor nations 'used as toxic waste dumps'

Staff Reporter

The developed nations of the world used their economic muscle to lure poorer nations into becoming dumping grounds for hazardous waste, according to a United States scientist.

Dr Loo Yap, in South Africa as a guest of industrial gas and welding company Afrox, said less wealthy countries would continue to attract industries which could operate without the environmental constraints imposed by more developed nations.

He said cleaning up waste was extremely costly for the manufacturer.

"We've even had countries loading barges with hazardous waste and attempting to dispose of it in some other country's backyard."

"What is needed is global action by all countries to ensure that uniform decisions are made concerning the treatment of hazardous waste. But as long as the current economic stratification continues, I believe there will be a problem in arriving at and enforcing a uniform policy," he said.

Shell decides to stop selling hormonal herbicides in SA

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Shell, one of the world's chemical giants, has halted its sales of hormone herbicides in South Africa.

This move comes after a three-year investigation by the Sunday Tribune into alleged multimillion-rand damage to crops and worldwide public concern about possible links between hormone herbicides and health problems.

Bitter wrangle

In another development, the Anglo Dutch multinational has dissociated itself from the terms of a document drawn up by 17 chemical companies which tried to force Natal Fresh Produce Association farmers to endorse a newspaper campaign in support of hormone herbicides and issue a public apology.

In return the companies would have paid the more than R1 million legal costs incurred by the farmers.

Shell's decision, hailed by farmers as "a triumph for reason", comes in the wake of a bitter legal wrangle and amid claims that the consortium of

chemical companies was trying to "bully" farmers into withholding evidence of crop damage, which the farmers allege was caused by hormone herbicides.

A few weeks ago the farmers lost their court application to have the chemicals withdrawn. The judge ruled that the action should have been directed at the users rather than the manufacturers.

The evidence of damage to crops was never heard in court.

Shell's general manager, Ms Colleen Channon Bracher, said this weekend the terms of the agreement were not acceptable to Shell.

She said the decision to withdraw the distribution of hormone herbicides, including existing stocks, had been under discussion for some time. However, it did not mean that Shell accepted that the products were to blame for ecological damage and health problems.

The reason given for Shell's unexpected withdrawal from the multimillion-rand hormone herbicide market was the public's concern that the weed killers could damage human health and devastate plant life.

"We firmly believe that where widespread public concern and anger exists around a product then a responsible company must either withdraw the product or satisfy the public that its concerns are unfounded."

Mr Roger Evans, chairman of the fresh produce association which has been waging the battle to halt the use of hormone herbicides, said Shell's decision was a "brave and commendable" move.

'Not bullies'

The agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association of South Africa, AVCASA, which represents the chemical companies, this week denied using "bullying tactics". In a statement it said the companies were simply seeking to stop the further spread of scientifically unfounded accusations against their products.

Mr Gerry Maritz, executive director of AVCASA, said: "We were concerned that the unsuccessful legal proceedings should not be replaced by a further emotional campaign."

Star writer gets ecology award

30/1/90 Staff Reporter ~~215~~ 56

South Africa's newest political party, the Ecology Party, made its first public award last week — to James Clarke, The Star's environmental writer.

At a ceremony in Bryanston, Mr Colin Slater, founder of what is called the "Green Party", said: "James Clarke not only inspired the 'Greens' trend in South Africa many years ago but he is the reason we founded this political party."

The Ecology Party was officially mentioned in Parliament last week for the first time. It intends putting up candidates in the next general election.

In receiving the award — to be an annual one — Mr Clarke said: "Unless your party can appeal to the black thinkers you are irrelevant."

He also advocated that the party encourage urbanisation and the upliftment of squatters.

"Urbanisation, for long considered an evil trend in South Africa, is a natural evolutionary urge. It cannot be stopped.

"It's not the losers who migrate to the cities. It takes courage to leave the land of your forefathers and to seek work in a strange city.

"By urbanising the people we can relieve pressure on food-producing land.

"Urbanised nations are, from a population point of view, the most stable. They also tend to be the most economically stable and the most independent."

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Nature link chance for children 56

About 2000 underprivileged children will this year be given the opportunity to attend field camps and environmental programmes they would otherwise not have been able to afford.

A sponsorship programme, launched by the Youth Environmental Education and Cultural Association and known as "Operation Nature Link", will help these children — and others in years to

come — to learn about the environment. ~~2228~~
The association has for several years run camps and trails for schoolchildren.

Through a sponsorship programme, underprivileged children will now be able to learn about environmental education and responsibility, wildlife, plants and conservation. — Staff Reporter.

SAA pledges to aid conservation

Staff Reporter

South African Airways has pledged to contribute R500 000 every year to wildlife conservation.

Announcing the creation of the African Wildlife Heritage Trust, the chief executive of the airline, Mr Gert van der Veer has presented the first of two annual contributions to the South African Nature Foundation (SANF) and the American-based International Wilderness Leadership Foundation.

The SANF received R250 000 and the Leadership Foundation \$100 000.

"It is the airline's long-term commitment to preserving southern African wildlife and the environment that sustains it," Mr Van der Veer said.

The airline's chief also introduced SAA's "wildlife packages" which were aimed specifically at the overseas market.

These conservation-based tours of the entire southern African region will be made available overseas to increase awareness of the overseas market.

Conservation goalposts constantly shifted

By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau
Environmental researchers have a question for the State and private conservationists: How can they reach any conservation goals if you keep moving the goalposts?

"Government does not have a clear policy on the environment, and the problem with conservationists is that they, too, have no clearly worked out policy or stand," Professor John Butler-Adam of the University of Natal told a Human Sciences Research Council conference on ways of using research data in Pretoria last week.

Government presented barriers to implementing research which were "almost impossible to define — they come and go like whirling dervishes".

The goalposts could be moved many times, in the course of a half-hour conversation or over several years, he said. Environmentally-concerned citizens "approached the matter in an emotional way",

and did not want to be "confused with the facts", said Professor Butler-Adam.

"People simply shift their ground in yet another emotional direction when presented with the facts," he said. "We cannot build up any principles or consistency."

Concerned citizens

Asked whether the Government's lack of a set policy was not more of an opportunity than a problem as this could indicate a receptiveness to new facts, he joked:

"This rests on the assumption that any government will respond logically to facts. This is not necessarily so."

Dr Danie Erasmus of the Department of Agricultural Development told the conference the concerned citizen was usually the catalyst for environmental strategy.

"This can be a good thing in that the public becomes the watchdog for environmental issues, but not always."

He recounted the case of a Natal game reserve which culled to reduce overstocking, and later had to replace animals because of public demand for viewing game "to the detriment of the environment". (This was disputed by a Natal Parks Board official who said: "We certainly do not allow the public to control populations ad lib.")

"Not enough is being done to predict problems in order to prevent them occurring," said Dr Erasmus.

Dr Fred Kruger, director-designate of the Forestry Science and Technology Unit of the CSIR, said there were some environmental problems "we will never fully understand", but pointed out that important scientific policy had been drafted before a full understanding of a problem.

"This has to happen," he said, citing the case of the Montreal Accord banning ozone-depleting CFC's before "anything like an adequate understanding of the problem".

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The greening of Soweto: conservation now an issue

A new move is under way to beautify Soweto, and attempts are being made to turn the overcrowded, grey township into a greener environment. JULIENNE DU TOIT reports.

A new revolution has started in Soweto — and this time it's a green one.

"We want a land worth having when the right government comes to power," said National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) president, Mr Japhta Lekgetho of the greening of Soweto.

The organisation, started after the 1976 uprising, first took shape as a community organisation trying to get rid of the huge mounds of litter piling up when services came to a halt.

"Some people still see us as a litter organisation, but we're much more than that," said spokesman Mrs Laura Pollecutts.

"Tree planting has become a bit trendy in Soweto these days. We want to go further. All the land in Soweto is being built on. There are no parks and football fields are disappearing. And with no recreation, children are turning to crime.

"All this has to be remedied, so you see, we're concerned with cleaning up the environment in a holistic way."

Children are involved in the organisation, which has set up a recreation centre and has its own football and athletics teams, and a large park.

At a tree planting ceremony there last week, African National Congress official Mr Andrew Mlangeni remarked that being in the park was like "finding oneself on another planet".

NEAC screens educational films and holds workshops for the community on services, squatting and urbanisation.

The project is not limited to Soweto. "We are networking

with other places, like Mamelodi, and anyone else who is interested. We also talk to church leaders, because many of them live in places where the land is abused. This is a national movement. It's only starting in Soweto," said Mrs Pollecutts.

She said unions were also becoming involved with environmental issues, and were especially opposed to the proposed importation of toxic waste.

NEAC is working with Mass Democratic Movement organisations, Earth Life and other progressive groups.

The organisation blames the Government for many environmental problems facing the country.

The Land Act forced a large amount of people on to a small area of land, which caused overgrazing and overcrowding. The Group Areas Act provoked ghetto situations, said Mrs Pollecutts.

"When you are cold, you see a tree as wood to warm yourself. And if you don't know where your next meal is coming from, saving the rhino really becomes a secondary issue," said Mrs Pollecutts.

NEAC wants the Government to provide more land for housing, not to use up land allocated under "racist land laws".

They also want Johannesburg and Soweto to be united, "for equal services, housing and tax-base".

Mrs Pollecutts said environmental concern was high among Soweto residents, in spite of conservation being seen as a white, or establishment issue.

"Every time anyone marches or petitions for better housing or conditions, it involves the environment."

"We must plant trees to rejuvenate the tired land and fight pollution in the air," said Mr Lekgetho.

"We ask all groups to help us make the green revolution a reality."



Putting down roots . . . Mr Andrew Mlangeni, an ANC official, plants a tree on behalf of the organisation during the National Environmental Awareness Campaign's tree planting ceremony in Soweto last week.

SO BUS BUS

Barometer rises on climate changes

LONDON — For the past 18 months the world's foremost climatologists and meteorologists have been considering the best forecast of how much the climate will change.

Next month, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change's science group will meet near Windsor under the chairmanship of Dr John Houghton, director of the Meteorological Office, to approve the third and final version of their report.

The report says that in 2020 average global temperatures will be between 1.3 deg C and 2.5 deg C above pre-industrial levels, and they have already risen 0.3 deg C to 0.6 deg C due to man's alteration of the atmosphere. By 2070 average temperatures will be between 2.4 deg C to 4.1 deg C above pre-industrial levels, with a best estimate of 3.5 deg C.

In 2020, the sea level will be between about 10cm and 32cm higher with a best

estimate of 20cm. This is because the oceans will expand very slightly and some ice on land will melt as temperatures rise. Their best estimate is that sea levels will be about 40cm higher by 2070.

These estimates are based on a "business as usual" scenario, in which the world's consumption of fossil fuels — the main source of climate altering greenhouse gases — continues today's upward trend.

A natural greenhouse effect has been keeping the planet warm for more than one billion years. Without it, surface temperatures would be sub-zero and there would be no life on Earth.

But humanity has been enhancing it since the Industrial Revolution without knowing

the consequences. A 70 percent cut in emissions of most greenhouse gases is needed to slow, then halt, the man-made changes in the Earth's climate. Even if that could be done in the next few years global warming would continue because there is a time lag of more than two decades between our action and the climate's response.

The IPCC scientists predict temperatures over continents will rise more than over oceans, and the northern hemisphere will warm more quickly than the southern.

"A minimum of warming will occur around Antarctica and the North Atlantic region," they write. "We cannot yet give reliable regional predictions of climate change at the smaller scales demanded for

impact assessments."

Not do supercomputer models of the atmosphere give any clear indication whether tropical typhoons and hurricanes "will increase or decrease in frequency or intensity". The same applies for the winter storms which affect mid-latitude nations like Britain.

But they emphasise how large the uncertainties are.

One of the most important concerns clouds, which reflect sunlight back out into space — this tends to cool the planet — but also trap outgoing infra-red radiation, warming the air beneath them. The balance between the two effects depends on how high the clouds are.

The report says it will take 15 years to narrow down the uncertainties and come up with detailed and reliable predictions for temperatures, weather patterns and rainfall in different regions. They need a new generation of computer models. By then global warming could already be reducing crop yields.

The commitment to future warming increases with each passing year of atmospheric change. "Emission decreases made sooner will have a greater effect than the same decreases made later."

Greenhouse gases absorb some of the infra-red radiation flowing from the Earth into space, acting like glass in a greenhouse. In blocking this radiation they warm

the atmosphere. Humanity has been adding to the atmospheric carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide — all naturally occurring greenhouse gases — much faster than the rate at which natural systems can remove them.

We are also still pumping out chlorofluorocarbons, industrial gases which are 10 000 times more effective than carbon dioxide at absorbing infra-red radiation, but better known for their impact on the ozone layer.

The carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere is already 25 percent above pre-Industrial Revolution level.

It took most of the 1980s before the climatologists won the attention of the media and politicians. The decade turned out to be the warmest since international temperature records began. — The Independent News Service.



Sanlam backs down over Yeoville ridge plan

By Shirley Woodgate

Yeoville residents have claimed victory in their fight to block a multimillion rand project on Yeoville ridge, Johannesburg, after the developer backed down and withdrew an application for rezoning.

Local councillor Mr Martin Sweet congratulated Sanlam on its decision to scrap controversial plans to build a supermarket and offices on "the stand

with the finest view in Johannesburg", and said the move was a major win for public participation in environmental affairs.

Not only had a precedent been set for future business encroachment in residential areas but the people had shouted loud enough to be heard by a large corporation backed by massive funds.

"I now challenge other councillors also to take up the ap-

peals of their ratepayers bent on preserving their environment."

The fight to prevent business encroachment in Yeoville was initiated by concerned residents who believed the shopping centre was unnecessary and their roads would be congested by the increased traffic.

Sanlam said surveys indicated a need for another shopping centre and claimed this development was preferable to Ponte-

style flats for which the stands were zoned. But the residents dug in.

Backed to the hilt by Mr Sweet they drew up a petition with 2 500 names and entered into direct negotiations with the developer and the city council.

A Sanlam representative confirmed that the application had been withdrawn ahead of a Tribunal hearing today but declined to comment further.

BACKGROUND

Mining company presents its case on St Lucia

We stood on an upland, knee high in grass. The fresh sea wind sang a soft, barely audible, note as it plucked at the crowns of the young sweet thorns.

Below us, the Indian Ocean rollers sizzled up the beach.

The last time I had stood on this precise geographical spot was three years previously. On that day the hill was missing.

On that day the landscape comprised a deep flooded basin in which floated a dredger which was eating its way northwards through the high coastal dunes which had previously been stripped of vegetation.

The dredger was removing 3 000 tons of sand an hour and extracting its four percent mineral (mostly titanium) content. The waste sand was then pumped 1.5 km away and where the dunes were reconstructed and revegetated.

The operation is north of Richards Bay harbour, about 20 km south of St Lucia estuary.

Within three years the reconstructed dunes were well covered. Half were planted with casuarina to export charcoal by kwaZulu.

Barry Clements, an old friend — he helped establish Zululand's wilderness trails — showed me the mining operation on behalf of Richards Bay Minerals. He now works with Rossing Mine in Namibia.

RBM wants to start mining St Lucia's sand dunes. The public — including me — feel St Lucia deserves a better fate.

Mr Clements gestured to the newly wooded dunes around us at Richards Bay and said, "You're looking at the finest piece of mining reclamation work in the world."

I am sure he is right.

We drove through the dunes, passing notices reading "1987" or "1982" indicating when the dunes had been reconstructed and seeded.

Then we drove into a tunnel of indigenous trees.

We walked into the cool canopy and I found a sign reading "1977" — the forest was only 13 years old.

I then realised the trees were not old and that many species one would have expected to find were missing.

"They'll come back," said Mr



Before ... a picture of dune mining operations near Richard's Bay before the area was revegetated by the mining company.



After ... some species of plants are missing, but 13 years after being revegetated a forest has taken root in the sand.

Clements. "The birds will diseminate them, and the wind too."

When? Nobody knows. The mining company says within 70 years. At the moment the 13-year-old forest has almost 200 species of plants.

The managing director of Richards Bay Minerals, Roy Macpherson, told me the dunes in the present mining area were already botanically degraded before mining began.

Dr Pablo Weisser of the Botanical Research Institute identified only 242 species before the dunes were denuded ready for processing.

Silence

RBM — after months of silence — invited me down to see the mine and to look over the proposed St Lucia site. I am convinced that if RBM is allowed to go ahead and mine the high sand hills of St Lucia, and then revegetate them, the vegetation will look better than it does now.

This is because the Department of Forestry, in the 1960s planted them

with pines. This caused a furor because it depleted the fresh water inflow into nearby Lake St Lucia.

"We'd return the area to grassland, or native forest, whichever the land owner required," said Mr Macpherson.

RBM is 50 percent South African-owned. BP used to own it and, last year, RTZ of Great Britain took over. Gencor owns 25 percent and the IDC and Old Mutual own the other 25 percent.

Mr Macpherson was frank as we talked in RBM's board room.

The ore at St Lucia is worth R5 billion, he said. "For every R1 000 RBM earned, R800 would stay in South Africa."

"It is," said Mr Macpherson, "a very efficient and non-obtrusive way of creating wealth. We will mine no more than 50 ha at a time — and rehabilitate as we go."

"Compare that with the sugar industry which smothers 350 000 ha of Natal. Forestry takes up 450 000 ha. Being a private company RBMs

policy has been, said Mr Macpherson, to keep a low profile. I suggested that this was hardly a fair policy for a firm doing something as high profile as re-arranging a piece of well-loved South African scenery.

He defends RBM's mining plan on the following grounds:

- RBM is a powerful and supportive local industry with an exemplary employment code. It has spent considerable sums on eight local schools, supplied bursaries, summer schools for teachers and classes for improving local managerial skills as well as proficiency in maths and science. It has handed out many unsecured loans for rural homes.
- Its product is essential, 92 percent of the titanium minerals is converted into TiO2 pigment, an essential ingredient in white paint (it re-

placed toxic lead zinc, plastic and high quality paper. Tipex, used by typists, is pure TiO2.

Its by-products such as "very pure iron" and zircon are used in the metals industry and in ceramics.

- Most RBM minerals are exported.
- RBM acquired prospecting rights on two leases in the St Lucia dunes in 1983 and 1986.
- It will not be in the area for more than 20 years and Mr Macpherson denies that "once in it will try to obtain rights to mine right up to Cape Vidal".
- The operating basin for the dredger will mostly be below the crest of the St Lucia dunes — the line of dunes which forms the horizon.
- It will not touch the line of dunes along the beach itself.
- The nearest line of mining ap-

proaches Lake St Lucia is 800 m. Much of it is 5-6 km away.

- The ore will be pumped along a R40 million pipeline to a point clear of the game reserve (The idea of using big trucks to move the ore has been abandoned)
- Except for one tiny, isolated remnant of indigenous forest ("We're prepared to by-pass it") the mine will not touch any native bush.

Furore

As far as the EIA (environmental impact assessment) report on the proposal to mine St Lucia is concerned — the one which caused such a furor when it was released last year — Mr Macpherson said: "RBM did not have the opportunity to assess the completeness of the draft before it was made public."

He said RBM was under time pressure to complete the EIA to meet a ready market. "We now recognise it was a mistake and that it was one of the reasons for the hostil-

ity, outcry and delay."

- The completion and extension of the draft impact study, and environmental management suggestions, are being supervised by Dr John Raimondo of the environmental evaluation unit of UCT who was appointed by the Department of Environment Affairs.
- The EIA will go to a review panel of eminent persons. The Cabinet will have the final say.
- The controversial "Umfolozi River dam" will not be a dam and nor will it be in the Umfolozi bed. It is a 120 ha reservoir in a low-lying area into which Umfolozi water will be pumped (an infinitesimal amount compared with the river flow in the rainy season RBM will be the last users of the Umfolozi before it reaches the sea). No fresh water will be taken from St Lucia lake.
- The St Lucia operation will support 700 jobs (40 at the mine and the rest at the processing plant) offering security to thousands.

NEWS

Child testing in pollution study

2/5/90 (56)
By Jacqueline Myburgh

About 600 children in the Vaal Triangle will soon be participating in South Africa's first study of the possible health effects of air pollution.

The R5 million study is to be funded by, among others, Eskom, Sasol and Iskor — often accused as the chief polluters of the Highveld skies.

The objectives of the investigation are to study the effects of indoor and outdoor air pollution on children in various parts of the Vaal Triangle, and to identify any correlation between pollution levels and health effects.

Dr Petro Terblanche, from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and co-ordinator of the study, said the purpose of the study would possibly be to recommend the introduction of air pollution limits.

Even though the study was being funded by industries which could be adversely affected by the imposition of such limits, Dr Terblanche said the results would be made public.

"I have a reputation to uphold, and so does the MRC," she said.

The Vaal Triangle was chosen for the study because of the various sources of air pollution, the variety of socio-economic groups, and the fact that the population was established and not likely to change drastically over the 10 years in which the study would be conducted.

Dr Terblanche said the study would be done with the co-operation of children between the ages of eight and 12. Children had been selected since they had not yet been exposed to career-related air pollutants and they, hopefully, were not smokers. Their still developing lungs were also extra sensitive to pollutants.

Parental

The study will also attempt to determine the effects of parental smoking on children's health.

Iskor, Eskom, Sasol, the Department of National Health and Population Development, the Departments of Education in the Transvaal and Freestate, the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand, and the city and town councils in the Vaal Triangle will participate in the study co-ordinated by the MRC.

Reprint of Question No 12 and reply thereto (see col 654):

House of Delegates?

D43E

Administration: House of Delegates: salaries

THE MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES.

12. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services:

What, since 1 January 1990, have been the applicable salaries and/or salary scales for each post level in each department and/or organisational component falling under the Adminis-

The Department is not in a position to furnish details of salary scales at short notice. Should such information still be required, arrangements will be made for the salary scales to be furnished at a later stage. It seems pointless to furnish the salary scales for each post level considering that there are 270 post classes in the various occupational classes.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

+ Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Nature conservationists employed

98. Mr A A BRUWER asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

(1) (a) How many nature conservationists are there in the employ of each provincial administration at present and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) (a) how many nature conservationists resigned from the service of each provincial administration during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, (b) what reasons were given for these resignations and (c) what action has been and/or is being taken in respect of these reasons?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Cape Province:

(1) (a) There are at present 123 nature conservators in service of the Cape Provincial Administration.

(b) In respect of 15 March 1990.

(2) (a) Thirteen nature conservators resigned from the service of the Cape Provincial Administration over the past 12 months. The officials concerned were all experienced personnel which now have to be replaced by totally inexperienced persons.

(b) Without exception insufficient salaries were given as the reason for these resignations.

(c) Numerous unsuccessful representations were addressed through the channels to the Commission for Administration.

Transvaal:

(1) (a) 147

(b) 22 February 1990

(2) (a) 13

(b) 12 — better remuneration 1 — to be married

(c) Inputs for the improvement of the service benefits package for Nature Conservators have been submitted to the Office of the Commission for Administration according to the prescribed procedure during 1988 and 1989. These inputs have been accepted by the Departmental Inputs Meeting with an A-priority for inclusion in the dispensation improvement maintenance programme for 1990/91. Further events are being awaited

Natal:

The Natal Provincial Administration itself does not employ nature conservators. The control and management of nature conservation in Natal is undertaken by the Natal Parks Board, a statutory body constituted in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance 1974 (Ordinance 15 of 1974). The following figures and details in reply to the questions have been supplied by the said Board:

(1) (a) 140

(b) 21 February 1990

(2) (a) 18

(b) In most cases, better financial prospects elsewhere, although at least one left to further his qualifications. Lack of promotion opportunities has also been cited.

(c) Representations have been made to the Commission for Administration to equate the salaries of Nature Conservators to those of other comparable career classes or to improve the salaries of Nature Conservators on a market related basis. These representations enjoy a high priority with the Commission for Administration.

As far as promotion opportunities are concerned, the Natal Parks Board has moved from a Divisional structure to a Regional structure, creating additional promotion opportunities for Nature Conservators in the Board.

Orange Free State:

- (1) (a) Control Nature Conservator 1
- Chief Nature Conservator 3
- Principal Nature Conservator 7
- Nature Conservator/Pupil Nature Conservator 20
- (b) 31 January 1990

- (2) (a) 5
- (b) Inadequate remuneration
- (c) Representations for an improvement in the remuneration of nature conservators were made to the Commission for Administration.

Black local authorities: auditing of books

100. Dr P J GOUS asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) Whether the books of all Black local authorities were audited by the Auditor-General during the past financial year, as required in terms of the provisions of section 43 of the Black Local Authorities Act, No 102 of 1982; if not, (a) why not and (b) what action will be taken in this regard; if so, what is the debt of these authorities (i) in total and (ii) per province;
- (2) (a) in respect of these authorities, what amounts (i) in total and (ii) per province are in arrears on accounts for (aa) water, (bb) electricity and (cc) other services and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?
- (3) whether over the latest specified period of five years for which information is available the State had to accept responsibility for the debts of Black local authorities by means of (a) payments and (b) guarantees to institutions; if so, what are the relevant details?

B250E

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Orange Free State:

- (1) No, only interim audits were conducted.
- (a) The revenue and expenditure accounts and balance sheets of some local authorities are not available at this stage.
- (b) Special arrangements have been made in conjunction with the Auditor-General to employ private auditing firms to finalise the final financial statements of a number of Black Local Authorities.

- (2) (a) (i) OFS — R34 669 423,43.
- (ii) (aa) Not available (see note).
- (bb) Not available (see note).
- (cc) Not available (see note).

(b) 31 December 1989

Note: In the Orange Free State the figures regarding water, electricity and other services are not calculated separately but collectively.

- (3) (a) R 7 885 000,00 in respect of loans.
R79 942 236,84 in respect of bridging finance.
- (b) None.

Natal:

- (1) No.
- (a) Due to an inadequate staff structure and the lack of suitably trained staff.
- (b) The Executive Committee, to regularise the matter, approved the appointment of a firm of chartered accountants to finalise the books of account and to draw up financial statements for the 1988/89 and 1989/90 financial years. A firm of chartered accountants was appointed and started with this assignment in March 1990.
- (i) Falls away.
- (ii) Falls away.

- (2) (a) (i) —
- (ii) R2 958 356 (Unaudited)

(aa) Water	R25 131
(bb) Electricity	23 762
(cc) Service Charges	2 909 463
	<u>2 958 356</u>

- (b) As at 31 December 1989.
- (3) (a) Yes, R84 328 674 by means of Bridging Finance up to 31 December 1989.
- (b) Yes. The Natal Provincial Administration accepted responsibility for guarantees for Loans amounting to R1 991 992 taken up with the Local Authorities Loans Fund.

Transvaal:

According to the Auditor-General 59 of the 80 local authorities in Transvaal have already submitted their financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 1989. Of these the auditing of 24 is presently receiving attention. The financial statements of a further 8 of the 80 local authorities are in the process of finalisation and should be available by 30 April 1990 for final auditing. This leaves 13 local authorities of which some have already applied for postponement for the finalisation of their financial statements for 1988/89, as they do not at present have the competent staff; some have also requested the assistance of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's regional offices.

- (2) (a) (i) No
- (ii) All possible efforts are applied to assist local authorities in the finalisation of the task, and, where necessary, the required expertise and assistance will be acquired from outside sources (close liaison will be maintained with the Auditor-General in this respect, with the object to also make use of auditors appointed by him).
- (2) The amounts owing by the residents to the local authorities and the latter to their bulk suppliers, are not readily available.
- (3) (a) Whenever Black local authorities cannot meet their loan obligations, bridging finance is considered strictly on merit and made available. Bridging finance to the amount of

R829 130 089 was made available to the local authorities in Transvaal during the following financial years:

1987/88	— financial year	R214 096 312
1988/89	— financial year	R313 246 051
1 April 1989 — 26 February 1990		R301 787 726
		<u>R829 130 089</u>

- (b) For a period of approximately three years ending January 1990, local authorities acquired loans totalling R180 863 808 from the Local Authorities Loans Fund in respect of which the Transvaal Provincial Administration undertook to pay the instalments should the local authorities fail to do so. Such payments are set off against their bridging loans.

Particulars of these loans are as follows:

Local Authority	Amount
Tokosa	R 2 803 602
Daveyton	R 3 563 540
Diepmeadow	R 1 009 810
Dobsonville	R 155 355
Soweto	R160 694 310
Atteridgeville	R 2 378 000
Jouberton	R 510 082
Kanana	R 2 526 735
Khuma	R 367 374
Kwa-Thema	R 250 000
Lekoa	R 6 585 000
Sivukile	R 20 000
	<u>R180 863 808</u>

Cape Province:

- (1) No
- (a) Because the books of the relevant local authorities are not properly written up. The reason being that with the take-over by the Cape Provincial Administration of the former Development Boards with effect from 1 October 1986, it was found that the bookkeeping of all Black local authorities was handled centrally. This system was taken over for the time being, in anticipation of inquiries by the Commission for Administration into the functioning, organisation and systems of the former Development Boards.

KENNISGEWING 355 VAN 1990**RAAD VAN HANDEL EN NYWERHEID****ONDERSOEK NA DIE OPLEGGING VAN 'N ANTI-DUMPINGREG OP APPELSUUR INGEVOER VANAF OF AFKOMSTIG UIT JAPAN**

Op 23 Maart 1990 is daar kragtens artikel 57A van die Doeane- en Aksynswet, 1964, op aanbeveling van die Raad van Handel en Nywerheid, 'n voorlopie heffing ten opsigte van 'n anti-dumpingreg ten bedrae van 86c per kg op appelsuur, indeelbaar by tariefspos 2918.19.10, teen Japan ingestel. Hierdie aanbeveling het gevolg na verhoë deur Butakem (Edms.) Bpk., Posbus 191, Butterworth, Transkei, wat appelsuur vervaardig, en 'n ondersoek deur die Raad van Handel en Nywerheid.

Ten einde die Raad van Handel en Nywerheid behulpsaam te wees met sy finale ondersoek na die oplegging van 'n anti-dumpingreg word belanghebbende instansies genooi om binne 30 dae vanaf die publikasie van hierdie kennisgewing skriftelik inligting te verstrek aan die Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte, Raad van Handel en Nywerheid, Privaatsak X753, Pretoria, 0001. Vertroulike inligting moet duidelik as sodanig gemerk wees.

Belanghebbendes wat verhoë rig, moet daarmee rekening hou dat die Raad sy aanbeveling baseer op die beste inligting beskikbaar met betrekking tot—

- (a) omstandighede waaronder die appelsuur ingevolge artikel 56 (1) van die Doeane- en Aksynswet, 1964, geag kan word gedump te wees, veral ten opsigte van pryse waarteen appelsuur in die normale verloop van handel in Japan verhandel word en pryse waarteen appelsuur vanaf Japan uitgevoer word;
- (b) wesentlike skade ondervind deur die Suid-Afrikaanse bedryfstak;
- (c) die mate waarin die dumping die oorsaak van die wesentlike skade is; en
- (d) die vraag of dit in die openbare belang is om op te tree teen die dumping.

Enige navrae moet gerig word aan mnr. G. P. Bouwer by Telefoon (012) 322-8244, bylyn 207.

[RHN-verw. T5/2/6/2/1 (900143)]

(4 Mei 1990)

KENNISGEWING 356 VAN 1990**ADMINISTRASIE: VOLKSRAAD****DEPARTEMENT VAN LANDBOU-ONTWIKKELING****KENNISGEWING VAN VERGADERING VAN SKULDEISERS KRAGTENS ARTIKEL 22 (1) VAN DIE WET OP LANDBOUKREDIET, 1966**

Hierby word 'n vergadering van ondergenoemde applikant en sy skuldeisers op die plek en datum hieronder genoem, belê, met die doel om skuldeisers in staat te stel om hul vorderings teen die applikant te bewys en 'n skikkingsvoorstel van die Landboukredietraad te oorweeg.

J. H. RADEMEYER,

Direkteur: Direktoraat Finansiële Bystand,
Departement van Landbou-ontwikkeling.

NOTICE 355 OF 1990**BOARD OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY****INVESTIGATION INTO THE IMPOSITION OF AN ANTI-DUMPING DUTY ON MALIC ACID IMPORTED FROM OR ORIGINATING IN JAPAN**

On 23 March 1990 the Minister, in terms of section 57A of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964, on the recommendation of the Board of Trade and Industry, imposed a provisional charge in respect of an anti-dumping duty amounting to 86c per kg on malic acid, classifiable under tariff subheading 2918.19.10, against Japan. This recommendation followed on an application by Butakem (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 191, Butterworth, Transkei, which manufactures malic acid, and an investigation by the Board of Trade and Industry.

In order to assist the Board of Trade and Industry in its final investigation into the imposition of an anti-dumping duty, interested parties are invited to forward written submissions to the Chief Executive Officer, Board of Trade and Industry, Private Bag X753, Pretoria, 0001, within 30 days of the date of this notice. Confidential information should be clearly identified as such.

Interested parties who wish to make submissions must bear in mind that the Board's recommendation will be based on the best information available in respect of—

- (a) circumstances under which malic acid may, in terms of section 56 (1) of the Customs and Excise Act, 1964, be regarded as being dumped, particularly in respect of prices at which malic acid is being sold in the ordinary course of trade in Japan and prices at which malic acid is exported from Japan;
- (b) material injury being experienced by the South African industry;
- (c) the extent to which the dumping causes the material injury; and
- (d) whether it is in the public interest to act against the dumping.

Any enquiries must be directed to Mr G. P. Bouwer at telephone (012) 322-8244, extension 207.

[BTI Ref. T5/2/6/2/1 (900143)]

(4 May 1990)

NOTICE 356 OF 1990**ADMINISTRATION: HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT****NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 (1) OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT ACT, 1966**

A meeting of the undermentioned applicant and his creditors is hereby convened at the place and date mentioned hereunder for the purpose of enabling creditors to prove their claims against the applicant and of considering a proposal for a compromise by the Agricultural Credit Board.

J. H. RADEMEYER,

Director: Directorate Financial Assistance,
Department of Agricultural Development.

Toxic problems plague bid to export nuclear fuel

W/Mail 4/5 - 10/5/90 (56)

PLANS by the South African government to sell enriched uranium on the international market for nuclear fuel have run into flak before they even get off the ground.

This week Waldo Stumpf, chief executive of the state-run Atomic Energy Corporation (AEC), announced the organisation was investigating the possibility of exporting nuclear fuel from its Valindaba processing plant near Pretoria.

The news followed an AEC report last week that it was now capable of supplying fuel rods for reactors at the Koeberg nuclear power station in Cape Town. Until now South Africa has relied on imported uranium fuel to power the plant.

Energy specialist Marc Gandar, who works with the Society Against Nuclear Energy (Sane) in Pietermaritzburg, said the announcement indicates the government has committed itself to a full-blown nuclear programme and the environmental hazards that go with it.

South Africa has only one nuclear power station but the state-owned Electricity Supply Commission (Eskom) is looking at several sites around the country with another plant in mind.

The country's small but growing green movement is generally opposed to the development of nuclear technology as a means of dealing with South Africa's energy needs.

Max Sisulu, head of the African National Congress' economics desk, says a future South Africa will abide by an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolution to keep the continent nuclear free.

Most green groups support this objective and urge the government to devote its resources to the development of alternative sources of fuel rather than the expansion of its nuclear programme. The only other countries on the continent with a civilian and nuclear arms capacity are Nigeria and Israel.

Mike Kantey, a representative for Koeberg Alert, points out that Pretoria allocates just one rand to the development of alternative fuel source for every R1 000 that it spends on nuclear research.

Koeberg Alert and Sane believe solar energy and wind-generated sources of electricity can provide viable and more environment-friendly alternatives to the coal-fired power stations that have turned parts of South Africa into some

South Africa is ready to export nuclear fuel, but the vexing question is what it is going to do with deadly waste. One of these is plutonium, of which we have enough to destroy the earth 200 times over. Environmentalists argue SA should be looking more at alternative sources, reports EDDIE KOCH

of the most polluted zones on earth.

But the question that most vexes the greens is that Eskom and the AEC have not yet devised a method to dispose of South Africa's high-level nuclear waste.

"The Koeberg plant, like all thermal reactors in the world, generates high level waste that includes some of the most toxic substances known to man," says Henk Coetzee, of Earth Life Africa's Johannesburg branch.

Nuclear waste from Koeberg includes strontium 90 and radioactive iodine, which are potent carcinogens, as well as at least 200kg of plutonium a year.

"Plutonium is used in the manufacture of modern nuclear warheads and is so toxic that five kilogrammes is enough to kill every man, woman and child on earth. In addition it has a half-life of 25 000 years. It takes this long for half of the supply to decay," says Coetzee.

"South Africa probably has more than 1 000kg of plutonium — an element named after the god of the underworld — sitting in a tank of water at the Koeberg plant and no idea of how to dispose of it.

"Instead of spending vast amounts on developing the capacity to enrich uranium and exporting it the government should be doing research into the methods to dispose of Koeberg's, and Valindaba's, high-level waste."

Eskom acknowledges that it has not yet decided on a method for disposing of the nuclear waste being kept at Koeberg but says it still has five years to make up its mind.

In terms of an agreement with the French manufacturers of Koeberg, Framatome, South Africa must send all the waste to France for reprocessing and accept the unused toxic material for storage here by 1995.

Stumpf this week noted that the costs of producing nuclear fuel in South Africa

and that existing technology would have to be replaced to make the process more cost effective.

He acknowledged that the international markets for uranium fuel were oversupplied but said prospects for export would increase in the second half of the 1990s when nuclear power generation was expected to increase.

And Eskom's chief executive, Ian Marrae, acknowledges that for the production of enriched fuel to be profitable the country's nuclear power programme has to be expanded.

Coetzee says that, in order to export nuclear fuel on a profitable basis, South Africa will have to expand its enrichment plant at Valindaba and increase the number of nuclear power stations in the country. "All this means the creation of more plutonium and other high-level wastes."

Most other nuclear countries plan to store their high-level waste in deep underground caverns dug out of granite of other impermeable rock. This method has received international criticism.

In 1988 Sir Brian Flowers, head of the British Commission on Environment 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."

Coetzee says these problems are exacerbated by the volatile political context in which South Africa's nuclear programme is being developed.

"Eskom is operating on blind faith that one day the technology will exist to deal with nuclear fuel safely. What they are in effect doing is leaving a legacy for future generations to confront."

The expansion of Valindaba's capacity will allow Pretoria to mend the weak link in its nuclear programme, says Gandar. It no longer relies on imported fuel and this has important military and strategic implications.

"South Africa must have enrichment technology in order for it to maintain the appearance that it has the capacity to produce nuclear weapons," he said.

The government has consistently used this "appearance" to gain leverage and bargaining power when it comes to dealing with foreign powers and to resist external pressures for reforming apartheid.



TUNE-UP: Cellist Miss Clara Hoowberg (front) and other musicians prepare for tomorrow's concert. ● Photograph: Sean Woods.

Wits hosts exciting Autumn Festival

AN ENVIRONMENTAL awareness "Green Day", a focus on literacy and an afternoon concert are just some of the diverse events offered this weekend at the fourth Wits Autumn Festival.

This year's festival, which ends tomorrow, caters for virtually all interests. Pertinent issues will be presented through various creative forms such as art, drama, film and music.

EDUCATION REPORTER

Music lovers can attend an afternoon concert tomorrow when the Wits Orchestra will team up with black choirs from 3 pm in the Wits Great Hall.

At 2 pm today Mr Edward French, the co-ordinator of the Zehex Adult Literacy Unit, will speak on "Literacy in a New SA". A highlight on the fringe programme is

Green Day tomorrow — with displays, workshops and films — including the British documentary, "Chernobyl: Counting the Costs" and "Greenpeace's Greatest Hits". Athol Fugard's play "The Coat" will be presented today at 2.30 pm and 8 pm at the Wits Theatre.

Booking for the main programme is through Computicket. For programme details, contact (011) 716-8029.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Black River: pollution

228. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

(1) Whether reports submitted to his Department by the Cape Town City Council on the water quality of the Black River catchment comply with the requirements of the exemptions issued to dischargers in terms of section 21 of the Water Act, No 54 of 1956, as referred to in his reply to Question No 24 on 6 March 1990;

(2) (a) what levels of pollutants were found in this river as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what levels of pollutants in rivers are considered to be safe for swimming or canoeing and (c) what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that this river is rendered safe for swimming and canoeing;

(3) whether his Department is responsible for ensuring that adequate warning is given to the public that the Black River is unsafe for swimming and canoeing; if not, whose responsibility is this; if so, what procedure is followed in this regard;

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

B556E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) No. Reports submitted by the Municipality of Cape Town to the Department of Water Affairs are not a legal requirement but are submitted to assist the Department in controlling discharges of effluent in the Black River.

(2) (a) The Municipality of Cape Town, through whose area of jurisdiction

the Black River flows, monitors the water quality of the river. Bearing in mind that various substances are identified in the chemical analysis, the honourable member is advised to either contact the Department of the City Engineer of Cape Town to obtain the levels of the substances/pollutants in which he is interested, or to obtain a copy of the Annual Report of that Department in which the relevant figures are published. In general the level of pollutants are low except for faecal coliforms which indicate high levels of faecal pollution in some areas.

(b) Criteria for South Africa in respect of recreational activities have been compiled by the Department of Water Affairs and the only requirement of importance in this case is faecal pollution levels which are too high for recreational purposes.

(c) The Department of Water Affairs is responsible for the issuing of exemptions for the discharge of effluent into the Black River and monitors the quality of such effluent at the point of discharge to ascertain compliance with the exemptions. No other steps are contemplated.

(3) No. The Municipality of Cape Town, as the responsible authority for public health in this area, has erected the warning signs but there is no responsibility in this regard vested in a person or body by virtue of the Water Act, 1956 (Act 54 of 1956) or any other Act administered by the Department of Water Affairs.

(4) No.

Medical waste

248. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

Whether he received any complaints or reports in 1989 regarding the disposal of medical waste in a manner potentially detrimental to the environment or human health, if so, (a) from whom, (b) when, (c) what were the circumstances surrounding these complaints

or reports, and (d) what action was taken as a result, in each case?

B638E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

Yes.

(a) Municipality of Pietermaritzburg and the Umgem Water Board.

(b) 26 July 1989.

(c) Raw sewage flowed into the Umsinduzi River, via the KwaPata stream, as a result of a blockage in a sewer caused by the unauthorised dumping of, *inter alia*, medical waste in the sewage system.

(d) Urgent discussions took place between officials of the Department of Water Affairs and other institutions involved, which resulted in effective steps to prevent a repetition.

Hout Bay sewage scheme

254. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Water Affairs:

Whether he has taken any steps to ensure that the sewage to be pumped into the sea at Hout Bay by means of the proposed new sewage scheme will in no way constitute a danger to health: if so, (a) what steps and (b) with what results: if not, why not?

B665E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

Yes

(a) Prior to granting permission to dispose of the sewage in the sea at Hout Bay, the Department of Water Affairs required that a comprehensive technical investigation be carried out by experts in the field of disposal at sea to identify and design a scheme which would ensure that the quality of the seawater in those areas used for contact recreation and shellfish gathering would meet the required seawater quality criteria for these beneficial uses. The exemption in terms of which the sea disposal of the sewage is authorised, was issued after consultation with the Department of National Health and Population Development and provides for additional precautionary and safety measures, such as that:

... meant that substantial material aid was rendered through various government institutions for the purpose of ensuring its orderly administration, establishing infrastructure and promoting the economic and social welfare of its inhabitants.

Conciliation boards: applications

298. Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many applications for the appointment of conciliation boards did his Department (a) receive and (b) reject in the 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 calendar years, respectively?

B775E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(a) 1986 — 1 294
1987 — 2 312
1988 — 3 035
1989 — 5 604*

(b) 1986 — 143
1987 — 409
1988 — 908
1989 — None**

*Note: The figure mentioned is for the period 1 November 1988 until 31 October 1989 and appear in the 1989 Annual Report.

**Note: Since 1 September 1988 the Minister of Manpower no longer exercises any discretion over the establishment of conciliation boards. The appointment of conciliation boards is therefore no longer approved or rejected.

Own Affairs:

Schools: unutilised utilised for other purposes

74. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether any schools owned or controlled by his Department are unutilised or utilised for purposes other than education; if so, a) how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) for what other purposes were they being utilised?

3621E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes.

Cape Education Department
(a) 45 as on 1990-03-23, 7 151

(b) leased to South African Police and South African Defence Force
leased to Cape Provincial Administration
leased to agricultural society
leased to Hout Bay Museum
leased to Mr P W Kaufman
leased to Prima Pineapples
leased to Klein-Karoo Regional Services Council
leased to Department of Local Government, Housing and Works
leased to Kliprand- and Trimoa Farmers' Association
leased to Rural Foundation
in process of alienation (unutilised)
Total 28

Natal Education Department
(a) 4 as on 1990-03-2,
(b) in process of alienation
no requests received (unutilised)
Total 2

Orange Free State Education Department
(a) 5 as on 1990-03-23,
(b) utilised by Regional Officer (Education)
utilised by boereverenigings and V.L.U.
utilised by Regional Services Council
in process of alienation (unutilised)
Total 5

Transvaal Education Department
(a) 24 as on 1990-03-27,
(b) leased to Department of Public Works and Land Affairs
leased to individuals
leased to European Immigration Company
leased to South African Police and South African Defence Force
leased to Taaboospan Farmers' Association
leased to Christiana Commando,
TPA Hospital Services and a service centre for the elderly
leased to Wolmarasstad Commando
unutilised: 1



Thor refuses tests on mercury levels

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The British based company, Thor Chemicals, whose mercury extracting process was suspended by the Department of Water Affairs two weeks ago, has denied access to an independent medical team to conduct a series of health tests on its workers.

Thor chief Mr Steve van der Vyver said the decision had been made by head office in Britain.

Thor came under fire after claims that lethal amounts of toxic mercury effluent were settling in a tributary of the Umgeni River. Greenpeace scientists found levels in sediment 8 800 times higher than the World Health Organisation's (WHO) accepted levels.

"It was unfortunate this that this decision was taken. We have every reason now to be suspicious," said Earthlife chairman Mr Chris Albertyn. Doctors wanted to take hair and urine samples for analysis.

In the latest Earthlife newsletter, a former senior employee at Thor, Mr Eric Ncube, claims some of the urine samples taken by Thor last year contained an 18 times higher mercury content per litre than the accepted WHO's 50 micrograms per litre. In some cases urine contained 900 micrograms per litre.

Professor A Davies, an occupational health consultant, said problems would be experienced by a person with more than 50 micrograms of mercury per litre of urine. Thor puts its "safe" level at 200 micrograms.

Mr van der Vyver said at the weekend that the doctor put forward by Earthlife to do the monitoring, represented chemical union workers. "As my workers are not unionised, even though they are free to join if they want to, I did not feel he was the right person to do the testing ... in principal I have no objection to an independent medical team visiting the plant."

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mits to convey passengers between Lenasia and Johannesburg.

- (b) The application by A Kandasamy was granted on 7 November 1989 in respect of three buses. Lenasia Bus Service (Pty) Ltd appealed to the National Transport Commission (NTC) against the grant of public road carrier permits by the LRTB to A Kandasamy. The NTC upheld the appeal on 8 March 1990. The application by S K Bus Lines is still to be considered by the LRTB.

Broadcasting: deregulation/privatisation

*14. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether any representatives of the independent broadcasting services will be co-opted to serve on the task group appointed to investigate the desirability of the deregulation and privatisation, and all other aspects, of broadcasting in the region concerned; if so, (a) when and (b) which representatives are involved; if not, (2) whether the independent broadcasting services will be invited to make representations to this task group; if not, why not; if so, when?

B878E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
(a) with effect from 23 March 1990.
(b) Mr C Stofberg.
(2) Falls away

Broadcasting rights within SA: applications

*15. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- Whether those members of the independent broadcasting services who are wholly or partially owned by the Governments of the independent Black states are to be given preference over new applications for broadcasting rights within South Africa; if not, why not, if so, which independent broadcasters are involved?

B879E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

The Task Group on Broadcasting will in the course of its activities give attention to all broadcasting rights and future policy will be determined after receipt and consideration of the report of the Task Group. The position of the existing broadcasting services will naturally be taken into account.

Hout Bay area: squatters

*16. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) What is the estimated number of (a) individual squatters and (b) family units of squatters residing in the Hout Bay area;
(2) whether any steps have been taken to (a) find suitable land for the housing of, and (b) provide alternative accommodation for, such squatters; if so, what steps; if not, why not?

B880E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) 473.
(b) 171.
(2) (a) Yes.
(b) No.

The squatters are in a white group area that falls under the jurisdiction of the Administration: House of Assembly, who will hold a meeting on 16 May 1990 with all interested parties with a view to finding a solution.

SP: diplomatic immunities/rights/privileges granted

*17. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- Whether the State President granted diplomatic immunities, rights and privileges to any persons in 1989 in terms of section 2B of the Diplomatic Privileges Act, No 71 of 1951; if so, (a) how many, (b) what are the (i) names of, (ii) nationalities of, and (iii) positions occupied by, each of these persons and (c) what was the nature of the status granted to each of them?

B881E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
(a) One.
(b) I will gladly furnish the hon member personally with these particulars.
(c) Exemption from restrictions on occupation of immovable property.

Group Areas Act: alleged contraventions

*18. Mr W A BOTHA asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether any alleged contraventions of the Group Areas Act were reported to the South African Police in Uitenhage during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available; if so, how many;
(2) whether he will make known the addresses at which the alleged contraventions took place; if not, why not, if so, what are the addresses concerned;
(3) whether the Police have taken any steps as a result of the alleged contraventions; if so, (a) in what cases and (b) what steps?

B886E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes — 7 cases.
(2) and (3).

All these cases have been referred to the Department of Local Government, Housing and Works, Administration: House of Assembly, for investigation. Therefore, I do not consider it advisable to furnish information which may possibly jeopardise the investigation or anticipate the judicial process.

Castillo de Bellver

*19. Mr J H MOMBBERG asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether his Department is monitoring the wreck of the Spanish oil tanker *Castillo de Bellver* off the west coast of South Africa; if not, (a) why not and (b) when did the tanker sink; if so,
(2) whether there is any danger of the tanker leaking oil; if so,

whether his Department has taken any action to prevent oil being so leaked or to minimise the danger of this happening; if not, why not; if so, what action?

B919E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) Yes.
(a) Falls away;
(b) August 1983.

(2) The possibility exists.

- (3) No. At present there is no determined threat of oil being leaked from the tanker. The removal of the oil at the depth of approximately 420 metres is with present day technology extremely problematic if not impossible and the removal of the oil under these circumstances is considered an unacceptable risk of causing a major spillage. The situation is being monitored on a continuous basis by the Department and other interested parties.

Exploding fireworks/crackers: banning

*20. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he has received any representations regarding the banning of the importation of exploding fireworks and/or crackers; if so, (a) from whom, (b) when and (c) what was the (i) purpose of and (ii) response to each such representation;
(2) whether he has given any consideration to banning the importation of such fireworks and/or crackers; if not, why not; if so, with what result?

B920E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes.

- (a) Mr C J van R Botha, former MP for Umlazi, and Mr R P Meyer, MP, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, on behalf of certain constituents of theirs, as well as from Mr R D Ormond.
(b) 16 November 1989, 28 November 1989 and 1 February 1990, respectively.

8/15/90

Cape Times, Tues

Black River pollution level 'generally low'

Political Staff

THE level of pollutants in Cape Town's Black River was generally low except for the high levels of faecal pollution in some areas, the Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said yesterday.

Cape Town City Council is responsible for monitoring the water quality in the river.

The reports submitted by the Cape Town Municipality were not a legal requirement in terms of the Water Act, but they were submitted to his department to assist it in controlling discharges of effluent into the Black River, he said.

Mr Kotze, who was re-

plying to questions submitted by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP, Pinelands), said his department was responsible for the issuing of exemptions for the discharge of effluent and it monitored the quality of the effluent to ascertain that it complied with the regulations.

However, no other

steps were contemplated.

Cape Town Municipality, as the responsible authority for public health in this area, had erected warning signs but there was no responsibility vested in any person or body in this regard.

Mr Kotze declined to make any further statement on the matter.

56

Kaolin mining company's ads anger residents

56
M6 8/5/90

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FULL-PAGE newspaper advertisements extolling the virtues of kaolin have been placed by Serina, the mining company which wants to extract the mineral from an open-cast mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak.

But residents opposed to the controversial mine have reacted strongly, saying the advertisement is misleading because the need for kaolin has never been at issue.

The weekend advertisements — under a major heading "I am kaolin" — list the uses of the clay product, which is found in ceramic crockery, cosmetics, bricks, tiles, paint, tablets and medicines, quality paper and tyres.

"I have been mined in the (Fish Hoek/Noordhoek) Valley for more than 20 years and I have always been a good neighbour," the advertisement continues.

"This valley is the source of the purest known kaolin in the country and is a national asset."

Residents opposed to the mine are particularly incensed at the last line of the advertisement which reads: "Next time

you visit our Noordhoek Valley, I'll be there. Close at hand."

Serina's existing mine is at Brakkekloof, between Fish Hoek and Sun Valley, and the proposed mine on the slopes of Chapman's Peak in the Noordhoek Valley has not yet been officially sanctioned by the government.

Save Chapman's Peak Action Group spokesman Mr John Butterfield said in response that scars from previous mining operations still existed, and that there were alternatives to the Chapman's Peak deposit.

Mrs Heather Maltby, a Noordhoek resident and also a member of the action group, commented: "They must be very worried to spend something in the region of R500 000 on advertisements. One wonders why they feel it necessary to extol the virtues of their product so effusively when its many uses are not in dispute.

● Mrs Maltby was one of three recipients of an award for "outstanding efforts" to protect the environment, presented by a major retail chain store at the weekend.

The other winners were Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group and Miss Di Wilson, Western Cape manager of the Wildlife Society.

River Day clean-up nets 40 tons of rubbish

Environment Reporter

NEARLY 4 000 volunteers collected 10 000 bags of litter weighing 40 tons from rivers, streams and beaches in the Peninsula on River Day last month.

Schoolchildren, Rotary Interact groups, boy scouts, SADF personnel and patients from Valkenberg Hospital were among the 3 893 who took part.

Co-ordinators of the event were the cleansing branch of the Cape Town City Council's city engineer's department, the Fairest Cape Association, Wildlife Society and Pick 'n Pay.

Council spokesman Mr Ted Doman said: "We were pleased with the enthusiasm by everyone who participated in the project."

Other River Day activities included a poetry competition for schools and an amateur photographic and video competition. The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Claremont tomorrow night.

The negotiations took place within the atmosphere of the Government's strategy of entering into dialogue with the Black population, removing obstacles and establishing positive understanding, rather than taking drastic action.

On 11 April 1990 I released a statement in which I referred, *inter alia*, to the position of teachers who had been absent from duty without approval for more than 14 days and who, according to section 21 of the Education and Training Act, 1979 (Act 90 of 1979), had dismissed themselves by their own action. At that stage, teachers had already indicated that they would return to their posts on 18 April 1990, the first school day of the second school term.

On this basis, I indicated that teachers who had been absent without approval for more than 14 days, would be deemed to have been on leave with full salary until 17 April 1990. This would be an extraordinary and single concession arising from the current unique circumstances prevailing in the country.

I emphasised that the provisions of section 21 of the Act would be strictly applied as from 18 April 1990. This naturally also obtains to the application of regulation 31 of the regulations issued in terms of the Act.

The intention with the proposed concession was to accommodate those teachers who resumed their duties on 18 April 1990 and, by so doing, to restore peace and order to education. The interests of education are naturally the decisive factor.

The Director-General of Education and Training explained the circumstances to each Regional Chief Director of the Department and guidance was given in connection with future action. The Regional Chief Directors were also instructed to write to every member of the teaching corps in their region and to inform them of my decisions and the implications of their actions should they not resume their duties.

†Mr A GERBER: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to know in

terms of what enabling provision the hon the Minister acted when he excused these teachers who were absent without an excuse for longer than 14 days.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I acted in terms of section 21(3) of Act 90 of 1979. It provides that such a teacher can be reinstated to service by the Minister under the conditions determined by the Minister.

Teachers absent from service

*4. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education: † HANSARD 8/5/90

- (1) How many teachers are employed by his Department at present;
- (2) how many teachers have been absent from service for more than 14 days without leave since 1 January 1990;
- (3) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B848E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) 59 217.
- (2) The information is not readily available.
- (3) The reply in point 1 is as on 28 February 1990.

Basle Convention on Waste Trade

*5. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: † HANSARD 8/5/90

- (1) Whether South Africa is a signatory to the Basle Convention on Waste Trade; if not, why not; if so, when did we sign this convention; (S)
- (2) whether South Africa is complying with the provisions of the said convention; if not, (a) why not and (b) in what ways are we not doing so? B868E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. South Africa intended attending the Basle Conference on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste during March 1989, but was prevented from doing so by the organisers of the said Conference, viz. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Nevertheless, during the second half of 1989, the Cabinet, after careful consideration, took a decision in principle that South Africa should indeed accede to the Basle Convention. (S)

The State Law Advisers were instructed to investigate the reconcilability of the Basle Convention with South African legislation. It was determined that with minor adaptations, South African legislation can be reconciled with the Basle Convention. The necessary adaptations to the legislation are presently receiving priority attention.

(2) No.

(a) and (b) The Department of Environment Affairs has instructed the Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) of the CSIR to undertake an in-depth investigation into the occurrence, processing and storage of toxic waste in South Africa and to propose a strategy and management plan for implementation by the end of 1990.

After accession to the Basle Convention and after amendment of the relevant South African legislation, South Africa will be in a position to comply fully with the provisions of the Basle Convention.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I would like to know whether he believes the importation of mercury based waste to be in line with the Basle Convention and whether he thinks it desirable to continue to import it.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am not *au fait* with the technicalities of that question and I would ask the hon member to put his question upon the Question Paper.

SA Tourism Board

*6. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism: † HANSARD 8/5/90

- (a) Who are the members of the South African Tourism Board, (b) what remuneration do the members of this board receive and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished? † HANSARD 8/5/90

B870E

†The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM: † HANSARD 8/5/90

(a) Chairman:
Mr P van Hoven

Members:
Dr W J Pretorius
Mr N de Villiers
Mr R G Meyer
Mr P E I Swartz
Dr A T Moolman
Mr G J J Breyl
Mr R A Camerer
Mr B Corte
Mr G C Simpson
Mr M L P Rattray
Dr G M Msibi
Mr P P Chetty
Mr J le R Pieterse

(b) Per day Per hour
Chairman R346,83 R43,35
Members R261,84 R32,73

Messrs Meyer and Breyl are *ex officio* members of the SA Tourism Board and therefore do not receive remuneration.

(c) 31 March 1990.

†Mr F J LE ROUX: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I should like to enquire whether there is also a vice-chairman of the SA Tourism Board and who the person is.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, there is no vice-chairman. It may be of interest to the hon member—I have just received the figures—that the total budget of all the members of the SA Tourism Board totals R21 587 for the 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990 financial year.

Death of certain national serviceman

*7. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence: † HANSARD 8/5/90

- (1) Whether the investigation into the causes of death on 26 February 1988 of a certain national serviceman, whose name has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, has been completed; if so, with what result, if not, why not;
- (2) (a) what were the factual circumstances of this person's death and (b) what was his name? B871E

Environment key to future

The 55-minute message is as simple as its imagery is stark: South Africa rests on the edge of either sliding into the ranks of Africa's beggar nations or reinforcing its role as southern Africa's economic dynamo.

The message comes from Clem Sunter in a new and riveting video in which he appears, with his engaging crooked tie trademark, just as many will recall him in his "The World and South Africa in the 1990s".

This new video is based on his latest book, "South African Environments into the 21st Century", which he wrote in collaboration with Brian Huntley and Roy Siegfried, two brilliant ecologists. The film has a much more sensible title, "Quest for Survival".

Clem Sunter's secret to a successful future in which everybody has a house and food and warmth? A national economic growth rate of 10 percent, a free economy which lots of small businesses, and an understanding that South Africa's real capital is its environment.

Gives glimpses

Growth at the expense of soil erosion, acid rain or water pollution is unsustainable, he says.

The film gives us glimpses of the environmentalist's version of hell-fire and damnation — a world where a capitalist system allows people to get rich quickly by mining the soil, using the skies and waterways as dumping grounds for wastes and, eventually, making the globe septic and unliveable.

We need a capitalist system in which industrialists and developers are legally obliged to avoid damaging the life-support systems in their quest for profits.

The "supreme irony", says Sunter, is that just as the world is moving away from central controls, so we need it for environmental control. We certainly need central government firmness to curb air pollution, for instance.

Carbon and sulphur dioxides are

Star 10/5/90 56

SA balances between disaster and vitality

Clem Sunter has produced a second video on South Africa's future. This time, he looks hard at the nation's major environmental constraints.

JAMES CLARKE reviews it.



Clem Sunter . . . highlights healthy growth.

dangerously altering the very character of the earth's atmosphere.

"Quest for Survival" gives a tough assessment of the world environmental crisis and of the battered state of southern Africa and South Africa.

Old environmentalists will experience *deja vu* as the shock facts are cranked out, noticeably more shocking than they were when we used to bandy them around almost 20 years ago when few were listening. Twenty years ago the world population was 3 000 million. Now it is 5 200 million.

The spewing chimneys and creeping deserts, the twiggy limbs of starving children feeding from breasts like leather straps — Ricky Lomba's photography dishes it out in scenes which linger in the mind.

Like all good environmental films, this one begins in space looking back at our fragile planet. In fact the first few minutes are an excellent primer, setting out "the story so far".

I could argue with some of the commentary. We are told that in 1981 South Africa produced 14 million tons of mealies while in 1983 we

produced only 4 million "hardly sufficient to feed the nation". It was in fact insufficient. South Africa needs 6 million tons for domestic use and, that year, we had to import.

The comparison is a trifle sensationalist in that 1981 was an extraordinary year for mealies (it remains the record) and in 1983 South Africa was experiencing its worst recorded drought.

Sunter talks of "decimated homelands" (did he mean "desiccated") and switches from "miles" to "kilometres" (like all of us who have passed 40).

The film's value is the way in which it crystallises the whole plethora of "situations" (one tries to avoid the word "crises"). It exposes, as no other film I have seen, South Africa's Achilles heel — its thin soils.

A mere 13 percent of this big country is arable and only 3 percent has a high potential.

The commentary is such that one has time to digest the facts, helped by good visuals and appropriate music as well as moaning winds and other canned sounds.

It hammers the tragedy of South

African social engineering which forced communities on to land "unsuitable for agriculture of any kind".

Some 700 000 black farmers scrape a living from 13 percent of the land; 50 000 white farmers farm 70 percent. Urban areas swallow the remaining 17 percent, some of it having been prime agricultural land in the recent past.

Twenty tons of topsoil is being lost for every ton of cereal grown.

Daily, says Sunter, 2 000 people are fleeing the troubled countryside and making their way to the cities. There are now 3 million living in squatter camps.

We have to build 1 000 houses a day if everybody is to be housed by the end of the century.

Some of "Quest for Survival" shock facts:

● Some women spend eight hours searching for enough wood to cook a single meal.

● Most South African blacks have no electricity.

Power generated

This is in spite of the fact that South Africa produces 60 percent of all the power generated in Africa.

● By the year 2000 South Africans will have only one tenth of a hectare per person, a quarter of the present world average.

● In Transkei a family needs 4 ha of good agricultural land to live at subsistence level; only 8 percent have as much.

Sunter comes across forcefully in his plea for South Africa to set the example in Africa for economic development, environmental health and the quality of life.

"Turn South Africa into a winning nation by the end of the century," he says.

It will be a tragedy if every school, every tertiary learning centre and every institutional library does not obtain a copy of this video.

● "Quest for Survival" (produced by GTV Gallo) is available at R69,99 from most video outlets.

Killing of elephant enrages conservationists

By Clyde Johnson, 10/1/70 (56)
Lowveld Bureau

HAZYVIEW — Conservationists and landowners at Hazyview in the Eastern Transvaal are enraged by the shooting this week of an elephant bull which broke through a fence in the Sabie Sand Reserve and entered Gazankulu.

The elephant, described as a docile animal which allowed itself to be photographed from close by, was a dominant bull in Sabie Sand Reserve's breeding herd.

Tony Blignaut, of Inyati Lodge, said four elephants got out of the reserve on Saturday night after breaking a fence at Exeter, which borders Gazankulu.

A standing agreement between Sabie Sand and Gazankulu's Department of Fauna and Flora says the presence of any escaped animal should be reported within 24 hours of being spotted.

"The reason for this is to give us time to round them up," said Mr Blignaut.

Nothing was heard from Ga-

zankulu on Sunday or Monday. On Monday night, Sabie Sand rangers found that one of their elephants had been shot.

It is claimed that a professional hunter was hired to kill the animal.

It is also claimed that it was sold as a trophy for a considerable sum, and the meat distributed to local inhabitants.

The matter has been reported to the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Kaolin dust a health hazard, say residents

By KIM CLARKIN

KAOLIN dust is a health hazard, causing ear, nose, throat and respiratory problems, as well as coating windows, plants, furniture and cars, according to Sun Valley residents who live near the kaolin mine at Brakkekloof.

These and other claims — that the dust clogs machinery, makes pools difficult to maintain and has even caused people to sell their property at a loss — were contained in 10 open letters handed to the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group by the residents.

The letters were sent to government departments at the beginning of April. Among the addressees were the Minister for Environment Affairs (who has not yet replied) and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs (who has "noted" the matter).

Respiratory

Those opposing the proposed kaolin mine in Noordhoek are particularly concerned about the health aspects of kaolin dust while the mining company, Serina, says there is no proof

Cape Times 10/15/90
**THERE'S
 NO
 PROOF,
 SAYS
 MINE**

that it poses a health threat.

A doctor practising in Fish Hoek, who used to work at the Ocean View Day Hospital, said she had treated employees from Serina for various respiratory problems but couldn't say that these were caused by kaolin dust although they may have been aggravated by it.

Mr Eric Smith from SCPAG said: "According to local doctors there seems to be a high rate of bronchial asthma in Sun Valley near the mine. Ear, nose and throat ailments also appear to be high."

"We are told that this

is coincidental and that a link with kaolin dust cannot be proved but it can't be disproved either.

"Kaolin is used as a coagulant for stomach disorders because it smudges on contact with moisture. So what happens when it settles in the lungs?"

Mrs Julie Barkley, a resident in the area, said: "My son Michael's asthma attacks date from the time we moved to Sun Valley when he was five-and-a-half years old. His attacks were so bad then that he had to be given oxygen in hospital and be sent to school in the Transvaal. While he was living in the Transvaal, he had no more asthma attacks."

Pollen

"The doctor said the asthma was caused by pollen. We didn't question this but since my neighbour's daughter, who also had asthma, moved to Fish Hoek, she's been fine."

Fish Hoek has one of the highest pollen counts in the country.

Mrs M Webb said in her letter: "We moved to Sun Valley, just below the kaolin mine, in December 1987. By February my daughter had developed chronic bronchial asthma which continued until we moved away from the area."

"Her condition then disappeared almost immediately."

According to Serina's managing director, Mr Stan Adler, no reports had been received of kaolin dust having an adverse effect on health and a link between the dust and any health problems had never been proved.

Professional photographer and resident for six years, Mr Richard Ashley, said when he saw Serina's advertisement in Saturday's Cape Times extolling kaolin's benefits he "felt like placing one telling the other side of the story".

Negative

"We all know the positive aspects of kaolin but what are the negative aspects of the substance? What are the effects on

inhaling kaolin dust every day?"

"Sand is a pleasure compared to this dust — it gets everywhere and even covers the copy-board of my process camera which is in a darkroom with silicon-sealed windows!"

"If the company assures us of using the most modern methods of controlling the dust in the Noordhoek mine, then why do they not use those methods with the existing mine?"

Sun Valley residents who live near the kaolin mine say they have expressed their concern to Serina's management and one even brought a plastic shopping bag "half-full of kaolin dust" collected in her lounge to illustrate her point to the the management.

Sand dunes

Mr Adler of Serina commented: "The entire Fish Hoek area is covered in dust but I wouldn't say it was kaolin dust. There are a lot of sand dunes so it could be sand. In fact once, when a resident told us his porch was covered in kaolin dust, we investigated and found it was sand."

On the question of installing more sophisticated equipment to counter dust at the proposed Noordhoek mine, Mr Adler replied:

"If the impact report recommends that additional dust emission controls are necessary we will take them"

However, he pointed out that as kaolin naturally has 12% moisture, there could be no dust from the mine only from the factory environment or the road surface.

Mrs Barkley said that about three or four years ago the mine installed a sprinkler system "but that made no difference to the kaolin dust problem".

A spokesman for the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said: "The matter has been noted and once the impact report (from Serina) has been received by the minister it will be investigated."

The health aspect of kaolin dust had been raised "at least 10 to 15 times and the minister is aware of it".

He also said that despite the fact that a mining permit had been issued in 1988 the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs could still stop the mine from going ahead.

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Momberg warns of reaction to mine

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE government and companies involved in the proposed mining of kaolin on the slopes of Chapman's Peak should not underestimate the level of public opposition, Simon's Town MP Mr Jannie Momberg has warned.

Speaking in parliament during the Mineral and Energy Affairs budget vote this week, Mr Momberg said there was a "tremendous clash" between the need to utilise the country's abundant minerals and the negative impact on the environment.

Because the cost of mineral exploration was so high, there was a perception that such exploration led automatically to the granting of mining rights, despite the long-term implications for the environment.

"It is gratifying that mining companies are becoming aware of the need to protect the environment, and of the strong guidelines laid down by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs to protect the environment against the impact of mining."

However, he did not believe that mining companies could give guarantees of rehabilitation 30 years into the future — as was the case with certain open-cast mining operations like the proposed kaolin mine at Chapman's Peak.

"The problem appears to be that the State has no discretion to refuse a licence giving the company the right to mine, even though it is obvious that the impact on the environment will be catastrophic," he said.

Mr Momberg appealed to the government and the mining company to take note of Noordhoek residents' opposition to the proposed mine.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

Cato Ridge: toxic mercury waste

Mr M RAJAB to ask the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department has been informed of toxic mercury waste from the United States of America having been exported to South Africa; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, in the light of certain problems recently experienced by the Department of Water Affairs at Cato Ridge, due consideration has been given to the effects of such waste on the environment?

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The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, the Departments of Environment Affairs and Water Affairs are aware of the importation of mercury-containing materials from the USA. The impression is often created that these toxic materials are waste materials imported for dumping. This is not so. Thor Chemicals import the mercury-containing materials for reprocessing at their plant near Cato Ridge. From figures provided to me, it appears that approximately 50 metric tons of these materials were imported in the last year, but in turn approximately 500 metric tons of products such as mercuric acetate, mercuric chloride, vinyl chloride monomer, catalysts, polyurethane catalysts and biocides, all containing mercury, were exported.

The mercury is, *inter alia*, used as a catalyst in a specific process, and once the exported material has been processed further overseas, the catalysts are then returned to South Africa for reclamation. It is thus a cycle being completed and restarted every time.

The whole question of the detection of mercury in the vicinity of Cato Ridge was discussed at great length during the discussion of the Envi-

ronment Affairs and Water Affairs Votes yesterday. What I particularly noted during the discussion of these Votes is that we are all against South Africa being used as a dumping ground for foreign toxic waste.

There have been a number of investigations by various bodies, using different techniques and measuring findings against different standards. The hon member for Bryanston last night appealed to me to assist in clarifying the different results by the different authorities which have commented on the issue and which featured so prominently in our discussions yesterday, and which were earlier extensively reported on by the media both locally and overseas.

The high reading of 1 764 parts per million of mercury reported on by Greenpeace and often referred to, refers to a particular silt sample. I note that in the same Greenpeace report, the results of silt samples lower downstream are considerably lower. I think that what is of greater importance at this stage is the possible influence of the mercury contamination on the water flowing in the rivers concerned.

Greenpeace clearly states in its report that mercury pollution of the water is non-detectable. In the South African drinking water standards—that is for purified water supply to water consumers—the maximum allowable level . . . [Time expired.]

Mr A SINGH: Mr Chairman, I would firstly like to apologise on behalf of the hon member for Springfield, who is presently occupied in the other Chamber. Secondly, I would like to thank the hon the Minister for the information he has given us this afternoon. We raised this issue as a matter of extreme urgency because of the severe health hazard associated with it. What is more alarming is the article which I read in the *Sunday Tribune*, dated 6 May 1990, which states that an independent medical team was denied access to conduct a series of health tests on its workers at Thor Chemicals. Various other test results have indicated abnormally high mercury levels in the water sediment samples which, according to reports, seem to be among the highest levels of mercury pollution ever recorded.

Mercury can affect the human body, especially the central nervous system including the brain. Organic mercury has a more delayed effect with severe toxic effects on the human body which

take about two weeks to show themselves, and symptoms include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pains and also lethargy. It appears to me that we need to take better steps to avoid and not to increase the mercury levels in these waters.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOUSING: Mr Chairman, yesterday evening I devoted a part of my speech on the Water Affairs Budget Vote to emphasising the importance of pollution of our water resources by industry. I wish to quote from that speech:

While I understand that the development of industries is a *sine qua non* for our economic well-being, industry must not be allowed to consume too much water and pollute the rest.

During the same speech, Mr Chairman, I said that industry must realise that they have a special social responsibility, and included in this principle is the responsibility not to contribute to pollution. On the same note, we have recently heard of the devastating effect of gas cylinders in the Stanger area which claimed about 14 lives. This is indeed a related issue when it comes to toxic waste together with pollution, and certain necessary precautions have to be taken.

Not long ago there was a review with regard to oil pollution by foreign vessels in this country's waters and secondly there was a further discussion and a decision with regard to penalties when it comes to the pollution of rivers in this country. Therefore industrialists must take their precautions, as much as we appreciate the contribution they are making towards the prosperity and the growth of the country.

On the other hand foreign countries must also not look upon South Africa as a dumping ground for this waste. In any event, even if we had the space for such dumping, someone somewhere along the line will have to bear some of the cost with regard to the elimination and the protection of this toxic waste which has been dumped in our area. Therefore I want to call upon the hon the Minister of Environment Affairs. Just as we have taken precautions against oil pollution and water pollution, there should be additional measures to see to it that this toxic waste . . . [Time expired.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, this is not an issue that should be merely confined to the environment, but it is also a serious issue which is affecting the health of the people in this particular region. I

am appreciative of the fact that the hon the Minister clarified one or two points that were raised in the debate yesterday.

However, I want the hon the Minister to clarify certain additional points. Firstly, it is alleged that the contamination here is the highest in the world. Secondly, has the hon the Minister's department taken the necessary care to check why, in respect of the allegation, South Africa was processing mercury waste that American smelters were not prepared to handle? If American smelters handled mercury waste, why was it necessary for such waste to be transported to South Africa for handling? If there is some economic and other justification for it, will the hon the Minister clarify the statements made by hon members of Parliament that South Africa was processing mercury waste that American smelters were not prepared to handle?

Of course, the hon the Minister referred to the Greenpeace report which stated that sediment samples at the head of the Umgeni River were contaminated to the extent of 1 764 parts per million. However, the hon the Minister also referred to silt samples taken at the lower end of the river . . . [Time expired.]

Mr K CHETTY: Mr Chairman, I raised this issue, namely the question of toxic waste, in the provincial debate in Natal. In Merebank, especially at the Merebank beach, 40 000 cubic metres of pollutants are being pumped into the sea daily via the southern sewage outfall. This has caused tremendous problems, especially for fishermen. A number of fishermen are suffering from certain diseases because of the toxic waste that is being pumped into the sea. I raised the issue and we wanted province to look at this. This is becoming a burning issue, especially in that area. I hope the hon the Minister—he is here—will also take cognisance of this.

South Africa is a vast country with ample space. Some of these spaces happen to be desert or semi-desert, such as the Kalahari Desert and the Karoo. As a result of wide open spaces as with the sea or the air, thinking until very recently has been that the planet has an infinite capacity to absorb toxic waste. Industrialised countries have looked on Africa as offering vast opportunities for dumping toxic material. Not long ago a ship bound for Nigeria from Italy was discovered to have had toxic waste on board. When the ship arrived at the port, authorities refused to allow

the cargo to be offloaded. This problem stems from the reasoning that other developed countries no longer have the capacity to handle toxic waste. Africa is thought to have such a capacity.

Toxic waste arouses emotions in developed countries. The lobbying against toxic waste is very strong throughout the world. There is also the notion amongst developing industrialised countries that the limited quantity of toxic waste makes it uneconomical to process such waste. [Time expired.]

Mr M ABRAMHAM: Mr Chairman, three bodies, namely the Umgeni Water Board, the United States newspaper the *St Louis Post Dispatch* and Greenpeace International, have actually tested the water and soil in the vicinity of Thor Chemicals and all three bodies have found an abnormally high level of mercury pollution in the water.

The information that I have at my disposal is also that permission was granted by the South African authorities in a cable on 3 October 1989 for American Cyanamide to export in the region of 20 000 pounds in weight of waste from their plant in New Jersey to South Africa where Thor's reprocessing plant burns mercury waste and waste containers in a furnace. It appears that we need to take this very seriously indeed.

We are processing waste which very few others are prepared to handle themselves in their own country. I call upon the hon the Minister to explain and tell us whether he has taken any further action and to do something very urgently. Are we accepting waste that nobody else can accept in their own country because processing is too dangerous there?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, so many questions were asked and I have only two minutes in which to reply. It is simply impossible to clarify all the points on which I have been asked to give clarification.

The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition alone has asked a whole series of questions. The problem is that this should have been the topic for a private member's motion and not an interpellation. Then we could have discussed it extensively.

The fact is that we must distinguish between the importation of raw materials and waste. A

by-product of one factory may be a raw material of another. Here we have a specific case where the material is not imported as waste, according to the South African definition of waste, but as a raw material.

The fact is that we are handling it with great care. I have explained to this House that Greenpeace clearly states in its report that the mercury pollution of the water is non-detectable—in other words, they could not find any mercury in the water itself. The fact that there was mercury in the silt does not necessarily mean that there would be any mercury in the water, because some forms of mercury are soluble and others are not. In this specific case it seems as if the mercury did not contaminate the water at all.

However, I was asked to clarify the whole issue, and I think the best way to do that would be by means of an extensive press statement and I intend doing just that. I can tell hon members that the standards set for our drinking water are very high and there was no question of the water contamination being above the minimum standards set by our department.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Public servants: housing subsidies

*1. Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination:

Whether the ceiling on housing subsidies to public servants is to be raised from the present R50 000; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) to what amount?

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION:

The raising of the ceiling on housing subsidies to public servants is presently receiving attention. Any increase of the subsidy limit will naturally depend on the availability of funds. (a) and (b) fall away.

Mr K PANDAY: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's answer, I would like to know whether he is giving consideration to the fact that the last review was on 1 April 1983, when the ceiling was raised from R40 000 to R50 000.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, this investigation is at an advanced stage and I hope to have the results shortly in order to submit them to the Cabinet.

Health services: privatisation

*2. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) Whether her Department is giving consideration to the privatisation of health services in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what steps are being considered;

(2) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Yes, investigations are being done by the Department of National Health and Population Development in collaboration with the sub-committee: Privatisation of the Health Matters Advisory Committee. There is at present no plan to sell any State hospital as such;

(2) no.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's answer, will she let us know which branches of the health services are being considered for privatisation?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I will be dealing with this issue during the debate on my Budget Vote on Wednesday, and I would welcome it if the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition would allow me to deal with it then I will go into it extensively on that occasion.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, and considering that we have limited time during the debate on the health Budget Vote, has the hon the Minister's department, in giving consideration to this, studied the success or failure of the privatisation of hospitals? I am not talking about normal private

hospitals such as those of Smith, Mitchell & Co and others. Has it been examined with a view to its advantages and disadvantages?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the answer is yes. We are undertaking extensive investigations. I would like to state at this stage that market forces do not apply to health care and therefore privatisation, as it is known in the private sector, does not apply to health care in the same respect.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply and taking into consideration the nation-wide problem in respect of health services as well as the fact that the hon the Minister's department is considering this matter, has the hon the Minister or her department received any objections to privatisation?

The MINISTER: Yes, Mr Chairman, we have received objections. However, as I have stated, we do not consider privatisation on the same basis as it was done in, for instance, the case of Iscor. The same principles do not apply in this case.

MPs serving on local government bodies: legislation

*3. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether he is considering the introduction of legislation in terms of which members of Parliament will be barred from serving on local government bodies; if not, why not; if so, when is such legislation expected to be introduced;

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

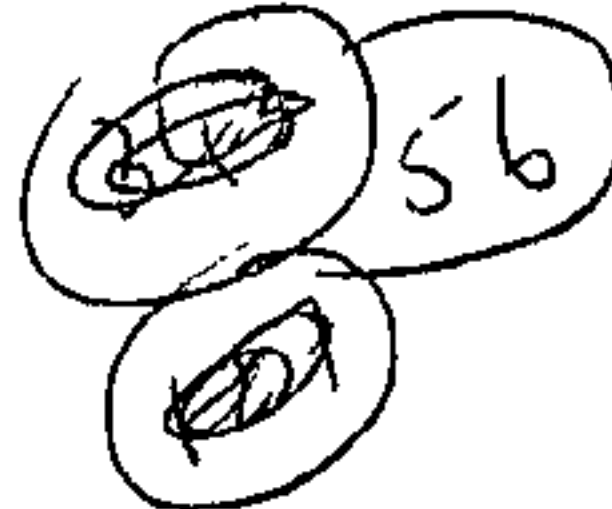
The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

Possible amendments to existing legislation coincides with the current legislation controlling third-tier government, which could be changed together with the possible amendment of the present constitutional dispensation. A task group under the chairmanship of an official of my Department is at present considering options for a new local authority system.

New law will put the lid on noisy gigs

Sowetan
10/5/90



BLARING amplifiers and gigs are likely to be a thing of the past once black local authorities adopt the new law intended to protect the public against man-made

By ALINAH DUBE

noise.

The noise regulations, published in the Government Gazette on April 27, were announced on Tuesday at a Press conference held at the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria.

Professor Roelf Bolha, chairman of the Council for the Environment, said yesterday: "The regulations will only be made applicable to a local authority area if such an authority applies to adopt them and is capable of enforcing them."

The regulations described the different types of noise, the measurement, the acceptable levels as well as the powers of local authorities to control these.

Should a local authority have a noise control officer in its

employ, he will be able to enforce all the conditions as set out in the regulations.

An inspector will, however, only be able to enforce a reduced number of regulations.

The authority may also lay down certain conditions pertaining to noise emanating from activities such as demolitions or ground drilling.

Such activities may be banned for certain hours and specified days. In addition, circumstances may be determined whereby vehicles and animals may be impounded if it has been ascertained that they cause a nuisance.

The gazette points out that: "no person shall make, produce or cause a disturbing noise, or allow it to be made, produced or caused by any person, machine, device of apparatus or any combination thereof."

I BELIEVE the Nation Building concept has indeed given me the formula for talking about the environmental revolution in such a way that the average man in the street will easily relate to it.

This is by introducing a political dimension to the subject.

Let us look at the link between environmental issues, marriage, urbanisation and apartheid.

Nowadays when you want to get married, you look for a girl who, above everything else, is pleasant to look at - someone you will not be

Care of environment is a good investment

too shy to show off to your friends and relatives.

But in the olden days the criteria was different. A girl would have to be almost mongoloid to be so ugly as to be unworthy of marriage.

Men also had their wives chosen for them by their parents. Facial appearance and whether or not a girl had a nice and

trim figure did not matter at all.

The barometer they used was, among other things, the girl's character, the environment in which she lived and the role she played in keeping it presentable.

Even before knowing who she was and what she looked like, parents would inspect the ground

around her home. If it was clean and well-cared for, she would immediately qualify as a candidate as it was assumed she was well brought-up.

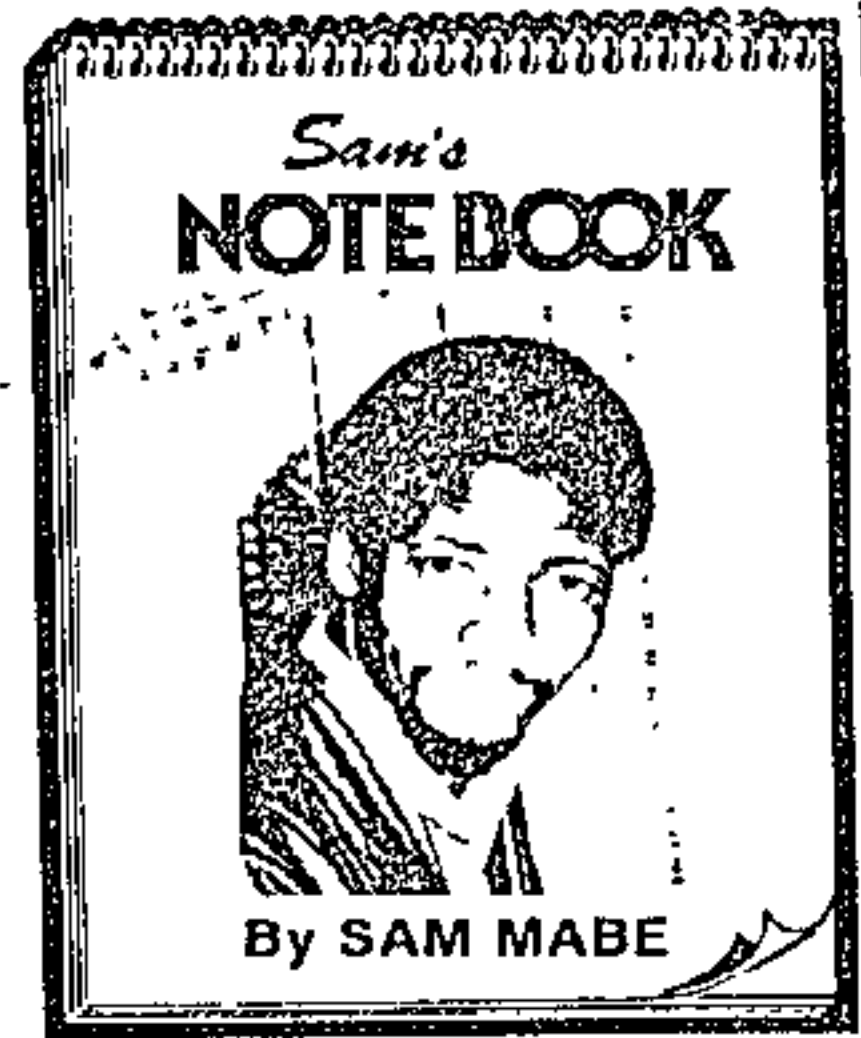
Every parent who had a son would vie to have her as a daughter-in-law.

A home was a source of pride to the black family. If you went to the rural areas of Transkei

today, for instance, you will be struck by the cleanliness of the area.

But things changed when we were urbanised and when we ceased to own the land or houses in which we lived.

That is when the structure of the black family started collapsing. The introduction of the tax system forced husbands to



leave their families when coming to work to earn money to pay tax.

The migrant labour system also removed a number of young men away from their homes.

It was not only families who were dismantled by apartheid but the community structure as well.

Through the influx control laws, the Government appointed itself the sole landlord of blacks. We could not own land or build our own houses. We could only rent houses from the Government.

Collapse

We were temporary sojourners who would soon go back "home" when the white man no longer needed our labour.

That is how a house and the land lost their value to us. We ceased to care about them and this lack of caring manifested itself even in other aspects of our lifestyles.

Back in the rural areas, the coherence of the family structure, and ultimately the entire community, also collapsed. Heads of families and almost the entire male population were away from home most of the time. At times, they went away and never returned.

We were living where we did not choose to be and the conditions under which we lived, such as in overcrowded single sex hostels, were dehumanising. They were incompatible with what we had been used to.

Values

The social, cultural, economic and religious values and lifestyles of those who started families in the urban areas and those who remained in the rural areas were undergoing an unhappy and painful transformation.

Through the pass laws, our right to be wherever we were was always

questioned. How then, could we be expected to care for the environment in which we lived when we lived in a hostile socio-political environment?

In a rather senseless sort of way, we became spiteful. Everything about our lives had been politicised. Houses, water, lights, streets and almost everything in the townships was associated with the Government.

Bitter

By not caring about our environment, we were somehow demonstrating our bitterness towards the Government.

This had nothing to do with the colour of our skins. If whites had been subjected to what we have gone through in the past 300 years, they would have behaved similarly. Whites living in deprived neighbourhoods in Latin America, Italy and in Portugal are no different from us.

The few blacks who were given a sense of permanence in the urban areas and who had invested money in the houses they occupied, suddenly became conscious of their environment.

Caring

They realised that the rubbish heap at the street corner or the weed growing on their pavement would lower the value of their property. It had to be cleared.

Through the Nation Building concept, we try to get our people to be future oriented. We are trying to infuse in them a culture of freedom, a culture of caring and of belonging.

Starting to care for the environment today is better than starting tomorrow. It is the best way to invest in the future.

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56 Star 17/5/90

Unwrap the evils that are destroying the Earth around each one of us

Staff Reporter

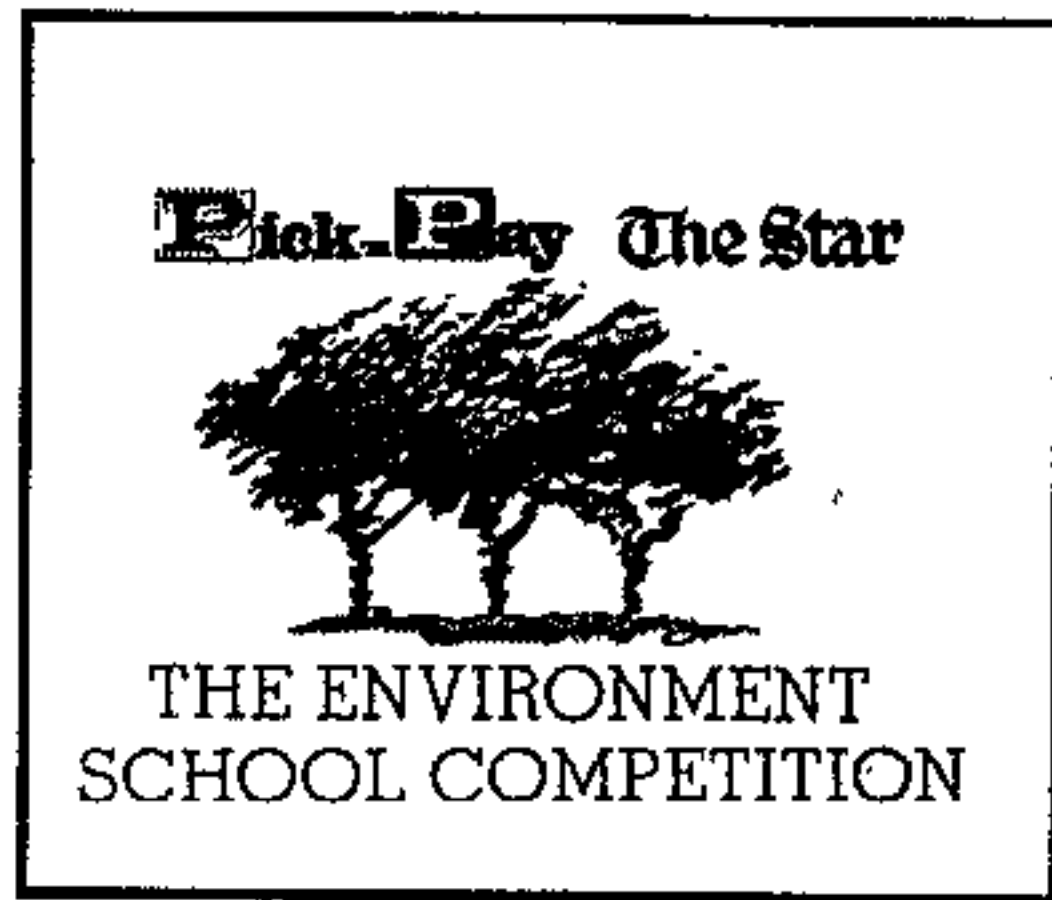
To celebrate Earth Day, an environmental group in the United States called on members of the public to unwrap goods in a supermarket before paying for them, thereby leaving it up to someone else to dispose of the packaging.

The reason for the campaign was to protest against excessive packaging used by manufacturers and to pressure them into supplying easily recyclable containers.

South Africans have not taken such drastic action, but the Wildlife Society has launched a campaign to encourage recycling.

We have realised that by continuously manufacturing containers and packaging — and not reusing existing ones — we put an immeasurable strain on the Earth's natural resources.

Earth has survived for about 4 000 million years because it has a natural recycling system: Everything goes in cycles, like the water cycle — evaporation — condensa-



tion — and precipitation.

There is no such thing as waste in nature, even man forms part of a cycle. But up to now we have opted out of recycling the Earth's resources. The renewed recycling drive, however, gives us each the opportunity to change our ways.

With at least one recycling depot close by, we can ensure that our paper, glass, plastic and tin cans are recycled instead of simply thrown into a dustbin or on the ground.

To prove that each person's contribution, no matter how small, can make a difference to the Earth's survival, The Star and Pick 'n Pay have launched a Green Week competition.

Schools all over the country are being asked to enter the competition, which will clean up South Africa and will cultivate environmental awareness among young people.

Schools stand to win thousands of rands worth of computer equipment, so watch The Star tomorrow for a competition entry form.

Natal Administrator 'could pre-empt Govt on St Lucia'

Star 4/5/90
56

Staff Reporter

The Administrator of Natal could save St Lucia reserve — now threatened by an open-cast mine — it was claimed at an invitation-only debate this week on the future of the area.

About 100 people attended the generally restrained confrontation between the mining company and environmentalists at Mintek in Randburg.

Many delegates flew or drove up from Zululand and the Cape.

Among them were Dr Ian Player, Mr Rupert Lorimer MP, and Dr Ken Tinley, former South African ecologist visiting from Australia.

The Department of Environment was also there, as was the top management of RBM, the company which wants to mine St Lucia's high dunes.

Mr Jim Phelps, founder of ZEAL (Zululand Environmental Alliance) said the law allowed the Administrator of Natal to pre-empt a Government decision on St Lucia.

Under existing legislation he could declare the dunes a "protected natural environment".

The law says this can be done "after" consultation with the mineral rights owners and not necessarily "in consultation" with them.

The Administrator had been formally asked by ZEAL to take this action.

It was suggested at the meeting that the public might have to pay the mining company, RBM, R6 000 million compensation if they are forbidden to mine along Lake St Lucia's horizon — because the Government,

by giving RBM prospecting rights, tacitly gave it mining rights too.

Mr James Clarke of The Star said:

"I have seen and heard both sides and examined the situation down there in detail — thanks to RBM who were frank and open.

"What they are doing at Richards Bay is probably the best mining rehabilitation job in the world.

"But St Lucia is something else. I remain opposed to mining St Lucia."

Dr Player said Richards Bay had been sacrificed to industry and there was no reason to now sacrifice St Lucia.

● For a fuller report see the Sunday Star's Review section this weekend.

St. Lucia 10/5/90 (56) (45)

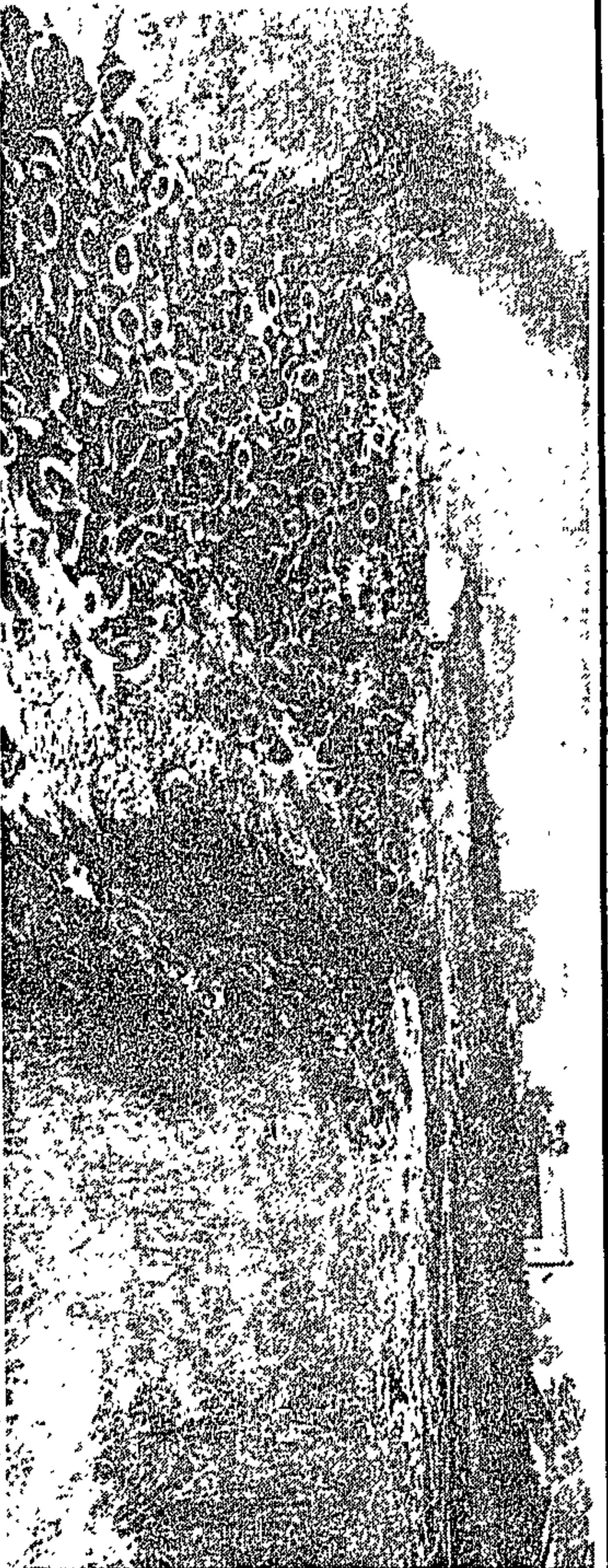
Mining would be 'strictly controlled'

Mining at St Lucia would be subjected to strict conditions if investigations showed that mining was acceptable, Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze, said in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to the debate on his vote, he said one of these conditions would be that the environment had to be left in a better state than it was now.

No final decision had yet been reached about the mining at St Lucia as an intensive independent investigation into the possible effects was under way.

"I am not against protests that are held to oppose the mining." — Sapa.



Anger over dumping

BY SONTI MASEKO

124

56

ANGRY residents of a township in Vosloorus have taken to staging blockades to stop trucks from dumping industrial waste and causing a serious health hazard in their area. Sowetan 11/5/90

Several trucks were turned back on Tuesday and one was briefly detained on Wednesday after the owner of the company sent another truck despite warnings the previous day.

Since November last year, at least five companies have been dumping waste material, paper, rubber, sawdust and rotten food on a site adjoining Paradise Park. The site was declared by the Vosloorus town council to be suitable only for rubble and not toxic industrial waste.

Left: The dump next to Paradise Park.

Green revolution hits SA

Star 12/5/90 (56)

THE Green revolution has finally arrived in South Africa as local retailers leap on to the bandwagon of ozone-friendly philosophies.

Most supermarket chains last month launched Green campaigns, including a range of environment-friendly products, to coincide with Earth Day on April 22 and Environment Day on June 5.

Now the consumer with a conscience can choose from a variety of Green products, from photo-degradable plastic bags, phosphate-free household cleaners and ozone-friendly air fresheners to "body friendly" peanut butter and ice-cream.

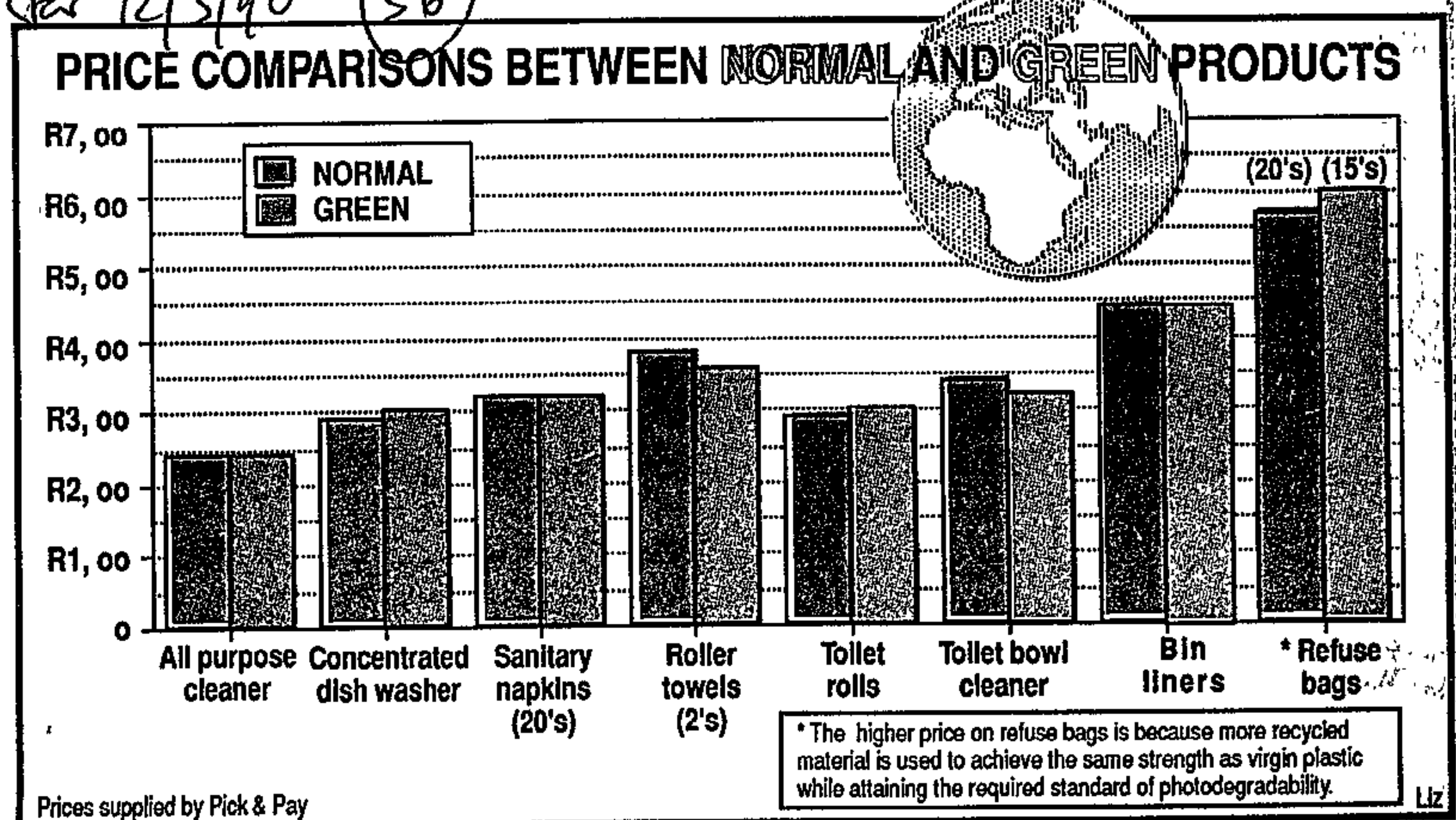
Higher prices

However, some consumers who compared prices between environment-friendly goods and the normal range have complained that they're being forced to pay for their principles.

The Saturday Star established that certain Green products such as toilet rolls, concentrated dishwasher and refuse bags cost more at certain stores.

But Pick 'n Pay national buyer Richard Cohen justified the additional cost of some Green lines: "The short runs required for the Green range increases the cost of production at factory level. The specialised nature of most of the products causes disruption at factory level and this also pushes the cost up.

"Also, most of the products have properties that need special refining — and this is more time-consuming than usual. A case in point is the refin-



Consumers paying for their ozone-friendly principles

ing of recycled paper without using chlorine — which is far longer and a more difficult process than that used in normal factory procedure where chlorine is used."

OK Bazaars food division merchandise controller Norman Leibov agreed that most manufacturers had not been geared for the swing to Green products. But he

PAT DEVEREAUX

said the OK kept prices on a par with the normal range.

And he added that consumers still expected the same quality in a Green product despite less sophisticated production.

Adele Gouws of Checkers said environmental factors had been taken

into consideration when they developed a specific range two years ago, and they now had a wide range of products which did not vary in price.

"Checkers has also encouraged manufacturers to adapt their products and packaging wherever possible."

Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) chairman Jeremy Hele

agreed that "following overseas trends, Green issues in South Africa are coming more to the fore".

But he warned against "the feverish grab for a quick fix". "Our ultimate point is that in future the ecological consequence of virtually every business decision will have to be weighed just as carefully as we currently examine the financial implications."

Referring to overseas consumer surveys, Mr Hele says in the latest edition of the GMA magazine that the surveys showed evidence of "consumer disillusionment with some stores, who have joined the frantic scramble to appear Greener than their High Street neighbours."

"There is also cynicism about retailers' motivation and attitude, and Green claims are expected to come under increasing scrutiny in future."

Project launched to test effect of smog on children

Stw 12/5/90 56
YEARS ago people could spot the Magaliesberg mountains from downtown Johannesburg. That's no longer possible now, even for those with 20/20 vision, and today it is sometimes difficult to see E'Goli's tall buildings through the blanket of smog which obscures the skyline.

The Vaal Triangle — well-known for its high incidence of chest diseases and ear, nose and throat ailments — is a multi-source air pollution area choked by pollen from agricultural and grassland areas and fumes from motor vehicles, heavy industry (chemical, metallurgic and fossil fuel burning), various types of light industries and low quality coal burning for cooking in the black townships.

Aggravated

The township smog problem is aggravated during the cold months of winter when many thousands of residents light coal stoves and braziers to help fight chilly temperatures.

These factors make the Vaal Triangle the ideal area for a study to investigate the effects of different types of indoor and outdoor air pollution on the health of children of all races.

Such a study has been launched by the Medical Research Council's Research Institute for Environmental Diseases (RIED), with the aim of providing information to health authorities who make decisions about air pollution control measures.

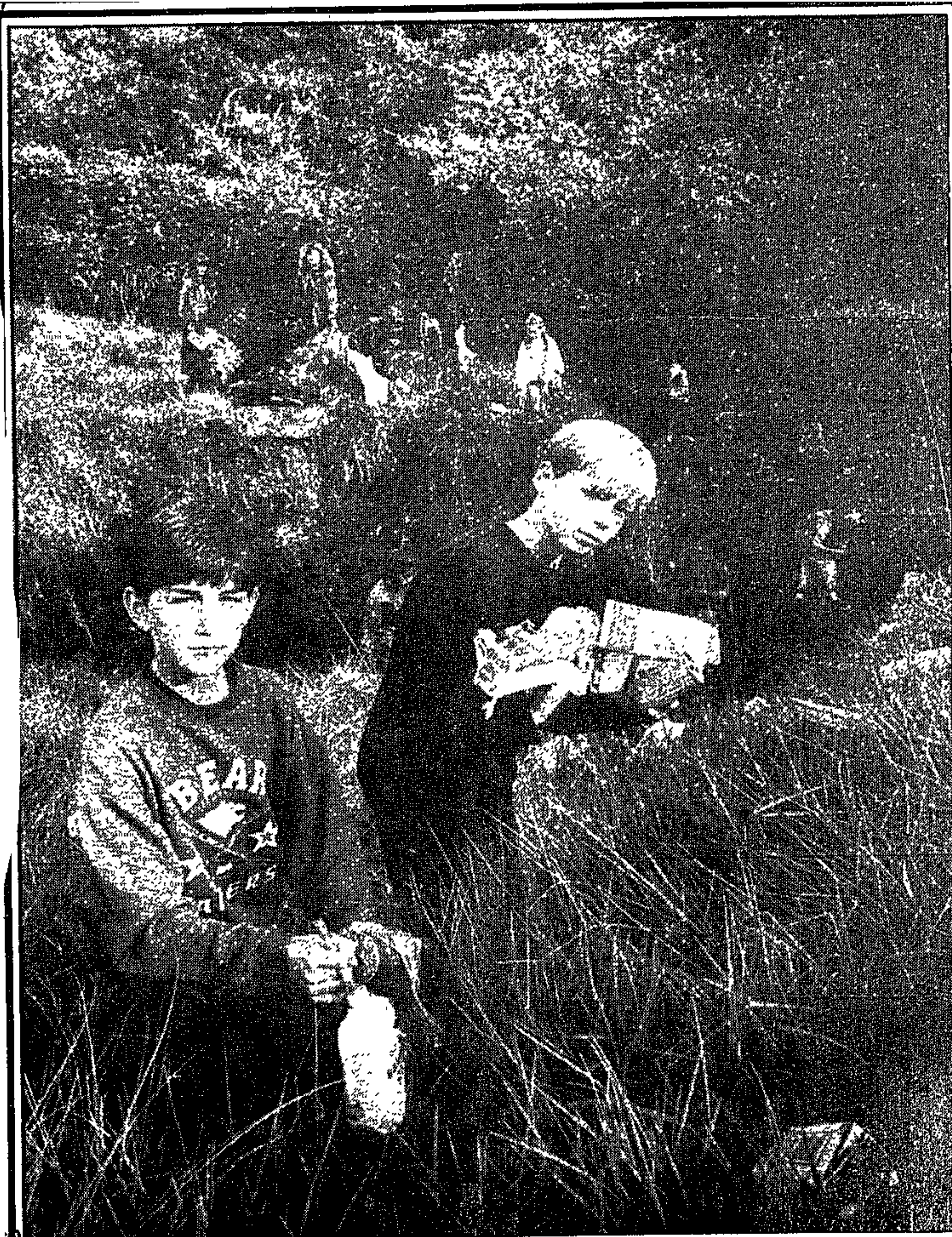
SUE OLSWANG

The multi-disciplinary study, co-ordinated by RIED's Dr Petro Terblanche, will be done in collaboration with the Department of National Health and Population Development, Eskom, Sasol 1, Iscor, the Schönland Research Centre, the Transvaal and Free State Departments of Education, the Town Councils of the Vaal Triangle (Vanderbijlpark, Sasolburg, Vereeniging and Meyerton), the Universities of Pretoria and Witwatersrand, and the Vaal Triangle branch of the National Association for Clean Air (NACA).

Children between the ages of eight and 12 years have been selected as the target population because they are free from occupational-related exposures to air pollution. This is also a pre-smoking age, a factor which can influence the results of the study.

Extensive air pollution monitoring and assessment of health effects are the two main components of the RIED study. Outdoor, indoor and personal air pollution monitoring will be conducted to monitor pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and non-methane hydrocarbons.

Children participating in the study will undergo clinical medical examinations, skin tests for allergies, lung infection tests, blood sampling and immunological tests.



Stopping the rot . . . Duncan Smith (left) and Steven Dayson are among the more than 100 schoolchildren who will help restore Melville Koppies to its natural state.

Melville clean-up part of green campaign

By Jacqueline Myburgh

On Saturday more than 100 conservation-minded school pupils and Melville, Johannesburg, residents will be cleaning up the Melville Koppies.

"Some people look after the environment, but others don't care and throw their rubbish around," says Bronwyn Urquhart (11) from Melville Primary School. She and her classmates will join the clean-up campaign.

Beverley Gurwicz, an estate agent in Melville well known for her involvement in community activities in the suburb, is co-ordinating the clean-up.

"To get children aware of the environment, one must show them that nature is on their doorstep and then take the activity back to the classroom," she says.

The children feel strongly about keeping their environment clean.

"CFCs are the biggest danger to our environment because they destroy the ozone layer which protects us from the sun," says

11-year-old Duncan Smith.

And Marcello Burbante (11) says, recycling waste paper can "save some trees".

"We can all help keep the koppies clean by throwing our rubbish away," says Brandon Allen (12).

Saturday's clean-up is the type of activity which the Pik 'n Pay/Argus Green Week competition hopes to encourage.

About 1600 schools countywide are being asked to enter the competition which will not only help clean up the environment, but could win computer prizes for their schools.

To participate in the Melville clean-up, meet Beverley Gurwicz at the Koffiehuis on the corner of Fourth Avenue and Seventh Street at 8.30 am on Saturday. To enter the Pik 'n Pay/Argus Green Week competition, watch The Star each day this week for details.

We will also be sending entry forms to schools all over the country.

● See Page 7 for details about the Pik 'n Pay/Argus Green Week Schools Competition.

Star 14/5/90
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ST-1 14/5/90 (57)

NEWS

Conservation - doing your bit

Staff Reporter

The first question most people ask about the environment and its conservation is: What can I do?

A well-known South African, travelling in Scandinavia, had the following experience: He bought a chocolate from a street vendor, unwrapped it and casually threw the wrapper into the gutter.

Seconds later a man holding the wrapper tapped him on the shoulder. "Excuse me, sir," he said, "you dropped this."

Help to clean up

"Er, I don't want it any more," said the South African.

The man bristled and said: "Well, nor do we."

There is something you can do. You can help to clean up the environment, and to keep it clean.

Through participation in the Pick 'n Pay/Argus Green Week Schools Competition, schoolchildren can help deal with the most immediate green problem - waste disposal and pollution.

It is here that the ordinary person can make a difference, and why the Argus group, via The Star



Look out for the trees ... by entering the Pick 'n Pay/Argus Green Week Schools Competition, which has this graphic as its logo. The Star will carry details this week about the conservation-oriented competition.

and its sister newspapers, has teamed up with the supermarket chain.

It's simple: find a place where humans have abused

nature and put it right.

It may be oil on the beaches, litter in the park, or a fouled up river. There are thousands of informal, illegal dumping grounds which need attention.

The next step is pro-active. That is, putting nature back.

Recycle the waste

The easiest and most effective way to do this is to plant trees. It is also crucial to explore environment-friendly refuse options. Much of our waste can be recycled.


By entering the Pick 'n Pay/Argus Green Week Schools Competition, your school will not only help to clean up the country, but the winning school in each region receives a computer and software valued at about R12 000.

The overall winner of this national competition will receive a computer network for the school valued at about R92 000.

Watch The Star this week for further details. Each day we will publish an article about the Earth and threats facing it - and on Friday the paper will carry an insert with an entrance form for the competition.

Kaolin media war rages as D-day nears

Staff Reporter

CAT Times 14/5/90 (56) 

KAOLIN-MINING company Serina (Pty) Limited and its opponents, the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group, are engaged in a high-profile media war as the date draws nearer for a final decision on whether kaolin mining in the Noordhoek Valley will go ahead.

Today was supposed to have been the final day for interested parties to register reaction to an environmental impact study, commissioned by Serina but done by independent consultants Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten.

However, Mr Leslie Faber, a member of the Save Chapman's Peak group, said yesterday that the group drawing up the reaction statement had asked for a two-week extension.

Meanwhile, adverts both for and against kaolin mining have been featured in the newspapers.

Thousands of glossy brochures, full of information contained in the environmental impact study, were put in postboxes last week in Noordhoek, Fish Hoek, Sun Valley and Ocean View.

According to the brochure, it would cost R25 million a year to import as much kaolin as can be mined in Noordhoek. Measures which Serina is willing to take to alleviate the effect of mining on the environment are also set out in the brochure.

On the other hand, the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group placed an advertisement in a weekend newspaper that parodies the pro-mining group statement that "you'll find kaolin in things you use every day".

The advertisement runs this statement below an X-ray picture of a rib-cage — hinting strongly that one might find kaolin in one's lungs after mining begins.

Cape Town 14/5/90

Water fees 'will climb 30 to 40%'

Municipal Reporter

WATER bills in Cape Town would escalate at a rate of 30% to 40% a year, a top-level team of experts has revealed at a seminar on water supplies.

Mr Roger Hulley of the Democratic Party's Environmental Action Group, which presented the seminar at the Baxter Theatre on Saturday morning, said a progressive water-rating system would have to be worked out so that low-level users would still be able to afford at least a minimum amount.

"A lot will have to be done to encourage people to make use of storage tanks," he said.

Mr Hulley said the alarming figures on how water bills would escalate had been provided by Cape Town's city engineer, Mr Arthur Clayton.

Present storage dam facilities were not sufficient to meet the greater city's needs even until the end of the century — although this situation will be remedied by work on the Palmiet River scheme.

"Cape Town has enough water to supply its needs until the year 2007,

but without the Palmiet scheme there would be shortages before then," Mr Hulley said.

Beyond 2007, enormously expensive schemes would have to be embarked upon to carry water from the other side of the Hottentots Holland mountain range to Cape Town.

"There is an imbalance between the water run-off to this side and the far side of the mountains," Mr Hulley continued. "The population growth is largely on this side, so we may have to send new factories to the other side when the imbalance makes itself felt."

Research was under way into the possibility of making use of a vast sump of water, known as the aquifer, beneath the Cape Flats, to alleviate the future water shortage.

However, as much water as was taken out had to be put back in, and there was a danger that the aquifer could be polluted unless used water was adequately purified before it was allowed to filter back beneath the soil.

"The conference concluded that Cape Town would have to use advanced technology to preserve, reuse and recycle its water," Mr Hulley said.

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Police have... situation as quiet.

SA 'among world's worst ecology villains'

Cape Times 14/5/90 (56)

By SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON. — Apartheid has made South Africa one of the world's leading ecological villains — worse in some respects even than East Germany, says a new report by the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute.

The problems include massive soil erosion and deforestation in the homelands, a coal-intensive energy policy, lack of environmental control on the mining industry to maximise profits, and regional destabilisation policies

that have destroyed endangered wildlife.

"Air pollution over the nation's coal region ranks with the worst in the world, partly because of an energy strategy that aims at minimising dependence on anti-apartheid oil exporters," the study's author, Alan Durning, concludes.

"In the coalfields east of Johannesburg, annual emissions of sulphur dioxide total 31 tons per square kilometre — higher than the level in East Germany, famous for its polluted air."

Lacking sulphur-removing

scrubbers, coal-fired power plants belched long plumes of smoke across the Transvaal and Natal, threatening crops and forests with acid rain and the health of township residents.

"Black townships and squatter settlements bear the brunt of mining's environmental ills, drinking contaminated water and breathing polluted air."

Safety standards were also ignored. For every ton of gold SA produced, a black miner died in

To page 3

From page 1

SA ecology (56)
"an accident that would have been unlikely in other countries".

As a result of "politically enforced overpopulation", the homelands were "among the world's most degraded regions", their already thin topsoil stripped by farming and overgrazing.

As early as 1980, 46% of Ciskei's soil was moderately or severely eroded. On present trends, all homelands would be virtually denuded of trees within 30 years, so fast was fuel gathering outpacing regeneration.

Apartheid's end could resolve some of the problems. An end to migrant labour policies would reduce "profligate energy waste" and freed from sanctions, SA would be able to terminate its highly polluting synthetic energy programme.

TPA: funds for upgrading of Venterspos

353. Mr P J PAULUS asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the Transvaal Provincial Administration has requested funds for the upgrading of Venterspos; if so, (a) when and (b) what amount has been requested;
- (2) whether funds have been allocated for this purpose; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom or what body, (b) when and (c) what amount has been allocated?

B860E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) 5 February 1990
- (b) R7 867 875
- (2) No funds have yet been allocated.
- (a), (b) and (c) are consequently not applicable.

Uitenhage: protest march

361. Mr W A BOTHA asked the Minister of Justice:†

- (1) Whether the chief magistrate of Uitenhage granted permission for the protest march of October 1989 in Uitenhage; if so, (a) on whose recommendation was such permission granted, (b) what was the recommendation of the town council of Uitenhage in this regard, (c) for what time during the day was the march allowed, (d) how many persons are estimated to have taken part in the march, (e) what units of the security forces were used for the protection of the inhabitants of Uitenhage and (f) (i) what is the total estimated cost of this march to the State and (ii) what expenses have been taken into account in this regard;
- (2) whether the march went off peacefully; if not, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether the march took place within the time allowed;
- (4) whether any persons have been prosecuted as a result of this march; if so, what are the relevant details?

B888E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes, for a protest march on 11 October 1989.

(a) The magistrate considered the relevant facts and circumstances, including a recommendation by the South African Police who were not opposed to the march taking place along the route and during the period determined by the magistrate. The magistrate personally went to great lengths to defuse a tense situation in the interest of the safety of the public. He held several discussions with the applicants and persuaded them to change the route of the protest march away from the main street and to shorten the duration of the protest march.

(b) The town council of Uitenhage refused permission for the protest march.

(c) 10.00 - 12.30.

(d) According to the estimate of the South African Police about 300.

(e) 569 members of the South African Police, 60 members of the South African Defence Force, (32 Traffic Officers also assisted.)

(f) (i) It is not possible to raise an estimate of the cost.
(ii) Falls away.

(2) Yes.

(3) No. The time allowed was exceeded by approximately one hour.

(4) No.

Mr Sybrand Louis van Schoor: inquests

367. Mr A E DE WET asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether his Department has taken any action against Mr Sybrand Louis van Schoor as a result of the findings of the inquests referred to in his reply to Question No 9 on 27 February 1990; if so, what action; if not, why not?

B895E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

No, the records of the inquests and documents pertaining to the deaths in which Mr Van Schoor allegedly features are still being studied by the Attorney-General, Grahamstown.

Castillo de Bellver: monitoring

375. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department is monitoring the wreck of the Spanish oil tanker *Castillo de Bellver* off the west coast of South Africa; if not, (a) why not and (b) when did the tanker sink; if so,
- (2) whether there is any danger of the tanker leaking oil; if so,
- (3) whether his Department has taken any action to prevent oil being so leaked or to minimise the danger of this happening, if not, why not; if so, what action?

B903E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, the situation is being monitored by the "Kuswag" aerial reconnaissance during routine flights and all fishing vessels operating in the vicinity of the wreck have been requested to report any sign of spillage.

(a) Falls away.

(b) August 1983.

(2) The possibility exists.

(3) No, the Department of Transport is presently responsible for the wreck and the oil contained within and you are referred to their answer to your identical question for oral reply on Tuesday 8 May 1990.

The Department of Environment Affairs only becomes involved after the oil is spilled into the ocean. The Department's pollution division is ready to deal with any situation in this regard as is prescribed by the existing contingency plan.

TBVC countries: SA officials seconded

387. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether any South African officials had been seconded to the Government Service of (a) Bophuthatswana, (b) Ciskei, (c) Transkei and (d) Venda as at the latest specified date for which information is available; if so, how many in each case?

B916E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes, on 27 April 1990 there were:

(a) 269

(b) 490

(c) 78

(d) 246.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:


Medical waste

249. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:


Whether consideration is being given to amending legislation relating to the disposal of medical waste, including human tissue, by (a) hospitals, (b) general practitioners, (c) pathology laboratories, (d) veterinarians, (e) clinics and (f) any other specified individuals or organisations; if not, why not; if so, (i) what legislation is involved, and (ii) what amendments are being considered, in each case?

HANSARD 14/5/90 B639E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) No.  no amendments to the Health Act, 1977 are being considered at present. All relevant local and international information regarding "medical waste" is being studied continuously and further action will be taken as and when the need arises.
(i) and (ii) fall away.

Court appearances without legal representation


305. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice: Whether his Department maintains statistics on the number of persons who appeared in courts in each province in 1989 without legal representation, if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? 

HANSARD 14/5/90 B785E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Statistics of persons who appeared in criminal proceedings in district courts (excluding minor traffic offences) without legal representation have been recorded since 1 December 1989. Similar statistics in respect of the regional

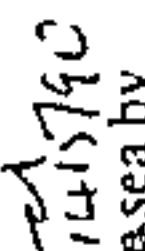
courts have been recorded since 1 February 1990, whilst none are being kept in respect of the Supreme Court. HANSARD 14/5/90

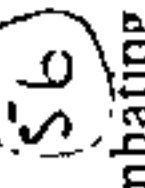
The available statistics for the period 1 December 1989 to 28 February 1990 in respect of the district courts are as follows: 

Cape Province	49 671
Orange Free State	11 615
Natal	20 619
Transvaal	39 498

I may add that, without detracting from the value and desirability of legal representation in general, indications are that a large number of persons are acquitted without legal representation. Indicative of this is that it is estimated that one out of five accused are convicted and committed to prison. Until we arrive, therefore, at the ideal system of complete legal representation, it is in a sense reassuring to know that accused appearing in courts are not necessarily prejudiced by a lack of legal representation. Our system of adjudication of criminal matters provides for various intrinsic safeguards to prevent miscarriages of justice.

Pollution of the sea by oil

327. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:  HANSARD 14/5/90

- (1) How many cases of pollution of the sea by oil occurred in 1989;  (56)
- (2) (a) what was the cost of combating such pollution in that year and (b) what amount was recovered from the owners of the vessels concerned? B817E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) 130 oil spills were reported.
- (2) (a) R247 692 was spent on responding to and combating potential or actual oil spills
(b) The full R247 692 has or is being recovered from the insurers of the vessels, while R97 000 was collected in the form of admissions of guilt paid by vessels caught illegally discharging oil at sea.

Kruger National Park: by-products

328. 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 1989-90 financial year;

(2) what was the profit or loss shown by the depot at the end of this financial year? B818E
141579C

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) R4 327 530.
- (2) A total profit of R2 533 244.

Kruger National Park: culling

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

Whether any animals were culled in the Kruger National Park in 1989; if so, how many head of each species? B819E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- Yes.
- Elephants 248
- Buffalo 2 366

Regional Services Councils: overseas delegations

333. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: 141579C

(1) (a) How many regional services councils sent delegations overseas during the past 18 months. (b) (i) to which countries, and (ii) for what purposes, were they sent in each case. (c) on whose authority did these overseas visits take place and (d) what was the (i) cost and (ii) composition of each of these delegations;

(2) whether any regional services councils plan to send delegations overseas in the next 12 months; if so, (a) which regional services councils and (b) (i) at what cost, and (ii) for what purpose, in each case;

(3) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B823E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

Cape Province:

(1) (a) One, namely the Western Cape Regional Services Council.

(b) (i) United States of America
(ii) To attend the Sixth International Conference on Aids.

(c) The Regional Services Council, with the approval of the Administrator.

(d) (i) R20 000 was estimated.
(ii) The delegation consisted of the Medical Officer of Health only.

(2) Only one application has been received up to date. 141579C

(a) The Western Cape Regional Services Council.

(b) (i) R63 532 was estimated.

(ii) Attendance of the Annual congress of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

(3) 25 April 1990.

Transvaal:

(1) (a) Two Regional Services Councils
Pretoria
West Rand

(b) (i) Canada, USA and Portugal
(ii) Pretoria Regional Services Council

Attending the International Institute of Town Clerks' Congress and International Parks Congress in the USA and Canada.

West Rand Regional Services Council
Attending the International Housing Congress in Oporto, Portugal

(c) The Pretoria Regional Services Council decided to send a delegation abroad.

The West Rand Regional Services Council, obtained approval in terms of section 79(33) of the Local Government Ordinance, 1939 (Ord-

nance 17 of 1939) from the Administrator of the Transvaal to send a delegation abroad.

(d) (i) Pretoria Regional Services Council — R50 000
West Rand Regional Services Council — R96 377,72

(ii) Pretoria Regional Services Council

Mr P Delpoit (Chairman)
Mr H J Tshungu (Member of Executive Committee)

West Rand Regional Services Council

Mr F Mulder (Chief Executive Officer)

Mr K Nel (Deputy chairman)
Mr H Jacobs (Chairman: Management Committee, Westonia area)

Mr J Baard (Mayor of Khutsong)

(2) Yes

(a) Pretoria Regional Services Council
West Rand Regional Services Council
East Rand Regional Services Council

(b) (i) Pretoria Regional Services Council — R32 500
West Rand Regional Services Council — R233 000
East Rand Regional Services Council — R172 500

(ii) The objectives of the visits are as follows:

Pretoria Regional Services Council

(a) Attending the International Institute of Town Clerks' Congress and International Parks Congress.

(b) Participation in "Citizen Ambassador Programme Of People To People International".

(c) Two day visit to London to inspect a light rail transport system (GEC Traction Company) with a view to the regional transport function.

East Rand Regional Services Council

(a) Attending the Congress of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks to promote the idea of regional services councils.

(b) Gathering information about fire brigade and computer services on a regional basis.

(c) Attending of a seminar on land use planning and transport services in metropolitan areas.

(d) Studying methods and technology for the recovery of urban waste for recycling.

(e) To promote the recovery of usable materials from waste, and to establish a consistent demand in the open market for such materials on behalf of the industry.

West Rand Regional Services Council

Attending, among others, the congress of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.

(3) 30 April 1990.

Natal

(1) (a) No Regional Services Councils have been established in Natal and the question is therefore not applicable

Orange Free State:

- (1) (a) None The rest falls away.
- (2) No. The rest falls away
- (3) 25 April 1990.

Advocates: Latin qualification

337. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice: 141579C

Whether he intends to introduce legislation in 1990 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? B827E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

No.

mentioned persons. Namibia became an independent State on 21 March 1990. Since then the South African laws were no longer applicable in Namibia. Consequently, South Africa took the initiative in normalising the administration of justice with Namibia. Prior to the independence of Namibia the matter of an extradition treaty, together with other matters regarding the administration of justice was discussed by a South African delegation to Windhoek on 8 March 1990 with the Minister of Justice designate and his deputy. On this occasion the Namibians preferred not to finalise the matters in issue and nothing further was heard from then until 22 April 1990 when the extradition of certain persons was sought. *Hansard 15/5/90*

However, in the absence of an extradition treaty the State President is empowered in terms of section 3(2) of the Extradition Act, 1962, to activate a process for the extradition of a person. The State President's initial activation is in lieu of an extradition agreement but the subsequent extradition procedure to be followed is the same as if an extradition agreement had existed. The Namibian authorities were immediately informed upon the receipt of their request of the exact requirements for extradition. On 4 May 1990 the Namibian authorities responded but again did not comply with the requirements put to them. The shortcomings were on the same day conveyed to Namibia. No further response was received.

I would again like to emphasise that the South African authorities have throughout been prepared to consider any extradition request from Namibia, and they still are, provided that the minimum statutory requirements for extradition applicable between the Republic and all other states are met.

SADF: assistance to Comores

*10. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Defence: *Hansard 15/5/90*
Whether the South African Defence Force gave any assistance to the Government of the Comores in respect of its Presidential Guard prior to 30 November 1989, if so, (a) what form did such assistance take and (b) how much did it cost? *B978E*

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

Yes. (a) All assistance rendered to the Comores was at the request of the late

President Abdullah, was of a restricted nature and has been properly accounted for. *Hansard 15/5/90*
(b) I do not consider it in the interest of the sensitive relations between the RSA and the Comores and the internal situation on the island itself to divulge more information at present in this regard. Should the hon member require more information regarding the assistance, I am prepared to supply this to him in person.

Pit-bulls

*11. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:

(1) Whether any permits were granted by his Department for the importation of any dog breeds known as pit-bulls during the latest specified three-year period for which information is available; if so, (a) how many such permits were granted and (b) on what grounds;

(2) whether he will impose a ban on the further importation of pit-bulls into South Africa; if not, why not;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *E-79E*

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

(1) No.
Note: Import permits are not required for live animals, only the necessary health authorisation, including inoculation and quarantine requirements, controlled by the Department of Agriculture.

(a) and (b) Fall away

(2) In my view the importation of so-called pit-bulls is a dangerous and undesirable practice and should not be allowed. I have indicated this view to my colleagues who concur and we will seek ways and means of achieving this ban, if practicable.

(3) I will inform the hon member as soon as we have made progress in investigating this matter. I thank the hon member for his concern, which I share.

Teachers: lowest salary

*12. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education: *Hansard 15/5/90*

(a) (i) What is the lowest salary currently being paid to any full-time teacher in the Department of Education and Training and (ii) how many teachers are at that salary level and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *B981E*

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(a) (i) R6 873 plus a non-pensionable allowance of R690 per annum.

(ii) 3 271

(b) 9 May 1990.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Broadbill swordfish: restrictions

*13. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Hansard 15/5/90*

(1) Whether there are any restrictions on the catching of broadbill swordfish by commercial fishermen; if not,

(2) whether the introduction of such restrictions is being considered; if not, why not? *B982E*

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) No, the sale of swordfish is already prohibited by regulation, except in the case of swordfish caught as bycatch with longlines or in trawlnets.

Berlin: formaldehyde factory

*14. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Water Affairs: *Hansard 15/5/90*

(1) Whether the Government has received any complaints regarding a formaldehyde factory in Berlin, Eastern Cape; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what steps have been taken as a result; *S6*

(2) whether his Department monitors the factory and surrounding area to establish whether any formaldehyde pollution is occurring; if not, why not, if so, on what basis is such monitoring done;

(3) whether any maximum permissible levels of formaldehyde in water and air have been laid down; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are these levels and (b) what is the measured level of formaldehyde in the area surrounding the factory in question? *B983E*

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes. *Hansard 15/5/90*

(a) Mr V J M Houzet, who wrote directly to me.

(b) The factory in question was inspected by senior officials of the Department of Water Affairs' Eastern Cape regional office, accompanied by the City Chemist of East London.

(2) Yes. The area is monitored by officials of the Department of Water Affairs by means of routine visits, on site inspections and the taking of water samples.

(3) No standard is specified for formaldehyde discharges into watercourses. This is because it is impractical to specify standards for all possible components of industrial or domestic discharges. Instead, a blanket variable is used to control the organic or inorganic concentrations discharged. If, however, there is the possibility of a specific substance being discharged which may be deleterious to the environment, specific limits can be imposed on that discharge, or it can be prohibited completely. The undertaking in question, however, does not discharge effluent of any nature into a watercourse — all effluents, domestic and industrial, are discharged into an effluent disposal sewer system of the municipality concerned. The Department then in turn monitors the quality of the municipal effluent to ascertain compliance with the standard applicable to the Municipality's effluent. No formaldehyde discharges into the water environment have been detected at the factory in Berlin. *S6*

Air pollution control falls within the ambit of the Department of National Health and Population Development and I suggest that the honourable member directs enquiries in this regard to that Department.

8/2 15/10 (56) (60)

Schools can join fight against threats to planet

By Adam Gordon

Throughout history, humans have had to deal with menaces such as drought, floods, icy winters and wild animals.

Nature was a huge, powerful and unpredictable enemy that had to be conquered. Human survival itself depended on it.

Super-technology turned the tables in the 20th century. Natural disasters still occur, but humans believe they can overcome nature.

Now it looks like human progress has become the danger.

Acid rain, global warming, ozone depletion, toxic waste, mass forest destruction and more. These phenomena all threaten life as we know it.

When we've fished all the fish, shot all the wild animals, and fouled up the seas and the air, we might have a hard time recognising this planet.

So suddenly, ironically, humans are beginning to perceive their survival as bound up in the protection of nature.

The history of the South African landscape tells this story. Once wild and unknown, it has slowly been subjected to European style "progress". Where in the past



this country was an ecological paradise, unduly blessed with natural resources and relatively few people to spoil them, we now face serious environmental decay.

Alarming reports have surfaced in recent years: acid rain from factory sulphuric air pollution in the Eastern Transvaal, lethal mercury levels in Natal's river water, thousands of dead fish in the river near the Sappi paper plant last year, gene-bending pesticides, and toxic waste processing in Natal.

In a few years, parts of this country could resemble the infamous industrial wastelands of Europe and America.

The main enemy is ignorance. People are simply unaware of the extent of environmental damage and the risks this brings. The biggest danger is the feeling that the environment is "someone else's problem", or there are "experts" that have everything under control.

People often complacently feel that if anything was really life threatening it wouldn't be allowed. Wrong. The ozone has a huge hole because nobody would listen until it was too late.

The major task of the Pick 'n Pay/Star Green Week competition is to educate young people. Everybody should know what the dangers are, who is guilty of environment destruction, and what can be done.

By participating in this massive clean-up of South Africa, schools will not only learn about the threats facing the planet and help to solve the problem of solid waste — but entrants in each region stand the chance of winning a computer and software for the school valued at about R12 000.

And the national winner will receive a computer network for the school valued at R92 000. Read The Star every day this week for more details on how to enter the competition.

Row as US group slams SA ecology policies

Political Staff

THE government and the Democratic Party clashed yesterday over a scathing indictment of South Africa's environmental policies by the United States-based Worldwatch Institute.

The DP's environment spokesman, Mr Rupert Lorimer, said the comments made by the Worldwatch Institute would come as a shock to most South Africans, but "regrettably much of what they say is factual".

"Our coal-intensive energy policy does pose a threat as a result of high acid rain levels.

"Our soil erosion problem is getting worse and we are faced with steady desertification.

"Conditions in our over-populated homelands have seriously depleted soil cover.

"Numerous other threats to the environment exist and while the government talk a lot, they are short on action.

"The Minister of Environment Affairs has inadequate legal powers so he can do very little without the support of his colleagues which does not seem to be forthcoming.

However, Mr Neil du Bois, a spokesman for the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said it should be apparent that the Worldwatch report had political overtones.

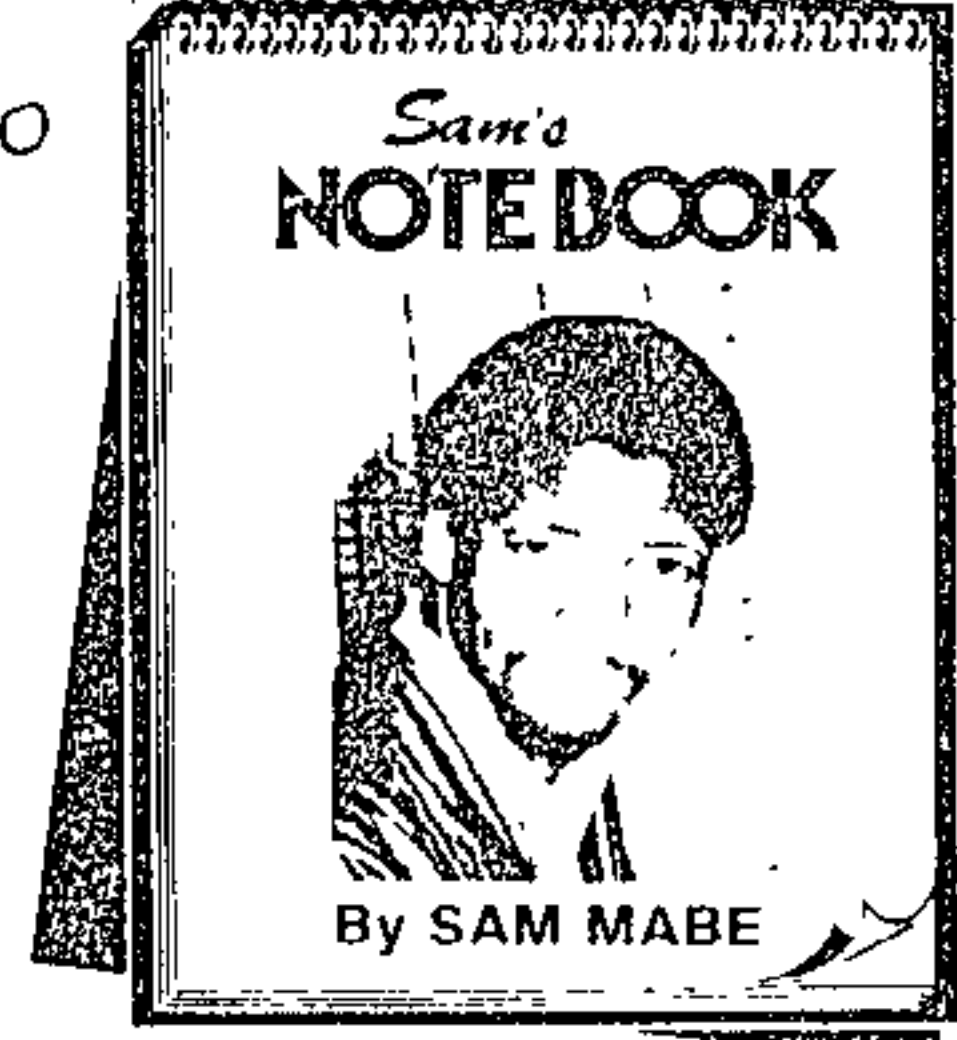
There were environmental problems in South Africa, but these were receiving urgent attention.

He said that although South Africa occupied one percent of the surface area of the world, it contained ten percent of the world's plant, bird and fish life.

"As far as nature conservation is concerned, we have a very high standard for a developing country."

Environmental awareness takes root in townships

Sowetan
16/5/90
(56)



AROUND January this year, I included gardening on my very short list of hobbies. Within a month after I started, I wanted to kick myself for being such a late starter.

I was beginning to reap the benefits. To use a pick and a spade, dirtying your hands in coming into physical contact with the soil is exciting and refreshing. Both mentally and physically.

Linking mental and manual labour lifts you up spiritually and it harmonises one's body and soul.

I'm feeling so good about it that I'm now trying to work out a way of encouraging people in my neighbourhood and everywhere else to form themselves into little groups to discuss what they can do to make their environment presentable.

I have also been encouraged by the responses I received from people who read the speech I delivered on environmental awareness at a workers' rally on Earth Day last month.

Enquiries

There were telephonic enquiries and visits from people who either wanted to know more about the current environmental revolution and those wanting to be part of the revolution.

All this, helped to show how much we have undermined our people's interest or appreciation of environmental issues.

Some youngsters from Kagiso, Tembisa and Soweto came to tell me about their projects and that they were raring to go. They just wanted to be given trees to start planting. Others told of some of the problems they were encountering

with some members of the community.

It would appear that unless you show the linkage between environmental issues and the broader liberation struggle, you will encounter difficulties in convincing some people to get involved.

The Nation Building concept has given us a working formula and that is the language we speak. We'll soon be knocking at a number of doors for support from various corporations and the public to help us launch a massive campaign that should transform the face of our townships. And of our lives.

Historical

We could do ourselves a lot of good if we were to shelve our petty differences and use our trade unions, stokvels, youth clubs, street committees to promote environmental awareness. Organisations like Nafeco, NSL, Sabta, Azapo, ANC and PAC could mark every occasion on their calendar by planting trees.

To my delight, I learnt the other day that the ANC has an Environment Department. We could earmark places like Takalani Home for the Mentally Handicapped, Soweto Old Age and our schools for tree planting.

I am only a phone call away if your organisation wants some trees, please let's talk about it.

As I indicated on Earth Day, we could commit ourselves to planting a tree to mark

all days that have historical significance to us.

The Jews were able to transform large tracts of desert wasteland and desolate mountains in Israel into lush farms and beautiful parkland.

From wherever they are all over the world, they send a tree to Israel in memory of a loved one, to honour a friend or to celebrate a joyous occasion. And they say that a tree symbolises one's love for the land and solidarity with the people back in Israel.

Tree planting has almost become part of their culture and through it, they are creating a future for many generations to come. Just like us, they have serious political squabbles too.

But they are mature enough to know what investing in the future means and while sorting out their political problems on the one hand, they build their nation on the other.

About 90 years ago, they established the Jewish National Fund which is today the world's most successful tree planting organisation. To this day, they have planted over 190 million trees.

Finalists

As you may be aware, today we have published names of 20 finalists of the Sowetan/Coca-Cola 'It's up to us' competition.

What was most amazing was that a vast majority of the group that wrote essays were saying the creation of a clean and healthy environment was the responsibility of individuals.

They said there was a need for members of the community - the youth in particular - to form street committees that can be used as forums for discussing environmental issues.

I must also congratulate the chaps at Radio Metro for the good job they are doing too.

Every Saturday they have a programme in which the Transvaal Association of Nurserymen answers questions and advises listeners on all matters related to our green heritage.

Keep it up folks, I wish the whole nation a very green and pollution-free day.

Loss of soil fertility: a major catastrophe

South 17/5 - 22/5/90

56



DEVELOPING countries are threatened by a hidden danger — the loss of soil fertility.

It could be more catastrophic than damage to the ozone layer, acid rain, water pollution, chemical waste dumping and other forms of environmental degradation currently the focus of world attention.

A warning of the consequences of loss of soil fertility has been given by HA Jasiorowski, the departmental head of agriculture at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to international experts.

At a meeting in Rome to discuss fertilisers and plant nutrition, he said loss of soil fertility posed a real and immediate threat to the lives and livelihood of millions of people.

Says Jasiorowski: "While we probe ever deeper into space and the planet itself, human existence continues to depend completely upon a layer of less than one metre of material — the soil, a priceless asset."

Agricultural soils lose their fertility through depletion of plant nutrients which are already exhausted in many developing countries.

Loss of fertility reduces the number of crop yields and affects the water-holding capacity of soil. This leads to greater vulnerability to drought.

Survive

Like all living organisms, soil needs feeding to survive and produce. A grain crop of average yield uses between 100kg and 150kg of major plant nutrients per hectare. These nutrients must be returned to the soil if it is to meet further demands.

Jasiorowski says: "It is only when one turns such estimates of removal into national or regional totals that the magnitude of the extraction is clearly shown.

"Asia's annual production of 400 million tons of paddy rice contains nearly 20 million tons of plant nutrients. Africa's annual maize production removes more than three million tons."

Under traditional agricultural systems, nutrient removal was balanced by allowing land to lie fallow for certain periods during which recycling, weathering and grazing animals replaced nutrients.

Depletion

This system of natural replenishment has broken down because of the demands of increased populations. The point has now been reached where nutrient management systems are vital to most of the world's cultivated lands.

In a recent review of plant nutrient depletion, FAO said the current average world consumption of mineral fertilisers was unevenly distributed between the industrialised and the developing countries.

Some industrialised countries consume such massive amounts of mineral fertilisers — up to 700kg per hectare — that they risk endangering the long-term fertility of the soil.

By contrast, Africa, excluding North African countries, uses only 11kg per hectare, while in Latin America and Asia the quantities are a modest 48kg and 62kg respectively.

Because of heavy external debt burdens and the low prices paid for agricultural exports, many developing countries do not have the foreign exchange to import enough fertiliser to replenish the soil.

Debts

Dwindling incomes and crippling debts have forced many Third World nations to reduce fertiliser subsidies, while the prices for crops paid to farmer-producers remain low.

Agricultural credit is scarce, especially for small-scale farmers and households led by women, while incentives and information on efficient use of fertilisers are often lacking.

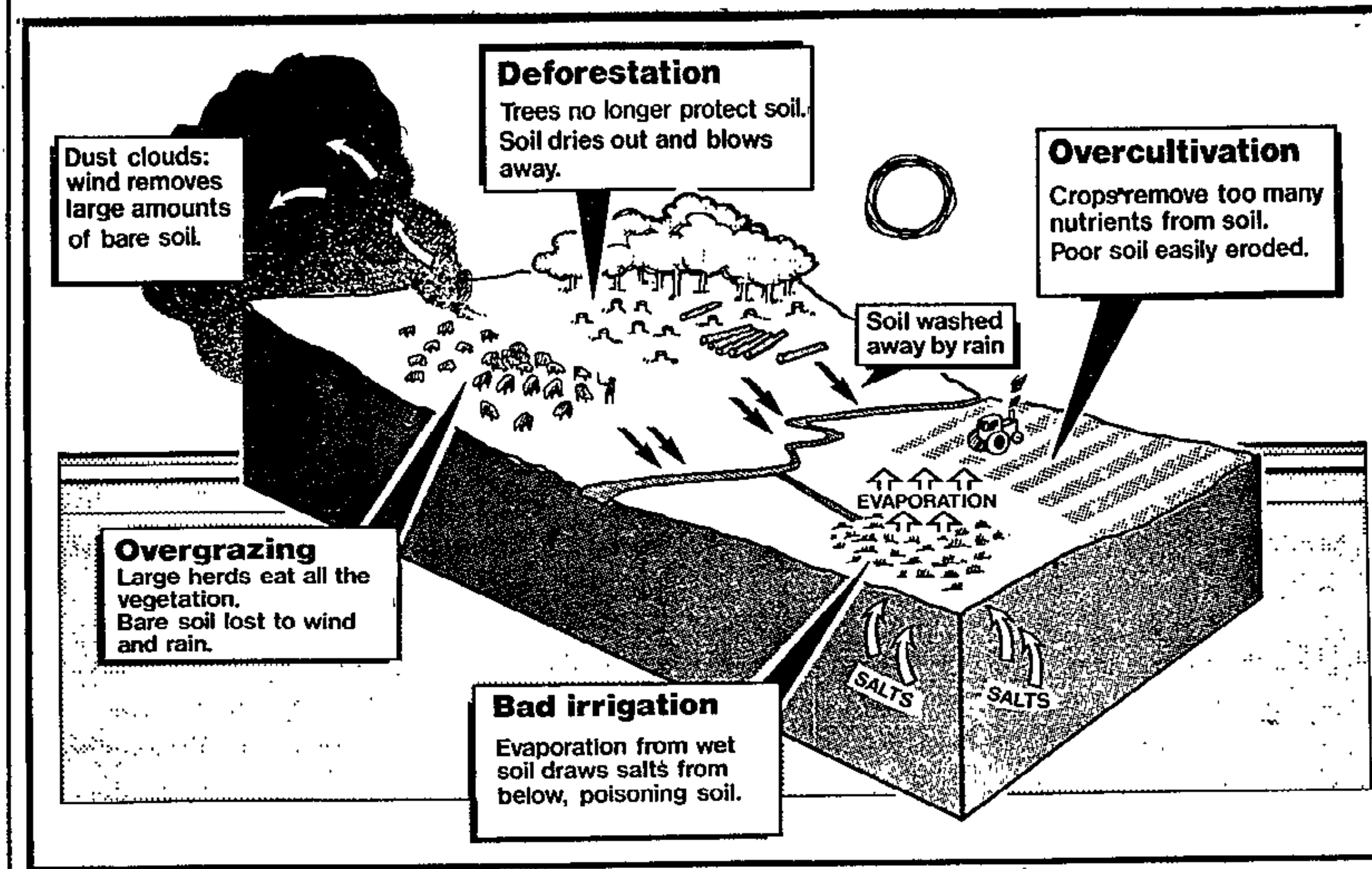
The combination of ignorance, lack of agricultural input and poverty is having a disastrous impact on the earth.

FAO recommends that action is needed at international and farm levels to avoid a catastrophe in plant nutrient depletion that could be far more serious than other environmental dangers.

The organisation is seeking support for an expanded programme to develop soil fertility. This will provide a framework for national strategies to conserve and regenerate soil fertility and for increased international assistance. — GEMINI NEWS

The organisation is seeking support for an expanded programme to develop soil fertility.

How fertile fields become barren wastelands



SO much has been said and written about the South African economy, both within the national question and in relation to South Africa's place in the world economy.

We know an enormous amount from Wilson and Ramphela's book, "Uprooting Poverty" and a host of alternative media about the physical conditions in different sectors of the economy.

Yet the green movement in South Africa has been fairly silent on these issues.

The green movement throughout the world has been fairly consistent about several of basic assumptions:

- Grassroots democracy : full and effective participation in taking decisions that affect people's lives
- Ecologically sustainable development
- Post-patriarchal values: oppression because of sex, race, class, and re-

ligion must stop, as must excessive competition, consumption, aggression and individualism.

It seems that specific economic practices will have to be challenged with a full understanding of the prevailing relations of power and domination.

Our views — whether we opt for a mixed economy or decentralisation and a regional approach — must be inserted into the struggle for a peaceful and just settlement.

Certainly, the Thor chemicals campaign in Natal bears evidence of the fruits of local and international cooperation.

Unless the green movement in South Africa develops a serious and documented economic plan, it will remain a collection of irritated activists, earnest petition signers and smug recipients of waste paper. — Mike Kante

Pedalling for cash

Star 17/5/90 Staff Reporter (56) (58)

Students from four technikons will be pedalling exercise bicycles at the weekend to raise funds for the Wildlife Society's environmental education projects.

Teams from the Natal, Cape Town, Witwatersrand and Pretoria Technikons will compete to see which team can cycle the most kilometres over two days.

The public and businesses can take part by sponsoring the team of their choice.

Student union

The exercycle marathon has been arranged by the South African Technikon Student Union (Satsu) as part of a year-long effort to promote conservation on the respective technikon campuses.

Satsu president Allen McInnes said: "No matter what careers we follow, by supporting environmental education, we can make an active contribution to a better environment for all South Africans."

The Wildlife Society currently spends R1,5 million annually on its eight permanent environmental education projects.

These employ 40 full-time, qualified educationists. Millions of rands are needed to expand the current projects.

Wits to host workshop on environment

Star 7/5/79 Staff Reporter (56)

The University of the Witwatersrand Centre for Continuing Education is to host a weekend workshop later this month, focusing on environmental and socio-political issues in the eastern Transvaal.

The workshop will be held on the "rural campus" of the university, at Umbabat, between Klaserie and Acornhoek.

Joan Vinjevold, at the Centre for Continuing Education, said a rapidly increasing population, greater demands on resources and the degradation of the environment in the rural areas had drawn attention to the urgency of development in these areas.

The programme would include discussions on the pre-history of the area, land issues, environmental issues, and appropriate technology, Mrs Vinjevold said.

Govt awaits study

of St Lucia mine

GERALD REILLY (56)

PRETORIA — Government would take no decision on mining operations in the St Lucia conservation area until a comprehensive independent investigation had been completed, Conservation and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday.

It would be a sad day if a decision were taken on emotional grounds alone or because of public pressure, particularly when even researchers and experts would only be ready to express an opinion after a thorough investigation, he said. B10 Aug 18/5/90

"I can assure you, if the investigation shows that mining operations would cause unacceptable damage to the environment I will do all in my power to prevent mining in the area".

"However, should it appear from the investigation that mining operations were acceptable, they would only be allowed under the most stringent conditions.

One of these conditions would be that the rehabilitation of the area left the environment in a better condition than at present.

Protecting nature is a Sasol priority

ENVIRONMENTAL protection is at the top of Sasol's agenda in the development of the synthetic fuel giant's new open cast mine near Secunda.

Sasol media manager Jan Krynauw says: "Instead of first establishing a mine and later attempting to redress environmental damage, we want to safeguard vegetation and soil from the outset."

The Syferfontein Colliery, at Trichardt, in the Eastern Transvaal, presents a unique opportunity for Sasol to demonstrate its CSR bonafides, right at the project planning stage. The mine is scheduled to come on line in September.

Krynauw says the environmental programme aims to eliminate damage and to enhance the area in terms of appearance and utility for natural purposes.

Prevent

Large amounts of money have been set aside to prevent pollution and minimise the environmental impact of Sasol's activities.

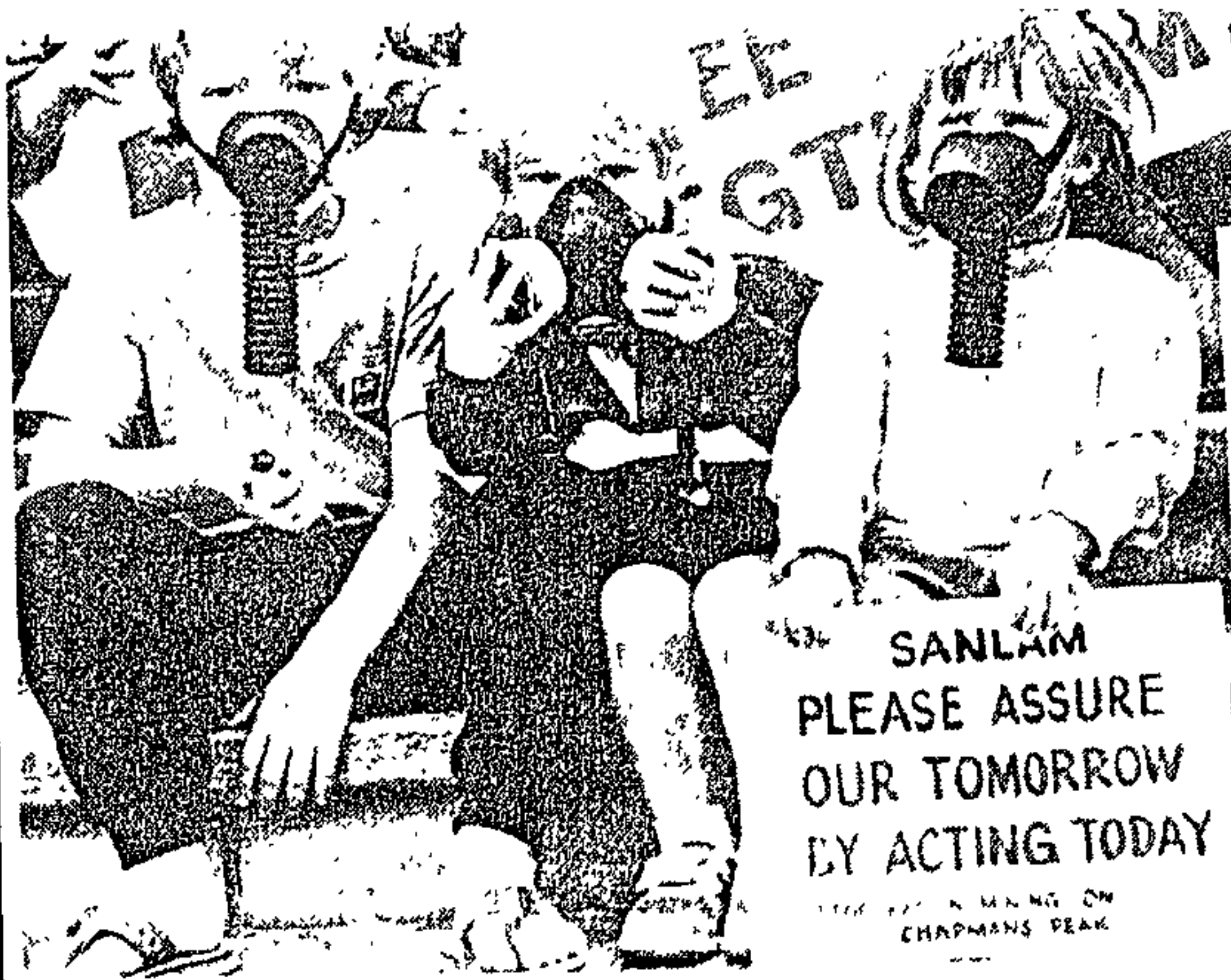
"Before earth is moved to expose the underlying coal, months of environmental impact studies will have been completed and interpreted and all mining operations will, as a matter of policy, be bound by these recommendations," he says.

Field experiments are planned to establish optimum soil depth, fertiliser levels and the selection of appropriate grass species to improve the resulting pasture land. Good land management principles will be applied, including re-planting of topsoil and subsoils in natural sequence.

Detailed studies on wildlife and vegetation at the site have identified rare species of both vegetation and animal life and these will not be put at risk.

The potential impact of the mining operation on both surface and underground water resources will be monitored and experience gained at Secunda will be used.

"Secunda has achieved zero effluent standard in that no polluted or contaminated water is returned to the Vaal system," Krynauw says.



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus.

KAOLIN KIDS: Anthony Hoeben, William Soutter and Amy Smith join the protest at Sanlam's Bellville offices.

Kaolin mine not ours, Sanlam tells protesters

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau

SANLAM has no control over plans for the Chapman's Peak kaolin mine, officials told a group of women and children who staged a placard protest at the insurance giant's Bellville headquarters.

The group of about 20 chanted "Sanlam stop that kaolin mine, Sanlam save our mountain," with children wearing imitation breathing masks.

Spokesman Mrs Sandy Smith said: "We are parents and have brought our children to appeal to Sanlam as the parent company of Serina (the company behind plans for the mine) to

show it cares and stop the mine."

Security officials at first barred the protesters from entering the building.

Public relations officials Mr Boet van der Spuy and Mr Wynand van Eyssen met the group outside the building.

Mr Van der Spuy asked them: "Why didn't you make an appointment? We could have made plans to receive you."

Told the protesters wanted to see a senior executive to hand him a bunch of proteas from the threatened mountain, Mr Van der Spuy said: "We do care but we have no say over what Serina does."

Mr. 7/1/90 (5b)

Apartheid shatters environment — researcher

sta 19/5/90

56

APARTHEID has been as disastrous for South Africa's environment as for its people, according to a new study by the Worldwatch Institute.

"Institutionalised racism has polluted the air and water, pillaged the bedrock and ripped away the earth in wide regions of South Africa," says Alan Durning, author of "Apartheid's Environmental Toll" and a senior researcher at Worldwatch, a Washington-based research organisation.

Apartheid has turned the "homelands" — where half the black population is forced to live — into ecological wastelands, according to Mr Durning.

To generate the funds needed to enforce apartheid, Pretoria has allowed mines to ignore common safety and pollution precautions.

A pariah to most oil exporters, South Africa has developed an energy policy that makes it among the most polluting nations of its size.

And its wars against neighbours have devastated endangered plant and animal species.

"Today, with apartheid's grip on the nation weakening, it is time for a full reckoning of its ecological toll," Mr Durning says.

Half of South Africa's 29 million blacks — primarily women, children and the elderly, have been pushed on to 13 percent of the national territory euphemistically called "homelands".

Forests disappearing

"By design, these areas are remote, their topsoil is thin, rainfall scarce and unreliable, and the ground sloping and rocky. Suffering under politically enforced overpopulation 10 times the population density of white rural areas — the homelands are among the world's most degraded regions."

Enormous erosion gullies criss-cross the topography, and in some areas the topsoil has been worn down to bedrock. In 1970, 46 percent of Ciskei, for instance, was already moderately to severely eroded, he says.

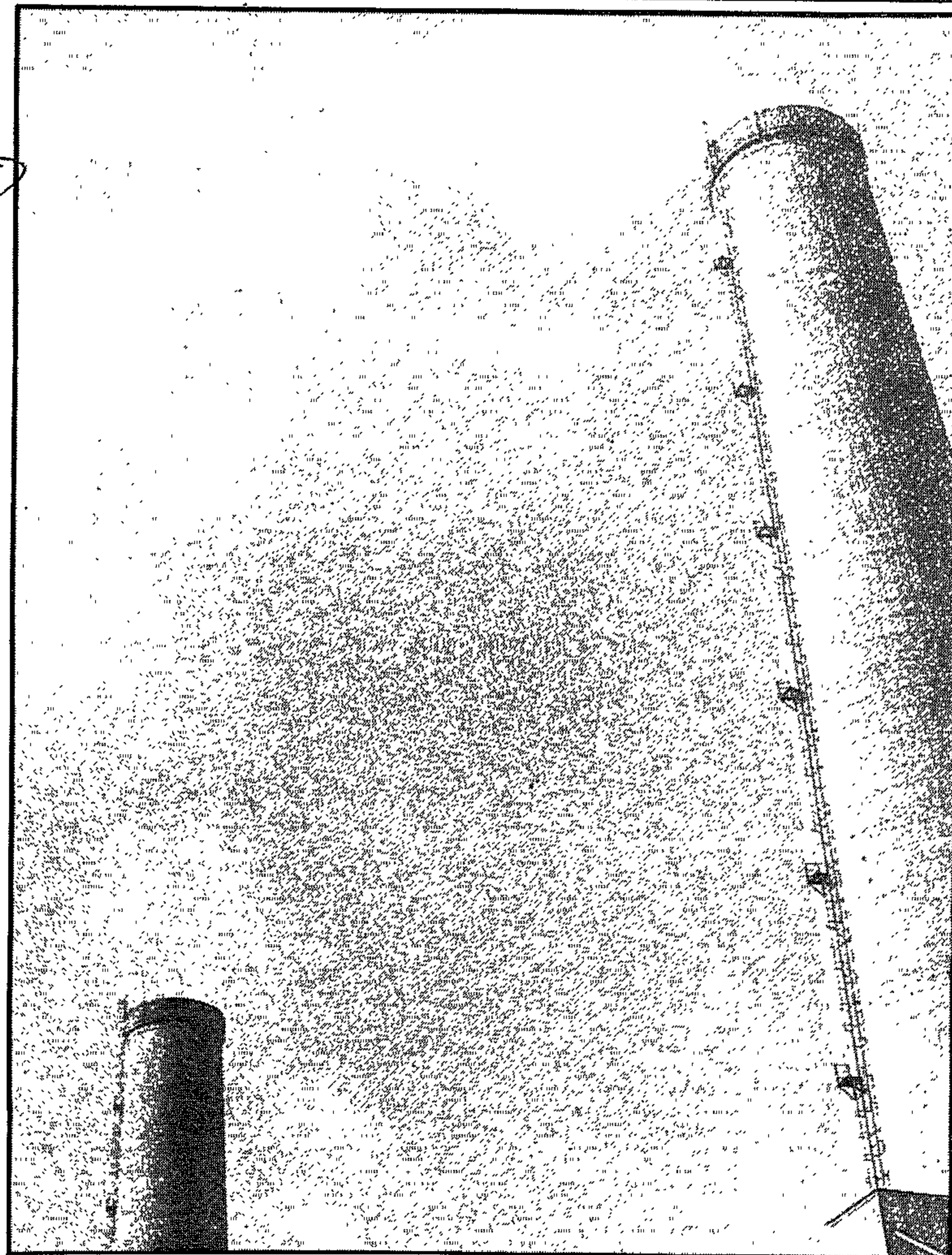
Forests are disappearing rapidly too. The Kwa-Zulu homeland has lost 200 of its 250 distinct tracts of woodland in the past half century. In the homelands, fuelwood-gathering has outpaced regeneration and will strip the land bare within 30 years unless apartheid ends.

"South Africa is the Saudi Arabia of minerals," according to Mr Durning. "But, because mining is the backbone of the embattled apartheid economy, the industry is little regulated. Black townships and squatter settlements bear the brunt of mining's environmental ills, drinking contaminated water and breathing polluted air."

"Blacks also suffer underground. For every ton of gold South Africa extracts, a black miner dies in an accident that would have been unlikely in other countries."

South Africa's energy policy, too, is motivated and made possible by apartheid. Isolated by oil-exporting nations that are vehemently opposed to apartheid, South Africa has turned to heavily polluting domestic coal, the author says.

The nation now gets more of its commercial energy from coal than any country besides North Korea. Suppressed mine wages keep coal inexpensive and promote wasteful use, with the result that South Africa is the world's most energy-inten-



WHAT PRICE PROGRESS? In the eastern Transvaal 31 tons of sulphur dioxide per square kilometre is emitted annually — a higher level than in East Germany, infamous for its air pollution.

sive free-market country outside the oil exporters.

"In the coal fields east of Johannesburg, annual emissions of sulphur dioxide total 31 tons per square kilometre — higher than the level in East Germany, infamous for its polluted air. Acid rain and air pollution threaten forests, crops and aquatic ecosystems in the region and beyond, while the thick coal smoke in black townships has undermined residents' health."

In its search for liquid fuels, especially diesel to power military vehicles and the fleet of buses that carry black migrant labourers from the remote townships, the State has created an ecologically disastrous coal-to-oil synthetic fuels programme. Likewise, it has secured oil imports by linking them to cheap coal exports, augmenting energy waste overseas, Mr Durning says.

South Africa's coal consumption makes it a disproportionately large contributor to global climate change. White South Africans are the world's worst greenhouse offenders, each emitting more than 9 tons of carbon during 1987. The world aver-

age is 1 ton, and Americans release 5 tons each.

Since the Seventies, South Africa has defended apartheid through a military and economic campaign to "destabilise" countries to the north through brutal surrogate armies, the report says.

"The ecological effects of these wars have gone unnoticed," Mr Durning says. "Yet they have laid waste to vast areas and filled refugee camps with at least 4 million people, who strip the land bare for fuel and shelter."

Recent revelations from within the South African military, moreover, detail how rebels in Angola have financed their forces by decimating elephant herds for ivory and forests for hardwoods — with the assistance of the South African military.

An environmental awakening is under way in South Africa, raising hopes for a greener future.

"Ending apartheid will quickly resolve some ecological curses. Yet an end to apartheid will leave other ecological problems — including the volatile issue of land redistribution — to a new government," he says.

Ciskei government: recognition by SA

*13. Mr A E DE WET asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether the South African Government has officially recognised the present Ciskei Government; if so, when; if not,
 - (2) whether the South African Government is considering doing so; if so, when will it do so; if not, why not?
- Hansford 22/5/90* B1058E
- The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
- (1) No.
 - (2) Consideration will be given to the matter in due course.

Former inhabitants of Ngonkqweni: resettlement

*14. Mr A E DE WET asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has discussed with the current Ciskei Government the resettlement of the former inhabitants of Ngonkqweni on the land originally occupied by them; if so, (a) when and (b) with what results; if not,
 - (2) whether he will intercede with that government on their behalf; if not, why not; if so, when?
- Hansford 22/5/90* B1059E
- The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:
- (1) The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed the matter with the Council of State of Ciskei.
 - (a) 7 May 1990.
 - (b) The Council of State reacted positively to the resettlement of the former inhabitants at Ngonkqweni.
 - (2) Deliberations are held on a regular basis with the Council of State in this regard.

Citizen Force members: arms/ammunition bought

*15. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Defence:

- Hansford 22/5/90*
- Whether any arms or ammunition were sold and/or are being sold to individual members of Citizen Force units in the Cape Peninsula or anywhere else in the Republic; if so, (a) where, (b) why, (c) what arms and ammunition, (d) on what conditions and (e) on what basis are the prices of these items calculated?

Hansford 22/5/90 B1060E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (a) At all Citizen Force Units.
- (b) The weapons were phased out and the selling thereof to members of the Permanent Force, Citizen force and Commandos has been part of the South African Defence Force's disposal procedures since 1961.
- (c) .303 rifles, .38 revolvers and small arms ammunition.
- (d) Members
 - must be serving members with at least 5 years service;
 - must be in possession of a valid fire-arm licence;
 - may only buy one of a specific type of weapon; and
 - may not dispose of such weapons within 5 years of purchase, except in the case of finalisation of the members' estates.
- (e) Weapons are sold at book value plus General Sales Tax. Phased out ammunition is sold at purchase price plus General Sales Tax. Other small arms ammunition is sold at contract price plus General Sales Tax and a levy of 15%.

Medical aid societies: funds for employees of local authorities

*16. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) What are the names of the medical aid societies or funds which are available to employees of the local authorities for the various race groups in the Cape Province;
- (2) whether employees of such local authorities are free to join any of these societies or funds; if not, *Hansford 22/5/90*
- (3) whether any employees are compelled to join medical aid societies or funds whose membership is restricted to one particular race group; if so, which (a) medical aid

societies or funds and (b) local authorities are involved;

- (4) whether any consideration is being given to changing rules compelling employees to join such societies or funds; if not, why not; if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?
- Hansford 22/5/90* B1061E
- The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Local Authorities Medical Aid Fund (Cape) (LAMAF)
- Whites
- Pro Sano Medical Aid Scheme
- All race groups
- Bontas Medical Fund
- All race groups
- (2) No, in respect of LAMAF
- (3) Yes.
- (a) Local Authorities Medical Aid Fund (Cape) (LAMAF)
- (b) All local authorities established in terms of the Municipal Ordinance, 1974 (Ordinance 20 of 1974) and the Regional Services Councils Act, 1985 (Act 109 of 1985)
- (4) No. In terms of its rules, eligibility for membership is determined by LAMAF itself.

Eastern Transvaal: atmospheric pollution

*17. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether her Department has ceased financing the monitoring of atmospheric pollution in the Eastern Transvaal by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research; if so, why;
 - (2) whether this project is to be resumed in the future; if so, when; if not, why not;
 - (3) whether she or her Department has received any representations regarding such monitoring; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what was the (i) purport of and (ii) response to each such representation?
- Hansford 22/5/90* B1063E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes, temporarily, in order to switch to a system where tenders are allocated for this task by the State Tender Board. Previously, this task was executed as a part of a CSIR research project;
- (2) yes, as soon as tenders has been allocated;
- (3) no. *Hansford 22/5/90*

SADF: IEM

*18. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether the Council for the Environment's procedures on Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) have been brought to his notice and/or that of the South African Defence Force; if so,
 - (2) whether the Defence Force is developing IEM procedures as a part of its internal physical development and planning procedures; if not, why not; if so, what progress has been made in this regard;
 - (3) whether the Defence Force is utilising IEM philosophies and procedures in the management of the land under its control; if not, why not; if so, with what results;
 - (4) whether the Defence Force will feed back its experiences and opinions on IEM to the Council for the Environment to assist the latter in improving and refining IEM procedures and guidelines; if not, why not; if so, when?
- Hansford 22/5/90* B1064E
- The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) As a result of the guidelines for Integrated Environmental Management issued by the Council for the Environment work is now being done on the policy and procedures for the application thereof in the South African Defence Force. The impact of the utilisation of Integrated Environmental Management philosophies and procedures will thus only be available in due course.
- (4) Towards the end of 1990.

Bldg 21/5/90

(58)

LINDA ENSOR

Sasria 'inundated' by unrest claims

THE SA Special Risks Association (Sasria) has been inundated with thousands of claims arising from Natal's unrest.

MD Rodney Schneeberger says the claims — high in volume but not in amounts being claimed — relate mainly to damaged motor vehicles, private houses and small to medium-sized businesses.

Schneeberger says all building societies providing mortgage bonds require that insurance be taken out with Sasria.

Similar, though fewer, claims have emerged from Bophuthatswana and other troubled spots.

"The biggest single incident was that in the Ciskei where Sasria will be liable for approximately R80m worth

of claims. The vast majority of these claims have already been settled.

"Whilst the Sasria board has no intention of increasing rates, the situation is being monitored. The board is still not satisfied that its assets are, in terms of insurance science, sufficient to cater for its potential liabilities."

Schneeberger says a major Sasria-covered incident would necessitate a review of rates.

Saving the future - and the profits

To most TV 1 viewers, he's the weatherman, but Tim Hart does much more than tell people whether or not to take an umbrella to work.

He is working up a storm to bring about a revolution in management practice to this country: environmental business management.

Mr Hart is a director of the National Institute for Personnel Research, and head of its environmental division. He spoke recently at the SA Institute of Management on the need for business to develop pro-active strategies if it is to market products successfully to increasingly environment-conscious consumers.

Management styles may come and go, but environmental business management is an idea whose time has come and will not go, he says.

Like rain on parched soil, environmental consciousness must permeate business practice and management.

It's not enough just to donate money to a worthy cause, he says. And before all the "worthy environmental causes" start praying for acid rain to fall on his head, he's not saying the donations should stop.

He would like to see companies here emulating the successful example set by a West German company, Winter and Sohn.

Companies should start internal community development programmes; company towns such as Secunda and Sasolburg could go beyond

providing physical facilities for employees.

Companies should take a careful look at mundane aspects of working conditions. The NIPR is consulting firms about work station environments, including window placing.

Canteen facilities should be carefully scrutinised. Winter and Sohn's canteen emphasises healthy foods.

The burgeoning concept of executive fitness needs to be extended to include worker fitness, which will increase productivity.

Naturally there's a lot in environmental business management for the company, especially those most golden of carrots, profits and savings.

Credible

Winter and Sohn instituted energy- and water-saving initiatives, and were staggered at the amount of money saved, Mr Hart says.

Another spin-off is that the company's marketing profile becomes more credible.

There are some companies that are quite sophisticated environmentally, he says, but there are not enough, and the consciousness is not displayed comprehensively. Environmentalism can be a neutral issue around which diverse groups can mobilise, he adds, by pursuing similar objectives. Environmental business management and staff development are not mutually exclusive.

MARIKA SBOROS

56
21/5/90
Management styles may come and go, but environmental business management is an idea whose time has come and will not go, says Tim Hart, a director of the NIPR.

Secondary/primary schools in West Rand area
 350. Dr C P MULDER asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) (a) What are the names of the (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools under the control of his Department in the West Rand area, (b) what is the (i) potential capacity of each of these schools and (ii) actual number of pupils attending each of these schools and (c) on what date was each of these schools completed;
- (2) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)	(c)
Kagiso (Kagiso)	1 855	1 691	1987
Mosupatsela (Kagiso)	840	1 644	*
S G Mafesa (Kagiso)	1 050	1 249 ¹	1987
A B Phokompe (Mohlakeng)	1 575	1 180 ²	1988
Phahama (Mohlakeng)	1 540	1 555	1987
Badirile (Khutsong)	1 435	1 116	*
Twasungu (Khutsong)	Platoon	1 026	1987
Kgothlang (Bekkersdal)	1 435	1 479 ³	4
Mochuba (Kagiso)		5	
Thuio Lefa (Munsiville)			

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Notes
¹Expected date of completion for additional classrooms: June 1990
²A primary school is currently being utilised. Expected date of completion of new school: March 1990
³New building in planning stage
⁴Expected date of completion of new school for 1 000 pupils: September 1990
⁵Expected date of completion of new school for 1 000 pupils: September 1990

	(a) (u)	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)	(c)
Atholang (Kagiso)		680	831	*
Boipelo (Kagiso)		880	977	*
Bosela (Kagiso)		920	1 230	*
Entuthulweni (Kagiso)		760	1 125	*
Khaselithe (Kagiso)		840	941	*
Lengau (Kagiso)		640	948	*
Marhasedi (Kagiso)		760	657	*
Sandile (Kagiso)		520	915	*
Setlolmathe (Kagiso)		680	915	1989
Thembile (Kagiso)		1 040	1 181	*
Thusong (Kagiso)		880	617	*
Tsholetsega (Kagiso)		560	533	*
W D Oliphant (Kagiso)		640	880	*
Diphallane (Munsiville)		480	880	*
Phatudi (Munsiville)		440	664 ²	*
Bulehani (Mohlakeng)		640	843 ³	1989
Malerato (Mohlakeng)		760	963 ⁴	*
Matlapaneng (Mohlakeng)		760	871	1989
Mohlakano (Mohlakeng)		760	764	*
Mohlakeng (Mohlakeng)		880	841	*
Phandulwazi (Mohlakeng)		920	533 ⁵	*
Sedimosang (Mohlakeng)		600	893	*
Tswelelo (Mohlakeng)		640	787 ⁶	*

	(a) (ii)	(b) (i)	(b) (ii)	(c)
Ipeleng (Bekkersdal)		800	1 176	*
Maputle (Bekkersdal)		760	1 238	*
Seatile (Bekkersdal)		800	1 127	*
Hangabeza (Khutsong)		1 040	1 455	*
Kamohelo (Khutsong)		1 080	1 269	*
Mbulelo (Khutsong)		920	585	*
Phororong (Khutsong)		1 000	1 504	*
Tsitsiboga (Khutsong)		1 040	1 354	*
Renyorlwe (Kagiso)		1 000		*
Isiqualo (Bekkersdal)		1 000		*

Notes

- ¹Extensions in planning stage
²Expected date of completion of additional classrooms: September 1990
³Expected date of completion of additional classrooms: November 1990
⁴Expected date of completion of additional classrooms: October 1990
⁵Expected date of completion of additional classrooms: July 1990
⁶Expected date of completion of additional classrooms: June 1990
⁷Expected date of completion of new school for 1 000 pupils: August 1990
⁸Expected date of completion of new school for 1 000 pupils: August 1990
 * Built before 1980 Information not available.

Mercury-containing industrial waste: import

356. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether a licence and/or permit is required from her Department for the import of mercury-containing waste; if not, why not; if so, under what statutory provisions or regulations;
- (2) whether any such licences and/or permits were issued during the past five years; if so, (a) when, (b) to whom and (c) under what conditions;
- (3) whether her Department liaises with any other Government Departments in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) with which Departments and (b) why in each case?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No, as certain mercuric compounds are listed hazardous substances, a licence is required to sell these compounds. If such waste are to be sold, a licence is required.

and could inevitably include the importation aspect thereof;

- (2) no, however a licence to sell hazardous substances was issued to Thor Chemicals on 7 June 1988 according to the requirements stated in the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act 15 of 1973) and the regulations thereof; (a), (b) and (c) fall away;
- (3) in the case of Thor Chemicals, the Department of National Health and Population Development used the expertise of its own Directorate: Air Pollution Control and also liaised with the Department of Water Affairs, (a) and (b) fall away.

Black students training as teachers

358. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) How many Black students presented themselves for training in the teaching profession at institutions under his control in each of the latest specified five years for which information is available;
- (2) (a) how many trained Black teachers have at present not been appointed to teaching

LIVE IN A NOXIOUS ENVIRONMENT ... AND IT'S TIME WE CLEANED UP OUR ACT

IF Albie Sachs has his way South Africa, arguably among the most polluted lands on earth, will become the second in the world to protect its ecology in a Bill of Rights.

Sachs, the African National Congress' foremost thinker on constitutional issues, delivered a cogent argument for environmental rights to be safeguarded in a post-apartheid constitution at a conference in Pretoria organised by Lawyers for Human Rights at the weekend.

"It is not just playing with metaphors to say that were fighting to free the land, the waters, the sky as well as the people," says Sachs.

Environmentalists and lawyers responded enthusiastically to suggestions that they examine ways in which conservation could be dealt in a new constitution.

And among them was Mr Justice P Olivier, vice-chairman of a government commission charged with devising a Bill of Rights for South Africa.

The landmark paper, likely to promote a vigorous debate in environmental circles, notes there are compelling reasons to exclude the environment from the agenda of resistance movement.

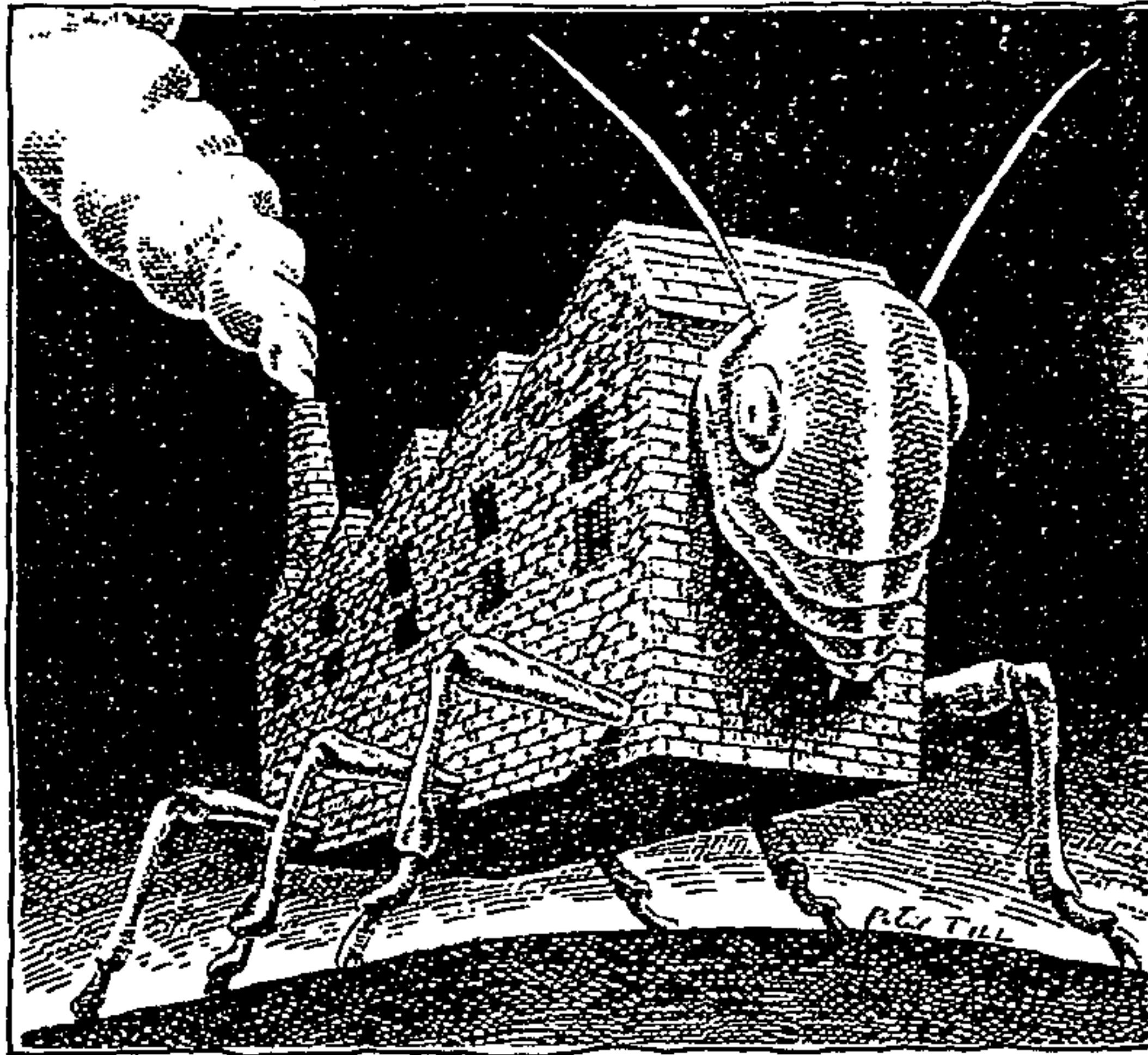
"But we must take responsibility for our country and its future in all its dimensions and implant the question of conservation firmly within our social and geographic reality. Human rights in the broadest sense are indivisible ... When we breathe the air of freedom, we do not want to choke on hidden fumes."

In a section of the paper, provocatively entitled "Do Trees Have Rights?", Sachs outlines ways in which respect for ecosystems can be entrenched in the constitution of a new South Africa.

The preamble of such a charter could define principles whereby South Africans should relate to each other and their natural environment.

What about a Bill of Rights for trees?

ANC constitutional expert, Albie Sachs, argues that the "freedom" of the trees, the land, the waters and the sky is as important as the freedom of the people. EDDIE KOCH reports



Destructive ... power-stations, like locusts, ravage the environment

Sachs suggests the charter could include provisions that will oblige the state to examine the potential environmental impact of any laws that pass through its legislature.

A separate code for the environment, linked to the constitution but

more detailed in its provisions, could lay down regulations regarding pollution, the disposal of toxic waste, soil erosion and protection of species.

"Finally the constitution could acknowledge that our country is part of the African continent and the question

of ecology has both a regional and a continental dimension."

Namibia is the only other country in the world that has included the environment in its constitution.

A section in that nation's charter requires the state to actively promote policies that protect the territory's ecosystems and biological diversity.

It also stipulates that natural resources be used by industry and communities in a sustainable way.

Although concern for the environment in South Africa has, until recently, been subsumed by the more burning issues of race and class exploitation, Sachs believes that those who take part in the fight against apartheid are driven by an urge to reconnect with nature.

"When we say *Mayibuye i' Afrika*, come back Africa, we are calling for the return of legal title but also for the restoration of the land, the forest and the atmosphere: the greening of our country is basic to its healing."

But Sachs warns that constitutional protections will not be worth the paper they are written on if a post-apartheid state does not deal with the problems of the labouring poor.

Air pollution and environmental toxins cut across race, class and political boundaries and threaten the natural ecology.

"But we often forget that the most immediate victims are the workers who are expected to spray trees or handle toxic materials without themselves being protected. The guarantee of a safe and clean working environment becomes a key question for any trade union and integrates itself into the question of a safe and clean South Africa."

Sach insists that a serious programme to protect and mend the country's ecosystems has to deal with the question of poverty and the need to provide all citizens with basic social and welfare facilities.

Apartheid's poisonous fumes are destroying the environment

By EDDIE KOCH

WHITE South Africans poison the air with more carbon dioxide, the main agent of acid rain and the greenhouse effect, than any other population group on the globe.

The claim is made by the World Watch Institute, a Washington-based ecology monitoring group, in a report released this month and entitled "Apartheid's Environment Toll".

Alan Durning, author of the report, argues Pretoria's energy policies have forced South Africans to manufacture fuel and electricity in a way that is more damaging to the atmosphere than in any other part of the world.

"Apartheid has distorted the nation's pattern of energy use as dramatically as its pattern of land ownership," says the report.

The reasons are threefold: large indigenous reserves of coal, exploitative labour practises in the mining industry, and Pretoria's "state of siege" approach to the production of energy.

South Africa's use of its coal reserves place it second after Korea in terms of reliance on coal-burning power stations and fuel-from-coal. About 85 percent of the nation's energy derives from this ecologically destructive source.

Suppressed wages for miners, lower than any other industrial country, makes South African electricity among the cheapest in the world. As a result, white South Africa is the most energy-intensive country — except for the old centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe.

And the international oil embargo against South Africa has led the government to a "quest for energy independence with dire consequence for the environment".

South Africa has a concentration of power stations — 12 huge plants that provide 80 percent of the nation's electricity — in a small region of the Eastern Transvaal Highveld. The country's coal reserves are conveniently located here but there are no

supplies of water to filter emissions that spew out of the stacks.

The statistics of pollution generated by these plants are now legion: every year between 30 and 57 tons of sulphur dioxide are pumped into each square kilometre of air. In East Germany, one of the most polluted countries in the world, emissions are only 30 tons.

The two Sasol plants at Secunda and Sasolburg, which turn coal into oil, are the other chief culprits.

For most Johannesburg residents, the symptom of the damage that Sasol's production process does to the ecology is the smell of rotten eggs that wafts across the city when the wind blows from the east.

The consequences for those who live closer to the Sasol plants in the Vaal Triangle or the Eastern Transvaal are more ominous. World Watch echoes the complaints of local doctors by warning that people in these areas are more likely to suffer from asthma and chest colds and will take longer to recover from respiratory disease than people in rural areas.

"Moreover," says Durning, "apartheid's coal dependence accelerates global climate change."

The emission of carbon from South Africa in 1987 was 77.5-million tons — a small amount for a country of nearly 40-million people but vast for the five million whites who consume the bulk of the country's energy.

"If energy consumption patterns mirror income distribution, as is likely, the white population's per capita carbon emissions stood at more than nine tons in 1987," says Durning.

In that year the world average was one ton a person.

"On a per person basis, white South Africans are the world's worst greenhouse offenders," says Durning.

SABS mark to save the environment 56

THE government recently announced it was considering the introduction of a South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) mark for environment-friendly products.

The move is a major step forward says Senfluid GM Philip Ridgwell.

The independent seal of approval will be welcomed throughout the industry.

"There is international confusion as to what constitutes bio-degradability and environment friendliness.

"The possibility of the SABS co-ordinating a technical definition would place SA at the forefron of environmental awareness," says Ridgwell.

Senfluid manufactures a range of environmentally compatible greases and fluids. It has been successful in exporting both its product and its technology to Europe.

Ridgwell says the world-wide confusion is causing complacency.

"Without clear-cut standards, companies are unwilling to spend time and money on improving their



PHILIP RIDGWELL

6/Day 25/5/90
products," he says.

Senfluid is part of the Sentrachem group, and the company has adopted a two-prong approach to its environmental awareness programme.

It has used in-house technology to allow the use of water rather than a mineral oil as a lubricant base.

And its concept of speciality lubrication focuses on the selective and precise use of the correct lubricant. This reduces the volumes used and any impact on the environment.

Cape of storms

Mounting public opposition to a R45m townhouse scheme — and a debate over whether to preserve an old flour mill in favour of a R50m office block — have again highlighted difficulties facing Cape Town developers.

Some feel environmentalists have become so intolerant of developments that they are looking elsewhere for new projects. Environmentalists retort that Cape Town has, too often in the past, been stung by ill-conceived developments. (56)

They are determined to have a far greater say in future

At the centre of the latest row is Condev, the property development arm of Murray & Roberts (M&R), which faces a revolt by residents over the townhouse scheme in Vredehoek on the lower slopes of Devil's Peak.

It plans 280 townhouses on the 4,8 ha site bought from the SABC for R2,75m last year. It is one of the last major vacant sites in Cape Town's city bowl.

The development was planned by leading Cape Town architect Dennis Fabian with inputs from landscape specialists, environmental advisers and traffic authorities. The density of the scheme is below council limits. The up-market units will sell for about R200 000.

But many Vredehoek residents oppose the scheme and spoke out at a public information meeting arranged by M&R. They feel the density is too high, that infrastructure will be strained, and additional traffic will clog local roads and make them dangerous to both adults and children.

Formal opposition also comes from the local ratepayers' association.

The traffic problem has been acknowledged by M&R and compromises are now being negotiated.

In another proposal Equikor wants to develop a R50m office complex on the site of the old Sasko mill in Rondebosch but has grown tired of waiting for a decision from the National Monuments Council on whether it can demolish the old mill store building and has threatened to drop the scheme unless it gets a decision this week. ■

B/Dun 25/5/90

Developers criticise conservation law

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

56

THE Environment Conservation Act, due for promulgation in June 1989, was like a gun without bullets, property developers said at a conference organised by the SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa) in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

Responding to criticisms, Environment Affairs director general Bill Visagie said government policy on conservation was to manage human use of the biosphere so that it would yield the greatest sustainable benefits to present generations and still meet the needs of future generations.

Secondly, he said: "Our present system of government is essentially based on the autonomy of ministries and state departments and also on the devolution of functions and final decision making to the lowest possible level."

Environmental legislation and the regulations to enforce it already existed. Where the policy fell under the control of another department, the Environment Affairs Minister could determine policy only with the consent of the Minister concerned.

Consulting attorney and Natal Parks Board vice chairman Bob Levitt expressed concern about the recent publication of noise regulations. One feature was that a new township could not be developed unless the plans showed the existing and forthcoming sources of noise over the next 15 years.

"Sapoa has to give this careful thought and make representations to the department," he said.

Anglo American Properties (Amaprop) estates development and marketing director Peter Gardiner said Sapoa was concerned that the introduction of an Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) procedure for property developments would lead to increased costs and delays, with scant respect for developers' existing rights.

"IEM represents the introduction of a complicated, protracted bureaucratic process in the search for alternatives," he said.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

QUESTIONS

+ Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Importation of hazardous substances

418. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether any mercury-containing wastes defined as Group I or II hazardous substances under section 2 of the Hazardous Substances Act, No 15 of 1973, were imported into South Africa during the past five years; is so, (a) what was the composition of each such substance and (b) (i) by whom, (ii) for what purpose, (iii) from what country, (iv) in what quantity, and (v) on what date was it imported, in each case;
- (2) whether application for the import of any such substance had to be made by (a) the sender and/or (b) the recipient; if not, why not; if so, (i) to what authority and (ii) under what regulations or provisions, in each case;
- (3) whether her Department liaises with any other Government Department in this regard; if so, (a) with which other Departments and (b) why?

B965E

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

- Abraham, Mr M—
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 1351
- Andrew, Mr K M—
General Affairs:
Education, 61
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 90, 830
- Andrew, Mr A A B—
General Affairs:
Agriculture, 1407
Own Affairs:
Agricultural Development, 706, 1334
- Burrows, Mr R M—
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 569, 1214, 1440
- Carlisle, Mr R V—
General Affairs:
Planning and Provincial Affairs, 1190
- Charlewood, Mrs C H—
General Affairs:
Finance, 670
- Chetty, Mr K—
General Affairs:
Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises, 933
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 739
- Coetsee, Mr H J—
Own Affairs:
Health Services, Welfare and Housing, 196
- De Jager, Adv C D—
General Affairs:
Justice, 1
Law and Order, 157
- Eglin, Mr C W—
General Affairs:
Foreign Affairs, 408
- Ellis, Mr M J—
General Affairs:
National Health and Population Development, 7
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- Gerber, Mr A—
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 32, 1019
- Herendien, Mr C B—
Own Affairs:
Housing, 213
Local Government and Agriculture, 218, 595
- Isaacs, Mr N M—
General Affairs:
Law and Order, 919
Own Affairs:
Education and Culture, 1493
- Jacobs, Mr S C—
General Affairs:
Justice, 539, 663
- Landers, Mr L T—
General Affairs:
Law and Order, 119

Environmental
Nov 22/90 (56)
issue for Sapoa

Integrated environmental management will be one of the many issues to be discussed at the environmental seminar being held in Johannesburg tomorrow by SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa).

Sapoa supports the philosophy that environmental responsibility be incorporated into the planning process but believes that the authorities are not equipped to administer the system proposed.

The result could be unnecessary delays to development, which would add to costs without necessarily addressing environmental priorities.

It is said that the proposals fail to respect the rights of private property owners and tend to overlook economic factors.

Stranded ship: Kotze reacts

CAPE TOWN — Environment Minister Gert Kotze said SA would not be able to cope with a major shipping disaster along its coast judging from the way the stranding of the Taiwanese trawler, An-Hung, near Gansbaai on the southern Cape coast was dealt with. *B 10 my 29/5/90*

The problems originated from the fact that various departments were responsible for handling the crisis, such as Transport for the vessel and oil on board and Environment Affairs if there was pollution. *(56)*

It was hoped the inquiry into the handling of the crisis would determine whether the system was not too complicated. — Sapa.

SA 'can't handle big oil disaster'

CAE Trials 29/5/90 (56)

By MARIUS BOSCH

THE authorities would not be able to handle a major oil-pollution disaster along the South African coast — despite the existence of a carefully drawn-up coastal oil spill contingency plan.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé said yesterday that major oil pollution similar to the Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska could spell disaster for the environment.

The poor handling of salvage operations on the stranded Taiwanese trawler An Hung 1 was caused by several government departments being responsible for handling the affair — as set out in the Department of Environmental Affairs' coastal oil spill contingency plan.

This meant four different government departments were responsible for the combating of any oil pollution along the coast, Mr Kotzé said.

After meeting representatives of government departments involved yesterday, Mr Kotzé reiterated his intention to call for an inquiry into the delays in salvage operations on the stranded trawler.

He had ordered the removal of about 70 tons of diesel oil, illegal gill nets and about 130 tons of fish from the trawler last Wednesday but officials did not follow the contingency plan and his ministerial orders had been ignored.

According to environmental affairs spokesman Mr Niel du Bois, most of the diesel oil and all but 10 tons of rotting fish had been removed from the trawler by late yesterday.

The Department of Environmental Affairs confirmed yesterday that the captain and the fishing master of the An Hung 1 were to be prosecuted for having gill nets on board. Further charges could follow if the penguin and seal carcasses found on board were proved to have been caught in South African waters.

The current oil spill contingency plan was last amended in July 1988 and sets out the responsibilities of the Department of Transport and the Department of Environmental Affairs and actions required of local authorities.

Mr Kotzé said authorities took "much too long" to combat oil pollution along the South African coastline and stressed the importance of a workable plan of action being formulated.

He said the State President would be asked to appoint an inquiry into the disastrous handling of the An Hung 1 affair. He hoped the inquiry would determine whether the contingency plan was effective.

Mr Kotzé said that, "luckily" there had been "very little pollution" from the An Hung 1 but warned that the situation could have been different if sea conditions had changed.

"We are especially lucky in this case where pollution was minor compared with incidents where an oil tanker is involved."

M-Net broadcasting licence

*13. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 29 on 20 March 1990, the consideration of the application by M-Net with regard to amending its broadcasting licence has been completed, if not, why not; if so, with what result?

B1114E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

No, further particulars were requested. The matter is therefore still under consideration.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, when does he anticipate the Cabinet will take a decision and, secondly, what is his personal recommendation with regard to the suggestion that M-Net should be allowed to broadcast news?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, it will not be done in a matter of weeks and the decision will be taken by the full Cabinet. There are no personal recommendations in this regard.

Dr P W A MULDER: Mr Chairman, rather arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, how extensively is he prepared to consult with a view to the recommendation to the Cabinet on the M-Net situation?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as possible relevant information is being gathered and after it is available, a decision will be taken. It would take place within weeks.

Assault against members of SAA

*14 Mr P C CRONJÉ asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any progress has been made in the cases of five persons, particulars of whom have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, relating to charges of assault against members of the South African Police; if not, why not. (a) What progress, (b) what are the names of these persons and (c) what were the circumstances surrounding these charges?

B1114E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) to (c)

Three of the cases to which the hon member refers, namely those of Lydia Mazibuko, the Majoji family and the Mkize family, are being investigated under the personal supervision of General Stan Schutte. The investigation of these cases has almost been completed and it is anticipated that they will shortly be submitted to the Attorney-General for his decision.

Victor Langa lodged a charge of assault at the South African Police, Plessislaer, after he had been arrested on a charge of attempted murder. However, this complainant refuses to assist the Police in their investigation. He informed the investigating officer that he would convey the information at his disposal to the Police, via his attorney. He was also not prepared to reveal the identity of his attorney. Up until now, no further information has been received from him or his attorney. He is at present awaiting trial on the charge of attempted murder.

In the instance of Lucky Ndlovu, no record of the complaint that was alleged to have been lodged, could be traced. If he would still like to lodge a complaint, it would be appreciated if he could immediately make an affidavit available to the South African Police.

*15 Mr L Fuchs — Justice. [Withdrawn.]

St Lucia wilderness area: KwaZulu

*16 Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Development Aid:

(1) Whether any portion of KwaZulu falls within the boundaries of the new larger St Lucia wilderness area, if so,

(2) whether the Government intends removing the portion concerned from the said wilderness area; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what way, (b) when and (c) what is the size of this portion?

B1137E

The MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AID

(1) No. To avoid any misconception I however wish to point out that there is a portion of KwaZulu (Reserve No 1) which is surrounded by the St Lucia wilderness area.

(2) Falls away.

Dukuduku forest: Black squatters

*17. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether there are any Black squatters living in the Dukuduku forest near St Lucia; if so, (a) (i) how many are estimated to be living in this forest at present and (ii) in respect of what date is this figure furnished and (b) since when have they been squatting there;

(2) whether the Government intends taking any steps to remove these squatters; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when?

B1139E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) (i) Estimated 400 families.

(ii) 30 April 1990.

(b) Squatting commenced immediately after the 1987 floods and gained momentum during 1989.

(2) The Department of Environment Affairs and the State Attorney have already instituted legal proceedings, and in terms of the *sub judice* rule, neither my colleague the Minister of Environment Affairs nor I can supply any further information at this stage.

Smutsville: referendum

*18. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 4 on 15 May 1990, his Department and/or the Cape Provincial Administration has been informed that the town council of Sedgefield held a referendum among the Coloured community of Smutsville in connection with the settlement of approximately 35 Black families in their area; if so, what was the result of the referendum;

(2) whether his Department has been informed what steps the said town council has taken or intends taking in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether these steps are in accordance with the policy of his Department?

B1140E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

(1) No. The Cape Provincial Administration ascertained telephonically from the Town Clerk of Sedgefield that a referendum was held on 8 November 1989. Of the 500 registered voters 114 voted against the settlement of Blacks in Smutsville and 21 voted in favour thereof.

(2) No.

(3) As the reply to question (2) supra is no, it is not possible to supply an answer in this regard.

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign † used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs.

New education models: additional information
Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether he has submitted any additional information on the two new education models to the bodies which he had approached to advise him on them before 15 June; if so, what are the relevant details.

(2) whether at that time this additional information was also made available to opposition parties in the House of Assembly; if not, why not; if so, when?

B1160E.INT

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, with reference to the two questions asked in the first part of this interpellation, my reply is that additional guidelines and not information, have in fact been given only to the advisory bodies on a confidential basis for assessment of the models, or for further inputs. The reply to the second part of the interpellation is no.

*Mr A GERBER: Mr Chairman, what is happening in this House this afternoon is simply

Maggie warns of dangers of global warming

LONDON — Margaret Thatcher last week gave her starkest warning yet about the dangers of global warming caused by air pollution.

But she did not announce any new policy to combat climate change and sea level rises, apart from a qualified commitment that Britain would stabilise its emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important "greenhouse" gas altering the climate, by the year 2005.

Britain would only fulfil that commitment if other, unspecified nations promised similar restraint.

"There would be no point in improving our performance if others just go on as before," she said.

Mrs Thatcher was speaking as 90 climatologists and meteorologists from around the world gathered near Windsor to finalise their UN-commissioned report on the science of global warming.

She said this final report from the Science Working Group of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was "of historic significance".

"It's not something arcane or remote from every-

Britain is sixth worst in carbon dioxide league

LONDON — Britain is one of the biggest producers of carbon dioxide emissions.

In 1987, the most recent year for which worldwide figures are available, Britain emitted 157 million tons of carbon dioxide out of a global total of 5 650 million, making it the sixth in the table compiled by the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre in Tennessee.

The United States headed the table with 1 226 million tons, followed by the Soviet Union (1 040 million), China (595 million), Japan (251 million) and West Germany (181 million).

When looked at per capita, Britain produced 2.8 tons of carbon per head of population in 1987. This was slightly behind West Germany with three tons and much less than the United States on five tons.

But the British figure was higher than that for the French, who produced only 1.7 tons per head.

Tom Boden, information analyst at the Tennessee centre, said: "The reason that the French have done so well is entirely due to their reliance on nuclear power."

"If Mrs Thatcher wants to achieve this she will have to implement energy conservation and efficiency measures. But she would also have to increase the use of nuclear power." — The Independent News Service.

day concerns: What it predicts will affect our daily lives ... If the panel's predictions are broadly right, then the world could become hotter than at any time in the last 100 000 years."

The report said a cut of 60 percent in today's emissions of carbon dioxide and most other greenhouse gases is needed to stabilise their concentration in the atmosphere. That is the only action which can stop the warming.

If there was a worldwide stabilisation of emissions at current levels, as Mrs Thatcher is advocating for Britain, the planet will continue to warm through the next century.

Environmental organisations were deeply disappointed by the speech, made at the opening of the Meteorological Office's new Climate Prediction Centre in Bracknell, Berkshire. Mrs Thatcher's speech was also strongly criticised by the opposition parties.

Some European nations, such as West Germany and the Netherlands, are already aiming for cuts in their CO2 emissions of up to 25 percent by 2005.

A European consensus is forming that cuts rather than stabilisation are needed in the next two decades to offset rising emissions.

Dr Jeremy Leggett, science director of Greenpeace UK, said: "It's the right rhetoric, but the action is totally inadequate. Stabilisation won't really make a dent in the problem. Mrs Thatcher could have announced a 25 percent cut as a start." — The Independent News Service.

Ergo's life could be extended

RIAAAN SMIT

A MAJOR strategic planning exercise has confirmed the possibility of extending the life of gold dump recycling company Ergo into the next decade, says company chairman Clem Sunter in his annual review for the year to March 31.

Based on the current relationship between the gold price and working costs, Sunter says Ergo's operations will not be profitable much beyond the mid-1990s. *By 2004 30/1/1990*

A strategic planning exercise indicates that Ergo's life can be extended by rationalising operations at the Ergo Division when the sulphur level of slimes becomes too low for flotation.

At this stage the flotation, uranium and acid plants will be closed, leaving only the carbon-in-



● SUNTER

leach section operating.

There would be a decline in gold output, but this would be compensated for by a substantial decrease in working costs.

Ergo would produce

more gold in aggregate over a longer period, although at a lower annual rate than at present.

Investigations are continuing and shareholders will be advised as soon as a decision has been taken.

Ergo's total gold production declined slightly to 11 732kg. Uranium oxide production was 17% lower at 149 736kg and acid production declined 9% to 491 453 tons.

Profit margins continued to narrow as a result of a static rand gold price and a general rise in working costs. Profit available for distribution declined 27% to R48,1m.

Dividends of R47,8m, or 105c a share, were declared (135c).

Total capital expenditure of R34,4m was R4,1m lower than that of the previous year. It is forecast at R32,5m for next year.

Talk for 'all who care'

THE Institute for Continuing Education at the University of South Africa has organised a seminar on environmental awareness on the campus in Pretoria on June 8.

A spokesman said attention would focus on a variety of environmental problems. She said the underlying aim was to try and strengthen city dwellers' links with nature. (Sb) Sorela 30/5/90

"Our target group is 'all who care'," she said.

For further particulars, contact ICE at (012) 429-3250/3266.

Danger in the air

FORGET the Eastern Transvaal being one of the worst-polluted areas of the world - Soweto is far worse.

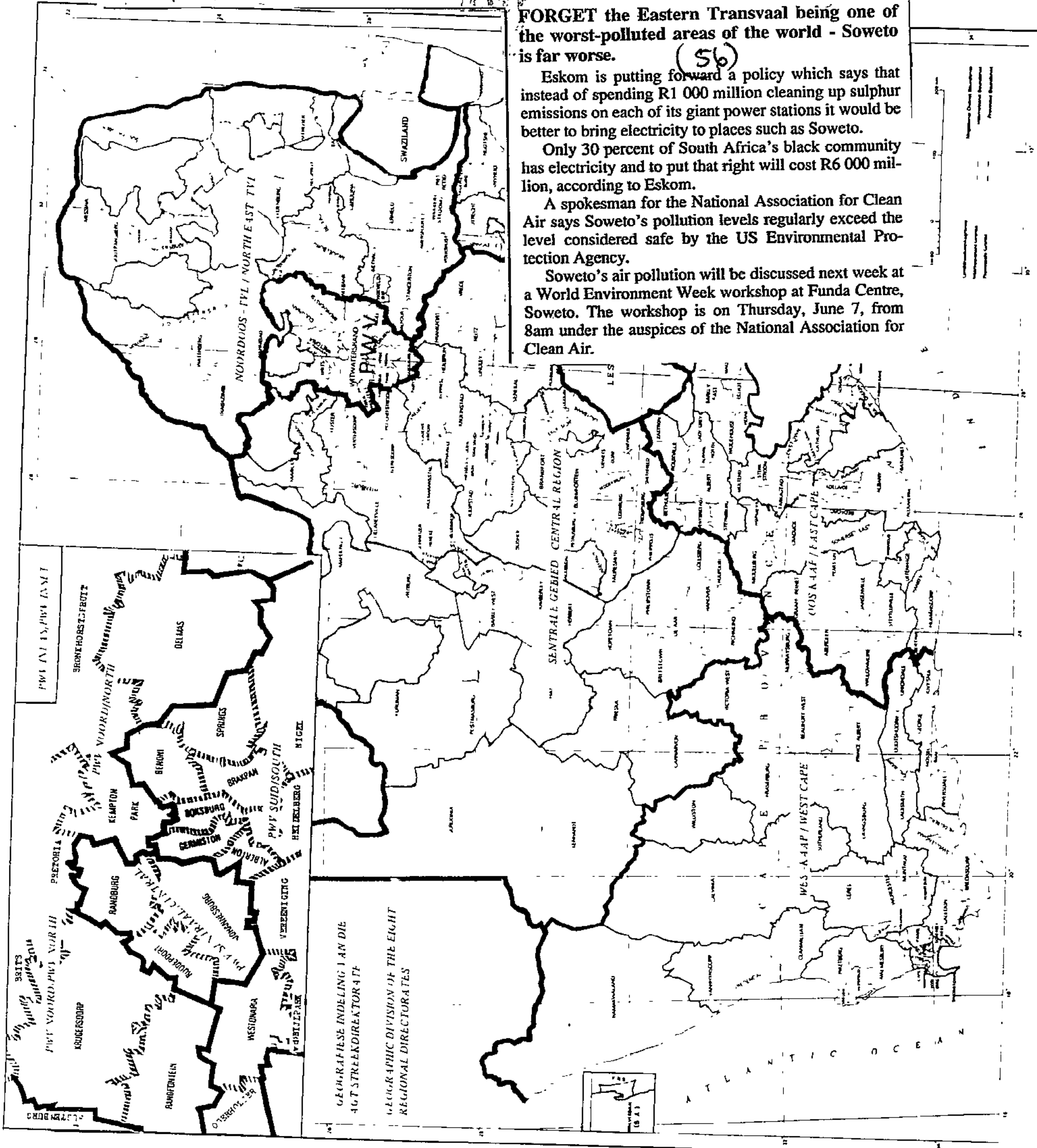
(56)

Eskom is putting forward a policy which says that instead of spending R1 000 million cleaning up sulphur emissions on each of its giant power stations it would be better to bring electricity to places such as Soweto.

Only 30 percent of South Africa's black community has electricity and to put that right will cost R6 000 million, according to Eskom.

A spokesman for the National Association for Clean Air says Soweto's pollution levels regularly exceed the level considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Soweto's air pollution will be discussed next week at a World Environment Week workshop at Funda Centre, Soweto. The workshop is on Thursday, June 7, from 8am under the auspices of the National Association for Clean Air.



GEOGRAFIESE INDELING VAN DIE
AGT STREEK DIREKTORATE

GEOGRAFIESE INDELING VAN DIE
REGIONAL DIRECTORATES

Commission of inquiry into stuck trawler

CAF
Temp
31/5/90

360007 (56)

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

PRESIDENT F W de Klerk yesterday appointed a one-man commission of inquiry into the stranding of the Taiwanese trawler An-Hung 1 near Gans Bay, which had illegal "wall of death" gill nets and catches on board.

The appointment follows a request from the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, who felt that delays in dealing with salvaging of the vessel may have caused major damage to marine life.

According to a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Mr Neil Du Bois, the terms of reference for the one-man commission will be formulated soon.

Heavy swells yesterday prevented salvagers from working on the An-Hung 1 which still has about 25km of "wall of death" gill net equipment on board. The nets reach to a depth of about 30-40m.

Mr Du Bois said salvagers secured the gill nets to the trawler, so that it did not fall into the sea where it could cause more damage to marine life.

"The salvagers could only get within one-and-a-half metres of the An-Hung because four metre-high waves were breaking over the trawler," Mr Du Bois said.

About 40 tons of gill-netted tunny is still in the holds. On Tuesday, about 55 tons of spoiled tunny were removed from the trawler and buried on state property close to Gans Bay, according to Department of National Health specifications.

Mr Du Bois said the oil pollution threat had passed: "Only one or two tons of oil are still left on the trawler. The oil is in the flooded engine room and other flooded compartments. It will be skimmed off — but it is a time-consuming job and it could take up to a week to complete."

ENVIRONMENT — 1990

JUNE — ~~July~~ ~~Aug~~ OCT,

Green revolution now Sweeping townships

CP Press 3/6/90

JAPHTA "Mr Clean" Lekgetho is a revolutionary who is fighting to save the earth. And on Tuesday he will lead a demonstration in Soweto to highlight "the plight of our people who are homeless, starving and lack recreational facilities because of bad planning".

The revolution Lekgetho talks about so passionately is "the green revolution", launched in Soweto four days after the internationally-observed Earth Day on April 22, when an international weekly news magazine warned most nations of the world that "the clock is ticking and the hour is late".

Lekgetho is president of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, which at the launch of its green revolution said in a statement: "For years we have emphasised the damage taking place to the land.

"We have also known that many industrialists have not behaved responsibly and that, as a result, our rivers and the air we breathe have become progressively more polluted."

The "green revolution" has been spreading in many black communities across the country lately, says Lekgetho.

It is part of a monumental effort to warn township communities of the depletion of resources on earth, emphasising

Tuesday is World Environment Day, when the spotlight falls on the man-made dangers facing the earth. But how relevant is the issue of the environment among black South Africans where, in most cases, their world is marked by squatter camps, badly-planned townships and neglected rural areas? ZB MOLEFE reports:

sises Lekgetho, who is well aware that the threat to the environment knows no boundaries and favours no ideology.

"Several organisations, including student movements, are showing interest by attending our meetings and seminars and have given us support," he says.

"We feel that once people are aware of their rights they will talk for themselves. And one of these rights is a clean environment. It is a civic right."

At a Women's Bureau of South Africa seminar in Johannesburg on Tuesday Lekgetho will share the platform with well-known environmentalists such as journalist James Clarke and business executive Clem Sunter.

He says the message he will take there is that black townships and squatter settlements bear the brunt of mining's environmental ills, such as contaminated water and polluted air.

"We don't want to inherit a poisoned country," he says.



"Mr Clean" Japhtha Lekgetho... we don't want to inherit a poisoned country.

...gave O... a... against... May 2... ust... ce... ant... to... bc... a... t... attack... they... hem... a... b... aka... -... aka... ms... by... u... s... "it... arte... de... He... cau... ol... on... pr... an... le... re... he... in... br... in... s...

'Don't expect people living in squalor to care'

South Africa's environmental conservation problems can be solved only if the economic circumstances of the majority of the population improves, the Minister of Environment Affairs and of Water Affairs, Gert Kotze, said.

Speaking in an interview with SABC radio news on World Environment Day, he said that people living in squalor could not be expected to worry about the environment.

Economic development was essential and it was regrettably accompanied by pollution. But he added that improve-

ments in the living standards of communities would eventually lead to much smaller families and at least a partial answer to the population explosion.

Mr Kotze said every South African should practise conservation within his own environment. (56) Star 5/6/90

On the establishment of the Ecology Party, Mr Kotze said he doubted that it could win a single seat in an election, but he believed that it might make people more aware of the importance of the environment. — Sapa.

Environment promotion at shopping centre

(56)

Staff Reporter

56-5/6/90

The Bryanston Shopping Centre is hosting an environment promotion this weekend to increase public awareness of environmental issues.

More than 20 groups, including the Endangered Wildlife Trust, the Tree Society, the Simon van der Stel Foundation, Eskom Environment Impact

Management and the Johannesburg Zoo, will take part.

Shopping centre manager Heather McLeroth has encouraged the public to meet members of these organisations and to see slide shows of their projects.

On Friday, the promotion will take place from 10 am until 6 pm, and on Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm.

Even statues take a stand on smog

56 By Jacqueline Myburgh

5/10
5/1/90
The statues of Johannesburg joined Earthlife Africa today — World Environment Day — in protesting against pollution of the city's air.

Representatives of the Johannesburg branch of the environmental pressure group rose early this morning to hang banners or to place gas masks on the statue of George Harrison

near the Eastgate shopping centre in Bedfordview, and the Von Brandis statue outside the Rand Supreme Court.

Henk Coetzee of Earthlife said: "These statues, and the city's other inhabitants, find themselves in abominable conditions, being victims of smog, smoke, dust, toxic gases and lead, which pours out of vehicles and industries in Johannesburg."

The organisation called on the authorities to take immediate action towards reducing the "pollution burden", and encouraged residents of Johannesburg to take action to combat pollution.

"We believe the introduction of unleaded petrol and the improvement of the public transport system would be important steps towards this goal."

SA faces up to dangers at last

Star 5/6/90

56

After almost 20 years of "caring" on The Star — we launched our environmental awareness campaign, CARE, 19 years and three months ago — South Africans in general are at last beginning to appreciate the broad spectrum of threats facing this country.

Today, World Environment Day, and this week, World Environment Week, the plethora of nationwide conferences, "green" television and radio programmes and wide press coverage is a vindication of The Star's persistence over the years.

After threats to withdraw advertising from firms which received unfavourable publicity — when CARE was launched in March 1971 — and after differences with industry, environmental controls are now accepted as necessary by the planning professions and the Government.

The main issues are still how to save our topsoils, curb population growth, clean the air, assure supplies of fresh water, control waste disposal, curb the growth of urban traffic and find alternative energy sources.

● CARE stands for Cleaner Air, Rivers and Environment.

Black families in the lists of sales in execution announced every week

Deadline is extended

CAPE TOWN — People from all levels of society had shown tremendous interest in the President's Council investigation into a national environment management system, the council's chairman, Dr Willie van Niekerk, said yesterday, World Environment Day.

The original deadline for submission of memoranda — February 28 this year — had therefore been extended.

Since January 12, when the investigation began, a large number of organisations and people in the field of environment affairs had testified, and members of the council's three committees had carefully worked through 151 memoranda submitted by interested parties.

There was still an intensive schedule of verbal testimony to be heard. The report would be handed to the State President next year, he said. — Sapa.

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56



Gill net rules being flouted?

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A CALL has been made for the more efficient monitoring of South Africa's tough anti-gill net fishing regulations, amid fears that these rules are being circumvented by ships transferring cargoes at sea.

The call comes from the Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) which has been monitoring the movement of ships as part of its investigation into the import and export of tunny.

Some of the tunny is caught with "wall of death" gill nets, while other portions of the catch are taken with the assistance of dolphins which are trapped and drowned in the operation.



One of the vessels under suspicion is the Taiwanese-owned "fisheries vessel" Chang Lung, which the DAPG believes could be a refrigerated transport carrier.

In July last year the ship was photographed in Kaohsiung harbour in Taiwan, loading huge quantities of gill nets.

"The investigating officer was appalled by the size and number of gill nets which were entering the harbour by the 'lorry load'," a DAPG report stated.

The ship put into Cape Town harbour at the beginning of March, about one month after action against Taiwanese trawlers carrying illegal gill nets.

It was inspected by South African authorities while in port but was not found to be carrying any nets. However, its cargo was not inspected as it had not requested permission to offload.

There were rumours in fishing circles that the Chang Lung was waiting for the arrival of a reefer to transfer its cargo, but it departed without offloading after about 10 days in harbour, bound for an "unknown destination".

The DAPG questioned a senior officer of the Department of Environment's Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries about the possibility of the ship having taken aboard a cargo of gill-netted tunny at sea.

"This was hotly denied, the reason apparently being that it was 'too dangerous'," the DAPG report said.

However, it was "not convinced", and alleged it was "more than possible" that the Chang Lung had been both supplying fishing vessels with gill nets at sea and bringing back tunny from these vessels into South African ports, in violation of South Africa's anti-gill net legislation of last year.

"Trans-shipping at sea by Asian vessels is fairly common, especially in the North Pacific gill-netting industry and there is no reason at all why this should not be the case in the Indian and even South Atlantic oceans," the report continued.


"In fact, DAPG is convinced that because Taiwanese gill netting vessels cannot enter South African ports, more tunny will be transferred to carrier and/or reefers at sea which, in turn, will visit South African ports for fuel and supplies and also cold storage facilities.

"To prevent this from happening, not only the agents of the fishing vessels but also law enforcement authorities should establish a more efficient monitoring system.

"If this is not done, legislation will be circumvented and — in effect — will be completely useless," the report concluded.

Illegal fishing penalties now even tougher

CAP TIPS 8/6/90



Political Staff

THE new tough penalties on illegal fishing in South African waters have been drastically increased by the Joint Committee on Environment Affairs.

The new measure, to go through Parliament this session, will increase the maximum fine for illegally catching crayfish and perlemoen to R50 000 as well a fine of up to three times the commercial value of the catch.

It will also provide for the compulsory confiscation of foreign vessels fishing illegally in South African waters, plus a fine of R250 000 minimum to R1 million maximum.

The committee's chairman, Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon, said yesterday the increased penalties, above those originally proposed by the Department of Environment Affairs, demonstrated the government's seriousness in preserving our fishing resources.

"The main message is that our marine resources are a precious national

resource which must be protected and exploited with respect."

However, he expressed concern about the ability of the authorities to police offenders. "We have a shortage of people controlling this."

At present, the maximum fine for illegally catching crayfish and perlemoen is R6 000 and imprisonment for up to five years.

The Sea Fisheries Act also provides for the confiscation of all equipment and vehicles used in catching these products. This provision will remain in the amended law.

The original bill proposed a maximum penalty of R24 000 and six years in jail. It also proposed a minimum fine of R250 000 and a maximum of R1m for foreign vessels fishing in SA waters and courts could order confiscation of the boat, its gear, fish and fish products.

The committee has amended this to make compulsory the confiscation of foreign boats caught fishing illegally.

The Bill also makes it an offence for any vessels to have the "wall of death" gill nets on board.

(56) (213) 8/6/90

Electrical appliances to clean air in black areas could cost R6-bn

By Abel Mushi

Soweto's air pollution problem came under the spotlight at a World Environment Week workshop at Funda Centre in Diepkloof yesterday.

Richard Ferrer, chairman of Domestic Appliance Manufacturers of SA, said the primary source of air pollution in many black residential areas in this country was the use of coal or wood stoves for cooking or heating.

"If it were possible to eliminate these coal stoves, the pollution problem in South Africa's residential areas would be essentially solved," said Mr Ferrer at the conference organised under the auspices of the National Association for Clean Air

(Naca).

Eskom had reported that clearing up smoke in black areas by installing electrical appliances would cost R6 billion.

Dr Yver von Schirnding of the Research Institute for Environmental Diseases said a major collaborative study was being carried out in the Johannesburg/Soweto area to document the effects of urbanisation on children's health and development over the next 10 years.

Aware

Five hundred children born in Soweto during April to May 1990 would be monitored over the next few years to determine the frequency of disease and risk factors.

Educationist Professor Es'kia

Mphahlele emphasised the need to make pupils aware of their immediate environment from primary school.

Studies by LHA Management Consultants found any programme to alleviate smoke pollution in urban areas would run into several hundred million rands a year.

Such programmes include: installation of ceilings and insulation in low-cost housing which could reduce the need for heating by 60 percent; and the removal of coal-burning stoves from households and the production of a low-smoke solid fuel to replace coal.

No survey has yet been done on the impact of air pollution on health in Soweto — reportedly one of the worst polluted areas in the world.

Ozone-unfriendly lands 'may face sanctions'

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Polluter nations could in future face economic sanctions that would make those imposed on South Africa for political reasons look like "nursery school stuff", according to Ian Macdonald, chairman of the Ozone Assessment Board of the Wildlife Society of South Africa.

He was speaking in Durban at

the official opening of the first factory in Africa to produce dimethyl ether, an ozone-friendly aerosol propellant.

The R12,5 million Prozone plant was built by CG Smith Chemicals, part of Barlow Rand.

Mr Macdonald predicted that the Montreal Protocol, which provides for the phasing-out of damaging chlorofluorocarbons

(CFCs) as aerosol propellants, would be amended at a conference in London this month.

It was agreed that 50 percent of CFC use had to be phased out.

"It is likely to be agreed that a total phase-out of these chemicals by the end of the century is essential," Mr Macdonald said.

Qmt tip 9/6/90

(56)

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R1000 fine for gill nets

Court Reporter

THE Taiwanese shipmaster and fishing master of the stranded An Hung 1 fishing trawler were yesterday found guilty in the Cape Town Regional Court of possessing a gill net without a permit.

They were sentenced to a fine of R1 000 or three months imprisonment each. The gill net was confiscated.

Magistrate Mr J M Lemmer said that their offence was seen in a very serious light.

Wu Shiouw Wen, 49, and Wang Chine Tan, 54, both pleaded guilty. In a statement handed to the magistrate they said they were aware that gill nets were illegal in South Africa and that a

permit from the Sea Fisheries Department was necessary to authorise their carrying the equipment in South African waters.

Mr A Schippers, for the Taiwanese citizens, said despite the nature and extent of the offence, any fines set by the court would have to be paid by Wu and Wang personally, and that they respectively earned about R2 663 per month as shipmaster and R1 331 per month as fishing master.

He added that between them the men had six children to support.

The men had been in custody since their arrest on May 25th — two days after the ill-fated trawler stranded off Hol Bay, near Gans Bay.



Residents of Winterveldt who can't afford the 16c for 20 litres of water from a plotholder's private borehole queue at a communal tap.

When garbage is the only means of survival

By McKeed Kotlolo
and Claire Robertson

Recycling garbage for some South Africans means more than feeding their social conscience. The families who scavenge factory and hotel garbage in the harrowing poverty of Winterveldt use the proceeds to feed themselves.

Water is expensive and difficult to obtain and food is scarce so families and community workers in the sprawling rural slum about 40 km from Pretoria have to wring the last drop out of any available resources.

In Winterveldt these include a garbage tip the size of several football fields.

Every morning scores of el-

derly women can be seen picking over the waste from nearby factories and the Morula Sun Hotel.

Many of the women camp out on the dump for days at a time, returning home at the end of their foraging with up to R60 worth of bottles and plastic.

Some interviewed recently said they slept next to their bundles to protect them from fellow scavengers.

The dump is about one kilometre from Winterveldt. In the heart of this rural slum another group of women battle daily with dwindling resources that are themselves coming to resemble leftovers for all their scarcity and intermittent avail-

ability.

Sister Joan of the Catholic order of Sisters of Mercy, has been working in the area for the past four years. She oversees the distribution of monthly food parcels to about 1 250 families — including an estimated 6 000 children.

The food, bought with money from various funds, has not kept up with the demand and Sister Joan says each family now receives less than half what it needs every month.

"Most of the children are suffering from bronchitis and diseases related to malnutrition," she said.

The Sisters of Mercy run two daycare centres in Winterveldt

and manage to give each of the 240 toddlers a meal of pap and soya every day. They have to turn away new applicants daily because of lack of funds and space.

There is not enough water for human needs and it costs 16c for 20 litres from a plotholder's private borehole.

Those residents in the area who cannot afford to buy water queue at communal taps with 20 litre cans.

Sister Joan said this week: "We can't cope. We are appealing to the public and private sector to donate food, clothes or anything."

She can be reached at Box 911350, Rosslyn, 0200 or (0146) 33-110.

Cap Times 11/6/90
Ecology .56
**'Minister
relatively
powerless'**

Political Staff

THE Minister of Environment Affairs was relatively powerless to implement the Environment Conservation Act, according to the president of the Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Mr Naas Steenkamp.

This view had been conveyed to the National Party's environment caucus group, he said at a press conference after a Wildlife Society delegation held discussions with the group.

Both Mr Steenkamp and the chairman of the group, Caledon MP Mr Lampie Fick, said afterwards that the first-ever discussions between them had been very fruitful.

Mr Steenkamp stressed the Wildlife Society was not political.

However, he said, "the Wildlife Society has a very important role to play as a catalyst between the various political parties and the various political groupings outside Parliament". "We are moving towards a new South Africa when most of the extra-parliamentary groups will have a role to play in environmental issues," he said.

Boom for Cape 'nuclear site' towns?

Argus 13/6/90 (56)

By SHARON SOROUR
Staff Reporter

SOUTHERN Cape towns around Bantamsklip, near Gansbaai, could get a major economic boost if Eskom goes ahead with a multi-million rand plan to build a new nuclear power station on the site.

PLANS

But the project is also likely to have a major ecological, cultural and social impact and might arouse controversy.

If a new nuclear station gets the green light, it will be built only after the turn of the century.

About 7 000 workers will descend on the region — some will be recruited locally — creating a high demand for new housing and services. Many of them will be foreign contract workers. The workforce will be reduced to about 2 000 once the power station is operating.

Eskom acknowledged in a report yesterday that the influx of thousands of people into the community would have a substantial impact on the businesses, schools, hospitals, recreation facilities, land, housing and water resources in and around Gansbaai.

The electricity supplier announced its intention to acquire an option on the Bantamsklip site. Negotiations to buy the land have begun. This follows four years of investigations, which included "external consultants", into possible sites for a new nuclear power station in the southern Cape.

Eskom said it needed to identify sites for future power stations now because it had wide implications for neighbouring land and how it would or could be used.

The southern Cape coast was singled out mainly because of the abundance of wa-

ter for cooling purposes and the low population density.

However, controversy could centre on the ecological and historical features of the site. Bantamsklip was a "well-managed natural area" and the property was registered as a heritage site where the farmstead and outbuildings were cultural historical monuments.

Eskom assured in its report, though, that "these attributes... will not be significantly adversely affected".

It said the historic buildings were situated inland, while a power station's terrace would be on the coast. It also said that "careful management" by Eskom would be geared to protect the environment. A power station would necessitate the removal of vegetation from about 10ha.

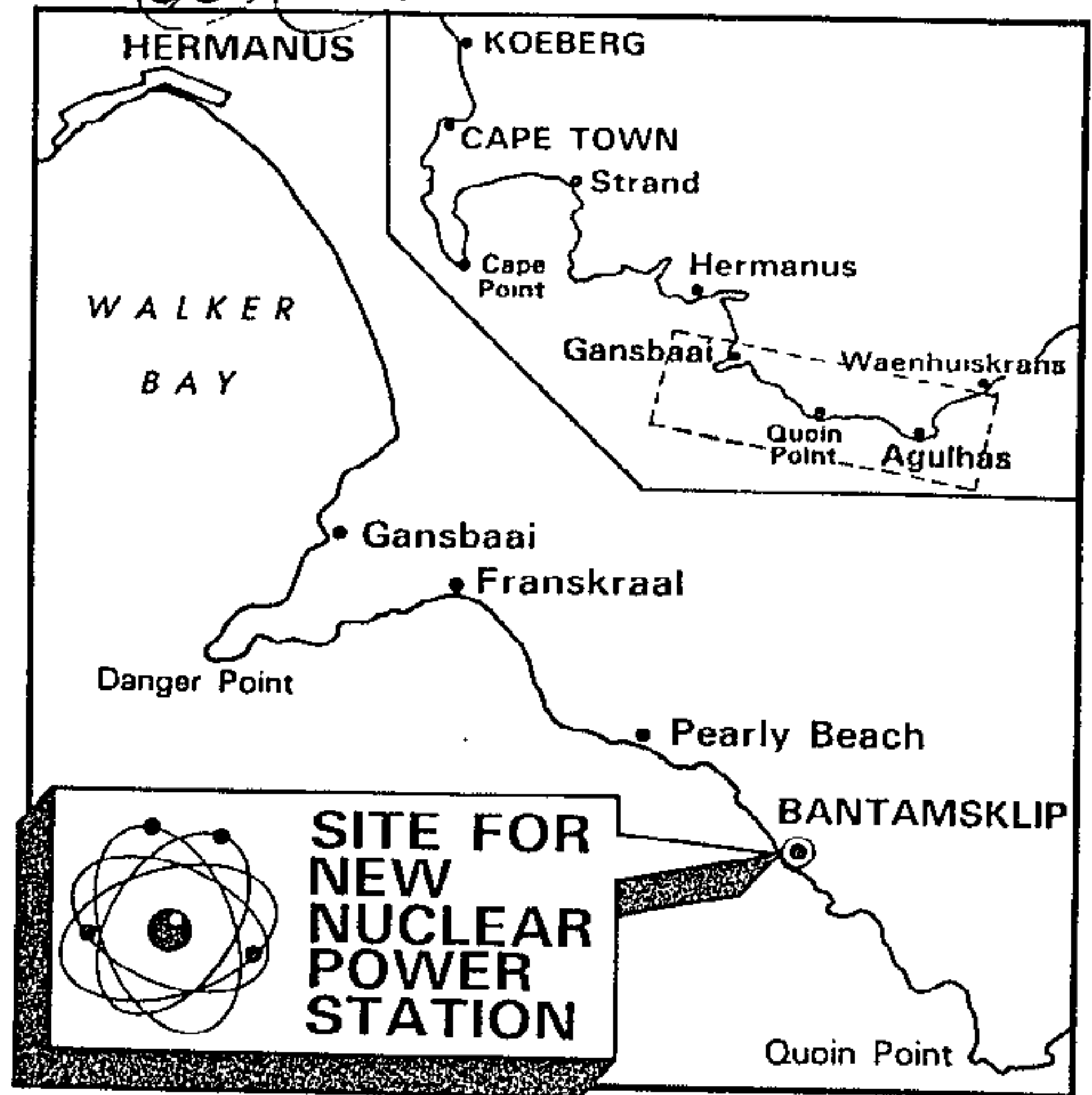
Eskom said it was "only securing its site options for further stations and that there are no plans to build a nuclear power station in the near future". The report said "a new nuclear station will not come into operation during this century".

"Once a decision has been taken regarding the type and design of the station to be used, Eskom will apply for permission to erect and operate such a station from the Council for Nuclear Safety."

The Council acted as an independent statutory body to ensure public safety and exercised regulatory control over various activities of the nuclear industry.

The public would be able to submit comment to the Council on any plans to build a new power station.

Eskom said the four-year investigation into sites in the southern Cape between Gansbaai and Arniston and between Quoin Point and Gansbaai was part of a 10-year investigation programme along the coastline of South Africa.



'Pollution will be minimal'

ESKOM has assured that the environmental impact of a new nuclear power station at Bantamsklip will be constantly monitored and believes the pollution will be "negligible".

A report says there is "no reason" to restrict farming activity surrounding the site, but produce will be monitored regularly by the staff of the station's environmental survey laboratory.

These measurements are cross-checked by the Council for Nuclear Safety.

There would also be no bar on recreational activities outside buffer zones on each side of the station.

The environment around the station — including discharges of cooling water into the sea — will be extensively monitored for radio-activity.

Eskom says the cooling wa-

ter discharges will contain chlorine, boron, sodium sulphate, treated sewage effluent and radio-active materials, but the effect "can reasonably be described as negligible".

About 40 cubic metres of cooling water are required by a 1000 MW reactor every second.

Eskom also revealed that a new nuclear power station at Bantamsklip will cover about 700 hectares. This includes the security area from which the public will be excluded. The "terrace" will affect about 10ha.

The station will need a buffer zone along the coast on each side of the reactor buildings of at least 1,5km and 2km inland.

Between 20 and 25ha will have to be "reinstated after disturbance by construction".

Eskom find nuke site near Pearly

CMT 7/17/90
13/6/90
56

Staff Reporter

ESKOM is negotiating an option for about 1 000 hectares of one of the world's finest fynbos areas between Pearly Beach and Quoin Point — earmarked by their experts as a suitable site for a second nuclear power station.

The site is on the farm Hogelkraal which is registered as an internationally recognised heritage site with the farmstead and outbuildings declared national monuments.

Most of the ground is owned by conservation-minded Mr Ian Bell and a portion by the state.

Mr Bell said yesterday that he was "shattered" by Eskom's intentions.

While he did not want to sell, he hoped "we can reach an agreement by which I can retain titles should they decide against going ahead".

At a Cape Town press conference called by Eskom to announce the site identification, Dr John Raimondo, head of UCT's Environmental Evaluation Unit, said that botanically the site was one of the best "laboratory areas" of its kind in the world.

"It's unique in that it has so many different habitats from the sea up to the mountains with a very wide range of fynbos species," he said.

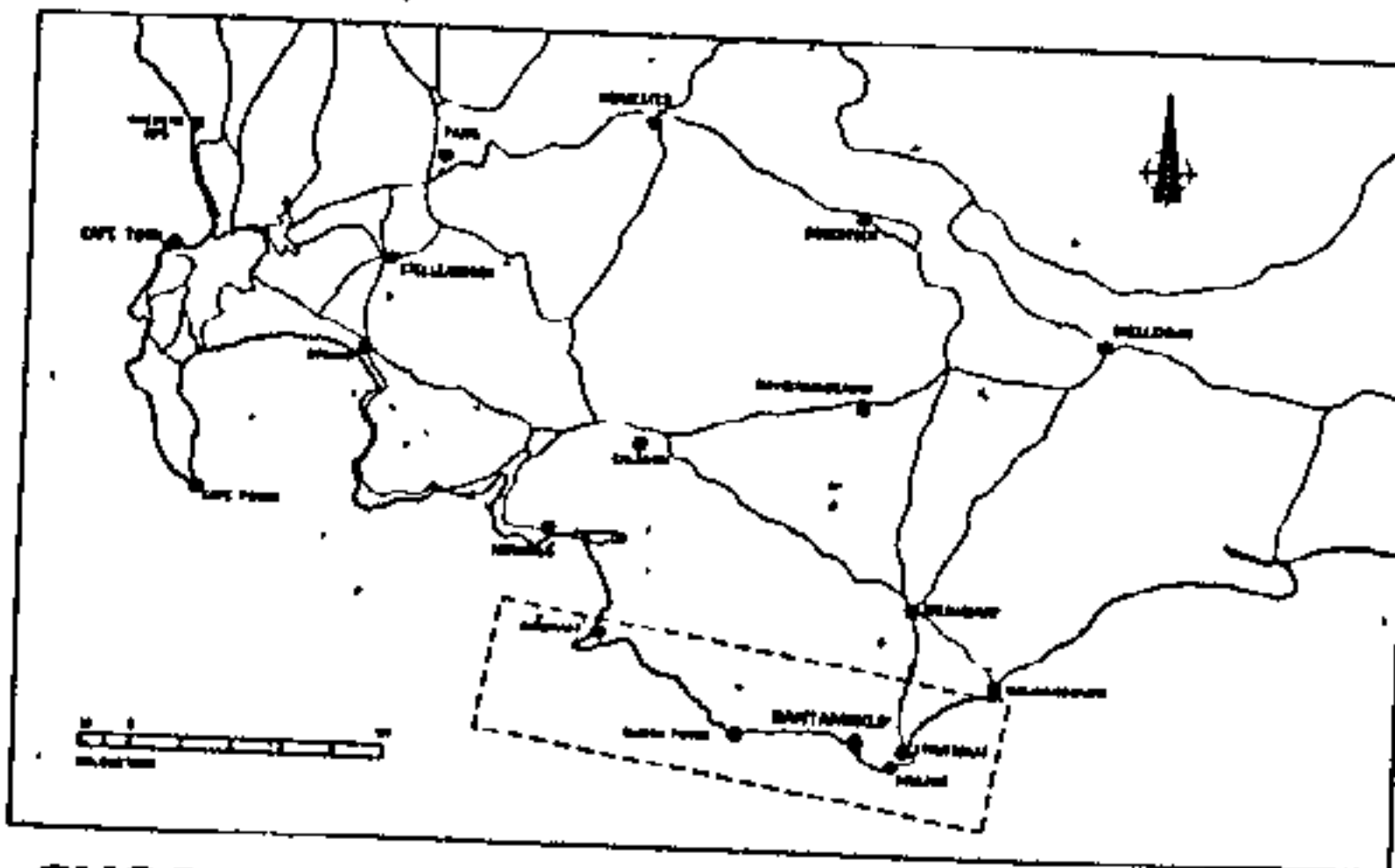
The identified "construction" site which consists of about 25% of the area, is known as Bantamsklip.

Dr Raimondo, who conducted a two-year environmental study of three po-

tential sites in the Gans Bay to Agulhus areas, recommended to Eskom that the site not be bought unless very specific environmental criteria were met.

He said the other site which fitted Eskom's criteria was nearby Buffelsjag but this had a local population and was a popular recreational area.

Eskom's properties manager Mr Phanus Zondag said Mr Bell was insisting Eskom buy the entire 1 300 hectares to retain for conservation. Es-



SUGGESTED SITE ... The Bantamsklip site which Eskom is negotiating to buy for a possible second nuclear power station.

kom was "committed to this," and would let Mr Bell stay on, Mr Zondag added.

Mr Johan van den Bergh, Eskom's general manager (management services), stressed that the site was being secured as "one of several options".

There were no plans to build a nuclear power station in the near future and any new station would not come into operation this century.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Western Cape Division of SAP: complaints re offences

341. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs.

B831E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (a) (i) 160 complaints for the period 1 April 1989 until 31 March 1990. 218 complaints in 1989.
- (ii) 863 complaints for the period 1 April 1989 until 31 March 1990. 878 complaints in 1989.
- (b) (i) Statistics of the results of investigations during the latest period of 12 months are not yet available, and can therefore not be furnished.
- (ii) Results of the investigations for 1989 are as follows:

	Western Cape	Republic
Unfounded	82	203
Withdrawn	57	2 557
Undetected	3	—
With the Attorney-General and Senior Public Prosecutor for decision	2	9
Prosecution declined by Attorney-General	2	29
To Department of Local Government and Housing for attention	24	19
Still under investigation	37	153
At the court for a trial date	—	2
Tried and convicted	—	6

Note: The statistics for the Western Cape are not included in the those for the Republic.

Mercury in industrial waste

355. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:

- (1) Whether there are any facilities in South Africa for the recovery of mercury from industrial waste; if so, (a) where, (b) which companies are responsible for each such facility and (c) for how long has each been in operation;
- (2) whether any such facilities are monitored; if so, (a) in terms of what statutory

(3) whether mercury-containing waste is supplied to such facilities from (a) internal and/or (b) external sources; if so, (i) who supplies the waste, and (ii) in what quantities is it supplied, in each case;

(4) whether his Department liaises with any other Government Departments in this regard; if so, (a) with which Departments, and (b) why, in each case?

B863E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a), (b) and (c) The only known company is Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd at Cato Ridge, Natal, which was incorporated on 27 June 1969 and by whom amongst others a mercury-containing catalyst is manufactured and exported. The catalysts are used in specific industries and once the exported product has been processed further overseas, the spent catalysts are returned to South Africa for reclamation by the local company in terms of a contract with the overseas users.
- (2) Not by the Department of Trade and Industry.
- (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.
- (3) (a) (i) and (ii) Information in this respect is not available in the Department.
- (b) (i) and (ii) In 1989 approximately 50 metric tonnes of spent catalysts (containing between 3 and 20 per cent mercury) were returned from the USA to Thor Chemicals for reclamation.
- (4) As is apparent from the reply to question No 357, imports of the relevant product are subject to control but no other departments were consulted in this particular case since the product was imported as a raw material.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.

Note: As was mentioned in the reply of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to oral question No 6 of 8 May 1990 the Department of Environment Affairs has instructed the Foundation for Research and Development at the CSIR to undertake an in-depth investigation into the occurrence, processing and storage of toxic waste in South Africa and to propose a strategy and management plan for implementation by the end of 1990.

Mercury-containing industrial waste: import

- (1) Whether a licence and/or permit is required from his Department for the import of mercury-containing waste; if not,

why not; if so, under what provisions or regulations;

(2) whether any such licences and/or permits were issued during the past five years; if so, (a) when, (b) to whom and (c) under what conditions;

(3) whether his Department liaises with any other Government Departments in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) with which Departments and (b) why in each case?

B865E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes. In terms of the provisions of the Import and Export Control Act, 1963 (Act 45 of 1963) an import permit is required for the importation of all second-hand or used goods, including residual or waste material.
- (2) Yes.
 - (a) March 1987
 - January 1988
 - January 1989
 - January 1990
- (b) Thor Chemicals SA (Pty) Ltd
- (c) Conditions are usually not imposed on import permits.
- (3) In this particular case no other departments were consulted as the relevant product is reimported as a raw material for use in a specific industry. The product is cleared under tariff subheading 2620-90 which applies to various kinds of ashes and residues containing metals or metallic compounds used in industry either for the extraction of metals or as a basis for the manufacture of chemical compounds of metals.
- (a) and (b) Fall away.

Note: Immediately after I became aware of the importation of the mercury-containing substance I made investigations as to the procedures that apply and sought ways and means of improving them in so far as my Department is affected to ensure proper control and handling of toxic waste in whatever form. Some 6 weeks ago I instructed the South African Bureau of Standards to expand the codes of practice in regard to the identifica-

Answer
13/6/90
tion, classification and handling of dangerous goods, including waste products, with a view to also clearly identifying imports of hazardous substances to ensure proper control by the departments most concerned, ie the Departments of Environment Affairs and of National Health and Population Development. This system will establish meaningful and uniform guide-lines for the identification, classification and handling of dangerous substances in line with the best international practices. I have already issued a news release in this regard, a copy of which is being forwarded to the hon member

Diep River police station: staff establishment

388. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether he will furnish statistics on the (a) approved and (b) actual staff establishment by rank at the Diep River police station; if not, why not; if so, (i) what are the relevant statistics and (ii) in respect of what date are they furnished;
- (2) whether there is a shortage of staff at this police station; if so, (a) why and (b) (i) what steps does he intend taking to eliminate this shortage and (ii) when is it anticipated that it will be eliminated?

B917E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) and (2) No. Because it is not in the public interest or the interest of the safety of the police station concerned. However, I am prepared to furnish the information to the hon member on a confidential basis, should he approach me for that purpose.

Cape Province: exchequer personnel corps

395 Mr W C MALAN asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination
How many (a) Whites, (b) Blacks, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians were employed in each specified salary interval of the exchequer personnel corps in the Cape Province in September 1988?

B942E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION:

Information regarding the geographical distribution of the exchequer personnel corps is not

readily available. It would also not be possible to obtain information as far back as September 1988 from departments.

Orange Free State: Exchequer personnel corps

396. Mr W C MALAN asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination:
How many (a) Whites, (b) Blacks, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians were employed in each specified salary interval of the exchequer personnel corps in the Orange Free State, excluding Owaqwa in September 1988?

B943E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION:

Information regarding the geographical distribution of the exchequer personnel corps is not readily available. It would also not be possible to obtain information as far back as September 1988 from departments.

Certain publication

412. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination:

- (1) Whether his Department is involved in a certain publication, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) what is the name of this publication, (b) what was the cost of this publication to his Department during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (c) (i) what is the circulation of the publication and (ii) to whom is it distributed;
- (2) whether he will furnish information on a second publication, the name of which has also been furnished to his Department; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is the name of this publication, (b) who are the (i) owners, (ii) printers and (iii) distributors of the publication, (c) what purpose is it intended to serve and (d) what are the terms of the contract in respect of this publication?

B959E

The MINISTER FOR ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION:

- (1) Yes.
(a) Publico

(b) R157 152 for the period 1 March 1989 to 28 February 1990

(c) (i) averaging 11 000

(ii) interested parties, for example public servants, political office bearers, academics, libraries, educational institutions and managers in the private sector

(2) no, as no publication with the name "Promedia" is printed or distributed by my Department

(a), (b) (i), (ii) and (iii), (c) and (d) fall away.

Minister of Law and Order: lawsuits

440. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) (a) How many lawsuits were brought against him in his capacity as Minister of Law and Order in 1989 by members of the public and (b) what (i) were the circumstances and (ii) was the outcome of each such lawsuit;
- (2) whether he paid out any moneys (a) as a result of successful lawsuits brought against him and (b) in out-of-court settlements; if so, what total amount in each case?

B1031E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) (a) 208 lawsuits, ie after summonses were issued and finalised.

(b) (i) Damage to vehicles as result of collisions	139
Assaults (shooting incidents included)	36
Unlawful arrest and detention	23
Malicious prosecution	3
Crimen Injura	1
Bitten by police dog	3
Damage to property as a result of police action	2
Loss of property while in police care	1
(ii) These lawsuits were settled as follows:	208

188 cases were settled out of court,

In one case the court gave judgment in favour of the claimant, with costs;

In 11 instances the claims were withdrawn;

In 7 instances the claims were abandoned;

In one case the court rejected the claim, with costs.

(2) (a) Yes — R2 092,85

(b) Yes — R623 703,45 of which R466 546,00 was paid as a result of damages which arose from vehicle collisions. The balance represents claims which were instituted due to other causes as referred to in paragraph (1) (b) (i).

Note: The substantial increase in payments in respect of vehicle damage is ascribed mainly to the drastic increase in motor spares and repair costs.

Instances settled out of court are mostly those in respect of vehicle collisions and where it was obvious that the members of the Force concerned, were the guilty parties. Such settlements before court proceedings are instituted, are cost effective.

In other instances notices of contemplated actions were received, but due to the fact that summonses were not issued, these instances are not included in paragraph (1) (a).

In other instances summonses have already been issued but not yet finalised. Because the work involved in compiling this information would be voluminous and time-consuming, it is not practically feasible to furnish this information.

The increase in the number of lawsuits can, among other things, be ascribed to the fact that legal representatives of claimants prefer to issue summonses in order to expedite finalisation of the claims.

Self-governing territories/independent Black states: persons employed in RSA

458. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister for Administration and Economic Co-ordination:

Nuclear power best for environment

NUCLEAR power was the most acceptable form of electricity from an environmental point of view, the MP for Caledon, Mr Lampie Fick, said yesterday.

"It has no smoke, greenhouse gases, acid rain and the associated degrading effect on the environment," he said in a statement.

Mr Fick, in whose constituency the latest site to be earmarked for a nuclear power station falls, in one of the finest fynbos areas between Pearly Beach and Quoin

Point, is also chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Environment Affairs.

"The possible environmental impact on about 6 000 additional people in the Walker Bay area is insignificant in comparison with the environmental advantages which can be achieved in the national interest through a nuclear power station in the place of a fossil fuel station."

The relatively cheap coal power from the Eastern Transvaal, which already had a consid-

erable impact on the economic welfare of the country, was busy developing into an environmental burden, the price of which could possibly become so high that it would neutralise the economic benefits of the past.

"We cannot continue with our present system of energy use in South Africa, overloading the environment with the continuous release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at, for example, the power stations in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld," he said.

CAPT Tings 14/6/90 (56)

CSIR appoints

a 'green' chief

13/6/90
The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed a "green man" to keep an eye on South Africa's environment.

Dr Dirk Grobler, an expert in the field of water quality control, will head the CSIR's new environmental research programme.

"The CSIR, with its multidisciplinary research abilities, can play a major role to steer a middle road between the extremes of total conservation and unrestricted development of natural resources," Dr Grobler said. — Staff Reporter.

56

Green outcry over Eskom's nuclear power plans

A proposal to establish a nuclear power station among historical buildings has been greeted with dismay by environmental groups.

By EDDIE KOCH

GREEN groups in South Africa are in an uproar over Eskom's announcement this week that the corporation has identified a site for its next nuclear power station — in the middle of an International Heritage Site.

Eskom public relations officer Andre Van Heerden told *The Weekly Mail* there were no immediate plans to buy the site and that no nuclear power station would come on stream in the next 10 years.

However, Earth Life Africa, a national environmental pressure group, said Eskom was making a "piecemeal" announcement in order to defuse public protest and disguise the fact that Eskom was committed to building more nuclear power stations in South Africa.

"We demand a moratorium on the nuclear industry until there has been a full consultation with all the people of South Africa and they have consented to a nuclear future and its attendant hazards," added Mike Kantey of Koeberg Alert, an anti-nuclear lobby in Cape Town.

The site identified by Eskom as the possible place for its second nuclear power station is at Bantamsklip, 70km to the east of Hermanus.

Van Heerden stressed that Eskom does not intend to purchase the site immediately.

"Eskom is only securing its site options for further stations and there are no plans to build a nuclear power station in the near future. Eskom has stated categorically that a new nuclear station will not come into operation during this century," said an official press release from the company.

The green lobby's fears about the potential hazards of a nuclear accident have been compounded by the fact that the site is slap in the middle of a registered Heritage Site with a farmstead and outbuildings that are historical monuments.

Ian Bell, owner of a farm on the site targetted by Eskom, said last night that he was "shattered" by the corporation's plan to build a power station there.

"The impact on the environment will be devastating no matter how well it is managed," he said.

According to Eskom's environment impact study, the site would not be "significantly adversely affected".

Van Heerden said nuclear-generated electricity was the only viable option for South Africa. Local supplies of coal would run out early in the next century.

Poverty should be addressed alongside conservation - lecturer

S6

NATURE conservation will remain a pipe dream in rural areas unless the poverty of people due to socio-political policies is addressed. University of Venda lecturer, Mr Edward Mabogo, said yesterday.

Addressing a symposium on human beings and their environment held at the University campus at Thohoyandou

BY MATHATHA TSEDU

Ndou, Mabogo, a botany lecturer, said the denuding of whole areas of all indigenous vegetation was taking place at an alarming rate in the bathustan.

15/6/90
vive, people cut trees indiscriminately for firewood. Any attempt to stop this practice by the authorities without a cheap or even free alternative would be useless as people would simply defy, Mabogo said.

position of conservation demands that have no relevance to the needs of the affected societies. "When people are made to choose between obeying a law and starving to death, the choice is quite clearly defined," he said.

In an interview later, Mabogo said that due to the general oppression of black people, defiance of any Government scheme was generally viewed as advancing the struggle against white oppression and exploitation.

"It makes little sense for a poor man who can hardly afford a meal to hear lofty speeches about the beauty of nature and the needs to preserve it. He cannot even go and see the beauty so he does not care. He has to survive in that poor setting, so down go the trees for firewood and down also go rare species of animals for meat," Mabogo said.

Pollution

The symposium heard about the large-scale pollution of the green forests and rivers due to the growing trend of consumerism. Rubbish dumping was cited as one of the major causes of pollution. It was further pointed out that industries with high pollution outputs were being allowed in Venda without ordinary safeguards for the environment. Suggestions made included the recycling of rubbish and education of people and their involvement in planning conservation strategies.

... ..

Sto. 19/6/90 (56)

Hole in the sky? It's all Green lies!

If the much-publicised "green-house effect" is real, why don't we all have complexions like tomatoes? **Assistant Editor DAVID WALKER** finds himself out of step with the rest of the world.

The household's chief executive bought some recycled toilet paper the other day. That needs rephrasing. She bought some toilet rolls made from recycled paper.

They come in an indelicate off-white shade, look cheap and nasty and cost more than the regular product. No matter, here's a family doing its bit for conservation, saving a tree for someone else to burn and helping to widen that reputed hole in the ozone.

If you think you detect a note of scepticism, trust your instinct. Ask yourself: where's the evidence that such a hole exists? Where are the photographs, the videos, the affidavits from eye-witnesses?

If our atmosphere is being siphoned off into outer space, why are we all not out of breath?

All that exists is the word of anonymous scientists who purport to keep this void under constant observation with sophisticated equipment, at enormous cost.

Cunningly, they pre-empt any attempted check by claiming that sometimes it suddenly closes up. Now you see it, now you don't. Here's a phenomenon that moves in mighty mysterious ways.

And where's the so-called green-house effect? Despite grim warnings of above-average temperatures with disastrous consequences, the polar ice cap refuses to melt, Durban City Hall isn't a centimetre nearer the high tide mark and the winter mornings are still bloody cold.

The sole logical inference to be drawn is that it's all a massive international con-trick, masterminded by the giants of commerce and industry. Spread the word that chlorofluorocarbons would kill the world, they reckoned, and the resultant snowballing hysteria would do the rest.

It worked! They succeeded in doing the impossible — fooling all the people all of the time. Now, as a public service and to show how they care, they are developing alternative aerosol propellants which, naturally, will cost more to pay for research, finding new raw materials and replacing obsolete machinery.

Up will go the price of hair sprays, insect killers, oven cleaners, fire extinguishers, lighter fuel, deodorants . . .

So everyone will be happy. Business profits will soar; the consumer will be happier, if poorer; the hole-monitoring boffins will continue to get money for nothing; James Clarke will remain an unwitting tool of the great conspiracy. And I will probably get the sack.

Call for better deal for nature conservationists

Pretoria Correspondent

Star 20/6/90

The Public Servants' Association (PSA) has called for a massive salary injection for nature conservationists.

This includes a 40 percent pensionable salary increase for nature conservation officers, as well as the implementation — backdated to 1983 — of a new dispensation for research technicians.

A report in The Public Servant magazine describes the 465 nature conservation officers, research technicians and conservation scientists as a "crisis group".

Gross starting salaries for learner conservation officers with matric were R642 a month and those for qualified nature conservation officers R1 139, while the average salary of the 343 nature conservation officers employed by the State and Cape and Transvaal provincial departments was R1 610 a month.

This, the article said, was R409 a month less than that of any similarly qualified personnel in the public service. The TPA responded by saying it had consistently given support for better salaries.

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Toxins story exaggerated says Prof

HAZARDS of toxins in drinking water in Johannesburg have been exaggerated, Prof Hilliard Hurwitz of the City Health Department said yesterday.

A news report yesterday claimed drinking water in Johannesburg contained dangerous levels of toxic mercury and other chemicals.

Hurwitz said the levels of the toxin trihalomethane in Johannesburg's drinking water which the report said was 100 times the European Community's safety standard - was acceptable and fell within standards created by Canada, America and Australia. "It's simply not true that our trihalomethane

level is 100 times more than the EC guide level value for drinking water," he told Sapa.

He said South Africa's standards were even higher than Canada, America and Australia.

Regarding the claims that mercury levels were twice that acceptable by the World Health Organisation for drinking

water, he said the SA Bureau of Standards had set a standard that five micrograms of mercury a litre of water as acceptable.

Johannesburg water was well within these levels, he said.

He added that when measuring minute quantities, as was the case in the measuring of mer-

cury in drinking water, tests were not accurate and up to 100 percent discrepancies in analysis could be made. (56)

He said the example given in the news report, where they tested water from Soweto, Sandton and Bellevue East, was an example of this inaccuracy. - Sapa

SCPAG continues

kaolin mine battle

By KIM CLARKIN

THE question of whether a kaolin mine will be established on the slopes of Chapman's Peak is in limbo until the impact report has been finalised by the mining company, Serina.

However, the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group (SCPAG) is formulating counter-proposals for the land which include declaring Chapman's Peak a national monument and turning the area into a fynbos reserve.

All queries and concerns have been filed on the draft impact study and Mr Carl Tarrant, MD of Serina, said the company would have to be "given some time to work through the information and then reply".

Meanwhile an appeal has been lodged with the National Monuments Council to have Chapman's Peak declared a national monument. Although this is being viewed sympathetically, there are snags. The area has to be clearly defined and negotiations could be lengthy as various parties own the land.

Confident

Miss Hanneljie du Preez, regional representative for the National Monuments Council for the Western Cape, said exactly what was to be declared a national monument had to be established as well as the best way of protecting it as even then mining could go ahead.

"Our act does not make provision for mining activities and if you have mining rights, you can mine," she said.

There are also plans to establish a Chapman's Peak Trust to implement a restoration programme for the entire area and re-establish the fynbos from Hout Bay to Noordhoek.

Mr John Butterfield, spokesman for the trust, said it was confident the mine would not go ahead and had included the mine site in its plans.

"The primary source of alien vegetation choking Chapman's Peak is on the mine site. It has been allowed to progress uncontrolled for the last 15 years. For 10 years the land has been under Serina's control in terms of its mineral rights but the company has allowed it to become a seed farm for alien plants and a fire hazard."

Fund-raising

Mr Butterfield also claimed it would benefit Serina to have the land overgrown with foreign plants because it "strengthens its case for the mine and could act as a shield for mining activities".

"Successful fynbos rehabilitation after open-cast mining is virtually impossible."

Botanists have identified substantial indigenous seed banks on the mountain slopes and established that, at this stage, reclamation was possible and relatively easy as the alien vegetation was first-generation.

SCPAG has applied for a fund-raising number as it believes funding would have to come from the private sector. "It appears the State doesn't have the financial resources — and other projects take priority."

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Pressure over impure water now turned up

By EDDIE KOCH

(S6)

THE Johannesburg branch of Earthlife Africa, a national environmental pressure group, has mounted a campaign for clean water in the city. *W/Week* 22/6/90

The organisation responded to an investigation by *The Daily Mail*, which found traces of mercury in Johannesburg tap water, by urging residents to "take action to preserve our health".

Earthlife is circulating a petition which includes demands that immediate action be taken by the city council to to ensure clean drinking water.

The organisation also insists that industries responsible for polluting the city's water supplies should be forced to pay the costs of prevention "to avoid putting an unfair burden on the consumer".

Earthlife's petition calls for free and open access to data from water quality monitoring conducted by the city council and the Rand Water Board.

The campaign was launched this week when "green" activists climbed the reservoir on Yeoville Ridge and draped it with a banner saying "Not fit for human consumption".

'Safety limits for pollutants were dropped by the SABS'

By EDDIE KOCH

W/Week 22/6/90

SOUTH AFRICA is one of the few industrial countries which has no stringent standards for drinking water, and this accounts for local pollution levels, say two senior water engineers in a paper presented at a recent seminar.

These levels are higher than international limits, engineers Paul Polasek and Claude Mangedot say.

The Daily Mail this week reported that it found two micrograms of mercury per litre — twice the World Health Organisation's safety limit — in a spot sample of Bellevue East's water.

Johannesburg medical officer of health Professor Hilliard Hurwitz said the finding, if correct, still showed pollution levels well below the standard which the SABS had "in its wisdom, set at five micrograms per litre".

Rand Water Board scientific services head Schalk van der Merwe confirmed that a number of safety limits for water had been relaxed by the SABS.

He said this had been done because there was no medical evidence to show

Council to make data available

By EDDIE KOCH

(S6)

CITY Hall has agreed to make information about the quality of Johannesburg's water available to *The Daily Mail* after council officials earlier this week refused to supply the data. *W/Week* 22/6/90

The official turnout was made yesterday after Democratic Party councillor Martin Sweet — alarmed by the findings of our investigation into pollution of drinking water — asked the city's medical officer of health for an explanation.

Professor Hilliard Hurwitz confirmed the department would give the newspaper access to its data upon request.

Said Sweet: "The City Council buys water from the Rand Water Board and monies are available in the budget for any testing. Professor Hurwitz gave me an assurance that this testing will be done."

"As councillor for the area (Yeoville and Bellevue East — where traces of mercury were found) I undertake to do everything I can to ensure that safety standards are complied with."

● The *Daily Mail* plans to conduct a detailed analysis of the official data on Johannesburg's water quality.

Tap water not toxic - council

DRINK as much Johannesburg tap water as you wish and stay healthy, is the Johannesburg City Council's response to allegations that local drinking water is unsafe for human consumption.

Condemning claims that water contained unacceptably high levels of toxic nitrate and mercury, health committee chief Marietta Marx said both were well within acceptable levels.

The Rand Water Board, which purifies and distributes drinking water to the entire PWV region, said it was shocked that serious claims had been made without consulting the board, which will issue a statement later today.

Sowetan 22/6/90

Strict standards

Marx said the acceptable level of trihalomethane in the city was set at 100 micrograms per litre but the average over 127 tests in the last 12 months was 50 - 60 and the level had exceeded 100 on only two occasions.

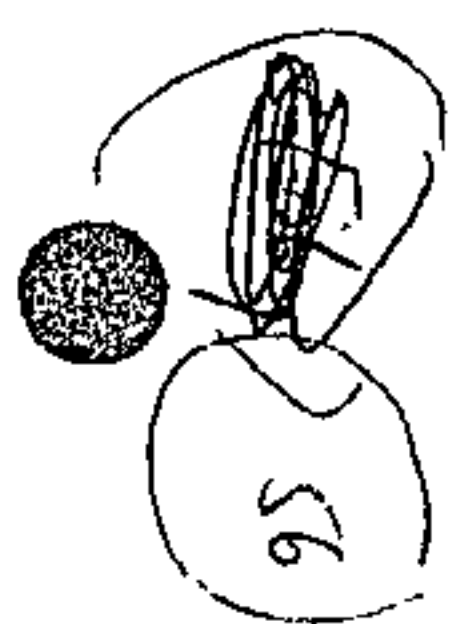
Stressing Johannesburg's strict standards, she said the American standard was 300 and the Australian 200 micrograms per litre.

She denied claims of unacceptably high mercury levels.

She assured residents the council would continue with routine monitoring of drinking water. - Sapa.

Navy hunt for gill-net poachers

Capt Timp 5
22/6/90



By DALE GRANGER and SYBRAND MOSTERT
THE navy and air force this week hunted down a fleet of foreign trawlers using gill nets in South African territorial waters.

In a combined two-day operation, which was carried out under cover of dark on Wednesday night and last night, an SAAF Dakota was first used to find the fleet — about 140 miles west of Saldanha — before two navy strike craft raced to the scene in a bid to seize the fleet. But at dawn yesterday, the fishing trawlers had seemed to have scattered.

A spokesman for the Department of Sea Fisheries said last night that they had probably been tipped off by radio and fled.

However, last night the search was continuing as the Custos, the Cape Provincial Administration deep-sea patrol vessel, was still scouring the ocean for the vessels, along with a second SAAF Dakota.

The vessels' nationality has not yet been established, but in the past a number of Taiwanese trawlers are believed to have used gill nets, dubbed "walls of death" because of their indiscriminate killing, in SA waters.

The operation was revealed late yesterday by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, who said the operation was "a clear warning to other countries that we will not stand for our fishing resources being plundered by foreign fleets."

Stiffer penalties for illegal fishing in SA waters — which provide for a fine of R1 million and the seizure of boats and equipment — would also be made law soon, he said.

At present the fine is R100 000 or a prison sentence of seven years.

He said this was the first combined operation of this sort between the Department of Environment, the SADF and the CPA after his announcement in Parliament recently that measures against illegal foreign fishing in SA waters would be sharpened.

According to a statement released by the department, an SA tuna trawler radioed authorities early on Wednesday morning that a foreign fleet "of over ten trawlers" was using gill nets in SA waters.

Mr Kotze had then met Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and at sunset an SAAF Dakota, equipped with radar and other detection instruments, had taken off from D F Malan Airport.

Flying without navigation lights, the aircraft found the trawlers about 8pm. The aircraft kept about 10km

away from the fleet and plotted 11 trawlers on radar. Their position was radioed back.

Two navy strike craft, which had just arrived from Durban, were then sent with Sea Fisheries officials on board just after 8pm.

The vessels, which were joined by the Custos, arrived at the position at 4am. The fleet, according to a Sea Fisheries spokesman, had already scattered.

"They could have picked up the search from radio," he said. "If they were closer to shore we would have got them."

At first light the strike craft were joined by two Dakotas, which scoured the area for the fleet, but the search was abandoned late yesterday morning.

Last night a shocked Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the

P.T.

To page 2

Prozone friendly (56)

In Natal, as in the rest of SA, the burgeoning Green movement and increased public awareness of environmental issues mean industry has to do more than pay lip service to protecting the environment. Glossy advertising campaigns are being replaced by financial commitment.

Barlow Rand's C G Smith Chemicals has spent R12,5m on Africa's first ozone-friendly Prozone plant. Prozone is the trade name of the aerosol propellant dimethyl ether (DME), regarded as one of the safest options to ozone destroying CFC gasses.

C G Smith's plan to build the plant at Merebank, Durban, is a long-term decision that should offer good returns. Chairman Glyn Taylor says it's gratifying to work on a project "which has environmental value as well as economic attractiveness."

The plant, capable of producing 5 000 t of Prozone a year, has orders for 1 000 t a year from major manufacturers like Reckitt & Colman, Aerolak and Elida Ponds. Market share seems certain to increase as more companies in aerosol-related industries switch to Prozone. For C G Smith the plant is also the start of a major diversification into niche markets. Its core business is producing alcohol for industry.

C G Smith began investigating the production of DME more than two years ago when the CFC controversy erupted. After several trips to West Germany the decision was made to commission a Prozone plant. Demand for a CFC alternative was, howev-

FINANCIAL MAIL JUNE 22 1990

er, so strong that C G Smith imported DME until its plant was ready.

Now that the product is being made locally, C G Smith is making sure it has the support of environmental bodies, including the Wildlife Society's Ozone Assessment Board.

In the Cape, Atlantis-based Sun Packaging (Sunpak) has just spent R3m converting its polystyrene foam packaging plant to a CFC-free operation. By the end of next year it will be producing only biodegradable plastic products, says chairman Tubby Gericke.

Sunpak produces just over 40% of all polystyrene foam packaging in SA, mainly for use in the food and beverage sectors. It has switched the blown-foam manufacturing process at its three Atlantis plants from CFC-loaded freons to ozone-friendly butane gas.

Technical manager John Kennedy says Sunpak's extrusion plant has been enlarged and the chemical formula of the foam products changed to allow for the use of butane.

Sunpak's Atlantis plant is export-orientated and the Green conversion is partly aimed at satisfying the increasingly stringent demands of foreign buyers for environmentally friendly products.

SA Foreign Trade Organisation CE Wim Holtes said at the plant recently that the environmental issue had a greater impact on packaging than on any other industry. ■

Top nuclear men from overseas at SA conference

Star 23/6/90

56

JAMES CLARKE

DELEGATES from several overseas countries were among more than 300 nuclear technologists and engineers attending this week's nuclear conference which ended at Eskom's Megawatt Park last night.

The organisers — the Institution of Nuclear Engineers — were taken by surprise at the great overseas interest in the two-day conference.

Top nuclear men from Britain, the United States and Europe attended as well as one from Mexico. The consensus at the conference was that although the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster was still vivid in the public mind, nuclear power was the only practical alternative to coal-fired power stations which are now blamed world wide for climatic instability and public health problems.

Future design

As far as the design of future nuclear reactors is concerned it was clear that most of the two dozen speakers favoured standardisation — though few countries have it. Britain and the US have many different designs which means technologists and safety officers have to be retrained when they transfer jobs.

The French, on the other hand — the most nuclear country on earth, with three-quarters of its power derived from the atom — have a tradition of standardisation. South Africa has adopted the French PWR (pressurised water reactor) design and will also standardise all future plants.

More people add their voices to call a halt to mining of St Lucia

Star
23/6/90

JAMES CLARKE

(56)

THE St Lucia mining issue — a mining company wants to mine titanium in St Lucia's coastal dunes for the next 20 years — continues to draw angry letters and petitions from the public.

This week a further 226 signatures were received bringing the total number of signatures received after the petition was closed, six months ago, to 14 402.

Well over 300 000 people have called for the St Lucia area to be declared inviolate.

The mining company, Richards Bay Minerals, has other, less sensitive ground to mine south of Richards Bay, but says it is more economic to mine St Lucia's sand dunes.

But the company is prepared to abide by a decision from an independent committee which is awaiting an independent environmental impact assessment ordered by the Government.

30 000 seals to be killed

CAPT. TINKS
27/6/90

By DANIEL SIMON

THE government has given the go-ahead for more than 30 000 seals to be culled off Port Nolloth. The remains will be processed at a newly built factory in the town and exported.

The killing — in which 25 000 seal cubs will die — will be carried out with specially approved two-metre-long clubs. After the cubs have been stunned their main arteries will be cut with a stick-knife.

According to officials of the Department of Sea Fisheries, the whole seal carcass will be used and the genitalia exported to the East as an aphrodisiac.

The clubbing of seals raised an international outcry which led to the banning of sealskin sales in 1983. The government has also come under fire from conservationists in recent years for culling seal populations in False Bay and on the West Coast.

Yesterday Fisheries Administration deputy director, Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries, Mr Rudy Laan said the seal trade was still enjoying "interest" from eastern countries.

He said that before the international ban order, up to 80 000 seals were culled in a single season. Since then "a couple of thousand bulls a year" had been killed just to obtain the genitalia.

The department was not happy about the past wastage of seal carcasses which were "just buried", and this year's quota to cull, process and export the

From page 1

Seal culling

CAPT. TINKS
27/6/90

seals had been granted to a Taiwanese national. Last night, animal conservationist Mrs Nan Rice said she had never approved of the killing of seals — and criticised the export of genitalia as an aphrodisiac.

"It is shocking to encourage other countries to use the genitals as it encourages superstition that animal parts can lead to virility."

This had led to the sad state of the black rhino, she said.

The culling season, which officially starts on July 15, will see about 25 000 pups and 5 500 bulls go under the club during the next five months.

The seals form part of the Kleinsee colony, which is estimated to be about 400 000-strong and located south of Port Nolloth.

Taiwanese national Mr H Hsu will head the venture at the first seal-processing plant established in South Africa.

Sea Fisheries Research Institute scientist Dr Jeremy David said harvests would be monitored by a Sea Fisheries Department official.

Sea Fisheries Resource Control Centre assistant director Mr Arno Slater said the new "unique" venture had to be looked at in a positive way, in the light of socio-economic benefits and the utilisation of "raw materials".

"South Africa will benefit from the foreign exchange earnings," Mr Slater said.

To page 3

Seal slaughter plan draws angry reaction

AKus 28/6/90

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THERE has been angry reaction to the announcement that bull seals at Kleinsee on the West Coast are to be slaughtered for their genitalia and the government is likely to face major protests from the public, conservationists predict.

The government has also been challenged by the conservation organisation Earthlife Africa to answer questions on its decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to cull, process and export 30 000 seals this season.

Of this total, about 5 000 are mature bull seals, which will be killed so that their genitalia can be exported to the Far East for use as aphrodisiacs.

25 000 cubs

The remaining 25 000 will be cubs, which will be stunned with clubs and their main arteries cut with stick-knives.

Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, said she had been inundated with calls from angry people yesterday.

"This has really set the public off. I've never known a day like it," she said last night.

"As far as genitalia are concerned, I don't agree with perpetuating old customs and superstitions which should be dead and buried. It's the same type of superstition which undermined the black rhino.

"What do we want to encourage this kind of thing for? We call ourselves a civilised country, so South Africa should set the pace."

Referring to the old argument that seals endangered fish resources, Mrs Rice said there was no scientific evidence to back this up.

"In fact it's usually the other way around."

She said gill netting by foreign vessels in South African waters posed a much bigger threat to the industry than seals.

In a statement, Earthlife Africa said it recognised that culling was a complex and controversial matter which raised many questions.

"We feel that such questions have not been sufficiently addressed in this case and we call on the government to respond."

Questions they wanted answered included:

- In whose interest was the culling being done?

- Were seals a threat to the ecological balance of the area or were commercial interests the basis for the decision to cull?

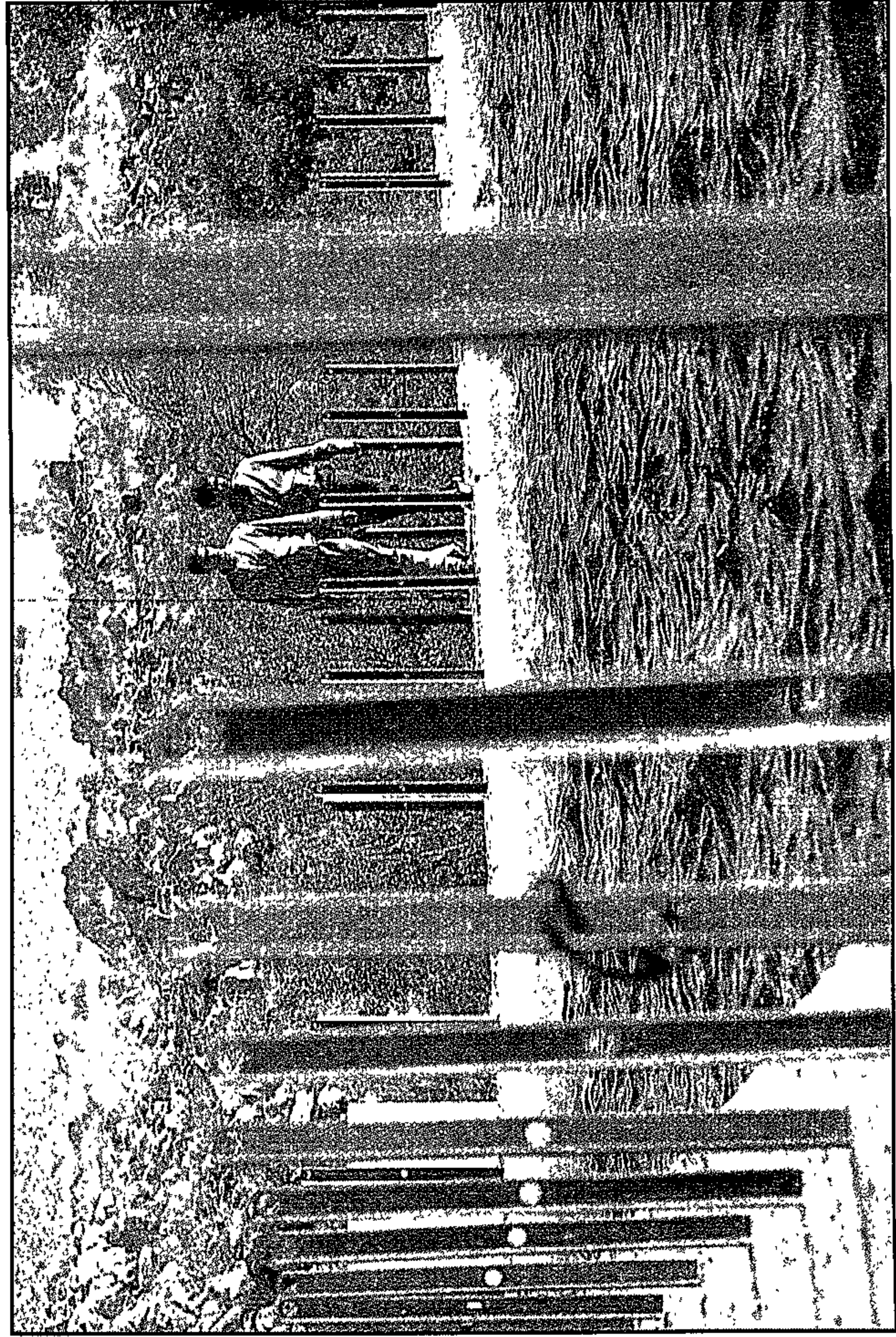
- Who made such a decision and how often was the "quota" revised?

- Who was consulted before such a decision was made?

- Who approved the killing method and what was the deciding factor for such approval — "humanity, efficiency or the contractor"?

- What studies had been done to ensure that killing seals would not threaten the ecological balance of the area?

NEWS



The dumping dam . . . Clyde (left) and Shaun Daniels of Fleurhof would love to see an end to dumping in and around the Rand Leases Dam which is close to their home.

Right: In spite of a sign forbidding dumping, the land around the dam is filthy.

Clean-up project frustrated

By Jacqueline Myburgh

A community group in Fleurhof on the West Rand who recently embarked on a project to clean up the nearby Rand Leases Dam, thus providing a recreational facility for residents, has found itself in trouble.

The young people who run the group, For a Better Society, are concerned about pollution in and around the dam and believe that development of a recreational facility would result in the area being kept clean.

But Rand Leases mining company has said it needs the water from the dam for the gold extraction process, and there is no likelihood that it would be given to Fleurhof residents.

A spokesman for Anglovaal, which owns the rights to the land surrounding the dam, said the mining company would consider allowing residents to use the land if it were approached formally.

Leases Dam is a sparkling green colour, but Clyde (20) and Shaun (19) Daniels, who live in Fleurhof, said dead animals, cars and rubbish had been dumped

The area surrounding the dam has become an unofficial dumping site, despite signs forbidding dumping. When a reporter from The Star visited the dam, a dead dog, building rubble and torn dustbin bags littered the area around the dam.

Fleurhof, close to Soweto, was a white suburb until 1977, when it was declared a coloured group area.

"Since then very little has been done by the authorities to provide recreational and sporting facilities," said Des Ross, general secretary of For a Better Society.

Drug problem

There are no government schools, no church and no shops in Fleurhof.

Audrey Rose said a recreational facility in Fleurhof would help solve the drug problem experienced by the coloured community.

"Obviously we won't go ahead and clean up the place if we cannot use it, but maybe we will contact Anglovaal to discuss the possibility of developing a park around the dam, sit



dumped

56 SKL 28/6/90

WORLD

'Greenhouse effect' may have thinned Arctic ice

LONDON — Huge expanses of ice in the Arctic Ocean thinned dramatically over 11 years in what could be a direct result of global warming, according to a report published today.

The report in the international science journal, Nature, said thinning ice would be expected as an early consequence of "the greenhouse effect". But it also cautioned that further information was needed to show it was not a result of normal climatic changes.

Peter Wadhams of the Cambridge University Scott Polar Research Institute wrote in Nature that data gathered in a zone north of Greenland showed a thinning of ice corresponding to a 15 percent loss over 300 000 sq km.

A significant melting of Arctic ice could produce serious climatic changes in the northern hemisphere and lead to flooding in low-lying areas.

Mr Wadhams based his report on

information collected by American scientists on a 1987 expedition to the Arctic Ocean.

"Climate models suggest that a doubling in levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide should produce significant changes in the distribution of polar sea-ice extent and thickness," Nature said in a commentary on the report.

"In turn such changes would affect atmosphere-sea interactions and would have important implications for the climate of the north-

ern hemisphere."

Mr Wadhams said more information was needed to find out if the thinning of Arctic ice was due to normal fluctuations or to the greenhouse effect produced by gases trapping the sun's heat inside the Earth's atmosphere.

● British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yesterday pledged about R23,4 million to the world's first global environmental fund. — Sapa-Reuter.

Culled seals to be turned into dog food

Staff Reporter

MEAT from the more than 30 000 seals to be culled this season off Port Nolloth will be used for dog food in the US and Japan.

The seals — 25 000 cubs and 5 500 bulls — are to be culled from July 15, using specially approved two-metre-long clubs before their main arteries are cut with a stick-knife.

The seals are part of the 400 000-strong Kleinsee colony, south of Port Nolloth.

The government has given a Taiwanese national permission to process the carcasses for export at a newly built R1,7m factory in Port Nolloth.

Taiwanese embassy economics adviser Mr CH Fang said the company was expected to make a turnover of R1,25m through the export of the meat, bones, skin and genitalia this year alone.

He added that in principal, the venture was viewed as a good business deal and, as a beneficiary, the South African government would collect from taxes while providing job opportunities.

Meanwhile, Earthlife Africa yesterday issued a statement calling on the government to answer various questions about decisions on seal culling, commercial and ecological interests and culling methods.

HEALING THE LAND: A band of young activists set up South Africa's newest environmental organisation



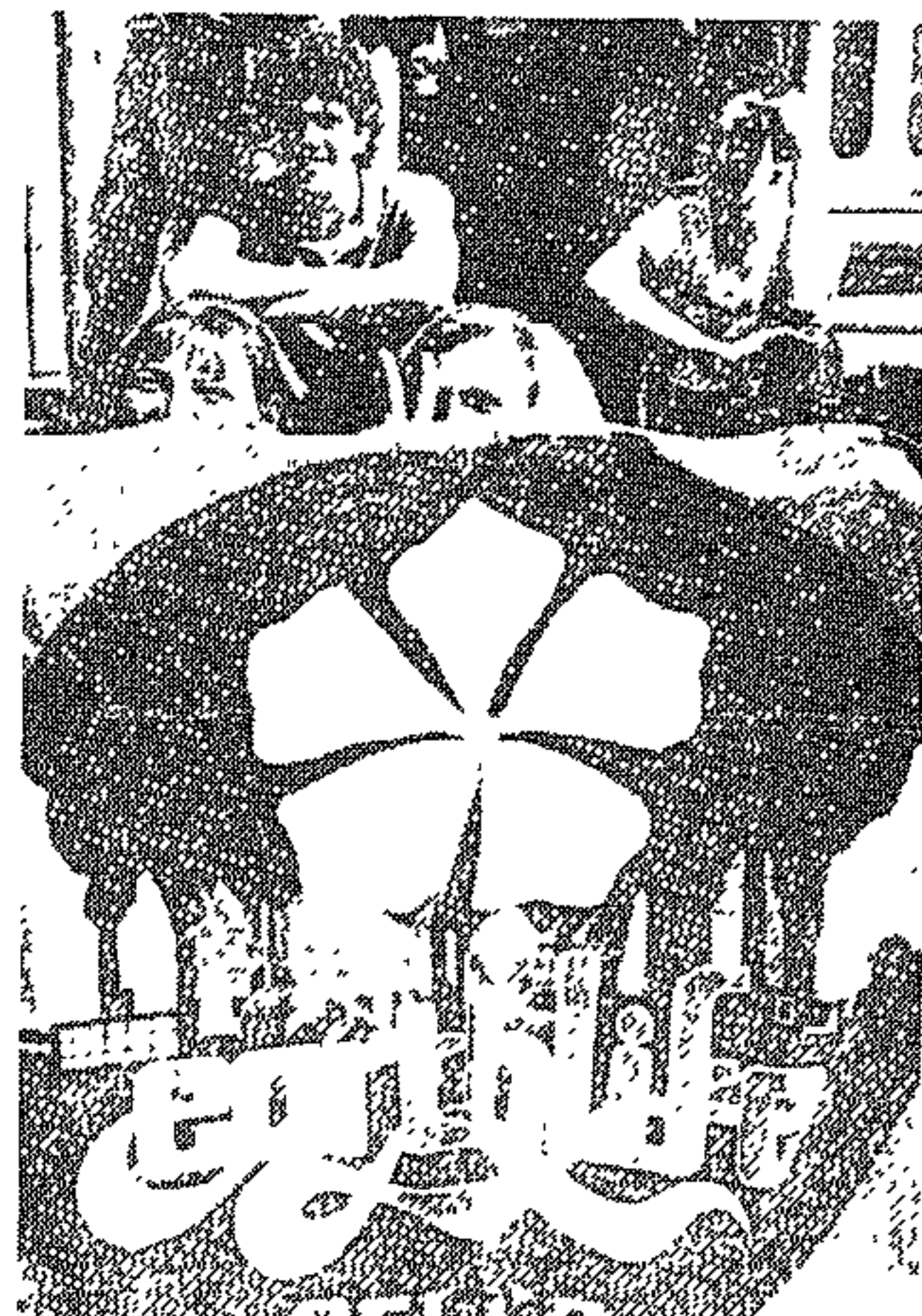
Cleaning up ... Earthlife's banner spans the water tower in Yeoville in its campaign against Jo'burg's toxic water
Picture: AVIGAIL UZI



Planting an idea ... Not just concerned about 'greening' the environment, Earthlife reacts to allegation of spies in the Jo'burg City Council
Picture: ANDREW WAJS



Archetypal 'green' ... Earthlife's publicity officer Henk Coetzee
Picture: JURGEN SCHADEBERG



Banner waving ... But Earthlife goes beyond sloganeering
Picture: AFRAPIX

Earthlife: It's finding green in unlikely places

A JIBE doing the rounds in the business fraternity is that the greenest thing about Earthlife Africa (ELA), the country's new environment lobby group, is its level of naivety.

But, although the group is young and inexperienced, the barb says more about the impact the band of green activists has made since they got together a year ago than their organisational capabilities.

Earthlife first made it in Johannesburg's press when some of their members, alarmed by revelations that the council's security department ran a clandestine hit team, scaled the walls of the city hall to hang up a banner that launched a campaign to "plant trees not spies".

Then the organisation made national news when its Pietermaritzburg branch, in conjunction with Greenpeace in the US, exposed the fact that a plant of a multinational chemical firm based in Natal was importing toxic waste from America and poisoning a local river.

South Africa has a large number of environmental organisations. Some are old and established; others are newly formed. The strength and membership of both are being nourished by the "green-consciousness" that is sweeping the globe.

But Earthlife Africa's campaign to stop Thor Chemicals from polluting the Umgeni River near Pietermaritz-

burg with mercury toxins imported from other countries had four characteristics that set it apart from the rest.

Firstly, this was the first time the formidable, and by now reputable, international organisation, Greenpeace, had got itself involved in a South African environmental controversy.

Secondly, Earthlife made a breakthrough by working closely with trade unions whose members were likely to be affected inside the factory by the chemicals that were polluting the environment around it.

It demonstrated quite starkly, in the words of one union official, that "health and safety does not stop at the factory gates, it affects the community at large".

The third, and probably most important aspect of the campaign, was the way Earthlife managed to rally rural peasants, conservative white farmers, idealistic students, militant workers, union officials, conservationists and a rural chief and his followers to a demonstration outside the Thor factory.

In the words of Albie Sachs, legal expert for the African National Congress, South Africa is a land of psychological, political and physical don-gas.

"The Thor protest showed that the fight to protect our environment is a force for unity and reconciliation in our divided land," said Chris Albertyn, co-ordinator of the group's Pietermar-

itzburg branch. Finally, Earthlife has demonstrated that its ardent young members possessed something more than naive enthusiasm. It succeeded in forcing the local water board to shut down the plant until it cleaned up its act — an almost unheard of occurrence in South Africa.

By EDDIE KOCH

Last month Earthlife Africa held its first national congress "to consolidate our gains and deepen our organisation", says publicity officer Henk Coetzee.

By all accounts this occasion was more of a success than Earthlife's first attempt to stitch together a national organisation.

Rumour has it that that first event, held on a farm near Stellenbosch last Christmas, degenerated after the vegetarian lobby kicked sand over the boerewors on a braai after conference proceedings had ended.

That gathering also refused to set up a national leadership because of fears that this was a form of undemocratic "centralism" that would erode the au-

tonomy of local branches. The result: a local company received three different letters from three different people requesting funds for the same organisation.

By the time of the second congress last month, Earthlife members were in a more serious mood. And the presence of Ursula Eid, veteran parliamentarian for the Green Party in West Germany, as keynote speaker was a sign of the direction which the organisation planned to follow.

The gathering was attended by delegates from 11 branches, including one from Windhoek.

"The presence of the last branch means that I have strict instructions not to use the adjective 'national' when I describe the organisation. We are 'based in Southern Africa,'" quips Coetzee.

The congress adopted a set of resolutions and promises to organise petitions, marches, protests and campaigns to educate the public about key environmental problems affecting Southern Africa.

High on Earthlife's list of priorities are the overcrowding and soil erosion in the homelands, the dangers of importing other countries' toxic waste and the high levels of pollution that plague the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and the PWV area.

"But the agenda is much more crowded than that," says Coetzee.

"Basically we will take action and organise wherever we see the environment is being neglected and people's health is jeopardised."

Although the organisation admires the first Green Party, and invited Ursula Eid for this reason, there are a number of crucial differences between Earthlife and the West German group.

"We recognise that environmental problems are embedded in power relations and that we have to take political action to challenge and mend these," says Coetzee.

"But we are also not aligned to any political party and have no plans to contest power by participating in official institutions like the Greens do."

Asked if this non-partisan stance meant his members would work with Conservative Party supporters, he said: "If they support our aims. But we don't think they will. In our statement of belief we say Earthlife is opposed to all forms of racism and apartheid. We believe many ecological problems can be traced to the inequalities caused by apartheid."

But Coetzee is careful not to blame apartheid for all the ills that have befallen our environment.

"We also need to look at the exploitation of the Third World by the First World, forms of industrialisation that have no concern for the impact on the environment and any authoritarian system of government."

56

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SA officials in London for talks on ozone layer

(56) 8/29 29/6/90

A Government delegation headed by the Minister of National Health and Population Development, E H "Rina" Venter, left for London earlier this week to discuss what could be far-reaching changes to the Montreal Protocol.

A statement from Dr Venter this week said the meeting, the second between the parties contracted to the protocol, would last until June 29.

The Montreal Protocol was established to co-ordinate an international campaign to tackle

increasing concern over ozone depletion and the dangers it holds for humans and the environment.

"Since far-reaching changes to the protocol are envisaged during these two meetings it is very important for South Africa to be present," the statement said.

Also in the delegation are National Health director general C F Slabber and the department's chief director, environmental control, P J Aucamp. — Sapa.

Gill nets: Trawler skipper for court

CPT 1m 28/6/90 Staff Reporter (E.S.) 56

A TAIWANESE fishing trawler captain has been arrested and will appear in court today charged with carrying a gill net without a permit.

Yesterday the 70km-long net, worth about R100 000, was removed from the vessel in an hours-long operation and seized by Sea Fisheries officials. The captain was arrested on Tuesday and warned by police to appear today. As the trawler was due to sail today, the ship's papers were seized.

The government recently granted about 100 permits to fishing trawlers to enter South African harbours with gill nets on board.

The use of the massive nets is banned in many countries as they kill marine life indiscriminately.

Accused captain pleads ignorance on gill nets

CAPT. TRIPS 29/6/90

Court Reporter 56

THE captain of a Taiwanese fishing vessel who was arrested in Table Bay for carrying an illegal, 70-km long gill net without a permit appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Captain Lin Chu Hsiung, 49, of the Yung Chien, pleaded not guilty. He was arrested soon after the vessel entered port on Tuesday.

He admitted, however, to having carried a gill net without a permit, saying he was unaware of the fact that authorisation was necessary.

The vessel was due to leave Cape Town yesterday, but Sea Fisheries officials seized its registration papers, which will be held until the trial closes.

A senior fisheries control officer of the Department of Nature Conservation, Mr Petrus Uys, who trapped the crew with the illegal net aboard, said he had presented one of the chief officers with a standard form on the arrival of the trawler in the harbour, as the captain was not aboard.

He said that the form, written in English and Chinese, asked whether there were gill nets or irregular catches such as penguins, turtles or dolphins on board the vessel. He said the form also warned that vessels would be inspected by authorities.

Mr Uys said he had noticed power blocks — mostly used for gill-netting — on the vessel, and pointed perti-



GILL NETS ...
Captain Lin Chu Hsiung.

nently at the question regarding gill nets.

He said the chief officer indicated in the negative, but that he became suspicious once he saw canvas drawn over a large pile on the deck.

On drawing away the canvas and opening the bags, he found the gill net, which was immediately seized.

The trial continues today.

Mr D J Oosthuysen was on the bench. Mr S Schrock prosecuted. Mr W King, instructed by Mr D Sims, appeared for the accused.

Protesters plan to stop seal killing

W/E ARGUS 30/6/90

56

By CAROLYN McGIBBON
Weekend Argus Reporter

PLANS are being made to stop the clubbing to death of 30 000 seals at Kleinsee on the West Coast as unprecedented opposition to the killing gathers momentum.

Demonstrations and petitions have already been started against the decision by the Department of Environmental Affairs to allow a Taiwanese businessman to turn 30 000 seals into aphrodisiacs, dog food, chicken feed and handbags.

Mr Stef Snel of Earthlife Africa said: "Direct action against the clubbing of seals has not been ruled out."

Film the killings

Demonstrators plan to get permits to go to Kleinsee, a restricted diamond area. If this fails they will go to the site in inflatable boats and film the killings.

"We want to take video footage to expose the atrocity," said Mr Philip Stewart, co-ordinator of the Seal Action Group.

He said he has been inundated with thousands of calls from people across the country who want to stop the killings. Meetings held today and tomorrow will lead to plans of action.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, has defended the culling on economic grounds, arguing that seals should be utilised in the same way as other marine resources.

However, Mr Snel argues that the revenue South Africa will receive — 20c a seal — is an insult, and the 56 jobs the culling will create for locals will last for only four months of the year for five years.

"It is exploitation of the environment and of labour," he said.

"As the decision is not based on ecological criteria or for the economic benefit of the country or the local inhabitants, we question the motive for the decision."

He also argued that the Taiwanese had a bad track record on environmental and human rights issues — local fishermen had lost fingers due to frostbite on Taiwanese trawlers; the An Hung 1 trawler had presented a serious pollution threat at Gansbaai; Taiwanese trawlers used internationally condemned "wall of death" gill nets and a Taiwanese national was brought to court for the latest rhino horn racket.

The argument that the clubbing of seals will benefit the fishing industry has been rejected by the Seal Action Group.

Mr Stewart said there was no evidence to back this up.

Seals lived largely off chokka, not the "target" fish of the fishing industry.

Expose cruelty factor

They had a bad reputation amongst fishermen for "stealing" fish, but that was just because they had been attracted by the distress signals of fish in the net. They were generally too slow to catch fish.

The cruelty factor also needed to be exposed, he said.

"Clubbing an animal is a cruel and inhumane way of killing. It is a painful exercise, and when 30 000 seals are being clubbed in a hurry, many will suffer before they die."

■ Letters of protest and petitions may be sent to the Seal Action Group, P O Box 15877, Vlaeberg, 8018.

Residents, Mobil near agreement

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Parktown residents and Mobil may be moving towards a settlement regarding the controversial Mobil service station which has been planned for the corner of Seymour and Jan Smuts avenues in Parktown West, Johannesburg.

Flo Bird, chairman of the Parktown Ratepayers' Association, said Mobil had replied to the association's threat of boycotts with a number of options.

"Both Mobil and the association hope to prove that there are better ways of handling this problem than simply fighting it out in front of the Townships Board," she said.

Mrs Bird was not at liberty to discuss the options suggested by Mobil, but the association had indicated earlier that it was prepared to accept the recommendation of the Environmental Evaluation Unit of the University of Cape Town.

The association has agreed to postpone boycott action until July 9, to enable negotiation of a settlement.

"Informal discussions this week have shown Mobil is prepared to respond promptly, which is most important to the residents who had had this threat hanging over them for several months now," Mrs Bird said.

'Army-style' plan to save the seals

By DALE GRANGER
Cart Truf 2/7/90

ENVIRONMENTAL organisations are planning "military style" demonstrations involving boats, aircraft, banners and non-toxic dye to prevent the clubbing and exporting of 30 000 seals from Klein-zee, near Port Nolloth.

And the Seal Action Group (SAG) has offered the government R6 000 in place of the money it stands to make from the Taiwanese businessman who secured a culling licence which will yield him R1,2-R1,4 million.

This was decided at a meeting in the Observatory community hall yesterday, attended by more than 100 animal lovers and environmentalists who also demanded the resignation of the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze. A peaceful protest will also be held at lunchtime on Greenmarket Square this Friday, and the SAG will circulate a petition protesting against the venture.

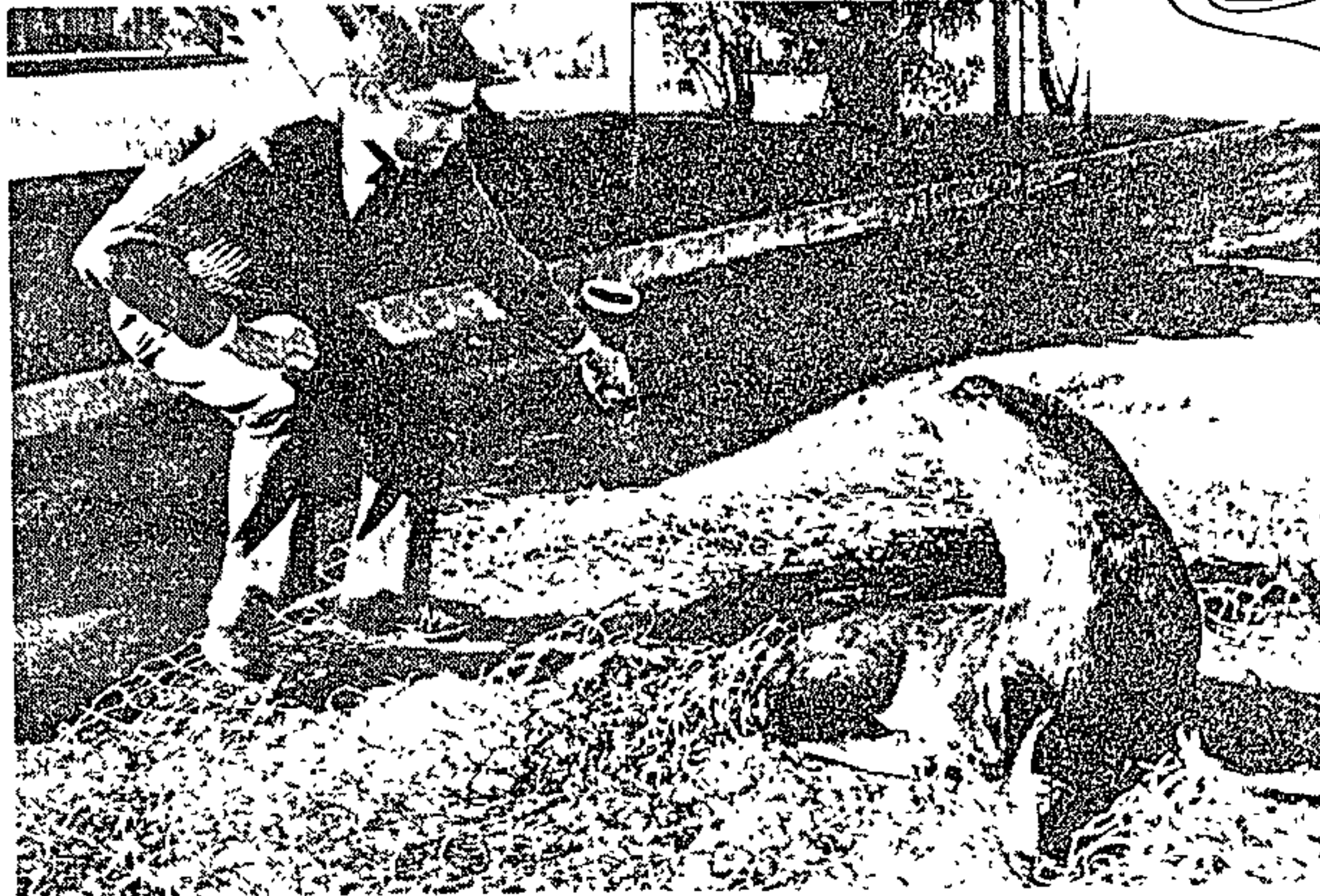
The organisations lobbying to prevent seal clubbing are SAG, Beauty Without Cruelty, the Dolphin Action and Protection Group and Greenpeace, which will co-ordinate action in the UK and the US. At the meeting SAG spokesman Mr Philip Stewart

To page 3

July

near Port Nolloth.

Cart Truf 2/7/90



A HELPING HAND ... Senior SPCA inspector Mr Aloudien Toef extends a helping hand to a weary seal rescued by the SPCA this weekend. The large seal, stranded at Fish Hoek, was given a vitamin B12 injection and cared for overnight before being released near Seal Island.

Picture BENNY GOOL

From page 1

described seal clubbing as a "barbaric, horrific and disgusting" method of killing seals.

The SAG would pursue political channels to stop the killing and if this failed, people from all over South Africa would converge on Klein-zee on July 15 for non-violent action — and if necessary, remain for the four-month season.

"It will be like a military exercise, we will apply to De Beers for permission to enter their property and if need be we will use boats to land on the beaches," Mr Stewart said.

He said people would form human barriers protecting the seals and aircraft would carry banners.

Ms Christine Berry of Beauty Without Cruelty said that since the seal-culling plan was made public, her telephone had not stopped ringing with calls from "outraged people".

Mr Stef Nel, legal co-ordinator of the SAG, said he was looking into the legal ramifications of entering De Beers-owned property without permission.

He said the Taiwanese seal factory was being built on the area and protests could involve passive methods of preventing workers from gaining access.

Department of Environmental Affairs spokesman Mr N du Bois said last night that "anyone who thinks the government is doing this for R6 000 is very naive; money is not the option".

He said seals were a high-protein natural resource which must be utilised and protected. "The government is investigating this and other resources to see how they can be utilised to the maximum benefit of mankind."

Culling of seals to go on till 1994

By DANIEL SIMON

A TAIWANESE company — which will club and shoot 30 500 seals at Kleinsee this year — killed 3 670 seals from the same colony last year and is expected to kill tens of thousands more by 1994 — when its contract expires.

It also emerged that:

- The construction of South Africa's first seal-processing plant at Port Nolloth could soon lead to other "Taiwanese ventures" springing up to manufacture products from processed seals.

- The largest conservation group in the US — the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) — has pledged to throw in its weight behind SA conservation bodies who are trying to stop the culling.

Quota unfulfilled

It was learnt yesterday that Jih Weh Industries, headed by Taiwanese national Mr H Hsu, was granted a five-year government permit on July 15 last year.

The company's quota last year was similar to this year's figure, but due to "problems" could not be fulfilled.

Since then, a factory has been erected to provide for the harvests, which will be determined on a yearly basis by a "cull curve" derived from scientific research.

Sea Fisheries spokesman Mr Arno Slater yesterday said the Taiwan-

From page 1

Seals



IN DANGER ... International conservationists will join SA environmental groups to fight government plans to cull over 30 000 seals off the West Coast. These seals were photographed on Seal Island yesterday.

Picture: ERIC MILLER

ese concern "had intentions to establish secondary phase factories" in the town.

Without elaborating further, Environmental Affairs deputy director-general Dr Jozua Serfontein alleged that the SPCA and the United Nations conservation body "were involved" in the decision to cull the Kleinsee seals.

He added that the SPCA would be allowed to monitor the cullings.

Meanwhile, the government has refused the money offered in exchange for the lives of the seals earmarked for clubbing, according to a Johannesburg section of Earthlife Africa.

Earthlife Africa and the Seal Action Group are planning several protests to prevent the clubbing of the seals.

Our Transvaal corre-

spondent reports that a local Johannesburg newspaper yesterday pledged to "buy" 2 000 seals. The paper said it would pay 50c per seal — 30c more than what is to be paid by the Taiwanese businessmen.

In Pretoria it is reported that a pharmacist and a homeopath have each offered R6 000 in an effort to counter the Taiwanese offer.

Dolphin Action and Protection Group spokesman Mrs Nan Rice last night said she was informed by a member of IFAW that it was to hold a meeting and organise mass protests.

- The SPCA in Cape Town yesterday requested the chief director of Sea Fisheries to reconsider what it termed "the unnecessary slaughter of seals".

To page 3

Govt refused cash for seals - Earthlife Africa

THE South African Government has refused the money offered in exchange for the lives of 30 000 seals who are to be clubbed to death and exported from Kleinzee, near Port Nolloth. Sowetan 3/7/90

This is according to a spokeswoman for Earthlife Africa on the Rand. Earthlife Africa has been working together with the Seal Action Group to prevent the clubbing of the seals. (S6)

The spokeswoman said people had been pledging money to "buy" the seals and now the Government had refused to take that money.

"We are appealing to people to allow us to use this money to fight the issue instead," she said.

The Seal Action Group are planning a full scale military style demonstration involving boats, aircraft, banners and non-toxic dye to prevent the clubbing.- Sapa.

Stas 4/7/90 (56)

Call for the reduction of waste production

By Jacqueline Myburgh

"Reduce waste, don't produce it," is the message from Chris Albertyn of Earthlife Africa in Maritzburg to the Department of Environment Affairs.

In a report to the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) of the CSIR, Mr Albertyn said South Africa's first step in confronting a growing waste problem should be to identify unnecessary products.

The FDR, on instruction from the Department of Environment Affairs, is undertaking an investigation into the ways in which South Africa should process and dispose of its hazardous waste.

Habits

Rather than "seek new hiding places" for the disposal of waste, Mr Albertyn suggests changes in industrial technologies and consumer habits to ensure less waste is pro-

duced in the first place.

In keeping with the "polluter pays" principle, he has recommended a toxicity tax to serve as a disincentive to the production of industrial waste.

Legislative leadership is also required to encourage recycling of waste.

Import ban

Mr Albertyn said South Africa should not sign the Basel Convention accepting the concept of waste as an internationally tradeable commodity, but should rather ratify the Organisation for African Unity's initiative which has placed a ban on the import of wastes.

He also called for the Government to allow citizens access to information on the quality of their environment.

"It is crucial that citizens know what the Government knows regarding their health and safety," he said.

Seals responsible for cormorant, penguin decline

CAPE TIMES 4/7/90 BY BRONWYN DAVIS (56)

AN exploding seal population has had a direct effect on the decline of the near extinct jackass penguin and bank cormorant populations on the north western Cape coastline, the Department of Environment Affairs indicated yesterday.

The department has issued the first of a three statements which will justify their decision to grant permission to a Taiwanese company to club and shoot 30 500 seals at Kleinsee this year.

According to the department, "the South African fur seal is now the most abundant seal species" and the total population stands at more than 1,2 million.

Culling the seal population is therefore a valid option to balance the marine ecosystem and to ensure the survival of "other equally valued members of the Southern African marine ecosystem".

"Seals also had a significant impact on the fishing industry, which employed about 25 700 people and in 1988 the total wholesale value of the South African catch exceeded R900 million. It thus has an important role in the socio-economics of the south and west coasts and the influence of seals in this field also has to be considered."

Stay of execution for West Coast seals

By JOHN YELD and HENRI du PLESSIS Staff Reporters

THE government's controversial decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to kill 30 500 Cape fur seals at Klein-zee on the West Coast has been suspended after a national and international outcry.

In an abrupt about-face that was cautiously welcomed by conservationists, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, said in an interview from Lisbon that he had decided to temporarily suspend the harvest as it was "only fair

to give proper consideration to public complaints".

Only hours earlier Mr Kotzé had emphasised that his department's decision stood. A department spokesman said in Cape Town early today he was unaware of any change.

Mr Kotzé said the culling programme had not been shelved and strongly denied his department had been forced to backtrack because of the public outcry. He told SABC radio news from Lisbon that the suspension would afford him more time to assess objections.

"The culling of wild animals

is always unpleasant but, unfortunately, cannot always be avoided. In the light of misgivings about the procedure, the culling will be temporarily suspended. I hope to be back in South Africa before the end of the month and then I will immediately give my attention to objections."

Mr Kotzé's announcement was greeted with caution by the recently formed Seal Action Group.

"It gives us a little more time to put a really cohesive, hard-hitting programme together," spokesman Ms Kim Charkin said.

A temporary suspension was "a pretty old ploy", she added. "It's a delaying tactic in the hope that the public will lose interest."

In her reaction, veteran marine conservationist Mrs Nan Rice said she was grateful to Mr Kotzé for his decision. But she warned: "At the moment we are only in the eye of the cyclone, and campaigning to save the seals must go on."

Ms Christine Berry of Bear-without Cruelty said the news was "superb".

At the weekend she had been interviewed by the three major

United States television networks and international radio stations.

"I think the government went into it far too quickly."

In Paris former film star and now militant animal-rights advocate Brigitte Bardot offered to pay South African authorities \$22 500 (R58 500) to cancel plans to slaughter the seals.

She said in an open letter to President De Klerk, urging him to block the killings: "At a time when your country seems to want to establish a new political ethic, I dare to believe that commercial considerations

won't prevail over respect for life."

The ANC also added its voice to protests over the culling plans. The Argus Correspondent reports from Johannesburg.

Mr Jatta Lekgetho, ANC spokesman on environment affairs, said there were many environmental and nature conservation bodies the government should have consulted before deciding to allow the seals to be killed.

Yesterday the Department of Environment Affairs justified its decision to allow the

killing in a lengthy statement — the second in less than a week.

It said the Cape fur seal population had grown to proportions which could be too high in an ecosystem which was already heavily affected by man.

In 1988 about 280 000 seal pups had been born and the population presently stood at more than 1.2 million, the department's statement said.

According to the statement, the department tried to adhere to the definition of conservation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

PARIS. — Animal-loving actress Brigitte Bardot offered yesterday to pay South African authorities \$22 500 (R58 500) if they would cancel plans to allow the slaughter of 25 000 seal pups.

The former sex symbol, now a militant animal-rights advocate, released an open letter addressed to President F W de Klerk, urging him to block the killings.

South African authorities have given a Taiwanese business group permission to kill 25 000 seal pups and 5 000 adult male seals in a harvesting operation set to begin near Port Nolloth on July 15.

"25 000 baby seals are to be massacred on your territory in the coming days," the letter said. "Knowing that each baby seal represents a potential value of five francs (R2,34), I propose to finance the entire

Brigitte Bardot offers to buy seals

budget of 125 000 francs (R58 500).

"At a time when your country seems to want to establish a new political ethic, I dare to believe that commercial considerations won't prevail over respect for life," Bardot wrote.

In an interview with Radio France International, Bardot urged a worldwide campaign to save the seals and said she might travel to South Africa before the killings started, to seek a meeting with Mr De Klerk. — Sapa-AP

● xref SEALSS — Page 3



Supplemental

5/7/90

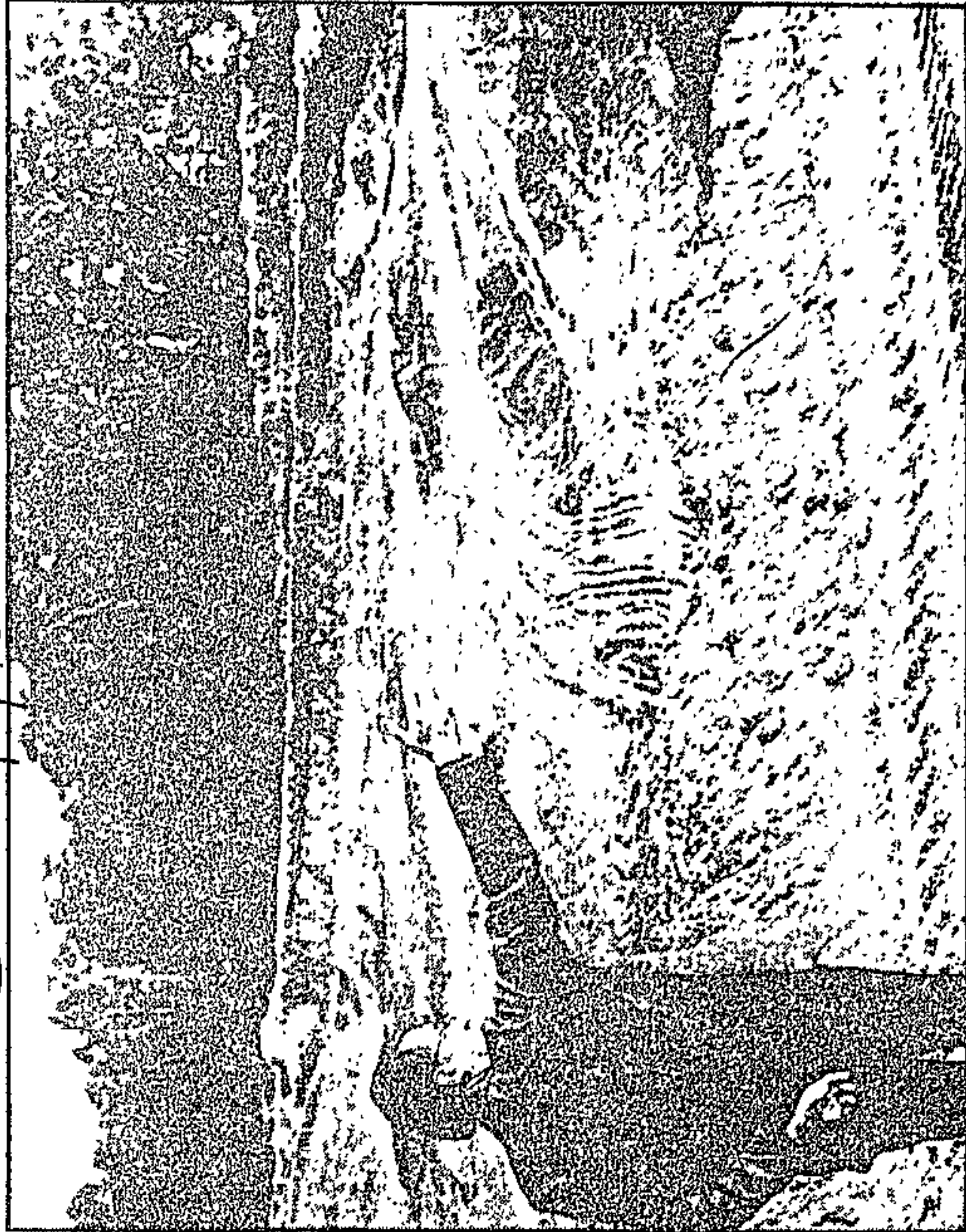
Govt approves toxic waste site

5/7/90

By Jacqueline Myburgh
The Department of Water Affairs has approved, in principle, the construction of a Class 1 toxic waste containment site three kilometres outside Krugersdorp on the West Rand.

A concept permit for the dump site was issued in May last year, but the design of the site still has to be approved in accordance with the standards laid down by the department, a spokesman said.

The proposed toxic waste dump site is 1½ km south of the outskirts of Krugersdorp's residential area. It is owned by a



Toxic pit... Benoni van Graan indicates the 4 hectare clay pit which has been earmarked for development as a toxic waste dump and processing plant. The pit is on the same property as his company, Bravo Brik brickworks, in Krugersdorp. ● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.

'No threat'

A spokesman from the Water Affairs Department said a thorough geohydrological investigation had been conducted and the dump offered no threat to the environment.

The Institute for Waste Management says there is a desperate need for responsibly managed toxic waste dump sites in South Africa.

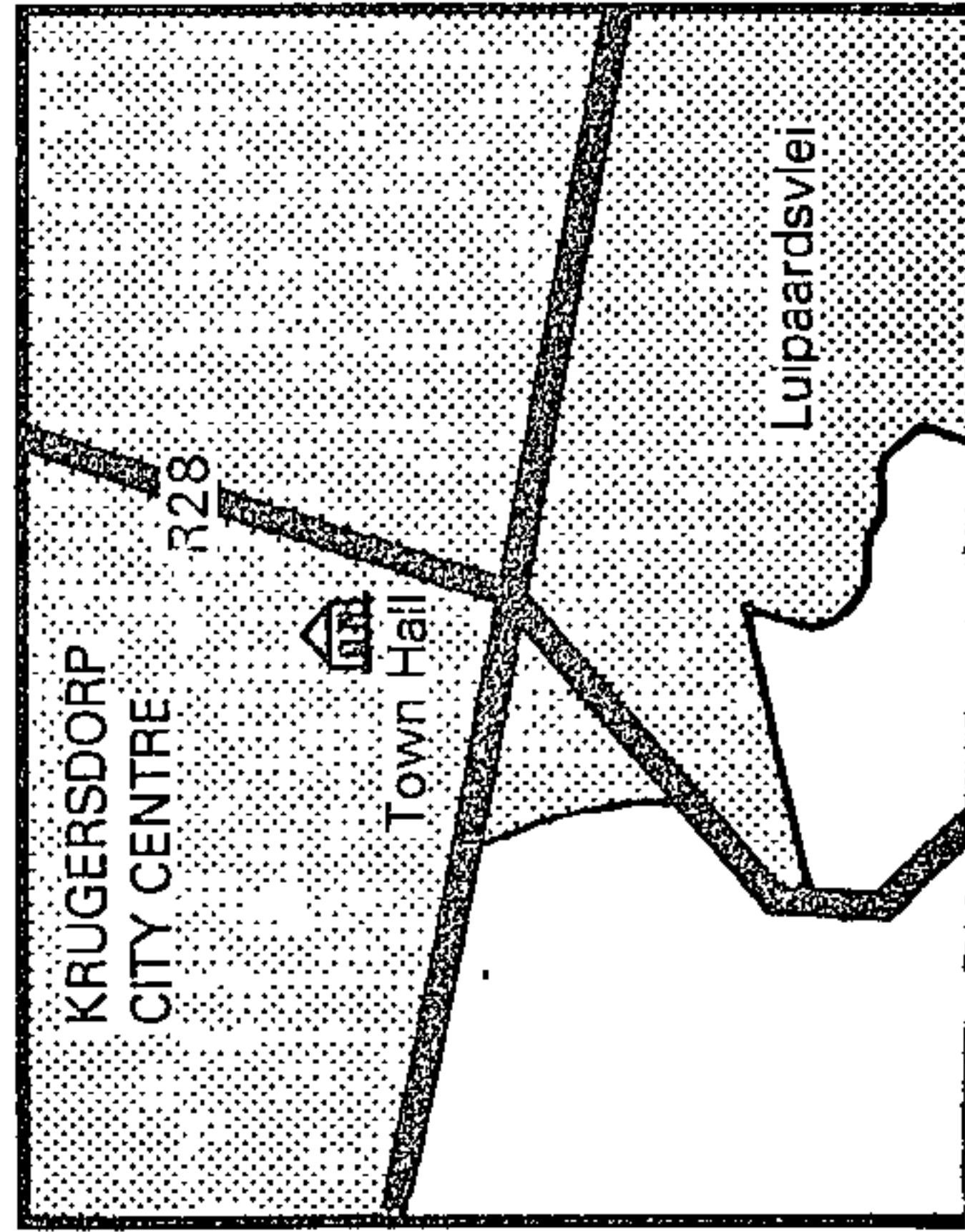
● The CSIR is currently conducting an investigation into the ways in which South Africa should process and dispose of its hazardous waste. — on instruction from the Department of Environment Affairs.

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CP will be swept away, says Boya

East Rand Bureau
There was no way the tide of reform could be turned and the CP would be swept away in the process, United Municipalities of SA president Tom Boya said yesterday.

Reacting to statements by several Conservative Party-controlled municipalities in the Transvaal that they would not



Seals uproar: Govt, Taiwan 'embarrassed'

CMT Temp
5/7/90
56

By DANIEL SIMON

THE Department of Environment Affairs is hoping that the major uproar caused by its decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to cull 30 500 seals at Kleinsee — which was temporarily deferred yesterday — will not harm South Africa's relationship with Taiwan.

Environment Affairs deputy director-general Dr Jozua Serfontein said both the government and Taiwan were "embarrassed" over the bad publicity the scheme has received, locally and abroad.

"We have a very good relationship with Taiwan and they are as embarrassed as we are over the affair. I hope this does not harm our relationship," he said.

Dr Serfontein added that it was his department which approached Taiwan to undertake the project when local entrepreneurs showed no interest in the venture.

In declaring a temporary halt to the commercial venture, which was to start on July 15, Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze said from Portugal yesterday that it was "with dismay" that he had taken note of public re-

action in South Africa and in other countries.

Mr Kotze said the decision to "reduce" the seal numbers at Kleinsee was taken after thorough consideration.

He added that a request was issued to Jieh Weh Industries not to begin the killing until he had returned to South Africa at the end of the month and reconsidered the matter.

In a response, the Seal Action Group (SAG) yesterday said it viewed Mr Kotze's announcement as a "victory" and that SAG would double its efforts in putting a "permanent halt" to the project.

"Mr Kotze has said the temporary halt will give him time to assess objections to the proposed culling. It will also give us time to rally our forces," SAG spokesman Mr Stef Snel said.

Mr Pierre Mukheibir, chairman of Earthlife Africa Cape Town, said the organisation welcomed the announcement.

"We see this as a direct result of sustained public protest. However, the minister's statement is another example of the ambivalence and indecisiveness he has shown throughout this past week.

"We demand that he withdraw the permit immediate-

ly, instead of inventing new justification for it," he said.

Meanwhile, residents of Port Nolloth — including a local policeman — yesterday said a commercial seal venture in the town was a "good idea".

However, although it would offer work to some 50 people, some residents said they were not too happy over the method with which the culling would be carried out.

A local policeman, who declined to identify himself, yesterday said seals were regarded by him as a "pest" which threatened the livelihood of numerous fishermen.

He added that the project, if it went ahead, would provide jobs and money for numerous people in the area.

"We have a squatter camp which houses about 2 500 unemployed people. The factory will help us as it will reduce crime," he said.

Port Nolloth Town Clerk Mr L Groenewald said 40% of males in the town were unemployed.

"It would help if the project went ahead. It would bring in about R18 400 in wages a month for the town. This is much-needed money."

Outcry puts brake on seal harvesting

B 1004 57790

56

CAPE TOWN — Pressure from international environmental organisations may have prompted Environment and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze to back down from allowing seal harvesting by Taiwanese businessmen.

Kotze yesterday temporarily suspended the proposed harvesting of about 30 500 seals on the west coast.

SA's European embassies, under pressure from the organisations, may have advised Kotze to adopt this course.

Kotze, who is visiting European countries this month to discuss environmental affairs, said in an interview from Lisbon yesterday he would suspend the decision to allow seal harvesting until he had assessed local and international objections.

Government sources said a number of SA embassies in Europe had recently expressed concern that current domestic environmental controversies could damage the relationships they had cultivated with environmental groups on the basis that SA was environment-friendly.

The embassies warned the controversies, including the use of gill nets to catch fish, the proposed clubbing of seals and the poor treatment of SA workers on foreign fishing vessels — all of which have involved Taiwanese businessmen — were tarnishing SA's environmental image.

Refusal by Environment Affairs to budge on its decision to allow seal harvesting may have soured relations with Kotze's hosts and environmental organisations.

LESLEY LAMBERT

Thinking in political circles appears to be that the timing of the decision was bad and that government may have to back down — regardless of supportive scientific evidence — to avoid adverse publicity at a time when SA is making headway with its international relations.

But Kotze said yesterday that his decision to postpone the harvesting did not mean it would be shelved and he denied that he was being forced to back down.

Responding to Kotze's announcement, Natal Ocean Trawling chairman Jack Walsh said yesterday that the seal population needed to be curbed because of the "tremendous amount" of fish it consumed, ACHMED KARIEM reports.

Describing seals as rodents, he said the seal population had increased beyond all measure in recent years.

"I am in favour of the culling of seals as they are not an endangered species," he said. In this instance a conflict of interest had arisen where seals were competing with mankind for food.

Walsh said although the issue was "traumatic", culling was no less pleasant than the slaughter of other animals at abattoirs.

The SA Pelagic Fish Private Boat Owners' Society said it supported the "calculated and controlled" culling of seals on SA's coastline. In a statement yesterday it said the harvesting of 2,5% of the calculated seal population would be of enormous value to the SA-Namibian fishing industry.

Govt calls halt to seal culling

THE Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, has temporarily suspended the proposed culling of some 30 000 seals near Port Nolloth on the West Coast.

Kotze made the announcement in Portugal on Tuesday in the face of a growing local and international outcry over the proposed killing of the seals.

The decision to cull the seals attracted widespread condemnation with French actress, Brigitte Bardot, step-

ping in to save the seals.

Kotze said it was only fair to give proper consideration to public complaints. (56)

Kotze said he had taken note of national and international reaction to the decision to cull the seals.

He added that his Portuguese counterparts agreed with the decision to cull the seals.

The seals, he said, consumed 130 000 tons of fish a day and threatened a number of bird species. Sapa

50 weeks 5/7/90

SEAL HARVESTING**Against the club**

Government appears determined to go ahead with a deal to allow a Taiwanese businessman to "harvest" 30 000 seal pups and bulls at Kleinsee near Port Nolloth. He will pay R6 000, but is expected to make well over R1m by selling meat, skins and genitals — said to be used as aphrodisiacs in the East.

But it's neither the money nor the need to control the seal population that's caused the outcry. It's the method of killing the pups and use of the dead animals that's become an emotional issue. The pups will be hit on the head with a wooden club and then stuck through the heart with a long-bladed knife. The bulls will be shot in the head with a rifle.

It's an easily exploitable emotional issue and is once again set to enter centre stage with environmentalists in the Cape organising militant resistance and calling for help from foreign organisations including Greenpeace.

The locally based Seal Action Group (SAG) will try legal means to stop the carnage. If they fail, they will mount a military-style exercise to protest on-site and attempt to thwart the "harvest," due on July 15.

The harvest won't look good and it's a difficult issue to manage. Who can defend the sight of a doe-eyed seal pup with blood streaming down its head?

By describing the killings as a "harvest" rather than "culling" government implicitly acknowledges the commercial value of surplus seals — yet it is "selling" them for 20c each. It has rejected offers from anti-clubbing groups to "buy" the seals at more than the contract price. It also insists that the killing methods are humane.

There's no doubt that the seal population has to be controlled to protect the fish resources along the west coast and that some form of culling is necessary. In 1988 more than 280 000 seal pups were born, pushing SA's seal numbers to a total of 1,2m.

But just as government has accepted that it's socially and politically unacceptable to import toxic waste for disposal in SA, it will have to face the fact that many South Africans and most of the civilised world won't tolerate the clubbing of baby seals or the sale of bulls' genitals.

A new and acceptable policy to control seal overcrowding will have to be found. ■

Conservationists to rate major industrial nations

LONDON — Ecologists plan to keep environmental problems facing the planet in the public eye during the Houston economic summit starting this weekend, although these issues are not expected to be at the top of the official agenda.

Representatives of the world's seven leading industrialised nations, who are holding their annual get-together in Texas from tomorrow until Monday, say last year's meeting in Paris was largely devoted to ecological issues. This year the main topic of discussion will be Eastern Europe.

However, environmentalists are determined to highlight issues such as global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer, the destruction of the rain forests and pollution of the oceans by holding an alternative "envirosummit" in Houston at the same time as the world leaders meet.

A worldwide coalition of conservationists say they plan to issue an environmental scorecard of each of the summit participants — the United States, West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — rating their efforts to solve the Earth's major ecological problems in the last year.

In Paris the seven heads of state or government pledged to work together to tackle major ecological problems. It was the first the summit leaders had

Environmentalists are determined to keep our planet's environmental problems in the public eye at the Houston summit ... reports
CATHERINE ARNST

expressed concern for the environment in their final statement.

"At the end of the last summit more than a third of the final communiqué was devoted to the environment, so it won't be as big an issue this time," said a member of a European delegation to the Houston summit.

"Eastern Europe will be very important, of course, and the group will be discussing how to aid the environmental problems there," she said.

"I think they will also give a signal to the Third World that Eastern Europe won't prejudice environmental aid to developing countries."

Other summit participants said President George Bush would be relieved if environmental issues were kept off the agenda at Houston.

Mr Bush likes to call himself the "environmental president", but he has been widely criticised for refusing to support concerted effort on global warming.

"Obviously, the attitude of the United States will be under discussion," said

Ms Annie Roncèrel, a leading Swedish environmentalist who is planning to attend the "envirosummit".

"The US doesn't want to do anything. They are the ones blocking every conference called to address these issues around the world," Ms Roncèrel said.

In a possible dress rehearsal for Houston, the US came in for criticism for its stance at a London meeting last week to strengthen an international treaty protecting the Earth's ozone layer.

The US did make a last-minute change in its position and decided to support the creation of the world's first environmental fund to help developing countries to cut back on their use of ozone-destroying chemicals.

But US environmental administrator Mr William Reilly was at odds with most representatives from the industrialised world in refusing to consider complete phase-out of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 1997 instead of 2000, as proposed by the United Nations.

Mr Reilly also insisted that the ozone fund should not be seen as a precedent for any co-ordinated action the world might take on global warming, a much larger and far more expensive problem.

Japan, meanwhile, may well focus attention on Washington's apparent reluctance to take action on international environmental issues by officially unveiling its own 10-year programme to stem global warming, Tokyo officials said.

The programme, first proposed in May, will include increased monitoring, clean energy sources and developing technology.

Tokyo won extremely high marks from conservationists around the world last year in Paris with its announcement of a three year, 300 billion yen fund for the environment, far beyond any action the United States has so far taken.

A Japanese foreign ministry official said CFCs, reforestation of rain forests and global warming should be important topics at the summit.

But a British official said that it was highly unlikely that the summit would make any major initiatives on the environment during the Houston summit.

Instead, the government leaders are expected to issue a general statement of intent regarding a planned 1992 UN conference on global warming, which is expected to draw up a framework for dealing with carbon dioxide emissions. — Sapa-Reuter.

South African protests get

56
S.A. 6/1/90
RESULTS

Say what you will, the outcry over the killing of the seals at Kleinsee has been emotionally inspired.

There may indeed be scientific proof that the animals do not threaten their marine brethren, but it can also not be denied that their shiny, black, bead-like eyes melt even the most hardened scientific heart.

Scientists or sentimentalists, South Africans have raised their voices and they want the killing called off.

They got it right with the whales, with the rhinos, in St Lucia, in Plettenberg Bay and, closer to home, in Yeoville, Parktown and Forest Town.

Both the rhino and the whale have got the South African public to thank for saving their lives.

Lobbying from the public and devout conservationists such as Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Protection Group resulted in South Africa having some of the strictest legislation in the world to protect wild and captive dolphins and whales.

Commitment

The rhino is not out of danger yet, but private enterprise recently indicated its commitment to nature conservation.

At a wildlife auction in Natal the price for five black rhino was R2,2 million and for white rhino was R75 000 each.

Higher fines and public awareness, thanks to the efforts of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation, helped curb the insatiable poaching of rhino for their horns a few years ago. There is more to be done, however, since only two months ago, another white rhino was shot and killed, and its horns removed.

It's surprising that when these animals were on the brink of extinction a few years ago, all those seal-lovers who are now accusing the Government of barbaric behaviour by sanctioning the sale of seal genitals as aphrodisiacs in the Far East did not threaten boycotts to save the rhino horns.

Often described as the most apathetic people in the world, South Africans have made themselves heard over environmental issues before — and got results. This time their raised voices have led to the Kleinsee seals getting a "stay of execution". **JACQUELINE MYBURGH** reports.



A rhino which has been slaughtered for its horn to use as an aphrodisiac. This is the type of carnage that the public should attempt to stop.

Perhaps it's to be expected. After all, rhinos are not nearly as adorable as the Kleinsee seals.

In 1979 it was revealed that the Government was to allow the mining of coking coal in the Parfuri region in the Kruger National Park. This would have threatened the natural habitat of many animals. The public outcry sparked a parliamentary debate and the mining was called off.

The De Hoop nature reserve in the southern Cape was also saved from certain destruction in the early '80s, when the Defence Force planned to build a weapons-testing range there.

Thanks to the South African public, no live ammunition is tested at the site and the SADF has introduced game into the reserve.

Moreover, no one will forget the public's reaction when it was revealed that the eastern shores of the St Lucia estuary were to be mined for titanium.

More than 300 000 signatures have been collected for the petition protesting against the plan.

The St Lucia issue is not over yet,

but South Africans played a huge part in creating the current state of affairs. An independent committee is awaiting the recommendations of an independent environmental impact assessment which was ordered by the Government and may swing the decision either way.

The Robberg Marina in Plettenberg Bay was also halted due to the public's reaction.

Siege

The development had threatened to disturb the Robberg peninsula's ecosystem.

Not far away, Knysna residents also stopped the construction of a road which would have ruined their picturesque bay.

Closer to home, conservation-minded Johannesburg residents such as Flo Bird saved some of Johannesburg's historic mansions.

Although most of the gracious Victorian and Edwardian Parktown mansions east of Jan Smuts Avenue have disappeared under glass and concrete, some such as The View, Northwards and the home that

houses Mike's Kitchen were saved.

The battle is not over, however. Parktown West is now under siege, with plans to put a service station on the corner of Jan Smuts and Seymour avenues.

Parktown West is the only suburb left intact from the Randlord era in Johannesburg, and it is the city's oldest residential suburb.

A similar struggle faces Houghton residents, where old family homes are destined to be replaced by an office park.

Yeoville was recently saved from a similar attempted intrusion by the commercial sector into residential areas.

Residents of the inner city suburbs emerged victorious, when plans to build offices and a shopping centre on Yeoville ridge were withdrawn.

Forest Town residents also saved their suburb from commercialisation.

Mobil, which is planning the service station in Parktown West, initially earmarked a Forest Town site as well, but withdrew the application after protests.

Because of their proximity to the city, residents of these suburbs are always going to face pressure to go commercial.

They have risen to this challenge, however, and have shown that they are prepared to defend their rights.

Houses aren't seals, but they nevertheless have a special place in people's hearts.

So South Africans can have an effect, and can influence what happens to their own environment.

Perhaps they can save the seals after all.

And when they are finished with them, they can save the raptors being poisoned by farmers spraying their crops with insecticide, they can launch a campaign to stop littering, and they can call on the Government to impose fines heavier than R6 000 on paper manufacturers in the Eastern Transvaal who pollute 30 km of river.

SA's sweet waters are now rivers of poison

w/e Mail 6/7 - 12/7/90

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The twin impact of industrialisation and inadequate state protection is resulting in the country's rivers becoming among the most contaminated in Africa.

By EDDIE KOCH

THE respect once accorded to South Africa's rivers by indigenous people as well settlers is reflected in the many picturesque names of its towns and cities. Bloemfontein means the Fountain of the Flowers, Amanzimtoti is the Zulu word for sweet waters and the Witwatersrand took its name from a range of hills known as the "ridge of white waters".

Now there is increasing concern amongst environment organisations that the twin impact of industrialisation and inadequate state protection is causing this country's rivers to become amongst the most contaminated in Africa.

Earlier this year a team of researchers from Greenpeace USA, working in conjunction with local green activists from Earthlife Africa, discovered that a multinational company was importing toxic waste from factories in the United States and Europe and leaking large quantities of deadly mercury into the Umgeneni River in the Natal Midlands.

The research team found the river, which flows into the heavily populated Valley of a Thousand Hills, contained more mercury in its waters than that recorded in any other part of the world as a result of leakage from a toxic waste recycling plant owned by the British company, Thor Chemicals.

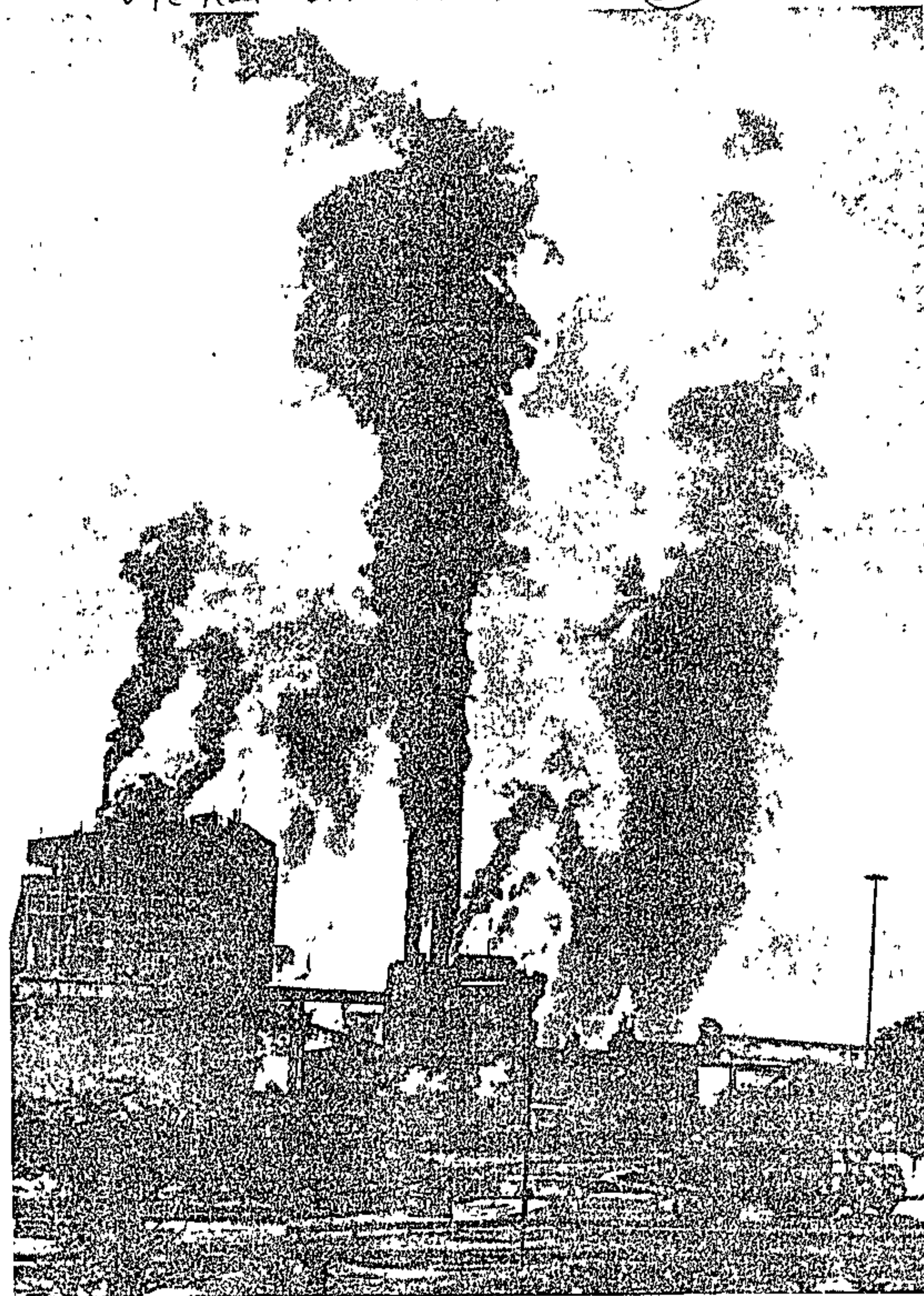
"The level was nearly 9 000 times the amount required in the US for waste to be described as a hazard and in that country the whole river would have to be treated for contamination," said Earthlife representative Chris Albertyn.

"This is a classic case of a multinational coming into a Third World situation and dumping the industrial world's problems on local people. The only reason why Thor was able to get away with this is because the people living on the banks of the river are black and voteless."

The central role played by the gold mining industry in South Africa's economy has also had a serious impact on the country's rivers and ground waters.

Abandoned dumps of mine waste, many of them left by now defunct gold mines, contain high levels of ecologically hostile chemicals. Most of the old mines used production processes which failed to remove all the substances, including cyanide and mercury used in the extraction of gold from deep-level ore.

And there is so much uranium in the abandoned dumps that large-scale reprocessing plants have been set up on the East and West Rands to re-mine the sand. These plants also extract



Sappi's paper and pulp mill in the Eastern Transvaal spilled effluent into the Ngodwana River and killed aquatic life

Picture: AVIGAIL UZI

large amounts of mercury from the dumps.

Laboratory analysis of a sample of water taken from a stream that flows through a set of old dumps and then into Soweto last week found that the river contained a potent cocktail of some of the worst river pollutants known to man.

A detailed breakdown of the laboratory tests showed that the dumps were leaching a staggering eight million micrograms of sulphate per litre, 1 900 micrograms of uranium, 520 micrograms of cyanide, 510 micrograms of lead and 60 micrograms of

arsenic into the water. And to top it all the water had a pH value of 2,58 — akin to the acidity levels of vinegar.

The results of the test confirm claims by water engineers that rain run-off and water that leaches from Johannesburg's old dumps have transformed the Ridge of White Waters into a major source of ground and river water contamination for Johannesburg, one of the most densely populated cities in Africa.

A senior official in the Johannesburg city council confirmed that the streams which flow from the old mining areas through Soweto are some of

the "ugliest" they have to contend with.

The levels of pollution found in the Johannesburg river are thousands of times higher than international standards for wholesome water.

According to the World Health Organisation, which deliberately sets low levels that can be managed by Third World countries, the maximum levels for drinking water should be: 400 micrograms per litre for sulphate; 100 micrograms for cyanide; 50 for lead and 50 for arsenic.

It is not surprising, then, that there

are traces of industrial toxins in the city's drinking water. An investigation last month found levels of mercury more than twice the standard recommended by the World Health Organisation in spot samples of the city's tap water.

The investigation also discovered high levels of nitrates, potential causes of cancer, that derive from water that runs off farmlands where large amounts of artificial fertilisers are used.

Water engineers Paul Polasek and Claude Mangeot believe such toxins are present because local health authorities use outdated water cleansing methods — which control bacteria but cannot cope with the increasing tide of industrial pollutants that flow into South Africa's rivers.

And the Witwatersrand is not the only area where rivers have been adversely affected by toxic run off from the old mine dumps.

Rivers in the Eastern Transvaal Barberton range — the oldest mountains in the world — have been especially damaged by industrial and mining pollution.

Late last year, a large dump left in the mountains by a team of prospectors from the Anglo American Corporation, leached so much arsenic and cadmium into a pristine mountain dam that every form of aquatic life was killed.

Another dam in the heavily mined mountains has fish that have been blinded by heavy doses of arsenic effluent.

In 1985 a farmer lost at least five head of cattle after they drank from a river that had been polluted with a heavy dose of arsenic from another mine in the area.

In November last year effluent from the Sappi paper and pulp mill spilled into the Ngodwana River and killed at least 100 tons of fish and other aquatic life. The management was subsequently fined R600.

Earthlife Africa press officer Henk Coetsee told *The Weekly Mail* that the incident highlighted the lack of effective legislation to protect South Africa's rivers from industrial pollution.

"Basically this country's environment law is shaped by a history of industrialisation in which profits came before a concern for people's health and social responsibility," said Coetsee.

"For example, the minister of the environment has powers to refuse a mining operation in a sensitive ecological area — but to do so has to first get the approval of the minister of mines and energy affairs, who is more likely to be influenced by the dictates of industry than ecology."

The activist group is now campaigning for the Johannesburg city council to provide its residents with accurate and up to date information about the quality of the water they drink.

Earthlife is also demanding that the government adopt a "polluter pays" approach to industry so that much heavier penalties can be imposed on those responsible for the degradation of the country's once pure waters.

Fears grow that oil will wash ashore (56)

By CARMEL RICKARD: Durban

CONCERN is growing that oil oozing from the Petingo ore carrier, wrecked off the Zululand coast, will soon be washed on to beaches.

Experts predicted last night that if the prevailing conditions continued through the night, oil from the vessel could beach along the coast between Richards Bay and Port Durnford.

It could also come ashore further south to Mtunzini.

However, there still appears little likelihood the oil would come ashore as far north as St Lucia.

Oil is continuing to leak from the ruptured tankers at the front end of the

stricken vessel which contain between 450 and 600 tons of oil, but the larger tankers at the back are still intact. Each ton is 1 000 litres.

Efforts continued yesterday to protect the rivers along the coast, and booms were put up across those river mouths which could not be closed.

One of these was the Mzingazi Canal, which is now protected by booms to prevent oil-polluted water going up the canal to the mangrove swamps and fresh water lake.

Late yesterday workers were preparing to begin pumping oil from the intact tankers, while salvage crews moved on board.

W/May 6/7-8/7/90

Navy craft fires at 'gill net' trawler

ON TIMES
9/7/90

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56

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

A SOUTH KOREAN trawler — allegedly using gill nets illegally — and an SA navy strike craft were involved in a high-seas confrontation at the weekend in which the strike craft fired a volley of shots across the trawler's bow.

During the stand-off on Saturday the trawler also tried to ram the strike craft, which bristles with guns and is missile-armed, after refusing an order to halt.

The 300-ton Sierra Leone-registered trawler Petros One was escorted to East London, where the crew was arrested.

Besides facing a charge of using the "wall of death" nets illegally in South African waters, the master is also suspected of off-loading illegal gill-netted catches in South Africa.

According to Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Department of Nature Conservation, the trawler was intercepted by the strike craft SAS Frans Erasmus about 100 nautical miles north-east of East London.

He said officials had been given information about the Petros One by a South Korean citizen arrested in Cape Town last week.

In co-operation with Nature Conservation officials, the navy and air force began searching off the Southern Cape coast for the trawler on Thursday, Dr Neethling said.

The trawler was located by a SAAF reconnaissance craft, but it had disappeared by the time the strike craft got to the scene.

The search was aborted, but while on its way to Durban, the strike craft came across the trawler.

The crew of 18 — 15 of whom were South African citizens — were placed under ship arrest on Satur-

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'Conservation needs more professionals'

Attus
9/7/90
56

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A LACK of suitably qualified professionals in the State's service is seriously hampering South Africa's conservation effort, a leading environmental scientist has warned.

Professor Richard Fuggle, head of UCT's department of geographical and environmental sciences, was addressing the President's Council as part of its investigation into an effective environmental manage-

ment system for South Africa.

One of the major breakthroughs in successful environmental control in the United States had been the acceptance that the government could not take a neutral role between developers and conservationists, and that its active duty was to protect the environment, Professor Fuggle said.

The National Environmental Policy Act, which had become law in the United States in 1970, had had more effect in the US and the world than 50 pieces of technical legislation during the 1960s, he told the

council.

"One of the main factors that enabled American legislators to achieve this breakthrough was their acceptance of the principle that it is the responsibility and duty of the government to actively protect the environment from despoilation."

A weak point in the implementation of environmental law, administration and integrated environmental management procedures in South Africa was the lack of suitably qualified personnel within government departments — and

particularly in the Department of Environment Affairs, Professor Fuggle added.

Appropriately trained post-graduates were not being retained in government service, few had been recruited and scholarships and bursaries were not available.

"If the State is unable to employ and retain adequate qualified professional staff dedicated to environmental conservation, the efforts of both the Council for the Environment and the President's Council will be to no avail," he warned.

56

Trawlers to be tracked

Staff Reporter

FORMAL talks were held between the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, about involving the SADF in tracking foreign trawlers carrying illegal gill nets in South African waters.

Speaking for Mr Kotze, environmental affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said yesterday the "navy and air force will help" to track and intercept gill net trawlers off the South African coast. He also gave an assurance that South Africa "did not want gill nets in our waters nor in our harbours".

The assurance follows the high seas confrontation between a navy strike craft and the South Korean trawler Petros One — with illegal gill nets on board — near East London at the weekend.

Warning shots were fired at the trawler when it tried to ram the strike craft.

Mr Du Bois said special permits would never again be issued to foreign trawlers with gill nets on board and the permits granted to 100 Taiwan-

ese vessels was a "one-time concession" which would only be valid till the end of this month.

Part of the hard-hitting campaign to stop gill net trawlers entering South African waters will be the implementation of stringent laws which come into effect this month, said Mr Du Bois.

"We will do anything in our power to prosecute — any foreign vessel which does not abide by our Sea Fisheries regulations can be fined up to R1 million.

"All trawlers will be subject to compulsory procedures on all equipment on board — which means they may not carry gill nets or gill net catches."

Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Department of Nature Conservation, said that though there was little evidence, the authorities had to accept that illegal gill nets were being used in South African waters, which span 200 000 square nautical miles.

He said all the indications were there that gill nets were being used. These were:

- The trawlers do not request permits to carry gill nets.
- Trawlers come into local waters illegally to

drop illegal gill net catches.

● They speed off when intercepted by the authorities.

"We have a big area to patrol and we appreciate the services provided by the air force and navy," said Dr Neethling.

● The skipper and two officers of the Petros One, which has been under police guard in East London since Sunday, appeared briefly in the magistrate's court there yesterday in connection with allegations of using gill nets illegally in South African waters.

No charges were put to the skipper, Mr Yeo Hyd Jong, 41, Mr Yong Hui Kwon, 28, and Mr Kab Kyun Kim, 53, and they were not asked to plead.

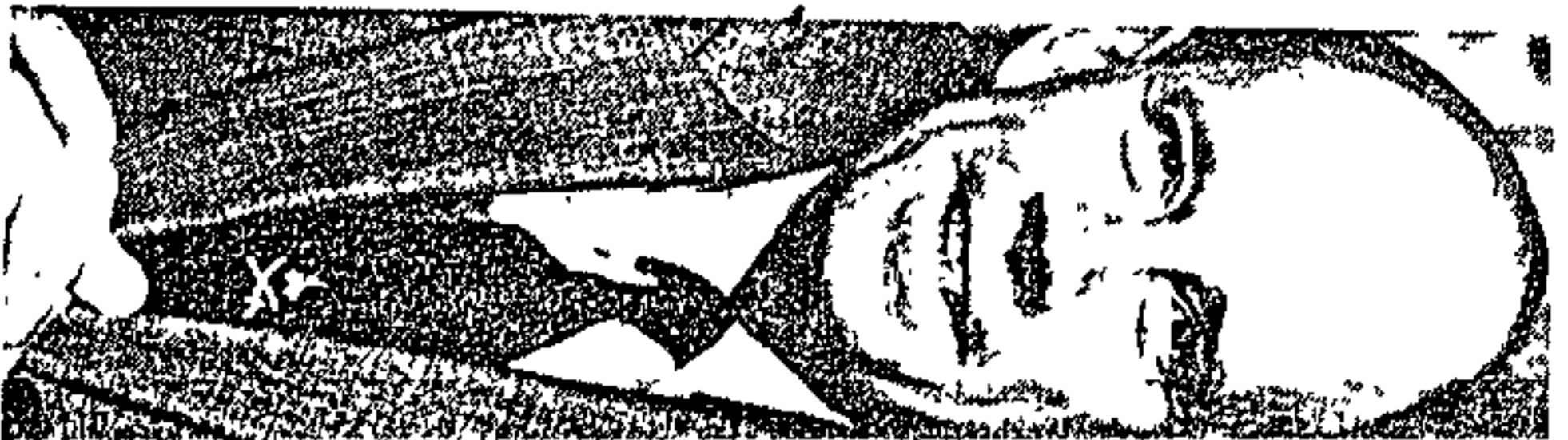
No evidence was led and the case was postponed to July 25 for further investigation and, it is understood, to enable a suitable interpreter to be found.

The three men, all South Korean citizens, are to remain in police custody aboard the Petros One.

Their attorney, Mr W J Opperman, said it appeared that Mr Kwon and Mr Kim were the ship's engineers.



Mr Gert Kotze



General Magnus Malan

Suspected illegal culling: Reports 'not proved'

CARL TINT⁵⁶ Staff Reporter
12/17/90

AN investigation by the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation into a suspected illegal seal culling operation last year was not able to prove that the animals washed up in False Bay died of unnatural causes.

City Council workers who found 300 to 400 seal pup carcasses on False Bay beaches in January 1989 said they appeared to have been clubbed to death.

The regional director of the department, Dr Johan Neethling, said subsequent investigation had shown that some of the animals had been dead for weeks and that the wounds were varied.

Meanwhile, anti-seal clubbing activists will travel to Port Nolloth this weekend to prepare for possible protests against the culling contract for 30 500 Cape fur seals, which has been postponed following an international outcry.

World concern over gill nets

A SOUTH AFRICAN delegation to the recent annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in the Netherlands has supported a resolution calling for more research into the use of gill nets worldwide.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said in Cape Town yesterday that there were more than 1 000 fishing boats in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans using gill nets. — Sapa

Kagiso goes green

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Sowetan
12/7/90

THE environment awareness campaign is succeeding and quite popular in the township of Kagiso on the West Rand.

The Neighbourhood Environment Awareness Task is responsible for publicising the campaign.

Headed by Carlos Mokgojoa, NEAT was started in 1984 by a group of youths to raise awareness in the township through basic and easy means of caring for the environment.

"We started our activities by constant street sweeping, planting of trees and developing parks. We also helped out in pensioners' homes, cleaned churches and campaigned for the provision of recreational facilities," explained Mokgojoa.

Now the organisation has grown and is in touch with organisations like Keep South Africa Beautiful and the National Environment Advisory Campaign.

"We have succeeded in making people aware of the need to lay lawns which are helpful not only to prevent dust but also soil erosion. The Township Council provides for the weekly col-

By PEARL MAJOLA

lection of garbage, but this has become inadequate as the community is growing. We have requested the Council to provide more rubbish bins," said Mokgojoa who is a council administrative clerk.

"We also try to educate people to stop dumping all over the township



MOKGOJOA

and have encouraged them to choose particular spots far from their homes.

"We are getting the message across to our community even though it is not being received as quickly as we would like. However, we have had some important victories."

ing," said an angry Mr Faure.

Grassroots activity 'needed to save SA's environment'

(56) Star 13/7/90

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Black property ownership in the new South Africa will play a major role in urban conservation.

This was one of the views that emerged from the first session of the Urban Conservation Symposium in Parktown yesterday.

Brian Bassett, convener of the Urban Foundation-sponsored symposium, said once blacks were stake-holders in the urban environment, they would be able to contribute to its conservation.

Mr Bassett, deputy city engineer of planning in Maritzburg, said: "We would like to have lots

of grassroots participation in conserving the urban environment, but the problem in this country is the cultural diversity."

Many people did not understand the nature of their environment until it was threatened, he said.

Delegates agreed there was a desperate need for continuous education of the public about the value of their environment.

Leading conservationists are taking part in the symposium at the historic Northwards mansion. The symposium ends tomorrow.

By Dr GREG MILLS
Lecturer in International
Relations at the Uni-
versity of the Western
Cape.

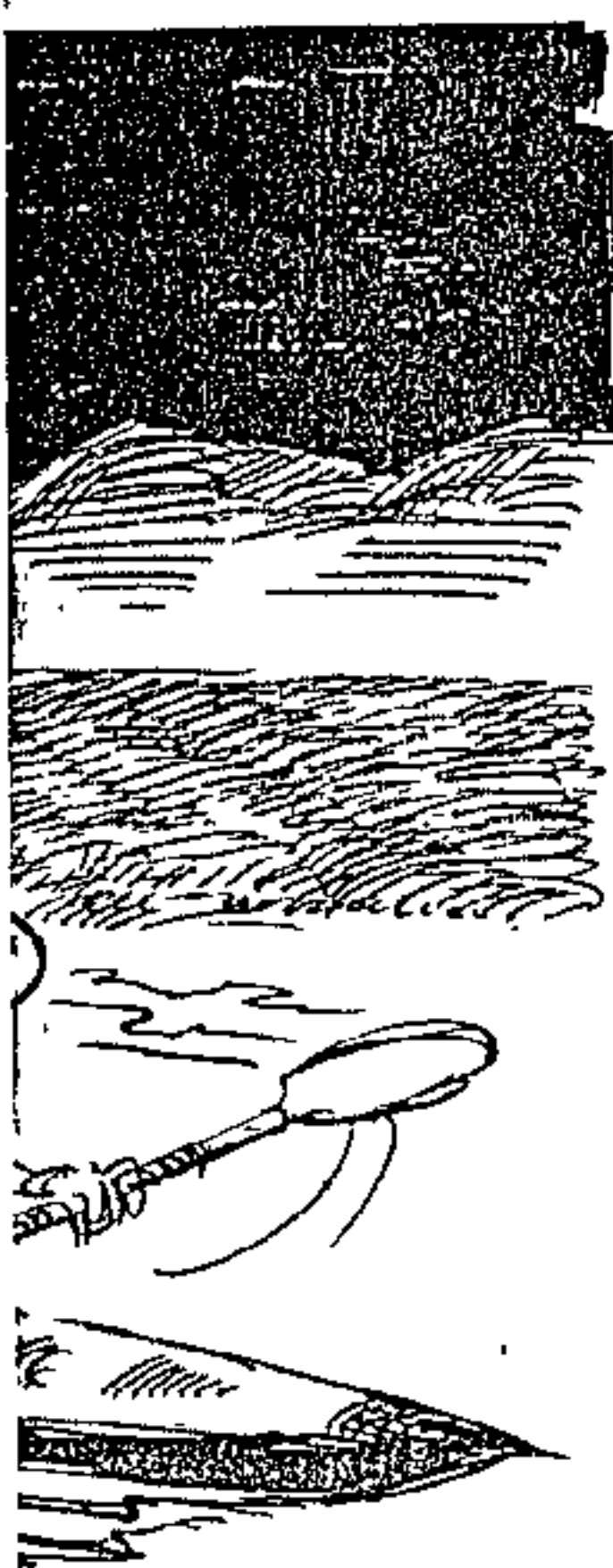
ENVIRONMENTAL issues have rocketed into a position of world concern and influence in recent years. First World (ie Western) countries have been in the vanguard of the campaign to educate and lobby in this regard. As a result, the ecological movement has become highly politicised.

However, it is toward the so-called Second (ie Eastern bloc) and Third World countries that a lot of effort has been guided. There are good reasons for this.

Population

For one, environmental problems tend to produce, because of near-subsistence living conditions, much more catastrophic effects in these countries than in the West. The dramatic result of the Ethiopian famine, highlighted by the Bob Geldof-inspired appeals, is but one sad example. The recent political changes in Eastern Europe have revealed startling ecological statistics.

First, a recent study in the London Guardian showed, *inter alia*, that: in Rumania, 85% of the rivers are unfit to drink from; in Poland with its 27 "ecological danger zones" and five "disaster areas", 60% of the food produced in the Krakow region was unfit for human consumption, more than half of Hungary is covered by dangerous air pollution, while less than half the population has "adequate" sewerage; half of Czechoslovakia's forests are dying or damaged, 70% of its rivers polluted and 40% of sewage remains untreated; while, finally, the



11/1

The politics of ecology: Whose concern is it?

56
CAPT TINKS 13/7/90



BOB GELDOF: Appealed through his music for worldwide action on the Ethiopian famine.



MARGARET THATCHER: No longer able to ignore the greenhouse factor, she has jumped on the bandwagon.

East Germans have the dubious honour of emitting more sulphur dioxide per head of population than anywhere else in the world, producing acid rain which has harmed more than 80% of the GDR's trees.

A cynic might say: "So what, how could this possibly affect us?" The answer, in short, is in many, not always outwardly apparent, ways.

There are the obvious worldwide ecological side effects. One cannot even begin to contemplate the increase in scale of the greenhouse effect that Africa's predicted massive population growth (AIDS aside) will have. With an annual growth rate of roughly 3%, Africa's population is expected to double within 25 years. With most of this number burning fossil fuels for survival, the threat of global warming becomes more real.

Food shortage

This is not the only menace, though. In the 30 years or so since independence, farm output has decreased by some 15% on average, whereas the continent should be aiming at an increase of 4-6% per year. The World Bank estimates that already a quarter of sub-Saharan Africans live in a state of "chronic food insecurity" the reasons for which are various.

The population explosion will thus place outrageous demands on Africa's scant resources, thereby accelerating soil erosion, deforestation as well as desertification. This vicious circle is completed by the related effect upon global warming. Having to

cope with this sort of population increase, does not, ironically, lead to the tackling of ecological problems by these countries.

Increase in CFC

While most Western nations consistently called for a total ban on the use of chloro-fluoro-carbon (CFC) propellants by the turn of the century and signed the 1987 Montreal Protocol which was a step in this direction, without a substantial transfer of funding and technology (enabling CFC substitution) from the West, Third World states have lacked the economic means and the will to comply.

Indeed, before the worldwide agreement to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals which was reached in London early this month, some (most notably India and China) were planning to increase CFC production.

If Eastern Europe successfully emerges as a Western-style consumer society, at what cost will this be to the environment? Much of their energy is already produced by burning noxious brown coal and rapid industrialisation is likely only to exacerbate this situation.

Second, the global nature of these problems will, in all probability, lead to a more active, perhaps interventionist, role by agencies in agreeing policy and supplying food and developmental aid.

The increased involvement by international or regional organisations would naturally jeopardise the liberal view of world order by reducing the autonomy of states. No longer will the State,

it could be argued, be at the centre of international politics but because of the urgency of environmental conservation it will be supplanted in this role by outside, non-governmental factors.

At the same time, this will place heavier demands on Western countries to supply funding for these organisations and their schemes. For one, the World Bank has estimated that it will require \$25 bn this decade to arrest pollution in Poland, suggesting that the bill for the whole of Eastern Europe could exceed \$100 bn.

One cannot begin to contemplate the potential food bill for Africa. And it is likely that South Africa will, despite its own economic woes, be expected to assume a considerable share of this burden.

Green-Socialist

This has far-reaching domestic political implications. Who would have thought five years ago this issue would assume the profile that it has?

The Green Party in the UK, for example, has grown from a laughing-stock at the 1987 election into a serious political force. Opposition politics are being rethought, offering alternative "Green-Socialist" economic policies. Even Mrs Thatcher has climbed on the bandwagon.

However, in the future it will no longer suffice for politicians both here and abroad just to be "eco-friendly". They will have to take a far more active role. For this is not only a domestic concern but one of cataclysmic global proportions.

New bid to stop seal slaughter

Cape Times 14/7/90

(56)

By CHRIS BATEMAN

TAIWAN has told its diplomats in South Africa to try to stop one of its citizens killing 30 000 seals at Kleinsee.

The Republic of China's government has instructed its consulate in Cape Town to dissuade Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-I from continuing the hunt.

As pressure mounts on both the South African and Taiwanese governments, a Republic of China consulate spokesman said yesterday Mr Hsu was "prepared to co-operate with both governments" — provided he was adequately compensated.

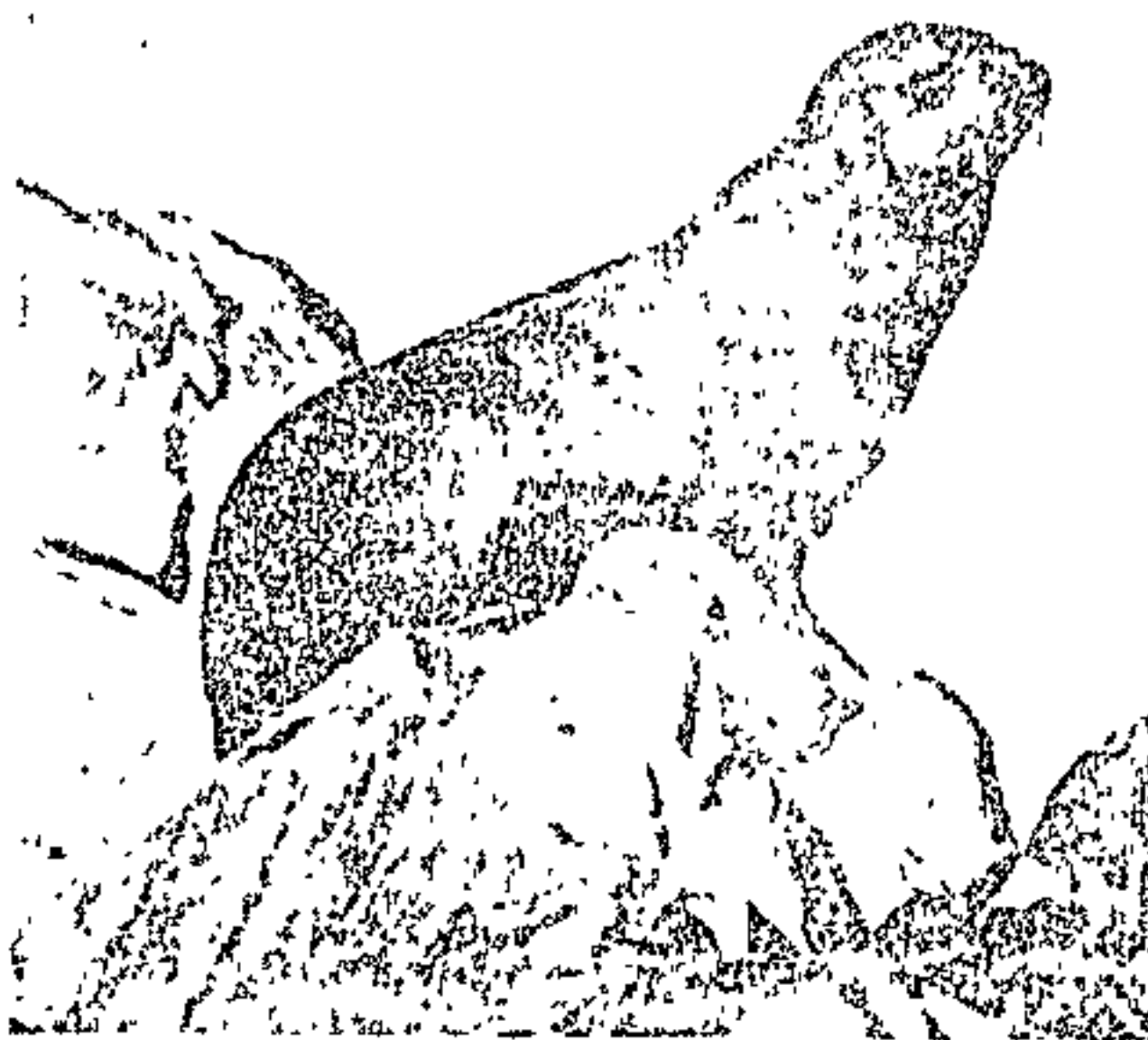
Mr Hsu had spent about R2 million building a seal-processing factory at Kleinsee after being granted a culling permit by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the spokesman said.

The government suspended Mr Hsu's operation at the height of the international outcry a fortnight ago and is now awaiting the return of Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze from a European tour on July 23.

Mr Tom Chou, Cape Town consul in charge of fishing affairs, said yesterday he had contacted Mr Hsu in Johannesburg where he has set up home with his family.

"He feels that he set up business based on a legal permit and has reasonable grounds for negotiation," he said.

Mr Chou said his government had come under international pressure from environmental lobby-



ists and had called press conferences to outline their position.

However, it was unable to legally interfere with a private businessman's affairs.

"Back home we have legislation to forbid maltreatment or killing of animals," he added.

With the seal issue and the growing outcry over Taiwanese gill-netting off the South African coast, his government was becoming increasingly concerned.

In a concerted attempt to make gill-netting unprofitable, the Republic of China had begun buying gill-netting boats and converting them to long-line vessels while offering tax concessions to private owners making the conversion.

Newly-built fishing boats could also no longer legally equip themselves with gill nets, he added.

Mr Chou said measures to prevent the Taiwanese culling of gill-netted tuna were in the "negotiation phase", adding his government had committed itself to "getting rid" of all gill nets a year ahead of a recent UN resolution to do so by June 1992.

While he did not know how large the Taiwanese gill-netting fleet was, it had been reduced by 40% over the past year, he claimed.

"Overall we are dealing with a minority of private businessmen and it is unfair to blame our government. We're doing all we can but we need South African support to stop it, not emotive and racial bumper stickers," he said.

A spokesman for Mr Kotze's office, Mr Niel du Bois, said his department knew nothing of Mr Hsu's "latest attitude".

"When Mr Kotze gets back all interested parties and groups will have the opportunity to present their cases. In this sensitive issue where emotions, science and rationale are intertwined, direct negotiations in an orderly fashion are preferable," he said.

Mr Hsu could not be reached for comment in Johannesburg yesterday.

Anti-seal killing activists will travel to Port Nolloth today on a reconnaissance mission in preparation for possible protests if Mr Kotze allows the culling to go ahead.

Staff Reporter

ANTI-SEAL clubbing activists are to remain on full alert for any activity at the Kleinsee colony until the commercial culling permit has been officially withdrawn.

The Taiwanese businessman who was awarded the contract to kill 30 000 seals, Mr Hsu Hsien-i, has told a diplomat from his country that he will negotiate the cancellation of the contract.

Both South Africa and the Republic of China have faced international condemnation over the proposed culling.

Fears that the South African taxpayer will have to foot the estimated R2 million bill claimed by Mr Hsu appear premature.

The deputy director-general of environmental affairs, Dr Jozua Serfontein, said it was unlikely that the government would compensate "if it was Mr Hsu's own decision" — though he

Seal ^{CRK & Tim} ^{16/7/70} activists to stay ⁵⁶ 'on full alert'

was not aware of any official communication from Mr Hsu to cancel the contract.

He said the department would delay any public announcement on the fate of the culling permit until the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, returns to South Africa later this week.

Meanwhile, Seal Action Group members who visited Port Nolloth at the weekend have reported a "very successful" meeting with some

50 local people who would have been employed to kill the seals and process the meat.

A spokesman for the group said they had discussed the possibility of starting a kelp industry and other job-creation ventures.

The chairman of Earth Life Africa in the city, Mr Pierre Mukheibir, said he was "delighted" that the seals had been temporarily reprieved and that the move was a direct result of public protest.

"If the government had not put the contract out to tender in the first place, Mr Hsu would not have had to pull out after investing so much money," he said.

"Mr Kotze has been indecisive throughout and we insist that he take a definite stand on the issue.

"Presumably the permit is still valid and we demand that the minister withdraw it forthwith."

Seals: SA group has other plans

Staff Reporter

A GROUP of South African businessmen is keen to take over the controversial seal-processing factory at Port Nolloth — and use it for the mass production of low-cost meals for hunger and famine relief victims in Africa.

The group also indicated that it is also keen to get Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-i — who was granted a government permit to cull more 30 000 seals — as a 50-50 partner.

The proposal was put forward yesterday by Harvest for Life of SA, a city-based company holding a patented process of converting the remains of raw fish into a "high quality" protein meal for humar

consumption.

According to managing director Mr Michael Jones, the opportunity was a solution to the "seal fiasco" caused by government's decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to harvest more than 30 000 seals from this month.

The government has put a temporary freeze on the controversial scheme following a public outcry.

Mr Jones said that if the deal was clinched the company could process 5 000 tons of fish a year, obtained from the by-catches of the fishing industry.

"The monthly product would feed 890 000 people a month and could either be used for low-cost feeding schemes, ref-

ugee relief, food aid or in emergencies. He said orders had already been received from Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia.

Mr Jones said that from scratch the scheme might require R7,5m.

"But depending on the circumstances at Kleinsee, the figure could be as low as R1,5m.

"If Mr Hsu is to be compensated, the amount could be as high as R3m with no benefits involved to anyone — particularly the taxpayer."

Mr Jones added that his company hoped to have discussions this week with both the South African and Taiwanese governments and Mr Hsu.

17/7/80

Cpt. Hsu

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Industry urged to develop basin of Tugela River

THE Tugela River basin should be developed to increase job opportunities in the Natal/KwaZulu area, Deputy Justice Minister Danie Schutte said yesterday.

"The Tugela River is Natal's greatest natural resource, but in spite of this, the water resources of this river have not been harnessed to the benefit of Natal," he told the Tugela Basin Development Association.

Although there was a multi-million rand project to develop the upper reaches of the Tugela River, it was aimed at supplying the Witwatersrand with water, he said.

"The time is ripe for the development of the Tugela River for the benefit of Natal. I urge industry to consider developing the central part of the river by establishing dams, canals, agricultural projects linked to that and perhaps hydro-electrical plants."

Natal Chamber of Industries executive director John Pohl said in an interview that the Chamber had long propagated the development of the Tugela River as an untapped source of job creation and economic development.

While the chamber acknowledged the PWV area as the country's "premier" industrial area, it was not bene-

OWEN MAUBANE

ficial to the country to have Johannesburg develop into a megapolis while Natal was left "pristine", he said.

"We shouldn't always bring water to industry: we should rather bring industry to the water."

"We have long said that the Tugela has the potential to support several cities the size of Johannesburg and Durban. The conditions for such a development are ideal — adequate water, a stable workforce and existing infrastructure in the towns of Mool River, Ladysmith and others."

All that remained to be done was planning and tapping these resources.

Schutte said the short-term benefit of the proposed programme would be a reduction of unemployment in the area, while in the long term creating a new "development axis" along the river in central KwaZulu, as well as defusing the urbanisation pressure on the Durban-Pinetown-Maritzburg areas.

"I believe that this proposed project is completely vindicated when one considers that the number of people in Natal/KwaZulu deriving benefit from each million invested would be more than that for the Orange River project," he said.

Staff cuts at housing firm

ADMINISTRATIVE staff at FHA Homes, part of the Urban Foundation's residential development division, has been cut by 40% over the past eight months because of a depressed black housing market, says the company's CE Rod MacGillivray.

MacGillivray said the long term cause of the market's slump was high interest rates, but recent changes in government subsidies for non-white first time house buyers had depressed the market further.

Government's decision to restrict subsidies — amounting to one third off interest payments for five years — to households earning less than R2 000 a month and the introduction of a new subsidy application procedure presented unwelcome extra costs and delays for house buyers.

MacGillivray said the growing cost element for customers exacerbated

MATTHEW CURTIN

the company's high holding costs, as funds were tied up pending bond approvals and the lengthy conveyancing process.

FHA Homes' "consolidation programme" and the adoption of a down-market sales drive stabilised the company's position during recent weeks.

MacGillivray said the new government rules affected deals in the process of being transacted and showed a "worrying persistence" in a racially motivated approach to housing for the poor. Whites are eligible for subsidies on projects under R65 000 if household income does not exceed R3 500 a month.

Job losses at FHA included retrenchments (there were seven at the end of June), transfers and resignations, but had not affected site staff.

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Staff cuts at housing firm

ADMINISTRATIVE staff at FHA Homes, part of the Urban Foundation's residential development division, has been cut by 40% over the past eight months because of a depressed black housing market, says the company's CE Rod MacGillivray.

MacGillivray said the long term cause of the market's slump was high interest rates, but recent changes in government subsidies for non-white first time house buyers had depressed the market further.

Government's decision to restrict subsidies — amounting to one third off interest payments for five years — to households earning less than R2 000 a month and the introduction of a new subsidy application procedure presented unwelcome extra costs and delays for house buyers.

MacGillivray said the growing cost element for customers exacerbated

MATTHEW CURTIN

the company's high holding costs, as funds were tied up pending bond approvals and the lengthy conveyancing process.

FHA Homes' "consolidation programme" and the adoption of a down-market sales drive stabilised the company's position during recent weeks.

MacGillivray said the new government rules affected deals in the process of being transacted and showed a "worrying persistence" in a racially motivated approach to housing for the poor. Whites are eligible for subsidies on projects under R65 000 if household income does not exceed R3 500 a month.

Job losses at FHA included retrenchments (there were seven at the end of June), transfers and resignations, but had not affected site staff.



Workmen at Lentegeur Hospital in Mitchell's Plain battle to pump water out of the grounds and building on Wednesday.

CAPE TOWN — Flooding around the Lentegeur Hospital in Mitchell's Plain, Cape Town, has forced the evacuation of 30 geriatric mentally handicapped patients. And another 30 severely handicapped adolescent patients are also expected to be evacuated if the rain does not stop.

The medical superintendent of the Care and Rehabilitation Section, Dr Linda Hering, said water was flooding in as fast as it could be pumped out.

Nurses had been issued with rainwear and gumboots, and

Cape floods force removal of patients from hospital

sandbags were blocking several doorways to keep the water out.

The hospital, run by the House of Representatives, was built three years ago without adequate stormwater drainage, said Dr Hering.

The fact that Cape Town is heading for a record rainfall is borne out by the condition of the

three race tracks in the area.

The Kenilworth track is under water.

More than 300 mm of rain has fallen on the course in the past six weeks.

Milnerton course, which normally receives much less rain than Kenilworth, has had almost double last year's amount.

Last year 89 mm of rain fell on the course during July, and the figure for the first two weeks of this July is already nearly 100 mm.

The rainfall during April last year was 67 mm compared with 143 mm this year.

Racing at the Durbanville country course took place on Wednesday in soggy conditions with intermittent heavy showers.

An indication of the condition of the course could be gained from the parade ring — a slippery, soggy mess. — Sapa.

The greening of the whites

56 story 21/7/90
CHRIS MOERDYK

THE majority of white South African consumers believe it is more important to protect the environment than to keep prices down.

According to a recent survey by the local Markinor research organisation, more than 50 percent believe, in effect, that inflation takes second place to the protection of the country's natural resources. Whites, in particular, are very concerned about environmental issues but, says Markinor chief executive Nick Green, it's a different story when it comes to taking active steps to protect the environment.

"People may support 'green ideas' but unfortunately most cannot afford to pay the additional costs that go with implementing environmentally responsible actions. When we look at the survey results, it's important to keep in mind the increasingly Third World nature of this country.

Prices

"Far more whites than blacks are prepared to pay the price for measures to protect the environment. Just over three-quarters of whites believe it is important to protect the environment — even if this causes industry to spend more money and raise its prices. However less than one-third of blacks share this view," he says.

With regard to the damage caused to sea life and beaches as a result of spillage by oil tankers, 79 percent of whites and only 26 percent of blacks indicated that they were distressed about this form of pollution.

Three-quarters of whites and 40 percent of blacks indicated that they were deeply concerned about the pollution of water or rivers and lakes. Close to three-quarters of whites and only 25 percent of blacks said they were concerned about the extinction of some plant and animal species.

Waste

The disposal of industrial chemical waste, which recently evoked an outcry in the media with the attempt by an American company to dump mercury in Natal, scored the next highest response from people interviewed. More than 70 percent of whites and 20 percent of blacks said they were upset about the disposal of chemical waste.

Said Mr Green: "Slightly fewer people were unhappy about air pollution and acid rain, the depletion of forest resources and the greenhouse effect, despite the publicity such issues have attracted during the past year."

But, what are people doing about participating in environmental projects? Respondents were asked to indicate the positive actions they had taken in the past year. Top of the list was saving water, with 67 percent of the respondents making a concerted effort not to leave taps running.

● 82 percent of whites and 44 percent of blacks had made an effort to put litter in litter bins rather than dropping it on the ground.

● 42 percent of whites and 12 percent of blacks had planted a tree or taken some similar environmentally conscious steps.

At the opposite end of the scale, only:

● 21 percent of whites and 3 percent of blacks had paid more for an environmentally acceptable product, such as one sold in bio-degradable packaging.

● 17 percent of whites and 10 percent of blacks had refused unnecessary paper or plastic bags in shops.

● 15 percent of whites and 9 percent of blacks had boycotted the products of an environmentally irresponsible company.



DEJA VU? Yes, it is a car, of sorts, going over a cliff, of sorts. And yes, it is a made its debut on television yesterday. But no, say Toyota's advertising agency with the Mercedes ad. *WIM*

Another car ad that

CHRIS MOERDYK

WHEN it comes to providing entertaining advertising, controversy and talking points, South Africa's motor manufacturers are heading the list right now. Hot on the heels of the great Mercedes/BMW debate comes a new corporate commercial from Toyota that should create something of a stir.

Launched yesterday, the commercial appears to be innocuous, but between the lines are subtle pieces of sheer cheek South African TV viewers are beginning to associate with car ads.

This car commercial is very different though — it doesn't feature a single car. Instead it's all about a group of kids and their soap-box cars. The intensity and care of building them and the excitement of the race. Something Toyota ad agency Lindsay Smithers-FCB believes most of their target market will relate to.

But the fascination of the ad is reading between the lines. There's the kid polishing a winged figure tied to the front of his soap-box

special with the commentary fall some car-owners considering only when it comes to buying a car.

Then there is the sequence of a soap little out of control hurtling round a bend (seen that before somewhere) — another sequence (slow motion this hurtling off the road and over a cliff seen that before somewhere).

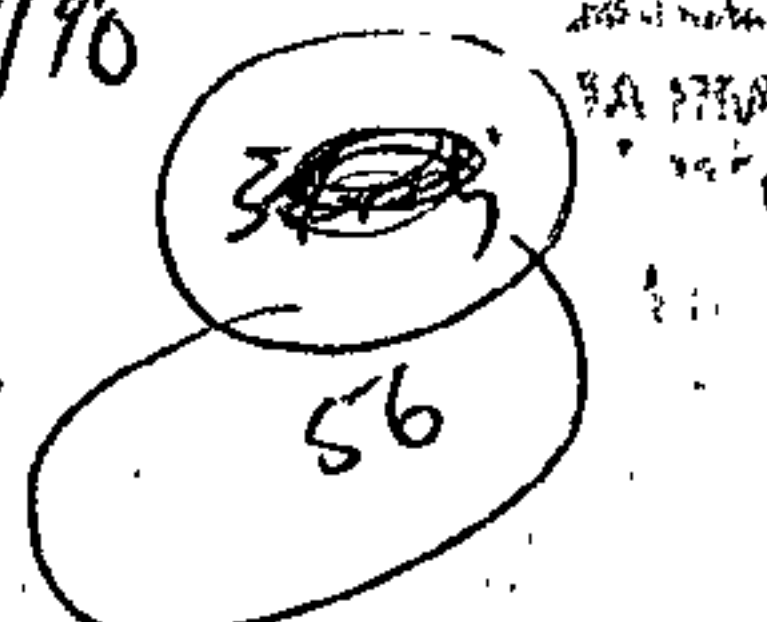
Coincidental

However, Lindsay Smithers MD F said this week that the cliff sequence is entirely coincidental.

"Call it serendipity or purely coincidence we certainly didn't put it in as a reference to Mercedes commercial. In fact the our ad was produced more than two

Seal group in warehouse stake-out

CANT 714 F 23/7/90



By PETER DENNEHY

SEAL Action Group members staked out a warehouse in Table Bay Harbour yesterday in the belief that 8 000 seal carcasses might be inside.

Mr Mark le Serve, chairman of the Seal Action Group, said they had been told by warehouse workers that skinned seal pup carcasses were brought to the warehouse on Thursday night, and were to be loaded on a east-bound ship this morning.

He added that a manager of the warehouse, who did not give his name, had denied that there were any seals inside. The Cape Times was unable to get comment last night from senior managers of the firm.

The Seal Action Group had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a search warrant. However, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries had agreed to conduct its own investigation into the matter.

A Sea Fisheries inspector said that last night's investigation would be the third one conducted in the past week in connection with rumours of 8 000 seal carcasses leaving the country.

● Yesterday Dr Louis Botha, head of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, denied that Taiwanese businessman, Mr Hsu Hsien-I, had been given government permission to contravene regu-

lations set out on his first seal-harvesting permit.

Mr Hsu was also granted a permit to cull over 30 000 seals this season and owns a partially-constructed seal processing plant at Port Nolloth.

It was reported during the weekend that when over 4 000 seals were clubbed in 1989 only the genitals had been used in contravention of the government permit.

The genitals were used for aphrodisiacs — used widely in the East — but the carcasses were dumped in contravention of the Sea Fisheries, Sea Bird and Seals Protection Act.

In spite of state policy that permit holders should stick to the terms of their permits, a permit to cull 24 000 pups and 5 500 bulls was granted to Mr Hsu at the beginning of this year.

It is alleged that in 1988 Mr Hsu was given more than 3 000 seal carcasses at no cost. Again only the testicles were removed and the carcasses dumped.

It was also reported that Mr Hsu was still able to capture the 1989 to 1994 concession to cull the Kleinzee seals, against stiff competition from local businessmen hoping to break into the booming aphrodisiac market in the Orient.

SA backs timetable to phase out CFCs

(56)

BRENT MELVILLE

(56)

A MAJORITY vote to speed up the timetable for phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other damaging chemicals was passed at a recent conference in London.

SA representatives at the conference, aimed at upgrading steps to save the ozone layer, backed the motion.

Signed by 56 of the 100 nations present at last month's meeting, the agreement included the setting up of a \$240m international fund through which industrialised nations could help developing countries adopt environmentally safer technology.

Revisions to the Montreal Protocol, which came into effect in April and was signed by SA in January, include cutting worldwide CFC use by 20% by 1993, 50% by 1995, and 100% by the year 2000. The use of carbon tetrachloride will be cut 85% by 1994 and 100% by 2000, by which time 70% of all use of methyl chloroform should be phased out, with a total ban by 2005.

Ian MacDonald of the Wildlife Society Ozone Assessment Board said on Friday: "To organise and persuade the majority of industrialised nations to eliminate some of the world's most useful industrial chemicals within a decade means that the problem must be of absolutely catastrophic proportions." B 1094 23179

A spokesman for AECl, SA's sole producer of CFCs, said AECl would find it quite easy to cut down to the 50% level through reductions in aerosol use, although slashing 75% of CFC out of industry would mean impinging upon refrigeration use. Any higher percentage meant eliminating use in deep-level mining.

Because AECl was in such a confined market the group was not prepared to devote money or technology to research into finding alternatives. AECl's UK parent ICI was putting £100m into research into a CFC alternative called 134A, but this substitute would not be available in sufficient quantities until the middle of the decade.

As an interim measure AECl was constructing a CFC 22 plant at Sasolburg. CFC 22 had only 20% of the ozone-depleting potential of the CFC 11 and 12 currently in use.

Seal killing: Experts to meet today

By DANIEL SIMON and KIN BENTLEY
GOVERNMENT and independent scientists are today to thrash out the pros and cons of commercial seal harvesting — following Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze's return to South Africa yesterday to reassess his decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to harvest more than 30 000 seals at Kleinsee.

This is the first time the issue will be formally aired between government and interest groups since Mr Kotze placed a temporary freeze on the venture two weeks ago because of strong opposition.

Seal Action Group member Ms Kim Clarkin said yesterday that a debate would take place today between government scientists and experts called on by the SAG. A meeting between Mr Kotze and the SAG is scheduled for Friday morning in Pretoria.

At Jan Smuts Airport Mr Kotze said he would give the culling project his

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"urgent attention" and would check on reports that Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-i had withdrawn from the project.

In London yesterday South Africa's embassy complained to Britain's Advertising Standards Authority about an advertisement placed in major newspapers by an animal-conservation group which launched another protest campaign against the proposed seal culling, reports Sapa.

A team of diplomats handled well over 100 telephone calls to South Africa House by animal lovers in response to the advertisement by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

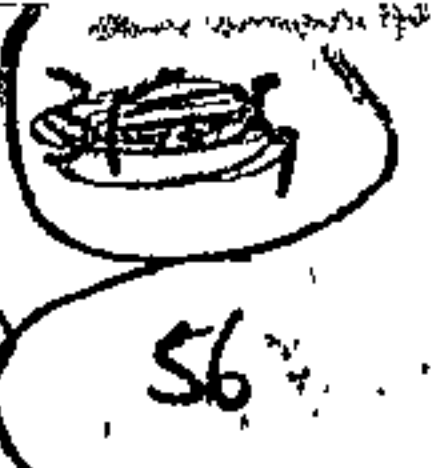
The ambassador, Mr Rae Killen, wrote to newspaper editors, saying that the IFAW advertisement's call for action totally ignored the South African government's recent decision to postpone indefinitely the culling operation.

The IFAW's executive director, Mr Richard Moore, said: "This is a hunt without pity ... simply for profit."

Minister denies he 'summoned' seal savers

ARGUS

25/7/90



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By JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

MINISTER of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé will meet conservationists in Pretoria on Friday to discuss their opposition to the "harvest" of 30 500 Cape fur seals this season.

But Mr Kotzé strongly denied a report in The Argus yesterday which quoted a Seal Action Group (SAG) spokesman as saying he had "summoned" their representatives to the meeting.

"This is definitely not true," Mr Kotzé said last night.

"I said I would meet with groups and would be available towards the end of the week, and that I would pay attention to all the complaints, etc."

"But I absolutely, definitely did not summon anyone. That is not my style."

The confusion appeared to have arisen after a SAG representative in Johannesburg arranged Friday's meeting with Mr Kotzé through the deputy-director of his department, Dr Jozua Serfontein.

Representatives of Earthlife Africa and Save Our Seals are also to attend.

"CONFUSION"

"SAG will contact Mr Kotzé's office today to clear up any confusion," said spokeswoman Ms Kim Clarkin.

● Mr Mike Jones, the chief executive of a company which produces a "protein-from-fish" product, which it claims could provide emergency nutritional relief, has asked for a meeting with Mr Kotzé.

Mr Jones said his company could offer a "practical solution to the seal debacle" at Port Nolloth by using the half-completed factory which was to have processed seal products.

"Harvest for Life is ready to start its first protein-from-fish factory," he said in an open letter to Mr Kotzé.

"This patented process converts most fish material, including bones, into a highly nutritive edible protein at an extremely low cost."

APR 25/7/90

Tuna takes a tumble

Low catches blamed on gill nets; 5 000 jobs on the line

By HENRI du PLESSIS
Shipping Reporter

DIMINISHING tuna catches, down about two-thirds in three years, are threatening the industry and an estimated 5 000 jobs.

Alarm bells for the industry rang loud last week with the closing down of tuna company Interfish. Its buildings and 11 boats were auctioned at what were described as bargain prices.

Many other tuna fishermen would be thinking seriously about their future before the tuna season began in November, a source in the industry said.



Blame for dwindling catches have been levelled against foreign fishermen using gill nets illegally in South African waters.

"Part of the problem this year was the bad weather in April. We had three weeks of winter then and catches were poor," said Mr Richard Ball, co-ordinator of the Tuna Resource Management Group.

"But I would definitely say gill net fishing has had a terrible effect. These nets stretch over hundreds of kilometres and are put in the migration paths of the fish.



"I would say the catch this year was about a third of what it was two or three years ago.

"The blocking of the migration routes with gill nets eventually force the fish take another route. They have a sort of group intelligence and they learn about dangers.

"Gill nets also ruin the fish. A large percentage of the fish caught in gill nets are too damaged to be used. Fish caught in gill nets sell for about \$1 300 (about R3 300) a ton free on board in Cape Town, while those caught by line fetch about \$2 000 (about R5 200) a ton.

"Initially the drop of the rand against other major currencies was an advantage but the rand has since increased in value. Tuna prices have also improved somewhat but a real inflation rate of nearly 25 per cent has cancelled this out."

Mr Ball said there were about 50 full-time tuna boats and 50 others for which tuna was an important part of their catch. Each boat carried about 25 men.

If added to workers ashore, and those indirectly linked to the industry through services, the number making a living from tuna could be up to 5 000.

"Many tuna fishermen will be doing some serious soul-searching before November. If they are forced into other areas of the fishing industry such as linefish or snoek, those resources will be under pressure," Mr Ball said.

"We are pleased with the



government's actions against gill nets, but we'd like to see gill net boats prevented from entering any harbours in the southern Atlantic as well as Mauritius and Reunion.

"Even if gill nets were removed immediately, it will take about three to four years before we again catch fish bigger than juveniles.

"We should have a virtual holy war against gill net fishing."

Dr Louis Botha of the De-



partment of Sea Fisheries said the United Nations General Assembly had called for a moratorium on gill net fishing until the completion of studies to determine the damage they cause.

This moratorium could come into effect in 1992. Meanwhile, the International Whaling Commission and the South Atlantic Tuna Commission have, with South Africa playing a major role, issued resolutions against gill net fishing and called for studies on the subject.

Dr Botha said South Africa would contribute to the gathering of information as far as possible, but it had little to contribute because it had never used gill nets.

There was no scientific basis for saying whether gill nets had an influence on the tuna resource, he said.

Namibian to start harvesting of seals

By DANIEL SIMON

A NAMIBIAN businessman has a seven-year government contract to harvest thousands of seals from the Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay colonies till 1997 — and to process the remains at his recently completed factory at Luderitz.

This was disclosed yesterday by the businessman concerned, Mr J G le Roux, owner of Namibian Venison and Marine Products, who said his team of 12 workers would club "roughly" about 20 000 pups and shoot about 3 000 bulls from the first week of August till the end of November.

Mr Le Roux said the entire seal carcass would be processed. This would further include processing the bodies of numerous seal pups which have died from starvation in the area.

The Luderitz factory is about 300km north of Port Nolloth — the town where a Taiwanese businessman set

up a similar venture to process the remains of 30 500 seals from the Kleinsee colony. The businessman is still waiting for Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze's final decision.

Seals from Kleinsee and Wolf and Atlas Bays form part of the Cape west coast fur seal population, which is estimated to be about 600 000-strong.

Mr Le Roux said some seal products would be destined for Windhoek while other products, including skins, would be exported to South Africa. The genitalia are expected to be exported to the East as an aphrodisiac.

No official comment could be obtained from the Namibian Department of Sea Fisheries, as the entire top structure are holding a three-day meeting in Mariental — situated between Windhoek and Luderitz — to determine this season's cull quota, reliable sources said.

Scientists to meet on culling

Capt. T. Smith 25/7/90 56

Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENT Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze is to appoint a group of scientists to help formulate government policy towards seal harvesting.

Ten scientists are to meet in the next month to examine the pros and cons of the issue, it was confirmed yesterday by the Department of Sea Fisheries and the Seal Action Group (SAG).

"The scientists will be asked to determine whether a sustainable yield of seals will impact negatively or positively on a colony if 30 000 are to be killed," an SAG spokesman said. The "ecological impact" of the killing will be examined.

The group will also determine whether government research is heading in the right direction.

"There is concern that as a high-profile predator, many seals get shot when they get close to fishermen's nets." The SAG wants an effective method in place to stop seals from going near the nets.

The SAG spokesman said ethics, morals and financial benefits would not form part of the study.

Meanwhile, the SPCA, in representations to the Minister of Environment Affairs, says it believes the killings are unnecessary and could be illegal under the Animals Protection Act of 1962.

Saving the Earth's skin: How green is your country?

South African users of chlorofluorocarbons, the CFC gases which are destroying the Earth's protective skin of ozone, include some of the world's biggest.

A single gold mine, carrying out maintenance on its refrigeration plant, may release 40 tons of CFCs.

Despite this, South Africa produces and uses only 1 percent of the world's CFCs and has only one manufacturer, AECI Chlor-Alkali and Plastics Limited at Modderfontein on the ridge north-east of Johannesburg.

How can AECI, a company which recently committed itself to a "green" policy, justify continued production?

Robbie Vermont, a spokesman for AECI, explained: "When CFCs were introduced in the 1950s they were hailed as 'wonder' chemicals. They offered a

range of properties which no other chemicals could — they are chemically stable, inert, non-toxic, non-flammable, non-corrosive; a powerful solvent; odourless, colourless...."

"They made ideal aerosol propellants, great refrigerants and the most acceptable product for polyurethane and polystyrene foam blowing."

Then came the crunch.

In 1985, it was discovered there was a thinning of the ozone layer high above the Antarctic and chlorine, derived from CFCs, was mostly to blame.

Chlorine reacts with ozone, which is a form of oxygen, to convert it into ordinary oxygen.

The ozone layer then loses its property of filtering ultraviolet light and, apart from creating more skin cancers,

enhances the greenhouse effect.

In 1987 the amount of ozone destroyed was so scary that international politicians signed an agreement in Montreal imposing a series of CFC production cutbacks.

South Africa later added its signature.

Last year, a conference including several prime ministers, met in Helsinki and learnt that ozone was disappearing faster than anticipated. A total ban was called for by 2000.

Robbie Vermont says AECI, which is committed to stop producing CFCs by then, is now in the unique position of advising customers to quit using its product.

"Half the CFCs made in this country were used in aerosol sprays which by the end of this year will have been to-

tally phased out."

That means a 50 percent cut within months of South Africa signing the agreement.

AECI has also been fast in importing Propoklone, a solvent which has less ozone-depleting potential than CFC 113 which is in current use in the computer industry.

"It's an interim step," said Mr Vermont. "Propoklone will be replaced as soon as an ozone friendly product becomes available."

The area of refrigeration is more difficult. Air conditioning in high-rise buildings and deep-level mines is specifically designed to operate on CFC 11 and 12.

"There's no viable 'drop in' replacement at this stage," said Mr Vermont, "and the mines would grind to a halt

without these two CFCs. So would operating theatres and blood banks.

"But there's light at the end of the tunnel. All the major chemical manufacturers are seeking alternatives."

Mr Vermont said AECI has already announced the construction of an R18.7-million factory to manufacture HCFC 22, which can be used for refrigeration and is not restricted by the Montreal Protocol.

It has, he says, significantly less impact on the environment than CFC 11 or 12.

But again this is an interim step.

AECI also hopes to collect CFCs from customers, take it to the Sasolburg plant, and have the impurities such as oil, heavy metal deposits and moisture removed.

JAMES CLARKE

Major legal blunder left marine life unprotected

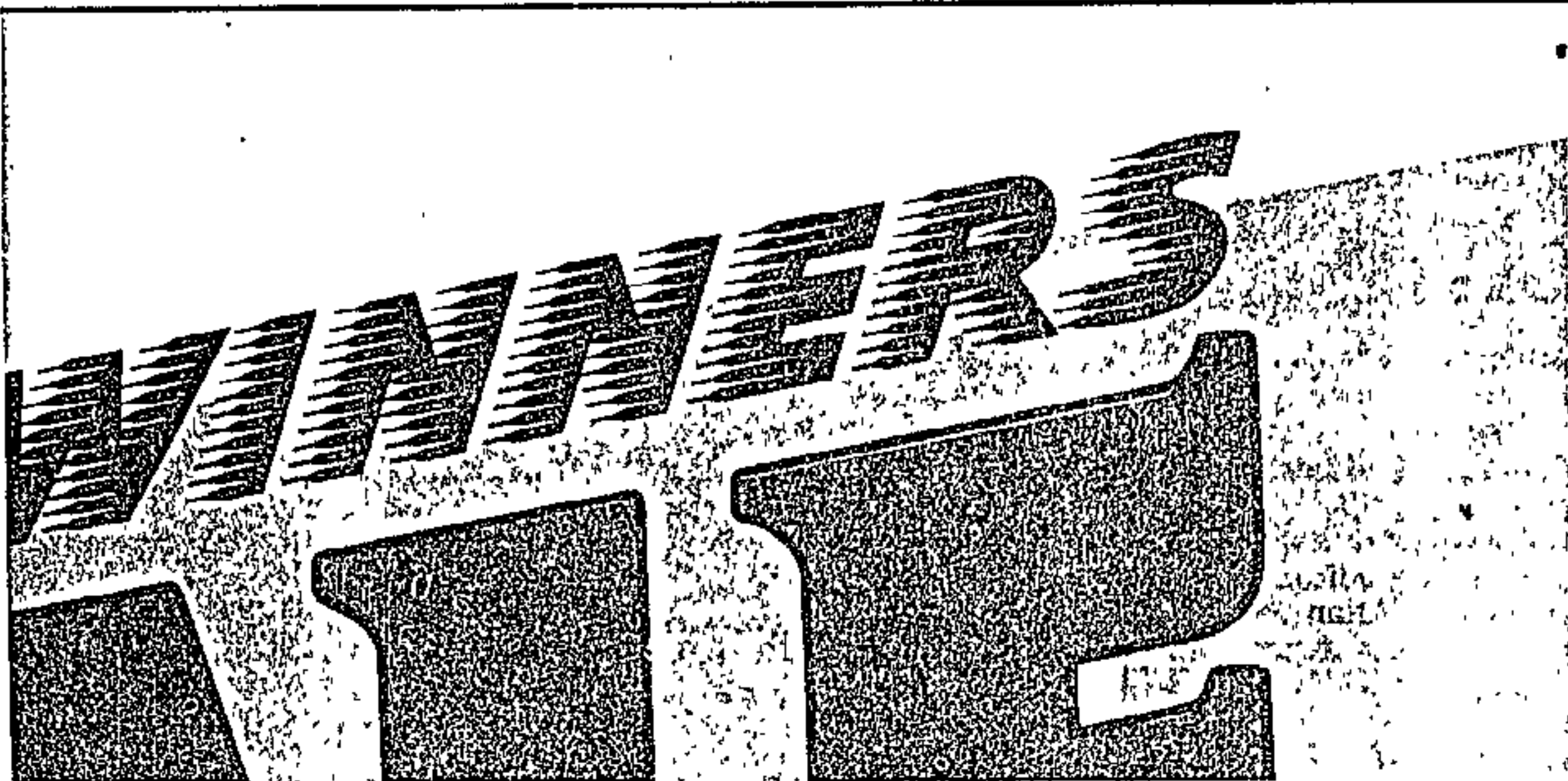
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GOOEY: Animal nurse Priscilla Smith of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (Crow) shows the oil washed from Cape gannets affected by leaking oil from the ore carrier Petingo which ran aground off Zululand.

Street collection

TOMORROW'S street collection is for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, fund-raising number 08 800335 000 9. — Staff Reporter.



By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter.

A MAJOR legal blunder by the Department of Environment Affairs left South Africa's marine resources virtually unprotected for four weeks — and unscrupulous fishermen could have made a vast profit by catching rock lobster, perlemoen and fish species unhindered by inspectors.

The department's error — admitted by a spokesman — was to bring the new Sea Fishery Act into operation without gazetting any of the accompanying regulations.

This Act, which replaces the former Sea Fisheries Act of 1973, was adopted by parliament in 1988 to come into force on a date to be determined by the president. This was done on July 1.

GILL NETS 'LEGAL'

The use of gill nets — supposedly banned — has been effectively legal since the beginning of the month, as has been diving for any number of rock lobster using aqualung, catching of undersized marine species, bait stripping and other normally prohibited acts.

At least one major "offender" escaped when the State declined to prosecute because of the blunder, which has been slated by conservationists.

Marine conservation inspectors have been powerless to act. However, a Government Gazette rectified the situation today.

Mr Jan Glazewski, senior researcher in the Institute of Marine Law at the University of Cape Town, said the department had made a major mistake.

"If they could wait for almost two years (to bring the Act into force), why not wait another three weeks? There's been no law to prosecute anyone in this vacuum," he said.

"DELAY WITH REGULATIONS"

The chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, Mr Vic Kabalin, said in a letter to Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé it was "incomprehensible" why the new Act had not been delayed slightly until the regulations were in place.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said: "There has been a technical-legal delay with the regulations — I admit that. A new Act as well as new regulations had to be in place which, quite frankly, is a major job. It's not a simple matter."

Ironically, the new Act provides for tough penalties for illegal fishing — including the confiscation of boats, a fine of up to R1 million — and a maximum fine of R50 000 for illegally catching perlemoen and rock lobster, as well as a fine of up to three times the commercial value of the catch.

Minister stumped by key questions — action group

W/C ARGUS 28/7/90

BY JOCELYN MAKER
and GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporters

THE Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, was unable to answer key questions put to him by the Seal Action Group (SAG) over the proposed slaughter of 30 500 seals at Kleinsee, the group claims.

Mr Kotzé advised the group in Pretoria yesterday that he saw their meeting with him as only one of a number to gather information.

But an SAG spokesman said they had found this confusing. Information from a number of sources saying that the seal harvest had no scientific or ecological basis had been given to Mr Kotzé's department before they met.

"We feel it was an unsatisfactory and unproductive meeting. The minister was unable to answer questions. He could not answer why the seal harvest concession had been granted," he said.

"Our impression is that despite the temporary suspension, the department is trying to find a justification to continue the seal killings."

Intensified lobbying

"We also found it disturbing that Mr Kotzé was not aware that the conditions of the permit had been contravened last year when almost 4 000 seals were killed merely for their genitals. The carcasses were dumped."

The SAG plans to intensify its lobbying efforts against the proposed harvesting of the seals.

"Until the matter has been resolved, Mr Kotzé and his department must be held responsible."

Meanwhile a source at Port Nolloth has told the Weekend Argus that the seal processing and canning factory, owned by Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsein-I-Hsu, is almost complete.

"There is much activity there and talk in the area is that it will be completed within a month," the source said.

"The harvesting season for adult males seals begins in November and this is where the money is. Once the processing plant is finished there is nothing stopping Mr Kotzé from giving Mr Hsu the go-ahead to kill the seals."

'Turn protein into protein'

New plan for seal factory

He holds the patent for converting the remains of raw fish into a high-quality protein meal for human consumption.

This meal-in-a-pouch, which has been approved by the South African Bureau of Standards and the CSIR, has been recognised in other countries as an answer to feeding starving people.

"We have a product which can play a major role in creating food and money to people who desperately need it. Our outlook is humanitarian in the first instance, but the financial rewards are still substantial."

"If we get the Port Nolloth factory, not only do we save the seals but we will be giving the town a much-needed boost. Employment will be provided and local fishermen can supply us with fish, which will give them an income."

"We will offer to buy the factory from the Taiwanese businessman, Mr Hsien-I-Hsu, or he can become actively involved with it. What we also want is for the government to assist us by

finding a local market for our product.

"There are pensioners in our country who are eating dog food while fishmeal is made in massive volumes for animal consumption. If we are going to make fishmeal to feed animals, why can't we use part of that raw material to feed people."

"Chronic malnutrition is rife in many black areas. In the homelands thousands are going hungry and with our product we will be able to feed them."

Difficulties

Last week a representative from Harvest for Life met Dr Jozua Serfontein, deputy director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs, who pointed out that there were certain difficulties in the proposal.

But he said he believed the project had merit, Mr Jones reported.

"I have also been in contact with the Seal Action Group and proposed this solution on a purely business basis to them. I got a favourable reaction."

"Now all we have to do is wait for Mr Kotzé to grant us an interview," Mr Jones said.

Letter, Page 17.



(56)

Last of wetlands are under threat

Report and pictures: JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

NEW legislation is urgently needed to protect the few remaining wetlands in urban areas.

This is the opinion of lawyers and conservationists who say there is a "major omission" in environmental protection laws.

The issue has been highlighted by objections from Tokai residents to reclamation of a vleei adjoining the Keyzers River where it flows through the privately owned Dreyersdal Farm at Retreat.

The Keyzers River originally flowed through the middle of the vleei, but was canalised many years ago to flow down the southern side.

The owners of the farm — the Louw family — have an agreement with a demolition and transport firm and thousands of tons of builders' rubble and earth have been dumped on part of the vleei in recent years.

Residents of the Hillside housing complex in Vans Road on the opposite bank of the canalised river have expressed concern at the development.

Undertaking

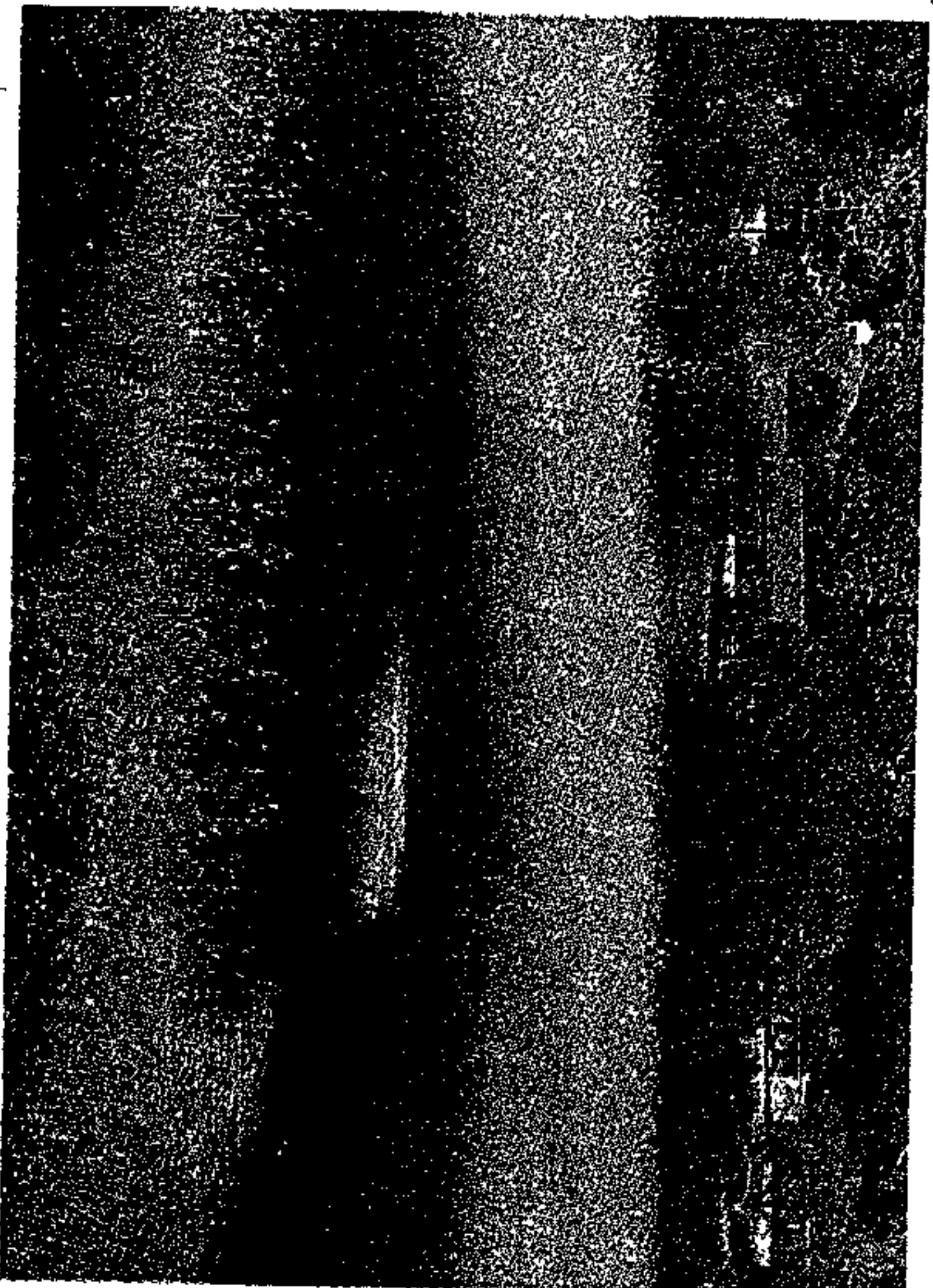
They say they have been given an undertaking that the vleei — zoned public open space, although privately owned — will remain a green belt.

"There also a dust and noise nuisance, but, more important, it's spoiling that bit of wetland," spokesman Mel Brooks says.

"We have spoken to the owners and said we're a bit concerned but their response was that it's private land and the family can do what it likes with it."

Asked to comment, Andrew Louw said there had been discussions with the Cape Town City Council about the area.

Council proposals include a major road link that would cut through the centre of the vleei and join Station Road, Retreat, and Vans Road. Another is to reroute the canal. Most of the land is to be kept as public open space, including wet and dry ponds to cope with peak stormwater. However, no funds are available and no devel-



Wetlands — like these reedbeds at Onrust near Hermanus, above, — perform vital functions such as water purification. Most of the extensive Kullis River wetlands, right, on the Cape Flats have been lost to urbanisation.

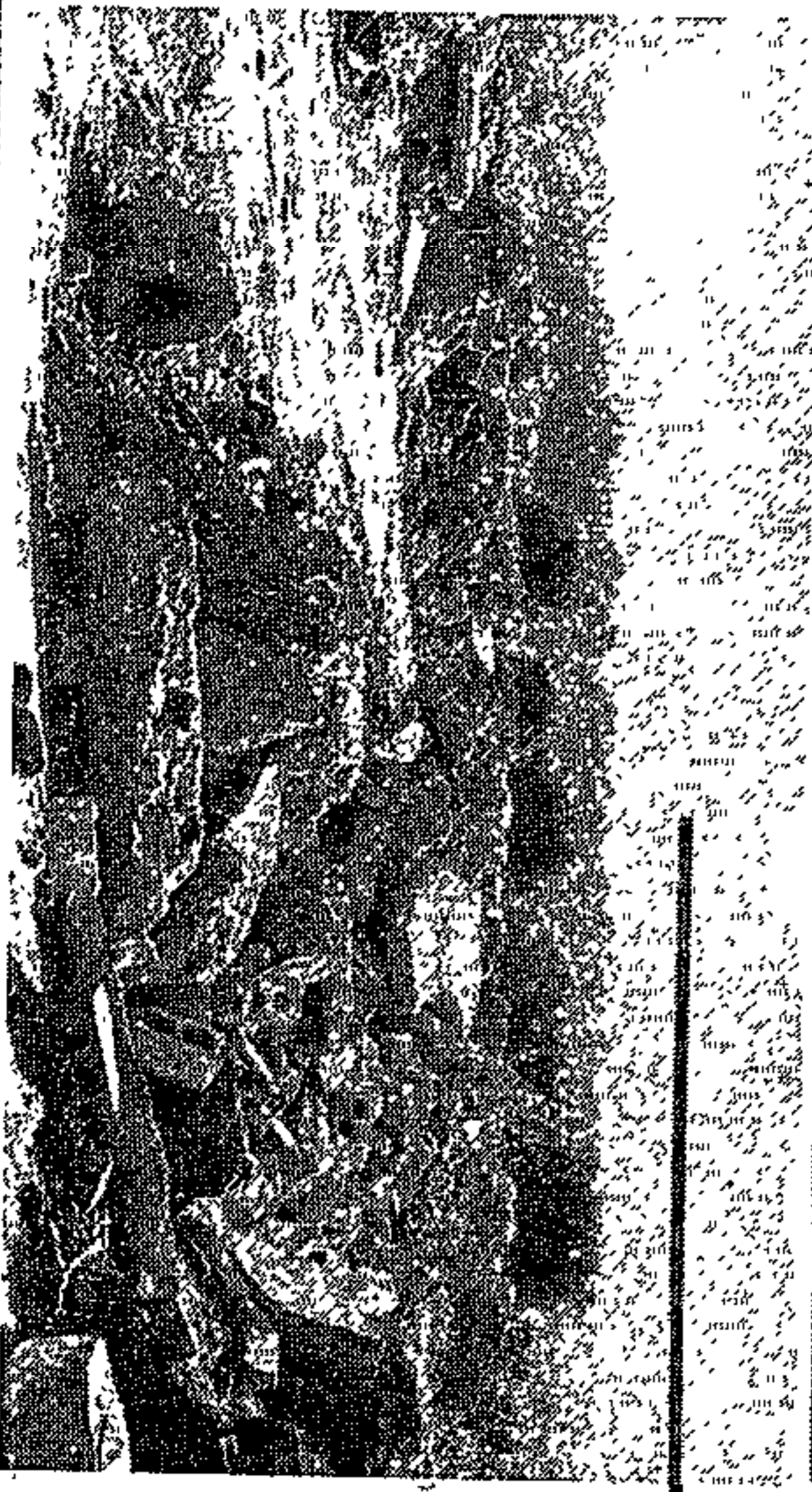
opment is likely in the near future.

Mr Louw said the council had agreed that the family could reclaim the vleei up to a demarcated point on the boundary of the proposed road.

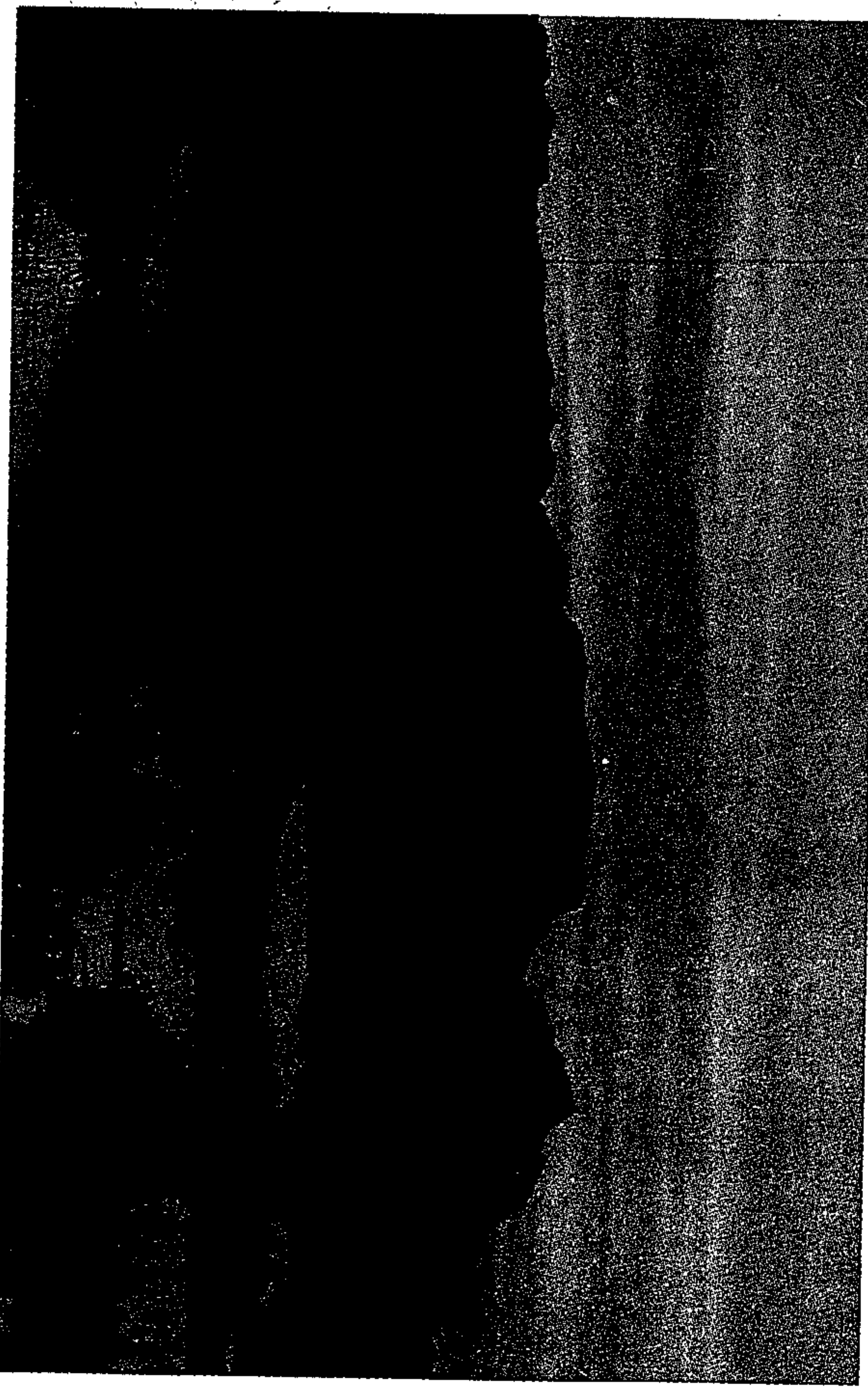
"That's the fact of the matter and it will probably be zoned residential," he said.

"The vleei area is enormous and this is just a tiny piece, only a couple of acres."

Wetlands are among the most threatened of all habitat types, both in South Africa and interna-



Dumping of builders' rubble has destroyed part of the Keyzers River wetlands.



tionally, and only small parts remain untouched. Mr Brooks said consistent representations to government and local authorities had been frustrating and unsuccessful.

"This is a chapter in a sequence of ineptitude you can't believe."

Although the city council is understood to be opposed to filing in the vleei, it is not empowered to act and would become involved only if an application was made for rezoning.

Government sources say the Department of Water Affairs can act only if there is a proven pollution threat.

Jan Glazewski, a senior researcher with the University of Cape Town's law faculty who specialises in environmental legislation, said wetlands were protected by the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act — but it specifically excluded wetlands in urban areas. He doubted whether the Minister of Environ-

ment Affairs could introduce laws to protect urban wetlands under the new Environment Conservation Act.

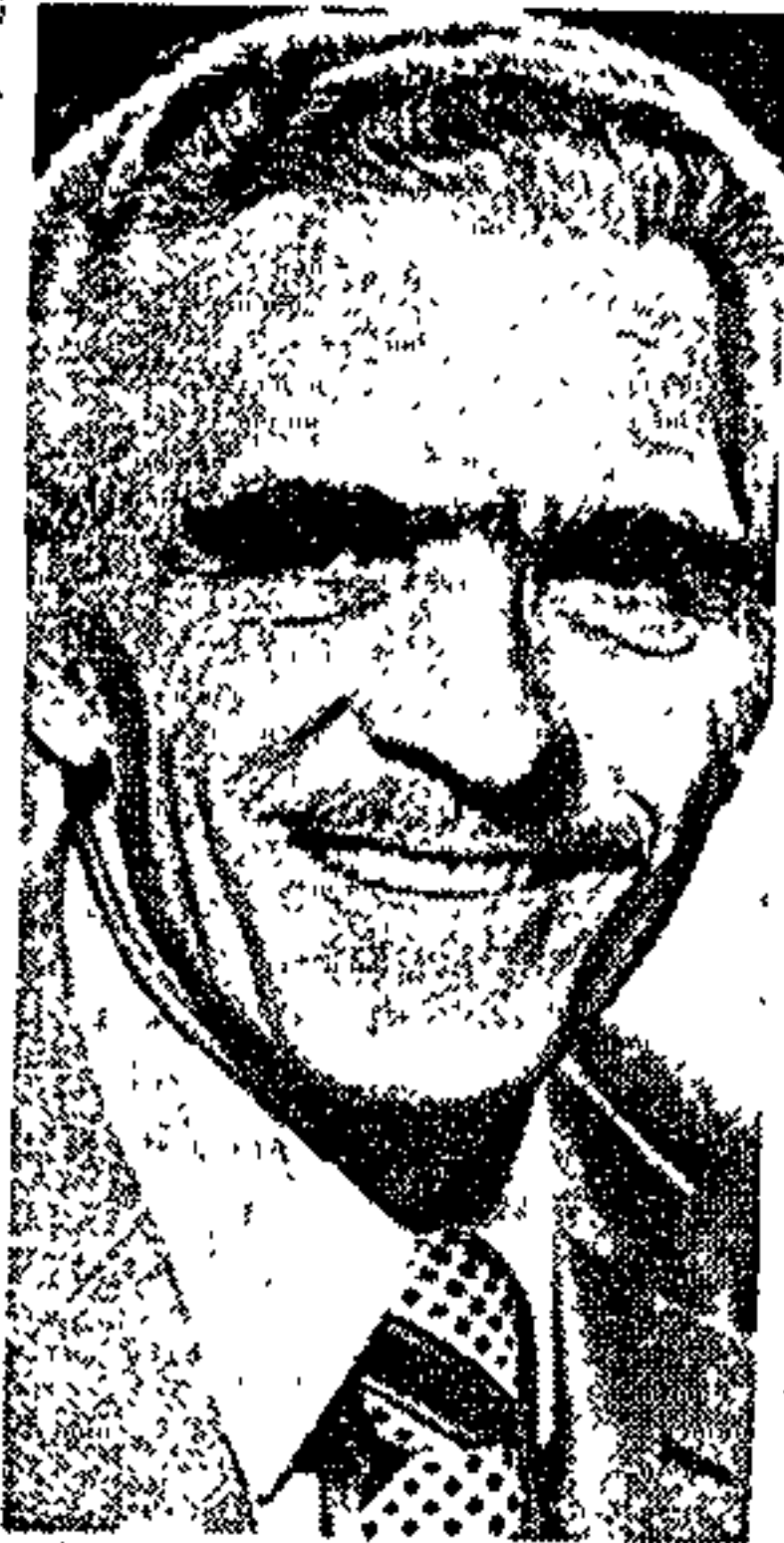
He said there were similar difficulties with efforts to protect the wetlands of the Kullis River system, where seven authorities were involved.

"The protection of wetlands in urban areas seems to be a major omission from the legisla-

Urgent need for new laws to save urban vleis

CNH 7:45 28/7/90 (30) (56)

Seal committee will be formed



Mr Gert Kotze

Staff Reporter

AN independent advisory committee is to be appointed to investigate all aspects of seal life, culling and culling methods on the West Coast, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, announced yesterday.

The announcement came after the minister met various groups, including the Seal Action Group, Earthlife Africa, Save our Seals and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, in Pretoria yesterday.

The 30 500 seals at Kleinsee who are under threat of being slaughtered have been granted a reprieve until at least September 30.

The committee will advise the minister on all aspects regarding the harvesting of seals and will include scientists "acceptable to all the groups", Mr Kotze said in a statement.

He called on "interest groups" to put forward the names of experts who would be considered for the committee.

Meanwhile the Seal Action Group (SAG) vowed yesterday that it would intensify its lobbying actions against the "proposed and unnecessary slaughter of Kleinsee seals".

The SAG said it wanted answers to key questions, such as why the seal harvesting permit was issued initially.

"We feel it was an unsatisfactory and unproductive meeting as the minister was unable to answer our questions, especially why the seal harvesting concession was granted.

"Our impression was that despite the temporary suspension, the Department of Environment is trying to find a justification to continue the seal slaughter."

Call 7473 30/6/90

Longline fishing permits axed

Staff Reporter

56

LONGLINE fishing permits, which enable trawler operators to catch kingklip, hake and tunny, have been withdrawn by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, to protect dwindling resources.

Permit holders were told by letter this week that all long line catches had to cease by July 2 — a week-long deadline on activities.

It is believed that this new measure will affect 13 permit holders, and fifty fisherman and their families.

The longline method uses a kilometre long line with hooks attached at metre intervals. Trawlers can trail as many as three lines.

According to Mr Rudi Laan, deputy director, Sea Fisheries administration, Mr Kotze and the department of Sea Fisheries would try to find ways to help fishermen who earn a living from the longline fishing method.

He said the normal catch of kingklip by deep sea trawlers was about 4 000 tons, but with the longline method it at one stage increased to a record 12 000 tons.

SEAFARMERS World outcry over SA cullings

CHL
TAK'S
30/6/90
56

By ANDRE KOOPMAN
ANGRY animal-lovers worldwide are rallying to block a Taiwanese businessman's scheme to turn 25 000 South African seal pups into dog food, chicken feed and aphrodisiacs.

Several international news agencies and conservation groups telephoned the Cape Times yesterday after it had broken the news this week that the government had licensed a Taiwanese company to club and slaughter more than 30 000 seals at Kleinsee, near Port Nolloth.

Major American television networks CBS and ABC as well as Canadian radio stations contacted the Cape Times, saying there was a swell of anger locally against moves to import tinned sealmeat into the United States. The international environmental group Greenpeace is also gathering and co-ordinating information on the project.

Speaking from Seattle, Washington, in the US, a Greenpeace worker, Ms Denise Joines, said local environmentalist groups were "outraged" about the plans. She would not be drawn on any Greenpeace plans at this stage. Cape environmentalist Mrs Nan Rice said: "There is a massive protest pouring in from all over the country. I haven't seen anything like it

Gill net captain is fined R500

Court Reporter
 THE captain of a Taiwanese fishing vessel charged with carrying an illegal gill net without a permit was yesterday convicted and fined R500.

The net was found on board the vessel in Table Bay on Wednesday without the necessary permit to carry the banned nets.

A special application to have the illegal net — valued at R100 000 — returned after it had been seized by Sea Fisheries officials, was granted. Advocate Mr W King, defending captain Lin Chu Hsiung, made the application on behalf of the fishing company which owns the vessel, Yang Chien.

The maximum fine for being in possession of the net is R1 000 at present.

● Longline fishing permits axed — Page 2

in 20 years of fighting for marine life.

Increased local environmentalists have responded by pooling their resources to form a Seal Action Group.

In the Transvaal a campaign called Save our Seals has also been launched, and Pretoria animal protectionists, Coast, plan a picket protest outside the Depart-

ment of Environment Affairs head office today.

Taiwan embassy economics adviser Mr C H Fang said in a telephone interview that opposition to the killing was "stupid".

Referring to an irate telephone call from a woman who opposed the plan, he said: "I think she is just a stupid woman. I think she is just too fat and she has nothing better to do."

"She should protest against the countries that kill people like Russia and not against countries that kill seals. People should worry about people, not animals," Mr Fang said.

Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze said yesterday that it was policy to use seals as any other living marine source, in accordance with the United Nations' controlled world conservation strategy.

Mr Kotze said that:

● The genitals will be used for medicinal purposes and the skin for handbags, shoes and gloves. The meat and fat will be dried into pellets, mainly for chicken feed.

● The quota to be harvested will be reviewed annually.

● The "harvesting operation" may be conducted only in the presence of a fisheries control officer. Any fisheries control officer can halt the process at any time.

● Any official from the Department of Sea Fisheries and representatives of the SPCA can also inspect the harvesting at all times.



UNDER SIEGE ... Students give a power salute after posting the slogans on the campus fence denouncing President Kenneth Kaunda.

Zambian student shot dead

LUSAKA — Zambian troops stormed Lusaka's university campus early yesterday, shooting one student dead and wounding many others.

Troops and para-military stormed the campus about 3am, breaking down doors when students tried to barricade themselves in, beating and dragging anyone who refused to get out. Eyewitness reports said troops opened fire, and many students fell, bleeding heavily.

At least 27 students, accused of inciting this week's unrest against the government's doubling of the price of maize meal, were arrested. Others were taken at gunpoint to bus stops and told to go home.

President Kenneth Kaunda's first public utterances after three days of unrest were hardline, but he did announce that a promised referendum on whether Zambia should return to a multi-party system would be held on October 17.

But the fact that middle-class Zambians sympathised with the rioters calling for Dr Kaunda to go, shows that opposition to the president crosses the boundaries of money and class. Last February, Zambian students openly booed when the deputy president of the ANC, Mr Nelson Mandela, referred to Dr Kaunda as "a great son of Africa". — Daily Telegraph

'Secret deal' claim over land sparks fresh rumpus

News 30/7/20

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE row over the controversial "sale" of 400 hectares of land near Rooi Els to Somchem has flared again after accusations that the Armscor subsidiary has struck a secret deal with Betty's Bay municipality, one of the parties involved in the dispute.

The municipality and Somchem failed to attend a scheduled meeting on Friday.

Five of the parties embroiled in the issue — Somchem, the Overberg Regional Services Council, the Rooi Els Local Council, the Pringle Bay Ratepayers' Association and the Kogelberg Landowners' Association — have been engaged in tough negotiations.

These followed an outcry after plans for the sale of the land to Somchem for R500 were disclosed in January.

The land includes the Buffels River dam, the only source of drinking water to Rooi Els and Pringle Bay and also one of Betty's Bay's sources.

The issue was temporarily defused when the RSC decided at a meeting in February to call for round-table discussions.

A meeting on May 2 between all the parties except Betty's Bay municipality reported "substantial progress".

They were scheduled to meet again on Friday, but Somchem, Betty's Bay municipality and the RSC declined to attend.

Earlier, the municipality had apparently tried, unsuccessfully, to push through the sale of the land to Somchem at a RSC meeting in June.

A newsletter sent to Betty's Bay ratepayers last month, signed by mayor Mr Gerrit Fourie and town clerk Mr K Jonkheld, said the municipality had reached an agreement with Somchem.

"To achieve this it was essential for Betty's Bay to maintain its freedom of negotiation. In this we were undermined by the unbelievable behaviour of the Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Association," they said.

But the association hit back last week, saying it was "appalled" at the apparent agreement while other interested parties were still trying to negotiate a settlement.

A war of words has also erupted between Somchem and the Rooi Els local council.

Somchem said in a letter to the council last week it was "perturbed" by the council's attitude and accused it of relying on hearsay.

But Rooi Els local council chairman Mr Charl du Plessis said after Friday's meeting the council rejected the insinuation of sinister intentions.

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Parks Board chief sparks conservation row

Staff Reporter

A STORM is brewing over the recent call by National Parks Board director Dr Tol Pienaar for centralisation of the provincial departments of conservation.

Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Cape Department of Nature Conservation, opposes this proposal because he feels provincial departments are more in touch with local ecological needs.

"For example, the depth of public resentment to the seal culling, particularly in the Cape, could possibly have been foreseen by a Cape-based con-

servation agency because they're in daily contact with the people and ecology here," Dr Neethling said.

Instead, the policy decision was taken by the Department of Environment Affairs, and the proposed centralised department of conservation in Pretoria ran the risk of being even more detached from local sentiment, he said.

In his July 18 speech at a Pretoria symposium, Dr Pienaar said he considered it in the interests of conservation to bring about some degree of centralisation in determining policy. He envisaged a single department dealing with national

parks and another department or statutory body for all other conservation matters.

Dr Pienaar says centralisation would encourage uniform fines and provide a large pool of conservation expertise, better distribution of funds and wage uniformity for employees.

"Our system in the national parks board works well," he said. "But I'm not trying to impose our system on the sister organisation (department of conservation), I'm merely stating my personal view."

Dr Neethling said the country already had a centralised department of environmental affairs

that co-ordinated policy and he failed to see what the elimination of provincial departments of conservation would achieve. The move would be "retrogressive". Each province was so varied ecologically.

"It makes far more sense to keep provincial departments because each province has a better feel for their own environmental problems.

"A decision made in Pretoria will not necessarily be in the interests of a farmer in the Plateland of the Cape. We have closer contact, we understand our province's ecological concerns."

RSC chief concedes alternatives are costly

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Municipal Reporter 56

OVERBERG Regional Services Council chief executive officer Mr Sas Maree said yesterday that he did not see how the Buffels River dam could be enlarged.

He had been asked to comment on a statement by Mr Charl du Plessis, chairman of the Rooi Els Local Council, that certain disputed land in the Buffels River catchment area was needed for eventual expansion of the dam.

Armscor subsidiary Somchem has leased the disputed 400ha of land around the dam for ten years, and hopes to buy it.

Mr Maree said he had not seen the Rooi Els statement but conceded that the alternative future water source for towns in the area was the Palmiet River which was so far away that it would make water very expensive.

A Somchem spokesman said his company was busy formulating a response to Mr Du Plessis's statement.

'Mr Clean' has dilemma in Soweto

JAPHTA "Mr Clean" Lekgetho, president and founder of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign, is an environmentalist in a difficult position.

He is torn between his calling to save the environment of his people and the need to cater for their political needs, which sometimes conflicts with environmental conservation.

As a newly appointed ANC spokesman on environment, Lekgetho has endorsed the ANC-UDF alliance campaign that the homeless must occupy "every centimetre" of empty land, an exercise that "will not benefit the environment because of the lack of services".

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

"My first duty is to preserve humanity," the former schoolteacher said.

"We cannot worry about saving rhinos and seals when we can hardly provide for our own. To me, environment must be saved to serve human beings. The homeless people must provide for themselves although this may be detrimental to the environment."

The cheerful man with a ready smile insists that his new political position does not compromise what Neac was established to do 13 years ago.

"We serve people of all political affiliations. Neac is a civic organisa-

tion and it will remain that," he said.

South Africa's environment is deteriorating and will continue in that direction as long as racist laws are maintained, said Lekgetho, who earned the title "Mr Clean" when he launched Neac.

"Black townships are uninhabitable. They are a health hazard," he said.

"In Soweto there are more rodents than people - thanks to inefficient local authorities who have turned our townships into garbage dumps.

"The stench is unbearable. Flies, mosquitoes and rodents are breeding in every corner of every township. Sewerage pipes burst every day. We have poor street cleaning."

Families

"Garbage is collected once or twice a week and in some yards we have more than five families using one bin.

"For blacks, environmental conservation means getting these things right."

"In this country environment is politics," he said.

Neac has recently launched several campaigns to better the environment in the townships.

A "Green Revolution" a campaign to plant trees, is planned for August.

Neac will also intensify its anti-asbestos campaign and call for strict laws prohibiting industrial air pollution.



MR JAPHTA LEKGETHO

MORE than 10 years ago, scientists became aware that chlorine from CFCs could lead to a thinning of the stratospheric ozone layer. Five years ago, a "hole" was observed at certain times of the year in the layer over Antarctica. And in 1987, it was discovered that the thickness of the ozone layer over the southern pole area if it was brought to sea level was about 1,3mm, as opposed to around 3mm over the rest of the world.

The ozone layer normally absorbs all dangerous ultraviolet-C (UV-C) from the sunlight and a significant proportion of ultraviolet-B (UV-B).

How these 'greenhouse gases' work ...

As the ozone layer depletes, more UV rays reach the earth's surface and this greater exposure to ultraviolet radiation can damage the health of humans, animals and plants. In particular, increased exposure to UV-B is likely to increase the risk of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, and as the ozone protection layer is depleted, a higher dose of UV-B radiation is received for the same number of hours in the sunlight.

Already figures for increased cases

of skin cancer are spreading alarm. While scientists and dermatologists apportion some of the blame for this to the thinning ozone layer, it is also partly a result of changed sunbathing habits and attitudes towards tanning. According to an article in the British Medical Journal, "a one percent reduction in the ozone shield has been calculated to increase by two percent the amount of UV-B in the 290-300nm part of the spectrum reaching the earth's surface. Thus a 10 percent

reduction in ozone over a decade could result in a 20 percent increase in UV-B reaching the surface of Antarctica". While this is not so important for Antarctica, as it is virtually uninhabited, the effect in populated countries would be disastrous.

CFCs are also particularly effective "greenhouse gases", as they absorb infra-red radiation emitted by the earth's surface, trapping heat energy within the atmosphere and leading to higher temperatures and climatic

changes. This is the phenomenon known as "global warming". By depleting the ozone layer, they also allow more ultraviolet radiation to penetrate the atmosphere, thereby increasing the warming effect. Other greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂). It is estimated that the current global temperature will increase by about three degrees centigrade, the sea level will rise by 1,5mm and there will be shift in climatic zones on earth, if present greenhouse gas abundance in the atmosphere doubles. This is expected in less than 100 years' time.

Ozone race: Can SA cool down on CFCs in time?

Within the next few days, South Africa is expected to sign an amendment to the Montreal Protocol, agreeing to phase out CFCs by the year 2000. Most affected will be the mines. Can they make the deadline?

By SAMANTHA WEINBERG

SOUTH AFRICA'S mining industry will have to make major adjustments to its refrigeration equipment to meet the stipulations of the amended Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

At the moment about 85 percent of the refrigeration equipment used in the mining industry is reliant on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

CFCs are also widely used as propellants in aerosols, in foam blowing and as coolants in domestic and industrial refrigeration.

At a recent meeting of parties to the Montreal Protocol in London, attended by delegates from 97 countries, including South Africa's health minister, Rina Venter, it was decided to reduce CFC production and usage by 20 percent by 1993, 50 percent by 1995, and phasing it out completely by the year 2000.

In terms of the protocol, all aerosols, refrigerators and other equipment relying on CFCs would have to be changed or converted.

The cost to South Africa's mines of using a different cooling agent are estimated to run into millions of rand as in many cases the refrigeration equipment would have to be changed completely to make it compatible with a new system of cooling.

The chief engineer of the Environmental Engineering Division of the Chamber of Mines Research Organisation (Comro), Michael Bailey-McEwan, this week confirmed that the cost of the Montreal Protocol to mining companies would be "very, very substantial". He estimated that capital investment in large-scale refrigeration in the mines was upwards of R600-million.

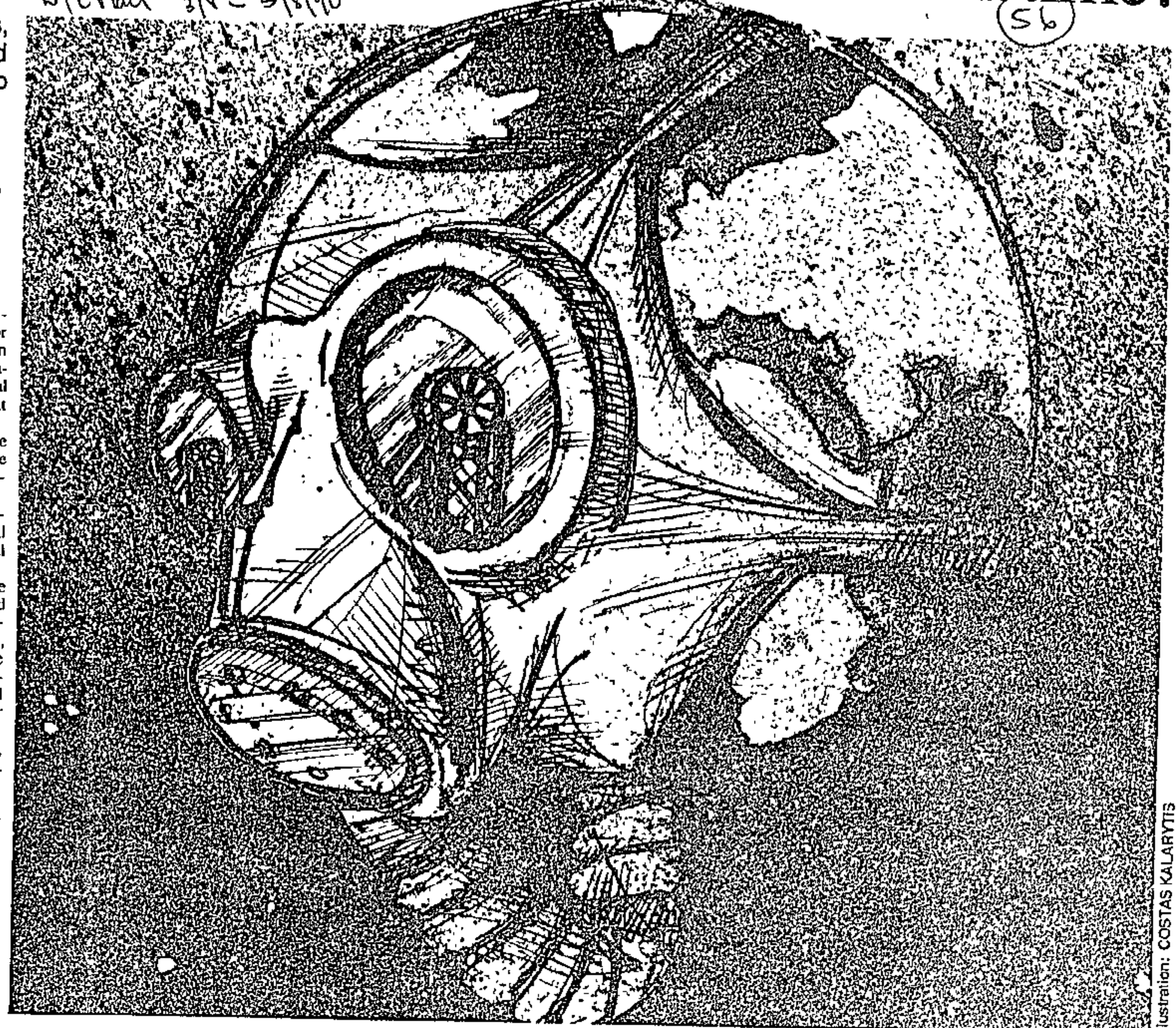
While there are, at the moment, several workable alternatives such as ammonia, HCFCs, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water, none is directly compatible with existing equipment and none seems to be perfect.

Bailey-McEwan said that until a suitable substitute is found, the mines would have to take short term steps to try and phase out their use of CFCs.

Most existing equipment would be "converted", making it compatible with HFCs or HCFCs, and new equipment, wherever possible, would be built to run on ammonia or a water vapour cooling technique.

Ammonia, however, cannot be used in any of the mines' underground refrigerators as it is extremely toxic and the mines' main priority is the health and safety of their miners, said Bailey-McEwan.

The other chlorine compounds — HFCs and HCFCs — are not long-term prospects either. Graham Pridgeon, from African Explosives and Chemical Industries (AECI), which manufactured all South Africa's CFCs, described the compounds as "ozone



friendlier" However, they still damage the ozone layer and it is thought the Montreal Protocol will call for their phasing out from 1994/5.

As they are not viable long-term prospects, it is unlikely that manufacturers

difficulties in converting other products which use CFCs. AECI hopes to stop using CFCs in industrial aerosols by the end of the year and convert aerosols for "personal care", such as deodorants and hairsprays, by 1994.

a R12,5-million prozone plant — the first in Africa and the third in the world. According to GC Smith's marketing officer, Geoff Hoppe, the plant produces dimethyl ether, an "ozone-friendly" alternative to CFCs in aero-

confident that a suitable replacement refrigerant would be found in time to meet the phasing out deadline, decided on at the meeting in London. However, he said initial work carried out by AECI's sister company, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), indicated that alternatives would be five to seven times more expensive than CFCs.

Stroh said Anglo had decided to change to HCFCs two years ago and that no machines using CFCs had been bought since.

"It's a very important issue. It's larger than Anglo American, in fact," Stroh said.

"We are committed to observing the spirit of the protocol. We will work to find alternatives as long as they satisfy the criteria for the protection of the ozone layer and don't expose us to unnecessary cost."

Bailey-McEwan agreed that mining companies would not find the adjustment easy. "The mining industry will be among the industries which are going to find it hardest to change," he said. "But that doesn't mean it isn't going to change."

Last December, a working group including representatives from across the industry was formed to help the mining industry comply with the Montreal Protocol. The group is liaising with manufacturers to monitor the development of new chemicals and equipment.

Breaking through the south's thin 'skin'

SOUTH AFRICA is the largest user of CFCs in sub-Saharan Africa, accounting for 12 tons or about one percent of the world total.

While South Africa uses far less than countries like the United States (which it is estimated uses nearly 30 percent of the world total), by virtue of its position in the southern hemisphere, it suffers more from the negative effects of the CFCs.

The magnitude of the effect on a particular country is unrelated to the amount of CFCs it produces and uses, so the world shares a collective responsibility to control its own

emissions. According to initial results from a research project undertaken by the nuclear physics department at the University of Natal in Durban, the ozone layer covering South Africa may be directly affected by the formation and breakdown of the polar vortex surrounding the ozone layer above Antarctica.

The polar vortex is a system of strong west and east winds that encircle the polar cap. They prevent ozone-rich air from lower latitudes gaining access to the cap and as a result, there is an ozone build-up outside the vortex, including over South

Africa, from May to October.

According to the research team's report, "within the polar vortex the chemical and physical conditions are such that, when the area is again illuminated by sunlight in October, there is strong circumstantial evidence that ozone reacts with ... CFCs. This produces the ozone hole."

However, after October, the vortex breaks down and the ozone-rich air that has built up over the lower latitudes mixes with the ozone-poor air within the hole. The ozone covering over South Africa and Australia is therefore thinner.

will invest too much capital in plants producing them. However, AECI was investing R18,7-million in an interim plant manufacturing HCFCs, Pridgeon said.

He said his company is not having

AECI has also announced a R200 000-programme to recover CFCs from large refrigeration plants, and rework the product for further use at its Sasolburg plant.

GC Smith Chemicals has also opened

sols. He said the plant will have filled the equivalent of 28 million ozone-friendly deodorant cans by the end of 1991.

Anglo American environmental engineer Dick Stroh said the company was

Stalemate on forest squatters

Star 4/8/90

SUE OLSWANG

56

A GROUP of about 2 000 squatters were given until Monday to leave the environmentally fragile Dukuduku Forest in Zululand, but they are not yet complying and it appears as though they will be there for some time.

The Natal Provincial Administration (NPA), who have undertaken future responsibility for the forest, said in a media statement it hopes to resolve the issue "as soon as possible".

The statement added that the Minister of Environment Affairs has decided the future responsibility for the administration of the forest will be undertaken by the NPA, and departmental steps were presently being taken to transfer the land to the Province.

Experts to monitor Arsmcor testing range

By PETER DENNEHY

ARMSCOR subsidiary Somchem yesterday offered to allow independent experts — with security clearance — to monitor water quality at its weapons-testing range at Hangklip, near Pringle Bay.

This was one of several compromises outlined at a press conference in Somerset West by Somchem managing director Mr Jacob van Wyk, during an ongoing land dispute with groups of local residents in the Hangklip vicinity.

Somchem is hoping to buy a 395-ha parcel of land within 4km of Pringle Bay and Rooi Els for the nominal sum of R500 "as a state to state transaction", but residents' organisations in the area are resisting the sale.

Somchem, the main contractor in the Arsmcor group for the supply of missile propellants, has leased the land for R25 a year since 1979.

Mr Van Wyk denied yesterday that the weapons tests constituted any threat to water supplies in the

area. In-house monitoring had been taking place for years, he said.

Mr Van Wyk also offered to exclude a 158-ha area, including the dam, from the 395-ha stretch of land which Somchem hopes to buy, as well as to move a section of road which might be flooded if the height of the dam wall was increased in future.

However, these suggested compromises were not enough to meet the demands of Rooi Els Local Council, the Kogelberg Land Owners' Association and the Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay Ratepayers' Associations.

At their own press conference, representatives of these groups said they were prepared to negotiate "the terms of a new lease to enable them (Somchem) to continue their work on the site for a specified maximum period on fair and reasonable terms".

Ideally, they said, they wanted Somchem out, but Dr Dennis Cowen, of Rooi Els, said safeguards against chemical pollution of the dam or catchment area, and against noise nuisances, could be made conditions of a lease.

SB (2) (3) (4) Cape Times 4/8/80

SPCA poised for seal war

BY JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE SPCA will call in the "heavy artillery" if the government decides to go ahead with the Kleinsee seal harvesting.

Legal action is one of the options and they are prepared to face a head-on battle with Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of the Department of Environment Affairs.

The day the temporary suspension on the clubbing project is lifted and permit-holder Mr Hsein-I-Hsu can begin his grisly operation, the Cape Town SPCA will use every means at its disposal to save the seals.

This dramatic move, supported by the SPCA's national body, could place Mr Kotzé in a difficult position.

About-face

Under the Animal Protection Act the operation would result in unnecessary suffering to the seals and, according to the SPCA, on this alone the harvesting is illegal.

Animal Rights activists and environmentalists have welcomed the SPCA's stand but have criticised the organisation for its sudden about-face.

Last year Mr Hsu butchered more than 4 000 seals at Kleinsee for their testicles.

In a Weekend Argus investigation it was found that he was allowed to contravene his permit after the Department of Environment Affairs acted "leniently".

The permit stated that Mr Hsu had to use whole seal carcasses but in the presence of two Sea Fisheries law-enforcement officers and the SPCA's regional chief executive, Mr Keith Goudie, the seals were clubbed and dumped after their genitals were removed.

"Mistake"

Mr Goudie's presence at the harvest caused much anger but he has come out in defence of the SPCA.

"We were not happy with the situation, and are not just a dog-and-cat society. We have studied the seal issue fully. At last year's harvesting with Mr Hsu we were given the assurance that he was working towards utilising the whole carcass. Unfortunately I made a mistake.

"We monitored the killing to ensure that the least inhumane method was used in terms of the Sea Bird and Seal Protection Act. I was also under impression that this Act overshadowed the Animal Protection Act. Now we have established that this is not so."

Mr Goudie said that in a letter to Mr Kotzé in May 1987 he warned that the harvesting or culling of the seals would result in public reaction and that the society was against the operation.

"There are many reasons why the harvesting should not be allowed to continue and we have made the minister aware of these as well."

There is no scientific evidence to support the view that the killing of 30 500 seals would restore any form of ecological balance.

The view that seals competed with the fishing industry for fish and similar resources was no

Move could put Minister 'in difficulty'

justification for the harvesting.

"This opinion was propounded by the Diemont Commission where many of the views appear to be based on little more than fishermen's lore — which have been discredited in scientific circles and in recent Press statements by the Department of Environment Affairs."

As recently as 1983 the Alant Commission expressly warned: "Seals, sea-birds and other predators on commercially important pelagic shoal-fish should not be culled if the principal objective for doing so is to attempt to make more fish available to the industry."

"Untenable"

"In any event, no culling of any kind should be allowed before adequate scientific studies had been completed."

Yet over the past few years the Port Nolloth Municipality, a Cape Town businessman and Mr Hsu have harvested seals at Kleinsee mainly for their genitals.

"We have made the strongest objections possible to the supposed economic benefit derived from the seal-killing. The department used the misleading euphemism that part of the seals would be used for "medicinal purposes", Mr Goudie said.

"This is untenable. The commercial exploitation of the genitalia for sexual stimulation — physiologically, by irritating the urinary tract — is unacceptable.

"It is also to be asked how consistent South Africa's stance is in this regard given its official opposition to the use of rhino horn for the same repugnant purpose in the aphrodisiac market."

'Focus now on living standards'

CAPE TOWN — The business community, which had contributed huge sums of money towards the conservation of endangered species, was now starting to look at contributions towards improved living standards, Daniel Malan, said yesterday.

Mr Malan, a chemist and Group Consultant for Health, Safety and Environmental Affairs for Sentra-chem, was presenting evidence to the President's Council in its investigation into a policy for a national environmental management system.

He said that it was essential population growth be kept under control. — Sapa. (56) (20) Star 8/8/90

Try ombudsman, advises Sacob

Star 8/8/90 (56)

CAPE TOWN — The South African Chamber of Business (Sacob) has recommended that an ombudsman be appointed to resolve conflicts arising between developers and environmentalists.

"No appeal after the decision of such an ombudsman, other than to the legal system, should be allowed. This should effectively remove any conflict from the state administrative area," said Mr Daniel Malan, group consultant for health, safety and environmental affairs for Sentrachem.

Addressing the President's Council in its investigation into a national environmental management policy on behalf of Sacob, Mr Malan said environmental concerns had become a major issue on the agenda of commerce and industry.

"The utilisation of natural resources in a responsible way is of prime importance to support continued growth, job creation and the upliftment of everybody's standard of living," he said.

One of the shortcomings of the existing management system was the large number of official bodies involved in the management of environmental affairs and the large number of Acts, regulations and ordinances controlling these matters.

One dept for 'soil and water'

CAPE TOWN — Soil and water conservation should be handled under a single government department, and integrated catchment research programmes should be encouraged, Professor Mike Bruton of Rhodes University told the President's Council's investigation into an environmental management system yesterday.

Other points he made were that:

- The 1989 White Paper on Environmental Education should be implemented as soon and as vigorously as possible.

- A national fauna inventory, similar to the national flora inventory already in existence, should be drawn up.

- Provincial ordinances dealing with the environment needed to be more uniform.

- Consideration should be given to natural rather than political boundaries in determining administrative areas such as those of the Regional Services Councils. — Sapa.

St- 8/8/90 (56)

Burning colliery now a disaster area - council

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

The Government has acted quickly following the Witbank Town Council's request to have the burning underground Outspan Colliery declared a disaster area.

Deputy Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Andre Fourie yesterday announced a task group of mining, fire brigade and legal experts from both the private and public sector to advise on the extent of the problem and how it can be handled. He has given the task group until Friday to make a report.

Independent mining experts told The Star they believed it would cost about R15 million to extinguish the long-burning mine fire by digging a huge trench along its 1 km-wide front.

During the past three weeks, the blaze has caused concern in mining, civic and environmental circles after breaking out in new areas.

The rail link to Maputo is being threatened as the encroaching fire is now less than 30 m away from the railway line.

The fire, and attempts to flood it over the years, have created serious water and air pollution problems in the area.

Environmentalists say the acidic water pouring out of the burning mine finds its way into Loskop Dam and the entire Olifants River system.

A Department of Planning and Provincial Affairs spokesman said the Witbank council had asked for a "state of disaster" in terms of the Civil Protection Act.



City smog levels exceed safety margin

ARGUS
9/8/90

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By DON HOLLIDAY
Municipal Reporter

AIR pollution levels in Cape Town have again exceeded State safety margin guidelines.

Cape Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, said the total level of oxides of nitrogen in the air on Tuesday reached 1 850 micrograms a cubic centimetre between 9am and 10am, compared with the guideline limit of 1 504 micrograms a cubic centimetre.

Climatic conditions and motor vehicle effluents were mainly to blame, he said.

Heavy morning traffic

Dr Popkiss said recorded levels usually exceeded the limit about six times a year but this year the limit had already been exceeded on "about 12" occasions.

No complaints were received from the public. The levels of pollutants dropped swiftly in the few hours after 10am and when the cold windy conditions swept in on Tuesday night air pollution was down to insignificant levels.

The cold overnight air and still, windless conditions had caused a temperature inversion which trapped the pollutants in the lower layers of the atmosphere.

Motor vehicle exhaust fumes from

heavy morning traffic had contributed greatly to the pollution, Dr Popkiss said.

"This was not the highest air pollution level recorded but it was a day we would definitely rather have done without.

"It is unlikely health problems would have developed as those require prolonged exposure to the pollutants.

Changed weather patterns

"But it is important to note the worldwide change in weather patterns. It appears Cape Town is getting more and more windless days which help create situations like that which we had on Tuesday.

"My department views this phenomenon in a serious light and it is being investigated through research.

"We are preparing a report for the city council on the whole issue of photo-chemical smog and will be making recommendations on how to cope with the situation," said Dr Popkiss.

CAPT T. G. S. 9/8/90

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SA running out of water

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA'S water is running out, Dr Alex Weaver of Rhodes University told the President's Council yesterday. There is not enough naturally available where and when it is needed, he said.

"The most disturbing aspect of the long-term trend is that the demand for water will outstrip the supply by the year 2020," he said.

Dr Weaver, senior lecturer in geography at Rhodes, said South Africa was a dry country, with rainfall below the world average.

Although irrigated farmland occupied only 0,7% of the country's land area, irrigation took about 75% of the total water demand.

He said that with increases in

the urban and industrial needs, water demand would become even more localised in four regions — the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging, Cape Town, Durban-Pinetown and Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage areas.

"The expected increase in living standards of a large part of the South African population will place further demands on our water resources.

"For example, it has been estimated that the average consumption of water by blacks in the Eastern Cape is in the region of 20 litres per day whereas that of white communities is closer to 300 litres per day.

"It has also been shown that water consumption among black consumers has more than doubled over the past 20 years, while white per capita consumption has remained fairly constant.

"It seems likely that the envisaged easing of the various political, legal, structural and institutional restraints and controls will result in increased water demands," Dr Weaver said.

He believed soil and water conservation should both gain a high priority in environmental conservation.

In another submission, the South African Chamber of Business (Sacob) proposed that a single body be established to manage environmental matters, either by the creation of a new department or the strengthening of the existing department by the transfer of directorates to it.

Sacob also said an independent authority, such as an ombudsman, should be appointed to resolve the inevitable conflict that could arise between developers and environmentalists.

Merger of environment bodies urged

By Sylvia Du Plessis

THE SA Chamber of Business (Sacob) has called on government for the merger "under one umbrella" of directorates directly responsible for environmental management and control.

It has also suggested the consolidation of existing environmentally related Acts into three or four Acts to be administered by the new structure, Sacob environment affairs committee vice-chairman Hennie Viljoen said at a media conference yesterday. (56)

He was commenting on the chamber's oral submission this week to the President's Council (PC), which is currently investigating a national environmental management system for SA.

Viljoen said a "holistic approach" could be achieved by the formation of a new state department responsible for all environmental matters, or the strengthening of one department by the transfer of relevant directorates to it.

"We made it clear we felt a specific state department could be given the umbrella responsibility to co-ordinate activities and rationalise the 86 pieces of legislation concerning the environment," he said.

Sacob told the PC that fragmentation under the current structure led to uncoordinated action by the departments, duplication of efforts, inconsistencies in norms and standards "and, from the developer's point of view, confusion and sometimes unnecessary delays in project development".

A holiday to 'look to the future – not the past'

Sta 10/18/90

56

Arbor Day was instituted as proof of South Africans' faith in the future of the country.

Few acts of man are so directed at the future and reflect his faith so strikingly as the planting of a tree, according to the Minister of Environment

Affairs, Gert Kotze. It is his department that administers the observing of this day.

Today marks the eighth year that South Africans will be observing National Arbor Day.

Arbor Day falls on the second Friday in August. The reason for this is that for many years the people of Natal planted trees on that day. The rest of South Africa took over the practice.

The thought of earmarking a special day for tree planting originated more than 100 years ago. It was the brainchild of J Stirling Morton, a journalist in Nebraska, United States, in 1872.

Within two decades, the day was being observed in virtually all states of the USA, and gradually it spread to other parts of the world.

The name "Arbor Day" is based on the name of Morton's home, "Arbor Lodge".

Morton said of the day: "Other holidays rest on the past, Arbor Day looks at the future."

In South Africa, the idea originated in 1981 and it was first held in 1983 after Cabinet approval.

The objective of such a day was to promote a love and knowledge of indigenous trees — chiefly among children.

Today, the observing of Arbor Day is not restricted to children. Everyone, from cabinet Ministers to mayors, entire towns and the Defence Force, take part.

Last year, between 80 000 and 100 000 trees were planted on National Arbor Day.

Since 1984, cities have competed for the annual Arbor City award, which is granted to the city or town which has achieved the most in the preservation, addition and care of its plant growth — thereby making the environment more pleasant.

A Tree of the Year has been designated since 1975. This year's Tree of the Year, the oak tree, is not indigenous but the idea of Arbor Day is not necessarily to plant the indicated Tree of the Year or even indigenous trees. Any useful tree can be planted.

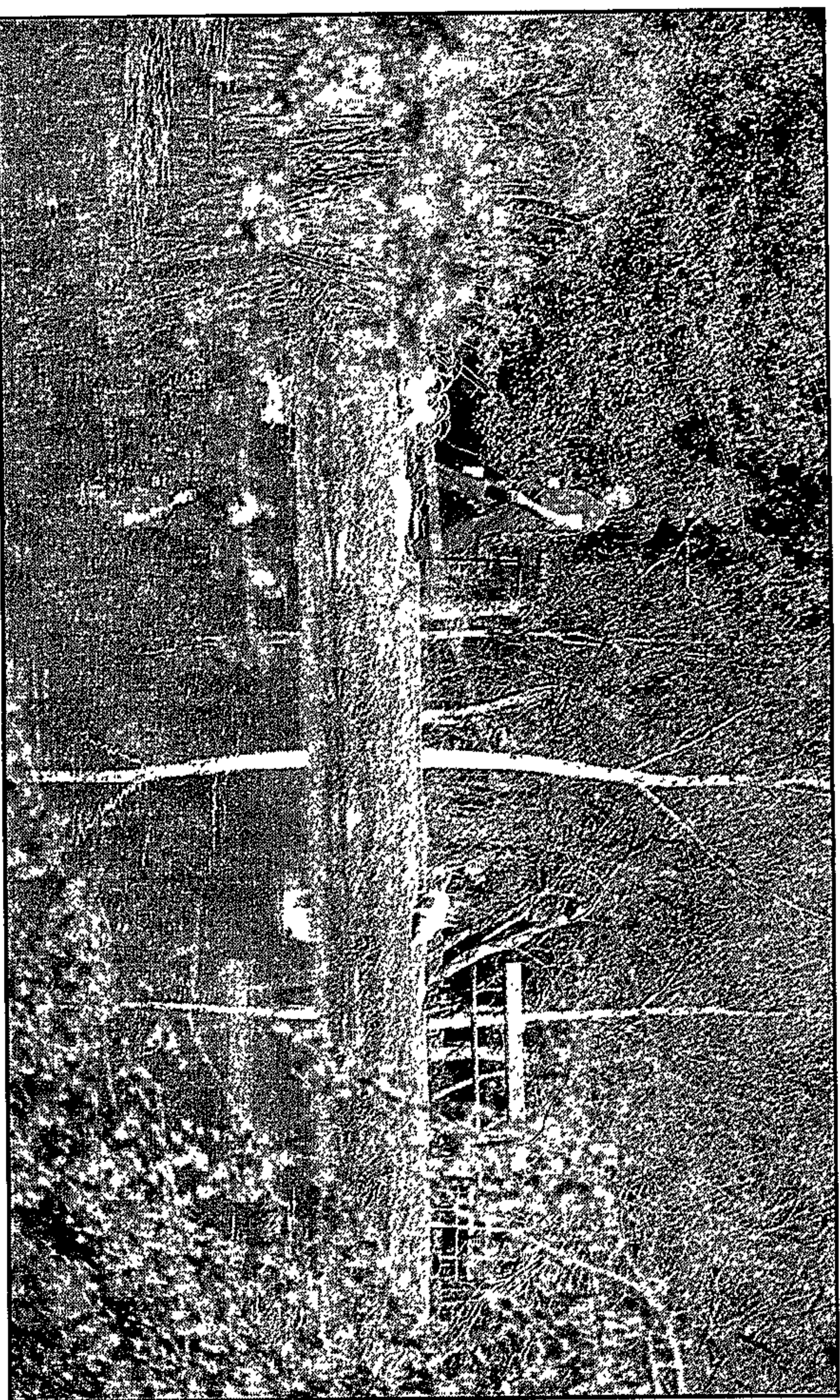
A prestige poster to announce Arbor Day is published annually, and has become a collector's piece.

ARBOR DAY SA needs to plant 4 million trees to absorb greenhouse gas

Pollution: SA must dig in



National Arbor Day
A Star special report



Urban protection . . . Trees in and around Johannesburg can help combat the pollution emitted by industry and vehicles every day. ● Picture by Karen Fletcher.

Seeing trees for more than just the wood

By James Clarke

Trees, as most people know, absorb carbon dioxide and give off a waste gas called oxygen. That's a happy arrangement for us animals, because we need all the oxygen we can get — and we need to get rid of all the surplus carbon dioxide our industries create from burning fossil fuels.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a major cause of the greenhouse effect which threatens to alter the Earth's climate. The question is: can we absorb industry's CO₂ by planting trees?

Research in Britain indicates that if a 1 000 MW power station were surrounded by fast-growing trees (sycamores were mentioned) — planted 1.3 m apart with a radius of 24 km — the trees would absorb all the power station's CO₂.

And they would provide a useful harvest of wood every few years. (The wood could not be burned, of course, because that would put all the CO₂ back in the atmosphere. On the other hand if they were indeed used as fuel in place of coal they would emit less CO₂.)

The Transvaal's giant power station — there are eight of them — each generate about 3 600 MW and dump, individually, almost 30 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere annually.

If my arithmetic is good (it can't really be, otherwise I wouldn't be a journalist) then I estimate that each of our giant power stations would need a forest of trees 90 km across.

But which trees? Wattles maybe. What would we do with the wood?

Wattles, which are the ugly sisters of our rather more genteel-looking native acacias — such as the soetidringboom and fever tree — were introduced to South Africa from Australia. They tend to have a detrimental environmental impact in that they are acidic, unattractive to most birds and tend to wipe out all plant life beneath their canopy.

How about poplars? They would take up too much water and their wood is too soft for anything except matches.

Eucalyptus (blue gums)? Maybe. H&K Timbers has developed a blue gum hybrid which looks promising. It grows twice as fast as the average gum.

Pines too could fit the bill — assuming a pine tree absorbs as much CO₂ as a broadleaf tree, which, I am told, it will.

We would have to plant, then, a total of 20 000 sq km of forest to absorb the CO₂ from all our highveld power stations — including the small ones. That area is equivalent to the Kruger Park.

The Panos Institute in London reports that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asked about the possibility of tree planting to soak up CO₂ last year. She was told that to soak up the world's surplus CO₂ would require eight million square kilometres of sycamores. Why, that's precisely enough to smother Australia!

By James Clarke

National Arbor Day today is expected to result in the biggest mass planting of trees in South Africa's history.

But, in view of South Africa's huge and disproportionate output of industrial carbon dioxide — the greenhouse gas which trees absorb — the big question is: is South Africa planting its fair share?

On a per capita basis many countries that are producing proportionately less carbon are planting vastly greater numbers of trees.

Today, across South Africa, thousands of schoolchildren, scores of municipal councils, private companies and clubs are marking Arbor Day by planting trees.

The biggest effort will come from the Jewish National Fund (JNF) — possibly the most successful voluntary tree-planting group in the world. It is leading the Trees for Africa initiative to plant five million trees in South Africa as soon as possible.

The JNF is world famous for the way it has encouraged Jewish children the world over to donate trees to Israel, which have slowly turned some of the country's desert areas into green landscapes.

Now it wants to help South Africa to win back damaged parts of the Karoo and wind-damaged areas elsewhere.

But the JNF is being snubbed by young people in Soweto, who say its effort is "paternalistic".

Australia has announced it is planting one billion trees — enough to absorb 50 million tons of industrial carbon dioxide.

Toronto Municipality, using money from sales of council-owned property, is buying open areas and planting them in for-ests in a multimillion dollar carbon clean-up. The municipality will later make a profit by selling the timber.

South Africa would need to plant four billion trees to absorb all of its industrially originated carbon dioxide.

One of South Africa's eight big coal-fired power stations would need a forest 90 km wide to absorb the equivalent of the carbon dioxide they emit.

According to Glen Sunter, co-author of "South African Environments into the 21st Century", 2.8 billion trees are cut down each year, worldwide.

two people is chopped down. Obviously more are felled in tropical countries, but if one applied this ratio to South Africa, 17,5 million trees would have to be grown each year, to make up our share.

A feature of this year's Arbor Day is that both the sugar industry and the timber industry have come out with new codes of practice, which seek to preserve indigenous forest remnants — only 0,25 percent of South Africa is covered by indigenous trees — and to create new forests.

Tree houses . . . The trees lining the streets of Hillbrow provide some relief from the seemingly endless concrete jungle.

One timber concern, HL&H Timbers is cloning tens of thousands of rare native trees, important to traditional healers, so that they can be replanted in areas where they have been destroyed by unscrupulous muti seekers.

The company has also undertaken a project to restore to their original state the banks of the upper reaches of the Illovo River in Natal and its tributary the Serpentine.

g the streets of Hillbrow provide some relief from the seemingly endless concrete jungle. ● Picture by Karen Fletcher.

Greyton mops up after wind, rain and fire

By SHARKEY ISAACS, Staff Reporter

GALE-FORCE winds which swept through the picturesque Boland town of Greyton uprooted trees in the main street, knocked down powerlines and fanned a raging fire that broke out on the municipal common.

Firemen and municipal workers struggled for six hours last night to bring the blaze under control. About 10 hectares of commonage veld was destroyed.

Town clerk Mr Francois de Kock said the gusting wind had blown the fire away from the village but that at one point the flames had threatened the barn of town councillor Mr Arthur Gregory.

BURST WATER MAIN

The Overberg Regional Services Council fire brigade was called in to help.

At least three trees in Greyton's main street were uprooted and powerlines in two parts of the town were knocked down.

At the height of the storm a water main burst. Municipal workers were too busy to attend to it until they had the fire under control.

● A spokesman at the D F Malan Airport weather office said blustery north-westerly winds had gusted up to 90km/h across the Peninsula and in the Boland during the night.

The gusts had dropped this morning to between 60 and 64km/h and the wind had abated to an average 40km/h.

City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton said his department had not received any reports of wind damage in the Peninsula. A Cape Town harbour spokesman said shipping was not affected.

Precious Dukuduku still under threat

Star 10/8/90

By Jacqueline Myburgh

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The Dukuduku Forest in St Lucia, Zululand, drew a great deal of media attention recently — and is probably due for a whole lot more if the squatter problem in the forest is not resolved.

This forest is the largest and best example of indigenous post-lowland forest in southern Africa, but large portions of it have already been destroyed due to the presence of about 2 000 squatters.

The Wildlife Society has predicted that if nothing is done about the situation, the forest will be destroyed within a year.

In a court case earlier this year, seven men were convicted and given suspended fines of R1 000 each for illegally squatting in the forest, and they were ordered to leave the forest with their families by August 6.

The Natal Provincial Administration, which is now dealing with the matter, reported this week that the squatters were still living in the forest, and that no action would be taken against them for not honouring the eviction order. A spokesman said negotiations were continuing in order to identify alternative sites for the squatters.

The Wildlife Society, which had acted as mediator between the authorities and the squatters, has been informed that their services are no longer required.

Keith Cooper, conservation director of the society, said he would, however, continue to monitor the situation.

He said that more than one million indigenous trees in the forest had been destroyed and that it was the most important forest left in South Africa.

Trees in the forest have been cut down for building materials and firewood, and the squatters have used bulldozers to clear land for roads. Some squatters have even brought cattle into the forest, even though the land is not suitable for grazing.

Indigenous forests are among the rarest habitats left in South Africa and make up only 0,3 percent of the country. Coastal lowland forests, such as the Dukuduku Forest, make up only a small percentage of this.

Apart from being the biggest and best example of this type of forest in the country, the Dukuduku provides protection and habitat for a range of fauna and flora.

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Getting back to the natural life

CONSERVATION LEARNING IS FUN FOR ALL

SUE SWAIN is an educator with a difference.

Her classroom straddles the breadth of the Cape Point Nature Reserve. Her blackboard is the fynbos set against a backdrop of the rugged mountains and the sea. Her chalk is the rich marine life in the inter-tidal zones or a porcupine's spoor, a nesting sea bird or a scurrying lizard.

Sue Swain is employed by the Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation to teach environmental awareness at the Cape Point Nature Reserve.

In many ways Sue, 26, has the type of job most people, particularly city-stressed workers, dream about.

Week after week, including every other weekend, the slightly-built conservation officer crosses cultural, language and income barriers to drive home to people the importance of a healthy environment.

"We don't run a school here — it's more a matter of self-discovery or sensory awakening," says Sue, who grew up exploring the coastline around Port Elizabeth.

"We try to provide a learning experience that promotes sensitivity towards the natural environment and an understanding of the inter-dependence of all living organisms," she says.

She says it is also important that people leave the centre feeling they can actually do something to solve problems in their own environment.

When Weekend Argus visited the Gold Fields Environmental Education Centre, in the reserve, Sue was marshalling a large group of

Report: GRAHAM LIZAMORE, Weekend Argus Reporter ■ Pictures: DION TROMP

Standard 9 pupils and five teachers from Uitsig Secondary School, into a truck.

Sue was about to take them on a study of the intertidal zone at Buffels Bay during the spring low tide.

The centre runs four-day and weekend educational programmes drawn up by the staff and the programmes' objectives are clearly defined.

On the first day participants are taken on a "sensory hike" to help them get in touch with their senses and so spark off an interest in nature.

The second day's activities are planned to increase understanding of the natural environment. Studies are made of two eco-systems: the fynbos and the intertidal zone.

The fynbos study takes the form of a detective game where carefully constructed clues lead participants to a realisation of what fynbos is

and how plants are adapted to survive.

The fynbos game is followed by a hike through the veld.

The intertidal study involves a brief discussion of the tides followed by a treasure hunt where rhyming couplet clues enable the treasure seekers to discover marine organisms, their adaptation and feeding behaviour.

Treasure hunt

The natural balance between herbivores and carnivores is also discovered.

The third day is aimed at creating an appreciation of the natural environment and the extent to which humans are dependent on nature for survival and their effect on nature.

In trying to identify and explain alien vegetation, Sue and colleague Jackie Kruger wrote a play called the Trial of Rusty Rooikrans.

negative or positive impact on the environment," said Sue.

On the evening of the third day participants go on a night hike.

This, says Sue, is a time for reflection, allowing people to unwind and enjoy the serenity of the dunes and the night sky.

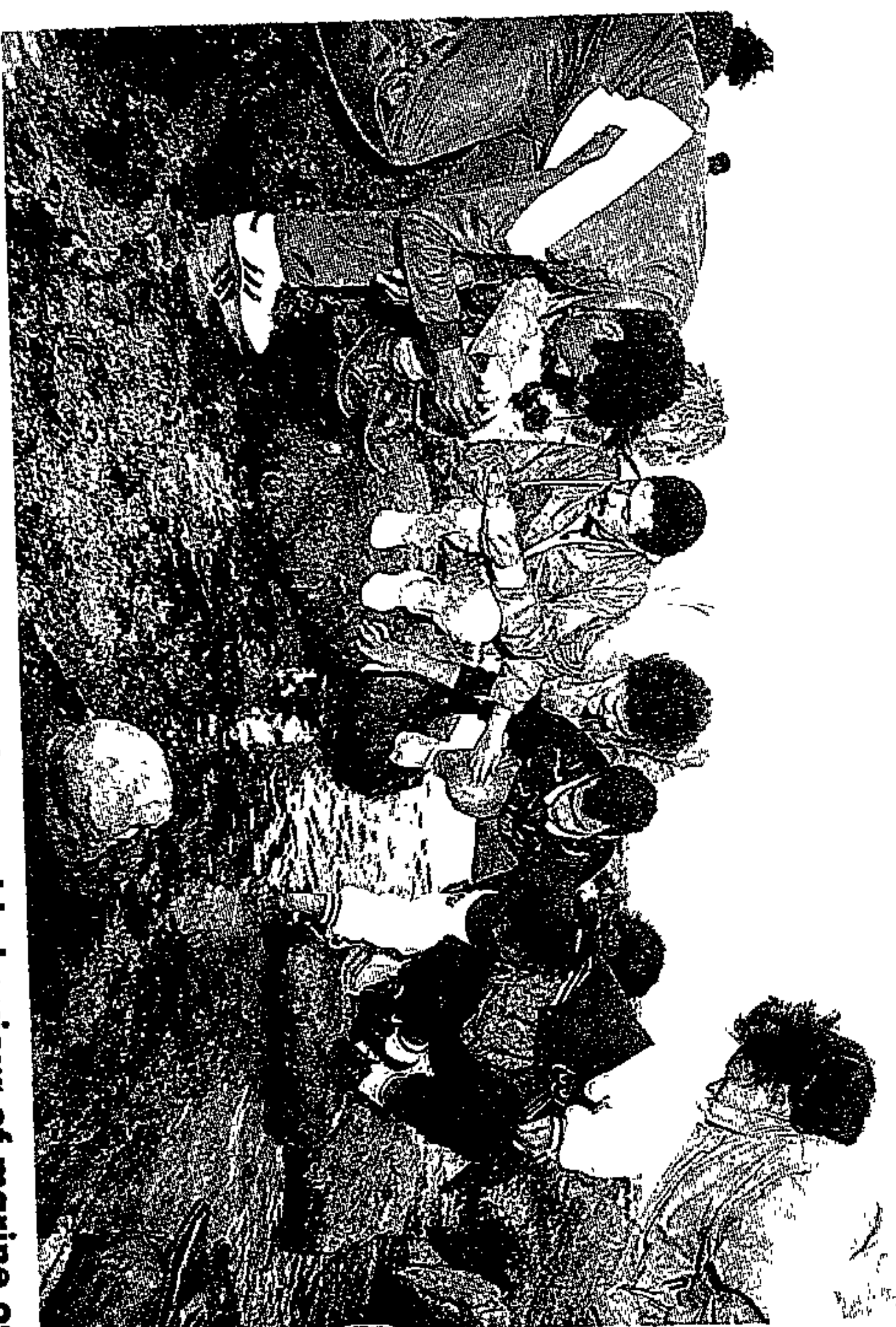
The fourth day is aimed at examining the impact of human's on nature. Participants are asked to identify examples of human impact on the environment. "Participants never fail to identify negative examples," says Sue.

"The job of the educationist is then to lead them away from that line of thought to a more positive way of thinking. They are then asked to identify examples of positive things they can do, such as using ozone-friendly products, recycling of rubbish and litter pick-ups."

The discussion afterwards leads to an understanding of the building blocks in the ecological pyramid and identifies the power of humans. "What we hope to show was that humans can have a



Environmentalist Sue Swain, crouching on the left, explains the tides to a group of pupils and teachers from Uitsig Secondary School.



Pupils, above, examine the adaptation and behaviour of marine organisms in a tidal pool.

Seal-slaughter: Startling claims

W/E ARGUS 11/8/90
By JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporter

STARTLING allegations of years of gross government mismanagement and cruelty in the harvesting of Kleinsee seals have been disclosed.

And decisions taken by former Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr John Wiley and the present minister, Mr Gert Kotzé, on the slaughtering are being questioned.

Mr Kotzé is also being accused of allowing the harvesting to continue during his term of office even though he had information that the project had no foundation in terms of ecological management, or that it is economically viable.

Barbaric

The Seal Action Group (SAG) has lashed out in the strongest possible terms after articles on the sealing industry appeared in the latest report of the Department of Environment Affairs, Chief Directorate Marine Development, dated 1986, but published in 1989.

Kleinsee:

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Seal Action Group is concerned that the Department of Environmental Affairs has not taken steps to form the recently announced scientific committee to investigate the Kleinsee seal fiasco.

The lack of action is proof that the formation of the committee is a delaying tactic, the group claims.

"Surely, information should have been available before a decision to harvest the seals

This report was published only last year and covered the sealing industry up to 1986, during Mr Wiley's term. The next report becomes available next week.

The SAG is appalled at the barbaric, inhumane and unscientific methods used to reduce the seal population at Kleinsee during 1984 and 1986.

The group has also reacted strongly to what the report states as the probable reasons why there was a drastic decline in the number of seal pups at Kleinsee during this period.

- Human presence during the prolonged harvesting of bulls during the critical pupping season would have led to many pups being abandoned by their mothers and left to starve;

- Others would have been trampled to death in stampedes caused by the activities of the sealers;

- The removal of 6 890 cows immediately reduced the potential pup production;

- The removal of over 16 000

was made and not afterwards. The department certainly follows a strange decision-making process."

The group said it discussed the names of the scientists who are supposed to be on the committee with Dr Louis Botha, director of sea fisheries, on July 24 and was told a month would be allowed for examining scientific information.

"But 2½ weeks later no official notification has been

bulls in two years may have reduced mating efficiency, resulting in a reduction in pregnancy rate; and

- Harvesting during the birth season would have caused disturbance leading to some cows deserting the colony and not returning to mate.

"Never was the Kleinsee colony overpopulated and there was no scientific basis, then or now, for the brutal slaughter. This past history proves it," the SAG said.

The harvesting did not stop in 1983 when the world market for pup skins was banned by the European parliament. The American market had already been closed to South Africa since 1976.

In an effort to maintain commercial viability, said the report, there was a major increase in the number of bulls slaughtered for their testicles.

What has angered the SAG even more is that in 1986 a permit to harvest pups was given to a Port Nolloth businessman who was new to sealing.

sent to the scientists although the Minister, Mr Gert Kotzé, set a deadline of September 30 for information from the committee.

"It is unreasonable to expect people with full schedules to take part in the in-depth study project with no notice. Also it defies logic to waste the time of some of our leading scientists for nothing."

The group expressed concern at the mountain of misinformation and "web of lies"

However, the department's expected boost for local employment did not materialise as a seal harvest could not be carried out with inexperienced personnel. Experienced sealers from Elim were brought in.

The scientific recommended quota was 14 000 pups, but this was increased to 20 000 by the minister. The report gave no reason for this.

The report did say the quota was not filled because there were not enough pups to kill and no market for their skins had been found five months after the killings. The only marketable commodity produced was blubber oil, but its value was insufficient to cover the cost of the operation.

"Why was the quota increased to 20 000 and where does economic viability come into this? It appears that the pups were killed for nothing even when there was evidence that between 1983 and 1985 the drop in the pup numbers was over 48 percent and remained low in 1986," SAG said.

See page 13

Group claims delaying tactic

surrounding the Kleinsee issue.

"In spite of reports to the contrary from the Taiwanese Embassy, Mr Hsein-I-Hsu, who holds the seal-harvesting permit, has not withdrawn from his contract, his factory is being finished and the department is doing nothing to resolve the question."

Dr Jozua Serfontein, deputy director of Environmental Affairs, was not available for comment.



Workers on a new highrise building in the city centre take a break for a bite to eat. The World Health Organisation estimates that one in three new buildings become breeding grounds for Sick Building Syndrome.

Disease breeds in third of all new buildings

By MOKGADI PELA

THE so-called Sick Building Syndrome which results from inhaling unhealthy air pollutants has been identified as one of the most disturbing features in the building and construction industries.

SBS - which also occurs when a ventilation system circulates fumes ranging from photocopying and cleaning fluids to perfume, tobacco smoke and mould - can cause nausea, depression, dizziness and headaches.

Aside from the host of industrial chemicals floating in the indoor air, poorly maintained buildings can be fertile breeding grounds for bacteria and fungi, said Dr Petro Terblanche of the Pretoria-based Medical Research Council.

While environmentalists say the planet will not survive if people contaminate the outdoors, it is similarly true that people will not live if they pollute the indoors.

The World Health Organisation estimates that a third of all new buildings and renovated structures are sick.

An occupational researcher in Johannesburg, Mr Richard Truter, told the conference that a 30-month study that involved 1 500 workers in 60 companies establish that SBS was a serious problem in South Africa.

Truter said the study had the support of the National Council of Trade Unions and Anglo American Property Services.

Productivity affected

He said building related health complaints affected the well-being of people and consequently their productivity. He called on the scientists to improve the ventilation rate in the offices.

Truter added that the reduction of the sources of indoor and outdoor air pollution would minimise or even eliminate the problem.

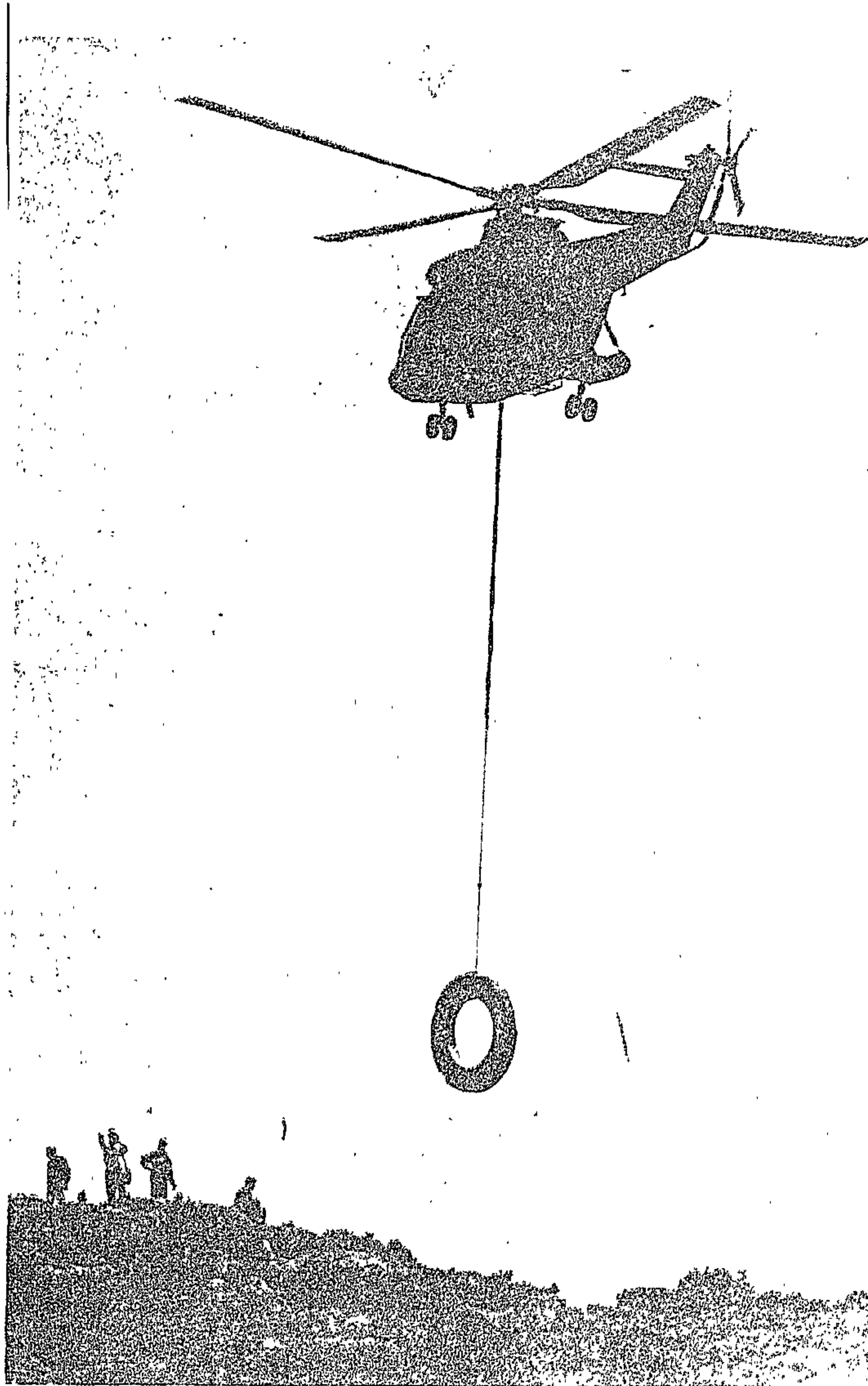
"People can be feeling miserable yet they do not know why," said Ms Schatten of Ceiling Doctor.

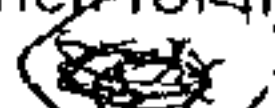
"I can call them walking dead. They usually feel worse as the week drags on. At the weekend they improve and go back to work on Monday feeling healthy, but by Wednesday they are miserable again."

She said unless the problem was solved the economic loss to the industry would be incalculable.

AUGUST 19.

the copy of . . .



CLEAN UP ... The SADF yesterday removed five "unsightly" guard towers from Silvermine Nature Reserve in a five-hour environmental operation to restore the sensitive fynbos area to its original pristine condition. A Puma helicopter was used to prevent vehicular damage to the rare fynbos. Some 40 hectares of recently unfenced SADF area are to be handed over to the Cape Town City Council for inclusion in the nature reserve hiking trails. *CAPE-TOWN 14/5/90* (56)  Picture ANNE LAMG

Appeal to students to back green revolution

New Nation! Learn Nation

56

17/8 - 23/8/90
THE ANC has appealed to students to take part in the "Green Revolution", launched in April by the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC).

ANC spokesperson on the environment, Japhtha Lekgetho, said students should be aware that the future South Africa which they would be leading would have to be one with a beautiful environment.

Lekgetho was speaking after the planting of 100 trees in the NEAC grounds in Soweto, in which students from four high schools and other members of the community took part.

Unfortunately, he said, students were far behind with their studies and it would be unfair to burden them further with lessons on the environment.

"The exclusion of blacks from environmental issues over the years has made it

appear as if we do not love the beauty of the trees.

"We must deny this by bringing greenery to the rooftops of our townships," said Lekgetho.

He called on teachers and education authorities throughout the country to bring the dangers of a bad environment to students' attention.

Lekgetho also called on the private sector and mass-based organisations to encourage students to take part in the Green Revolution.

People seeking advice or interested in giving their support to the campaign may contact the NEAC office at the following address:

NEAC
P.O.Box 188
Dobsonville 1865
Tel.: (011) 988-1089

Erosion is SA's 'biggest environmental problem'

Star 20/8/90 (56)

By Marguerite Moody

Soil erosion is the biggest environmental problem facing South Africa and it is occurring mostly in the homelands, says Anglo American executive director Clem Sunter.

Speaking at a function held by the Keep Johannesburg Beautiful Association in the city last week, Mr Sunter said South Africa was losing 300 million tons of topsoil into rivers every year, which took 2 000 years to replace.

He said the reason the homelands in particular were losing so much topsoil was the combination of large numbers of people and very little land.

"Everything regarding the environment relates to population. There are 35 million people in South Africa now, and there will be 45 million by the year 2000.

"When one thinks that only 3 percent of our country consists of high-potential arable land, 13 percent

consists of medium-potential arable land and 65 percent consists of non-arable land, one realises there is a problem, as an extra one million people every year have to be squeezed onto a small percentage of arable land," he said.

Another area of concern was the eastern Transvaal highveld, where there were 30 to 40 tons of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

Worrying

"Although this is not the worst in the world, it is very worrying, as 50 percent of the country's forestry resources are located here."

The reason for the large amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere was that most of South Africa's rich coal seams were in the region and the cheapest way of providing electricity to the country was to build power stations there.

"There are still 20 million South Africans without electricity and this is the easiest way of providing them with it."

Mr Sunter said this clearly showed that South Africans had to weigh up all aspects of the environment.

"We have to find a balance between economic development and environmental protection.

"If we only concentrate on economic development, we will ruin the environment. If we only concentrate on the environment, we will create unemployment."

The question was to find the right balance, Mr Sunter said.

The most important thing South Africans could do to save the environment over the next 50 years was to introduce environmental education in schools, Mr Sunter said.

"Then schools will produce people with a natural empathy for the environment," he said.

Flooding of Sandspruit a ^{870 21/8/90} ⁽⁵⁶⁾ 'threat' to environment

By Jacqueline Myburgh

The greatest environmental threat facing the Sandspruit in Sandton was the flooding of its banks during the rainy season.

According to author Vincent Carruthers, the run-off water from townhouse developments along the banks of this urban stream has destroyed the indigenous vegetation in the area and has brought with it tons of litter.

Damage

Mr Carruthers made these observations during a walk along the Sandspruit on Sunday organised by the Braamfonteinspruit Trust to inspect environmental damage to the stream.

Mr Carruthers suggested that in order to curb the run-off from the townhouses, developers should be forced to build a reservoir to catch the stormwater for use in the gardens.

"But it is obviously

difficult for the council to tell these people what to do because they are the biggest ratepayers."

About 60 Sandton and Randburg residents joined Sandton mayor Don Forbes and several councillors in the 12 km walk.

Mr Forbes said he hoped to see the Sandspruit turned into a well-preserved recreational facility such as the Braamfontein Spruit.

Developers and private residents along the banks of the Sandspruit have been responsible for the environmental damage inflicted on the area, according to Jan van Niekerk of Sandton's Parks and Recreation Department.

Squatters and builders living in the area do not have adequate toilet facilities and this has led to pollution of the stream. The washing of clothes in the spruit has resulted in the formation of excessive amounts of

algae and consequent poisoning of the water.

Residents living beside the spruit have also taken advantage of this natural facility. The Star counted five pipes leading from the spruit on to private properties. Mr van Niekerk said the pipes were either used to pump chlorinated swimming pool water into the stream or to pump water from the stream on to gardens.

Dumping

He said the only way to save the Sandspruit would be to implement bylaws. Recently he stopped the dumping of about 70 tons of building rubble into the spruit thanks to an alert member of the public.

But he could only impose a R270 fine.

"We should at least be able to confiscate the man's vehicle and we need the public support in passing such bylaws," he said.

Sachs: Pay attention to world environment

copy time 21/8/90 56

Staff Reporter

THE full liberation of South Africans could not be complete without proper attention being paid to "the world in which we live", the ANC's constitutional expert, Professor Albie Sachs, said in Maitland last night.

Prof Sachs spoke on "The ANC and the environment" at a joint Institute for a Democratic Alternative for SA (Idasa) and Earthlife Africa meeting.

He shared the platform with Ms Ursula Eid, a West German Green Party member of parliament.

Ms Eid said the ANC and many other liberation organisations should have taken up ecological issues many years ago.

Prof Sachs said: "It's true that we in

the ANC have arrived late on the ecological scene but members have always had strong links with ecology. But we have paid much more attention recently and we have group working on the subject.

"When the air is full of teargas, we don't think as much about the danger of asbestos.

"It's very important that people stop thinking that we have to be white to be green. In greening SA we are claiming the eroded areas and paying respect to the quality of life of everybody."

Ms Eid said that traditional "anti-apartheid struggle" methods such as boycotts should be used to put pressure on industry and the state, to "stop production of destructive materials".

For an ozone-friendly future

(56)

South 23/8 - 29/8/90

West German Green Party MP Ursula Eid was in Cape Town this week to participate in an Earthlife/Idasa debate with the ANC's Albie Sachs on "The Politics of Ecology". She spoke to HEATHER ROBERTSON about green alternatives in the developed and developing world:

THE ecology and democracy are interwoven, says Ursula Eid, West German Green Party spokesperson on Southern Africa and human rights issues in developing countries. "You can see -- now that the border between East Germany and West Germany is broken -- that the environmental destruction in the East is worse because people were not allowed to organise around problems. "In societies where people have a fair amount of democracy, people can organise themselves around local issues.

"I want a politics where we address issues of concern to all people, not just left or right.

"Participatory democracy also gives more power to community councils so that the community can decide," she explains.

She cites an example of a campaign for the councils not to use timber for building fences around parks because of the depletion of rain forests.

Dynamic

Eventually whole cities boycotted the use of timber for this purpose. As an alternative to both centrally-planned economies and economic liberalism, the Greens tout the social market economy.

"This is proven to be more dynamic than a bureaucratic, centrally-planned economy," explains Eid.

"Market economy measures such as taxes and levies can be used to promote a more ecologically-sound economy. "A social market economy is one geared towards the needs of the people and the environment."

A major aspect of eco-politics is education of the consumer. "We in the left have always blamed capitalism's while we have not concentrated on the education of the consumer," explains Eid.

"You have to attack the producer to convert the product into something which is ecologically sound, but the consumer should be made aware of the right not to buy a harmful product. "For us, the personal is also political," Eid says.

Now that ozone-friendly and "green" products have reached South African



URSULA EID: Nats' environment policy "destructive"

shelves, they are still kept out of reach of the average consumer because they are more expensive.

"Green" issues become exclusive to the privileged in South Africa.

"Many firms are appealing their bad conscience by marketing green products. If they are serious, they would transform the whole shop.

"They would not at the same time use plastic bags and polystyrene which contain CFCs," explains Eid.

"I think that if firms produce biologically-sound products, they should be subsidised by the government because they are largely labour intensive.

"Really healthy food and living conditions in the long run are beneficial to a people's economy."

"Less money has to be spent on medical bills, sick leave, and so on."

Eid is also the Green Party member on a committee of enquiry into a German firm's alleged sale of submarine blueprints to the South African navy, contravening the UN mandatory arms

embargo against South Africa. "What has reached deadlock as the (governing) Christian Democrats and Liberals in the committee have done their best to prevent the examination of the whole thing.

"The firm which sold the blueprint said it had the green light from the government, so we are now caught up in legalities."

Eid explains that there are difficulties in dealing with sanctions busters as the government practices economic liberalism where the state does not interfere in economies.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement, however, has found ways of dealing with transgressors.

A stunning photograph on the front page of a South African alternative weekly which showed a Mercedes Benz truck used as a water cannon provided proof for anti-apartheid activists that the German product was used by the

police force. Anti-apartheid activists bought shares in Mercedes Benz and called themselves critical shareholders.

Eid was mandated to speak on behalf of the other anti-apartheid shareholders at the annual shareholders' meeting, where the sale of Mercedes vehicles to the SADF was condemned.

As an environmentalist, what did she think of the local environmental situation? "In South Africa, it is clear from what apartheid has done to the environment -- for example, the living conditions in the townships -- that you cannot separate apartheid and the ecology," says Eid.

She says she understands why ecological issues are peripheral in countries where basic human rights are unfriended.

"A hostel dweller, for example, does not regard himself as a shaper of his own environment because he has no say over his own environment," she

Eid admits she is not familiar with the National Party policy on the environment but, from her observations, concludes it is clearly destructive. There is no lead-free petrol, we have a nuclear power station and we still use asbestos.

"In Germany, new buildings are torn down if asbestos is found in them," says Eid.

The pesticide DDT is forbidden in Germany but chemical industries here still produce them.

"This is an example of eco-colonialism, where companies have plants, in Third World countries, which are proven to be unsound in the First World."

Namibia

Had there been any links between the African National Congress and the Green Party?

"We have had links, but not on ecological terms. Our decision with regard to South Africa and Namibia was to support the liberation process.

"Each group which is part of the liberation struggle is supported -- not financially, but politically.

"We address anti-apartheid issues in parliament and support sanctions. South Africans had to decide who their leaders were. Outsiders could not do so.

"We did not agree with the UN decision to recognise Swapo as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people."

Encouraging

The Green Party did not address ecological issues in South Africa until recently. It was felt that the issue could not be addressed before apartheid was abolished.

"Perhaps this is my personal failure," admits Eid. "But I started looking at the environmental issues since last year."

She feels that the ANC document on the environment is encouraging, but liberation movements need to be made aware that the survival of humankind is at stake.

"It is not the class struggle but the survival of all humans which is on the agenda today," she says.

"We need to stop the war against nature. Our concept of ecology is that man is not above nature. If the lakes and forests are dying, humankind will also die.

"I'm optimistic, but these facts need to be interjected into our struggles for

Kotze bans imports of 'hazardous' waste

By John Yeld

No hazardous waste will be allowed to be imported into South Africa, says Minister of Environment Affairs Gert Kotze.

He would not permit South Africa to become the world's "dumping ground", he said.

The move, which follows a major controversy last year over proposals for a R400 million toxic waste plant near Alexander Bay in the northern Cape, has been welcomed by conservationists.

Smuggled

Speaking at a National Party regional conference in Johannesburg at the weekend, Mr Kotze also revealed there was a strong suspicion that hazardous waste was being smuggled into South Africa.

It was unfortunate that the environment paid the price for development and progress, and one of the by-products of such development was the generation of all types of waste.

He had discussed the issue of hazardous waste during his recent visit to Europe.

"These discussions reaffirmed my fears about the serious-

ness of the environmental dilemma that could develop.

"I have therefore decided that South Africa will under no circumstances allow other countries to export their hazardous waste to South Africa.

"This decision implies a total ban. No hazardous waste may therefore be imported — not for the purpose of treatment nor for dumping."

Mr Kotze's announcement has been welcomed by the Wildlife Society.

"The consensus is that toxic waste should be treated as close as possible to where it was produced," said the society's director of conservation, Keith Cooper.

Earthlife Africa, which has been instrumental in exposing illegal toxic waste dumping in Natal, said it was absolutely opposed to the cross-border transportation of chemical waste — and said it was pleased with Mr Kotze's announcement.

But it also wanted clarity on a number of points, particularly Mr Kotze's definition of "hazardous waste".



Gillnet laws too slack, say experts

ARC 45
28/8/90

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By JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

CONSERVATIONISTS and fishing industry representatives fear Asian vessels will find ways of circumventing South Africa's anti-gill netting legislation in the new season. They have asked for the regulations to be tightened.

But Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé replied that he was satisfied that present regulations — if strictly enforced — were effective in preventing the use of gill nets in South African waters and in "discouraging" their use on the high seas.

Destructive

Mr Kotzé announced earlier this year that no gill netters would be allowed into South African ports after July 31.

But Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which has spearheaded the campaign against the use of the destructive nets, has queried why permits issued to some of these vessels are valid until December 31 — well after the start of the summer fishing season.

"By allowing known gill netting vessels to enter our harbour and ports, and giving them support systems such as fuel, repair facilities and bait — as has been the practice since January — South Africa is aiding and abetting the destruction of the marine ecosystem in both the southern Indian and Atlantic oceans," she said in a letter to Mr Kotzé.

Gill netting had escalated markedly in these areas in recent years, she pointed out.

From information from the United Kingdom, it appeared that in 1983/84 only one vessel had been using gill nets to fish for tuna in the Indian Ocean. By 1988/89 there were 139, and

this year at least registered 174 gill netters — "and I know there are many more not listed" — were operating around the South African coast, Mrs Rice said.

"South African fishing sources fear, because of loopholes in the Sea Fisheries legislation, that Asian vessels will find ways of again entering our ports en route to the Falklands at the end of the year. I have no reason to doubt such fears."

Mrs Rice called for the permit system for gill netters to be dropped, charging it rendered existing legislation "useless".

"Walls of death"

"Those who claim to have the conservation of the marine ecosystem as a whole at heart should be gravely concerned about the escalation of gill netting activities in both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, not just South Africa's 320 mile exclusive fishing zone," she said.

"The repercussions on both our tuna fishing industry and marine animals and other fish species caught up in these 'walls of death' during their deployment could be disastrous, and everything possible should be done by governments able to do so, to support international efforts to get gill netting banned."

THE environmental lobby will face a major challenge in the new SA to ensure that environmental concerns are incorporated into planning by a representative government.

The main priority of such a government is going to be meeting the material expectations of the black population. This can only be done effectively by abandoning the prevailing environmental culture.

In this country there are two dominant environmental camps: one which revolves around the preservation of furry animals, and the other which opposes any development as an assault on the environment.

Neither camp is likely to hold much sway in the face of rising working class demands for jobs and higher wages. To the starving unemployed, the notion of preserving black rhinos must appear alien.

Six percent of SA's surface area is covered by nature reserves. This is not a particularly large percentage, but our conservation policy appears to be very efficient in terms of protecting terrestrial vertebrate fauna.

More conservation areas need to be declared to include habitats which are still inadequately conserved. This will ensure protection of

Tough future for environmental lobby

B10ew 31/8/90

MICHAEL CHERRY

56

plants and invertebrate groups. Emphasis should be placed on conserving habitats which are both representative and relatively undisturbed, leaving habitats which are already degraded for development.

But to realise this ambition, conservation has to become more self-financing.

Considerable income is derived from tourism, but there are other methods. Zimbabwe, for example, has a system of granting hunting licences to meet culling requirements. Marginal farming areas may be more profitable as game farms. Spain has a gamebird industry worth \$100 million a year run on shooting concessions leased by peasant farmers.

One assertion seems incontrovertible: only when people's basic needs are catered for will they be in a position to appreciate the importance of environmental quality.

Foreign exchange is an essential requirement for economic growth. Thus the prospect of the St Lucia dune mining operation for titanium

(estimated to be worth R5bn to R10bn during its lifespan) is going to be just as enticing for an ANC government as it is for our present one. The balance which has to be drawn is between economic and social developments and their environmental disadvantages, which could outweigh any economic benefits.

Environmental impact assessments can be a useful tool in assisting governments to make decisions about proposed developments, but no one should harbour the illusion that they are necessarily objective. Quite to the contrary, they invariably reflect the interests of those who commission them.

This was illustrated recently by the developers of the proposed marina at Robberg, Plettenberg Bay, and the Wildlife Society. They both commissioned impact assessments, which produced diametrically opposite conclusions.

Perhaps an even more difficult problem for a future government is going to be implementing measures which are unquestionably environmentally sound, but nonetheless very costly. The Montreal Protocol, to which SA is a signatory, requires that use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) be phased out according to a timetable. As these are used extensively in underground cooling systems in the mines, this is going to be an expensive process.

Similarly, the compulsory fitting of catalytic converters to new motor vehicles, and adding scrubbers to the country's 32 coal-fired power stations, are measures which would reduce atmospheric pollution significantly. Motor vehicles and electricity, however, would both become more expensive commodities to a population with understandably high expectations of increased material well-being.

In a situation where supply of a commodity is controlled by a monopoly, whether that be privatised or nationalised, the cost of environmental

controls is passed directly onto the consumer.

In the face of all these dilemmas, I remain optimistic about the implications of democracy for the SA environment. In the West, it is not the system of capitalism that has facilitated an improvement in environmental quality in recent years, but the tenets of liberal democracy, in particular the freedom of the media and opposition parties in parliament to act as watchdogs on environmental issues.

In Eastern Europe, one-party states and restrictions on the release of information have until recently prevented this function from being fulfilled, and it is primarily for this reason that many countries have poor environmental records.

In SA, we are in a position to embark on a major period of industrial expansion, anticipating the environmental consequences which more advanced economies have only been able to redress, rather than anticipate.

□ Cherry is head of the Department of Terrestrial Vertebrate Biology at the SA Museum in Cape Town. This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in Earthyear '90.

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Tough future for environmental lobby

R10am 31/9/90

MICHAEL CHERRY (56)

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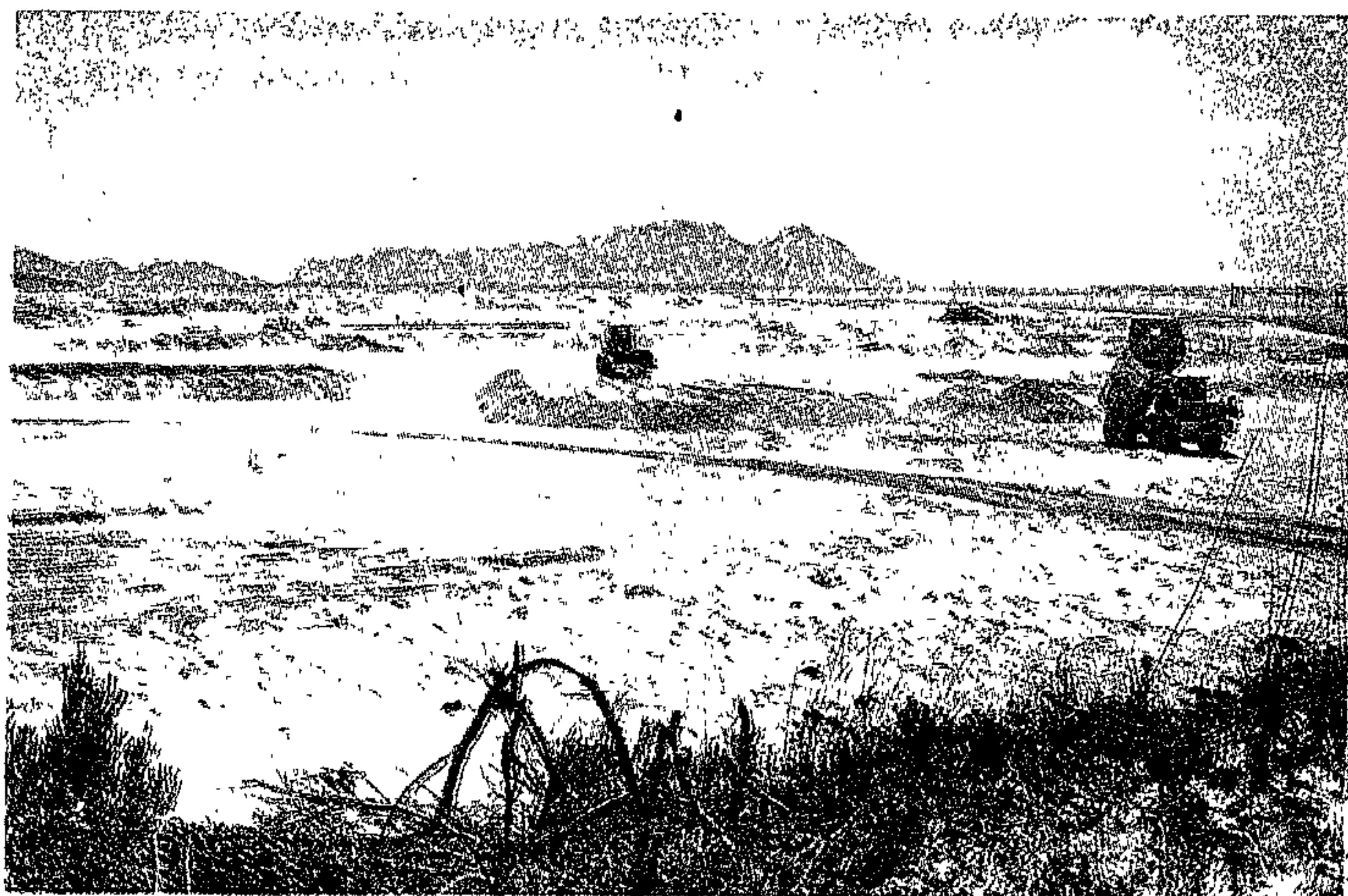
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REVIEWS



**MORE
CASH
NEEDED
TO
BUY
UP
PRIVATE
LAND**



Pictures: JACKIE KING and JENNY DAY, UCT.

Before and after ... part of the original Kuils River wetland system, above, and dune levelling and infilling for Khayelitsha which destroyed it.

Call to protect wetlands in SA

56
W/E 1/16/90

CONSERVATION efforts to protect South Africa's remaining wetlands should be expanded, the government has been told by delegates to an international convention.

But the only adequate means of conserving these valuable natural areas on private property is to acquire them — and government funds are limited because of other social responsibilities like housing.

This warning comes from Mr Niel van Wyk, deputy director of the Cape's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation, who was one of five South African representatives at the fourth meeting of the important Ramsar Convention in Montreaux, Switzerland recently.

The convention — named after an area on the Caspian Sea in Iran — was originally formed to protect waterfowl, but was later adapted to conserve wetlands of international importance. It came into force in 1971.

South Africa, a founder member, was the fifth country to register some of its wetlands. To date seven of these areas have been registered — De Hoop near Bredasdorp, De Mond State Forest in the Eastern Cape, Langebaan, the St Lucia system, the turtle beaches and coral reefs of Tongaland, and Barberspan and Blesbokspruit in the Transvaal.

Another six Ramsar sites have been

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

proposed: the Wilderness lakes, Verlorenvlei on the West Coast, the Orange River mouth wetland, the Kosi system and Lake Sibaya in Natal, and the wetlands at Walvis Bay.

The South Africans were received "very favourably" by most of the 450 delegates, Mr Van Wyk said.

"There was a tremendous awareness about the importance of wetlands — this has really developed over the past few years."

There was also the realisation that international co-operation was "extremely necessary" in future conservation efforts, he added.

African countries with registered wetlands were mainly those in French-speaking West Africa and East African countries like Uganda and Kenya, with a "tremendous gap" between them and South Africa.

"South of them there's nothing — this was remarked on frequently. The African group made a commitment to try and fill this gap by getting wetlands registered," Mr Van Wyk said.

The rest of Africa recognised South African expertise and there had been "a sort of general call for help" for training, research and, in particular, the manage-

ment of wetlands.

The South Africans had returned with the realisation that there was an urgent need for legislation and action to preserve wetlands in this country, Mr Van Wyk said — but there were "very serious" problems in some areas.

"We have submitted a report to the government, and one of the proposals is that we should expand our active conservation of wetlands, whether they qualify in terms of Ramsar or not."

As part of the necessary co-ordinating process, they proposed the formation of a statutory national Ramsar committee.

A third recommendation was that South Africa could become a signatory to the Bonn Convention designed to protect migratory species — including birds like white storks (which were under severe threat in Europe) and marine species such as whales and turtles.

The provincial Land Use Planning Ordinance, which made specific provision for conservation areas, was the best piece of legislation to protect wetlands, but this did not provide for the removal of private rights, Mr Van Wyk said.

"We will probably have to acquire these areas — that is the only way to protect them permanently."

Retail market catering for environmental awareness

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THE retail sector is changing marketing tactics as environmental awareness increases.

Many large companies have introduced working documents outlining company policy on environmental issues, including the ranges they market and the stores they build.

Recent surveys by the Marketing Research Standards Authority show that 50% of South Africans believe it is more important to safeguard the environment than to keep prices down.

Environmental products are generally more expensive due to lower volumes and additional production and distribution costs, but many retailers expect prices to go down with increased volumes.

Sales of Pick 'n Pay's internally developed Green products have been outstanding in all categories, says marketing director Martin Rosen.

While no sales figures are available — the products were launched only

five weeks ago — the launch has been successful, Rosen says.

Pick 'n Pay is to introduce recycled paper carrier bags and enviro-care centres — with free reading material and videos.

Checkers has introduced its own label for environmental products, which conform to various ingredients and packaging criteria.

While environmental products are not identifiable at present, label stock is being phased out and new stock will carry an environment friendly logo.

Woolworths environmental officer Tom Mc Laughlin says the company is not making capital from environmental issues.

The company concentrates on production methods, goods and packaging and waste usage — and effects on the environment.

Foods are not irradiated, deodorants are ozone friendly and cosmetics are not tested on animals.

MARCIA KLEIN

Conservationists concerned with creeping tide of houses

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

URBAN "creep" up the slopes of the Peninsula's mountain chain and into existing natural areas is causing deep concern among conservationists and residents.

Among the latest "offending" developments are a block of flats being constructed on the Fish Hoek mountainside, houses already built high above Hout Bay harbour and new residential components underway on the steep slopes of Lion's Head above Bantry Bay and Fresnaye.



Dr Douglas Hey

A proposed "holiday cottage" development at Partridge Point has also raised hackles. But many legal rights to develop properties were established years ago, and some protesters are fired by the unfair "Oregon" syndrome — "We were here first, you push off . . .", say officials charged with protecting the Peninsula's natural areas.

These, mostly mountainous, areas have been declared "protected natural environments" (PNEs) in terms of the new Environment Conservation Act.

Previously they formed the Peninsula's "nature area", defined by the Physical Planning Act.

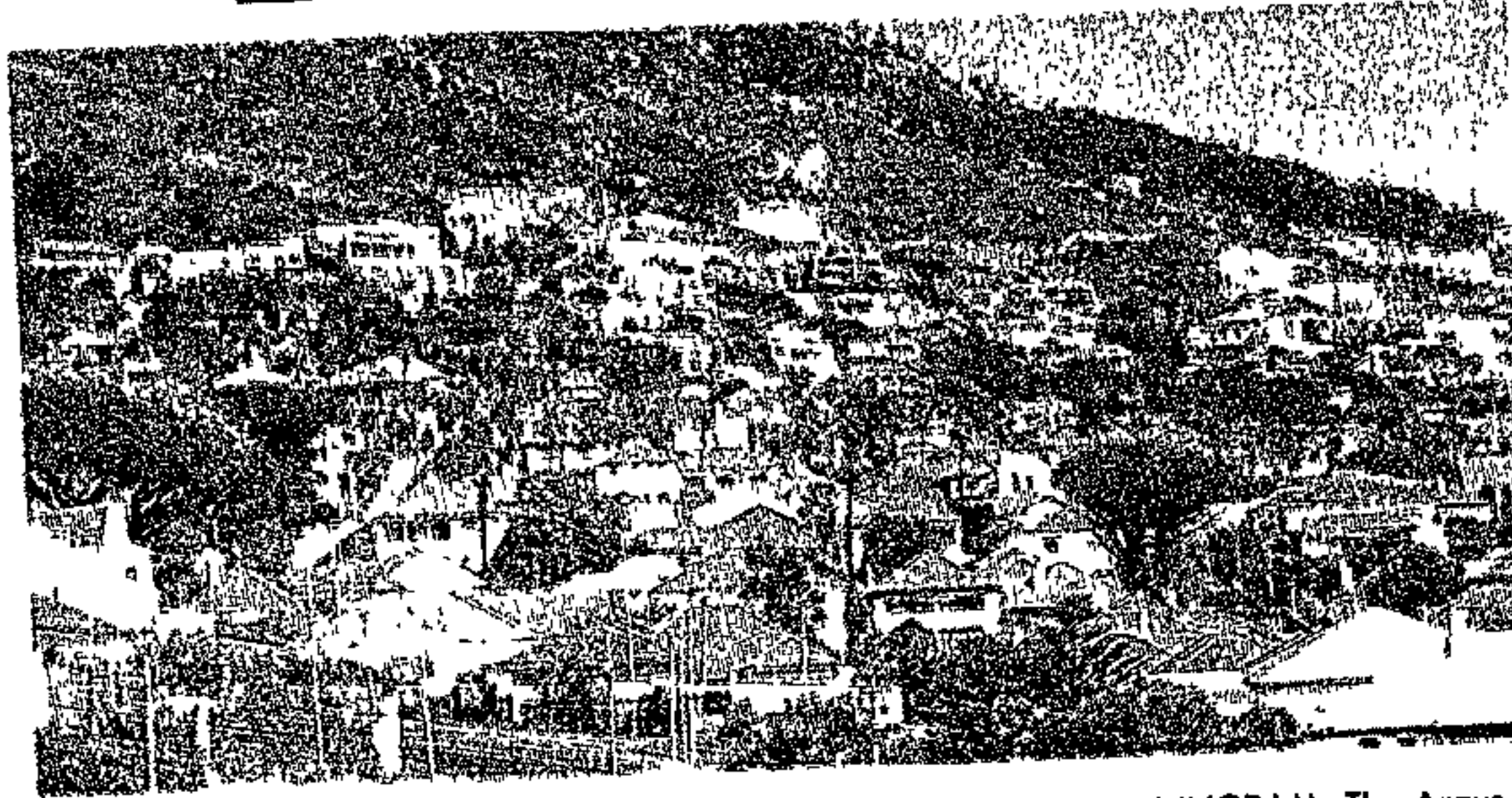
The nature area advisory committee, which had in turn effectively assumed the functions of the old Table Mountain Preservation Board, has now become the Cape Peninsula Protected Natural Environment Management Advisory Committee.

Major criticisms have been levelled at these committees, headed by former Cape nature conservation director Dr Douglas Hey — in particular, that their deliberations are behind closed doors, and also that they lack the teeth to enforce protection of the remaining unspoiled areas in the Peninsula.

Advisory body

But the committee is by definition only an advisory body and has no decision-making authority. And, from the time of the late Mr John Wiley, it has not been authorised to sit in public.

When Hout Bay civic leader Mr Len Pothier, then a representative of the former Cape Divisional



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

URBAN SPREAD: Development creeping up the slopes of the Peninsula's mountain chain — like these houses at Fresnaye on Lion's Head — is alarming conservationists.

Council, broke the committee's confidentiality rule, he was promptly fired by Mr Wiley.

The committee now advises the Administrator of the Cape.

Part of the problem was that the public perceived privately-owned but undeveloped land as inviolate conservation areas, explained Mr Jerry Avis, senior forestry scientist (planning).

With secretary Mr Alan Butcher, he forms the PNE secretariat of the Cape's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation.

"Fresnaye is a classic case," said Mr Avis, who was jointly responsible for drawing up the boundaries of the nature area in 1980/81.

"It has always been private land and the owners are now exercising their options."

Previously it was the responsibility of the local authority to provide services such as water and sewerage, so that steep areas like the granite slopes above Ocean View Drive, which were expensive to service, tended to remain undeveloped, he pointed out.

Now developers can finance their own services — "and if they can flog these at a profit, there's nothing to stop them putting these in at their own cost," Mr Avis said.

When they drew up the boundaries of the nature area, there were certain constraints, he pointed out.



Mr Len Pothier

"We were not allowed to incorporate proclaimed township land, some of which was proclaimed as far back as the 1940s and 1950s."

The 152m contour line had been adopted as the basis for proclaiming Table Mountain as a national monument and also by local authorities such as Fish Hoek, Simon's Town and the former Cape Divisional Council as the upper limits of their conventional townships.

But the 152m upper limit has a totally different aesthetic effect on the mountainside at Fish Hoek, where the highest point (Elsies Peak) is a mere 300m, compared to Table Mountain (1 085m).

"We only took the 152m contour line where it coincided with the limits of existing development, and even then it wasn't the predominant parameter," Mr Avis said.

Other parameters included areas of botanical, zoological and archaeological significance, and existing control of alien vegetation.

"And in addition to excluding townships, we also had to look at existing zonings," Mr Avis added.

"Certain areas were excluded on the advice of local authorities, such as relatively flat areas and logical township extensions."

Several of the controversial mountainside developments are the results

of legal loopholes which were exploited before they could be closed. And the committee also made mistakes, Mr Avis and Mr Butcher conceded.

The Fish Hoek flats are a case in point, where all the parties — including the local authority — were at fault, Mr Butcher said.

In the case of the developments on the mountain side at Hout Bay, one house was built by well-known boat-owner Mr Ken Evans before a legal technicality involving directions from the relevant minister was put into place.

But in terms of the rural zoning of those five properties, the owners are legally entitled to build one residence each — and any attempt to prevent them building could lead to a legal battle for compensation.

A Supreme Court case involving several million rands is pending at present over a proposed township within the PNE adjoining the Noordhoek-Glencairn freeway.

PNEs do not exclude or supercede any existing zoning, building or other local authority regulations, nor did they necessarily preclude development, Mr Avis emphasised.

Developers

Developers wanting to build had to obtain a permit from the Administrator, who was advised by the PNE committee. Desirability of any development was still a key factor in the decision, he said.

Most applications for development in the existing PNE have been refused; only a handful have been approved and many of those are minor constructions like fire lookout towers.

Without resorting to impractical expropriation or commercial transactions, both involving many millions of rands, Cape Town will have to learn to live with increasing development up mountain slopes. Some, for historical reasons, will be beyond effective control.

But with increased expertise on the PNE committee and constant public vigilance — and particularly if the Administrator allows the committee to sit in open session — further environmental disasters should be avoided.

Industry cleans up its act on green issues

DURBAN — Industry was cleaning up its act in the environmental sphere and there was a great deal of hope for the future, a Sappi/Saiccor spokesman Bryan Thomas said in Durban yesterday.

Opening Wildlife Expo 1990, Thomas said: "Today a lot more science goes into planning new industries — and old industries are being modified to conform to new environmental standards.

"There is still a long way to go, especially in the East, but the tide has turned ...

"Because we must have industries does not mean they have to be environment destroyers.

"There was a time when this was happening and industry developed a bad reputation with considerable justification. Fish disappeared from Swedish rivers, the Great Lakes died and the ultimate pollution — a river in the US was declared a fire hazard. The list goes on."

Courage

But because of "a few brave people" who had spoken out, the tide had begun to change 30 to 40 years ago. Industry had accepted its responsibility and had begun to clean up its act.

Thomas said that fish had already returned to the Swedish rivers, the Great Lakes were looking better and the river in the US could now be used to put out fires.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to organisations like the Wildlife Society, who have been one of those brave voices who have had the courage to stand up and shout when shouting was necessary.

"They have educated thousands of youngsters in environmental matters and they are now beginning to take their place in the industrial and business world helping to change attitudes." — Sapa.



DEREK BAUER'S WORLD



WHEN Environment Minister Gert Kotze announced that the government had banned attempts by foreign countries to export industrial waste to this country, a shipload of mercury toxins, classified as too hazardous to handle in the United States, was probably steaming its way to our shores — with the official consent of Pretoria.

The bewilderment began when Kotze last month declared that he had decided:

"South Africa will under no circumstances allow that other countries export their hazardous waste to South Africa. This decision implicates a total ban: no hazardous waste may thus be imported ... not for the purpose of treatment, nor for dumping or disposing in any other manner."

And, to show he meant business, the minister converted his promise into law by issuing a gazette that defined hazardous waste as any matter — "gaseous, liquid or solid" generated by an industrial or residential process that is then discarded or stored with the intention of dumping or recycling it.

The immediate response of environmentalists was one of delight. The Pietermaritzburg branch of Earthlife Africa, which has mounted a vociferous campaign against the importation of toxic waste, rushed off and produced a newsletter to say that Kotze had sounded the death knell for the controversial scheme by businessman Sydney Saunders to build a multi-million-rand waste incinerator on the Cape West Coast and other schemes to import toxic waste.

"The regulations are so tight that even a fart can be defined as hazardous waste and banned," said another ecologist.

The euphoria was short-lived. One day after the gazette was published, Kotze issued a press statement saying that Thor Chemicals, a Natal-based company accused by Greenpeace of importing more than 40 tons of highly toxic mercury waste over the past four years and then contaminating a local river with massive levels of the toxins, was not a sham recycler but a "manufacturing industry".

This week officials in the Department of Environment Affairs confirmed permission had been granted for Thor to accept consignments of waste which, according to Greenpeace, contain 30 to 40 percent organic waste mercury.

It is illegal in the United States to recycle industrial material that has an organic waste content of more than three percent.

And Dr G Oberholster, chief director for environmental health management, told *The Weekly Mail* that Thor had a permit until the end of this year to "import" an unlimited amount of "A

Dumping those meaningless words on toxins

Foreign countries see South Africa as the ideal garbage can for their industrial waste. Stringent laws apparently prevent this practice. But do they?
By **EDDIE KOCH**



Dumping ... The danger of importing others' toxic waste

and B Group 1 hazardous chemicals" including mercury-laced waste.

He could not confirm that a consignment of such material was already on the high seas and bound for Durban harbour.

Other officials from the Department of Environment Affairs did their best to explain the confusion.

Koos Stander, director for dealing with solid wastes, said Thor Chemicals was not included in the minister's ban because it was not importing waste.

"The company exports a number of products to overseas clients that contain mercury as an ingredient. All that Thor does is make an agreement

whereby it takes back the byproducts that are created when those products are used so that they can be regenerated here ... This is the recycling of a valuable material which would be toxic if used in any other manner."

This leaves at least three questions unresolved:

●How do we know that all of the 40 tons of mercury waste handled by Thor over the past four years has its origins in mercury-based products, mainly catalysts for paint, which were originally manufactured at Thor?

●What prevents overseas companies which generate mercury waste, such as Thor's main client American Cyanamid, from putting their own waste into the batch being sent off to

South Africa and then claiming that it was all a by-product of the material imported from Thor?

●If other companies were offered large amounts of foreign industrial waste and were able to show that they could extract substantial amounts of "raw material" before disposing of it, would they too be given permits to handle the material?

Says Stander: "The general policy is an emphatic 'No!' ... But the Foundation for Research Development at the CSIR is conducting a comprehensive study to redevelop and redefine policy and guidelines.

"We must also consider such details as those contained in the Hazardous Substances Act, the Water Act where applicable, air pollution legislation and health and safety standards laid down by the Department of Manpower.

"If you comply with these legal standards you may be able to bring your material in."

Environmental groups believe that European and American industries now view South Africa as the ideal site for disposing of their industrial garbage.

Eastern Europe has been closed as a favourite dumpsite by the overthrow of autocratic governments that allowed this to happen.

The majority of African states abide by an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolution to shun traders in waste. In Nigeria the dumping of imported toxins is treated as a capital offence.

At least four homeland governments in South Africa have been offered lucrative deals to import European and American waste and at least two of these were quashed only after the Department of Foreign Affairs interceded.

International dealers in waste are lobbying the new government of Namibia to sign a contract. Botswana and Mozambique have also been made offers.

The influential European newsletter, *Environment Matters*, reports that capital for the abortive scheme to build an incinerator at Alexander Bay capable of handling 500 000 tons of waste per annum was put up by a consortium of Swiss and German multinationals.

"There are numerous countries that look with wanting eyes, among others, to South Africa in order to dispose of their waste here," says the minister.

"To them I want to state unequivocally: I will not allow South Africa to become the dumping ground for the world's hazardous waste."

Just two weeks have elapsed since these strong words were uttered by the environmental minister and there has been so much equivocation and confusion that they remain meaningless.

56

Cape parks: Huge expansion plan

By BARRY STREEK

A R191,8m expansion plan for Cape national parks, part of an expansion plan for parks throughout the country, is set to take place if the government approves a subsidised loan plan.

More than half of the R333m approved by the National Parks Board will be spent in the Cape if it can raise the necessary capital.

This includes R67m for the Bontebok National Park, R12,8m for the Richtersveld National Park, R17,8m for the West Coast National Park, R40,5m for the Wilderness National Park, R3,5m for the Knysna National Lake Area and R27,8m for the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.

The Board of Trade and Industry (BTI), in a recently released report, called for state permission to raise a R333m loan in the capital market at market rates

for a period of 10 years.

It proposed that the board be liable for 5% interest on the loan and that the difference be paid by the government.

"The BTI is convinced that unless some financial package is provided for the board, the present bottleneck, such as inadequate accommodation in parks, will increasingly inhibit growth in especially foreign, but also domestic, tourism," the report says.

It said that while South Africa's range of tourist attractions compared favourably with most leading tourist destinations, its fauna and flora constituted its primary selling point.

"The tourism potential and infrastructure of many of these areas are either only partially developed or not developed at all because of financial constraints.

"The absence of tourism facilities in some of these areas makes them inaccessible to visitors, re-

sulting in increased pressure on those which are accessible."

The optimum development of these areas was essential if South Africa was to attract more foreign tourists.

The government will react to the recommendations in a white paper only early next year, but the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Kent Durr, specifically cited this recommendation when he released the report.

The board has proposed R25m for the extensions to the Bontebok Park as well as R40m for new rest camps, one on the sea front and one with river frontage, and R2m for Wilderness camps.

The Wilderness Park plans include R2,5m for the acquisition and restoration of the Fairy Knowe Hotel, R20m for a new rest camp at Swartvlei mouth and R8m each for two smaller rest camps at Swartvlei and Touws River.

Effects of urbanisation on water resources investigated

15/10/97 12/9/90 (56)
A DIFFERENT approach is needed to designing new urban areas to avoid destruction of the environment by urbanisation, researchers at Wits University's Department of Civil Engineering say.

Environmental engineering is an important component of civil engineering which relates to both human or socio-economic and physical issues.

The department is undertaking "what is believed to be the world's largest research project of its type on the effects of urbanisation on water resources and ground water levels," Wits hydraulic engineering professor David Stephenson says.

The project, in progress since 1982, was funded by the Water Research Commission and deals with the increased water runoff, lower ground water levels and ultimate change of natural vegetation caused by urbanisation.

Services such as stormwater drainage and road networks — commonly installed in new towns — together with roof and gutter constructions cause as much as a fourfold increase in flood runoff.

This results not only in a major erosion problem, but also in four times less water entering the ground.

In addition to environmental damage caused by urbanisation, it also results in changes to river flows, with artificial channels allowing water to flow away

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

from its natural passage.

Subsequent rainfall results in an unnaturally strong flow in rivers in urban areas, causing further erosion, Stephenson says.

Water pollution due to urbanisation is another problem. Acid rain, together with surface washoff, causes local waters to reach dangerous pollution levels.

By using computer modelling, Wits' research team is creating new town designs, whereby water is slowed down to permit it to filter into the ground.

Green belts

The designs entail, among others things, planting vegetation in storm channels to assist in reducing water flow, changing road layouts and the use of natural channels instead of concrete drains.

Stephenson stresses the need for more green belts to be established in order to facilitate seepage into the ground. Designs have to be found to stabilise river channels in urban areas.

The Department of Civil Engineering hopes to achieve a more integrated approach to environmental engineering, by offering the necessary courses needed to address the issue of urbanisation and the environment.

would decide whether it would be application. recommendations until the board had finalised its investigation into the whole of Johannesburg.



was unfair to blame police SA needed more tolerance a willingness on the part of

'Dead fish' censure hit Sappi morale 56 MD

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LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — Legislation on the environmental impact of industrial processes should be co-ordinated to prevent conflicting opinions delaying new development projects, Sappi MD Eugene van As said yesterday.

Presenting evidence for the President's Council investigation into a national environmental management system, Van As warned that new industrial projects in the US had been delayed for up to five years because of conflict between a number of controlling bodies with differing standards.

Van As said pollution control measures should be applied according to the areas in which the industrial processors were based, with less stringent measures applied in outlying areas where the impact was relatively low.

Legislators should also avoid the inter-

national trend of applying new standards for pollution control to new industrial projects only, because this gave old projects an advantage and discouraged new development, he said.

Van As conceded that existing penalties were not punitive enough to encourage companies to make significant investments in pollution control measures.

Accident

But, if they were unrealistically high, new investment would flow to those areas which had the advantage of being less environmentally controlled.

However, he said the public censure that followed the accident last year in which fish were killed by toxic waste released

into a river by a Sappi plant in the eastern Transvaal had been more damaging to group morale than any state-imposed penalties could have been.

"It was an accident. The machinery worked, but the people failed

"A company cannot protect itself from people who push safety measures to the limit," he said of the incident.

Sappi would continue to make substantial investments to ensure the best possible safety measures, he said.

He called for more research on specific environmental impacts and more work to determine the most economic use of land to prevent competition between the agricultural and the pulp and paper sectors.

Sapa reports that in its presentation to the President's Council Iscor proposed that industries draw up their own standards and guidelines for environmental controls.

Conference ^{Sowetan} on pollution ^{13/9/90} ⁽⁵⁶⁾

AIR pollution in southern Africa will be the subject of an international conference at the CSIR Conference Centre in Pretoria next month.

The conference, organised by the National Association for Clean Air, under the auspices of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations and in association with the Department of National Health and Population Development.

Indoor and township pollution to pollution of the broader countryside and global air pollution will be dealt with, according to chairman of the organising committee, Tony Surridge.

Other important issues to be discussed are the aspirations of people, problems of "pollution education", impacts of air pollution on water quality, motor vehicle pollution and control and the impacts of pollution on animals.

Sowetan Reporter

Also on the agenda are indoor pollution, asbestos, mine dumps and ash and dust control, the greenhouse effect and ozone, overseas pollution standards, odour control, environmental management and policies and the health aspects of air pollution.

Papers

More than a third of the 86 papers submitted for consideration originate from outside South Africa.

Countries to be represented include Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Malawi, the Netherlands, Peru, Taiwan, Britain, the US and Zambia.

For further information phone Cilla Taylor or Michelle Orlando at (012) 841-3816/4615.

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Conference on pollution

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Guide for environmental controls sought

ISCOR has proposed that industries draw up their own standards and guidelines for environmental controls affecting them.

The corporation's manager of planning and development, Mr CJ van Vuuren, said yesterday in a presentation to the President's Council investigation into an environment management system, that in this

way consensus would be achieved on the guidelines.

(56)

Sowetan 13/9/90

He also said attention to the financial implications of a national strategy for environmental protection was vital if such a strategy was to succeed, especially in terms of obtaining the full cooperation of South African business and industry. - Sapa

Townships' green spots die through

By TSHOKOLO MOLAKENG

THE miniature "Green Revolution" which was poised to take over the townships five years ago with the building of people's parks is no more.

Many of the green spots have decayed. During an inspection this week the *Weekly Mail* found that almost all the formerly eye-catching and verdant parks had fallen into disuse. One park had been turned into a rubbish heap while others were desolately deserted.

People's parks were built by young "comrades" during the marathon school boycotts which gave rise to the "Liberation Now, Education Later" slogan. Youngsters idling away the hours decided to put their time to good use.

Park-creation reached a peak in 1985. National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) representative Japhtha Lekgetho said 30 parks had been erected in 1980 to make residents aware of their environment and highlight town planning.

In 1985, however, there was a "revolution", with the building of countless parks. It was the climax of a project he had started in 1976 after resigning from the teaching profession.

The numerous parks which sprouted riotously in the townships were christened after various national political leaders: there were the Mandela and Sisulu parks in honour of the African National Congress stalwarts who were in jail at that time.

Renaming was not strictly political, however. There were others which went by fabulous, romantic names like Paradise, Loveday, Spitz and Heaven. The names epitomised the yearning for tranquility and pleasure among the youth.

NEAC provided the materials: flowers, trees and implements.

Parks varied in size and design: most were neat and small, a factor Lekgetho attributed to the shortage of land. They were fenced off with vehicle tyres — items later used with petrol to "necklace" political "targets".



Playing in the shadow of danger ... two youngsters enjoy a ride in a Vosloorus park oblivious to the policemen who had been sent into the troubled township to curb violence between residents and hostel dwellers. Parks in Reef townships, which had been maintained by youngsters, have become neglected

Youngsters went to the parks to relax and play cards and other games. Soweto youngster Thabo Mosidi said some smoked daaga at the places.

Some of the parks were destroyed by the police because of their names, said Lekgetho, who is also the ANC representative on environmental issues. "The police once summoned me to a Soweto police station where they questioned me about the parks. They felt the youths were naughty."

Besides police intervention, Lekgetho attributed the disintegration of the parks to the return to schools by pupils.

The youngsters could have maintained the parks, but the town council did not offer assistance in terms of water, he added.

Pacino Park in Mapeta is one of the few parks still in good condition. It is a small area sandwiched between a shop and house. It was Tuesday, and two youngsters were staggering from the park carrying two empty beer bottles.

Lekgetho claimed the Soweto Council wanted to make the township a "sophisticated slum" where residents would

have no place to inhale fresh, unpolluted air. "We need more land where we can have recreational facilities. It is shocking to see more than 500 children flocking to one municipal park," he said.

"Even if people were provided with houses (which is not happening), they would still need a place to relax."

In the absence of enough parks, youngsters turned to drugs, alcohol and gangsterism, Lekgetho said.

This week a group of children loitered near a messy municipal park in Mapeta.

They complained that the council had promised to provide irrigation and maintenance for park but had failed to do so.

Although the NEAC planned an all-out effort to revive the parks, the campaign had had to be put on ice for the time being. Said Lekgetho: "It would be insensitive to talk about building parks when there is violence ripping the country apart."

Several municipal parks are still in use on the Reef, but in the violence-bedevilled townships the thought of vi-

siting such parks is remote. The fear of death dogs everybody.

It was not surprising to see a group of policemen having a meal in a Vosloorus park on the East Rand on Tuesday. Residents were scared of a threatened attack by hostel dwellers and stayed home.

Two little children, playing obliviously in the same park, were snooded away by adults returning from work. They told them they should play at home — and the policemen could have a good time in the park.

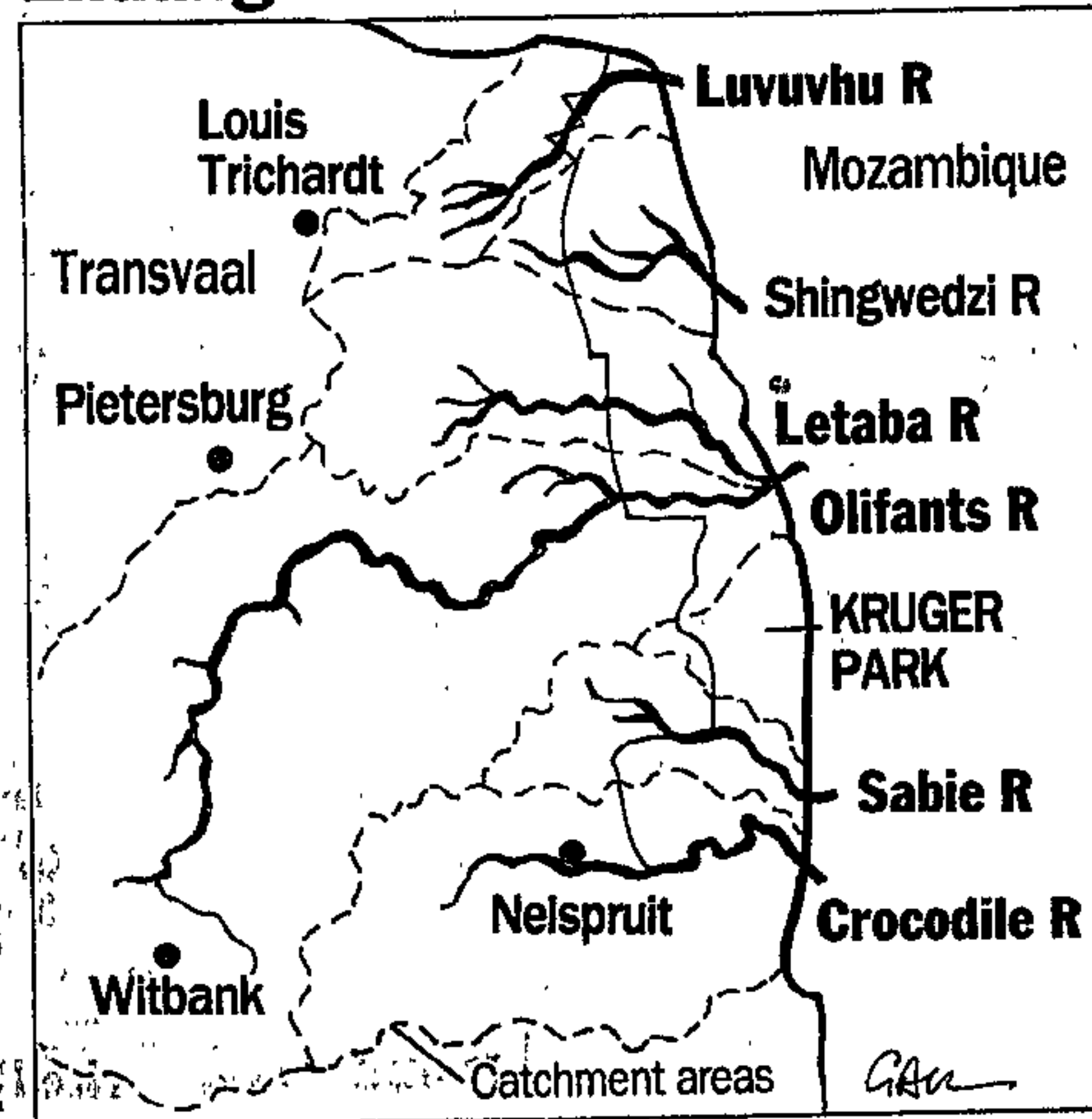
56 w/mal 14/9 - 20/9/90 Picture: AVIGAIL UZI

56 w/mal 14/9 - 20/9/90

Picture: AVIGAIL UZI

SA's rivers slowly dying as population grows - experts

Endangered rivers



By Jacqueline Myburgh
 South Africa is facing a potential disaster with its rivers in danger of slowly "dying", researchers and conservationists warn.

A scenario far worse than the debilitating drought of 1982/83 has been sketched by analysts involved in the most comprehensive river study yet undertaken in the country.

Already, what were once major perennial rivers passing through the Kruger National Park have turned into seasonal streams; other major waterways are becoming more and more polluted; and even the biggest rivers are carrying less water, say National Parks Board officials.

They have warned that if strategies are not implemented, South Africa could be faced with dry river beds, or biologically "dead rivers", such as exist in Europe and England, in 20 years' time.

Natal Parks Board chief director Tol Pienaar said silt from catchment areas using poor agricultural techniques had already affected the quality of river water.

"This had led to the deterioration of aquatic life and a number of fish-kills during flood periods.

Effluent from industrial areas as far away as the Witwatersrand had also had a detrimental effect on the ecology of the rivers.

In an attempt to prevent a water crisis, the biggest-ever water research programme has begun into the state of the rivers flowing through the Kruger National Park.

Five major rivers in the Park have been identified for research. Of the five — the Sabie, Letaba, Luvuvhu, Olifants and Crocodile — the Leta-

ba River is reported to be most critical in terms of the quality and quantity of water.

The Departments of Environment, Water Affairs and Agriculture, the CSIR's Foundation for Research Development, the Water Research Commission, six major universities and the Transvaal Provincial Administration have been asked to take part.

The groups will monitor the water in the rivers and the first recommendations for action must be made within two or three years, according to Peter Reid of the Water Research Commission.

It is hoped that dams — which will be constructed on the various water systems within the next three years — will simulate the natural flow of the rivers.

The first dam will be built on the Sabie River and preliminary studies show there are sufficient sites for large storage dams to provide for the needs of the Lowveld and the Kruger Park in the future.

The reason the rivers dry up is given as overutilisation by industry, agriculture and individuals.

Johan Verhoef, manager of conservation communication at the National Parks Board, said no immediate action would be taken to curb industry or development in overutilisation of the resource, but the population explosion on the borders of the park, and the development of the lowveld areas (for agriculture and mining) were increasing pressure on the river systems.

Dr Pienaar said the outlook "in the medium term" was good, but in the long term, the population explosion would have to be curbed, "unless we want to run into water problems everywhere".

Star 14/9/90 (56)

Becoming ozone-friendly has cost industry millions

Staff Reporter

There has been a 60 percent reduction in the manufacture of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in South Africa, according to Ian Macdonald, chairman of the Wildlife Society's ozone assessment board.

Mr Macdonald said that since the first Ozone Awareness Day on September 15 1989, there had been remarkable changes in southern Africa and overseas.

"Millions have been spent by

industries in converting to ozone-friendly gases," he said.

According to Mr Macdonald, the gravity of the ozone threat was emphasised by the amendments to the 1987 Montreal Protocol made at a meeting in London in June, which included the agreement that CFCs would be totally phased out by the end of the decade.

The process of phasing out many other chemicals known to be ozone depleting had also been accelerated.

Environmental laws 'adequate'

CAPE TOWN — Self-regulation by strategic industries such as mining would only be effective if priorities were set and control exercised at national level, Chamber of Mines deputy chairman T I Steenkamp told the President's Council last week. (56)

The council is investigating an environmental management system.

Steenkamp said there was no need for further environmental legislation, but serious consideration should be given to rationalising government structures necessary to administer existing laws.

Legal mechanisms should be created which ensured that "adequate participation by persons with bona fide interests" while "unreasonable and frivolous impediments" did not unnecessarily obstruct mining operations.

Earlier, an environmental consultant to the chamber, J S Freer, said one of the mining industry's frustrations in implementing integrated environmental management was in identifying the authorities with whom to liaise for statutory approvals. 81044 1719/90

ZILLA EFRAT reports that the National Energy Council told the President's Council more emphasis should be placed on incentives in legislation that would have a positive impact on the economy and the environment.

It also recommended greater co-ordination of energy affairs and said greater centralisation of management should be considered by way of a partnership between private and public sectors.

CONCERTED protests and petitioning by local ecologists have persuaded the South African government to announce it will no longer turn a blind eye to imports of toxic waste.

Mr Gert Kotze, Minister of Environment Affairs, said: "South Africa is not the world's dumping ground."

Shortly after this announcement, it was revealed that Transkei was lobbying several European countries to export their industrial waste to the homeland and build a R100m waste incinerator plant in the territory.

This was later denied by the Transkei government.

One cannot but marvel at the timing of the report. The "independent" homelands have long been used as convenient scapegoats for contradictions in national policy by the South African government.

Examples such as the manipulation of the population census to the bizarre picture of casinos within driving distance of rightwing Christian South Africa testify to the history of homeland cover-ups. Hopefully, history will not repeat itself.

If Transkei does decide to import toxic waste, this will be another example of how the sacrifice of our environment has been aided by apartheid. The environmental costs of

Environmental cost of apartheid

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tary pollution is extremely detrimental to our coastal marine reserves.

THE HIGH RISK OF TOXIC WASTE

Squatter communities are particularly at risk from industrial pollution.

The toxic waste dumping saga in Pietermaritzburg last year and the mercury scare this year are examples. More than 6 000 drums of toxic waste were dumped by a recycling concern on the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg.

In one case, 126 emptied toxic waste drums were used by a large squatter camp to catch rain water for drinking purposes.

In the case of the Thor chemicals mercury scare, not only were workers at the plant contaminated; nearby squatters used the Umgeni river to bathe and drink.

Apartheid has insured that the poor and disenfranchised are the most likely to suffer from the mistakes of industry. The South African government has long cultivated an image as a conservation leader, yet has shown little regard for the environment where people are concerned.

The same attitude which regards seals as a "natural resource" which we should "harvest" also sees human labour in resource terms.

As long as both we and our environment are regarded in a purely economic light, there can be no talk of environmental conservation.

What you can do:

- Ask your community organisations and unions to take up environmental issues;
- Include environmental health in your demands for a new South Africa;
- Educate your friends about the link between apartheid and environmental destruction;
- Support the demands of progressive ecology groups;
- Remember that the environment affects us all.

— Dave Lewis

apartheid itself have been exceptionally high, yet little is said about these costs. While apartheid cannot be blamed for all South Africa's problems, it must certainly take the blame for many.

As a recent Worldwatch report on South Africa noted, "the environment has been degraded far more than would have occurred if racial separatism had never been institutionalised".

In this respect South Africa stands alone.

Particularly the homeland areas and urban townships have borne the cost of apartheid's disregard for environmental health.

Below are some of those costs:

SOIL EROSION, DEFORESTATION AND MALNUTRITION

The 1913 Land Act is the key to many of the environmental problems experienced by our country.

The Act, by enforcing a policy of overcrowding in the 13 percent of the land set aside as ethnic reserves, has resulted in extreme environmental degradation. In most homelands, gullies have grown into small valleys and fertile topsoil is now scarce.

As the soil becomes poorer, so do the people who rely on it to feed their families. Malnutrition and environmental decay go hand in hand.

Overgrazing and deforestation result in soil erosion. In the absence of electricity, two thirds of South Africans use wood for fuel, cutting down the many forests at such a rate that in Kwazulu, the grave of Cetshwayo, buried a century ago in the heart of the Nkandla forest, can now be seen from the forest's receding edge.

While deforestation and soil erosion speed up, there are still those naive enough to

suggest this is merely a result of a high birth rate among rural people.

Overcrowding is certainly a problem, but they forget that many people reside there against their will, victims of forced removals.

Moreover, South Africa, while containing only four percent of Africa's entire population, generates 60 percent of the continent's electricity. Yet less than a third of South Africans has access to that electricity. This is no economic accident.

In the case of the homelands, it is clear that restoration of the environment can happen only once there is a commitment to redistributing land and providing essential services such as electricity.

The Land Act of 1913 is also responsible for the shape of South African cities.

The ghettos and squatter camps testify to industries'

need for black labour and the unwillingness of the government to allow basic land rights. The result is predictably environmental decay.

The lack of electricity forces many to use coal or wood fires: air pollution is inevitable as is the high incidence of lung disease. This is exacerbated by the fact that many townships are situated near industrial areas.

A recent BBC programme highlighted the almost permanent smog over Soweto. Paradoxically, neighbouring white areas are also starting to show high rates of asthmatic problems.

Another pollution problem is the lack of basic sanitation in many squatter camps. KTC and Crossroads are obvious examples. A recent water report pointed out that human excrement was contaminating the groundwater and ultimately entering False Bay via storm water drains.

Besides being responsible for the local TB epidemic, sani-

Green Speak



In a recent conversation with a journalist, I was asked the embarrassing question about who takes responsibility for land usage.

The question concerned disputes around the Somchem weapons testing ground near Rooiels.

It seems the testing might affect the reservoir in the mountains above Rooiels and the Cape Hangklip area generally.

This "development" itself must be seen in the context of the state-military-industrial onslaught on the South-Western Cape coastline.

The current checklist includes the Koeberg nuclear power station at Melkbosstrand, the oil refinery at Milnerton, the toxic waste dump at Viessershoop, the Somchem factory at Somerset West and the Goede Hoop missile testing range near Arniston.

In addition to the proposed Somchem site above Rooiels, kaolin may be mined at Chapman's Peak and two more nuclear reactors are proposed for Groothagekraal near Gansbaai.

All decisions have been taken against the will of the majority. This might well apply to the Chapman's Peak fiasco, despite a professional and highly-structured campaign of resistance.

In the case of Koeberg, a less professional but nevertheless extremely vocal campaign did little to halt the project.

Even internal governmental opposition to De Goede Hoop achieved little except general public scorn for the Department of Nature Conservation.

Opposition to these developments has largely been grounded in middle-class constituencies.

Most ordinary and often quite conservative minded people have come out in opposition only when their direct usage of their private

property has been threatened materially.

In the case of Rooiels, Groothagekraal and De Goede Hoop (and more further afield around St Lucia), the state military industrial complex has invaded prime land.

Even the most progressive forces in the anti-apartheid movement have failed to see the significance of wilderness. No one — except possibly Albie Sachs — has come out in unequivocal support of land rights without reference to some or other group of humans.

In other words, land is an issue only when it involves some kind of ownership or territorial or resource rights for humans.

But who speaks for the land itself?

Chernobyl has shown us that this question is not confined to neighbourhood malpractices. If a landowner messes up some tract of land or the water attached to it, somebody has to take responsibility for the mess.

International and continental conventions are a good means of regulating some large-scale malpractices. These bodies include the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (which South Africa has yet to sign), the Montreal Protocol against CFC pollution and the London Convention against the dumping of nuclear waste at sea.

On the African continent we have the Lome Convention against importation of toxic and nuclear waste (are you reading this, Holomisa?).

But at a regional level we need to all assume responsibility for whatever happens to our soil, air and water.

If we don't accept responsibility for all organic and inorganic life forms, we may find ourselves governing a wasteland.

— Mike Kantey

ENVIRO BRIEFS

Trade in toxic wastes, products and industries flourishing

TIGHTENED environmental regulation in the industrialised world has led to the shipment of toxic wastes, pesticides and industrial processes to the Third World, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Western companies dumped more than 24m tons of hazardous wastes in West Africa during 1988 alone, according to the Worldwatch Institute.

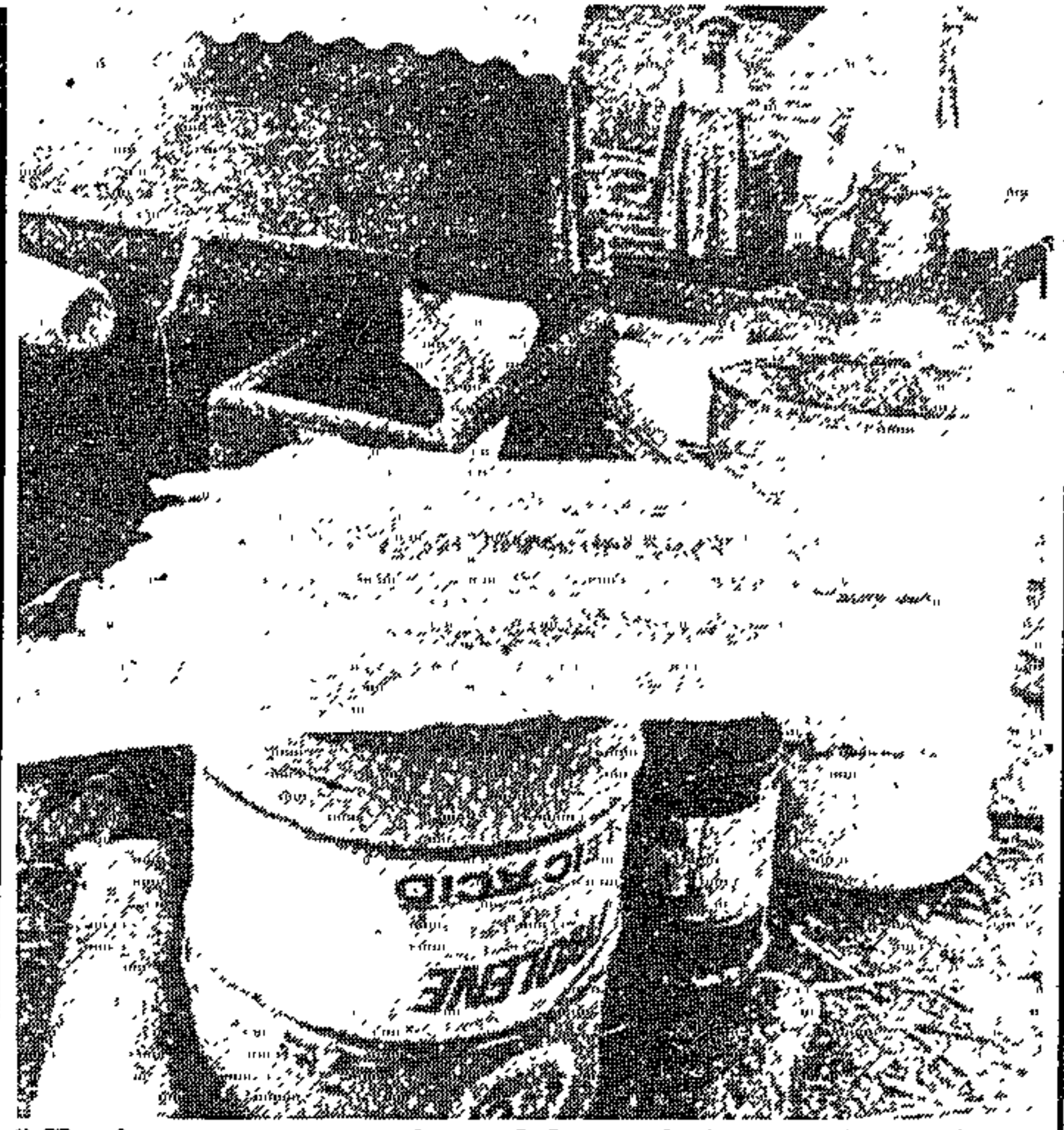
"Perhaps the ultimate form of toxic export is the relocation of whole manufacturing plants to parts of the world where standards are unusually lax," said Hilary F. French, a senior researcher at Worldwatch.

Earthlife Africa asks for clarity on Kotze's definition of toxics

EARTHLIFE Africa has congratulated Minister of Environment Affairs Gert Kotze for his decision to ban the importation of "hazardous waste", but called for clarity on whether this covered raw materials.

Toxic waste that leaves other countries and enters our country classified by South African customs as raw material will "reduce the ban to nothing but hot air", according to Earthlife Africa.

— Dave Lewis



Toxic waste contaminated drums being used to collect rainwater in Pietermaritzburg

The holocaust that looms over Natal's dolphins

(56) W/E Mail 21/9-27/9/90

Dolphin emblems that grace hotel walls along the coast north of Durban may, by the turn of the century, be the only surviving relics of the local species if no attempt is made to stop the strip-mining of our seas

By EDDIE KOCH

A STRETCH of seaboard north of Durban has been dubbed The Dolphin Coast. Graceful murals of dolphins arch across the walls of hotels. Bright pictures of dolphins are painted across the bottom of swimming pools. Curio shops sell beautiful posters of dolphins leaping from the ocean into the silvery light of a full moon.

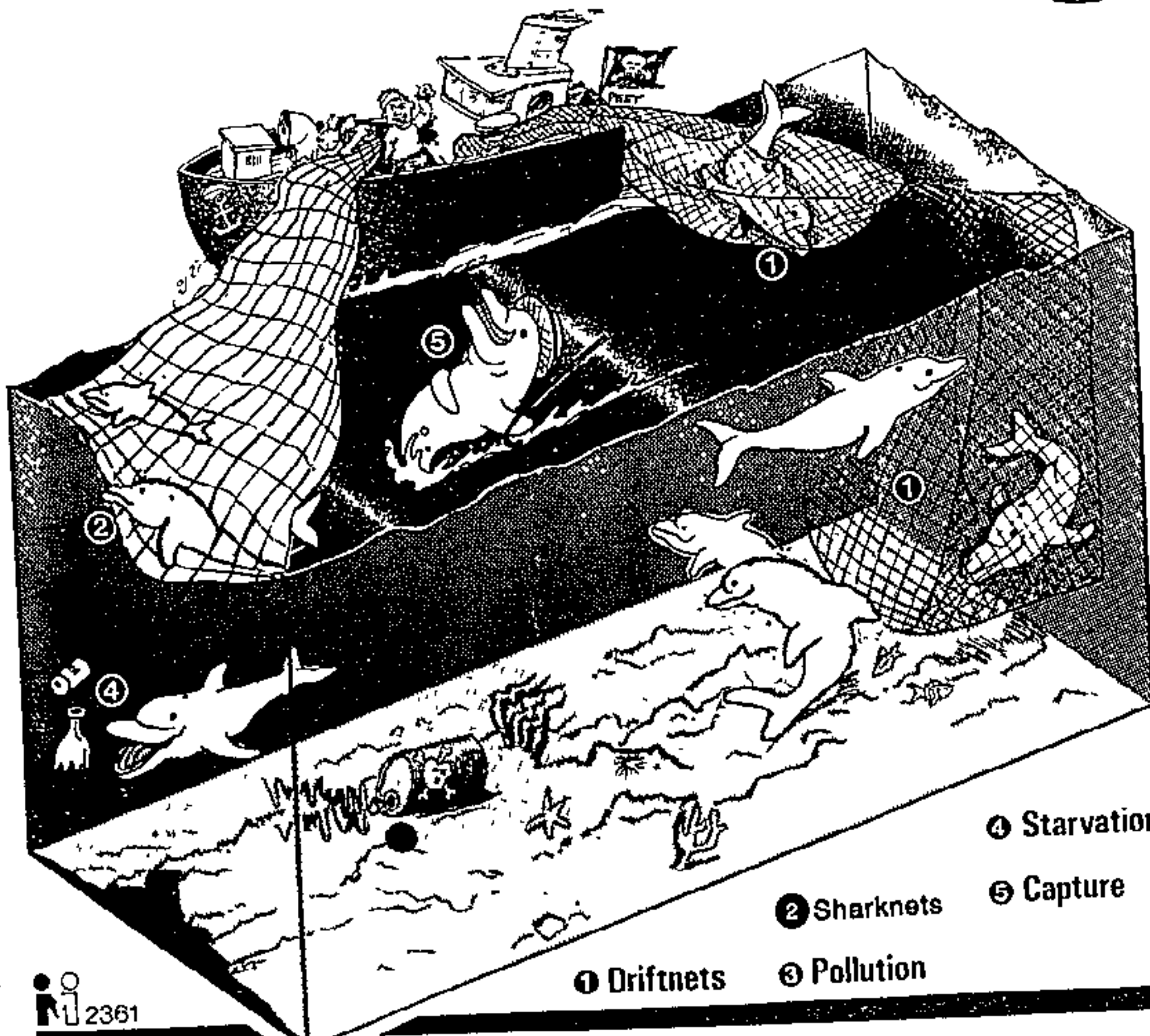
Sightings of the real humpback and bottlenose dolphins that once abounded in these waters are less common. With some 100 bottlenoses and less than 200 humpbacks off the entire Natal shoreline, scientists fear the tourist industry's emblems will, by the turn of the century, be the only surviving relics of the two species.

These two types of dolphins, together with the less threatened common dolphin, were once so plentiful that in 1913 the Natal Fisheries Department offered rewards to fishermen who killed the mammals and pleaded for the establishment of a dolphin fishery to rid Natal of the "pestilence". Now there are other factors that do the job.

A combination of industrial and ecological degradation of the Natal coastal zone as well as the 46 kilometres of shark nets that have been strung across the southern half of the province's shoreline to promote and protect tourism are, according to researcher Victor Cockcroft, the main factors threatening to make *tursiops aduncus* (Indian Ocean humpback dolphins) and *sousa plumbea* (Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins) extinct in our waters by the year 2000.

Both types of dolphins live close inshore off Natal's coast for most of the year and seldom venture into waters deeper than 30 metres. Humpbacks, when they are sighted, are most often found in the turbid and muddy waters of river mouths where they feed on estuarine fish. Bottlenoses prefer cleaner water and feed just seaward of the surf zone.

"In this close inshore area both dolphin species are particularly vulnera-



Gillnets, pollution — these are just some of the dangers dolphins face

ble to capture in shark nets and to coastal zone degradation, including pollutants washed down rivers," says Cockcroft. The nets, which stretch from Richards Bay in the north to Port Edward in the south, create one of the most heavily netted areas in the world. Each year they trap four in every 100 of the surviving humpbacks and bottlenose dolphins.

(They also kill an average of 35 common dolphins — *delphinus delphis* — a year. These deaths, however, are not a major threat to the species as there are about 10 000 of this type off Africa's east coast.

A full 60 percent of dolphins caught in the nets are mothers and their young. The reason: dolphin calves develop close bonds with their mothers and suckle for the first two years of their lives, more for familial contact than the nutritional value of the milk.

"Calves swim and play in the near-shore region and there is considerable risk that they will become entangled in the shark nets," says Cockcroft. "The mothers too are at risk as they will probably attempt to pull their calves from their nets and may also be captured in the process."

Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group is fiercely opposed

to the existence of nets. "We realise that they cannot be removed at once as this may cause the collapse of an industry that provides thousands of peoples' jobs but something needs to be done. These nets are having a dramatic impact on the marine ecology and are threatening dolphins as well as shark species."

Cockcroft has submitted a set of proposals to the Natal Sharks Board which, he says, will dramatically reduce the death rate. These include selective removal of nets at less populated resorts and the use of bigger meshes so that small calves can swim through without getting enmeshed. Dolphins swim close to the surface, and research on the gillnets in the Pacific have shown that if they are placed a few metres below the surface the fatality rate can be reduced by 90 percent.

"Of the 1 400 sharks that are trapped in the nets each year, only 140 may be considered dangerous in the sense that they could bite a bather and one-third of those are capable of causing death. There is a strong case for much more judicious and selective use of nets," says Cockcroft.

Norman Wynne, deputy director of the Sharks Board, told the *Weekly Mail* that researchers' suggestions are being taken seriously and experiments to test the efficacy of all the measures have begun. In some areas nets have been lifted to protect endangered dolphin as well as shark species."

To highlight the dangers that face dolphins the Endangered Wildlife Trust, one of the country's most vociferous conservation groups, has started a campaign called Project Dolphin. This is aimed at educating the public about the threats to the species and the project also aims to establish a research station on the Bazarutto Archipeligo to monitor patterns in dolphin populations.

Pollution and shark nets are the most visible threats to South Africa's dolphins because they affect inshore species that can be effectively monitored. However, the use of gillnets — otherwise known as walls of death — by fishing trawlers in the southern Indian and Atlantic Oceans are carrying out a slaughter that make inshore dolphin fatalities pale into insignificance, Wynne said.

"There are 300 vessels from Taiwan, Japan and Korea operating in these areas," adds Rice. "Taiwanese

gillnetters alone have increased from one in 1984 to 140 in 1989. Most of them carry gill nets that have an average length of 40km making a total of 1.200km of nets drifting out there in the ocean."

The effects on pelagic species — common dolphins, striped and spotted dolphins and spinners — are devastating. The average catch of porpoises and other small cetaceans recorded in other parts of the world is half a mammal for every 10km of nets every day. Says Cockcroft: "If we take only the 140 Taiwanese vessels that operated for six months in our waters last year then we can reliably estimate that they killed a total of 57 000 dolphins."

Rice believes the Department of Environment Affairs needs to slap a complete moratorium on the use of gillnets in South African waters and lobby for a total international ban if deep-sea dolphins are to survive what she says is a looming marine ecolocaust.

"We also need a coalition of southern Indian Ocean and Atlantic states to co-operate in the implementation of strict measures that will stop these northern countries from strip-mining our seas," she says.

...and the toxic sea makes matters worse

W/E Mail 21/9 - 26/9/90

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INDUSTRIAL and ecological degradation off the Natal coastline is a factor that adds to the fatality rate of rare dolphins in South African waters

Researcher Victor Cockcroft has tested the blubber of dead female dolphins trapped in Natal's shark nets and found levels of DDT and polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs), toxins that undermine the mammals' reproductive and immune systems, that are twice as high as those found in Dall's porpoises off Japan's coast and 10 times the levels found in the St Lawrence estuary.

These pollution levels, which stem from lax regulations regarding the storage of industrial toxins like PCBs and the extensive use of dangerous pesticides like DDT in rural areas, are high enough to kill every first-born calf of a female dolphin and seriously impair the reproductive systems of the species. Perhaps more startling is Cockcroft's discovery that the blubber of dead dolphins contained smaller quantities of the banned chemicals, lindane and dieldrin.

These two pesticides, together with DDT, are amongst the most dangerous pesticides in the world and easily enter the food chain because they take an extremely long time to degrade. DDT is used in most of South Africa's homelands to control malaria as well as by white farmers who can ob-

tain special permits to use the chemical.

PCBs — highly toxic products used in the manufacture of electric motors and neon lights — are meant to be stored in specialised toxic waste sites. Natal, however, does not have such sites and the chemicals are frequently dumped in places where they can leach into rivers and the water table. These chemicals have been linked to the mass stranding of dolphins in the Mediterranean as well as viral epidemics that have decimated seal and dolphin populations in the North Sea because of the way they attack the immune systems of mammals.

Female dolphins mature at the age of 10 years. Toxins such as DDT and PCBs accumulate in the blubber of the animals during that period and some 90 percent of the pollutants are discharged to first-born calves in the mother's milk. "It looks as though Natal bottlenose dolphins pass on about 90 percent of the average amount of 100 milligrams of DDT and PCBs," says Cockburn. "Work has been done to show that one-tenth of these levels will kill baby monkeys."

The pollutants appear to have their origins in the heavily industrialised belt around Durban, Richards Bay and Empangeni and the intensively

agricultural land in the Natal Midlands. Skiboat fishermen and divers from Richards Bay say that effluent pumped directly into the sea from huge paper mills and fertiliser plants are not effectively dispersed by the currents and that the seabed is covered in sludge.

The exact effect of industrial pollution is not fully known to scientists but Cockcroft believes it is high enough to kill all first-born bottlenose and humpback dolphins. Second and subsequent calves are likely to survive as about 90 percent of the toxins accumulated in mothers' blubber during puberty is discharged to the first calf. The common dolphin is less threatened by pollution because this species migrates into the polluted waters seasonally during the sardine run.

Massive silt loads that wash down rivers and are dumped in marine estuaries at the rate of 60 tons a day are another ecological threat to dolphins. "Increased silt loads with the accompanying increase in suspended sediment has not only clogged many of the estuaries and reduced their capacity to act as nurseries for fish but has probably reduced the clarity of river outflow and led to a decline in plant and consequently animal life in inshore waters," says Cockcroft.

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(56) 25/9/90

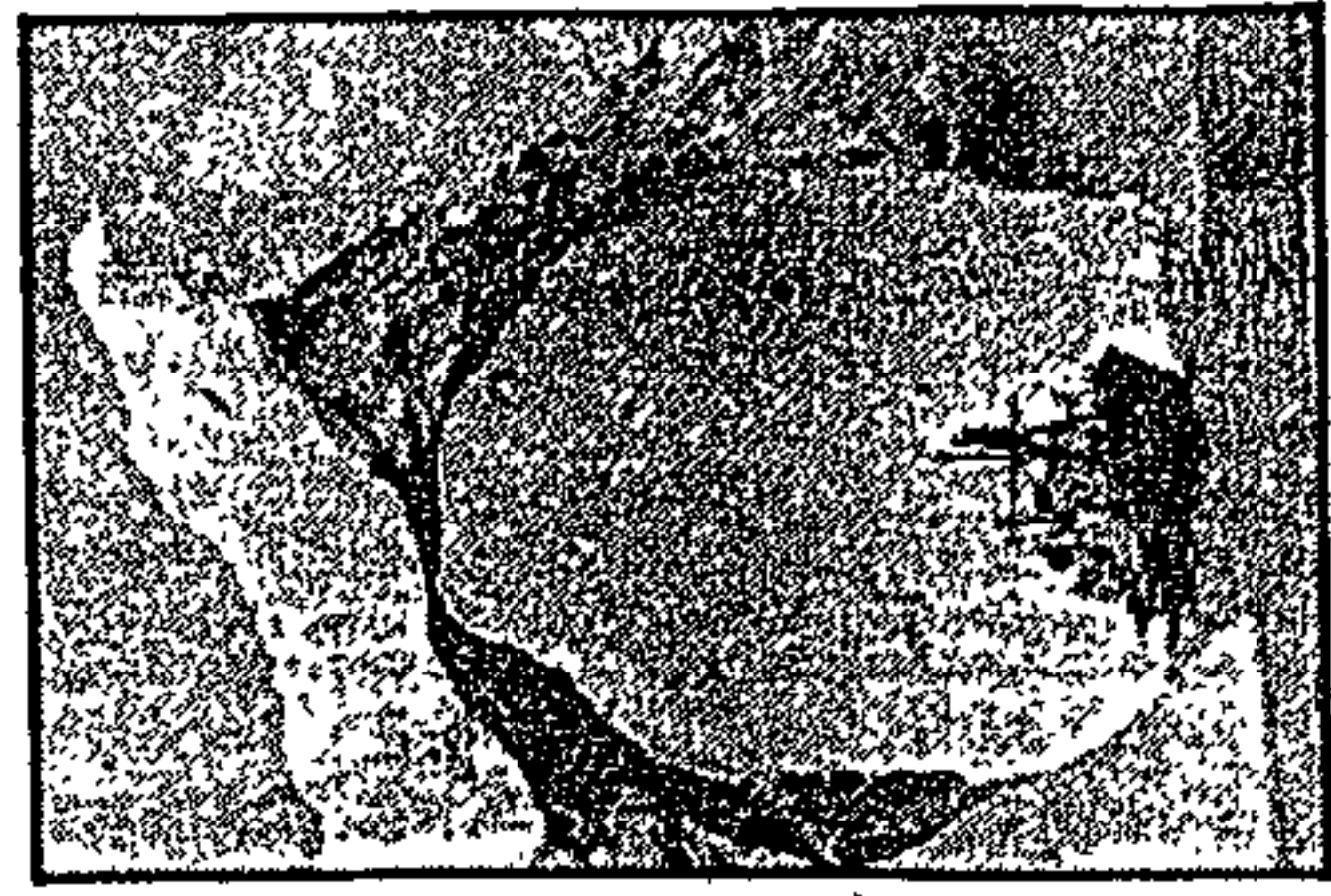
Global warming: fact, or a lot of hot air?

A scientist asks regarding the greenhouse effect theory: Have you ever seen, a nastier scientific issue? **JAMES CLARKE** reports.

ture of coal in the energy field, is circulating a transcript of a British television programme titled "The Greenhouse Conspiracy". The commentator begins by saying "there is mounting evidence that (the greenhouse theory) is not true". Professor Pat Michaels, environmental scientist at the University of Virginia, says in the programme that temperatures across America are dropping, not rising.

The rather scary theory of the "greenhouse effect" is a conspiracy between newspapermen and scientists, says a new industrial lobby. One scientific lobby says chlorine, from CFCs, is dissolving the ozone layer, allowing through life-threatening ultra-violet rays. The holes in the ozone are expected to alter global weather patterns and magnify the greenhouse effect.

The new lobby wants to stop governments acting against the release of excessive carbon dioxide, a gas released mostly from burning coal. Carbon dioxide is the major greenhouse gas. The lobby recently persuaded President Bush to pull back from helping an international move to curb greenhouse-gas emissions. In South Africa the coal lobby, worried about the fu-



Is the greenhouse effect really about to melt the Antarctic's icecap and cause sea levels to rise? Some scientists say it's all a hoax.

Anyway, he says, thermometers cover only one-third of the globe and readings are not taken at sea (70 percent of the globe's surface), so the temperatures are not representative. Dr Roy Spencer (Nasa physicist) says satellite information is from evenly spaced readings across the whole world and shows that while

the Earth heated up in the first half of the 1980s, it cooled in the latter half. Dr Sherwood Idso (hydrologist, Arizona) says "both the media and the scientists are not averse to making the situation appear dramatic".

Most of the scientists agreed there was evidence to support a 0.5 deg C increase over this century although Dr Idso says it "could be a figment of the data" due to the urban temperature anomaly. He offers evidence from his own experiments that by increasing carbon dioxide, man will increase plant growth and increase the world's forest cover. He says if we increased present levels 10 times "it would do no harm to animal life and would still be beneficial to plant life".

Dr Idso says: "A lot of people are getting famous and very well funded as a result of global warming." The commentator adds: "The media also benefit from a good disaster story." Professor Michaels says: "There's a lot of blood in this battle. People hate each other about it. Have you ever seen a

nastier scientific issue?" Footnote: As a media person I ask myself whether I am a party to a conspiracy to fool the public. We have two lobbies — one says industry's annual 6 000 million tons of carbon dioxide will boost plant life and cool the Earth. The other says the Earth will heat up, ice caps melt, coastal areas become submerged and croplands fail.

The press can only reflect what scientists are saying and, overwhelmingly, they say the greenhouse effect is a fact. Significantly, both schools, in coming to diametrically opposed conclusions, demonstrate that we are allowing industry to carry out an insane experiment on the very air we breathe.

I have found that industry is not to be trusted. The CFC episode, alone, demonstrates that. For the sake of short-term profit it was prepared to subject the public to grave risks. It may now take 60 years to undo the damage.

Let's develop tourism, Kotze tells neighbours

B 1047 25/9/90

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CAPE TOWN — Southern African countries should forget their differences and work together to develop a booming tourism industry in the region, Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday.

Addressing the Association of Southern African Travel Agents (Asata) congress in Windhoek, Kotze said SA and its neighbours could start building up tourism in the area immediately, by establishing cross-border travel pack-

LESLEY LAMBERT

ages.

"Tourism can help to build international bridges where other forms of diplomacy cannot. It plays an important role in the strengthening of ties in southern Africa in the political, social and economic spheres," he said.

Trade, Industry and Tourism Minister Kent Durr said at the weekend conservative estimates indicated that SA would receive more than a million foreign visitors this year and more than two million by the turn of the century.

Some of the income generated by tourism could be used to maintain costly wildlife sanctuaries which had proved to be one of the



● KOTZE

major tourist attractions in the region, Kotze said.

But he warned that there was a limit to the number of tourists any region could accommodate.

"Destroy our environment through over-exploitation and you destroy our international tourist industry which many impartial observers maintain has the capacity to replace gold as our most important export earner of foreign exchange.

"We must ensure that southern Africa's natural environment, fauna and flora are developed rapidly to maximise their contribution to tourism, with due care being exercised to protect the environment. A careful balance between development for tourism and conservation will have to be maintained to ensure that this central element in southern Africa's tourism industry remains an attractive feature," Kotze said.

Pollution study on Vaal kids

Questionnaires will also be distributed further afield. A MRC statement said that by conducting tests on the body's immunity system, researchers hoped to establish whether the air pollution in the Vaal Triangle had the same effects on the body as smoking.

The first phase of investigation should be completed by March next year. - *Sapa*.

RESEARCH will determine how air pollution affects a child's immune system is underway in the Vaal Triangle. *Sowetan 27/9/90*

The Medical Research Council investigation will include drawing blood samples and assessing lung function efficacy and will be conducted on about 600 pupils between 15 and 18 who live in Vanderbijlpark.

Sasol banks on its (56) policy to act responsibly

Star 25/9/90

Along with a number of South African companies, Sasol has made it a part of its policy to act responsibly towards the environment.

A major achievement in this regard, says media manager Jan Krynauw, was the development and installation at Secunda of process units for the removal of hydrogen sulphide from waste gases to produce elemental sulphur.

"The efficiency of the electro-static precipitators to reduce fly-ash emissions from the steam plant stacks has also been significantly increased by pre-treating the ash. Ongoing atmospheric monitoring assures that personnel are constantly aware of the plants' environmental status.

"Anti-water pollution measures entail a zero-effluent system which involves the reprocessing and re-using of all water in a closed-loop system so no effluent is released into the surrounding area," says Mr Krynauw.

To date Sasol has spent R506 million to recover sulphur and R19 million on ongoing research and development.

At the new Syferfontein Colliery a comprehensive environmental impact assessment was conducted and a programme initiated to rehabilitate the natural environment by replacing the topsoil and the subsoils in the original sequence. Each strip will be revegetated immediately after being backfilled.

The potential impact of the mining operation on both surface and underground water resources will be carefully monitored.

All the streams entering the proposed mining area will be diverted by means of a complex of dams and canals. This water will be returned unsullied to the natural water courses below the mine.

Water on the site itself, which may become polluted, will be pumped to settling ponds. From there, depending on its quality, it will either be routed to evaporation dams or used on the rehabilitated fill. All water pumped out of the pit will be regarded as polluted and treated in this way, as will water running off any workings including workshop areas.

Another important aspect of pollution control at the mine is that no coal washing is performed at the mine.

(56) 28/9/90

More than a small pile of waste from the gold mines

The South African gold mining industry mills about 100 million tons of gold bearing rock each year to extract an average of about 4,5 grams of gold per ton — leaving a massive amount of waste rock which must be disposed.

As the rock comes out of the mine it is sorted and the non-reef bearing rock is conveyed to rock dumps. From there it is usually conveyed to a rock crusher and used as concrete aggregate.

Chamber of Mines manager safety and technical service Johan Greeff says there are some dumps on the East Rand which are not suitable, as they contain shale.

The reef bearing rock is processed and the gold extracted.

"The bulk of the processed rock is deposited in a slimes dam. However, in some mines about 10 percent of the rock is used as a backfill, providing additional support and making the mine workings more stable.

"I see the main objective with the slimes dam being to ensure there is no pollution from the dam.

"Vegetation is used to prevent wind and water erosion. Toe-dams and storm water trenches are established to prevent run-off into neighbouring streams and land.

"Some dams are very acidic and more treatment is required before vegetation will grow on the site.

"It is an expensive process. The top of the dam is flat so mechanical cultivation can be

used and the cost is about R4 000 per hectare. However, the sides of the dams tend to slope between 20 and 25 degrees, making mechanical cultivation impossible. Everything must be done by hand and this pushes the cost up to about R30 000 per hectare," says Mr Greeff.

Old slimes dams are dotted all over the East Rand, but now the areas are being reclaimed as the old dumps and dams are reprocessed to extract uranium, sulfuric acid and gold.

Says Anglo Gold Division's consulting engineer Karel van Gessel: "We are removing all the old slimes dams in the Germiston, Brakpan and Benoni area and depositing the material, after processing, at a single slimes dam called Ergo.

"As each old dam is reclaimed, the land will either be used for farming or residential housing. Depending on the end use, the land will be treated.

"Special grasses have been developed by the Chamber of Mines and Potchefstroom University. The grasses have been developed from local species and survive well without additional water," he says.

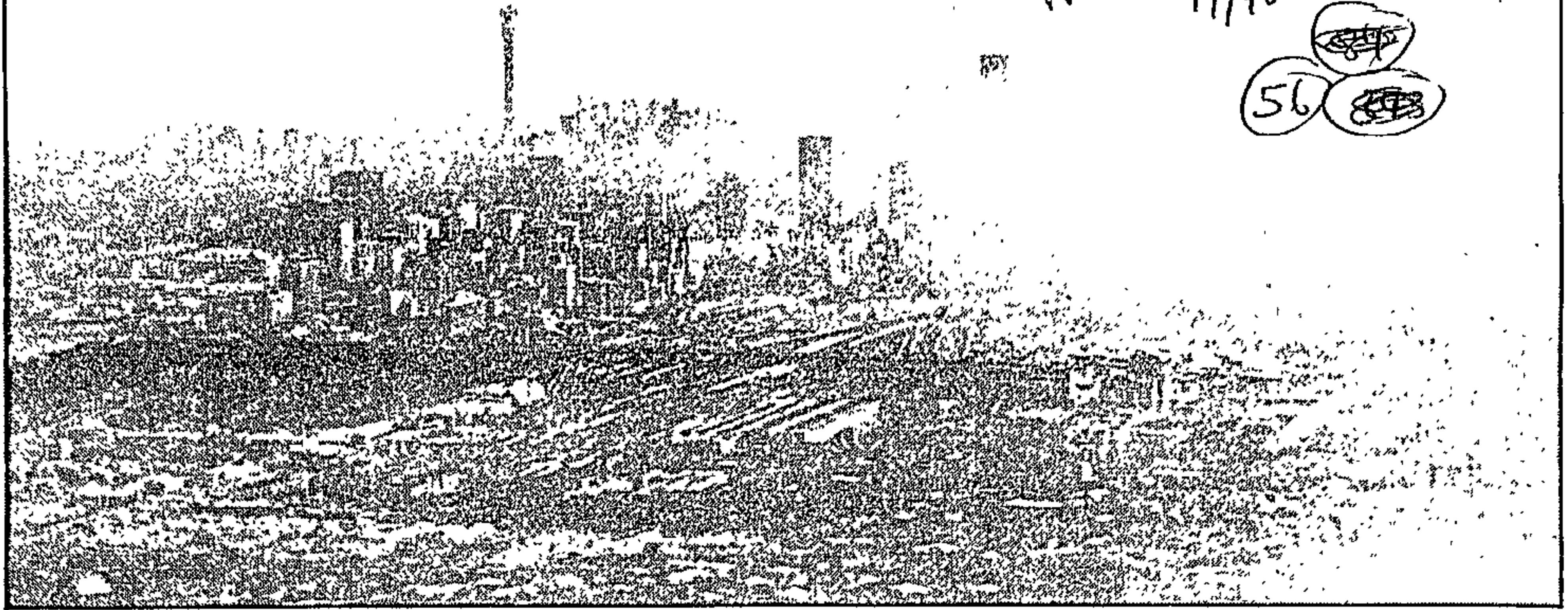
Water is all kept in a closed circuit in the mines to prevent pollution, and to make full use of a scarce resource.

After being pumped to the slimes dam with the processed rock, the water is decanted and recirculated.

"In South Africa you cannot waste water and we recirculate 100 percent of our water," says Mr Gessel.

Vt 28/9/90

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Waste over the city . . . Smog and smoke fill Johannesburg's skies at 7 am on a supposedly clear summer's day. This scene was captured even before factories started belching fumes into the atmosphere.

Highveld 'one of most polluted areas in the world'

The Eastern Transvaal Highveld has been assessed as one of the most polluted areas in the world - with Eskom taking the rap for the bulk of the pollution.

However, Eskom communications services manager Andre van Heerden notes that there are eight major power stations which fall into the small area tested and that usually the level of pollution in the area is well within international standards.

"Depending on the conditions at the time the level of pollutants may vary considerably with, for example, the contribution from industry.

"The test results which showed the high level of pollution were taken during a peak period. These results were then compared to figures for the whole of West Germany rather than a heavily industrialized area.

"Eskom is now trying to change the perception that these reports created," says Mr van Heerden

The Eskom approach is based on priorities, he says.

The levels of pollution in the townships, mainly because of coal and wood fired stoves, is two-and-a-half times the levels on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld.

In addition the pollution contains a high level of solids as, unlike the emissions from the power stations, these are not removed.

During the winter, temperature inversions trap the smog over the townships and expose the inhabitants to high levels of pollution.

The rain in South Africa is already more acid than that usually found in other parts of the world and this has caused local plant life to have a higher adaption to acid rain.

To remove the sulphur dioxide from the power station emissions would require fitting the power stations with scrubbers at an estimated cost of R1 billion per power station.

Thus, to fit scrubbers to the eight main stations in the Eastern Transvaal Highveld would cost around R8 billion.

On the other hand he estimates that the cost of providing electricity to almost every township in South Africa would cost around R6 billion and there would not be a resulting increase in the cost of power.

"By doing this we would be making a greater contribution to cutting pollution for a larger number of people

"The electrification of the townships is

therefore, a higher priority and we will address this first.

"Once this has been done then we would look at the Eastern Transvaal Highveld again," says Mr van Heerden.

Power stations create a lot of ash during their operations and the bulk of this goes out through the smoke stack. However, Eskom has fitted precipitators to all its power station.

These are large electrically charged plates. The ash sticks to the plates and 90 percent to 99 percent of the ash is removed.

Eskom has recently spent another R100 million installing sulphur trioxide injections systems which increase the efficiency of the ash extraction process.

Eskom uses a lower grade of coal than anywhere else in the world - this produces about 40 percent by-volume of ash.

The ash is finding commercial application as both a cement extender and for making bricks.

However, at this stage the bulk of the ash is dumped.

A disposal site will have its topsoil and seeds removed and the ash is placed on the site and then covered with the top soil and the area reseeded

WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT

South Africans produce 30 000 tons of waste every day, requiring 30 000 cu/m of disposal volume.

Star 28/9/90

Putting refuse into perspective

56



Junk . . . This highly unsatisfactory site at Kendall can cause untold problems — air pollution, scavenging, odours, litter and water pollution.

Facing up to the havoc that waste plays with our environment

South Africa has suddenly discovered the environment, and the concerns which have worried the rest of the world for the past decade are now being faced in this country.

The waste market is divided into four main sectors: mining, agricultural, industrial and domestic.

Waste-Tech marketing manager Derek Lubbe says the total amount of hazardous waste in South Africa is estimated at about 5.6 million tons each year.

Fraser Alexander, Waste managing director Ken Bromfield says: "Currently, it is estimated that each South African produces in excess of one kilogram of waste each day. That is 30 000 tons per day and requires at least

30 000 cubic metres of disposal volume daily, with a growth of some four percent a year.

Environment, waste, pollution . . . the buzz-words of the new 'green' consciousness. Industry has long been berated for the 'dirty' role they have played.

As living standards rise, and the consequential conversion from coal fires to electricity with more disposable packaging being purchased, the amount of refuse can rise to an excess of 2.5 kg per person each day in the high income areas."

Waste of this magnitude requires careful disposal management and vast landfill areas.

150 vehicles needed to move 200 000 tons of refuse

air pollution — 52 percent, public health risks — 34 percent, aesthetic problems — 78 percent. About 24 percent of the sites surveyed had a combination of all problems.

Says Mr Bromfield: "Although they admitted to the problems, one-third would not recognise that the problems were a result of the site operation or location. The capacity of the landfill sites in the survey will only last about five years in 44 percent of cases and a further 42 percent will only last another 20 years.

For the past 20 years the customer has been saddled with the scrap.



56 Star 28/9/90

The art of turning refuse into a profitable commodity

By Andrew Bremner

Explosives become fat beef cattle, rubbish turns to vital chemicals for the gold industry and ash becomes heat to drive the industrial process.

Industry, particularly the chemical industry, has often been criticised for its role in polluting our planet. Much of the finger-pointing is justified, but there are signs that the chemical sector is finding ways of turning potentially harmful waste into money-making products which reduce their hazards to the Earth.

AECI commissioned the world's largest coal based ammonia plant in 1974, designed to produce 1 000 tons a day.

Unfortunately it also produced large amounts of carbon rich fly-ash which proved difficult to dispose of safely.

In conjunction with Fluidised Combustion Contractors, AECI then embarked on a research project which resulted in the creation of a new process which burnt off the carbon to raise steam.

In 1983, R11 million was spent on a fluidised bed boiler which can now supply up to 60 tons of steam each hour to the factory's nitrogen plants.

When AECI's Modderfontein factory was opened in 1896 it was sited 24 km from Johannesburg. This was done for two reasons - to protect locals from the hazards of explosive manufacture and to prevent problems arising from fumes, smoke or liquid effluents.

The nature of the effluent and the volumes involved have changed over the years and today the effluent contains more and more nitrogen.

In 1962 the factory began an experiment, spraying the nitrogen-rich effluent on to land owned by the company.

This had the dual effect of disposing of the effluent and fertilising the land. The experiment worked and the project expanded to include some 1 200 hectares. The ploughed land was planted with *Eragrostis curvula*, a grass which thrives on nitrogen-rich soil. The factory's Longmeadow Farm produces sufficient hay to feed its herd of Drakensberger cattle, and the excess is harvested.

The closure of the Klipspruit



Looking at a profit ... Bob Fowler, plant manager of Acrylic Products at Umbogintwini on the Natal south coast.

sewage works threatened the supply of methane feedstock to AECI's Klipspruit cyanide factory, resulting in AECI building a pipeline in 1989 to transport landfill methane gas from Johannesburg's Robinson refuse dump.

This is the first time the gas has been recovered from a

landfill site on a commercial scale in South Africa and the first time in the world that gas from such a source has been used as a chemical feedstock.

Waste can offer opportunities for the production of high value products.

In 1974 Plastamid was formed by AECI and Bakke In-

dustries to add value to waste material generated by South African Nylon Spinners.

The company succeeded in regenerating nylon into moulding compounds in late 1975 but market penetration was slow.

The first big breakthrough came when Bakke moulding company Plastbox agreed to use 10 tons a month for the production of good quality coat hangers. Since those days the company has spread its products into a wide range of markets where traditional materials are being replaced by high performance engineering plastics.

Managing director Dr Louis de Lange says: "Plastamid is in a position to meet the needs of local industry through its current production of over 200 engineering grades. We are also able to 'mix and match' different grades to the customer's particular application.

"We are always seeking opportunities to convert what would otherwise be considered waste into high performance engineering plastics." Turning litter into a saleable product is the job of South Africa's only depolymerisation plant, owned by Acrylic Products. The plant recycles scrap perspex.

Says plant manager Mr Bob Fowler: "For the past 20 years the customer has been saddled with the scrap. Now all he has to do is put it into a container provided by us. We collect it and pay him according to quality.

"Scrap is also obtained from overseas for recycling

"The preparation of the scrap for milling is labour intensive as it must be sorted by hand."

After sorting, the scrap is reduced to chips and fed into a reactor, and the recovered crude monomer is washed, distilled and mixed with unused monomer.

Last year the company produced 740 tons of recovered monomer, or about 20 percent of the amount used that year.

"Perspex is one of the few plastics which can be recycled to the original starting point. It starts its life as a liquid, is converted to sheet and then goes back to a liquid which is as good as new," says Mr Fowler.

Waste-Tech has been awarded a five year contract by the East Rand Regional Services Council to manage three waste transfer stations and remove compacted garbage from the stations to disposal sites.

Waste from the townships of Tokoza, Vosloorus, Katlehong, Kwathema, and Tsakane will be delivered to the transfer stations where it will be compacted into 25 cubic metre containers and taken to the disposal sites.

Waste-Tech expects to remove about 200 000 tons of refuse each year, making the contract the biggest of its kind in the country.

The contract will also provide a boost to private refuse collection companies operating in the townships. They will collect the garbage and deliver it to the transfer stations.

In addition to operating the transfer stations on behalf of the East Rand Regional Services Council, Waste-Tech will supply

**Township
waste is**

**analysed,
monitored**

the transport to haul the waste from the stations to the waste disposal sites.

South Africa's waste industry is managed mainly by the municipalities and to a lesser extent by some 20 private companies. Waste-Tech is the largest and claims to be the only one capable of handling and disposing of the

large-scale industrial and domestic waste nationwide.

The company controls a number of Class-2 domestic waste landfill sites around the country and is responsible for the management of four of South Africa's Class-1 hazardous waste landfills.

The company has a fleet of about 150 vehicles, which include waste trucks, street sweepers, industrial cleaning equipment, landfill compactors, bulldozers and earthmovers. It has sophisticated treatment plants on the Reef and in the Western and Eastern Cape for the treatment of toxic and other hazardous waste.

The company also operates one of the country's most advanced laboratories where the analysis of wastes and the monitoring of waste sites is carried out in order to ensure the highest standards of technical control and to prevent any environmental pollution and damage.

SADF major in rhino probe

Crt 7/1/15
29/9/90

JOHANNESBURG. — A former SADF major and his wife, who were allegedly involved in a network smuggling endangered wildlife species overseas, are liable for extradition to the US, a magistrate here found yesterday.

The decision by Mr M Muller that there were grounds for the extradition of Mr Marius Meiring and his wife Pat to America, came as police cracked one of the world's biggest rhino-horn and elephant-tusk smuggling rackets and strangled a wildlife pipeline from Africa to Asia.

US authorities asked for the couple's extradition, following allegations of their involvement in smuggling wildlife species from Namibia to the US.

They are to stand trial on three counts of perjury. The court was told that the Meirings had made false customs declarations, saying they were exporting a carved wooden head when it was actually a cheetah head.

R750 bail

Mr Muller requested that the couple be detained in Johannesburg, pending a decision by the Minister of Justice on the extradition.

They were granted bail of R750 each, pending an appeal against the decision.

Meanwhile, police have made an international breakthrough in arresting four men and seizing more than 100 rhino horn and elephant tusks, worth R7m.

The men — three Taiwanese visitors and a Chinese-speaking South African — were arrested in two separate operations in Johannesburg this week. — Crime Reporter and Sapa

SA detests the use of gill nets, says Gert Kotze

W/ant 2118 - 219190

DURBAN: The biggest environmental challenge facing South Africa was how to balance the ideals and expectations of the First World with the realities and needs of the Third World, said Environmental and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze.

"Every inhabitant of the Republic is entitled to live, work, and relax in a safe, productive, healthy and aesthetically and culturally acceptable environment," Kotze told the Natal National Party congress yesterday. He said the concept of sustainable development was linked to this goal.

(56)
"Development is only sustainable when it meets the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs."

Kotze emphasised the importance of South Africa's marine resources, not only for their aesthetic and recreational value, but also as a fishing industry which was generating employment for 27 000 people and foreign exchange.

The pressure on South Africa's marine resources was intensified by 300 000 rock and beach anglers, some 170 000 boat anglers and about 58 000 private divers and fish hunters.

"The sea is generous and its harvest bountiful, but it is not unlimited."

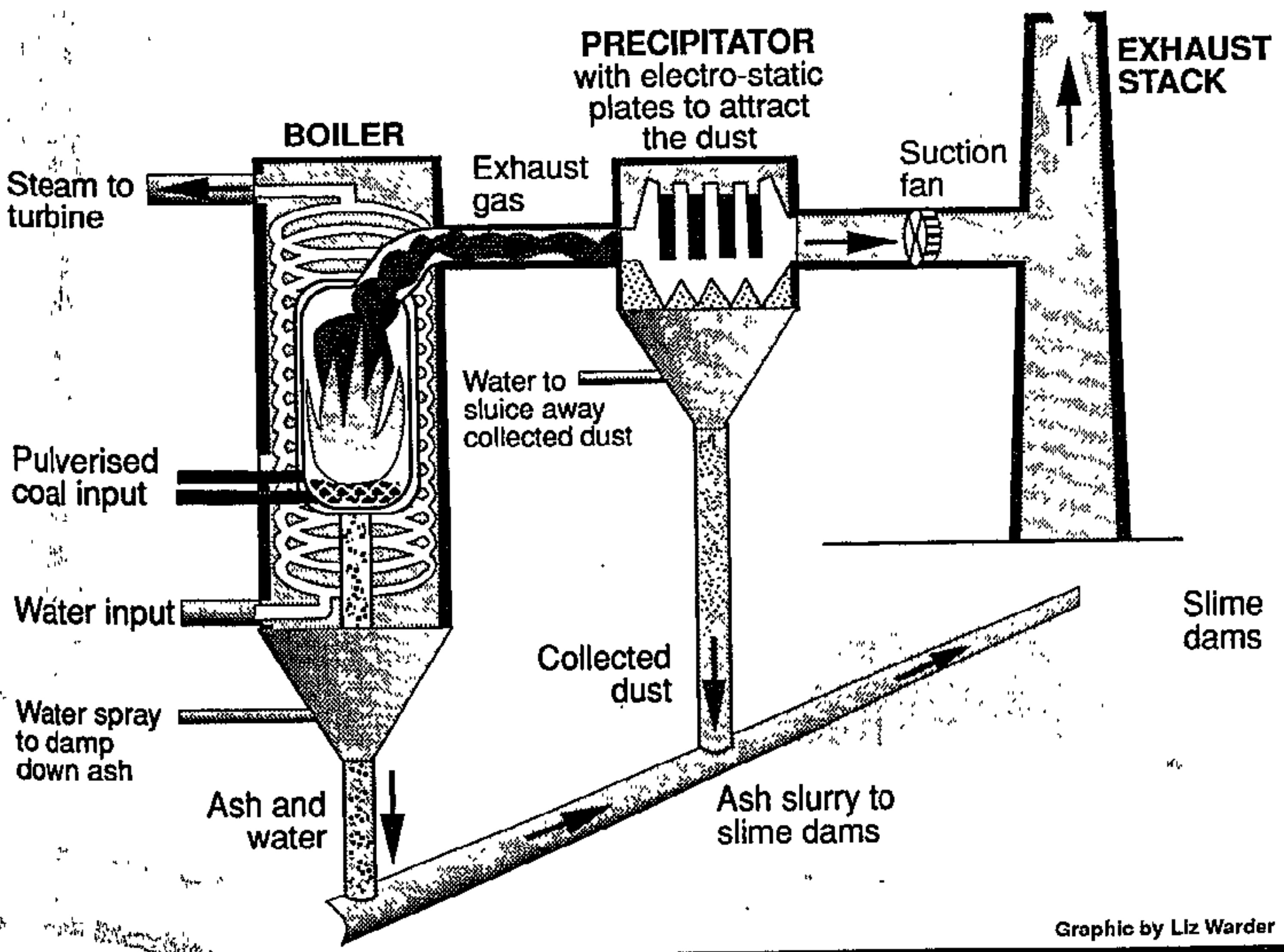
Kotze said he took strong objection to the impression conveyed through the media that his ministry was "slack" about the use of gill nets.

"Quite the opposite is the case. South Africa is at the spearhead of an international attempt to stop this unacceptable and destructive fishing method.

"Vessels with gill nets, or gill netted fish on board, are not welcome in South African waters." — Sapa

NEWS

Diagram illustrating the use of a precipitator to minimise air pollution at Kelvin power station



Graphic by Liz Warder

Residents to get relief from dust pollution

Municipal Reporter

Relief is in sight for residents near the Kelvin power station who have suffered from dust pollution for years — the Johannesburg City Council is to rebuild two R8 million precipitators to cut down on the pollution.

The decision follows recent discussions between the Johannesburg electricity department and the Department of National Health and Population Development on the pollution caused by the power station in the areas of Edenvale and Kempton Park.

City electrical engineer Ronnie Leigh said equipment would be installed using the latest technology in order to minimise emissions over the remaining 20-year life of the station.

Tenders for construction of the precipitators will be invited in January. Delivery is expected later next year.

When the power station was built in the 1950s, dust collection equipment was installed on all boilers.

By the 1970s the plant had aged and dust emissions were heavy. A programme of refurbishment started. Over the last 12 years about R8 million has been spent on dust collection equipment.

Regular meetings between officials from Edenvale, Kempton Park and Johannesburg will be held to discuss the pollution problem, and the Edenvale and Johannesburg health departments will monitor fallout.

Sayco starts township clean-up

Star 5/10/90
By Stan Hlophe

The Sebokeng branch of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) is to launch an environmental awareness campaign in the township tomorrow.

The theme of the campaign is: "Peaceful unity for health as a right — not a privilege."

The Vaal Civic Association, the ANC and

several local organisations will be involved.

A prize for the cleanest area will be awarded at a rally at 3 pm in the stadium in Zone 11.

Organisers have appealed to the community, truck owners and businessmen to help make the campaign a success. Businessmen who wish to donate

money should contact Sayco office bearers at the Zone 14 Community Hall.

Sayco will also stage a "Run with Sayco and Run for Freedom" 10 km race starting from Mphatlalatsane Hall in Zone 14 on Kruger Day, October 10. Registration fee is 50c and everyone is welcome.



International group to fight seal culling

MRC 605
4/10/90
56

By VIVIEN HORLER
Staff Reporter

STOP seal killing in South Africa or face renewed international contempt and a sea products boycott.

This is the message which will be delivered tomorrow to Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé by John Thorp, a marine biologist and campaigner for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"We will not stop until sealing ends in South Africa," Mr Thorp said. "We never give up."

Port Nolloth

Mr Thorp was in Cape Town during a five-day visit to South Africa from London. He has met the members of the scientific committee appointed by Mr Kotzé to investigate the proposed killing of seals at Kleinsee, near Port Nolloth.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare was launched 20 years ago by a Canadian animal welfare society inspector who was sickened by the slaughter of Canadian seals and vowed to stop it.

"We are not a conservation body," said Mr Thorp. "We exist to prevent and abolish cruelty to animals. Not

just seals — anything from whales to spiders, if necessary."

A Taiwanese businessman has been licensed by the government to harvest 25 000 seal pups and 5 500 bulls from the Kleinsee colony. While he has undertaken to use the entire carcass, it is understood he is interested primarily in the pups' skins, used for leather, and in the bulls' gonads, which are in demand in the Far East as aphrodisiacs.

South African seals are killed by clubbing. Although regulations govern the length and type of the club, how it is to be wielded and what part of the animal may be struck, it is frequently difficult during a stampede of panicking animals for the clubber to be sure where and how he hits a seal.

"A royal commission set up by the Canadian government to investigate sealing there found there was no humane way to kill seals. Shooting, bleeding, clubbing and poisoning were all rejected.

"If South Africa decides to go ahead with the Kleinsee seal hunt, world abhorrence will once again be focussed on this government, just as it is becoming internationally acceptable.

"I don't believe the government can afford to lay itself open to these charges. The damage to South Afri-

ca's image, particularly now, would be incalculable," said Mr Thorp.

"The threat of an international boycott of South African fisheries exports — we have 650 000 supporters worldwide — combined with moral pressure from the rest of the world, must convince the government that to allow seal hunting is just not worth it."

Scientific evidence

Mr Thorp said his organisation was also opposed to seal culling. Quoting from a submission to the Department of Environment Affairs by a Canadian expert on marine mammals, Mr Thorp said there was no conclusive scientific evidence that the seal population was expanding rapidly or that their numbers were endangering either the fishing industry or the jackass penguin population.

"The predation of fish by fishermen is far greater than anything the seals or penguins can do. The seals are being used as a scapegoat for bad fisheries management."

The organisation opposed seal killing at Kleinsee, Mr Thorp said, because it was inhumane and cruel; because the product, testicles to be used as aphrodisiacs, was trivial; and because science had not proved that culling was necessary.

Sayco campaign to clean Sebokeng

AN environmental awareness campaign has been launched by the Sebokeng branch of the South African Youth Congress, the Vaal Civic Association and the African National Congress, writes SELLO MOTLHABAKWE.

Sayco president for Sebokeng, Mr. Viva Manqa, said the township had been

dirty since the recent outbreak of violence in the Vaal.

Manqa said Sebokeng residents should donate 50 cents each at Sayco offices for the campaign.

Manqa said the campaign would also be aimed at using open spaces as parks to brighten the township.

Sowetan 1/10/90

56



Good environment helps productivity

5 Times 7/10/90

RESEARCH has shown that employees are far more productive when the surroundings they work in are ergonomically and environmentally sound.

One of the findings of research undertaken by development consultants Allen Zimble and Associates was that workers' perceptions of motivation and productivity improved when their environment did.

The study, conducted in

Business Times Reporter

four parts, covered testing, new furniture installation, post-testing and further post-testing.

Immediately after the creation of a new environment, an increase in motivation and perceived productivity was noticed.

Psychologist on the team

Dr Caryn Solomon says: "The study shows that the absence of a good environment tends to be a demotivating factor."

"If one looks at an organization holistically, the baseline is a good environment."

Planning

"Thereafter management has to look at other vital factors that constitute successful management. Without a good office environment,

management is in fact sabotaging any hope of eventual long-term success," Dr Solomon says.

Managing director of office furniture company Anglo Dutch, Alan Green says: "The quest for increased productivity has to be attacked within the context of an ergonomically good environment."

"The study proved that the co-ordinated implementation of office furniture — rather

like city planning where each area is furnished in a responsible, planned way — actually increases productivity."

Dr Solomon hailed Anglo Dutch's co-operation and assistance in the study as "courageous".

"The risk taken by Anglo Dutch shows that they are committed to professionalism and excellence. They wanted to find out exactly what was happening in the market place."

W/EM and 12/10 - 18/10/90

Chemicals could make your home a chamber of horrors

56

YOU have probably never thought of your home as a chamber of horrors but there is a good chance that it is.

The valium or lithium is probably out of range of the children but is the bleach, or the insecticides, or the wood glue?

Perhaps you have asthma, a headache or feelings of unreality — it could be caused by an air-freshener.

The types of chemicals most likely to be dangerous in your house are gardening, vehicle, cleaning, general household and do-it-yourself chemicals and medicines.

The most dangerous rooms in which they are found are sheds and greenhouses, utility rooms, garages, kitchens and bathrooms.

And the most dangerous storage places are under the kitchen sink and other low places where they can be easily reached by children, on open shelves or cupboards without secure locks or child-resistant catches, near heat sources or sunlight — they may explode — or in an open and untidy shed or garage.

Don't imagine that you do not fit into any of these categories. A major survey carried out by a consumer organisation in Britain showed that every house they investigated had dangerous chemicals.

About 20 percent of the chemicals found were major hazards, about 40 percent were slightly less dangerous and nearly two thirds were not stored in a safe place.

One family, with a toddler, kept a petroleum solvent in an unmarked plastic

flask under the sink.

Another household kept the wood glue in a coffee jar in the garage while the insecticide was stored in a kitchen cupboard at floor level — the container was not child resistant.

In Britain and the United States medicine bottles are sold with special child-resistant lids.

In South Africa very few containers have child-resistant lids. And few have labels warning of the dangers of the chemicals.



PAT SIDLEY

Chemists here rejected a move in this direction some years ago saying their customers did not know how to open the containers.

Recent studies locally show that most emergency admissions of children involve poisoning. About 40 000 people in the UK were poisoned last year. Of these, 35 000 were children under the age of five.

The Consumers' Association says that not only were the substances in its survey easy to reach but the containers were often open. Additionally, the hazardous chemicals were in containers that had originally held food or drink — the weedkiller in the cold drink bottle can tempt a youngster.

Some oven cleaners contain caustic soda which can damage skin and eyes as well as other organs.

Other houses had the toilet cleaner in easy reach of small hands. Toilet cleaners, which can often be poisonous on their own, can cause the release of chlorine gas if acid-based and bleach-based ones are mixed. Such a gas will attack the throat and lungs.

Flammable liquids should be stored in cool dark places as thousands of casualties are caused annually by burns from explosions and fires.

Among the other hazardous chemicals to be found in homes are the dioxins, a group of 210 chemicals of which 17 may be dangerous. They are by-products from chlorine bleaches and are also present in some pesticides. But the main source is food — in chlorine-bleached milk cartons, tea bags, toilet paper, tampons, disposable nappies and sanitary towels and coffee filter paper. This does not mean tea bags are a necessarily a health hazard but in at least one country, Sweden, the government has recommended that personal hygiene products, like tampons or toilet paper, should not be bleached.

Sweden has also banned Lindane, which is used to treat wood, because it may cause epileptic-like fits, headaches and nausea.

Chemicals should always be locked away and should not accumulate; throw them away if you are not going to use them. They should always remain in their original containers — preferably ones with warnings on, clear directions and child-proof lids.

Handle chemicals with care — if they can kill pests, they may harm you or your children.

Prison waters may

See 13/10/93 (56)

CAPE TOWN — An unexpected treasure trove of gold coins worth millions lying on the sea bed near Robben Island could be the focal point of an exciting salvage operation if the present grim role of the prison island off Cape Town comes to an end.

And the treasure hunt could become a battle between conservationists and huntily hunters unless salvors in the waters are carefully controlled.

With the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce continuing its call for the tourist potential of the island to be developed, the National Monuments Council is seeking to have its surrounding waters declared a maritime conservation area to prevent commercial treasure hunters getting in on the act if restrictions are lifted.

There are 19 recorded wrecks, the earliest dating back to 1694, in the icy seas, chilled by the Benguela current, around the Robben Island.

Because of the maximum security restrictions, salvage operations have been impossible. But should the island in the centre of Table Bay become an open tourist area, it and its surrounding waters would need careful management.

On a visit to Robben Island this year, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said while he did not challenge the feasibility of developing the island as a tourist attraction he

Ecologists set to fight treasure hunters

JANIS FRASER

was in favour of conserving and protecting the island's heritage rather than opening it as a hotel or offshore Casino.

Meanwhile Mr Clive Keegan, chairman of the Cape Peninsula Regional Development Committee, said yesterday that pressure for the Prisons Department to leave Robben Island was an ongoing campaign. He emphasised that conservation would be the basis of any plans for future development.

Robben Island is hemmed by dense kelp beds and is a well known, favoured spot for after-dark illegal crayfish diving.

Wreck divers have had to operate there clandestinely because of the security regulations. As a result, few finds have been recorded.

The most romantic and potentially valuable wreck near the island is the Dutch East India Company's 140-ton packet Dageraad.

She was built in 1692 and two years later on January 20 went down in heavy mist with a loss

of 16 lives on the west point of Robben Island.

The Dageraad was on her way from St Helena Bay to Cape Town with salvaged treasure and other goods from the outward bound vessel Gouden Buis, which ran ashore north of St Helena Bay in 1693.

Seventeen chests of specie — believed to be all gold coin — went down in the Dageraad and only three were recovered.

In 1728 two English divers made an unsuccessful attempt to work on the wreck but today's sophisticated diving and location equipment would make the job far simpler.

In August, with the possibility of restrictions on diving in waters around Robben Island seemingly closer, the NMC began discussing the possibility of establishing an official maritime conservation area.

This would preclude the issue of permits for commercial salvage should the Prisons' Department relinquish the area. The wrecks would remain intact until the money becomes available for scientific exploration under controlled conditions.

It is estimated that there are between 2 000 and 3 000 wrecks around the southern African Coast, many of them still unexplored. Permits to salvage are required for any wreck of 50 years or more and since 1982 ninety have been issued. At present, requests for a further two are being considered.

However, if the area is declared a maritime conservation area it becomes off limits to commercial salvors.

yield riches

'Focus of conservation efforts has shifted'

Star 20/10/90

56

THE focus on environmental issues in South Africa has shifted dramatically, according to two prominent environmental journalists.

The Star's environmental expert and assistant editor, James Clarke, and David Holt-Biddle, of SABC's Radio RSA External Service, have said that the emphasis has moved away from wildlife conservation, to the role of man in the environment, and the conservation of the urban environment.

James Clarke, who writes the column "Greenpiece" (see Page 11) for Saturday Star, was awarded the SA Breweries printed media award for environmental journalism at a function in Durban on Thursday night. Mr Holt-Biddle was the winner of the national award for environmental journalism.

Mr Clarke's aggressive campaign to save the eastern shores of St Lucia Lake in Natal from mining by Richards Bay Minerals

STAFF REPORTER

would have played a role in his receiving the award.

"But the whole environmental campaigning game has switched. We now have to concentrate on the urban environment, where we are reaping the whirlwind we so deliberately sowed," Mr Clarke said.

"We must make damn sure that in designing cities we don't make the same mistakes we made in the past," Mr Clarke said.

This new approach does not mean he would not fight to save St Lucia again, however.

"There are still people out there who would annihilate it if they could," he said.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Holt-Biddle said he was delighted that James Clarke had been awarded the print media award, since he had been "the pioneer in environmental journalism in South Africa".

Talks focus on pollution problems

56

Sowetan
24/10/90

THE "greenhouse effect" and other air pollution problems come under the microscope at an international conference which starts in Pretoria today.

International and local experts are to discuss viable solutions for pollution problems encountered in industrialised countries.

Tony Surridge, chairman of the conference organising committee, said yesterday that it was time "for a re-appraisal of the situation.

"Holistic management techniques should play an integral part to meet the new challenges and to maintain a well-balanced, effective control of air pollution."

Important issues to be discussed include implications, challenges, options and solutions for the 1990s which may have to be addressed by policy-makers and scientists.

Speakers from countries such as Zambia, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, United States, Malawi, Germany, India, Republic of China, Austria, Australia;

Netherlands, France, Italy, and the Peoples' Republic of China will join with local participants in presenting 86 papers to the three-day conference.

Organised by the National Association of Clean Air, under the auspices of the International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations in association with the Department of National Health and Population Development, the conference is being held at the CSIR conference centre. - *Sowetan Correspondent*

Pollution controls needed

8 10 am
25/12/90
GERALD REILLY (56)

PRETORIA — Air pollution control in SA demanded urgent attention, National Health Department environmental chief director Piet Aucamp said yesterday.

Speaking at an international pollution conference at the CSIR, Aucamp said despite industrial growth, there were only nine pollution control officers.

"The present control situation is far from ideal and needs drastic revision. The pollution inspectorate has to be enlarged to be really effective," Aucamp said.

However, SA could not demand the same level of control as in highly developed countries such as the US and Germany, he said.

SOUTH AFRICA/ FAR EAST FREIGHT CONFERENCE

The undermentioned lines announce that it has become necessary to adjust the export freight rates to Japan with effect from 1 January 1991.

The basic ocean freight rates will be increased by U.S. Dollars 50/20ft container.

Such rates will be subject to review with effect from 1 July 1991.

GOLD STAR LINE
MAERSK LINE
NEDLLOYD LINES
KAWASAKI KISEN KAISHA
MITSUI OSK LINES
NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA
SOUTH AFRICAN MARINE CORPORATION

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However, SA could not demand the same level of control as in highly developed countries such as the US and Germany, he said.

Air pollution 'the cause of ailments'

(56)

Sowetan 26/10/70

PEOPLE living in Soweto suffered from respiratory and eye-related diseases due to severe air pollution over the city, an international conference heard in Pretoria on Wednesday.

In a speech, pollution control officer Jabulani Sithole, of the Soweto City Council, blamed health problems on a "darkening sky and black blanket of smoke" enveloping the area - home to over three million people - each winter.

He said Soweto's pollution was caused through coal-fired cooking and heating facilities, dust, wind, untarred roads and a lack of adequate toilet facilities which resulted in unacceptable odours.

Sithole urged that measures - such as devel-

Sowetan Correspondent

opment of an alternative fuel and improving the quality of the air - be introduced to help prevent pollution.

He told the international regional conference on pollution at the CSIR that disease was being caused by dirt and dust-laden roofs and walls, vehicle emissions, and carbon dioxide and gas fumes in general.

"There has been increased cases of children and adults suffering from pulmonary related diseases as a result of the polluted air," Sithole added.

Most pollution was caused by Orlando power station "firing tons of

coal daily and emitting smoke" and light industries operating without adequate and approved facilities.

In addition, people living in 141 361 asbestos-roofed structures (including 46 512 backyard shacks) were continuously burning coal which contributed to the pollution problem.

He said: "There are about 12 000 families living in squatter areas which are not serviced. These squatters are staying in structures that vary between wood and iron, canvas tents, plastic strips, truck canopies and discarded motorcar bodies.

"Families depend mostly on coal fires for cooking and heating." - Sowetan Correspondent.

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Environmental workshop at Wits

Sowetan 26/10/90

Sowetan Reporter

A CONSERVATION and environment workshop will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand from October 31 to November 4.

The Environmental Film Workshop will combine films and videos with debate and discussion on the importance of environmental conservation in the shaping of a new South Africa.

The relevance and role of ordinary people in conservation and environment through consumer and community groups as well as in labour organisations will be highlighted through various media.

"The film was chosen as the predominant medium in the hope that the entertainment aspect will attract a wide range of people from outside the conventional conservation movement in South Africa," spokesman Ms Roshnie Moonsammy said.

"Film was also thought to be an ideal way of presenting com-

plex and wide-ranging environmental issues in a short space of time and to stimulate discussion and debate.

"To ensure that the topics selected for the final workshop would be relevant to a wide selection of the population, a steering committee of representatives from labour unions and private environmental organisations arranged a series of mini-workshops during the past year."

Five main topics were selected for the major workshop sessions on November 3.

They are: Conservation a "white" issue?; Environmental Policies in a future South Africa; Health and Safety in the Workplace and the Environment; Toxic and Industrial Waste Management and Air Pollution and Acid Rain.

The Workshop will open on Wednesday night with the premiere of *The Wasted Land* and four more environmental films will be shown on Thursday and Friday nights followed by general discussion sessions.

There will be screenings all day on Saturday, November 3, and entrance is free.

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Jo'burg water is most expensive

B Day 26/10/90

ACHMED KARIEM

JOHANNESBURG has the most expensive water in SA, followed by Durban and Pretoria, a world survey of water prices has found.

The findings were released this week by National Utility Services (NUS), which provides a fuel and energy cost control analysis programme to 750 000 business establishments worldwide and services 2 500 clients in SA.

Water prices in SA's major centres increased by an average of 14,7% in the year to end-June.

NUS SA marketing director Peter Cornelius said there was a correlation between rises in SA water prices and inflation, unlike power costs which had remained below the inflation rate in recent years.

"If this rate of increase is maintained, South Africans can expect to see costs of water double within four to five years."

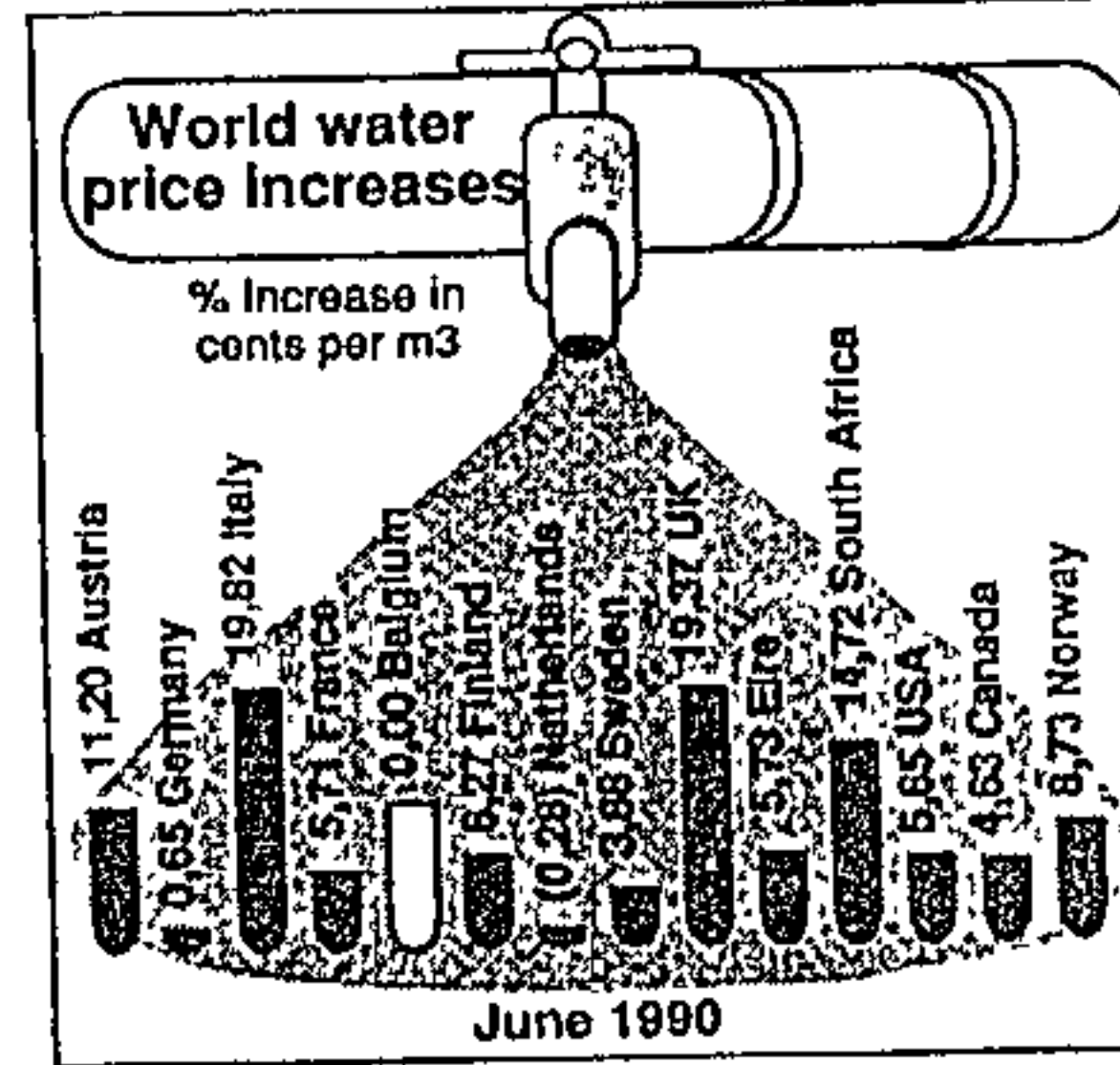
The survey showed the price of Johannesburg's water was 189c/m³, followed by Durban's at 107c, Pretoria's 100c, Cape Town's 91c, Port Elizabeth's 82,2c and East London's 75,8c.

The average price for these cities was 107,5c/m³.

Prices in Johannesburg and Pretoria are linked to the Rand Water Board's increases.

In Cape Town, water prices increased by 30% in the year to end-June.

Cornelius said this rise was due to the city council's planned new R550m treatment plant at Faure.



He said the prognosis for Cape Town was dismal, with another 30% increase anticipated in the current year, because the city could have exhausted its present facilities by the year 2020.

The outlook for water costs in SA generally was bleak, he added.

"It is generally accepted that with the current rate of population growth, we will start running short of water supplies within 30 years unless major new conservation schemes are tackled.

"This implies major increases in water costs for reasons of inflation, the capital costs of conservation schemes and the growing expense of reticulation," he said.

The survey showed UK water prices had nearly doubled after privatisation, while Australia had the world's most expensive water.

A new environmental ethic now vital for business

THE destruction of the South American rain forests in our time has captured the attention of the world, but the attitudes that have made this obliteration possible have long been part of the crisis of choice which faces mankind anew in every generation.

Even as a boy, I found myself wondering what had become of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and who had allowed them to perish. At the same time, it is of course clear that our powers to destroy the environment are today of a magnitude that is without precedent.

When I think of the changes to the landscape of England that have taken place in my lifetime, of all that has vanished, I am deeply, deeply saddened.

Encourage

Although our destructive impulses are as old as the earliest stories of the Bible, I think it is a necessary act of intellectual honesty to acknowledge that we could not do what we are now doing to the environment if we had not been corrupted at least to some extent by science.

It is foolish to ignore the fact that there is a dreadful and dark side to science, since it gives us powers that we cannot handle, and issues no moral decree as to how its instruments may or may not be used.

Science can also encourage a misleading sense of mastery of nature, a sense that we are somewhat independent of the fate that befalls the earth.

Values

However, a prejudice against science and technology is not a helpful attitude in the environmental crisis that now confronts us. It is more constructive to consider that a thoughtfully guided technology can provide us with powerful new tools to conserve and understand our world.

In this process, there is an important role for business. With the collapse of communism, we are now able to see the extraordinary damage that has been done to the

STimes 28/10/90 (56)

SIR LAURENS VAN DER POST urges industry to accept much greater responsibility for solving the conservation crisis



environment of Eastern Europe under communist regimes — an obliteration that is at least as great as that evident in the West, if not more so.

If we are to arrest the process of damage and try to reverse it, not only in communist and formerly communist countries but throughout the world, it is clear that the values of free enterprise, with their liberating emphasis upon the responsibilities and gifts of the individual, will have to form a cornerstone of the social order that we are now building.

But the values of business must themselves first pass through an historic transformation.

Error

It would be a tragic error of historical judgment for us in the West to look at the collapse of the communist systems with smug complacency, as a sign that our own society is perfect.

To do so would be to ignore our greatest asset, which is the very fact that our values are not static ones. They are open to self-renewal and we have never been in greater need of self-renewal than now.

To speak of a purely moral renewal may be limiting. We live in a time in which many words have lost old meanings and to speak of

moral renewal may, in the language of the modern world, sound one-dimensional.

The renewal that we need is certainly a renewal of values, but it is also more than that. It is a rediscovery of our total identity. We need to rediscover our history, our sense of wholeness and continuity with the past.

Bond

It is a mistake to see our environmental crisis as an isolated problem. We will not forge a healthier bond with the environment until we begin seriously to renew the energies and priorities upon which our civilisation is built.

Even without travelling into environmentally damaged areas of countryside or former wilderness, it would be difficult for any thoughtful observer of the world's great cities not to draw penetrating conclusions about the environmental attitudes of our civilisation.

Dangerous

This problem is compounded by the fact that the controlling decisions of our society have, for a long time now, been made by leaders whose imaginations have been moulded by the habits and perceptions of the city. The ills of the city have thus been projected upon the

rural and wild environments, with tragic consequences.

The business world now has an enormous importance in shaping our present and future world and it would be dangerous in the extreme to try to exempt business people from their growing responsibilities.

I think that a new ethic for business must emerge if we are to survive, and that this can happen only as a development from within business — it is not something that can be imposed from without.

Scope

But I believe that we are far from fully appreciating the scope of the revolution in our attitudes that is needed.

On a more immediate level, I would say that we face a real and present danger of environmental concerns becoming politicised, of being seen as convenient instruments for political groups rather than issues of an urgency and a sweep that transcends party politics.

If this process of renewal does not take root within the institutions of business, then our crisis can only grow.

● An abridged version of an article in the first edition of *Environmental Action*, a new publication focusing on conservation issues.

ENVIRONMENT — 1990

NOV. — DEC .

Richtersveld park row: ^{17/6/45} Julies to ^{14/11/80} break silence

By JOHN YELD ⁵⁶
Environment Reporter

LABOUR Party Minister the Rev Andrew Julies will break his silence on the controversy over his refusal to sign the contract for a new Richtersveld national park at a public meeting tonight.

Organisers confirmed the House of Representatives' Minister of Local Government and Agriculture, who was due to have signed the contract with former Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé on Saturday, had accepted an invitation to speak.

Other speakers are National Parks Board chief director-designate Dr Robbie Robinson and a member of the Northern Richtersveld community.

CLOSELY INVOLVED

Mr Julies has denied claims he pulled out of the ceremony because of the presence of Surplus People Project speaker Ms Lala Steyn, but Dr Robinson said he was still convinced this was the reason, according to a Sapa report.

The SPP was closely involved with advising the Khus community during negotiations on the park contract. The Labour Party has claimed Ms Steyn is a "UDF supporter".

"Mr Julies had personally promised me the signing would go ahead, and apologised repeatedly for withdrawing from the ceremony," Dr Robinson said.

Mr Julies may have to foot the bill for the aborted signing ceremony, Dr Robinson said.

Residents of the far Northern Cape town plan to send their tab for the long-awaited event to him and the National Parks Board felt it, too, had incurred unnecessary expenses.

● The meeting, which is expected to attract a large and highly critical audience, will be held at the University of Cape Town's Education Department, Lecture Theatre One, at 8pm.

Councils may be sued over sewage

THE Department of Water Affairs is considering taking legal action against black municipalities which are allowing raw sewage to overflow into tributaries of the Vaal River.

This follows the build-up of sewage which is overflowing into the rivers after pumps at certain townships were shut down following non-payment of electricity bills.

Health Department spokesman Karen Knobel said her office would only

come into the picture if the situation was considered "dangerous", but the people on the affected streams were not dependent on river water for their daily supply.

Polluted

But South Africa Institute for Medical Research virologist Margareta Isaacson warned that cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and gastroenteritis could be caused by untreated polluted water.

Meanwhile the Rand Water Board has stated

emphatically that pollution which may be caused by the raw sewage flowing into the river system poses no health hazard in the PWV area.

"There is absolutely no indication of pollution in the water supplied by the RWB to the PWV area," said RWB pollution control officer Ray Haynes.

RWB chief scientist Chris Viljoen warned people who used the Barrage for boating and skiing that there was always risk involved in using dams and rivers for recreational purposes.

56

Sowetan 13/11/90

Dire warning on conservation

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Unless immediate steps were taken to prevent steadily declining conservation levels in South Africa it could soon be too late, National Botanical Institute chief director Brian Huntley has warned.

Speaking at the first public meeting of the Lowveld Environment Action Foundation, Mr Huntley — author of "South African environments into the 21st century" — said four possible changes threatened planet Earth: nuclear winter, popula-

tion growth, global warming and the ozone hole.

Irrespective of what political party governed in future, environmental rules were the major factor.

"This country's future cannot be determined by race, First and Third World standards or by economic growth," he said.

"Our only real future lies in ensuring that whoever runs the country will be able to do so in an unpolluted environment developed for the maximum benefit of its inhabitants."

Kruger Park chief warden Dr Salmon Joubert said: "We have

a right to utilise our resources but at the same time it is our responsibility to preserve them for future generations.

"Although we live in an area adjoining national and private game reserves, there are ever-increasing signs of pollution, rivers showing signs of stress and frightening signs of erosion.

"We are dependent on our environment for survival. Let's look after the Lowveld and never be ashamed to say that we borrowed the beautiful region from our forefathers and will hand it to our children in an even better condition than we received it."

Oct 2/11/90
**Total waste plant
for Randburg (56)**

Randburg is to get South Africa's first total waste recycling facility after an agreement signed this week between the Randburg Municipality and Resource Recycling.

The facility incorporates established European recycling technologies and will be built at no added cost to ratepayers.

The plant is expected to be fully operational by October next year and will create about 100 jobs in the area. — Sapa.

Erf's fate a test of government commitment to environment...

Battle over Betty's Bay

w/f ARGUS 10/11/90
S6

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

A DISPUTE about the future of a prime seaside plot at Betty's Bay is shaping up as an acid test of the government's credibility and commitment to preserving the environment, conservationists say.

The 3,6-hectare site, known as Erf 3007, is owned by Pleasant Place Properties, headed by Betty's Bay estate agent Mr Dennis Wallers.

There are three possible ways in which the ground can be developed:

- As a "missing link" that would extend the Harold Porter Botanic Gardens down to the sea. (The Gardens presently encompass the Disa and Leopard gorges, the mountainside between them and the upper part of the coastal plain);

- As a holiday hotel, developed by one of South Africa's major groups; or
- It could be sub-divided into 15 single residential plots.

Conservationists say the problem is the result of insensitive town planning procedures decades ago that permitted the site to be zoned for hotel development.

To negate this "threat", the South African Nature Foundation (SANF) initiated a concerted attempt last year to acquire the property.

Specialist consultant Dr Allan Heydorn, a former chief executive of the SA Nature Foundation, said the SANF realised in 1989 that the plot should be protected against development.

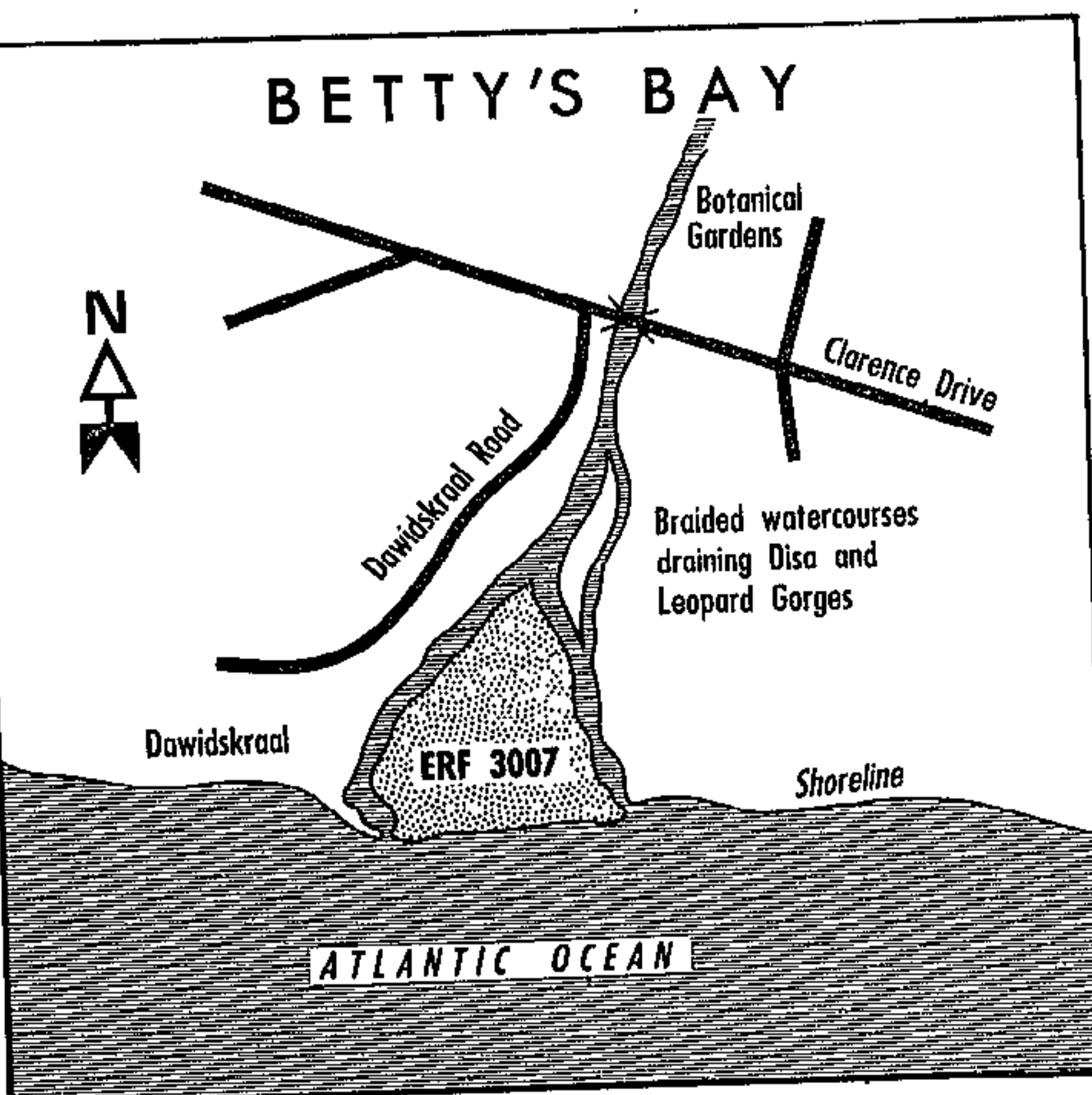
It also recognised the dilemma of the current owners, who could not be expected to relinquish development rights granted under the terms of early town planning.

'Incredible opportunity'

"More importantly, we recognised the possibility of turning this dilemma into an incredible opportunity by acquiring this land and adding it to that already donated by the Betty's Bay municipality for conservation of the natural river and wetland environment," Dr Heydorn said.

"If the lower part of the coastal plain with its braided river system and dune, beach and inter-tidal components could be added, a coastal botanical garden and nature reserve of incredible diversity and beauty could be added.

"Not only would this be of the greatest value to nature conservation,



Picture: DR ALLAN HEYDORN.

The pristine vegetation on Erf 3007 at Betty's Bay, which conservationists want to be incorporated into a nature reserve rather than being used for a hotel or subdivided for sale. The map on the left shows the erf's sensitive location.

but, because of its easy accessibility from the Cape metropolitan area, the extended gardens would represent an educational facility of inestimable value," he said.

In February last year, the SANF contacted the owners of the plot, the National Botanic Gardens and the Department of Environment Affairs. They agreed the extension of the Harold Porter Gardens to the sea represented "the best possible use", Dr Heydorn said.

Accordingly, the SANF launched a fund-raising initiative which led to a commitment of R450 000 over a five-year period. With its own funds and a small amount from the Department of Environment Affairs, the SANF put in a "realistic" offer of R641 000.

The owners accepted on condition no income tax was payable, meaning that if the government agreed to "expropriation by mutual consent".

Alternatively they demanded an "unrealistically" high price in excess of R1-million, Dr Heydorn said.

The government refused the expropriation deal and the SANF — in a last-ditch effort to salvage the sale — made an alternative offer of R800 000, payable over four years.

The owners responded by saying they had granted an option to an alternative buyer — believed to be one of South Africa's major hotel groups

— at the price they wanted.

That option has now expired, and although the hotel group is apparently still interested in the site, the owners have applied for sub-division into 15 single residential plots.

There were eight objections when the closing date expired. Two more late objections were admitted.

Because the title deeds specify the site may be used only for a hotel, the rezoning application is subject to the Removal of Restrictions Act and has been sent to the Department of Local Government and Budgetary Affairs in the House of Assembly for a decision.

This department has on several occasions drawn the ire of town planners and conservationists for making autocratic decisions without publicly stating the reasons.

If approved, Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé is likely to come under immense pressure to evoke the new Environment Conservation Act to prevent development.

"It is unfortunate that, for whatever reason, the government was not in a position to co-operate with the private sector in this exceedingly important project," said Dr Heydorn.

"The SANF believes that at a time when government funding of environmental projects is being reduced progressively, it would be highly appropriate for the authorities to

encourage private-sector initiative in matters of environmental conservation.

"To adopt an unyielding attitude as was done in this case where generous private sector assistance was offered, most certainly does not encourage co-operation in this or future conservation initiatives," he said.

"Similarly it is sad, if understandable, that the present owners of Erf 3007 chose to pitch their price at an unrealistically high level which places it out of reach for purposes of nature conservation.

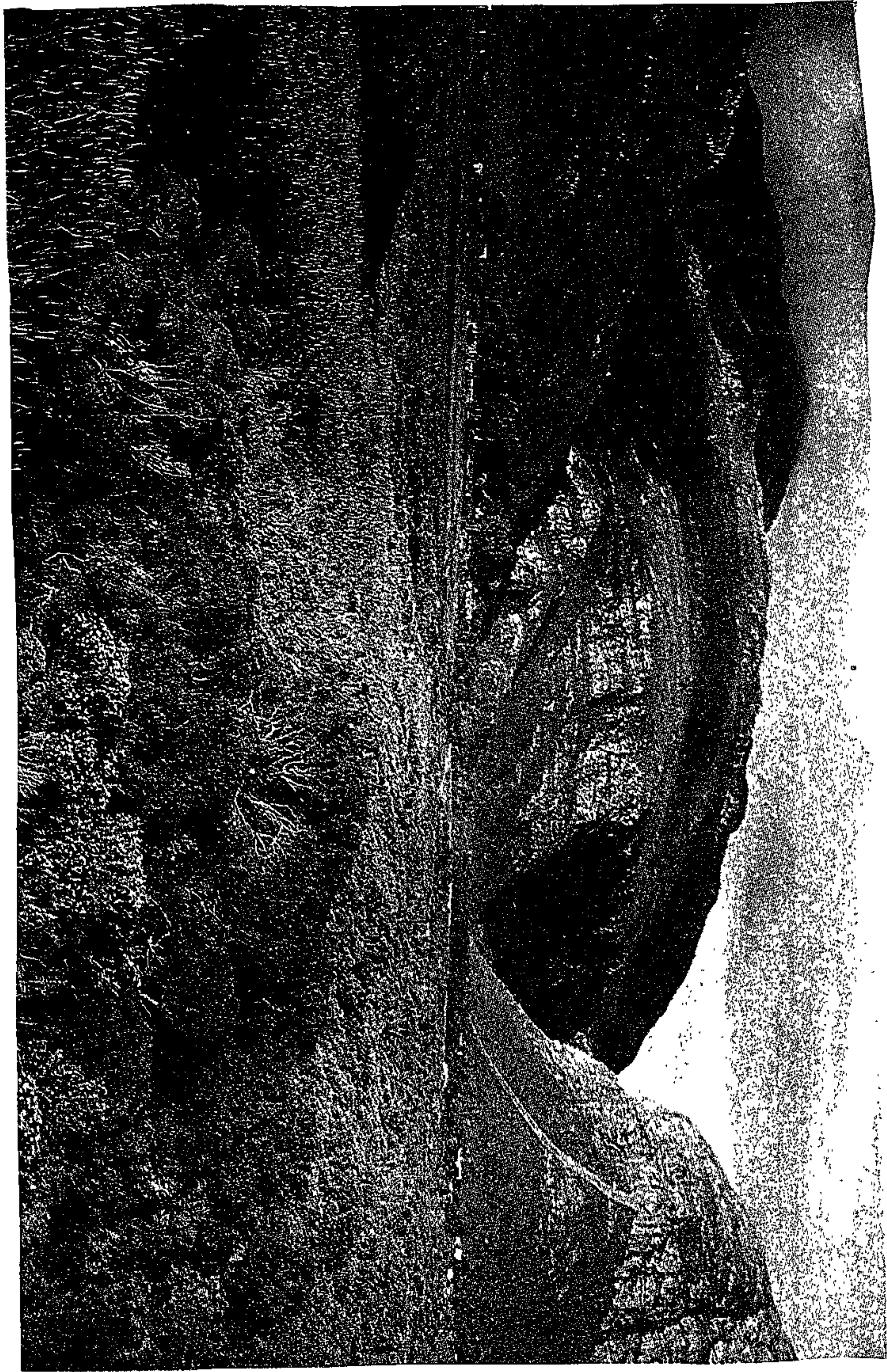
"Throughout South Africa, this syndrome of 'as long as I get the maximum price, environmental considerations don't matter' is progressively whittling away the country's greatest asset — its natural environment."

Coastal zone management

If development was permitted, it would show that while South Africa's conservation authorities might have accepted the need for effective coastal zone management, they were neither capable of nor willing to implement such procedures, he said.

"Erf 3007, therefore, becomes a test case in more senses than one — it presents a challenge to all authorities responsible for the management of our coastline and its resources."

Mr Wallers was not prepared to comment on the dispute at this stage.



Water quality should be made public, says group

By JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

LOCAL authorities bordering the False Bay coast should display the results of weekly seawater quality tests on public signboards, and beaches should be closed if there are unacceptably high levels of pollution.

This is the opinion of a working alliance of conservationists, set up a fortnight ago to create a greater awareness of pollution problems in False Bay.

They include Earthlife Africa and travel author Mr T V Bulpin, who caused a stir with recent letter to the Press alleging major pollution of the bay.

'WORTHLESS LEGISLATION'

The alliance claims authorities charged with protecting the coast are largely "toothless" and "hamstrung by worthless legislation".

"We feel the False Bay area is an extremely polluted part of our coastline and that a drastic solution is needed to minimise and ultimately stop the flow of hazardous and toxic waste, treated and untreated effluent, and unfiltered fallout from storm-water pipes and other sources," an alliance spokesman said.

"We feel that visitors to, and residents of, False Bay area have the right to know what the state of recreational areas along the False Bay coast are."

The alliance wanted people to provide documentary evidence in the form of photographs and affidavits relating to pollution in False Bay, he said.

DUMPING

"So if you have experienced any health problems caused by swimming in False Bay, or know of people or businesses who have been dumping hazardous waste directly into the bay or via outfalls, please send us your information."

The address is: Earthlife Africa, Box 176, Observatory 7935.

● Port authorities have reacted to claims by BOC Challenge yachtsmen that Cape Town is the most polluted port in the world after debris washed into the harbour from storm water drains during unseasonal rains in the past few days.

Captain Graham Davidson, assistant port captain, said the claims were unfair because the harbour was not polluted by a film of oil but rather by debris from storm water drains flowing into the harbour.

"We are doing our best to clear the debris, weather permitting," he said.

● See page 10.

ANC 5/11/90 (50)

ANC: we would close nuclear power stations

By Jacqueline Myburgh

The ANC would not support the use of nuclear power as an energy source and would close existing nuclear power stations if it came to power, ANC environment spokesman Stanley Sangweni said at the weekend.

He was addressing a conference on "The Environment for a Changing South Africa" at the University of the Witwatersrand, at which representatives from the PAC, ANC, Cosatu and

Nactu discussed future environmental policy.

Apartheid was blamed for many of South Africa's environmental problems and it was agreed that a future policy would have to be devised at grassroots level.

"For the majority of black South Africans whose aspirations are dictated by the struggle for survival, environmental considerations are regarded with indifference or hostility," said the PAC's Barney Desai, whose speech was read in his absence.

Democracy forecast in 5 years

Stg 10/11/90

56

CAPE TOWN — South Africa will be run by a multiracial working administration at an early stage, but it will take at least five years for a new negotiated constitution and a democratically elected government to be in place.

This is predicted in a comprehensive new strategic forecast and analysis of South Africa's future in the next five years. Saturday Star's Cape Town correspondent has been given an exclusive glimpse of some of the findings.

Instability

The analyses also indicate that South Africans can expect a measure of political and economic instability in the country's transition period, but that overall prospects are largely peaceful.

There will be some volatility in the country's situation, perhaps some more political violence, but the situation will be largely "containable" or under control.

Based on surveys and studies by five analysts, including Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the report, entitled "Political Environment Survey", is being launched this month at a price of R5 500 a copy.

Its analyses and forecasts are designed to provide guidelines to businessmen in strategic planning.

The other contributors included are: Michael Olivier, businessman,

FRANS ESTERHUYSE

computer specialist and president of the Five Freedoms Forum; Michaël Charnas, a specialist in business strategy and market research, and Gael Neke, who has been involved in extra-parliamentary politics for years.

Political analyses are partly based on interviews with more than 100 key leaders across a wide political spectrum.

Among the findings are that it may take at least another five years before a democratically elected government and a new negotiated constitution are in place. Before then, many serious differences between the negotiating parties will arise.

Two broad phases are foreseen in the political process: a period of preliminary negotiation between now and a referendum, and a period of full negotiation to develop a new constitution.

In the pre-referendum phase — expected to take about 18 months — various agreements will be reached, negotiations will gain momentum and a broad interim mechanism or framework for a constitution will be worked out.

A point will be reached where the nation can be consulted — by way of a referendum — on whether to go ahead with a plan of ac-

tion for negotiations.

At that stage — after the go-ahead has been given by referendum — a new multiracial working administration, which will include a significant proportion of black people, will be set up to run the country.

It will be like an interim government, but is unlikely to be called by that name because of some of its current controversial political connotations.

Such an administration would not be fully democratic, as it would not have been democratically elected.

Nitty-gritty

Once such a working administration is in place, the real nitty-gritty of the new constitution will be negotiated. This will be the difficult phase — expected to take another three or four years.

One of the crucial issues to be resolved once black people have been incorporated at all levels into the country's administration is the evolution of the security forces for the "new South Africa".

It is foreseen that once black people share power and responsibility in the country's administration, it will be essential to effect corresponding changes in the entire security system, including the Defence Force and the police.



Cape Times, Friday, November 23 1990 5

'This is the end of the W Transvaal'

JOHANNESBURG. — "This is the end of the Western Transvaal" is the grim view of a number of farmers canvassed this week about the drought in the region.

The question asked by a couple of farmers playing pool in the Elgin Hotel in Delareyville, was: "Why are we playing pool?" "Our tractors are greased, the fertiliser is ready, our fences are spanned, and our workers are watching us with big eyes. "You want us to work — you pray for rain." And pray for rain they did in the Western Transvaal.

Thousands of farmers drove to church in their Sunday best on Monday, where do-minees told them: "Pray like you never prayed before because this time, God help us."

Outside the churches lay tens of thousands of square kilometres of arid farmland, with clouds twisting and turning above — but no rain coming down.

Many farmers have ploughed their lands, in case of rain, and were sitting on their stoeps, watching the horizon.

At Kameel (population zero), "Hennie and Bennie" aren't a comedy show. They've suspended their attempts at farming and have put a board bearing their names above a cash store, but don't attract many customers.

"Maybe farms should be nationalised with farmers put on a payroll," they said.

Mr Chris du Toit of the farm Corsica in the Delareyville district said: "We definite-

ly have a problem. The planting season for several types of plants has passed, and we've not had rain yet.

"There are farmers here who won't make it if it does not rain this year. There are definitely are farmers who will be bought out after this season.

"Others will run up more debt.

"The Weather Bureau said it would be 35°C today, but I think it will be more."

The president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, said the situation in summer crop areas was becoming critical and that grazing and feeding conditions, as well as the water supply, were deteriorating rapidly.

The financial position of Transvaal farmers was poor, he said. — Sapa

Political Staff

THE awarding of a R5 200 m contract for the first phase of the huge Lesotho Highlands water project, due to be announced in the middle of next month, will transform much of this mountain kingdom and dramatically boost water supplies to the PWV area and beyond.

It will also pave the way for cross-border multi-national co-operation in Southern Africa development projects involving both South African and foreign funders, planners and constructors.

"Lesotho is the 15th poorest country in the world, but it does have an abundance of water," Tony Wadsworth, the infrastructure manager of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA), told a press briefing in Maseru.

He explained: "On average, Lesotho gets 800 mm of rain a year — 300 mm in the lowlands and 1 600 mm in the highlands. Almost half of this water, which has been referred to as Lesotho's 'white gold', flows into the Orange River."

Employment

The plan — to store water in the mountains of Lesotho and then transfer it to the water-starved Witwatersrand — was first mooted in the early 1950s, but for political and technical reasons the treaty between Lesotho and South Africa

'White gold' upliftment of Lesotho, salvation of Reef

CAA Terms 14/11/90 (56)

okaying the project was only signed in October 1986.

One of the major advantages of the project is that it is financially viable: PWV water-users, who are already paying 2,5 cents a litre towards the costs, will pay a minimum of R50 m a year once the water starts flowing in 1996.

It will also ensure that Lesotho will be able to generate its own hydro-electricity. Maseru currently pays R12 m a year for electrical power from South Africa.

Compensation

Some 2 700 Basotho out of a total workforce of 3 581 have been employed on the infrastructure development and more than 4 000 Basotho will be employed in the first phase of dam and tunnel construction, providing a major source of employment inside the country.

But, as Wadsworth admitted, there were also "disbenefits" and a comprehensive compensation package has been designed for people in Lesotho who would be negatively af-

ected by the project.

About 70 to 80 houses and 20 to 30 kraals, involving about 200 people, will have to be moved. Many others will lose arable and grazing land, and communities will lose communal resources such as thatching grass, trees and roads when the dams begin to fill.

Indeed, according to the Development Bank's Peter Coley, some 94 000 people, about 20 000 households, will be affected one way or another.

However, the Lesotho and South African governments agreed from the outset of the project that full compensation would be paid to all affected parties and a comprehensive package, including a R104 million rural development programme over the next 15 years, has been worked out.

Broad funding

Inside Lesotho, there has been some controversy about the compensation package but the provision of an appeal tribunal and the commitment in principle that everyone who is affected should be better off

once the project is completed should go a considerable way to ensuring that those affected will be fairly treated.

In the spectacular mountains of Lesotho, particularly in the Leriba/Butha Buthe/Muela/Katse area, the country is being transformed; 334 km of roads; six bridges; 54 prefabricated and 133 conventional houses; 16 other buildings; water reticulation; sewage treatment facilities and electrical facilities, including 144 kms of transmission lines and 14 sub-stations, are being built.

One of the bridges at Katse, which is 85 m high and half a kilometre long, has already been completed. When the Katse Dam is completed, the water will be only 5 m below the bridge.

By the time all phases are completed — scheduled for 2019 — 70 m³/sec will be pumped into the Ash River. By then, the 'white gold' will probably have saved Greater Johannesburg from chronic water shortages — and helped lift Lesotho out of its grinding poverty.

THE Mpakemi people, who struggled to make a living from cattle farming on 7 000ha in the dry Lowveld mountains, are now extracting South Africa's new gold — tourism.

The concept of a tribe owning the land on which a game park is established is a possible solution to the land issue in South Africa. It is being put into practice at Mithethomusha Game Reserve in kaNgwane and, although in its initial stages and not without problems, it appears to be working.

"This area was identified as land with no agricultural value," said Abraham Sibiya, the senior warden in charge of game and veld management. "There is a shortage of water. It is mostly mountainous and the only grazing for cattle is in the valleys where you find sweet grass."

"There were very few cattle farmers here and it was not a commercial enterprise," said Sibiya, who grew up in Kaapmuiden, a few kilometres away. "The idea of establishing a reserve was negotiated with Chief Charles Bongani Mpakemias, senior representative of the tribe. He discussed it with the tribal council."

People had moved to more central areas as they were no longer interested in cattle farming, he said. They work on farms in white areas and in towns.

The maximum that can be made from cattle farming is R80 000 annually from the sale of 10 percent of a herd of 800, the number the land can support. But more water points need to be established and the cattle need to be in good condition — whereas a reserve could generate far more income.

KaNgwane Parks' philosophy is that conservation should serve the community and it recognises that environmental areas won't survive unless the mass of people see benefits accruing to them.

"I suppose we're talking about rural development," said Karl Lane, head of kaNgwane Parks' communications and training section.

So the conservationists are under tremendous pressure to make a profit from tourism and hunting. Tourism promises to be South Africa's new gold.

Extracting tourism, South Africa's new gold

Conservationists in the dry Lowveld region are under tremendous pressure to make a profit from tourism and hunting.

LAURA YEATMAN visited the area

Foreign tourists are making a contribution to the development of conservation and therefore rural development — besides having a good time. "Destroy a park and it will mean a loss in foreign revenue," said Lane.

Nesting in Mithethomusha's mountains is the luxurious Bongani Lodge. It's not just foreign tourists who visit it — Nelson Mandela goes into retreat there too. However, said Sibiya: "We're looking at the business aspect and therefore aim at the wealthy tourist. We don't establish affordable camps because larger numbers of tourists paying less don't generate enough of an income."

The running of Mithethomusha involves an agreement between three groups, the Tribal Trust Company, kaNgwane Parks Corporation and a private operator. . . .

The private operator is in charge of marketing, running the lodge and game trails. KaNgwane Parks is responsible for negotiations and initial administration and land management, and advances a loan to the Tribal Trust Company for development. And the Tribal Trust Company uses the profits from the venture for community development.

The private operator has an agreement with the tribe to use the land and facilities and makes an annual payment to the Tribal Trust Company, which in turn repays the loan for development over 20 years to kaNgwane Parks. A representative of kaNgwane Parks sits on the board of the Tribal Trust company.



Abraham Sibiya, warden at Mithethomusha

"At the moment kaNgwane Parks is splitting the profits but sometimes 60 percent goes to the community and 40 percent to kaNgwane Parks, depending on what it is," said Lane. "Hunting, which starts next season, is low cost, low capital investment for kaNgwane Parks so a smaller proportion of the profits will go to Parks. We just want to cover our running costs and put a little in the bank for further development."

KaNgwane Parks manages the reserve for the community which, with continued training, they'll ultimately take over and run as a private game reserve, according to Sibiya.

"People want to escape the trap of rural poverty and they see the way out through jobs and education. So we must create jobs and generate profits which can be used to the benefit of the community, such as building schools," said Lane.

Already 183 jobs have been created — 55 at the lodge — but not all are filled by local people. However, all non-Mpakemi people have a local understanding them. The 128 employed to help manage the reserve are all local people.

Training is planned in consultation with the game wardens. Over 50 percent of kaNgwane's people is illiterate so the programme is 95 percent practical and lacksles basic skills required by a game scout.

They are also taught how to carry out the enforcement of nature conservation legislation. People living on the peripheries of reserves tend to view conservationists as those who got them into trouble for poaching or for collecting wood. Now scouts are encouraged to use discretion — for small transgressions people are released with a warning. Larger offences are dealt with more severely.

"If a man poaches, he is stealing from the tribe. The reserve's neighbours benefit from the land and therefore have a vested interest in protecting it," said Lane. "For example, a hunter will pay R15 000 to shoot a buffalo — R50 000 to R80 000 for a rhino — and if the animal is killed by a poacher the tribe loses this income."

The profits syphoned off to the Tribal Trust Company from Mithethomusha contribute to the upliftment of the area. The local people can decide to build schools, clinics or even buy television sets if this is how they want to spend the money to the community's benefit. But kaNgwane's trustee would object if they wanted to buy a Mercedes.

Utilisation strategies, whereby the local community is able to harvest products, are a financial and practical benefit to them. They will get the profits from the sale of carcasses and sangomas collected, herbs, bark and leaves for medicine. "At the moment, money made from the sale of thatch grass col-

lected by local women is going towards building a creche," said Sibiya. "The women cut thatch grass and kaNgwane Parks acts as a facilitator and finds a market for it. Most locals want tin roofs, so the market is outside the area."

But the concept of a reserve benefiting its neighbours — and not just land taken away from them for game and as a playground for wealthy tourists — has yet to be communicated to the 100 000-odd people living around Mithethomusha.

"Our biggest problem is education. The old colonial way of just fencing off an area and proclaiming it a reserve is unacceptable," said Lane. "If we say the community will benefit in 20 years, this won't be understood. They want a way out of the trap of rural poverty now. Conservation should be a way of life and people must get an income from it."

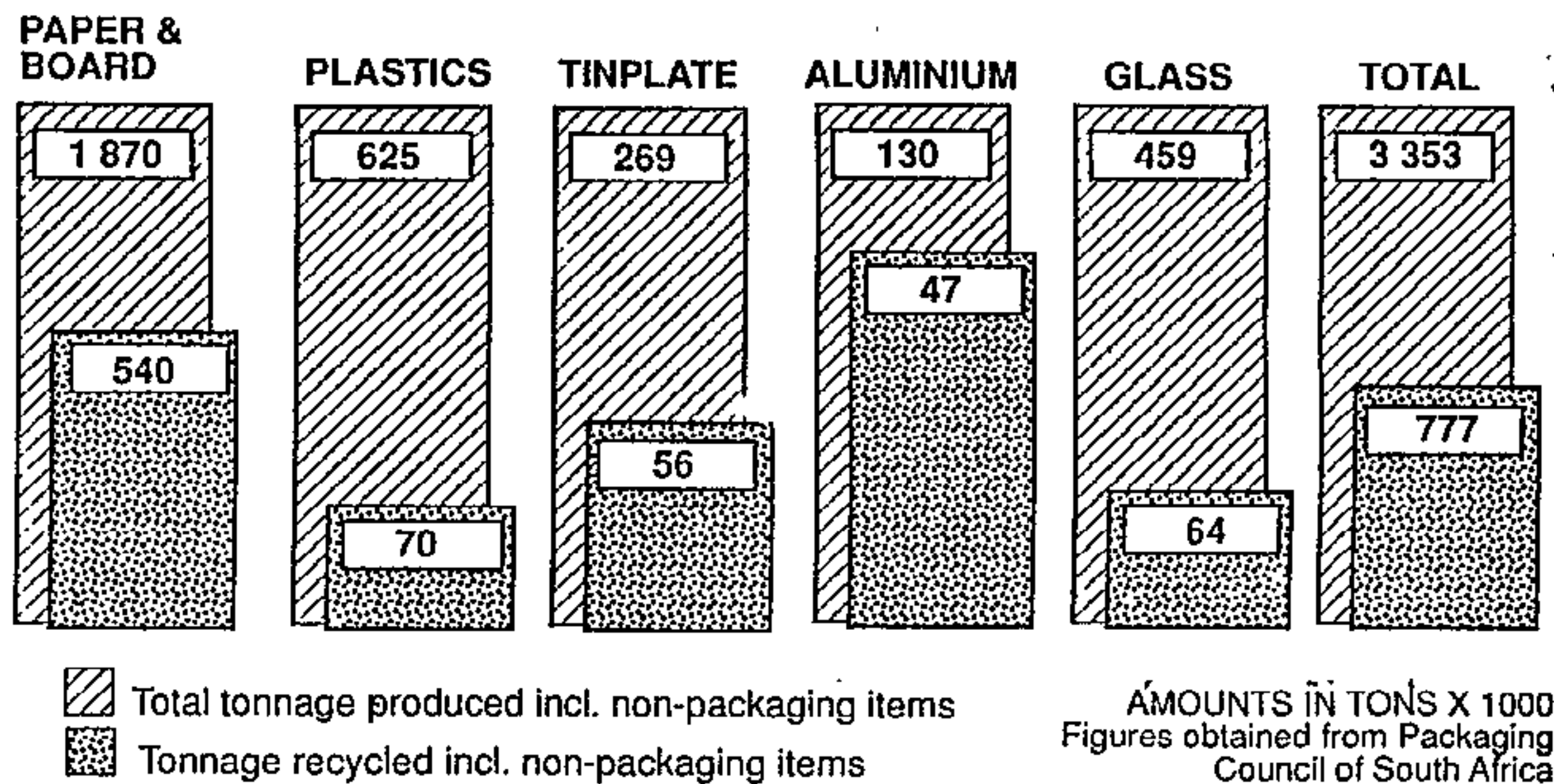
With only four members of kaNgwane Parks' staff involved in education and one in media, the best avenue of contact with local people is Radio Swazi — everyone listens to it. The half-hour programme discusses issues of relevance to the local people, such as the cutting of Kiazat trees which are used to make furniture.

"Kiazat grows outside the reserve and people chop down the trees but don't replant. We don't just forbid the felling of these trees but discuss how the disappearance of this tree is threatening the livelihood of carpenters."

This approach to better utilisation of the land and a new conservation concept is starting to pay off. Already chiefs are starting to approach kaNgwane Parks to request that a reserve be set up in their area. However, often the land is not suitable for the establishment of a reserve. And kaNgwane Parks needs more money. They were offered 20 000ha recently but require millions of rand to establish and develop it and other areas. The South African government has cut its budget to the home lands and this has resulted in a cut in the amount allocated to conservation in these areas. Which is another reason why reserves need to be profitable.

BUSINESS

RECYCLING IN THE PACKAGING & RELATED INDUSTRIES 1989



You could make a mint out of recycled rubbish

TWELVE-million tons of household refuse ended up in South Africa's dustbins last year. Half of this could have been recycled, but only about six percent (777 000 tons) was recovered and used by industry, according to the Packaging Council of South Africa.

The rest lies in municipal rubbish dumps or "landfill sites" fermenting into two environmental hazards: leachate and landfill gas. Leachate is the liquid that oozes out of rubbish dumps. It contains partly decomposed organic material and microbes, including disease-causing bacteria that can contaminate surface and ground water. Landfill gas is a potentially explosive mixture consisting of two parts methane and one part carbon dioxide.

Until last year's Environment Conservation Act there was no legislation setting provisions for the disposal of waste. This resulted in the "hump 'em and dump 'em" rubbish disposal system becoming widespread, with litter being tipped on any vacant spot. Reckless waste disposal laws, an abundance of landfill sites and cheap transport gave municipalities little incentive to invest in expensive refuse-sorting plants.

The cost of sorting, cleaning and transporting tons of refuse squashed its attractiveness to manufacturers, who generally prefer using virgin material unless they can buy recovered waste for next to nothing. Much of this country's refuse recovery is done by having charitable organisations run collection bins to raise funds. This hides the true cost of recovering waste because the public does most of the sorting and transporting for the recycling plant at no charge.

About half, by weight, of the contents of South Africa's typical dustbin is made of combustible material. In white Johannesburg these materials com-

Recycling refuse may not save manufacturers much money but municipalities and private firms could find pots of money hidden in the rubbish dumps, reports

ROBERT LAING

prise 29 percent paper, seven percent plastics, two percent textiles and four percent ash. In Soweto nearly all combustible waste is used for heating to save money; Sowetan dustbins contain about 45 percent ash and only one percent of paper, plastics and textiles each.

Hard non-combustibles, glass and metals, generally make up 10 percent of domestic waste. Putrescibles — things like potato peelings and cabbage stalks — account for 22 percent of Johannesburg's and 15 percent of Soweto's dustbin content.

Landfill sites near urban areas are becoming increasingly scarce. Even if they are available, waste management companies have to fight what they call the "nimby" syndrome — the neighbouring residents' "not in my backyard" outcry.

Some municipalities earn revenue by allowing "selective scavenging" in their landfills.

Selective scavenging is inefficient, making less than a 10 percent dent in the total waste problem. The scavengers may even aggravate the leachate and landfill gas problem by removing inert "dry" waste, which leaves the remaining refuse richer in putrescibles.

Randburg's Kya-Sands landfill site is to get South Africa's first "positive picking" waste recovery factory. The R6-million plant is being built by Resource Recycling, a subsidiary of Bate-man Project Holdings.

Mixed dry refuse will be passed through a revolving barrel that separates it according to size. The barrel has a mesh that extracts ash and dust.

An overhead magnet will remove fer-

rous metals, leaving a valuable mess containing newspaper, cardboard, plastics, aluminium and glass. This will pass down a conveyor belt to be manually sorted for industry.

Wet waste — food and garden refuse — will be milled into compost. The plant will create about 100 jobs.

By agreeing to the plant the Randburg City Council forfeits money it could earn from scavengers but savings in landfill space will outweigh this in the long run.

Resource Recycling MD John des Ligneris says: "The plant will halve the amount of refuse being dumped, doubling the life of the landfill site. We sort everything from paper — which is the most profitable waste to recover — to the most marginal stuff."

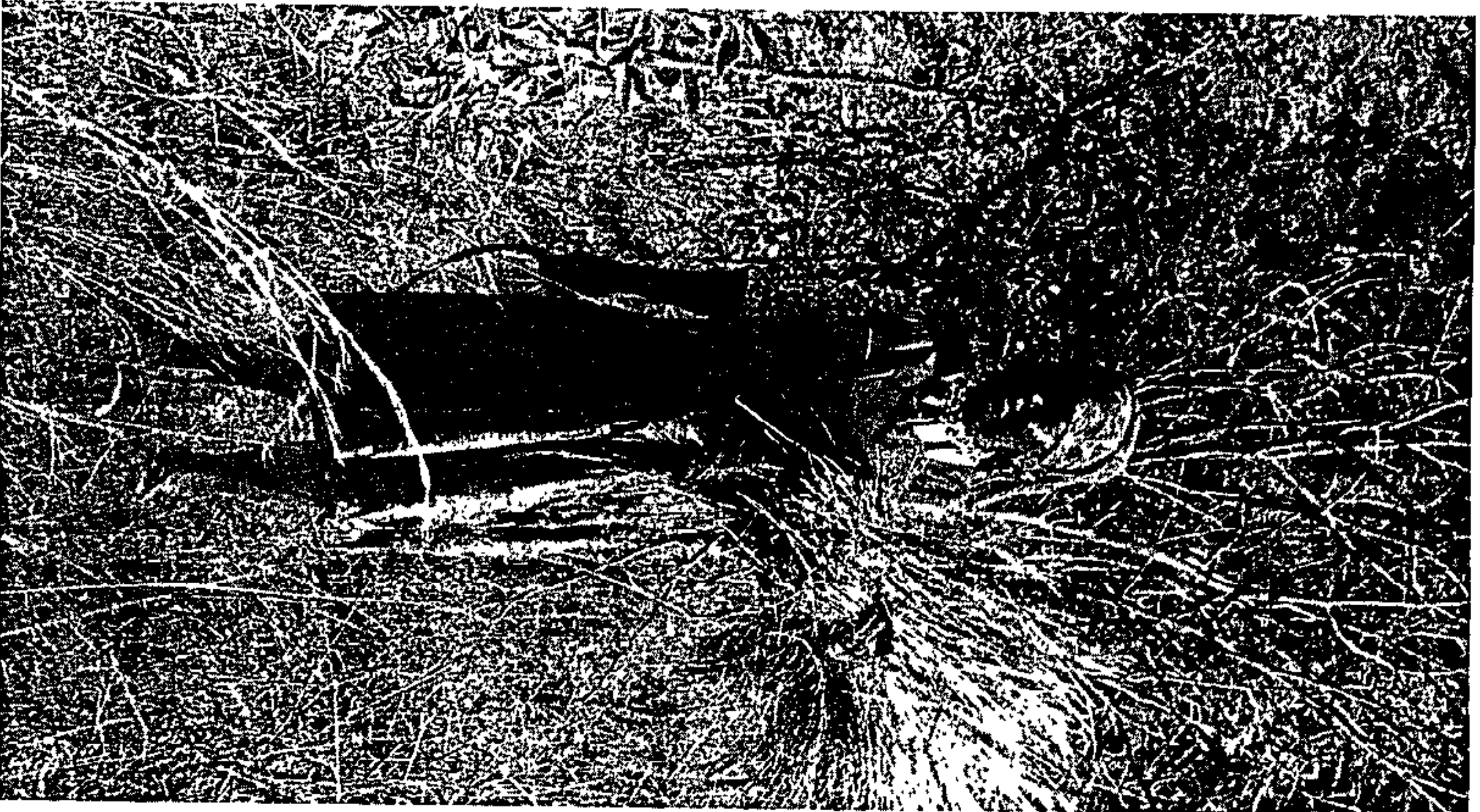
The method of refuse collection is important because manufacturers will not reuse recovered material unless it is clean. Des Ligneris hopes to get South African householders to separate their refuse into wet-bags and dry-bags as is done in Europe and America.

Even if nearly all domestic refuse can be returned to industry, disposing of the remainder is still a problem. Nobody has much use for old rubbish dumps.

In August, angry homeowners in Albertsville discovered why their new houses were cracking up — they had been built on a subsiding landfill. No mention was made of how the developers, Time Housing, intended to deal with the leachate or landfill gas.

The President's Council views rubbish dumps as a potential source of energy; University of the Orange Free State biochemistry professor Trevor Britz calculates each ton of refuse contains 4,5 megajoules of energy.

Methane gas from Johannesburg's Robinson dump is presently being tapped off and used as chemical feedstock by AECI's Klipspruit Cyanide factory.



Those living next to kaNgwane's Somgimvelo Game Reserve collect thatch grass from the park for the roofs of their huts

Pictures: LAURA YEATMAN

THE senior warden of kaNgwane's new Somgimvelo Game Reserve is considering an unpopular option in order to ensure the park's survival — mining.

That's not the only possibility, Pele Hitchins said last week. Eventually all the tourist facilities will be privatised.

Currently 40 families live in the reserve and graze their cattle there. People living on the periphery come in to collect herbs, reeds and thatch grass.

A few weeks ago, the local chief proclaimed part of the park after representations to the kaNgwane government and discussions between local residents and the reserve's staff.

The 300 families relocated to make way for Somgimvelo were compensated. They are among the thousands who live on the periphery of the 50 000ha reserve — perceived as the preserve of the elite.

The issue is land. The local people want to graze their cattle on the lush green grass on the other side of the game fence. They want to know why animals are put before people.

It is the dilemma of reserves and their neighbours — how to satisfy the needs of both.

Hitchins was asked by the kaNgwane government to help establish the new reserve on former white farmland — populated by black labourers who stayed when the whites left, and others who moved onto the vacated land.

As Hitchins talked about his plans for the reserve — which is not yet open to the public — there was a murmur in the reeds on the river banks. A hippo or a buck? Instead, a herd of cows appeared.

"Cattle and tourists just don't go together," said Hitchins. Tourists pay to experience Africa and not to see a herd of cows grazing alongside antelope, zebra and giraffe.

"We could run cattle and game together, but the reserve is hoping to make money from tourism," he said.

People are not excluded from the reserve though. They do utilise its resources. The reserve's neighbours collect thatch grass for huts' roofs, reeds for brooms, fitting in with the concept of "sustained utilisation of natural products".

A township borders on the reserve and its residents pay a fishing permit fee of R1, valid for a year. Non-kaNgwane people may also fish but their permit costs R10.

"We must look after our neighbours

A reserve and its neighbours fight to survive

People have fought against mining in conservation areas but, in order to survive, environmentalists may have to bow to pressure — from poor neighbours who want to know why animals' needs come before theirs.

By LAURA YEATMAN



Game reserves could become a rich resource for local people who live in rural poverty on their borders

First, as they have suffered the greatest losses," said Hitchins. "We are encouraging the use of medicinal plants and are investigating the market. We've also talked to local herbalists who're very enthusiastic."

Part of the problem seems to be to persuade local people that they can benefit from the establishment of a game reserve — and tourism and mining are among the biggest industries in South Africa.

Environmental groups have fought long and hard to stop mining in conservation areas but there is a distinct possibility that gold will be mined in this new reserve, making Somgimvelo viable and acceptable to its neighbours.

"The major mining houses are involved with prospecting and we are

W/Mail/Sep 16/11 - 22/11/90

waiting for the results. There is no work in this area. Perhaps people would prefer it because it creates greater job opportunities.

"If gold mining takes place the challenge would be to marry mining and conservation. The environment will be damaged but we must try to minimise it. Mining is a necessary for progress and the economy but environmentalists do become heart sore when faced with this option."

But Hitchins believes mining is only a short-term solution. It will create jobs for a short period and then the mine will shut down.

"Conservation will ultimately be the better route to follow — the reserve will still be here hundreds of years from now. When Somgimvelo is fully oper-

ational, 300 or more people will be employed. Their families, about 2 500 people, will also benefit. And the men will no longer have to go to the cities to work, keeping the family structure intact."

The establishment of a game park has other spin-offs besides job creation — the reserve's neighbours could establish market gardens and a poultry and meat industry to supply the lodges in the reserve. Tourist-related industries could flourish. Entrepreneurs could establish businesses such as transport, game shops, catering facilities and other services.

Tourist development in Somgimvelo will be run by the private sector.

"They have the expertise and will be successful and make money," said Hitchins. "Conservationists aren't trained to do this."

A month ago the first entrepreneur set up a business in the park — equine trails.

"It's run independently. She organises the horses, has her own base camp and looks after the catering. We are only concerned about the environmental aspect — we check out the trails to see that no damage will be caused," said Hitchins.

Last weekend potential developers arrived in the park to look at a site for a 100-bed plush lodge on the banks of the Komati River. A conference centre and golf course are also envisaged.

"But all development will be on the boundaries of the reserve. We don't want to spoil remote areas with pylons .. I'm against these things but we have no option but to follow this route as it will create jobs and wealth," said Hitchins.

In fact, everything from walking and driving trails to hunting will probably be privatised.

"The private sector has a vital role to play. We're not subsidised by government. For us to employ three people to run a camp means we would have to build three houses, supply vehicles and so on, which we can't do."

Hitchins has one reservation about privatisation. Only the wealthy will be able to afford to stay in reserves.

"I don't see why national reserves have to make money. It should be a national commitment. The government spends public money on national monuments; reserves are preserving our natural heritage — and they are of more use than a statue."

The reserve's resources are also utilised by its other neighbour, Swaziland

● To PAGE 31

A reserve and its neighbours fight to survive

This year Somginvelo sent a chief a gift — the fruit of the Ioranthus tree, which grows only in the reserve. A bird-catching ceremony is held every November in Swaziland. Lime is made from the fruit to trap wydah birds which are freed once the Swazis have removed their tail feathers for use in tribal regalia.

Somginvelo now has 110 staff members, most of them local people. The reserve has a training centre built with money donated by a mining group — “the mining companies are generous but so they should be because they’re turning the countryside upside down”. Training is ongoing and advanced and refresher courses are held. The centre is also used by local schools to

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16/11 - 22/11/90
Hitchins believes the reserve's role is to make people aware of their heritage.
“People always get hurt if there's to be development,” he said.

And Somginvelo's neighbours have suffered, even though they were compensated. But their suffering could be minimised if they changed from traditional to modern, viable agricultural concepts.
Somginvelo means “protect our heritage” — the name was chosen by the homeland's residents through a competition.

To help make the name become a reality, the reserve has a communications division which works with tribal authorities, schools, health and welfare organisations, government officials and the Development Bank.

Communication is vital for the success of the reserve.
“Communication — and time.”
But does Somginvelo have time? Do any conservation areas have the time?
Already the local chief has deproclaimed one section of the reserve. “It's a question of give and take,” said Hitchins.
But it could happen again and again as people fight for land — unless the reserve's neighbours do benefit from game parks.

NO 1 murder city

Seventeen
die violent
deaths in
Peninsula

Cape Town's
figures highest
in world survey

By DALE KNEEN
Crime Reporter

Arts 19/11/90

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SEVENTEEN people died violently in the Peninsula at the weekend and the body of a woman was found buried at Simon's Town.

Two women were trampled to death in a disco in Macassar, a man burnt to death in a Crossroads fire and 14 people died after being assaulted.

A man and a woman were found dead in the domestic workers' quarters at a house in Dirkie Uys Street, Bellville, house. The cause of death is not known.

The body of Miss Beauty du Plessis was discovered in a grave near the Blue Water compound at Simon's Town on Friday after police were given a tip-off.

MAN ARRESTED

A 25-year-old man was arrested and is expected to appear in the Simon's Town Magistrate's Court today. Police are investigating a murder charge.

Mrs Esther Arendse, 27, and an unidentified woman were trampled to death when more than 400 people stampeded out of a tavern in Macassar to escape teargas on Saturday. Several people were injured.

An unidentified man burnt to death when arsonists set his Section Four, Crossroads, home alight about 1.40am yesterday.

Nineteen shacks and four tents were also set alight in Section Four and two shacks in Section Three burnt down.

Police spokesman Captain Danie Deyzel said damage to the tents and shacks was estimated at R8 000.

Nine people were arrested for "riotous behavior" at a shopping centre in Atlantis on Saturday.

Eight paid admission of guilt fines and a man who was charged with resisting arrest is expected to appear in court soon.

From DAVID BRAUN, The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — Cape Town has the highest murder rate of the world's 100 largest metropolitan areas, an international survey has found.

A two-year study by the Washington-based Population Crisis Committee involved nearly 200 research collaborators from 45 countries in the first comparative statistical analysis of living conditions in the world's 100 major urban areas.

Metropolitan Johannesburg, with 4,6 million people, is ranked as the world's 38th-largest urban area. Cape Town, with 2,4 million people, weighs in at 94th position.

Living standards

But when 10 selected indicators of living standards are combined, Cape Town is ranked number 57 and Johannesburg at 70 on a descending list of desirable places to live.

Out of a maximum urban-living standards score of 100, Cape Town got 52 points, the same as Naples, while Johannesburg notched up 46, behind Casablanca's 48 and Sao Paulo's 50.

The Population Crisis Committee considers scores of 75 to 100 very good, 60 to 74 good, 45 to 59 fair, and 44 and below poor.

But Cape Town has the dubious honour of being the world's murder capital because of its annual rate of 64,7 murders per 100 000 people.

Washington DC, the US murder capital, has a paltry rate of 14,8 by comparison.

Cities with the second and third-highest murder rates are Cairo (56,4) and Alexandria (49,3), while seven other cities with murder rates above 20 are Rio de Janeiro, Manila, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Porto Allegro, Bogota and Miami.

Johannesburg's murder rate is 19,8.

The cities with the lowest murder rate are Madrid, Manchester and Bandung with less than one per 100 000 people.

But good marks elsewhere

The 100 South African cities in the world's 100 biggest urban concentrations fared poorly in terms of socio-economic conditions but did fairly well in terms of noise, traffic flow and clean air.

In the category of food costs, Cape Town people spend an average 34 percent of their income feeding themselves.

This compares with 23 other metropolitan areas in which households spend half or more of their income on food, such as Ho Chi Minh City and Lima.

In most cities in the US, Canada and Australia, households spend 15 percent or less of income on food.

In Johannesburg, there are an average of five people per room of living space whereas the figure for Cape Town is 1,2.

Johannesburg ranks as the world's worst-off city in terms of housing standards, with only 28 percent of all homes having electricity and/or running water (Cape Town 58 percent).

Johannesburg also scored low in terms of the communications indicator with only six telephones per 100 people (Cape Town 18).

Cape Town and Johannesburg are fairly quiet cities, each scoring three out of 10 for ambient noise levels. The world's noisiest include New York, London and Karachi.

Johannesburg is considered to be a relatively uncongested city, with an average speed of 60km/h recorded for traffic between city centre and the nearest major airport during rush hour.

Cape Town averaged 35km/h.

Both Cape Town and Johannesburg scored eight out of 10 for clean air. Only Taipei, Sydney and Melbourne scored a perfect 10.

Cape Town's poor ranking, page 11.

Cape Town's poor ranking

From DAVID BRAUN
Argus Foreign Service
in Washington

CAPE Town has the highest murder rate of the world's 100 largest metropolitan areas, an international survey has found.

Johannesburg has become a pretty grim place to live too, barely escaping being classified as one of the world's 28 cities with poorest living conditions, the same study has found.

More than 70 percent of the people who live in greater Johannesburg have no electricity and/or running water in their homes, making South Africa's commercial capital the worst off in this regard in the entire world.

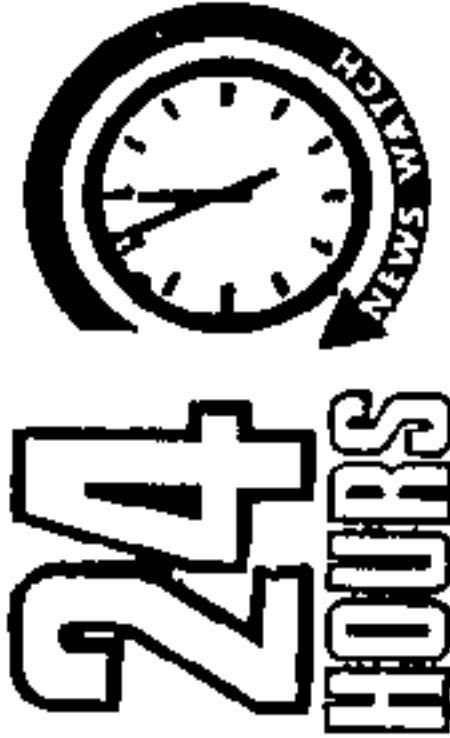
Johannesburg also has the least children between 14 and 17 in school, faring worse in this regard than Lagos, Nigeria and Lahore, Pakistan.

The two-year study by the Washington-based Population Crisis Committee involved nearly 200 research collaborators from 45 countries in the first comparative statistical analysis of living conditions in the world's 100 largest metropolitan areas.

Desirable cities

However, when 10 selected indicators of living standards are combined, Cape Town is ranked at number 57 and Johannesburg at number 70 on a descending list of desirable places to live.

Out of a maximum urban living standards score of 100, Cape Town scores 52 points, the same as Naples in Italy, while Johannesburg gets 46, behind Casablanca's 48 and Sao Paulo's 50.



The Population Crisis Committee considers scores of 75 to 100 to be very good, 60 to 74 good, 45 to 59 fair and 44 and anything less poor.

Johannesburg therefore squeaks in as a city considered to have fair living conditions.

Among the cities scoring lower points than Johannesburg are Manila, Alexandria, Bangkok, Istanbul, Madras, Ho Chi Minh City, Mexico City and Calcutta.

The worst city to live in in the world is Lagos, Nigeria, which scores 19. Kinshasa comes in second on the worst list with a score of 29.

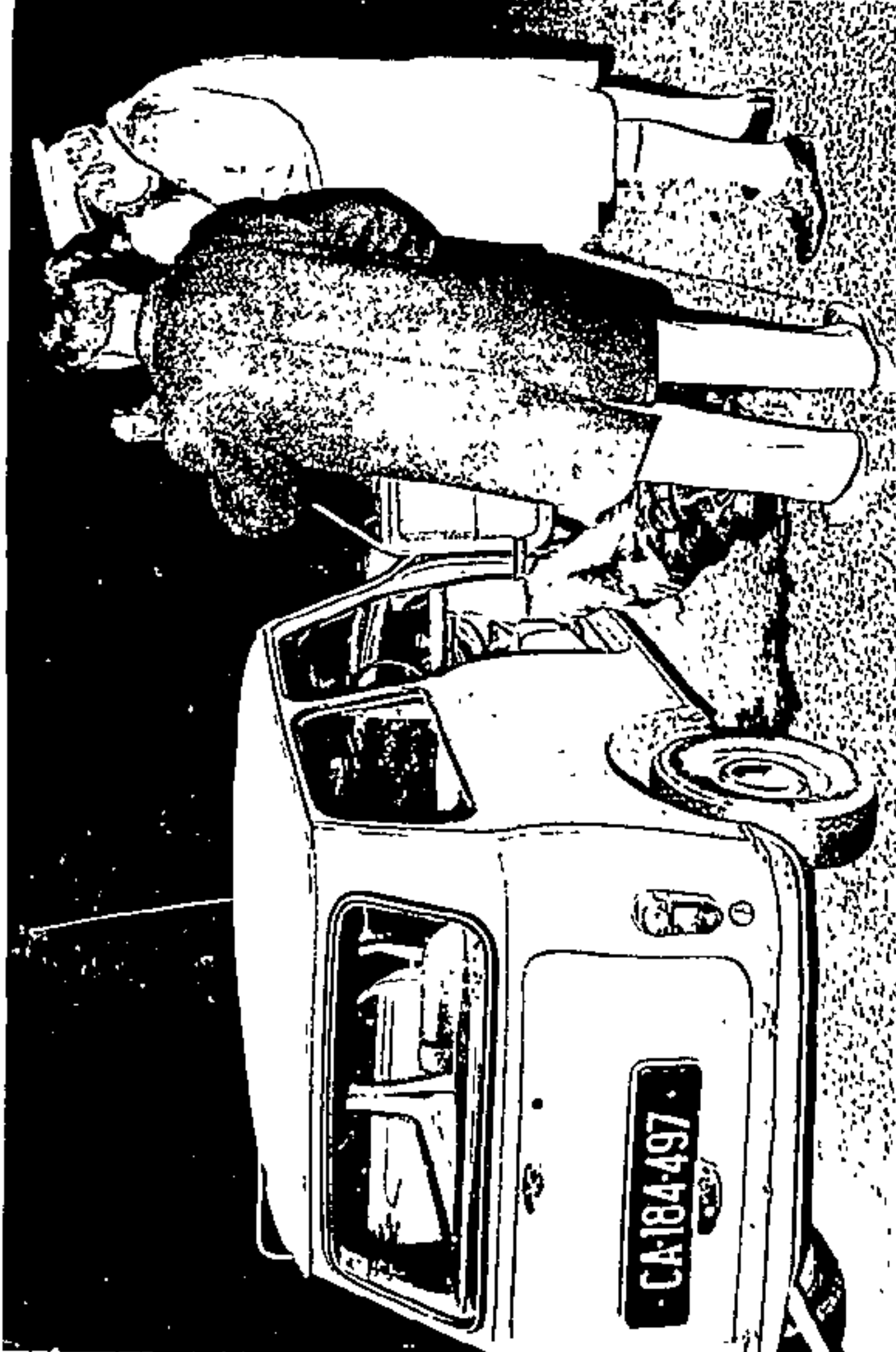
Three cities tie for best places in the world to live — Melbourne, Montreal and Seattle (each with a score of 86). They are followed by Atlanta, Essen-Dortmund-Duisberg in Germany, Detroit-Windsor and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Washington DC scores 76 points, Paris 72, New York 70 and London 69. Moscow weighs in at 64, Athens at 62 and Lisbon at 61.

Cape Town has the dubious honour of being the world's murder capital because of its annual rate of 64.7 murders per 100 000 people.

Washington DC, the US murder capital, has a paltry rate of 14.8 by comparison.

Cities with the second and third-highest murder rates are Cairo (56.4) and Alexandria (49.3), while seven other cities with murder rates above 20 are Rio de Janeiro, Manila, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Porto Allegro, Bogota and Miami.



Cape Town is "Murder Capital of the World" because of its annual rate of 64.7 murders per 100 000 people.

Johannesburg has a murder rate of 19.8.

The cities with the lowest murder rate are Madrid, Manchester and Bandung — less than one per 100 000 people.

The two South African cities in the world's 100 biggest urban concentrations fared poorly in terms of socio-economic conditions but did fairly well in terms of noise, traffic flow and clean air.

In the category of food costs, Capetonians spend an average 34 percent of their income feeding themselves (no figures were available for Johannesburg). This compares with 23 other metropolitan areas in which households spend half or more of their income on food. The worst off in this regard are Ho Chi Minh City (people spend 80 percent of their income on food) and Lima (70 percent).

In most cities in the US, Canada and Australia, house-

holds spend 15 percent or less of income on food. Three cities with a reputation for high living costs score low percentages: Tokyo (18 percent), London (14 percent) and Washington, DC (nine percent).

In Johannesburg there is an average five persons per room of living of space. The corresponding figure for Cape Town is 1.2.

For cities in the US, Canada and Australia, there are an average of two rooms a person. In Eastern Europe, Soviet Union and Spain there is more than one person a room.

Twenty cities in Asia and Africa have more than 2.5 persons a room, while Lagos has the least living space, with 5.8 persons a room, not much worse off than the situation in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg ranks as the world's worst-off city in terms of housing standards, with only 28 percent of all

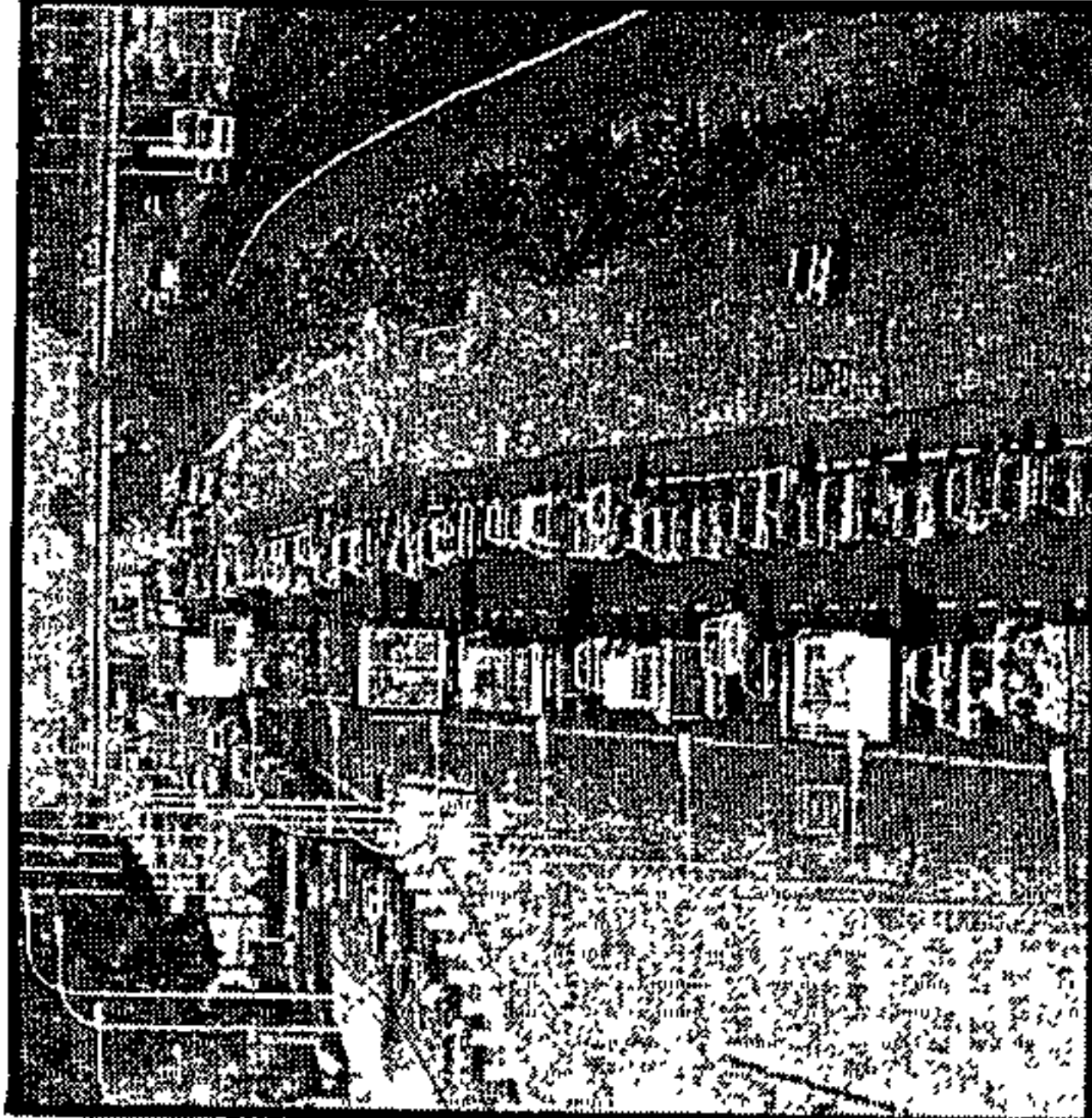
homes having electricity and/or running water (Cape Town 58 percent).

In 87 of the world's top 100 metropolitan areas, 70 percent or more homes have electricity and/or running water. Kinshasa, second on the world's worst list for this indicator, has 33 percent of its citizens living with access to electricity and/or water.

Johannesburg also scores very low in terms of the communications indicator, with only six telephones per 100 people (Cape Town 18).

San Francisco has 151 telephones per 100 people and one or more telephones are reported for every two people in 18 other cities in the US, Canada, Europe and Australia.

In most South Asian and African cities, there are only one or two telephones per 100 people. In Lagos, Ho Chi Minh City and Kinshasa there is



Cape Town's traffic congestion rates poorly. An average speed of 35 km/h was recorded between city centre and the airport during rush hour.

less than one telephone per 100 persons.

In Johannesburg only 25 percent of children between 14 and 17 are in school (Cape Town 66 percent), placing the golden city again at the very bottom of the list. Kinshasa, one notch better than Johannesburg, has 31 percent of its children at school.

In terms of public health, Johannesburg reports 22 infant deaths per 1 000 live births and Cape Town 18 — levels which although are substantially higher than the rate of five infant deaths for 1 000 births recorded in three Japanese cities and Taipei, are somewhat better than the world's worst cities (Kampur 157 deaths/1 000, Recife 122 and Dhaka 108).

Cape Town and Johannesburg are fairly quiet cities, each scoring three out of 10 for ambient noise levels. The world's noisiest cities include New York, London, Karachi, Madras, Madrid, Lahore, Na-

ples and Surabaya. Among the quietest (scoring two each) were Dallas, Singapore and Manchester.

Johannesburg is considered to be a relatively uncongested city, with an average speed of 60 km/h being recorded for traffic flow between city centre and nearest major airport during rush hour.

Cape Town recorded an average speed of 35 km/h under the same conditions.

Cities less congested than Johannesburg include Atlanta, Casablanca, Houston, Belo Horizonte and Detroit. Cities with the worst traffic congestion are Lima (6 km/h), Lisbon (9 km/h) and Manila (11 km/h).

Both Cape Town and Johannesburg scored eight out of 10 for clean air. Only three cities — Taipei, Sydney and Melbourne — scored a perfect 10. The world's most polluted cities are Calcutta, Jakarta, New Delhi, Tehran, Beijing, Shenyang and Milan.



Richtersveld park debacle

eaves residents bewildered

AK643 13/11/90

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KHUBUS. — A sense of loss and dazed bewilderment pervades this dusty, sun-beaten settlement in the Richtersveld mountain desert.

Planned celebrations for a unique conservation pact turned to sadness when a Cabinet Minister announced his last-minute withdrawal from the signing ceremony.

Khubus was plunged into despondency.

Mines in the diamond-rich desert had donated spades, steaks and trucks; goats had been slaughtered, invitations had been sent to environmentalists on three continents.

But Mr Andrew Julies, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, whose signature was needed to clinch the landmark contract, said he was not prepared to attend.

"We had at last found the golden track, but Mr Julies laid a tarred road across it," said Mr Willem de Wet, of Khubus, in the metaphor characteristic of the clutch of Nama-speakers eking an existence in the north western corner of the Cape.

Community leaders expressed their dismay at the Minister's change of heart.

At a meeting in Springbok on October 19, attended by delegates from Khubus and Mr Julies's legal adviser, Mr Gary Oliver, the parties to the protracted negotiating process agreed that November 11 would be the signing date.

"Dr Robbie Robinson of the Parks Board was there. He phoned us the next Tuesday to give us the go-ahead," said Mr Willem de Wet.

"The Minister had queried the programme; we changed it. It was community-oriented; we made him the first speaker.

"Mr Julies, followed by Minister Gert Kotze, Professor Fritz Eloff, chairman of the Parks Board, the Labour Party MP for Steinkopf, Mr Abraham Balie — two hours of the programme were devoted to them."

The 162 000ha park would be a tourism and conservation boon, it would attract visitors and cash, but keep the fragile mountain desert pristine.

"It is really a pity that the signing did not go ahead, I'm very sorry about this," said Mr Balie.

"I understand that the management board was not quorate, that is why Mr Julies postponed the signing. It is a very important matter and he has to play safe," said Mr Balie.

He denied the suspicions of the Khubus residents of diamond concessions in the proposed park which had led to a Port Nolloth businessman "boasting" that the park would not materialise. — Sapa.



Mr Andrew Julies

Store chain gets 'green' centres

PICK 'n Pay has launched special centres to provide information on environmental issues.

Steeledale Hypermarket GM Alan Malakau said the "enviro-centres" had been introduced in all the group's stores and provided pamphlets covering 20 environmental topics, which would be regularly updated.

The pamphlets, which had been written by experts, gave references and contact numbers for additional information.

The centres also screened videos on environmental issues.

Malakau said the group committed itself to 14 environmental issues two years ago, including recycling,

MARCIA KLEIN

environment friendly products and school programmes.

Last month the group launched a nationwide "Enviro-Can" project for the recycling of tin waste material.

"Lucky Can" machines — based on one-armed bandits — had been placed at the entrance to Pick 'n Pay stores, he said.

When a cold drink or beer can was deposited, a fortune wheel turned and prizes were issued on certain combinations.

Malakau said the project had been a phenomenal success.

6 10 am 7/11/90

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Handwritten notes at the bottom right of the page, including a date "7/11/90" and some illegible text.

CAPE
TOWN

Richtersveld park backed

29/11/1990
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1

MEMBERS of the Northern Richtersveld management board yesterday discussed their concerns about diamond prospecting rights in the proposed Richtersveld Park with Labour Party minister the Rev Andrew Julies.

After discussions, in Cape Town, with the minister and officials, the own affairs management board gave their full backing to the landmark conservation pact, said official spokesman Mr Thinus Dempsey.

Mr Pams de Wet, chairman of the Richtersveld residents' association, said prospecting would still be allowed, but subject to tighter controls.

— Sapa

Billions of rands to put SA on tap

ARCUS 8/11/90 (56)

By TIM PATTEN, Staff Writer
SOUTHERN Africa's single most expensive project, construction of the R5,5-billion Katse Dam in the Lesotho Highlands, is set to begin early next year.

After nearly 40 years of planning, and political stalling, as many as 108 contracts for the building of the most ambitious multi-purpose water project in the world will be awarded next month. Construction will start in January.

The cost of the entire water project is more than double the final R2,4-billion spent on the Koeberg nuclear power station in the Western Cape.

When the first phase is complete in 1996 the dam will feed South Africa with as much as 18 cubic metres of water a second — the contents of an average swimming pool every second — through an ingenious system of tunnels to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) complex.

Oxbow Scheme

When all phases of the dam are complete — which may only happen in 30 years — as much as 70 cubic metres a second will flow to South Africa.

Financing of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project — which was originally conceived as the Oxbow Scheme during the 1950s — has been the most complex facet of the scheme and international co-operation with South Africa in this venture, much of it through government's Development Bank of Southern Africa, is seen as a significant breakthrough.

An agreement between the governments of Lesotho and South Africa, which set the basis of the implementation and operation of the project, was set out in a treaty signed in Maseru as long ago as October 1988.

South Africa is responsible for all the costs of those parts of the project involving the transfer of water to the PWV area — including implementing, operating and maintaining the scheme.

Besides the capital gain of an estimated R100-million annually for Lesotho from selling huge quantities of water to South Africa, and the opening up of a vast new tourist industry — another significant spin-off for the development of the "Mountain Kingdom" — currently rated as the third poorest country in the world — will be the hydro-electric element.

At present Lesotho buys 98 percent of its electricity from South Africa and the generation of hydropower will give the country's economy a powerful boost.

World Bank

The vast amount of finance needed has been raised from international sources, including the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the World Bank, the European Development Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the French government and the British Overseas Development Administration.

The feasibility study for building the dam cost R20-million and took three years to complete. More than 2 000 variations and alternatives were considered before the final plans were approved.

The infrastructure needed to build the dam is now almost complete. Roads, mountain passes and spectacular bridges allowing access to the site, as well as a modern village for the 3 000 engineers and construction workmen, have been under construction since 1988.

● Lesotho has water for Africa, page 21.



DAM SITE: The site where the Katse Dam wall will be built in the mountainous highlands of Lesotho at a cost of R5,5-billion.

Jump for as two Million

The Argus Correspondent JOHANNESBURG: noni businessmen won a lionex R1 million from the Standard Bank.

Mr John Steenkamp, managing director of a transporters firm and his manager, Mr Les Grey, jumped for joy last week when they received the cheque was handed by the chairman of the committee, Mr Abe and Mr S.

Second prize of R100 000 was won by Robertson Durban while Mr S. of Pietersburg won a prize of R100 000 consolation prize. Fiat Uno was won by Crnjac of Sunningdale.

An amount of R200 000 was awarded to the beneficiaries of Star's Seaside Fund Snowball, Teacher Christmas Funds.

Other major prizes are the 702 Crisis Argus Teach Fund Comic Relief Fund for News Channel Diamond Fields Fact and the Saving the Nation Trust.

R2 COMMUNITY



● Play The Game Jigsaw R20 000. See page 21.

Embattled health club sold in R5m deal

By ESANN van RENSBURG Staff Reporter

THE Point Health and Leisure Club has been sold to Health and Racquet Club Holdings and Oviand Ltd for R5 million.

An offer of compromise between the two parties and The Point to buy the shares in the company in liquidation was signed yesterday.

"The Point is a joint purchase between Health and Racquet Club Holdings and Oviand Limited, but the Health and Racquet Club group will operate the club," said financial director of Health and Racquet

Club Holdings Mr Peter Gardner.

"We have decided to honour all debenture holders and members of the club," he said.

The Point was provisionally liquidated this year after the estate of its previous owner, Mr Harry Fuchs, was sequestered.

First National Bank called a meeting of all creditors of The Point last month to discuss the takeover offer from Health and Racquet Club Holdings.

The gym owed the bank more than R6,1 million.

This debt, as well as

R451 000 owed to Cape Town City Council, would now be settled by the new owners.

The area general manager (operations) of Health and Racquet Club Holdings, Mr Trevor Chelley, said his company was satisfied with the purchase.

"We are going to do extensive upgrading of The Point and the club will be closed until mid-January 1991."

More than R1 million would be spent on upgrading.

Members would be able to make use of other Health and Racquet Club facilities until The Point reopened.

Girl killed by minibus taxi

Staff Reporter

AN 8-year-old girl has been killed by a minibus taxi in Bonteheuwel.

Shafika Stemmet, of Aman-del Road, Bonteheuwel, was hit by the minibus at the intersection of Jakkalsvlei and Date Farm roads about 4 30pm yesterday.

A man was killed when the car in which he was travelling hit a stationary lorry in Kuils River. Mr S L Thomas, 35, was trapped in the car and mechanical jaws were used to free his body.



Vital cancer equipment arrives in city

Staff Reporter

YOU'VE made it happen — the new R1,3 million planning computer has arrived at the Grootte Schuur Cancer Unit.

The computer, paid for from funds raised by the Argus Woman "Women can make it happen" Grootte Schuur Cancer Unit Appeal, was installed this week.

Software programmes have been installed and the next step, loading the systems with the required data, is about to begin. The machine should be operating in a fortnight.

Its function is to take the image from the CT scanner — an X-ray of the tumour site in patients — to delineate the tumour position, the optimal position of the radiation beam and the safe dose of therapy to be delivered to the tumour and surrounding tissues.



● GROOTTE SCHUUR CANCER UNIT APPEAL ●



Richtersveld contract signing to go ahead

CMF Times 21/11/90 Staff Reporter

THE signing of a contract ratifying the Richtersveld National Park will now go ahead following an about-turn by Labour Party minister the Rev Andrew Julies.

Arrangements for the signing were ditched at the 11th hour 10 days ago when Mr Julies, Minister of Local Government and Agriculture in the Ministers' Council, House of Representatives, refused LP ratification for the park.

The contract is the result of 17 years of negotiations between government and local residents and the 162 000ha park will be jointly managed by residents and the National Parks Board.

Mr Julies said the Ministers' Council had decided not to go ahead with the signing because of "unsatisfactory arrangements for the signing ceremony".

He said the signing would now probably go ahead before the end of the year.

Orange Farm residents hit by foul water

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Sowetan 29/11/90

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Orange Farm dwellers were last week baffled by stinking tap water and feared contamination.

An irate resident told the *Sowetan* that the water stank and tasted foul for two days when it was reopened after being switched off for a day on Wednesday.

"Our water was so putrid that it was difficult to drink it or wash with it," the resident said.

The chief executive of Orange Farm Mr Johann Simon said he was not aware that the residents had had problems with their water.

"We closed water off on Wednesday because

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

we were working on the electricity and, therefore, we could not operate the pumps," he said.

"It is surprising that the residents had problems because our water is supplied by the Rand Water Board which also supplies other neighbouring towns."

Mr Evelyn Ntilashe said: "The water was really bad. Even when we made tea it tasted foul. It was though it was something else and not tea.

"At first we thought that they had done something to purify the water but the smell was too terrible," she said.

arts advice music environment living

Need to think 'green'

Soul 8/11-14/1190

56

"We cannot separate justice, peace and environmental issues," remarked a lady from the floor toward the end of a discussion on future environmental policy.

The discussion took place at the Environment For A Changing South Africa Film Festival and Conference at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. It was presented by the Environment Film

Workshop Group (EFWG).

The woman's remark encapsulated the issues that came under the spotlight at this four-day event last month and explored an environmental code of ethics and the elimination of poverty in society.

The screening of exiled South African T Strassbourg's

film, "The Wasted Land", set the mood of the event. Against the background of the majestic splendour of the South African landscape that is akin to poetry in motion, the sore thumb of the country's bantustans sticks out in the film about the destruction the South African government's policy of forcibly resettling black people has brought on the natural environment and the "forgotten people".

It shows how black people in bantustans are exposed to dangers arising from the dumping of asbestos, toxic waste and chemicals.

Other films focusing on South Africa included Paul Weinberg's "This is Our Land", Rick Lomba's "Quest For Survival" and Clyde Nliver's "The Arid Choice".

The films and the discussion workshops successfully high-

lighted the need "for people from different political and ideological perspectives to come together and rally for environmental consciousness", as EFWG steering committee member Emmanuel Kgomo said.

Kgomo stressed that EFWG's aim was to address disparities in the country. "People in rural areas are faced with deforestation and soil

erosion. They have to be taken in consideration when environmental problems are being addressed."

In recent times South Africa — described as having a "mix of both First and Third World environmental problems" — has witnessed what was termed a "massive environmental movement".

Other issues focused on were conservation in South

Africa, toxic industrial waste, pollution and acid rain.

The ANC's expert on environmental affairs, Nairobi-based Stan Sangweni said the government would respond to environmental issues only "in as far as the public makes it aware".

Sangweni gave the assurance that the ANC was committed to environmental protection and wanted to see this included in the constitution of a future South Africa. The ANC's policy on environmental management would seek to ensure that economic and social development did not take place at the expense of the environment.

Perceptions

In its turn, the PAC pointed to the fundamental difference in the environmental perceptions and attitudes between blacks and whites.

In a discussion paper read on behalf of the PAC's Barney Desai, it was said environmental issues for



Call on community to monitor pollution

South 22/11 - 28/11/90

56

By REHANA ROSSOUW

SCIENTISTS at the University of Cape Town have called on community organisations in Cape Town's townships to combat pollution along the False Bay coastline.

Tests conducted near the Monwabisi beach resort, popular with the residents of Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain, found the sea badly polluted.

In a recent paper on chemical pollution of the False Bay coast, scientists at the Zoology Department at UCT identified the Monwabisi stormwater outfall as the worst pollution point in the bay.

The CSIR also found in a recent study

that acids, heavy metal, petroleum, nitro-glycerine carbonates, sewerage and other pollutants were flowing onto False Bay beaches.

The Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa has now formed an alliance with other organisations to create awareness about the False Bay "cesspool".

They called on civic associations and trade unions to join in the fight to stop the pollution.

Earthlife spokesperson Mr Stephen Smith said thousands of cubic metres of hazardous toxic waste, treated and untreated sewerage and unfiltered fallout from stormwater pipes flow into False Bay

daily.

"We believe the pollution of the bay impacts directly on the lives of the residents along the bay, not to mention the marine environment and the tourist industry," said Smith.

"There is enough scientific evidence to support the allegation that False Bay is a cesspool.

"We feel the authorities charged with the protection of the coast are toothless and hamstrung by worthless legislation."

"Unions can ask their members to monitor the dumping of toxic waste by industry and make their findings public," Smith said.

LINDEN BIRNS

THERE is no danger of a health crisis in the PWV, despite reports of raw sewage polluting several Witwatersrand streams, particularly in black areas, the Health Department said at the weekend.

"At the moment there is no crisis and the department has no plans to launch a campaign against cholera until all tests have been carried out," spokes-

man Karin Knobel said. She said tests were performed "on a regular basis" but could not say if specific new tests had been performed since reports and warnings that raw sewage was being dumped into fresh water streams and rivulets on the Witwatersrand.

Water Affairs spokesman Marisa

No danger of health crisis in PWV, says govt department

Haasbroek said tests were done in conjunction with local authorities.

Water Affairs scientific services managing engineer Hendrik Best confirmed that his department performed pollution tests on township streams "about once a month depending on the size of the stream. Only people using unpurified water are at risk."

Sapa reports Health Minister Pina Venter said at the weekend warnings of a serious health threat in the Witwatersrand would be investigated.

Meanwhile, leading SA Institute for Medical Research virologist Prof Margaretta Isaacson has added her voice to the warnings. She said cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and

gastro-enteritis could all be caused by the use of untreated polluted water.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken blamed the health hazard on rent and rates boycotts. He called on residents to pay their accounts to allow the restoration of water and sewage supplies.

The Rand Water Board's Chris Viljoen said there was no reason for public concern about the quality of Johannesburg's reticulated water.

FOSKOR LIMITED

Eskom 'will not wine the state



SA's cities could soon drown beneath their own garbage

By ROBERT LAING
A SYMBIOTIC relationship exists between brick-works and rubbish dumps. The huge basins created by brick manufacture make the ideal place to tip litter. Provided that brick makers don't dig too deep, a clay lining survives that prevents leachate — decomposed organic material that contains disease-causing bacteria — seeping into underground water.

Last year's Environment Conservation Act sets stringent standards for landfills. Dumps have to be sited in suitable hydrogeologic areas, preferably where ground water is deep and not used as drinking water. The geotechnical details of landfill sites are now carefully inspected and the dumps have to be surrounded by bore-holes to monitor potential ground-water contamination. Landfills also need to safeguard against methane gas migration.

The tighter legislation has resulted in rubbish dumps increasingly being managed by private contractors. Waste-Tech is South Africa's biggest, disposing of 2.5-million tons a year. The company has identified a shocking neglect in medical waste disposal. There is presently no legislation forcing hospitals and t

used syringes and unused drugs properly. Most of it ends up in municipal dumps, which have very little security. Waste-Tech offers plastic "sharps containers" for used scalpels and needles. It is also offering the medical profession cardboard bins to dispose of "dressings, human and animal tissue, pathological waste and other non-sharp items". The containers are collected by Waste-Tech and incinerated at its Germiston plant.

So far only Baragwanath and a few other TPA hospitals use the service. "It's really scary to think about what's presently ending up on municipal dumps from medical dustbins," Waste-Tech says. The company hopes legislation forcing doctors to have their waste incinerated will be passed within a year.

Waste-Tech extracts none of the refuse it handles for recycling because prices are not economical. Marketing manager Derek Lubie

says: "There is no money in recycling. A few companies dominate the raw material market and keep everybody else out. Last time we checked, they were paying R25 a ton for tin cans — it takes about 25 000 cans to make a ton. It isn't economical to sort refuse."

Resource Recycling MD John des Ligneris disagrees: "We wouldn't be putting up a R6-million refuse-sorting plant in Randburg if it we didn't think it was economically viable."

Covering up refuse doesn't make it vanish. While urban citizens are generating more refuse a person, legal places to put it are getting scarcer. The European Community is drafting legislation forcing the packaging industry to recycle more material. In the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency is demanding that 25 percent of refuse be diverted for recycling by 1992.

These new laws have caused an upsurge overseas in high-tech solutions to the waste disposal problem. Re-

source Recycling's plant will be South Africa's pilot refuse-sorting factory based on this technology.

Lubie is sceptical about the plant's chances: "Local authorities are like sheep. They see this stuff being done overseas and copy it, even if it isn't relevant. There is no shortage of landfill area in South Africa yet."

But Lubie agrees it will become a problem and Waste-Tech is watching Resource Recycling's progress keenly.

As vacant space to dump litter becomes scarcer, many cities fear they may end up drowning in their own trash. Redirecting the waste stream for recycling would be the ideal strategy for winning the municipal solid-waste war. The problem is that authorities simply don't want to conserve resources and manage the problem, they want to make money out of it.

"Recycling only works where it is heavily subsidised by the state," Lubie

says. Recycling needs encouragement from government to be a success; recyclers should be credited with the amount they save waste-disposal authorities; collection stations should be set up, and manufacturers should be forbidden from using combinations that are nearly impossible to recycle, like plastic-coated paper.

Refuse can be used as a raw material for new products. It can be a source of fuel for power plants. It can be better collected and automatically sorted for recycling. The fetid mass can be handled as an asset.

Composting is the ideal solution to the problems of leachate and landfill gas. Done properly, it stabilises organic compounds so that they do not decompose further and kills disease-causing bacteria. It reduces the volume of waste and is used to improve soil structure.

Recycling also needs commitment from industry. New products have to be manufactured from waste that the public wants to buy.

The step with the greatest potential for solving the refuse problem may be that suggested by Earthlife Africa's Chris Albertson — make less trash in the first place.

Probe into pollution of rivers (56)

B [day 27/11/90]
PRETORIA — Rivers perennial for decades are drying up because of pollution and an excessive draw-off in catchment areas, says the Foundation for Research and Development.

The state of five major rivers — the Crocodile, Sable, Olifants, Letaba and Luvuvhu — is being scrutinised in a programme co-ordinated by the foundation.

Kruger Park river research supervisor Andrew Deacon said water, an expensive and scarce commodity, was being dammed for use in agriculture, mining, industry and urban

GERALD REILLY

areas. When rivers dried up the entire ecosystem suffered, he said.

The Olifants River, with its source in the PWV area, was heavily polluted; the Crocodile had a water hyacinth and lettuce problem; sometimes the Letaba's flow stopped because of excessive use of irrigation; and the Luvuvhu became stagnant at times.

With rural development on Kruger Park's borders, the Sable could suffer a similar fate.

ENVIRONMENT

SA's toxic waste problems — through Greenpeace eyes

This month, for the first time, international environmental pressure group Greenpeace sent two activists to South Africa. Here, the two, **PAUL JOHNSTON** and **JIM VALLETTE**, argue that it is important for South Africans to resist the importation of any toxic wastes.

GREENPEACE had the privilege of attending a landmark conference in South Africa this month.

The "Environment for a Changing South Africa" film festival and conference represented the first occasion where representatives of South African environmental groups, trade unions, anti-apartheid groups and government officials sat under the same roof to debate the environmental future of the country.

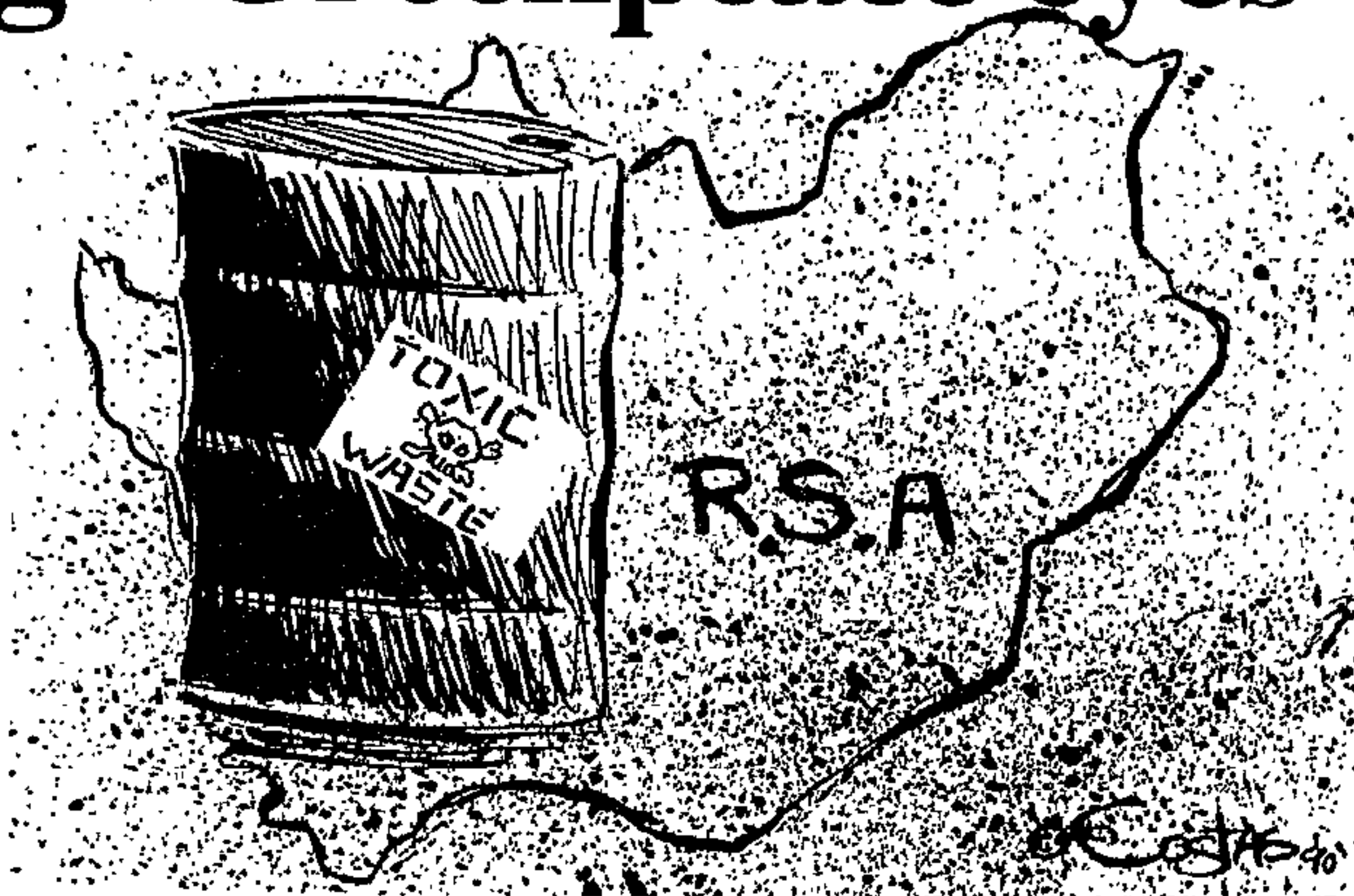
This conference, and our travels from Umtata to Sasolburg, provided us with glimpses at some of the world's worst pollution ... and glimpses at inspiring efforts by diverse forces to achieve environmental justice for all South Africans.

Greenpeace attended the environmental conference in South Africa mainly to provide a reality check on the government's recent proclamation that all toxic waste imports are banned forever.

Every year, thousands of kilograms of extremely toxic wastes are shipped from Europe and North America to Cato Ridge in Natal, adjacent to kwaZulu. These shipments occur simply because the mercury-waste plant in Natal, operated by the British firm, Thor Chemicals, is the only place in the world that will accept mercury wastes generated by companies using Thor's mercury products.

In late August, the South African government announced a "total ban" against the import of foreign wastes. However, the government exempted Thor's waste imports, saying that it considers Thor's operation to be "recycling", and the wastes that it imports to be "raw material". This argument was repeated by Visagie, the director-general of the Department of the Environment, at this month's environmental conference.

The chemical cocktail that Thor imports is anything but "raw material" and a large percentage of the wastes imported are never "recycled", but are merely burned and emitted into the air, or washed down into the Valley of a Thousand Hills via rainfall runoff. Known waste shipments to Thor commonly contain 30 to 40 percent chlorine-



based contaminants. Greenpeace expects that the nature of Thor's processes will cause significant emissions of notoriously toxic chlorinated dioxins from Thor's smokestack. This possibility urgently requires investigation by relevant institutional bodies.

We believe that the South African government allows Thor's imports to continue simply because it does not want to scare away foreign investment by restricting the destructive activities of a British company. Protecting human lives from foreign pollution is considered bad for business. Here, as elsewhere, environmental regulatory systems are designed to facilitate the accumulation of wealth by a select few at the expense of the earth and the vast majority of its inhabitants.

Greenpeace cannot pretend to have a magic formula for ensuring that South Africa will no longer be plagued by intense environmental destruction.

This formula can only be produced within South Africa, and only when all South Africans can freely participate in decisions that affect them and their environment. We can, however, suggest three particular principles that have furthered the cause of environmental rights in North America and Europe.

First, there is the "precautionary principle". This approach dictates that if environmental safety is in doubt, don't pump it out. Prevailing environmental regulatory systems in North America and Europe have attempted to calculate how much punishment the environment can "assimilate" without

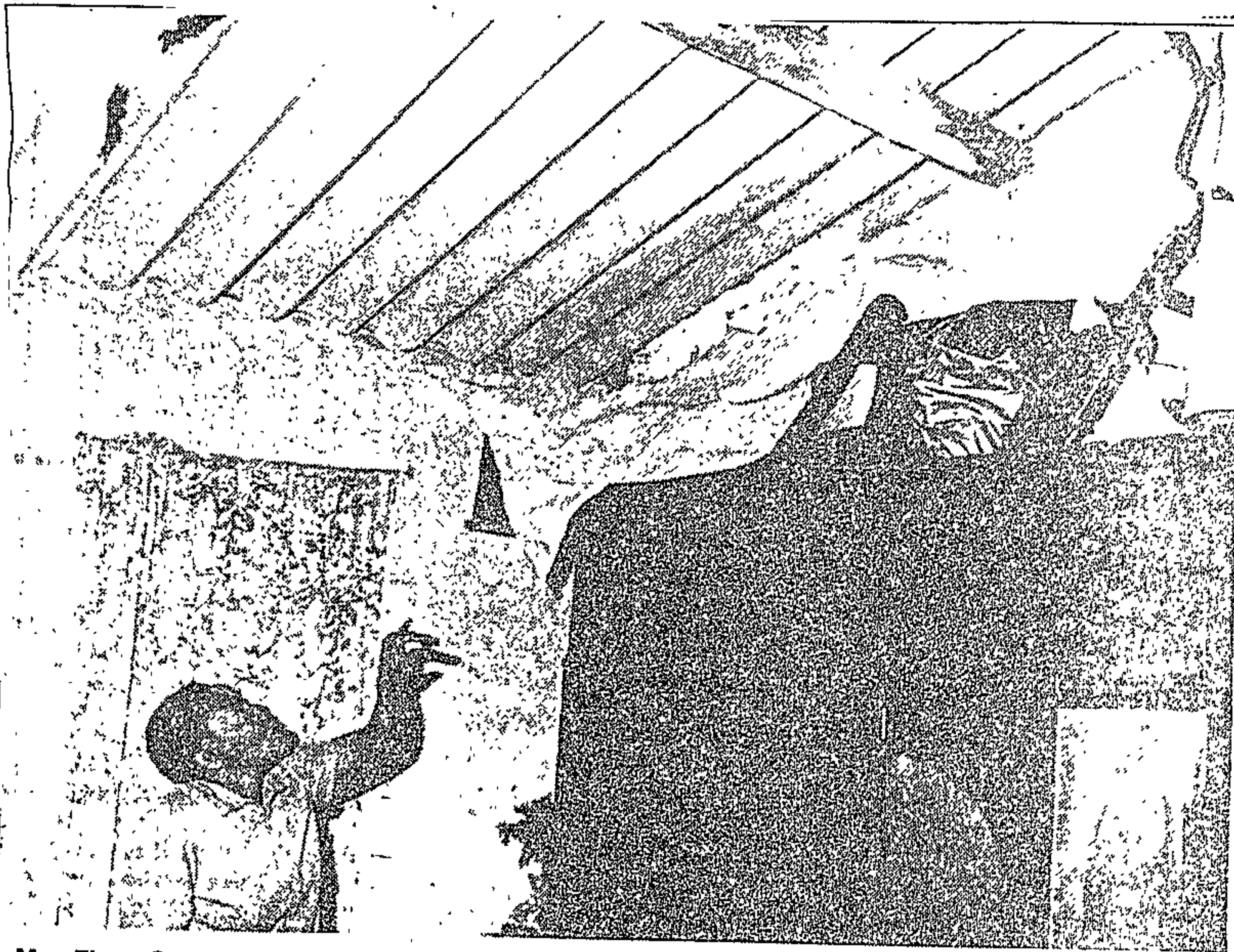
obvious change. Industry is thus allowed to pour billions of tons of toxics into the air, water and soil.

These wastes are contaminated by over 90 000 different types of chemicals; potential environmental and human health impacts have been tested for less than one percent of these chemicals. If we really want to halt the destruction of the planet, we must force industry to prove that it will have no impact on human health and the environment before it is allowed to produce and discharge anything.

Second, there is the principle of "environmental democracy". People have the right to know the size and destructive potential of poisons discharged into their life support systems. Freedom of information and public participation in government decisions are often ignored tools in the global struggle for environmental rights. We would never have known that the United States ships toxic wastes to South Africa if the US government was not required to give this information to the public under the Freedom of Information Act.

Finally we must stress the survival of the planet depends on "clean production" methods, not dirty industrial growth.

Greenpeace's participation at this month's environment conference, we hope, helped build ties between activists in South Africa and their counterparts based in Northern industrialised countries. Such ties are needed to overhaul outdated modes of production developed in the industrialised North and exported South, which are speeding the earth's demise.



Mrs Flora Gumede of Central Western Jabavu examines the damage caused by the storm on Sunday.

Storm damage in townships

Sowetan 27/11/90

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI
Own Correspondent

AT least eight houses, seven of them in Soweto, had their roofs blown off as stormy rains ravaged the Transvaal at the weekend.

The widespread rain has brought at least slight relief to some of the Northern Transvaal drought areas.

Soweto and Pretoria residents were yesterday mopping up after the storm which blew off roofs, uprooted trees, and brought down power lines.

Mrs Elsie Moloi, a Central Western Jabavu pensioner, said the destructive storm was sudden and frightening.

She said: "We were so frightened as our roof lifted off and water rushed into our living room.

"It was completely chaotic. My garage is completely damaged, its walls are cracked and the roofing is destroyed. Where will I get the money to repair it? Even the ceiling caved in and we had to support it with a pole

and bricks to keep it from falling on top of us," she said.

In Pretoria and Oukasië township, Brits, there were many reports of fallen trees and power failures.

A spokesman for Verwoedburg town council said not much damage was reported in the area.

The weather bureau says its too soon to describe the drought as "broken", but there can be no doubt rains brought welcome relief to the city, and to farmers throughout the Transvaal in particular.

A weather forecaster said the system was clearing from the west. However, a new trough was developing in the west and this could bring with it thundershowers in the western parts today, spreading gradually eastwards later in the week.

Pollution: the child killer

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

AT least 14 million children under the age of five die every year because of environmental pollution and malnutrition.

A further 3 million are seriously disabled, according to a report by the United Nations environment programme.

The report titled "The state of the environment 1990: Children and the environment" said environmental hazards also strike children even from the moment of conception, causing birth defects, brain damage and sometimes death.

Foetuses and children were more vulnerable

than adults to environmental problems because of different breathing patterns, nutritional needs, body temperature and behaviour.

"Even in the relatively sheltered environment of the mother's uterus, the developing baby is far from completely protected because the environment to which the pregnant woman is exposed has a marked effect on the development of an embryo and the foetus", the report said.

The threats to the foetal environment range from chemical pollutants in the atmosphere and

toxic substances taken into the body voluntarily by the mother, including tobacco and alcohol, to malnutrition.

Exposure of the foetus to toxic substances passing through the placenta can cause permanent genetic mutations and cancer.

Foetus

The report said some types of exposure may affect the foetus but not the mother and this could delay diagnosis of illnesses in the baby since the mother shows no symptoms of the problems.

"More than 20 mental and physical defects in new-born babies, some of which threaten the life of the child, have been associated with drinking during pregnancy", the report added.

It referred to this problem as foetal alcohol syndrome.

However, direct forms of environmental pollution were not alone in endangering the foetus. Malnutrition in expectant mothers was also a major threat since it leads to low infant birth weight.

"An infant birth weight in turn is the single most important determinant of its chances of survival and development" the report said.

Due to 23/11/90

S6

Pupils swim in polluted water

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

AN Orlando East primary school principal fears for her pupils' health as the youngsters swim in a stagnated "dam" near the school. (56)

The "dam", which is close to Selope-Thema Community School, is an accumulation of rain water and school's sewage.

To beat the hot weather, pupils from nearby schools nip in for a quick swim during break and after school.

"This is a health hazard," the principal who asked not to be named, said.

"If children do not drown in that water, they are likely to contract bilharzia and other diseases. An epidemic can break out. The ditch has filled up and is threatening to overflow into the school yard. Sowetan 19/11/90

"We have reported the matter to the department. On investigation it was discovered that one of the sewage pipes was blocked and even our sewage pipes could not stay clear for a long time."

WHEN World Bank economist Herman Daly searched through the indexes of three leading macroeconomic textbooks, he turned up no entries for the terms "pollution", "environment", "natural resources" or "depletion". These glaring omissions illustrate what a handful of economists see as a fundamental flaw in their discipline: a lack of regard for the environment.

While the environment and the economy are tightly interwoven in reality, they are virtually divorced from one another in economic structures and institutions. Modern economics has barely heard of the natural world, no less begun to incorporate environmental concerns into its everyday workings.

This oversight traces back to the work of John Maynard Keynes, the father of modern economics. For Keynes and his contemporaries, natural resources appeared so abundant that notions of scarcity, depletion and environmental damage did not appear in their picture of how the economy functions.

A tiny cube inside a large sphere just a few decades ago, the global economy is no longer small relative to the earth's natural systems. It now takes only 15 days to produce what it took an entire year to produce in 1900. Increasingly, the corners of the cube have begun to puncture the sphere — and the damage appears in the form of acid rain, holes in the ozone shield, and the buildup of greenhouse gases.

"Progress", as defined by our modern economic system, is not only perpetuating environmental deterioration but accelerating it. Reconciling our economic rules and practices with the dictates of environmental sustainability is now more than a purely academic interest; it is essential for human survival.

No single economic indicator is more popular than the Gross National Product (GNP). A measure of the total output of goods and services in an economy, the GNP is the basis upon which countries are ranked from rich to poor. Almost universally, a climbing GNP is taken to mean that a country's health is improving — and that its people are becoming better off.

But a closer look at the accounting system used to produce the GNP shows major failings in its ability to assess economic performance and human welfare. A country's economic bookkeeping consists of income accounts, which when tallied produce the GNP figure, and capital accounts, which track changes in wealth.

As lumber factories, textile mills, office buildings and other artifacts age and fall into disrepair, a subtraction is made from the capital accounts to reflect their depreciation in value. No similar subtraction is made, however, for the deterioration of forests, soils, air quality, and other natural endowments. Natural wealth of all kinds is whittled away with no losses appearing in the national accounts.

When trees are cut and sold for timber the proceeds are counted as income, and thus added to the GNP. But no subtraction is made for the deterioration of the forest, an economic asset that, if managed well, could provide revenue long into the future.

As economist Robert Repetto, of the World Resources Institute, points out, this failure to distinguish between natural asset destruction and income generation makes the GNP "a false beacon, and can draw those who steer by it onto the rocks". Most in danger of running aground are developing countries whose economies remain tied to primary resources, such as fuels, timber, minerals and agricultural crops.

Repetto and his colleagues have examined the implications for Indonesia's resource-based economy of more accurately measuring income and wealth. Taking into account the depletion of just three natural resources — forests, soils and petroleum — the researchers found the average annual growth in Indonesia's GNP from 1971 to 1984 dropped from 7.1 percent to four percent. If the exploitation of coal, mineral ores and other non-renewable resources had been included, along with the deterioration of fisheries and

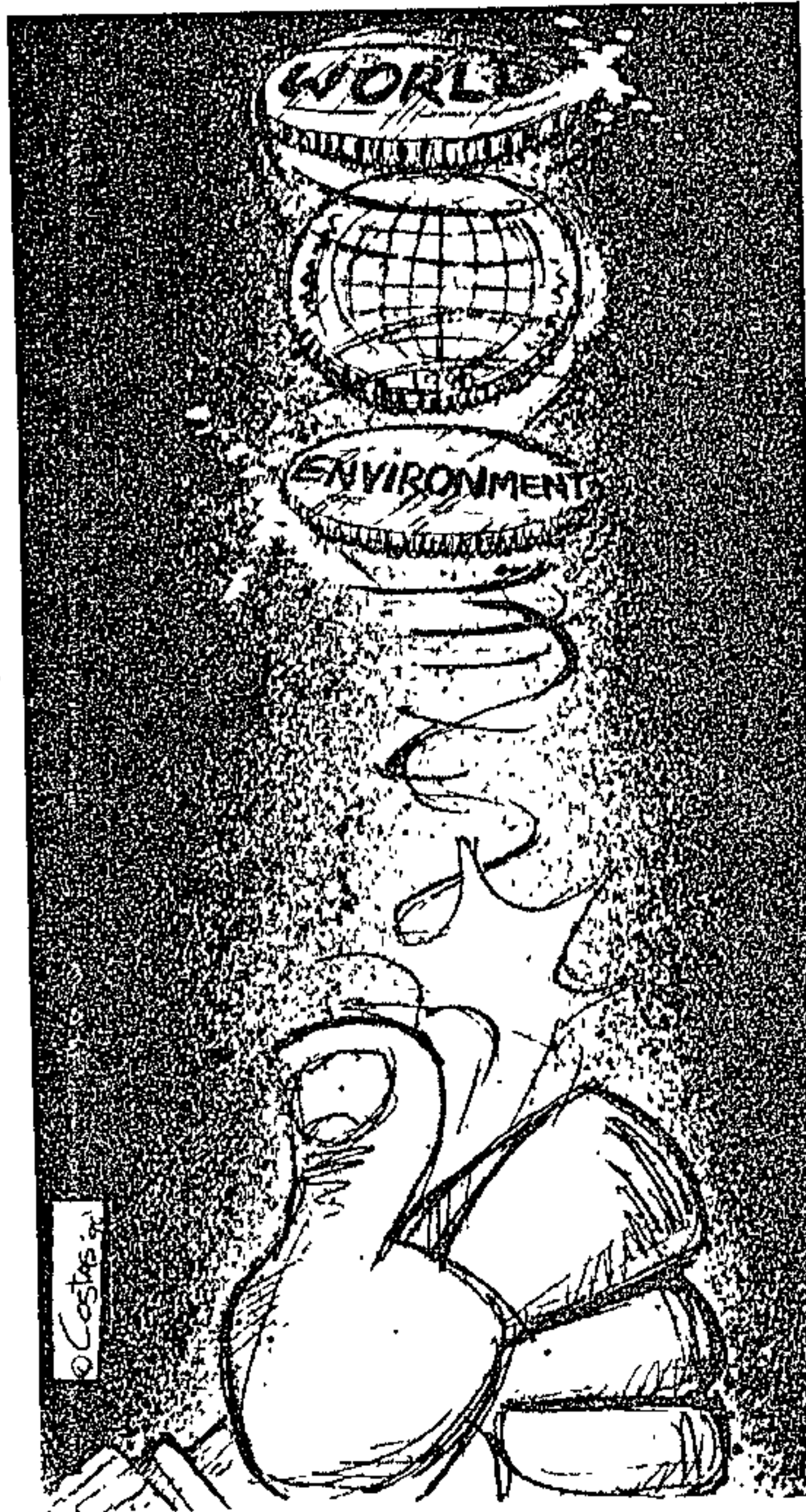
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Suppl. World Mail 16/11 - 22/11/90

There's one small thing economics forgot - the world

Economists are beginning to perceive a fundamental flaw in their discipline — a lack of regard for the environment.

SANDRA POSTEL reports



other renewable assets, the drop would have been even steeper.

Besides being blind to the destruction of natural wealth, the GNP as currently calculated has another major failing: it counts as income many of the expenditures made to combat pollution and its adverse consequences. The Alaskan oil spill of March 1989 actually created a rise in the GNP, since much of the \$2-billion spent on labour and equipment for the cleanup was added to income.

Equally perverse, much of the \$40-billion in health care expenses and other damages incurred by American citizens as a result of air pollution is counted on the plus side of the national income ledger. Although the nation would be better off had the Alaskan oil spill never happened and if people didn't suffer respiratory ailments from air pollution, the GNP suggests otherwise.

As the environment deteriorates, the discrepancy between the GNP's measure of progress and actual human well-being is widening. To enter such a period with economic indicators that ignore environmental deterioration is like steering an aircraft toward a fog-shrouded, windswept runway with no instruments to guide the landing.

The upshot has been the systematic destruction of forests, fisheries, groundwater supplies and other biological resources in the name of in-

creasing capital wealth. Not only are private investors responsible, but public ones as well. The World Bank, the largest funder of development projects in the Third World, with an annual lending portfolio totalling some \$20-billion, uses a discount rate of 10 percent. A forest growing at a rate of two or three percent a year simply doesn't stand a chance against a required rate-of-return that high. Viewed another way, if greenhouse warming is estimated to cause \$100-billion in damage in the year 2075, today's valuation of that damage using a discount rate of 10 percent is a mere \$30-million, hardly worth worrying about.

Today's investment rules also assume that natural capital and human-made capital are interchangeable, and what matters is only that total capital is increasing. But natural and human-made assets are substitutes only up to a point. Without any forests to supply it with timber, for instance, a \$50-million lumber mill is useless.

More important, there are no replacements for some life-supporting natural systems. Scientists can offer no substitutes for the radiation-absorbing ozone layer, the earth's mantle of topsoil or the climate to which agriculture and other human activities have adapted. Driven by the economic calculus of discounting, these vital natural assets are being destroyed irreversibly.

Economic decision-making also fails to account for the many functions natural systems perform that are difficult to quantify. Compared with a clothing factory or a steel mill, which produce tangible, easily valued products, only some of the products and services provided by renewable resources are valued in the marketplace. A forest producing wood for timber is also protecting upland soils from erosion, safeguarding downstream croplands from flooding, providing habitat for countless plant and animal species, and storing carbon that would hasten global warming if released to the atmosphere. But because these are social benefits, a private investor doesn't take them into account. And because they are difficult to quantify, they are often left out of public investors' decisions as well.

Recalculating the GNP so that it takes account of the depletion and deterioration of forests, fisheries, water supplies, and other natural assets is a critical first step toward bridging the growing gap between illusory and real economic gains.

Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Norway are among the countries that have begun compiling inventories of their natural resources, a prerequisite to making the needed accounting adjustments.

Two countries — West Germany and the US — have plans to calculate an alternative GNP figure that takes environmental damage into account. But these new indicators probably will not be produced on a regular basis until the mid-1990s.

The pace of GNP reform could be greatly quickened by a push from the United Nations Statistical Commission. The commission is in the process of revising its System of National Accounts, something that happens only once every 20 years.

More accurate estimates of national income and GNP, while important, would still be insufficient to determine whether human welfare is improving — the ultimate aim in assessing progress. A better approach is to supplement a recalculated GNP with a basket of other indicators that monitor literacy, infant mortality, housing, income equality and other areas affecting societal health. If these indices were publicised and used frequently, as the GNP is, a more accurate picture of progress — or the lack of it — would result.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has come up with a "Human Development Index" (HDI) derived from three components: life expectancy, literacy, and purchasing power. Economist Daly and theologian John Cobb have developed an "Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare" (ISEW) that not only accounts for air and water pollution, cropland and wetland losses, and other forms of environmental deterioration, but also for the costs of commuting and car accidents, income inequality and a range of other factors affecting human welfare.

Tax policy can be a broader and more effective instrument for environmental protection. Most governments raise the bulk of their revenues by taxing personal and corporate income. By systematically taxing economic activities that pollute, deplete or degrade the environment, governments can raise revenue in a way that promotes environmentally sound practices.

A comprehensive set of environmental taxes would do much more. It would penalise the use of virgin rather than recycled materials, generation of toxic waste, emission of acid rain-forming pollutants and overpumping of groundwater. It would tax agricultural chemicals, and thus lessen the risks of their contaminating food and drinking water. In the US, a one percent tax on pesticides and fertilisers would initially raise over \$100-million annually.

By making environmentally damaging practices economically unattractive, such a change in tax policy would speed the transition to an ecologically sound economy.

As long as our economies and those who steer them remain blind to the earth's natural limits, indicators of economic performance will bear less and less relation to human welfare. — World Watch

Develop but don't damage environment

MOUNTING public concern has put the environment at the top of the political agenda throughout the world.

Some gains have been made on certain fronts of the environmental spectrum; for one thing environmental awareness has grown substantially on the part of governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the public. However, unease persists because the state of the environment is in general worse off than 20 years ago when governments and NGOs met in Stockholm.

The African National Congress' position on the environment emphasises three key elements:

- Protection of the environment (fauna, flora, rare species, natural resources)
- Construction of the environment (engineering works to enhance environment and use of natural resources)
- Management of the environment (environmental pollution problems caused by production, environmental damage caused by construction and development activities).

The ANC is committed to conservation and rational use of our natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Our position is that we, the present generation, have a responsibility which we owe to future generations of South Africans to preserve the environment for them so that they will find it in a viable and usable form.

It is also the ANC's position that in planning and implementing economic growth programmes the correct strategy is to maintain a healthy balance between economic and social benefits on one hand, and environmental protection on the other. In policy terms this means sustainable development and growth with environmental protection.

The ANC also holds the view that it is impossible, in the political sense and in the socio-economic context, to pursue a rational environment protection policy under the apartheid political system or any similar totalitarian regime.

Apartheid is incompatible with conservation of the environment because of its principles, which emphasise manipulation of racial groups which inevitably leads to reckless plundering of natural resources. The widespread land degradation in the homelands (soil erosion, overgrazing, deforestation and desertification) where mil-

Included in the ANC's range of environmental policies is the decision to ban the import of toxic waste. **By MAX SISULU and STAN SANGWENI**, of the organisation's economic desk

lions are crammed beyond the carrying capacity of these marginal lands, constitutes such inevitable environmentally destructive consequences of apartheid.

Such environmental destruction cannot be rehabilitated by any land-use management measures without first dismantling apartheid.

The ANC believes environment reconstruction and management, the two sides of environment protection, constitute a major task of a free democratic post-apartheid South Africa. An environmentally conscious society can only exist in such a political environment.

In designing a strategy for achieving a sound environmental management policy that is consistent with growth and development the ANC would adopt the following principles when it comes to play a role in government:

● A careful balance between the needs of current and future generations will be made in the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources. In this respect, the exploiters of natural resources will be required to develop new technologies that use less of such resources and search for alternative resources.

● Subject to upper limits beyond which closure is the solution for avoiding environmental disaster, an ANC government would seek to impose deterrent surcharges for those concerns whose activities pollute the environment — asbestos mining operations, for instance. Such surcharges (or rent) would be used to compensate communities and institutions adversely affected by such actions and to pay for rehabilitation. This is the application of the principle of polluter must pay.

● The ANC would put in place comprehensive legislation on environmental management and protection. Such legislation would seek to address and make provision for pertinent environmental issues including: environmental impact assessments; resource management and protection; environmental monitoring; prevention and elimination of environmental pollution and damage to ecosystems.



Max Sisulu ... Environment worse off
Picture: GISELE WULFSOHN

Among the problems of industrial development and the environment are that industry provides great impetus and drive towards growth and development of the country. Yet it is also a source for some of the most serious environmental problems in the land, especially pollution. Atmospheric pollution, perhaps among the highest in the world, is caused by the enormous discharges of vapours and gases from processes like oil refining (sulphur dioxide) and thermal electricity generation.

Other special environmental pollution problems affecting the urban areas include problems of disposal of solid waste, industrial noise and smog — the latter being peculiar to the townships where people rely on coal and kerosine/paraffin for their domestic fuel energy.

ANC believes the issue of pollution is a complex one, requiring serious comprehensive measures (laws, regulations, structures, public education and awareness building) to be put in place for environmental management and control of industrial pollution.

In developing its policy on environmental pollution the ANC will be guided by the principle of seeking appropriate means of introducing environmental management into industrial development so that technological innovations address also sources of

pollution, its prevention and control. To reflect this concern with industrial pollution, various incentives will be explored to reward industrialists who develop environmentally sound technologies.

The ANC's position is that the issue of air pollution in the townships is rooted in apartheid and its inevitable corollary, black poverty, which creates townships where there is no option for pollution-free domestic fuel other than the reliance on coal-burning stoves. Pollution in the black townships has therefore first to be tackled through dismantling apartheid to create necessary conditions for uprooting poverty.

On the issue of toxic wastes, the ANC will associate itself with international initiatives to regulate the disposal, dumping, recycling and transboundary movement of toxic wastes. In this regard, an ANC government would seek to be a signatory to the Basel (Switzerland) Convention for Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

Overuse of pesticides and herbicides, coupled with lack of control on their chemical content, has polluted water, and has contributed to damage of the ecology, besides creating hazards for human health and animals, as reported in the Natal Midlands in recent months.

Furthermore, intensive use of fertilisers and pesticides particularly on white-owned farms is likely to have polluted ground water with nitrate accumulation. In developed countries like North America and West Europe which have high applications of chemical fertilisers like in South Africa, loss of soil productivity has been detected.

The increased pressure on land for human settlement and for agricultural production is likely to limit land availability for wildlife conservation and its use for major economic activities like tourism.

Conflicts of these land-use requirements lead to such aberrations as poaching. Yet, in many ecological zones in South Africa, wildlife management and conservation offers the only ideal balance between human economic activity through tourism and environmental conservation.

There is a need, therefore, to establish an optimal balance between devoting such lands to wildlife and meeting the requirements for human settlement and sustenance.

The ANC views wildlife as a national resource and, accordingly, its policy will put emphasis in state assistance to communi-

US firm dumps banned pesticide on SA

W/Mail 2/11 - 3/11/90
By EDDIE KOCH

AN American chemical company shipped more than 15 000kg of a pesticide banned for use in the United States to South Africa in March this year, according to Greenpeace toxic waste expert Jim Vallette.

The Missouri-based Mobay Corporation exported 40 drums of the insecticide, known as Tokuthion, to an undisclosed South African port after the product was rejected by the US Environment Protection Agency for use in America.

The manufacturers recommend that Tokuthion, which forms part of the highly toxic organophosphate group of pesticides, be used for spraying apples, pears, grapes and tea. The consignment will be used in South Africa's deciduous fruit industry. The local distributors of Tokuthion are Bayer.

In June this year, weeks after despatching the insecticide to South Africa, Mobay was fined R120 000 (US\$47 600) by the EPA after sending toxic insecticides with English warning labels to non-English speaking countries in the Third World.

(56)
Vallette made this announcement at the opening of a conference and festival of ecological films, entitled "Environment for a Changing South Africa", in Johannesburg on Wednesday. The Greenpeace activist is one of the keynote speakers.

Organophosphates, widely used in South African agriculture, are a family of toxic insecticides. South African Council of Churches secretary-general Frank Chikane narrowly escaped death after being poisoned with a brand of organophosphates while on a trip to the US last year. The anti-apartheid cleric's clothes were sprayed with the chemical, which was then absorbed through his skin.

The government's registrar for pesticides, Max Orban, confirmed that Tokuthion is registered for use as a fruit spray in South Africa. He said the pesticide had passed all toxicity tests and environment impact studies conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

Vallette is a member of a high-powered Greenpeace delegation which is in South

Africa to investigate reports that toxic waste and dangerous pesticides are being exported from the US to South Africa.

He is due to debate the issue of toxic waste imports to South Africa with the Director General of the Environment, Bill Visagie, at the conference in Johannesburg tomorrow.

The conference, organised by the Environment Film Workshop Group, will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand and will include seminars on wildlife conservation, air pollution and acid rain, the overlap between occupational safety and environmental health, and future environmental policies for South Africa.

The conference opened on Wednesday night with an address by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Toni Strasbourg and a screening of her film, *The Wasted Land*, which examines the impact of apartheid on South Africa's environment. Strasbourg, a South African exile, arrived in the country for the first time this week after going into exile with her father, Rusty Bernstein, 26 years ago.

SACP wants

Environment

ECOLOGY * CONSERVATION * NEW PRODUCTS * BUSINESS & ECOLOGY * GREEN STRATEGIES * WILDLIFE



56

Acid water as sour as vinegar seeps into rivers used for drinking and irrigation. Spontaneous fires ignite in disused collieries and burn for years underground. Heaps of deadly arsenic dust are dumped next to streams and rural villages. Rare dune forests are stripped for titanium ore. Ugly quarries and gullies scar the slopes of mountains across the country...

The 1 000-odd mines and quarries that dot the South African landscape, and form the backbone of the country's economy, have often been criticised for promoting repressive labour practices and maintaining low standards of healthy and safety. Recently another complaint has been added to the litany of maladies associated with the industry: the damage that mines have caused to our air, water and earth.

"Excavating minerals always entails environmental risks. It involves blasting, digging and hauling thousands of tons of ore to the surface, then grinding it to a fine powder and washing out the metals with harsh substances like cyanide, mercury and sulphuric acid," says a recent report by the Worldwatch Institute entitled "Apartheid's Environmental Toll".

"South Africa has treated mining like a sacred cow, fearful of disturbing the cash flow. Air and water near mining and smelting operations are hardly monitored, and what little monitoring is done is not reported. In SA the extent of ecological damage from mineral extraction is massive, from poisoned streams to stripped hillsides."

How accurate is this assessment by the institute — an international environment monitoring group based in Washington — of the impact that mining has had on this country's ecology?

The Midas touch destroys as it creates

(suppl) W/M Nov 16/11 - 22/11/90

EDDIE KOCH reports on mining and ecological damage

Examples abound to illustrate that mining practices, past and present, are causing extensive damage to their natural surrounds. But recent developments within the industry — which include commitments, at least at corporate level, by major mining houses to clean up their act — make it difficult to label the industry as a whole as a bogeyman throwing noxious matter into the eyes of all South Africans.

Mining engineers, even though they have varying degrees of loyalty to the industry, agree that the two main ecological problems associated with mining in South Africa are the vast amounts of acid that seep into ground and surface water during the production of gold and coal and extensive arsenic pollution caused by gold mines in the Eastern Transvaal.

Says Fanie Goldenhuys, environmental science manager for the engineering firm Stefan, Robertson and Kirsten: "All gold mining concerns have problems with seepage of acid water. A mineral in the rock is iron sulphide which, when it is oxidised

through exposure to air and water, produces a diluted form of sulphuric acid."

Coal-mining belts on the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and in Northern Natal are another source of acid water contamination. Most aquatic life in the Loskop Dam, north of Witbank in the Eastern Transvaal, and the rivers around Vryheid and Dundee in Natal, including the Black Umfolozi, has been killed or seriously depleted by acid leachates from the collieries and the Department of Water Affairs is known to be perturbed by the problem.

"South African coal, gold and base metal mines will have to equip themselves with expertise to manage acid mine water effectively or risk suffering the same fate as some mines in Canada which will have to spend almost a quarter of their entire profits for the next two decades on combating this problem," says a statement issued by representatives from SRK and the Department of Water Affairs last month after their conference around the problem.

Toxic pollutants from the mines have led to some dramatic eco-disasters.

Earlier this year *The Weekly Mail* tested samples of water running off dumps in Crown Mines, an old mining area near Johannesburg, into a stream that flows through Soweto, and found an astonishing cocktail of poisons. The samples included eight million micrograms of acidic sulphate for every litre of water as well as large amounts of uranium, arsenic and cyanide.

Paul Reynolds, a farmer in the Standerton district, said that neighbouring gold mines had polluted the Waterval River — used to irrigate his arable land — so badly that it has cost him R300 000 in damages over four years.

"If I irrigate with 500mm of water from the river I add seven tons of salt to a hectare of land, he said. "It's like watering your garden with seawater. Plants get scorched and salt crusts on the surface of the ground so that seeds aren't able to come through." Corrosive matter in the water has "chewed up" underground water pipes on Reynolds' lands.

In the mining belt around Barberton a major ecological threat is caused by clouds of arsenic gases released into the air and dumps of arsenic dust left near villages and the banks of rivers.

"The gold-bearing ore in this area as well as in Botswana and Zimbabwe is different to that on the Witwatersrand. It is located in rock with a high content of arsenopyrites," says a mining engineer, who asked not to be named. "The classic method of getting the gold out of this rock is to roast it in huge furnaces. This sends volatiled arsenic gases up the stacks and into the air and creates a fine arsenic dust that has to be disposed of. The mines try to sell some of this and treat the rest before they dump it. But it's an extremely dirty process

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ENVIRONMENT

Suppl. to Mail 16/11/90
Mining: The Midas touch

(56) From PAGE 25

which generates all kinds of problems." Vegetation around some of the mines has been stripped bare by the arsenic that precipitates from the stacks. Late last year an Anglo American prospecting team left hundreds of tons of waste containing arsenic and toxic cadmium next to a mountain river. One night a storm washed the waste downstream and it killed all the fish in a farmers' dam. Recent newspaper articles claim fish in a dam near Barberton have been blinded by arsenic toxins.

The controversy at St Lucia, where a foreign-owned mining consortium plans to stripmine dunes in the reserve, generated one of the country's most heated environmental protests. Less well publicised were plans by a South African corporation to start a similar project on the Transkei coast which hosts an indigenous forest.

On the collieries around Witbank in the Eastern Transvaal, at least five underground fires are out of control. One of these is the subject of a R100-million lawsuit. The Blackstone Mining Corporation is suing the Witbank Town Council and the minister of mineral affairs for flooding the shafts after trying to extinguish the blaze with water and the town's sewerage.

There is a host of less dramatic environmental effects which accumulate to create serious problems. Quarries gouge huge scars into mountain sides. Prospecting teams from the mines leave trenches and gulleys which become the sources of soil erosion. Dust blows off dumps and becomes an irritant for people living nearby.

"The problem in essence," says mining engineer and consultant Mike Salomon, "is that current legislation and efforts by the government to control the effects of environmental degradation by the mines is extremely inadequate."

Three main pieces of legislation govern mining operation: the Mines and Works Act, the Water Act and the Environment Conservation Act. All contain clauses that control the ecological impact of the mines. Where penalties are listed, they usually involve small fines.

"Often it is more profitable for a mine to pollute the surrounds and pay a tiny fine than it is for them to clean up behind them," says Salomon. The Conservation Act, passed this year, provides that environment impact studies be conducted and approved by the government before new mining projects can be undertaken. "I have seen some of these studies and, quite frankly, they are a joke," says Salomon. "The Inspectorate of Mines is grossly understaffed and cannot monitor the rehabilitation work that mines are required to do in terms of the studies. Often inspectors are not qualified to evaluate the studies."

Recently, however, major mining corporations have begun to show a sensitivity, at least in their boardrooms, to the ecological consequences of their activities. John Frear, group environment consultant for Gemmin, says the company is spending large amounts on rehabilitating old dumps and preventing acid water from leaching out of their slimes dams. The group is concentrating on containing dust that blows off their dumps and is investigating ways to dispose of saline underground water that is pumped out of the shafts.

In the Barberton district, Gemmin has pioneered a unique method of using bacteria that grow on slimes dams to erode the sulphides in arsenopyrite ore and expose the gold, making it unnecessary to use the dangerous roasting method. Known as the "bio process", this environment friendly method of extracting gold is being marketed internationally by the corporation.

Says Butch Smuts, ecologist for Anglo American: "Anglo has decided at executive level that no new project will be funded without the environmental side being considered. This year we adopted an integrated environmental approach which requires consultants to be appointed from the word go."

Anglo is also examining acid drainage problems and is spending about R3 500 per hectare to rehabilitate its colliery dumps in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal.

But there are still numerous defects in the system. These stem from weak legal obligations on companies to refrain from damaging activities and an inadequate state machinery to ensure mines toe the line.

Effective penalties must be imposed on companies that are still polluting the environment and a strict statutory framework must regulate the activities of the industry.

Until this happens, the Worldwatch Institute can stand by its claim that 1 000 mines and quarries which "scrape the earth's crust and burrow deep into it" are a major cause of ecological degradation in South Africa.

Council faces huge water bill

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE City Council may be faced with a R250 000 monthly water bill in Khayelitsha.

The Lingeletu West Town Council (Khayelitsha) yesterday told the Council it intended suspending payment of its R250 000 monthly water bill to try to cut down on a R3,5-million monthly income deficit.

Khayelitsha Town Clerk Mr. Graham Lawrence said the move was prompted by an "impossible" financial situation due to service charges boycotts by residents.

Cape Town's Mayor, Mr Gordon Oliver, with Exco chairman Mr Dick Friedlander, deputy mayor Mr Frank van der Velde and City Administrator Mr Gys Hofmeyr, yesterday met Mr Lawrence's council in Khayelitsha. The meet-

To page 2

From page 1

ing was closed to the press. *CAH TaitS 20/11/90*

Mr Oliver said Mr Lawrence had emphasised that his council was spending vast sums of money paying the Regional Services Council for night-soil removals and Eskom for electricity, without any corresponding income itself.

"But if he's now baldly saying that he intends suspending water payment to us — I don't believe it's a decision he can make alone," he said. *56*

Mr Oliver said his council would take a "very serious view" of such action.

Mr Lawrence said he and his mayor, Mr Mali Hoza, had "brought home very pertinently the tremendous differences between our 18-month old municipality and the CCC which is 300 years old".

Asked when his council intended suspending payment, Mr Lawrence said he was expecting a vastly trimmed-down 1991 CPA budget "very soon — and judging by press reports we're in for a torrid time". The water bill was by far the largest his council had to face.

Mr Oliver said yesterday's first ever official meeting between the two bodies was an attempt by his council to "fully brief ourselves after the violent crisis of the past few weeks".

It had become clear that a political solution was required and that Lingeletu West saw the ANC as the "trouble makers", he added.

He had proposed that local negotiations be started in tandem with national negotiations over a future dispensation.

● The ANC has consistently called for the resignation of all local township councils. A mini "civil war" has been raging in Khayelitsha with assassination attempts on leaders from both sides.

ANC appeal on Richtersveld

THE Labour Party's decision to torpedo the planned signing of the landmark Richtersveld national park contract today represented a major setback to the development of the whole Richtersveld area, the ANC said yesterday.

The ANC's publicity secretary in the Western Cape, Mr Trevor Manuel, urged Minister of Environment Mr Gert Kotze to proceed with the signing of the contract as originally planned.

Mr Kotze has indicated that he is keen to sign the historic agree-

ment for the promulgation of the 162 000 hectare park which has been hailed by environmentalists as model for future conservation planning in South Africa.

Mr Kotze said he hoped the issue would not become politicised and damage conservation efforts in the region.

Mr Manuel said the annual payment of R80 000 to the Richtersveld Community Trust would "vastly economically empower the community" and that the joint management of the park by the Parks Board and the Kuboes community boded well for the future.

CAH 7/2/95 10/11/90 (56) (82) (83)
The LP's Mr Andrew Julies said yesterday the decision should be viewed as a suspension and not cancellation of the document.

Asked why the decision had been taken, he said: "We weren't happy with the way arrangements were made."

Participation in the ceremony by a representative of the Surplus Peoples Project was not a factor in the decision, he said.

Mr Julies confirmed President F W de Klerk had approached him to ask him to reconsider the matter. — Political Correspondent, Sapa

R2bn kaolin ^{CAPE TOWN} deposit found ^{21/1/90} at Kommetjie ⁵⁶

By PETER DENNEHY

A HUGE deposit of kaolin, worth about R2 billion, has been discovered on the Kommetjie side of Noordhoek valley and may be mined in the future.

There has been simmering controversy for nearly a decade since plans were first mooted to mine kaolin on the other side of the valley, near Chapman's Peak. The State has not yet granted permission for the Chapman's Peak mine.

The owner of the land on which the second deposit is situated, geologist Dr M D McMillan, said yesterday that he did not wish to discuss the matter, as it was private.

The new find surfaced in a planners' study commissioned by the Cape Provincial Administration to identify land for squatters.

It concludes that "site seven", near Ocean View and above the road to Kommetjie, is not suitable for squatter settlement as the site would be too costly to procure with the mineral rights.

"The kaolin mining rights were granted in 1983," the report says. "The deposits amount to 6m tons and at about R350/ton are worth over R2bn."

Mr André Viljoen, production director of the kaolin mining company Serina which is hoping to mine at Noordhoek, said yesterday that he believed an application had been made for a permit to work the Kommetjie site.

56

Toxic waste probe starts

By DANIEL SIMON

AN in-depth investigation is currently underway in South Africa to look into the future of hazardous waste and possible ways of treating or disposing of highly toxic substances.

The investigation was requested by the Department of Environment Affairs and involves an intensive survey into hazardous waste production in industry, the current forms of treatment and disposal practices and backlogs in accumulated waste.

More than 40 experts, together with the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) and the CSIR, are involved in the project which aims to provide the government with information which will determine

Experts to give govt the facts

future legislation.

A renowned world expert from the US is currently in South Africa on a short working visit to help formulate future government policy.

Mr John Skinner, of America's Environmental Protection Agency, who delivered a paper at a city seminar yesterday, offered some solutions on how South Africa could start disposing of its harmful waste in a

cost-effective manner through various treatment technologies.

He said that at present, US officials experienced two inter-related problems in dealing with hazardous waste — the problem of managing today's waste and the problem of cleaning up old and abandoned waste sites.

As a result of strict environmental legislation introduced a decade ago, US legislators also passed "superfund", which was mainly aimed at cleaning up 1 000 priority hazardous waste sites throughout the country.

"At the end of the fiscal year 1989, 45 superfund sites had been cleaned up and remediation started at over 600 sites.

"Over \$8 billion (nearly R21bn) has been budgeted for this programme through to 1992."

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Cam Tracks 13/11/90 (56)

Park setback brings gloom to Khubus

By CHARL DE VILLIERS
KHUBUS. — Bewilderment and a deep sense of loss pervade the dusty, sun-beaten settlement of Khubus in the Richtersveld mountain desert.

Eagerly-prepared celebrations for a unique conservation pact were cancelled last Thursday when a House of Representatives minister withdrew from the signing ceremony at the last minute.

Mines in the diamond-rich desert

had donated spades, steaks and trucks; goats had been slaughtered, three traditional Nama "mat houses" had been erected; invitations had been sent to environmentalists on three continents.

But Mr Andrew Julies, Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture, whose signature was needed to clinch the landmark Richtersveld National Park contract, said he was not prepared to attend — plunging the

mineworkers and herdpeople of Khubus into despondency.

"We had at last found the golden track, but Mr Julies laid a tarred road across it," said Mr Willem de Wet, a Khubus resident.

On Saturday the Northern Richtersveld Civic Committee held a crisis meeting — "when we should have been celebrating" — the conical mats sheltering in the sparse shade of a lone shrub.

The far-flung "coloured reserve" is governed by the Northern Richtersveld management board, now the subject of the De Haan Commission of Inquiry.

In Khubus most visitors duck for the nearest shade in a town of 200 families served by one water pump.

It is felt the 162 000ha park would be a tourism and conservation boon, attracting visitors and cash, but keeping the fragile mountain desert pristine.

MUSICAL BLOOD



Minister:



City scores on noise and pollution levels

From SIMON BARBER

WASHINGTON. — Living standards in Cape Town are on a par with those of Bandung in Malaysia, Naples and Harbin in China, according to a Population Crisis Committee study.

Johannesburg, including Soweto, ranks with Ahmedabad in Pakistan, and Manila.

The rankings are based on a two-year study of public amenities in the world's 100 largest cities.

Cape Town, whose population is put at 2,4 million, ranks 57th overall but scores high marks in

several categories (56)
It receives nine out of 10 on public health, with 18 deaths per 1 000 live births (the same ratio as Budapest, Harbin and Katowice in Poland), eight for air quality (better than Atlanta and Montreal), and an eight for noise levels (only Melbourne and Dallas are better).

It earns a six for education — 66% of children in secondary school — and food costs.

The Cape's rush-hour traffic flows score five at an average of 30km/h, four for living space (with a ratio of 1.2 persons to a room), three in communications, with 18

telephones per 100 people, and two for housing standards, with 58% of dwellings having both water and electricity.

As the world's alleged murder capital — 64,7 murders per 100 000 people each year — it gets just one for public safety. The closest contender is Cairo with 56,4 murder ratio.

Johannesburg (population 4,6 million) receives respectable marks in four categories — 10 for traffic flows and eight for air quality, noise and infant mortality.

CAPE TOWN 13/11/80 (56)

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MUSICAL BLOOD
 ... Radio Good Hope DJ Amore Bekker has blood taken by Dr Angela Jennings, WP Blood Transfusion Service, while fellow DJ Olaf Brinkmann assists. They hope

Minister: 'Dog boy' story not covered up

PRETORIA. — Welfare Minister Mr Sam de Beer said yesterday the so-called East Rand "dog-child" was found walking upright when police first investigated a report of child abuse at the home of the 2½-year-old boy's parents in Geduld, Springs.

Mr De Beer also said no kennel was found on the premises when members of the police Child Protection Unit investigated. The possibility of prosecuting "certain parties" was investigated and charges had been laid, he said.



56

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By DANIEL SIMON

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Bay is polluted but no 'cesspool'

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STimes 18/11/90

By JANICE HILLIER

A RESPECTED travel author came under fire this week from the chairman of the Cape Town city council's executive committee for his claim last week that False Bay had become a "cesspool".

In a hard-hitting statement to the Sunday Times, city council executive chairman Dick Friedlander admitted that the picturesque bay was polluted but denied that the pollution posed a health hazard.

"All the beaches in False Bay, except for two areas, are safe and suitable for bathing and other recreation," he said.

In an attack on author T V Bulpin he added: "There is pollution in False Bay, but to suggest that local authorities are doing nothing about it is untrue."

Last week Mr Bulpin, in an interview published in

the Sunday Times, warned bathers that they faced the possibility of falling sick if they swam in the "cesspool" of False Bay.

He claimed the bay, reputedly one of the most scenic in the world, was "nothing but a dump for human waste, dog faeces and the dregs of industry".

In his statement Mr Friedlander said that stormwater from Clovelly to Mitchell's Plain entered False Bay through various streams, rivers and canals.

"There are two sewage plants discharging treated effluent, not raw sewage, into the bay.

"Both of these are far removed from the normal bathing areas.

"There is no doubt that limited pollution enters the sea at stormwater discharge points and the council is continually striving to improve the quality of these discharges."

Lead-free petrol, but laws must change

Environmentalists and business agree: introduce lead-free petrol in South Africa.

By **ROBERT LAING**

LEAD in petrol may lubricate your car engine's valves and stop pre-ignition knocking, but it is also probably giving your children brain damage.

Lead is a neurotoxin. The US Environmental Protection Agency sets 25 micrograms per deca-litre as the maximum safe blood-lead limit. Blood-lead levels exceeding 35 ug/dl have been found in South African children.

The lead-free petrol campaign is one of the few issues big business and environmentalists see eye-to-eye on. Car manufacturers are in favour of laws regulating the air quality of exhaust emissions — tighter legislation would open the local market to components like catalytic converters and increase demand for high-quality fuel lines. Most new locally produced models are being built to run on lead-free petrol. Gencor's subsidiary, Engen, is targeting lead-free petrol as a new venture.

The Genref oil refinery in Durban is being redesigned to have lead-free refining capabilities.

Lead is added to boost the octane rating of petrol, so relatively poor feedstock can be used for leaded petrol. To produce lead-free petrol, better quality feedstock must be used, which makes lead-free petrol more expensive. How much more is difficult to estimate — probably between 10c and 20c a litre.

Cars need to be fitted with catalytic converters to cut the level of toxic nitric oxide given off by exhaust fumes. A supplier of catalytic converters, Johnson Matthey, is building a plant to make them locally, mainly for export.

If lead-free petrol is put on the market at a higher price than leaded fuel, only ardent environmentalists will consider buying it. Legislation governs the price of petrol in South Africa so only the government can sponsor the introduction of lead-free petrol by transferring tax from lead-free petrol onto leaded petrol, said Earthlife Africa.

The government is worried that encouraging motorists to use petrol refined from expensive imported higher quality crude oil instead of local synthetic fuel will aggravate balance of payment problems. Higher petrol prices could also fuel inflation.

When the government lowered the lead level in petrol from 0,8 to 0,4 grams per litre in January 1989, it signed an undertaking not to legislate for any further mandatory lead reductions for five years. By then Genref's plant should be operational.

LINDEN BIRNS

THERE is no danger of a health crisis in the PWV, despite reports of raw sewage polluting several Witwatersrand streams, particularly in black areas, the Health Department said at the weekend.

"At the moment there is no crisis and the department has no plans to launch a campaign against cholera until all tests have been carried out," spokes-

No danger of health crisis in PWV, says govt department

man Karin Knobel said.

She said tests were performed "on a regular basis" but could not say if specific new tests had been performed since reports and warnings that raw sewage was being dumped into fresh water streams and rivulets on the Witwatersrand.

Water Affairs spokesman Marisa

Haasbroek said tests were done in conjunction with local authorities.

Water Affairs scientific services managing engineer Hendrik Best confirmed that his department performed pollution tests on township streams "about once a month depending on the size of the stream. Only people using unpurified water are at risk."

Sapa reports Health Minister Rima Venter said at the weekend warnings of a serious health threat in the Witwatersrand would be investigated.

Meanwhile, leading SA Institute for Medical Research virologist Prof Margarettha Isaacson has added her voice to the warnings. She said cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and

gastro-enteritis could all be caused by the use of untreated polluted water.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken blamed the health hazard on rent and rates boycotts. He called on residents to pay their accounts to allow the restoration of water and sewage supplies.

The Rand Water Board's Chris Viljoen said there was no reason for public concern about the quality of Johannesburg's reticulated water.

8/10/81 12/11/80

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Breakthroughs in environment friendly chemicals

PRESSURE for pest and rodent control chemicals that are less harmful to the environment, animals and humans has led to a number of breakthroughs. Among the local companies claiming breakthroughs are chemicals manufacturer Ciba-Geigy, while pest control firm Pest Master has obtained the rights to use another new product. In its efforts to provide

"environmental friendly" pesticides, Ciba-Geigy reports having ceased all development work with harmful chlorinated hydrocarbons and organo-phosphates — known to cause most repercussions to nature. Ciba-Geigy communications manager, plant protection, Gert van Zyl says the company has withdrawn certain herbicides because their persistence

was too long and the danger of pollution existed. (56)

Successes achieved by Ciba-Geigy in this field include Larvadex and Vetrizin for the control of flies and blowflies.

In addition, the cattle dip Ektoban is preferred by many farmers against external parasites because it has very little effect on the oxpecker bird.

Van Zyl says much re-

search is aimed at producing safer formulations. The active microscopic droplets in Promet, for example, are encapsulated in a non-active substance so that it has virtually no effect on animals.

Agents active through the use of low doses include Logran, applied at 13 grammes a hectare for weed control in wheat, and Larvadex which is used at five parts a million in

chicken feed for the control of flies.

Pest Master MD Peter Winspear says his company has the rights to use Insect Killer, an environmental friendly product that does not harm warm-blooded animals and birds.

The product, which costs about 50% more than conventional pesticides, is effective on anything up to locusts and is not susceptible to pest immunity because of its residual effect.

Spray

"It is also the first product that can be used to spray farm lands which does not necessitate the removal of livestock."

Previously, cattle had to be kept away for about three days from any area sprayed with conventional pesticides.

While the Department of Agriculture is still conducting trials before authorising the use of Insect Killer on farms, it is available for urban area applications, says Winspear.

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INCE

visiting US PROFESSOR Walter Williams (author of SA's War Against Capitalism), Free Market Foundation executive director Leon Louw, DP leader Zach de

ment spokesman Tito Mboweni was the only speaker to emphasise the key role of the state in the new SA. Williams said that SA's

"third Europe ready way is the T said, q

TAU calls for urgent conservation strategy

By *B. van der Merwe* 1/11/90
GERALD REILLY *General*

PRETORIA — The development of a comprehensive conservation strategy had become urgent, the National Veld Trust conference was told yesterday.

Transvaal Agricultural Union executive member Charles Baber said much of the damage over the past few decades was irreversible. If the deterioration was to be stopped, effective action could not be delayed.

He said among the reasons for the critical conservation situation in some areas were:

- The disproportionate political clout of the rural areas over many decades.
- The misuse of financial assistance by farmers.
- Subsidised interest rates and financial assistance to workable land in marginal areas.

Options

Other reasons were the subdivision of farms into un-economic units, damage done by mining industry and urbanisation, and the adoption of political policies which resulted in concentrations of people in areas where the land could not take the pressure.

Baber said some farmers had pursued the wrong options and had been unrealistically optimistic about the land's potential.

They were repeatedly bailed out of financial disaster at great cost to the taxpayer.

There was a new awareness of the threat of a possible collapse of the SA environment. But, he added, conservation had another dilemma — the population explosion.

It would not be possible, he said, to accommodate and employ all the future millions in the rural areas.

There was only one solution — urbanisation and industrialisation. However, both of these posed problems of worsening pollution.

Baber warned that SA farmers would have to shake off their lethargy, or they would find themselves dictated to by "a possibly unenlightened pressure group".

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Bank launches trust to help conservation

NEDBANK has launched a range of "green" banking services designed to enable its clients and the public to contribute to environmental conservation at little or no cost.

Nedbank has contributed R5m over five years for The Green Trust — an environmental trust it has set up to protect important natural environments, restore damaged areas and provide "green" education.

PETER GALLI

The new banking services offer a green affinity credit card, a "greensave" savings account and a green affinity cheque, which have been developed to provide income for The Green Trust.

Clients can contribute directly by paying R5 for a specially designed green cheque book.



SUNCRUSH LIMITED

(Registration number 05/05097/06)
("Suncrush")

Acquisition of Drakensberg Bottlers (Pty) Ltd ("Drakensberg Bottlers")

1. Introduction

Standard Merchant Bank Limited is authorised to announce that agreement has been reached in terms of which Suncrush has acquired the business assets of Drakensberg Bottlers as a going concern for a cash consideration of R21 000 000. The purchase consideration is payable on the effective date, being 2 November 1990.

2. Rationale for the acquisition

Drakensberg Bottlers is situated in Bethlehem, Orange Free State, and conducts the business of manufacturing, marketing and distributing Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Krest, Schweppes and Sparletta carbonated soft drinks. This business is carried out under franchises granted by National Beverage

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3 = 7



Nedbank goes green

Sowetan 1/11/90
By DON SEOKANE

NEDBANK has launched a range of "green" banking services which will enable its existing clients and the public to contribute significantly to environmental conservation.

The new "green" banking services offer a distinctively designed green affinity credit card, Greensave Savings Account and Green Affinity cheques, which has been developed by Nedbank to provide an additional source of income for The Green Trust.

The Environmental Trust Fund has

been set up to protect important natural environments, restore damaged areas and provide environmental education.

These "green" banking services are expected to contribute about R2,5 million and Nedbank has provided an initial amount of R5 million to the Trust over five years.

Clients have the option of using the standard Nedbank credit card, savings account and cheque facility or to contribute to The Green Trust at no extra cost, by using the Green Affinity Credit Cards and a percentage of the average balance on the Greensave savings account.

Raw sewage presents major health hazard in the Highveld

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THE TPA says it holds the organisers of the boycott of rental and service fees in black residential areas responsible for the serious health hazard caused by the dumping of raw sewage in the river systems of the Highveld.

Mr Piet Wilkens of the TPA said there were strong indications that residents wanted to pay their service fees, but that they were being intimidated not to do so.

Soweto
He made an urgent appeal to black local authorities and consumers to pay their rentals and service fees.

The Highveld river systems, and the tributaries of the Vaal River, in particular, are faced with a serious health hazard, because of raw sewage which is being dumped into the rivers from scores of black residential areas.

12/11/90
A spokesman for the Highveld region of the Department of Water Affairs, Mrs Maria Oliviera, said officials had been instructed to take legal action against local authorities responsible for polluting streams.

Overflow

Oliviera said that the problem had resulted from the discontinuation of services to black towns

where sewage was not being pumped, treated or removed.

She said sewage pits were overflowing into streets and sewage buckets were being emptied directly into streams.

Streams that have been affected are the Blesbokspruit at Daveyton, Wonderfonteinspruit, Natalspruit and Klip River in Soweto. - Sapa

BAYWANNING

Sp. Capt. Tents 4/12/90

10 polluted spots dangerous for city swimmers

BY GLYNNIS UNDERHILL and BRONWYN DAVIDS
A GOVERNMENT report on pollution has pin-pointed 10 areas in the Peninsula that are swimming is dangerous.

Eight of the danger spots are in False Bay and two are in Hout Bay. These areas are contaminated with high concentrations of disease-causing bacteria, viruses and parasites up to a kilometre from shore. It also says that all rivers running into False Bay are "heavily contaminated".

The report, co-ordinated by the Foundation for Research Development from 1987 to 1990 in Pretoria, was released to the Cape Times last night.

It warned beachgoers not to swim or eat shellfish within 50 metres of the danger points on the False Bay coastline. Bathers who come into direct contact with polluted water can get gastro-enteritis, dysentery and infections of the ear, eye, skin and respiratory system.

Large quantities of contaminated

shellfish and mussels can also cause mild to severe food poisoning, the report said.

The pollution is carried by storm-water drains, rivers and sewerage outfalls.

Several factories in the Somerset West-Strand area dump industrial waste directly into the sea.

Among the danger areas are:

- The seawater near the sewage outlet of Mitchells Plain.

- The rainwater outlets of Mitchells Plain East, Maandi and Mawabishi.

Septic tanks

- Seawater around the mouth of the Eerste, Lourens and Zeekoei rivers was less polluted but found to contain "many potentially dangerous viruses".

- The water quality of seawater collected around the Gant's outfall near Somerset West was "found to be the worst of all" in False Bay.

- In Hout Bay the overflow of septic tanks near the harbour is the main source of contamination.

- The Disa River mouth also has a high concentration of bacteria.

- And certain areas of Algoa Bay, parts of the Swartkop tidal river, New

Brighton Beach and the Paapenkui canal are also badly polluted.

Some of these dangerous bacteria and viruses have been found between 500 and 1 000 metres from the source of the pollution.

The report said the growing shellfish and mussel industry, which yields about 1 500 tons a year, is threatened by the pollution.

Tourism could also be affected by this, it added.

"Other types of pollution threatening the marine environment are toxic substances and heavy metals, of which residues accumulate in the tissue of marine mammals."

"Plastics pollution is also killing sea animals, which become entangled or ingest it," the report said.

In future, careful planning and extensive research would be needed before any additional sewage outlets were allowed along the coast, the report warned.

Rapid urbanisation, massive low-cost housing and squatting in the Peninsula has resulted in large areas without adequate sanitation and sewage removal.



17645 5/12/90 (56)

Disease threat in sewage pile-up, doctor warns

By EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

A LEADING doctor has expressed grave concern about the health situation in Khayelitsha, where raw sewage is overflowing.

So far there have been no reports of serious diseases developing, said Dr Stewart Fisher, the Western Cape Regional Services Council's medical officer for health responsible for Khayelitsha.

But he warned that he would not be surprised if reports started filtering through soon.

In parts of Khayelitsha sewage has overflowed and refuse has been piling up since Lingeletu West Town Council workers went on strike three weeks ago.

Dr Fisher said nightsoil collection in parts like Site C was continuing and had not been affected by the strike.

He said sewage could cause

diseases such as typhoid, polio and gastro enteritis.

He did not expect a major outbreak of diseases as the water had been found to be "consumable".

"But we are extremely concerned that the situation should be normalised as soon as possible."

Meanwhile the Lingeletu West Town Council, still plagued by the strike by more than 800 employees, has hired a private company to attend to

the sewage, according to Town Clerk Mr Graham Lawrence.

He said the company found a plastic bag filled with sand blocking a drain in Kusasa Road in C Section and this showed the drain had been "deliberately sabotaged".

The other areas affected by sewage and also repaired yesterday were Sections S, U and V in Site B, he added.

"We still have a big problem here because the issue has been politicised."

Argentine offer



Poachers, seals 'ripping off our kreef'

CM + T. J. S.

5/12/90

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[Handwritten signature]

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE debate over "declining" crayfish stocks heated up yesterday when the Fisheries Control Services was accused of allowing the seal population to burgeon and of failing to crack down effectively on illegal poaching.

Since 1979 the commercial crayfish quota had been decreased by 33% while the bag limit for non-commercial fishermen was more recently reduced from five to four, Dr Louis Botha, director of Sea Fisheries (administration), confirmed.

In spite of this, commercial crayfishermen on the West Coast are still complaining of reduced catches after many last year failed to meet quotas.

Dr Botha said last season saw a 10% shortfall.

Mr Vic Kabalin, chairman of

the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, and Mr Armando Fernandes, a Cape Town fishing company manager, said lowering limits for leisure crayfishermen was a misplaced measure.

This was an attempt to compensate for the lack of Sea Fisheries control of what they termed "massive" illegal abuse of the resource, they said.

Their comments come a day after Mr Walter Lewis, executive chairman of the Oceana Fishing Company, quoted overseas dealers as saying "tons" of illegal South African crayfish were freely available.

Mr Niel van Wyk, a director of Nature Conservation, said yesterday that a team of Cape inspectors was overseas investigating a major illegal crayfish deal. He declined to name the country or elaborate.

Mr Fernandes claimed that the seal population was "totally out of hand", citing 36 fresh crayfish found recently in the stomach of a seal killed at Kleinsee.

Mr Kabalin said Sea Fisheries had turned down a proposal to appoint honorary inspectors operating in scheduled areas at specific times.

In spite of seal culling being an "environmental hot potato", environmental management was essential.

Mr Van Wyk said the Minister, Mr Louis Pienaar, was considering the findings of an independent committee investigating the seal issue. A moratorium had been placed on appointing honorary inspectors until Mr Pienaar had studied proposals.

"We have 70 men to patrol a 2 000km coastline. Luckily we have full co-operation from the police and navy," he added.

**Page One
letter**

False Bay
56
pollution:
ARLvs 6/12/90
Assurance
from MOH

CAPE Town's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Michael Popkiss, has responded in a letter to reports of health hazards to bathers as a result of the pollution of False Bay.

He has written: "Many Capetonians and visitors to our city have been alarmed by reports of health hazards to bathers occasioned by pollution of False Bay.

"Insofar as the coastline between Clovelly and Mitchell's Plain is concerned (ie that part falling within the jurisdiction of the city of Cape Town) I would like, through the medium of your newspaper, to assure bathers that water quality criteria are met at the popular beaches and, therefore, I am satisfied that these do not pose a public health hazard.

"Notice boards warning bathers of pollution at the Cape Flats and Mitchell's Plain wastewater treatment work outlets have been erected at the insistence of my department.

"The public is assured that if the monitoring programme reveals any other area where water quality criteria are not met I shall likewise insist that bathers be warned of the hazards."

● See pages 2 and 24.

UCT wins contract for water research

ALC
7/12/90

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VT: (02
46 Main

By ESANN van RENSBURG
Staff Reporter

A CONTRACT for research on the effect of variable water quality on riverine plant and animal life has been awarded to the University of Cape Town.

The three-year contract will cost R479 000.

A statement from the Department of Water Affairs said the research would determine the techniques and methods needed to conserve natural aquatic ecosystems.

It said its new policy was to manage the water quality of water bodies, rather than the quality of effluents.

The new project will determine how much effluent can be introduced into water systems without causing damage.

Through the research the department hopes to ensure that water of an acceptable quality for recognised water-users such as urban, industrial, agricultural, recreational and environmental users, continues to be available.

New approach

There are no guidelines in South Africa on the level of any water quality variable that can be tolerated in an inland water body.

Senior lecturer at the UCT Freshwater Research Unit Dr Jenny Day said the research would be a new approach in that it would look at the effect that effluents and substances had on rivers.

"During the first year of research we will synthesise the available literature, analyse the available data and do some fieldwork on a specific river stretch."

She said the zoology department with the Department for Water Affairs would also have to decide which substances were most worth isolating for research and which rivers the research would focus on.

"We cannot research all substances and all rivers. Ultimately we hope to develop an experimental method upon which certain animals can be tested to see the effect of substances on them," Dr Day said.

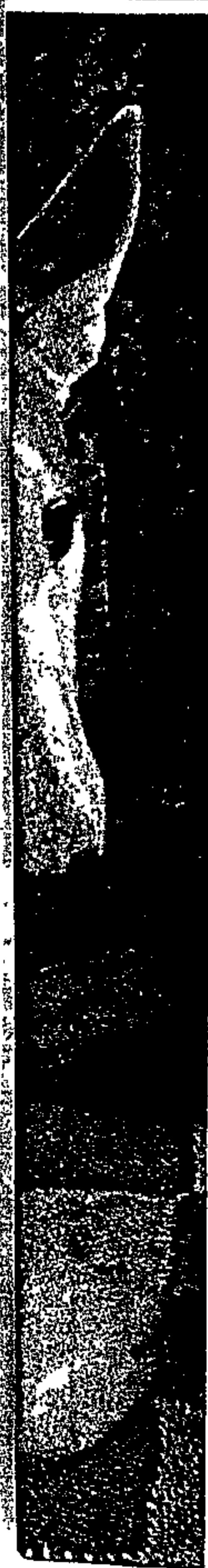
Resource structures inadequate - claim

A STRONG plea for the creation of a single body to co-ordinate the country's environmental resources was made by a member of parliament at the weekend

Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon and chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee for Environment Affairs, made the plea at the third National Marine Day function on board the RS Africana in Cape Town. (56)

He said he had asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and of National Education, Mr Louis Pienaar, to urgently consider appointing the Department of Environment Affairs to co-ordinate the various issues related to environmental awareness.

"In many respects institutional structures are inadequate and many authorities have not yet fully incorporated all the principles of integrated environmental management into their management philosophy", he said. - Sowetan Reporter Sowetan 10/12/90



Rare SA cycads to be 'bugged'

56
CMT 7/12/90
13/12/90

By BARRY STREEK

A REVOLUTIONARY plan to use microchips and scanners to nip cycad thieves in the bud is being considered by the Cape Provincial Administration's nature conservation directorate.

This was disclosed yesterday at a press conference by the chief director of Nature and Environmental Conservation, Dr Johan Neethling.

The chips would be shot into cycads which were endangered and growing on site in their natural habitat.

The cycads could then be traced by the scanners and this would help to track down thieves of the rare plants, which can fetch up to \$40 000 (about R100 000) on international markets.

Dr Neethling said the scheme was fairly expensive and it was hoped it could be financed by a levy on cycads cultivated and sold by nurseries.

Both Dr Neethling and the administrator of the Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, stressed at the press conference, called in response to the Van Zyl Commission's findings on the export of cycads, that they believed a distinction should be drawn between endangered cycad species in their natural environment, and those that were growing in gardens as well as those being cultivated in nurseries.

Mr Meiring said the chief directorate "finds it difficult to accept that the export of plants which occurs in garden collections, which were therefore no longer in their natural state and have lost their ecological value, could be 'disastrous' for the continued existence of endangered species".

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Pollution stunts children's growth

W/Mod 14/2/88 - 19/7/90

The health of Transvaal children is being affected because they live in one of the most polluted areas of the world.

By **EDDIE KOCH** (56)

A TEAM of South African scientists has found that air pollution in the Eastern Transvaal highveld causes children to suffer from stunted growth and respiratory diseases.

The team, lead by Professor Saul Zwi of the Department of Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand, conducted an extensive epidemiological survey of children's health in an area within a 100-km radius of Witbank and Middelburg.

Children in the areas exposed to pollution were shorter than a control group in less polluted areas.

"Growth is a product of the continuous and complex interaction of heredity and environment; and different factors may affect the rate or tempo of the growth, size, shape and body composition of a child," says a report by Zwi's team in the latest edition of the *South African Medical Journal*.

"Analysis of the respiratory symptoms in the children ... shows that coughs were more common in the exposed children but statistically significant among the girls only. Wheezing was also more common among exposed children, particularly girls."

Zwi's findings of height differences between children in polluted and unpolluted areas confirms those of an earlier study conducted by Professor AM Coetsee, of the University of Potchefstroom, in 1986. The report, however, found no increase in the rate of bronchitis, pneumonia or other chest illnesses in the polluted region.

It also found that mothers in the polluted area tended to smoke more than mothers in the non-polluted area and that this may be an additional risk factor behind the development of respiratory problems in children. And many townships are not electrified and families rely on coal-burning stoves.

The Eastern Transvaal contains coal-burning power stations, steel plants and the biggest fuel-from-coal plant in the world.

"The Eastern Transvaal highveld has climatic conditions that are highly adverse for the dispersion of atmospheric pollution," says the report. "For the years 1984 and 1983 the average combined emissions of pollutants over the area exceeded 125-million tons, of which 123-million tons were carbon dioxide."

These pollutants are pumped into a concentrated area, with a radius of about 90km.

Fairest Cape in danger of becoming filthiest

By DON HOLLIDAY
Municipal Reporter

Mk6u5/8/12/90

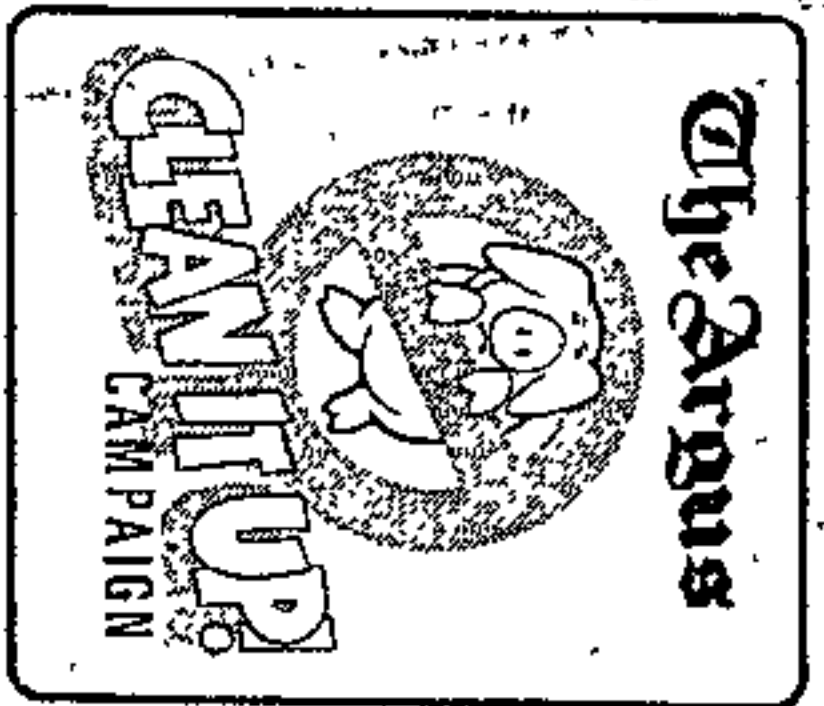
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THE fairest Cape is swiftly gaining another, less enviable nickname among international tourists who are disillusioned by the filth and litter which mar the Peninsula's natural beauty, says tour guide Mrs Lore Leseberg.

"The Peninsula is instead becoming known as the Filthiest Cape," said Mrs Leseberg, a member of the South African Association of Registered Tour Guides.

"There has been a noticeable change in the attitude of foreign tourists towards Cape Town regarding its cleanliness.

"We tour guides used to get quite favourable comments about how clean Cape Town was compared with other cities in the world — but



we never hear that these days."

Places like the Company Gardens had lost much of their appeal, from the point of view of safety as well as beauty.

"We guides hesitate to recommend them to tourists as places in which to spend leisure time.

"In the side alleys shady characters usually lurk about and the fur-

ther one goes towards the upper part the filthier it becomes.

"Even our 'Number One Tourist Attraction', Table Mountain, has lost its pristine appearance.

"Look over the walls of the paved area below the restaurant and you will see rubbish lying on the rocks.

"On Signal Hill, beer bottles, wine bottles and wine boxes are eloquent evidence of the parties held the night before."

Visitors were also revolted by the state of the beaches,

"Our regular 'photostops' like Camps Bay and Maider's Cove have become a disgrace with all the rubbish flying around. Most disgusting are the remainders of picnics — rotting food, bones and the like."

The lay-bys on Boyes Drive and

next to the Silvermine Nature Reserve had deteriorated into dumping sites, said Mrs Leseberg.

"Last but not least, there's the entry to Cape Town from the N2 freeway. This is something we realise cannot be cleared up overnight, but just picture a whole busload of expectant tourists coming from the Garden Route and approaching one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

"What do they see? Miles and miles of shacks of the worst description and later on, nearer town, corrugated iron sheets that serve as fences for the more-established townships.

"It's no use pointing out the beauty of Table Mountain glowing in the evening sun — the first impression has made its impact."

Kwazulu compensation payouts hit R420 000

Argus 20/12/90
The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Kwazulu government had by this week handed out more than R422 000 to people displaced from their homes and land in the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve.

This was confirmed by the director of the Kwazulu Bureau for Natural Resources, Mr Nick Steele.

The proclamation of the reserve — regarded as a highly valuable ecological asset — has been a hot political issue.

COMPENSATION

None of the families who had moved out of the reserve — some even before its proclamation and who had been assessed — had claimed compensation.

It was feared that these families were being intimidated and Mr Steele said at the time there had been rumours that anyone co-operating with the compensation committee would be killed.

But people eventually began lodging claims and by this week a total of 73 families had been paid out, Mr Steele reported.

Altogether, 179 families have been assessed for compensation and R445 000 still remains unclaimed. A number of people still have to be assessed.

Mr Steele said the Kwazulu government had set aside R1,2 million for compensation pay-outs, but this was not expected to be the final amount.

Compensation being offered to displaced families takes the form of payment for the value of buildings, fruit trees and fields, a relocation allowance and free transport to relocate.

Some of those to be compensated are farmers who hacked out areas of the Malangeni Forest Reserve at the southern end of the system to establish illegal banana plantations.

They are to be paid out for the loss of their banana trees in spite of the fact that the area was proclaimed a forest reserve more than 30 years ago — long before they moved in, Mr Steele said.

One compromise offered by the conservation authorities is that locals are to be allowed to continue to farm certain wetland areas around the Kosi Bay lake system.

These form part of the ecology of the area and the decision to allow the farming is considered a conservation risk because of the impact settlement may have.

SWAMP FORESTS

Apart from the unique lake system, the area is regarded as important because of its extensive swamp forests — listed as the second rarest forest type in South Africa.

There are an estimated 4 840 hectares of swamp forest in the country, of which 3 490 hectares — about 72 percent — occurs in Maputaland, mainly in the Kosi system.

A number of endangered birds species are found there.

Green politics straddles class divides

W/MAIL 20-12-1990 - 10 11 191

ENVIRONMENT
BY EDDIE KOCH

ONE wintry morning this year, the youth went out onto Alexandra's streets to clear-up the refuse, excrement, garbage, rubble, plastic bags, scrap metal, wrecked cars, dead dogs and other detritus that litters the township.

Last year the string of green groups that sprouted across the land were, in the main, confined to middle class circles and the only example of community-based organisation around the environment to be found existed at Mmathefe, a village in the Northern Transvaal afflicted by abandoned dumps of deadly blue asbestos.

But the clear-up campaign by the young militants of Alexandra, a band more accustomed to marching in the streets than cleaning them up, marked a new development. Environmental awareness had, by the end of 1990, filtered into the consciousness of ordinary men and women from scattered and diverse communities in South Africa.

Take the township of Zamdela. It was built downwind of the Sasolburg industrial complex so that white suburbs in the area could be spared the full blast of soot, carbon dioxide, nitric gases and other noxious matter that spews from Sasol's outdated oil-from-coal plant, the largest coal-burning power station in Africa at Le-thaba and a collection of nearby foundries and chemical factories.

"When I first arrived in Sasolburg it was three in the morning. It was beautiful, all those lights. I thought I was in heaven," factory worker Tladinyane Kgodumo told a crew filming the effects of urban pollution in the Transvaal.

"Now, after all these years, it seems more like hell. Workers in these factories are fighting a constant struggle for better health and safety regulations. They work all the time with dangerous chemicals and there are many accidents.

"But it is not only the factory workers who suffer from working with these chemicals. What about the people who live in Zamdela, right next door to the factories? We are all suffering from pollution these factories have been putting into the air."

Today Kgodumo and his compatriots in the South African Chemical Workers' Union, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions, are active members of a small and

struggling environmental pressure group in the township. It is planning a survey of air pollution, its extent and its effects on people's health, as the first stage of a campaign to put pressure on local industry into improving their living conditions. In Namaqualand, a remote and overlooked wedge of territory between the Western Cape and Namibia, farmers and pastoralists waged some vivid environmental struggles.

The Namakwalandse Burgersvereniging (civic association) organised protests by people from Komagas, a town that most South Africans have never heard of, against plans by Eskom to acquire the site for a nuclear power station.

More than 100km away, in the town of Springbok, some 6 000 people marched across a desert landscape under the colours of the African National Congress to demonstrate against the proposed construction of a toxic waste recycling plant at nearby Alexander Bay.

The people of the Richtersveld won the right to use traditional grazing lands in an area that had been proclaimed as a game reserve. During their struggle, they received a message of solidarity from the Piyanjajara people of the Uru-Katjajua National Park at Ayers Rock in Australia, one of the few communally run nature reserves in the world.

Earthlife Africa is currently working with left-wing civic organisations as well as the more established (and discredited in the eyes of activists) community council of Azaadville, an Indian township near Krugersdorp. The project is to oppose a scheme by local businessman Benoni van Graan to build a disposal site nearby for toxic waste.

The people of Azaadville appear to be so agitated at having to live next to a dump of poison that they are trying to mend the township's internal political tensions and have even made tentative approaches to the right-wing Conservative Party, whose members in the white suburbs of Krugersdorp are also against the dump.

White ratepayers, not renowned for their militancy, mobilised themselves in a little Indian Ocean resort near Cape Town called Rooi Els to protest against the activities of a subsidiary of

this year. Late in 1989 a dozen informal leaders from the area met the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Conatlas), an alliance of traditional chiefs who align themselves with the ANC, to discuss their problems.

Three months later a delegation of tribal elders organised a movement called "Isidif" to mobilise against the proclamation of a nature reserve at Kosi Bay and the restrictions that conservation measures were imposing on communal lifestyles. *Isidif* is the isi-Thonga word for communal huts in which the village's harvest is stored.

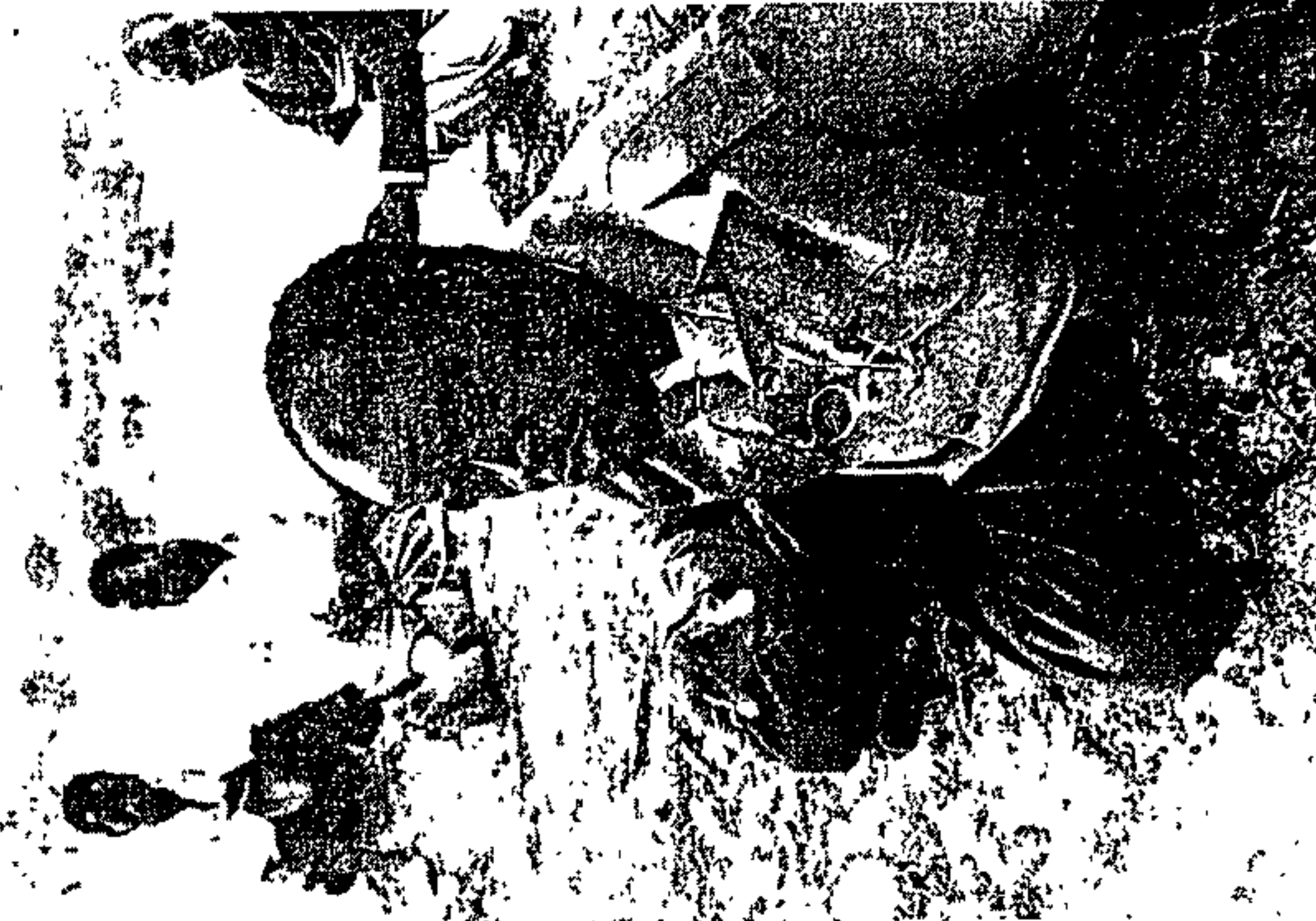
To highlight the way local conservation policies were undermining subsistence farming, students from a school near Kosi Bay workshopped a play and staged it at schools in the Durban area. The performances were cancelled when kwaZulu's Bureau for Natural Resources lodged strenuous objections with the local education authorities about the drama.

Just before Christmas in 1990, a community of a different kind won a small green victory. South Africa's many thousand smokers of dagga, regarded by many as a traditional herb, breathed more easily when Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok agreed to suspend a programme aimed at wiping out the nation's cannabis crop by spraying it from the air with a deadly defoliant called Paraquat.

Vlok made this decision after holding talks with Earthlife Africa's Southern Natal branch and the South African Rivers Association, who claimed the government was waging "chemical warfare" on rural villagers who live near the dagga plantations.

Ratepayers from plush seaside resorts; nomadic pastoralists in the Northern Cape; township residents in industrial townships; impoverished scholars from villages threatened by a game reserve; labourers on trawlers that stripmine the ocean with gill nets; struggles by this motley assortment of communities provided the novel feature of green politics in South Africa this year.

Earthlife representative Chris Albertyn summed up their significance when he said: "It seems that diverse groups of people who are opposed to each other on other issues are prepared to work together to save the environment. This is a force for conciliation, unity and peace in South Africa."



Peasants at Kosi Bay meet to discuss grievances against the conservation policies of the kwaZulu government

Armscor called Somchem. The company was testing rocket propellants on a nearby test range that sent large clouds of dust and chemicals into the air above the local dam, creating fear among the residents that their water supplies were being contaminated.

Another show of united action between diverse groups was staged in mid-1990 when the ultra-militant Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) joined forces with Earthlife's Cape Town branch and the Dolphin Action and Protection Group to protest against the activities of Taiwanese fishing trawlers accused of stripmining South African waters with illegal

peasants. Fawu was prompted to join the protest by revelations that at least four South African workers employed on the trawlers had to have their fingers amputated because of gangrene and frost-bite caused by working without adequate protective clothing in sub-zero temperatures of the ships refrigerated holds for shifts of up to 11 hours.

In the Maputaland district of Northern Natal, an environmentally unique region that runs along the southern border of Mozambique, resistance to the kwaZulu government's conservation policies dominated local politics

Authorities unite to fight Bay pollution

CAPE TOWN 20/12/90

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Staff Reporter

LOCAL authorities along the False Bay coast, including Cape Town City Council, have united in a bid to combat water pollution in False Bay by forming a water-quality committee.

The committee was formed after disturbing reports pinpointing eight spots where it is unsafe to bathe, because of contamination by high concentrations of bacteria, viruses and parasites.

"The objective of the committee would be to establish liaison regarding water quality of False Bay, particularly in relation to the impact on public health and the environment and to advise on appropriate remedial measures should they be warranted," the council said in a statement.

City Engineer Mr Arthur Clayton was elected chairman of the committee at its first meeting last week.

He said that at the next meeting, in March, the committee would appoint specialist working groups to investigate such matters as "discharges from treatment works, contaminated urban stormwater runoff, industrial and heavy metal contamination and the impact of such discharges on public health and the environment". It would also advise on guidelines for monitoring and sampling the water on the False Bay coast.